

FORT MORGAN NEWS

May 2021~Issue 171



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all and a warm welcome to our new FMCA members!

We are gearing up for another busy tourism season here on the Peninsula. The FMCA in partnership with Baldwin County and the Alabama Coastal Foundation has created the Fort Morgan Clean Beach Initiative to help educate residents and guests alike on the importance of keeping the beaches clean and removing equipment from the beach after use daily. As always, we encourage rental property owners to help educate your guests on how to be good stewards of this precious resource. You can find more information about this program here:

<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/beach-guidelines.html>



As a reminder, any unpaid Membership Dues are now 5 months delinquent. If you are not current, your email address will be removed from our database and you will no longer receive this newsletter or the updates/information that membership in the FMCA provides to Fort Morgan residents and owners. Please take a moment and renew your membership here:

<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/membership.html>

The FMCA executive board has an opening in the position of Secretary. Responsibilities include, taking notes at meetings of the Board and General Assembly, transcription of meeting minutes as well as coordination with other Executive Board members to create monthly agendas and communications. If you are interested in getting more involved in the FMCA and serving the community, please send a notice of interest to: fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

At this month's meeting on May 10th, we are excited to host a special Guest Speaker, Senator Chris Elliot. Senator Elliot will give us an update regarding his Senate Bill 107 and answering questions about how the legislation will impact our community as it relates to Police & Planning Jurisdictions. It's sure to be quite informative and I hope to see a good turn out from our membership.

Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA and our work to preserve and protect the Fort Morgan community.

Joe

Joe Emerson

#fortmorganstrong

Agenda for this month's FMCA General Meeting:

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance	Joe Emerson, President
Previous FMCA General Meeting Minutes	
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer
Government Affairs Report	Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison
Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Cte.	Ernie Church, Chair
Old Business -Executive Board Opening -Clean Beach Partners	
New Business -SB 107	Chris Elliott, Alabama State Senator, District 32
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 14 June	

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually. Additionally, please contact FMCA Membership Chair at fmcamemberships@gmail.com for any changes to membership status (i.e., address / email update, death of a member)

For membership application by mail or online, access Fort Morgan Civic Association website (<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/>), click on membership tab, and select desired process (online or mail), then follow the prompts.

FMCA Executive Board Opening: Secretary ~~~~~

We are currently seeking to fill the vacant Secretary position on the executive board. The Secretary’s responsibilities include keeping, in permanent form: the minutes of the Association and the Executive Board, a list of committees and their members and a record of attendance at all meetings to be provided by the Membership Committee chair. The Secretary also shall conduct the correspondence and maintain the official administrative records of the Association. If you are interested in a nomination as Secretary, please let us know by email: fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee ~~~~~Ernie Church, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair

Future Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Committee meetings will be noted on <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/> as well as associated case files if a meeting is scheduled.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department ~~~~~Sonny Farris, Chief FMVFD

The Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department is seeking volunteers. No experience necessary. Must be full time resident of Fort Morgan. Training is provided. We meet the first and third Monday at 6:30 p. m. at Fire Station one. Come and visit our sessions.

Stay Safe,
Sonny Farris
Chief FMVFD

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~~~~~BCSO

“If you see something, Say something”. It is so important, for the Sheriff’s Office to know what you know.

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>

Hurricane Sally Recovery – Osprey Platforms ~~~~~

Hurricane Sally recovery has been ongoing along the Fort Morgan peninsula. Several osprey nesting platforms were damaged during Hurricane Sally but had not been part of the recovery efforts during the winter months. That changed in early March when a coordinated effort began between various private, local, state, and federal organizations to replace the damaged poles and platforms. Two osprey nesting platforms and their supporting poles were replaced as part of the effort. One platform located near the Pines Launch along Hwy 180 and one platform located within Gulf State

Park. The osprey pair at the Pines were observed actively nest building with 24 hours of the new platform being erected. This is a visual sign of the resilience of the Fort Morgan environment after the devastation of Hurricane Sally. Please join the FMCA in thanking the following organizations for their support:

- Alabama Coastal Foundation
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Baldwin County Poles and Pilings
- Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department
- Rylands Underground
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Alabama Senate Bill 107 Talking Points~~~~~

The following information was provided through coordination between Chris Elliott, Alabama State Senator District 32 and Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Governmental Affairs Liaison as a way to better clarify SB 107 for FMCA members. The following information is meant to help members to provide informed feedback to governmental officials about any issues/concerns they have with SB 107. You can find the complete bill at <https://legiscan.com/AL/text/SB107/2021> . The FMCA will continue to help provide our members with information relevant to the preservation and protection of the District 25 Fort Morgan community.

Senate Bill 107 Talking Points

POLICE JURISDICTION

Immediately freezes police jurisdiction to 1.5 or 3 miles respectively for those who are currently exercising police jurisdictions as of 1.1.21.

Limits enforcement in the police jurisdiction to state misdemeanors. This would stop enforcement of purely local municipal ordinances not tied to state misdemeanors (noise, leash, dust, etc....)

Allows for building code enforcement for those that are doing so as of 1.1.21 until the county provides building code enforcement at which point it then provides for a 24 month phase out by the municipality. Provides that County and City can agree for City to continue to perform building code enforcement.

REPORTING OF REVENUE IN POLICE JURISDICTIONS

Amends existing reporting requirements to a date certain (March 1 for the previous fiscal year) and provides that if reporting isn't made within 12 months of the deadline, the municipality may no longer continue licensing and taxing in the police jurisdiction. Provides requirements on what is required in the reporting.

In addition to the reporting, it authorizes the Legislative council to request an audit of the police jurisdiction of a municipality by the Examiners of Public Accounts. A municipality is only required to pay for this audit if the audit shows that they are not in compliance with spending in the police jurisdiction

PLANNING JURISDICTION

Immediately reduces the planning jurisdiction of a municipality to 1.5 or 3 miles respectively. Effective January 1, 2023, the planning jurisdiction of any municipality will be 1.5 miles

Clarifies that a municipality may only regulate subdivisions within its planning jurisdiction and provides for a “family” exemption from subdivision regulation in the planning jurisdiction.

Allows for continued subdivision regulation authority in the planning jurisdiction. If a county provides subdivision regulation and there is no agreement between the county and municipality to continue, there is a 24 month phase out by the municipality. It also allows a municipal planning commission to resume subdivision regulation if the county discontinues – again with a 24-month phase in/out. Provides that County and City can agree for City to continue to perform planning jurisdiction enforcement.

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

Share the Beach/ Alabama Coastal Foundation~~~~~

Sea turtle nesting season begins 1 May. Please 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 prior to the 2021 turtle nesting season. Contact Alabama Coastal Foundation or US Fish and Wildlife for details. Make sure to continue to fill in holes and take up beach equipment to ensure safe beaches for residents, visitors and turtles throughout the year.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site~~~~~

Check for current updates on daily operations / park entry procedures at Facebook (Fort Morgan State Historic Site) and website <http://www.fort-morgan.org> .

Bon Secour NWR~~~~~

Check for current updates on refuge operations by <https://www.facebook.com/BonSecourNWR/>, calling the office at 251-540-7720 or emailing bonsecour@fws.gov, messages will be returned as soon as possible.

Fort Morgan History:

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

Diary of the Storm – September 26-17, 1906 – Continued from March newsletter Maude M. Midgette, November 1st 1912

Arriving on board the boat we at once made ourselves at home, but it was fully two hours before the boat was ready to leave, and when we saw the soldier bringing the U.S. mail bag, we knew then that the boat would soon get orders to leave.

The trip up the bay was a lovely one and the bay was so smooth it looked like a sheet of glass. While we were looking over the side of the boat, we recognized small pieces of our houses, fences, and boats drifting by.

When we at last came in sight of Mobile what an awful sight met the eye, with trees and houses blown down and vessels turned over and dismasted and up on the wharves, and some even up on the streets. Turn which way we would, we could see the effects of the storm every-where.

When at last we landed at the pier there was a very large crowd from all around collected on the pier to see the survivors of the storm. Some came from pity, but I think most of them came from curiosity alone. Several people took snap shots of us as we left the mail boat and came on to the wharf. Papa met us on the wharf with six carriages (which were kindly donated by Mr. P. B. Dixon) and we

were quickly taken to them and then started for our homes, therefore avoiding the staring eyes of the public.

Thus, have I finished my story of what was known as the worst storm along the Gulf coast for many years, and we all pray to our God above that we may never again be called upon to witness such another.

If anyone after reading this short story doubts its truth, they should take a trip to Navy Cove and there be convinced.

Thanks to Chan West, long time Fort Morgan resident and FMCA member for this submission.

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	captjoesells@gmail.com
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	samsplace41805@gmail.com
Secretary	Vacant		

Non-Officers

FMCA / Local / State / Federal Government Liaison	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com
Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com

Standing Committee Chairs

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