



distinctly  
*Hinsdale*  
Since 1873



*Hinsdale Theater Building*





*Robert Frost Statue*

## HISTORY

When surveyors for the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad began laying track in 1862, wealthy businessman William Robbins purchased 700 acres along either side of the right-of-way at the center of what was to become the Village of Hinsdale.

Residents played an important leadership role from the Village's earliest days. It was thanks to their vision that the Village undertook numerous civic improvements during the 1890s. Waterworks (1890), sewage system (1891), and electrical lines (1896) brought modern conveniences, while street paving that began in 1892 made it possible for the automobile to become an important means of transportation (with automobile sales providing an important economic engine for the central business district up until the Great Depression). The first sidewalks were also laid at this time. By the late 1890s, Hinsdale was considered one of the most desirable middle class suburbs in Chicago as evidenced by a feature article in Campbell's Illustrated Journal in November 1897 entitled "Hinsdale the Beautiful" that pictured nearly 50 homes. An elegant new train station that still serves the Village was opened the following year.

After 1900, Hinsdale experienced tremendous development, with new brick and terra cotta buildings lining the downtown streets and hundreds of new homes built throughout the Village. Citizens such as Philip Clarke and architect R. Harold Zook led the drive to create an identifiable village center. Clarke oversaw fundraising for and construction of the Memorial Building in 1927 while Zook headed up the first Plan Commission (1923) and selected Colonial Revival as the style of choice for all civic and commercial buildings. In terms of its overall character, layout, and land-use patterns, Hinsdale today strongly reflects the vision of these early leaders.



*KLM Lodge*

## R. HAROLD ZOOK

A prominent architect of the 1920s, '30s and '40s, R. Harold Zook was a proud resident of Hinsdale.

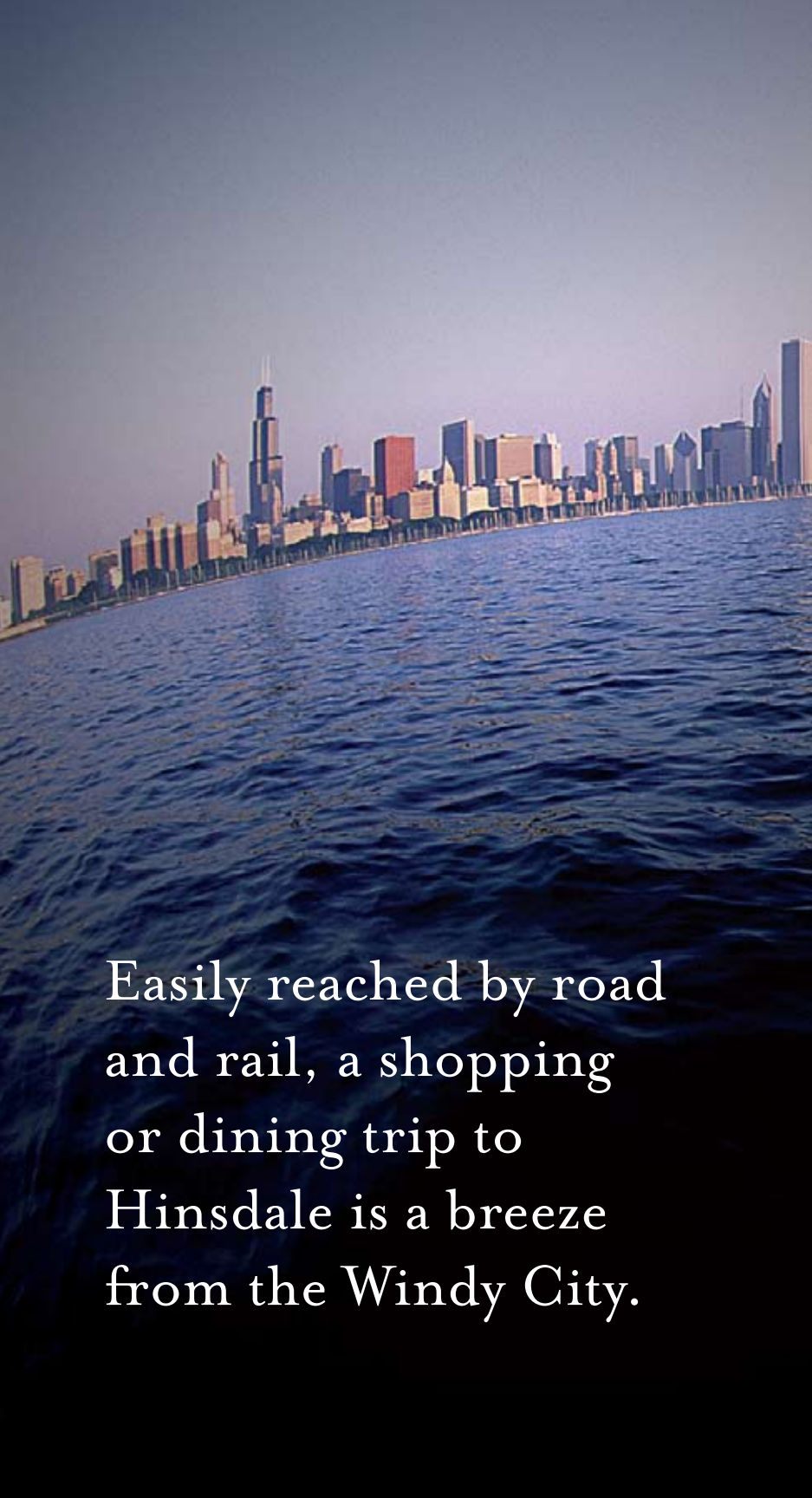
Growing weary of the constant clamor of big city life, Zook fled Chicago in 1924 for the solace of Hinsdale.

Much like the Village, Zook's work could be characterized as both timeless and unique. In all, Zook

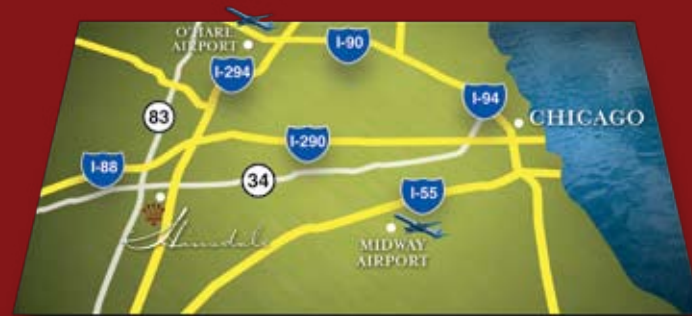
designed thirty-one homes and six commercial buildings in the Village.

His unmistakable style - including his signature "spider web" motif - endures today, and his work is celebrated and preserved by the Village he called home.

According to the Hinsdale Historical Society, it was once said that Zook is to Hinsdale as Frank Lloyd Wright is to Oak Park. Whether walking, bicycling, or driving, a tour through the Village is a wonderful way to discover the consummate works of R. Harold Zook.



Easily reached by road and rail, a shopping or dining trip to Hinsdale is a breeze from the Windy City.



## LOCATION

Hinsdale (60521) is nestled 20 miles west of Chicago and is easily reached by road, rail, or air. Hinsdale's enviable location in Chicago's western suburbs means O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport are equidistant, granting easy access to air travel. Those wishing to travel by car will find many options, including I-294, I-55, and Route 83. Three Metra rail-line stops make commuting to Chicago a breeze, especially during peak hours when Metra offers 22-minute express service into Chicago's Loop.



## SHOPPING DISTRICTS

### *Downtown*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hinsdale's central business district is the quintessential downtown of yesteryear. The combination of historically significant architecture, lush landscaping, and classic lampposts offers citizens, shoppers, and storekeepers an inviting setting in which to conduct business. Try as they might, today's developers simply cannot capture such authenticity in their modern retail re-creations.

### *Gateway Square and Grant Square*

Two additional shopping districts with close proximity to downtown Hinsdale offer added convenience for residents and visitors. With ample parking and a nice collection of retail stores and restaurants, Gateway Square and Grant Square complement the central business district's myriad offerings.



Hinsdale Central High School has been recognized nationally for excellence by *Newsweek*.

## EXCELLENCE AND CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Since its first graduating class in 1883, Hinsdale Township High School District 86 established an exceptional education system and continues to produce enlightened young adults today. Hinsdale Central High School has been recognized by *Newsweek* as one of the top 10 high schools in Illinois and among the very best public high schools nationwide. Nearly 97% of Hinsdale grads continue on to a college or university of their choice.

Community Consolidated School District 181 serves students through eighth grade with a traditional system of walk-to neighborhood schools. Hinsdale is also blessed with numerous, well-regarded options for private education including St. Isaac's Jogues elementary school and high schools such as Fenwick and St. Ignatius.



Graue Mill and Museum is an operating waterwheel grist mill and homestead, the only one of its kind in Illinois.



## A NATURAL FIT

Emblematic of Hinsdale's character is the handsome streetscape of downtown and the more than century-old Elms, Maples, and Oaks that canopy its pictorial boulevards and rolling hills. Neighborhood parks are abundant with passive and active open space with natural beauty surrounding residents and visitors alike.

The keystone of the Village's park system is the spectacular Katherine Legge Memorial Park (KLM). KLM Park came into existence as an opulent gift, and it endures today as an inimitable resource for the Village. Fifty-two acres of lush topography freckled by towering trees, KLM Park was developed by Alexander Legge, the former President of International Harvester, as a gift for his wife, Katherine. Upon her passing in 1924, Alexander established KLM Park as a place of rest and relaxation for the women employed by International Harvester. Donated to the Village in the 1970s, KLM Park is a wonderful place to enjoy the outdoors and is open to the public. The American Institute of Architects has recognized KLM Park and Lodge as one of 150 "great" places in Illinois, a setting designed to "enhance our environment and enrich our quality of life."

Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, nearby Graue Mill and Museum is an operating waterwheel grist mill and homestead, and the only one of its kind in Illinois today. Maintained by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, the museum provides programs in milling, spinning and weaving, as well as living history presentations. The site is one of the only remaining authenticated Underground Railroad Stations in Illinois.



## A CARING COMMUNITY

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital has been the Village’s local healthcare provider for over 100 years. The only teaching hospital in DuPage County, a great number of its staff maintains teaching positions at Chicago’s top medical schools and centers. The peace of mind that stems from having a world-class medical facility in your own backyard is yet another distinct advantage to life in Hinsdale.

Founded in 1977, Washington Square of Hinsdale offers the best of Independent Senior Living in the heart of the Village. Conceived and still governed today as a not-for-profit corporation guided by a volunteer board of local community leaders, Washington Square was designed to offer a comfortable transition from home ownership to a more carefree and manageable lifestyle.

Wellness House touches lives throughout the Village and beyond. Established in 1990, Wellness House improves the quality of life for people whose lives are affected by cancer. A testament to the generosity and support of those in the Village, Wellness House operates strictly on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

## A VILLAGE OF GENEROSITY

Pleasantly evident in the number of not-for-profit organizations that thrive in Hinsdale, residents have a reputation for generosity and a passion for giving back to their community.

Founded in 1953, the Hinsdale Humane Society continues to provide safety and service to all creatures great and small. Further proof that life in Hinsdale can lead to great success, “Morris the Cat,” the tabby pitch-pet made famous by Madison Avenue, was discovered at what some refer to as the Chicago area’s “spa” of shelters.

The award-winning Hinsdale Center for the Arts (HCA) has been serving area residents for over 20 years, offering classes and workshops in dance, drawing, painting, sculpture, music, theatre, and more. HCA also offers outreach programs and grant opportunities beyond the Village, which in turn support arts programs throughout Chicagoland.

Described by a Life Trustee as “the mortar that holds together the bricks of the community,” The Community House enriches the lives of people of all ages through athletics, theater, volunteer programs, new learning experiences, and counseling support. An annual highlight is the “Community Revue,” an irreverent spoof of Hinsdale by Hinsdaleans (residents).



## TRULY SPECIAL EVENTS

While Hinsdale offers a slice of Americana every day of the year, the Village's 4th of July Parade is especially stirring. Renowned throughout the Midwest as an inspiring display of patriotism, Independence Day in the Village is perhaps the highlight of the civic calendar. Held on Father's Day weekend, the Hinsdale Fine Arts Fair is another anticipated feature with works from talented local artists drawing crowds from Cook and DuPage Counties and beyond.

Warm summer weather is cause for constant celebration in Hinsdale, and the Village is abuzz during Uniquely Thursdays and Live and Local Flavor. These outdoor events provide an opportunity for Hinsdale to showcase its picturesque downtown, as well as its wide variety of retail and restaurant offerings. During these events, downtown streets are dedicated to pedestrian traffic, allowing friends to gather and mingle as vendors provide a taste of local food and spirits while live music fills the air. At the End of Summer Bash, blankets and lawn chairs ensure the crowd of all ages a front-row seat for noteworthy performers such as '60s pop icon Davy Jones. Following soon thereafter, families enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, and pumpkin decorating at the Fall Family Festival under a backdrop of autumn's vibrant colors.

The winter holidays are a truly special time in Hinsdale and a crucial period for our valued business partners. The season kicks off the day after Thanksgiving with the Christmas Walk, is followed by the Polar Express, and then culminates with Distinctly Hinsdale for the Holidays. These events keep things merry for our merchants and are designed to attract families and shoppers into the heart of Hinsdale. Classic Rockwell-like imagery is evident with horse-drawn carriage rides, professional ice sculptors, old time carolers, gingerbread cookie decorating, visits with Santa, a train ride to the "North Pole," and much more.

During the winter holiday season, Hinsdale keeps things merry for its merchants, residents, and visitors.

## BUSINESS SUPPORT SYSTEM

The Village of Hinsdale and partner organizations such as the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce work tirelessly in support of local merchants. Hinsdale's elected Board of Trustees, their appointees on the Economic Development Commission, and Village staff are all dedicated to fostering a healthy balance of independently-owned businesses and national retailers and are committed to protecting and enhancing the overall business climate of the Village.

## DISTINCTLY HINSDALE

Although municipal branding is increasingly common for traditional tourist destinations, Hinsdale's decision to capture the community's essence in a branding campaign illustrates the big ideas emanating from this quaint and charming Village. From a bottom-up, interactive process, "Distinctly Hinsdale" was born.

With historic architecture; mature, tree-lined streets; the uniqueness of locally-owned shops and exclusive boutiques; excellent schools; highly-regarded health care; supportive social services for people of all ages; and the indomitable spirit of generous, civic-minded residents, Hinsdale is certainly a distinct destination.

## HINSDALE 2025

Driven by a volunteer group of more than 200 residents and adopted by the Village's Board of Trustees in early 2007, the Hinsdale 2025 Strategic Plan presents an action-oriented blueprint for addressing the short and long-term needs of the community. Areas explored in the process include issues related to beautification, the greater downtown, health and welfare, housing, infrastructure, the Ogden Avenue corridor, and parking. With its commitment to collaboration, the Village of Hinsdale shares a promise that tomorrow will be as bright as today.



## WHY HINSDALE?

Possessing a unique combination of New England charm and wholesome Midwestern sensibility, the Village of Hinsdale provides an exceptional, nurturing, and prosperous setting for its citizens and businesses. Our historic downtown is a destination for shoppers and diners from the Chicago region, with many looking to escape the impersonal atmosphere of “Anywhere USA” malls and lifestyle centers. Hinsdale is where small town charm meets urban sophistication.

Consistently ranking two or even three times above national spending indexes for all consumer goods, the concentration of wealth in the Village and the surrounding communities makes your business goals achievable in Hinsdale. Your business will also be supported by Village officials, their appointees, and staff members who understand from their own experience what you will need to succeed. Retail-centric events, promotions, brand marketing, and additional efforts of the Village, its Economic Development Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce only further opportunities for your success.

As you continue through the prospectus, you’ll find an extensive collection of demographic information, robust retail statistics, an informational DVD, and contact information for the Village. If you are ready to become a chapter in Hinsdale’s ongoing story of success, please feel free to contact us for more information.

18,603  
Population of Hinsdale

\$825,387  
Median Home Value

\$204,399  
Average Household Income

34.9%  
% of Households earning  
\$200,000+ annually



### CREDITS

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