

# Hedwig Village Police Department



Annual Report 2019  
Chief David A. Gott



## Contents

Letter from the Chief	3
Mission/Values	4
Hedwig Village	6
City Government	7
City Hall Staff	8
Organization Chart	9
Roll Call	10
Texas Police Chief's Recognition Program	12
Crime Statistics (NIBRS)	13
Arrest/Citations	14
Activity	15
Calls for Service	
House Checks	
Business Checks	
Criminal Investigations Unit	15
Internal Affairs	15
Use of Force	16
Vehicle Pursuits	17
E-Notifications	17
Crime Mapping	17
AEDs	18
ALPRs	18
Community Policing	18
Promotion	19
New Officers	19
Awards	20



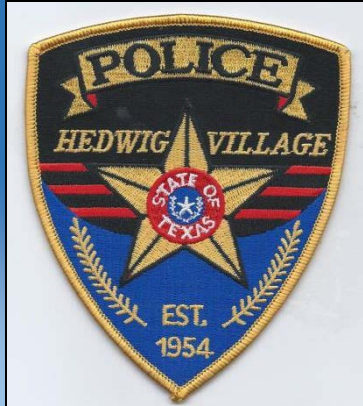
I am proud to share this 2019 Annual Report with the citizens of Hedwig Village to showcase the outstanding efforts put forth by our employees to keep this city a safe place to live, work, shop and raise a family.

In 2019, we saw our total crime numbers increase, with vehicle break-ins continuing to be our most often committed crime, primarily in our business districts. But it is easy to protect yourself from becoming a victim of this crime. The thieves simply walk around vehicles in parking lots and once spotting a briefcase, purse, gym bag, etc., they break in and take it. The simple fix: Do not leave anything in your vehicle.

In 2019, we welcomed a new telecommunicator and four new officers. We also promoted Senior Officer Darrell Owens to sergeant. Everyone is doing great in their new positions. And, in our continued attempt to protect and serve our residents and visitors, we added heart defibrillators and license plate readers. The defibrillators have saved countless heart attack victims across the country and the license plate readers have already resulted in the arrest of many potentially dangerous criminals.

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](mailto: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.

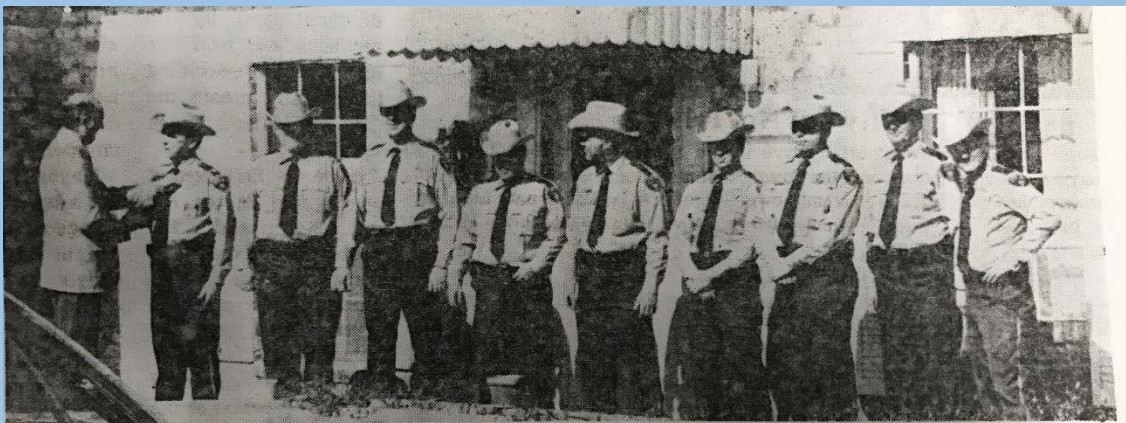
# Hedwig Village

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



Brian T. Muecke  
Mayor



Susan Matthews  
Councilmember Position 1



Dane Johnson  
Councilmember Position 2



Harry Folloder  
Councilmember Position 3



Matt Woodruff  
Councilmember Position 4  
Mayor Pro Tempore



Shirley Rouse  
Councilmember Position 5

# City Hall Staff



Kelly Johnson  
City Administrator



Lisa Modisette  
Assistant City Secretary



Terry Vick  
Maintenance/Animal Control Officer



Kevin Taylor  
Building Official



Diana Ruiz  
Municipal Court Clerk



Angie Ventura  
Community Development Coordinator



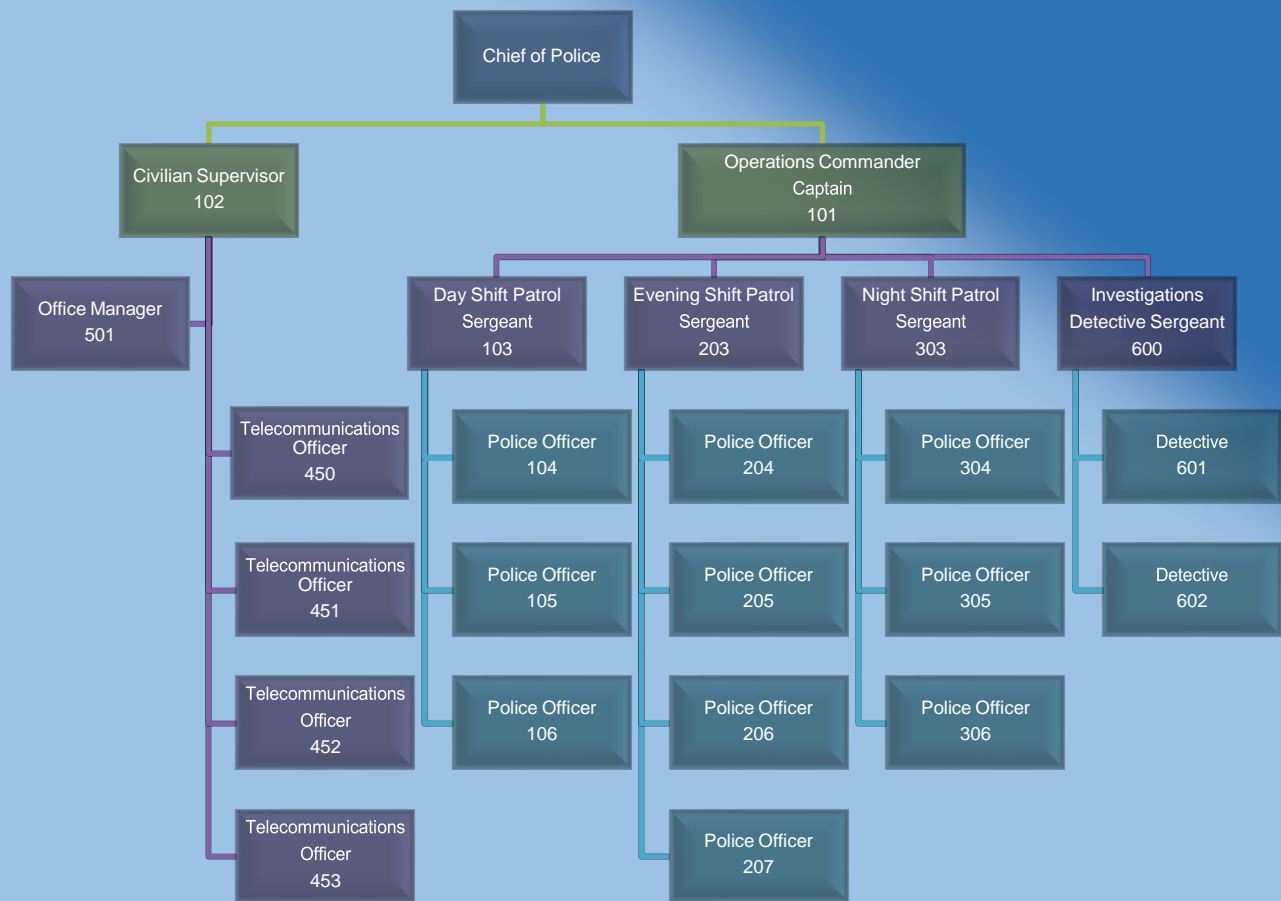
Yolanda Lopez  
Administrative Assistant  
Accounting Clerk



Evan DuVall  
Assistant Building Official



# 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



Police Officer  
Frank Schulgen



Police Officer  
Richard Hernandez



Police Officer  
Julie Buhs



Police Officer  
Shahzad Khan



Police Officer  
Wenceslao Candido



Police Officer  
Richard Rulong



Police Officer  
Brandon Bloodworth



Police Officer  
Yonathan Sadikin



Police Officer  
Nathan Hale



Office Manager  
Cynthia Lisella



Telecommunicator  
Charles Vyles



Telecommunicator  
Karin Paredes



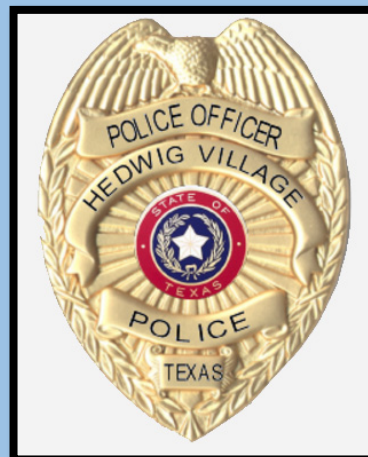
Telecommunicator  
Mark Payne



Telecommunicator  
Brittny Lopez



Custodian  
Larry Fillmore





### 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>



*Kilgore Police Chief Todd Hunter, President of the TPCA, presented Chief Gott and Captain Warner the TPCA Recognition Award at the TPCA Conference in Galveston in April 2019.*

## 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
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
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
4. Assault - Total	6	15	19	20	21
a. Firearm				2	
b. Knife or Cutting Instrument			1	1	
c. Other Weapons				1	
d. Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.					
e. Other Assaults - Simple*	6	15	18	16	21
5. Burglary - Total	23	13	9	7	6
a. Forcible Entry	11	2	4	4	5
b. Unlawful - No Force	12	11	5	2	
c. Attempted Forcible Entry				1	1
6. Larceny - Theft - Total	160	167	179	128	195
7. Motor Vehicle Theft - Total	9	4	6	8	6
a. Autos	6	4	5	8	6
b. Trucks and Buses	3				
c. Other Vehicles			1		
8. Arson - Total		1			
Index Crimes - Total	198	188	200	148	213
Index Crimes Less Arson	198	187	200	148	213
Reported Offenses - Total	204	203	218	164	234

## 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	2016	2017	2018	2019
Citations	4025	3531	4102	2874
Arrests	392	505	547	325

The 325 persons, 244 males and 81 females, arrested were charged with 464 separate offenses, to include:

Aggravated Robbery	1
Altered License Plates	1
Assault	6
Assault on a Police Officer	1
Criminal Mischief	1
Criminal Trespass	1
Driving While Intoxicated	28
Evading Arrest in a Motor Vehicle	7
Failure to Identify (Fugitive)	4
Fictitious Driver's License	1
Fleeing from Police	1
Fraudulent Use or Possession of Identifying Information	1
Interfering with Public Duties	1
No Driver's License/Invalid Driver's License	37
Outstanding Warrant	204
Possession of Altered Identification	1
Possession of a Controlled Substance	16
Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver	1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	4
Possession of Marijuana	9
Prohibited Weapon (Brass Knuckles)	2
Public Intoxication	14
Resisting Arrest	1
Solicitation without a Permit	1
Tampering with a Government Document	2
Theft	10
Traffic Offense	1
Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle	2
Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon	5
Violation of a Protective Order	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 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	2016	2017	2018	2019
Code 1 Calls	20	37	46	32
Code 2 Calls	372	320	375	285
Code 3 Calls	3012	3780	4658	4190
House Watches	6507	6873	5850	5027
Business Checks	5382	4617	3350	4158
Officer Initiated	771	730	532	373

## 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	2017	2018	2019
Cases Assigned	745	662	643
Cases Cleared	438	411	258
Cases found to be Unfounded (offense did not occur, incorrect title)	93	92	149
Cases Suspended (no further workable leads)	198	150	227

## 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:

- 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.
- e. *Information Only.* No allegations were made against any departmental employee. The investigation was conducted to determine if departmental policies and procedures were followed.

In 2019, we completed 13 formal investigations as follows:

Control number	Date of Incident	Allegation	Disposition
19-001	01/26/2019	Use of Body Camera	Sustained
19-002	09/27/2018	Improper Police Procedure	Not Sustained
19-003	02/07/2019	Improper Police Procedure	Sustained
19-004	03/22/2019	Lost City Equipment	Sustained
19-005	02/07/2019	Improper Police Procedure	Sustained
19-006	03/03/2019	Conduct and Behavior	Exonerated
19-007	02/19/2019	Missing Evidence	Information Only
19-008	04/03/2019	Improper Police Procedure	Sustained
19-009	04/17/2019	Available for Duty	Sustained
19-010	05/08/2019	Lost City Equipment	Sustained
19-011	07/15/2019	Improper Police Procedure	Information Only
19-012	09/11/2019	Improper Police Procedure	Sustained
19-013	09/12/2019	At-Fault Vehicle Accident	Sustained

## 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 2019, our officers were involved in 11 use of force incidents as follows:

Offense Number	Date	Type of Force	Reason for Use of Force
201902807	03/19/2019	Pointed Firearm	Arrest Felony Suspect
201902913	03/23/2019	Pointed Firearm	Arrest Felony Suspect
201903269	04/02/2019	Taser/Physical Force	Suspect Resisting Arrest
201904214	05/11/2019	Pointed Firearm	High Risk Vehicle Approach
201904318	05/15/2019	Taser/Physical Force	Arrest Felony Suspect
201906611	07/15/2019	Physical Force	Suspect Resisting Arrest
201906980	07/22/2019	Pointed Firearm	Fleeing Misdemeanor Suspect
201907050	07/23/2019	Pointed Taser	Suspect Evading Arrest
201910908	10/08/2019	Physical Force	Suspect Resisting Arrest
201911761	10/27/2019	Pointed Firearm	High Risk Vehicle Approach
201913011	11/26/2019	Pointed Firearm	Arrest Misdemeanor 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 2019, our officers were involved in 5 vehicle pursuits as follows:

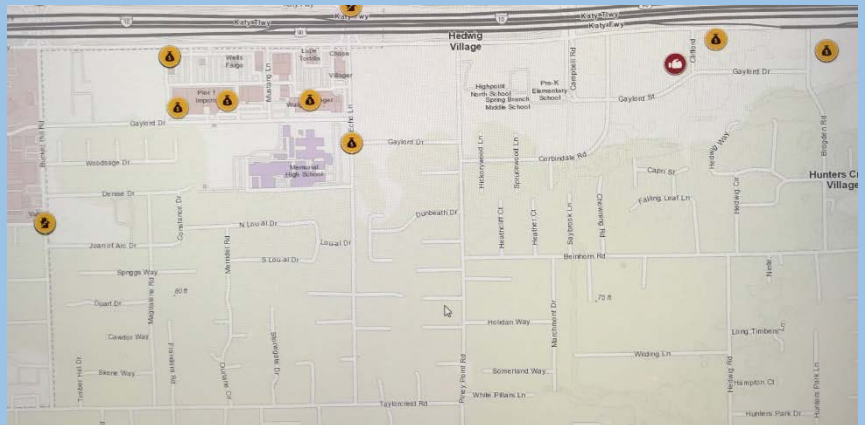
Offense Number	Date	Reason Initiated	Arrest Made	Charges
20191243	01/31/2019	Traffic Offenses	Yes	Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle/Evading Arrest
201904214	05/11/2019	Traffic Offenses	Yes	DWI/Evading Arrest
201904989	07/04/2019	Traffic Offenses	Yes	Evading Arrest
201907779	08/04/2019	Traffic Offenses	Yes	DWI/Possession of a Controlled Substance/Evading Arrest
201911761	10/27/2019	Traffic Offenses	Yes	Evading Arrest

## 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](http://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, go to [www.CityProtect.com](http://www.CityProtect.com).



## Automated External Defibrillator (AED)



An AED is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use, medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. We purchased AEDs in 2019 and now have one in the police station, city hall and in every police vehicle. Our officers are fully trained in their use and ready should the need arise.



## Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)

Partnering with the Memorial Villages Police Department, we have added license plate readers to our crime fighting arsenal. The readers are installed throughout Hedwig Village and the Memorial Villages. The



readers 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. This information has already led to many arrests and the recovery of several stolen vehicles, in addition to assisting our detectives in follow-up investigations.

## 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.

National Night Out, held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.



## Promotion



*Sergeant Owens and family.*

Long time Hedwig Village Police Officer Darrell Owens earned a well-deserved promotion to sergeant on October 7, 2019. Sergeant Owens, who has been with HVPD for over 18 years, is now supervising our night shift.



*Sergeant Owens takes the oath of office.*

## New Officers

We welcomed four new officers in 2019. In separate ceremonies, Officers Richard Rulong, Brandon Bloodworth, Yonathan Sadikin and Nathan Hale were sworn in and had their badges pinned on by family members.



*Officer Richard Rulong*



*Officer Nathan Hale*



*Officer Brandon Bloodworth*



*Officer Yonathan Sadikin*

## Awards

On December 10, 2019, 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 **Captain Paul Warner** was honored for 20 years of service, **Officer Frank Schulgen** for 25 years of service and **Senior Officer Art Zambada** for 30 years of service. Captain Warner and Senior Officer Zambada were honored to receive their service awards from Mayor Brian T. Muecke at the Annual City Holiday Dinner.



*Captain Warner was recognized for 20 years of service by Mayor Muecke.*



*Officer Frank Schulgen was recognized for 25 years of service.*



*Officer Zambada was recognized for 25 years of service by Mayor Muecke.*

**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:

**Officer Wenceslao Candido** received the **Rookie of the Year Award**. Officer Candido has done an outstanding job since joining HVPD in 2018. In 2019, Officer Candido's first full year of service, he ran 514 calls for service, completed 297 House Watches and 184 Business Checks. He also arrested 77 persons, wrote 414 citations and issued 480 warning citations.





For the third year in a row, the **Crime Fighter of the Year Award** was presented to **Officer Julie Buhs**. Julie once again led the department in the number of arrests made and citations issued in 2019.



**Sergeant Darrell Owens** earned the **Guardian of the Year Award** for 2019. This award emphasizes the importance of our House Watch and Business Check programs. Sergeant Owens led the department in the number of these very valuable checks completed.



The **Telecommunicator of the Year Award** was presented to **Karin Paredes**. Karin is very calm on the radio and is an incredible multi-tasker. She truly does an outstanding job as our evening shift dispatcher.



**Sergeant Marvin Collins** was named the 2019 **Supervisor of the Year**. Sergeant Collins is a strong leader and did an outstanding job all year. In addition to his main job conducting and supervising investigations, he handles many different functions and is always willing to help with anything needed.

