



“THE DISPATCH NEWS”



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CHIEF OF POLICE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

At the Village Board Meeting on February 14th, 2005 Hodgkins Police Chief Hugh Rhodes announced his retirement.

With a packed room full of residents and family members, Chief Rhodes presented Mayor Cummings with his formal retirement letter. The announcement was not a surprise, Chief Rhodes had been contemplating this move for about a year.

Village President Noel Cummings accepted the official notice and requested Trustee Ernest Millsap (*Chairman of the Police Committee*) to read the announcement to the Board and those in attendance.

President Cummings,

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce my intention to retire from the position of Chief of Police with the Hodgkins Police Department. I am requesting my retirement date be effective on March 2nd, 2005. This request is pursuant



CHIEF HUGH RHODES

and in accordance with Hodgkins Village Resolution #2003-9, “Labor Agreement For The Non-Union Police Personnel With The Hodgkins Police Department”.

For the past 27 years I have served on the Hodgkins Police Department. The last 22 years, as the Deputy Chief and the Chief of Police, these years were indeed an honor and privilege. The police department has made some great

improvements and I have had the honor of being a part of these accomplishments. The support that you and the Village Board have demonstrated to the police department is truly second to none in the area. I offer my sincere gratitude to you and the Village Board for allowing me the opportunity to serve and protect the Village of Hodgkins.

I must admit, it is with extreme selfishness I am tending my retirement notice to you. You see, I fully intend to enjoy my retirement with my wife Marilyn, daughter April, son Jim and especially our new grandson Gavin. We are planning to remain in this community and I look forward to maintaining the close relationships that I have formed over the years.

*Sincerely,
Hugh Rhodes
Chief of Police*

Chief Rhodes received a standing ovation from the crowd and with some emotion, attempted to respond with his heartfelt appreciation to the many in attendance, including his wife Marilyn, Daughter April, Son-in-law Kurt, Son Jimmy and the

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off. ~Abe Lemons

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CHIEF RHODES RETIRES

newest member of the family, Grandson Gavin Miller.

Hugh first came to Hodgkins in 1962, after his tour of duty in the United States Army. He began dating Marilyn Polich. They would marry in 1966 and move to Hodgkins. They have two children, April and Jim.

Prior to joining the police department Hugh owned and operated his own professional landscaping company, which employed many young residents from Hodgkins.

Chief Rhodes would begin his career with the Hodgkins Police after serving as a Civil Service Commissioner for the Village of Hodgkins. Serving as a commissioner would prove to be the catalyst for his leap into Law Enforcement.

Hugh joined the Hodgkins Police in 1978 as a full-time patrolman. He was promoted to



1982: Officer Bill Johnson (left) Officer Jack Azzarello (center) and Officer Hugh Rhodes

Sergeant in 1982 and appointed the Deputy Chief of Police in 1983. An added promotion came next in 1993 when he was promoted to Lieutenant under the Civil Service guidelines. In 1997 Hugh Rhodes was appointed as the Chief of Police.

As a patrolman, Hugh was instrumental in forming and developing a professional Youth Division. His personal dedication to young people carried over into his professional position. He was the first Hodgkins Police youth officer to visit the elementary school and speak with the kids about safety issues.

As Deputy Chief and head of the Youth Division, Hugh brought the **D.A.R.E.** Program to the Hodgkins Police Department.

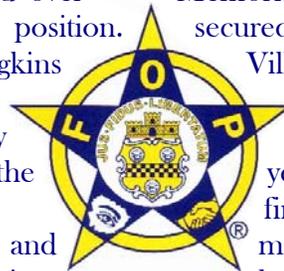
Thanks to Hugh's personal and professional ability, the Department's Juvenile Officers became more than just a couple

of patrolmen assigned as youth officers. It was the true beginning of the Hodgkins Youth Division.

He is a charter and founding member of the Hodgkins Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #151. He served as the first Vice-President of our lodge and has held the President and Treasurer positions also.

In 1988, Hugh began the drive to build a Veterans Memorial in Hodgkins. He secured the location from the Village and he started the fundraising drive. We originally planned a two year effort from start to finish. Because of Hugh's motivation and drive, we dedicated the Hodgkins

Veterans Memorial in September 1988, just 9 months after starting the effort. Deputy Chief Rhodes was not the sole person involved in that project, he had several key people and help from the Village. However, without Deputy Chief



Officer Hugh Rhodes
1980



CHIEF RHODES RECEIVES A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE FROM MAYOR NOEL CUMMINGS IN 2003

sporting clay shooting, hunting and camping. He has many hobbies and surely will not have a difficult time finding some of these activities to fill his time now.

On May 7th, 2005 we celebrated Hugh's 27 years of service



Newly Appointed Chief Kringlie is congratulated by Retiring Chief Rhodes

Rhodes hard work and drive, the Memorial as we know it now, would have taken longer to finish.

Hugh's last project with the Police Department actually started in the spring of 2004. Along with the Hodgkins Elementary School and School District 105, the Hodgkins Police Department partnered together to bring our grade school students into the police department to help with homework projects. The program is named the HELP program and allows the students to use the police training room in a classroom style environment.

Chief Rhodes is an avid outdoorsman. He enjoys golfing, fishing, skeet and

with the Hodgkins Police Department. The Village of Hodgkins held a Retirement Party at the Park Place Banquet Hall in Countryside.

Over 250 people came out to wish Hugh and his family the very best in their new occupation - Retirement.

Joined by his immediate family, Hugh's Sisters and Brothers witnessed several

presentations by various organizations recognizing Chief Rhodes' accomplishments to the Village of Hodgkins and the Hodgkins Police Department.

The final presentation was made by Village President Noel Cummings. The Village gave Chief Rhodes a Gold Watch in recognition of his dedicated service to the Village of Hodgkins.



In a heartfelt and emotional conclusion, Hugh expressed his appreciation for the presentation and accolades given him.

Hugh and Marilyn are staying in Hodgkins, and we look forward to seeing them enjoy a retirement that is well earned.

"Thanks Chief"