

FORT MORGAN NEWS

August 2019~Issue 150



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members! Greeting to all FMCA members! Especially those of you that are new to our association, welcome!

Just a couple of things I would like to mention for this month; we are adding a PayPal option to the website. This is going to make it easier for renewals, new members and donations. Also, I have noticed an increase in questions coming in from members as well as visitors to the website. Ranging from questions about tent regulations to inquiries about future developments in the area, I will continue to do my best to answer your questions as quickly and accurately as possible. Thanks for your input too! It's great to see a community so involved.

One more thing, a special "Thank You" to the great folks at *Share the Beach-Fort Morgan* for all their efforts in keeping our beaches clean and educating the public on how to better maintain our coast.

This month, our Guest Speaker is Steve Northcutt. Mr. Northcutt is the Director of Protection with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC is a global, non-profit founded in the early 1950's that is now one of the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. To learn more before the August meeting, visit: www.nature.org I am excited to let you guys in on what the FMCA and TNC are working on in the community and hope you will attend what is sure to be an exciting meeting.

As always, I encourage each member of our association to help spread the word about the Fort Morgan Civic Association. If your neighbors aren't members yet, invite them to a meeting! I hope I will see you at our next meeting on Aug 12th.

Joe
Joe Emerson



Agenda for this month's FMCA General Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance	Joe Emerson, President
Previous FMCA General Meeting 2019 Minutes	Carol Kittrell, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer
Membership Report	Jennifer Noojin, Membership
Fort Morgan Fire & Rescue Report	Ernie Church, FMVFD
Old Business	
- Website Updates	
New Business	
- Alabama Coastal Cleanup (21 Sep)	
- Nominations for Baldwin County Commission appointed members of P&Z Committee	
Guest Speaker – Mr. Steve Northcutt, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve, Northcutt, Director of Protection, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Adjournment	
- Next Meeting, September 9	

FMCA August Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday August 12th

FMCA 2019 MEETINGS:

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Sep 9~Oct 14~Nov 11~Dec 9~Jan 13~Feb 10~Mar 9

FMCA Membership Report~~~~~ Jennifer Noojin

We have 23 new and renewing household members for the month of July:

Jack Kelley
Anthony & Joy Portella
Jackie & Deborah Allsbrooks
Jane & Nelson Bailey
Jeanne & Jack Beggs
Karen & John Bobe
Jim Edgemon
Jim & Sandra King
Bill & Catherine Lange
Guerry & Susan McDavid
Dr. Richard & Mary Powers

Avery Bird
Jane & Kent Pair
Amanda Atkins
Beach Group Ltd.
James W. Bennett
Thomas Busby
Sam Glover
Michael & Wanda Kirkpatrick
Ryan & Jill Manning
Richard Powell
Charles & Julie Reuse.

Reminder: Annual Dues Were Due December 31! If you have not yet paid 2019, please send the attached Membership Form [see last page of this newsletter] with your \$15 annual dues to the address on the form as soon as possible to ensure you continue to receive correspondence from FMCA.

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee~~~~~Chan West

Our Advisory Committee met on July 15 to consider three requests.

- V-190027 Cohen property. 533 Brandt Lane. A request for a variance on setbacks as the residence was "inadvertently constructed within the setbacks." We voted 4 – 1 not to recommend approval of this request.
- V-190028 Fisher property. 11486 Council Lane. A request by the purchaser for a variance from rear yard setback and wetland setback. This is a waterfront lot on Shell Banks Bayou with very little upland, a hardship case. The request was for a 10' rear setback and a proposed dwelling with a deck where there would be three piling set in the wetland. We voted for approval of the rear yard setback and for the wetland setback subject to no construction in the wetlands.
- Z-10033 McNeil property. 1611 Hwy. 180. A request to rezone approximately one acre from RTF-4 to MR. This is adjacent to the marina on the east side. Walter McNeil wants to build a single-family residence and pier to operate a charter boat. Approval recommended

Vince Jackson, head of the county Planning and Zoning Department met with us to review proposed changes in the ordinances which will address some of the concerns in District 25:

- Dune walk-overs
- No stacked parking in single- and two-family residential zones
- Height limit of 2 ½ stories
- Prohibition of increases in density through rezoning or similar land use changes in the Coastal High Hazard and Flood Hazard Areas
- Exemption of District 25 from High Density Residential development

These changes will come before the County Commission in September.

Additionally, the committee met on July 29 to consider a request for a variance reducing the number of required parking spaces from 54 to 36 for a Dollar General store to be constructed at 9704 Hwy 180. The proposed site plan shows entry drive and some of the paving to be constructed over

wetlands. No permits from the Corps of Engineers and ADEM were included. Approval of the reduction in number of parking spaces was recommended, as well as redesign to eliminate construction in wetlands. The public hearing on this request is scheduled for August 8 in Bay Minette.

Upcoming Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Meetings (Shell Banks Baptist Church):

Monthly P&Z Mtgs – To Be Determined – please check for information on upcoming dates and agendas on our webpage - <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/planning-zoning-info>.

October 16 - 9:00 a.m. Semi-annual meeting.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~~~~~Sgt Mike Walker, BCSO

Fort Morgan Crime Report – July 2019

The good news is the vehicle and residential burglaries have seemed to stop. It is unknown if our efforts contributed to this, but I believe they did. The suspect could have just moved on, been arrested elsewhere, or just stopped. Bad news is we did not catch the suspect before he stopped.

However the stats for crime are little to none for July, we will strive to continue this streak.

EMERGENCY: 911

Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities

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

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffofbaldwin.com

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):

<http://sheriffofbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department~~~~~CHIEF JERRY RALSTON

The Fort Morgan Fire Department ran 38 calls in July:

25 Medical Calls	2 Structure Fires
5 Fire Alarms	4 Auto Accidents
2 Smoke Investigations	2 Public Assistance
1 Vehicle Fire	5 Swimmer in Distress (got back to shore)

Firefighters also spent several days patrolling the beach advising and educating the public about dangerous surf conditions. The Dept. attributes our low number of swimmers in distress calls to this program. If you have not completed your Hurricane pre-plan please do so.

Remember the ADEM ban on open fires remains in effect.

Stay Safe, Jerry Ralston, Fire Chief

Upcoming Events in Fort Morgan:

Share the Beach 2019~~~~~Debbie Harbin

Turtle nesting season started May 1st. As of July 23rd, we are at 19 turtle nests on Fort Morgan which meets our 2018 total. This is way below our normal nest numbers. In addition, we lost 6 to the tropical storm. We are hoping for more nests to come to make up for the ones we lost. We are still battling the amount of stuff left on the beach. We have had coverage on all of the local TV channels which seems to help for a couple of days. Had 2 ladies tell me that they had owned in Morgantown for 15 years and did not know they needed to take their stuff in at night. This illustrates the need for

continual education residents and visitors about the importance of daily beach cleanup. Please also be aware that outside lights hinder the nesting process of female turtles. If you own directly on the beach please consider checking into turtle friendly lights. Contact Alabama Coastal Foundation or US Fish and Wildlife for details. Also fill in holes and take up beach equipment at night.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site~~~~~Wendy Hyatt

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 AM and 2 PM

**During August,
September and
October**

Fort Morgan State Historic Site will be holding the "Espionage at Mobile Point" Escape Room: You've been captured as a Civil War spy before the Battle of Mobile Bay. You must find the clues and crack the codes in one hour, to escape from your captors before you're charged with treason. During the game, you'll learn the history of this significant battle and its impact on the Civil War. Tick...Tock... Tick...Tock... The power to escape is in your hands. You can do it! Cost: \$25 for ages 13 and up

Minimum # of participants: 4

Maximum # of participants: 10

Email: escaperoom@fort-morgan.org

Call Wendy Hyatt 251-540-5257



August 3 9 AM to 3 PM



The Commemoration of the Battle of Mobile Bay: The Fort will be filled with Living History Staff and Volunteers reliving the events that happened at Mobile Bay August 5-23, 1864 Regular Site Admission Charged.

August 31 and September 1

*HMS ACASTA will host an event called **On the Beach at Fort Bowyer**. <http://www.hmsacasta.com> [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=P8F5JLIXLM8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8F5JLIXLM8) Regular Admission Charged*



Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

For upcoming events please visit our online sites at <http://www.fws.gov/bonsecour>; <http://facebook.com/BonSecourNWR>, or contact the Refuge Office by phone (251) 540-7720 or in person Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Local resident goes for World Record Attempt~~~~~Jennifer Noojin



*Bert Noojin with son
Gould*

On August 1 (his 11th birthday), **Marcus Gould** (son of Bert & Jennifer Noojin) will be attempting to break a world record for the "Most Number of Star Jumps in One Minute". The current world record is set by Ray Butler of the United States and was set on September 18, 2013. The current record stands at 77. Marcus will be in the 5th grade at Orange Beach Elementary in the fall. Good luck, Marcus and we look forward to having a Guinness Book of World Record holder right here in Fort Morgan!

Marcus

Fort Morgan History:

Request for contributions – please contact FMCA newsletter editor if you are interested in researching Fort Morgan history or providing personal memories to share of Fort Morgan

A Brief History of the Sand Island Lighthouse

Back in the 1830's Sand Island was composed of over 400 acres and was part of what is now Dauphin Island. The original lighthouse was over 50 feet high and federally funded. In 1858 the old structure was replaced by one 200 feet high with a lamp 8 feet tall. In 1863 the lamp lens was considered so valuable it was removed by rebel forces and buried in order to prevent union forces from using the lighthouse during the war. In 1873 the lighthouse was again rebuilt. Whale oil was the fuel of choice but later replaced by kerosene. The Coast Guard took over the acreage in 1937. The light was deactivated in 1932. The lighthouse is now owned by the residents of Dauphin Island. The Second Order Fresnel Lens was removed in 1971 and placed in the Fort Morgan Museum.

Special thanks to Bonnie Lowry, longtime Fort Morgan resident for her contribution to the Fort Morgan History segment this month; for more detailed information on the Sand Island Lighthouse - <http://alabamalighthouses.com/pages/sandislandlighthouse.html>

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 Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	twstrong@gulftel.com
Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Legal	Judy Newcomb	955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Local Government	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
State Government	Michael Ludvigsen		
Membership	Jennifer Ishler Noojin	(205) 249-1025	jnoojin1@gmail.com
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

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 _____

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 Operating 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.