

Hedwig Village Police Department



Annual Report 2020
Chief David A. Gott



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I am proud to share this 2020 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.

2020 was certainly challenging. From a global pandemic, to civil unrest, to calls for defunding and reforming the way police operate, it's been a difficult year. But, we're still here, our officers put on their uniforms everyday and go to work with the goal of creating a better and safer world for everybody.

Regardless of how some politicians and members of the media attempt to paint police officers in a negative light, our officers are noble, dedicated, selfless and honorable people. I truly believe police officers are the best of us.

Sadly, we lost a friend and long-time Hedwig Village employee in 2020. Sergeant Darryl Kessner died after a brief illness in February. He is missed.

Of course, 2020 was not all bad. In 2020 we had an overall decrease in crime in Hedwig Village. And, I am very happy to report that there were no residential burglaries for all of 2020.

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 James H. '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 24 full-time employees.



New Arm Of The Law Sworn In

Hedwig Village Mayor E.P. Marx, left, pins on Police Chief Jimmy Jones's badge in ceremonies at the Town Hall. The mayor personally pinned on each new officer's badge (l-r) Ron Parker, Terry Lange, Mike Lane, Gene

Howard, Harry Wallace, James Johnson, W.L. Norman, and W.G. Rush. The new Hedwig Village Police went on duty at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

--Photo By John Gaines

Swearing in of the original chief and eight officers on Tuesday, December 28, 1976.

City Government



Dane Johnson
Council Member
Position 2

Shirley Rouse
Council Member
Position 5

Matt Woodruff
Mayor Pro Tem
Council Member
Position 4

Brian T. Muecke
Mayor

Harry Folloder
Council Member
Position 3

Susan Mathews
Council Member
Position 1



City Hall Staff



Kelly Johnson
City Administrator



Lisa Modisette
Assistant City Secretary



Yolanda Lopez
Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk



Angie Ventura
Community Development Coordinator



Diana Ruiz
Municipal Court Clerk



Terry Vick
Maintenance/Animal Control Officer



LuzDenny Fernandez
Part-time Court Clerk

Hedwig Village Police Department Organizational Chart



Roll Call



Chief David A. Gott



Captain Paul Warner



Civilian Supervisor
Amanda Winter



Detective Sergeant
Marvin Collins



Sergeant
Steve Sanford



Sergeant
Steve Packard



Sergeant
Darrell Owens



Senior Police Officer
Art Zambada



Detective
Terry Wu



Detective
Richard Rulong



Police Officer
Frank Schulgen



Police Officer
Julie Buhs



Police Officer
Shahzad Khan



Police Officer
Wenceslao Candido



Police Officer
Brandon Bloodworth



Police Officer
Yonathan Sadikin



Police Officer
Nathan Hale



Police Officer
Zackary Doughty



Office Manager
Cynthia Lisella



Telecommunicator
Charles Vyles



Telecommunicator
Karin Paredes



Telecommunicator
Mark Payne



Telecommunicator
Brittney Lopez



Custodian
Larry Fillmore



Sergeant Darryl Ray Kessner



Sergeant Darryl Kessner was our co-worker, he was our friend, but most of all he was a part of our family and we miss him.

Sergeant Kessner was hired by the Hedwig Village Police Department as a sergeant on July 26, 2006. He came to us with a lot of police experience having previously worked for the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office and the Clute Police Department. He worked for Hedwig Village until his death from a brief illness in February 2020.

He was a great man, an honorable police officer and a tireless worker. He was awarded supervisor of the year in both 2015 and 2017. 2017 was the year of Hurricane Harvey. In the aftermath of the hurricane, Sergeant Kessner slept at the police station for two full weeks and dedicated his entire life to protecting the residents of Hedwig Village and taking care of our officers and employees

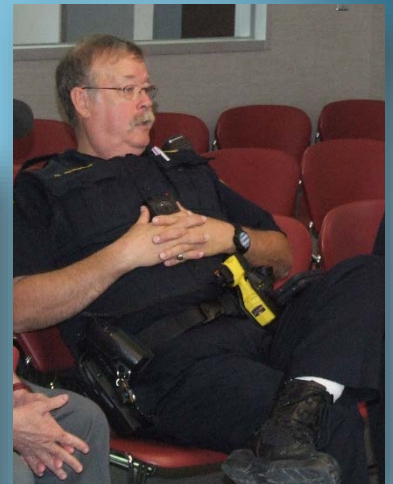
He was a kind, caring police officer who treated everybody with dignity and respect. His legacy is secure, he made a difference, his life had meaning.



Sergeant Kessner receives the Supervisor of the Year Award



Sergeant Kessner with Captain Warner



Sergeant Kessner in his normal sitting pose



Sergeant Kessner leading citizens on a tour of the station



Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program

The Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program is a voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with 166 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 and again in 2018, 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>

National Incident Based Reporting System

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program transitioned the previous crime reporting system into the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS provides a much broader picture into where and how crime is occurring. The Hedwig Village Police Department reports crime numbers to the database once each month. The below is a compilation of our NIBRS crime data for the past five years.

Classification of Offense	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Criminal Homicide - Total			1			
a. Murder			1			
b. Manslaughter*						
2. Forcible Rape - Total						
a. Rape						
b. Attempts to Commit Rape						
3. Robbery - Total	6	3	4	1	6	2
a. Firearm	2	2	1	1	3	
b. Knife or Cutting Instrument	1					
c. Other Weapons	1		1		2	
d. Strong-Arm (Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.)	2	1	2		1	2
4. Assault - Total	6	15	19	20	21	18
a. Firearm				2		1
b. Knife or Cutting Instrument			1	1		
c. Other Weapons				1		2
d. Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.						
e. Other Assaults - Simple*	6	15	18	16	21	15
5. Burglary - Total	23	13	9	7	6	3
a. Forcible Entry	11	2	4	4	5	3
b. Unlawful - No Force	12	11	5	2		
c. Attempted Forcible Entry				1	1	
6. Larceny - Theft - Total	160	167	179	128	195	151
7. Motor Vehicle Theft - Total	9	4	6	8	6	10
a. Autos	6	4	5	8	6	8
b. Trucks and Buses	3					1
c. Other Vehicles			1			1
8. Arson - Total		1				
Total	204	202	218	164	228	184

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 four years.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Citations	3531	4102	2874	1967
Arrests	505	547	325	178

The 178 persons, 141 males and 37 females, arrested were charged with 189 separate offenses, to include:

Aggravated Robbery	1
Altered Driver's License	1
Assault	3
Attempted Capital Murder of a Police Officer	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	4
Credit Card Abuse	1
Criminal Mischief	1
Criminal Trespass	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
Driving While Intoxicated	18
Evading Arrest in a Motor Vehicle	2
Failure to Identify (Fugitive)	3
Fictitious License Plate	1
Fraudulent Use of Possession of Identifying Information	1
Money Laundering	2
No Driver's License/Driving While License Suspended	14
Possession of a Controlled Substance	7
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	2
Public Intoxication	5
Resisting Arrest	1
Theft	7
Traffic Offenses	3
Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon (Handgun)	1
Outstanding Warrants	109

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 2 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	2017	2018	2019	2020
Code 1 Calls	37	46	32	47
Code 2 Calls	320	375	285	277
Code 3 Calls	3780	4658	4190	3754
House Watches	6873	5850	5027	4597
Business Checks	4617	3350	4158	9428
Officer Initiated	730	532	373	723

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 hold them accountable if we determine they fell short of our expectations. Each investigation will receive one of the below dispositions:

- Unfounded.* The allegation is proven to be false or not factual.
- Exonerated.* The incident occurred but was lawful and within departmental policy.
- Not Sustained.* The investigation revealed insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation.
- Sustained.* Allegations are proved to be true based upon a preponderance of the evidence.
- Information Only.* No allegations were made against any departmental employee. The investigation was conducted to determine if departmental policies and procedures were followed.

In 2020, we completed 4 formal investigations as follows:

Control number	Date of Incident	Allegation	Disposition
20-001	03/11/2020	Improper Police Procedure	Sustained
20-002	07/19/2020	Professional Demeanor	Sustained
20-003	09/18/2020	Civil Rights Violation	Unfounded
20-004	09/21/2020	Improper Police Procedure	Pending

Use of Force Incidents

All Use of Force incidents are documented, carefully reviewed and forwarded up the chain of command to the chief of police. A yearly audit is conducted to ensure departmental policies are being followed and to ensure departmental policies conform to best practices. In 2020, our officers were involved in 9 use of force incidents as follows:

Offense Number	Date	Type of Force	Reason for Use of Force
202003494	03/01/2020	Pointed Taser	Arrest Made
202006304	04/28/2020	Pointed Firearm	Suspect Arrested/Released
202009294	07/01/2020	Pointed Firearm	2 BMV Suspects Arrested
202011624	08/06/2020	Discharge of Firearm	Arrest Felony Suspect
202012827	08/25/2020	Pointed Firearm	Arrest Felony Suspect
202014439	09/23/2020	Pointed Firearm	Arrest Felony Suspect
202016081	10/26/2020	Pointed Taser	Arrest Theft Suspect
202016135	10/27/2020	Physical Force	Arrest Intoxicated Suspect
202016538	11/06/2020	Physical Force	Arrested DWI Suspect

Vehicle Pursuits

The police department conducts an audit of all vehicle pursuits to ensure our policies are being followed and that our policies match current best practices. In 2020, our officers were involved in 7 vehicle pursuits as follows:

Offense Number	Date	Reason Initiated	Arrest Made	Charges
202002193	02/09/2020	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	Yes	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle/ Evading Arrest
202004062	03/11/2020	Outside Agency Assist	Unknown	HVPD Terminated Involvement Prior to Conclusion
202005521	04/13/2020	Stolen Vehicle (ALPR Hit)	No	Suspects fled on foot, unable to locate
202008233	06/06/2020	Traffic Offenses	No	Pursuit Terminated
202014439	09/23/2020	Stolen Vehicle (ALPR Hit)	Yes	Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle/ Evading Arrest
202015705	10/19/2020	Stolen Vehicle (ALPR Hit)	No	Pursuit Terminated
202018416	12/16/2020	Assist Outside Agency	Unknown	HVPD Terminated Involvement Prior to Conclusion

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)



The ALPR cameras snap pictures of license plates of vehicles traveling through the city and check the license plates through police databases. If the plate is from a reported stolen or wanted vehicle, an alert is sent to our Communications Center for dispatch to the units in the field. The cameras also aid in follow-up investigations. The cameras are installed throughout Hedwig Village, the other Memorial Villages and Memorial City Mall. We also have access to readers in Katy, Jersey Village and other cities. The 10 cameras in Hedwig Village resulted in the following in 2020:

Type of Alert	Number of Alerts	Vehicles Located	Arrests Made
Stolen Vehicle	17	9	2
Stolen License Plates	11	6	1
BMV Suspects	2	0	0

Criminal Investigations Unit

The Hedwig Village Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit consists of one detective-sergeant and two detectives. Detective Sergeant Marvin Collins supervises the unit. The unit also maintains our web site, processes evidence, conducts training and handles many other duties. The table below reflects the investigations conducted by the unit.

Year	2018	2019	2020
Cases Assigned	662	643	507
Cases Cleared	411	258	149
Cases found to be Unfounded (offense did not occur, incorrect title)	92	149	150
Cases Suspended (no further workable leads)	150	227	200

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.

Crime Mapping

Your police department has partnered with Motorola's City Protect 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 this service to keep their citizens informed. To access this service, visit www.CityProtect.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.



Promotion

Officer Richard Rulong has done an outstanding job for the Hedwig Village Police Department, earning a promotion to detective on May 20, 2020.



Detective Rulong takes his oath of office



Detective Rulong and family.



Detective Rulong's son pins on his new badge

New Officer

We welcomed Officer Zackary Doughty to the department on February 24, 2020. He has finished training and is now assigned to night shift patrol.



Officer Doughty's Dad pins his badge



Officer Zackary Doughty takes his oath of office

Awards

Mayoral Commendation for Distinguished Service with Valor



Sergeant Owens with Mayor Brian T. Muecke

Sergeant Darrell Owens, while in the line of duty, distinguished himself when he acted courageously while engaged in a hostile confrontation with a dangerous and violent suspect.

On August 6, 2020, at about 10:30pm, Sergeant Owens stopped a vehicle whose occupants had been involved in a disturbance at Buffalo Wild Wings. Sergeant Owens positioned his vehicle properly and, as he began to get out, the passenger in the vehicle jumped out, pointed a pistol at Sergeant Owens and began shooting, striking the police vehicle. Sergeant Owens remained calm, put out the information on the radio and returned fire. The suspect got back in his vehicle and closed the door. A few seconds later the suspect got back out

and continued shooting, with Sergeant Owens again returning fire. The suspect then fled on foot. As Sergeant Owens began to follow, the driver of the vehicle got out. Sergeant Owens had the presence of mind to notice and immediately took the driver into custody. With Sergeant Owens' description, responding officers were able to locate the shooting suspect nearby and took him into custody without further incident. The suspect, whose handgun was found to be stolen, has an extensive criminal history and is now in the Harris County Jail charged with Attempted Capital Murder of a Police Officer.

For his actions, **Mayor Brian T. Muecke** presented **Sergeant Darrell Owens** with a **Mayoral Commendation for Distinguished Service with Valor** at the Hedwig Village City Council Meeting on September 17, 2020.



Sergeant Owens with family and Mayor Muecke

On December 4th, 2020, 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 **Civilian Supervisor Amanda Winter** was honored for 15 years of service, **Sergeant Steve Sanford** for 10 years of service and **Officer Julie Buhs** and **Telecommunicator Charles Vyles** for 5 years of service.



Amanda Winter 15 Years of Service



Steve Sanford 10 Years of Service



Charles Vyles 5 Years of Service



Julie Buhs 5 Years of Service

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

For the second year in a row, the **Telecommunicator of the Year Award** was presented to **Karin Paredes**. She has distinguished herself with the outstanding job she does as our evening shift dispatcher. She is incredibly knowledgeable, compassionate and calm in tense situations.



The **Crime Fighter of the Year Award** was presented to **Detective Richard Rulong**. Detective Rulong led the department in the number of citations, warning citations, arrests and offense reports in 2020. We will never know how much crime he prevented by his actions, but we do know he is an outstanding crime fighter.



Sergeant Darrell Owens earned **three major awards** for his outstanding work in 2020. He led the department for the second year in a row in House Watches and Business Checks and was named the **Guardian of the Year**. He was named **Supervisor of the Year** for his great leadership guiding our night shift. And he earned the **Hostile Engagement Award** for his courage and heroism in the face of danger when confronted with the incident as described above in the Mayor's Award.



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