



# Village of Hodgkins Communicator

## A Message from Mayor Ernest Millsap . . .

It has been three years since the Village and the City of Countryside entered into an intergovernmental agreement with a developer who wanted to open a restaurant on the old Eddie Z's property on 75th Street and the southbound I-294 exit. After the Covid Pandemic, a sluggish economy and the sale to a new owner, we are finally on the verge of seeing Duckee's Travel Center become a reality. Permits have been issued and we are now awaiting renovations to begin on the building. The building is in Hodgkins but the Truck fueling is to be on property in Countryside. The developer incentives and revenue will be shared equally between the two communities. This kind of cooperative development is unique and we are anxious to make both towns better with this Project.

The owner's goal is to make Duckee's the Midwest's premier travel stop. It will feature a 24/7 quality quick food and fuel facility.

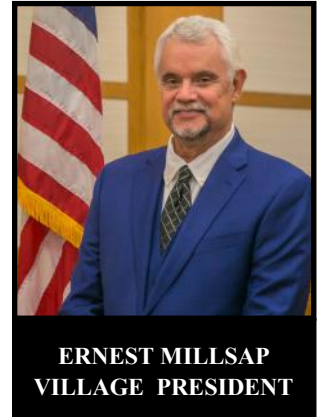
The fueling component of *Duckee's* commercial enterprise will feature five under canopy truck bays, 16 pumps under canopy, and nine tier 3 EV charging stations. The existing 22,000 square foot building on the property is being repurposed to provide a well-stocked convenience store, gaming, and standard truck stop amenities including showers, laundry, and a trucker's lounge. *Duckee's* is committed to providing unparalleled cleanliness and safety in their restrooms, with 17 individual private, lockable full-service bathrooms.

*Duckee's* offers a wide variety of dining options and has set out to change the way people view gas station food. Whether you're enjoying an organic egg croissant sandwich for breakfast, a 1/4 lb. hot dog topped with pork belly for lunch, or a juicy steak for dinner, *Duckee's* is focused on providing fresh, high-quality ingredients, with recipes made in-house. Everything on the menu will be made to order and can be eaten on property, picked up or delivered. Food amenities will include a specialty coffee operation, bubble tea, Fredee's Famous Beef, Kernel's Gourmet Popcorn, and Lindt Chocolate and Ice Cream.

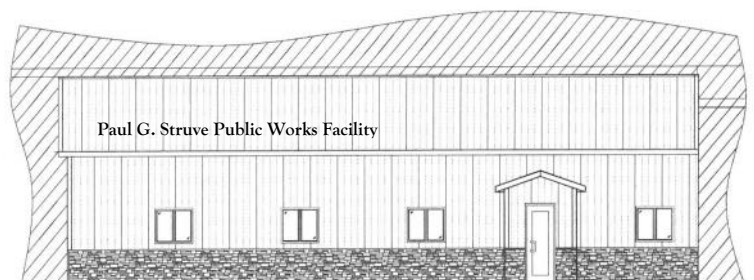
Customers will have the option to dine in the family friendly dining room which holds 50 people or preorder and pick up their food from the cashless, multi-lane drive-thru facility. Programing includes a three-lane drive-thru driveway with access to a center escape lane to optimize customer wait time and enhance employee safety mainly for a happier drive-thru experience.

We will make sure our residents know when ground will be broken on this Project.

We have accepted the low bid for the new Paul G. Struve Public Works Facility Offices. The project will be approved and awarded at the March Board meeting and will begin this spring.



ERNEST MILLSAP  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT





## 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**  
Larry Rice  
Vicky Moxley  
Dominic Misasi  
Lida Mills  
Tim Kovel  
Jorea Touranjeau

**Village Comptroller**  
Melody Salerno

**Village Attorneys**  
John T. O'Connell  
Pat Rogers

**Chief of Police**  
Joseph Klotz

**We will not be hosting early voting this year**  
**Brookfield and Lyons are early voting centers**  
**PRIMARY FOR HODKINS RESIDENTS ONLY**



**March 19, 2024—7am—7pm**

**Hodgkins Village Hall**



**Hodgkins Annual Shred Event**

**Saturday, March 30th - 10:00am—12:00pm**

**Village Hall Parking lot**

**This is a great time for you to shred personal papers safely.**

## **The Return of Attorney Tim Callahan**

Attorney Tim Callahan will be returning to the Village of Hodgkins on a part-time basis. He will be available by appointment only to meet with Village residents to prepare Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorney paperwork and also basic legal advice. Call the Village Hall at 708-579-6700 to make an appointment.

## **Part Time Police Records Clerk Wanted**

Hodgkins Police Department is looking for a part time records clerk. 18—24 hours a week, mostly weekday evenings, but candidate must be flexible. Contact Rodney at the PD for more information 708-352-4623.



## **HODKINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

The Historical Society would like to put an exhibit together featuring photography equipment including cameras, slide projectors, film projectors, video cameras, and if possible some home movies of events in Hodgkins that could be shown digitally (dvd or drive can be downloaded and returned). The museum is looking forward to presenting an exhibit featuring these items in the summer months. If residents would like to donate or loan items for the exhibit, please contact Sue Cappa by leaving a message with the Hodgkins Village Hall.

The Historical Museum is open the 1st Sunday every month from 1- 3 pm.

The museum is also open the third Thursday of the month from 6 - 8pm.

Groups can call and make arrangements for tours on other days.

The museum is located at 6511 Kane Ave, old Village Hall and Fire Station.

Please join the Hodgkins Historical Society Facebook page!

Information of events and upcoming exhibits are posted on the Facebook page.





## In Memory of Ruth Cook, former First Lady of Hodgkins



Longtime resident, Ruth Cook passed away on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She would have celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 28<sup>th</sup> this summer. Ruth was the youngest of five girls born to George and Rose Klein in Belleville Illinois.



*Ruth and her Sisters*

In 1944, Ruth met a “cocky young soldier” stationed at nearby Scott Field, occupied by the Army Air Corps, at the time. Ruth first met Leon Cook at a restaurant in Belleville when she took a quarter from him and played “White Christmas” on the jukebox. She always bragged that she continued to take his money for the rest of their lives. Leon and Ruth were married on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945 in Belleville and “White Christmas” would forever be “*Their*” song.



*Leon and Ruth's 50th Anniversary*

Ruth moved to Hodgkins and lived with Leon's parents until the war was over and Leon was discharged from the Army Air Corps. Ruth and Leon had three daughters: Sandra, Candace and Melody, grandchildren, Eric, Amanda, Alexandra, Andrew and Samantha, as well as great grandchildren. Leon would become involved in the Village in various positions, on the Volunteer Fire Department, Village Clerk and served as Mayor from 1968-79. Ruth was always by his side but never wanted to be in the spotlight. She was involved in the elementary school with her daughters. She would always volunteer to be a “Room Mother” and enjoyed being around all the kids.



*Leon's Retirement*

Ruth and Leon were married for 68 Years, until Leon's passing in 2013. Ruth took great pride in her appearance. She enjoyed getting her hair and nails done weekly. She enjoyed going out to eat with her family and loved her visits with her



*Ruth with her daughters Sandy, Melody, & Candy*

grandchildren. When the Covid pandemic hit, it really slowed her activities down. Ruth was blessed with good health for most of her life. The last couple of years were rough on her health, but she would always smile and say she was doing good.

Ruth is remembered for her smile and laughter. She enjoyed sitting on her porch waving and talking to her neighbors and friends. Ruth was one of those people that most of us wish we could be all the time. She was a good friend, neighbor and resident to us all. Most of all she was a loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother that will always be remembered, with a smile.





**Melody Salerno**  
Village Comptroller



## Village of Hodgkins Fresh Produce Pantry

**March 19, 2024** 9096 Joliet Road, (Fire Department)

This is open to any person in Lyons Township. The Greater Chicago Food Depository drops off fresh fruits and vegetables along with non-perishable groceries.

The day after the pantry we offer the same fruits and vegetables that are leftover from the pantry to all residents of Hodgkins. This food is located at the Village Hall.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month The Village will put out extra non perishable food in our lobby. This food will be for any Hodgkins resident. Items will be on a first come basis.



## Hodgkins' Food Pantry

If you are a resident in need of food the Village of Hodgkins has a food pantry located inside the Village Hall. Once a month you may receive a box of food. You will need to provide a valid state I.D. or drivers license. Please call us so we can have a box ready for you 708-579-6700.

We also take donations for our food pantry at the Village Hall. We accept any non-expired non-perishable foods, paper products, personal hygiene items, etc. Please contact the Village with any questions.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out when we host the Mobile Food Pantry.

If you would like to help out please contact The Village 708-579-6700.

**Our next Village Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Pantry is March 19, 2024.**



### Mobile Pantry Free Fresh Fruit, Vegetables & Non-Perishable Groceries

Open to the public. All Lyons Township residents are encouraged to attend.

**Third Tuesday of the Month 3:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.**

**Mar. 19 , 2024**

May 21, 2024

**June 18 , 2024**

**Hodgkins Village**, 9096 Joliet Road, (Fire Department), Hodgkins, IL 60525

St. Blasé, 7438 W 61st Place, Summit, IL 60501

**Hodgkins Village**, 9096 Joliet Road, (Fire Department), Hodgkins, IL 60525

## Other Local Food Pantries

### St. Cletus

600 W 55th St., Lagrange

708-215-5418

2nd Thursday 6:30pm-8pm

*Boundaries:*

Lyons Township

### Share Food Share Love

9030 Brookfield Ave.

630-347-5390

Tues. 7pm—9pm

Sat. 10am—12 pm

[www.sharefoodsharelove.com](http://www.sharefoodsharelove.com)

### St. Francis Xavier

124 N Spring Ave., Lagrange

708-352-0168 Tues. 9:30am—11am

*Boundaries:*

Zip Codes 60525 & 60526

### Second Bap. Church of LaGrange

26 Washington Ave. (Back Entrance)

708-354-5907 Monday 10am-12pm

*Boundaries:* Maywood, Agro, Lyons, &

Western Springs



Trustee  
Lida Mills



Hodgkins / McCook

Aging Well



Trustee  
Dominic Misasi

Hodgkins-McCook Aging Well is seeking new members! We will be holding a Meet and Greet, General Meeting and Pizza Party on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Larry Rice Room (basement) at The Village Hall. If you are interested in joining and cannot make morning meetings this would be an opportunity to learn about the Aging Well Group, meet other members, tour the Village Hall, and hear about our programs.

Come and see what trips and events we have planned for 2024! Aging Well is open to Hodgkins and McCook residents, 55 years and over. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 10: (708) 579-6700**



Photos from the Christmas luncheon at Chuck's Southern Comfort

## Fair Housing Act

The Village of Hodgkins is committed to promoting Fair Housing efforts through fair and equal housing opportunities for our citizens. Fair Housing is the right for all people to have safe, decent housing and be able to get this housing without discrimination. Village, State, and Federal Fair Housing laws require that all people have an equal opportunity to buy, rent, or live in housing. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions.

**FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAWS PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON:**

**RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, FAMILY STATUS, DISABILITY**

Complaints of discrimination in housing can be filed with the Village of Hodgkins, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

*Complaints to the Village can be filed in writing to:*

Village Clerk—Village of Hodgkins, 8990 Lyons Street, Hodgkins, Illinois, 60525







## First Annual Hodgkins Holiday Happenings

Last November, the Public Relations Committee, planned a wonderful kickoff to our holiday season. In years past, we've always had a tree lighting hosted by the Hodgkins Park District, where they served hot cocoa and cookies. When we started to plan last year's tree lighting, we wanted to go bigger. We added more lights down Lyons Street and the Village Administration Building. We planned an evening of event for families to enjoy. To kick off the evening, we had a parade with Santa & Mrs. Claus, followed by our tree lighting along with all the lights on the Administration Building and the Park District, while listening to Carolers. The Park District hosted all our indoor activities, which included, pictures with Santa, hot cocoa, cookies, popcorn, cookie decorating, and story time by the Library Staff. Outside, the families could take a holiday train ride or make s'mores by the fire. It was a cold evening, with just the right amount of snow for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Hodgkins Happenings! Fun was had by all!

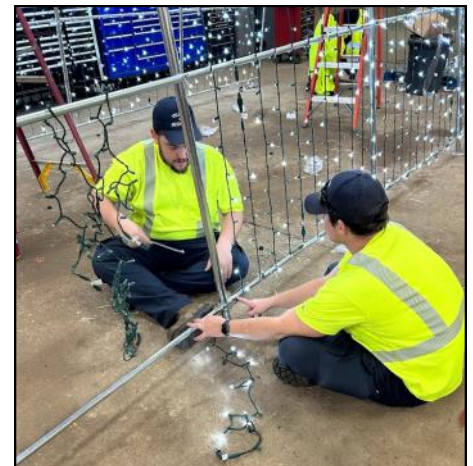
Our committee is already planning for this year's event.



Save the Dates: Concert in the Park, June 14



We would like to send out a big THANK YOU, to K-Five, Republic Bank, Sam's Club, and Wintrust Bank for their support and our Public Works Department and the Hodgkins Park District grounds crew, for putting up all the lights and decorations! Lyons Street was amazing!



Watch for more Hodgkins Happenings coming this summer and fall!

more details to follow, Hodgkins Fest and Craft Fair, August 24<sup>th</sup>







## Nicholas Dwyer Becomes HPD's Newest Face on the Street

You may have seen a new, fresh face patrolling the streets of Hodgkins in the past couple of months. That would be Nicholas Dwyer, the Hodgkins Police Department's newest patrol officer.

Sworn in back in September, Dwyer was sent to the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois in Champaign for a sixteen-week, thorough police officer training regimen. After graduating that program on December 21<sup>st</sup>, he came to Hodgkins and began working the streets under his Field Training Officer on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Dwyer grew up in Oak Forest, Illinois, the son of an Evergreen Park police officer (his dad retired in 2016 after a 27 and a half year career). In a recent interview, Dwyer stated that he'd always been interested in becoming a police officer, from a young age.

"It was that or military. Both my grandfathers had been in the military. I wanted to play football in college, so when I started doing that, I decided to go ahead and go the police career route."

Dwyer studied criminal justice at St. Xavier University in Chicago.

When asked if he had anything else he'd like to say to the people of the community, he added, "I'm really looking forward to a long career with the Village of Hodgkins."



## A Sad Good Bye . . .

To my Hodgkins Family and Friends,

This will be the last Communicator I will have the privilege of doing for the Village of Hodgkins.

After 42 years of service to UPS my husband has decided to retire, so that means me too!

What started out as just a stepping stone plan of three to five years, has turned into ten years living in Hodgkins.

Coming from Packer Country into the Bear's den, we didn't quite know what to expect. It was very scary at first! But from the moment we walked into Bucks and met Buck, Diane and Mayor Cummings, we soon realized that there was nothing to fear and we were home!

We have met so many wonderful people in Hodgkins.

We are really going to miss you all!

We will be starting our new life at the Lake of The Ozarks, Missouri.

Thank you for a wonderful life in Hodgkins.

Lots of Love, Jodi and Terry Ellsworth



## VACANT LOT FOR SALE

The Village of Hodgkins presently owns a residential lot (Zoned R-1) which is offered for sale. The addresses of this property is:

**6601 Kane Ave., this is an alley lot. The price is \$60,000, with a \$5,000.00 deposit required. If more than one person puts down the deposit for the property before March 30, 2024 we will conduct a lottery.**



6601 Kane Avenue

If there are any questions regarding the sale please call The Village at 708-579-6700.





## Marilyn Soutar Becomes "Mayor For A Day"

If you've ever been to a Village Board meeting, you've most likely seen and heard Ms. Marilyn Soutar. She rarely misses a meeting, and she's never been too bashful to speak up as a concerned member of the community. Many have commented over the years on her tireless civic involvement, which has also included

dedicated volunteer work and active participation with the Hodgkins-McCook Aging Well group, as well as being a thoughtful and conscientious good neighbor in Weeping Willow Ranch.



On Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Village of Hodgkins recognized this dedication by honoring Marilyn with the title of "Mayor For A Day." Unknown to Marilyn, Mayor Millsap and the Board of Trustees had a special commemorative gavel made with her name, and with her honorary date of January 17<sup>th</sup>. Shortly after the commencement of the monthly Aging Well meeting downstairs in the Larry Rice room at the village hall, an announcement was made that there would be a special surprise presentation made upstairs in the village board room.

Once everyone had settled into the room, Village President Ernest Millsap, with the image of the village logo projected behind him, announced the honor for Marilyn in a prepared statement.

"I think everyone can agree what a treasure Marilyn has been to our community over the years. If any concerned citizen of Hodgkins deserves this honor, it has to be Marilyn!" he said during his remarks.

After being sworn in as "Mayor For A Day" by Village Attorney and retired Cook County Circuit Court Judge Pat Rogers, Marilyn was seated behind the bench and presided over a brief ceremonial board session. Afterward, members of Aging Well, Village Trustees Larry Rice, Dominic Misasi, and Lida Mills, Village Comptroller Melody Salerno, Chief of Police Joseph Klotz, and many other members of the community came up to congratulate Marilyn. Although Marilyn jokingly said everyone was making too much of a fuss over her, she later became more serious and expressed her heartfelt thanks.

"You guys are the best. I just want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for this incredible honor. Thank you so much!"





**Hodgkins Park District**

[www.hodgkinspark.org](http://www.hodgkinspark.org) 708-354-6563

The Hodgkins Park District Annual

# Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 30th**  
**9:00 am SHARP**

Babies - 4th Grade  
Residents - FREE  
Non-Residents - \$7

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!**  
Wristbands are available for pick-up until Thursday, March 28th. Proof of residency will be required to receive your wristbands for free. The Park District will be closed on Friday, March 29th

 **Hodgkins**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
[www.hodgkinslibrary.org](http://www.hodgkinslibrary.org) 708-579-1844

## Solar Eclipse Guessing Contest

GUESS THE NUMBER OF STARS IN THE JAR AND YOU COULD WIN A GIFT CARD AND THE ENTIRE JAR!

THE LAST DAY TO ENTER IS ON SOLAR ECLIPSE DAY, MONDAY, APRIL 8TH.

THE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH.

Month of March



Join us for a

## Frida Kahlo Craft

Saturday, May 4th  
@ 1 PM

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist who blended classical and folk art to create colorful and powerful works of art exploring the topics of identity, post-colonialism, gender, class and race in Mexican society.

Join us to create a piece of art of Frida Kahlo. All supplies will be provided. Registration required. Adults.

### Family Programs

#### **Monday Makers Kit**

Mon, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 | March 4, 11, 18, 25  
April 8, 15, 22, 29 | May 6, 13, 20

Kits include most of the supplies you will need to complete a craft at home. *Registration required.*

#### **May the 4th be With You**

Saturday, May 4th

Stop by to find Star Wars themed activities.

### Adult Programs

#### **Spring Butterfly Wreath**

Tue., March 12

#### **Felt Bunny Decor**

Tue., April 2

**Chair Yoga, Book Club and**

**So much more!**

**eBooks—eAudiobooks—eMagazines**

For information on these or any of our many other programs please visit our website or stop in!





## 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 persons name and address.*

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

Amn 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



## TRUCKS FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

The Village is accepting sealed bids for a 2008 Chevy Silverado and a 1999 International Dump Truck. With starting bids as listed below. These were Public Works vehicles. Anyone interested in bidding should put their name, address, phone number and amount you wish to bid on a piece of paper in a sealed blank envelope. The bid should be dropped off at the Village between March 1 through April 1, 2024, at 10:00 am. The winning bid will be contacted by phone on April 1st.

**2008 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD**  
4WD , /T Extended Cab, 5.6 ft. bed  
6.0L Gas Engine W/ 6 SPD. Trans.  
Comes with Boss 8ft. Super Duty  
Snow Plow - 48,857 miles Bids start  
at \$9,000.00



**1999 International Dump Truck**  
4900, 4x2 DT 466 E / Automatic  
Transmission,  
Equit. w/Henderson 10 ft. Snowplow &  
rear mounted Henderson salt spreader.  
23,421 miles Bids start at \$8,000.00



When cleaning up for spring remember that yard waste must be put paper bags, no more than 40# each.

Please call the Village for all furniture and larger items, mattresses and cloth furniture must be wrapped in plastic.



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

PRESORT  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LAGRANGE, ILLINOIS  
PERMIT NO. 506

Designed & Edited By: Trustee Dominic Misasi, Rodney Cummings & Jodi Ellsworth

### ***Dates to Remember:***

**March 19—Fresh Produce Pantry—Pleasantview Fire Dept.**

**March 19—Primary Election Day - Village Hall**

**March 29—Village Hall is Closed for Good Friday**

**March 30—Shred Event—Village Hall**

**March 30—Easter Egg Hunt—Park District**

**April 17—Aging Well Night Meeting**

**May 27—Memorial Day Service**

**Village Hall is Closed for Memorial Day**

**June 14th—Concert in The Park with** 

**July 1 —tentatively—Mobile Secretary of State**

**VOH Historical Society 1st Sunday & 3rd Thursday of the Month**

### **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.**

**Sign up on our website to receive your Communicator by email.**