

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## June 2017~Issue 124



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, folks:

No real news to report. See you at our June meeting.

**Paul**

Paul Barefield



### MEMBER NOTICES

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

Firedog Ashes



In April, your Fire Department responded to 17 calls: 1 drowning, 4 near drownings, 5 medical, 2 false alarms, 1 assault, 1 auto accident, 1 grass fire (Pilot Town), 1 missing person, and 1 animal rescue.

The Department recently equipped its High-Water Rescue Vehicle with an Ultra-high pressure firefighting unit. This high-tech unit expands water so that a tank of water lasts four times longer than a normal tank of water. The \$10,000 cost for this equipment was paid for by a Federal Forestry Grant and contributions made by our Snowbird Clubs.



In June, we will be mailing out our annual donation request letter. Our projects this year include:

- ~ 32 SCBA air cylinders to replace our expiring cylinders.
- ~ Purchase and installation of 6 new fire hydrants.
- ~ Conversion of our Station 1 septic tank to a sewer line system.
- ~ Upgrade Station 2 with new LED lighting, a new heater, and replacement of a corroded bay door.

Remember, we are now under an ADEM air quality burn ban until October 31, 2017.

Board Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 5:30 p.m. Training meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. All our meetings are at Station 1 and all meetings are open to the public.

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

Our advisory committee met on May 3 to consider a variance request for reduced set-backs for construction of a single-family dwelling at the end of Our Road. We recommended approval and the Board of Adjustment did grant the request.

At our membership meeting on May 8 Paul Stanton proposed an amendment to the zoning regulations establishing a requirement for on-site parking. He had researched the problem created by the development of big duplexes with as many as nine bedrooms each side, advertising accommodations for up to 44 guests total. He suggested an amendment for dwellings of five bedrooms or more which would require 4 parking spaces plus one additional space for each bedroom over five. We have passed this on to Vince Jackson, who is working on an amendment to the zoning regulations. **Please document, with photos, any problems you see with overflow parking along the streets in District 25.** Send to Chan West at [granchan52@gmail.com](mailto:granchan52@gmail.com). (Yes, this is a new email address. My last one has been spoofed.)

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: [granchan52@gmail.com](mailto:granchan52@gmail.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 Members Represented on Baldwin County Board of Adjustments**

FMCA Vice-President Ernie Church is serving on the county’s planning and zoning Board of Adjustment with Vickie Matranga as alternate.

## **Fort Morgan State Historic Site.....Mike Bailey, Senior Historian**

Welcome to the new Site Director, Heather Tassin, formerly with the National Parks Service. She began her position on May 16th.

The fort is looking forward to a busy summer season. On Saturday, May 27th, the staff presented a program for Memorial Day. Interpreters dressed in period uniforms, remembering World War I, The Spanish American War and the Civil War. Beginning Tuesday, June 6th, the fort staff will begin the 21st season of Tuesday Evening Civil War tours.

### **No Name Road Repair Effort**

Local property owner Craig Harrington has taken on the issue of addressing the state of disrepair on “No Name Road” which used to provide Gulf beach access at the west end of Fort Morgan Road next to the Fort property. Following is a communication from him on his latest efforts. If anyone knows of helpful contacts or can provide further information to Craig, please contact him directly:

I am interested in getting the Alabama Historic Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to come to a timely and appropriate decision on the best solution for fixing the entry to the Fort Morgan beach access at No Name Road. I understand that these are the two agencies, property ownership wise, ultimately responsible for making the final decision.

I’ve contacted the following folks who all have an interest in getting to a common solution regarding the current No Name Road state of disrepair:

- Bruce Porter - US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Charles Gruber - Baldwin County Commissioner
- Jackie Sablan - Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge
- Brittany Peterson - Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Asst. Manager
- Mike Bailey - Alabama Historical Commission - (Interim) Fort Morgan Site Director
- Heather Tassin - Alabama Historical Commission - (New) Fort Morgan Site Director
- Ernie Church - Fort Morgan Fire Department Board President
- Paul Barefield – Fort Morgan Civic Association Board President
- Vince Calametti - ALDOT SW Region P.E. Regional Engineer

The 50-foot wide by 1,500-foot long right-of-way is currently pressed out to maximum usage between the US Fish and Wildlife Service Area Closed signs because of the unusable center section of deteriorated road surface. My suggestion all along has been to simply remove all the remaining road surface and haul it away—leaving the road just as road base gravel—graded all the way out to the current beach access point. This would be a very inexpensive solution and provide plentiful parking with close public beach access for property owners of Fort Morgan and for those visiting our area.

If anyone can be of assistance, please contact me.

Craig Harrington  
5601 State Hwy 180, Unit 1000  
e-mail: [craigharrington@att.net](mailto:craigharrington@att.net)  
phone: [\(251\) 967-1622](tel:(251)967-1622)

## Fort Morgan Pier Update

### From: Deepwater Horizon NRDA Trustee Council

On May 16, 2017, the Alabama Trustee Implementation Group signed a [Record of Decision](#) associated with this final restoration plan and environmental impact statement.

The [Alabama Trustee Implementation Group](#) has approved its first [restoration plan and environmental impact statement \(EIS\)](#).

The restoration activities described in the plan will address natural resource injuries from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This restoration plan focuses on lost shoreline recreational use opportunities and is consistent with the [Trustees' programmatic restoration plan](#).

The restoration plan identifies six *preferred* projects in Mobile and Baldwin counties. The total estimated cost of the projects is \$70.7 million. The projects include:

- Gulf State Park Lodge and Associated Public Access Amenities - \$56,300,000
- **Fort Morgan Pier Rehabilitation - \$3,075,000**
- Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resource Protection - \$4,400,000
- Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement (engineering and design only) - \$1,000,000
- Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education Area - \$4,000,000
- Mid-Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels B and C) - \$1,900,000

We began this restoration planning effort in July 2016 by conducting scoping and requesting project ideas from the public. We considered these ideas as we identified potential projects and screened them for inclusion in the draft restoration plan and EIS. We made the documents available for public review and comment, and we held public meetings in Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores in January 2017. The comment period closed on January 30. The [final restoration plan and EIS](#) reflect revisions to the draft plan resulting from public comments and continuing Trustee project development.

NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

5/19/17	1600 block Fort Morgan Rd.	Theft from vehicle
5/15/17	Beach Club	Theft from condo
5/12/17	6000 block Beach Shore Dr.	Delayed Burglary report

The Baldwin County Sheriff's Office, along with other agencies, assisted Gulf Shores Police Department with the Hang Out Music Fest which was held May 19-21.

Crowds at HangOut Fest in Gulf Shores...Photo Courtesy of Sgt. Nathan Lusk



[Does anyone wish they had been here ^?]

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Get Your Fort Morgan Hurricane Re-Entry Pass at Gulf Shores City Hall**



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. Use the main entry at City Hall, stop at the security window, show your proof of residence (deed, lease or utility bill showing property street address) and your ID. It is a quick, painless process if you have the proper items. Decals will not be issued after a hurricane or tropical storm **warning** has been issued. For more detailed information about decals 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:granchan52@gmail.com">granchan52@gmail.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:granchan52@gmail.com">granchan52@gmail.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:  
June 12 ~ July 10 ~ August 14 ~ September 11 ~ October 9 ~ November 13**

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