

FORT MORGAN NEWS

October 2016 ~ Issue 116



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

Not much news to report this month. If there are any developments, we will advise at our regular monthly meeting.

Keep Ken Steiner in your prayers.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens

Your Fire Department responded to 28 emergency calls in August:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 11 medical calls | 1 elevator entrapment |
| 7 false alarms | 1 public assist |
| 2 water rescues | 1 jellyfish sting |
| 2 brush fires | 1 missing person |
| 1 structure fire | 1 stingray puncture |

We recently took delivery of our new fire engine and are currently stocking the truck with equipment and supplies. The \$250,000 truck will need approximately \$40,000 in equipment in order to put the truck in service.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their annual **fish fry fund-raiser on Saturday, October 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station #1.** The \$8 plates will include fresh fried fish, cole slaw, baked beans, hush puppies, and a drink. The ladies will be selling raffle tickets, cookbooks, and tee shirts, along with their world famous bake sale. Any baked goods donated to the sale would be greatly appreciated.



Recently, the Fire Department has received multiple complaints about seeing our ATVs riding in the sand dunes early in the morning and late in the afternoon. These ARE NOT OUR VEHICLES. Our ATVs are bright red with flashing red lights with fire department lettering and logos. Our ATVs are only allowed on the beach for emergencies and public assistance, such as the beach cleanup and advising beach-goers of a high risk of rip currents. We also set up on the beach with our ATVs and jet ski on holidays, such as the 4th of July.

Our recruitment drive continues. Come join us at our training meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station #1.

[NOTE: ATVs authorized to ride on the beach are: the Fort Morgan Fire Department, the Share the Beach Fort Morgan sea turtle conservation team, and representatives from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.]

History of the FMVFD Auxiliary.....Thelma Strong & Kay Stevens

After nudging by Ken Steiner, Thelma Strong and Wilhelmena Ryan called the ladies of Fort Morgan and we met. The Fort Morgan VFD Auxiliary was born January of 1992 with over 30 members. It was voted that we meet every 4th Thursday of the month with Wilhelmena Ryan as President, Hazel Nelson as Vice President, Mildred Hanson as Treasurer, and Thelma Strong as Secretary. Our purpose was to raise money to assist the Fire Department with their needs. Dues were \$2.00 per month as needed. That lasted only two or three months as we began to raise money with our events. Our first event was a spaghetti dinner and bake sale held March 7, 1992. We made a proud total of \$818.50

less expenses of \$228.50. We held our first Fish Fry May 16, 1992. The Firemen caught the fish for us so our profit was much better, a whopping \$954.75. So began the Auxiliary which we proudly work and support today.

The Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary is still the fund-raising arm of the Department. Today, with the Department receiving significant tax money and generous donations from both the condos and homeowners, the funds raised are going into a fund for firefighters in need. Specific donations have gone to help a firefighter paralyzed in an accident, another with financial assistance after the loss of a job, and another to help with the funeral expenses of a firefighter.

The Ladies' Auxiliary now holds a spaghetti dinner in the Spring and a fish fry in the Fall. We meet in February and August or September to plan the events. In December, we get together for a salad and dessert luncheon just for fun.

We always welcome new members, and anyone interested in joining us may call either Kay Stevens at 540-7422 or Thelma Strong at 540-7383.

Turtle Tracks 2016~~~~~Fort Morgan Nests = 95!

Sad news. We lost quite a few nests to storm tides caused by Hermione (the one that made landfall in southwest Florida) on September 1st. Excavations on several nests so far show over 300 dead hatchlings apparently fully developed and probably ready to hatch. We still have three nests approaching day 75 but not showing any signs of hatching. We also have several that will reach day 55 soon that we don't hold much hope for due to inundation from the storm. We do have two nests left where we have heard sounds that we are hopeful will produce some babies. According to Fish & Wildlife protocol, nests have to be at least at day 60 for help when there is danger of storm surge inundating the nest. In late summer most of our nests hatch before day 60. This year we have had 12 nests hatch before day 55, 43 before day 60.

The following information comes from Chan West's spreadsheet:

Fort Morgan Turtle Average Data

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
No. Nests	43	21	41	81	43	42	95
Total Hatchlings to Water		2335	2970	1913	3414	3789	5374
Average days to hatch		54.6	58.4	62	59	57	56
Range of Days to Hatch		42 - 63	53 - 62	56 - 69	52 - 58	53 - 64	45 - 65

*YTD 9/26

Loss of Member ~ Margaret Solberger

Mrs. Solberger was a long-term member of the civic association.

Margaret Solberger was born in McKinney, Texas, on July 3, 1920, and died on August 21, 2016, in Spanish Fort. Her parents were the Rev. John Lorraine Oldham and Billie Jane Watkins Oldham. She grew up in Martinsburg, West Virginia and Jacksonville, Florida. She was a graduate of Florida State College for Women in 1942. She married Sam Solberger, Jr. in 1942 and lived many places before settling in Slidell, Louisiana in 1948. She taught English in Slidell and Mobile.

In 1962 Margaret and her family moved to Mobile where she lived until 2004 when she moved to Westminster Village in Spanish Fort. After her husband died, she returned to FSU for a Masters in Social Work in 1970. She then worked for the Alabama Department of Human Resources until retirement in 1985.

She was very active in several Episcopal churches throughout her life as well as the National Association of Social Workers and the League of Women Voters in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. She served in the Kairos prison ministry and on mission trips to Guatemala. Margaret is survived by two of her three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Gulf Coast Flood Relief and Development or Family Promise, c/o St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Daphne. Expressions of condolence may be offered at www.hughesfh.com

Fort Morgan Flora & Fauna.....Chan West

The fall migration of butterflies has begun. Gulf fritillaries are here now. Many folks mistake them for Monarchs, which come later, usually peaking in mid-October.



Gulf Fritillary



Gulf Fritillary--Underside

**Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.....Brittany Petersen, Asst. Refuge Manager
MONARCH WALKS**

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the magnificent migration of the monarch butterfly and their fascinating life cycle? Come join Refuge volunteer Homer Singleton as he leads participants along the Gator Lake Trail searching for this beautiful butterfly. During the walk Homer will introduce you to the butterflies that pass through this area, their habitats and their life cycles. Participants will also be asked to help catch monarch butterflies so that they can receive tags that will allow scientists to track their migration.

The walks will start at Gator Lake trailhead located off Mobile Street. Walks typically last from 2.5-3 hours and participants should come prepared to walk over 2 miles, in soft sand, with minimal shade. Water and bug spray are highly suggested. **The walks will be limited to 12 participants; please make reservations by calling 251-540-7720.**

The monarch walks will be held at 9:00am, Wednesdays and Fridays, on the following dates: October 19, 21, 26, 28 & November: 2, 4, 9.



Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ October 2016

EMERGENCY: 911 ~ Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities

Sheriff's Department—Administrative Office...972-6802

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffobaldwin.com

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies): <http://sheriffobaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>

Fort Morgan Crime Report ~ August 13—September 6, 2016.....Sgt. Nathan Lusk, BCSO

9/5/16

2300 Blk. Ponce de Leon Ct.

Breaking & Entering Vehicle

9/6/16
9/6/16

3400 Blk. Ponce de Leon Ct.
3400 Blk. Ponce de Leon Ct.

Burglary
Burglary

Baldwin County Commission Contacts

Commissioners:

Charles "Skip" Gruber
cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov
251-943-5061

Tucker Dorsey
tdorsey@baldwincountyal.gov
251-972-8502

Chris Elliott
ctelliott@baldwincountyal.gov
251-990-4606

Frank Burt, Jr.
fburt@baldwincountyal.gov
251-937-0395

To speak at a regular commission meeting, you must have signed up before the meeting. Check the dates, times and locations for all meetings at <http://www.baldwincountyal.gov>

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

If you have questions, need information or would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following board members:

Officers

President	Paul Barefield	540-7727	csbarefield@gmail.com
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Treasurer	Chan West	979-4932	granchan@earthlink.net
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	ckittrell@southalabama.edu
Standing Committee Chairs			
District 25 Planning & Zoning	Ken Steiner	540-7223	kennethjsteiner@centurytel.net
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	540-7383	twstrong@gulftel.com
Incorporation	Paul Barefield	540-7727	csbarefield@gmail.com
Membership	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
NEWS & Website Editor	Sonja Sanders	233-6208	
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars:

Fire Department Auxiliary ~ Fall Fish Fry
Saturday, October 8th, 11:00AM-2:00PM, Fire Station #1

FMCA Monthly Meeting ~ Monday, October 10th, 6:30pm
Shell Banks Church Fellowship Room

FMCA 2016 MEETINGS ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church:
November 14 ~ Christmas Dinner TBA

Fort Morgan Civic Association
P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547
www.fortmorgancivic.org