



# City of HEDWIG VILLAGE

## Newsletter

[www.hedwigtx.gov](http://www.hedwigtx.gov)

**Spring 2023**

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Tom Jinks  
Councilmember Patrick J. Breckon  
Councilmember Scott Davis  
Councilmember Shirley Rouse  
Councilmember Clay Trozzo  
Councilmember Matt Woodruff

**City Administrator** Wendy Baimbridge  
[wbaimbridge@hedwigtx.gov](mailto:wbaimbridge@hedwigtx.gov)

**Chief of Police** David Gott  
[DGott@hedwigtx.gov](mailto:DGott@hedwigtx.gov)

### OFFICE HOURS

7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday -Thursday  
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday

**CITY HALL & MUNICIPAL  
COURT** 713-465-6009

**POLICE DEPT.** 713-461-4797

### Helpful Phone Numbers

Village Fire Department.....713-468-7941  
Memorial Water Authority.....713-465-8318  
Spring Branch Tax Office.....713-251-7960  
Spring Branch Admin.....713-464-1511  
CenterPoint (power outages).....713-207-2222  
Spring Branch Library.....713-464-1633  
Harris Co. Annex.....713-224-1919  
Harris Co. Flood Control.....713-684-4000  
Harris Co. Hazardous Waste .....346-286-4299  
Harris Co. Voting Information.....713-755-6965  
Texas Pride (Trash & Recycling)....281-342-8178

## WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HEDWIG VILLAGE?

Sign up for **E-Notification** on the City's website.

*From Mayor Jinks*

Dear Residents:

The City has been busy! As promised, the City is moving forward with infrastructure projects - the storm sewer maintenance program and our street rehabilitation program will begin in Spring.

We are also working on the creation of a Design Guide for our commercial districts. I encourage residents to attend our Planning and Zoning Meetings for details as the guide is developed.

A new crosswalk was painted on Taylorcrest at Blalock to allow a safer route for children crossing the street when going to and from school.

In January, Hedwig Village hosted the Harris County Mayors and Council Association (HCMCA) Meeting at the Goodman at the Village Towers located at 9655 Katy Freeway. The meeting offered a chance for all area Mayors and City Councils to come together and share contacts and discuss current issues facing municipalities today.

City Council amended our leash law to include electronic collars in the definition of a leash. However, please note, the animal must be within 15' of the Owner and must be under their control at all times.

Many thanks to the Garden Club of Houston as they awarded Hedwig Village \$5,300 to plant four, 65-gallon oak trees along Corbindale close to Hedwig Park.

Because we communicate more frequently through emails, I encourage you to sign up to receive Hedwig Village emails on our home page at [www.hedwigtx.gov](http://www.hedwigtx.gov). In the event you have issues that need to be addressed by city hall, you can report your concerns through the Citizens Assistance link on our webpage.

Enjoy this newsletter and have a great Summer!

Tom Jinks,  
Mayor

## **Hedwig Village Police Department**

### ***From the Chief of Police***

We have had several “jugging” crimes committed recently in our area. Jugging refers to a scheme in which an offender or group of offenders follows bank customers suspected of having large quantities of cash as they leave banks or other financial institutions. Offenders will frequently look for individuals that enter a bank empty-handed and leave carrying bank bags or boxes - an indication that they may have made a substantial withdrawal. Offenders then follow the victim to their next location and either attempt to take the bank bag by force or break into their vehicle (if they believe money may be locked inside). Victims are often small business owners or the elderly.

To avoid becoming a victim, follow these guidelines:

- Always be aware of your surroundings. If you see suspicious persons or vehicles in bank parking lots, notify bank personnel.
- Conceal your bank deposit bags, coin boxes or envelopes as you enter and leave the bank.
- Take your bank bag or envelope with you into your next destination. Don't hide it in your vehicle.
- Avoid falling into routines, such as going to the bank at the same time of day carrying the same bank bag.
- After making a large withdrawal, don't go directly to your next destination. Drive around a random block to see if a vehicle is following you.

If you feel you are being followed, call 9-1-1 and drive to your closest police station.

Please also visit our website at [www.hedwigtx.gov](http://www.hedwigtx.gov) and review the Personal Safety Guide for additional ways to keep you and your family safe.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about the police department, please contact me personally by calling the department at (713) 462-4797 or by email at [dgott@hedwigtx.gov](mailto:dgott@hedwigtx.gov).

Sincerely,

David A. Gott  
Chief of Police

The candidates for the City of Hedwig Village's May 6, 2023 Election are unopposed this year. City Council took action at the March 9, 2023 City Council meeting to cancel the May 6, 2023 election.

The following candidates were declared elected with the Council action on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor – Tom Jinks  
Council Position 1 – Scott Davis  
Council Position 5 – Shirley Rouse

Join the City at the May 11, 2023 City Council meeting for the swearing in of the candidates.

## ***Village Fire Department***

Let's welcome Chief Miller in his new role as the head of our Village Fire Department! Chief Miller holds several fire certifications: Master Structure Firefighter, Instructor II, Fire Officer II, Incident Safety Officer, and Basic Fire Inspector. He is also a licensed paramedic and holds several other EMS certifications. Additionally, Chief Miller has served as the Village's Emergency Management Coordinator since 2009.

In his short time at his new position, he has already attended two Hedwig Village City Council meetings to provide a status update of the VFD. He has also met with HVPD Chief Gott in the first week of his new assignment to ensure a healthy collaboration with our emergency services in Hedwig Village. According to Chief Miller, "keeping the lines of communication open is necessary and beneficial to maintain a good working relationship with the communities we serve. By continuing to meet regularly moving forward, we will continue to strengthen our cooperative network of professionals."

The first week of Chief Miller's new role was spent following up with current projects such as the purchase of two new ambulances, repairing the annex station roof, and reroofing the new station roof to specifications of the remodel project for the fire station. His goal is to hire a consultant this year to prepare the station and operations for an upcoming Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluation. Getting an early start on preparations will assist VFD in maintaining their ISO Class 1 rating.

The department operations shifts are also providing input into the direction of the department. Chief Miller stated "the department is eager and primed for a new direction, and we're hopeful for a great future. And I am very proud of the professionalism displayed by the members of the Village Fire Department. Operations and administrative personnel have been working hard to keep things moving forward. Their support and encouragement have overwhelmed me with optimism about where the department is heading and have made the transition into my new role easier than I expected. I am proud to serve with them."

Hedwig Village residents can be proud knowing that the men and women of the fire department are continuing to provide the great service they have come to expect!

## Memorial Villages Water Authority

**Stage One Water Conservation:** Customers are asked to voluntarily conserve water and limit the irrigation of landscaped areas. Have your irrigation system checked by a professional. The check should include valves, sprinkler heads, and controller programming to ensure your system is watering in accordance with your watering days.

1. Even Ending Addresses: 0, 2, 4, 6, & 8 – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
2. Odd Ending Addresses: 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9 – Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

**Bill Pay:** The Memorial Village Water Authority offers multiple options to pay your bill. Online bill pay, auto draft, pay by mail, and pay by phone are several methods to pay.

**Be Prepared for Water Emergencies:** Before an emergency, check your water system. Locate the main cut off valve and operate it to verify it is in good working order. If a water pipe breaks, you may need to react quickly. The MVMA can demonstrate how to isolate your system in the event of a plumbing emergency.

Memorial Villages Water Authority is committed to providing safe, reliable water and wastewater services to our customers.

Contact our offices at 713-465-8318 with any questions on the above topics or if you need assistance.

**Memorial Villages Water Authority**

Please pick up after your dog when out walking your pet. The City has several pet waste stations throughout the City to help with this endeavor. Let's all work together to keep our city clean.



## **Streets and Drainage Committee**

The Streets and Drainage Committee continues to provide resident input about the city's infrastructure programs.

The city engineers at IDS recently published a request for bid for an expanded maintenance program for storm sewers, with the goal to select a vendor that will run TV of the current storm sewers and clean out any found debris. We expect to award this bid in March with work starting as soon as possible. The city's budget provides an annual amount for this program, so it is expected to be an ongoing maintenance program. The initial work will focus on the Echo Lane system and West to Bunker Hill.

A second bid has been sent out for the roadway/pavement improvements of Hedwig Way and Hedwig Circle. More detail on that will be provided to residents of the area once a bidder is selected.

IDS continues to review the Drainage Impact Analysis provided by LJA and is preparing recommended next steps for roadway and drainage improvements to the West Side infrastructure for further discussion.

The committee is comprised of interested residents: City Councilmember Patrick Breckon, Gary Schenk, Harry Craig, DuVal Dickey, and Taras Makogan. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact city hall. Committee meetings are posted on the city calendar and are open for the public.

You can help with stormwater in the city by maintaining permeable ground on your property, planting trees to help retain stormwater, clearing and avoiding blocking the storm sewer drain inlets.

Thanks for your interest, and please contact us with any questions.

Councilmember Shirley Rouse

Streets and Drainage Committee, Chairperson

## **Parks and Beautification Committee**

Happy New Year! This year the Parks and Beautification Committee has decided to focus on trees. The Year of the Tree is our motto for 2023. We are looking at locations to plant several trees and they will be installed in November. This will allow the trees to get rooted with cooler temperatures and enough moisture. Can't wait to get started!

Kathryn Schenk

Parks and Beautification, Chairperson

The **Planning and Zoning Commission** has been very active over the fall and winter advancing our strategic priorities. Our primary goal for 2023 has been to engage a consultant to help us develop a comprehensive design guide. This design guide will outline concrete guidelines that govern our commercial district. Ultimately, the commission interviewed multiple candidates and selected a highly respective firm with proven results locally. We are excited that the City Council approved our recommendation and look forward to working with them to advance this priority.

Creating design guidelines will remove uncertainty around the redevelopment of older buildings and outline the long-term growth plans for our city. We have heard from many people looking to invest in Hedwig Village that it's simply too difficult due to the lack of clear development rules. This will clear up the confusion and bring additional capital investment into our city. If properly implemented, these design guidelines will help spur economic investment which will increase city revenues and deliver a family friendly pedestrian environment for our community.

Looking forward, we will have monthly public meetings to give all citizens the opportunity to hear about the plans and give their feedback. I encourage anyone that may be interested to reach out directly to me if you have any comments or would like to attend any meetings.

Pete Sanborn

Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman

## Police Department News

We want to thank everyone who participated in National Night Out 2022. National Night Out is a community effort designed to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and to send a message to criminals letting them know that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.





## Retirement

We honored Sergeant Darrell Owens at his retirement party on February 16, 2023.

Sergeant Owens served the city of Hedwig Village professionally and with distinction for almost 22 years. Prior to that, he served with the Bellaire Police Department, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office and the United States Army, giving him a total of 37 years of public service.

During his career with HVPD, he was twice awarded as the Guardian of the Year, he received six citizen letters of commendation, two supervisor letters of commendation and two Chief of Police commendations. He was the Supervisor of the Year in 2020. Also in 2020, he received the Hostile Engagement Award and the Mayoral Commendation for Distinguished Service with Valor.

Sergeant Owens was an outstanding member of the Hedwig Village Police Department. We thank him for his service and wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement!

## Promotions

During a promotion ceremony held on February 16, 2023, Chief David Gott promoted Wenceslao Candido to Sergeant and Brandon Bloodworth to Detective.

Each of these officers participated in a promotional process and were selected for promotion based on their ability and experience.

Sergeant Candido has been with the Hedwig Village Police Department since November of 2018 and was awarded as the Rookie of the Year in 2019. He is also a Firearm's instructor and a member of the 4-minute Row Club. Following training, he will be assigned as the night shift supervisor.

Detective Bloodworth has been with the department since May of 2019 and was our Officer of the Year in 2020. He will be our uniformed street detective working a swing shift.

Please help us congratulate them and wish them well in their new positions!



Sgt. Owens



Sgt. Candido and Chief Gott (R)

## NEW BUTTERFLY STATUE AT HEDWIG PARK

Colton Ritchey, an Eagle Scout with Troop 825, designed, created, and installed a butterfly sculpture for the entrance to Hedwig Park. He recruited family, friends, and the community to achieve his goals to complete this beautiful butterfly for his Eagle Scout Project. The City is honored Colton chose Hedwig Park to showcase his commitment to community service and the benefit his wonderful art will bring to the residents of Hedwig Village.



Anything that flows into the storm sewer system could clog the pipe and cause water to flood the streets and possibly homes. The same can be said about the creeks that flow through Hedwig Village. Yard clippings, tree branches, and trash **do not** belong in the creeks or storm sewer pipes. The potential for flooding is too great. Dispose of trash, yard clippings, and tree trimmings properly. Do not pour fats, oil, and grease down the drain at home. These items also cause flooding as they could slow the flow of water in the pipes. The pipes and creeks will not drain properly if there is anything other than water in our drainage system.



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The 2022 RECYCLE/SHRED/DONATE Event was a huge success again this year. The event was hosted by the Cities of Bunker Hill Village, Hedwig Village, Hilshire Village, Hunters Creek Village, Piney Point Village, and Spring Valley Village.

- Trees for Houston provided 125 trees this year for the residents.
- Pioneer Paper provided shredding services and shredded 6.5 tons of paper.
- CompuCycle accepted 8,975 pounds of electronic items and devices for recycling.
- Memorial Area Ministries accepted gently used household items.
- The Hedwig Village Police Department collected approximately 75 pounds of unused medications for proper disposal.

The event is held every year at the end of October.

Thank you, Parks and Beautification Committee, for contacting Trees for Houston for the tree donation and for finding the volunteers to assist residents with choosing a tree to plant.

The 2023 event is tentatively scheduled for October 28, 2023. The hours will be 8:00 a.m. to noon. The location will be City Hall, located at 955 Piney Point Road.





In February, City Council voted to become a “Tree City”, a designation awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize cities that are committed to maintaining and growing their tree cover. In many ways, this recognizes the work that the city staff, council, and Parks Beautification Committee resident volunteers have been doing for many years and provides a framework to improve and expand the city’s tree program.

Trees are an important part of the history of Hedwig Village and many local heritage trees pre-date the city’s founding. A review of Google Earth historical maps shows the loss of the urban forest that used to cover much of Houston. The Villages is one of the only areas of the city where there is still a prominent tree canopy. Over the years, the city has planted 179 memorial trees, as well as trees along Clifford, Gaylord, Echo Lane, and Campbell. The city maintains many more trees in Hedwig Park as well as the pocket park on N. Lou-Al.

What are the benefits of trees?

- Trees help absorb the sounds of traffic in urban areas by 40%.
- Trees absorb and retain water – 1 mature tree absorbs 2000 gallons of rainwater per year.
- Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler.
- Trees reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings.
- Homes with mature trees have higher property values.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The Tree Advisory Board will focus on the health of city trees and an ongoing planting program and also expand communications for residents about how to care for private trees. If you are interested in helping with the Tree Advisory Board and programs, please contact [srouse@hedwigtx.gov](mailto:srouse@hedwigtx.gov).

Shirley Rouse, City Council Place 5

## Did You Know?

### SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The City’s internship program will provide motivated students with a unique learning experience in local government. Interns will work along side City employees and use their various skills on a variety of projects.

Interested students should contact City Hall at [info@hedwigtx.gov](mailto:info@hedwigtx.gov).

## Hedwig Village's New Businesses!

**Kolache Factory** – **NOW OPEN at Campbell Road and I-10.** Kolache Factory always has a wide variety of kolaches and pastries, as well as coffee and other drinks. Kolache Factory features a different “Kolache of the Month” every month.

**Palazzio Nail Lounge** is located at **9417 Katy Freeway.** The lounge offers a variety of manicures, pedicures, as well as other services, such as eyelash extensions and waxing. Visit their website at [palazzionailounge Memorial.com](http://palazzionailounge Memorial.com).

**Beyond the Plate** is now open at **9219 Katy Freeway, #107.** They serve breakfast and lunch from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Breakfast tacos, pancakes, salads, sandwiches, and sliders are just a few items on their menu.

**Construction for Rice Box** is underway for a location at **9201 Katy Freeway**, at the corner of I-10 and Piney Point Road. Their menu consists of classic dishes such as General Tso Chicken, Sesame Chicken, and Kung Pao Chicken. They also serve noodles and rice dishes such as Curry Fried Rice and Chow Fun. Their website is [riceboxed.com](http://riceboxed.com).

**Hedwig Village has a wonderful selection of restaurants and retail establishments. Support our community by supporting local businesses!**



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# SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



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