

FORT MORGAN NEWS

July 2019~Issue 149



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members! Greeting to all FMCA members!
Especially those of you that are new to our association, welcome!

First, I would like to thank everyone for submitting your comments for presentation to the Special Baldwin County Planning and Zoning meeting that was held on June 19th, I was impressed by the number of responses that we received. I was afforded an opportunity to speak on behalf of the association and while I was not able to voice all your concerns, I feel that many of the "hot button" issues facing our District were brought up. We hope to see some new ordinances adopted by the County soon that will help to resolve some of the issues in our community. The Executive Board has been very busy in the past week and I expect we will have a few items to vote on at the coming meeting.



As always, I encourage each member of our association to help spread the word about the Fort Morgan Civic Association. If your neighbors aren't members yet, invite them to a meeting! I hope I will see you at our next meeting on July 8th.

Joe
Joe Emerson

FMCA July Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday July 8th

FMCA 2019 MEETINGS:

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

FMCA Membership Report~~~~~~ Jennifer Noojin

We had over 26 new members join this past month for a total of 388 members. We'd like to thank new members for joining and to also thank all those continuing to renew their annual membership.

Reminder: 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
May 2019 Minutes	Carol Kittrell, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer

Membership Report	Jennifer Noojin, Membership
Fort Morgan Fire & Rescue Report	Ernie Church, VP/FMFRD
Old Business	
- P&Z meeting Recap & Discussion - Letter of Support	
New Business - Website Updates - Open Floor	
Adjournment - Next Meeting, August 12	

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee~~~~~Ernie Church

A special meeting of the Ft Morgan planning and zoning advisory committee and the Baldwin County planning and zoning staff was held on June 19th. The meeting was focused on changes and additions to District 25 (Ft Morgan) planning and zoning ordinances. Specific issues included the discussion items noted below.

1. Exempting Ft Morgan from High Density Residential zoning which would have allowed up to 12 dwellings per acre.
2. Establishing Dune Walkover standards of construction.
 - a. There shall be no more than one (1) dune walkover per parcel.
 - b. Dune walkovers shall begin at the existing ground level elevation of the principal landward structure.
 - c. The maximum width of the dune walkover structure shall be no more than four (4) feet for single family/two family structures and no more than six (6) feet for multiple family / commercial / public structures. Maximum widths shall be applicable to all sections of the dune walkover structure, including but not limited to steps, ramps, landings and decks.
 - d. The minimum elevation from the bottom of floor joists of the dune walkover shall be no less than one (1) foot and no more than three (3) feet above the maximum elevation of the dune system being traversed.
 - e. No vertical or horizontal structures shall be allowed above thirty-eight (38) inches from the walking surface, i.e., roofs, walls, pergolas, etc.
 - f. Handrails, if any, shall be no higher than thirty-six (36) to thirty-eight (38) inches above the walking service for Single and Two Family Dwellings.
 - g. The dune walkover shall terminate ten (10) feet seaward of the vegetative line of the dune.
 - h. The location and length of the dune walkover is to be coordinated through and approved by the delegated authority of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
3. Addition of Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) and Flood Hazard Area (FHA) considerations in development.
 - a. Limit the amount of infrastructure, both private and public in the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA)
 - b. Limit the magnitude of public loss and mitigation of private loss and investment.
 - c. Increase the degree of protection to private property and lives of residents and visitors in storm events.

- d. Reduce the risk and exposure of lives and property during storm events.
- e. Increases in density and intensity through rezoning or similar land use changes in the CCHA in Ft Morgan are prohibited.
- f. Increases in density and intensity through rezoning or similar land use changes in the FHA in Ft Morgan should be limited to low density single family uses

4. Parking spaces shall not be stacked.

5. The county recommends a 2 1/2 habitable story limit on residential structure height.

The Ft Morgan planning and zoning advisory committee recommended the habitable height limit be 2 stories. Additionally, the committee asked that the county implement a process which considers standard fire codes as part of the building permit process.

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

July 17 – 9:00 a.m. Monthly Planning & Zoning Meeting

October 16 - 9:00 a.m. Semi-annual meeting.

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

Fort Morgan Crime Report - June 2019

(1) Residential Burglary of an occupied beach house. 4860 Hwy 180.

(1) Vehicle burglary at 4898 Hwy 180.

(1) Delayed Vehicle burglary at 583 Our Rd.

All three of these incidents are believed to be committed by our suspect that has been on the local news, and that we have spoken about in the past.

Continue to check your video systems, the suspect may not steal anything from you but he may walk by your residence, or property.

The Plantation and Beach Club were checked for running the beer carts on the beach. They have both been advised of the law (32-1-7) that states there are to be no motorized vehicles on the beach or sand dunes.

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~~~~~Ernie Church, VP FMFRD

Long-time fire chief Glenn Stevens announced his retirement from the department at the June meeting of the Board of Directors. Chief Stevens served this community with dignity for over 24 years. During his tenure, Chief Stevens held a myriad of positions: firefighter, Asst chief, Fire Marshall and Chief. Additionally, he served on the Board of Directors for several years, including terms as President. His

volunteer spirit harkens back to the days when Benjamin Franklin established the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1736. It coincidentally had 30 volunteers, the same number we have here in Ft Morgan. A big salute to Chief Stevens for his years of service! Former Assistant Chief Jerry Ralston has taken over as our new Fire Chief effective immediately. Congratulate him when you see him - he'll do a fantastic job serving Ft Morgan.

Fire Calls - there were 46 page-outs in June

21 Medical	4 Auto Accidents
7 Fire Alarms	1 Suicide Threat
1 Grass Fire	5 Swimmer in Distress (got back to shore)
2 Assist Other Agency	2 Boater in Distress (made it back to shore)
3 Public Assists	

Remember the ADEM ban on open fires remains in effect.

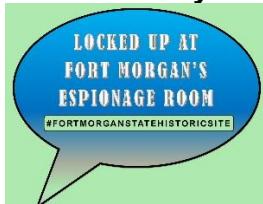
Upcoming Events in Fort Morgan:

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.

Fort Morgan State Historic Site-----**Wendy Hyatt**

June and July Tuesdays 2pm



Escape room "Espionage at Mobile Point" It is the summer of 1864 and you are Federal Spies captured by the Confederate soldiers. The Battle of Mobile Bay was one of the most decisive battles of the war. Can you help the union forces understand the defenses of mobile bay? Wise captives have been known to escape. Step back in time to discover your fate. First come first serve basis minimum 4 max 10 participants. Minimum of 4 people \$25 each.

June and July Tuesday Evenings 6pm



Eventide Living History Demonstrations: Spend the evening at Fort Morgan State Historic Site visiting with Living History interpreters. Learn about the military history of Mobile Point, watch small weapons demos, learn about the life of a laundress, see the cannon crew demonstrate the civil war cannon fire drills, and then watch the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico. \$10 per person. No discounts available for this event.

July 2, 2019 9am –3pm



WWI and WWII Event. Fort Morgan was occupied by the Coast Artillery Corp in WWI and WWII. Stroll through the photo gallery of actual photos taken here during those eras, bring a lawn chair to enjoy the 151st Army Detachment Band, and talk with the living history interpreters stationed inside the fort. Regular Admission Charged

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.

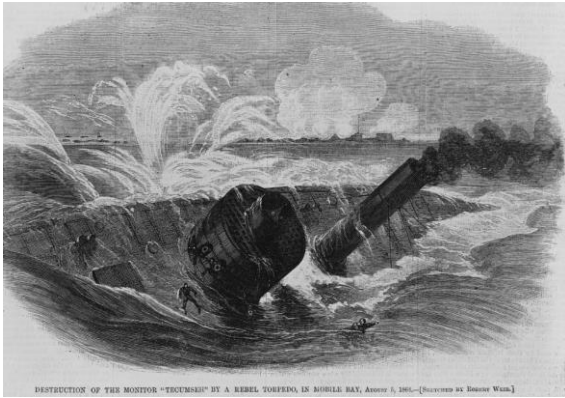
Fort Morgan History:

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

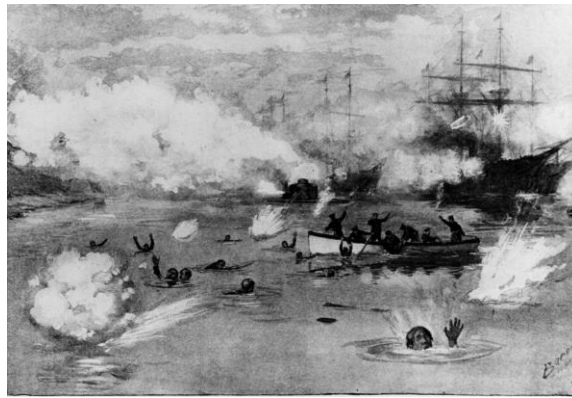
U.S.S. Tecumseh

USS *Tecumseh*, an iron-hulled, single-turret monitor, was launched 12 September 1863, at Jersey City, New Jersey. Although slated to strengthen Rear Admiral David G. Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron for operations against Confederate fortifications guarding Mobile Bay, *Tecumseh* served temporarily with the James River service of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. To guard Union shipping against Confederate forces, the Union Army and Navy worked closely together by blocking the channel to prevent Confederate warships from coming down the upper navigable reaches of the James. *Tecumseh* was instrumental during these operations, sinking four hulks and a schooner. Although *Tecumseh* was involved in a number of notable operations along the James River, its most famous battle would be its last--the Battle of Mobile Bay.

Tecumseh arrived off Mobile Bay on the evening of 4 August 1864. Shortly after 6 a.m. on 5 August, the 18-ship Union squadron crossed the bar at flood tide and moved into the bay with *Tecumseh* leading the van of monitors, which included USS *Manhattan*, USS *Winnebago*, and USS *Chickasaw*. The ironclads passed between the fortified headlands to starboard of the lightly-protected wooden steam frigates, taking the brunt of Confederate Fort Morgan's heavy guns. Just after 7 a.m., *Tecumseh* opened fire on the fort's batteries. Meanwhile, Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan's squadron, centered around the heavy ironclad ram CSS *Tennessee*, sortied to meet the attackers. When *Tecumseh* veered left to engage the Confederate ram, the Union monitor hit an underwater mine or torpedo. After a tremendous explosion, *Tecumseh* heeled over and sank rapidly with its captain and 92 crewmen. As the *Tecumseh* rolled over, two shells fired from nearby Fort Morgan struck the sinking monitor. The wreck is located just off Fort Morgan in Mobile Bay.



Destruction of the Monitor 'Tecumseh' by a Rebel Torpedo, in Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864. Line engraving, after a sketch by Robert Weir, published in *Harper's Weekly*, 10 September 1864. NH 61473.



Rescuing the Crew of the Monitor Tecumseh. Artwork by Bacon, published in *Deeds of Valor*, Volume II, page 65, by the Perrien-Keydel Company, Detroit, 1907. NH 79925.



Commander Craven allowing his pilot to escape the ship before she was sunk. The source of the photo is "A. Waud Sketch, Library of Congress."

Excerpt from www.history.navy.mil/research/underwater-archaeology/sites-and-projects/shipwrecksites/uss-tecumseh.html ; pictures sources noted above

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Standing Committee Chairs

District 25 Planning & Zoning

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter

Future Fort Morgan Options

Hospitality

Land Use & Conservation

Legal

Legislative/Government

Membership

Sunshine

Joe Emerson

Ernie Church

Greg Strategier

Carol Kittrell

Chan West

Karrie Lovins

Ernie Church

Thelma Strong

Chan West

Judy Newcomb

Bonnie Lowry

Jennifer Ishler Noojin (205) 249-1025

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Fort Morgan Civic Association
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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.