



MORRIS

ILLINOIS



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

3 French Hens Country Market - Jennifer's Garden
Every 2nd Saturday (June-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

June

- 6th Morris City Council 7:00PM
- 20th Morris City Council 7:00PM

July

- 5th Morris City Council 7:00PM
- 8th Morris City Council 7:00PM

August

- 1st Morris City Council 7:00PM
- 15th Morris City Council 7:00PM

Closed for the following Holidays:

Independence Day
Monday, July 4, 2022

Labor Day
Monday, September 5, 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

One year ago, I was so excited to have the honor of being sworn in as your new mayor. I can tell you that I am more excited today than I was twelve months ago. As I look back on my administration's first year,

I am proud of the work we have done and the direction we are heading as a community. I want to thank our city council for working with me and understanding my vision for the City of Morris. We have all learned from each other throughout the past year. The transition to a new mayor, clerk and city council presents its challenges, but we have always had the needs and concerns of our citizens as our #1 priority. I know we will continue to work for our residents, and we will continue to learn from each other as we move forward.

At our first council meeting of the new fiscal year, I was thrilled to report that financially, the City of Morris is in a strong position. We started the year with a budget that was going to leave us with \$375,000 in the general fund. With improved efficiencies across the board, and a lot of hard work by our City Clerk, Lori Werden we were able to start the new fiscal year with more than \$4.9 million dollars in our general fund. We were able to spend less, while adding more services for our residents. While we were doing this, I am proud to say we were also able to lower the tax levy to its lowest level in five years. Responsible, accountable spending should be a cornerstone of any municipality. I'm happy to say it is not only a priority for the City of Morris, but it is a reality for us.

In other exciting news, the city is currently in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for our park system. This will be important for us as we move into the future and develop new parks, activities, purchase equipment and pursue grants. As part of this comprehensive plan which we are developing, we will be reaching out to the public, athletic organizations, and also civic organizations to hear what their wants and needs are regarding our parks and their offerings. We look forward to creating a vision together that serves every resident of our community. We will keep the public informed as to the time and place of our public hearings.

The list of our accomplishments the past year is long. Whether it is the purchase of land which will enable the construction of a new fire station, securing \$11.7 million dollars in funding for a cross wind runway at our airport, or the creation of the new business development department. We should be proud of our achievements, but we need to have our eyes fixed on the future and not set in the past. There is more work ahead of us. There are more victories for us to achieve. I am thankful for everybody's help in making my first year as the Mayor of Morris a memorable one. Last year, I spoke to the community about big ideas and being innovative in our processes at the city level. We have had great success with so much already, but we must continue to move forward together on the path of progress and doing what is right. When things get challenging or maybe even a little overwhelming, I always think of my Grandma Garling and her wisdom. One of my favorite sayings of hers is, "Inch by inch, life's a cinch. Yard by yard, life gets hard." She was right. Inch by inch will get us to our goals.

Morris Welcomes Newest Sworn Officers

The City of Morris welcomes their newest police officers. These new recruits graduated from the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy session on April 22, 2022. Congrats to Officer Javier Sanchez, Officer Casie Price, Officer Anna Schneidewend, and Officer Trevor Hodge. Welcome to the City of Morris Family!



PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS

With the arrival of summer, that means the arrival of warm weather, swimming, cookouts, and unfortunately **mosquitoes!** The Morris Public Works Department does have a **mosquito spraying schedule** to help with eliminating as many of our pesky summer visitors as possible. When spraying becomes necessary, the schedule is broken into three sections: south, middle, and north. The south portion is comprised of the area south of the railroad tracks and extending west to include Hatcher's Woods. This area is sprayed on Sunday nights. The middle route is the area north of the railroad tracks to West Route 6. The middle route is sprayed on Tuesday nights. Finally, the north route is everything north of West Route 6 to Gore Road. This route is fogged on Thursday nights. If there is a chance for rain or windy conditions, the scheduled person will usually fog the night before or after the regularly scheduled evening. Any changes to the schedule through the summer will be added to the City of Morris website and Facebook page. Have a safe and happy summer!

Are you unknowingly attracting mosquitoes to your property? Mosquitoes can breed in as little as a ½ inch of standing water, so even items containing water the size of a bottle cap may be mosquito magnets. The diagram below shows the areas around the home that may be prone to mosquitoes.

- 1 GUTTERS – Remove leaves and other debris from gutters
- 2 FLOWERPOTS – Pour out stagnant water from flowerpots and planters
- 3 GRILL COVER – Make sure water isn't gathering on top of the grill cover
- 4 BABY POOL – Don't let water sit in baby pools for long periods of time
- 5 BIRDBATH – Frequently change out the water in birdbaths
- 6 LEAKY PIPES – Repair any leaky pipes or faucets
- 7 TIRES – Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings and wheel barrels to allow water to drain
- 8 TRASH CANS – Ensure trash cans are tightly sealed and lids aren't flipped upside down
- 9 BUCKETS – Remove water collecting in buckets and toys
- 10 PONDS – Keep swimming pools and ponds adequately treated

NPMA
National Pest Management Association

For more information visit PestWorld.org

Yard Waste Pickup with Republic Services

Now through the last full week of November, the city's waste hauler, Republic Services, will pick up unlimited leaf and yard waste with your regular garbage collection. Yard waste should be put into an approved lawn and leaf bag or the garbage container which has the "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Dates are subject to change due to weather. Any changes will be posted on the City of Morris Facebook page.

PLEASE NOTE: Branches outside of the totes must be bundled to a length less than 48" and weighing no more than 40 pounds. Thank you for your understanding.

PLAN YOUR PARTY IN A PARK

You can reserve the City of Morris Park shelters for private use now! 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.



FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades, and fireworks. The best way for everyone to enjoy fireworks is at public displays conducted by professionals. Fireworks on average, cause 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.



*Tracey Steffes
Fire Chief/Marshall*

Even the types of fireworks that don't seem to be much of a risk can do the most damage. Sparklers are a great example. Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries. Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

Remember, the best way to celebrate and enjoy the 4th of July holiday is to leave the fireworks to the professionals. Attend one of the many public fireworks displays provided throughout the area. At these displays, certified and licensed pyrotechnicians are trained and experienced in the safe use of fireworks and will provide a safe, yet exciting show. Be safe and enjoy your summer!

CHIEF CHAT

Let's talk fireworks.

Here is what you CAN do in the City of Morris. You can go to our local retail stores and buy all of the novelty fireworks you want. Novelty fireworks (often called "Safe and Sane Fireworks") include:



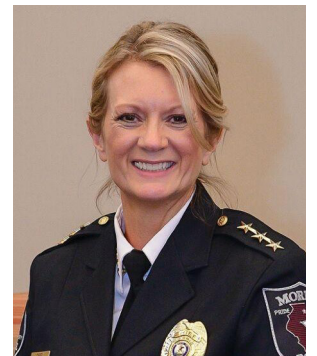
Sparklers	Smoke devices
Some small-cap guns	Booby traps
Snake or glow worm pellets	Snappers
Trick noisemakers (known as party poppers)	Trick matches
	Cigarette loads and
	Auto burglar alarms

Safe and Sane fireworks are basically anything that doesn't leave the ground or explode. If you buy it at Menards or Walmart, you may use them in the city limits.

If you would like to experience a little more explosion in your Fourth of July celebration, we suggest you take advantage of the free "Fireworks Extravaganza" at the Grundy County Fairgrounds on Sunday, July 3, 2022 at dusk. The event is sponsored by the City of Morris and Grundy Bank.

If you are of the opinion fireworks should be legal in the beautiful State of Illinois (anything other than what is mentioned above is not legal in the State of Illinois), we completely understand and encourage you to contact your state lawmakers.

With all of that being said, we are looking forward to a safe Fourth of July!



*Alicia Steffes
Police Chief*

SHELF LIFE

Looking for some fun this summer? The Morris Area Public Library has a variety of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Here are some of the upcoming events that they have in store.



Join us for our Lab Ratz Solar S'Mores program. Call us at 815-942-6880, or stop by the **front desk, to register.**

Thank you to LyondellBasell for sponsoring this program.



The library's book club will be meeting from **3 - 5 PM** on **June 20th** to discuss **The Address**, a novel by author Fiona Davis that tells the story of two women a century apart whose tumultuous lives become part of the Dakota's sometimes unhappy history. Be sure to **register at the front desk** to pick up a copy of this thought provoking read.

A graphic for 'SENSORY STORYTIME'. It features a colorful, abstract design of stars and swirls above an open book. The text 'SENSORY STORYTIME' is in large, multi-colored letters. Below it, it says '2nd Saturday of the Month' and '10:30 am'. At the bottom, it says 'Please register at the front desk. (For Family)'. The Morris Area Public Library logo and contact information are at the bottom right, along with a 'MASKS RECOMMENDED' sign.

SENSORY STORYTIME
2nd Saturday of the Month
10:30 am
Please register at the front desk.
(For Family)

MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY
804 Liberty Street • Morris, IL 60450 • PH (815) 942-6800 • FX (815) 942-6415
morrislibrary.com | facebook.com/MAPLD | instagram.com/morrisareapubliclibrary
Tue-Th: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Fr-Sat: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sun: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

MASKS RECOMMENDED

MAPL will be hosting their recurring sensory story time on **June 11th** and **July 9th** from **10:30 - 11 AM**. Designed for children in need of extra sensory support, this event combines traditional story time components with additional elements to enhance the experience. All families are welcome to attend but are asked to **register in advance** at the front desk or to call ahead of time at (815)-942-6880



These are just some of the various activities we've chosen to highlight. All are encouraged to explore the library's website to discover more of the upcoming events they have to offer!



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Morris Fire Chief Receives 2022 Red Cross Firefighter Hero Award



In June 2021, Chief Tracey Steffes faced his biggest challenge as the leader of the Morris Fire Department, when nearly 200,000 lithium batteries exploded, and a massive fire with toxic fumes erupted, posing a serious threat to the health of his community. Chief Steffes led the effort to evacuate thousands of people from the area; nearly one-third of the city's residents. Managing this large battery fire presented complexities as traditional fire extinguishment methods would exacerbate rather than extinguish the large, growing fire. Chief Steffes consulted with agencies around the world to coordinate the unique response to the fire and to continue operations in the days and weeks to come. At one point, more

than 40 firefighting companies were on hand helping to battle the blaze, in which no one was harmed. Chief Steffes now receives calls from other agencies when they face similar situations and provides insight to help protect their citizens. Chief Steffes is credited with staying calm during a situation that could have escalated further, without proper leadership and swift action. Congrats to Chief Steffes on being named the American Red Cross of Illinois Firefighter of the Year for 2022. We are proud of him and so fortunate to have him as leader of our fire department.



Congratulations to Sergeant Steve Huettemann on his recent retirement!

Thank you for 27 years of service and for representing Morris with honor and integrity!

Lithium Battery Fire Update

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has resumed cleanup at the Morris Lithium Battery Fire site. The cleanup of hazardous (and potentially hazardous) substances from the burned materials will be addressed under the EPA's Superfund Emergency Removal Program, which has separate funds reserved to handle immediate threats to human health and the environment.

The EPA is consolidating hazardous substances and contaminants, packaging and shipping all batteries in accordance with EPA and Department of Transportation regulations. The EPA is also sampling and analyzing waste, burned material, storm water, and air at the site. All batteries and wastes will be shipped off-site for disposal.

Added security measures have also been implemented at the site. The Morris Police Department has deployed their mobile surveillance camera system which gives them the ability to monitor the scene on an around-the-clock basis. Also, on weekends, the EPA is providing security guards at the scene on a 24-hour basis.

For More Information

If you have questions, comments or need more information about the Morris Lithium Battery Fire Site cleanup contact these U.S. EPA team members:

For Technical Questions

Len Zintak
On-Scene Coordinator
312-886-4246 zintak.leonard@epa.gov

For General Questions

Ruth Muhtsun
Community Involvement Coordinator
312-886-6595 muhtsun.ruth@epa.gov



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

It's been a fast five months since the city's Business Development Department was established! Morris already has many desirable features for those looking to expand or establish their business or special event in our community. The work in progress is exciting and sets the stage for a bright future.

When the Morris Downtown Development Partnership (MDDP) closed its doors last year, its leadership worked with the city to decide the uses of the remaining funds to benefit our downtown. As a result, several MDDP "legacy projects" are underway; two will soon be complete.



The first is a billboard on Route 47 near the Morris Municipal Airport. The existing billboard is getting a facelift, featuring images of visitor attractions joined by the headline "There's more to Morris!" The billboard complements new "Welcome to Morris" signs in progress at entry points on Route 6 East and West, and Route 47 and Green Acres Drive. These enhancements make a strong first impression about living, working, and doing business in Morris.

Remaining MDDP funds will also replace the downtown sound system. Expected this summer, the new system will provide more reliable sound

through Bluetooth technology and enable remote access. This upgrade will improve the experience for shoppers, business owners, and event goers. Special thanks to the Morris Cruise Night Committee for volunteering to help mount the new speakers.

Access to restrooms was a top request in the 2020 Downtown Master Plan Survey. We are pleased to deliver both short and long-term solutions. Public restrooms are now available thanks to a partnership with the Morris Area Public Library. Anyone can use their bathrooms during operating hours. We will also construct new public restrooms in the downtown fire station when it is vacated next year. A new fire house is planned for Benton Street and Route 47 in 2023.

Partnership is key to getting the best results for our city. Fourteen organizations received financial support from the City's Hotel and Motel Tax Fund after completing the new and more robust grant process. The grants will infuse nearly \$150,000 back into the community for special events and tournaments that drive non-residents to visit Morris. The organizations will incorporate the Morris logo and promote one another's events to their visitors.

There's never been a better time to rediscover Morris! From the new businesses and expanded services in our downtown, to the incredible line up of festivals and concerts at Goid Park, the courthouse lawn, and Liberty Street, Morris has much to offer both residents and visitors.

Stay up on special events, 5ks and concerts, rent a bike on the canal, view the downtown map, take a historic walking tour, and more at www.morrisil.org/visitmorris.

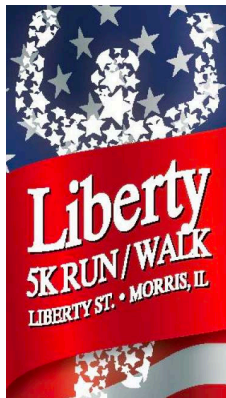
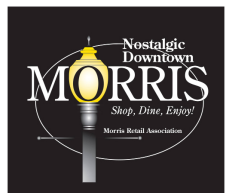


Julie Wilkinson
Business Development
Director



MORRIS COMMUNITY NIGHT WITH THE SLAMMERS

With summer now upon us, what better way to spend it than with some good ole baseball! Come out and watch the Joliet Slammers take on the Windy City Thunderbolts at the Duly Health and Care Field on Thursday, June 23 at 6:35 PM for Morris Community Night! Hear local musician John Musick give his rendition of the national anthem, watch the Morris Community High School Color Guard present the colors, and of course, enjoy a ballpark frank. The City of Morris has a limited number of discounted tickets available for \$5. There is a limit of 6 tickets per household and tickets can be purchased at the City Clerk's window in the Morris Municipal Services Building while supplies last. Special thanks to the Slammers organization for making this event possible and for helping to provide quality family fun for City of Morris residents.



Special Events

Visit us online at morrisil.org and follow us on social media to see more info and updates on these and future events!



June

- 11th **3 French Hens Country Market**
555 Gore Road
- 11th **Morris Cruise Night**
Downtown Morris
- 11-12th **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

July

- 3rd **Liberty 5K**
Downtown Morris
- 3rd **Fireworks**
Grundy County Fairgrounds
- 24th **Rock the Block feat. The Clients**
Liberty Street

August

- 6th **Sidewalk Sales**
Downtown Morris
- 6th **Morris Beer Festival**
Goold Park
- 20th **AnyBODY 5K School Dr.**
(Starting Line)
- 27th **Liberty Arts Festival**
Downtown Morris
- 28th **Rock the Block feat. Whiskey Romance**
Liberty Street





Now Open! Safe, Clean Fun! www.MorrisCityPool.org 815-942-2919

Program Registrations and Party Bookings being accepted during select days in May & Open Swim hours at the pool in June & July. Sorry, but any mailed registrations/bookings will not be accepted and returned.

Goold Park (across from MCHS), 300 Northern Ave., Morris, IL

Open Swim

No Re-Admittance. No Coolers. No Outside Food. Cash Only.

Hours of Operation (Closed June 1 & 2 due to school)

Mon-Fri: Noon-4:00 & 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sat, Sun, & Holidays: Noon-6:00 p.m.

Admissions

City Resident Child \$ 1.00
City Resident Adult \$ 3.00
Non-Resident Child \$8.00
Non-Resident Adult \$8.00
Resident Seniors (65 & up) \$1.00
Non-Resident Seniors (65 & up) \$3.00

*Season Passes

(valid during Open Swim times only)
City Res. \$50 Individual / \$150 Family
NonRes. \$75 Individual / \$225 Family

Adult Swim Only

During Open Swim Breaks (10 min. before every hour)
and/or 4:30-5:30 M-F \$2 (June 6th-Aug. 12th)

*Pool Parties

A.M. - Daily: exclusive use of the pool from 11:00 a.m.
until noon. After noon, you may continue to
use the pool until the pool closes.

P.M. - Weekends: exclusive use of pool from
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays &
Holidays.

P.M. - Weekdays: exclusive use of the pool from
8:30-10:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

You may arrive 1/2 hour earlier for setup. No glass.
Please see the party calendar on our website for availability.

Outside food & coolers may not be brought in unless a pool party is
officially reserved (paperwork completed, deposit paid, and manager
officially approved). Bags are subject to inspection.

Swim Lessons

10 Scheduled Lessons - 5 kids max per class
(Others schedule 6 lessons with 10 kids per class for same
price)

*American Red Cross Swim Lessons

(Ages 5 and up)
Session I M-F, June 13th-July 24th
Session II: M-F, July 5th-July 18th
1/2 hour lessons
1st lesson begins at 9:30 a.m., last begins at 11:00 a.m.
10 Scheduled Lessons: Residents \$75 /Nonres \$80 (+5)

*Little Fins

(preschool/ages 3-5 * 6 scheduled 1/2 hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30)
Session I: M, W, F June 13th-June 24th
Session II: M, W, F, July 6th -July 18th
Costs: Residents \$50/Nonres \$60

*Parent & Me

(6 mo.-2 years of age * 6 scheduled 1/2 hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30)
Session I: Tues and Thurs June 14th-June 30th
Session II: Tues and Thurs July 5th-July 21st
Costs: Residents \$35/Nonres \$45

Water Aerobics

Every Monday and Wednesday; June 6th-Aug 3rd
Drop in 5-6pm; Only \$3

*Junior Guard

(Ages 10-15; Includes whistle, lanyard, program shirt)
Dates TBD
Costs: \$40 City Resident/\$50 NonResident

Contact Us! Follow Us!

eMail: MorrisCityPool@gmail.com
Phone: 815-942-2919
Website: MorrisCityPool.org
Facebook: Morris City Pool Unofficial
Text @mcp-public to 81010 to receive text updates

Table with 4 columns: Concession Stand, 8 Swim Lanes, Fenced-In Splash Pad, Beach Entry. Sub-rows: 3 Slides, 2 Diving Boards, 2 Basketball Hoops.



AROUND THE TOWN

NEW SIGN FOR LIONS PARK

Morris Lions Park has a new sign, made possible by the Morris Lions Club. The new sign replaces the original, which was created in 1991. The beautiful park is located on Michael Drive and is home to many events, parties, field trips, and meetings - and features a playground, creek, and walking path. Thanks to Midwest Signworks for the photo.



GRUNDY BANK HELPS FUND FIREWORKS



Grundy Bank donated \$5,000 to the City of Morris to help fund the annual fireworks show on July 3rd. Morris Business Development Director Julie Wilkinson (left) recently accepted the ceremonial check from Christine Mendez (right), Sales and Marketing Director for Grundy Bank. The bank has been a longtime supporter of the show, which is a free and family-friendly tradition. The fireworks will take place at the Grundy County Fairgrounds at dusk, weather permitting.

DUFFY BECOMES FIRST SUMMER INTERN

Alex Duffy became the first summer intern at City Hall. Born and raised in Morris, Alex graduated from Morris Community High School and attends Illinois State University, where he is studying Political Science and Public Relations. He has a passion for local government and wants to give back to his community. So far, Alex has enjoyed learning about the inner workings of the city, meeting business owners, working on events, and growing the city's social media presence. He can't wait to see what the rest of the summer has in store!



HANGING BASKETS ADD POP OF COLOR TO DOWNTOWN

Flower baskets with vibrant summer colors now hang from the light poles in Downtown Morris. Purchased by a grant from the Community Foundation of Grundy County in 2021, the baskets were recently filled with summer flowers and put up by our dedicated Public Works team. The baskets complement planters located throughout Downtown, added ahead of the many festivals and shopping events planned for the summer months. Thanks to Sunshine Garden Center for the gorgeous blooms!



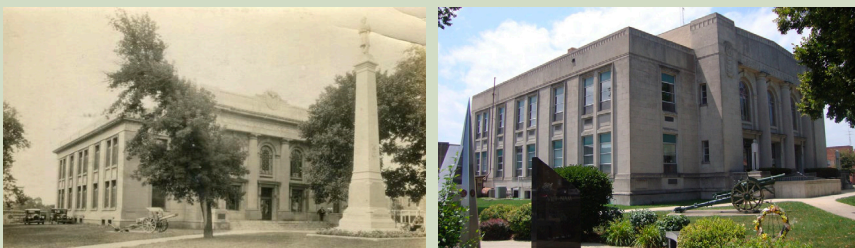


MORRIS

ILLINOIS

MORRIS HISTORY

Did you know that Grundy County's first courthouse was purchased for a little over \$500? Completed in 1842, the two-story frame building wasn't the most elegant but was strong and durable, serving as Morris' first public building. Built by William Armstrong, the courthouse was originally framed with hewn log sills and beams, using long braces held together with wooden pegs. With the implementation of electricity, air conditioning, and running water, there's no question that our current courthouse is far more than your average upgrade.



SHOP, DINE, SUPPORT LOCAL

Look no further than Morris.
Check out our extensive business
www.morrisil.org/business-directory



"There's More to Morris"