



# “THE DISPATCH NEWS”



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*Designed and Edited By: Chief Phil Kringle*

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## LT. MARK WILKANS RETIRES

On March 1st, 1977 Mark Wilkans began his career with the Hodgkins Police Department. A fast 32 years later, he began his retirement.

When Mark started on our department, things were very different. The police station consisted of 3 rooms. We had about 150 square feet of office space and only about 6 police officers.

Mark started his law enforcement career in Buffalo Grove as a radio dispatcher after earning his Bachelor Degree from COE University in Iowa. His family expected Mark to go into the business world, but Mark had other desires. He wanted to be the Police, and he became a great police officer.



**LT. MARK WILKANS**

In the spring of 1977 Mark began working as a part-time Hodgkins Police Officer. He would become a full-time officer within a few months and began a long career as a

dedicated police officer with our community.

Mark’s computer skills proved an asset for our department in the early 1980’s. When most police agencies in our area had not started the computer transition, Mark designed and programmed a database system that would serve as the Police Department’s records management system for the next 30 years.

In the mid 80’s, Mark basically put together the Departments Detective Unit that we now have. In those early years he was tasked with handling our follow-up investigations. Since our department was small, he worked most of our investigations while still on patrol duties.

His true expertise resulted in developing covert narcotic investigations. He teamed with other surrounding investigators and became known in the area as an expert in drug investigations. During these times, Mark focused on narcotic trafficking and a rising street gang problem



**Mark’s wife Stephany brought in a cake modeled after a Hodgkins Police Unit on his last day at work**

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# LT. WILKANS

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that was rapidly growing into our suburban area.

Mark ran our Detective Division until 2005. He then turned his responsibilities to the administration of the department. His dedication and knowledge was a big asset to our department and the progress we have made in the past 30 years.

Mark served our community as a dedicated police officer for 32 years, the longest serving employee of the Village of Hodgkins to date.

He was a founding member and first Treasurer of the Hodgkins Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #151. He served as the first President of the Hodgkins Police Pension Fund.

In 2002, Lt. Wilkans was appointed to serve on the Executive Board of Area Wide Law Enforcement Radio Terminal System (ALERTS),



now known as Illinois Public Safety Agency Network (IPSAN). Mark continues in his capacity as Board Member.

Lt. Wilkans is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command Class #240.

Currently Mark is the Interim Director of the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association in Springfield, Illinois.

We look forward to seeing Mark and his family in the future and congratulate the Wilkans Family on Mark's retirement and

32 Dedicated Years of Service to our community.

Mark and his wife Stephany reside in the western suburbs and have two children. Their son Jay works as a firefighter and is studying for a medical career. Daughter Alex recently graduated from college in Florida and is pursuing a career as an attorney.

Mark, Stephany, Alex and Jay in 1977 when Mark received his 20 Year Plaque



SGT. MARK WILKANS  
1986

