

FORT MORGAN NEWS

August 2021~Issue 174



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

The FMCA executive board still 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. Members interested in applying should make a point to attend meetings in person. 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

As you know, our organization works on many different projects throughout the year. From coordinating with the County government and their departments regarding local issues to monitoring USACE/ Planning & Zoning permitting requests and new developments in our community, as well as planning and hosting community outreach and engagement events. Staying on top of all of this is a tall order and as our organization and community grows, so does the depth of responsibility. If you would like to be more involved in taking on a role in the association, whether it be as a chair or you just want to help with special projects, come out on August 9th!

I am excited to announce that this month, we will have a few business items to cover and will not be able to host a guest speaker.

Remember, we are always seeking new membership! If your neighbor is not a member of our organization, tell them about us and invite them to come to our next meeting! See you all on June 14th at 6:30pm. Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA and our combined efforts to preserve and protect the Fort Morgan community.

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	Vacant, Secretary
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 -Committees -Ryan and Wilkes -Baldwin EMA Partnership -Website Updates	
New Business -Virtual Meeting -Create "No Dumping" Signs -Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 13 September	

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually. Additionally, please contact FMCA Membership Chair at fortmorgancivic@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.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department ~~~~~

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,
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>

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful ~~~~~Chan West

Please be aware of the basics of Solid Waste pick-ups:

The trucks are not going to get off the pavement. That means that bulky goods need to be placed on the shoulder of the road.

Google on Baldwin County Solid Waste. You get will a form to request a pick-up, as well as information about requirements. This website has been upgraded and is user friendly.

Pick-ups are usually scheduled for the last Friday of the month. Call 972-6878 for more information.

We have had problems with chronic illegal dump sites under the powerline right-of-way, especially one at the southeast corner of Hwy. 180 and Mobile St. Sam Schmidt and Michael Ludvigsen recently helped me move a pile there to the ROW, only to have a fresh pile appear in less than two weeks. Should you see someone making an illegal dump, get a photo of the tag. Kim at Solid Waste will follow up. Of course, usually the tailgate of the truck is down and tag is not visible. You can also look through the trash for anything with name or address to report. Or you can give friendly advice to the culprit.

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

As August begins, our Fort Morgan Share the Beach volunteers are continuing morning patrols and adding evening nest monitoring as we move into hatching season! With a total of 53 nests to date, 11 along Fort Morgan team beach and 9 on Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge, this is an important time for our sea turtles. Hatchlings are especially vulnerable to lighting disorientation, beach debris and even small holes. You can continue to help our nesting females, along with our hatchlings, but following these turtle-friendly (and beach-friendly) habits:

- **Leave Only Footprints:** Remove all trash, toys, canopies, beach furniture and other items from the beach every evening when you leave, and fill in any holes.
- **Use only "Sea Turtle Friendly" Flashlights:** Make our beaches inviting for nesting turtles by using our Share the Beach Flashlights (*see below for 20% discount code*), changing to sea turtle-friendly exterior light fixtures on beach facing property, and closing blinds and window coverings on beach-facing windows at night.
- **Keep the Trash Out of the Splash:** Secure all trash and other items when you're out on the water boating and fishing, and don't leave items loose when trailering boats home.
- **If you see a sea turtle:** Stay back (at least 50 feet), stay low to the ground, stay quiet, no flashlights or flash photography, and call our hotline at (866) SEA-TURTLE (866-732-8878).

Coastal property owners: Please educate your guests about good sea turtle practices by purchasing our [refrigerator magnets](#) and [yard signs](#).

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.

DOGS OF MY CHILDHOOD – Chan West

It seems that we always had a family dog as did almost all our friends and neighbors. Few were house dogs, but roamed the neighborhood. I do not think any of them were ever sprayed; in fact, they seldom were taken to a vet. The only vet I remember had his office on Old Shell Road in Crichton and

we sometimes took a dog there for a rabies shot. Few dogs died of old age; puppies succumbed to distemper, dogs to heartworms or from injuries resulting from being hit by a car. I do not remember that anyone ever paid money for a dog, although there were bird dogs and retrievers around which might have been pure bred. Most dogs were mixed breed.

The first dog I can remember was Tigger, a Fox Terrier type, which was Tanchy's dog when I was a small child. As I recall it, the dog did not like me.

The first dog I felt ownership of was Tigger Two, a female Pointer/English Setter mix, which we got from Bob Ervin. Both at Spring Hill and at the Gulf Tigger was the constant companion of the children. She regularly produced litters of pups. Richard Gaynor remembers her delivering pups in the car on the way back to Spring Hill from a weekend at the Gulf! We especially remember two of her progeny, Dewey and Pal.

Dewey was fathered by Roland Snarr's bull dog. This was during the period that we leased a cottage on the Bay from Capt. Ed Strong (1936 - 1941). Dewey turned out to be aggressive toward other dogs, causing our parents problems, but Capt. Ed liked the dog and we left him down here with Capt. Ed. Dewey was a good hog dog and a soft-shell crab catcher. We would go floundering at night in the bay. Dewey would go along, catch hard shell crabs with a quick bite and toss the aside with their shell crushed, but he would pick up a soft shell and bring it to you unscarred. During the day he would swim out in the bay searching for crabs and at times you would see only the tip of his tail sticking out of the water, wagging vigorously, as he searched for crabs. He also caught a variety of animals, raccoons, etc. and caused Capt. Ed problems when range cattle came too close to home. There was open range; cattle roamed through the woods only to be rounded up when the owners wanted to fatten one up before slaughter, or to brand the calves.

Capt. Ed was quite a character, had an endless supply of stories. He did not get along well with most of the other locals. He and Dewey were well matched. One time Dewey had his abdomen torn open by a hog. The nearest vet was in Robertsdale. Capt. Ed had no vehicle, only a horse. He wrapped Dewey in a towel and rode with him all the way to the vet and Dewey survived.

I volunteered at Fort Morgan portraying a Civil War era Army laundress with Thelma Strong, the widow of one of Capt. Ed's grandsons Greg. A couple of years ago I asked if Greg had ever talked about his grandfather's dog Dewey. The tales she knew matched mine.

To be continued in next month's newsletter. Thanks to long time resident Chan West for her history contribution.

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	Vacant		
Sunshine	Vacant		