

FORT MORGAN NEWS

September 2019~Issue 151



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

At the September meeting of the FMCA we have a tentative plan to vote on Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Committee members for the 2019-2023 term. Please keep in mind that you must be a full member to vote, one vote per household. Nominees have submitted biographies for publication to the website on the Planning and Zoning Link for members to get familiarized with them. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know our Planning and Zoning Committee.

Speaking of Planning and Zoning, I would like to recognize the standing Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Committee members as well as the individual members of this community that have worked so diligently in coordinating with Baldwin County to get the new ordinance proposals in front of the Commission. The new ordinances have been drafted to help ensure the protection and preservation of Fort Morgan and I for one whole heartedly support them.

Finally, I am happy to announce that our website now has an online payment option. This will allow new and existing members to pay dues and make donations online using PayPal. This will certainly make it easier to join/renew and will hopefully encourage membership growth. Special thanks to Bill Lamar, Ernie Church, Greg Strategier and Jennifer Noojin for volunteering their time and talents and all coordinating to make this option available. Thank You.

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 Sep 9th.

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, FMFRD
Old Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Website Updates- Nominations for Baldwin County Commission appointed members of P&Z Committee- Alabama Coastal Cleanup (21 Sep)	
New Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vote for support letter for new ordinances- Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, October 14	

FMCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday September 9th

FMCA 2019 MEETINGS:

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

FMCA Membership Report~~~~~ Jennifer Noojin

We have 11 new and renewing household members for the month of August:

Kevin & Sandra Trainor	Pat & Ellen Ryan
Kenneth & Karen Barnett	Mary Douglas Collins
Harry & Anita King (associate members)	Fort Morgan Property Management
Peter & Susan Yates	John & Marian Grainger
Jo Ann King	Colleen Whittaker
Brandon and Christina Spako	

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually.

Membership Application process by mail:

Fill out Membership Application attached below, complete, and print. Write check for \$15
Mail Membership Application and check to:
Fort Morgan Civic Association
P.O. Box 5313 • Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Membership Application process electronically:

NOTE: The fillable form online will not work on Chrome or Edge or Safari browsers. Internet Explorer and Firefox are currently the only browsers that will work with the fillable form

On the Fort Morgan Civic Association Membership webpage, Click on Membership Application (fillable form) on the webpage or this [LINK](#) and complete. Select "Submit Form". Email will open in your email window. Complete email and send.

To complete the electronic submission process, utilize the PayPal link at the bottom of the Membership webpage or this [LINK](#) and follow prompts to pay Membership Dues.

NOTE: Membership Dues are \$15.00 and \$3.00 is the PayPal processing fee for a total electronic transaction of \$18.00. Any amount above \$18 will be accepted as a donation to the Fort Morgan Civic Association.

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

This has been a quiet month except for the news that the proposed major changes to regulations for District 25, as outline in this report last month, are going before the County Commission in September and should be voted on in October.

At the August meeting of the civic association the developers who have purchased the marina property presented their plan for building a 24-space upscale RV park on the undeveloped western parcel. This will not require any rezoning.

For updates on the variance requests acted on by the Board of Adjustment, check our website at <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/planning-zoning-info> . If you have questions regarding the District 25 Planning and Zoning Committee please contact Chan West at chan@goefish.com or 251-979-4932.

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 – August 2019

Well Summertime is coming to an end and I am proud to say things are going well. There have been little to no reports of any kind in Area 8 (Fort Morgan Rd.). The one report to mention was an investigation of (2) suspects in the area of Ponce De Leon. Contact was made with the subjects and they were arrested for active traffic warrants. However, they do not live in the area, and their physical descriptions match some of the features from our string of Burglaries and Theft from earlier in the year. The investigation into those crimes is still on going.

EMERGENCY: 911

Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities

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

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffalbaldwin.com

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):

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

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department~~~~~Jerry Ralston, Fire Chief, FMFRD

The Fort Morgan Fire Department ran 26 calls in August:

11 Medical Calls	1 Elevator Entrapment Structure Fires
4 Fire Alarms	1Missing Person Auto Accidents
2 Automobile Accidents	1 Smoke Investigation
1 ATV Accident	1 Swimmer in Distress

The peak of Hurricane Season has arrived, activity is picking up. If you have not completed your Hurricane Preparedness Plan please do so. If evacuations are called for please comply.

Stay Safe,
Jerry Ralston,
Fire Chief

Special Article: Impact of Human Interaction with Wildlife~~~~~Elliott Fackler, SCA Wildlife Biologist & Outreach Intern, Bon Secour NWR

Picture a beautiful day on the beach in Fort Morgan. Children splash in the surf and build sandcastles as parents read a book or bask in the sun. Beach walkers comb for shells among the soft white sand. A friendly fisherman tosses a tasty morsel of fish to a bird nearby. Something is wrong with this picture; do you know what it is?

While you've probably heard you shouldn't feed wildlife, you may not know why. After all, it feels good to help out the critters we share the planet with. But even with the best of intentions, we can only do wild animals harm by feeding them. Healthy wild animals are able to hunt for and gather food on

their own, but when fed by people they become unwilling to find their own food and become dependent on handouts.

When fed by people, birds like herons will seek out fishermen on the beach because they expect an easy meal. This can lead to birds becoming tangled in fishing line or even swallowing hooks when bait is left hanging from a fishing pole. When this happens, the bird may become unable to walk or fly properly, or may lose limbs from cut-off circulation. In the case of larger animals like alligators or bears, feeding by people can lead to dangerous nuisance behavior. When larger animals like these begin approaching people for food, the only option available is often to euthanize the animal. By observing wildlife from a distance and respecting their wildness, we protect them and ourselves. If you see wildlife in need of help in Fort Morgan, do not approach. Take some pictures if you can, then contact the Orange Beach Wildlife Center at 844-303-9453. Be prepared to provide a detailed description of the animal and what is wrong with it, as well as the location where you saw it.



Photo: Diana Nichols

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

Alabama Coastal Cleanup 21 Sep 2019~~~~~Brittany Petersen, Bon Secour NWR

You or your organization can volunteer to clean Alabama's coastal waterways and beaches on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 8am – 12pm. Over 87,000 volunteers have assisted in this event since Alabama joined the International Coastal Cleanup in 1987. We are grateful to the many helping hands and hearts who have pitched in to benefit our priceless natural resources.

The Fort Morgan Zone of Alabama's Coastal Cleanup is always looking for volunteers! Check-in will begin at 8 am on Saturday, September 21st at the Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Station #1 (12105 AL-180, Gulf Shores, AL 36542) across Shell Banks Baptist Church. Coastal Cleanup will be held in spite of the weather, so please check the forecast that day and to dress appropriately. Trash bags will be provided, but it is suggested to bring your own gloves, water, bug spray, sunblock, etc. We hope see you Saturday September 21st! For more information check out <https://alabamacoastalcleanup.com/> or email Fort Morgan Zone Captain, Brittany Petersen, at Brittany_petersen@fws.gov.

For upcoming events please visit Bon Secour NWR online sites at <http://www.fws.gov/bonsecour> or <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.

Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful~~~~~Chan West

This is our adopt-a-mile type program whose faithful volunteers pick up trash along our highway. At this time, we have some who would like to retire. We need replacements. The idea is that you pick up roadside trash whenever you think it is needed – no organized campaigns.

These faithful citizens will continue to serve in this program and are to be commended for their service: John Butterick, Sassy Bass, Donna McKillip and Carol Blassingame, Patty Taylor and Linda Meddars, Bob Schmidt, Ron Meehan, Carol and Steve Kittrell, Michael Ludvigsen, and Rhonda Dunlap.

We are in need of volunteers to cover the following sections:

Mile 2 to 3, 3 to 4, 5 to 6, 9 to 10, 12 to 13

If you are willing to be responsible for one of these sections, call or email Chan. (info under Executive Board Contacts). A grabber and a yellow vest will be furnished. All of us can assist in this program. When you go for a walk or run, on a road or the beach, stuff a couple of plastic grocery bags in your pocket.

Share the Beach 2019~~~~~~Debbie Harbin

Fort Morgan Share the Beach is at the end of our 2019 morning patrol season. We had only 19 nests and 6 of them were totally washed away with the storm. We have 6 nests left that we will be watching in the coming weeks, 5 of which nested after the storms so we are hopeful to have lots more babies go to the water. Even with a slow season and the loss of nest we have put close to 400 babies to the water. This does not include nests on refuge properties.

We have also picked up tons of trash and educated many visitors about the need to keep our beaches clean.

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

Bon Secour NWR~~~~~~Brittany Petersen

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.

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

Henrietta Hotel

In the early 1900's Fort Morgan had a hotel. The Henrietta Hotel which sat on Bon Secour Bay was built by Andrew Jackson, a lawyer from Council Bluffs, Iowa, with backing from the Sioux City Company and a group of investors from Chicago, Illinois. No expense was spared during its

construction. Running water and electric lights powered by a Delco system generated enough power for the hotel and an ice plant. A pier was built that went $\frac{3}{4}$ mile into the bay to assure access to deeper water. The hotel had 25 double rooms and private baths. It was very modern for its time. It also had 11 servant rooms for those doing housekeeping and taking care of the grounds. Bay boats such as the "Baldwin" not only brought in passengers and freight, but served as a transport to places like Daphne.

The investors envisioned (in an article in the Onlooker) the hotel becoming the centerpiece of a new town "Shell Banks". However, a 1906 hurricane hit the area hard very hard causing loss of life and major damage to properties. Survivors rebuilt the hotel. The hotel was managed by several managers from 1907-1926 (George Smith 1907-1911, Jesse Smith, George's son 1911-1918 and Ed Strong 1918-1926), until a fire caused major damage and the hotel was never rebuilt.

George Meyer purchased the property and began clearing the site to make way for construction of "cottages". Materials were moved to the west end of the lagoon and then floated by raft to the end of West Beach. Ultimately in an area dubbed "Gulf Shores Hotel", four cottages were built. Two prominent Baldwin County residents – Mrs. Bibb Graves and Dr. W.C. Holmes were among the original owners of the cottages.

Special thanks to Bonnie Lowry, longtime Fort Morgan resident for her contribution to the Fort Morgan History segment this month

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	captioesells@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

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	251-979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	251-540-9327	
Membership	Jennifer Ishler Noojin	(205) 249-1025	jnoojin1@gmail.com
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	251-543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

New _____ Renewal _____

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 in the amount of \$ _____

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.