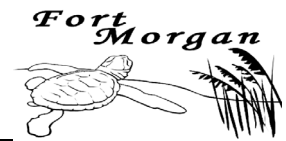


FORT MORGAN NEWS

October 2017~Issue 128



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

No news to report. Hope to see you at our October meeting.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

October Meeting Speaker: New Flood Map!

Please make a special effort to attend the October 9th FMCA meeting to hear Michael Howell, Baldwin County Building Department, speak to members regarding the impact on Fort Morgan peninsula of the recently issued changes to the FEMA Flood Map. Meeting begins promptly at 6:30pm in Shell Banks Church Fellowship Hall.



Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department

.....**Chief Glenn Stevens**

With all the activity in the tropics, the Fire Department started preparing the Stations for the likelihood of a storm. When winds are sustained at 45 mph or more, there will be no fire or ambulance response in our area. Also, keep in mind that in the event of a Category 1 or stronger storm, all areas west of the 5 mile marker will most likely be under water since the Bay and the Gulf usually merge during these events. Our nearest shelter will be at the Robertsdale Coliseum.

Our emergency responses for August lightened up a little as the Department responded to 31 emergency calls:

- 13 medical
- 5 beach emergencies (2 boaters in distress, 1 swimmer in distress, 1 stingray laceration, and 1 missing person)
- 5 false alarms
- 3 fires (1 illegal beach fire, 1 BBQ grease fire, 1 garbage truck fire)
- 3 elevator entrapments
- 1 assault
- 1 public assist

Capt. Alicia Planning Attack on Vehicle Fire

Auxiliary Fall Fish Fry October 21st

The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their annual fish fry and bake sale at Station 1 on Saturday, October 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The plates will sell for \$8 and will include fried fish, hush puppies, baked beans, cole slaw, and tea or coffee. There will also be cookbooks and tee shirts for sale, as well as a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds benefit the Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department Benevolence Fund that supports firefighters or fire departments in need of financial assistance, and also makes donations to areas affected by disasters. Anyone who would like to provide baked goods for the Bake Sale should have their donations delivered to Station 1 the morning of Saturday, October 21—PLEASE HELP. For more information, contact Kay Stevens 251-540-7422 or sandune@gulftel.com

If you would like to join us at one of our training meetings, show up at Station 1 at 6:30 p.m. any 1st or 3rd Monday. Hope to see you there.

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

The committee met on September 6, 2017, to consider two requests for variances:

- V-170032: 8818 Dolphin Ln., Cabana Beach. The owner requested a variance on front setback to construct a carport/storage shed in front of his house. The lot falls off too steeply in the rear for construction there. The application was incomplete, so denial was recommended.
- V-170034: two adjacent lots, north side of Hwy. 180, about 0.2 mi. west of Beach Club entrance. A variance on the setback was requested in order to add a porch to planned residence. These lots are narrow, 113.5' to 135'. Committee recommended approval.

TA-17001. The committee also decided to update our request that District 25 be exempt from the proposed revision to the county zoning of HDR (High Density Residential) which would increase maximum density from six units per acre to twelve.

A semi-annual meeting of this committee is set for 9:00 am, Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at the fellowship hall of Shell Bank Baptist Church.

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

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.

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

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 = 84 Nests!!

More than 4,000 babies have been assisted to the Gulf water this season so far. We have five nests yet to hatch and expect all to be viable. The last next will reach day 55 on October 3rd. This year there was a rare leucistic hatchling which resembles an albino but has normal eyes. It was healthy and beautiful.

Final 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

Monarch Walks on 2 Fridays: October 27th and November 3rd, both at 9:00am.

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the magnificent migration of the monarch butterfly and their fascinating life cycle? Come join Refuge volunteer, Homer Singleton, as he leads participants along the Gator Lake Trail searching for this beautiful butterfly. During the walk Homer will introduce you to the butterflies which pass through this area, their habitats and their life cycles. Participants will also be asked to help catch monarch butterflies so that they can receive tags that will allow scientists to track their migration. Walks begin at Gator Lake trailhead off of Mobile Street.

Walks typically last anywhere from 2.5-3 hours and participants should come prepared to walk over 2 miles, in the soft sand, with minimal shade. Water and bug spray are highly suggested. *Walks will be limited to 15 participants so reservations are required: Call 251-540-7720.* For more information, please contact Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge: brittany_petersen@fws.gov

Jeff Friend Trail Update ~ Trail is closed for improvements (ADA accessibility and improvements to the boardwalk), until Spring 2018. Pine Beach Trail, Gator Lake Trail, and Centennial Trail will remain open. The Kayak Launch at Jeff Friend Trail will remain open but with extremely limited parking. We look forward to everyone enjoying the completed renovations!

Community History ~ Indian Canal ~ Fall Excavation to Begin.....Harry King



In mid-October Dr. Greg Waselkov, USA Archaeology Department Chair, Harry King and several volunteers will begin an excavation of the Indian Canal. At the site earlier this year, material for carbon-14 dating was obtained and subsequently verified by a professional lab in Florida. Results were much older than anticipated. The material was carbon-14 dated to approximately 566 A.D.—or 1450 B.P. [1,450 years ago]. Local Native Americans were engineering and completing a major public works project, hand digging a trade canal one mile through the pine forest on Fort Morgan Peninsula. This canal would open a route south into Florida and provide trade for copper from Michigan, obsidian from Wyoming, mica from North Carolina, ocher from Alabama and salt from Texas.



This native socio-economic population was thriving in the Fort Morgan and Bon Secour, Alabama area 1400 to 1500 years ago.

<-Searching for carbon material in a section of the canal.

**Measurements on the grid ->

[NOTE: Anyone interested in should immediately contact Harry harryking1525@gmail.com]

volunteering for this project King:

Did You Know?Bonnie Lowry

EARLY ROADS INTO BALDWIN, SETTLEMENT OF PLASH ISLAND, WPA BEGINS FORT MORGAN ROAD
Originally foot paths were the only way to travel in the early history of Baldwin County. Later settlers widened the paths by wagons and buggies. Three-trail roads were followed and later settlers began cutting down trees, lashing them together with vines. That of course was until they hit the bogs, creeks, and sand of the coastal area. Before the cut of the intracoastal waterway, land all the way to the Gulf Coast was swamp, marsh, wetlands or beach.



In 1839 upper Baldwin had a stagecoach line cutting from Mobile up to Montgomery. This became a mail route and the cost of a letter, seventy-five cents. In 1917 settlers used boats to get to Plash Island. Sandy roads connected the villages of Shell Banks and Gasque to Fort Morgan.

The original Fort Morgan Road was built by transient labor under the Works Progress Act (WPA), a program of President Roosevelt's economic recovery plan. The men were housed, fed, and given small pay. The work was begun by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1934 and was completed by the WPA in 1936. Dedicated during Governor Bibb Graves' term, the road was opened to the public and named Dixie Graves Parkway after the governor's wife.



One of the most unusual things about the road is that there is a 330 foot right-of-way. For the CCC and WPA to do the work it had to be a state-owned parkway with a minimum right-of-way width of 330 feet. It was a scenic drive all the way to Mobile Point. Sadly, just as the road was being completed two men were killed—a native of Richmond, Virginia and another from New York. One can see that Fort Morgan community is a place of history.

[Photos courtesy of Fort Morgan State Historic Site Archives]

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

7/28/17	5000 Block Hwy. 180	B&E-Vehicle (Unlocked)
8/20/17	Gulf View Dr.	Theft
8/20/17	2500 Block Ponce de Leon Ct.	B&E-Vehicle (Unlocked)
8/3/17	1400 Block Hwy. 180	Burglary
9/5/17	900 Block Plantation Rd.	Theft

As you can see, leaving your vehicle unlocked can lead to crime and loss!

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

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

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251-943-5061

Tucker Dorsey

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251-972-8502

Chris Elliott

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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
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:
October 9 ~ November 13

Fort Morgan Civic Association
P. O. Box 5313 ~ Gulf Shores, AL 36547
www.fortmorgancivic.org