

FORT MORGAN NEWS



January 2017 ~ Issue 119

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

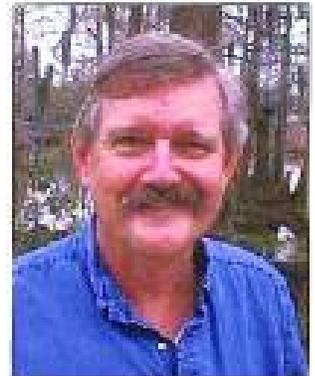
Hi, Folks,

Hope all had a Merry Christmas. We had a fine Christmas party thanks to the efforts of Thelma and Chan and Randy with the turkey and hams. Mildred's decorations added a festive note to the gathering. Thanks also to A.J. and the firefighters for the setup. No real news to report at this time. Keep Ken Steiner in your prayers. Hope to see you at the January meeting.

Happy New Year!

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE OVERDUE!

If you care to stay up to date on the issues relevant to YOUR property and Fort Morgan community, pay your dues now.

Mail your check for the \$15 dues, plus any donation you might wish to send, with a membership form (last page, below). Better yet, bring them to our January meeting !

Please notify our NEWS 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 distribution list anyone whose dues have not been received by March 31st. 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.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens



Congratulations to Sonny Farris for Firefighter of the year.

Your Fire Department would like to appreciate to everyone that provided Department in 2016. Thanks to the made contributions and special thanks contributions made by The Beach Plantation, and Kiva Dunes. The

our community made it possible to purchase a fully and to construct an addition to Station 1 to house the new

This past month, the Department responded to 16 mainly medical. Besides responding to calls, we recently Gulf Shores Christmas Parade and in the toy drives Pines and Tacky Jack's.

Our annual meeting will be held at Station 1 on January 10 meeting, a summary of our 2016 accomplishments will be as our plans for 2017. Also, the community will vote on three Board seats: (1) Firefighter Seat--Sonny Farris, firefighter, will be running for re-election. (2) Firefighter Seat--Russ Woerner, firefighter, will be running for re-election. (3) Non-Firefighter Seat--Ernie Church has expressed interest in filling this seat.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting, and come join us at one of our training meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1.



being named 2016

express support to the residents that for the major Club, Gulf Shores generosity from equipped pumper equipment.

emergency calls, participated in the sponsored by The

at 5:30 p.m. At this discussed as well



Fort Morgan Toy Drives Successful

For the last ten years, two local restaurants (Behind the Pines and Tacky Jack's 2) have sponsored Christmas toy drives to benefit local needy children. The toys are collected and distributed via the school system. As you can see in this photo, Fort Morgan residents go above and beyond and rally 'round each of the toy drives in the true spirit of Christmas.

[Thanks to our Vice President, Ernie Church]

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee

The Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee will post on our website [www.fortmorgancivic.org] re-zoning and variance request notices received from the county commission. We also will send a special email to all on the association's email list of the posting and the time and place of our FMCA committee meeting. In most cases these notices are received about 10 days before the county Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Notice of the request is posted on the property involved and mailed to adjacent landowners. This is our attempt to let additional property owners, not adjacent, who will be affected by the request, express their concerns to our local committee before it submits a recommendation.

Any of our members who receive the Fort Morgan NEWS by U.S. Postal Service and wish to receive these notices will have to furnish us with an email address. The NEWS will then also be sent to that email address. To make the change, notify Chan West at granchan@earthlink.net

The committee met December 16th to consider a request to re-zone the Ewing property from B-2 to B-4 in order to accommodate a drive thru BBQ restaurant, adjacent boat/trailer storage and RV parking/storage.

B-4 zoning is a "major commercial district," intended for businesses needing access to major arterial roadways. This zoning designation also accommodates businesses which, because of their intensity, may have negative impacts on adjoining properties due to late hours of operation, noise, and/or light.

Adjoining property owners present at the meeting voiced concerns about potential noise and light distractions, as well as potential traffic issues—particularly during a hurricane evacuation. The committee also noted that District 25 has no area zoned B-4 presently.

Following consideration of the facts and ensuing discussion with adjoining property owners, the committee voted to recommend that the county commission deny the request to re-zone subject property.

.....Ernie Church, Member, District 25 Planning and Zoning Committee

Loss of Members

We are requesting that a family member notify us of any FMCA member's death, the date, and the website where an obituary and funeral arrangements can be found. With over 400 member families, we have no certain way of knowing of a member's death.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~ November 2016

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

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

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffobaldwin.com

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

Fort Morgan Crime Report		Sgt. Nathan Lusk, BCSO
12.1.16	300 Block of Boykin Ct. S.	Burglary
12.12.16	5700 Block of Hwy. 180	Burglary
12.12.16	5700 Block of Hwy. 180	Burglary

Knock on wood, these past three months were significantly better than October through December 2015 for Fort Morgan! This time last year we had approximately eighteen thefts, burglaries and breaking/entering motor vehicles, compared to this year's six cases. Several arrests, community involvement and increased law enforcement presence have been key to the decrease. Please continue to be diligent in reporting suspicious activity. Document the serial numbers to all your valuables and take pictures of them as well, insuring to document any features that make them unique (maybe damage, scratches, dents or something custom about the item that will help positively identify the item as yours if stolen).

Thank you Fort Morgan for continuing to help be a part of the solution and helping to make the community safer!

Sergeant Nathan Lusk, Criminal Investigations Command

Baldwin County Sheriff's Office ~ [251-972-8589 Ext 7618](tel:251-972-8589)

Fort Morgan History & Folklore

The following story is reprinted with permission of Harriet Outlaw. She commented that this is a folklore story based on tales people have told her. Her stories have their roots in oral tradition.

OH, LEANDER, COME BACK TO ME

This story may not be found in history textbooks used in schools, but is one every child should hear, for not only is it entertaining, it could save a life.

The saga of Hernando DeSoto's exploration of the south is found in virtually every resource on early Alabama history. Children learn of his meeting with Chief Tuscaloosa, the Battle of Mauvilla and his burial in the Mississippi River.

However, there is much more to the story – some details that have come down through the ages without primary sources to back them up. Those stories can't be proven but they can't be disproved either. And they sure do make sense!

When DeSoto began his journey in Florida, he sent his ships back to Cuba with instructions to meet him later at the next big river to the west, which is the mouth of Mobile Bay. When the ships arrived at Gulf Shores, Hernando's beautiful wife Isabella was aboard. She is credited with planting the first fig trees and Nerium bushes in the New World. The Nerium shrubs were her favorite, and she walked by them every day calling for her husband using her pet name for him, Leander. As she cried, "Oh, Leander, come back to me," her tears watered the plants and the name Oleander came to be. Soldiers brought Isabella news of the Battle of Mauvilla and carried orders for the ships to meet DeSoto at the next large delta, the mouth of the Mississippi River. As Isabella sailed away from the Alabama shores, she could see the Oleander blooms and knew she was leaving behind hopes of seeing her husband alive again, and in her sorrow placed a deadly curse on the plants.

Oleander shrubs still thrive throughout the southern United States. They do well in sandy soil, bear long hot spells without water and are tolerant of mild freezes. They can grow to almost 20 feet high and from April to November are filled with fragrant pink, white and red blooms. However, their beauty hides a dreadful secret. Oleanders are among the most poisonous plants in the world. Gardeners must be extra careful with the clipping of the bushes as their sweet odor is especially attractive to horses and other livestock. When I was a

child, my father always warned me to never get near the smoke of burning oleander branches as it could cause blindness.

Many people have told me the story of the girl scout troop which was on a camping trip. The leader showed the girls how to cut branches of a nearby bush and shave the leaves away, making perfect skewers for roasting hot dogs over the campfire. The next morning, the entire group was found unconscious and most died. The Oleander sticks left around the campsite told the story.

So I hope the reader will share the story of the Oleander bush with someone. You may save a life.

Note: This story is among some of the fascinating “historical accounts” recorded by Hatchett Chandler who is credited with saving Fort Morgan from ruin. He was quite an interesting character, and his charming personality comes through in his book *Little Gems from Fort Morgan*. Mr. Chandler is one of those people I label Folk Characters, those real people whose true stories are better than any fiction. Baldwin County boasts quite a few of those and I will soon write a series of columns dedicated to their stories, which just maybe have been enhanced just a little through the years. Hatchett will be among the first.

Harriet Outlaw is a local folklorist and storyteller and author of several publications. <harrietoutlaw@msn.com>

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

If you have questions, need information or would like to volunteer, please contact one of the following board members. **Some of the areas needing volunteer help NOW are: (1) Hospitality—Thelma could use a couple of “trainees” to help with annual dinners. They could learn by observation and questions, then pitch in to become a full contributing member. (2) Treasurer—Chan needs someone with a little financial and computer experience to help with our books and membership data. She has a very complete data base in Word Excel. (3) Editor—Sonja needs help with the website: content, layout, ideas, updating, expanding, etc. Of course, ideas are always welcome for the Fort Morgan NEWS.**

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

Fire Department Annual Meeting ~ Tuesday, January 10, 5:30pm, Station #1

FMCA 2017 MEETINGS

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings (2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church):

January 9 ~ February 13 ~ March 13 ~ April 10 ~ May 8 ~ June 12

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 Newsletter Writing for Newspaper, Publicity Releases

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.