



# SMOKE SIGNALS

VILLAGE OF  
TEQUESTA  
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022

## NEW COUNCIL MEMBER SWORN IN AND NEW MAYOR APPOINTED



Mayor Molly Young



Council Member Aaron Johnson

Newly elected Council Member Aaron Johnson and returning Council Members Frank D'Ambra and Laurie Brandon were sworn into office on Thursday, March 10, 2022. All three ran unopposed and will serve a two-year term.

Aaron Johnson was born and raised in Pompano Beach, FL. He joined the Marine Corps out of high school and, once his enlistment was up, moved back to South Florida. After accepting a position with the Tequesta Police Department in

2011, he and his family moved out of Broward County and into the Village. The police department gave Aaron a unique perspective and made him realize how much he really loves living here. He left the police to become a business owner but soon realized how much he missed being involved with the Village and its fundamentals. He considers it a great honor to sit on the Council in Tequesta: a place that means so much to him.

Following the swearing in, Council elected Molly Young to serve as the Village's new Mayor. Molly begins her second year on the Village Council and brings a wealth of development and construction knowledge to the position.

Council Member Stone's peers then re-elected him to serve as the Vice-Mayor for a third year. Kyle begins his fourth year on the Village Council and brings a wealth of financial expertise to the position as he serves the private sector as a financial advisor whose business resides in the heart of Tequesta.

Join us as we welcome Council Member Johnson to Council and congratulate Mayor Young and Vice-Mayor Stone on their leadership appointments.

## HIGHLIGHT



Vice Mayor  
Kyle Stone

To the residents of Tequesta,

*"Tequesta was where everybody wanted to be."*

You can find this quote in a book that every coffee table in Tequesta should have, "Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee," by James D. Snyder and Josh Liller. Patricia (Pat) Magrogan said this to her husband Bill in 1961 when they lived across the bridge in Jupiter. Pat and Bill dreamed that one day they would be able to move to Tequesta. Her quote resonated with me and it made me want to learn more about my hometown roots. We always hear people say how special and unique Tequesta is. But why? Many of us know the answer to this now but do we know what made Tequesta so special back then?

Back then was 1957. Tequesta had just been incorporated. Neighborhoods like Tequesta Country Club and Hunt Club Colony (now Turtle Creek) were just being established. The Village held its first meeting that year, with a budget that would be unfathomable today! The 2.2 square miles of land surrounding the Jupiter Lighthouse that was once sparse and undeveloped quickly began to emerge. The Village of Tequesta started to take shape.

My desire to learn more lead me to climb the steps of the Jupiter Lighthouse for the very first time. Standing at the top of the lighthouse, I could see all of our Village. It was a clear day and I could undoubtedly recognize one of the most important reasons why Tequesta is so special. Geographically, our Village landscape is bordered by the Atlantic with Bahama blue water, the South Fork of the Loxahatchee and two bridges to the south. Most notably, we have Jonathan Dickinson State Park just to our north. These natural barriers

have always helped protect us against development. It is one of the main reasons why we have remained so "small" and special. Ironically, it is these same exact barriers and environment that draw people here as well.

When visitors arrive in our town, they not only see how beautiful it is here but they get to experience a different kind of paradise. They experience a community that values the little things in life. A community that can fish, golf, ride a bike to grab a cup of coffee or walk the beach and then chat about it later with their neighbors in the Village streets. We are a community who has our own VOT bumper sticker. A community who sees pride in residents wearing ballcaps with "1957" in bold font (because YKYK). It is a simple yet vibrant lifestyle here in the VOT and I certainly do not blame anyone who sees our way of life and wanting to emulate it.

Our secret is out – and it is apparent. Over the last 3 years, we have seen a lot of new residents, businesses and developers move here. The desire to be in Tequesta is overwhelming and the cost of homes seems delusional at times. Which is what brings me back to why I am writing this. I want to address and welcome those who are new to the VOT.

I hope you have been welcomed with open arms and are learning news ways to get plugged into the community. I also wanted to encourage you to embrace a couple of ideas that I believe are important to keep Tequesta as the place everyone wants to be:

**Be where your feet are.** Enjoy your surroundings and embrace those who are around you.

**Learn our history.** Get to know the Jeaga Indians, The Armour family, the Barefoot Mailman, Charles Carlin, Harry Dubois, Mr. Seabrook, Captain Stone, and of course Trapper Nelson.

**Shop local.** It is likely that a Tequesta resident is a Tequesta business owner or works in the village.

**Get to know those that serve you.** Our Village staff, Utilities and Police and Fire are some of the best. Support and value those who support you.

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## SMOKE SIGNALS

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# Around the Village



## Projects Affecting Residents Webpage

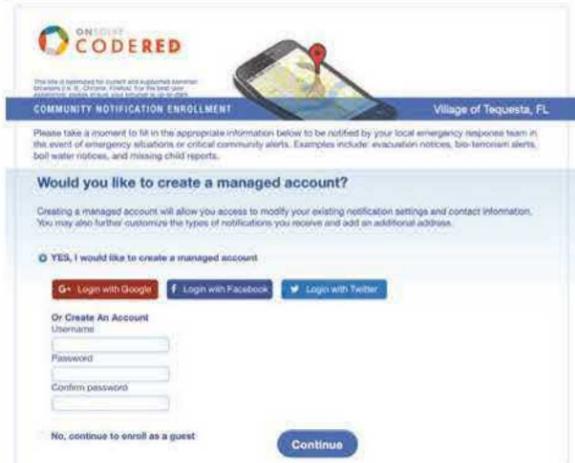
The Village has a webpage dedicated solely to projects affecting our residents, such as Brightline, Federal Bridge construction, well rehabilitations, water main replacements, sidewalk maintenance, etc. You can access this page at: [https://bit.ly/Projects\\_Residents](https://bit.ly/Projects_Residents). On the left hand side of the screen select the project you wish to view (ex: Brightline, Jupiter Federal Bridge).



## Register for Emergency and General Alerts

Stay updated on happenings in the Village and register to receive emergency and general alerts. The Village Clerk/Admin Public Information Officer sends out a weekly newsletter via email and text message that includes all things "Tequesta".

You can register at: <http://bit.ly/TequestaAlerts> or text **TequestaAlerts to 99411** to enroll from your electronic device.



## Kyle Stone - Continued from Page 1

Be humble. So much has changed these past few years. Recognize how blessed we are to live in this community.

What made Tequesta so special back then is the same reason that makes Tequesta so special now. Apparently, there are some things that do not change. So, I guess Pat was and is correct. Tequesta is the place that everyone wants to be. My hope is that 61 years from now, the residents of the Village of Tequesta will be able to say the same.

In 1967, Pat and Bill moved to Tequesta, raised their family and currently live on the Loxahatchee.

As always, it is a privilege to continue to serve you.

*Vice-Mayor Kyle Stone*

## Fire Safety Tips. How Annual Fire Inspections Help Tequesta

The Five E's help reduce the risk of every leading cause of fire. Annual Fire Inspections of all local businesses provide the opportunity to:

- Educate business owners about potential hazards.
- Offer advice on how to engineer work spaces for efficiency and safety.
- Enforce National Fire Safety and Prevention standards.
- Allow Emergency Responders to meet business owners, and get familiar with property in case of an emergency.
- Collectively, The Five E's help maintain the lucrative Economic Incentive of being a part of the ever beautiful Village of Tequesta.



## New Ladder Truck Build

Sutphen Corporation and South Florida Emergency Vehicles hosted a team from Tequesta Fire Rescue, made up of Fire Chief James Trube, FF Kris Wilhelm, FF Jason Fawcett, and Lt. Dave McGovern. The team was in Ohio to conduct the Pre Build Meetings for a New Ladder Truck and Pumper! Delivery of the Ladder Truck is expected by summer 2023, and the Pumper arriving in the fall of 2023.

## Open House and Hurricane Fair

On June 4th, from 9-11:30am, the Village of Tequesta Fire Rescue Department will hold an Open House and Hurricane Fair. Fire Chief James Trube welcomes you to the station to talk with local vendors and agencies about hurricane preparedness. Bring your children to meet Tequesta Firefighters, take a ride in the firetruck, have breakfast in the day room, and take a tour through the station. Visit the Tequesta Fire Rescue Facebook page to stay updated on events and important safety information.



## Mayor Ride Along

Tequesta Fire Rescue recently hosted Mayor Molly Young for a 'Ride Along'. Mayor Young took part in training, annual fire inspections, and even ran calls with the crew members of "A-Shift". Tequesta Fire Rescue wants to extend a huge Thank You to Mayor Young for joining our department staff!



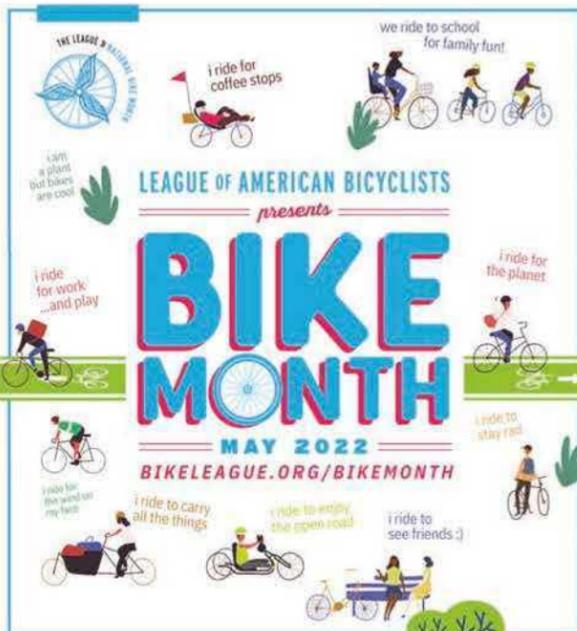
## Police Bike Rodeo



Tequesta Police Department hosted their annual Bike Rodeo event on March 26, 2022. The event was located at the First Baptist Church and was a HUGE SUCCESS! The Bike Rodeo focused on two important bicycling topics; first, it helped promote safe bicycling practices. Second, it helped educate young kids about how to safely bicycle in traffic congested areas and taught them the rules of the road. There were bicycles that were raffled off to winners, assistance with getting bikes inspected for safety checks, and TPD made sure helmets were properly fitted. The weather was perfect and we had some sweet treats that the kids enjoyed. We are looking forward to all that 2022 has to offer! Be Safe!



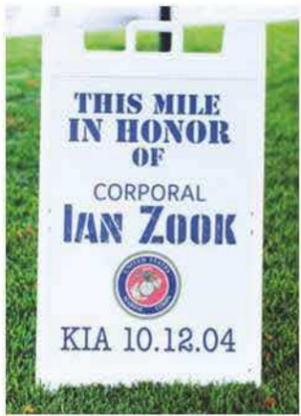
*Educating Kids on Safe Bicycling Practices*



# Believe With Me Freedom 4 Miler

Families of fallen soldiers will be hosting their 5th Annual "Freedom 4 Miler" this July 4th in Tequesta!

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN AND PARTICIPATE!



The Freedom 4 Miler is a 4 mile race/run or walk through the traditional "Run 4 the Pies" race route. Each mile is named after a local fallen soldier and their families are in attendance. Along each mile, signs about the fallen soldier (his favorite song, maybe his favorite movie or saying, a lifelong dream he had as a kid, or some funny nickname) will be added throughout his mile. Usually, his family will be along the mile route and participating in cheering on the runners. Some years we have had their mothers pass out favorite desserts or candies that the soldier loved as a child. It is truly a most meaningful and memorable race course - with every dime raised

during the event going directly to benefit Gold Star Families. You can register to run or walk, sign up to volunteer at the event, or just cheer outside your door the morning of July 4th!

## What you need to know:

- All money raised during this event benefits the families of fallen soldiers that have registered at Believe With Me.
- Since 2015, Believe With Me has served more than 6000 Gold Star Family members. One of our biggest projects each year is giving gifts to children of the fallen at Christmas!
- July 3rd at 6pm there will be a Gold Star Parade as we show our Families of the Fallen the race course and the miles honoring their loved ones. If you

are on the race course, DECORATE your home and garden! Prizes will be given out for best decorated yard on the 4 mile race course! \$150, \$100, and \$75 gift certificates to Giverny Gardens in Tequesta... Our Gold Star Families will be voting for the winning yard!



- Believe With Me will once again be lining the beautiful streets of Tequesta in American flags and decorating our course with photos of our fallen, props that memorialize the things they loved, and signs letting our racers "get to know" the heroes as they run or walk through the beautiful streets of the Village of Tequesta.

## Expect road closures along the route:

N Dover Rd (Constitution Park), West on N Dover Rd to Tequesta Dr, West to Riverside Dr, Continue West over Tequesta Dr bridge, West into Country Club El Portal entrance, North on Yacht Cl, South on Palmetto Way, South on Fairview West, North on Golfview Dr, Left on Club Place, South on River Dr including Point Circle, West on El Portal, West on Tequesta Dr to finish line N Dover Rd.



All those interested in participating please visit [BelieveWithMe.com](http://BelieveWithMe.com) to find out more about how our organization helps families of the fallen as well as how to register for the Believe With Me Freedom 4 Miler!

# Community Resilience Cycle

## FEMA Sea Level Rise and Flood Maps Overview

Flooding is one of the most common and costly disasters. The FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program provides quality flood hazard information that builds flood risk awareness leading to mitigation actions. Risk MAP provides flood hazard and flood risk information to FEMA stakeholders such as Tequesta. Today, most communities manage their flood risks through FEMA flood maps, otherwise known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The maps typically represent a single flood scenario (the 1% per annual-chance flood), which defines mandatory insurance purchase requirements and sets federal minimum standards for floodplain management. The maps represent coastal and riverine flood hazards. These Tequesta area maps are on file in the Tequesta Building Department.

FEMA recognizes key opportunities to deliver more consistent and comprehensive flood information through the Risk MAP program. Such information would more adequately convey a community or individual's flood risk and serve as a basis for a more risk informed National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Through an initiative known as the Future of Flood Risk Data (FFRD), FEMA is increasing Risk MAP's capability to provide a more comprehensive and dynamic picture of the country's flood hazards. FEMA is exploring how it can provide more consistent flood risk data across a full range of flood 9 FEMA Resources for Climate Resilience frequencies, not just the 1% annual-chance flood. FEMA is also exploring the capability to assess the impact of various future conditions scenarios on these flood frequencies.



## Audience/Program Beneficiary

All SLTT governments, including Tequesta, throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia and five territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands) are program beneficiaries. FEMA is working to identify other nontraditional stakeholders that could benefit from a better understanding of current and future flood risk.

## How Flood Maps Address Climate Change

FEMA strongly encourages communities to incorporate future conditions information into products, projects, and plans. Wherever possible, FEMA provides data and works in support of SLTT governments' needs and priorities.

The Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) has recommended that FEMA develop flood information conveying the potential impacts of future conditions. Since the TMAC issued its recommendations in 2015, FEMA has conducted several regional pilot studies (e.g., in San Francisco and New England) that consider drivers of change, such as sea level rise and coastal erosion.

Many federal agencies have data and expertise that can help communities increase their understanding of future flood risk. To avoid duplication of effort, FEMA routinely points communities to other federal agencies' tools (e.g., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Level Rise Viewer), when appropriate.

Source: FEMA Resources for Climate Resilience, December 2021.

Correction to the Silver Edge Financial Group business highlight that was included in the February 2022 Smoke Signals.



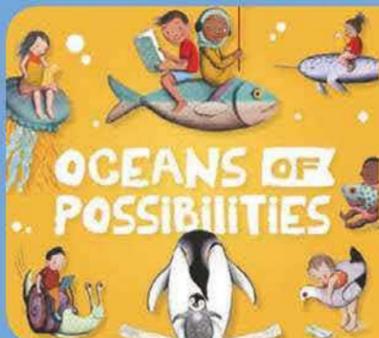
The Future of wealth management is here, and Silver Edge is leading the charge.

LIGHT UP A CHILD'S WORLD WITH A  
**FREE**  
LIBRARY ADVENTURE  
MUSEUM PASS

Summer is  
almost here!

Monday, June 6 - Friday, July 29

# Summer Reading Program 2022



Palm Beach County Library System is excited to present  
**OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES**

Summer Reading Program 2022. Readers of all ages are encouraged to register and receive their BINGO card to participate in the fun! Be sure to sign up at your local branch!

Completion prizes will be available (while supplies last):

- Little Learners ages (0-4) rubber crab
- Kids ages (5-11) downfish backpack
- Teens and Adults ages (12+) beach mat
- Entry drawing to win \$50.00 Amazon gift card grand prize!

# The Life Cycle of PET WASTE



Responsible pet owners pick up after their pets and properly dispose of it in the trash. **GOOD JOB!**

## Did you know?

The average dog discards approximately 0.5 to 0.75 pound of waste per day, which can add up to 275 pounds per year. Just one gram of dog waste can contain as many as 23 million microorganisms of bacteria.

**Pick up and dispose of your dog's waste.**

**EVERY DAY, EVERY TIME.**

Protecting our water quality takes effort from all of us together

**You can help prevent POO-LUTION by picking up after your dog.**

In the United States it is estimated that pet dogs produce over 21 billion pounds of dog waste each year, this can add up to a pile of problems. Unscoped pet waste not only increases health risks to humans and other pets, it greatly impacts local water bodies with excess nutrients, leading to potential algae blooms and fish kills.



**1**

The cycle begins out walking your dog. When they do their business ...



**2**

When not picked up and disposed of properly, pet waste stinks and is a hazard to step in, but that's only the beginning.



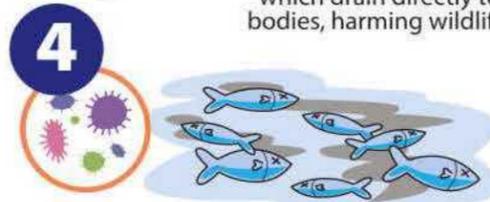
**3**

Un-scoped pet waste breaks down and washes into storm drains (carrying millions of bacteria), which drain directly to local rivers and water bodies, harming wildlife and the environment.



**4**

This BACTERIA can make their way into areas where you swim and fish - it could also end up in our aquifer, which is where our drinking water comes from! Pick up and dispose of your dog's waste



Once there, it can have MAJOR negative impacts. **Reduced Oxygen Levels** - decomposition of pet waste demands a high level of oxygen from water, reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available to plants and animals - resulting in fish kills. **Algae Blooms** - pet waste adds excess nutrients like those found in cow manure - resulting in algae blooms.

## Tequesta Remembers:

### Historic markers in the village



Constitution Park playground dedicated in 1996 to Christina Holt, a victim of child abuse.

Emergency Operations Center located in the Public Safety Building, 357 Tequesta Drive, dedicated to Council Member Joseph N. Capretta who served 16 years on the Council.

Fountain located on Village Green, 345 Tequesta Drive, transformed by Council Member Carlton Stoddard (1980-1987) into Fountain of Honor with residents' names.



9-11 Memorial, Village Green, 345 Tequesta Drive. Inspired by the heroes of the 9-11 attack, sponsored by Friends of Public Safety and dedicated to Council Member Jim Humpage.



Our Public Services Facility, 136 Bridge Rd, is dedicated to Russell K. White, who served in the Public Works Dept. for 36 years.



Gold Star Families Memorial located at the Constitution Park flagpole. Dedicated in 2019 "A tribute to Gold Star Families whose loved ones paid the ultimate price defending the USA; their sacrifice will not be forgotten."



## Fire Rescue Promotions

Join Tequesta Fire Rescue in congratulating Captain Raymond Giblin III, and Lieutenant Andre Dodd on their recent promotions. Both men have faithfully served the Village of Tequesta for over twenty years. They have earned the respect of their brother and sister firefighters, and the Village benefits greatly by having these two fire service professionals take their next steps in the leadership at Tequesta Fire Rescue.



## Star Award Winners

**VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA EMPLOYEES**

Michael Bendsneyder  
Lisa Conti  
Lee Ferguson

Matthew Hammond  
Jesse Jenkins  
David Tinoco



## Leaving Us

Hugh Dunkley	Finance	Finance Director
Lee Ferguson	Water Dept.	Customer Service
Jesus Jasso	Fire Rescue	Firefighter/Paramedic
Kathleen Maloney-Pollack	Finance	Accountant
Michelle Thomas	Finance	Accounting Clerk

## Anniversaries

Paul Beresford	5 yrs
Michael Loney	5 yrs
Tessa McKay	5 yrs
Stephen Mesagno	15 yrs

## Retirements

Allen Gibbs



# 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](http://www.tequesta.org/409/Hurricane-Information) or visit the Palm Beach County Emergency Management Division website at [www.pbcgov.com/dem/hurricane](http://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](http://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 personal 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.**

