

FORT MORGAN NEWS

December 2021~Issue 178



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's greetings to all and a warm welcome to all new FMCA members!

In lieu of our regular meeting, this month is our Fort Morgan Christmas Party! It has been some time since the last time we were able to host this event and I for one am excited to be able to bring this tradition back this year. The party will be held on December 13th at FMVFD Station #1 at 6:00pm. This is a potluck dinner so feel free to bring your favorite side dish or dessert! Contact Thelma Strong at twstrong@gulftel.com if you can help with setup/cleanup. Hope to see you all there!



We are still looking for "Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful" volunteers. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact us via email fortmorgancivic@gmail.com and we will get you set up with proper equipment.

Keep in mind that the Nomination Committee for the 2022 FMCA Board elections has been established. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the FMCA Board, nominations should be submitted to the Committee chair, Thelma Strong twstrong@gulftel.com before the January vote.

Also, your 2022 Membership Dues are requested to be paid by Dec 31st, 2021. 2022 we are increasing our FMCA membership dues to \$25. You can now renew and/or donate online at <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/membership.html>.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Fort Morgan Civic Association! If I don't see you at the Christmas party, I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Joe
Joe Emerson
#fortmorganstrong

FMCA Holiday Party: 13 December, 6:00 pm
Next FMCA General Meeting: 10 January 2022, 6:30pm

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.

Notice: FMCA Officer Elections- January 10 2021 ~~~~~FMCA Bylaws

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

Section 2 Officers shall be elected annually by a majority of the votes cast at the regularly scheduled January General Meeting. The first item on the agenda shall be the elections. Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three current members elected by the membership at the October general meeting. Nominations also may be made from the floor after announcement of the Nominating Committee's nominee for each of the four offices. Nominations shall not be closed until the general members have an opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor. Each nominee shall be given five (5) minutes to state his or her qualifications and present a platform. Voting will immediately follow the close of nominations for each office. Outgoing officers shall deliver all records to the respective incoming officers at the conclusion of the meeting.

Section 3 Vacancies occurring in an office before the end of term, with the exception of Section 5 below, shall be filled by election by a majority vote of current members. Such officer shall serve until the end of the unexpired term.

Section 4 Working closely with the Executive Board and general membership, the President shall provide the leadership to develop and accomplish the goals and objectives of the Association as approved by the membership. The President shall preside at meetings of the Association as facilitator through the democratic process and may call special meetings and appoint ad hoc committees.

Section 5 In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of President. Upon the President's resignation, removal or inability to perform the duties of office, the Vice-President shall become President until the next annual election of officers. The Vice-President shall be responsible for representing the interests of the general membership, for assisting the President in facilitating the democratic process and for carrying out the decisions of the members.

Section 6 The Secretary shall keep, 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.

Section 7 The Treasurer shall receive all monies, pay all legitimate bills, and prepare a financial report to be submitted at each regular meeting. The Treasurer also shall disburse funds as directed by majority vote of a quorum of members at a scheduled meeting. Amounts of less than two hundred dollars (\$200) for legitimate, receipted expenses shall not require a vote but may be disbursed at the Treasurer's discretion. All checks drawn on the Association account shall bear the signatures of two officers of the Association. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining official financial records of the Association and an alphabetical roster of members, for ensuring the appropriate and legal disbursement of the Association's funds and for arranging an annual independent accounting review of the Association's financial records.

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>

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

The planning and zoning advisory committee met on Nov 29th and recommended approval of two wetlands setback variances so single-family houses could be built in the 2000 block of highway 180.

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

Baldwin County Planning & Zoning~~~~~

The planning and zoning department has implemented a new program called "CITIZENSERVE" which allows individuals access to records pertaining to building permits, land use certificates, zoning issues and variance requests. To access the "CITIZENSERVE" portal do the following:

- Go to BALDWINCOUNTYAL.GOV
- Click on Departments
- Click on Planning and Zoning
- Click on Citizenserve Portal
- Go to Reports
- Click on the type of report you want to view

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

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.

Indian Village Achuse

The following is the inscription on the Historical Marker at Shell Banks Baptist Church. "This Shell Banks Baptist Church rests near the location of the first Indian village in America visited by a white man. This was the Indian village of "Achuse" visited by Admiral Maldonado who was one of De Soto's officers. He scouted the Florida and Alabama coast from Tampa Bay and entered the port of "Achuse" before De Soto started from Tampa Bay on the longest, strangest, boldest adventure in the history of the world. This was in 1539, 81 years before the Pilgrims kneeled at Plymouth Rock and 68 years before the colony landed at Jamestown. The name of this village, "Achuse" is shown at this location on the official map made by the U.S. De Soto Expedition Commission created by Congress in 1936. On an old crude Spanish map made of the Gulf Coast region in the 16th century, the Indian village of "Achuse" shows on this map near the same location, now occupied by the Shell Banks Baptist Church." The name Shell Banks comes from the oyster and clam mounds that were on the site. The Historical Marker was erected in 1966 and is located at 30° 15.104' N, 87° 48.938' W., on Alabama Route 180 east of Gasque Lane, on the right when traveling west.

This history information is a reprint from the December 2019 FMCA Newsletter.

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	Ryan Manning	251-752-4344	ryanmanning@gulftel.com

Non-Officers

FMCA / Local / State / Federal

Government Liaison

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter

Standing Committee Chairs

Future Fort Morgan Options

Hospitality

Land Use & Conservation

Legal

Legislative/Government

Membership

Sunshine

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Vacant

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Bonnie Lowry 251-540-9327

Vacant

Vacant