

## A Message from the Mayor

Many of you will remember the Laundromat and Little Store in front of Valley Oaks on East Ave. Several years ago we demolished and removed the building. It has been for sale ever since. Recently, however, the Village contracted with a developer who wants to duplicate the format with a new laundromat, store and even insert a few gaming machines. Capital Community Partners is working with its lender to finalize the purchase and sale. We will keep you updated on the status.

I wanted you to know that our Attorney Pat Rogers was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. This is a great honor for Pat and we congratulate him on the milestone. Many of you know that Pat retired as a Cook County Circuit Judge in 2020. He had been working with our other Attorney, John O’Connell, since 1989. Prior to that he was an Assistant Cook County States’ Attorney. While working with John, he assisted the Village with many projects that have elevated Hodgkins to where we are today. In addition, he was the Lyons



**Mayor Ernest Millsap**

Township Supervisor until his election to Judge in 2007. John convinced Pat to come back to Hodgkins upon his Judicial retirement. We are glad to have him back.

We had a great lunch with our State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid. He is a very impressive young man. Harvard educated, he is not only intelligent but very energetic for his constituents. For example, after meeting with our own Weeping Willow residents in 2022 and 2023 he introduced House Bill 3526, which caps annual lot-rent increases in manufactured home communities at 3% plus consumer price index. His goal is to protect mobile home renters from sudden, outsized lot-rent hikes. The bill is now out of committee and now awaits a vote on the House of Representatives. Any resident interested in

helping the Representative on this matter should contact us at the Village and we will put you in touch with Representative Rashid and his staff.



Pat Rogers swears in Ofc. Ponce.



Mayor Millsap welcomes Rep. Rashid to Hodgkins.



### America Celebrates 250 Years!

On July 4th 2026, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Keep a look out for Hodgkins celebrations throughout the year including a village wide picnic, parade & more!







### Hodgkins Fest

This year's Hodgkins Fest, held on Saturday, August 23rd, was a great success! Terrific food, games, music, raffle prizes, and family fun were in abundance everywhere. A craft show was held indoors, an outdoor concert livened up the evening, and it all ended with a spectacular fireworks show. A great time was had by all.

# HOLIDAY RAFFLE

Entries for this raffle will only be available within this edition of the Communicator. Tickets will NOT be availbe in person. Complete the coupon below and drop it off at the Village Hall no later than 5PM Dec 8th.

1 entry per household

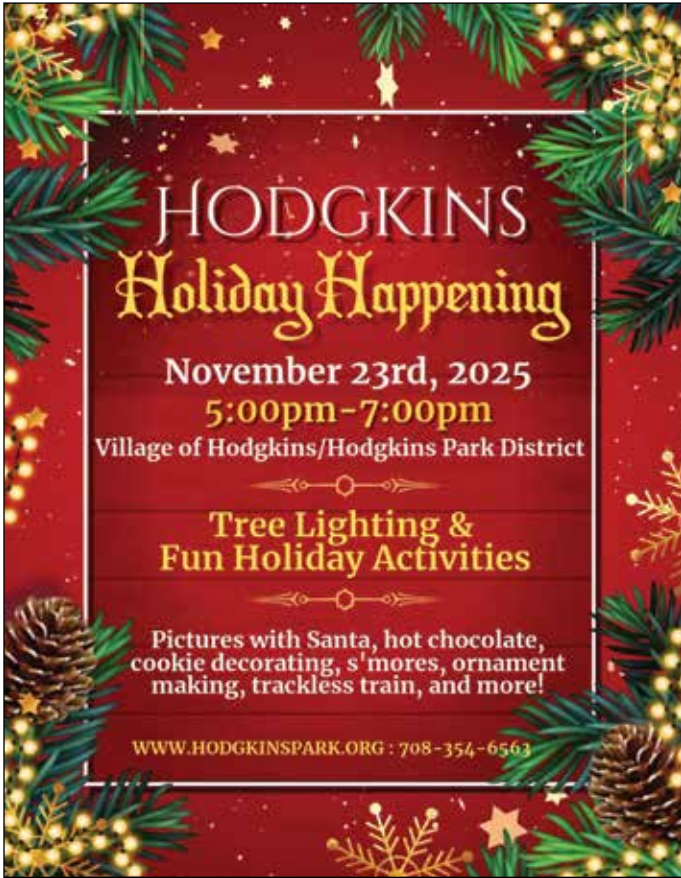
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# Holiday Happening



**HODGKINS  
Holiday Happening**

November 23rd, 2025  
5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Village of Hodgkins/Hodgkins Park District

**Tree Lighting &  
Fun Holiday Activities**

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

WWW.HODGKINSPARK.ORG : 708-354-6563



**Hodgkins  
Holiday  
Happening**  
NOVEMBER 23

- SANTA'S PARADE
- TRACKLESS TRAIN
- S'MORE STATION
- PHOTO ZONE
- TREE LIGHTING
- CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
- HOT CHOCOLATE
- AND MORE!

5PM-7PM



**BREAKFAST  
With Santa**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13  
DOORS OPEN 9:30-11:30AM

PANCAKE BREAKFAST | PHOTOS WITH SANTA | HOLIDAY MUSIC

**WRISTBANDS ARE REQUIRED!**

FREE TO RESIDENTS  
\$7 NON-RESIDENTS



# Hodgkins PD Says Goodbye to Lieutenant Michael Cimino

The Hodgkins Police Department will soon be losing its currently longest-serving officer in late January, 2026. His last work day being set for mid-December, Lieutenant Michael Cimino, with a combined 36 years total in law enforcement, will at long last enter a well-deserved retirement.

Mike was born in Chicago and grew up in Bridgeview, graduating from Argo High School in 1988. He started college at Moraine Valley Community College in the fall of 1988. He took a criminal justice class as a random elective and loved it. Realizing he couldn't be a regular police officer until age 21, Mike decided to enlist in the US Army, where he could be assigned duty as a Military Police officer at age nineteen. After enlistment, he served as an MP in the Army, both active duty and reserve combined, for six years (from 1989 to 1995). During the active duty portion of his military career,



**Lieutenant Michael Cimino**

he served in Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf War. He later graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1994.

Mike was soon hired as a police officer in Justice, Illinois, but in time decided to take an offer of employment from the Hodgkins Police Department, coming over around the same time as fellow Justice officers Jim Pierce and Todd Miller. Mike's first specialized assignment was working as a

juvenile officer, as he carried that certification over from his time in Justice. Mike also very early on inherited the DARE Officer duties, which he helmed for thirteen years. When Joe Moxley retired, Mike was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, after which he attended and completed the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command.

Over the years of his career as a Hodgkins police officer, Mike continued with various specialized duties, serving for many of those years as a Field Training Officer. He served as Vice President of the West Suburban Juvenile Officers' Association for four years. Additionally, Mike was heavily involved with FOP fundraisers through his time at Hodgkins. He was tasked by then-Chief Millsap to kick off the inaugural season of Hodgkins PD's part in the Special Olympics "Cop On Top" event in 2013. He has also served in leadership positions on the

Hodgkins Police Pension Board (occupying the Active Member Trustee role) for the past twenty years, first as Vice President for ten years, and most recently as President for the past ten years. He's also been an active contributor to the Hodgkins-McCook Aging Well group, attending most of its meetings and providing important safety tips and bulletins to the members.

Mike has been married to his wife, Monica, for over twenty-five years, and his two sons, Cameron and Nico, are now grown. Mike is thankful to the Village of Hodgkins for a long and successful law enforcement career, a labor of love that he can now close with honor. He summed it up best himself:

"After 28 years of service with the Hodgkins Police Department, I retire with gratitude in my heart - for the people I served, the partners I stood beside, and the community that gave my work meaning."

Mike will be missed by all.

## From the Desk of Chief Carrasquillo

The past few months have seen a lot of exciting things happening at the Hodgkins Police Department! We've put a lot of work into our building, to make improvements to both the interior and exterior. This has included painting, new furniture, new flooring, and a major landscaping project conducted by Elias Lopez of the Park District to beautify our exterior. There's no stopping in sight, as we've now demolished our old free-standing garage in back, with plans now to replace it with



**Chief Carrasquillo**

a larger, multifunction annex building on site.

But we are most excited

about the three new faces coming on board. In late August, we swore in Nicholas Chavez, Uziel Medrano, and Anthony Respondi as our newest officers on the force. They started at the police academy almost right away, beginning on September 2nd at the Police Training Institute in Champaign, Illinois, with a graduation set for December 18th.

We have a lot of confidence in our recruits. Nicholas Chavez is an Army veteran, Uziel Medrano is a Marine

Corps veteran, and Anthony Respondi is a college graduate and the fourth generation of his family in law enforcement. Our department is excited to welcome this crop of new faces, and this will place us in a full-manpower position.

As always, we are honored to serve this community, and we of course welcome feedback or even just a friendly hello on the street. Enjoy the upcoming holiday season, and stay safe out there.

# ANDY LYNN: A HODGKINS RESIDENT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Hodgkins has long had its share of craftspeople, whether hobbyists working on large-scale arts and crafts projects, mechanical gurus rebuilding engines or creating working miniature trains for kids, or tech wizards tapping into the “internet of things.” One of the more interesting technical minds I’ve met in a while is Hodgkins’ own Andy Lynn. Although he’s well known around town for tinkering on computers, perhaps most people are unaware just how extensively and far-a-field Andy’s technical explorations have wandered.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee in the late 1960s to Jimmy and Joyce Lynn, Andy moved with his family to Willow Springs at age five when his dad found a new job, and Andy attended school there. When his parents divorced when he was eight, Andy, his mom, and his sister moved to the west side of Joliet, where he attended school up until the start of high school. In 4th Grade he did a science project on record-pressing, because that was his dad’s line of work (his dad was president of a record-pressing company, where they would take metal masters and press them into composite carbon). Andy would spend summers in Nashville, where he still had a lot of extended family on both sides.

When Andy returned from Nashville for his freshman year in high school, his mother had married Richard Stewart, a Hodgkins police officer. They had moved to Willow Springs, where Rich lived, and where Andy would attend Stag High School through his sophomore year. After that, they moved to Hodgkins, as Rich had become the acting Chief of Police in Hodgkins. Andy attended Lyons Township High School thereafter. Andy’s involvement in a vocational club, VICA, got him out of school early each day, and eventually got him his first job at Western Contempo (now Janik Custom Millwork) making cabinets, while still in high school. A tinkerer by nature, Andy was constantly looking for things to build, or to take apart to study just for curiosity. His mom, Joyce, had a Commodore 64 computer, and Andy played around on it a lot during the mid-1980s. He taught himself how to program that computer, and wrote a banking program and a primitive CAD application, among others.

Andy graduated from LTHS in 1985. After high school, he worked for a year at



Andy Lynn

Certified Grocers as a picker. By this time he’d moved into an apartment in Chicago Ridge, where he met his future wife, Kelly, and married her in 1990. In the meantime, he’d gone to work for another cabinet shop, there in Blue Island. Soon they added daughter Jessica to the happy family, in the early 1990s.

His stepfather Rich retired from the Hodgkins Police Department in 1996, and Andy, Kelly, and Jessica moved into Rich’s house in Hodgkins. But in 1998, Andy got an infected wisdom tooth, and soon he was losing his breath whenever lying down. He’d lost his appetite completely. Before long he had blisters under the skin on his leg, a sign of edema. A worried trip to the hospital revealed he had congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy, from the wisdom tooth infection attacking and weakening his heart. Unable to get a doctor’s release to return to work, he soon ended up on disability. He had to get a defibrillator in 1998, and a Left Ventricular Assistance Device (or “heart pump”) for about two years. His heart continued worsening for many years thereafter, culminating in a heart transplant in 2016. In the meantime, their daughter Sydney had come along in 2002, and both of their daughters got their elementary education at Hodgkins School, and both graduated from LTHS.

Andy’s long interest in electronics and science had prompted him in the early 1990s to purchase his first computer, an IBM 386, from a neighbor in Worth who was a computer technician. It only cost him \$50, and ran on Windows 3.1.

“I went home and took it apart immediately. I just had to know how it all worked,” he said. “I then bought a modem to see what the internet was all about.”

Andy used an early version of America Online, now known as AOL. He also became interested in the gradually developing “internet of things.” Eventually, when the technology became available, Andy began purchasing and implementing voice activation technology for his home lights and appliances. Today, his entire home, with all its appliances and systems, is controlled by voice and remote application. While I interviewed him, he demonstrated that he could easily command any light or appliance in his house by voice from his garage.

About three years ago, he got a 3D printer for Christmas, and began making his own electrical switch housings and other mechanical devices he needed. Long interested in fish tanks and saltwater aquariums, he designed his own filtration systems. He also 3D printed a module for his fish tank controller to supplement its existing functions. He soon outgrew this 3D printer, and upgraded six months ago to a newer, much larger unit capable of printing in multiple colors.

About two years ago, Andy’s daughter Jessica gifted him his first drone for Christmas. He soon upgraded to a more advanced model, which he lost somewhere on River Road, and never found. In the past year, he purchased his third and newest drone.

“I was looking for the best drone I can get and still not have to have a license. And that’s it,” he said, pointing to the latest model, a DJI Mini 4 Pro.

With this model, he’s taken numerous pictures all over town, and only has to have what’s termed a “trust” license from the FAA, which he was able to obtain through an online test for drone operators. This model uses GPS coordinates, and features autopilot and auto-return functions, which means it will return home when the feature is selected or when nearing the end of its battery range. He said the best and most interesting pics he’s gotten so far have been of the Independence Day and Hodgkins Fest fireworks, and an overview of Hodgkins with the City of Chicago in the background.

I encourage you to get to know this intriguing and resourceful Hodgkins resident.



# Hodgkins Aging Well

Aging well continues their fun filled trips, sharing memories with neighbors. In August the group went on Lake Geneva for a luncheon cruise. They had a great day for a cruise! The group was able to enjoy a lunch while hearing interesting stories of the historical homes along the lake. In October the group enjoyed a Halloween party with a special guest! Costumes were worn and all had a great time. This month they will have their annual Friends Giving on November 19th. If you are interested please RSVP by November 12th. If you are interested in joining the group stop by the Village Hall. Must be 55 years or older to join.



Dominic Misasi

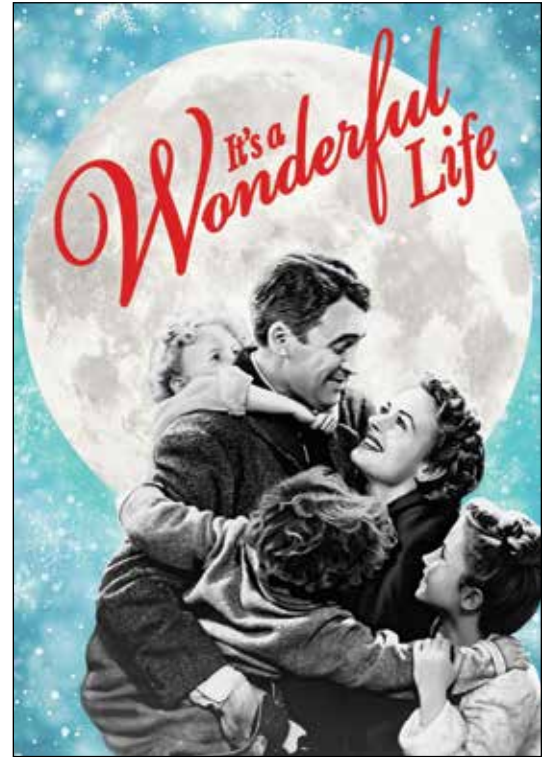


Lida Mills



# Hodgkins Historical Society

Looking for some local history this season? Come visit our Historical Museum located at 6511 Kane Avenue. This holiday season they will be featuring an "It's A Wonderful Life" themed display, donated by Margery Bobysud. In addition to the main display, there will be themed Christmas trees, and the public is invited to bring items to decorate these trees with, including family service members and other historical memorabilia. Stop by on the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month, November through January. Check with the village hall for times.



 **MOBILE PANTRY**  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR FREE FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND NON-PERISHABLE GROCERIES**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH**  
**3:30PM - 5:30 PM**  
**PLEASANTVIEW FIRE STATION**  
**9096 JOLIET ROAD**





**GARBAGE & RENTER REBATES**  
 Will begin on **November 19th**  
 Will end on **December 18th**  
 Residents seeking a rebate **MUST PROVIDE A VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD, WITH THE ADDRESS THEY RESIDE AT.**

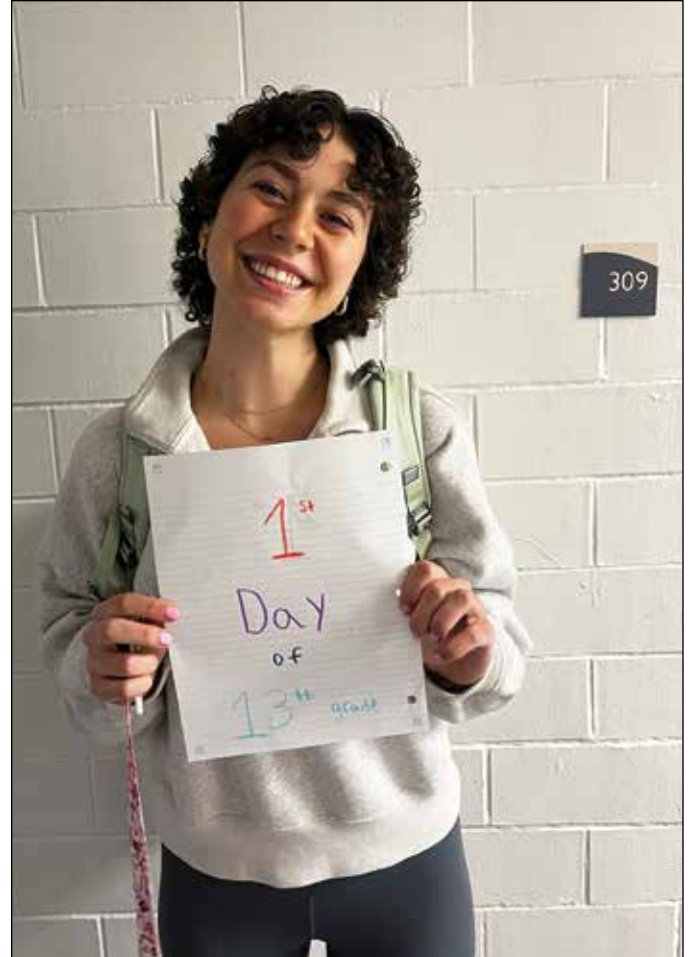
**Reembolso de basura empiezan el 19 de Noviembre hasta el 18 de Diciembre**  
 Las personas que solicita un reembolso debe tener una identificacion con fotografia con la direccion donde viven.



# KAITLYN STRONG!

A year and half ago, lifelong resident Kaitlyn Filkins had graduated high school, gone to prom, and started getting ready for her new life adventure, college. Kaitlyn is an avid softball player, playing both for LTHS and a travel team. Unfortunately, Kaitlyn's life took a turn as she was diagnosed with a rare blood disease called Aplastic Anemia. As she navigated her unexpected journey, she always had her family and neighbors behind her, fighting for her every step of the way. Purple ribbons were placed throughout town and fundraiser events were carried out as Hodgkins rallied behind her to show support.

Kaitlyn received a bone marrow transplant last fall. Although the road to recovery was long and exhausting for her, we are glad to say she has recovered very well. She has regained her life, and was able to start college this fall. She was even able to play softball for her college, Benedictine University! We are so glad to have this fabulous kid as a resident!



# A Message From Tim Prendergast

Library Executive Director • [tprendergast@hodgkinslibrary.org](mailto:tprendergast@hodgkinslibrary.org)

What a huge change a few months can bring!

The Library impatiently spent the summer waiting for our gas and electricity utilities to be disconnected. After waiting many months, Nicor and ComEd came out to disconnect service, and demolition immediately began. At the end of August, the building was meticulously knocked down and excavations of the site started. As this letter is written, foundations are being formed and poured. Underground utilities are being mapped and installed. Next comes the steel skeleton of the building and exterior walls.



Tim Prendergast

Construction is so interesting because it moves slower than we would like, yet quicker than we realize. Every day, the site of the new library will change a little bit, but those small changes will give rise to a new library building sooner than we think.

The Library is running as normally as we can in our trailer on Kimball. Our hours remain the same; Monday – Thursday 10am – 9pm, Friday – Saturday 10am – 5pm. Computers are available for use to the public, and our scanner, copier, and fax machines are up and running. We have work/study spaces for those who need them, but they are not private. The collection in the trailer is limited to movies and new books. The rest of the collection is available to check out, with a ½ day delay for us to retrieve items from storage. Please

contact the Library with any questions regarding access to our materials.

Our quarterly newsletter was mailed out at the beginning of October. Staff is planning programming and events to stay engaged with the community between now and the middle of Summer 2026. Everyone, from myself, the staff, and the Board of Trustees are excited to get into the new building to serve the residents of Hodgkins in the way you have come to expect. But while we wait for the new building, I hope you come by to check out our temporary space at 6519 Kimball and peek over the fence at the corner of Wenz and Lyons.

Sincerely,  
**Tim Prendergast**  
 Executive Director  
[tprendergast@hodgkinslibrary.org](mailto:tprendergast@hodgkinslibrary.org)  
 708.579.1844





**Village of Hodgkins**  
**8990 Lyons Street**  
**Hodgkins, Illinois 60525**

**Content Editors: Rodney Cummings and Rose M. Lopez**



# Dates to Remember

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>November 10, 2025</b><br>Village Meeting                               | <b>December 8, 2025</b><br>Village Meeting                         |
| <b>November 18, 2025</b><br>Mobile Food Pantry                            | <b>December 13, 2025</b><br>Breakfast with Santa                   |
| <b>November 19, 2025</b><br>Garbage rebates begin                         | <b>December 18, 2025</b><br>Garbage rebates end                    |
| <b>November 23, 2025</b><br>Hodgkins Holiday Happenings                   | <b>December 24 &amp; 25th</b><br>Village Hall closed for Christmas |
| <b>November 27 &amp; 28, 2025</b><br>Village Hall closed for Thanksgiving |  |



## Contact us

**Village of Hodgkins**  
**8990 Lyons Street**  
**Hodgkins, Illinois 60525**

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

[www.villageofhodgkins.org](http://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.**

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