

FORT MORGAN NEWS



April 2017~Issue 122

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, folks:

No real news to report. Hope all enjoying this fine weather.

Plan to attend our April meeting.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

**IS THIS YOUR LAST FORT MORGAN NEWS?
2017 MEMBERSHIP LIST BEING PURGED THIS WEEK**

www.fortmorgancivic.org

Membership.....Chan West, Treasurer

Please remember that our dues are annual dues for one calendar year. For the last few years the number of people who do not pay until they receive a delinquent dues letter has been increasing. My guess is that many who receive the NEWS by email fail to read it carefully. Last month letters were sent to 255 who had not paid 2017 dues and to 85 who paid for 2015, but not for 2016. This will be the final NEWS for the 91 who still have not paid 2016 dues. If you have any questions about your status, you may contact Chan West at chan@goefish.com.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens

FireDog Ashes



In February, your Fire Department responded to 14 calls: 9 medical, 3 false alarms, 1 grass fire, and 1 vehicle fire.

Generous donations were made this past month by various Snowbird Clubs. We plan to use the money to help pay for a brush firefighting unit for our high-water rescue truck. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

The Ladies Auxiliary spaghetti dinner was a huge success. We appreciate all of you who supported this event.

With Spring Break upon us, activity usually picks up for both the Fire Department and the Sheriff's office. You should be noticing increased law enforcement presence in our area. The Fire Department is sharing its facilities with the Baldwin County Sheriff's office.

Don't forget to join us at our training meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Our medical classes can cover a variety of things such as CPR, bandaging, splinting, etc., while our fire classes can cover anything from firefighting techniques to truck operations, safety procedures, etc. Meetings normally go from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Hope to see you soon.

FMCA Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee.....Chan West, Chair

Variance Request V-170007 for property on Choctaw Road, which our Fort Morgan Advisory Committee approved, was granted.

On March 23 our committee considered a variance request (V-170010) for another small lot in the same area on Cherokee Drive. In this case a house had been built on a 2-lot parcel. This double lot was later divided between family members. The old house straddled the new lot line. To solve this problem ten feet was added to the lot with the house, making the new lot only 40' wide, and the house touches the lot line. A prospective buyer would like to build a 24' wide house with 2' eaves on the new lot. He requested reduced set-back on all sides. A major concern was fire safety with only a 5' clearance between the old house and the proposed construction. Our committee did not approve this request but did make recommendations for set-backs we would consider.

A regular semi-annual meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at Shell Bank Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

The Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee will post on our website [www.fortmorgancivic.org] re-zoning and variance request notices received from the county commission. Please refer other non-FMCA property owners who wish to stay up to date to our website. We also will send a special email to all members on FMCA email list of the posting and the time and place of our FMCA committee meeting. We encourage property owners with vested interests to bring their concerns and comments to these meetings. In most cases these notices are received about 10 days before the county Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Notice of rezoning requests are posted on the property involved and mailed to adjacent landowners. The FMCA email notice to members is to let non-adjacent property owners who may be affected by the request express their concerns to our local committee before it submits a recommendation to the county. Any FMCA member who receives the Fort Morgan NEWS by U.S. Postal Service and wishes to receive these rezoning request notices will have to furnish us with an email address. To receive email notification of rezoning requests, you must send an email address to Chan West at chan@goefish.com

FMCA Member Appointed to Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission

FMCA member Bonnie Lowry has been appointed by the county commission to replace our former representative Ken Steiner on the county's planning and zoning commission.

Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful.....Solid Waste/Recycle.....Chan West

Let's strive to send as much as we can to Recycle. I have noticed many cardboard boxes out for Solid Waste. Cardboard can be recycled at Fire Station #2 (along with clean paper, plastic bottles, and aluminum and metal cans), and at the Gulf Shores Recycle Center on West 36th Ave., behind the closed NFL—where they also take sorted glass, electronics, and metal.

Another place where we can have an impact is with yard waste and tree trimming. If it is put out for bulky goods pick-up it goes into the landfill; however, if you take it to the Magnolia Springs Landfill it will be ground up, composted, and is available for use by other citizens. The Solid Waste sweep to pick up bulky goods/yard waste is now happening about every six weeks, but they will respond to calls from customers for pick-up.

On a personal note – The past weekend I had a 20ish great nephew and four friends staying in the old cottage. I noticed that they were putting their beer cans in the garbage, so I suggested that I could recycle them. The photo at right is the result. And so, my thought is that we could have an impact on the quantity of waste going to the landfill if we could get similar groups, on their way out of town, to take their recyclables to either Fire Station #2 collection bin, or to the Gulf Shores Recycle center. I have created a flyer promoting this which is the last page of this newsletter. Print it and post on any properties used by visitors.



Follow-Up to Bill Ross's 90th Birthday!

The following article was published in an earlier Fort Morgan NEWS and focused on meeting our neighbors, Mary and Bill Ross, in May 2008. We thought you'd enjoy learning (or re-learning) a bit more about these two love-birds.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS ~ Mary & Bill Ross

Both Mary and Bill were born and grew up in Mobile but, strangely enough, didn't really meet until a fateful blind date in 1950 brought them together. They're not sure if it was love at first sight, but they both know it didn't take very long. They dated (Bill says) seven months before getting married. They both attended Murphy High School, although Bill was three years ahead. He joined the Navy in 1944, serving two years in Trinidad (did he get hazardous duty pay for that?). Actually, Trinidad had been a very dangerous place before Bill's arrival: German subs sank American ships off the coast. Bill was told of one sortie when eleven American ships left port and only one returned, damaged and limping back. Bill sounded regretful that he didn't see action. He had dreams of becoming an airplane crewmember, but most of the fighting was over by the time he arrived.



Bill and Mary raised two daughters, Roxann and Robin, and now have one grandson, Todd, age 33. Their first sight of Fort Morgan wasn't until the early 1950s when they visited the Fort on a trip with friends Jack and Nita. They bought their place here in 1969, but didn't move down until Bill retired in 1988. It was just a simple cabin that they've remodeled, adding a second story, a hobby room, and to get upstairs, a spiral staircase from a Florida lighthouse!

Mary is a devoted creator and builder of miniatures—rooms, houses, gardens, patios, furniture—the whole shebang. She and her daughter built the first project together, a complete two-story building with Ross General Store down and living quarters up. Mary thought that, it was so much work, this would cure them of the bug. The opposite happened. Now she has a large hobby room full and has gone to quarter-scale (1/4"/foot) to save room. She is a member of the Mobile Miniatures club. Every third year, Mary assists with hosting a huge miniature fair and show in South Baldwin. She promised to let us know when the next one is planned. Mary is a long-time member of the Fort Morgan Laundress group who dress in period costume and educate visitors about life at the Fort 100+ years ago. Come June and July, she'll be spending two days per week there plus any special events. Mary also is an active member of the FMVFD Auxiliary and has been since it began. When I arrived for our interview, she had just completed stuffing and labeling envelopes for the fund drive.

After serving in the Navy, Bill returned to finish high school. There were about 70 vets at Murphy High during this time. He then spent 14 years working with GMC and 25 with the City of Mobile, finishing as their Body and Welding Shop Supervisor. Bill also was a volunteer fireman here but "retired" as an active firefighter and now helps with maintenance. He remembers the VFD's first pump truck, bought from the City of Mobile. They had to park it in Ken Steiner's back yard because there was no fire station yet. Bill's "hobby room" is his workshop where he enjoys renovating autos (especially wrecked ones), crafting and improving items around the homestead, and tending the small garden (tomatoes, beans, bell peppers, okra) and mini-vineyard. (I placed first dibs on any left-over scuppernongs when they come in.)

Mary and Bill have created a beautiful, peaceful place on the Bay with a little bit of everything to enjoy. The property is shaded by old oaks and pines and is very conducive to relaxing with a glass of lemon-tea of an afternoon.

Loss of Member.....Communication from Mary Meyer

Nora Meyer Jackson passed away November 20, 2016 and was buried in Mobile November 25th. She was 97 years young. My parents bought their first beach house in 1953. As you can imagine, that one was right in the middle of town. After hurricane Fredric destroyed that little house, they built in Surfside Shores subdivision in Fort Morgan. After the death of Father in 1996, Mother and I moved to a quieter section of Fort Morgan on the bay side. I never thought much of the bay but love the tranquility and the crabbing. I will retire in a few years and enjoy the legacy they left me... a love for Fort Morgan.

Mary Kay Meyer, PhD, RDN, FAND | Professor and Assistant Dean

<mkmeyer@ches.ua.edu>

Bird Banding Returns to Fort Morgan.....Brittany Petersen, BSNWR

Birmingham Audubon—in collaboration with the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Mississippi State University, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism, the Alabama Historical Commission, and Mobile Bay Audubon Society—is excited to announce our new Coastal Alabama Bird Banding Project, scheduled for **April 18th starting at 2:00 pm through the 22nd until 11:00 am** at Baldwin County’s historic Fort Morgan.

Reviving the popular public bird banding events originally championed by the late Bob Sargent and his wife, Martha, this project provides a scientifically invaluable look at spring migrants traveling through the Coastal Alabama section of the Mississippi Flyway—one of the four major routes North American birds travel on their way to and from their summer breeding grounds. Throughout the week, the public will enjoy unparalleled access both to researchers and to the birds, with opportunities to discuss the science behind the surveys and the important conservation work happening on the Gulf Coast. They’ll also get up-close-and-personal looks at some amazing migratory birds!



The banding station will open for the public on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 18th, and stay open until Saturday morning, April 22nd. All ages are welcome to attend!

(Please note that while the Coastal Alabama Bird Banding Project is free, there is an admission fee to enter the park. For up-to-date pricing, visit <http://www.fort-morgan.org/plan-visit/>.)

For more information Birmingham Audubon can be reached by phone at 205-719-3678 or emailed at info@birminghamaudubon.org or visit their site at: <http://birminghamaudubon.org/event/bird-banding-on-fort-morgan/>

Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful.....Chan West

Let’s strive to send as much as we can to Recycle. I have noticed many cardboard boxes out for Solid Waste. Cardboard can be recycled at Fire Station #2 (along with clean paper, plastic bottles, aluminum and metal cans), and at the Gulf Shores Recycle Center on West 36th Ave., behind the closed NFL – where they also take sorted glass, electronics, and metal.

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Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ **EMERGENCY: 911**

Fort Morgan Crime Report ~ March 2017.....Sgt. Nathan Lusk, BCSO

3/2/17 4000 Blk Gulf Wind Court
3/13/17 300 Blk Beach Club Trail

Criminal Mischief—Damaged window
Criminal Mischief—Damaged light fixtures



As mentioned last month, Spring Break is upon us. The Sheriff’s Office has greatly increased the number of Deputies in Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach during peak hours. There has been a slight increase in calls related to noise and underage drinking.

Continue locking your doors to your vehicles, as we typically see a rise in the number of thefts from unlocked cars this time of year (most victims are out of town visitors).

Sergeant Nathan Lusk,
Criminal Investigations Command
Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office
[251-972-8589 Ext 7618](tel:251-972-8589)

Helping with Spring Break at Fort Morgan: Dep. Jason Kolbe, K9 Aron, and Dep. Justin Correa

We request that a family member notify us of any FMCA member's death and the website where an obituary and funeral arrangements can be found. With over 400 member families, we have no certain way of knowing of a member's death.

Baldwin County Commission Contacts

Commissioners:

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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

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540-7727

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Vice President

Ernie Church

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Secretary

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FMCA 2017 MEETINGS

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church:

April 10 ~ May 8 ~ June 12 ~ July 10 ~ August 14 ~ September 11

Fort Morgan Civic Association

P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547

www.fortmorgancivic.org

LET'S GO GREEN

Please help our voluntary recycling program. Reduce the garbage going into our sanitary landfill. Fort Morgan does not have a recycling pick up service, but we do have two convenient recycling centers where sorted items may be easily deposited.

FORT MORGAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION #2

Near mile marker #4

On the left side of the station

Accepted items include aluminum and metal cans, plastic drink and water bottles, clean paper and cardboard

CITY OF GULF SHORES RECYCLING CENTER

North of the bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. At 106 West 36th Avenue. Turn left when leaving town at the traffic light where the closed NFL store is on the left and the shopping center with Publix is on the right. The Recycle Center is on the north side of the road.

In addition to the items listed above, this drive-through facility accepts glass, plastics (no. 1, 2, 3), *electronics (old TVs, cell phones, laptops, stereos)*, cooking oil, and metals.

There is also a large open bin for cardboard.

