

FORT MORGAN NEWS

February 2016 ~ Issue 108



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

We are moving ahead with our efforts toward incorporation. Our committees had a good meeting last week. We will bring you up to date at the February meeting. Hope to see you there.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

FMCA January 2016 Meeting

Officers elected for 2016 at the January meeting: President Paul Barefield, Vice-President Ernie Church, Treasurer Chan West, and Secretary Carol Kittrell. Other business accomplished is included in this NEWS, below.

2016 DUES ARE OVERDUE ~ WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

Out of 400+ members in 2015, only 183 have renewed. If you are one of those delinquent, 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 location.** For emergency contact, also please include your e-mail address even if you receive your Fort Morgan NEWS by postal service.

Incorporation of Fort Morgan District 25

Steps that have been reached in the past month:

(1) A letter to District 25 property owners and registered voters has been finalized and will be mailed out this week explaining the rationale for incorporation and asking for their support and comments. In case you do not receive your letter—some addresses were incomplete or outdated—**see the copy attached. Send your comments to INFO@fortmorgancivic.org**

(2) A Fort Morgan Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2016, 2:00PM at Fire Station #2. This will be a presentation and informational session to explain the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation versus the status quo, and to discuss the upcoming draft legislation. Signs are being created to post throughout the community. There will be advance news media articles and, hopefully, broadcast coverage.

(3) Rep. Steve McMillan has stated that he will ensure a draft of the legislation will be ready for FMCA members to approve in the near future.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department ~ Year-End Report.....Chief Glenn Stevens

Your Fire Department was very busy this past year as our call volume increased to a high of 291 responses. The Fire Department's mission is to serve the community by providing the best possible fire, medical, and rescue services to its residents.

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 12 and we had the largest crowd ever at an Annual Meeting. We had two Board positions expiring that had to be filled by community members. Based on our Bylaws, no more than four positions can be filled by Fire Department members. Because four Fire Department members are already on the Board, the expiring terms had to be filled by community members.

The Board of Directors for 2016:

Mike Hughes – President
Russ Woerner – Vice President
Pete Jellison – Secretary
Sonny Farris – Treasurer
Jerry Ralston
Al Sawyer
A.J. Andreasen

Officers of the Department for 2016:

Glenn Stevens - Chief
Jerry Ralston – Asst. Chief & Training Officer
A.J. Andreasen – St. 1 Captain & Dept. Engineer
Alicia Gutierrez – St. 2 Captain & Medical Director
Kene Courtois – St. 1 Lieutenant
Sonny Farris – St. 2 Lieutenant
Kate DeMellier – Safety Officer

The budget for 2016 included approval to spend \$400,000 for the purchase of a new fire engine and an addition to Station 1 to house the new truck. We will be sending out a newsletter in the Spring detailing our projects for this year along with a donation request to help support the Department.



Call volume was low for December with only 11 responses including 6 medical calls and 5 false alarms. Anyone interested in joining the Department may attend any of our training sessions on the 1st and 3rd Mondays every month, 6:30pm, Station 1.

As most of a long-time dedication 2 the Colin Stop by the station.



you know, last year the Fire Department lost member, Colin Cuneo. In honor of Colin's to the Department, we have renamed Station R. Cuneo Station #2. and see the new sign mounted on the front of

Baldwin County Solid Waste Policy Changes Approved by County Commissioners

Please read the policies to see how you might be affected.

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

Major policy changes:

(1) Twice a week pick-up (required for all residents in District 25) ~ After several email suggestions from FMCA members, an available exception was publicized. For single-family, owner-occupied residences, you may apply for an exception or variance to the 2x/week rule by calling BCSW at 972-6878 or by filing the Department's request for variance (they call it a "Seasonal Rate" form) via the website. At that time, you must also request a smaller bin if you are unable to roll the larger one.

(2) All customers will be required to use the green BCSW garbage containers ~ There will eventually be available a smaller container for people who cannot manage to roll the big one the distance from house to roadside. You must ask for a variance and request a smaller garbage bin in your phone call or email (see #1 above).

(3) Rental structures will be charged by size and may be required to have more than two containers. See the County website for a 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 to take their containers in by 8pm that evening ~ no announcement was made of Garbage Bin Inspectors being employed.

If you need an exemption from any of the new policies, see the phone number in #1 above or visit the County website. If you have other comments, contact your Baldwin County Commissioner, Charles "Skip" Gruber:

cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov

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

Free Guided Nature Tours ~ Come join us and learn about the plants, wildlife, ecology, and history found on the refuge. We will be offering free guided tours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week until March 3, 2016, including a Bird Walk and a Dynamic Dunes beach tour. They are free to the public; however, a reservation is required. The tours are limited to 12 people per tour and will consist of a 1 to 2-hour walk. We request at least 24 hours notice for cancellations. We encourage you to bring binoculars but they are not necessary to enjoy the tours. Restroom facilities are available at the refuge office and on the Pine Beach Trail.

For further information or to sign up for a tour, please contact Denise McInturff, Park Ranger, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at (251) 540-7720. For the full schedule please visit the Bon Secour webpage at

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Bon_Secour/ and don't forget to like our Facebook page.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ January 2016

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>

Crime Report ~ December 2015 & January 2016

12/20/15	6700 Block Sea Shell Drive	Burglary—nothing stolen (vagrant?)
12/23/15	1600 Block Hwy. 180	Theft
1/2/16	7000 Block Blue Heron Cove	Theft
1/7/16	8000 Block Pompano Way	Burglary
1/14/16	1200 Block Hwy. 180	Burglary

Ernest Raymond Hendrix, Jr., Jonathan Robert Chilton, and Jesse Nathaniel Moseley were arrested for Burglary in relation to the 1200 block Hwy 180 burglary.

Baldwin County Commission

Commissioners:

Charles "Skip" Gruber

cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov

251-943-5061

Tucker Dorsey

tdorsey@baldwincountyal.gov

251-972-8502

Chris Elliott

ctelliott@baldwincountyal.gov

251-990-4606

Frank Burt, Jr.

fburt@baldwincountyal.gov

251-937-0395

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@gmail.com
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
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
Incorporation	Paul Barefield	540-7727	csbarefield@gmail.com
Membership	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
NEWS & Website Editor	Sonja Sanders	543-1030	
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars:

FMCA MEMBER MEETING ~ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 6:30PM

BE THERE ~ A QUORUM IS NEEDED!

February 12 ~ Deadline to register to vote in the primary elections

FAT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 @ 10:00AM ~ Gulf Shores Mardi Gras Parade

Line-Up at 9:00AM at 19th Ave ~ Avoid the blockade: take 2nd St

No. from Hwy. 180 to the Post Office

Parking: Library, Civic Center & Recreation Center Parking Lots

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

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

VISIT OUR FMCA WEBSITE—www.fortmorgancivic.org

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

<INFO@FortMorganCivic.org>

Fort Morgan Civic Association

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

www.fortmorgancivic.org

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August 16, 19

INCORPORATION OF FORT MORGAN, DISTRICT 25

As most of you know, we have been looking into all the available options to protect and preserve our Fort Morgan community under Alabama law. We looked at several options and the Civic Association (FMCA) voted to pursue incorporation as the best option and elected an incorporation committee to begin the legislative process.

We chose incorporation because it gives us a voice in: planning, zoning, taxes, fees, business licenses, building codes, land use, building height, historic preservation and conservation. It also protects us against possible future annexation. Failure to incorporate essentially means we will have no voice in these important issues and relegates decisions impacting Fort Morgan District 25 to the Baldwin County Commission.

We have identified sufficient revenue to build and maintain our infrastructure. So, there is no need for an increase in taxes in the foreseeable future. We have a volunteer fire department here; we have a planning and zoning advisory committee in place; we will ensure there will be the appropriate police protection for the community; and there will be discussions with Baldwin County and other organizations when we have to contract for services such as road maintenance and emergency assistance.

On Friday, December 11, the incorporation committee met with the Baldwin County Legislative Delegation to discuss incorporation of Fort Morgan. Those present were Senator Tripp Pittman and Representatives Steve McMillan, Alan Baker, Joe Faust, and Harry Shiver, and Mr. Guy Busby of the Baldwin County Administrative office. Senator Pittman has asked that we get a consensus of opinion from our permanent residents. Hence, this letter. If you are a property owner in Fort Morgan please consider supporting incorporation. And, if you are also an Alabama resident, contact your local state representatives for their support of the incorporation legislation

Many people prefer the status quo. We have a beautiful low density beach area that residents and visitors have enjoyed for many years. To expect this to continue is unrealistic as forces will soon be pressing for higher density and commercial development that will totally destroy the Fort Morgan we love. Fort Morgan owners have little or no influence on those who currently make decisions. It is time for Fort Morgan people to make decisions for themselves.

Please consider carefully your decision — it will monumentally affect not only our generation, but generations to come. If you are interested in the future of Fort Morgan and have concerns, **please let us hear from you by February 29th**. Email: info@fortmorgancivic.org. Your support for incorporation will encourage the Legislative Delegation to begin drafting the amendment to the constitution. Legislation for incorporation of Fort Morgan must be approved by both the Alabama House and Senate and signed by the Governor.

We will have a community town hall meeting at Fire Station #2 at 2 pm on Saturday, March 5, to inform residents of the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation and to discuss the proposed legislation.

Paul Barefield, Ernie Church, Sonny Farris, Vickie Matranga, and Ken Steiner
FMCA INCORPORATION COMMITTEE

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 in color 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. Where can you assist? (circle)

- Program Planning:** Identify & Arrange Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests
- Zoning:** Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/Gulf Shores Write Brief Reports
- Membership/Hospitality:** Recruitment Phone Tree Greeter at Meetings Help with Dinners
- 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:** Help with Fundraising 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.