

# COMMUNICATOR

Publication Designed & Edited By: Chief Phil Kringlie

## OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING FOR NOEL B. CUMMINGS ADMINISTRATION CENTER

As most of you are aware, the Hodgkins Village Hall is temporarily located on 67th street in the old Carlson Plywood building. The new Administration building is scheduled to be completed in November 2009.

The Village Board has been working on this new project for over two years. The design and selection of the combination of Architects and builders is a very complex undertaking.

At the 2008 Annual Village Picnic this past September, our Village Officials held a ceremonial groundbreaking (photo). Village President Noel B. Cummings was informed by the Village Board of Trustees that the new building would be named in



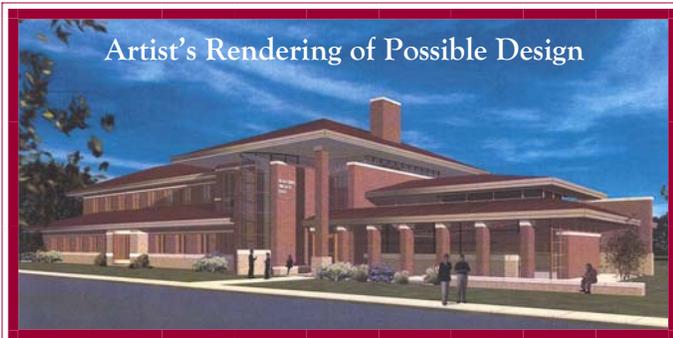
VILLAGE OFFICIALS JOIN TOGETHER FOR THE CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

his honor. The Mayor's family were invited to attend the ceremony. His son Dan and wife Jean, of San Antonio Texas and daughter Sherri and husband Danny of Hodgkins were in attendance. Mayor Cummings family, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren took part in the ceremony.

The New Administration

building will include a state-of-the-art meeting room, complete basement facilities, and offices for the entire administration staff. The former building was vacated and demolished due to the inability to efficiently renovate that structure. The new building will be able to support the needs of the Village for many years to come.

The Noel B. Cummings Administration Building is scheduled to be completed in November 2009. So for the rest of this year, the Village Administration offices will be operated out of the Department of Public Works building located at 8890 W. 67th Street. You can contact the Village Hall Office at:



Artist's Rendering of Possible Design

579-6700

# VILLAGE PROSECUTOR PAT ROGERS ELECTED AS JUDGE

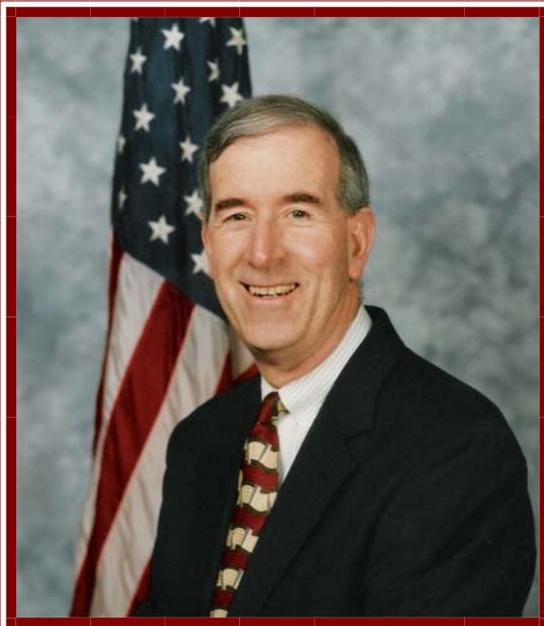
On November 4th, 2008 the Village of Hodgkins and the people of Cook County gained more than just a new President of the United States.

The Attorney and Prosecutor for the Village of Hodgkins, Pat Rogers was elected to the 4th Sub-Circuit of Cook County as Judge. This was a personal goal that Pat has had since he entered the justice system as a young Cook County States Attorney over 24 years ago.

As a Cook County States Attorney, Pat handled all kinds of cases, from petty offenses to murder trials. After 6 years of working as a Cook County States Attorney, Pat decided to get into private practice, and never slowed down.

In 1989, Pat started in private practice as an Associate with John T. O'Connell. He would learn municipal law and became our Village Prosecutor. He worked non stop in this new venture, which lead to a political career in addition to the legal practice.

In 1993, Pat Rogers was elected as the Supervisor of the Township of Lyons. He has been re-elected three times since. His work ethic was demonstrated in his intensity and dedication to the people of Lyons Township. Pat took on many hats and became involved in everything from the local little league to the West Central Municipal



JUDGE PAT ROGERS

Conference.

There are only really two methods of becoming a judge in the state of Illinois. Judges may be appointed or they may be elected, depending on what judicial position is in question. Either way, the challenge of becoming a judge in Illinois is a difficult one. It is usually an election that doesn't generate much attention. A voter steps into the voting booth and is bombarded by sometimes several pages of judge selections. Most of the candidates are unknown to the average voter.

When Pat decided to run for election, he hit the campaign road hard. His reputation was widely known and that showed in the

final results. Pat was elected with over a sixty five percent total of all the votes.

It is not necessary to list Pat's background and qualifications, the election is over. We are already familiar with his accomplishments and qualifications. But, more importantly, we know his honesty and integrity.



The Rogers Family: l-r Pete, Pat, Patricia, James and Annie

No doubt that Pat will be missed as our Village Prosecutor, advisor and friend. His knowledge and wisdom was instrumental in the Village's progress over the years. His caring and compassion is certainly a benefit to us all.

Congratulations to Judge Pat Rogers. We are so proud of you!

CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE!

FROM YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY "THE VILLAGE OF HODGKINS"

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

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and holiday season. I was able to spend the holidays with my son and his family in San Antonio Texas. Although I missed some of the bad weather here in December, I returned early enough to experience our cold month of January.



VILLAGE OF HODGKINS PRESIDENT  
NOEL B. CUMMINGS

As 2009 begins, we have many projects that our Village Board are working on. The new Toyota Auto Dealership is ahead of schedule and should open for business around the end of May. It's a great improvement for the Village of Hodgkins and we proudly welcome Mr. Herman Weinberger and his company to our community. With the completion of the Toyota site approaching, the new road from Weeping Willow Ranch to 67th Street will finally be finished. I would like to thank each and every resident of Weeping Willow Ranch for their patience and consideration during the several construction phases.

On page 5 you can get an idea of the new Super Walmart that is scheduled to begin construction this year. This will be an additional 80,000 square feet of space added to the existing store and will include a grocery section. We hope this will be completed by the end of 2009.

I would like to commend our Village Board for approving the 2008 Tax rebates that our residents received this past fall. There are only a handful of municipalities who provide tax rebates back to their residents. It is because of the progress made by our Village over the past 30 years that gives us the benefit of returning your tax money back to you. We hope to continue this benefit each year.

In closing, I want to thank our Police Department, Pleasantview Fire District and our Public Works crew, for their dedication to our community. As I mentioned earlier, this has been a rough winter with snow, ice and bitter cold temperatures. These public servants are out serving and protecting our community in all kinds of weather and they do a fantastic job for us.

Village President,

*Noel B. Cummings*

# BE AWARE AND SAFE: IT'S SNOW PLOWING TIME

BY: PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE  
MATT STRUVE

While many people look forward to the winter season because of the celebration of Christmas and the attractive appearance that freshly fallen snow gives to the landscape around us, others dread it's arrival because of the cold weather and the inconveniences that it poses to those on foot or in their vehicles.

Our Public Works Department is committed to doing its best to keep our village sidewalks, parking lots, and streets as safe as possible. In order to accomplish this goal, we ask that residents keep a watchful eye for our equipment as we are out and about throughout the village. If you see one of our trucks plowing snow or salting the streets, please give us



plenty of room to do our job. If you are able to park your vehicle in your driveway and off of the street, please do so. This makes our job much easier. When you are shoveling, blowing, or plowing the snow from your walks and driveways please do so in a manner that is both responsible and respectful to your neighbors around you. AVOID depositing snow from your driveway into the village streets. This creates a slippery hazard, especially if it occurs after we have already plowed and salted. Also, avoid blocking the village sidewalks with snow or parked vehicles.

Following a snowfall, please remove any vehicles from the street so our plows can clean up where any parked vehicles were. This will help in keeping as much snow and ice off of our streets as possible.

The State of Illinois Emergency Management Agency has developed a Winter Storm Preparedness document that may be helpful as you prepare for the inclement weather this winter:

[www.state.il.us/iema](http://www.state.il.us/iema)

Public Works Department: Front Row L-R Albert Mills, Vern Millsap  
Standing: Jack Scott, Dennis Folkerts, Mayor Cummings, Matt Struve,  
Jody Kovel, DPW Superintendent Eric Rice





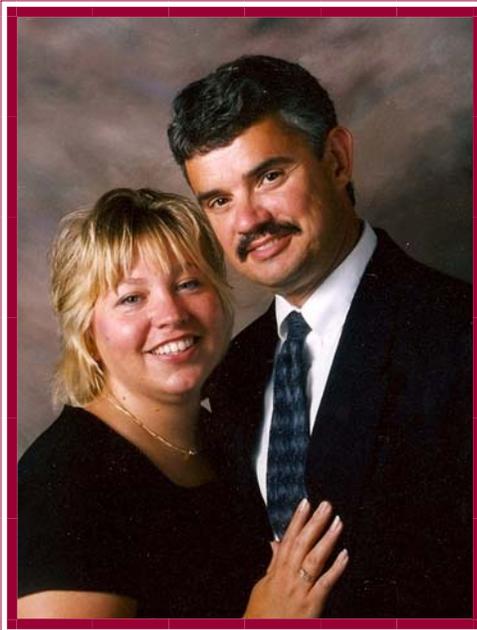
## WEST SUBURBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECOGNIZES HODGKINS COUPLE

Ernest Millsap is a life-long resident of Hodgkins and has been a police officer for 24 years. He married Joan in 1987 and they are busy raising 4 children. Joan was a stay at home mom for a couple of years before going to work for the Hodgkins Elementary School.

Even with their busy family and professional lives, Ernest and Joan have found time to volunteer in their community. Ernest has been a baseball coach for Lyons Township Little League and a softball coach for Countryside Recreation. He is currently in his 4th term as a Village of Hodgkins Trustee.

During the past 11 years, Ernest and Joan have raised over \$100,000 with their DARE "COPS vs. KIDS" basketball game fundraisers held at Gurrie Middle School. According to Pat Rogers, Lyons Township Supervisor, Ernest and Joan schedule the date of the game, send out letters to the communities and staff of school district 105 requesting donations to raffle off. They collect all the prizes, set up a silent auction and coordinate the volunteers. They arrange for volunteers from 3 Police Departments to play in a basketball game against the 8th Grade Gurrie team. They set up everything the day of the event while Joan coordinates the volunteers and raffle, Ernest joins his fellow police officers in the game. As soon as the game is over and the clean-up is done, they begin planning next year's event.

Over the years, the money raised has been donated to families of police officers who were killed



JOAN AND ERNIE MILLSAP

in the line of duty, police officers who have been injured, the American Cancer Society, the 9-1-1 Relief Fund, injured and physically handicapped children, a school reading program, soldiers serving in Iraq, and the list goes on.

Ernest and Joan say, "Helping someone else, no matter what you give, whether it be time or money, is truly a great feeling. The feeling you get from helping someone or helping get a program started is one of the greatest feelings in the world." They believe you should treat others the way you want to be treated and you should always be

a positive role model for your children.

They see nothing but great things for the future of the West Suburban Area and are excited to know they will be a part of the future.

The West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry held their Annual Community Awards Dinner at the William Tell Holiday Inn on April 23, 2008. The Chamber hosts this event each year to recognize those individuals and business's who stand out by their actions in their community. A long list of Awards and Achievements are recognized ranging from young women and men of the year, excellence in business and Distinguished Honoree.

The 2008 Award for "Positive Impact" was given to Joan and Ernie Millsap for their actions and accomplishments that benefit the surrounding communities.

CONGRATULATIONS JOAN AND ERNIE MILLSAP  
2008 POSITIVE IMPACT AWARD  
WEST SUBURBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



ALLAN MILLS  
ESDA COORDINATOR

# SEVERE WEATHER ALERT SIREN UP AND RUNNING



THE NEW SIREN IS LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF THE OLD FIREHOUSE  
AT 6800 SANTA FE DRIVE

At the October 2008 Village Board meeting, we announced the new severe weather siren was in place and in working order. The new siren replaced the existing one that was mounted on top of the old Pleasantview Fire Protection District Station #3 firehouse located at 6800 Santa Fe Drive.

The original siren was mounted on top of the old firehouse around 1980 and was in need of serious repair. Due to its age and the placement, we recommended the purchase of a new siren and to have it placed on a pole at fifty-five feet high.

As an added safety measure, the unit is also equipped with a battery back up, and can still be activated in the event of a power failure.

The height of this new siren will provide a wider area of coverage. The new siren is the loudest and most commonly installed siren offered by Federal Signal with an output of 130 dB. (decibels). This siren, under the right conditions can produce 70 dB approximately 6400 feet (1.2 miles) from the unit which should provide adequate warning if you are outside your home.

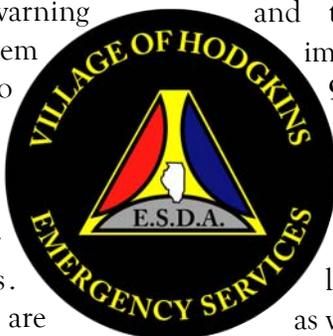
The Village of Hodgkins weather warning sirens are an outdoor warning system

intended to alert people “outdoors” to severe weather conditions. The sirens are

not intended to awaken people from their sleep. The Village of Hodgkins Emergency Services highly recommends that residents purchase a weather alert radio. These radios are tuned to the national Weather Service frequency and will alert you of approaching storm systems. You can find these at most retail stores.

The sounding of outdoor sirens is your cue to listen to your local radio and/or television for information concerning severe weather in the area. You must make an informed decision on your safety and the safety of your family and take immediate action. Please, **DO NOT CALL 911** to ask for weather information.

The outdoor warning sirens in our area are tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for a one-minute duration. The sirens produce a loud steady tone during the monthly test as well as during an actual tornado warning.



## RESIDENT RECOGNIZED FOR FAST ACTIONS

Lifelong Hodgkins resident Robert Buralli was recognized by the Village of Hodgkins for his actions during a fire at the Casciani's Restaurant located at Joliet Road and East Avenue.

On September 17th, 2008 Robert was going through the drive-through window and waiting for an order to take home.

The owner of the restaurant was in the process of making some repairs and cleaning the kitchen area. As the workers were removing some appliances, the gas line became disconnected and ignited a large gas fire.

Fortunately, for Casciani's, Robert works in the heating and air conditioning trade. He recognized the immediate danger of the disrupted gas line.



Robert Buralli receives a plaque in recognition of his actions from Village Trustee Ernest Millsap

Instead of pulling away from the fire and seeking safety, Robert ran into the building. He located a pipe wrench and ran to the rear of the building and shut off the gas feed.

The immediate response and intervention by Mr. Robert Buralli resulted in the fire being extinguished with no serious damage to the restaurant and even more importantly, no employees or patrons injured.

On behalf of the Village of Hodgkins, we would like to recognize and thank Robert Buralli for his actions in extinguishing this fire. His actions exemplify the caring and compassion of helping our neighbors and fellow man, which makes this Village such a great place to live.

## PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES RECEIVE AWARD

Department of Public Works Foreman Dennis Folkerts, Jody Kovel and Matt Struve were recognized for their involvement in stopping a residential burglary.

On October 14, 2008 the three employees were working and noticed some suspicious subjects walking around a house. The DPW crew noticed the subjects check out the front door and then walk into the rear yard of the house. They knew the subjects did not belong at that residence and began shouting and ran toward the backyard at the



offenders. Before the crew had a chance to call the police, Officer Mike Pawlowski noticed the activity. The incident resulted in two offenders being arrested and charged with Residential Burglary.

These three employees demonstrated their dedication by paying attention to what might be unnoticeable to some.

They knew the area and knew that the actions of these offenders were suspicious. The Village awarded these employees with commendations for their actions.

# IN MEMORIAM: SHIRLEY DRENNING

In 2008, the Village of Hodgkins lost a dear friend and dedicated public servant. Shirley Drenning served the Village as Treasurer, Comptroller, Civil Service Commissioner and as Trustee with the Township of Lyons. For over 20 years Shirley served our Village with a sense of dedication and compassion.

In 1999, Shirley retired from full time work as the Village Comptroller. During a luncheon in her honor celebrating her retirement, she informed the Hodgkins Police Department that she wanted to



SHIRLEY DRENNING

donate \$3,500.00 to fund a scholarship in the name of the Hodgkins Police **DARE** Program. The Hodgkins Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #151 agreed to manage the fund along with the existing Hodgkins FOP Scholarships. The Fund has issued a \$500.00 College Scholarship to a graduate of the Hodgkins Elementary School **DARE** Program ever since. She did not want her involvement publicized or any recognition for her donation.

Following Shirley's passing last year, the Hodgkins FOP met and unanimously agreed

to continue this scholarship and to officially name it the "**Shirley Drenning Memorial DARE Scholarship**".



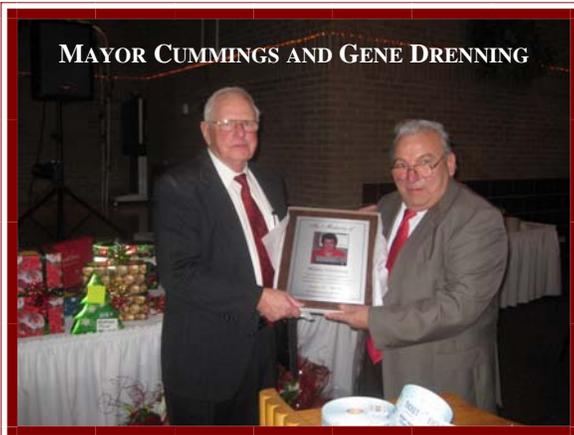
After retiring from full-time service, Shirley was elected to the Township of Lyons Board of Trustees. She also was appointed to serve as a Civil Service Commissioner for the Village of Hodgkins. Even though her full time commitment was over, she maintained a serious dedication to serving our community

and represented the Village professionally and honorably.

At the 2008 Village Christmas Dinner, Gene Drenning, Shirley's husband was given a plaque

honoring Shirley for her service to our Village and Community. A duplicate plaque will be on permanent display inside the new Noel B. Cummings Administration Center.

Shirley is survived by her husband Gene and daughter Priscilla and Grand-daughter Cheyenne. She is loved and missed by all of us.



MAYOR CUMMINGS AND GENE DRENNING



Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.

~Will Rogers

# VILLAGE STICKERS VEHICLES AND PETS

Village vehicle stickers have been available since May 1, 2008. The new stickers are valid for a two year period beginning in June 2008 through May 31, 2010.

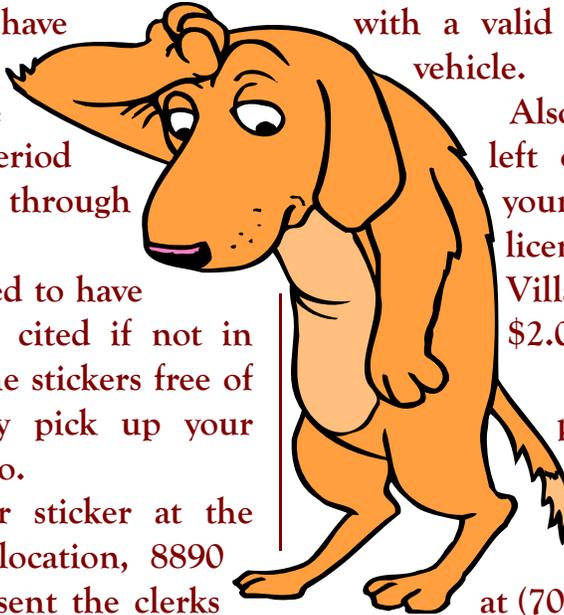
All residents are required to have these stickers and can be cited if not in compliance. We provide the stickers free of charge, so please stop by pick up your vehicle sticker if you need to.

You can pick up your sticker at the Village Hall's temporary location, 8890 67th Street. You must present the clerks

with a valid registration card for the vehicle.

Also, don't let your pet feel left out. You have to update your pet license each year. Pet license's are available at the Village Hall and cost only \$2.00.

The fine for an unlicensed pet is \$25.00, so don't delay. For further information, please contact the Village Hall at (708) 579-6700.



## ALUMINUM TABS ARE HELPING FAMILIES



MRS. BRENDA KRINGLE

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. 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. There are 270 Ronald McDonald Houses in 30 different countries. In total, more than 6,000 bedrooms are available for families every night.

Ronald McDonald Houses collect pop tabs instead of entire aluminum cans because the tabs are pure high-

quality aluminum, unlike cans, which consist of aluminum and other alloys. Tabs are also easier to store than whole cans.

With the help of several business's and families who collected tabs, we were able to drop off 45 Pounds of aluminum tabs last September. There are too many companies and individuals to list, but you know who you are and why you help.

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.





## NOTICE: SEIZED AUTO AUCTION

The Hodgkins Police Department will be conducting a Auction of 4 Motor Vehicles. These cars were seized pursuant to State of Illinois Statutes and have been forfeited and awarded to the Hodgkins Police Department.

These vehicles might not be in very good shape and will be sold "AS IS" and with "NO WARRANTY". For more information, stop by the Hodgkins Police Department and request a Vehicle Information Sheet. Upon request, we will hand out a information sheet containing basic information and the starting bid amount on each vehicle. The vehicles will be available for a physical inspection 2 hours before the bids are to be opened.

Sealed Bids To Be Opened at 11:00 am on Monday February 23, 2009

**1995 DODGE INTREPID 4-DOOR**  
**1996 HYUNDAI ACCENT**  
**1998 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN**  
**1999 OLDSMOBILE ALERO GL**

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMP TO HONOR BOB HOPE

On May 29 the Postal Service will host a ceremony on the deck of the USS Midway in San Diego in recognition of Bob Hope (1903-2003). The stamp in his likeness on what would have been his 106th birthday is based on a photograph of Hope.

Hope devoted his life to making people laugh. He is most known for his unwavering commitment – from World War II through Operation Desert Storm – to supporting morale by entertaining military personnel serving overseas.

Bob Hope became one of the most honored and beloved performers of the 20th century. Although Hope never officially served in the U.S. Armed Forces, he dedicated a significant part of his life to

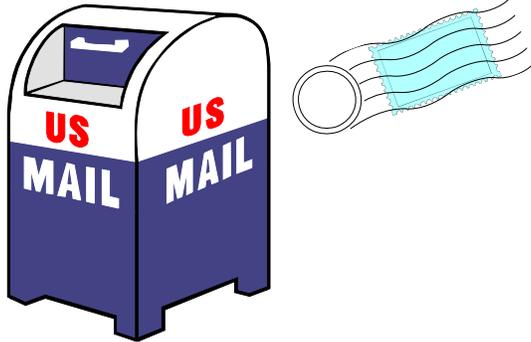
entertaining America's men and women in uniform, starting in 1941 and continuing through the Persian Gulf War five decades later. After giving hundreds of performances overseas, he earned the nickname "G.I. Bob" and in 1997 became the first person recognized by the U.S. Congress as an "honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces."

Hope's thousands of honors also included the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among his many friends were several U.S. presidents, with whom he often played golf for charity. Bob Hope died at his home in Toluca Lake, CA, on July 27, 2003, two months after his 100th birthday.



VILLAGE OF HODGKINS  
8890 W. 67th Street  
Hodgkins, IL.60525

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



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# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

**I**n mid January the Hodgkins Police Department packed up and shipped 83 boxes (1,340 lbs) of supplies to 9 members of our military who are serving overseas. This is the third packing party that we have hosted in the past year. The recipients include Hodgkins residents, police officers, as well as family and friends who provided us with address's.

Needless to say, we could not have done this without the help from some very special friends. The Coulter Post #1941 American Legion was



instrumental in holding a drive for needed supplies. When we put out a call to help pack up the boxes we always receive a tremendous turn out.

Displayed below is the address for a couple of local service members who are currently serving overseas. Brandon Casper grew up here in town is serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. Brandon Cummings is the Mayor's Grandson and is serving with the U.S. Army in Korea. Please feel free to send a card or letter showing your support.

**PFC BRANDON CASPER  
PRT LAGHMAN  
FOB METHAR LAM  
APO AE 09354**

**2LT BRANDON J. CUMMINGS  
A BTRY, 1/38 FA BOX 520  
UNIT 15683  
APO AP 96224**

*LAND OF THE FREE - BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE*