

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## February 2022~Issue 180



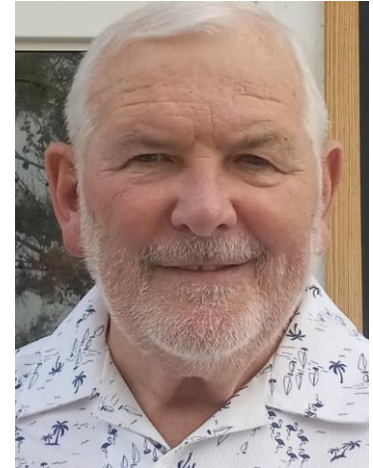
### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone ~

I am proud to be serving as your new President for FMCA 2022.

We are glad you renewed your FMCA membership and a warm welcome to all of our new members! We hope to see ya'll at our next FMCA meeting Monday, February 14, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Shell Banks Baptist Church.

Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks to Ms. Thelma, chair of FMCA hospitality committee, we will have coffee & pastries for the meeting on February 14, 2022.



I will be appointing members to chair our standing committees for 2022. If you would like to serve Fort Morgan Community on one of FMCA's committees, please email: [fortmorgancivic@gmail.com](mailto:fortmorgancivic@gmail.com). (Refer to the last page of this newsletter for a list of FMCA committees).

Happy Mardi Gras 🎉. Mark your calendars and join in the Fun! The Fort Morgan Mardi Gras parade will be on February 27, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m. The parade route will run along the coast on Ponce de Leon Court beginning at Triple Tail Lane and ending at Bernard Court East.

Fort Morgan Civic Association purpose is: Promoting the interests of the Fort Morgan Community, Working together for its betterment, Preserving its natural resources, and Ensuring environmentally sensitive development. If you have questions or concerns, please email FMCA at: [fortmorgancivic@gmail.com](mailto:fortmorgancivic@gmail.com)

Thank you all for your continued support of FMCA and Fort Morgan Community.

George Mitchell, FMCA President

### **Agenda for this month's FMCA General Meeting:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance      | George Mitchell, President                 |
| Previous FMCA General Meeting Minutes       | Jamie Strategier, Secretary                |
| Treasurer's Report                          | Greg Strategier, Treasurer                 |
| Government Affairs Report                   | Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison |
| Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Cte. | Jamie Strategier, Chair                    |
| Old Business - To be distributed separately |  |
| New Business - To be distributed separately |  |
| Open Floor                                  |  |
| Adjournment                                 |  |

**Next FMCA General Meeting: 14 March 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](mailto: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.

**Government Affairs ~~~~~Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison**

**US Fish & Wildlife**

The efforts continue to have Pine Beach Trail renamed in honor of Chan West. Jackie Sablan of Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge reports that things are still progressing. But to keep in mind that it is the federal government and that it will take time. The search continues for a replacement for the Director, Jeremy Phillips. We hope to see a replacement by Spring.

**Alabama Legislature**

Please continue to keep our state representative Steve McMillian and his wife Gayle in your prayers as they battle cancer. The ARPA expenditure was passed and there are items that may affect us. There was \$277 million allocated for Broadband Internet. \$225 million for Water/Sewer & Clean Water Infrastructure. \$10 million for Volunteer Fire Departments. More to follow on these.

**ALDOT**

Fort Morgan Road overlay project is nearly complete. Please let me know if you see any major issues. i.e.: pavement cracking, paint stripping issues, missing reflectors. Please note that the large painted abbreviations along the roadway are not related to the paving but are related to the proposed ADOC Bike Path.

**Baldwin County**

FMCA has been working with Baldwin County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to create signs that will be posted in Fort Morgan at beach access points and our local businesses related to Water Safety. An update will be forthcoming at the next meeting. When we get an update we will share the details with the FMCA membership. We are also working with the county to try to procure (2) large mobile signs that would be kept here on the peninsula for use when hazardous or emergency situations occur.

**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](http://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

**Baldwin County Planning and Zoning**~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~

**!!!INPUT NEEDED!!**

Baldwin County Commission's Planning and Zoning Department is asking for citizens to complete the Baldwin Our Vision survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaldwinOurVision](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BaldwinOurVision). This survey will help set priorities around how Baldwin County can strategize for addressing current and future challenges and sensitively optimize growth opportunities. Your input will help the County set priorities around a community-based vision for the next 10 years. Please take time to complete this survey for planning district 25, Fort Morgan.

**FMCA March Meeting Guest Speaker: Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Director**

Mr. Matthew Brown, Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Director will be the guest speaker at the Fort Morgan Civic Association meeting on March 14, 2022. Mr. Brown will address the future long-range land-use planning for Fort Morgan as well as other concerns related to planning & zoning for district 25, Fort Morgan.

**Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee**~~~*Jamie Strategier, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair*

On January 17, 2022, FMCA voted to appoint Mr. Ryan Manning to the committee. Mr. Manning will serve the remaining term of Mr. Ernie Church who resigned from the committee. Mr. Church resigned in order to serve on the Baldwin County Board of Adjustments and Baldwin Planning & Zoning Commission.

- The Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee members are:
- Jamie Strategier, Chair
- Thelma Strong
- Randy Ulrich
- Chuck Scott
- Ryan Manning

FMPZAC Members met on January 24, 2022 to review three new cases requesting variances in District 25, Fort Morgan. Members present Unanimously recommended Denial of the following applications for variances in district 25.

Case # ZVA 21-000026, Cardoso Property, 6764 Driftwood Drive. The applicant is requesting a wetlands variance to build a single-family home on top of wetlands. Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance 10.4.4 requires US Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit or Letter of Permission before site plan approval for building on wetlands. Applicant is missing this requirement.

Case # ZVA 22-000004, Lowe Property, 8792 Dolphin Lane. Applicant is requesting a wetlands variance to build a single-family home on top of wetlands. Applicant has already begun building a retaining wall and brought sand into the wetlands prior to receiving a wetlands variance. Applicant is

also missing the required US Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit or Letter of Permission before site plan approval for building on wetlands.

Case # ZVA 22-000006, McAleer property, 9815 Alabama State Hwy. Applicant is requesting to divide one lot into two lots. The property is designated RSF-1 which requires a minimum of 100 feet width for each lot. When the lot is divided into two lots the maximum lot width is approx. 85 feet which does not meet the required 100 feet width for each lot.

The three cases listed above will go before the Baldwin County Board of Adjustments on February 10, 2022 @ 3:30p.m. in the Baldwin County Foley Courthouse.

The Our Road Cottages case PRD 21-000005, will be on the next FM Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee meeting agenda. This application for PRD will be voted by Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission on March 3, 2022.

For information regarding these cases, new cases, and date/time of the next FMPZAC meeting please refer to our website: [fortmorgancivic.org](http://fortmorgancivic.org)

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

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

**27 Feb -Fort Morgan Mardi Gras Parade~**

A Mardi Gras Parade in the Fort Morgan area will take place on 27 February starting at 1 p.m. For more information, please go to <https://fortmorganalmardigras.com/info>.

**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](mailto: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.***

**Fort Morgan and WWII – What A Difference a Name Makes – Recollections of Chan West**

For several years I have presented a talk during the *Winter Walks and Talks* of the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, one which I titled *World War II*. I talked about life here in the Fort Morgan area during that time. The talks were usually filled to the 24-person limit. This year I suggested changing the title to *U-boats in the Gulf*. What a difference that has made. The calls for reservations have greatly exceed the openings.

Obviously, there is a lot of interest in that subject as there are few around who remember that era. I would like to recommend two books, available in the Baldwin County Library System. First, a novel by Andy Andrews, a south Baldwin County resident, *Island of Saints*. I am confident that he was the author who called me years ago asking about my family story of meeting Germans walking from the beach, who landed from a submarine. I was told that my story was an urban myth and that many

coastal cities have similar tales. This novel is based on those urban myths as there are only two officially documented German landings during WWII, both on the east coast. Andy's novel is a great story with accurate details about the culture of the Fort Morgan peninsular back then. The second book is *Torpedoes in the Gulf* by Melanie Wiggins, available from the Foley Library. This a carefully researched fact-filled book about all the submarines which came into the Gulf during 1942 -43. She was able to study the logbooks of all the submarine captains.

*Special thanks posthumously to Chan West, longtime Fort Morgan resident for her contribution to the Fort Morgan History segment. This history information is a reprint from the February 2020 FMCA Newsletter.*

### FMCA Executive Board Contacts

#### Officers

|                |                  |              |  |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| President      | George Mitchell  | 601-934-3427 | <a href="mailto:georgemitchell0312@gmail.com">georgemitchell0312@gmail.com</a> |
| Vice President | George Mitchell  | 601-934-3427 | <a href="mailto:georgemitchell0312@gmail.com">georgemitchell0312@gmail.com</a> |
| Treasurer      | Greg Strategier  | 337-849-6506 | <a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>         |
| Secretary      | Jamie Strategier | 504-616-3275 | <a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>         |

#### Non-Officers

|  |                   |              |  |
|--|-------------------|--------------|--|
| FMCA / Local / State / Federal<br>Government Liaison | Michael Ludvigsen | 217-473-9728 | <a href="mailto:mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com">mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com</a> |
| Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter                        | Karrie Lovins     | 580-917-4593 | <a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>       |
| <b>Standing Committee Chairs</b>                     |                   |              |  |
| 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                              | Vacant            |              |  |
| Legal  | Judy Newcomb      | 251-955-1572 | <a href="mailto:judynewcomb@aol.com">judynewcomb@aol.com</a>         |
| Legislative/Government                               | Vacant            |              |  |
| Membership   | Vacant            |              |  |
| Sunshine   | Vacant            |              |  |

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

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$25.00 (as of 1 Jan 2022)**

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) \_\_\_\_\_

Your employment \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's employment \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for joining the Association \_\_\_\_\_

*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 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 to the Operating Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Annual dues @ \$25/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.