

FORT MORGAN NEWS

December 2017~Issue 130



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

Well, the October weather finally arrived a month late but it sure is welcome! Hope all had a good Thanksgiving with food and family (and football). Plan to attend our December meeting. We have several items on the agenda to discuss. See you there.

Paul

Paul Barefield



MEMBER NOTICES

Membership Renewal for 2018

It's time again to renew your membership. We depend on your dues and donations to keep the association running. Annual dues are still only \$15/year which includes your monthly Fort Morgan NEWS.

Please return your dues now with the attached member form to Chan West, Treasurer, at the FMCA post office box on the form.

January Election of FMCA Officers ~ Please Join Us to VOTE

President Barefield appointed Gary Lage and Greg Strategier to the 2018 Nominating Committee to come up with a slate of recommendations for the January election of FMCA officers. The committee reported that all officers are willing to stand for re-election. Of course, nominations from the floor are always welcomed. Be there to vote at the January 8th meeting—WE NEED A QUORUM! ***Please consider running for office!***

Volunteer Fire DepartmentChief Glenn Stevens



Peace de losa 2 during Hurricane Nate

Our Fire Department is wrapping up our 2017 projects and is in the process of preparing for 2018. Hurricane Nate caused a little bit of a setback by burying quite a few of our fire hydrants at the west end with sand. Thanks to our Commissioner, Skip Gruber, a County crew of five men and an excavator came out to dig out all our buried hydrants.

During October, the Fire Department responded to 30 calls, which included:

- 2 drownings
- 5 false alarms
- 1 dog bite
- 1 elevator entrapment
- 4 swimmers in distress
- 1 brush fire
- 1 assault
- 15 medical

As we prepare for 2018, we want to thank all the residents who made donations to the Fire Department during 2017. Without your donations, we would not be able to purchase the top-quality equipment that we use to keep you safe.

Once again, the Fire Department will participate in the local toy drives that provide toys to children less fortunate than others. *Fire Station 1 will serve as a collection site for those who wish to donate.* All toys collected will go to children in our local community.

As always, we continue to attempt to recruit new members. Come join us at our meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month at Fire Station 1 at 6:30 p.m.

FIRE STATION #1 IS THE COLLECTION SITE FOR 2018 TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE

New Committee Formed to Investigate Fort Morgan Community Future Options

President Barefield appointed a new committee to investigate future possible actions to pursue. As reported in last month's Fort Morgan NEWS, recent action by the Baldwin County Commission to revise zoning regulations throughout the county to allow higher density per acre has spread alarm among Fort Morgan residents. The Commission chose not to follow recommendations by the Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee to exempt District 25 from these new, more lenient density allowances. Although the commissioners stated they were in favor of an exception for District 25, they preferred not to make an exception at this early stage. Their decision was to wait and see whether any requests for higher density come forward!

The new Committee's aim is to obtain a designation to preserve our community as an autonomous entity and to protect it from high-density development. If you wish to contribute ideas, suggestions, solutions, etc., please contact one of the following members:

Ernie Church (Chair)	(334) 220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Thelma Strong	(251) 540-7383	twstrong@gulftel.com
Bonnie Lowry	(251) 540-9327	
Carol Kittrell	(251) 605-4134	ckittrell@southalabama.edu
Heather Tassin	(251) 540-7202	HeatherTassin@fort-morgan.com

For historical purposes, the committee needs to get a handle on how many homes and buildings in District 25 are more than 50 years old. If your home or building fits that description, please contact Ernie Church ASAP at ecaces4@gmail.com

Fort Morgan State Historic Site

Holidays at the Fort ~ Sunday, December 3rd from 1:30 to 4:00 pm

With holiday lights, decorations, the gift shop open house, and walking tours, it's a great time to enjoy the historic character and history of Fort Morgan's Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

The Holidays at the Fort tour, led by Dylan Tucker, will begin at 1:30pm on Sunday, December 3rd. From 2:00 - 4:00pm the gift shop's open house will feature door prizes, 10% discounts off entire purchases, refreshments, and great gift ideas and stocking stuffers for the entire family. **Fee:** No admission charges from 1:00 to 5:00pm that day.

Weather conditions may cause any event to be cancelled. Information will be posted to our website [www.fort-morgan.org] and Facebook. Event will not be rescheduled if cancelled. For more information contact Dylan Tucker, Cultural Resource Specialist at DylanTucker@fort-morgan.org or call 251-540-7127.



Mike Bailey, long-term member of the Fort Morgan Historic Site staff, is retiring to spend time with his family after a 39-year career with the State of Alabama.

Mike spent 33 years with the Alabama Historical Commission, 28 of which were at Fort Morgan. He also worked with the Archives and History department for six years. He has been a curator, director, senior historian, and historical site director during his career with the state. His extensive research on Fort Morgan and Mobile Point has proved very beneficial to this community and to the people who visit the fort every year from around the world. He developed and implemented the living history programs

throughout his service here. His plans are to spend time with his wife Cindi, two daughters, two sons-in-law, and three granddaughters. **Many thanks to Mike for his many years of outstanding service while with us at Fort Morgan!**

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

Our advisory committee recommended approval of V-170040 for reduction of wetlands setback for a home to be built at 8837 Bluefish Dr., Cabana Beach. Baldwin County approved the request as well.

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: chan@goefish.com

The Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee will post on our website [www.fortmorgancivic.org] rezoning 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.

Community History ~ Indian Canal ~ Winter Excavation

Harry King and his volunteers, along with Dr. Greg Waselkov and Bonnie Gums of the University of South Alabama Archaeology Department, will continue excavation throughout December of the ancient Native American community along Fort Morgan Road. Material gathered in October was carbon dated to approximately 566 A.D.—or 1450 B.P. [1,450 years ago!]. This native socio-economic population was thriving in the Fort Morgan and Bon Secour area 1400 to 1500 years ago. Although no artifacts were found at the initial dig site, pottery and other artifacts were found at a mound on the south side of Fort Morgan Road. Dr. Waselkov reported that *the pottery from the October dig is all Middle Woodland...probably dating around AD 300 to 400.*

We will reconvene at 9:00 am, Sunday, December 3rd at the last dig site.

We are fortunate to have veteran archaeologists volunteering their time and expertise documenting the oldest Trade Canal in North America! Thank you all for your interest and contributions.

[NOTE: Anyone interested in volunteering for this project should contact Harry King: harryking1525@gmail.com]

Fort Morgan Community History

Did You Know?Bonnie Lowry

ORIGINAL FORT CONSTRUCTION, SLAVES PAID, BRICK ORIGIN, FORT PURCHASED BY AL

Before Fort Morgan was built, Fort Bowyer was there due to an order of April 20, 1813. Colonel John Bowyer and troops had forcibly ejected the Spanish from Mobile Point. Basically Fort Bowyer was a sand battery on the beach. The first substantial fort was built of wood and sand. It burned when the British captured the area in the War of 1812. Then a tropical storm destroyed Fort Bowyer in 1819. In 1819 (the same year Alabama became a state) Congress realized the need for a permanent fort to protect the Gulf. Napoleon Bonaparte’s aide, Simone Bernard, was to be the chief planner of a strong Mobile Point fort. The five-pointed brick fortress erected by the US government began in 1833 and was completed in 1834. The tapered bricks used to form the arches were hand made by slaves. The mortar was of ground seashells. There are approximately 7-8 million bricks coming from the Fish River at a place called

“Devil’s Hole.” Some three thousand slaves were leased from plantation owners for \$200 per male slaves and 1/3 that for the female slaves.

Records show that the citadel was built first, then the five points or star shaped outside walls. Fort Morgan is named for General David Morgan, a hero of the American Revolution. Most of the fort was still standing by 1936, having defended Mobile Point thru battles including the 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay and the Spanish-American War.

Having been abandoned several times between wars, the old fort was restored in 1936. During a restoration an object was discovered with the inscription “32-P Clyde-1805.” This would be prior to Fort Bowyer. It is yet to be proven if the object was from a defender of the fort or a foreign entity.

In 1927 the 25-acre fort was purchased by the state of Alabama for \$8000 and then designated a state park.

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

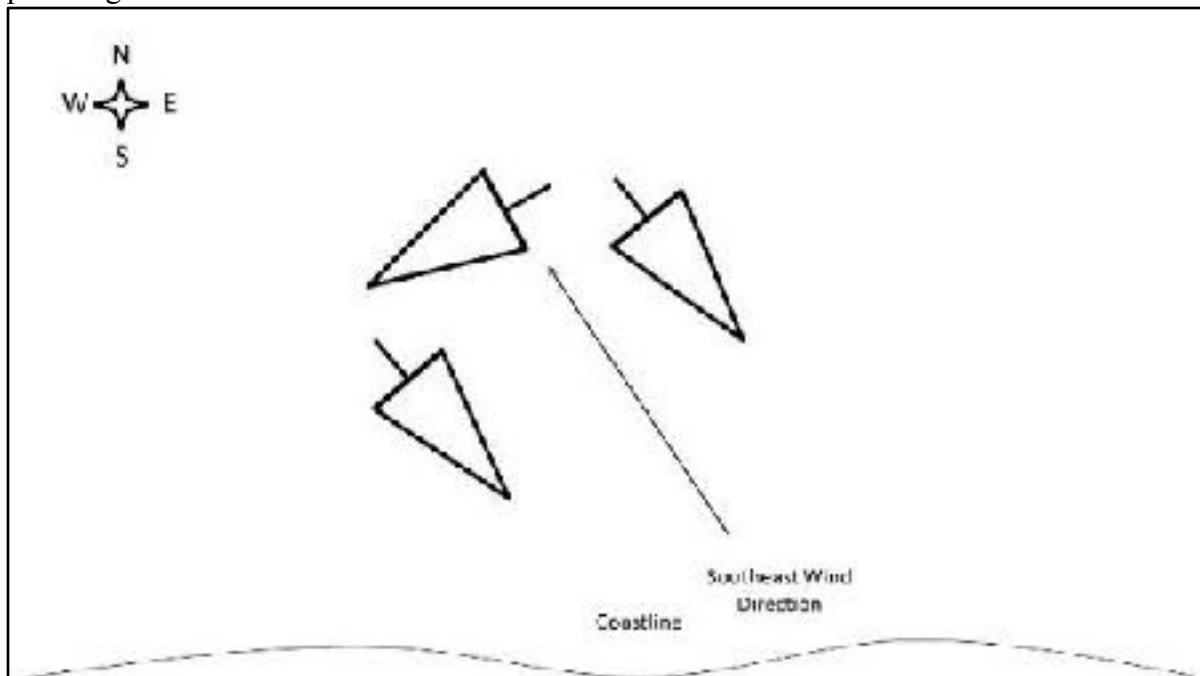
10/26/17	3000 blk Ponce de Leon Ct.	Burglary
11/3/17	3000 blk Ponce de Leon Ct.	Burglary
11/8/17	4000 blk Fort Morgan Rd.	Burglary
11/14/17	3000 blk Ponce de Leon Ct.	Burglary
11/15/17	4000 blk Fort Morgan Rd.	Burglary

Again, reminding everyone to lock you doors and put your valuables in a safe place. **Four of the five burglaries were at unlocked residences, where the valuables were left visible from the rear door of the residence.** Anyone on Fort Morgan who has security cameras and would not mind providing video when crimes occur please call Sergeant Nathan Lusk at [251-972-8589](tel:251-972-8589) option 1 to provide your contact information.

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.

Sand Dunes from Christmas Trees...Bill Lynn & Denise Rowell, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

With hurricane season over, and the holiday season approaching, it is time to start building dunes before the next season strikes in June. A strong sand dune system is your best defense to protect property against hurricane-associated storm surge. A simple way to build dunes is by recycling Christmas trees. Gulf State Park has recycled many leftover Christmas trees in Gulf Shores to rebuild their dunes after storms. They use this simple design below:



In this design, you will need three (3) Christmas trees. Trees should be clean and free of ornaments or tinsel. Set them in or near the existing vegetated dune areas of your property. Two or three shovels full of sand should be tossed on each tree to help hold them in place. A month or so later, plant more vegetation near these trees, including sea oats, seaside panicum, and beach morning glory. The decaying trees will give nutrients to the installed plants. For more information, contact william_lynn@fws.gov or 251-441-5868.

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
Future Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@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

December 11

2018 MEETINGS

January 8 ~ February 12 ~ March 12 ~ April 9 ~ May 14 ~ June 11

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

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2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Cell Ph _____

Fort Morgan Address _____ Phone _____

This property is west of mile 14.7: _____yes _____no -- See Article III, Section 1 below Associate Member? _____ yes

Registered Voter? Yes ___ No ___ Fort Morgan District 25 ___ Alabama-Other district/city ___ State ___

Email (please provide for special alerts) _____
[Save trees, stamps, time, get your NEWS in color by e-mail] Send newsletter by email _____ by U.S. Postal _____

Your employment _____ Spouse's employment _____

Referred to FMCA by _____

Reason for joining the Association _____

NOTICE: We need volunteers to help the Association in the following areas. Where can you assist? (circle)

Program Planning: Identify & Arrange Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests

Zoning: Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/other Groups Write Brief Reports

Membership: Recruitment Phone Tree Greeter at Meetings Help with Pot-Lucks

Communications: Postal Mailings E-mail Writing for Newspaper, Publicity Releases, etc.

Newsletter: Desktop Graphics/Layout Gather/Submit News Items Write Brief Articles Photography

Computer: Set Up/Maintain Data Base Spreadsheets Excel Access Word PowerPoint

Financial: Bookkeeping Annual Audit

What other skills, experience or talents could you volunteer? _____

From the By-laws Adopted April 11, 2005

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Regular (voting) Membership in this association shall be open only to property owners and/or residents in the unincorporated area west of mile 14.7 of the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Section 2 Associate (non-voting) Membership shall be open to residents of areas outside the Fort Morgan Peninsula whose interests coincide with those of the Association including the preservation of the environment and quality of life of the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Section 3 Membership application shall be made by completion of a form provided by the Association and payment of the required dues. Dues for the following year shall be determined at the October general meeting and shall be for the following calendar year January 1st through December 31st.

Section 4 Payment of Regular (voting) Membership dues entitles a member household to one (1) vote. A member household is comprised of Association members living at one physical address. Past year member households paying dues after January 31st and new members joining the Association will have no voting rights until thirty (30) days after payment of dues.

Section 5 Payment of Associate (non-voting) Membership dues entitles the member to attend all member meetings and receive the monthly newsletter.

Make checks payable to: **Fort Morgan Civic Association or FMCA**

I would like to make a donation to the Legal Fund in the amount of \$ _____

2018 dues @ \$15/household _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Your donation to the Fort Morgan Civic Association is not tax deductible as we do not qualify because of our political activity attempting to prevent proliferation of large-scale high-rise development on Fort Morgan Peninsula.