



SMOKE SIGNALS

VILLAGE OF
TEQUESTA
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

TEQUESTA COUNCIL TAKES SHAPE WITH A NEW AND FAMILIAR FACE

Tequesta, FL - The Tequesta Council welcomed two new faces and one familiar face on Thursday, April 13, 2023, when newly elected Council Members Patrick Painter and Rick Sartory, as well as returning Council Member Molly Young, were sworn into office.



Rick Sartory



Patrick Painter



Molly Young

Patrick Painter, a licensed Florida attorney and real estate sales associate, is a third-generation Palm Beach County native. He currently serves as the Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs for Hedrick Brothers Construction, where he manages all legal and general business matters for the company. Patrick is also an active member of various local organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, YMCA of the Palm Beaches, and the Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

Rick Sartory, who has lived in northern Palm Beach County since 1988 and moved to Tequesta in 2021, had a 27-year career in the banking and finance industries before his current role as a Community Affairs Coordinator in the Homeland Security Division of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Rick is a graduate of Leadership Palm Beach County and has served on several boards and public committees, including the Village of Tequesta Public Safety Pension Board, the Health and Human Services Board of Palm Beach County and the Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches.

Molly Young, a Senior Project Manager professional with 20 years of construction management experience, relocated to Tequesta in 2017 after living in Seattle for 11 years. Molly is responsible for advising and supporting clients from project inception through construction completion and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Palm Beach County League of Cities.

Following the swearing in, Council elected Molly Young to serve as the Village's Mayor for the second consecutive year and Laurie Brandon's peers elected her to serve as the Vice-Mayor. The Tequesta Council is excited to welcome its new and returning members and congratulates the new leadership appointments.

HIGHLIGHT



Council Member Laurie Brandon

Greetings my fellow Village Neighbors, Happy Spring and Summer!

It is a blessing to live and raise our family here in Tequesta. Over the years, we have welcomed new babies, watched our youth leave for college, celebrated retirements; and unfortunately we have lost some loved ones along the way...but we have journeyed through it together as a Village family.

Our family loves history, traditions, and community. For me, it ties our generations together. I love walking down memory lane with our long-term residents; you hold a lot of the wonderful historical knowledge - I love that!

Since our move 12 years ago from the Palm Beach area, we have seen some changes, while other things remain the same. It is becoming harder to find small towns in South Florida with the classic Florida lifestyle and slower pace, yet many have now "found" our small, quaint slice of paradise. In the past several years, families have flocked to Tequesta. The charm and slower pace are driving new residents our way. Now as developers look to redevelop some areas, some of them seek to create more housing or build homes that are more grandiose.

There has been a recent housing boom and numerous residential and commercial properties were sold for top dollar to investors/developers. Each zone of the Village has a zoning code that allows a max height and density with a setback in

place. A few decades ago, the code was increased to allow for greater height and density. While I cannot speak for those who increased the code at that time, I have a feeling they did not expect our sweet little Village to boom so quickly. It is easy to increase but hard legally to decrease and/or change code.

Developers are eyeing Tequesta for redevelopment, but rest assured, your Council is working hard to encourage modest redevelopment, in an effort to balance the interests of our residents and developers alike.

It is important that residents stay involved in redevelopment plans that come before Council and voice your feedback - pros and cons. You have five Council voices to speak on your behalf in the conversations with developers. I love feedback. For me, the more the better!

This summer, Council will start our annual budget process. Over the past five years, Council has diligently worked to catch up on projects that were not previously budgeted for or followed through to completion. The Village owns roads, sidewalks, water piping, and parks, however, for many years, for whatever reason, some did not receive proper maintenance. While we all love the fun stuff, and I wish I could provide every thing each resident asks for, Council does have to balance the necessities with the pleasurable aspects. Public Safety is our number one priority as everyone wants to live here safely and know that a call to 911 will have emergency responders, who are fully and properly trained, at their door literally within minutes.

I encourage residents to communicate with Council to stay involved in the dais conversations. Budget meetings, redevelopment, infrastructure upgrades, events, park development...this little Village of ours has a lot going on! We have just over 6000 residents in our Village - that's a lot of voice! I look forward to hearing from you as you are part of this Village.

Yours Truly, *Laurie Brandon*

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SMOKE SIGNALS

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Around the Village



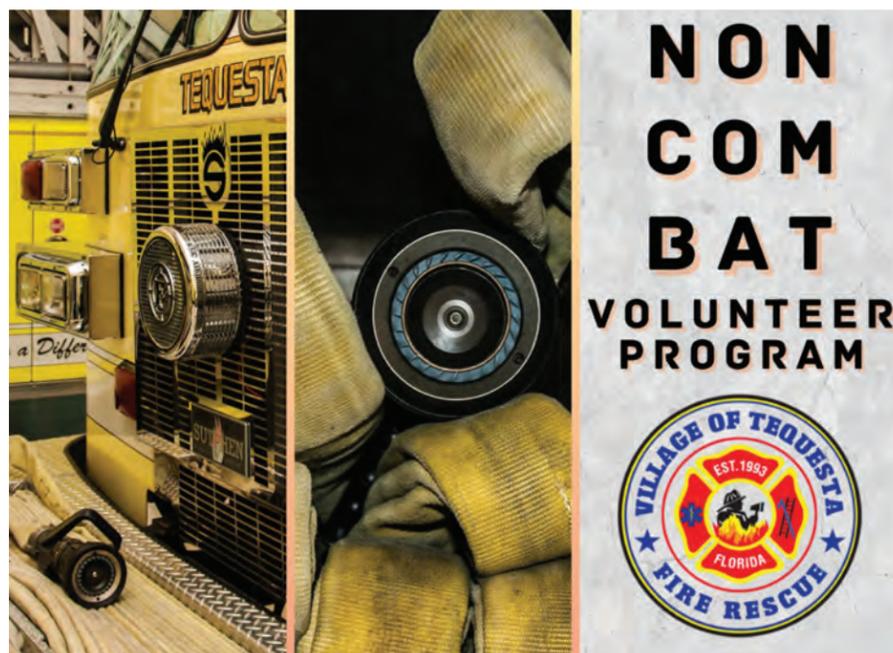
Fire Rescue News

Tequesta Fire Rescue's Vehicle Development Committee recently visited the Sutphen Factory in Ohio to conduct the final inspection of their new aerial ladder truck, which will be designated as Ladder 85. The committee, consisting of Fire Chief James Trube, Captain David McGovern, and Fire/Medics Kristopher Wilhelm and Ron Sambeli, inspected the vehicle to ensure that it met all of their specifications and requirements.

The new apparatus, equipped with various rescue tools and an extension ladder, will enable Tequesta Firefighters to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies, especially in high-rise buildings. The committee's visit to the Sutphen Factory marks an important milestone in the acquisition of the new truck, which will soon be added to Tequesta Fire Rescue's fleet.

According to Fire Chief James Trube, the addition of the new apparatus is a testament to the Council and management's commitment to ensuring the safety of the community and responding to emergencies in a timely and effective manner.

Overall, the visit to the Sutphen Factory was a success, and Tequesta Fire Rescue is looking forward to receiving their new Aerial Ladder truck soon. The acquisition of the new vehicle will undoubtedly contribute to the continued excellence of Tequesta Fire Rescue's services.



Tequesta Fire Department has recently launched a Non-Combat Volunteer Program, aimed at offering members of the community an opportunity to support the department in various non-emergency tasks. The program will involve volunteers assisting the department in administrative tasks, staffing community events, supporting the Public Education Program, and more.

The program seeks to leverage the skills, knowledge, and expertise of community members to support the department's activities, while also providing an opportunity for individuals to give back to their community. Volunteers will play a crucial role in helping the department achieve its goals and objectives and ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of the Village of Tequesta.

If you or someone you know is interested or have any questions, please call the Fire Department Administration at 561-768-0559.

HELP COMPLETE ROUTINE TASKS SO FIRST RESPONDERS CAN STAY FOCUSED ON SAVING LIVES

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

**MUST BE 18 OR OLDER
APPLICANTS THAT QUALIFY
WILL BE TRAINED IN:**

- CPR
- STOP THE BLEED
- FIRE PREVENTION
- FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
- BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS
- HIPPA COMPLIANCE
- AND MORE

**INTERACT WITH THE COMMUNITY
DURING PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**ASSIST WITH MAINTENANCE
OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

**STAFF FIRE
DEPARTMENT EVENTS**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
DEPARTMENT THROUGH
ASSISTING ADMINISTRATION**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 768-0557

DON'T BLOCK THE FIRE DEPARTMENT DRIVEWAY

With the US Highway One bridge construction officially underway and increased traffic in Tequesta, the Fire Department is reminding residents and motorists to please never block the fire station driveway. The area is clearly marked and should be kept clear at all times to ensure that firefighters can quickly and safely respond to emergencies.

In case of an emergency, every second counts, and obstructing the driveway can result in potentially life-threatening delays. This simple act can make a significant difference in saving lives and protecting property in case of an emergency.

Let's work together to keep the community safe by always keeping the fire station driveway clear.



TIPS FOR GRILLING SAFETY

- Always grill outdoors in a well-ventilated area
- Keep the grill at least 10 feet away from your house, trees, and other flammable objects
- Keep children and pets away from the grilling area
- Use long-handled tools to avoid burns and splatters
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby in case of emergencies
- Do not leave the grill unattended while in use
- Check your gas grill for leaks before use
- Allow plenty of time for the grill to cool down before storing it away
- Keep Clear!



PARKS AND RECREATION FUN!

Sign up today at
tequesta.recdesk.com



- Pickleball
 - Aero Sculpt
 - Cardio Dance
 - Tai Chi
 - Functional Fitness
 - Gymnastics
- AND MORE!**



American Legion Poppy Days May 20-21



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271 is set to honor our veterans by presenting the poppy, a memorial flower, to the public, in an effort to educate our community on the meaning and significance of the poppy. The poppy has been a symbol of remembrance for fallen soldiers since World War I and is a way for us to honor the sacrifices of those who have served our country.

The poppy has a rich history in the United States, with its roots in the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, which was written during World War I. The poem speaks of the red poppies that grew on the battlefields of Flanders, Belgium, where so many soldiers lost their lives. Since then, the poppy has become a symbol of remembrance and a way for us to honor our service members.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271 is dedicated to supporting our veterans and their families and has been serving the Tequesta and Jupiter communities for many years. By presenting the poppy to the public, they hope to raise awareness of the extreme sacrifices made by our veterans and to honor their memory.

The poppy presentation will take place at various locations around Tequesta and Jupiter on May 20th and 21st. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271 will be on hand to distribute poppies to the public and to answer any questions about the significance of the flower. The public is encouraged to support this important event by accepting a Poppy and wearing it in honor of our veterans. Donations will also be accepted, and all proceeds will go towards supporting local veterans and their families.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271's Poppy presentation is a wonderful way to honor our veterans and to remember the many sacrifices they have made to our great country. By participating in this event, we can show our support for those who have served our country and help to ensure that their memory is never forgotten.



SPORTS Tyme

**SPORTS TYME
 SUMMER CAMP STILL
 HAS SPOTS OPEN!
 SIGN UP TODAY.**

- 9 am–4 pm at the Recreation Center
- \$220 per week after May 1
- \$15 per camper registration fee
- Early drop off at 8 am
- Late pick up until 5:30 pm
- Ages 5–13



BRIDGE THE GAP

Constitution Park concert
 May 20 • 5-9 pm

STEEL PEACHES ZACH DEPUTY

**\$5 VOT
 RESIDENT**

**\$15 NON
 RESIDENT**



Live Music • Family Fun • Vendors • Food & Drinks

think TEQUESTA SHOP • DINE • PLAY • LIVE

With the US-1 bridge closure, Tequesta businesses need you to keep the importance of shopping local in mind. Before clicking "add to cart", check out the **Tequesta Business Directory** for a listing of local businesses. Your new favorite store, restaurant or professional might be around the corner!



Why shop local?

- More personalized products & services
- Creates unique community character
- Strengthens the local economy
- More jobs created by local businesses
- Superior customer service
- Smaller carbon footprint

Storm Water Inlet Marking Program (SWIM)

The Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM) Program was established to prevent pollution from entering local waterways. Storm water inlet markers bearing the "Village of Tequesta" logo and a message stating **"NO DUMPING, DRAINS TO WATERWAY,"** is a reminder to citizens not to dump pollutants into storm drains.



Storm water inlets that flow into the storm water drainage system, along with other items, go directly into the Loxahatchee River or Indian River Lagoon, and ultimately, the Atlantic Ocean. Unlike sewage, storm water that flows into these drains receives no treatment. Much of the pollution comes from common, everyday materials, such as household chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides. Dumping these into these storm drains directly pollutes our rivers and ocean. **UTILITIES 24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER: 561-768-0700**

Save our Water by Preventing Stormwater Pollution

Where it Comes From

Where it Goes

When rain or water hit hard surfaces like pavement, it creates stormwater runoff. When runoff picks up lots of nasty pollution as it is carried directly through gutters and drains out to the rivers, streams, and lakes that hold our drinking water, making them toxic and unsafe for people and animals.

What You Can Do!

This pollution is not treated or removed from the water on its journey, so it is up to each of us to keep it clean and fresh from the start. Here are some things we can all do to prevent stormwater pollution and keep our communities looking and feeling great!

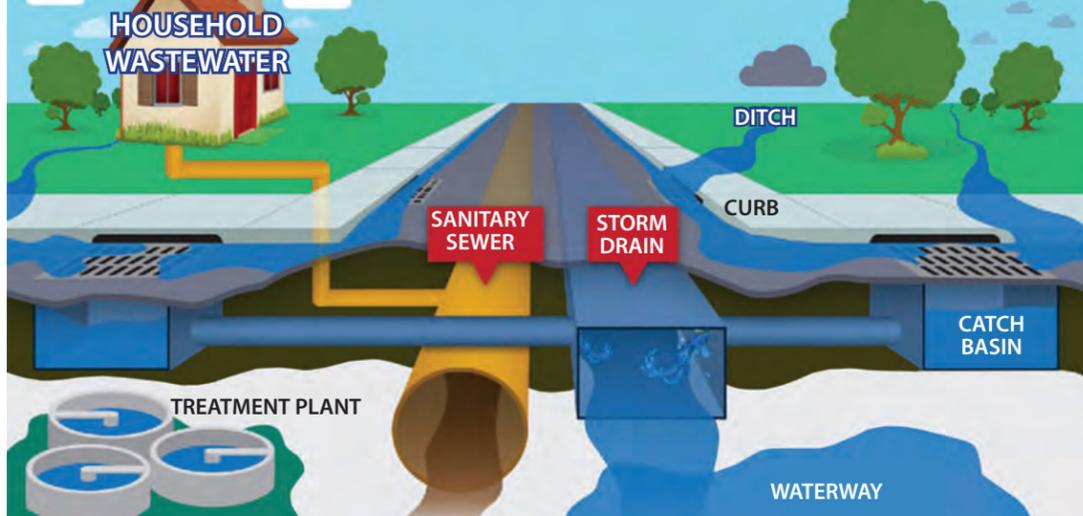
- Clean spills promptly!
- Scoop the poop!
- Pick up litter!
- Dispose of properly!
- Follow the directions!
- Mulch 'em!

If each of us makes some small changes, we can make sure our waters are clean and our environment is healthy for all of us!

For more information contact the Village of Tequesta Utilities Department
www.tequesta.org/1295/Stormwater

Storm vs. Sanitary

Water that flows into our storm water drainage inlet system goes **directly** into the Loxahatchee River, Indian River Lagoon, and the Atlantic Ocean.



DON'T-DUMP-DOWN-DRAIN

Pollution can be generated by: Littering, construction activity, use of pesticides, fertilizers, illegal dumping or discharges, improper disposal of used oil, toxins, new development, and redevelopment.



Tequesta Recognizes S.T.A.R. Employees in Village Hall

Recognition holds a special place in the hearts and minds of hardworking team members. Research shows that an employee recognition program can improve employee well-being, satisfaction, employee retention, and health.

The Village of Tequesta is now dedicating a highly visible area of the Village Hall to employee appreciation by featuring a recognition wall. It highlights the most recent 15 recipients of the S.T.A.R. Recognition Award program, implemented by Village Manager Jeremy Allen in 2019. The program offers Tequesta residents, businesses, customers, Council Members, and employees a unique opportunity to help identify and recognize its STAR performers.

Allen defines a Star as any employee who "raises the bar above and beyond the Village's customary, high performance standards." The acronym STAR represents:
Service with a Smile (*courtesy*)
Teamwork (*cooperative spirit*)
Amazing (*can-do Attitude*)
Responsiveness (*commitment to communicate*).

A total of 132 awards have been presented since the beginning of the program. The most recent nomination recognized an employee for "her ability to respond accurately, thoughtfully, and compassionately", when she received a resident's call asking about evacuation zones during Hurricane Nicole. On another occasion, an employee was nominated for reporting a private water tank truck that was illegally connected to the Village's fire hydrant, "this is a great example of an employee who cares and looks out for the best interest of the Village," the nomination stated.



After 4 years Allen believes that this program continues to raise the bar on customer services. "The Council and many members of the community are aware of the program and have utilized this program to highlight the services that our employees provide. It shows employees that the Village of Tequesta values their work."

When an employee is recognized for going above and beyond to readily resolve internal and external customer problems with professionalism or comes up with innovative ideas to improve productivity, and or cost saving ideas, it reinforces good behavior and lets people know that their efforts are valued. The Village of Tequesta's recognition wall is inspiring, allowing us to celebrate and appreciate employees' exceptional effort and performance.

Star Award Winners

- Lynne Britt
- Ken Kandefer
- Maynor Barrientos
- Diana Manali
- Debra Telfrin
- Leanne Libbey
- John Collings
- Juan Rivas
- Nate Litteral



Joining Us

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| David Terrell | Firefighter/Paramedic I |
| Leanne Libbey | Customer Services Rep. |
| Barrett Stainhouse | Maintenance worker |
| Brett Bowers | Service Technician Trainee |
| Lara Powell | Firefighter/Paramedic I |
| Kyle Trotter | Firefighter/Paramedic I |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Gustavo Medina | 5 yrs |
| John Lundgren | 10 yrs |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS REGARDING THE RISK OF FLOODS IN OUR AREA



WHAT IS YOUR FLOOD RISK?

The Flood Hazard: The primary causes of flooding in our community are storm surge associated with tropical systems and afternoon thunderstorms which generally occur from June to November. Certain areas of our community are low-lying and subject to flood from rising water. Other flooding can occur from storm water runoff due to heavy rain over a short period of time, and blocked or clogged drainage pipes and ditches.

Village Flood Information: Please call the Building Department at Village Hall at (561) 768-0450 to find out:

- **If a property is located in a flood zone;**
- **About the mandatory purchase of flood insurance requirement;**
- **If your property is vulnerable to storm water drainage problems;**
- **If your property is in an area predicted to be flooded in the future because of sea level rise;**
- **Anticipated depth of flooding over a building's first floor**
- **About past flood problems in the area;**
- **If you are in an area with natural floodplain functions that should be protected and;**
- **If a FEMA elevation certificate that includes flood insurance rating data is on file for your property;**
- **More information about flood maps and the community's floodplain management programs.**

The flood map and additional resources can be viewed on the Village website at <https://www.tequesta.org/1263/Flood-Information>. Check your flood zone at <https://maps.co.palm-beach.fl.us/cwgis/?app=floodzones>.



HURRICANE SEASON TIPS FROM FIRE-RESCUE

Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1st and continues through November 30th. While Tequesta Fire Rescue works hard to guarantee that we remain ready at all times for our residents, we take this time of year to ensure that all of our plans are up-to-date and our equipment is ready to go.

We encourage all of our residents to do the same. Some of the things that you should consider when updating your hurricane plans are:

- **Make a family communications plan;**
- **Learn the flood and storm surge evacuation areas and when you would evacuate;**
- **Inspect and inventory hurricane shutters;**
- **Trim trees and shrubs to make them more wind resistant;**
- **Clear rain gutters and downspouts;**
- **Service and test your generator;**
- **Determine how and where to secure your boat;**
- **Photograph, video tape and inventory your valuables;**
- **Find a secure place for your important papers;**
- **Ensure that you have a plan for your pets if you need to evacuate;**
- **Have a way to back up your computer and be able to take that backup with you.**

A well thought out plan will reduce anxiety and stress before the event and ensure that you will be able to recover more quickly afterwards. While the Tequesta Fire-Rescue Department stands ready to assist, the responsibility for preparing for this year's hurricane season lies with you. To check your evacuation zone, route and shelter locations, visit <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Hurricane.aspx>.



EMERGENCY BROADCASTS

Flood and hurricane warnings are broadcast by local television and radio as well as The Weather Channel. Local media outlets provide a wealth of comprehensive information before, during and immediately following a storm event:

WPTV News Channel 5
WPEC News Channel 12
WPBF Channel 25
WJUP Radio 103.9 FM
Legends Radio 100.3 FM

For more information you can contact the Fire Department at (561) 768-0450, view our hurricane information at www.tequesta.org/409/Hurricane-Information or visit the Palm Beach County Emergency Management Division website at www.pbcgov.com/dem/hurricane.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION REFILLS

Fire-Rescue recommends that, as part of your storm preparation, you maintain a two-week supply of all of your prescription medications and that you keep a list of all of your medications, dosages and any special instructions. Per Florida state law, you can obtain a 30-day refill of your prescription medication, (even if you have just refilled it), if you reside in a county that is under a hurricane warning issued by the National Weather Service, or are under a state of emergency executive order declared by the Governor, or if the county has activated its emergency operations center and its emergency management plan. F.S. §252.358.

It is also advisable to have a copy of your oxygen prescription in safe-keeping and, if you have a portable oxygen concentrator, ensure your batteries are charged and in proper working order. Call your oxygen provider to find out if they have an emergency number in case of a power outage or downed lines. Please call Fire-Rescue at (561) 768-0550 if you have any questions.



PALM BEACH COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTERS

As residents begin preparing for another Hurricane Season, Tequesta's Fire-Rescue Department would like to make our residents aware of the County's Special Needs Shelter, operated by Palm Beach County for persons with special medical needs. This includes those who require medical equipment dependent on electricity, insulin dependent diabetics, those who are immobile and those with chronic stable illnesses. Pre-registration is required and we are asking our residents to apply as soon as possible.

To apply or obtain further information please contact Palm Beach County Emergency Management at (561) 712-6400 or visit <http://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/pages/special-needs.aspx>. Applicants will receive a form to complete that must be signed by a physician and returned to Palm Beach County Emergency Management. The applicant will be contacted to confirm if they qualify and provide information on how the program works. Transportation to the shelter, if needed, is provided by Palm Beach County Emergency Management.

Additionally, Palm Tran operates a program called the Disabled Transportation Assistance Program for those who do not qualify for a Special Needs Shelter but are otherwise disabled and live in an evacuation zone, which includes all of Tequesta. Those residents can arrange for transportation to a regular Red Cross Shelter by contacting Palm Tran Connection at (561) 649-9838. We urge you to register now.



FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Any alteration to your building or land in the floodplain, including regrading, alterations or filling, requires a building permit to ensure development is taking place according to flood regulations. A substantial improvement to a structure is any construction, addition, alteration, repair, reconstruction or other improvement of a building in which the cost of the improvement equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building before the start of construction. Substantial improvements must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. In like manner, substantially damaged structures must be brought up to the same standards as a new building. If you see building or filling without a permit sign posted, or if you need additional information, please call the Building Department at (561) 768-0450.



FLOOD INSURANCE

For many people, their home and its contents represents their greatest investment. Property losses due to flooding are not covered under standard homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Everyone in Florida is in a flood zone and should consider purchasing a flood insurance policy to protect their building and its contents whether they are located in a high-risk special flood hazard area (SFHA) or low-risk area. Over 20% of flood claims arise from properties located in non-SFHA areas. Flood Insurance covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, ocean storm surge, and local drainage problems. Two types of flooding insurance coverage are available; building and contents coverage, if the contents are in an insurable building. Contents coverage should also be purchased by renters. Flood insurance coverage is mandatory for all federal or federally related mortgage loans for buildings located within the SFHA.

The Village of Tequesta participants in the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) Community Rating System, working diligently to maintain a reduction in flood insurance premiums for residents while carrying out flood management measures designed to protect life and property from future flooding. This reduction applies to all properties located in the SFHA and non-SFHA except on preferred risk policies. Many Village Departments continue to work together with the goal of achieving even greater flood insurance premium discounts in the future.

During the kind of flooding that happens in Tequesta, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. If you are covered, double-check that the building coverage is adequate and make sure you have contents coverage. If you don't have flood insurance for your property and its contents, contact your insurance agent. Information is also available from the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) www.floodsmart.gov website and from the Village of Tequesta at (561) 768-0450. Don't wait for the next flood to come before buying flood insurance protection for your building and/or its contents as there is a 30-day waiting period after the purchase of flood insurance before coverage takes effect.



DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

A community can lose a portion of its drainage system conveyance or storm water storage capacity due to illegal dumping, debris, soil erosion and sedimentation as well as overgrowth of vegetation. When this happens, flooding occurs more frequently and reaches higher elevations, subjecting properties otherwise protected to an unnecessary risk of damage. Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches or storm drains. Practice good drainage maintenance by keeping grass clippings and other debris out of storm water drainage systems and drainage canals to prevent clogging and loss of storm water storage and conveyance capacity. If your property is next to a ditch or drainage facility, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris. The Village has a storm water maintenance program which can help remove major blockages such as downed trees. It is illegal to dump or throw anything into the ditches or storm drains in the Village. Call the Utilities Department at (561) 768-0482 to report any dumping violations or canal obstructions, or if you would like advice or recommendations to alleviate drainage problems on your property.



PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES:

Every year, flooding causes more property damage in the United States than any other type of disaster. While recent construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flooding, many older, existing structures remain susceptible. Throughout the county, there is a growing interest from property owners to develop practical and cost effective methods for reducing or eliminating exposure to flooding.

Several effective techniques include relocation of a building to a site that is not subject to flooding, construction of a small flood wall or earthen berm to keep water away from the property, re-grading your lot or retrofitting structures to make them flood-proof. Retrofitting is a different approach as the property itself remains subject to flooding while the building on it is modified to prevent or minimize flooding of habitable space. To speak to Building Department personnel about protection advice and assistance, please call (561) 768-0450. The Village Floodplain Administrator is available to visit the site in question to review potential flood problems, and discuss possible ways to protect the property, with the resident. These services are free.



NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS OF FLOODPLAINS

Wetlands areas and buffer areas adjacent to open spaces help reduce flood damage because floodwaters in a natural floodplain are permitted to spread over a large area and open spaces provide flood water storage. It is our job to help to maintain good water quality by filtering nutrients and impurities from storm water runoff and promote infiltration and aquifer recharge. By preserving natural areas, turtle, fish, and wildlife habitats are protected to provide breeding and feeding grounds. There are wetland areas along the Intracoastal in the Village of Tequesta that are mapped in the National Wetlands Inventory.

FLOOD SAFETY MEASURES:

You can protect yourself from flood hazards by taking measures to ensure the safety of life and property before, during, and after a flood:

- **Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive and just six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to see how deep the water is.
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers as the road or bridge may be washed away and canals may not be distinguishable from roads.
- **Stay away from power lines & electrical wires.** The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to Florida Power & Light or to the Tequesta Police Department immediately.
- **Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

REPORT LOCAL STREET FLOODING TO THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AT (561) 768-0482.

