

FORT MORGAN NEWS

February 2019~Issue 144



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

I am excited to serve this community as the newly elected president of our organization. 2019 is off to a great start here in Fort Morgan. I am proud to announce that the Fort Morgan CleanUp on January 16th was a HUGE success with nearly 100 volunteers coming out to help remove nearly all man-made debris from the marshes, dunes and beaches surrounding Mobile Point. A special thanks to our winter guests who really came out in support of our community.

As some of you may know, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill severely impacted our community in 2010. After the long road to recovery, I am excited to announce that the FMCA has applied for project funding through the Restore III program. This project idea, known as the "St. Andrew's Bay/ Pilot Town Bay Front Park," will use funding from the settlement to acquire properties east of Navy Cove Condominiums. The purpose of these acquisitions would be to create a recreational area that locals and visitors could enjoy while also protecting the sensitive ecosystems and historical sites located in that area. The approval stage for submitted ideas is still months away, but the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and the Baldwin County Commission are supporting this project idea. I will be sure to keep everyone updated as the process continues forward.

The other officers and I are working on a few more projects that I look forward to telling you about in future meetings and **Fort Morgan NEWS** editions. Thank you again to this community for electing me as the FMCA President. I look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Joe
Joe Emerson



Officers Elected on January 14th

Welcome to our new President Joe Emerson

& our Duly Elected Treasurer Greg Strategier!

Thanks to Vice-President Ernie Church and Secretary Carol Kittrell for

Agreeing to Stand for Re-Election

President: Joe Emerson; V-P: Ernie Church; Treasurer: Greg Strategier; Secretary: Carol Kittrell

Biographical Sketch, President Joe Emerson

I am the eldest son of retired Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department Chief Sonny and Kathryn Emerson. We moved to the Fort Morgan peninsula in 1995 and have been residents of the island community for 25 years. I served as a member of the FMVFD in the past. I am a Realtor with EXIT Realty Gulf Shores and spent 15 years prior in the tourism and hospitality industry. I have a standing record of supporting fiscal responsibility and environmental protection. I enjoy fishing, surfing and photography. I fully believe that the future of Fort Morgan should stay rooted in the grounds of History, Preservation and Community.

Biographical Sketch, Treasurer Greg Strategier

[Although Greg volunteered to fill the duties of long-term treasurer Chan West several months ago, he was elected for another year's term.]

Greg has lived in New Orleans for over 30 years but is originally from Oklahoma, where he attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. Greg is a CPA with over 33 years' experience in various accounting positions including 15 years as a Chief Financial Officer. Greg has worked in public accounting and other industries including gaming, oil & gas, steel manufacturing, commercial property development and management and biotech. Greg and his wife Jamie have been vacationing in the Gulf Shores area over that same period, but in 2010 they rediscovered Fort Morgan and fell in love with all that Fort Morgan has to offer—the natural unspoiled beauty of the area, the tranquility of the beach in the off season, the fact that dogs are allowed on the beach, and some of the best bushwackers on the Gulf Coast. In 2013, Greg and Jamie purchased a home in Fort Morgan and now divide their time between Fort Morgan and New Orleans. Greg is a member of the Krewe of Endymion and has been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Covenant House. Greg and Jamie have two children and one grandchild and enjoy having friends and family visit their home in Fort Morgan.



Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department.....Chief Glenn Stevens

Your Fire Department responded to 15 runs in December:

- ~ 10 medical
- ~ 2 car accidents
- ~ 2 false alarms
- ~ 1 public assist

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 8, 2019. A budget and the Board of Directors were approved for 2019. Serving on the Board will be:

- Ernie Church – President
- Sonny Farris – Treasurer
- Jerry Ralston – Member
- Al Sawyer – Member
- A. J. Andreasen – Vice President
- Pete Jellison – Secretary
- Andy Andreasen – Member

For 2018, the Department responded to 385 calls compared to 350 responses for 2017.



Our recruitment drive continues into 2019. Even though we added five new members in 2018, we also lost five members due to age, health problems, and relocation. Only a small percentage of our members actually fight fires. We need people to help with traffic control, supply firefighters with drinking water, assist on medical calls, help with search and rescue for missing children on the beach, help secure areas for helicopter landings, free people trapped in elevators, respond to swimmers in distress, assist those that might need help getting up their stairs, and many more public assistance services. If you are interested in helping us with any of the services that are listed above, then come join us as a guest at one of our training meetings. We meet every 1st and 3rd Monday, Fire Station No. 1, at 6:30 pm.

Our featured Firefighter this month is Paul Hagen. Paul has been a member of the Department for about a year. He recently completed his EMT certification and on January 1st was promoted to Assistant Training Officer.

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee.....Chan West, Chair

Our Advisory Committee met on January 30 to consider three requests: Z-19009, V-190007 and V-190010. Please review all requests on our website. [www.fortmorgancivic.org]

Z-19009: Request for approval of a site plan for Seaglade at St. Andrews Bay PRD, a 27-unit of single family residences on south side of Hwy 180 between Triple Tail and Pontoon. The change from a previous approved plan, Z-17025, is the PRD designation. This will allow the interior drive, entering from Triple Tail rather than 180, to be gravel, rather than paved. Approval Recommendation.

V-190007: 623 Cabana Beach Road. Request for a reduced wetland setback of 15 feet from jurisdictional wetlands to allow construction of a single family home. Approval Recommendation.

V-190010: 397 Boykin Court South. Request for reduced front and side setbacks to allow construction of an uncovered deck on an existing home. Denial Recommendation.

Twenty community members attended the January 30 meeting. There was much confusion about the nature of the issue involved in Z-19009, the 27-unit SFR, generated by inaccurate online postings and lack of research. No increase in density was involved, only the interior road surfacing. Hopefully it was an educational experience.

Schedule of County Commission meetings can be found on the county website www.baldwincountyal.gov.

Fort Morgan History Alabama Gulf Coast 1933-1939 by Chan West

We will continue to explore the history of the CCC, WPA, and paving of the Fort Morgan Road ["Dixie Graves Parkway"] through newspaper articles which Heather Tassin, Fort Morgan director, and Jeanette Bornhold, Foley Library, have so graciously provided.

The following is an interview from the collection of interviews by Robert Pasquill, Jr., conducted as research for his book *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama, 1933-1942*.

Damon Fuqua

Interviewed on February 17, 2003. Mr. Fuqua was 87 years old at the time of the interview and living in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Mr. Fuqua was born December 30, 1915 in Brewton, Alabama. He was the fourth of nine children, with two older sisters and one older brother. His father owned a small farm, consisting of 20 acres and a mule, but the family was able to grow enough to eat. They had four cows on the farm. They fed the cows velvet beans and were able to make very rich butter. They also had ducks, chickens and hogs on the farm. In addition, Mr. Fuqua was a very good hunter. He brought a lot of game home to the family. After the seventh grade Mr. Fuqua went to work farming. He picked cotton at 39 cents per 100 pounds and picked velvet beans at 60 cents per day for picking 300 pounds.

Mr. Fuqua enrolled in the CCC at Bethel, Alabama, in May of 1937. He went directly to Camp SP-11 at Citronelle, Alabama. He was enrolled in Company 5412. As an enrollee, Mr. Fuqua earned \$30 per month. The project consisted of developing Cedar Creek State Park. His work included construction of a dam, which created a lake. Mr. Fuqua operated the bull dozer in the dam construction. Other work included maintaining the roads in the park, and planting gallberry in the ditches to control erosion. After seven months, Mr. Fuqua was transferred to Company 1425 at Camp SP-6 at Gulf State Park. On December 23, 1937, Mr. Fuqua arrived a Gulf Shores, Alabama. The work project consisted of the development of Gulf State Park, which included building roads in the park, and construction of the Casino and 12 cabins on the lake.

In his free time, Mr. Fuqua played on the baseball team. He played third base. He did not have a strong arm but was an excellent hitter with a batting average of .518. The team traveled to play against other CCC camps and high schools. After transferring to Gulf Shores, Mr. Fuqua had a try out with a semi-pro team in Mobile, which was a farm team for the Baltimore Orioles. Mr. Fuqua also participated in the camp educational program. He worked on high school equivalency, taking five courses while in CCC. He remembers taking English, electricity, and spelling. He finished his high school degree while in the Navy.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Fuqua thought the food in the CCC camps was great. Many of the cooks were just learning. Mr. Fuqua was used to having plenty to eat at home. The barracks were plain, with wood or coal-burning heaters. The life in the CCC camps was better than the life at home. There was a doctor that visited the camp, and it was a healthier place than home.

In December of 1939, Mr. Fuqua was discharged from the Civilian Conservation Corps. In January of 1939 (sic., 1940?), Mr. Fuqua went to work for Gulf State Park. He worked on roads, sometimes just moving sand with a shovel, other times operating a motor grader.

On December 23, 1941, Mr. Fuqua enlisted in the Navy. He was sent immediately to Pearl Harbor. His rating was 3rd Class Carpenter, but he quickly made Aviation Machinist. Mr. Fuqua was assigned to a land-based ground squadron. He worked on the planes to keep them in flying condition. He made 1st Class Machinist and then made Chief as the war was ending. In 1946, Mr. Fuqua got a job at the Pensacola Naval Base as an Aviation Machinist. He worked for the naval base for 26 years, retiring on June 30, 1972.

The Civilian Conservation Corps gave Mr. Fuqua an education. It also helped his family. The \$25 he sent home each month was a great help to his family,

For more information about the work of the CCC here and in the rest of Alabama, I recommend Mr. Pasquill's book, available through our county libraries, *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama, 1933-1942*. In his later years Damon Fuqua and his partner Dwight Steele installed and maintained wells and pumps for south Baldwin County, especially our Fort Morgan area, before the city water lines were extended.

Fort Morgan History ~ Indian Canal.....Harry King

We plan to start a new excavation on February 17th, 9:00am to 3:00pm, on the west side of Laguna Dunes, 1720 Laguna Court Subdivision, across from Peninsula Golf Course. Bring snacks, water, and a shovel!

I will be giving an updated presentation to the Gulf Shores-Orange Beach tourism center on Highway 59 on 13 February 2019 at 1:00pm. All are invited.

A presentation is also scheduled to the Baldwin County Genealogy Society for 9 March 2019, 10:00am, at the Foley Library, East Highway 98.

[A very nice—but brief—article appeared recently in The Lagniappe of Mobile about our Indian Canal.] <https://lagniappemobile.com/1400-year-old-canal-near-gulf-shores-being-studied/>

For more information, contact HarryKing1525@gmail.com ~ 251.610.1565.

One More Resolution for 2019.....Bonnie Lowry, Membership & Legislative Committee

To all property owners in Fort Morgan:

In order for Fort Morgan to stay a pristine and yet vibrant community, your interest and partnership will be greatly needed in 2019. The Civic Association needs a strong community alliance to maintain our quality of life, as the future will no doubt bring investors, etc., who want to change our beautiful shores. I simply ask you to stay informed and involved in what is happening in our District 25. There are four groups that affect Fort Morgan:

- 1. Fort Morgan Civic Association. www.fortmorgancivic.org*
- 2. Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee. See the website above.*
- 3. Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission. www.baldwincounty.gov. Meets at 6:00pm on 1st Thursday of each month at County Annex in Robertsdale.*
- 4. Baldwin County Commission. www.baldwincounty.gov. Meets at 8:30am in Bay Minette.*

When you are in Fort Morgan, plan on attending the monthly meeting of our Fort Morgan Civic Association. Consider this an open invitation. The meetings are regularly scheduled for 6:30pm on the second Monday evening of each month. The February meeting will be on February 11.

The Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee meets at 9:00am on the third Wednesday of the month whenever there is a request for a zoning variance or change and in April and October for scheduled semi-annual meetings. Notice is posted on the Civic Association website.

I ask you to put the dates on your phone or kitchen calendar. In advance I thank you for being faithful to the land we all love and want to protect.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report

[There is no crime report for January.] The Sheriff's Office recommends that homeowners keep a record of all those who have access to their property (cleaners, maintenance, repair personnel, etc.) and make frequent checks on their personal belongings on the property. Also, KEEP YOUR VEHICLES AND HOMES LOCKED AT ALL TIMES!

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>

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President	Joe Emerson	550-9021	captjoesells@gmail.com
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	samsplace41805@gmail.com
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	ckittrell@southalabama.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

District 25 Planning & Zoning	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Editor Fort Morgan NEWS	Sonja Sanders	233-6208	39sunnisands@gmail.com
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Legal	Judy Newcomb	955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

FMCA 2019 MEETINGS

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

February 11 ~ March 11 ~ April 8 ~ May 13 ~ June 10 ~ July 8

Annual Dues Were Due December 31!

**Of our 392 member families at the end of 2018, only 201 have paid in 2019!!!
If you have not yet paid 2019, please send the attached Membership Form [see last page] with your \$15 annual dues to the address on the form.**

**Fort Morgan Civic Association
P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547**

www.fortmorgancivic.org

Fort Morgan Civic Association
P.O. Box 5313 • Gulf Shores, AL 36547

www.fortmorgancivic.org

2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Fort Morgan Address _____ Phone _____

This property is west of mile 14.7: _____yes _____no -- See Article III, Section 1 below Associate Member? _____ yes

Email (please provide for special alerts) _____
[Save trees, stamps, time, get your news sooner by e-mail.] Send newsletter by email _____ by U.S. Postal Service _____

Your employment _____ Spouse's employment _____

Reason for joining the Association _____

NOTICE: We need volunteers to help the Association in the following areas. Which can you assist in? (circle)

Program Planning: Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests
Zoning: Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/Gulf Shores Write Brief Reports
Membership: Recruitment Phone Tree Hospitality at Meetings Help with Pot-Lucks
Communications: Postal Mailings E-mail Writing for Newspaper, Publicity Releases, etc.
Newsletter: Desktop Graphics/Layout Gather/Submit News Items Write Brief Articles Photography
Computer: Set Up/Maintain Data Base Spreadsheets Excel Access Word PowerPoint
What other skills, experience or talents could you volunteer? _____

From the By-laws Adopted April 11, 2005

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 Regular (voting) Membership in this association shall be open only to property owners and/or residents in the unincorporated area west of mile 14.7 of the Fort Morgan peninsula.
- Section 2 Associate (non-voting) Membership shall be open to residents of areas outside the Fort Morgan Peninsula whose interests coincide with those of the Association including the preservation of the environment and quality of life of the Fort Morgan peninsula.
- Section 3 Membership application shall be made by completion of a form provided by the Association and payment of the required dues. Dues for the following year shall be determined at the October general meeting and shall be for the following calendar year January 1st through December 31st.
- Section 4 Payment of Regular (voting) Membership dues entitles a member household to one (1) vote. A member household is comprised of Association members living at one physical address. Past year member households paying dues after January 31st and new members joining the Association will have no voting rights until thirty (30) days after payment of dues.
- Section 5 Payment of Associate (non-voting) Membership dues entitles the member to attend all member meetings and receive the monthly newsletter.

Make checks payable to: **Fort Morgan Civic Association or FMCA**

I would like to make a donation to the Legal Fund in the amount of \$ _____

2019 dues @ \$15/household \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Your donation to the Fort Morgan Civic Association is not tax deductible as we do not qualify because of our political activity in attempting to prevent proliferation of large-scale high-rise development on Fort Morgan Peninsula.