

Welcome to the City of Hillcrest Village

We hope this booklet will provide you with useful information and features about your new city. Additional information can be found on our website:

www.cityofhillcrestvillage.org

**City of Hillcrest Village
106 W. Blackstone
Alvin, TX 77511
281- 756- 0577**

Table of Contents

History	3
Contact Information for City and Officials	5
City Utilities	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utility fees as of November 2009• Garbage Pickup• Heavy Trash Pickup	
Building Permits	7
Overview of Selected Ordinances	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal Control• Utility and Drainage Easements• Tree Trimming• Discharge of BB Guns and Air Rifles• Fireworks• City Easements, Alleyways and Fence Set Back Lines	
Council Meetings	9
Rental Information - Municipal Building	10
Marshal's Department	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact Information• Mission Statement• Numbers to Remember• Safety Tips• Vacation Watch• Additional information on www.hillcrestvillagemarshall.com	
Hurricane Season Checklist	12

History – City of Hillcrest Village

They Plan

In the late 1950's, Monsanto Chemical approached the Chamber of Commerce in Alvin, Texas about building a subdivision. This subdivision would be designed to provide housing for employees and executives of their new Chocolate Bayou industrial plant. Pat Patterson bought the first acreage from E. A. Richards to begin the subdivision. They looked for a builder and developer to go forward with the plans. At the same time, Paul Hoffman started Bayou Bend subdivision to build smaller homes for Monsanto employees outside the main subdivision planned for the city.

They Build

The first house in the village proper was built on the corner of Main and Hillcrest Drive in the late spring of 1961 at a cost of \$24,000. New houses in Hillcrest topped the \$30,000 mark by 1964. Hillcrest Drive, Crestmont Drive, and Ridgemont Drive were developed first and were limestone until 1963. Homeowners and developers had purchased and built out most of the property on these streets by 1965.

They Expand

Concurrently, R.E. Strickland purchased the remainder of the land on the east side of Hillcrest. He added more streets, with other builders designing and building more houses on those streets. People outside of Monsanto began buying lots. The first three residents were Charles McCauley, Hoyd Clark, and Paul Patterson. The west side of Hillcrest (across Main Street) was developed, sold, and built in the mid 1970s.

They View their Work

The village sits on high ground with very few low spots. It is higher than the City of Alvin, measuring 43 feet above sea level while Alvin measures only 39 feet above sea level. In 1961 you could see all the way to Alvin because there were very few trees and not many houses. Looking to the west revealed Alvin Community College, while looking southeast provided a view of the industrial plants all the way to Texas City. Within Hillcrest Village you could see two high spots in the land.

Mr. Richards and Mr. Patterson joked that there must be a hill in that spot since Hillcrest was higher than Alvin. Legend holds that the idea of a crest on such a hill is where the village gets its name. They also considered the name Monsanto for the subdivision.

They Subdivide & Reunite

They originally planned to build houses for the executives and managers of Monsanto on the north side with larger lots and wide streets and smaller homes with narrower streets on the south side for employees. They named the north side Hillcrest Village and the south side Timberlane Manor. The entrance to Timberlane Manor was on Sherwood Street. You can still find concrete slabs in the yards of both homes on the corner of Main and Sherwood Street where they were going to install walls and flowers welcoming residents and guests to Timberlane Manor. The idea of separate subdivisions faded between 1963 and 1964 resulting in one development called Hillcrest Village.

They Incorporate

The City of Hillcrest Village incorporated in 1963 to avoid annexation by the City of Alvin. The City decided that no businesses would be located in the village. Early city activities included a village picnic and the lighting of the village at Christmastime, a tradition that continues today. The early phone lines were provided by Southwestern Bell using a party line system with an operator.

They Grow

The City of Hillcrest Village started as a subdivision for one company's employees. In 1961 the village started with three residents. It has grown into a village of diverse citizens from all walks of life. In the 2000 census the village could boast of 722 residents.



CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

City Contacts

Title	Name	Area of Responsibility	Phone
<u>City Office location below:</u>			
City of Hillcrest Village 106 W. Blackstone Alvin, TX 77511	Municipal Bldg. 200 W. Timberlane Dr. Hillcrest Village, TX		281-756-0577 281-388-2460 fax
Mailing Address:			
City of Hillcrest Village P. O. Box 1172 Alvin, TX 77512			
Mayor	Tom Wilson	All	281-756-8587
Alderman/Mayor Pro Tem	Terrell Franzen	Sewers	281-331-9164
Alderwoman	Pam Caloway	Water	713-416-6912
Alderman	Adam Flores	Lights, Lighting, Beautification	281-388-2982
Alderman	James Nash	Building, Planning, Subdivision	281-331-6907
Alderman	Richard Williams	Roads and Drainage	281-331-7339

Other Useful Contacts

Title	Name	Contact
Emergency		911
Brazoria County Sheriff Department		281-331-9000
City Marshal	Patrick Caloway	713-562-8288

CITY UTILITIES

The City of Hillcrest Village bills each resident monthly for water, sewer, garbage pickup, and fire/EMS services as follows:

- **Water**
\$13.00 for the first 3,000 gallons; \$3.10 for every additional 1,000 gals; minimum charge \$13.00
- **Sewer**
\$31.00
- **Garbage**
\$16.00 plus state and county mandated sales taxes, currently 6 ¾%.
- **Fire/EMS**
\$12.00

When service is requested, a \$150.00 deposit is required to begin service. Deposits will be applied as a credit when service is disconnected. An application for "Service Utility Billing and Collections" must be completed by the resident for new service.

Water meters are read on the third Monday of each month and billed on the following Friday. Water meters must be accessible to the meter readers. Payment due dates are stated on the bill. Payments not received by the due date will incur a \$25.00 late fee. If a payment is not received in P.O. Box 1172, Alvin, TX 77512 after an additional fifteen (15) working days, there shall be an automatic disconnection of water service until the bill is paid in full, plus a non-refundable seventy-five dollar (\$75.00) reconnect fee. If service is disconnected a second time at the same residence for a delinquent payment, the customer will be required to post a non-refundable reconnection fee of \$250.00 for service to be restored. The deposit shall be in the form of cash or certified check only.

There is a \$30.00 fee for all checks returned unpaid by the bank. If 2 checks are returned by the bank, the subsequent payments must be made by cashier's check, money order or cash.

Residents are responsible for their own leaks on their side of the meter and are responsible for hiring a licensed plumber at the resident's expense to repair leaks and/or to determine which side the leak is on. The resident will be held responsible for any damage done to the city's property and the city may shut off service at once without notice.

If you do not receive a utility bill by the end of the month, please call the city office at 281-756-0577. You can prepay your account if you plan to be unavailable when your bill is due.

Garbage Pickup

Regular trash pickup is Monday and Thursday of each week. Recycling is picked up on Thursdays. For questions regarding this service, please contact Ameriwaste at 281-331-8400.

Heavy Trash Pickup

The city has a heavy trash pickup two times each year. This service is usually scheduled in the spring and fall. Residents are notified of these dates with instructions and exceptions in the city newsletter prior to these service dates. State laws prohibit or regulate how some items can be disposed of.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building Permits

Permits *must* be issued *prior* to any of the following building activities to include, but not limited to, the following:

- New home or detached building construction
- Additions to existing homes or detached buildings
- Exterior remodeling, including roofing, siding, and so forth
- Modifications to plumbing including water, sewer, gas, and air conditioning and heating systems
- Electrical service modifications
- In-ground or above-ground swimming pools
- Attached or detached building demolition or moving
- Erected fences – *set back line specifics, etc.*

In short, any construction that changes, improves, or otherwise modifies the exterior of an existing building or any new construction erected on a property requires a building permit. Building permits are obtained through the city office. Call the city office at 281-756-0577, and they will give you the necessary information or have the building inspector contact you.

SELECTED ORDINANCES OF INTEREST*

Animal Control

It is unlawful to keep any animal that does not have a current vaccination and license as prescribed by the laws of the State of Texas. These animals must wear a vaccination license (tag). It is also unlawful to keep any animal that disturbs the peace by loud or unusual barking or howling. Also note, Brazoria County has a leash law that pertains to the residents of the City of Hillcrest Village.

Utility and Drainage Easements

Each resident is responsible for keeping streets and curbs clean in front of their homes. This responsibility includes mowing and keeping the weeds trimmed in their easements. This procedure not only prevents street flooding due to clogged drains, but also keeps your city looking nice. Take pride in your home and city. Neatness is contagious; if you do your part, your neighbors will follow suit.

Tree Trimming

The City of Hillcrest Village does not trim trees. It is the responsibility of individual homeowners to keep their tree limbs to an elevation of at least 12 feet above street level where the limbs hang over the street.

Discharge of BB Guns and Air Rifles

An ordinance prohibits the discharge of BB guns, pellet guns, and air rifles within the city limits of the City of Hillcrest Village.

Fireworks

An ordinance prohibits the discharge of fireworks within the city limits of the City of Hillcrest Village.

City Easements, Alleyways and Fence Set Back Lines and Swimming Pools

Several ordinances govern easements. The disposal of debris or storage of material on any city or public-owned easement or alleyway is prohibited. The operation of a motor vehicle upon or across any city or public-owned easement or alleyway is prohibited.

*****Please note there are ordinances relating to fence set back lines and fencing of swimming pools. *****

* Copies of All City Ordinances may be obtained from the City Office for an applicable fee.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council Meetings

The City Council holds meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Hillcrest City Municipal Building at 200 West Timberlane Drive, starting at 7:00 PM. An agenda, listing the items to be considered, is posted at the building bulletin board. Posting time is at least 72 hours prior to the council meeting. Council meeting agendas are also posted on the Documents page of the City's website.

If you would like to address the City Council, please contact the City Office at 281-756-0577 so that your name and the nature of your business can be placed on the agenda.

RENTAL INFORMATION – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Rent the Municipal Building

Residents of the City can rent the municipal building for parties or meetings at reasonable rates.

Rates for residents are as follows:

Rental	\$125.00/day
Additional Hours	\$ 25.00/hour
Hourly Rental (2 - 4 hours)	\$ 20.00/hour

Special rates can be negotiated for educational classes, clubs, and nonprofit organizations.

Chairs (approximately 50) and tables (3 large round, 2 large rectangle) are available along with a sink and a single bathroom. There is no refrigerator. Smoking is not permitted inside the building.

Contact City Coordinator Martha Franzen at 281-331-9164, or contact the City Office at 281-756-0577.

MARSHAL'S DEPARTMENT

The Hillcrest Village Marshal's Department is made up of commissioned Peace Officers certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). These Deputies, in conjunction with the Brazoria County Sheriffs Department, patrol the city, enforcing traffic laws, investigating crimes and providing general security to the residents of Hillcrest Village. Through our alliance with the Sheriff's Department, we provide a twenty-four hour law enforcement response capability to any situation. Among the ranks of the Marshal's Deputies are certified Arson Investigators, certified Radar Speed Measurement Instructors, Police Firearms Instructors, Law Enforcement Academy Instructors and officers with Master Peace Officer Certificates issued by the State of Texas. Each Deputy in the department takes his or her job very seriously and we use every legal means available to us to investigate crime, pursue violators and apprehend wanted persons. We take pride in being a member of The Hillcrest Village Marshal's Department and in providing the citizens of the City of Hillcrest Village the best law enforcement possible.

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

For an emergency call **911**

For a Law Enforcement Response to your problem call **281-331-9000**. The Brazoria County Sheriff's department will send the first available officer to you.

To contact Marshal Caloway, dial 281-585-6299 and leave a message.

Hillcrest Village Marshal's Office: 200 West Timberlane Drive, Hillcrest Village, TX 77512

Ph 281-331-5733

Email: info@hillcrestvillagemarshal.com

Website: www.hillcrestvillagemarshal.com

SAFETY TIPS

- Lock your car every time you leave it on the street or in your garage
- Keep your garage doors closed day and night
- Always lock your home at night or when you leave for any time
- Leaving your front porch light on keeps you and your neighbors safer
- If you go out of town, stop the mail and your newspaper

VACATION WATCH

You can contact a deputy on patrol or call the Marshal to provide the department with the information they will need to put your home on the vacation watch list.

HURRICANE SEASON CHECKLIST

Nothing is more important than having a hurricane emergency plan in place to ensure the safety of you and your loved ones. With that in mind, here are some basic safety procedures that can be implemented quickly and easily:

- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- If you are not advised to evacuate, locate the safest area in your home. Usually rooms away from windows such as closets, bathrooms and interior hallways offer the best protection.
- Stock non-perishable supplies and a disaster supply kit. Your kit should include at least one gallon of water daily per person for seven days, manual can opener blankets, clothing, first aid kits, toiletries, flashlights, batteries, radios, cash (banks and ATMs may not be open), and pet care items.
- Keep your vehicles filled with gas.
- Determine escape routes from your home as well as places to meet.
- Have an out-of-state friend or family member as a contact. This will ensure all your family members have a single point of contact.
- Make plans now for your pets in case of evacuation.
- Check your home's insurance coverage—flood insurance is usually not covered by homeowner's policies. If you have questions contact your insurance agent.
- Keep important papers in a safe and dry place.

For more detailed information about how to prepare for hurricane season, visit the National Hurricane Center's website www.nhc.noaa.gov.