

FORT MORGAN NEWS

January 2016 ~ Issue 107



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,
Happy new year!
We have a lot to discuss regarding our long term plans, so we need a good turnout for the January meeting. See you there.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

FMCA Elections January 11, 2016

A quorum is needed for annual officer elections at the January 11th meeting, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church Fellowship Room (North/Bay entrance). President Paul Barefield, Treasurer Chan West and Secretary Carol Kittrell have agreed to stand for re-election. Our Vice President Nancy McKenna must take a leave of absence to care for family, and the nominating committee has convinced our Webmaster Ernie Church to run for Vice President. Please see his brief biographical sketch attached. As usual, nominations will be accepted from the floor.

2016 DUES ARE NOW (OVER)DUE!

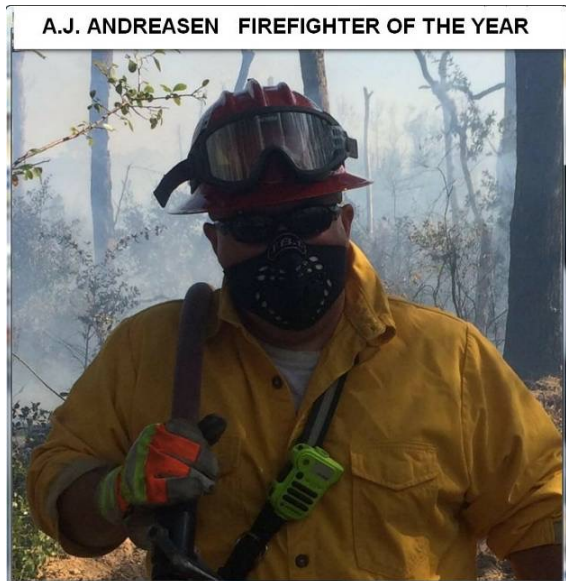
So far, only 160 members have renewed, out of 400+. Please send your \$15 dues check *along with the COMPLETED member form* [see last page] to the post office box on the form. Please note new questions—we need your voter status. For emergency contact, also please include your e-mail address.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire

Department.....**Glenn Stevens, Chief**

The Fire Department responded to 13 calls in November – 6 medical, 6 false alarms, and 1 water rescue. Activity is expected to increase as the Snowbirds migrate south. Our holiday involvements this year have included participation in the toy drives at Behind the Pines and Tacky Jack's, as well as putting a decorated fire engine in the annual Gulf Shores Christmas parade.

Our annual Appreciation Dinner was held at The Beach Club on December 1. This dinner shows our appreciation to all the firefighters that volunteer their time to the community. Also recognized at this dinner for their contributions were the Board of Directors and the Ladies Auxiliary. A special "thank you" goes out to the homeowners' associations from The Beach Club and Gulf Shores Plantation for their generous financial donations. Everyone please congratulate A.J. Andreasen who was voted the 2015 Firefighter of the Year.



Recently, the State passed a law requiring that all volunteer fire departments in Baldwin County undergo an annual audit. Our Treasurer, Sonny Farris, is currently interviewing CPAs that might be interested in conducting this audit. If there are any CPAs in our community that have interest in this project, please contact Sonny at (205)306-3925.

On January 12, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., at Fire Station No. 1, the Fire Department will hold its Annual Meeting. At this meeting, the Department will review its activities from 2015 and propose its budget for 2016. The Board Members are elected by the community at this meeting, and two terms are expiring.

Our regular training meetings are still held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at Station 1. We are continuing our recruitment drive in an attempt to sign up 5-6 new members.

Loss of Member ~ Helen Pate Bain ~ May 9, 1924 ~ November 28, 2015

Helen Bain, long-term member of FMCA, passed away at age 91 on Saturday, November 28, 2015, in Daytona Beach, Florida after a long illness. **Memorial services will be held Saturday, January 16, 2016, at 11:00AM at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church on Highway 59. Please come out to honor this dedicated FMCA member.**

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Helen completed undergraduate studies in Education at Peabody College in 1945. She accepted a position as an English and Speech teacher and school counselor at Cohn High in 1946 and taught there until 1968, having taken a leave to earn her Master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1950.

A well-known political activist and passionate educator, Ms. Bain's life was devoted to promoting education, human rights, and advocating for teachers, students and better urban schools at the local, state, national and international levels. She served as president of the National Education Association from 1970-71.

Ms. Helen received her EdD degree in Education Administration and Supervision in 1974 and was on the faculty of Austin Peay State University and Tennessee State University.

Her life was spent in Education, from teaching high school English to teaching at the college and university level, to becoming president of National Education Association. She was proudest of her Project STAR (Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio) research to which she dedicated over 40 years providing evidence that a low student/teacher ratio leads to documentable higher achievement for students.

Helen was extremely active in the Fort Morgan Civic Association including chairing a three-year project on potential incorporation for the community, actively participating in the rain-drenched Fort Morgan Tea Party in 2003 to protest taxation without representation due to the Gulf Shores annexation of Highway 180, becoming the fourth recipient of the Association's Citizen of the Year award in 2003, and chairing the months-long committee to completely overhaul the By-Laws in 2005. She was very active in her church, especially in the Bread Ministry, and helped found the Stephen Ministry for member peer counseling. Her spunky but kind nature will be sorely missed.

Memorials may be sent to The NEA Foundation, 1201 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036 or to Gulf Shores United Methodist Church, 1900 Gulf Shores Pkwy, Gulf Shores, AL 36542.

BALDWIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY CHANGES AFFECT YOU!

Please **READ** the draft policies (see link below) to see how you might be affected. You also may pick up a written copy of the policy draft at County Annex offices.

<http://baldwincountyal.gov/departments/solid-waste/draft-resolution>

If the email address given for Solid Waste is not working, send your written comments to:

citizenservicecenter@baldwincountyal.gov

This is the County's general customer service email, so give your message a specific, descriptive subject line.

Major policy changes are:

- (1) ALL residences will be required to have twice a week pick-up (at double the previous once a week cost--\$96 vs. \$48/quarter).**
- (2) All customers will be required to use the green BCSW garbage containers.
- (3) Rental structures will be charged by size (e.g., number of bedrooms) and may be required to have more than two containers. See the draft for a proposed fee chart.**
- (4) Customers will be expected to get their garbage containers set out the morning of pick-up or late the evening before, and will be required to take their containers in by 8pm that evening.

Some year-round members feel that there should be exceptions to twice per week pickup for those who don't need or can't afford it—e.g., elderly, permanent residents who do not rent out their homes.

There will be a public comment meeting in Bay Minette on January 19 at 9:00AM, at Commission Chambers, Administration Building, 322 Courthouse Square.

If you need an exemption from any of the proposed new policies, or any others within the draft policy, send your request to your Baldwin County Commissioner, Skip Gruber: cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov

Fort Morgan State Historic Site

Winter Civil War tours will be held on January 12 and 26 and February 2 and 16 from 1:30 to 2:30PM. Tours will be led by a historically uniformed interpreter, and artillery will be fired during the tours! Check for weather and schedule updates: www.fort-morgan.org

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.....Denise McInturff, Park Ranger

REMINDER: Pine Beach Trail opens only on weekends through January 16. Jeff Friend, Gator Lake, and Centennial trails will remain open from sunrise to sunset. If you have any questions please contact the refuge office at 251-540-7720, and for additional information visit the Bon Secour NWR webpage at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bon_Secour/

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ November 2015

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>

Baldwin County Commission

Commissioners:

Charles F. "Skip" Gruber

cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov

251-972-6833

Tucker Dorsey

tdorsey@baldwincountyal.gov

251-937-0395

Chris Elliott

ctelliott@baldwincountyal.gov

251-990-4606

County Commission Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. at 322 Courthouse Square, Admin Building, Bay Minette

County Commission Work Sessions are held at the Commission Conference Room

To speak at a regular commission meeting, you must have signed up before the meeting. Check the dates, times and locations for all meetings at <http://www.baldwincountyal.gov>

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

If you have questions, need information or would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following board members:

Officers

President

Paul Barefield

540-7727

csbarefield@gulftel.com

Vice President

Nancy McKenna

540-7013

Treasurer

Chan West

979-4932

granchan@earthlink.net

Secretary

Carol Kittrell

251-605-4134

ckittrell@southalabama.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

District 25 Planning & Zoning

Ken Steiner

540-7223

kennethjsteiner@centurytel.net

Hospitality

Thelma Strong

540-7383

twstrong@gulftel.com

Membership

Bonnie Lowry

540-9327

NEWS & Website Editor

Sonja Sanders

543-1030

sunnisands@centurylink.net

Sunshine

Vickie Matranga

543-1555

vpowers@gulftel.com

Mark Your Calendars:

FMCA ELECTIONS ~ MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 6:30PM

BE THERE ~ A QUORUM IS NEEDED!

FMCA 2016 MEETINGS ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church:

January 11 ~ February 8 ~ March 14 ~ April 11 ~ May 9 ~ June 13

VISIT OUR FMCA WEBSITE—www.fortmorgancivic.org

Please send kudos, complaints, and ideas for future expansion.

PLEASE NOTE: You must be ON the website to contact us via <INFO@FortMorganCivic.org>

Fort Morgan Civic Association

P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547

CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT ~ 2016 FORT MORGAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Ernest (Ernie) Church

Ernie was born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Ridgewood, New Jersey. He received his B.A. degree from St. Michael's College of Vermont in 1964 and an M.A. from Troy University of Alabama in 1976.

Commissioned a USAF Lieutenant in the summer of 1964, he served in a variety of command and staff positions, mainly in security police/command and control, throughout a 26-year career. He attended USAF Command and Staff College (1976) and the USAF Air War College (1983), retiring as a Colonel in 1990.

After retirement, Ernie served on the Board of Directors at the Prattville (AL) County Club for three years (two as board president).

Ernie and his wife Judy moved permanently to Fort Morgan community in 2005. He has served on the Rookery Board of Directors for nine out of the last ten years (eight as board president) and is webmaster for The Rookery's website.



He currently serves on the recently elected Incorporation Committee and has served as webmaster of the Fort Morgan Civic Association website since 2013. He loves the area here and wants to play an active role in maintaining its beauty and historical significance.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

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

Registered Voter? Yes No Fort Morgan District 25 _____ Alabama-other district/city _____ State _____

Email (please provide for special alerts) _____

[Save trees, stamps, time, get your news sooner by e-mail.] Send newsletter by email by U.S. Postal Service

Your employment _____ Spouse's employment _____

Referred to FMCA by _____

Reason for joining the Association _____

NOTICE: We need volunteers to help the Association in the following areas. Which can you assist in? (circle)

- Program Planning:** Identify & Arrange Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests
Zoning: Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/Gulf Shores Write Brief Reports
Membership: Recruitment Phone Tree Greeter 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
Financial: Bookkeeping Annual Audit

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 Legal Fund in the amount of \$ _____

2016 dues @ \$15/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 attempting to prevent proliferation of large-scale high-rise development on Fort Morgan Peninsula.