

Tell Me Tequesta

Bethany Humpage

Tequesta's First
Female Police Officer



Bethany Humpage: A Trailblazer with Tequesta in Her Heart

Originally from Ogdensburg, New York, Bethany Humpage first came to the area with her husband, who worked for the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company. They lived in Lake Park, then Jupiter, and ultimately made Tequesta their home. Her parents later moved down to help care for her two young children.

Tequesta's First Female Police Officer

Bethany holds a special place in Tequesta history as the Village's first female police officer. When asked what inspired her to pursue a career in law enforcement, she immediately credited her Aunt Ruth—Justice of the Peace in Morristown, NY—whose home was often filled with police officers.

Sponsored by Jupiter Police Chief Glynn Mayo, Bethany attended the Police Academy at Palm Beach Junior College, where she met her future husband, Jim Humpage. Although there were no open positions with the Jupiter Police Department after her graduation, she began her law enforcement career as a dispatcher on Jupiter Island. She later interviewed with Tequesta Police Chief Dusenbery, who candidly told her he was only interviewing her to fulfill a minority hiring requirement—but in the end, she was hired and proudly became the Village's first female officer.

Bethany served with the department from 1976 to 1979 recalling that things were quite peaceful back then. The department operated with just a "west car" and an "east car." Lt. Roderick (father of future Chief Carl Roderick) often joked that the most action they'd see were kids toilet-papering houses!

Life After Law Enforcement

After her time in law enforcement, Bethany worked in the office at Jupiter Hills, spent 10 years at McCarthy's, and contributed to her husband's company, Electrical Systems, Inc. She and Jim also volunteered with the Village's North County Ambulance when it was in service.

Bethany has always been an active and dedicated member of our community. She served as an Assistant Precinct Clerk in 2007 and as Precinct Clerk in 2009, and from 2010 through 2015, helping to ensure our election process ran smoothly, efficiently, and with integrity.

One of her fondest memories is working on the Village of Tequesta's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Alongside Dottie Campbell and many other volunteers, she helped plan and coordinate a truly memorable event. In a heartfelt gesture, she submitted a photo of Dottie, her husband Hugh, and their dog for the commemorative book. Dottie was surprised and deeply touched.

Bethany worked at the beloved McCarthy's Irish Pub for 13 years and has proudly served as a member of Tequesta's American Legion Auxiliary for the same length of time, supporting vital services for veterans and their families.

Reflecting on her years in Tequesta, Bethany recalled its transformation—from a quiet, close-knit community where everyone knew each other, to a growing village adapting to change. She reminisced about the beloved mom-and-pop shops like Goodner's Variety Store, Vic's Hardware, and the Outside In Florist on Tequesta Drive.

When asked what she hopes never changes, Bethany said she cherishes the land that includes Paradise Park. She hopes it remains untouched by development and continues to be a peaceful green space for all to enjoy.

Despite the changes, Bethany's heart belongs in Tequesta and she would never want to live anywhere else. To her, this Village has a hometown feel—with its dedicated Police and Fire Departments and the beloved Constitution Park a true neighborhood park—Tequesta is "Home".