

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## December 2018~Issue 142



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Folks,

Hope all had a good Thanksgiving. We need a good turnout for our December gathering, so I hope to see you there.

Paul  
Paul Barefield



### Meeting & Christmas Gathering ~ December 10th

*Please join us at this happy holiday season to celebrate our blessings.  
Refreshments will be served, and there will be time  
for renewing old friendships and making new ones.*

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

Soon the winter guests will be arriving; but, in the meantime, we have been enjoying a little bit of a break with only 12 calls for the month of October:

- 4 public assists
- 3 medical calls
- 2 lost persons
- 1 vehicle accident
- 1 assault
- 1 fish hook in the arm



This lull gives us some time to take our beach vehicles out of service so that we can tend to rust problems, annual servicing, and tune-ups. We recently ordered a new beach trailer to replace an older one that hauls our jet ski to and from the beach.

During 2018, we added 10 new members to the Department. We started the year with 17 firefighters, and we now have 27. With all the new members, we have been conducting basic training at our meetings, so that our firefighters are educated and can stay safe when they respond to the variety of calls we experience each day.

[<<<Helping out at the Fort]

Just a few safety tips for our upcoming holiday season:

- ~ Be sure space heaters are at least 3 feet away from anything.
- ~ Throw away any Christmas lights with frayed wiring.
- ~ Don't leave Christmas tree lights on when not at home.
- ~ If using a real tree for Christmas, be sure to water it.
- ~ Remember, fireworks are a health and fire hazard.
- ~ Be sure to keep fresh batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Our firefighters are still training twice a month. Come by to see what we're doing on any 1st and 3rd Monday each month at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station #1 next to Shell Banks Baptist Church.

We hope everyone has a joyful and safe holiday season!

### Invoice for Annual Dues

**Due by December 31**

**We do not send out invoices. Please send the attached Membership Form [see last page] with your \$15 annual dues to the address on the form.**

**Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning.....Chan West**

**HOW YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING AND ZONING PROCESS**

When a request for re-zoning or variance is received from the Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Department by our Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning advisory Committee, the application packet is posted on our website and will be considered by our committee at a meeting on the next third Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall of Shell Bank Baptist Church. As space is available, notice will be posted on the VFD sign at Station #1 as "P & Z" with the date. It is the responsibility of our members to go to our website to see if this is an item of concern for them. A sign will also be posted on the property with the number of the request. Anyone may come to our committee meeting, but only the members vote on a recommendation.

The public notice contains information about the meeting of the County Planning and Zoning Commission where the request will be voted upon. Bonnie Lowery is our District 25 representative on this committee. She reported that at the November meeting two re-zoning requests, for which we recommended denial, were approved despite her explanation of the reasons for our requests of denial. In such cases we need locals to attend the meeting and before the meeting opens, register to speak.

If a request is approved by this committee, it then goes before the County Commission, where there is another opportunity for the public to voice its opinion. In our fight to control development, we need people who are willing to go to these meetings and, before the meeting starts, register to speak. This means that you have to be in Bay Minette before 8:00 AM. Schedule of County Commission meetings can be found on the county website [www.baldwincountyal.gov](http://www.baldwincountyal.gov).

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

**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, November 4, 1934*

**BATTLEMENTS OF FORT MORGAN NOW HAVEN FOR HOMELESS WANDERERS**

by CHARLES G. DOBBINS  
Assistant Director Fort Morgan Transient Project  
Written for the Associated Press

FORT MORGAN, ALA., Nov. 3-(AP)

The battlements of old Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay took part in much of her country's four major wars and today in a fifth, the bitter "War on Depression." Fort Morgan again is playing an important part.

On this wind-swept point projecting from the eastern shore at the foot of Mobile Bay, the transient division of FERA has established a haven for the homeless and jobless wanderers of the nation. Each day the launch "Painter" clear from the Mobile City wharf loaded with men and supplies for Fort Morgan where a staff of officers and 400 transients are preparing barracks for the cold days ahead this Winter.

Since most of the houses were constructed during the Spanish-American War period, nearly all are in need of extensive repair. As material necessities are taken care of, camp directors are working out an educational and recreational program designed to send the transients back into the world better prepared to make their own way. Foremen are instructing groups in the principles of poultry and hog raising, boat building, carpentering and woodworking.

In addition to swimming and fishing, men of the camp are going in for a well-rounded recreation program of basketball, football and volleyball.

Separate nights are set aside for camp singing, and for "fight night" featuring amateur boxing. The younger boys are concentrating at one end of the camp to be given special advantages in education and recreation.

The temporary residents of Fort Morgan are also beginning a program of beautification on the old fort itself, in addition to making the entire site a livable and wholesome community. While little remains of the original fortification of 1814, the section of the fort which played a historic part in the Battle of Mobile Bay stands today practically as it was back in 1864.

Major B. R. Patton, camp director, plans to clear the old fort of its overgrowth of weeds, remove debris, and plant shrubs and flowers in a landscape program.

Although Fort Morgan is accessible only by water, it is hoped that the construction of a road will enable Alabamians to visit by automobile one of their State's most important historic sites.

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### Fort Morgan History ~ Indian Canal.....Harry King

We recently dug a cross section of the Canal and recorded the strata shown of seditation depth and width of waterway open for navigation 12' to 15.'

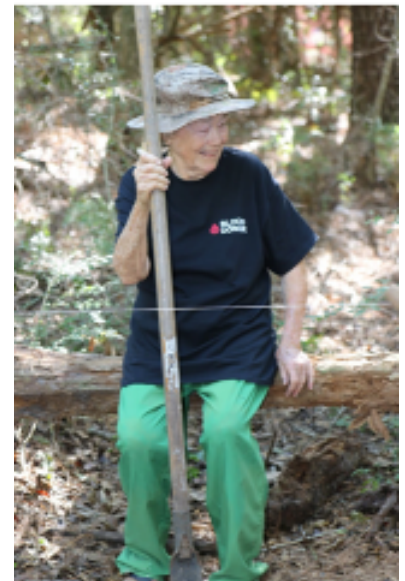
We gave a Canal Presentation at Gulf Shores Cultural Center on our work and findings. About 180 people from the community attended. We also presented same to the South East Archaeological Conference in Augusta, Georgia, with 800 archaeologists attending. I will give an update at the Visitor Information Center In Gulf Shores on February 13.

To the west of the Canal there are numerous mounds, and the Bay shoreline is awash in Woodland pottery. There was a sizable population living there to help dig the Canal.

There are two conical mounds north of the Canal terminus into the Lagoon. One we test dug; the other is across the road in the foundation of the Henrietta Fulford house. Maybe this will be "the rest of the story" next time?

Dennis Hatfield was the first person to allow me on his and the Fulford property. His mother is the daughter of Henrietta Fulford and lives on Norman Lane.

[At right is Chan West, Excavator Extraordinary at 88.]



### Monarch Visitors.....Sonja Sanders, NEWS Editor



Amid the glories of early Fall in Gulf Coast Alabama, I can now include first-hand enjoyment of Monarch butterflies, never having seen them before. In my back yard, I've planted many flowering shrubs for both my enjoyment of the flowers and for the benefit of butterflies, bees, and birds.

Among the plantings were two milkweeds with bright yellow-gold flowers, chosen because they are known to attract Monarchs and are a host plant for their eggs. I thought I spotted Monarchs in early October—which I thought was their normal timeframe for migrating through our area. But when I checked with Chan on the identity of the gold butterflies visiting my caryopteris bush, she said it might be a Gulf Fritillary. She described the difference: the Fritillary is faster in flight and a bit smaller than the Monarch. I kept watching but wasn't certain.

Then, beginning in late October (the 28<sup>th</sup> to be exact), the Monarchs began arriving every day by twos, threes, fours and fives—they spent hours feeding on the milkweed. What a joy!

The visitation was still going on—November 28<sup>th</sup>—and slowed only after our recent two-night light freeze. I don't know if they are part of the seasonal migration to the Mexican mountains or if we have a local community that over-winters here because of our climate. I keep enjoying...

**Fort Morgan State Historic Site.....Heather Tassin, Site Director**

In December, the Fort will be closed only on Christmas Day. Dylan will start his Civil War presentation series during January and February on Wednesdays at 2pm.

From the historical files at the Fort, here are 1912 Christmas Greetings and the Christmas Day Menu, courtesy of the 170<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery Corps.



**U. S. Fish & Wildlife.....Christmas Trees for Sand Dunes**

Landowners interested in receiving free Christmas trees for their beachfront properties can do so by emailing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Bill Lynn, at [william\\_lynn@fws.gov](mailto:william_lynn@fws.gov). In the e-mail, please include the address of the property and the landowner's preferred contact information (phone number or e-mail). We will deliver the Christmas trees in January, and a minimum of three trees will be placed on the property. They will be arranged in a design known to catch sand, and form dunes over time. Trees are limited, so the effort will continue until the trees run out. This offer is open to any private landowner.



**November Meeting Synopsis..... Ernie Church, Vice President**

We had an excellent briefing by a staff member from Mobile Baywatch. We encourage our members to join the Baywatch to help protect our waters and wetlands in Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Members were selected for the Nominating Committee for January elections: Michael Ludvigsen, Joe Emerson and Thelma Strong. If you have suggestions, nominations or questions, please contact them.

Discussion was held on our role in the County's Planning and Zoning. Bonnie Lowry strongly encouraged folks to attend county committee and commission meetings if they feel strongly about a zoning issue pro or con. Chan West developed a draft describing how the process works, to be shared with FMCA members.

**Invoice for Annual Dues**



**Due by December 31**  
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attached Membership Form (see last page)  
with your \$15 annual dues to the address on the form.**

### **FMCA Executive Board Contacts**

#### **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	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	<a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@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:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</a>
Editor Fort Morgan NEWS	Sonja Sanders	233-6208	<a href="mailto:39sunnisands@gmail.com">39sunnisands@gmail.com</a>
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	979-4932	<a href="mailto:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</a>
Legal	Judy Newcomb	955-1572	<a href="mailto:judynewcomb@aol.com">judynewcomb@aol.com</a>
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	540-9327	
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	543-1555	<a href="mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com">vpowers110@gmail.com</a>

### **FMCA 2018-2019 MEETINGS**

**FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Church  
December 10**

**January 14 ~ February 11 ~ March 11 ~ April 8 ~ May 13 ~ June 10**

**Join us for our Christmas Gathering December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Enjoy Refreshments  
Renew Old Friendships and Meet New Members!**

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

[www.fortmorgancivic.org](http://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.