

FORT MORGAN NEWS

November 2018~Issue 141



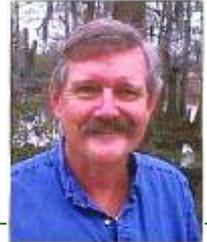
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

Hope to see a good turnout for visiting speaker from Baykeeper. Our October weather finally has arrived! Enjoy it. See you at our meeting November 12th.

Paul

Paul Barefield



**Attention property owners in the Gulf Shores police jurisdiction:
If you have been paying lodging taxes to the city of Gulf Shores because
you are in their police jurisdiction please advise Ernie Church at
ecaces4@gmail.com**

OCTOBER MEETING SYNOPSIS~~~~~Vice President Ernie Church

Had a productive (albeit long) meeting. David Whetstone gave his overview of a "preservation" association to broaden the support base to advocate rational development, protect the environment, and preserve the historical significance of our portion of the island. Establishment of the "Friends of Fort Morgan" program seemed acceptable to many in attendance. I asked David to provide us a proposed mission statement from which we can develop a roadmap to reach a final destination. He agreed.

Michael Ludvigsen discussed his meetings with Fish and Wildlife, Mobile Bay Keepers and Alabama Coastal Heritage. He suggests we invite reps from each to speak at future meetings. Michael has joined the Board of Directors at ALCH.

Heather Tassin, Director at the Fort, reported No Name Rd repairs will be commenced next week. The Fort Morgan Pier project will soon go to bid and construction should start in the spring.

Judy Newcomb recommends we talk to folks in the police jurisdiction and ask them to join us in a lawsuit for a declaratory judgment. She also believes it would be no problem to regain our tax exempt status if we desire.

We have had committee chair vacancies for some time. The following have been filled:

- Land Use and Conservation - Chan West
- Legal - Judy Newcomb
- Legislative/Government Liaison - Bonnie Lowry

November Meeting ~ Guest Speaker

Cade Kistler, Program Director for Mobile Baykeeper, will show us how to use the App for reporting pollution spills. This app will be especially helpful in Fort Morgan area because of the history of sewerage spills. Cade will also discuss pressing environmental issues.

Annual Dues Due by December 31 ~ Consider This Your Invoice!
**We do not send out invoices. The attached Membership Form [see last page]
should be sent with your \$15 annual dues to the address on the form.**

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department ~~~~~Chief Glenn Stevens

Thanks to everyone that attended our Ladies Auxiliary's annual fish fry, as well as those who contributed baked goods for the bake sale. We had a record turnout and made a record amount of money for the fund-raiser.

Your Fire Department responded to 28 calls in September:

- 12 medical
- 2 elevator entrapments
- 1 stingray laceration
- 1 drowning
- 5 false alarms
- 2 missing persons
- 1 helicopter transport
- 2 vehicle accidents
- 1 animal rescue
- 1 brush fire

Don't forget: everyone is invited to join us at our training meetings. We meet every 1st and 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 1. Hope to see you there.

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee ~~~~~Chan West, Chair

A semi-annual meeting of the Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee was held on October 17. Vince Jackson, head of the county Planning and Zoning, presented a draft of an amendment to county regulations concerning Dune Walkovers in District 25. Highlights are:

- ~ No more than six feet in width for multiple family/commercial/public structures and four feet in width for single/two family structures
- ~ Without roof or walls
- ~ Elevated at least one foot above dune and no more than three
- ~ Shall begin at the existing ground level elevation of the principal landward structure
- ~ Shall terminate no more than ten feet seaward of the vegetative line of the dune

Additions concerning materials, plumbing, electricity, etc., are being considered. Comments were favorable.

Two rezoning requests were considered and both were recommended for denial. They are on the agenda for the county Planning and Zoning Commission meeting Thursday, November 1, 2018, in Robertsdale.

~ Z-18051: Willis property at 13790 Old Fort Morgan Road.

Request to rezone 1.39 acres (2 lots) from RSF-1 to RSF-4 to allow family subdivision of the property into four lots. Our committee considered that this division could be accomplished at RSF-2 or RSF-3.

~ Z-18952: Marina Holdings We LLC Property at 1577 Hwy. 180

Request to re-zone 4.1 acres from B-2 to B-4 to allow use as a marina. This is the parcel adjacent to the Marina on the west side. The LLC owns both parcels and a sale is contingent upon this re-zoning. They state that it was once zoned B-4, but failed to present evidence of that. This is the basis for our committee's recommendation of denial.

Fort Morgan Crime Report ~~~~~Donnie Payne, BCSO

The below list contains the most significant reports the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office generated during the last month in the area of Fort Morgan Road.

9/30/18	500 block of Beach Club Trail	Lost property (purse, ID card, and credit cards)
10/6/18	3000 block of Ponce de Leon Court	Fraudulent Leasing

Corporal Bill Bedgood, Criminal Investigations Division
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office [\(251\) 972-8589](tel:(251)972-8589)

*Reminder: **Thefts from unlocked** vehicles and homes are preventable crimes. Remove valuables from your vehicles and keep doors to home and vehicles locked. Security cameras 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.*

Fort Morgan History **Alabama Gulf Coast 1933-1939**

We will continue to explore the history of the CCC, WPA, and paving of the Fort Morgan Road through newspaper articles which Heather Tassin, Fort Morgan director, and Jeanette Bornhold, Foley Library, have so graciously provided. The following is from The Montgomery Advertiser, December 19, 1933.

Historic Old Fort Morgan To Offer Transients Home **Government "Hobo Camp" Proposed for Site of C. S. A. Stronghold**

By GEORGE A. DAVIS

Historic old Fort Morgan, abandoned by the government more than 18 years ago and with adequate buildings accommodations for 2,000 persons, will soon be transformed into a government hobo camp, if projected plans of the Alabama Relief Administration materialize. Under the tentative outline, the camp would be operated on a plan similar to that of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The old fort, inhabited only by a caretaker and a radio operator, is on the Gulf of Mexico. It has one of the finest natural beaches for surf bathing and fishing. It is equipped with adequate docks for boats, and, according to Commander I. T. Quinn, it is surrounded by the finest fishing waters in the world – when fish are biting. It is about 14 miles below Foley, the nearest railroad point.

The prospect of using this gigantic outpost as a sort of reclamation center for tramps or "transients" with a formal offer of the old fort to the Federal Relief Administration about a month ago.

The Federal Relief Administration in turn offered the fort to the Alabama Transient Bureau, a unit of the Alabama Relief Administration. A representative of the Alabama Transient Bureau recently visited the old Fort and made a favorable report on the proposal. Washington, in turn, has been notified that the Alabama Transient Bureau is favorably impressed with the offer.

Definite action on the matter, however, has been withheld pending recovery of W. J. Plunkert, director of the Alabama Transient Bureau, who was slightly injured in an accident a few days ago, according to Thad Holt, director of the Alabama Relief Administration.

The plans for the operation of the camp have not been made, Mr. Holt said. They will probably embody the repairing of buildings and the construction of a road to connect with the State Highway that extends from Foley to the Gulf. The young men will also probably be given health and other forms of training.

It is probable, Mr. Holt said, that the camp will be opened only to young transients, the Government to pay transportation expenses from any of the key centers in Alabama, and to provide them with adequate food and clothing. Whether or not they will be paid as CCC workers are paid is a matter also to be decided.

In several of the larger cities in Alabama the Government is now operating transient bureaus, wherein a transient may register and receive a bed for the night. These bureaus, it is proposed, will be enrollment headquarters for the Fort Morgan encampment. The period in which the camp will be operated is indefinite.

The young men to be quartered there would also be given an opportunity of "brushing up" on their history, as the site of one of the great naval battles of the War Between the States is but a few hundred yards off Fort Morgan. It was at this point that Admiral Farragut with a small fleet broke the chain that had been stretched from Fort Morgan to Fort Gaines, about a mile distant, and engaged in combat with the iron-clad Confederate boat "Tennessee," and other small Confederate boats, which were guarding the Mobile channel.

During the battle the Tennessee was sunk about 500 yards off the northwest bank of Fort Morgan, and Farragut was victorious. The Confederate forces also succeeded in sinking the Federal paymaster's ship a few hundred feet from the mainland. The ship, according to tradition, had about \$350,000 in the hold and the money was never recovered. It is now buried, according to old "salts" in the section, about 30 feet or more under the sand at the Gulf's edge.

The Confederate forces maintained that Farragut was victorious because the Tennessee's rudder was smashed early during the battle and she was unable to maneuver. Other reports have it that a shot from Fort Morgan, intended for Farragut's boat, struck and sank the Tennessee instead.

An interesting story of the various inhabitants of the Fort since its abandonment is told by Capt. Harry Hargrove, president of the Mobile Bar Pilot's Association.

Capt. Hargrove, it should be reported, is also a fisherman.

At the time the Fort was abandoned, Capt. Hargrove said, one of the officers left there several rabbits he had been raising as a hobby. As time passed the rabbits multiplied rapidly. Soon the Fort was given the name of

“Rabbitville” by the pilots who passed daily through the channel. It was not unusual, Capt. Hargrove related, to see scores of rabbits frolicking along the beach around the old Fort.

This lasted until one day the rattlesnakes grew wise to the bounteous feast that awaited them at the old Fort. As the snakes increased, the rabbits decreased. They became a menace to the caretaker who made his daily rounds with extreme care. The caretaker was at a loss to know what to do.

Then one day the caretaker purchased several pigs and gave them range of the Fort. To his surprise the snakes began to disappear. Whether the pigs ate the snakes, or the snakes fled because of fear of the sharp hoofs is a mystery that has never been cleared.

Anyway, according to Capt. Hargrove, the caretaker and his wife eventually ate the pigs and all has been serene since that day.

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President	Paul Barefield	540-7727	csbarefield@gmail.com
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	samsplace41805@gmail.com
Secretary	Carol Kittrell	251-605-4134	ckittrell@southalabama.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

District 25 Planning & Zoning	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Editor Fort Morgan NEWS	Sonja Sanders	233-6208	39sunnisands@gmail.com
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	979-4932	chan@goefish.com
Legal	Judy Newcomb	955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	vpowers110@gmail.com

FMCA 2018 MEETINGS

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church
November 12 ~ December 10

Join us for our holiday meeting December 10th
Enjoy Refreshments
Renew Old Friendships and Meet New Members!

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

www.fortmorgancivic.org

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2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$15.00

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Fort Morgan Address _____ Phone _____

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

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

Your employment _____ Spouse's employment _____

Reason for joining the Association _____

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

Program Planning: Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests
Zoning: Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/Gulf Shores Write Brief Reports
Membership: Recruitment Phone Tree Hospitality 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
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 \$ _____

2019 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 in attempting to prevent proliferation of large-scale high-rise development on Fort Morgan Peninsula.