

FORT MORGAN NEWS

July 2016 ~ Issue 113



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, folks:

Our road is busy so please drive carefully. Lots of people unfamiliar with it. Sonja is having some serious medical issues and Chan has graciously offered to do the newsletter. We have invited some people from Montgomery to our July meeting to offer suggestions for our options moving forward. Please note the Sheriff's report in this issue. Lock your vehicles!! Hope to see you at our meeting.

Be sure to read Michael Ludvigsen's transcription of his Great Aunt Helen's remembrance of the 1916 hurricane.

Paul

MEMBER NOTICES

FMCA June Highlights

June Newsletter - Many of you did not receive the June newsletter. Unfortunately our editor Sonja Sanders was hospitalized after she had written it, but before it was emailed. Vice President Ernie Church came to the rescue and sent it to a list he had from an earlier mailing about incorporation. If you did not receive it you may find it on our website.

We are happy to report that Sonja is recovering and expects to be released from rehab soon. She is searching for a ground level rental in Fort Morgan.

Chan West has temporarily assumed the job of editor. Ernie now has a current email list. Should you wish to make any changes in the email address at which you receive the news please notify both Ernie and Chan. See the Contacts List on the last page.

District 25 Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee.....Ken Steiner, Chairman

Our committee met on May 22 to consider a rezoning request for a bayside lot just east of the Fort Morgan Marina. The prospective buyer wanted to build 8 single family rental units, with pool and common area on a lot just over 1 acre in area. It is now zoned RFT-4; proposed zoning was RMF-6. The committee recommended denial. Concerns were setting a precedent and increased pressure on our infrastructure. The county Planning and Zoning Department denied the request; however, it can be appealed to the County Commission.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens

May 2016 - Fire Department Report

Your Fire Department had a busy month responding to 32 calls in May. Our calls included:

- 14 medical calls
- 5 false alarms
- 4 motor vehicle accidents
- 2 missing persons
- 2 overdoses
- 1 assault
- 1 attempted suicide
- 1 fish hook impalement
- 1 grass fire
- 1 structure fire

I recently met with our EMA Director, Reggie Chitwood. He informed me that Gulf Shores has agreed to provide storm re-entry vehicle decals to Fort Morgan residents. If you do not have a current re-entry decal on your vehicle, you will need to contact Mary Kichler at Gulf Shores City Hall.

As some of you might know, we have had an ongoing problem with vehicles parking on the beach access roads. At times, emergency vehicles have had a problem turning onto the beach roads and residents have had difficulty getting to their homes. The Fire Department has installed "Fire Lane" signs where our vehicles have encountered problems, and the County has installed "Do Not Block the Road" signs where residents have encountered problems.

The Sheriff's office will be enforcing these regulations by towing any vehicles that violate the law. Any beach residents that encounter any problems with parking violators are asked to call the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff's office will be patrolling these areas once or twice a day throughout the summer.

Some residents that drive to the beach have a concern about where they are allowed to park at the beach. According to the Sheriff's office, only vehicles parked within 15' of the signage or a fire hydrant will be towed.

The Fire Department would like to thank Chan West for putting us in touch with Gary Norman to paint our military high water rescue vehicle. Also, thanks to the Snowbird groups that have made donations to us to pay for the paint job.

Please consider joining us at our meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays every month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1 (except July's meeting will be the 2nd Monday due to the 4th of July). We can always use more members, especially during the day when most of our young firefighters are working at their jobs.

We are now under an ADEM burn ban until the end of October. This ban allows any open air cooking fires; however, all other open air burning is prohibited.

Turtle Tracks 2016~~~~~

The good news is that June has been a busy month for turtles on our Fort Morgan beaches. By the 22nd we had 41 nests. The counts by that day in the previous three years were 31, 31, and 30. In 2012 we had a record year with a total of 81 nests; 35 of those were laid by June 22. Are we headed for a new record? June 14 was the BIG day for Ft. Morgan: Our STB team had five nests. With great team work from all who respond the call, they were processed by 8:15. There was one nest on the refuge. Keep watching!

To volunteer for Dawn Patrol to locate and mark nests or for later in the season, to monitor and sit at nests to see hatchlings emerge, contact team co-leader Debbie Harbin (251-391-8333) or Debi Gholson digholson@hotmail.com or send an email to fmseaturtles@hotmail.com

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

We wish to welcome a second Refuge Intern, Elizabeth (Liz) Hall from Alabaster, Alabama. She will be assisting with the turtle program for six weeks, after which she will be returning to Auburn for her final semester of study for a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site.....Wendy Hyatt

July 4th Salute to American Independence

9am-3pm: Dylan Tucker, our new Cultural Resources Specialist, will conduct two historical interpretation guided tours. Artillery and Weapons demonstrations will happen randomly throughout the day. The Laundress and Soldiers Quarters will be open for viewing (weather permitting). No fireworks. Regular Admission Charged. No fireworks. www.fortmorgan.org

Evening Civil War Tours

Tuesdays in July, 7pm-8pm: \$5 per person (under 6 free) Tuesday evenings demonstrations of garrison life at Fort Morgan continue through July (weather permitting). If you want to volunteer for this event email Dylan Tucker at dylantucker@fort-morgan.org.

Local History.....Michael Ludvigsen

The 1916 Hurricane
By: Helen Terry Kuffskie Smallwood September 1992

The first hurricane that I recall was at the age of eight years, twelve (TEN) years after the 1906 hurricane. I have no memory of any storm in between.

It was a day or two before the hurricane that we went by boat to Bon Secour for mama (Victorine Childress Terry) and Aunt Kate Galloway (Laura Catherine Childress Galloway) to see a doctor. This Dr. Gilliard lived at Magnolia Springs but would come anywhere he was called. We were in Papa's (John Terry) boat, the E. Glennan, which he used as a fishing boat and freight boat combined. He and John Galloway manned the boat.

I don't know if we had been warned of a storm in the gulf or not. There was a telephone in one of the stores in Bon Secour and that is how we got word about bad weather.

The next day it began to look real stormy, a strong wind blowing from the North East. By the second day we had ourselves a hurricane well on the way. By nightfall our neighbors began coming to get in our store as it seemed the strongest structure around the neighborhood and the last built.

The Todd's came, Wiley, Bessie and their mother Lail. Then the Galloway's, Aunt Kate, Vivian, Marlowe, Willie, Uncle Marion and a cousin from Mobile, Leslie Childress, just a young boy. As night came on the wind increased to hurricane force and kept up all night. When morning came the wind had shifted to the South and had rushed all the water out of the bay (Bon Secour Bay) and up the bay (Mobile Bay) to Mobile. It was quite a sight to see the bay dry.

We had plenty of canned food in the store, but no bread. Aunt Kate mentioned she had baked up a lot of biscuit(s) at home. Marlowe and I think Uncle Marion decided to go get them. They walked along the edge of the bank and on the way back, the wind caught Marlowe and blew him off the bank. He came in with his nose bleeding. They had the bread in a can. The lid blew off, the wind caught it and it went rolling across the bay as far as we could see. One of Galloway's dogs decided he would investigate the bay while it was dry. He went out to where deep water began and it made a bank all along. The dog disappeared behind the bank and we just knew we would never see that dog again. However in a few minutes he came back over the bank o.k. That was something we would liked to see, the bottom of the bay.

We had very little drinking water all during the hurricane. Everybody was thirsty. The first night the girls and women slept under the dry goods counter. The girls were making a lot of noise. Mama called to them "not to turn over that bucket of water". Right quick Leslie jumped up from under the general merchandise counter and asked "What kind of water?". That boy was thirsty. Everybody laughed even if they were scared.

The water that all rushed up Mobile Bay, put big ships up on the wharves in Mobile and the tide went up on the streets to where the old tunnel (Bankhead) begins.

The second day the (wind) shifted again into the Northwest and brought the water back in a roll. Like a tidal wave. Everybody was scared, some turned pale. It was decided the men put a rope around their waist for their women to hold on to if we had to vacate the building. As the water was creeping under us and did come to the back door step before it stopped. Everyone got amused at Uncle Marion tying the rope around his waist. He tied a bow in it, real fancy, and so tight no one could have got a hand hold.

We didn't have to get outside, but it was frightening. During the worst of the hurricane there were times when the rain was so heavy you couldn't see up to the old place. A pig came running out from under the store when the water came up and a pine burr hit him on the head and knocked him out for a while. We thought he was dead, then he went running off.

The wind slowly abated and everyone gladly went home where there was water and bread! It was either this same year or 1918 there was another one day hurricane. In early October this time and very unusual to come so late in the season. It started as they usually do from the Northeast with much rain. The Galloways came down that morning to our old house, and we never left it for the store as the wind and rain got so bad. A window in the attic (blew) in. That had to be fixed or repaired quick as I was flooding the floor below. Gwen's (Gwendolyn Terry Ludvigsen) piano got a little wet.

This storm changed course and came around from Northeast to Northwest. This was unusual as it had never happened before. No one had expected this to happen and (they) had left their boats staked or anchored out and their nets hanging out on wharfs or stakes. It really tore up the beach and the boats and nets. Uprooted trees. Papa's boat the E. Glennan, dragged anchor from deep water to near the shore. About in front of where the Whites now live (Bay Breeze RV). It took a lot of work and waiting for a high tide to get her floating again. Papa, Bert (Bertram Terry) and John Galloway did the work.

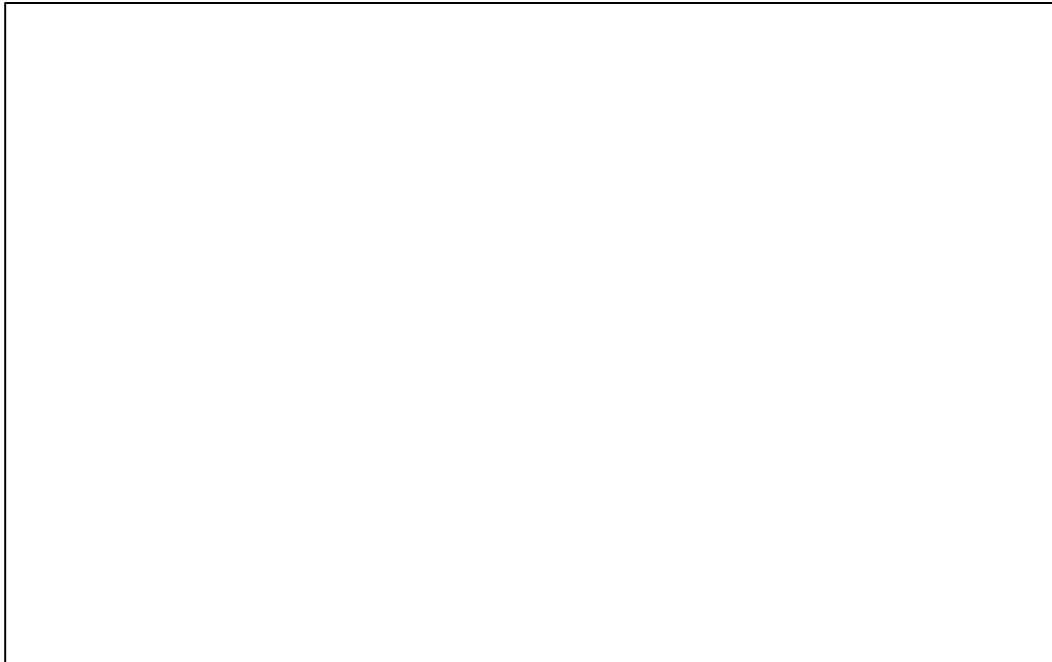
This was a short hurricane but what damage.



John Terry's store following the 1916 hurricane

“Governor’s Mansion” Wall

On Friday, June 10, contractors began to tear down the controversial wall extension at the “Governor’s Mansion” in Surfside Shores.



"We appreciate the governor doing what he said he will do and we look forward getting back to talking about the important issues of Baldwin County and the state," Commissioner Chris Elliott said.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime ReportSgt. Nathan Lusk

On June 22, 2016 the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division responded to 6 calls for service in the Ft. Morgan area. All 6 calls were related to the breaking and entering of motor vehicles in that area. In each call the victim had left their vehicle unlocked. The B&Es occurred in the overnight hours of June 21, 2016. Various items that were stolen include cash, credit cards, sunglasses and 2 large caliber pistols. If anyone has information on these cases, you are asked to contact the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office.

The Baldwin County Sheriff's Office asks that you not leave weapons in your vehicles and please lock your doors. Just simply locking the doors greatly decreases the chance of being a victim in one of these type cases. We continue to ask members of HMOA's to push to get video cameras at the entrances or key locations in their neighborhoods. We had deputies in the immediate area that night and are asking for every piece of info and help the public might have.

Crime Report ~ May 21, 2016 – June 4, 2016

5/21/16	Breaking & entering vehicle	6000 blk South Sea Circle
5/27/16	Burglary Business	800 blk Plantation Rd.
5/28/16	Criminal Mischief	5600 blk Hwy 180
5/29/16	Theft	6500 blk Driftwood Dr.
5/31/16	Breaking & entering vehicle	6000 blk Sawgrass Dr.
5/31/16	Breaking & entering vehicle	6500 blk Sea Shell Dr.
6/04/16	Criminal Mischief	925 Beach Club Tr.
6/14/16	Theft	8800 blk Hwy 180

Sgt. Lusk recommends that homeowners keep a record of all those who have access to their property (cleaners, maintenance, repair personnel, etc.) and make frequent checks on their personal belongings on the property.

EMERGENCY: 911 ~ Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities

Sheriff's Department—Administrative Office.....972-6802

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffalbaldwin.com

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies): <http://sheriffalbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>

Baldwin County Commission Contacts

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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:

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Mark Your Calendars:

FMCA Monthly Meeting ~ Monday, July 11th, 6:30pm

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

August 8 ~ September 12 ~ October 10 ~ November 14

Fort Morgan Civic Association
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www.fortmorgancivic.org