

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## November 2019~Issue 153



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members and an especially warm welcome to new members! A congratulations is in order and special thanks to the Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee. Their work with the Baldwin Planning and Zoning Commission and the Baldwin County Commission has led to changes in the District 25 ordinance text that is sure to help preserve the Fort Morgan peninsula for years to come. More information about that can be found on our website and in the Planning and Zoning Report.

At this month's meeting, we are excited to host guest speakers from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. They will be giving us a brief presentation about Sea Turtle friendly lighting ahead of a half day workshop scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Beach Club. You may see flyers around the Fort Morgan community over the coming weeks with additional information. Please attend this workshop and if you are involved in your neighborhood or condominiums' HOA, help spread the word.



As always, I encourage each member of our association to help spread the word about the Fort Morgan Civic Association and its work to preserve and protect the Fort Morgan community. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I hope to see you there!

**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	FMF&RD
Old Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- P&amp;Z Report</li><li>- Government Affairs Report</li><li>- Declaratory Judgement</li></ul>	Ernie Church, Chair FM P&Z Advisory Cte. Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison
New Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- FMCA Holiday Party</li><li>- Guest Speaker – Beach Lighting Workshop</li><li>- Open Floor</li></ul>	Thelma Strong, Chair Hospitality Cte. USFW
Adjournment: Next Meeting, Dec 9	

**FMCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **FMCA 2019/2020 MEETINGS:**

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
Dec 9~Jan 13~Feb 10~Mar 9~Apr 13~

## **FMCA Membership Report~~~~~ Jennifer Noojin**

**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 (<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/>), Click on Membership Application (fillable form) on the webpage 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 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.

## **FMCA Hospitality Committee. – Christmas Celebration~~~~~Thelma Strong**

The Fort Morgan Civic Association members will celebrate Christmas December 9th at 6:30 at Shell Banks Baptist Church. Refreshments will be served. We will see you there. -Thelma Strong, Hospitality Chairman.

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

The Fort Morgan Fire Department ran 33 calls in October:

18 Medical Calls	1 Missing Person
9 Fire Alarms	1 Public Assist
1 Assist Other Agency	1 Elevator Entrapment
1 Smoke Investigation	1 Powerline down

The ADEM Burn Ban came to an end November 1<sup>st</sup>. Always remember to check the weather conditions before burning. Have tools and a water supply on hand and call 911 immediately if your fire gets out of control. You may be held responsible for any damage your fire causes.

The time changes Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> remember to change the batteries in and check your smoke detectors.

These are the remaining 2019 training dates for the fire dept. The public is welcome to come and observe at any of our training meetings.

Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM until 10 PM

Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM until 10 PM

Monday November 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM until 10 PM

Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM until 10 PM

The Fire Dept. Board of Director's meets the second Tuesday of each month. The public is encouraged to attend.

The Fire Dept. Board of Directors Annual Meeting and Director Election will be held January 14, 2020. The public is encouraged to attend. Please reference the Fire Department By-Laws ( <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/links> ) if you are interested in becoming a member and or serving on the Board of Directors.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Stay Safe,  
Jerry Ralston,  
Fire Chief

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

Well the search continues for the KD bandit. It is believed the subject that was breaking into Fort Morgan residences earlier this year, has moved into the Gulf Shores area. The crimes he is committing are still the same, he enters homes, or vacation rentals and steals cash, gift cards, and medications. The suspect is believed to be living in unoccupied rentals, or abandoned houses. When contacted the suspect acts as if he works for the reality company. Keep your eyes open. You see something, call somebody. It may mean nothing to you, but could be the missing piece we need to solve the case.

Winter is coming the busy season is gone. Check your properties routinely if you have rentals, the odds of solving a theft that happens now but isn't reported until the spring are not good at all. No other major issues to speak of at this time.

**EMERGENCY: 911**  
**Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities**  
**Sheriff's Department—Administrative Office.....972-6802**  
**Sheriff's Office Website: [www.sheriffofbaldwin.com](http://www.sheriffofbaldwin.com)**  
**Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):**  
**<http://sheriffofbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>**

### ***Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee~~~~~Ernie Church***

I want to thank Chan West for her service as chair of our P&Z Advisory Committee since its inception in 2015. Her dedication and leadership during that time have been instrumental in maintaining the environmental, cultural and historic nature of our community.

I also want to recognize Chan, Thelma Strong and Bonnie Lowry for their years of hard work and partnership with the Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Department in developing much needed amendments to District 25 ordinances, and spearheading community efforts to get those proposed amendments approved by the County Commission.

In a nutshell, here's what the new ordinances specify:

- Two-story habitable limit on new construction of single and duplex family residences.
- District 25 (Ft Morgan) exempt from high density residential (HDR) zoning.
- Land Use guidelines and specific construction requirements for Dune Walkovers.
- Coastal High Hazard and Flood Hazard area delineation and zoning specifics.

These changes will help control growth and population density here in Ft Morgan.

Be sure to visit our FMCA website [www.fortmorgancivic.org/planningandzoning](http://www.fortmorgancivic.org/planningandzoning) to keep abreast of our local P&Z meeting schedule and issues relevant to development here in District 25.

### ***Fort Morgan VFD Auxiliary Fish Update~~~~~Thelma Strong***

The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Fish Fry Dinner Saturday October 19 at Fort Morgan Fire Station #1 to benefit the Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Dept. Benevolent Fund. The event was a success despite the weather.



### ***Open Letter to FMCA members New Fort Morgan Zoning Amendments Approved by Baldwin County Commissioners~~~~~Jamie Strategier***

**Thank You to Everyone who Supported the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments for Baldwin County District 25 – Fort Morgan.** These amendments include removal of High-Density Residential District (HDR); establishment of a two (2) habitable story maximum height for single family and two-family dwellings; establishment of dune walkover requirements and standards; and establishment of Planning & Zoning consideration for Coastal High Hazard Areas and Flood Hazard Areas in District 25, Fort Morgan (Section 2.3.25.3)

Many of you showed your support with emails, letters, phone calls and in-person. Your support and voiced concerns about issues facing Fort Morgan Community are being heard. Baldwin County Commissioners are actively working to ensure the preservation of Fort Morgan Peninsula. The Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Director, Vince Jackson, and his staff researched these issues, then developed & proposed the Amendments which were approved and supported by Fort Morgan Civic Association, Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department, Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee, and Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission. On October 15, 2019, Baldwin County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendments (TA-19001). The new Baldwin County Zoning Ordinances are helping to preserve Fort Morgan Community and Fort Morgan Peninsula. **These new Zoning Ordinances help to ensure the safety of Fort Morgan residents, visitors, and environment while allowing for Safe and Planned Growth & Development in Fort Morgan.**

While these new Ordinances were the first step to address problems in Fort Morgan. FMCA will continue to present issues facing our community to Baldwin County. Your voice is important to advise Baldwin County the wishes of FMCA Members and Fort Morgan Residents.

### ***Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:***

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

WWII Event with Demonstration – Nov 1 and 2. More information will soon be posted on the Facebook (Fort Morgan State Historic Site) and website <http://www.fort-morgan.org>



### **Upcoming Walks and Events at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge**

Come and join us for our upcoming walks and events here at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge! There will be four different informational walks in the coming weeks, as well as an educational movie about monarch butterflies!

#### Mid Nov Monarch Walks!

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 which 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 walk typically lasts anywhere 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 Monarch walks will begin at 10:00 AM at the Gator Lake Trailhead located off of Mobile Street. The walks are limited to 12 participants; please call to make reservations at 251-540-7720.

Monarch Walk! Dates: Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>; Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>; Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

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.

### **2019 Sea Turtle Lighting Workshop~~~~~USF&W AL Ecological Services Field Station**

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is concerned about the impact of beach lighting on threatened and endangered sea turtles on Alabama's nesting beaches. All sea turtles that nest on Alabama's beaches are federally threatened or endangered species, and sea turtles, their eggs, and nests are provided protection under the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act). The Service's, Alabama Field Office (AFO), has launched an initiative designed to ensure that beachfront lighting problems adversely impacting sea turtles are corrected. The AFO is documenting problem beachfront lighting sources and needs your help in working to eliminate problems that unnecessarily impact sea turtles.

Under natural conditions hatchlings typically emerge from their nests at night and move toward the brightest, most open horizon, which is over the ocean. However, when bright light sources are visible on the beach, they attract hatchlings in the wrong direction, resulting in an increased risk of death or injury because they are more vulnerable to predators, dehydration, entrapment in debris or vegetation, and exhaustion. In addition, artificial lights often lure hatchlings or adult sea turtles onto roadways and parking lots where they are vulnerable to car strikes. Artificial lights can also disorient hatchlings once they reach the water. Any activity that results in disorientation of nesting and hatchling sea turtles by artificial lighting, or otherwise significantly alters the behavior of sea turtles, or results in injury or death to sea turtles may constitute a violation under the Act.

We are holding two workshops (see flyer below) at no cost to participants to provide information and recommendations on the what, why and how's of "sea turtle friendly" lighting. Please join us for one of the workshops so we can answer all your questions. Please contact Ms. Shannon Holbrook at 251-441-5871, if you have any questions, if you would like to attend the workshop or if you would like assistance in retrofitting the lighting for your beachfront home. We look forward to working with you.

*Inviting all*

**DISTRIBUTORS, CONTRACTORS,  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS  
& HOME OWNER ASSOCIATIONS**



*Please join us for the*

## 2019 SEA TURTLE LIGHTING WORKSHOP



**VOLKERT**



**CONNECT TO  
YOUR COAST**



### TWO OPPORTUNITIES

**NOV 19TH | GULF SHORES, AL**  
Conservation Hall at the Learning  
Campus of Gulf State Park  
20249 State Hwy 135  
Gulf Shores, AL 36540

**NOV 20TH | FORT MORGAN, AL**  
The Beach Club  
925 Beach Club Trail  
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

- 8:30am Registration begins
- 9:00am The Problem of Light on Sea Turtle  
Nesting Beaches (USFW)
- 10:00am Local Lighting Issues (City)
- 10:30am Lecture: The Who's, What's, Where's  
of Wildlife Friendly Lighting (SESCO)
- 11:15am Q&A's

*Serving complimentary snacks and refreshments*

For questions or more information:  
Kristi Spohn | [kspohn@sescolighting.com](mailto:kspohn@sescolighting.com) or Susan West | [swest@joinACF.org](mailto:swest@joinACF.org)



## **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*

## **Development of Transportation Links to Fort Morgan**

Originally, Indian foot paths were the only way to travel in the early history of Baldwin County. Later, settlers widened the paths by wagons and buggies. Three trail roads were followed and later settlers began cutting down trees, lashing them together with vines. That of course was until they hit the bogs, creeks and sand on the coastal area. In 1839, upper Baldwin had a stagecoach line cutting from Mobile up to Montgomery. This became a mail route and the cost of a letter, seventy-five cents.

Settlers used boats to get to Plash Island. Sandy roads connected the village of Shell Banks to Ft Morgan. When the automobile came along new methods had to be used such as shells. Before the cut of the intracoastal waterway - land all the way to the Gulf coast was swamp, marsh and wetlands.

The original Ft Morgan road was built by transient labor, the WPA program of the Roosevelt recovery plan. The men were housed, fed and given small pay. The works began with the CCC in 1934 and completed by the WPA in 1936. Dedicated during Gov Bibb Graves term, the road was opened to the public and named Dixie Graves Parkway after the Gov's wife. One of the most unusual things about the road is that there is a 330 ft right of way and, in past years, it was a scenic drive all the way to Mobile Point.

*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	<a href="mailto:captjoesells@gmail.com">captjoesells@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	<a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	<a href="mailto:ckittrell@southalabama.edu">ckittrell@southalabama.edu</a>

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:kllovins68@icloud.com">kllovins68@icloud.com</a>
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	<a href="mailto:twstrong@gulftel.com">twstrong@gulftel.com</a>
Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	251-979-4932	<a href="mailto:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</a>
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	<a href="mailto:judynewcomb@aol.com">judynewcomb@aol.com</a>
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	251-540-9327	
Membership	Jennifer Ishler Noojin	(205) 249-1025	<a href="mailto:jnoojin1@gmail.com">jnoojin1@gmail.com</a>
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	251-543-1555	<a href="mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com">vpowers110@gmail.com</a>

**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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.