

FORT MORGAN NEWS

March 2017~Issue 121~10 Years!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, folks:

Hope all are enjoying this spring-like weather. We had a good turnout for our February meeting to hear about the status of the lawsuit. We continue to monitor requests for zoning changes. Happy carnival ! Plan to attend the March meeting.

Paul

Paul Barefield

P.S.: Please read the newsletter. This is especially true of those who are late with dues. Sending reminder letters is costly. Fifteen dollars for dues is quite a bargain! Thanks for your cooperation.



MEMBER NOTICES

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE OVERDUE

A Delinquent Dues letter just went out. Mail your check for the \$15 dues, plus any donation you might wish to send, with the membership form—see reverse side of letter or download the form from our website. Members whose dues are not received by **March 31st** will be removed from the membership list.

www.fortmorgancivic.org

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens



In January, your Fire Department responded to 26 emergency calls: 16 medical, 9 false alarms, and 1 grass fire in the Rookery. With Spring Break beginning in March, we've been busy servicing our watercraft and all of our beach vehicles.

During the past few months, we've lost quite a few of our firefighters due to the high price of rent and lack of employment opportunities in the Fort Morgan area. Retired residents make the best volunteers. If you have interest in joining, we will be handing out applications at the Spaghetti Dinner, or you can come join us at one of our meetings held on the 1st or 3rd Monday each month at 6:30 PM at Station 1.

This was Lucy, our fire dog for several years. We miss her. Although she can't really be replaced, next month we will show you our new fire dog Ashes.

On Saturday, March 11, our Ladies Auxiliary will hold their annual Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser. Come join us between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and for \$8 you'll get to enjoy a plate of spaghetti with meat sauce, a mixed green salad, garlic bread, and tea or coffee. The ladies will also have a bake sale, a cookbook sale, Fire Department tee shirts, and tickets for the 50/50 raffle. Funds from the dinner go toward helping firefighters in need.

Loss of Member ~ Dr. Albert L. Gore

From Cheryl Gore Boyette:

"I want to inform you that my dad, Dr. Albert L. Gore, passed away December 13, 2016, at the age of 96. The obituary can be found in the Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, MS for the dates of December 15 -17.

Fifty-three years ago, my dad built a vacation home on the beach side of the Fort Morgan peninsula. He enjoyed spending time there each year with his wife of 75 years and, later, with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He was a member of FMCA and my brother, Billy Gore, and I would like to continue membership."

We are requesting that a family member notify us of any FMCA member's death 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.

Long-Term Member Celebrates 90th Birthday!



Bill Ross, with the help of wife Mary and about 30 friends, celebrated his 90th birthday on January 6th at Fire Station #1, in spite of torrential rains and bone-chilling temperatures. Bill and Mary are among the earliest members of the Fort Morgan Civic Association and have been very active in supporting FMCA and the community.

Bill and Mary's daughter Roxann commented, "As you may have guessed, my sister Robin Ross and I think the world of our father and believe that he is truly 'one in a million.' We, along with my Mom, Mary, were so happy that so many people turned out on the night of January



6th to celebrate Dad's birthday. That had to be one of the worst nights on record weather-wise, so it was really heart warming to see so many people brave the elements to honor him."

FMCA Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee.....Chan West, Chair



In mid-February the Langan Companies announced a development of 600 4 bedroom/4 bath units with amenities for the former Pilot Town area west of St. Andrew Bay. To learn more visit their website: <http://www.langancompanies.com/fort-morgan> This property has been zoned R-6 since our zoning was established, so there will be no rezoning.

The Baldwin County Commission at its meeting on February 21 approved two Fort Morgan rezoning requests:

~ Z-160041. Powell, Spence and Rowland: from B-2 to RTF-4, business to multiple family. This change was objected to by residents of nearby Gulf front property because of the potential increase in the number of residents seeking to use the limited beach access in the area. Last month the newsletter was in error reporting this as Gulf-front property; it fronts on Highway 180 east of Triple Tail. Our advisory committee had no objection. Commission unanimously approved.

~ Z-160001. Ewing: from B-2 to B-4. Our committee did not approve this request which will permit the opening of a boat and RV storage facility and a take-out restaurant. Commission vote was 3 to 1 for approval. Skip Gruber voted against.

Variance Request V-170007. McKee. **The Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee will meet at 4:00 pm on March 1 at Shell Banks Baptist Church fellowship hall to consider this request.** All on our email list should have received a copy of this request, and it is posted on our website. The property is a lot at 2304 Choctaw Road. This is one of several lots of about 5000 sq. ft. in that area which had been platted before our zoning was established and were then zoned RSF-1. The minimum lot size for this classification is 30,000 sq. ft. The set backs are designed for lots of that size; therefore, anyone wanting to build on those old smaller lots cannot meet those setbacks. This owner wants to build a 24'X 51' home. The county Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment will consider this request on March 9.

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. Please refer other non-FMCA property owners who wish to stay up to date to our website. We also will send a special email to all members on FMCA email list of the posting and the time and place of our FMCA committee meeting. We encourage property owners with vested interests to bring their concerns and comments to these meetings. In most cases these notices are received about 10 days before the county Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Notice of rezoning requests are posted on the property involved and mailed to adjacent landowners. The FMCA email notice to members is to let non-adjacent property owners who may be affected by the request express their concerns to our local committee before it submits a recommendation to the county. Any FMCA member who receives the Fort Morgan NEWS by U.S. Postal Service and wishes to receive these rezoning request notices will have to furnish us with an email address. To receive email notification of rezoning requests, you must send an email address to Chan West at chan@goefish.com

Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission

FMCA member Bonnie Lowry has been appointed by the county commission to replace our former representative Ken Steiner on the county's planning and zoning commission.

Fort Morgan History

Did He or Didn't He? Prince Madoc of Wales Discovers New World

By Harriet Outlaw

As a little girl, I remember seeing the historic marker at Fort Morgan naming Prince Madoc as the first European to come to America. I have believed that ever since, even though scholars claim it is a myth. If so, it is a very believable myth.

In my postcard collection I found the postcard of the historic marker that was placed at Fort Morgan in 1953 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. It reads:

In memory of Prince Madoc, a Welsh explorer who landed on the shores of Mobile Bay in 1170 and left behind with the Indians, the Welsh language. Authority is- Encyclopedia Americana copyright 1918-Webster's Encyclopedia- Richard Hakluyt: 1552-1610, a Welsh Historian and Geographer- Ridpath's History of the World- Ancient Roman coins found in Tenn. These forts resemble the forts of Wales of the 9th and 10th centuries and of the white Indians of the Tennessee and Missouri Rivers.

Legitimate historians are quick to point out that there is no proof of the visit of the Welshman long before Columbus landed on the shores of the New World, but traditional stories seem to persist. I guess people just love a good mystery. That is what folklore is all about.



Welsh legend carries the well-known tale of Madog (Madoc), one of the 13 children of OWain Gwyedd, king of Gwynedd in the 12th century. After the king's death in 1169, the crown was in dispute and at that time, Madoc left for an adventure on the high seas. He returned with exciting reports of the land which is now the Gulf Coast of Alabama where he had left a colony of 120. Persuading others to join him, his party left from Lundy in 1171, but were never heard from again.



Hatchett Chandler, long time manager of Fort Morgan, wrote that at the news of Columbus taking credit for claiming the New World for Spain, England put forth their earlier claim established by Prince Madoc of Wales. Poet Robert Southley, wrote an epic poem named "Madoc" in celebration of the prince's first voyage to America, wherein Madoc says he "stood triumphant on another world."

Much later, discoveries in the New World added to the body of belief that the Welshmen had traveled north along the river systems. The remains of stone forts in North Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee are said by some archaeologists to have been built well before the Columbus era and strongly resemble the forts built in England and Wales in the 9th and 10th centuries. Some compare them to Castle Dolwyddelan, the home of Prince Madoc. Hatchett Chandler printed a letter he found in the Newberry Library in Chicago—an 1810 letter from Gov. John Sevier of Tennessee. Sevier wrote that he had interaction with Cherokee Indians who said the forts had been built by white men who lived there centuries before. He wrote that Chief Oconostota referred to the people his grandfather called Welsh and that there was in existence a book which reportedly was written with Welsh characters.

The most fascinating piece of the evidence believers put forth was gathered by artist George Catlin, a nineteenth century painter who spent eight years among the native American tribes, including the Mandans living along the Missouri River. They were known as white men with forts, living in towns laid out in squares and using Welsh style coracles instead of canoes for fishing. There were many elements of the Welsh language among their people and their hair and eye coloring were much more European than Indian. Gov. John Sevier reported the discovery of six skeletons wearing brass armor with the Welsh coat-of-arms engraved. Catlin's paintings reflect his observations among the Mandans.

Yes, I certainly understand that there is no concrete proof of Madoc's visit to Baldwin County, but then again, I have not seen any proof that he did not come. Such is the nature of legend and there are many proponents active in purporting the theory. It is sure fun to think about, anyway.

The marker was removed from its place at Fort Morgan at some point, either as a result of lack of historical evidence or of hurricane damage. It was returned to the Daughters of the American Revolution and stored at the Richards DAR House in Mobile. Recently it was moved to the Mobile Museum of History where it remains preserved. I mean, after all, if it was cast in bronze it must be true. . *Harriet Outlaw is a local folklorist and storyteller.*

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report

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

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

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffobaldwin.com

Fort Morgan Crime Report ~ February 2017.....	Sgt. Nathan Lusk, BCSO		
2/15/17	9000 Blk. Hwy. 180	Theft from Business	Wood Pilings
2/21/17	Plantation Rd.	Theft from Business	\$900 cash

Please be prepared! Spring Break is upon us and there will be an influx of people in the area. The increased number of people often translates to more crimes. The Sheriff's Office and Gulf Shores PD are taking steps to increase the number of Deputies and Police Officers in their areas of jurisdiction. Please be extra diligent in locking doors, locking vehicles, securing valuables and reporting suspicious/criminal behavior.

Sergeant Nathan Lusk, Criminal Investigations Command
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office ~ [251-972-8589 Ext 7618](tel:251-972-8589)

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	chan@goefish.com
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	ckittrell@southalabama.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

District 25 Planning & Zoning	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
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

FMCA 2017 MEETINGS

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

March 13 ~ April 10 ~ May 8 ~ June 12 ~ July 10 ~ August 14

Fort Morgan Civic Association

P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547
www.fortmorgancivic.org