



SMOKE SIGNALS

VILLAGE OF
TEQUESTA
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

NEW TEQUESTA COUNCIL IS SWORN IN

The Tequesta Council welcomed two new faces and one familiar face on Thursday, April 11, 2024, when newly elected Council Member Jayson French and returning Council Members Laurie Brandon and Rick Sartory were sworn into office.



**Council Member
Jason French**



**Vice-Mayor
Rick Sartory**



**Council Member
Laurie Brandon**

Jayson French is deeply rooted in our Village and committed to enriching our community. With 18 years as a Firefighter/Paramedic and an entrepreneur with two successful small businesses, Mr. French has developed a knack for quick, impactful decisions and strategic problem-solving. His leadership journey and board roles in various organizations have honed his skills in budget management, consensus-building, and navigating complex political landscapes. He is passionate about the outdoors, from mountain biking in Jonathan Dickinson State Park to family boating days. He

draws inspiration from nature for his vision of Tequesta: a safe, thriving community where families flourish. He wishes to serve and protect the unique lifestyle, ensuring Tequesta remains a vibrant place for generations to come.

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.

Laurie Brandon, a Native Floridian, grew up in South Florida, spending most of her time at the dance studio, on stage, or climbing trees. Laurie studied art design, commercial marketing, and business operations and has management experience in business and human resources. She is an engaged community member, serving on the Tequesta Country Club HOA's social committee, and is an active volunteer in the local schools. Laurie enjoyed growing up around music, dance, photography, and visual arts. With her love of music from a young age, she started playing music at age eight and has enjoyed music from every genre and generation!

Council approved the contract for the following roads to be repaved this fiscal year - Yacht Club Place (North of El Portal), Palmetto Way, Fairview East, Fairview West, Fair Place, Golfview Drive, Club Place, Golf Place, View Place, and Bunker Place. We will also be replacing sidewalks on Seabrook Road.

In March, Council held our annual Strategic Planning Workshop, where we discussed and selected our top priorities for the next couple of years. Some of the priority items that Council wants to accomplish are - provide additional match funding towards the State appropriation for Tequesta Park; consider Remembrance Park Phase 2; identify additional CIP funding sources due to the sun setting of the Infrastructure Surtax in 2025; conduct fee analysis on our Storm Water Enterprise Fund; start high-level Transportation and Mobility planning; implement a citizen-led petition process for undergrounding overhead utilities; and coastal resiliency advocacy and planning.

Lastly, I could not go without congratulating Vice Mayor Rick Sartory and Council Members Laurie Brandon and Jayson French for being sworn into office in April. I take so much pride in serving with such a strong and professional Council. We always strive to make the best decisions that we trust will keep us on the right path to protect and enhance the character and quality of the Village that our residents expect and deserve. To help us make these decisions, we always want to hear from you! You are the eyes and ears of what makes the Village amazing! You can contact all Council Members by email at once or individually here on our website - <https://tequesta.org/58/Council-Member-Bios>. You can also attend our public meetings and speak to the Council during public comment. Here is some helpful information on public participation and general Council meeting procedures: <https://tequesta.org/1133/Council-ProceduresRules-of-Decorum>.

Thank you for reading this and for allowing me to represent this wonderful community.

Mayor Molly Young

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SMOKE SIGNALS

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HIGHLIGHT



**Mayor
Molly Young**

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of Spring and heading into Summer! We soon get to celebrate graduations, enjoy summer vacations, and, of course, prepare for and stay vigilant for hurricane season.

I want to take the time here to update our community on items discussed last time I wrote to you:

After several years of working with our State Legislators to secure state funding to go towards commencing the design for the re-imagined plan for Tequesta Park, I am happy to report that \$340,884 made it onto the state budget this past legislative session. We await the Governor's budget approval and hope he will not veto the funding. Other exciting Parks and Rec news is that in April, the Council approved the construction contract for Phase 1 of Remembrance Park. We are thrilled to see this passive park with walking paths, benches, shade pavilions, a butterfly garden, historical signage, and more come to life for our community.

This Spring, we accomplished the first phase of our Tree Canopy Enhancement Plan along Tequesta Drive. Invasive trees were removed, and gaps in the tree canopy were filled with trees such as oaks and sable palms. On April 26th, we held our Arbor Day celebration, planting the last oak tree on Tequesta Drive and applied to the Tree City USA program.

Our Public Works department continues to work hard on our Road and Sidewalk Capital Improvement Plans. In April, the

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Around the Village



Fire Rescue

New Pumper Arrives

It's here. Our new pumper (Engine 85) has arrived. It is a custom-built Sutphen on a G9XL body, powered by a 450hp Cummins diesel engine with an Allison transmission. The apparatus is equipped with a 1500 GPM Hale single-stage pump with 1000 gallons of water and a 30-gallon foam tank. It will carry extrication equipment and be fully supplied with Advanced Life Support equipment and supplies. Our crews will spend the next four weeks training with the vehicle before it officially goes "In-Service."



Tequesta Fire Officer – Train the Trainer Class

Did you know Tequesta Fire Officers meet every two months for a "train the trainer" class and work with the on-duty shift for a specific skill set? Pictured here, our firefighters are practicing "May Day" procedures, including radio traffic, rapid intervention team activation, search, and stabilization/removal of an unconscious firefighter.



American Legion Award

On March 30th, we were honored to attend the American Legion Post 271 Police and Fire Rescue Awards Banquet. Firefighter/Paramedic Zach Wichert was recognized as our Firefighter of the Year (2023). We want to thank the American Legion Post 271 for recognizing our firefighters and for their service to our country. **Our Team, from Left to Right...** FF Joseph Maiorana, FF Mark Fishman, Lt. Jason Fawcett, FF Vanessa Allison, FF Zach Wichert (Our firefighter of the year), Captain Dave Mc Govern, and Fire Chief James Trube.



Our Fire Department Retirees Breakfast

Past meets present, the old guys (retirees and originals) return to the fire house. We all stand on the shoulders of past generations. **Left to Right ...** Current Medical Director Don Tanabe, Retired Capt. Bud Burnsed, Retired Capt. Bill Newbern, Retired Capt. Dan Tilles, Former Lt. Bill Davis, Current Fire Chief James Trube, former Capt. Alex Nathanson and Retired FF/PM Peter Allen.



Annual CPR Day

On February 24th, Tequesta Fire Rescue held its 1st Annual CPR Day at the Tequesta Community Center. We taught over 40 residents how to save a life using "Hands-Only CPR." The program was planned and organized by our "Non-Combat Volunteers." Additionally, our personnel can certify you through the American Heart Association Adult and Pediatric CPR program. Please contact our office if you are interested in any of our CPR programs or if you would like to volunteer as a Non-Combat member of our department.



Around the Village

Fire Rescue

Fire Family Picture Day

On April 6th we celebrated our Fire Families through our Fire Family Picture day at Tequesta Fire Rescue. Being a member of a small town Fire Department means being a close member of everyone's family. You are there in good times and bad. You share personal victories and defeats. We rejoice, celebrate and when necessary console each other. We are one Family.



Police Department

Tequesta Police Department offers Home Check Services



Did you know the Tequesta Police Department offers home check services while you are away? As part of our commitment to enhancing community security, the Tequesta Police Department's Closed Homes Program is a proactive initiative to bolster home security and provide residents peace of mind during their absence. Through this program, our dedicated Citizens Observer Patrol (C.O.P.) unit conducts weekly patrols to monitor properties while homeowners are away. These patrols entail checks to ensure all doors are securely locked, no unauthorized vehicles are parked on the property, and any unusual changes or activities are promptly reported to the Police Department. By providing proactive surveillance, the program aims to reassure homeowners that their properties are being looked after in their absence, ultimately enhancing community safety and security.

Furthermore, we offer free Alarm Permit and Emergency Contact applications. We encourage all residents and business owners with security systems to complete the application so our officers know who to contact in case of an activation of your alarm. Even if you don't have a security system, businesses can provide the Tequesta Police Department with key holder and owner contact information so we can reach out if needed.

At the Tequesta Police Department, our mission is to serve and protect our community. Your security is our priority, and we are here to serve you with professionalism, integrity, and compassion. The Closed Home and Emergency Contact forms can be picked up in person, emailed, or can be found online: <https://www.tequesta.org/1104/Forms>

Please contact us with any questions: (561) 768-0505

Capital Improvements

Sidewalks

The Village Council approved continuing services for sidewalk construction improvements. The Public Works Department is in year three (3) of the Sidewalk Improvement Plan.

The Department has identified the need for sidewalk construction improvements on the West and East Sides of Seabrook Road from Tequesta Drive to the Village limits before Russell Street. The damaged concrete sidewalk will be removed and replaced at a 6" depth at 3000psi. Sections of the asphalt sidewalk will be replaced with concrete at a 6" depth at 3000psi. ADA mats will be placed on all intersecting cross streets. The project will include root pruning, grading, and sod replacement. The Department will utilize the current Construction Services Contract with Wynn and Sons Construction Company, Inc. Wynn and Sons Estimate: \$171,547.55. View Presentation: <https://tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/12699/Capital-Improvement-Projects>

Roadway

The Village Council approved continuing roadway construction improvements in the Village. The Public Works Department is in year three (3) of the Roadway Improvement Plan.

The Department, along with the Engineering Consulting firm Kimley Horn and Associates, has completed an assessment of the roadway surface and subsurface. The analysis determined that the existing subgrade and base material have a relatively high level of stability and strength.



The Engineer has developed construction plans to mill, resurface, repair depressions, and add a leveling course (or asphalt overbuild) to meet the new pavement grade before resurfacing the roadway. The construction plans will set the new roadway grades and road crown to meet existing driveway approaches. Flush concrete header curbs will be installed at all intersecting roads to protect the edge of the road and turning radius. The following nine (9) roads are included in this project:

- Yacht Club Place (North of El Portal)
- Palmetto Way
- Fairview East
- Fairview West
- Club Place
- Fairview West
- Fair Place
- Golfview Drive
- Club Place
- Golf Place
- View Place
- Bunker Place

Wynn and Sons has provided a proposal based on the construction plans and the current contract rates. Total Cost Estimate: \$740,498.06.

<https://tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/12699/Capital-Improvement-Projects>

VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA Alert Tequesta

ALERT TEQUESTA

Don't be the Last to Know!

Sign up Today to Receive:

- Friday Newsletter via email and/or text
- Text Messages
- Cell Phone Alerts
- Land Line Alerts
- Email Alerts

[Tequesta.org/1178/Emergency-Alerts](https://tequesta.org/1178/Emergency-Alerts)

Need help registering? Contact the Village Clerk's Office at 561-768-0440.



Village of Tequesta

Public Notices Portal
https://bit.ly/VOT_LegalNotices

The Village of Tequesta, per F.S. 50.3011, publishes our legal advertisements and public notices on the Palm Beach County publicly accessible website.

Use the link above or the QR Code to the right to view the Village's Public Notices via our Public Notice Portal.



Get the latest notices on hearings, meetings, workshops, council meetings, and advisories.

Remembrance Park Update



Council approved awarding construction of Remembrance Park to E&F Florida Enterprises, Inc. D/B/A Creative Contracting Group for \$1,176,900.00.

This project consists of constructing Remembrance Park Phase 1, located at 483 Seabrook Road, Tequesta, Florida 33469. The Park will feature an aggregate pathway, two (2) shade pavilions, a butterfly garden, signage, a parking lot, pavers, perimeter fencing, concrete sidewalks, site furnishings, landscaping, and irrigation. For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.tequesta.org/1509/Parks-Master-Plan>



Building Safety Month is a national campaign in May to raise awareness about building safety and the importance of building codes to ensure safety in the spaces in which we live, work, play, and learn.

All communities need building codes to protect their citizens from fires, weather-related events, and structural collapse. Building codes are society's best way of protecting homes, offices, schools, manufacturing facilities, stores, and entertainment venues. The Village of Tequesta Code officials work day in and day out to keep our community safe.



This year's "Mission Possible" campaign encourages people to get involved in all aspects of building safety. Modern homes and buildings incorporate the latest building codes and are designed to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks, including natural disasters. While building safety professionals help maintain this system, there are preventative tasks that contribute to occupant health, occupant safety and security, and overall sustainability. Here, we've listed a few brief disaster preparedness and mitigation tips to keep your home or your business safe: Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

(https://iccsafe.org/wp-content/uploads/BSM_10_Disaster_Safety_Tips.pdf)

- Develop a family action plan and share it with everyone in your family so you will know where to go in the event of a declared evacuation.
- Review at least two exit routes from your home or neighborhood to a designated meeting place for your family.
- Create a disaster supply kit that will allow you to remain in your home after a disaster or for use after evacuating to a safer location. Be sure the necessities in your kit are fresh and restored as necessary.
- Stay tuned to radio, TV, and NOAA Weather Radio for official updates and critical life-saving weather information. Remember, reception is usually best if placed near a window.
- Flooded roads could have significant dangers hidden by floodwaters. Never drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. It takes only six inches of fast-flowing water to sweep you off your feet and two feet of water to move an SUV-sized vehicle.
- If you live in a high wind or hurricane-prone area and do not have tested, code-approved shutters for protection from windborne debris, consider temporarily protecting your doors and windows by mounting exterior grade, 7/16" minimum thickness plywood and fastening it into place.
- Secure lawn furniture and any other loose outdoor items that can become windborne and cause injury or damage during storms with high winds. Don't forget trash cans, grills, toys, and potted plants.



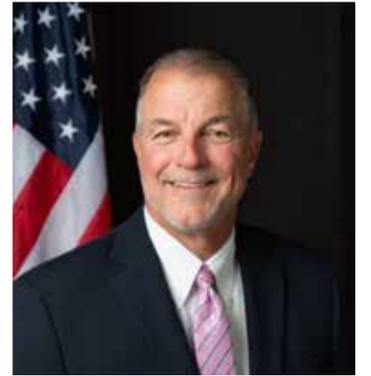
Elections

Mayor and Vice-Mayor Elected

Following the swearing-in, Council elected Molly Young to serve as the Village's Mayor for the third consecutive year, and Rick Sartory's peers elected him to serve as the Vice-Mayor. The Tequesta Council is excited to welcome new and returning members and congratulates the new leadership appointments.



Mayor Molly Young



Vice-Mayor Rick Sartory



As hurricane season approaches, it is time again to think about preparedness. Avoid the last minute scramble in the days before a storm, make time now to consider the following:

- **Evacuation plan.** If you needed to pack up and leave your home with a days' notice, where are you going, and what are you taking with you?
- **Secure essential documents.** Locate and store them in a place that is safe from the elements.
- **Gather supplies.** Store several days' worth of nonperishable food, and water for each person (and pet) in your home. It is always good to have a radio, flashlights, and back-up batteries as part of your survival kit.
- **Perform a quality check** on tools and supplies used to secure your home during the storm, like shutters, power tools, and generators.



VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA EMPLOYEES	Star Award Winners	
	Bryan Naranjo Silvina Donaldson	
Joining Us		
Diana Zirpolo	Bld. Permit Coordinator/Lic. Clerk	
Ashleah Hainline-Zimmerle	Administrative Assistant	
Jack Medford	Recreation Specialist	
Noah Huckins	Recreation Specialist	
Robert Kowalski	Police Officer	
Steve Huckisson	Police Officer	
Mike Schragger	Service Technician Trainee	
Alice Everard	Zoning/Planning Administrator	
Anniversaries		
Mark Spurgeon		25 Years
Kathleen Worley		20 Years
Jason Fawcett		20 Years
Matt Muniz		10 Years
James Stack		5 Years
Ahilya Bharat-Medford		5 Years
Anniversaries		
Janet McCorkle		
Debra Telfrin		

Artificial Turf Regulations

Are you considering artificial turf for your property but are unsure how to proceed or what is allowed? As we strive for sustainable and aesthetically pleasing landscapes, it's important to highlight the current Village regulations regarding the use of artificial turf, adopted in December 2023. These guidelines ensure that our green spaces remain vibrant, eco-friendly, and compliant with the highest standards.

Permitted Locations

Artificial turf is permitted on properties with single-family or two-family dwellings. Special exception approval is needed for commercial or mixed-use zones prior to obtaining the required building permit.

Front yards can have turf as a decorative grid alongside approved pavement materials only, while side and rear yards are permitted when concealed from view from the adjacent right-of-way. If you choose to use artificial turf, including putting greens, it may cover up to ten percent of the required landscape area on any lot.

Quality Standards

We emphasize quality in artificial turf installations. Artificial turf shall consist of green, life-like individual blades that emulate natural grass in color, texture, and size. To uphold durability and functionality, it must meet specific criteria such as a minimum pile height, tufted weight, and permeability.

Installation and Maintenance

Once you obtain a permit from the Building department, follow the manufacturer's specifications. Every step is crucial for longevity, from anchoring against wind effects to ensuring adequate drainage. Our guidelines also outline strict maintenance practices to keep turf areas clean, weed-free, and visually appealing.

Putting Greens

If you're planning on building a backyard putting green, our regulations provide clear guidelines on size limits, drainage plans, and permit requirements. These measures ensure that the greens blend seamlessly into the landscape.



Existing Turf Considerations

We understand that some properties may already have artificial turf installed before adopting these regulations and, therefore, do not meet the current code. The turf can remain until replacement time when full compliance is required.

Obtaining a permit

Remember, installing artificial turf requires a building permit from the Building Department. When planning your landscape, you can find detailed specifications in our Code of Ordinances Sec. 78-396.5. For assistance with your permit application, contact the Building Department at 561-768-0450 or via email at permits@tequesta.org.

Save the Swales

Protect Florida's Water



Do you know what a swale is? How about a berm?

When land is converted from its natural state to other uses, such as roads, homes, and shopping centers, many impervious or paved surfaces are created. Rainfall becomes stormwater when it can no longer soak into the ground and "runs off" the impervious surfaces.

The volume, speed and pollutants of stormwater runoff increase with land development. Stormwater management practices are used to retain or detain runoff to filter out the pollutants. These practices also minimize flooding, protect property and reduce pollution of water bodies.

SWALES are one of the most commonly used stormwater practices. For many years, swales have been used to direct runoff from rural highways and residential streets.

Today, swales not only direct stormwater but also help filter runoff and reduce pollutants.

A swale slows down the rapid flow of stormwater runoff by ponding water between its sloping sides, often called berms. The ponding not only slows the rate of flow but allows pollutants to settle out of the water. When the swale becomes full, the cleaner surface water will spill over the berm and slowly run into a local water body. Eventually, the remaining ponded water will either evaporate or infiltrate into the soil.

What YOU Can DO...

- Let water pond. Runoff should temporarily pond in the swale for 24 to 26 hours.
- Mow the swale but keep it at a good grass growth.
- Remove and compost leaves and grass clippings from swales.
- Minimize use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.
- Understand that sometimes swales must be dug out in order to reestablish their shape - this allows swales to continue doing their job, collecting soil so it does not reach water bodies.
- Do not pile garbage, trash, leaves, limbs or garden debris in swales - this adds pollutants which can wash into downstream waters.
- Do not pave the swale - this reduces the filtration and infiltration of runoff.
- Do not park vehicles in the swale - this compacts the soil so less runoff soaks in.

Contact the following for more information!

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Nonpoint Source Management
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
Phone: (850) 245-7508

MIDWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE FLORIDA DIVISION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
1470 Treeland Blvd., SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
Phone: (321) 723-4547

N M B PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT
17050 NE 19th Avenue
North Miami Beach, FL 33162
Phone: (305) 948-2967

This Save the Swales article was written and provided by the three entities above.



Stormwater and Me!

Keep pollution out of our waters



What you can do to help keep our waters clean!

Reporting Illegal Dumping and Illicit Discharges

Only stormwater belongs in a storm drain

Did You Know



Stormwater is the excess rainfall that isn't absorbed into the ground and runs off to nearby lakes, canals, the Intracoastal Waterway, and the ocean. Along the way, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and carry them into our surface waters. Much of this stormwater receives little or NO treatment! That means that what goes in, comes out, in to the waters we use for fishing, boating and swimming.

Intentional dumping and discharging into stormwater systems, as well as accidental spills that could enter the system should be reported immediately so remedial action can be taken by the proper response team.

Why it Matters

- **Debris** can be harmful to wildlife
- **Nutrients** (from leaves, grass, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides) can lead to fish kills and excessive amounts of algae in the water
- **Bacteria** (from pet waste and dead animals) can produce health concerns
- **Sediment** can reduce the system's ability to handle potential flooding and adversely affect aquatic organisms
- **Chemicals, oils, and paints** can be toxic to plants and animals

These are some things that should not be discharged to or placed in a stormwater

- Leaves or Grass Clippings
- Wash water with Detergents
- Fertilizers, herbicides, or Pesticides
- Sediment or debris

How you can help...

If you suspect a discharge or spill is hazardous, **call 911!**

For all other discharges, spills and illegal dumping, do one of the following:

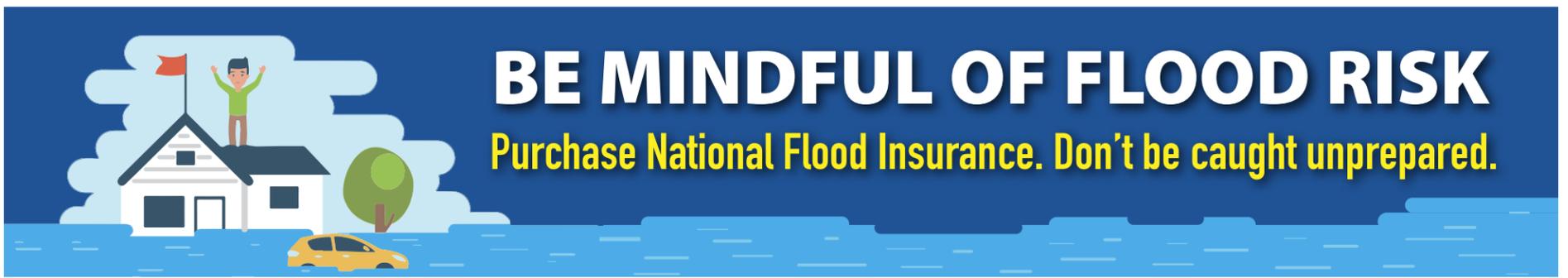
Call the local entity responsible for the stormwater system.

(A reporting list may be found at www.StormwaterAndMe.org).

Call the FDEP Environmental Crimes toll-free number:

1-877-2-SAVE-FLA (1-877-272-8335) or #DEP from your cellular phone





Living close to water has benefits, and flood hazards often accompany those benefits. Although today, we realize there is much better information about floods and construction engineering than just a few decades ago. Floods still take a heavy toll on society; costing lives, damaging buildings and property, disrupting livelihoods, and often necessitating federal disaster relief, which has risen to record levels in recent years.

Weather-related disasters over the last several decades and extreme weather events have been happening more frequently, resulting in more significant losses, costs, and damages. Additionally, climate variability and change add many uncertainties to future flood risk estimates, and costs for the engineering of projects to withstand flooding are rising. Communities across the country are now looking ahead and making decisions that will hopefully increase their economic and ecological resilience and minimize their risks. Many are attempting to determine how climate change may affect them in the future and how officials can incorporate the best available data into short-term and long-term decision-making.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), also known as flood hazard maps, are important tools in the effort to protect lives and properties in communities across the nation. By showing the extent to which areas of the Village and individual properties are at risk for flooding, these flood maps help residents and business owners make better financial decisions about protecting their property. However, flood risks are dynamic and can change over time. Water flow and drainage patterns can be altered dramatically due to surface erosion, land use, and natural forces. As a result, flood maps for some areas may no longer accurately portray the current flood risks. Consequently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been updating the nation's flood maps using the latest data gathering and mapping technology.



There are three types of Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) present in the Village of Tequesta: • **The floodway (river),** • **The flood fringe (river banks),** • **Coastal Storm Surge velocity flooding.**

We are affected by two forks of the Loxahatchee River in the Village (the North and Northwest), as well as the Inter-Coastal Waterway/Jupiter Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. Areas lying east of Federal Highway are particularly vulnerable to flooding from hurricane storm surges, while people to the west may be vulnerable to riverine flooding. Historically, the Village of Tequesta has mainly been subject to flooding caused by tropical storms or heavy downpours during afternoon thunderstorms. It just takes one storm to cause a flood, and just a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage often necessitating federal disaster relief.

The Village of Tequesta has been a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 1992, which makes it possible for Village property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. National Flood Insurance is the best hope to keep residents from paying for the damage out of pocket since homeowners, renters and business insurance policies typically don't cover flood damage.

National Flood Insurance is available to any owner of insurable property for a building or its contents. Tenants may also insure their personal property against flood loss. The actual costs will vary depending upon the amount of coverage and the degree of flood hazard. Contact your insurance carrier regarding flood insurance availability, rates and coverage for your property.

Flood insurance is required in certain instances, such as purchasing a home with a federally backed mortgage. Residents need to be aware of the following:

- There is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance policies;
- New flood insurance policies will not be written once a storm is approaching;
- Premiums for flood insurance policy holders provide the financial recovery for insured flood losses - not tax funds;
- With insurance proceeds, policyholders can repair or rebuild damaged homes, clear away debris, and replace business inventories and personal belongings;
- Flood insurance policyholders don't need to rely solely on federal disaster loans that must be repaid with interest;
- Flood insurance claims are usually handled quickly, helping flood victims rebuild homes and businesses.

As a community participating in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), the **Village of Tequesta qualifies for a 20% discount on flood insurance.** To acquire and maintain CRS discounts, the Village continues to implement flood awareness and mitigation programs in an effort to provide better information and assistance to its homeowners and businesses. The Village provides a status report to the NFIP each year and maintains a Class 6 CRS rating.

Reduce the financial impact of flooding by taking steps yourself before disaster strikes. Many residents and business owners in Tequesta are unaware that they qualify for flood insurance. Even more may be unaware they may qualify for Federal financial assistance both pre-disaster and post-disaster. Everyone should review their current homeowner policy and become familiar with what is and what is not covered, as damage due to flooding is typically not covered.

Contact the Building Department for information as to whether or not your home is in danger. Our staff can help you determine your flood zone and elevation. Just call 561-768-0450, check us out on the web at www.tequesta.org, or stop by Village Hall during business hours.

Flood Watch = "Be Aware" - Conditions are right for flooding to occur in your area.

Steps to Take

- Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions;
- Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot;
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies.

Prepare Your Home

- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage;
- Disconnect electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted;
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.

Flood Warning = "Take Action!" - Flooding is either happening or will happen shortly.

Steps to Take

- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground;
- Evacuate if directed;
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.

After the Flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe;
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris;
- Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways;
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded;
- Avoid standing water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines;
- Photograph damage of your property for insurance purposes.