

FORT MORGAN NEWS

November 2016 ~ Issue 117



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,
Hope all are enjoying the cooler weather. Finally! Not really anything new to report. Will be glad when the election is over. Be sure to vote!

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

2017 DUES PAYABLE NOW

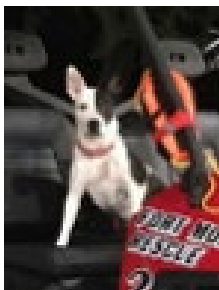
Our dues are annual with no proration for new members joining late in the year; however, any dues received now will be credited to 2017. Do include your email address. Please mail your check for \$15 plus any donation you might wish to send, with a membership form (last page of this newsletter). Better yet, bring them to the next meeting!

Once again we urge you to choose to receive the monthly newsletter and any special notices by email. Also please notify our editor Sonja Sanders (39sunnisands@gmail.com) or treasurer Chan West (granchan@earthlink.net) of any changes in addresses, phone numbers, e-mails, etc.

Our policy is to remove from the mailing or email list anyone whose dues have not been received by April. Should you need another copy of the membership form for yourself or to pass on to a prospective member, it can be found on our website, www.fortmorgancivic.org.

Please read the following Membership policy statement carefully. Contact Chan if you have any questions.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens



Your Fire Department responded to 20 emergency calls in September:

- 10 medical calls
- 2 false alarms
- 1 snake bite
- 1 dumpster fire
- 1 illegal bonfire
- 1 suicide attempt
- 1 skill saw accident
- 1 car accident
- 1 surfing accident
- 1 public assist

We recently were inspected by ISO, the company that determines home insurance rates based on the performance of your Fire Department. After our review, ISO upgraded our fire protection classification from a Class 5 to a Class 4, effective January 1, 2017. If your insurance company uses ISO to set their rates, your fire insurance premium will be lower. Thanks for all the donations that allowed us to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, and thanks to all the firefighters that put in many hours of training to make this possible. More volunteers will be needed if we plan to continue to improve.

Thanks to everyone that came out to support us at our Ladies Auxiliary Fish Fry. These events give the community a chance to tour the fire station and get a close look at all our firefighting vehicles and equipment. As always, our monthly meetings are held at Station 1 and are open to the public. Board meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and our training meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Fish Fry Great Success!

The Auxiliary was very pleased with our annual fish fry. 215 plates were served which included fried fish, baked beans, cole slaw, hushpuppies and a drink. We also had a successful bake sale, a 50/50 raffle and the beautiful Fort Morgan tee shirts sold real well. A special thanks to everyone that supported the dinner and to the Fire Dept. for their help and to all the ladies that worked so hard to make the dinner a success. A nice deposit of \$3071.00 will assist our firefighters in need.

Anyone interested in joining our auxiliary may call either Kay Stevens at 540-7422 or Thelma Strong at 540-7383.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site.....Dylan Tucker, Cultural Resource Specialist

Regularly scheduled tours and bird watching continued through October. A new look at the Fort: we have changed the tour outfit to match the 1917 Coastal Artillery Corp here at Fort Morgan in honor of the World War II Centennial next year.



If you have questions about the Fort, its history, or upcoming events, contact Dylan at DylanTucker@fort-morgan.org or 540-5257.

Turtle Tracks 2016~~~~~Fort Morgan Nests = 96!

Fort Morgan peninsula had a banner year for sea turtle nests with a total of 96. There are two more nests to excavate. Although a number of hatchlings were lost to the high storm surge, we still had great success in getting babies to the water. We will have final numbers in next month's Fort Morgan NEWS. The Share the Beach all-team final meeting of the season will be held November 3rd at Gulf Shores Activity Center.

**Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.....Brittany Petersen, Asst. Refuge Manager
A FEW MONARCH WALKS IN NOVEMBER**

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the magnificent migration of the monarch butterfly and their fascinating life cycle? Come join Refuge volunteer Homer Singleton as he leads participants along the Gator Lake Trail searching for this beautiful butterfly. During the walk Homer will introduce you to the butterflies that pass through this area, their habitats and their life cycles. Participants will also be asked to help catch monarch butterflies so that they can receive tags that will allow scientists to track their migration.



The walks will start at Gator Lake trailhead located off Mobile Street. Walks typically last from 2.5 to 3 hours and participants should come prepared to walk over 2 miles, in soft sand, with minimal shade. Water and bug spray are highly suggested. **The walks will be limited to 12 participants; please make reservations by calling 251-540-7720.**

The monarch walks were held at 9:00am, Wednesdays and Fridays, throughout October and will continue the same days and times on November: 2, 4, and 9.

Alert! Membership Policy Changes

At the monthly meeting on October 10, 2016 decisions were made on various aspects of membership. We have policies that have been in place since the early days when we had only a few members, local residents who knew each other. Now our annual membership runs over 400. The following changes were approved at the meeting.

DEATH OF A MEMBER

We will no longer make a memorial donation to our volunteer fire department. We have no way to know of the passing of many and the VFD is no longer struggling for funds as it was in its early days. **We are requesting a family member notify us of a death**, the date and the website where the obit can be found (funeral home or publication). Our Sunshine Chairperson will send a condolence card. Notice of the passing will be made in a new section of the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Our policy has been that membership is a family membership, covering all who use the same residence, permanent or seasonal. We have been getting requests to send the newsletter to multiple addresses, email or postal. We often are not informed of changes, especially to email addresses, and it becomes a time-consuming chore to track down the recipient. The new policy will be to send **one** newsletter per membership. That one recipient may then distribute it to whomever s/he chooses. If another family member wishes to receive it directly from FMCA he or she needs to pay for an additional membership; submit a membership form and annual dues of \$15.

Again we urge all to sign up for email receipt of the newsletter. For you who have concerns about privacy, please note that we do not give out our email list and recipients on the Fort Morgan NEWS are shown only as blind copies (not visible to other recipients). The only email address which can be gleaned from an email from FMCA is that of the sender.

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee

At the Civic Association meeting on the October 10th, Paul reported that Ken Steiner had resigned as Chair of the committee because of his health problems. We did not have a quorum at the FMCA meeting but needed to replace Ken in order to have a quorum at the scheduled semi-annual committee meeting set for October 19th. Bonnie Lowry and Randy Ulrich had both notified the committee that they would be on vacation on that date. Paul made an executive temporary appointment to the committee of FMCA Vice President Ernie Church pending election of a replacement member with a quorum at the next FMCA meeting.

The only courtesy member of the FMCA Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee present on October 19th was Mayor Robert Craft. There were no requests for rezoning or variances presented. The only business was to elect Chan West as chairperson. Next scheduled meeting is for April 19, 2017.

Loss of Member ~ Jack Charles Stokley (1936 - 2016)

Jack, an 80-year-old native of Silas, AL and long-time resident of Saraland, passed away on September 24, 2016. A graduate of Vigor High School, Jack worked as a Sales Engineer for Motion Industries and retired after a successful 43-year career there. Jack is survived by his wife of 52 years, Bonnie L. (Bailey) Stokley, his sons Richard and Carl, his grandchildren, his sister Charlotte Presley, and other close relatives and friends. Jack was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and an avid fisherman and hunter. He enjoyed the outdoors with family and friends that included many days of fun and relaxation at his Fort Morgan beach home.

Funeral services were held September 27th at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, followed by interment in Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lafitte Baptist Church, Saraland, AL.

Unwanted Fort Morgan Resident: Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*):



Beach vitex is an invasive species new to the Alabama Gulf Coast and may have been seen recently in the Cabana Beach subdivision. This plant was introduced to the Southeastern United States in the mid-1980s as an ornamental and also for beach stabilization. However, the plant does not provide beach stabilization and negatively impacts sea turtles. It is a deciduous woody vine native to Korea and other western Pacific countries. It has been found in isolated pockets of Perdido Key, Orange Beach, Gulf Shores and Fort Morgan. It can be eradicated. For more information, please visit these sites:

(1) The Beach Vitex Task Force

<http://www.northinlet.sc.edu/beachvitex/about.html>

(2) The Clemson University Extension Service: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/pests/weeds/hgic2315.html>

[Information Source: The Beach Vitex Task Force Website. Thanks to Bill Lynn, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Daphne Office.]

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ October 2016

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>

Fort Morgan Crime ReportSgt. Nathan Lusk, BCSO

One Burglary reported at the 6000 blk of Sawgrass Circle in Morgantown.

REMINDERS: lights, alarms and video cameras are an invaluable tool. Thanks to some of the homeowners with cameras, we have been able to obtain some great evidence and information on problem areas. This time of year there is typically an increase in burglaries due to fewer people being at rental/vacation homes. Be vigilant in reporting suspicious behavior as well as checking your property regularly.

Baldwin County Commission Contacts

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

Chan West

979-4932

granchan@earthlink.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

233-6208

39sunnisands@gmail.com

Sunshine

Vickie Matranga

543-1555

vpowers110@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars:

FMCA Monthly Meeting ~ Monday, November 14th, 6:30pm

Shell Banks Church Fellowship Room

ADDITIONAL FMCA MEETINGS IN 2016

Christmas Dinner ~ TBA

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

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2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Cell Ph _____

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 _____

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/other Groups 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 \$ _____
2017 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.