

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Morris Area Public Library Welcomes New Director

Morris, IL - July 7, 2026 - The Morris Area Public Library Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Jackie Hanson as the library's new Director.

Hanson officially began her role on July 1, 2026, bringing with her a strong background in library leadership, public service, and community engagement. Most recently, she served as the Learning Commons Library Coordinator at Sauk Valley Community College, where she brought new digital services to the community, collaborated with students and faculty, and helped create welcoming spaces that supported lifelong learning.

Following a comprehensive nationwide search under the direction of Dieters and Todd Library Consulting, the Board selected Hanson for her leadership experience, collaborative approach, and commitment to serving the evolving needs of our community.

"The Board is excited to welcome Jackie to the Morris Area Public Library," said Lauren Keavney, President of the Board of Trustees. "Her enthusiasm, vision, and dedication to public service make her an excellent fit for our library and our community. We look forward to working together as we continue to build on the library's strong foundation and expand opportunities for our patrons."

Hanson joins the library at an exciting time as the Morris Area Public Library has completed its recent expansion project. The newly renovated and expanded facility offers enhanced spaces for programming, community gathering, and collaboration, positioning the library to better serve residents for years to come.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the legacy of Morris Area Public Library, as well as a member of the community of Morris" said Hanson. "I am excited to embrace this town's welcoming spirit and further make the library a hub where information, creativity, interest, and community can all connect. Leading Morris Area Public Library is a privilege that I intend to approach with responsibility, humility, and transparency, and I am excited to work alongside the wonderful team of staff, trustees, and community members as we strive to make this institution the best it can be."

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere appreciation to Interim Director Karen Barowsky for her leadership and dedication these last few months. To ensure a seamless leadership transition, Barowsky will continue serving the library in an Administrative Transition role, working alongside Hanson to provide institutional knowledge and support ongoing initiatives. The Board believes this collaborative approach will provide continuity for staff, patrons and the community while positioning the library for continued success.

Community members are encouraged to stop by the library to welcome Hanson and experience the library's newly expanded spaces and services.

For more information about 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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