

# Hedwig Village Police Department



Annual Report 2016  
Chief David A. Gott



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I am proud to share this 2016 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. For the second year in a row total crime has gone down. The best indication of our success in the fight against crime is the fact that we had no residential burglaries in all of 2016. This is a true reflection of our police/community partnership. Please continue to be vigilant, report any suspicious behavior, set your alarm and use our House Watch service anytime you are going to be out of town.

I want to personally thank our residents for the incredible support you have shown us over the past year. 2016 was a very difficult year for police officers nationwide. Police officers have been attacked physically and through the media. Your cards, cookies and all other shows of support have let us know that in Hedwig Village, the police department is supported and appreciated. As the father of modern

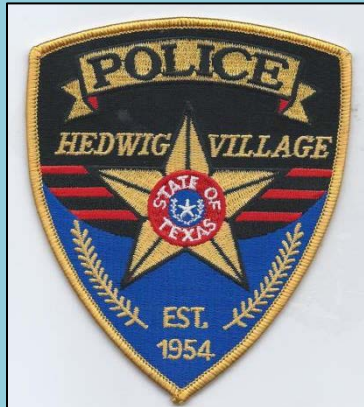
policing, Sir Robert Peel, said in 1829, one of the founding principles of the London Metropolitan Police is, "To recognize always that the power of the police to fulfil their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behavior, and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect." He said to always realize that the "police are the public and the public are the police." We, as your police department, realize that we cannot be successful without your approval and support.

In 2016, the police department continued to improve and move forward. In April, we moved into our new state of the art police facility. If you have not already, please come by for a tour of this incredible building. The city also replaced and upgraded our web site. This is a huge improvement over our previous site and allows us to greatly improve customer service. Please visit the site at [www.hedwigtx.gov](http://www.hedwigtx.gov)

In 2016, we also entered into an agreement with Athena Gun Club that allows us to use their facility for weapon qualifications. More importantly, Athena has an outstanding virtual simulation room that we use to train our officers in real life deadly force situations. One more thing I'm very proud of is that we had no turnover in employees in 2016. This is great for stability and lets me know that this is truly a great place to work.

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 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.



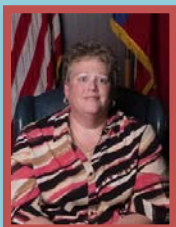
Swearing in of the original chief and eight officers.

## City Government

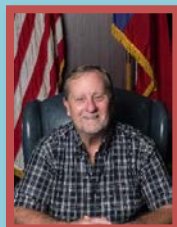


From Left: **William Johnson**, Council Member Position 5; **Carrol McGinnis**, Council Member Position 2; **Brian T. Muecke**, Mayor; **Barry Putterman**, Council Member Position 1; **Matt Woodruff**, Council Member Position 4; **Bob Weiner**, Council Member Position 3.

## City Hall Staff



Kelly Johnson  
City Administrator



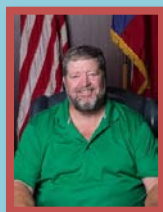
Lane Standley  
Building Official



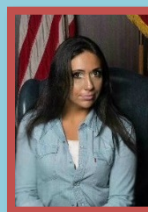
Lisa Modisette  
Asst. City Secretary



Diana Ruiz  
Court Clerk



Terry Vick  
Maintenance Supervisor

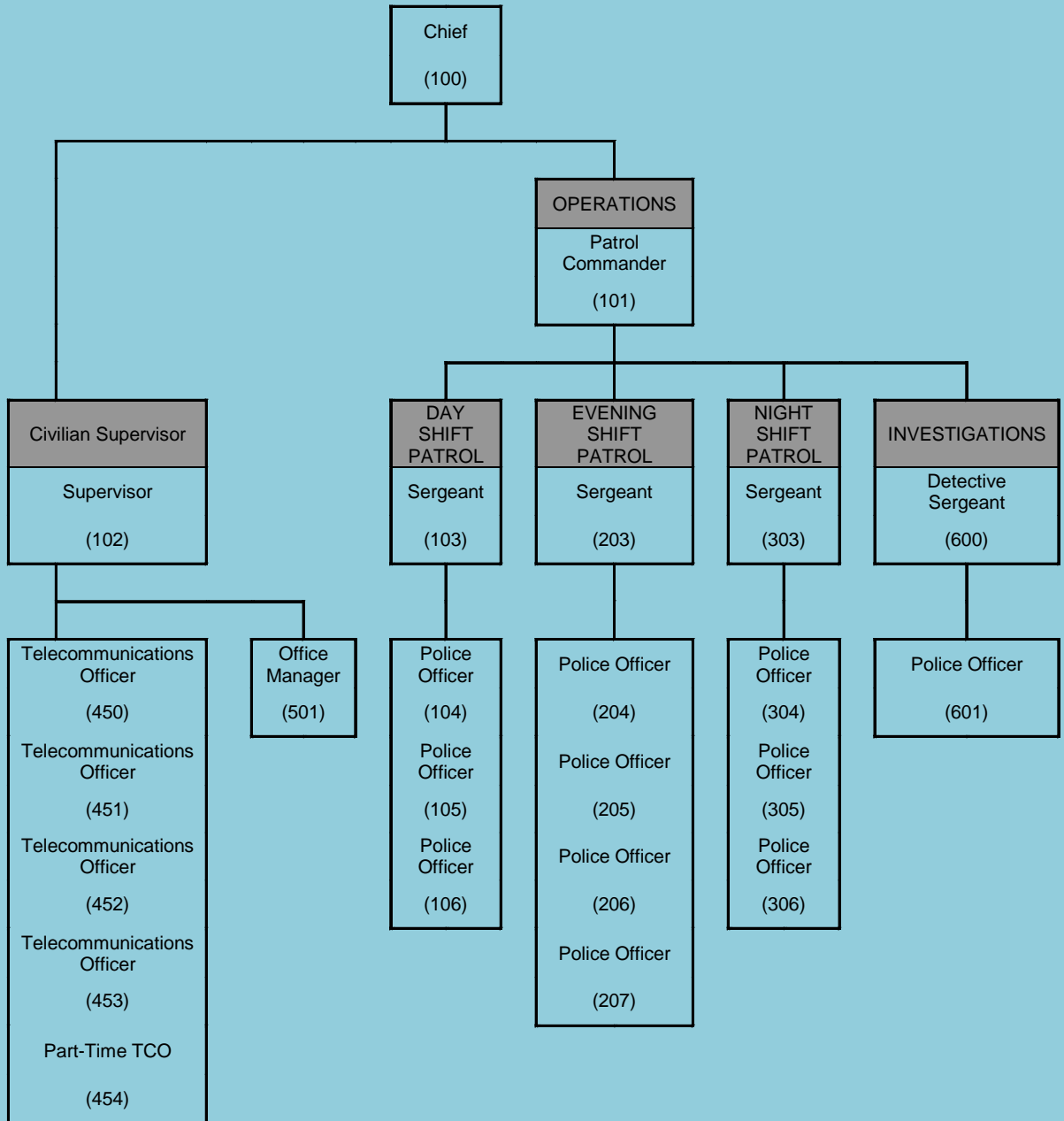


Brandy Jaramillo  
Permit Clerk



Melissa Richardson  
Administrative Assistant

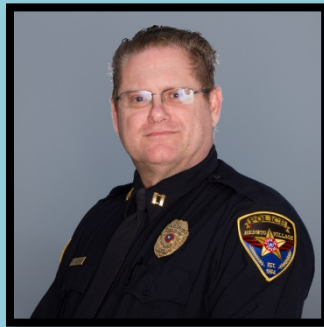
# HEDWIG VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART







**Chief David A. Gott**



**Captain Paul Warner**



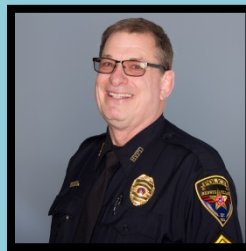
**Civilian Supervisor  
Amanda Winter**



**Sergeant  
Darryl Kessner**



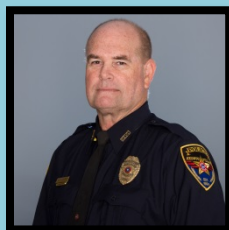
**Sergeant  
William Wright**



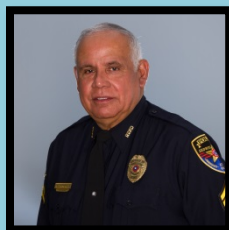
**Sergeant  
Steve Sanford**



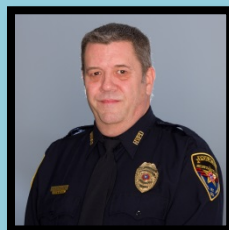
**Detective Sergeant  
Marvin Collins**



**Officer  
Keith Britt**



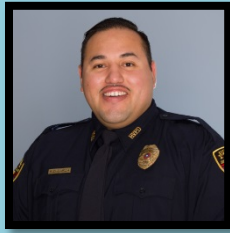
**Officer  
Art Zambada**



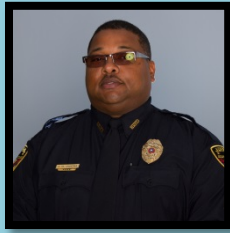
**Officer  
Frank Schulgen**



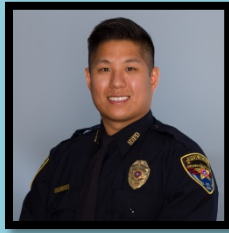
**Officer  
Shane Roye**



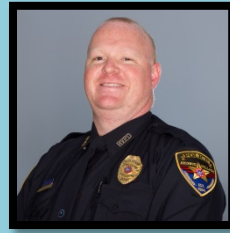
Officer  
Rey Garza



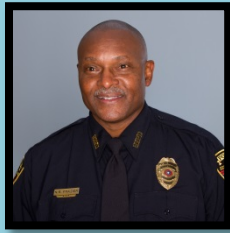
Officer  
Darrell Owens



Officer  
Terry Wu



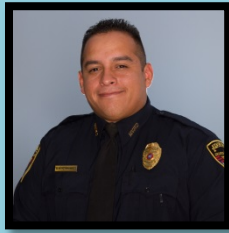
Officer  
Nathan Scott



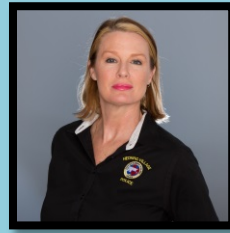
Officer  
Nathan Frazier



Officer  
Julie Buhs



Officer  
Richard Hernandez



Office Manager  
Cynthia Lisella



Telecommunicator  
Lorena Hernandez



Telecommunicator  
Denise Duron



Telecommunicator  
Charles Vyles



Telecommunicator  
Cindy Holdaway



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>



## Thank You

We, the entire Hedwig Village Police Department, want to express that we are truly grateful to work in such a supportive community. 2016 was a very difficult year for police officers and police departments across the nation. Police seemed to be under attack physically and faced intense scrutiny for actions taken, often involving split-second decisions. Many officers felt that support for police was at an all-time low. But, the residents of Hedwig Village made it very clear that they support their police department. We may have gained a few pounds, but we certainly appreciate all the treats, cards, handshakes, prayers and many, many words of encouragement and appreciation we received this year.



## Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

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

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Murder	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	0	1	0	0
Robbery	6	4	8	5	3
Aggravated Assault	1	2	1	0	0
Burglary	15	19	19	23	13
Larceny	161	175	176	161	165
Auto Theft	13	12	8	8	4
Total	196	212	214	197	185

**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	2014	2015	2016
Citations	3295	4438	4025
Arrests	387	247	392

The 392 persons arrested were charged with 445 offenses to include:

Assault	3
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	2
Credit Card Abuse	4
Criminal Mischief	2
Disorderly Conduct	1
Driving While Intoxicated	27
Escape From Custody	1

Evading Arrest	5
Failure to Identify	7
False Report	1
Fictitious Driver's License	1
Forgery	4
Failure to Stop and Give Information (Accident)	3
ICE Hold – Deported Felon	1
Interfering with Emergency Call	1
Interfering with Public Duties	2
No Driver's License/Invalid Driver's License	20
Outstanding Warrants	173
Possession of Controlled Substance	49
Possession of Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver	3
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	10
Possession of Marijuana	68
Prohibited Weapon	2
Public Intoxication	23
Tampering with Evidence	1
Tampering with a Government Document	2
Theft	13
Traffic	1
Unauthorized Carrying of a Weapon	15
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle	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. Most business checks are conducted at night when the businesses are closed. This program is intended to prevent burglaries and vandalism.

Year	2014	2015	2016
Code 1 Calls	40	27	19
Code 2 Calls	632	530	366
Code 3 Calls	2994	2597	2978
House Watches	8680	7981	6505
Business Checks	9104	6815	5378
Officer Initiated	903	1078	767

## 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.

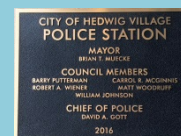
In addition to daily community interaction, the police department also participated in the Memorial Villages Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Festival and National Night Out.

## New Police Station

On April 8, 2016, we moved into our new police facility and the building is now fully operational.



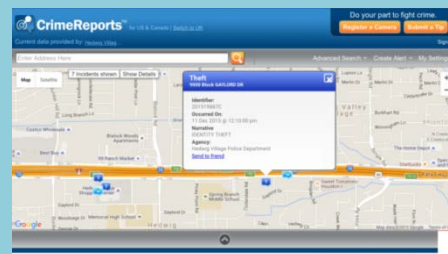
Though there are too many people to name, we want to thank everyone involved who helped us get here. This building would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our Mayor, Council and residents. This support was evident when over 200 people attended our open house on April 14, 2016. This new building is a huge upgrade



from our old facility. We now 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 is a facility the city can be proud of and should be much more functional into the future.

## Crime Mapping

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



To access this service go to [www.crimereports.com](http://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. In 2016, we completed one formal investigation involving the death of a burglary suspect. It was determined the male died of an accidental overdose.

## Web Site

The city of Hedwig Village web site received a major overhaul in 2016. It can be accessed at [www.hedwigtx.gov](http://www.hedwigtx.gov). You can use this web site to access many city and police department services, such as: view the city calendar, subscribe to e-notification, create a house watch, and view the monthly crime reports.



## 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 not ever 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.

## Athena Gun Club

In 2016, the police department entered into an agreement with the Athena Gun Club. In addition to weapon qualification space, this agreement allows our officers to train on a realistic virtual simulation system. The simulator has over 300 dynamic, live-action scenarios. This will improve our officers' marksmanship skills, reaction times and decision making. It is rare that officers are called upon to use deadly force, but they always need to be capable and this training will help to ensure they are ready if the worst case happens.



## Awards

The Hedwig Village Police Department is proud to announce that **Sergeant William J. Wright** graduated from the Leadership Command College (LCC) in 2016. This program is offered by the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville. The program consists of three 15-day instructional modules and is designed to provide law enforcement executives with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful leadership in a modern law enforcement agency. To graduate Sergeant Wright had to successfully pass all three modules and complete a Leadership White Paper. He now joins Captain Warner, Sergeant Collins and Sergeant Kessner as a graduate of this prestigious program.





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

**Service awards** are given for every five years of service to honor the employee's dedication and commitment to the city of Hedwig Village. This year **Telecommunicator Cindy Holdaway** and **Steve Sanford** were honored for **5 years of service**, **Sergeants Marvin Collins** and **Darryl Kessner** for **10 years of service** and **Officer Darrell Owens** for **15 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:



**Cindy Holdaway** received the **Telecommunicator of the Year Award**. This is not her first time to receive this award and she continues to do an outstanding job night after night and year after year as our night shift dispatcher.

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



For the third time in four years, **Officer Shane Roye** is our **Crime Fighter of the Year**. Shane had another truly incredible year. Among the 89 persons he arrested in 2016, were several drug dealers, thieves, a criminal enterprise creating fake credit cards and felons in possession of firearms. His arrests definitely contributed to the low crime rate in Hedwig Village.

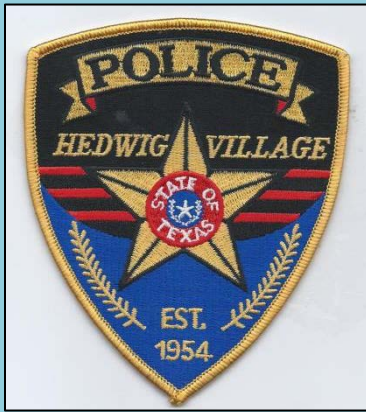


**Officer Julie Buhs** was awarded the Hedwig Village Police Department's **Officer of the Year Award**. She has done an outstanding job on our night shift, wrote 462 citations, arrested 61 persons and has been an all-around great police officer.



Our **Most Valuable Employee of 2016** was **Officer Terry Wu**. In addition to his outstanding job as an evening shift patrol officer, Terry conducted follow-up investigations, handled our sex offender data base, monitored and brought help to a resident with mental illness and put together our new web site.





ANNUAL REPORT 2016