



SMOKE SIGNALS

VILLAGE OF
TEQUESTA
NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

TEQUESTA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Dedicated Tequesta Environmental Committee Members Shine at BLM Volunteer Day Event

On September 23, the Village of Tequesta's Environmental Advisory Committee showcased its commitment to the environment as two of its members, Jessica Namath and Michelle Shearouse, participated in the Bureau of Land Management's Volunteer Day. The event drew participation from volunteers across the area and provided a collective effort aimed at enhancing the pristine beauty of the Lighthouse premises.



Jessica, with her vibrant spirit, took charge of a creative rock-painting activity that drew the attention of children and teenagers alike. Alongside this, she distributed Village of Tequesta logo swag items. She engaged visitors imparting valuable environmental knowledge.

Michelle Shearouse, in collaboration with the eco-conscious youth of Tequesta, undertook the crucial task of removing the invasive Love Vine. This parasitic plant, devoid of roots, clings onto its host and thrives, ultimately causing ecological disruptions. Michelle's participation in this endeavor allowed her to deepen her understanding of the local ecosystem, connecting her with memories of a time when the Love Vine thrived along US1 in the 1970s, before the area's development boom.

The involvement of Jessica Namath and Michelle Shearouse in the Bureau of Land Management's Volunteer Day is a shining example of the passion and dedication exhibited by Tequesta's Environmental Advisor Committee. Their contributions have left a lasting positive impact on the community and its environment.

HIGHLIGHT



Council Member Rick Sartory

My name is Rick Sartory, and I have had the honor and privilege of serving the residents of Tequesta as a member of the Village Council, Seat 5, since April 2023. In prior editions of Smoke Signals, my fellow council members have educated you on how to get involved with the Village. I will share a little about myself so you better understand my passion for Tequesta.

A native of West Palm Beach, I was born in Good Samaritan Hospital and grew up in West Palm Beach until age 13, moving then to western Lake Worth. I am a proud Palm Beach County School District system graduate, attending Forest Hill Elementary, Jefferson Davis Middle School, and John I. Leonard High School. After graduation, I attended Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, graduating in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management. I have been truly blessed over the past 35 years to work with so many wonderful people, friends, and mentors in commercial banking, mortgage lending, community development, and engagement. I am now serving as a civilian in law enforcement.

My wife, Maura, and I live on North Dover Road with Maura's children (my bonus children), Reid, age 12, and Mia, age 10. I have two adult children, Bryce and Savannah, who live in Denver, CO. After living in Palm Beach Gardens for 32 years, I am very proud to call the Village of Tequesta my home since July 2021. Maura and I love everything about our Village – the parks, the local shops and businesses, the community events at Constitution Park, Tequesta Fest, the Chili Cook-Off....

the list goes on and on! We can often be seen strolling the streets of Tequesta for an evening walk or on our boat, The SeaTory.

When Council Seat 5 became available due to a mid-term vacancy, I completed the necessary qualifying components and ran unopposed in the March 2023 election. In addition to submitting the requisite campaign documents, opening a campaign bank account, and getting up to speed on the historical, current, and future needs of the Village, a key part of the qualifying process is to obtain a minimum of 50 signatures from Village residents. I was fortunate enough to secure 109 signatures. In my experience, obtaining those signatures is the most enjoyable, educational, and rewarding part of the qualifying process. Our residents are very passionate about their vision for our Village, and it was rewarding to learn that my vision and priorities aligned very closely with those I was able to speak with.

I call my PRIORITIES the Sartory High Five:

1. A strong and robust Parks and Recreation department.
2. A clear and defined Capital Improvement Plan.
3. Keeping our Police and Fire Departments independent.
4. Maintaining a communicative and transparent Village Hall.
5. Supporting our local businesses, especially during the US1 bridge construction project.

And my **VISION** for our Village is simple – to keep Tequesta #TrulyTequesta!

I hope you will join me in my pursuit of making our Village the best it can be by creating your own High Five, and together, let's keep Tequesta #Truly Tequesta!

Yours for a stronger Village,

Rick Sartory
Council Seat 5

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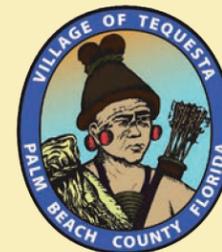
SMOKE SIGNALS

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Around the Village



Police Department

LOCAL FIREARM SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

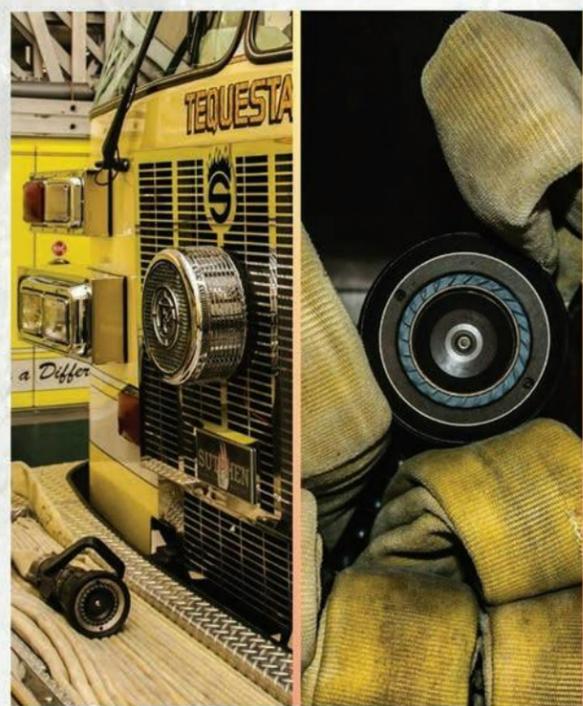
In September, Tequesta Police Department received \$60,731 in funding for the 2023-24 Local Firearm Safety Training Grant Program. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement received a total of 47 applications and were able to provide funding for 31 agencies. Some highlights of the program and general information are as follows:

- ❖ FDLE administered \$1.5 Million for several Local Firearm Safety Training Programs.
- ❖ This is an open competitive state grant program that Tequesta Police Department was able to secure for the citizens of Tequesta.
- ❖ Funds are used for firearms training equipment for residents.
- ❖ Under the New gun law (HB 543) signed by Governor DeSantis, Floridians are no longer required to apply for a concealed weapons license.
- ❖ Training will clarify any misconceptions about the new concealed carry law, instruct on the use of force, place students in controlled virtual reality training scenarios, provide firearm safety training, and instruct on basic shooting fundamentals.
- ❖ This grant allows TPD to create great relationships and provide personalized attention for our wonderful citizens.

The training is no cost to the residents, and no money is needed for matching grant funds. Please follow Tequesta Police Department's Facebook page for updates on training schedules.



1. Our ceremonial push in to recognize that Ladder 85 is officially in-service
2. Tequesta Fire Rescue, and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue recognize our medics swift response, the crew resuscitated the patient and saved their life
3. Badge Pinning Ceremony for FF/Medic Kayla Preston, and FF/Medic Joe Maiorana
4. Never Forget September 11th, our annual remembrance ceremony held at our 911 Memorial at Village Hall
5. Active Shooter response training with Tequesta Fire Rescue
6. Active Fire Chief James Trube, with retirees, and longtime employees of Tequesta Fire Rescue celebrating 30 years of serving the Village of Tequesta



NON COMBAT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Must be 18 or older

Help complete routine tasks so first responders can stay focused on saving lives

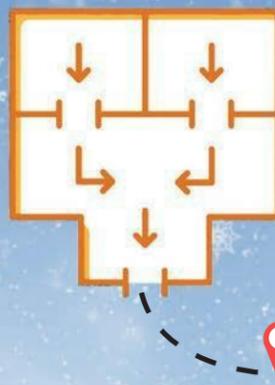
Applicants that qualify will be trained in:

- CPR
- Stop the Bleed
- Fire prevention
- How to operate a fire extinguisher
- Blood borne pathogens
- HIPAA compliance and more

Non-Combat volunteers will interact with the community during public education events, assist with maintenance of emergency vehicles, staff fire department events, make long lasting connections, and learn more about the department through assisting administration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 786-0557

Holiday Hazards & Escape Plans



SCAN ME



The holiday season is a time for celebration! But between the Christmas trees, holiday lights, candles, and decor, there are plenty of potential fire hazards in the home.

- Keep flammable items away from the stove, and never leave cooking food unattended
- Keep Christmas trees well-watered, and never leave candles burning unattended
- Keep burning candles a safe distance from hanging décor
- Check string lights for deterioration before plugging in. Ensure that your family will be safe if there is an emergency in your home.
- Draw a map of your home and establish two ways out
- Pick a place outside for everyone to meet after evacuating
- Test smoke alarms
- Practice this plan with everyone living in your home
- Make sure everyone knows how to dial 911

▶ WATER RATES, FEES AND CHARGES INCREASED 10/1/23

WHERE DO MY RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES GO? (Water Fund Information)

You are receiving this letter because your water utility service is provided by the Village of Tequesta's Utilities Department. The rates, fees, and charges collected for services provided by the water utility are placed into the "Water Fund," an enterprise fund created by the Finance Department to account for water utility operations. The water utility provides water for firefighting and drinking water within the water utility service area, and it's financed and operated similarly to private business enterprises. The costs of providing water utility services to our customers are financed or are entirely recovered through user charges, not property (ad valorem) taxes. All activities necessary to provide services are accounted for in this fund, including capital improvements, capitalized repair and replacements, administration, operations, regular maintenance, billing, and collection.



WHY DID MY RATES GO UP AND WHAT IS A CAPITAL RECOVERY CHARGE (CRC)?

Like many utilities nationwide, the water system has significant aging infrastructure and the Utilities Department (UD) has planned capital improvement projects (CIP) that are vital to sound water system operations. Several significant issues face the water system. The water treatment plants have components at or near their useful life expectancy and need safety, redundancy, rehabilitation, or efficiency upgrades. Aging pipes are another concern and many pipes are at or near their life expectancy. Aging infrastructure issues must be addressed before the risk of failure increases. Current operating and capital costs have risen

significantly over the past two years due to worldwide economic conditions. These conditions caused operating elements such as chemicals, meters, hydrants, and other resources to climb considerably and for existing capital projects to escalate drastically, by up to 60%. The water utility financial model was updated to reflect these cost increases, extended to 20 years, tied to the 20 year capital needs, and presented at the February regular Council meeting. At the July regular meeting, the Village Council approved and adopted a rate increase and a capital recovery charge (CRC) based on the financial model and CIP plan. The CRC will be charged based on an equivalent residential unit, will be used to fund only capital projects on the CIP list, and will only be in place as long as the currently planned programs are ongoing. It would sunset after that point. The charge will be \$10 per month on an average resident's water utility bill over a 20-year period, consistent with the financial plan presented to the Village Council. The CIP plan is reviewed and analyzed annually and projects may be reprioritized as required to maintain system integrity.

SUMMARY – RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023

Many dynamic factors help determine a water utility financial and rate plan, so the financial forecast and capital funding plan will be reviewed every two to four years or as needed, if some of the factors change significantly or a potential impact is recognized, especially in this current economy. Capital projects are reviewed annually for reprioritization or as needed. The water utility must maintain its financial health. We're in the business of public health and safety, providing fire protection through fire hydrants to our citizens and drinking water to our customers within our 4-square-mile water utility service area. Village leadership and elected officials recognize these facts and have supported the needed rate adjustments. Any approved rate increase does not mean the Village Council will stop searching for ways to lower rates if possible. The Village will continue to hunt for federal and state grants, county assistance, operational efficiencies, improved financial practices, and anything else to allow the Village to maintain rates in the future and reduce or eliminate the capital recovery charge if possible.

For additional information, please contact the Village of Tequesta Utilities Department at (561) 768-0700, or visit tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/12396/Resolution_14-23_7

READ... A Need You Can Feed

The Tequesta Team celebrated Florida City Government Week - October 16-22, 2023 by reading to the children at Good Shepherd School.

City government is the closest to our hearts and homes, and has the most direct daily impact on our lives. This week, we're proud to recognize the invaluable role our local government plays and their commitment to exceptional service.

On Tuesday, October 17, Mayor Molly Young, our Police Department, Village Clerk's Office, Utilities team, and Finance Department all came together to read to the children at The Good Shepherd School. Additionally, our Police Department discussed overall safety and our Finance Director explained the intricacies of municipal budgets.

This experience showcased the importance of unity and collaboration between our local government and our community and we appreciate Good Shepherd inviting us into their school! Together, we can make our Village an even better place to live, work, and play.



New Business Spotlight

The Village of Tequesta welcomes



ALIST Dance Company is a new dance school planting roots in Tequesta! ALDC strives to equip students with the necessary education, guidance and inspiration for a happier and healthier future. Their mission is to teach a life-long appreciation of dance and the performing arts while inspiring self-confidence, integrity and discipline in a safe and nurturing environment.

Offering classes for all ages and levels, this is truly a studio for everyone. Children can take a coursed training through styles such as Jazz, Ballet, Tap, HipHop, Contemporary and more. For adults, they offer dance-based fitness training, such as our HipHop Cardio class and Total Mat Movement!

ALIST Dance Company holds true to the Mind, Body and Spirit Initiative, valuing the education and understanding of their students throughout their growth as a dancer. Students are taught about protecting their bodies, mental well-being and spiritual health.

ALDC has been the dream of their Owner and Creative Director, Adrianna Espinoza-Folkes, since the age of 6! After a decade of teaching at other studios around the state, as well as professionally dancing for the likes of Sesame Street and others, she is excited to grow her own studio back home in South Florida.



www.alistdancecompany.com
studio@alistdancecompany.com
561-203-2669

@alistcompanydance
@alistcompanydance



Services Tequesta Offers Our Local Businesses

The Village of Tequesta provides information and resources for local businesses that include:

Think Tequesta Business Guide

*****.tequesta.org/1613/Think-Tequesta-Business-Guide

Valuable Resources

*****.tequesta.org/1493/Resources

Job Postings for your business

*****.tequesta.org/1535/Tequesta-Businesses-Job-Opportunities

Business Highlights

*****.tequesta.org/1456/Business-Highlights

Business Directory

*****.tequesta.org/BusinessDirectoryii.aspx

Useful links for Plan Review, Permits, Inspections, Code Enforcement and Business Tax Receipts

Visit our Website

*****.tequesta.org/1445/Businesses

to access these great tools and services. Also, be sure to reach out to your Building and Business Relations Officer, Nara Cavalcanti who coordinates special business-focused efforts and can be reached at ncavalcanti@tequesta.org.

STAR Studded Line Up

Help us Identify Exceptional Customer Service



Tequesta residents, businesses, customers and Council members have a unique opportunity to help identify and recognize our STAR Tequesta employees via our service recognition program. Village Manager, Jeremy Allen defines a Service Star as any employee who "raises the bar above and beyond the Village's customary, high performance standards!"

Have you engaged with any Tequesta employees who have raised the bar above and beyond? To make a nomination, complete the S.T.A.R. nomination form:

*****.tequesta.org/FormCenter/STAR-7/STAR-Nomination-50.



Frying a turkey can be a delicious and flavorful way to prepare your Thanksgiving meal. However, it is important to take precautions and follow safety guidelines to avoid any accidents.

- Use a fryer specifically designed for frying turkeys
- Ensure the fryer is on flat and stable ground away from any flammable objects.
- Use a thermometer to ensure the oil is heated to the correct temperature
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy
- Never leave the fryer unattended
- Call 911 in case of emergency

Star Award Winners

VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA EMPLOYEES

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Maynor Barrientos | Demetrius McDonald |
| Michael Bendsneyder | Michael McDonough |
| Doug Chambers | Ahilya Medford |
| MaryAnn Grieser | Joseph O'Conner |
| William Hoysradt III | Walter Paris |
| Jesse Jenkins | Juan Rivas |
| John Lundgren | Emir Yildiz |
| Diana Manali | |



Joining Us

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Wayne Cameron | Building Director |
| Lisa D'Orlando | Recreation Specialist 1 |
| Marc Fishman | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| Olivia Herron | Part-Time Maintenance Worke |
| Joseph Hobin | Firefighter/Paramedic I |
| Jay Hubsch | Community Development Director |
| Luis Nicolas | Human Resource Assistant |
| John Pruitt III | Police Officer |
| Catherine Wagner | Planner |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Maynor Barrientos | 5 Years |
| Nathan Litteral | 5 Years |
| Joseph O'Connor | 10 Years |
| John Wallace | 15 Years |
| James Trube | 30 Years |



VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA BUDGET PROCESS

The annual budget process and document are arguably one of the most essential responsibilities of the Village Council. This document defines four key roles explaining the work of the Village Council to the Village's residents and business community and those considering living or investing in the Village.



- The budget serves as a policy document providing information concerning the policies, goals, and objectives for the coming year; it further explains the budget process to reach the goal and statutory obligation of a balanced budget.
- The budget is the financial plan that explains the fiscal structure and operation of the Village's major revenue sources and expenditures proposed for the coming year. This information provides projections for current year financial activity and comparison to historical and past programs.
- The budget serves as an operations guide used by the Village Council and Village Staff to determine whether and to what extent we are reaching or exceeding the desired levels of service that our residents and visitors have come to expect over the years.

Most importantly, this budget document is utilized to comprehensively communicate and provide transparency to the public on how the Village of Tequesta operates within prescribed guidelines and recommended and accepted practices to achieve its goals.

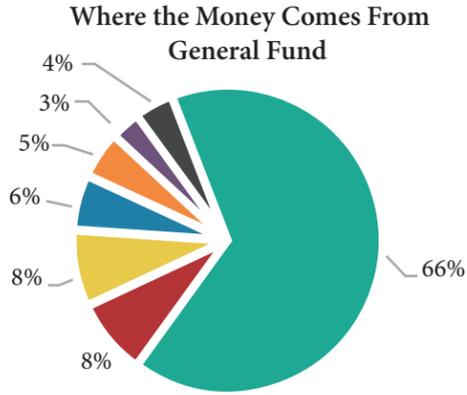
Each year, the Village is required to appropriate an annual balanced budget and set the millage rate, which is applied to the assessed value on Village property. The proposed budget is balanced and meets state statutory requirements. A balanced budget means the total resources available (including reserves) are sufficient to cover the appropriated expenditures/expenses, which is the case with the proposed budget.

During the 2023/2024 budget process, The Village Council established a vision for the Village: to preserve and enhance the unique character, community spirit, small-town values, and superior quality of life for all who reside, visit, and work in Tequesta.

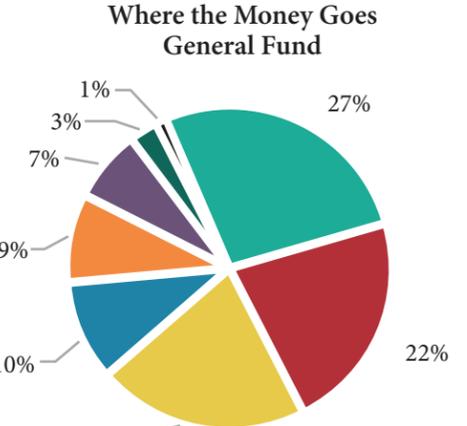
The millage rate approved was 6.4595 mills or a 2.56% reduction. Although the millage rate was decreased, the Village will still see an increase in its ad valorem tax revenue due to an overall increase in the taxable values of properties. New construction accounted for 11% of the total increase. The additional ad valorem revenues will be used to fund two additional firefighters, establish a sustainable funding source for deferred street maintenance, continue our sidewalk improvement program, and will help fund Remembrance Park. This budget addresses the Village Council's strategic goals of public infrastructure and safe, livable, family friendly way of life.

For comprehensive information on our budget, visit our Finance Budget page:

[*****village-tequesta-fl-budget-book.cleargov.com/12161/introduction/transmittal-letter](https://village-tequesta-fl-budget-book.cleargov.com/12161/introduction/transmittal-letter)



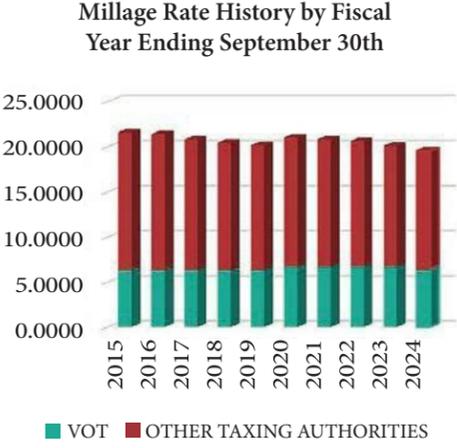
- Ad Valorem Taxes
- Sales & Use Taxes
- Changes for Services
- Intragovernmental
- Franchise Fees
- Other Misc. Revenues



- Fire Rescue
- Police
- General Government
- Transportation
- Debt Service
- Interfund Transfers
- Allocate to Fund Balance
- Leisure Services
- Code Compliance

Village of Tequesta Fiscal Year 2023/2024	
Estimated Revenues	
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 11,524,090
Sales and Use Taxes	\$ 1,350,252
Franchise Fees	\$ 530,938
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 984,222
Charges for Services	\$ 1,498,500
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 653,207
Intragovernmental Services	\$ 902,991
Total Revenues	\$ 17,444,200
Transfers In	\$ -
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets	\$ -
Total Revenues, Transfers & Balances:	\$ 17,444,200
Estimated Expenditures	
General Government	\$ 3,702,340
8,622,352 Public Safety	\$ 8,622,352
Transportation	\$ 1,626,076
Leisure Services	\$ 1,201,176
Debt Service	\$ 542,250
Other Financing Uses	\$ -
Total Expenditures:	\$ 15,694,194
Transfers Out	\$ 1,700,008
Fund Balances/Reserves/Net Assets	\$ 49,998
Total Appropriated Expenditures, Transfers, Reserves & Balances:	\$ 17,444,200

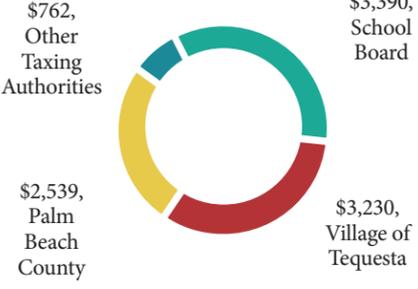
Proposed Budget for Other Funds Village of Tequesta Fiscal Year 2023/2024	
\$ 1,187,970	
Building Fund	\$ 1,187,970
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 1,253,964
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 2,084,895
Water Utility Fund	\$ 19,004,143
Refuse & Recycling Fund	\$ 612,600
Storm Water Fund	\$ 827,318
Special Law Enforcement	\$ 164,661
Total for Other Funds	\$ 25,135,551



2023 Property Value Highlights

- The gross taxable value of property for operating purposes is \$1,877 million, an increase of 26.03%.
- The new taxable value is \$161,814,042 or 11% of the total increase for 2123.
- Homesteaded property taxable value is capped at the lessor of CPI or 3%. 90% of Village Residents have homestead protection.

Proposed 2023 Ad Valorem Taxes Paid for a Homesteaded Holme with a Value \$550,000



* Calculations do not include the "Save Our Homes" cap



PARKS AND RECREATION

Breast Cancer Awareness

At the Tequesta Recreation Center, there is no shortage of pink! The women in our fitness classes wore pink today to honor those who have survived breast cancer and those who have passed.



Van Clan Outing

Our Van Clan group had a tasty and enlightening day with lunch at Benihana followed by a trip to the Elliot Museum.



UPCOMING PARKS AND REC EVENTS



Friday, November 17

Breakfast at Cracker Barrel & Scenic Tour Ride, Hutchison Island.

For more information and to register, visit Tequesta.recdesk.com



Constitution Park • Saturday, December 9

Visit Tequesta.recdesk.com for more information.



Santa's Mailbox

BEGINNING NOVEMBER 20, WRITE SANTA A LETTER AND HE WILL WRITE YOU BACK.

Mailbox located inside the rec center. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included. Santa's mailbox will close on December 18.

Santa Ride

Listen for the sirens as Santa is escorted through the Village. Santa will have a few friends with him, tossing treats. 2:00-4:00 pm

December 24



Shop VOT



Nov 25 - Dec 17

Support Tequesta businesses and you could win big! Submit a receipt from any incorporated Tequesta business of \$10+ to be entered to win prizes.

Submit your receipts at:
Village Hall: 345 Tequesta Dr.
Parks & Rec: 399 Seabrook Rd.
Via email to nacavalcanti@tequesta.org

Receipts not accepted: ATM receipts, receipts for medication that is fully covered by insurance, receipts for less than \$10, receipts for businesses outside of the incorporated Village of Tequesta, outside the shop dates or receipts where you have returned the items.