

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## September 2017~Issue 127



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

No real news to report. Hope all enjoy the Labor Day holiday.

Be careful on the road.

Hope to see you at our September meeting. Keep the people hammered by Harvey in your prayers.

**Paul**

Paul Barefield



### MEMBER NOTICES

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

July set the record for the number of responses in a month with 63. Of the 37 fire departments in Baldwin County, only Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, and Foley had more calls than Fort Morgan for the month of July.

The calls included:

- ~ 32 medical
- ~ 12 beach emergencies (2 swimmers in distress, 1 boater in distress, 1 stingray laceration, 1 jellyfish sting, 1 catfish barb, 1 heat related, and 5 missing persons)
- ~ 8 false alarms
- ~ 7 car wrecks
- ~ 2 assaults
- ~ 1 dumpster fire
- ~ 1 helicopter transport

The above-mentioned departments that had more calls than Fort Morgan are all paid departments with 20 firefighters always on duty (24/7). Fort Morgan operates with 20 volunteers; however, it was mainly our core of 6 firefighters that responded to the 63 calls in July. The larger volunteer departments like Spanish Fort and Fairhope operate with 60 volunteers so that they usually have 20 available for calls. Fort Morgan will continue its drive to recruit members. Meetings are open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1 next to Shell Banks Baptist Church.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

Fire Department Auxiliary Fall Fish Fry is scheduled for Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. More details will follow next month. The call is out for baked goods—PLEASE HELP. For more information, contact Kay Stevens 251-540-7422 or [sandune@gulftel.com](mailto:sandune@gulftel.com)



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

The committee will meet at 9:00 am, September 6, at the Fellowship Hall of Shell Bank Baptist Church to consider two variance requests:

V-170032: 8818 Dolphin Ln., Cabana Beach. The owner requests a variance on front setback to construct a carport/storage shed building. The area to the rear of the house drops off too steeply to be suitable for building.

V-170034: Owner requests a variance to setbacks on the south side in order to add an 8' porch to his planned residence. The site is two adjacent waterfront lots on the north side of Hwy. 180. No 911 address has been assigned, but they are across from Gulfway Street, about 0.2 mi. west of Beach Club entrance. These lots are narrow—113.5' to 135' wide. The lot to the west was granted a 14' setback in February 2015.

On August 30<sup>th</sup> the Baldwin County Commission approved an amendment to our District 25 zoning ordinance.

**Off-street Parking:**

**As a supplement to Section 15.2, Parking Schedule, the following off-street parking requirements shall be applicable to single-family dwellings and two-family dwellings:**

**Up to Four (4) Bedrooms: Two (2) spaces per dwelling unit**

**Up to Six (6) Bedrooms: Three (3) spaces per dwelling unit**

**Seven (7) Bedrooms and more: Four (4) spaces per dwelling unit, plus one (1) additional space per dwelling unit for every bedroom over eight (8)**

*Please document, with photos, any problems you see with overflow parking along the streets in District 25 due to high-density "duplexes."*  
Send to Chan West at [chan@goefish.com](mailto:chan@goefish.com)

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.

**Turtle Tracks 2017~~~~~Total Fort Morgan = 82 Nests!!**

This is our second biggest year on record for Fort Morgan peninsula! We lost a few to TS Cindy and may have a few inundated due to Harvey's storm surge, but it has been a very good year. We still have 19 nests to hatch.

**4 Important Reminders "For the Turtles"**

- [1] Turn Off Lights** at dark that shine on, or can be seen from, the beach. "Turtle Lighting" is available from local home supply stores.
- [2] Use Red Light Only** on the beach at night, not LED or white light. LED lights blind not only the turtles, but the volunteers, too!
- [3] Fill in Holes** dug in the sand when leaving the beach for the day. Some huge holes have resulted in turtles being stuck and unable to lay their nests.
- [4] Remove Items** from the beach when leaving each day to prevent turtles from becoming entangled and stranded.

**Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.....Brittany Petersen, Asst. Refuge Manager**

Show your support and concern for Alabama's waterways by participating in the 30th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, September 16th, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. On the day of the event, come prepared with sunscreen, a hat, gloves, shoes and lots of water. It gets HOT! Supplies are limited.

You or your organization can make a difference by volunteering to clean up our cherished coastal area. In its twenty-eight year effort to clean up the coast, over 87,000 volunteers have removed more than 1.6 million pounds of trash from Alabama's valued coastline and waterways. Join us this year as we continue to make Alabama the Beautiful!

Sign-in and supply pick-up for the Fort Morgan Zone will take place at Fort Morgan Fire Station #1, right next to Shell Banks Baptist Church on Fort Morgan Road. For more information about Coastal Cleanup on Fort Morgan, please contact Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge at [251-540-7720](tel:251-540-7720) or [brittany\\_petersen@fws.gov](mailto:brittany_petersen@fws.gov)

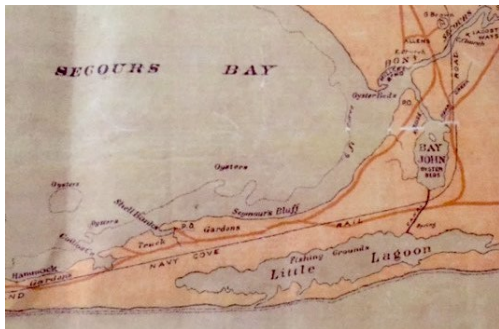
**Jeff Friend Trail Notice**

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge continually strives to improve its visitors' experiences. To continue this effort, the Jeff Friend Trail will undergo construction at the end of August/beginning of September through the spring of 2018. During this time frame, the trail will add an improved boardwalk and become ADA accessible for people with disabilities. Although this trail will be closed, the Pine Beach Trail, Gator Lake Trail, and Centennial Trail will remain open. The Kayak Launch at the Jeff Friend Trail will also remain open, but with extremely limited parking available. We appreciate your patience and look forward to everyone enjoying the completed renovations!

**Community History ~ "Indian Canal" ~**

**Update.....Harry King**

During a trip to the site of the Indian trade canal earlier this year, material for carbon 14 dating was obtained by Dr. Greg Waselkov, chair of the Archaeology Department at University of South Alabama. Results were much older than anticipated: 566 AD or 1451 years ago BP. Europe was in the Dark Ages, Rome was burning, bows and arrows were just beginning to be used. In contrast, the local



Native Americans were engineering and completing a major public works project hand digging a trade canal one mile through the Fort Morgan Peninsula to open a route south into Florida, a route that could provide trade for copper from Michigan, obsidian from Wyoming, mica from North Carolina, ocher from Alabama and salt from Texas.

We continue to locate and document this large socio-economic population living in the Fort Morgan and Bon Secour, Alabama area 1400 to 1500 years ago.

„Harry King, Charter Member, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

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[NOTE: Assisting the USA Archaeology Department Chair Greg Waselkov, Harry and volunteers will be excavating on Fort Morgan peninsula this fall during October. Anyone interested in volunteering for this difficult and exciting work may contact Harry King to be considered for this historic team at: [harryking1525@gmail.com](mailto:harryking1525@gmail.com) ]

CALL FOR CURATOR ~ A volunteer is needed to curate the items that will be obtained during the October excavation. Someone with experience in curating and/or educational background would be ideal.

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

[NOTE: Sgt. Lusk is taking a much needed vacation. We will provide the numbers next month.]

**Thefts from unlocked** vehicles are preventable crimes. Remove valuables from your vehicles and lock your doors. Security cameras and exterior lights are encouraged. If you have video cameras and are near a reported crime, please check them and call the Sheriff's Office. As always, report suspicious activity.

**ATTENTION FORT MORGAN STORYTELLERS !**

**DO YOU KNOW ANY FORT MORGAN STORIES?**

*Do you have an interesting story or a fond memory of earlier days in the Fort Morgan community?* Once again we're requesting articles from folks who have history in this area describing earlier times in our Fort Morgan community. We would welcome stories about the people and events recalled from growing up or living here—stories which make this area unique and unforgettable—or historical events before any of us lived here. Photos would be especially appreciated (with or without a story)! If you know a good tale or have a valued memory but are unable to write it out and would like to tell it, please let the Editor know. A story-telling session can be arrange, in person or by phone, and your story will be rescued for posterity. Call Sonja at 251-233-6208 or email her at [39sunnisands@gmail.com](mailto:39sunnisands@gmail.com)

**LET'S CAPTURE FORT MORGAN COMMUNITY HISTORY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.**

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

[csbarefield@gmail.com](mailto:csbarefield@gmail.com)

Vice President

Ernie Church

334-220-0851

[ecaces4@gmail.com](mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com)

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Chan West

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[chan@goefish.com](mailto:chan@goefish.com)

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Carol Kittrell

251-605-4134

[ckittrell@southalabama.edu](mailto:ckittrell@southalabama.edu)

Standing Committee Chairs

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979-4932

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[vpowers110@gmail.com](mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com)

## FMCA 2017 MEETINGS

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

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)