

Hedwig Village police department has had one officer killed in the line of duty. On November 2, 1980, Officer Michael Wayne Rivers was killed in the foot pursuit of a subject.

The police chief is in charge, followed by the patrol captain. There is a sergeant for the day, evening and night shift patrol with a total of ten police officers. There is a detective sergeant with a police officer to assist. There is a civilian supervisor with four full time and one part time employee, and an office manager.

The department has won the Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program in 2010. This is a voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with 164 Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices. These best practices were developed by Texas law enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service, the reduction of risk and the protection of individual's rights. These best practices cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including the use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, patrol and investigative operations. This award is given for four years but the department must submit an annual report to show continuing compliance. Being recognized is the top standard for all Texas law enforcement agencies.

The department also offers the house watch and business check program. The house watch is initiated by a resident who would like their house watched (for example, during an out of town vacation). A police officer will go to the house during each shift and check the perimeter of the house. All residents may take advantage of this. The business checks are conducted at night when the businesses are closed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Before the Villages were incorporated, the Houston Fire Department would help with fighting the fires. In 1947, the Village Fire Department started out as a volunteer organization and called the Spring Branch Volunteer Fire Department. The first trucks were built by hand with donated equipment. In 1950, due to donations and fund raising activity, a truck chassis was purchased and with a 1,000 gallon tank that volunteers fixed up and put into service.

In the April, 1957 city council meeting city meeting Mr. Robert Hammond (the mayor of Hunters Creek) gave some back ground information about the fire department. The fire department originally served an area of 50 square miles and since the city of Houston had taken in some of the area, it now serves an area of 12 square miles. At the time there were 30 volunteer firemen, only 6 lived in the Villages. A proposal was made to have four paid firemen around the clock, with the estimated budget being \$30,000 per year, Hedwig's portion would be \$3,226.

In October 1963, city council passed a resolution that the Police Department facilities be separated from the Fire Department facilities.

The Village Fire Department has 1 engine, 1 ladder truck and 2 ambulances.

In early 2014 the Department was awarded the ISO Class 1. Nationwide, there are only 60 ISO Class 1 fire departments from over 49,000 fire departments.

HEDWIG VILLAGE MAYORS

In reviewing the minutes of the Village, one very outstanding and impressive fact is the amount of volunteer time that has been donated by many of the citizens. Because of this (and for historical purposes) the following is a list of the Mayors.

1955—57 James Weiler; 57 & 58 Wallace Stagner; 58—60 Charles Ruckman; 60—62 T.H. Tenney; 62 & 63 W.C. Leigh; 63 & 64 Arthur Pitkin; 64—71 James Holder; 71—79 Edmund Marx; 79—81 Sidney Holm;

81—83 Robert Higgins; 83—88 Tom Bartlett; 9-88-12-88 Royce Qualline; 89—93 Victor Thompson; 93—97 Robert Goehrs; 97—2001 Sue Speck; 2001—2005 Dee Srinivison; 2005—2015 Sue Speck; 2015 to present (early 2016) Gary Muecke.

MISCELLANEOUS

In April of 1960, the population was 1176 and there were 308 homes. In 1970, there were 3199 people. In 1955 Piney Point Oaks, located along Corbindale between Piney Point Rd and Gaylord was being developed. On the South side of Corbindale there was an open ditch with wooden bridges onto Hickorywood, Sprucewood and Pecanwood. This smaller ditch ran into a big ditch close to the library. Eventually storm sewers replaced all of this.

Before the Village water Authority was established in 1960, the homes were built with septic tanks. These are often found when a "tear down" is done and the home builder finds it in the backyard. There were many truck farms in the area. They were called truck farms because the farmers would pick their crop, put them into trucks and drive to the Houston Central Market located on Washington Avenue. There were also chickens and dairy farms.

There was a post office on Corbindale, just North of Gaylord.

In 1970 the 1.67 acre strip of land that was originally owned by the Corbin family was purchased by Hedwig Village for \$30,000.00. The park is dedicated to Mrs. Hedwig Schroeder.

The first mayor was James F. Weiler, he served as Mayor from 1955—1957. From 1955—1972, City Council meetings were held primarily in the current Mayor's home. If it was required to have larger quarters, meetings were held at the Spring Branch Junior High School auditorium. The Municipal Court sessions were also held there.

At the city council meeting in July of 1957, the council passed a motion to have the city attorney draw up the necessary ordinance to change the Village of Hedwig Village to the City of Hedwig Village. Hedwig Village became a city by February of 1958

In the July, 1968 City Council meeting there was a discussion of stray dogs and stock running loose in the Village. At that time, there was no ordinance concerning unleashed dogs. There was a lot of discussion about this, as some on the council felt it was not needed, "because people came to Hedwig to be out of the city and in the country" and requiring people to leash their dogs and keep them from running loose would be counter to that. However, the law did pass requiring people to keep their dogs on a leash when walking them.

The service road for the Katy Hwy. was one directional by early 1961.

In September 1959, the city offices were located at 11710 Denise Drive.

Per City Council meeting of January 1959, in 1958 the Harris County tax evaluation for Hedwig Village property was \$1,892,232.00

Per the city council meeting of October 1961, the estimated evaluation for Hedwig Village was \$5,926,710.00.

In the March 1959 city council meeting, representatives from the state highway department stated that existing feeder roads along Katy road were OK for now, but estimated that 10,000 cars a day were expected in the near future. In the meeting of August 1960, the State Highway Department showed plans for Interstate 10, said they wanted it finished by 1966.

Per the 1960 census, Hedwig had 308 living units with 1182 residents.

In May 1969, city council voted to name the street that ran North of the high school to I-10 as Mustang Lane.

In May 1969 a special council meeting was held to discuss the adoption of a one percent local sales tax within the city, a special election had to be called for that.

In the July 1969 city council meeting it was reported that the sales tax election had 101 affirmative and 8 negative votes. The State comptroller affirmed that the sales tax would begin in October of 1969. In July 1970 the Mayor reported the Ira Corbin tract had been purchased for \$30,000. This was to become Hedwig Park.

The official 1970 Census: Hedwig 3,199, Bunker Hill 3,881, Hunters Creek 3,772, Piney Point 2,517. September 1970 the council reported total valuation of \$21,850,000, which \$9,686,000 is residential, with the average house valuation being \$15,000.

In doing research, a League of land was 4428 acres total. Many settlers got a third of a League (1476 acres) for settling in an area.

RUMOR HAS IT

Many went to Reidel's store on Friday nights to listen to Amos & Andy and the Lone Ranger on the radio. Carter, now Carter Country and Goode Company was the location of a popular store and ice house, which later became a hamburger spot.

Katy Rd. between Brogden and Piney Point was the site of commercial development. The original Ledbetter Grocery, O'Neil-Anderson Hardware, Reidel's Feed Store and Bilao's (a department store), three service stations were located along this stretch. Later, a jewelry store, barber shop and bank were built.

The MKT railroad was built in 1893, it went from downtown Houston West to San Antonio. The original location of this railroad is the location of the current Westbound lanes of I-10. Katy Road was laid out parallel to the railroad.

Prior to 1952, old Katy Hwy was a two lane blacktop with pine trees in the median. West of Campbell, it was a dirt road. In the 60's as the Interstate came through, the original thoroughfare was renamed Old Katy Rd. and used a frontage road.

Just South of I-10 and Campbell Rd was one of the rest stops used by ranchers and farmers bringing cattle and produce to Houston.

In 1975, The Ladies Home Journal ranked the Spring Branch/Memorial area as one of the top 15 most desirable suburbs in the country.

The Memorial Church of Christ at 900 Echo Lane was built in 1960 and St. Cecilia's Catholic Church was built in 1978, though the parish was founded in 1956 and had met in Memorial Drive and Bunker Hill Elementary Schools.

Beinhorn road was named after Christian Beinhorn, who came over with his parents from Germany in 1853. The family also had a farm, which was located at the SouthEast corner of Campbell Rd & I-10.

Corbindale was named after Ira Corbin, one of the original settlers in the area. He also donated land that later became Hedwig Park. He also owned a service station located on Katy Road.

Gaylord was named for S.W. "Woody" Gaylord Jr., the owner of Gaylord Construction which did a lot of paving in the area.

One could rent a horse on Bunker Hill and Katy, ride across the road and spend your day riding the horse through the Villages.

There was a big pine forest at the current location of I-10 between Bunker Hill and Blalock. It was said there were so many trees and the woods were so thick that "the boys could go tree to tree" until they reached Katy Rd.

There was an old cemetery for black people that was located in the vicinity of Piney Point & I-10.

Texan soldiers marching on their way to the battle of San Jacinto camped in the area of the Memorial Villages.

Thursday, December 23rd, A.D., 1954

OFFICIAL BALLOT
CORPORATION
NO CORPORATION

Each voter shall strike out one of the foregoing expressions thus leaving the other indicating the proposition he favors.

VI.

Returns of said election shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 1139, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, 1925, as amended.

VII.

The Sheriff of Harris County, Texas is directed to post a notice of said election at three (3) widely separated public places within the above described boundaries of the proposed incorporated Town of Hedwig Village, Texas at least ten (10) days prior to the date on which said election is held.

WITNESS my hand this 30th, day of November, 1954.

Bob Casey, County Judge
Harris County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS |
COUNTY OF HARRIS |

I, the undersigned, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners' Court of Harris County, Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Order of the County Judge which is on file in my office.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Commissioners' Court of Harris County, Texas, this 30th, day of November, 1954.

(Seal)

W. D. MILLER, County clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners' Court of Harris County, Texas

You will, therefore, take notice of all matters contained in the foregoing Order.

Bob Casey, County Judge
Harris County, Texas.

Sheriff's
Return.

Received November 30th, 1954, Executed December 4th, 1954, by posting three (3) copies of this notice within the limits described as Boundaries of Proposed Town of Hedwig Village.

Fee 3 copies \$3.00

C. V. Buster Kern, Sheriff
Harris County, Texas
By G. Kreutz, Deputy

RETURNS OF A SPECIAL ELECTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS |
COUNTY OF HARRIS |

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF SAID COUNTY:

We, the undersigned officers holding an election at Spring Branch Jr. High School in Houston, Harris County, Texas, on the 18th, day of December, 1954, for the purpose of Corporation, hereby certify that at said election there were cast 74 votes of which number there were cast:

For Incorporation	57 votes
Against Incorporation	17 votes
Majority for Incorporation	<u>40 votes</u>

We herewith enclose poll list and tally sheet of said election.

Witness our hands, this the 18th, day of December, 1954.

E. W. Muhlhausen, Manager
Mrs. D. E. Lomax, Judge
Mrs. Eunice M. Pomorski, Clerk

eturns of a
pecial Election



Map of Harris County (1903) (Enlarged on Memorial Villages) Source: www.harriscountytexas.gov/archives