

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Morris Area Public Library
Karen Barowsky, Interim Director
kbarowsky@morrislibrary.com
815-942-6880

Step Back in Time with Laura Ingalls Wilder at Morris Area Public Library

Morris, IL - May 14, 2026 - The Morris Area Public Library invites the community to kick off its Summer Adventure programming with a special historical presentation celebrating pioneer life, American history, and the spirit of exploration that helped shape the nation.

On Saturday, May 30, from 1-2PM, presenter Laura Keyes will bring Laura Ingalls Wilder to life in an engaging interactive program, "It's Moving Day for Laura Ingalls Wilder!"

In this living history presentation, Laura is preparing to move her family from South Dakota to Missouri in the spring of 1894. Audience members will discover the challenges, traditions, and joys of frontier life during the 1870s and 1880s. Guests will learn about the chores Laura completed as a young girl, explore what pioneer families packed for major journeys, and gain insight into daily life on the American frontier.

The event also highlights the historical themes woven throughout this year's Summer Adventure programming and connects to the upcoming nationwide America 250 celebration, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Through hands-on learning and storytelling, the program encourages families to reflect on the resilience, determination, and community spirit that shaped America's history.

Following the presentation, attendees can participate in themed craft stations inspired by pioneer life. Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore a special historical display featuring a tabletop replica covered wagon and pioneer artifacts generously loaned by the Grundy County History Museum. A curated collection of books about pioneer history and Laura Ingalls Wilder will also be available for checkout.

Laura Keyes is a librarian in Central Illinois and has been invited to speak four times at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Association Conference. Her presentations combine storytelling, historical interpretation, and interactive learning for audiences of all ages.

Community members are encouraged to attend this unique program to experience history in an engaging and memorable way through storytelling, hands-on activities, and historical artifacts. Those inspired to learn more about pioneer life and local history are also encouraged to visit the Grundy County History Museum to explore additional exhibits, artifacts, and stories that help preserve Grundy County's rich past.

For more information about the Laura Ingalls Wilder program and other events at the Morris Area Public Library, please visit our website at www.morrislibrary.com or contact us at 815-942-6880.

About Morris Area Public Library: The Morris Area Public Library's mission is to provide materials, programming, and space to cultivate curiosity, enlighten the mind, and strengthen the community. We strive to offer diverse and enriching experiences for all members of our community.

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