

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## September 2016 ~ Issue 115



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

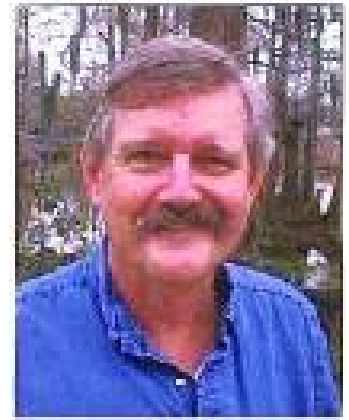
I have invited an attorney, Thomas Pilcher, to attend our September meeting to discuss possible legislation for our protection. Don't know for sure if he can make it. Would be a good thing if we could get a bill ready for the February session of the legislature.

We are glad that Sonja is back in her job with the newsletter.

Hope to see you at our September meeting.

*Paul*

Paul Barefield



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### MEMBER NOTICES

#### FMCA August Highlights

Thanks to the committee for the beautification of our Welcome to Fort Morgan sign, just west of the 14.7 mile marker. You may have noticed that recently Gulf Shores added several large palm trees--not native to the Alabama Gulf Coast--to their welcome sign.



We now have 412 members. ***It's not too late to renew if your membership lapsed--***see our website under the Membership tab: [www.fortmorgancivic.org](http://www.fortmorgancivic.org) or contact [granchan@earthlink.net](mailto:granchan@earthlink.net)

Photo: Janice Neitzel

#### Fort Morgan State Historic

Site.....Mike Bailey, Site Director



Another summer tour season has come to an end at Fort Morgan with the 152<sup>nd</sup> commemoration of the Battle of Mobile Bay and the Siege of Fort Morgan on August 6.

Several improvements have been made to the facilities at the fort including replacing the doors on the museum, updating the electrical system to the restrooms and installing an alarm system in the museum and administration

building.

#### Turtle Tracks 2016 ~~~~~Fort Morgan Nests = 91 !!!

As of August 24<sup>th</sup> we had 91 nests along the Fort Morgan peninsula of which 53 have hatched, with approximately 4,234 to the water. The most recently laid nest was found August 16<sup>th</sup>. Day 55 for that nest would be October 9<sup>th</sup>.

During the week of August 7<sup>th</sup>, the team was monitoring 12 nests at once! A few of these nests had been inundated during tropical storm Colin. Near Ebttide, water had been sitting on a nest for a couple of days but the nest produced 127 live babies. At a nest nearby which also had been inundated by Colin, only 7 of 96 eggs hatched. The two nests were laid within a week of each other.

Total number of nests reported for the Alabama coast is 224—a banner year since records have been kept.

**To volunteer for nest sitting, contact team co-leader Debbie Harbin (251-391-8333) or send an email to [fmseaturtles@hotmail.com](mailto:fmseaturtles@hotmail.com)**

### Loss of Member ~ Marion "Bubba" Hanson

Marion "Bubba" Hanson, age 89, a resident of Fort Morgan, Alabama, passed away Monday, August 8, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Emile and Lizzie Callaway Hanson; brothers, Emmett Hanson, James Hanson, Austin Hanson, Clayton Hanson; sisters, Beulah Hanson, Mildred Hanson; and his beloved twin sister, Marie Hanson Cole.

He retired from GM&O Railroad.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Mildred Walker Hanson; daughter, Marlene (Jim) Johns all of Gulf Shores, Alabama; one granddaughter, Alaina Harris of Washington, D.C.; nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

The family received friends at 10:00 a.m. and funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2016 from the chapel of Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home, Foley. Interment followed at Daphne Baptist Church Cemetery in Daphne, Alabama.

### Loss of Member ~ Betty L. Pugh ~ February 19, 1928-July 31, 2016

Betty Pugh, 88, passed away on July 31, 2016 in Birmingham. Please see the tribute to her written by Dick Pugh on page 4 of the newsletter, along with a photo of Betty raising the flags at the Fort Morgan entrance.

### Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department .....Chief Glenn Stevens

Your Fire Department responded to 43 emergency calls in July. The calls included:

- 22 medical calls
- 6 missing persons
- 4 grass fires
- 3 water rescues
- 2 stingray punctures
- 1 jellyfish sting
- 1 vehicle accident
- 1 false alarm
- 3 public assists



With summer coming to an end, we will welcome a decrease in our call volume. This will give us time to concentrate on equipping our new trucks. Our high water rescue truck will soon be coming out of the paint shop and our new fire engine will soon be on its way from the Spartan plant in Brandon, South Dakota.

Lately, we have had quite a few residents attend our training meetings and, hopefully, a few of these guests will join the Department. Please consider attending one of our meetings so that you can get a first-hand look at what we do. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1. Hope to see you there!  
Car Burn during Training Exercise

*The following resolution was adopted by the Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors on August 9, 2016.*

The Board recognizes and appreciates the leadership and effort Chief Glenn Stevens gave during our recent ISO examination.

Chief Stevens made sure our presentation and documentation was as complete and accurate as possible in order to improve our rating and benefit our community as a whole.

Thank you, Chief Stevens, for all you do.

## Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ August 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](http://www.sheriffofbaldwin.com)

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

### Fort Morgan Crime Report ~ July 22—August 12, 2016.....Sgt. Nathan Lusk

Patrols and Investigations were increased this month due to the rise in thefts and B&E's over the last two months. Most occurred from unlocked cars and items left in the bed of pickup trucks.

23 BREAKING & ENTERING VEHICLE	07/22/16	4800 blk HWY 180
15 THEFT	07/23/16	500 blk BEACH CLUB TR
23 BREAKING & ENTERING VEHICLE	08/07/16	2300 blk PONCE DE LEON CT
15 THEFT	08/03/16	900 blk PLANTATION RD
15 THEFT	07/31/16	6500 blk SEA SHELL DR
15 THEFT	08/06/16	2800 blk SEA OATS DR
9 BURGLARY	08/12/16	3000 blk HWY 180

## Baldwin County Commission Contacts

### Commissioners:

**Charles "Skip" Gruber**

[cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto:cgruber@baldwincountyal.gov)

251-943-5061

**Tucker Dorsey**

[tdorsey@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto:tdorsey@baldwincountyal.gov)

251-972-8502

**Chris Elliott**

[ctelliott@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto:ctelliott@baldwincountyal.gov)

251-990-4606

**Frank Burt, Jr.**

[fburt@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:csbarefield@gmail.com">csbarefield@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Chan West	979-4932	<a href="mailto:granchan@earthlink.net">granchan@earthlink.net</a>
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	<a href="mailto:ckittrell@southalabama.edu">ckittrell@southalabama.edu</a>
<b>Standing Committee Chairs</b>			
District 25 Planning & Zoning	Ken Steiner	540-7223	<a href="mailto:kennethjsteiner@centurytel.net">kennethjsteiner@centurytel.net</a>
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	540-7383	<a href="mailto:twstrong@gulftel.com">twstrong@gulftel.com</a>
Incorporation	Paul Barefield	540-7727	<a href="mailto:csbarefield@gmail.com">csbarefield@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
NEWS & Website Editor	Sonja Sanders	233-6208	
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	<a href="mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com">vpowers110@gmail.com</a>

### Mark Your Calendars:

**FMCA Monthly Meeting ~ Monday, September 12th, 6:30pm**

FMCA 2016 MEETINGS ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church:  
October 10 ~ November 14 ~ Fall Fish Fry October-TBA ~ Christmas Dinner TBA

**Fort Morgan Civic Association**  
**P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547**  
**[www.fortmorgancivic.org](http://www.fortmorgancivic.org)**

## BETTY L. PUGH

**FEBRUARY 19, 1928 ~ JULY 31, 2016**

Betty Lou Pugh, 88, formerly of Virginia, IL, passed away on July 31, 2016, in Birmingham, Alabama. Betty was born in Hooker, Oklahoma, the only child of Paul and Grace Tucker Smith. She married Richard Phillip Pugh, formerly of Virginia, IL in July of 1950 in Hooker, Oklahoma and he survives.

Betty is also survived by six children, Paula Pugh Romanoux (Peter Hopkins) of Richmond, VA, Karen Maxwell Pugh (Palmer Maxwell) of Birmingham, AL, Rodney Pugh (Trish) of Davenport, IA, Angela Dunnagan (Richard) of Jacksonville, IL, Patrick Pugh (Joey) of Atlanta, GA, and Steven Nave (Brittany) of Livingston, Montana; 14 grandchildren Hannah Hopkins, Susan Swindler Hamlin, Scott Swindler, Phillip and Brandon Pugh, Riley and Mattie Dunnagan, Schuyler, Greyson, Alden, Sheldon and Lizzy Pugh, and Carter and Hannah Wilkey; four great-grandchildren; and a brother-in-law, Duane Pugh (Martha) of Kingston, Texas.

While living in Virginia, Betty pulled every neighborhood child's teeth, encouraged summer time fun and had a great imagination for keeping kids occupied. She taught the kids basketball, baseball, and embarrassed every one of her children by ringing a cowbell to call them home or to end a date. Betty loved jazz and had danced to practically every big band. Betty was extremely tolerant of the menagerie of animals in her home. It was common for people to leave a pet at her doorstep, particularly dogs. At one time Betty had two raccoons, a chicken that lived in an upstairs bedroom, a pony in the backyard, a cat, turtles, frogs, and snakes. Her house never had a key and the doors were always open to friends and strangers.



In 1986, Betty and Richard moved to Fort Morgan, AL. It was here that she was most at peace. Betty became involved with the life of the community, especially centered on the ocean. Every day she would walk several miles of shoreline tracking the health of the tides and reporting birds or sea mammals trapped or beached from ocean debris. Her passion was being actively involved in saving and protecting the nests and eggs of the migratory sea turtles. Betty helped organize the 21-mile beach cleanup every September. She was locally famous for having faithfully raised and lowered the flags at the entry to Fort Morgan every day for 26 years. Betty also loved to fish for flounder at the local ferry landing at Mobile Bay and was known by all as the "Flounder Lady," a nickname she inherited because she could out-catch all the ole fishermen on any given day.

Betty's life has been a love story: love for her family, her community, and all of God's creations.

Her remains were cremated and a memorial service will be held at a later date. Friends and family are encouraged to share in Betty's life by embracing those you love. Memorial gifts may be given to the Virginia

Memorial Public Library in Virginia, IL. Condolences may be sent online at [www.buchanancody.com](http://www.buchanancody.com).

Dick Pugh  
c/o Karen Maxwell Pugh  
128 Heather Lane  
Pelham, AL 35124

The direct number to Dick's room at Shelby Ridge Nursing Home is: (205) 663-5668