

FORT MORGAN NEWS

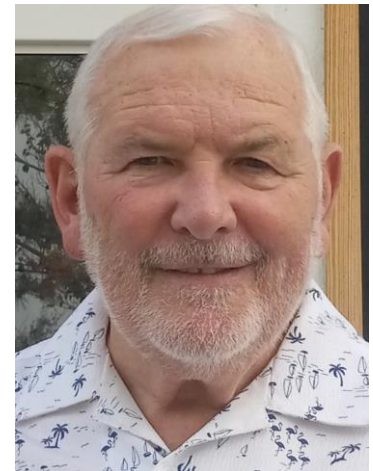
June 2022~Issue 184



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All:

Summer is finally here and our streets, beaches, and rental properties are booming. Please join me in welcoming our summer guests. While some may try our patience, stretch our resources, litter our beach, and flaunt their breaches of what we consider acceptable behavior, the vast majority of them are nice, fun-loving people who have chosen our paradise to spend their vacation and fund many of the amenities we all enjoy. That's a fair trade for two or three months of being slightly inconvenienced.



Our May 9 FMCA General meeting was held as an official meeting (not called to order) due to a lack of a quorum. Instead, the Bylaws Committee Chair and the members in attendance conducted an informal discussion of the pending changes to our bylaws. The proposed revised bylaws have been submitted to our membership for over thirty days and will come up for a formal vote in our June 13 FMCA General Meeting, 6:30 pm at Shell Banks Baptist Church. Additionally, I will ask members to confirm appointments to the Fort Morgan Planning and Advisory Committee. Please make plans to attend and participate in these actions.

The Baldwin County Board of Adjustments has an opening important to the FMCA and District 25. While the FMCA cannot appoint to this board, we can offer our nomination for the position. The ideal candidate for the job is an energetic District 25 voting resident who will promote the long-term interests of our district. If you or someone you know feels qualified and interested in this position, please contact me or any other FMCA officer for consideration and plan to be at the June 13 meeting to tell everyone about yourself.

Thank you to those who attended the ADEM / Baldwin County Sewer System public sessions May 19 on the proposed permit to allow our home to become also the home of much of the sewerage of the remainder of the county. Many shortcomings came to light in this session and ADEM walked away with more to consider than when they arrived. Thank you.

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

George Mitchell, FMCA President

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 any questions or concerns, please email FMCA at: fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

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 General Meeting – Upcoming Guest Speakers ~~~~~

We are currently planning guest speakers for the remainder of this year’s monthly meetings. If you would like to recommend a speaker or a relevant issue you would like to hear more information about, please email your ideas to: FortMorganCivic@gmail.com

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.

Alabama Legislature

No update.

ALDOT

No update.

ADCNR

Marine Resource Division has reopened the Pines Boat Launch. The Fort Morgan Pier work is ongoing.

FMCA has requested an update from ADCNR regarding the status of the Fort Morgan Bike Trail (if a final route design has been determined, a plan for public input and a plan for construction). At the time of this publication no notification of a meeting date has been received.

BCSS / ADEM

An update will be provided during the June FMCA General Meeting.

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. When we get an update, we will share the details with the FMCA membership.

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://sheriffobaldwin.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~~~~~**Chuck Scott, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair**

Your Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory committee is once again fully staffed and ongoing. New members are Renee Hicks and Jennifer Ishler Noojin who both bring a history of participation in our community, and join long term members Thelma Strong, Randy Ulrich, and new Chairperson Chuck Scott. This committee provides valuable insight and opinion to the County Commissioners regarding the protection of Fort Morgan lands and assist in identifying positive development going forward.

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

Baldwin County Board of Adjustments~~~~~

Baldwin County Board of Adjustments has a vacancy for District 25 (Fort Morgan). The FMCA would like to recommend someone to the Baldwin County Commission to represent our district. The Baldwin County Commission appoints all Board members for this governing body. The criteria for this position are: must be 18 years or older; must be a resident of District 25 (Fort Morgan); must be a registered voter in District 25; and should not be affiliated with real estate sales, real estate development or a contractor. The Baldwin County Board of Adjustments (BOA) hears public cases and votes on cases related to all variance requests in Baldwin County. The BOA meets once a month (usually the second Thursday of each month) @ 3:30pm at Baldwin County Foley Courthouse, 201 East Section Avenue, Foley, AL 36535. The By-laws of this board can be found on the Baldwin County website.

https://baldwincountyal.gov/docs/default-source/plannin-zoning/boards-of-adjustment/board-of-adjustment-number-2-signed-by-laws.pdf?sfvrsn=d0cc0f15_5

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

Share the Beach~~~~~

Our turtle nesting season starts May 1 and ends August 31. Our turtle team is on the beach every morning at daylight looking for turtle tracks. We usually just have loggerhead turtles who nest after dark. They prefer a dark beach and will often disorient in bright lights and not nest or wander all over the beach and wear themselves out before returning to the water. Turtle sightings can be reported to 866-seaturtle. We will be contacted and will send one of our team members to make sure she makes it back to the water without being disturbed. Mostly we just ask that everyone stay back, keep lights off and let her do her job.

While we can't ask anyone to take their tents and stuff in at night we would like to ask if they stack everything in a corner so mamas have plenty of room to move around. Also fill in any holes. Sea turtles are not able to back up and if they get in a hole may not be able to get out. It's also a danger for people walking on the beach. If you are staying in a home beach-side please turn off outdoor lighting (especially if it's white light) at night during turtle nesting season and keep window curtains/ blinds closed to keep light from

disorienting the turtles. Special amber lights that are turtle friendly can be used for outdoor lighting – please see this link for more information: <https://www.joinacf.org/stb-sea-turtle-lighting-retrofit-soa-ser>

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.

Storm of 1906 – Remembrance of Impact at Navy Cove

Dear Old Navy Cove

My thoughts are today in dear old Navy Cove,
Which brings to me those sweet childish days,
When I used to roam the woods among the turtle dove,
I can see my home as we lived-in old-fashioned ways,
Standing beneath the old magnolia bloom;
And my parents old and gray were protected from above.
I never shall see again that dear old home,
Tis my home way down in dear old Navy Cove.
Way down in dear old Navy Cove,
That's where I am longing to go.
But my thoughts are all in vain,
For that spot I'll never see again.
It was swept away by a tidal wave,
Which day by day I'll ever crave,
Where the orange trees used to grow,
Way down in dear old Navy Cove.
But one day there to my sorrow came
The rushing waters from the Gulf of Mexico,
Still in all, I find no one to blame.

From the ruins where the water ebbs and flows,
It was on the twenty-seventh day of September
In the darkest night, well I remember
Each and every one's head in prayer was bowed.
Way down in dear old Navy Cove
Was a sad scene to behold,
Cast upon two sacred knolls
were forty-seven storm-worn souls.
They were lying on the cold, chilled ground,
Expecting every minute to be drowned.
Alas! through God, they are saved.

There were mothers with their babes,
Cast upon this sacred knoll;
Exposed to rain, wind and cold,
On a knoll where four stately oaks grow,
Way down in dear old Navy Cove. –Sydney Andrew Ladiner.

This month's history item is an excerpt from https://baldwincountyga.gov/docs/default-source/archives/archival-records/historical_society_1973-1982_part_8_of_10.pdf?sfvrsn=4ef9f0c_4

FMCA Contacts

Officers

President	George Mitchell	601-934-3427	georgemitchell0312@gmail.com
Vice President	George Mitchell	601-934-3427	georgemitchell0312@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	samsplace41805@gmail.com
Secretary	Jamie Strategier	504-616-3275	samsplace41805@gmail.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Bylaws	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
Communications	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Legislative/Government	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com
Land Use & Conservation	Vacant		
Membership	Vacant		
Sunshine	Vacant		

Other Positions

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
FMCA / Local / State / Federal			
Government Liaison	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com
FMCA Social Media Manager	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	captjoesells@gmail.com

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 31st.

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.