

Hedwig Village Police Department



Annual Report 2015
Chief David A. Gott



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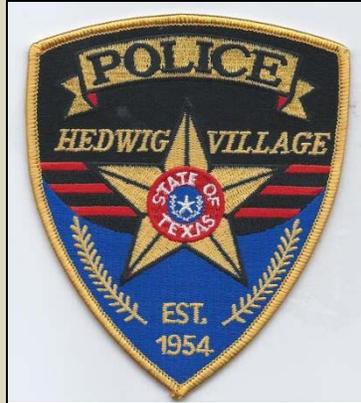
I am proud to share this 2015 Annual Report with the citizens of Hedwig Village to showcase the outstanding efforts put forth by our employees to keep this city a safe place to live, work, shop and raise a family. You will find statistical information that will let you know crime numbers are low and have actually decreased compared to 2014. Theft is still the most common crime committed in Hedwig Village and the majority of thefts involve breaking into vehicles in our commercial districts. This is a very preventable crime. The criminals are looking for visible property in vehicles, such as backpacks, briefcases, etc. You should always keep items out of view inside your vehicle, whether shopping or at home.

2015 saw several personnel changes in the department and at city hall. We welcomed a new Mayor, Brian T. Muecke, who was elected to office in May. Long time Detective Sergeant Steve Packard began his well-earned retirement in June. He did an outstanding job for the citizens of Hedwig Village and will be greatly missed. Long time city administrator Beth Staton also retired and was replaced by Kelly Johnson, the former city secretary with Bunker Hill.

The construction on our new police station is nearly complete. We expect to move into this state of the art police facility in late March or early April 2016.

Always remember, your police department is here for you, be aware of your surroundings and never hesitate to call in the event 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@thecityofhedwigvillage.com

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



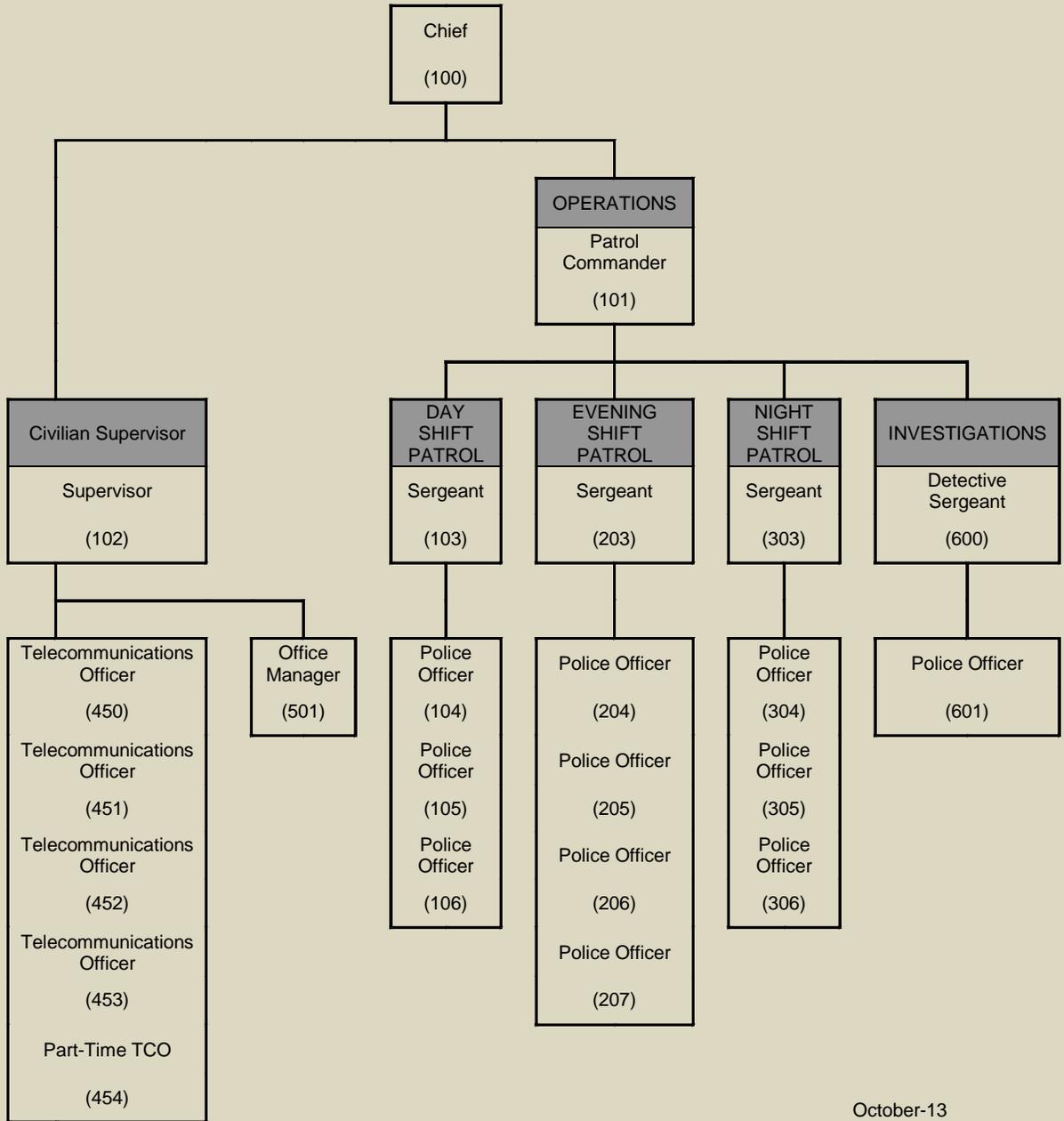
From Left: **William Johnson**, Council Member Position 5, **Matt Woodruff**, Council Member Position 4, **Carroll McGinnis**, Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member Position 2, **Brian T. Muecke**, Mayor, **Barry Putterman**, Council Member Position 1, **Bob Weiner**, Council Member Position 3.

City Hall Staff



Top Row (left to right): **Lane Standley**, Building Official, **Kelly Johnson**, City Administrator/City Secretary-Treasurer, **Monica Lopez**, Assistant City Secretary, **Terry Vick**, Maintenance Supervisor. Bottom Row (left to right): **Lisa Modisette**, Director of HR and Accounting, **Brandy Jaramillo**, Permit Clerk, **Diana LaCrosse Ruiz**, Court Clerk.

HEDWIG VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



October-13



Chief David A. Gott



Captain Paul Warner



**Civilian Supervisor
Amanda Winter**



**Sergeant
Darryl Kessner**



**Sergeant
William Wright**



**Sergeant
Steve Sanford**



**Detective Sergeant
Marvin Collins**



**Officer
Keith Britt**



**Officer
Art Zambada**



**Officer
Frank Schulgen**



**Officer
Shane Roye**



Officer
Rey Garza



Officer
Darrell Owens



Officer
Terry Wu



Officer
Nathan Scott



Officer
Nathan Frazier



Officer
Julie Buhs



Officer
Richard Hernandez



Office Manager
Cynthia Lisella



Telecommunicator
Cindy Holdaway



Telecommunicator
Denise Duron



Telecommunicator
Charles Vyles



Telecommunicator
Lorena Hernandez



Telecommunicator
Kathy Coborn



Day Shift Patrol



Night Shift Patrol



Evening Shift Patrol



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 are a compilation of our UCR Part 1 crimes for the past five years.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Murder	0	0	0	1	0
Rape	0	0	0	1	0
Robbery	4	6	4	8	5
Aggravated Assault	1	1	2	1	0
Burglary	15	15	19	19	23
Larceny	135	161	175	176	161
Auto Theft	20	13	12	8	8
Total	175	196	212	214	197

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	2013	2014	2015
Citations	3663	3295	4438
Arrests	575	387	247

The 247 persons arrested were charged with 267 offenses to include:

Outstanding Warrants	94
No Driver's License/Invalid Driver's License	10
Public Intoxication	17
Possession of Marijuana	49
Possession of Controlled Substance	26
Driving While Intoxicated	15

Evading Arrest	4
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	5
Aggravated Robbery	1
Terroristic Threat	1
Unauthorized Carrying of a Weapon	9
Theft	9
Assault	2
Failure to Identify	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	7
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle	2
Disorderly Conduct	1
Prohibited Weapon	2
Disobey a Police Officer	1
Tampering with Evidence	1
Graffiti	1
Criminal Trespass	1
Reckless Driving	1
Resisting Arrest	1
Forgery	5
Interfering with Public Duties	1

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. This is an excellent way to protect your home and we encourage all residents to take advantage of it.

Most business checks are conducted at night when the businesses are closed. This program is intended to prevent burglaries and vandalism.

Year	2013	2014	2015
Code 1 Calls	51	40	27
Code 2 Calls	734	632	525
Code 3 Calls	2079	2994	2597
House Watches	7183	8680	7981
Business Checks	6638	9104	6815

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, National Night Out and the Annual Year-End Food Drive.

National Night Out, held on October 6th, is a nationwide effort to bring communities together to combat crime. This year, several of our residents held neighborhood parties in an effort to get to know their neighbors. There is no more effective crime fighting strategy than neighbors watching out for each other. The police chief attended the parties, met the residents, presented valuable safety information and answered questions about the department. The event was a great success, showing that this is a community that truly is supportive and cares about keeping the city strong and safe.



New Police Station

On September 11, 2014, Hedwig Village City Council approved spending \$4.2 million for the construction of a new police department building. The old station, which had structural issues and lacked much needed space for a modern police facility, was razed in March. The new building should be completed in late March or early April of 2016 and will have private interview rooms, a workout area, separate men's and women's locker rooms, a separate area for evidence processing and a larger training room. It will be a facility the city can be proud of and should be much more functional into the future. The photo to the right depicts the original police station as shown in 1977. This building was remodeled in the 1980s as shown in the photo on the left (taken around 2012). The top photo shows the new station taking shape.



During the construction, the police department will be operating out of a temporary building located at 8783 ½ Gaylord.

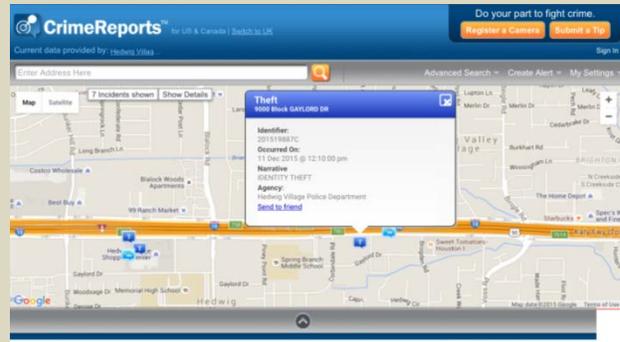
Computer Aided Dispatch

In 2015, we upgraded our dispatch system to Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD). This has greatly enhanced our response capabilities. The computer now completes many of the functions automatically that our dispatchers previously did manually. This frees them up to focus on calls for service and aiding officers in the field.

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. Although, Hedwig Village is the only Memorial Village city utilizing this program now, over 800 law enforcement agencies nationwide utilize it to keep their citizens informed.



To access this service go to www.crimereports.com

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 2015, we completed four formal investigations as follows:

Control number	Date of Incident	Allegation	Disposition
15-001	02/11/2015	Traffic Procedures	Sustained
15-002	03/06/2015	Traffic Procedures	Unfounded
15-003	03/27/2015	Insubordination	Sustained
15-004	04/10/2015	Reporting for Duty	Sustained

Swearing-In New Officers

We swore in three new officers in 2015. Officer Nathan Scott joined us on August 3rd, 2015. Officers Julie Buhs and Ray Garza began working for us on October 8th, 2015. All three come to us with extensive law enforcement experience.



Awards

During the City Council meeting on November 12th, 2015, Chief Gott awarded the Citizen Award of Valor to Nick Montalbano. On September 8th at about 1pm, Officer Shane Roye spotted a stolen truck going east on the service road. He called for back-up and attempted to stop the truck, but the driver fled north on Voss. They had a short car chase and at Long Point, the driver jumped out of the truck and ran on foot, leaving the truck running and in drive. Mr. Montalbano, who was eating in a nearby restaurant with his wife, saw what was happening. He then took immediate action. Disregarding his own personal safety, he first stopped the truck and pulled it off the street. He then went to the aid of Officer Roye, who was fighting with the suspect on a barbed wire fence, and helped him get the suspect off the fence and into custody. This was a very dangerous situation, the suspect was a prolific crook and he had a gun in his waistband. The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of another suspect, the recovery of 6 stolen vehicles and thousands of dollars of stolen property. In addition to clearing many auto thefts, they were able to clear several home burglaries and vehicle break-ins.



On December 10, 2015, 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 **10 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 five employees for their outstanding contribution to the mission of the police department.



department.

Kathy Coborn was given the **Award of Excellence**. Ms. Coborn retired from the department several years ago, but continues to work part time as needed. This year, with the shortage of telecommunicators, Ms. Coborn volunteered to come back full time for as long as needed. She worked many extra shifts and is invaluable to the

The **Telecommunicator of the Year** Award was given to **Lorena Hernandez**. Ms. Hernandez has done an outstanding job the entire year. She has worked extra hours, come in on her days off and volunteered to stay late as needed. She is a very loyal employee and is always willing to do whatever is needed.



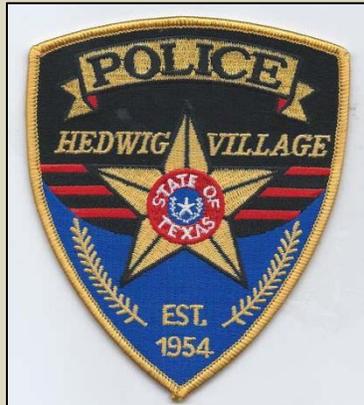
Keith Britt was named the Hedwig Village Police Department **Guardian of the Year**. This award is given to highlight the importance of the departmental house watch and business check program. These programs greatly contribute to our low crime rate. Officer Britt led the department in completing these valuable checks.

The Hedwig Village Police Department's **Crime Fighter of the Year for 2015** is **Officer Shane Roye**. Officer Roye, who was also Crime Fighter of the Year in 2013, had a truly incredible year. He arrested over 30 persons for drug offenses, five for burglary of a motor vehicle, two for evading arrest, two for operating a stolen vehicle and five wanted on felony warrants. His arrests have led to the clearance of many auto thefts, residential and vehicle burglaries and the recovery of thousands of dollars of stolen property. The photo to the right depicts the recovery of a large amount of marijuana after the arrest of a drug dealer.



Sergeant Darryl Kessner was honored as the **Sergeant of the Year** for his outstanding supervisory work throughout the year. While Sergeant Kessner is an outstanding supervisor, he also does a lot of additional duties. He is the Firearms coordinator, the courtroom security coordinator and bailiff. In addition, he does an outstanding job on background investigations and is always willing to help on any other project where needed.





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