

Inside Tequesta ...

Connecting our Past to our Present - One Story at a Time

Peter Allen Tequesta Fire-Rescue

A Conversation with former Tequesta Firefighter/Paramedic Peter Allen:

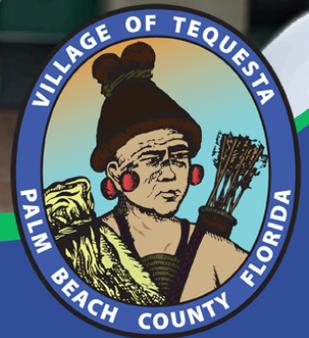
Early Days of Fire Rescue in Tequesta

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, there were only four fire stations in the area, with Station 11 in Tequesta being one of them. When a firetruck crossed the bridge, service was left uncovered on this side, creating safety concerns for residents.

Fire Rescue Formed by Straw Vote of the Residents

The Tequesta Fire-Rescue Task Force was formed with the assistance of former team members: Village Manager Tom Braford, Deputy Building Official Steven Kennedy, Finance Director Bill Kascavelis, Police Chief Carl Roderick, and Peter Allen, then General Manager of North County Ambulance. Public hearings were held, and in March 1993, a straw vote showed residents supported forming the department by a two-to-one margin.

At that time, the North County Ambulance was run by Jupiter Medical Center, and Peter had joined the City of Stuart Fire Rescue. Still, he volunteered his time in Tequesta. When Chief James Weinand was hired to build the Tequesta Fire Department, he told Peter that EMS would be added within a year. For a time, Tequesta's EMS worked out of the North County Ambulance, though the fire truck held command. In October 1993, the Tequesta Fire Rescue Department officially opened, and EMS service followed in 1994 when Peter was hired as **one of the first three paramedics**. Peter remained with Tequesta Fire Rescue until retiring at age 60.



High Performance Team

Chief Weinand envisioned Tequesta Fire-Rescue as a “High Performance” EMS system – one built on exceptional training and cutting-edge equipment. Though the investment was significant, the Village Council shared his commitment to excellence. That investment paid off dramatically when Tequesta Fire-Rescue was dispatched to the home of a sitting Village Council member who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. Paramedic Peter Allen and his crew worked feverishly, applying their advanced skills and state-of-the-art tools. Against the odds, their efforts succeeded and the Council member made a full recovery and returned to their seat at the dais shortly afterwards. A true living example of why Tequesta invests in excellence.

Who Transformed Tequesta?

Reflecting on Tequesta’s growth, Peter credits Parks and Recreation Director Greg Corbitt with transforming the Village. Before Greg, Tequesta was mostly a retirement community with few options for children, leading to skateboarding in shopping centers and general restlessness. Constitution Park changed all that. Greg’s youthful energy and programs like Food Truck events, Tequesta Fest, and the fire department’s Easter egg hunt shifted Tequesta into a vibrant, family-centered community, while still preserving its small-town charm.

Life After the Fire Service

After his fire-rescue career, Peter joined Good Shepherd Episcopal School, where he continues to serve in many roles – security officer, IT director, and paramedic. He praises Tequesta’s police and fire departments for their strong presence in the school system, fostering positive relationships with students who now view officers as friends and sources of safety.

At heart, Peter says he is a firefighter. To him, the work was never just a job but a calling, built on camaraderie and brotherhood. He also emphasized the importance of the 9/11 Memorial, encouraging the department to continue nurturing that culture of remembrance and unity.