

FORT MORGAN NEWS

May 2019~Issue 147



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

Spring Break 2019 has come and gone, and we now move closer to our high season. BCSO did a great job of patrolling our area and helping to curb rowdy behavior for the most part. We have had a couple of incidents of criminal activity in our community as some members of the FMCA brought to attention at our last meeting. This month, to help answer questions you may have and give advice, Sgt Walker with the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office is going to be our guest speaker.



We have a few items to discuss and some to vote on at this month's meeting, so I hope you will review the agenda and come out on the evening of May 13th. As always, I encourage members to help spread the word about our association. If your neighbors haven't heard about our group, invite them to a meeting. See you all on May 13th!

Joe
Joe Emerson

FMCA May Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday May 13

FMCA 2019 MEETINGS:

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
May 13 ~ June 10 ~ July 8~ Aug 12~Sep 9~Oct 14~Nov 11~Dec 9

FMCA Membership Report~~~~~ Greg Strategier

295 members have renewed and we have 408 total members. **Annual Dues Were Due December 31!** If you have not yet paid 2019, please send the attached Membership Form [see last page of this newsletter] with your \$15 annual dues to the address on the form as soon as possible to ensure you continue to receive correspondence from FMCA.

Agenda for April FMCA General Meeting~~~~~Carol Kittrell

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance	Joe Emerson, President
Minutes	Carol Kittrell, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer
FM Fire & Rescue Report	Ernie Church, President FM Fire & Rescue BOD
Old Business	
-Membership Mailers	
-Grant Researcher	

-Master Plan / Baldwin County Involvement in Fort Morgan Master Plan - Bike Path Resolution DCNR / Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension Proposal	
New Business -Removal of non-paid members from email - Dangerous intersection of SR180 @ Plantation Drive	
Comments/Announcements - Recent dedication of Lands in Fort Morgan	
Guest Speaker - Fort Morgan Q&A with Baldwin County Sheriff's Office Representative	Sergeant Mike Walker, BCSO
Adjournment - Next Meeting, June 10	

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

A semi-annual meeting of the Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee was held on April 17, 2019. In attendance were Commissioner Billie Jo Underwood, David Conner, attorney for the Commission, Wayne Dyess, County Administrator, Vince Jackson and Linda Lee of the County Planning and Zoning Department. A motion was approved to resubmit our letter to the County Commission requesting that the HDR, High Density Residential District, classification not be available in Planning District 25.

Two rezoning requests were considered:

Z-190018. To rezone .9 acres on Our Road from RSF-1 to RSF-2 so that the existing lot could be subdivided into two lots. The committee recommended denial of this request as it would increase density and sent a precedent for additional increases.

Z-190020. To rezone 8 lots in Surfside Shores fronting on Hwy 180 from RSF-1 to RTF-4 to allow construction of duplexes. The owner stated that he would not develop additional lot he owns so that there would be no increase in the total number of potential units; however, he failed to furnish any documentation for that intent. Denial of this request was also recommended. It was scheduled for the May 2, 2019, Planning Commission meeting but has been tabled and is tentatively scheduled to be considered instead at the June 6, 2019, meeting.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has received a grant to extend the bike trail along Hwy 180 in the city of Gulf Shores to the fort. Several people living on the north side of the road expressed concern for their property and personal safety. Additionally, there was a general belief that such a trail would not eliminate the hazard of bikers riding in the roadside bike lane. It was suggested that ADCNR consider a design for the trail which would place it along the north side of Hwy 180, separated by a buffer. Please express your concerns to ADCNR.

Upcoming Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Meetings (Shell Banks Baptist Church):

May 15 – 9:00. Regular monthly meeting. Currently we have not received any requests to consider. Updates will be posted on the board at Fire Station #1 and our website.

June 19 - 9:00. Special request meeting by Wayne Dyess along with Vince Jackson and Billie Jo Underwood to meet with us to discuss County involvement in long range plans for Fort Morgan,

amendment to District 25 regulations regarding rezoning in the Coastal High Hazard Area and Flood Hazard Areas, and development issues/concerns in Fort Morgan.

October 19 - 9:00. Semi-annual meeting.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~~~~~Sgt Mike Walker, BCSO

There have been several Fort Morgan home and vehicle burglaries during the past month.

Home Burglaries:	4950 Hwy 180
	1625 Hwy 180
	3178 Ponce De Leon Ct
	3200 Ponce De Leon Ct
Vehicle Burglaries:	555 Our Rd
	5478 Beach Blvd
	2542 Ponce De Leon Ct

The suspect in all the cases is believed to be a W/M, slender build, possibly homeless and breaking in then staying in unoccupied rental properties. The suspect has been seen on camera in the early morning hours carrying a book bag, wearing gloves, and bandana covering his face. Any video in the area's close to the listed crimes, should be reviewed in an attempt to get a better identification of the suspect.

EMERGENCY: 911

Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities

Sheriff's Department—Administrative Office.....972-6802

Sheriff's Office Website: www.sheriffofbaldwin.com

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):

<http://sheriffofbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>

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



Training at Gulf Shores Training Facility
 Fort Morgan Firefighter Belinda on the nozzle
 FF Cindy observing
 Gulf Shores Lt. Kimsey supervising

- Your Fire Department responded to 31 calls in the month of March:
- 17 medical
 - 4 fires (2 trash, 1 dumpster, 1 grass)
 - 3 elevator entrapments
 - 3 false alarms
 - 1 helicopter transport
 - 1 vehicle accident
 - 1 public assist
 - 1 swimmer in distress (canceled)

The sand and salt take a toll on our beach vehicles. We recently had to replace one of our red Polaris Rangers with a white Kawasaki Mule. We are in the process of getting quotes for emergency lights, decals, and lettering.

Our search continues for a 2-acre plot of land free of any wetlands or beach mouse habitat that we can use to build a firefighter training facility. Any leads on property that fits this description would be appreciated.

May 1 is the start date of the ADEM burn ban which continues through the end of October. This is an environmental burn ban to help improve air quality and has nothing to do with dry or wet conditions. The only fires allowed will be cooking fires, and we ask that these fires be kept small and are fully extinguished once cooking is completed.

We want to thank Al Sawyer for hosting a barbeque where all his proceeds were donated to the Fire Department. The 2-day event generated over \$3000, and the Fire Department is very grateful to Al for holding this fund-raiser for us.

As always, our training meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday at Station 1 at 6:30 p.m. Our picture this month shows our firefighters training with Gulf Shores at their Training Facility.

Fort Morgan Master Plan- Request for Assistance~~~~~Ernie Church

Community input is a large part of the master planning process. The overview below is included in the newsletter to provide background to FMCA member on what a Master Plan entails and to encourage anyone with experience to come forward to partner in our efforts to develop a Master Plan for Fort Morgan.

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

What is a Master Plan? – A future vision and policy guide for the Town – Plan for a community’s physical evolution – Comprehensive analysis of all aspects of community development – Long range (typically varies from five to 15 years) – NOT a zoning bylaw or regulation – Public policy document

A Master Plan helps communities: – Manage growth and change – Provide for orderly and predictable development – Protect environmental resources – Set priorities for developing and maintaining infrastructure and public facilities – Strengthen local identity – Create a framework for future policy decisions – Promote open, democratic planning – Provide guidance to land owners, developers, and permitting authorities

What’s in a Master Plan? – Community Vision Statement – Data Analysis – Existing Conditions – Trends, Estimates, and Future Projections – Goals, Policies, and Actions – Maps
Emerging Issues – Demographic changes – Social media – Aging infrastructure – More urban lifestyle – Development near transit – Climate change – Antiquated zoning – Shrinking tax base for local governments – Public health – Energy – Building codes and materials

How does the process work? – Where do we want to go? Visioning and goal-setting, Interviews with stakeholders and “topic experts”, Public meetings, Focus groups, Surveys, Internet tools such as: Survey Monkey, Twitter, Facebook, Data Collection, Bureau of the Census, Regional planning agency, State agencies, Watershed associations, Assessor’s office, Other local sources, e.g., library needs analysis, Council on Aging annual reports, school department statistics, Community organizations

Data analysis, Trends, estimates – Where are we going, given existing policies and trends?
Trends, estimates, predictions – What do we need to change? Opportunities and challenges,
Analysis of options, Strategy consensus – How do we get there?
Implementation plan/Implementation committee, “Early success” actions

Outcome: – An adopted comprehensive plan with consistency among all elements

Please contact Ernie Church, 334-220-0851, ecaces4@gmail.com if you are interested in assisting in the development of the Fort Morgan Master Plan.

Upcoming Events in Fort Morgan:

Share the Beach 2019~::~::~::~::~::Debbie Harbin

Turtle nesting season started May 1st. Please be aware that outside lights hinder the nesting process of female turtles. If you own directly on the beach please consider checking into turtle friendly lights. Contact Alabama Coastal Foundation or US Fish and Wildlife for details. Also fill in holes and take up beach equipment at night.

Memorial Day Celebration Fort Morgan State Historic Site~::~::~::~::Wendy Hyatt

Fort Morgan State Historic Site will be having a Living History Event on May 25th. We will have over 25 living historians, in period clothing, from the war 1812 until WWII giving demonstrations throughout the day. There will be artillery firing, flag raising ceremony, book signing, guided tours, and a special Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge

For upcoming events please visit our online sites at <http://www.fws.gov/bonsecour>; <http://facebook.com/BonSecourNWR> , or contact the Refuge Office by phone (251) 540-7720 or in person Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fort Morgan History:

Request for contributions – please contact FMCA newsletter editor if you are interested in researching Fort Morgan history or providing personal memories to share of Fort Morgan

Dixie Graves Parkway..... Chan West

THE ONLOOKER
Foley, Alabama, Thursday, July 8, 1937

FORT MORGAN RITES FEATURE STATE HOLIDAY
Governor Graves Speaks at Dedication of Paved Highway

The holiday spirit was typified by the gathering at Fort Morgan Monday for the dedication of a 22-mile paved highway Alabama's Gulf coast. Traditional Fourth of July oratory, with Gov. Bib Graves as the principal speaker, and a free barbeque and fish fry were on the program which opened the state's little developed but beautiful Baldwin county peninsular to tourist traffic.

Other speakers included Col. Page S. Bunker, state commissioner of forestry; State Sen, Lamar Kelly, of Evergreen; L. W. Brown, Fort Morgan camp superintendent, and H. E. Evison, regional director of the National Park Service, Richmond, Va.

Gov. Graves disclosed that he had already opened negotiations with the War Department and Washington to obtain the 450-acre Fort Morgan reservation for development as a playground that is not equaled in the nation, if not in the world.

Over a thousand cars crossed the canal bridge south of Foley and from Saturday to Tuesday every available hotel room at Foley and every cabin at scores of fishing camps, and the Gulf State Park were filled to capacity. All fishing boats and guides along the coast were engaged and even skiffs were at a premium.

The National Park Service, which is taking over Fort Morgan for further restoration now that the parkway has been completed, will also develop a 150-foot parkway on each side of the paved road.

Azaleas, oleanders, and other flowering shrubs will bank its course, replacing jungle-like growth now cutting off the view from bays on one side of the narrow peninsular and the Gulf of Mexico on the other.

Courtesy of Baldwin County Department of Archives and History

CELEBRATION
Commemorating the Opening of Fort Morgan-Gulf Shores Highway

Monday, July 5th
AT
FORT MORGAN
Beginning at 11 A. M.

Hon. Bibb Graves
Governor of Alabama, will make the
Principal Address

Who will be followed by introduction of officials of the
Works Progress Administration, the Alabama Highway
Department, the State Forestry Department, and
the National Park Service.

Free Barbecue

EVERYONE INVITED

***** This advertisement contributed by the following Foley firms and individuals in appreciation of efforts on the part of Gov. Bibb Graves, Rep. Lister Hill, Gaston Scott, Col. Page S. Bunker, Works Progress Administration officials, National Park Service and all others who in any way assisted in bringing about the building of the Fort Morgan-Gulf Shores highway and parkway, and the opening of historic Fort Morgan as a part of the National Park Service. *****

FOLEY MORTUARY PALM THEATRE
BLUE HEAVEN SERVICE STATION FOLEY HOTEL - "House of Distinction"
FOLEY, ALA. FOLEY, ALA.

NOTE:
My Memories of the Roadside Development.....Chan West

My family may well have attended the dedication as the superintendent of the WPA camp was close family friend, but I have no memory of it. As for beautifying the parkway, I do remember that very little happened. There were two locations with a roadside concrete sheltered picnic table and benches and a couple of oleanders and crepe myrtles. Of course, there was no water supply and the plantings did not survive.

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President	Joe Emerson	550-9021	captjoesells@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 Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-407-7383	twstrong@gulftel.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

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

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 _____

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 Operating 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.