

MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

CULTIVATE CURIOSITY, ENLIGHTEN THE MIND, STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

More Than An Expansion

After months of construction, we are excited to welcome the community into **our newly expanded and renovated facility**. This project represents more than just additional square footage. It reflects our commitment to creating a library that will serve the needs of our Morris community for generations to come.

One of the most exciting additions is our **new Community Space**. We have already begun to host a variety of programs in this new room. From educational presentations to concerts, storytimes to family events, this new space provides more opportunities to connect, learn, and engage with others.



Patrons will also discover an entirely **reimagined Youth Services Department**. Designed with our youngest patrons in mind, there are now dedicated spaces for reading, creative play, and exploration where young patrons can develop a lifelong love of all things library.



While these new spaces are exciting, they are only one part of the story! This project represents an investment in our community's future. We have improved the overall library experience with more seating, additional spaces for collaboration, study, and community engagement in four new study rooms, and the ability to offer more diverse programming for all patrons for years to come.

We invite everyone to stop by to explore the new spaces, attend a program, and experience all that your library has to offer.



August/September 2026

CONTACT

Morris Area Public Library

604 Liberty Street

Morris IL 60450

www.morrislibrary.com

Phone: 815-942-6880

Fax: 815-942-6415



HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm

Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

SPECIAL HOURS

Monday, September 7	Closed
Wednesday, September 23	Open 9AM-5PM
Thursday, September 24	Open 9AM-5PM
Friday, September 25	Closed
Sunday, September 27	Closed

A New Season is Just Around the Corner!

As summer winds down, many of our regular programs take a short hiatus during September. This brief break gives our staff time to regroup, plan, and prepare an exciting lineup of fall and winter events for our community.

Don't worry though, we still have limited programming throughout September. Be sure to pick up a monthly calendar or check our website so you don't miss out!

Mark Your Calendars for October

- **October 16 - Poetry in the Cemetary** at Evergreen Cemetary
- **October 23 - Tween/Teen Night Out** in the Library
- **October 29 - National Lights On Afterschool Celebration** during Downtown Trick or Treat, made possible by a grant from the *Community Foundation of Grundy County*

WHY BUY

• WHEN YOU CAN •
BORROW

Fall migration is the perfect time to discover a variety of birds passing through our area!



Borrow our SkyGenius 10x50 Binoculars from the Library of Things for crisp, close-up views, then check out one of our birdwatching books or field guides to help identify the species you see.



It's a fun outdoor adventure for bird enthusiasts of all ages!

NEW TO SEE

Leading the Next Chapter

We are excited to welcome Jackie Hanson as our new Library Director. Jackie officially joined the library on July 1, 2026, bringing with her extensive experience in library leadership, public service, and community engagement.

Before coming to Morris, Jackie served as the Learning Commons Library Coordinator at Sauk Valley Community College, where she expanded digital services, collaborated with students and faculty, and helped create welcoming spaces that supported lifelong learning.

"I'm thrilled to be part of the legacy of Morris Area Public Library and the Morris community," Jackie said. "I look forward to working alongside our staff, trustees, and community members to ensure the library remains a welcoming place where people can connect, learn, and grow."

If you haven't already, stop by the library to say hello to Jackie and experience our newly expanded spaces. She looks forward to meeting patrons and becoming part of the Morris community!



Experience world-renowned art right here in Morris!



ART exposition

a rare exhibit from a personal collection

MASTERS OF MODERN ART

Cassatt • Hassam • Picasso
• Dali • Monet • Matisse •
Chagall • Kandinsky • Miro



This year's exhibition includes works by renowned artists such as **Mary Cassatt, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and more.** For the first time, the collection will be displayed in the library's new Community Space, creating a gallery-inspired setting that allows visitors to enjoy these remarkable pieces in a museum-like atmosphere.

This free, all-ages event has become a favorite Liberty Arts Festival tradition. It offers a rare opportunity to view an exceptional private art collection without leaving Grundy County.

AUGUST 15
2026

SATURDAY
10AM-4PM
EVERYONE
ALL AGES

PUBLIC DISPLAY DURING LIBERTY ARTS FESTIVAL

Children & Youth

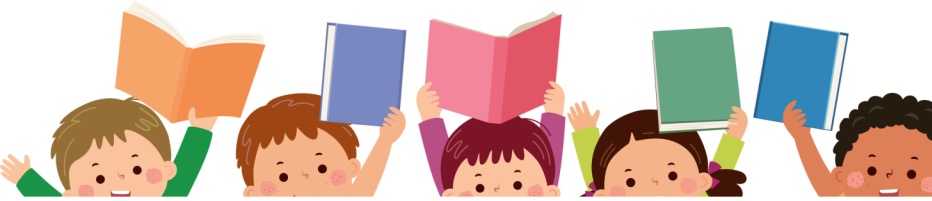


Hands-On Fun in Youth Services

One of the features in **our newly reimagined Youth Services Department** is our interactive sensory bin! Sensory play encourages children to explore through touch while building fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities, creativity, and language development. It also provides a calming, hands-on activity that supports learning through play and

makes every library visit a little more engaging.

Our sensory bin will be changed regularly with a new theme, giving children something fresh to discover throughout the year. Past themes have included *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Gardening, *I Spy*, and Movie Time, with many more fun ideas planned. Be sure to stop by Youth Services each visit to see what's inside next!



Tween & Teen



Turn Your Talents into Community Service

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to earn community service hours?

Our Teen Adventure Group (T.A.G.) gives local teens the opportunity to volunteer in ways that match their unique talents and interests.

At the library, **volunteering isn't just about shelving books.** Our T.A.G. members make a real impact by sharing their skills with the community. Whether you're an artist, gamer, musician, crafter, technology enthusiast, or simply enjoy helping others, there's a place for you in T.A.G. We're always looking for new ideas and encourage teens to help shape volunteer opportunities around their passions.

We have one teen who leads our popular Dungeons & Dragons group, helping younger players build confidence, teamwork, and creativity. Others assist during large library events, welcoming families, running activities, and helping programs run smoothly. This fall, we hope to have several talented teen musicians perform at the library, sharing their love of music with other patrons.



Do you have a unique talent or special interest you'd like to share with the community? We'd love to hear about it! Join us for our first T.A.G. meeting of the school year, **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 5PM**, and discover how you can earn community service hours while making a difference at your library doing something you love.

Have you checked out
our new and expanded

BUSINESS CENTER



- PUBLIC COMPUTERS
- SCANNER
- PRINTER
- COPIER
- FAX MACHINE

Printing and Copying Prices:

Black and White:

Color:

8.5X11 \$0.10

8.5X11 \$0.25

8.5x14 \$0.15

8.5x14 \$0.30

11x17 \$0.20

11x17 \$0.40

Faxes: \$1 a page

Document scanning is available for free

PATRON PERKS AT THE MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

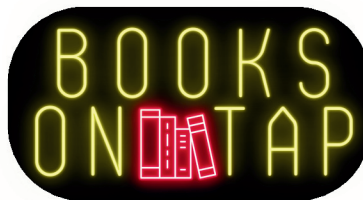
MEETING ROOMS

WE WELCOME THE COMMUNITY
TO USE OUR NEW COMMUNITY
SPACE OR BASEMENT AUDITORIUM
WHEN NOT IN USE FOR LIBRARY
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

**FIND MORE INFORMATION
ON OUR WEBSITE:**

WWW.MORRISLIBRARY.COM/MEETING-ROOMS/

MONTHLY BOOK CLUBS



Unwind with drinks and great conversation in a casual setting. Food and drink are available for purchase.

When: First Thursday of the month, 6-7 PM

Where: Clayton's Tap, Morris, IL

August 2026: *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan

September 2026: *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd



The READbellion

Designed for readers aged 18-30, this young adult book club features bold stories and fresh perspectives.

When: Second Tuesday of the month, 6-7 PM

Where: Morris Area Public Library

August 2026: *A Far Wilder Magic* by Allison Saft

September 2026: *Where the Dark Stands Still* by A. B. Poranek

Afternoon BOOK CLUB

Share your love of books in a welcoming environment with fellow enthusiasts.

When: Third Monday of the month, 3-4 PM

Where: Morris Area Public Library

August 2026: *Local Woman Missing* by Mary Kubica

September 2026: *The Only One Left* by Riley Sager

SCAM SMARTS: STAY ONE STEP AHEAD



**Learn how to spot, stop, and protect yourself
from today's most common scams**

**AUGUST 25
2026**

TUESDAY
12-1PM

ADULTS
AGES 18+

REGISTER BY CALLING 815-942-6880
OR STOP BY THE DESK