

MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

CULTIVATE CURIOSITY, ENLIGHTEN THE MIND, STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

April - May 2026

Moving Day with Laura Ingalls Wilder

Join Us for a Special Historical Presentation



Step back in time and experience life on the American frontier. On **May 30 from 1-2 PM**, audiences are invited to attend *"It's Moving Day for Laura Ingalls Wilder!"*, an engaging program that brings the past to life.

In this interactive presentation, Ms. Wilder is preparing to move her family from South Dakota to Missouri in the spring of 1894. Through storytelling and historical interpretation, you will learn about the challenges and the joys of

frontier life during the 1870s and 1880s. The program explores the daily chores Laura completed as a girl and highlights the special items she would have packed for such a big move. It's a wonderful opportunity for families, history enthusiasts, and Little House fans to learn more about pioneer life in an entertaining and educational way.

The program will be presented by **Laura Keyes**, a librarian from Central Illinois who has been portraying historic women since 2008. Keyes combines her passion for history and performance to create engaging educational experiences for audiences of all ages.

Don't miss this charming and informative journey into pioneer history.

CONTACT

Morris Area Public Library

604 Liberty Street

Morris IL 60450

www.morrislibrary.com

Phone: 815-942-6880

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HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm

Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

SPECIAL HOURS

Sunday, April 5, 2026	Spring Holiday	Closed
Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day	Closed



For more information



NEW SPACES, NEW ADVENTURES, NEW STORIES

IMAGINE WHAT'S NEXT
MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Get ready for a summer full of exploration, creativity, and fun with our 2026 Summer Adventure Program: *Imagine What's Next*. This year's theme celebrates new beginnings and possibilities, reflecting the excitement of our library expansion and the spirit of our nation's 250th year.

Join us for a season of reading, activities, and adventures that spark curiosity, inspire imagination, and help families dream about what comes next! Your adventure starts May 26.



WHY BUY • WHEN YOU CAN • BORROW

Spring is the perfect time to start your home improvement projects, and the library is here to help.



Our Library of Things includes useful tools you can borrow, such as a cordless drill and drill bit set, perfect for small repairs and DIY projects.



Instead of buying tools you may only use once or twice, check them out with your library card.

Stop by to see what tools are available and get started on your spring projects!

NEW TO SEE

New Study Rooms Now Available

Need a quiet place to focus or meet with others? Our new study rooms are now available for patrons looking for a comfortable space to work, study, or collaborate. The rooms are perfect for study groups, remote workers, tutoring sessions, or anyone who simply needs a quieter place to concentrate.

Our largest study room can accommodate up to 8 people, making it ideal for group projects or small meetings. Study rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis and may be used for up to two hours at a time.

To use a study room, simply check in at the Reference Desk and staff will help you get started. We're excited to offer these new spaces and hope they provide a helpful place for our community to learn, work, and connect.



Children & Youth

**The concept is simple,
the rewards are priceless**



**1000 Books
before kindergarten**

Reading with your little one every day builds early literacy skills and is a wonderful way to spend time together! Research shows that children who are regularly read to enter school with a stronger reading foundation and greater confidence.

Just one book a night adds up quickly! In one year, that's 365 books. In two years, 730 books. By three years, you'll have read over 1,000 books, plenty of time before your child starts kindergarten.

- Stop by the Youth Services Desk to register and get your first reading log.
- Read with your child and mark a square for each book.
- Complete a milestone card and return it for a prize and a new log.
- Finish 5 logs to earn a library tote bag. Finish all 10 and your little reader will get a T-shirt!



Tween & Teen

SCHOOL'S OUT MOVIE MADNESS

Looking for something fun to do on school half-days? Join us at the library for **School's Out Movie Madness!** We'll be showing a movie, serving up pizza, and popping plenty of popcorn. Perfect for hanging out with friends and relaxing after classes.

It's more than just a movie! This is a chance to meet other kids your age, enjoy a tasty snack, and spend a few hours doing something fun at the library. Whether you want to laugh, cheer, or just chill, our half-day movie events are the perfect way to make the most of your free time.

Next movie day:
Wednesday, April 29 at 12PM



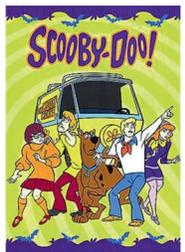
Community Event ZOINKS!

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Join us on **Saturday, May 2** for Free Comic Book Day as we celebrate with a Scooby-Doo mystery you won't want to miss!

Bring the whole family to snap photos with the **Mystery Machine from 12-2 PM** parked outside the library, and say hello to Scooby himself. Inside, enjoy Scooby-Doo episodes playing throughout the day along with fun crafts inspired by the mystery-solving gang.

Costumes are welcome so come celebrate comics, cartoons, and a day full of fun at the library!



CREATIVITY CONNECTIONS

Petals & Paint



Join us **Tuesday, April 21** from 10 AM -12 PM, for *Creativity Connections* sponsored by Catholic Charities. This program is designed for patrons 60+.

Participants will enjoy a relaxing morning painting a beautiful tulip still life, perfect for beginners and experienced artists alike.

Come socialize, get creative, and take home your own spring-inspired artwork!

Afternoon BOOK CLUB
Meets the **Third Monday of the Month at 3PM**

April
What Alice Forgot
May
The Midnight Feast

BOOKS ON TAP
Meets the **First Thursday of the Month at 6PM**
Held at Clayton's Tap
122 W. Washington St
Morris, IL 60430
CLAYTON'S TAP
EST. 1976

April
The Canary Girls
May
The Wind Knows My Name

The READbellion
An adult book club for the young and fit
Meets the **Second Tuesday of the Month at 6PM**

April
The Maiden and Her Monster
May
A River Enchanted

UPCOMING
MONDAY MATINEES
Second Mondays of the Month
11am-2pm
April 13 - *Tron: Acres (2025)*
May 11 - *Must Love Dogs (2005)*

HORROR MOVIE NIGHT
THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH AT 5:30PM
April 21 - *Speak No Evil (2024)*
May 19 - *Friday the 13th (1980)*
WHERE THE LIGHTS GO OUT AND THE SCREAMS BEGIN

YOUR PERSONALIZED LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION

The Chapter Tote

UNPACK YOUR NEXT STORY

It's a surprise bundle of reading joy! Ready to borrow, enjoy, and return.

Receive a personalized library tote stocked with 2-3 staff-selected books and a few special treats. Return the tote when you bring back your books.

Stop by the desk or fill out the form online at morrislibrary.com/readers-advisory

PATRON PERKS AT THE MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

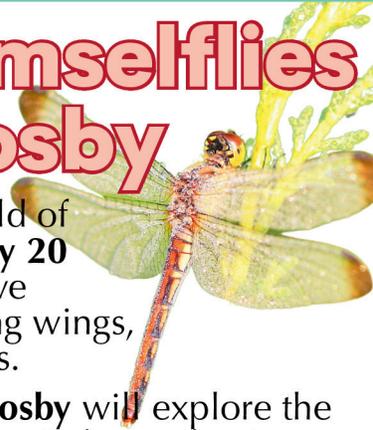
MUSEUM PASSES

WE OFFER TWO CHICAGOLAND MUSEUM PASS PROGRAMS, THE *MUSEUM ADVENTURE PASS* AND *EXPLORE MORE ILLINOIS*

Pass benefits vary by organization. All passes are good for one week from issue date.

Available to patrons in good standing

Dragonflies and Damselflies with Cindy Crosby



Discover the fascinating and sometimes bizarre world of dragonflies during this engaging presentation on **May 20 from 6-7:30 PM**. These remarkable flying insects have captivated people for centuries with their shimmering wings, unusual life cycle, and incredible migration journeys.

During the program, **naturalist and author Cindy Crosby** will explore the amazing transformation dragonflies undergo, their mysterious migratory habits, and the challenges they face in the wild. Along the way, participants will learn about the cultural history of dragonflies, including some of the myths and superstitions that surround these striking insects.

Crosby is the author, compiler, and contributor to more than 20 books, including *Chasing Dragonflies: A Natural, Cultural, and Personal History*. She holds a master's degree in natural resources with a focus on environmental interpretation from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

This program is co-sponsored by **That Perennial Place** and the **Morris Area Garden Club**. Join us for an evening of discovery and learn why dragonflies are some of nature's most extraordinary insects.