

A Message from the Mayor

You may have noticed a lot of activity at our Paul Struve Public Works Building on 67th Street. We are building a new attachment to the existing structure that will house all the administrative functions of the Department. Our Public Works employees will now have a modern work environment befitting the outstanding contributions they give the Village each and every day. We also saved the Village at least \$180,000 since the general contracting is being done by the Public Works Department itself.



Mayor Ernest Millsap

Similarly, the Hodgkins Police Department is getting a long awaited roof replacement. This building was purchased by the Village in the early 2000's from Fiala Paving company who had just completed the construction a few years prior to our acquisition. It did not take much in the way of financing to transfer the former office building into a state of the art police station. The new roof will be the latest investment to accommodate the needs of our great Police Department.

Another topic I wanted to bring you up to date on is WATER. While most of us take it for granted that we just turn on the faucet to enjoy Lake Michigan water, it is far from simple how we get it from the Lake to the tap. For many years the Village of McCook has been our distributor of Lake Michigan water. They have a water main connection with Chicago and then they distribute to Hodgkins and other communities that enjoy Lake Michigan water. It has worked well for many years. Our

connection to McCook is on Lenzi Avenue on the northeast portion of the Village. In the early 1990's when UPS established its presence in the Village of Hodgkins we set up an additional connection with the Justice Willow Springs Water Commission. They also distribute Lake water to neighboring communities. Our purpose in "looping" our water line with another distributor is to protect our water availability if something should happen to our McCook connection. This is called an emergency connection. We have been in talks with Justice-Willow Springs Water Commission to modernize our current emergency connection to also make it supplemental to our McCook connection. This would provide stronger

water pressure for our industrial properties on the south as well as the Weeping Willow Mobile Home Park. A special shout out to our Congressman Sean Casten for his role in getting the Village a Federal Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to help defray our costs.

On November 13 our Mobile Home Renters and building renters can start getting their rebate checks at the Village Hall. Don't forget that this year's check will be increased by \$100 per resident. Thanks to another successful year for the Village, I approved the Village Board's vote to increase the annual rebate checks for home owners and renters alike.



Congressman Sean Casten during his February 2023 visit to the Village.



Village Officials

Contact any of these officials by telephone at:

**Hodgkins
Village Hall
579-6700**

Village President

Ernest Millsap

Village Clerk

Stephanie Gardner

Deputy Clerk

Rose Marie Lopez

Trustees

Vicky Moxley

Dominic Misasi

Lida Mills

Tim Kovel

Jorea Touranjeau

RV Millsap

Village Comptroller

Melody Salerno

Village Attorneys

John T. O'Connell

Pat Rogers

Chief of Police

Joseph Klotz



Larry Rice Way



Keeping Our Residents Safe!

Our Public Works employees have installed flashing stop signs along Lyons Street. The signs were installed to aid in safety for our children and residents. We are hoping by adding these flashing signs, drivers will stop completely and be more aware of walkers and bike riders throughout town.

Shop with a Cop 2024

The Hodgkins Police Department is accepting applications for the Annual Shop with a Cop Program.

The holidays are fast approaching. This means we should soon expect the chill of winter upon us, Christmas music taking to the air, and various fundraisers going on that are specific to the holidays.

One of the most famous programs, Shop with a Cop, is a program where local law enforcement takes donations and raises money for the purpose of providing presents to children in underprivileged circumstances. The Hodgkins Sam's Club #Club6384 provides the yearly donations needed to host this event.

Children accepted into this program will meet up with local law enforcement at Sam's Club in Hodgkins on December 07, and be given a portion of the funds to buy whatever they desire.

Last year's program saw \$3,000 go to children in the area, and the Hodgkins Police Department, has announced that applications for this program are now being accepted. Staff from Sam's Club will be getting into the holiday spirit and will be dressing up as Santa and Mrs. Grinch.

Applications will be accepted from today through December 2nd. You may get applications from the Hodgkins Police Department. This month will go by fast, so don't wait to apply if you know a child who could use more holiday cheer.



GREATER CHICAGO - FOOD - DEPOSITORY.



* OPEN TO THE PUBLIC *

The Village of Hodgkins will be hosting our food pantry for 2024 & 2025
NOVEMBER 19, 2024
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
MAY 20, 2025

Pantry times are 3:30pm-5:30pm

and will be held at the Pleasantview Fire Station location at 9096 Joliet Rd. Hodgkins
Items distributed are non-perishables, dry goods and fresh produce

If you'd like to volunteer, arrive 30 minutes prior or **contact us at 708-579-6700 or email msalerno@villageofhodgkins.org www.villageofhodgkins.org**



Village Comptroller Melody Salerno

Communicator Raffle Winner!

The winners of the raffle received a gift card from various local merchants. The winners were Sue A., Lumie J., LLB, and Sandy F.



Sandy F

When Sandy dropped off her entry she said "I am dropping off the winning entry" and sure enough she was. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Hodgkins Holiday Raffle

Enter to win one of eight (8) local gift cards we will be raffling this holiday. Entries for this raffle will only be available within this edition of the Communicator. Tickets will NOT be available in person. Drawing to be held at the December Village Board Meeting. Complete the coupon below, drop it off at the Village Hall no later than

5PM December 6th or at the Holiday Happenings event



1 entry per household

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____



Holiday Happenings Entry 2024

Dispatches from the Chief



**Police Chief
Joseph Klotz**

The men and women of the Hodgkins Police Department work diligently to advance the department's mission: To honorably protect life and property, and to serve all members of our community with professionalism and dedication. From time to time, we at the Hodgkins Police Department like to publicly recognize those officers who, in the course of their normal duties, have exemplified these values of Honor, Professionalism, and Dedication. At the regular village board meeting on October 14, the department recognized several officers for their work.

On August 15, 2024 SGT Michael Bennett, SGT Josh Heller, INV Allan Mills, and OFC Rocco Giannelli were dispatched to the Sam's Club parking lot (9500 W. Joliet Rd) to investigate the report of a stabbing. The responding officers located the victim, who had been stabbed twice in the center of the chest and was struggling to breathe. The responding officers performed lifesaving measures on the victim, who was then transported by ambulance to Loyola Hospital.

Working together with officers from neighboring agencies as part of the Major Case Assistance Team



(From left) Mayor Millsap, Ofc. Mills, Ofc. Giannelli, Sgt. Heller, Sgt. Bennett, and Chief Klotz.

(MCAT), the team was able to locate the suspect vehicle that fled the scene and stop it within an hour and a half of the incident. As a result of our officers' quick and decisive response, and along with the cooperation and coordination of neighboring police agencies, a victim's life was saved, and a violent offender was quickly taken into custody without incident. The offender was charged with attempted murder.

On December 27, 2023, a detective from an out-of-state sheriff's office contacted the Hodgkins Police Department regarding a child grooming case that their department was investigating. INV Claralicia Torres methodically worked through this complex and disturbing case, conducting many interviews, writing search warrants, and sifting through large quantities of digital evidence. As a result of her persistence and dedication, an offender was charged with possession and solicitation of child

pornography and grooming, and is pending prosecution.

On December 22, 2023 Hodgkins Police Department officers were dispatched to UPS to investigate the report of a stolen vehicle. INV Allan Mills discovered that this vehicle theft, along with three others that were reported during the course of the initial investigation, were linked to a group active on social media accounts commonly known for selling stolen vehicles in the Chicago area. INV Mills collected the publicly available information he found on the social media accounts linked to the stolen vehicles and obtained a search warrant for the relevant accounts. INV Mills was able to identify a suspect, who was charged with two counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and four counts of possession of a stolen motor vehicle. His work not only helped resolve incidents in our village but also helped other departments resolve

similar cases and end this motor vehicle theft ring.

All of these officers are commended for representing our department's values and advancing its mission.

Things have also been busy for us where managing our building is concerned over the past few months. Two portions of the ongoing building renovation project have been completed. Roof replacement work was completed On October 11. Drain repairs and concrete work in the sally port garage were also completed. The floors in the sally port were treated with epoxy to help protect them from salt damage during the winter and extend their life significantly. We plan to make similar repairs to the main garage floor in 2025.

As always, the men and women of the Hodgkins Police Department appreciate the tremendous support we receive from the village. Without it, their difficult task would become impossible.



Hodgkins Police Gets New Deputy Chief

Almost any resident who's lived in our community for any significant time will be well familiar with Ryan Carrasquillo. For almost two decades, he has patrolled the streets of Hodgkins and helped keep our community safe. He has also taken an active leadership role in training and fundraising, so it comes as no surprise that he's now taking on yet another new leadership role.

On August 15, at the regular August Village Board meeting and in front of a crowded room full of friends, family, and supporters, Carrasquillo was promoted up from his position as Lieutenant of Patrol and sworn in as the Deputy Chief of the Hodgkins Police Department. Afterward, pictures were taken and cake was served.

Carrasquillo joined the Hodgkins Police Department in January of 2007, while still serving a ten-year stint in the United States Marine Corps. He had previously served overseas in the Iraq War, in 2004. Hodgkins was the first department he'd tested with. Although he was a little unsure about which direction he should go (while considering a full-length career in the Marines), he recognized this almost immediate job offer as a sign.

"I considered it an affirmation that law enforcement should be my next adventure," he said.

Shifting into the Marine Corps Reserves while pursuing law enforcement full-time, Carrasquillo soon found himself re-activated, and ended up in California for a period training Marines preparing to go overseas themselves. He was eventually sent to South America to serve as a firearms instructor in a joint Special



Forces training for multiple South American countries.

Upon returning to Illinois and the Hodgkins Police Department, Carrasquillo was sent to motorcycle school in Memphis, Tennessee to become the next motorcycle officer. He later became a Field Training Officer, instructing new police officers in the department on proper procedures and protocols, and on department technology systems, culture, and mission. Still later, he became a new Range Master when Officer Jim Pierce decided to step away from it, a role which he still serves in to the present day. Carrasquillo was promoted to Sergeant in 2015.

Around this time, Carrasquillo took over the department's Special

Olympics fundraising, such as the Polar Plunge and the Cop on Rooftop event with Dunkin. He says his mother was influential in this, as she has been heavily involved in working with special needs children for many years.

Carrasquillo's family have long been based in the area, and his parents have lived in Hodgkins for the past few years, becoming involved in the Hodgkins-McCook Aging Well group. Carrasquillo says this only serves to make him even more invested in the community.

"I'm proud to serve in a family-friendly town where I can also drive around and see my own friends and family every day. So helping to protect this community is understandably an especially high priority for me."

Holiday Happenings

By: Carol McGowan

This article was originally printed in the November 30, 2023 Desplaines Valley News

The Village of Hodgkins held their first Holiday Happening last year and a great time was had by all.

To kick off the event, a Santa float made its way through the lightly snow covered streets of the village to remind everyone to head over to the tree lighting at village hall, and the park district across the streets for family fun.

The crowd of about 250 people started to gather on Lyons Street which was blocked off the traffic for the tree lighting.

Carolers were on hand, and it was a joyous atmosphere while everyone waited for the tree and lights to go on.

Mayor Ernest Millsap, talked of the large tree and that it was planted years ago in memory of his brother, Larry.

The mayor thanked everyone for coming, and after a countdown by village officials, the tree was lit along with the lights all around village hall, and the park district.

The Hodgkins Public Works Department did all of the light decorating. In years past, they would hire out for it to be done, but did it themselves to the delight of all.

Inside the park district, from 4:30-7:30pm, there was hot chocolate, popcorn, cookie decorating, crafts, story-time with Santa's elves, and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Outside, there was a trackless train, and everyone was able to roast s'mores.

The mayor was pleased with the turnout.

"This is wonderful! We have a great turnout. Everyone, including the adults and children, are having a great time. We had light snow which made it feel more like the holidays."

"We provided 30 Thanksgiving meals to residents, and now this event. We are all in this together. We enjoy the smiles and happiness. It all makes us feel like kids, and if we can put the smile on anyone's face, that's what we are all about."

The mayor's wife, Joan, said it was exciting to see it happen.

"When Ernest and I decided we were going to do this, we had a vision of more community events. This was our first 'must have', more Christmas lights! Our public works department did all of our decorations and they did an amazing job everywhere!"



Hodgkins Mayor Ernest Millsap-right, with his wife Joan-left, and their grandchildren visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

HODGKINS
Holiday Happening
 November 24th, 2024
 5:00pm - 7:00pm
 Village of Hodgkins/Hodgkins Park District

Tree Lighting & Fun Holiday Activities

Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot chocolate, cookie decorating, s'mores, ornament making, trackless train, and more!

WWW.HODGKINSPARK.ORG : 708-354-6563



Breakfast with Santa - December 7th



Mobile DMV

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE
ALEXI GIANNOULIAS

The Village of Hodgkins is hosting the IL Secretary of State on December 17, 2024. They will be at the Village Hall from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. You must make an appointment with the Village Hall at 708-579-6700. There will also be a Rules of the Road Class from 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

Services Provided

- Drivers’s License – Standard and REAL (First time*, Renewal*, Duplicate, Corrected)
- State ID Cards – Standard and REAL (First time, Renewal, Duplicate, Corrected)
- Vehicle Registration Stickers
- Organ & Tissue Donor & Voter Registration (With processing of a Driver’s License or State ID)

Fees for Services

Original instruction permit.....	\$20
Basic driver’s license	\$30
Driver’s license – ages 18-20	\$5
Driver’s license – ages 21-68.....	\$30
Driver’s license – ages 69-80	\$5
Driver’s license – ages 81-86.....	\$2
Driver’s license – age 87 and over.....	FREE
Corrected or duplicate driver’s license or permit.....	\$5
Duplicate driver’s license age 60+ for stolen license.....	FREE
Duplicate driver’s license or permit for active-duty military.....	FREE
New classification added, not at time of renewal (except CDL).....	\$5
Original or renewal M or L classification in addition to basic fee	\$5
5-year state ID card	\$20
5-year state ID card – under age 18.....	\$5
Duplicate state ID card	\$20
Duplicate state ID card – under age 18	\$5
Corrected state ID card	\$10
Corrected state ID card – under age 18.....	\$5
State ID card – Age 65+, persons with disabilities, homeless.....	FREE

Acceptable Forms of Payment

Visa, Mastercard, AMEX, Discover Credit and Debit Cards
(All credit or debit payments incur a transaction fee)
Personal Check/Money Order
(Exact amount and current date required)

Do you need a Drivers License or State ID?

Do you want a:

Standard DL/ID REAL DL/ID

Is this a New DL/ID?
or
Renewal?

Is this a New DL/ID?
or
Renewal?

If there are no changes, surrender your DL or ID for a new one.

If an address change is needed:
Standard: one piece of mail required.
REAL: two pieces of mail required.

For a new Standard DL or ID, one original document from Groups 1, 2, 3 & 4, is required.

For a new REAL DL or ID, one original document from Groups 1, 2, 4, and two original documents from Group 3 is required.

Please Note

* Written and road tests are not available at Mobile DMV events.





New Hodgkins Trustee: Robert V. Millsap

Robert V. Millsap was born and raised in Hodgkins. The second youngest of Vernon and Alida Millsap's 7 children, R.V. grew up on Chester Avenue and hasn't left the block since. R.V. met the love of his life, Beverly, at the park district tennis court and got married shortly after graduating high school. They are

the proud parents of three daughters and doting grandparents to 5 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. R.V. was an electrician for Vulcan Materials for 43 years before retiring in 2023. During that time, he was an avid 16" softball player, playing for multiple teams throughout his career. Post-retirement, R.V. has more time to

enjoy traveling, watching sports, and most of all, spending time with his grandchildren. R.V. was a dedicated Civil Service Commissioner for 12 years before being appointed as Village Trustee in August of this year. He looks forward to continuing to serve this wonderful community.



Left: DeeDee's great grandchildren (Melody and Anthony) looking at the display. **Right:** Jenny Gardner putting the village together.

Hodgkins Historical Society

The Historical Museum is excited to feature 24 feet of a Christmas Village hand painted by lifelong resident Dee Dee Kovel. Dee Dee painted houses and accessories for her daughter Jenny Gardner. Ms. Gardner has spent over 100 hours setting up the Christmas village to share with the

community. You don't want to miss this spectacular holiday display. Along with the Christmas village display we have a collection of hand made ornaments by residents of Hodgkins and nostalgic Christmas ornaments and displays. A visit to the Historical Society Museum will get you into the holiday spirit.

We have special dates and times that we will be open November through January. They are as follows:

November 16th	6-8pm	December 8th	1-3pm
17th	1-3pm	18th	6-8pm
21st	6-8pm	22nd	1-3pm
23rd	1-3pm	27th	6-8pm
29th	6-8pm		
30th	1-3pm	January 3rd	6-8pm
		16th	6-8pm

Aging Well Doings

On September 21st was a day of fun for all 26 members that attended the Medieval Times trip. Everyone had fun cheering on their knights to victory!

On October 16th was spooky time. After the meeting members gathered for a Halloween Party. They had a spooktacular time with costumes and fun treats.



Dominic Misasi



Lida Mills

The Aging Well group meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10AM. If you live in Hodgkins or McCook and not a member, please considering joining us. We are planning fun filled 2025 of activities.

Meetings are held at the Hodgkins Village Hall.





6500 Wenz Avenue, Hodgkins, IL 60525
(708) 579-1844 • www.hodgkinslibrary.org

Trunk or Treat News

Thank you to everyone who came to our 4th Annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 27th! We had great attendance trick or treater and trunk wise. There were just over 100 trick or treaters.

We would like to give a huge thank you to Continental Toyota for giving a \$200 donation. This donation was used to purchase the candy library staff members gave out. The library would also like to give a shout out to the local businesses and families who provided a trunk including Alivio Medical Center, Creative Academy, Hodgkins Fire Department, Hodgkins Park District, The Karp Family, Leslie Collazo, The Lopez Family, Mujeres Latinas en Acción, The Sances Family, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, Urban Air from North Riverside, and The Wells Family.



Holiday Programs

The theme for the library's reading program this winter is construction and is called "Groundbreaking Winter Reading Program." Materials for this will be available for pick up starting Saturday, December 21st. The Winter Reading Program will conclude Saturday, February 15th.

This year the library is creating Holiday Gift Wrapping Kits that patrons can register for and pick up. These will be available throughout December. Our 3rd Annual Christmas Pajama Extravaganza with Santa is on Saturday, December 14th at 3 PM. We will also have a Noon Year's Eve Party for

children on Monday, December 30th at 11 AM.

The library will continue programming leading up to and during construction. Specific details are still being worked out, and we will formally announce alternative locations through our quarterly newsletter.

★ SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★

Here are the addresses of some of our active duty military.

If you have a family member you would like to include please call the Village Hall with the person's name and address.

SPC Almeida, Mario
TF Fiking/BC01-125IN
CMR 1785
APO, AE 09807-02011
Son of Mario & Belem Almeida

Amy Sheldon, Michael James
1865 Heartland Drive
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547
Son of Ed Sheldon

Major Sneed, Cody
5612 Markham Dr.
Temple, TX 76502
Grandson of Ruth Sneed

Major Brandon Cummings
142 NE Blackberry Rd.
Elgin, OK 73538
Grandson of Noel Cummings





Village of Hodgkins
8990 Lyons Street
Hodgkins, Illinois 60525

Content Editors: Rodney Cummings and Rose M. Lopez

Dates to Remember

- November 13..... Garbage Rebates are available
- November 24..... Hodgkins Holiday Happenings
- December 7Breakfast with Santa
- December 13..... Last day for garbage rebate
- December 14.....Library Christmas Pajama Extravaganza
- December 17..... Illinois Secretary of State Mobile Unit at Village Hall
- December 24..... Village Hall Closed
- December 25..... Village Hall Closed
- December 30..... Library New Year’s Eve Party
- December 31..... Village Hall closed
- January 1..... Village Hall closed

*Don't forget to visit the
Village of Hodgkins Historical Society!*

Contact us

Village of Hodgkins
8990 Lyons Street
Hodgkins, Illinois 60525

708-579-6700
Fax: 708-579-6707

www.villageofhodgkins.org



Join us on face book
@villageofhodgkins

Regular Village Hall Hours:
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Board Meetings:
2nd Monday of the month
7:00 p.m.

Sign up on our website to receive your Communicator by email