



SMOKE SIGNALS

VILLAGE OF
TEQUESTA
NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

VILLAGE'S GENERAL FUND BREAKDOWN

"What Do Your Tax Dollars Pay For?"

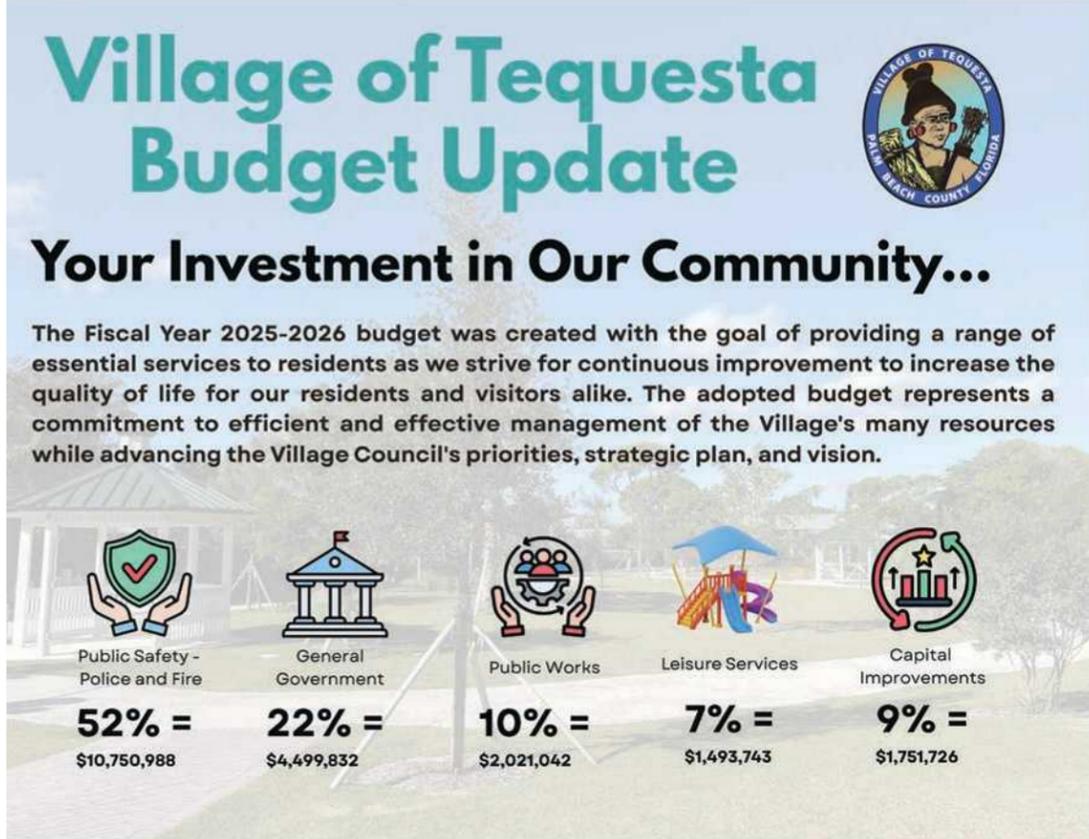
In the Village's General Fund, the largest portion of expenditures is devoted to keeping residents safe. Public Safety represents 52% of the Village's operating budget and funds the Police and Fire Rescue departments that protect our community every day.

Another 22% of the General Fund supports general government services—including Planning and Zoning, Human Resources, Information Technology, the Village Clerk's Office, Administration, and Finance. These departments keep Village operations running smoothly and ensure quality service to our residents.

Public Works accounts for 10% of the General Fund, maintaining our streets, facilities, and essential infrastructure. Leisure Services make up 7%, providing parks, recreation programs, and community activities that enhance our quality of life.

The remaining 9% of General Fund spending is dedicated to debt service for the new Community Center and other capital improvements – long-term investments that strengthen the Village and support future growth.

Together, these allocations ensure your tax dollars are used responsibly to maintain safety, support vital services, and invest in Tequesta's future."



IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1**
 - VOT Strategic Budget
 - Highlight Laurie Brandon
- Page 2**
 - Recognizing Excellence
 - Volunteer With The Tequesta Police
 - Crime Prevention Month
- Page 3**
 - Citizen Observer Patrol (C.O.P.)
 - Tequesta Residents Action Committee
 - Fire Department Rescue Training
 - Fire Safety Week
 - 911 Ceremony
 - Fire Rescue At Farmers Market
- Page 4**
 - Resident's Academy
 - Employee Movements
 - Village Clerk Historic Certification
 - Tree Rebate Program
- Page 5 Insert**
 - Important Flood Information
- Page 6 Insert**
 - Important Flood Information Continued
 - Living Shoreline Project

HIGHLIGHT

Council Member Laurie Brandon

Greetings Village Family,

As we close out 2025, we can take pride in the many Village projects completed this year and begin to embrace the holiday season with gratitude for what we truly are here in Tequesta... a community family.

Our Village family is a wonderful blend of generations and life stages. The babies from years past are now teenagers exploring their independence, some even driving! College students are returning home, new marriages are being celebrated, and brand-new little ones are just beginning to plant their roots in Tequesta. Sadly, we've also said goodbye to several of our beloved elders; many of whom were among Tequesta's earliest residents. They helped shape this Village we proudly call HOME, and their legacy lives on in the community they built.

We continue to welcome new residents who quickly discover our secret of what makes Tequesta so special – its peaceful, small-town charm and strong sense of connection. When you enter Tequesta, you immediately feel it... you are home.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on improving Village infrastructure, working with developers to ensure responsible build smart and code-compliant growth as they purchase properties; hosting community events that bring neighbors together, and – as always - making public safety our top priority.

Let's continue to care for one another, keep our Village clean and safe, and honor and respect the generations before us by preserving what makes Tequesta "Tequesta." Together, we can ensure our beloved Village continues to offer strong roots and lasting memories for generations to come.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with laughter, love, and new memories.

Laurie Brandon
Council Member

SMOKE SIGNALS

SMOKE SIGNALS is published by the Village of Tequesta Village Clerks Office

Editor:
Lori McWilliams, MMC

Produced by:
GLENN GRAPHICS

Printed by:
Commercial Printing Inc.



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
PERMIT # 2073

Village of Tequesta
Village Clerks Office
345 Tequesta Drive
Tequesta, FL 33469-0273

Around the Village



Police Department

Recognizing Excellence within the Tequesta Police Department

The Tequesta Police Department proudly celebrates the promotion of two dedicated team members. Sergeant Emir Yildiz has been promoted to Lieutenant and Detective Jesse DaCosta has been elevated to the rank of Sergeant. Their hard work, leadership, and commitment to our mission exemplify the values that define our agency and our service to the Village of Tequesta. Below, we highlight the careers and contributions of Sgt. DaCosta and Lt. Yildiz as they step into their new leadership roles.

Sergeant Jesse DaCosta



Jesse DaCosta's journey to his new role as Sergeant spans two decades of dedication in law enforcement. A Florida native originally from Hollywood, FL, Sgt. DaCosta dreamed of becoming an officer from a young age. He began his career in 2005 with the Florida Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer, laying the groundwork for a life of public service. In 2010, he moved to the Monroe County Detention Center, where he spent eight years further honing his skills in

corrections. By 2018, he continued to broaden his experience at the Homestead Police Department, serving as both a Correctional Officer and a Reserve Officer. This extensive background in corrections helped Sgt. DaCosta develop a keen ability to interact with people from all walks of life while staying alert and adaptable in dynamic situations.

In 2020, Sgt. DaCosta joined the Tequesta Police Department (TPD), seeking a better quality of life for his family and was drawn by the Village's strong sense of community. He quickly made his mark at TPD, becoming known for his determination in handling cases and meticulous attention to detail. These qualities led to his promotion to Detective in 2023, where he specialized in fraud investigations and became an integral part of the Detective Bureau. Sgt. DaCosta has often expressed that bringing closure and justice to victims, and making a positive difference in the community, are the most rewarding parts of his job. His passion for thorough police work has earned him a reputation as a reliable and tenacious investigator.

Beyond his investigative duties, Sgt. DaCosta has been a leading figure in community outreach. He actively participates in local community events and contributes to public safety education. In addition to mentoring youth in the Explorer Post 357 program, Sgt. DaCosta conducts security assessments through CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), helping residents and businesses enhance safety through thoughtful design and awareness. In recognition of his unwavering commitment to the community and exemplary service, he was honored as Officer of the Year in 2023. This accolade underscores how much Sgt. DaCosta's efforts have fostered trust and collaboration between law enforcement and the residents of Tequesta, embodying the true spirit of community policing.

Now, as a newly promoted Sergeant, Jesse DaCosta is poised to bring his experience and enthusiasm into a formal leadership role. His colleagues commend his strong attention to detail and genuine dedication to the community's well-being. Sgt. DaCosta's leadership style – patient, attentive, and community-focused – will be a tremendous asset in guiding younger officers and maintaining the high standards of the department. Outside of work, he enjoys fishing and spending time on the water, taking full advantage of Florida's sunshine. We are confident that in his new role, Sgt. DaCosta will continue to lead by example and inspire those around him.

Lieutenant Emir Yildiz



Emir Yildiz's promotion to Lieutenant marks a significant milestone in a remarkable career defined by versatility and perseverance. Born in Turkey, Lt. Yildiz came to the United States as a young child in 1996. He overcame early language barriers through determination and quickly excelled academically. By 2002, he found his calling in law enforcement when he began working as a Community Service Aide with the Florida Atlantic University Police Department. This early experience sparked a

passion for policing and public service. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Lt. Yildiz also earned his pilot's license and pursued a career in aviation for a time, demonstrating a love for acquiring new skills. In 2009, he joined the Florida Army National Guard, serving through 2015 and further broadening his experience and dedication to community and country.

Lt. Yildiz brought his wealth of knowledge and drive to the Tequesta Police Department in 2012, beginning as a police officer. Throughout his tenure at TPD, he has worn many hats and embraced a variety of special assignments. Lt. Yildiz has served as a Field Training Officer (FTO), helping to train and mentor new recruits; he earned a promotion to Corporal, taking on supervisory responsibilities; he acts as the police department's Public Information Officer (PIO), communicating effectively with the public and media; and he became a certified High Liability Instructor, teaching high-level skills like defensive tactics and firearms proficiency. His consistent excellence in these roles led to a promotion to Sergeant in 2018.

An educator at heart, Lt. Yildiz previously served as the department's Training Coordinator, where he managed officer training programs and ensured the team stayed current with evolving law enforcement practices and skills. In addition, Lt. Yildiz co-leads the Civilian Firearms Safety Program alongside Corporal John Pruitt, teaching residents about firearms safety and responsible gun ownership. His enthusiasm for education and safety has made the course a great success in building community awareness.

With his recent promotion to Lieutenant, Emir Yildiz will now contribute even more to the strategic leadership of the Tequesta Police Department. Lt. Yildiz's innovative spirit, diverse experience, and unwavering dedication to duty make him ideally suited for this role. He has a demonstrated ability to adapt and excel, and his forward-thinking approach will help shape the department's future initiatives and continued success. Those who work with him know him as a supportive mentor and a driving force for progress within the agency. Outside the uniform, Lt. Yildiz enjoys riding motorcycles, working on cars, exploring the latest in computer technology, and practicing at the shooting range. These hobbies reflect the same energy and precision he brings to his professional life. As he steps into his new position, Lt. Yildiz's leadership will undoubtedly continue to inspire his colleagues and serve the community with distinction.

A Proud Moment for Our Department: The well-deserved promotions of Sgt. Jesse DaCosta and Lt. Emir Yildiz underscore the Tequesta Police Department's commitment to cultivating excellence from within. Both outstanding officers have demonstrated exemplary service, leadership, and a passion for our community's safety. Please join us in congratulating Sgt. DaCosta and Lt. Yildiz on their achievements.

Be the Difference - Volunteer with The Tequesta Police Department

Do you want to give back to this incredible community? The Tequesta Police Department offers rewarding volunteer opportunities that strengthen our village and foster meaningful partnerships between residents and law enforcement. Two of our most impactful programs — the Citizen Observer Patrol (C.O.P) and the Tequesta Residents Action Committee (T.R.A.C.) — are currently welcoming new members who want to make a difference.

Crime Prevention Month Highlights Tequesta's Commitment to Safety



October was Crime Prevention Month – a time dedicated to promoting awareness, collaboration, and proactive steps to keep our neighborhoods safe. Among the many services the Tequesta Police Department provides to protect our community, one of the most effective and practical is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

CPTED is a nationally recognized approach to reducing crime by thoughtfully designing and maintaining the physical environment. The concept is simple but powerful: the way spaces are planned, built, and cared for can directly influence safety. By making small adjustments – such as improving lighting, trimming overgrown landscaping, or reinforcing entry points – residents and businesses can

significantly reduce opportunities for criminal activity. Several of our Tequesta Police Department officers are certified in CPTED through the Florida Attorney General's Office. These specially trained officers conduct free home and business security assessments for community members. During each visit, officers carefully evaluate your property and identify areas that could be improved to enhance natural surveillance, access control, and overall security.

This service is not only complimentary – it's tailored to your unique needs. Whether you're a homeowner wanting to strengthen your property's safety or a business owner seeking to protect your staff and customers, our officers can provide practical, easy-to-implement recommendations that make a real difference. If you'd like to schedule a free security assessment, please contact the Tequesta Police Department. Our team will be happy to set up an appointment at your convenience and help you take the next step toward a safer, more secure home or business.

Citizen Observer Patrol (C.O.P.)



Our C.O.P. Team is made up of dedicated volunteers who serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the department. They support our mission of maintaining a safe, connected community by performing vital duties such as:

- Conducting weekly home checks for residents who are away through our Closed Home Program – ensuring all doors and windows are secure, no unauthorized vehicles are present, and promptly reporting anything unusual to the police
 - Assisting with traffic control, parking, and crowd management during Village events to help things run safely and smoothly
 - Helping with various community projects and initiatives throughout the year.
 - Conducting neighborhood patrols to serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Police Department, helping to observe and report any unusual activity
- By providing patrols and support, our C.O.P. volunteers not only enhance safety but also serve as vital ambassadors of community trust. Their dedication reflects the very best of Tequesta's spirit – neighbors helping neighbors.

Tequesta Residents Action Committee (T.R.A.C.)

The T.R.A.C. team offers another powerful way to connect with the department and shape the future of community policing in Tequesta. Meeting quarterly, this group brings residents and police together to exchange ideas, share feedback, and discuss what matters most to our community. Members are briefed on department initiatives, upcoming projects, and ongoing challenges, ensuring transparency and collaboration are always at the forefront.

Serving on T.R.A.C. is an opportunity to have a voice in the conversation – to help guide how we continue to grow as a department that listens, learns, and leads alongside the people we serve.

Join Us!

If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, volunteering with the Tequesta Police Department is one of the most fulfilling experiences you can have. You'll work alongside a team committed to service, meet incredible people, and make a lasting impact in your community.



To learn more please call us at (561) 768-0505.

Together, we can continue building a safer, stronger, and more connected Tequesta.



Fire Department

Training at Tequesta Fire Rescue



Water rescue emergencies can happen at any time – and they don't wait for the perfect moment. That's why Tequesta Fire Rescue works closely with Palm Beach County Water Rescue to stay ready for any situation on the water.

This past August, each of our crews participated in specialized water rescue training. This enhanced training ensured that every firefighter/paramedic is equipped

with the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively in a water-related emergency.

A special thank you to Palm Beach County Water Rescue for your partnership and support. Your expertise helps us better serve and protect the residents of Tequesta.

Fire Safety Week

Fire Safety Week is observed every year from October 5th to the 11th in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. More importantly, it's a time dedicated to raising awareness and promoting fire safety education in our homes and communities.

During this year's Fire Safety Week, we were thrilled to welcome the students of Good Shepherd for a special visit! It was a great opportunity to share important fire safety tips and inspire the next generation to be fire smart.



As we reflect on Fire Prevention Week, take a moment to:

- Talk with your family about exit drills and emergency plans.
- Practice safe cooking habits in the kitchen.
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher properly.
- Test your smoke alarms to ensure they're working.
- Inspect your home for potential fire hazards—and fix them!

Thank you for doing your part to stay safe and spread awareness. Together, we can help protect our homes, our loved ones, and our future.

911 Ceremony

On this solemn day, Tequesta Fire Rescue held the 24th annual ceremony to honor and remember the events of September 11th, 2001.



This day marks more than a tragic moment in history, it is a time to reflect on the lives lost, the bravery of those who rushed toward danger, and families whose lives were changed forever.

Each year, we gather in silence and unity, paying tribute to the fallen and the heroes who continue to inspire us. On this day, and every day, we remember them with our hearts. To the fallen. To the families. To all who serve – You are not forgotten.



Tequesta Fire Rescue at Tequesta Farmers Market

Tequesta Fire Rescue had the pleasure of participating in a wonderful community event at the Tequesta Farmers Market in honor of Fire Safety Week. We're incredibly grateful to have been part of such a fun and educational day, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us.

We were glad to have been able to spend time connecting with families, answering questions, and sharing important fire safety information. Kids especially enjoyed getting a close-up look at the fire truck, learning about CPR, and discovering how our fire engines operate.

The weather couldn't have been better, and it brought out so many friendly faces. Thank you again to our community for the warm welcome and continued support. It was a memorable day that truly highlighted the spirit of Tequesta.



Resident's Academy

January 28, 2026 - March 11, 2026

One evening a week from 6 pm - 8 pm for Seven (7) weeks
(AND we feed you!)

Applications:

Please submit an Application for the 2026 Resident Academy. The Village of Tequesta Resident's Academy is a comprehensive educational program designed to empower residents with in-depth knowledge of their local government operations and foster meaningful connections within the community.

Program Overview

This seven-week interactive program provides residents with direct access to Village leaders and staff while exploring the intricacies of municipal governance. Sessions are held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with the exception of the facility tour date.

Program Objectives

- Facilitate direct interaction with Village leadership and staff
- Provide comprehensive understanding of municipal operations
- Build lasting connections among community members

Program Details

- Duration: Seven weeks
- Cost: Free for all participants
- Capacity: Limited to 20 residents
- Format: Interactive sessions and facility tours

Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Current residence within Village of Tequesta incorporated limits
- Completed application
- Full attendance commitment required

Program Completion

Participants who attend all sessions will receive:

- Certificate of completion
- Practical knowledge of local government operations
- Enhanced understanding of municipal services and structure

Note: Full attendance is necessary for program completion and to receive maximum benefit from the curriculum.

RESIDENT ACADEMY

A comprehensive educational program designed to empower residents with in-depth knowledge of their local government operations and foster meaningful connections within the community.

JANUARY 28, 2026 - MARCH 11, 2026

- ✓ Facilitate direct interaction with Village leadership and staff
- ✓ Provide comprehensive understanding of municipal operations
- ✓ Build lasting connections among community members
- ✓ Cost: Free
- ✓ Open to VOT residents first - Non-resident applications subject to availability

Register Now

Applications: Please submit an [application](#) for the 2026 Resident Academy.

Visit our website <https://bit.ly/2026ResidentAcad>



Hazardous waste come from products that usually have one or more of these WORDS on their labels



Don't toss rechargeable batteries in recycling or trash.

Proper disposal: Drop off all rechargeable, automotive, lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium, lead-acid, cell phone, and similar batteries at SWA's Home Chemical & Recycling Centers.

Household Hazardous Wastes can be disposed of at:

North County Transfer Station

14185 N. Military Trail
(SWA Road) in Jupiter

Monday- Friday: 7a.m.- 5 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tree Rebate Program

We're excited to share some great news: our Village is taking big steps to grow our tree canopy and help our community get greener—while offering YOU a chance to participate (and save!) in the process.

Why This Matters

Trees do so much: they cool our streets, filter our air, reduce stormwater runoff, enhance wildlife habitat, and simply make our neighborhoods more beautiful. The Village's Tree Rebate Program supports a long-term vision of more shade, more nature, and more resilience.

The Tree Rebate Program

To help residents plant more native and shade trees, the Village is launching this program that allows residents to apply for, and potentially receive, up to \$300 per shade tree (like Live Oaks or Gumbo Limbo), with a limit of two trees per household. For understory species (for example, Silver Buttonwood, Pigeon Plum), rebates may be up to \$200 per tree, similarly capped at two per home. HOAs (homeowners' associations) will also be eligible to participate, with rebates covering up to five trees per association. Please note, special conditions do apply.

How It Works

- Submit your rebate application before purchasing your tree.
 - Purchase an eligible tree (native or approved species) and plant it on your property (planting is not permissible in the public right of way).
 - Undergo a short inspection once planted, to confirm the tree is in place and meets spacing and health standards.
 - Receive your rebate based on the previously approved amount for that species.
- Be sure to check planting distance rules (to sidewalks, utilities, etc.) so your new tree thrives.

What You Can Do

- For more information visit us online at <https://tequesta.org/1776/Tree-Rebate-Program> – Opens-October-1-20
- Keep an eye on announcements from the Village so you don't miss deadline dates.
- Spread the word to neighbors, friends, and your HOA.
- Call 811 before you dig!

Together, we can turn Tequesta into an even greener, cooler, more vibrant Village. Let's plant roots for the future.



VOT EMPLOYEE MOVEMENTS

Star Award Winners

Kenneth Kandefer	Parks & Recreation
Maynor Barrientos	Public Works
Andre Dodd	Fire Department
Kasey Fyda	Building

Joining Us

Jorge Pereira	Police
Uvin Singh	Building Department

Anniversaries

Jesse Dacosta	5 Years
Douglas Chambers	10 Years
Keith Robinson	10 Years
Kristopher Wilhelm	20 Years

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 **WPBF Channel 25** **Legends Radio 100.3**
WPEC News Channel 12 **WJUP 103.9**

For more information you can view our hurricane information at www.tequesta.org/409/Hurricane-Information or visit the Palm Beach County Emergency Management Division website at www.pbcgov.com/dem/hurricane. Monitor NOAA Weather Radio, local television and/or www.weather.gov

Download reliable weather apps on mobile devices to receive updates and alerts. Stay informed and safe with Alert Tequesta.

<https://www.tequesta.org/1178/Emergency-Alerts>



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 including 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 who will then contact the applicant 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 represent their greatest investment. Property losses due to flooding are not covered under standard homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Flood insurance is available in all flood zones. 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 because 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 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 qualifying NFIP 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. Only a few inches of rising water can cause thousands of dollars in repair costs for damage to walls, floors, furniture and electrical appliances. This damage is typically not covered by homeowner's or renter's insurance policies. 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 for additional information. Information is also available from the FEMA 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

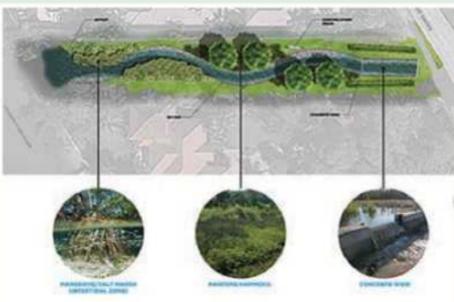
Keep yard debris and litter out of storm drains to prevent stormwater blockages and drainage obstructions that are prone to cause flooding. A community can lose a portion of its drainage system conveyance or storm water storage capacity due to illegal dumping, debris, soil erosion and sedimentation as 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. Keep debris out of driveway culverts and ditches and maintain your drainage swales. Keeping grass clippings and other debris out of storm water drainage systems and drainage canals helps 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 unlawful to dump or throw anything into the drainage systems. To report dumping and/or debris accumulation, call the Village of Tequesta's Public Works Department at (561) 768-0482, or if you would like advice or recommendations to alleviate drainage problems on your property.

Dover Ditch Living Shoreline Project

About This Project

The Village of Tequesta and the Town of Jupiter have received a 50% grant on a collaborative project to dredge and stabilize the westernmost 350 feet of the Dover Ditch Canal. The two municipalities share maintenance of the drainage canal, which helps provide flood protection for the residential neighborhood to the east. The existing banks of the ditch have started eroding from rain events: this project will help restore them and provide some filtration to water that may enter the Loxahatchee River Estuary. The ditch will be turned into a meandering channel to provide a more favorable habitat for fish and other wildlife. Maritime hammock tree species will be planted, along with mangroves and salt marsh grasses. The channel will be lined with rip rap for sediment control.



Disruption to Surrounding Areas

All construction work and staging will be confined to the project site and will not affect traffic patterns. The surrounding areas may experience an increase in noise levels from operating equipment. The affected residents have been notified by their respective municipal Utilities Department contacts.



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. Ask your community floodplain manager about flood protection assistance by calling the building department at (561) 768-0450.

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 & 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.

Don't block natural flow-ways and remember that the storm drain system eventually empties into local waterways, so "only rain down the drain!"



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. Turn around, don't drown!
- **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, lantern or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Contract Details

The project is estimated to take four months to complete. BlueTerra LLC. has been awarded the project with a contract value of \$304,289.80. 50% of this project is funded by the Florida. Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and was obtained through the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) grant process. The 50% matching funds are split between the Village of Tequesta (60%) and the Town of Jupiter (40%).

Positive Community Impacts

The water quality discharged from the Dover Ditch living shoreline project is anticipated to be cleaner. Combined with planting native plant species it will support a more favorable habit for Florida wildlife and the Loxahatchee River.



For any questions, please email [Allyson Felsburg](mailto:Allyson.Felsburg@tequesta.org), Deputy Utilities Director, at afelsburg@tequesta.org