



# MORRIS

## ILLINOIS



**Morris Cruise Night - Downtown Morris**  
Every 2nd Saturday (May-October)

**3 French Hens Country Market - Jennifer's Garden**  
Every 2nd Saturday (May-November)



## Morris Municipal Services Building

700 N. Division St. • Morris IL 60450

**Hours:** 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM • Monday – Friday

**Phone:** (815) 942-0103

**Email:** cityhall@morrisil.org

## City Meetings

The Morris City Council meets twice monthly. Committee meetings are held on an as needed basis.

All are held in the Community Room  
700 N. Division St., Morris, IL 60450

### April

**4th Morris City Council**  
7:00PM

**18th Morris City Council**  
7:00PM

### May

**2nd Morris City Council**  
10:00AM

**16th Morris City Council**  
7:00PM

## Closed for the following Holidays:

Good Friday  
Friday, April 15, 2022

Memorial Day  
Monday, May 30, 2022

## City Directory

### Mayor's Office

815-942-5438

### City Clerk

815-942-4026

### City Treasurer

815-942-4108

### Building & Zoning

815-942-1855

### Business Development

815-941-3685

### Morris Fire & Ambulance Non-Emergency

815-942-2830

### Morris Police Non-Emergency

815-942-2131

### Public Works Department

815-942-5063

### Water Department Billing/Questions

815-942-4026

### Water Department Maintenance

815-942-2205

### Morris Municipal Airport

815-942-1600

### Morris Swimming Pool

815-942-2919

## Your Local Aldermen

### Herb Wyeth

#### First Ward

hwyth@morrisil.org

### Jake Duvick

#### First Ward

jduvick@morrisil.org

### Julian Houston

#### Second Ward

jhouston@morrisil.org

### Dean Tambling

#### Second Ward

dtambling@morrisil.org

### Derrick Wren

#### Third Ward

dwren@morrisil.org

### Alex Clubb

#### Third Ward

aclubb@morrisil.org

### Duane Wolfe

#### Fourth Ward

dwolfe@morrisil.org

### Sarah Mettille

#### Fourth Ward

smettille@morrisil.org



## Message from Mayor Chris Brown



What an amazing winter we have had in Morris! It started with the opening of our new ice skating rink in lower Goold Park. This addition to our community has been one of the most significant improvements to our park system in recent years. We had some early challenges from Mother Nature with record high temperatures, but we were able to host a grand opening



in December. More than \$30,000 was raised through sponsorships from local businesses to help offset the cost of the rink. When we combine those dollars with funds received from Eligo Energy as part of our electric aggregation program, I'm pleased to share that no tax dollars were spent on the project. Thank you to the sponsors who made it possible, and to the many patrons who helped ensure a safe and fun first season for the rink. We look forward to its return next winter.

Another exciting addition to our community was the addition of our first Business Development Director. After an extensive application and interview process, the search committee made the unanimous recommendation that Julie Wilkinson would be hired to lead this new City of Morris department. Following approval by the city council, she started in her new position on January 3rd. With a background in communication and development, Julie is off to a great start in her duties of developing and implementing strategies to attract new businesses, retain and expand existing businesses, and promoting Morris as a desirable business location. As a Morris resident, she is eager to contribute to the strong quality of life we enjoy.



*Julie Wilkinson, Business Development Director with Mayor Chris Brown*



*Enjoying the company of former alderman Elmo Ray Younger in celebration of his 100th Birthday*

Lastly, I'd like to recognize one of Morris' most esteemed residents. It was my pleasure and honor to host former alderman Elmo Ray Younger on the occasion of his 100th birthday at our February 22nd city council meeting. Mr. Younger was the first African American elected to public office in Grundy County and served the City of Morris admirably as an alderman for 12 years. He served his nation honorably during World War II and went on to serve as commander of the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans for 12 years. He led the campaign for a memorial to honor the civilians killed in an explosion at the Joliet Arsenal in 1942, which was dedicated in 2001. He is a shining example

of what service to your country and community looks like. We owe Mr. Younger a debt of gratitude for his many years of service to our nation, our veterans, and the City of Morris. He embodies the true character of our community. Thank you, Elmo Ray!



## **PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS**

With the change of seasons and Spring upon us, that means its time for yardwork and storm season. Here are a couple of tips for you as we all head outdoors to get our yards in shape for our outdoor enjoyment. The City of Morris' waste hauler, Republic Services, will pick up unlimited leaf and yard waste with your regular weekly garbage collection from **April 1st** through **November 30th**. Yard waste should be put in the garbage container which has the "**Yard Waste Only**" sticker displayed on the front of the container. Branches outside of the container must be bundled to a length less than 48" and should weigh no more than 40 pounds.

If you have larger branches, brush, or trees that need to be removed, public works operates the **chipper truck** on a daily basis. Please set the branches and brush along the curb, facing towards the street. Logs should be placed in a separate pile from the brush. Please note that branch pick up is for **residents only** and contractors are responsible for the removal of any trees or brush that they have removed for a homeowner. If you need to contact public works, they can be reached at **815-942-5063**.



## **PLAN YOUR PARTY IN A PARK**

You can start reserving City of Morris Park shelters for private use on April 4, 2022! Reservations are accepted on a first come, first served basis and are available from May 1, 2022, through October 15th, 2022. Fees are \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. You can find the application online on our "How Do I?" tab at [morrisil.org](http://morrisil.org).



**Please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-942-5063 to report any concerns regarding the following:**



- Sidewalk Repairs
- Pothole & Pavement Repairs
- Street Light Outage
- Branch/Brush Removal
- Water and/or Sewer Issues
- Branches – Brush – Tree Removal

If you have branches that need to be removed, set the brush along the curb, facing toward the street. Logs should be placed in a separate pile from the brush.

**NOTE: BRANCH PICK UP is for homeowners ONLY. Contractors are responsible for removal of trees/brush.**

## **City of Morris' Annual "Spring Clean Up" Week of May 23 -27**



You can dispose of an unlimited amount of unwanted items\* by placing them at the curb on your normal garbage day.

*\*Excludes hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, tires, etc), appliances, white goods and all electronics. For questions regarding items not accepted, please call 815-942-5063.*

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Spring is right around the corner and that means its time to start BBQ season. Before you head outdoors to fire up the grill, remember to follow these **simple fire safety tips**.



*Tracey Steffes  
Fire Chief/Marshall*

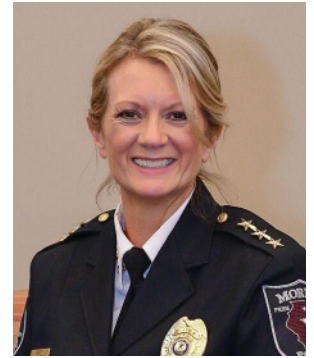
- All barbeque grills must only be used outdoors — using grills indoors or in enclosed spaces is not only a fire hazard, but it exposes occupants to toxic gasses and potential asphyxiation.
- Always position the grill well away from combustible objects — buildings, fences, deck railings and landscaping can easily and quickly ignite.
- Get your grill cleaned and serviced. Check all propane tanks and lines for leaks and damage.
- Never leave a lit grill unattended.
- Always use long handled grilling utensils and heat resistant oven mitts to avoid exposure burns from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease build-up in catch trays to prevent it from igniting.
- Keep a garden hose nearby, connected, and ready for use in case of a fire.

*Have a happy and safe grilling season!*



## CHIEF CHAT

As we approach the summer travel season, make sure you include us in your vacation plans! You can relax, we don't plan to come with you, but did you know you can put your residence on extra patrol while you're gone? If you live within the city limits, call Katie at the Front Desk at 815-941-5233 and request that your residence be placed on house check. She will need your address, dates you will be gone, and an emergency contact number. Your address will be added to our list and officers will drive/stop by as time allows. You'd be surprised how many times we find doors unlocked or something out of place. There is no cost to residents, and it can help give you peace of mind while you're away.



*Alicia Steffes  
Police Chief*

## LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGER'S POLICE AND FIRE MEMORIAL SERVICE.

**10 a.m. on  
Thursday,  
May 19<sup>th</sup> in  
Chapin Park.**



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

From our incredible downtown to the strong mix of local businesses and national brands that line Route 47 and Route 6 corridors, to the beautiful natural resources and sense of community pride we enjoy here, Morris has the recipe for success both now and for the future. Since becoming the City's first Business Development Director in January, I have seen that firsthand.

Special events play an integral role in stimulating our local economy and help put Morris on the map as a destination for business and tourism. To that end, the City is proud to partner in bringing a full line up of concerts, festivals, races, and family events to Morris.

Goold Park and the bandshell will be hopping this summer. True North's Forest Fest, Morris Barbecue Association's Rhythm & BBQ Festival, the Dulcimer & Traditional Music Festival, and the Morris Beer Festival have all chosen the park for their venue.

Downtown has become a year-round destination, with some events expanding for 2022. Girls Night Out on May 6th will include



a customer appreciation party, featuring food trucks and prizes at the Eagles Hall. Rock the Block (also known as Sunday Funday) will run all summer, running on the 4th Sundays of June, July, and August. The Morris Retail Association will bring well known bands to Liberty Street with a bags tournament, food trucks, and family fun. Traditions like Morris Cruise Night and the 3 French Hens Country Market have also announced their dates. Check out the list of major events at [www.morrisil.org/visitmorris](http://www.morrisil.org/visitmorris).



Our City Pool turns 100 this year! The Centennial Celebration will take place throughout July with theme days, free swim Saturdays, Pool Camp Day, and more. Local businesses can partner to ensure a fun, safe summer as a sponsor. Sponsorships will help fund new furniture for the pool deck and benches to be dedicated in memory of City employees James Gretencord and Kevin Murphy.

The City remains focused on development near the Brisbin Road interchange, with Love's expected to break ground on a convenience center next month. Interest in industrial development is strong, and Morris positioning itself for growth.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who completed the survey to help IDOT assess the potential for passenger rail service connecting Peoria to Chicago, to include a stop in Morris. We look forward to sharing more.

There is a lot happening in our community, and many dedicated people helping move it all forward. In promoting our community, we've chosen the tagline **"There's More to Morris"**. Whether you're here for a day or for life, we're sure you'll agree!



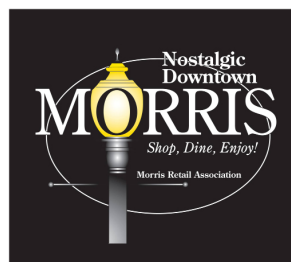
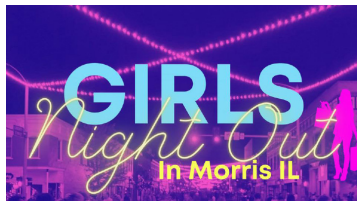
Julie Wilkinson  
Business Development  
Director



## SHOP, DINE, SUPPORT LOCAL

Look no further than Morris. Check out our extensive business directory!

[www.morrisil.org/business-directory](http://www.morrisil.org/business-directory)



# Special Events

Visit us online at [morrisil.org](http://morrisil.org) and follow us on social media to see more info and updates on these and future events!



## April

- 2nd Rough Road 100  
The Midwest Spring Classic  
Canal Port Park
- 23rd Scout Flea Market  
True North
- 23rd Superhero 5K Run  
Downtown Morris

## May

- 6th Girls Night Out  
Downtown Morris
- 14th 3 French Hens Country Market  
555 Gore Road

## June

- 1st City Pool Centennial Celebration  
Goold Park
- 4th FForest Fest  
Goold Park
- 11th 3 French Hens Country Market  
555 Gore Road
- 11th Morris Cruise Night  
Downtown Morris
- 12th Dulcimer Festival  
Goold Park
- 18th Rhythm & BBQ Festival  
Goold Park
- 23rd Morris Community Night  
Joliet Slammers
- 26th Rock the Block  
feat. Cadillac Groove  
Liberty Street





# MORRIS

## ILLINOIS

### **MORRIS HISTORY**

Did you know that the City of Morris recently turned 169 years old? Morris looks great for its age! The first permanent settlers arrived in Morris in 1831 and our city was incorporated on February 12, 1853. Morris is named after Isaac Newton Morris, who was a commissioner of the Illinois & Michigan Canal.



*"There's More to Morris"*