



VILLAGE OF HODGKINS

March 2010

COMMUNICATOR

Publication Designed & Edited By: Chief of Police Phil Kringlie

HODGKINS VILLAGE OFFICIALS

CONTACT ANY OF THESE OFFICIALS
BY TELEPHONE AT:

HODGKINS VILLAGE HALL
579-6700

Village President
Noel B. Cummings

Village Clerk
Claude Sexton

Trustee
Tom Christopher

Trustee
Don Cuttill

Trustee
Ernest Millsap

Trustee
Vicky Moxley

Trustee
Larry Rice

Trustee
Paul Struve

Village Comptroller
Melody Salerno

Deputy Clerk
Sharon Wells

Village Attorney
John T. O'Connell

Chief of Police
Phillip H. Kringlie

MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

One more month and the new Village Hall will be open to serve the residents of Hodgkins. It seems like a long time since we began planning for this beautiful building. In reality though, planning for this new face of Hodgkins actually started in the early 1980's. That is when I began to put together my team to create a new Hodgkins. A town that we could be proud of and that could compete economically with our neighbors in the surrounding communities.



VILLAGE PRESIDENT
NOEL B. CUMMINGS

As you know, in the past three decades Hodgkins has become the area leader in commercial and industrial activity. As we worked to attract business and industry, we developed the ability to pass tremendous benefits on to our residents. Garbage rebates and the elimination of the Village property taxes are unique benefits that you have received. This past summer all of our Village streets have been resurfaced. While we have eliminated some blighted buildings, we are also restoring our lighting with attractive and practical replacements.

The greatest honor I could receive is the naming of the new Village Hall, the NOEL B. CUMMINGS ADMINISTRATION CENTER. What I want to tell everyone, however, is the name on the building is just a reminder to future residents and visitors to Hodgkins that it was my Team that did this, not just me. All the Trustees that stayed with me from the beginning; all the employees who labored for the Village; all the businesses that had faith in our Village; and all the residents that supported us for the past 30 years. Some day, long after we are gone, someone is going to ask who did all this for Hodgkins. If my name can help remind them that it was this generation of Hodgkins that was responsible for our success, then we will have achieved our goal.

Sincerely,

Noel B. Cummings

Village President

www.villageofhodgkins.org

NEW VILLAGE HALL TO OPEN

If you have been by the site of the new Village Hall, you have probably noticed that it is almost completed.

The completion is within sight and we hope to be moving into the new facility by the second week of April.

The Noel B. Cummings Administration



Center should be open for business by April 15th.

We are planning an Official Open House during the Village Picnic on September 11th, 2010. We will publish more details

about the Open House in the next issue of the Village Communicator.

VEHICLE STICKERS ARE READY



SHARON WELLS
DEPUTY CLERK

It will soon be time to get your new 2010-2012 Vehicle Stickers. Your old vehicle sticker will expire on June 1, 2010. So starting on May 1 you can pick up your new vehicle sticker at the Village Hall.

If you would please bring in the registration form that has the year, make, model and license

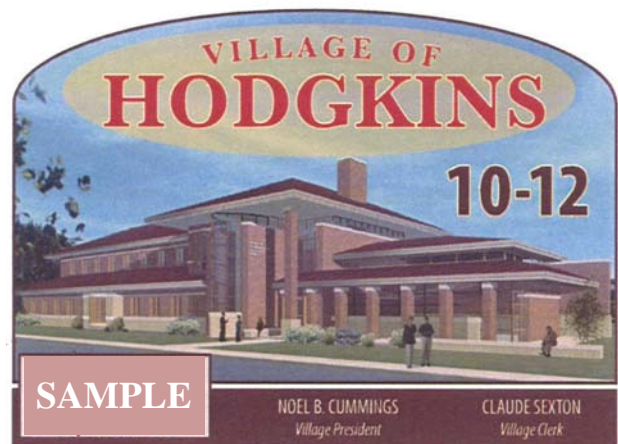
plate number of your vehicle so that we can process you faster.

Even though the stickers are free to all residents you might think that it's not necessary to get one or if you do get one you don't display it because it's just difficult to remove later. So here are a couple of reasons you should pick yours up and put it on your vehicle.

When your vehicle is parked in the Village,

the Police Department will know that it's a resident vehicle and therefore not consider it a suspicious vehicle. In addition, the stickers are free and it could save you the cost of a ticket for not having displayed on your windshield.

We have a new design on the stickers this year. The New Village Administration Building is pictured on the new Vehicle Decals, as shown below.



THE UNITED STATES CENSUS MAKES CENTS\$

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The data collected by the census also helps determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form.

The majority of the country will receive English-only materials. Households in areas with high concentrations of Spanish-speaking residents may receive a bilingual (English/Spanish) form.

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community. Better infrastructure.



CLAUDE SEXTON
VILLAGE CLERK

**ANY PERSONAL DATA YOU
PROVIDE IS PROTECTED
UNDER FEDERAL LAW**

More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other public works projects
- Emergency services

IMPORTANT DATES:

During the month of March, Census forms will be mailed or delivered to all households.

April 1st, 2010 is National Census Day. You can return your Census Forms in the mail.

April - July 2010: Census takers will be making visits to those households who did not return the forms in the mail. Keep in mind that even if you return the forms in the mail, you may still receive a visit from a Census Taker. This is considered a "Quality Check" and is done just to follow up to verify information.

If you don't send back your form or you are contacted by the Census Bureau that a Census Taker will be stopping by, here is what you should do:

United States
**Census
2010**

Continued On Page 10:

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

In 1993 the Village purchased a computer system that would allow us to contact our residents and businesses and make mass telephone notifications. This year we have improved this ability and are currently updating our database.

If you would like to be added to our database, please complete the form below and return it to the Hodgkins Police Department or the Village Hall. We **DO NOT** sell or give away this information to anyone. Your phone numbers are secure on our database and you will not be solicited by any telemarketers on our behalf.

This new system can be used to make mass telephone and E-Mail messages only originating from our Village Police Department or Village Hall.

This system can be used to make emergency notifications in the event the Police Department needs to contact as many residents as possible to disseminate any emergency directives such as an



ERNIE MILLSAP
VILLAGE TRUSTEE

evacuation order, Hazardous Material spill or even if we are looking for a lost child or adult. The Hodgkins Water Department could easily contact those residents who may be affected by a water main break or if you need to boil water. Other uses for the system could be for Village functions like notifying residents of an important meeting or perhaps an upcoming Village event.

The system will allow us to direct a call to a specific area if needed. So if a water main break only affected a two block radius, we can program the system to only call those residents

within that area.

This is truly a great system and can become a tremendous asset to our community when the time comes to make a mass notification. However, the system will only call those who want to be included.

We hope that you will allow us to list you in this Notification System so that you can be included in any Emergency or Community notices in the future.



HODGKINS POLICE DEPARTMENT RESIDENTIAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



Please include my information in the contact list for the new Residential Notification System. I understand that this information shall remain in the possession of the Village of Hodgkins and only used for the purpose of Emergency Messages and/or Village News Information.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL ADD: _____

(For Your Convenience, Call The Hodgkins Police Department Office At 352-4623 and request a Police Officer To Pick This Form Up)

HODGKINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Recently, the Village Board has created a new organization for our community. The Hodgkins Historical Society is being formed and will be tasked with organizing and documenting historical facts from our Village history. The Society's first Chairperson will be Mrs. Alida Millsap.

We are looking for old pictures or artifacts that may be used organize and detail our Village history. The plan is to eventually use the Community Center to display pictures and artifacts from our past.

The Historical Society will be located in what is now called the Community Center. This building (photo below) was built in 1940 and became the Village Hall and Fire House.

In 1996, the Village of Hodgkins celebrated our 100th year. For that celebration, information and photos were gathered to publish a book on our history.

We are looking for



PAUL STRUVE
VILLAGE TRUSTEE

residents who would be interested in helping organize and research historical facts about our Village for future generations to learn from.

If you have any old pictures or artifacts that you would be interested in either donating or allowing us to copy, please contact the Village Hall at 579-6700.

Our goal is to use the old Fire House to display artifacts and photos from our past. So that future generations can learn about the history of our community.

The Village of Hodgkins is one of the older communities in the area and we have a tremendous amount of historical facts and information that needs to be collected and compiled. We are asking for volunteers to help us in the endeavor. If you are interested in lending a hand, give us a call at the Village Hall.



HODGKINS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEEDS YOU!



AGING WELL UPDATES:



DON CUTTILL
VILLAGE TRUSTEE

The Hodgkins - McCook Aging Well has been very busy this past winter.

We worked very hard over the winter to bring a Senior Lunch Program to our community. The lunch program was held in LaGrange last year but lost their lease. The agency agreed to relocate the program to

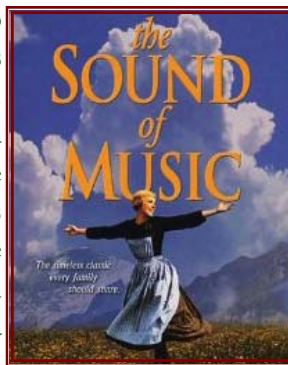
Hodgkins after making arrangements with the Salerno-Pincente Ristorante. The program began on January 4th and runs Monday thru Friday. Each week we are getting more seniors from Hodgkins and McCook, which is what our hope was from the start. Currently we seat on average 50-60 seniors each day for a nutritionally balanced lunch.

All seniors age 60 and older may enjoy lunch

together, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, for a suggested donation of \$2.00. If a holiday falls on a week day, no lunch will be served. You must make reservations before noon on the business day before you plan to eat. To make a reservation call 708-547-5600. For more information on the programs provided by West Suburban Senior Services you can go to their website: www.wsseniors.org or call their Bellwood office - (708) 547-5600.

Bring along a friend and enjoy a couple of hours of good conversation and good nutritious food. Remember laughter is good for your health.

AGING WELL MOVIE TIME:



The Hodgkins-McCook Aging Well is showing "The Sound of Music" on Wednesday March 24th, 2010. The movie starts at 1:00 pm and runs to about 3:00 pm at the McCook Park District, 4911 Riverside Drive. If you need directions call or stop by the Village Hall. Come on out and enjoy a classic

movie and enjoy the afternoon.

PUBLIC WORKS IS READY FOR SPRING

After a long snowy winter, Spring is in the Air! As we look forward to warmer weather and the scenery begins to come to life, we would like to remind you about some of the services we provide.

When you are disposing of your grass clippings, please make sure you use biodegradable paper bags only, and under 40 lbs. We can't pick up yard waste in plastic garbage bags.

If you need to throw out tree branches/ clippings, please lay them stacked with the cut



MATT STRUVE
PUBLIC WORKS

ends toward the curb. We will pick up these items on Thursdays.

This spring we will be top dressing and seeding all village parkways. We need your help during this job. Please try and water your parkways and keep them in good condition. Please do not throw refuse or debris on the repaired parkways.

Remember, if you are planning a home improvement project, call the village hall and we will schedule a truck to be delivered to your home for the debris.

AVOIDING COYOTES

Many of you have read or seen on local news broadcasts the increasing problem of coyotes in the Chicago-land area. We have not had any reports of coyote problems in our community. However, we need to remember that we have large Forest Preserves within and next to our borders.



In the meantime, we remind you to be cautious if you let your pets outside, especially in the evening or during the night.

This nocturnal animal is most active at night, but if not threatened by man they will hunt during the day. The coyote is omnivorous. They will eat fruits, grasses, and vegetables along

The Cook County Department of Animal Control has published some information that is helpful in avoiding contact with these animals. The highlighted section below lists 5 ways to avoid contact with these animals.

with small mammals.

In most cases, the coyote will run from you and are usually more afraid of you. If you experience a problem with a coyote, contact the Hodgkins Police.

1. DO NOT FEED THE COYOTES: Intentional feeding, such as bait stations in yards or parks, should be avoided. However, many people unintentionally feed coyotes by leaving pet food or garbage out at night or having large bird feeders. Coyotes are usually not interested in bird food, but bird feeders often attract rodents, especially squirrels, which then attract coyotes. Although coyotes seem to have a natural inclination to avoid human-related food, this can change when prey populations are low, or if the coyotes are young and haven't yet learned to hunt effectively.

2. DO NOT LET PETS RUN LOOSE: If coyotes live nearby, do not let pets run loose, especially domestic cats. When hiking in urban parks, keep dogs on leashes.

3. DO NOT RUN FROM A COYOTE: When you encounter a coyote, shout or throw something in its direction.

4. REPELLENTS OR FENCING MAY HELP: Some repellents may work in keeping coyotes out of small areas such as yards, although these have not been tested thoroughly for coyotes. Repellents may involve remotely activated lights or sound-making devices. Fencing may keep coyotes out of a yard, particularly if it is more than 4 feet in height with a roll bar across the top.

5. REPORT AGGRESSIVE, FEARLESS COYOTES IMMEDIATELY: When a coyote fails to exhibit fear of humans or acts aggressively by barking or growling in the yard or playground, the animal must be reported as soon as possible to the appropriate officials – usually an animal control officer or police officer.

SANTA FE PRAIRIE NEWS:

Do you know that the Village of Hodgkins has a State Protected Nature Preserve in our community? It is surprising that many of our own residents travel to and from our Village without knowing about this beautiful parcel of prairie.

Located along the Des Plaines River and at the southern end of River Road, starts the Santa Fe Prairie. The Nature Preserve sits

atop a gravel terrace that formed at the northwestern shore of ancient Mount Forest Island as glacial Lake Chicago drained from the Des Plaines valley more than 8,000 years ago. This "river bottom prairie" remained virtually untouched until the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway acquired it in 1886. They set the parcel aside for future use and for about 75 years it remained protected, benignly neglected.

When botanist Floyd Swink conducted the first botanical survey in 1946, the Prairie was approximately 40 to 50 pristine acres. On July 6th, 1959, biochemist Robert Betz visited the site with Swink. "The Santa Fe Prairie was the first real prairie I'd seen, and the plant variety astounded me," Betz said. "That first visit with Floyd Swink made me decide to dedicate the next 35 years of



SANTA FE PRAIRIE STEWARD GREGG STARR (LEFT) AND SANTA FE PRAIRIE VOLUNTEER DON KINNALLY STAND IN FRONT OF THE SANTA FE PRAIRIE CABOOSE VISITOR CENTER

my life to prairies."

In the late 1960s, Betz learned of the railway's plans to destroy the prairie to develop an industrial park. He began a decades-long campaign to save it. By 1976, when the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory described the prairie as including "Grade A" dry-mesic and mesic gravel prairie, filling by the railroad to raise the grade above floods had

shrunk the prairie to 11 acres.

In July of 1997, after a decade of persistent persuasion, Stan Johnson, Chairman of the I&M Canal Civic Center Authority, convinced the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway to donate the prairie to the Authority, which now owns and manages it. This 10.8 acre prairie is one of the rarest types of Illinois prairie, only two of its kind exist in the state. It was donated by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad in 1997 to the Civic Center Authority which now owns and manages this high quality prairie. More than 225 native plant species have been recorded at the site, many of which only survive in such a prairie.

The Railway also donated a caboose, which serves as a visitor and volunteer center. After 35 years of nearly constant efforts by many people



and several organizations, 10.84 acres of the original Santa Fe Prairie was designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve on October 3, 1997.

The Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous "A River Thru History" is held each year in September. A River Thru History is a living history reenactment of early American life, as it was on the Illinois frontier prior to 1848, with emphasis on our local history from the fur trade era to the canal era. The goal of this rendezvous is to be the premier event of this type in this area by creating an exciting, entertaining and educational experience for all ages. To this end, we strive to create a better understanding and appreciation of our history by allowing the public and the re-enactors to mingle, both as witnesses and participants, in our event. Finally, we seek to have the most authentic and highest quality re-enactors and trade goods to represent our vision of the rendezvous. This is consistent with the overall goal of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Civic Center Authority, which is to promote and enhance the historic, recreational and economic development of this new style National Park. The



event takes place in Columbia Woods in Willow Springs and is scheduled this year for September 11 & 12.

SANTA FE PRAIRIE
EVENT:

On June 12, 2010 the Santa Fe Prairie will be hosting "Meet The Santa Fe Prairie". This event is scheduled on the same weekend when the State of Illinois does not require a fishing license. So come on out and try your luck fishing in the Des Plaines River. Also, there will be guided tours of the Prairie, you can help build bird houses, picnic/cookouts and much more.



STAN JOHNSON
1939 - 2008

In addition, in honor of Stan Johnson and his work in saving this natural prairie, volunteers will be planting a tree or some native plants around the prairie in Stan's memory.



Information for this article was compiled from:
www.ariverthruhistory.com;
www.dnr.state.il.us/INPC/index.htm;
www.civiccenterauthority.org

2010 U.S. CENSUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3:

- Ask to see their Identification. ALL Census workers will carry official government ID Badges with their name; they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag;
- The Census Taker will NEVER ask to enter your home;
- If you are still not certain of their identity, contact the Hodgkins Police at 352-4711 and request an officer to stop by;
- Answer the census form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau



MRS. ANNA PALOMINO
HODGKINS CENSUS ASSISTANT

the forms correctly when you receive them next year.

If you need any assistance, please contact the Village Hall and we will send someone to help you complete the form accurately.

The Village has arranged for Mrs. Anna Palomino, a Hodgkins Resident, to assist our Hispanic residents in completing the U.S. Census paperwork. Contact the Village Hall and we will send Mrs. Palomino to help you.

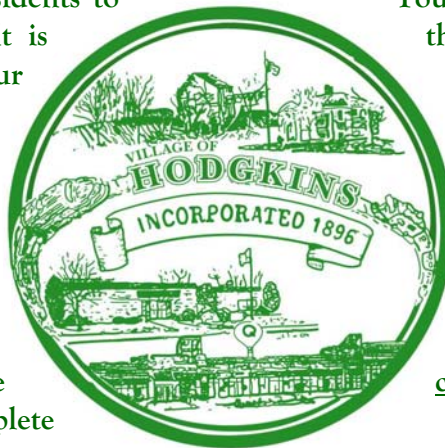
The last United States Census in the year 2000 listed the Village of Hodgkins with 2,134 residents. This number was up slightly from the 1990 Census with a total of 1,963. Although we do not expect a significant change in the numbers, it is very important to make sure we get each and every resident counted.

During this timeframe, the Village of Hodgkins will be assisting our residents to make sure we are all counted. It is important and beneficial for our Village to have an accurate count. Federal funds are distributed to local communities based partly on population counts. To help us receive our fair share of tax

revenues, please make sure you complete

You are required to completely fill out the U.S. Census Forms. You can be fined by the Federal Government if you refuse or willfully neglect to complete these forms.

Again, please remember to completely fill out your census forms. To get our fair share of federal funds, we need your help so that we can get an accurate count.



DID YOU KNOW:

In 1790, the first census was taken by U.S. Marshals on horseback and counted 3.9 million people. The 2000 Census counted more than 281 million people.

PET LICENSES & MAINTENANCE:

Don't let your pet feel neglected. They are an important member of your family. The Village of Hodgkins requires all pet owners to register and license "dogs or other animals" in their households. You can obtain your pet license at the village hall.

To register your pet, you will need to bring their current rabies vaccination records from your Veterinarian. It is a simple registration form to complete. There is **NO COST!**

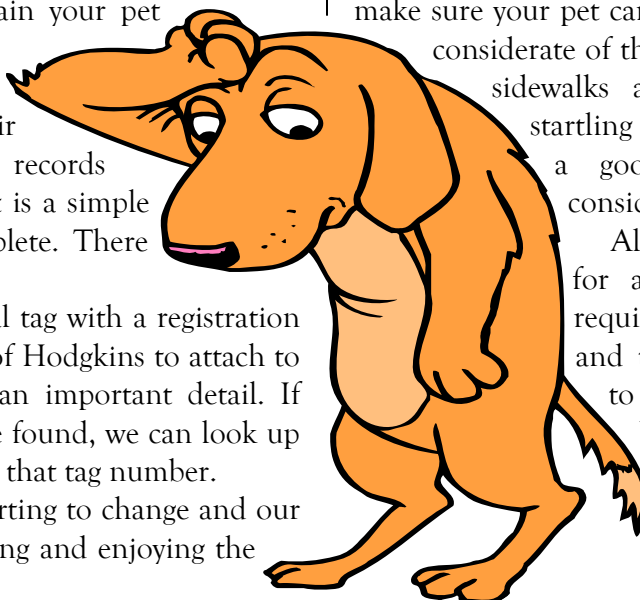
You will receive a metal tag with a registration number from the Village of Hodgkins to attach to your pet's collar. This is an important detail. If your pet gets loose and is found, we can look up the owner's information by that tag number.

The weather is now starting to change and our residents will be out walking and enjoying the

community. Please remember that as a pet owner, it is your responsibility to make sure your pet is secured within your property.

If you have a fence and gates, take this time to make sure your pet can't get out and run free. Be considerate of those residents who walk our sidewalks and keep your pet from startling them. This is part of being a good neighbor and being considerate.

Also, when you take your pets for a walk, village ordinances require the pets to be leashed and the owners are responsible to pick up any droppings left by their pets. Again, be considerate and be prepared when you take your pet out!



KEEP SAVING YOUR ALUMINUM TABS

For the past several years I have been saving aluminum pop can tabs and taking them to the Ronald McDonald House located by Loyola Hospital. We put this notice in the last couple of issues of this newsletter and the response has been great.



MRS. BRENDA KRINGLIE

I have several residents who drop off bags of tabs either at my house, Police Station or the Village Hall. A few businesses also collect the tabs for us. Last year we contributed 45 pounds of aluminum tabs. This year we are hoping to double that number, with your help. As we did last year, we will have our tabs on display at the Hodgkins Fraternal Order of Police Tent at the 2010 Quarry Days festival. Please stop by and see

what we have collected so far. If you have any to donate, bring them by.

The Ronald McDonald House is a "Home-Away-From-Home" temporary lodging facility for the families of seriously ill children being treated at nearby hospitals.

So the next time you pop open an aluminum can, pull the tab off and save

them. You can drop them off at the Hodgkins Police Department or if you need, just call, and the Chief will make sure they get picked up.

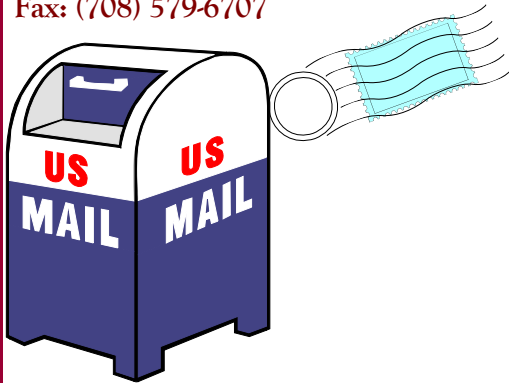
Thanks for your help and we will keep you posted on how many tabs we turn in this year.



VILLAGE OF HODGKINS
8890 W. 67TH STREET
HODGKINS, IL.60525

Village Hall Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00 - 5:00
Phone: (708) 579-6700
Fax: (708) 579-6707

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VILLAGE OF HODGKINS

"INCORPORATED IN 1896"

WWW.VILLAGEOFHODGKINS.ORG

CHECK OUT THE NEWLY DESIGNED VILLAGE WEBSITE

HODGKINS POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES ELIGIBILITY LIST

Pursuant to Illinois State Statutes, the Village of Hodgkins Civil Service Commission is currently in the testing process to establish a Patrol Officer Eligibility List. The list is valid for two years. The current list expires on June 9th, 2010.

Applications became available on March 1st and must be turned in completed by April 7th, 2010. You can pick up the application packet at the Hodgkins Police Department, 6015 Lenzi Avenue, Hodgkins, Illinois 60525. There is a \$25.00 application fee .



For more information on qualifications and requirements you can go to:

www.theblueline.com

or see the local advertisements in the Des Plaines Valley News and/or Suburban Life Newspapers.

You can also stop by the Hodgkins Police Station and ask for a copy of the advertisement.

We will be glad to go over the qualifications and requirements before you pay for the application packet.