

Hedwig Village Police Department



Annual Report 2017
Chief David A. Gott



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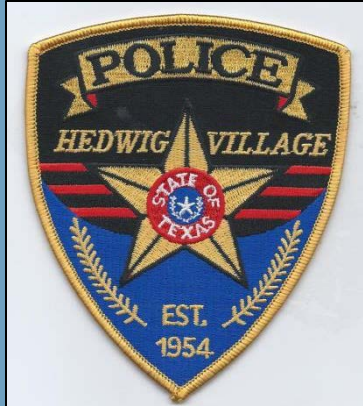
I am proud to share this 2017 Annual Report with the citizens of Hedwig Village to showcase the outstanding efforts put forth by our employees to keep this city a safe place to live, work, shop and raise a family. 2017 was a challenging year for us and the entire Southeast Gulf Coast. Hurricane Harvey caused widespread flooding, power outages and an incredible amount of damage. Hedwig Village was largely spared as we had no homes flooded and no power outages, but the entire city was effectively shut down. Our officers and dispatchers worked extra shifts, slept in the station and showed incredible dedication to keeping this city protected during this very difficult time.

I am also very proud of the work done by this police department after the tragic murder of one of our beloved residents. Janeil Bernard, who was 79 years old, was brutally murdered in her own home. Detective Sergeant Marvin Collins, Detective Terry Wu and truly the entire police department worked around the clock to rapidly bring to justice those responsible for this heinous act.

I want to thank our residents and businesses for the great support showed to the police department throughout 2017, particularly during the aftermath of the hurricane. In preparation, we purchased some frozen food for our staff, but we had so much food brought to the station by our residents and businesses that the frozen food was not touched. It is truly remarkable that with all everybody had to deal with, you thought enough of us to treat us so kindly.

Always remember, your police department is here for you, be aware of your surroundings and never hesitate to call if anything seems wrong or out of place. In the event you want to commend the actions of a specific police department employee or have any questions or concerns you can contact me personally by calling the department at (713) 461-4797, or by e-mail at dgott@hedwigtx.gov

David A. Gott
Chief of Police



Mission

The department's mission statement articulates the reason for our existence as an organization. It serves as a continual reminder of the goals we strive to achieve and of the basic framework in which we operate to achieve those goals.

It is the mission of the Hedwig Village Police Department to provide a quality environment for our residents, business people and guests by preventing crime, maintaining the social order and reducing the fear of personal victimization. This mission is realized as we impartially, yet aggressively, uphold federal, state and local laws, conscientiously deliver professional police service and respect the individual rights of those we encounter.

Values

The values of the Hedwig Village Police Department provide substance to those attitudes and beliefs that we adhere to as fundamental to policing. They are as follows.

To Protect. We believe we have an obligation to the citizens and business people living and working within Hedwig Village to protect life and property whenever and wherever either is threatened.

To Serve. We will strive to improve the quality of community life through the provision of superior and equitable services. We recognize that quality service goes beyond law enforcement and involves those legitimate service activities deemed important by the community. We understand that a reputation for quality service is built one police- community interaction at a time and we will endeavor to ensure each interaction adds to our reputation as a service organization.

To Model Integrity. We recognize that authority has been entrusted to us for the common good and believe that police officers must be people of integrity if we are to responsibly handle that authority. We define integrity as that quality which requires us to carefully evaluate each situation, make a valid legal, moral and ethical decision based upon the circumstances of that situation, and carry out the action required by that decision even when it is not convenient or popular to do so. We believe that people of integrity act in the described manner even when failure to do so would go unnoticed. We believe that police officers with integrity adhere to this philosophy in their private lives as well.

To Demonstrate Professionalism. We realize the general public has certain expectations regarding the manner in which police officers conduct themselves. Our demeanor when handling various situations, an attitude of impartiality, and the level of responsibility we exhibit when exercising authority are illustrations of the areas in which the public holds expectations. In the aggregate, the expectations the public has of us and our ability to meet those expectations, defines our level of professionalism. We believe that we have a responsibility to act professionally in all of our encounters with the public and with each other as well. We hold that professionalism extends beyond our regular tour of duty and is, in reality, a way of life.

Hedwig Village

According to local historian Thomas Roth, the Memorial Villages derived from land grants given to John Taylor and Isaac Bunker for their service during the Texas War of Independence from Mexico. Over the years, they sold parts of their land and the area was settled. In the early years, the area contained mostly farms, but there were also sawmills and lumberyards due to the area being heavily wooded.

In 1954, a group of citizens, intent on instituting zoning and resisting being annexed by Houston, incorporated the Memorial Villages and the city of Hedwig Village was born. The city is named after Hedwig Road, which was named after Hedwig Jankowski Schroeder, a landowner who emigrated from Germany.

Before the incorporation, the Harris County Sheriff's Office policed the area. After incorporating, the villages appointed one paid marshal and had several volunteers patrolling in their own cars. In 1958, Hedwig Village voted to join with other area cities to form a joint police department. As time passed, the citizens of Hedwig Village realized that in order to meet the unique policing challenges of its community, they would need to form their own police department, and, in December of 1976, the Hedwig Village Police Department was created. The original department consisted of one police chief and eight police officers. The first chief was Jimmy Jones, a retired Houston Police Officer.

Today, Hedwig Village is a dynamic city with approximately 2500 residents, over 500 businesses and a day-time population of around 30,000 people. The police department has become a fully functional modern department with 23 full-time employees.



Swearing in of the original chief and eight officers.

City Government



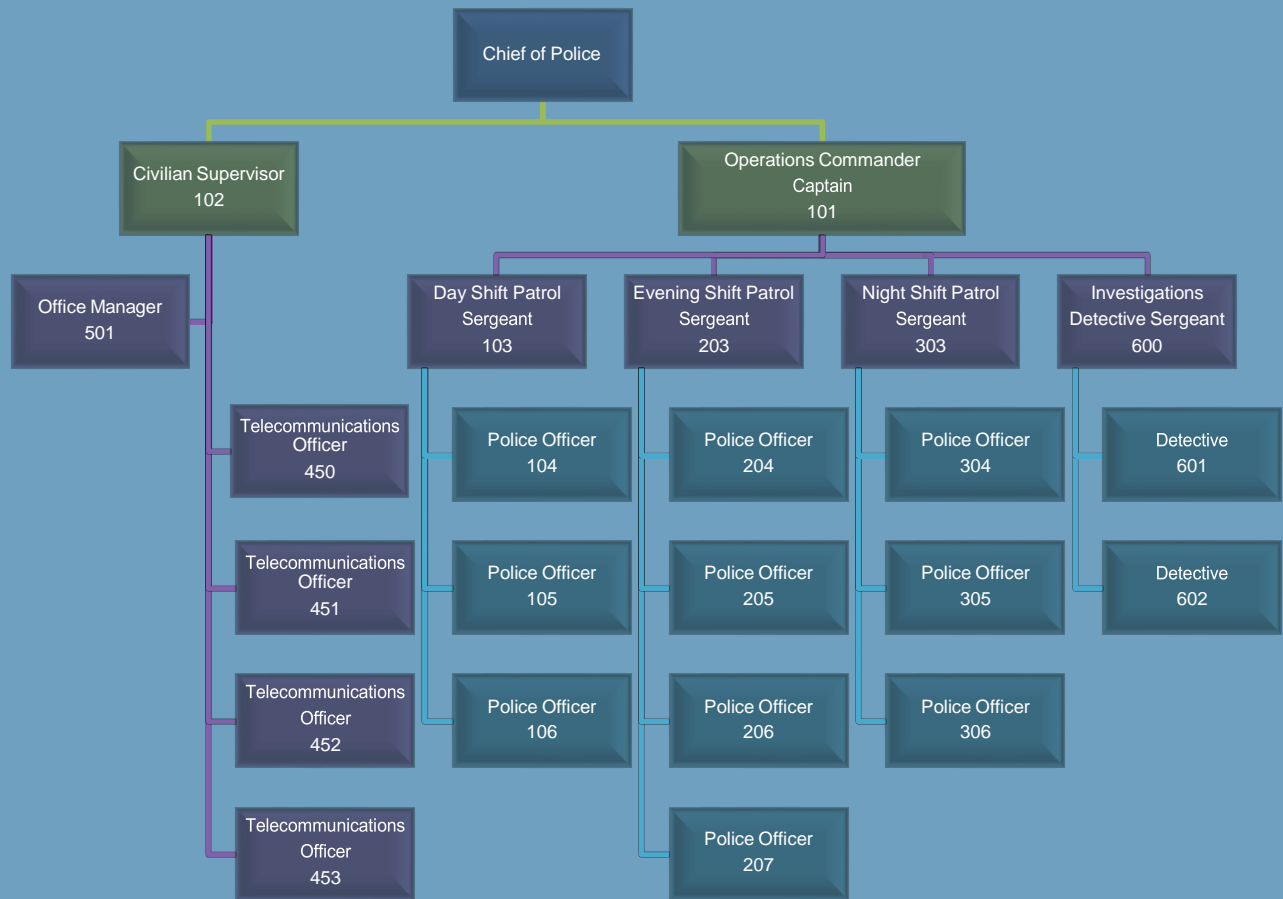
From Left: **Matt Woodruff**, Council Member Position 4; **Carrol McGinnis**, Council Member Position 2; **Shirley Rouse**, Council Member Position 5; **Mayor Brian T. Muecke**, **Barry Putterman**, Council Member Position 1; **Bob Weiner**, Council Member Position 3.

City Hall Staff



Top Row, From Left: **Terry Vick**, Maintenance Supervisor, **Lisa Modisette**, City Secretary, **Lane Standley**, Building Official, **Kelly Johnson**, City Administrator. Bottom Row, From Left: **Melissa Richardson**, Administrative Assistant, **Diana Ruiz**, Court Clerk, **Angie Ventura**, Permit Clerk

Hedwig Village Police Department Organizational Chart





Chief David A. Gott



Captain Paul Warner



Civilian Supervisor
Amanda Winter



Sergeant
Darryl Kessner



Sergeant
William Wright



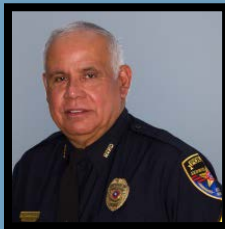
Sergeant
Steve Sanford



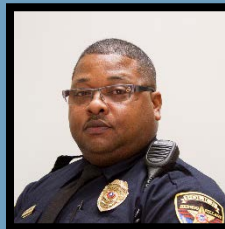
Detective Sergeant
Marvin Collins



Senior Officer
Keith Britt



Senior Officer
Art Zambada



Senior Officer
Darrell Owens



Senior Officer
Steve Packard



Detective
Terry Wu



Detective
Shane Roye



Officer
Ray Garza



Officer
Frank Schulgen



Officer
Austin Schwartz



Officer
Julie Buhs



Officer
Richard Hernandez



Office Manager
Cynthia Lisella



Telecommunicator
Karen Paredes



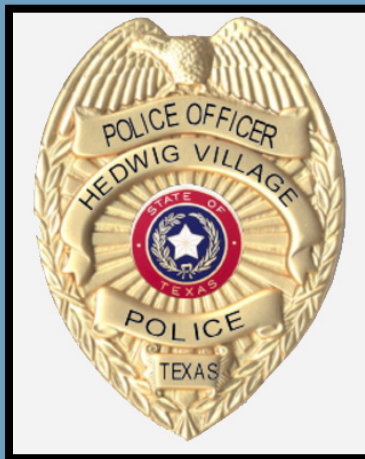
Telecommunicator
Mark Payne



Telecommunicator
Charles Vyles



Telecommunicator
Cindy Holdaway





Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program

The Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program 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 use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

The Hedwig Village Police Department became a recognized agency in 2010. The recognized status is good for a four-year period, so in 2014, the department completed another full and rigorous examination by the Texas Police Chief's Association and was re-recognized. Being recognized is the gold standard for Texas law enforcement and should assure the citizens of Hedwig Village that its Police Department is conforming to the current state of the art in law enforcement.

More information and a complete description of the program may be viewed by going to the Texas Police Chiefs Association website at <http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org>



Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet the need for reliable uniform crime statistics for the nation. The Hedwig Village Police Department reports crime numbers to UCR once each month. The below is a compilation of our UCR Part 1 crimes for the past five years.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Murder	0	1	0	0	1
Rape	0	1	0	0	0
Robbery	4	8	5	3	4
Aggravated Assault	2	1	0	0	1
Burglary	19	19	23	13	7
Larceny	175	176	161	165	179
Auto Theft	12	8	8	4	6
Total	212	214	197	185	198

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (BMV) is contained within the Larceny numbers above. This is the crime committed most often in Hedwig Village, but these crimes can be prevented with some common sense advice:

- ❖ **Hide items in your vehicle.** Items in the open make your car a bigger target.
- ❖ **Lock your car.**
- ❖ **Park in well-lit or heavily-trafficked areas.** Thieves do not like witnesses.
- ❖ **Install an anti-theft device.**
- ❖ **Take your purse with you when pumping gas.** Thieves have slid into vehicles, taken a purse off the seat and slid back out without the owner realizing it.

Arrests and Citations

The Hedwig Village Police Department aggressively targets, arrests and cites those who commit criminal violations in our city. Below is a compilation of our arrest and citation numbers for the past three years.

Year	2015	2016	2017
Citations	4438	4025	3531
Arrests	247	392	505

The 505 persons arrested were charged with 592 separate offenses, to include:

Assault	4
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	6
Capital Murder	2
Criminal Trespass	4
Driving While Intoxicated	37
Escape From Custody	1
Evading Arrest in a Motor Vehicle	12

Failure to Identify (Fugitive)	5
Failure to Stop and Give Information (Motor Vehicle Crash)	1
Fictitious License Plate	1
Forgery	2
Fraud	2
Harassment of a Public Official	1
Minor in Possession of Alcohol	1
No Driver's License/Invalid Driver's License	58
Outstanding Warrant	222
Possession of a Controlled Substance	91
Possession of a Controlled Substance w/Intent to Deliver	4
Possession of a Dangerous Drug	2
Possession of a Prohibited Weapon	1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	15
Possession of Marijuana	44
Public Intoxication	32
Racing on a Highway	1
Tampering with a Government Document/Evidence	2
Theft	20
Traffic	3
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (auto theft)	3
Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon (pistol by a felon)	23

Calls for Service

This table reflects the calls for police service handled by the department. Code 1 calls assume that a serious threat to life or serious bodily injury is in progress. Code 1 calls are dispatched immediately and the response will normally be with emergency lights and siren activated. Code 2 calls assume a crime against property or a conflict between parties that could reasonably result in bodily injury to any person is in progress. A call for service may also be categorized as code two if it is not in progress, but a response is urgent (i.e. burglar alarm, disturbance). Most calls are handled as a Code 3, which assumes no known emergency exists, such as a report call.

The house watches and business checks are outstanding programs that the department offers. The house watch is initiated by a resident, normally when the resident will be away from the home for a period of days, such as out of town on vacation. Once initiated, a police officer will physically go to the house several times each day, on all shifts, and check the perimeter of the house. Most business checks are conducted at night when the businesses are closed. This program is intended to prevent burglaries and vandalism.

Year	2015	2016	2017
Code 1 Calls	27	20	37
Code 2 Calls	530	372	320
Code 3 Calls	2597	3012	3780
House Watches	7981	6507	6873
Business Checks	6815	5382	4617
Officer Initiated	1078	771	730

Criminal Investigations Unit

The Hedwig Village Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit consists of one detective-sergeant and two detectives. The detective-sergeant, Marvin Collins, supervises the unit and conducts follow-up investigations. One of the detectives, Terry Wu, conducts follow-up investigations and the other, Shane Roye, is a uniformed street detective. The unit also maintains our web site, processes evidence, conducts training and handles many other duties. The below table reflects the investigations conducted by the unit:

Cases Assigned	745
Cases Cleared	438
Cases found to be Unfounded (offense did not occur, incorrect offense, etc.)	93
Cases Suspended (no further workable leads)	198

Detective Roye proactively targets criminal activity within the city and was responsible for the following arrests:

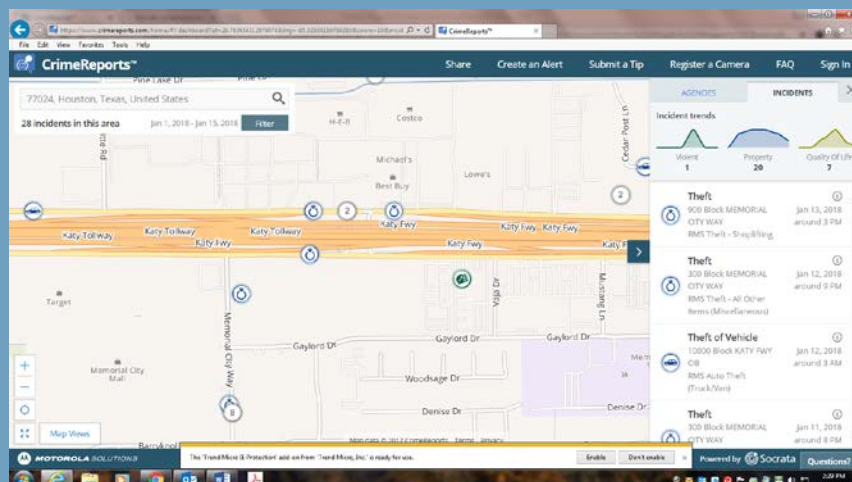
Felony Arrests	76
Misdemeanor Arrests	87
Referrals to the Misdemeanor Marijuana Diversion Program	27
Citations	287

Crime Mapping



Your police department has partnered with crimereports.com to provide a free to use on-line crime mapping program. This helps us keep you informed about recent criminal activity in our city. By accessing the link below, users can see a visual representation of crime sorted by zip code, address, street and/or city. Over 800 law enforcement agencies nationwide, including the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office, utilize it to keep their citizens informed.

To access this service go to www.crimereports.com



Community Policing



The Hedwig Village Police Department has a philosophy of Community Policing, which means that the department works with the community to maintain public safety and prevent crime. Hedwig Village Police Officers are encouraged to become familiar with the community, listen to citizens' concerns, and assist them with problem-solving. Community Policing works to enhance public safety and improve the quality of life within the community.

In addition to daily community interaction, the police department also participated in the Memorial Villages Annual 4th of July Parade and Festival and National Night Out.



Open House



On June 8, 2017, we held an Open House at the Police Station. It was a great success with about 200 of our residents coming by to take a tour and visit.



Rifle Resistant Body Armor

This year we purchased a new tool to help protect our officers. All officers wear soft Kevlar body armor which is capable of stopping pistol rounds from most handguns. But, after shooters used high-powered rifles in several encounters with officers, we knew we needed to do more. We now have 'Level 4' vests that are capable of withstanding high-velocity rounds available in every patrol vehicle.



Conducted Energy Devices (Tasers)

We also purchased Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) for our officers in 2017. All officers have now received training in their use and in our policies on when to use them. These devices, commonly known as tasers, are not meant to be a substitute for deadly force, but are very effective against suspects who are actively resisting or exhibiting active aggression. The use of CEDs have prevented countless injuries to police officers and suspects alike.

Internal Affairs

The Internal Affairs process is meant to protect the integrity of the police department. We conduct a full and impartial investigation into every complaint against any of our employees and we hold them accountable if we determine they fell short of our expectations. Each investigation will receive one of the below dispositions:

- a. *Unfounded.* The allegation is proven to be false or not factual.
- b. *Exonerated.* The incident occurred but was lawful and within departmental policy.
- c. *Not Sustained.* The investigation revealed insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.
- d. *Sustained.* Allegations are proved to be true based upon a preponderance of the evidence.

In 2017, we completed nine formal investigations as follows:

Control number	Date of Incident	Allegation	Disposition
17-001	01/22/2017	Professional Demeanor	Sustained
17-002	01/21/2017	Arrest Procedures	Sustained
17-003	01/18/2017	Professional Demeanor	Sustained
17-004	03/28/2017	Professional Demeanor	Exonerated
17-005	06/03/2017	Investigation Report	Investigation Only
17-006	05/01/2017	Use of Discretion	Sustained
17-007	05/29/2017	Insubordination	Sustained
17-008	06/02/2017	Available for Duty	Sustained
17-009	11/17/2017	Improper Procedure	Pending

E-Notification

E-notification is an avenue for the city and the police department to communicate valuable information to our residents. Once registered, residents will receive emails concerning crime in the city and city happenings. Your email will never be sold, given to any outside entity or used for any advertisements. It is easy to register for and easy to cancel if you no longer wish to receive the emails. Just click on 'e-notification signup' on the home page of the city web site at www.Hedwigtx.gov. As part of our continued effort to keep our residents informed and protected, the police department strongly recommends all residents sign up for e-notification.

Awards



At the City Council meeting on September 14th, 2017, **Mayor Brian Muecke** presented **Detective Sergeant Marvin Collins, Detective Terry Wu** and **Houston Police Department Detective Fil Waters** with a **Mayor's Proclamation**. These detectives worked tirelessly on the investigation of the murder of Janeil Bernard. Their work led to the arrest and Capital Murder charges filed on two suspects.

On December 1, 2016, several members of the department were honored for their outstanding service as follows:

Service awards are given for every five years of service to honor the employee's dedication and commitment to the city of Hedwig Village. This year **Officer Shane Roye** and **Office Manager Cynthia Lisella** were honored for **5 years of service**.



Sergeant William Wright was honored for **30 years of service**. He has shown incredible dedication to this city and this police department. Just one of his major contributions was the complete overhaul of our property room. He transitioned the property room into an electronic database and was able to dispose of over 2000 pieces of property. During his tenure, Sergeant Wright, who came to us with a high school education, obtained both a bachelor's and master's degree (on his own time) and graduated from the very prestigious Leadership Command College. He has been a true asset to the department. Sergeant Wright has one daughter and a 2 ½ year old granddaughter.

Major Awards are given to employees who distinguish themselves by going above and beyond the call of duty. This year we honored the following five employees for their outstanding contribution to the mission of the police department:

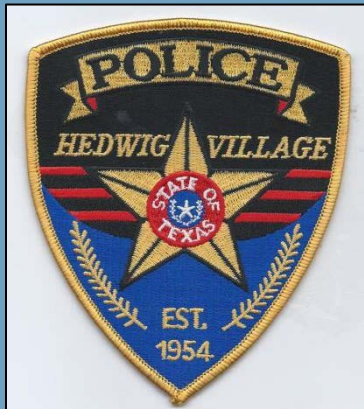
Senior Officer Keith Britt received the **Guardian of the Year Award**. This award emphasizes the importance of our house watch and business check programs. Keith led the department in the number of house watches and business checks performed and is a true guardian.



The **Crime Fighter of the Year Award** was presented **Julie Buhs**. Julie, who is an all-around great officer, had 105 arrests and issued 601 citations in 2017.

Sergeant Darryl Kessner was named the **Supervisor of the Year**. Sergeant Kessner did an outstanding job throughout the year supervising the day shift. He also showed incredible leadership and dedication when he slept at the police department for almost two weeks during and after Hurricane Harvey going way above and beyond the call of duty to take care of the city and police department.





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