

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## May 2017~Issue 123



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, folks:

We had a good meeting last month. Ernie reported that Steve McMillan assures us that funds are allocated for the Fort Morgan pier with a timeline for Fall of this year. It might be worthwhile for our members to send a courteous letter or email to our state legislators to thank them for their support. Maybe even a copy to our new governor? Just a thought.



**Paul**

Paul Barefield

### MEMBER NOTICES

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

Firedog Ashes



Your Fire Department responded to 19 calls in March:

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 8 medical           | 2 elevator entrapments |
| 3 vehicle accidents | 2 public assists       |
| 3 false alarms      | 1 brush fire           |

Please be respectful of our rough seas and stay aware of rip current advisories. We have already had one drowning this year.

[The State will still post the large portable lighted sign on Fort Morgan Road just off Hwy. 59 when there is a weather advisory of long-running rip currents. Also, beginning this month, when they learn of such a threat, your volunteer fire department will advise the FMCA Webmaster Ernie Church and he will post the warning on the FMCA website: [www.fortmorgancivic.org](http://www.fortmorgancivic.org) ]

ADEM will be issuing a burn ban beginning on May 1st and ending on October 31st. This is an environmental burn ban to help improve air quality and has nothing to do with dryness due to lack of rain. Cooking fires will be allowed and all other fires will be illegal.

Our Board Meetings and Training Meetings are held at Fire Station No. 1 and both are open to the public. Board Meetings begin at 5:30 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, and our Training Meetings begin at 6:30 PM on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month.

**[Please print out the Riptide Poster attached to the NEWS and post it in your Fort Morgan home. Advise your family, friends and others who visit of the dangers of this deadly phenomenon.]**

**Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee.....Chan West, Chair**

A semi-annual meeting of this committee was held on April 19. Vince Jackson, Linda Lee and D J Hart of the county Planning and Zoning Department, David Conner, county attorney, and Commissioner Skip Gruber attended. One of the topics discussed was how we can improve communication with our citizens on requests for variances, rezoning, and permits. It was suggested that we post signs in District 25 advertising the meetings of our committee.

We also discussed TA-17001, which will create a new zoning designation HDR, High Density Residential with an increased maximum density of 12 units per acre. Following our committee meeting on April 4 we had sent a letter to the Planning Commission requesting that District 25 be exempt from this HDR zoning because of the effects increased density would have on the health, safety and general welfare of our residents and guests. The county officials agreed that this was a reasonable request

Ernie Church has been appointed to the Board of Adjustment. He is also our webmaster and will post the request packages for rezoning, variances, and permits on our website. Our advisory committee meetings are open meetings held in the fellowship hall of Shell Bank Baptist Church

We also considered a permit application for the installation of a second monopole cell phone tower at the substation on Mobile Street and Highway 180. The new pole would be 140' high. The original pole is 104' and will be removed within two years. The only concern expressed was for the active Osprey nest on the existing tower, that there be no construction or removal activity while the nest is occupied. Fish and Wildlife Service has been contacted and asked to submit comment. The idea was that comment from the Service would carry more weight than one from our committee.

**Our committee will meet at 9:00 am on Wednesday, May 3,** to consider V-170019, a request from Asa and Mary Hollowell, 4428 Hwy 180, to be able to rebuild two residential dwellings on this one lot (50' X 900') where there were two which were grandfathered in when zoning was enacted. He has expressed concern for the possibility of hurricane destruction. Signs advertising this meeting have been posted on Fort Morgan Road near both Fire Stations.

The two recent requests for reduced set-backs to allow for construction of single family dwellings on small lots on Our Road and Cherokee Road were approved by the Board of Adjustment in its meeting on April 9.

The Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee will post on our website [[www.fortmorgancivic.org](http://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. Notices of rezoning requests are posted on the property involved and mailed to adjacent landowners by the County.

FMCA also will send a special email to all members on our email list of the time and place of our Fort Morgan committee meeting and will post signs on Fort Morgan road near both fire stations. Our 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 be sent to Chan West at: [chan@goefish.com](mailto:chan@goefish.com).

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 or Board of Adjustments meeting.

### **FMCA Member Appointed to Baldwin County Board of Adjustments**

FMCA Vice-President Ernie Church has been appointed by the county commission to serve on the county's planning and zoning Board of Adjustment. Vickie Matranga was named alternate.

### **Fort Morgan Pier Update.....Vice President Ernie Church**

Checked with Representative Steve McMillan's office on the status of replacement of our pier at Fort Morgan. He assured us that it is on schedule for fall 2017 and is still funded.

### **Fort Morgan Crime Report ~ April 2017.....Sgt. Nathan Lusk, BCSO**



April 7, 2017 Theft report at 5000 block of Fort Morgan Road. Money was taken. Savannah Grandberry-Warren was arrested the same day for the crime of Theft of Property 3rd.

Spring Break was much quieter than expected and crime was down compared to last year. There were several arrests for minor in possession or consuming alcohol, but a lot less than last year. This can be contributed to a number of factors, but the additional uniformed deputies in the area was probably one of the biggest contributors to the lower numbers.

Continue locking your doors to your vehicles, as we typically see a rise in the number of thefts from unlocked cars this time of year.

Sergeant Nathan Lusk,

Criminal Investigations Command, BCSO

[251-972-8589](tel:251-972-8589) Ext 7618

Helping with Spring Break '17 at Fort Morgan: Dep. Jason Kolbe, K9 Aron, and Dep.

Justin Correa

## Fort Morgan Hurricane Re-Entry Pass Update



Baldwin County has elected not to mail Fort Morgan residents decals for the 2017-2018 season. As a courtesy, re-entry decals for Fort Morgan residents may be picked up in-person at Gulf Shores City Hall Revenue Division. Two decals per unit may be purchased at the cost of \$5 each, unless a hurricane or tropical storm watch has been issued for our area, in which case the fee doubles. Everyone who requests a decal will be required to show strict proof of residency in the form of a deed, lease or utility bill, bearing the address for which the decal is being obtained, along with proof of identity. No decals will be mailed. Decals are available now. The city will not issue a decal after a hurricane or tropical storm warning has been issued.

For more detailed information about decals in Gulf Shores and Fort Morgan, please call (251) 968-1120 or visit the city's website at [www.gulfshoresal.gov](http://www.gulfshoresal.gov).

*We request 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.*

## 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:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</a>
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	<a href="mailto:ckittrell@southalabama.edu">ckittrell@southalabama.edu</a>

### Standing Committee Chairs

District 25 Planning & Zoning	Chan West	979-4932	<a href="mailto:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</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	<a href="mailto:39sunnisands@gmail.com">39sunnisands@gmail.com</a>
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	<a href="mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com">vpowers110@gmail.com</a>

## FMCA 2017 MEETINGS

**FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church:**

**May 8 ~ June 12 ~ July 10 ~ August 14 ~ September 11**

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



# RIP CURRENTS

## Break the Grip of the Rip!



### IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

### SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

