

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## January 2020~Issue 155



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members and an especially warm welcome to our new members!

As we come into this new decade, we have a many thing on the horizon for the year 2020! This January's meeting will be an important one, if you are able to come out, please do so. Not only will we be holding FMCA board elections, we will have updates on old business and a few significant items of new business to discuss. Again, if you are able, please try and make it out on the evening January 13<sup>th</sup>. As always, I encourage each member of our association to help spread the word about the Fort Morgan Civic Association and its work to preserve and protect the Fort Morgan community.



*Joe*  
Joe Emerson

### *Agenda for this month's FMCA General Meeting*

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance	Joe Emerson, President
Previous FMCA General Meeting 2019 Minutes	Carol Kittrell, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer
Membership Report	Jennifer Noojin, Membership Chair
Government Affairs Report	Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison
Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Cte.	Ernie Church, Chair
Fort Morgan Fire & Rescue Report	Jerry Ralston, Chief FMF&RD
Old Business	
-Updates on ongoing actions	
New Business	
- Fort Morgan Mardi Gras Parade, 23 Feb - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Fort Morgan Cleanup - FMCA Officer Elections – January - Guest Speaker – U.S. Census	Jean Hogue, 2020 U.S. Census
Adjournment: Next Meeting, Feb 10	

## *FMCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>*

### *FMCA 2019/2020 MEETINGS:*

FMCA Monthly Member Meetings ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30pm, Shell Banks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
Feb 10~Mar 9~Apr 13~May 11~June 8~July 13

### *FMCA Membership Report~~~~~~ Jennifer Noojin*

**Reminder:** Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually. Additionally please contact FMCA Membership Chair at [fmcamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:fmcamemberships@gmail.com) or (205) 249-1025 for any changes to membership status (i.e. address / email update, death of a member)

Membership Application process by mail:

Fill out Membership Application (available online at <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/> ), complete, and print. Write check for \$15. Mail Membership Application and check to:  
Fort Morgan Civic Association  
P.O. Box 5313 • Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Membership Application process electronically:

**NOTE:** The fillable form online will not work on Chrome or Edge or Safari browsers. Internet Explorer and Firefox are currently the only browsers that will work with the fillable form.

On the Fort Morgan Civic Association Membership webpage (<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/> ), Click on Membership Application (fillable form) on the webpage and complete. Select "Submit Form". Email will open in your email window. Complete email and send.

To complete the electronic submission process, utilize the PayPal link at the bottom of the Membership webpage and follow prompts to pay Membership Dues.

**NOTE:** Membership Dues are \$15.00 and \$3.00 is the PayPal processing fee for a total electronic transaction of \$18.00. Any amount above \$18 will be accepted as a donation to the Fort Morgan Civic Association.

**Notice: FMCA Officer Elections- January 13 2020~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~::~FMCA Bylaws**

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

Section 2 Officers shall be elected annually by a majority of the votes cast at the regularly scheduled January General Meeting. The first item on the agenda shall be the elections. Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three current members elected by the membership at the October general meeting. Nominations also may be made from the floor after announcement of the Nominating Committee's nominee for each of the four offices. Nominations shall not be closed until the general members have an opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor. Each nominee shall be given five (5) minutes to state his or her qualifications and present a platform. Voting will immediately follow the close of nominations for each office. Outgoing officers shall deliver all records to the respective incoming officers at the conclusion of the meeting.

Section 3 Vacancies occurring in an office before the end of term, with the exception of Section 5 below, shall be filled by election by a majority vote of current members. Such officer shall serve until the end of the unexpired term.

Section 4 Working closely with the Executive Board and general membership, the President shall provide the leadership to develop and accomplish the goals and objectives of the Association as approved by the membership. The President shall preside at meetings of the Association as facilitator through the democratic process and may call special meetings and appoint ad hoc committees.

Section 5 In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of President. Upon the President's resignation, removal or inability to perform the duties of office, the Vice-President shall become President until the next annual election of officers. The Vice-President shall be responsible for representing the interests of the general membership, for assisting the President in facilitating the democratic process and for carrying out the decisions of the members.

Section 6 The Secretary shall keep, in permanent form: the minutes of the Association and the Executive Board, a list of committees and their members and a record of attendance at all meetings to be provided by the Membership Committee chair. The Secretary also shall conduct the correspondence and maintain the official administrative records of the Association.

Section 7 The Treasurer shall receive all monies, pay all legitimate bills, and prepare a financial report to be submitted at each regular meeting. The Treasurer also shall disburse funds as directed by majority vote of a quorum of members at a scheduled meeting. Amounts of less than two hundred dollars (\$200) for legitimate, receipted expenses shall not require a vote but may be disbursed at the Treasurer's discretion. All checks drawn on the Association account shall bear the signatures of two officers of the Association. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining official financial records of the Association and an alphabetical roster of members, for ensuring the appropriate and legal disbursement of the Association's funds and for arranging an annual independent accounting review of the Association's financial records.

**Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department~~~~~Jerry Ralston, Fire Chief, FMFRD**

Fort Morgan Fire Rescue ran 10 calls in December.

6 Medical Calls	1 Power Line Down
1 Fire Alarms	1 Auto Accident
1 Public Assistance	

The Fire Dept. ran 13 Swimmer in Distress calls with no beach related drownings in 2019. We attribute this to our proactive beach patrols and the RIP Current warning Signs provided by the County Commission.

The Fire Dept. Annual Board of Director's Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14. New Board Members and Officers will be elected at this meeting. The Public is encouraged to attend. Please go to <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/annual-community-meeting> for more information on the meeting and <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/links> for a link to the Fire Department By-Laws if you are interested in becoming a member and or serving on the Board of Directors. Board members include both firefighters and community members.

Stay Safe,  
Jerry Ralston,  
Fire Chief

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

**EMERGENCY: 911**  
**Report all potentially life-threatening and suspicious activities**  
 Sheriff's Department—Administrative Office.....972-6802  
 Sheriff's Office Website: [www.sheriffofbaldwin.com](http://www.sheriffofbaldwin.com)  
 Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):  
<http://sheriffofbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>

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

The Planning and Zoning Committee voted on two cases of particular interest (AD-19003 and V-200002) in the past month. They were of interest because they both are seeding relief from our two-story habitable limit ordinance approved by the county in October.

The Ft Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee met at the Shell Banks Church at 10 am Monday Dec 2, 2019 to consider case AD-19003 (Breezy Shores LLC) - an appeal of an administrative decision of the Zoning Administrator as it pertains to maximum height in habitable stories for a proposed two-family dwelling. The Committee voted to uphold the "stop work" order.

The Baldwin County Board of Adjustment met in the Foley Satellite Courthouse meeting room at 3:30 pm Thursday December 12, 2019 and voted to uphold the order of county and deny the applicant's appeal.

The Ft Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee met in the fellowship hall of the Shell Banks Church at 10am Monday Dec 30th to consider case V-200002, a variance request to build a three-story habitable residence at 2360 Ponce de Leon Court. The Committee voted to deny the variance request and recommended that the County Board of Adjustment do the same.

### ***Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:***

#### ***U.S. 2020 Census~~~~~Mary Boatman, Recruiting Assistant, U.S. Census***

The United States Census Bureau is accepting applications for jobs with the 2020 Census. These jobs offer great pay and flexible hours. In addition to apportioning seats in the House of Representatives, Census data determine how federal funds are allocated to local communities. Non-profit organizations use census data when applying for grants. If you are interested in doing important work in your community, please apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs).

#### ***Fort Morgan State Historic Site~~~~~Wendy Hyatt***

Please visit Facebook (Fort Morgan State Historic Site) and website <http://www.fort-morgan.org> for information on events at Fort Morgan State Historic Site.

#### ***Bon Secour NWR~~~~~Brittany Petersen***

##### **Free Winter Walks and Talks at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge**

The Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge is pleased to announce their Winter 2020 Walks and Talks to be held in January and February. The guided walks will cover the topics of: Dynamic Dunes, Birds, Local Habitats, and Marine Ecosystems. The Winter Talks will cover a variety of topics including, the History of U-boats in the Gulf, Sharks and the History of the Sea Turtle Conservation Movement. The walks will take place on the Bon Secour NWR trails. The talks will be held at the Ft. Morgan Volunteer Fire Department at 12105 State Highway 180 (Ft. Morgan Rd.), Gulf Shores, AL 36542.

##### **Winter Walks**

###### **Bird & Nature Walk**

Have you ever wanted to know what that plant was? Or maybe that butterfly? Oh, wait I just saw a dragonfly! Oh, look at that bird! No experience is necessary just come with your curiosity. The walk will take place from the Pine Beach Trail. Binoculars are encouraged but not necessary to enjoy the walk. **Dates:** Jan. 17th- 8:30 am, Jan. 24th- 8:30 am, Jan. 31st - 8:30 am, Feb. 7th- 8:30 am, Feb. 14th- 8:30 am, Feb. 21st- 8:30 am.

###### **Bird Walk**

Beginner and experienced bird watchers of all ages are welcome to come out and enjoy the beauty of birds and nature itself. Walks will take place from the Jeff Friend Trail. Binoculars are encouraged but they are not necessary to enjoy the walk. **Dates:** Jan. 14th- 8:30 am, Jan. 21st- 8:30, Jan. 28th- 8:30 am, Feb. 4th – 8:30 am, Feb. 11th – 8:30 am, Feb. 18th – 8:30 am.

###### **Nature Walk**

Curious about the local plants? What this habitat is? Or the history of this area? Well, that is what you will find, and more on this diverse walk. This walk will start from the Pine Beach Trail. **Dates:** Jan. 16th- 9:00 am, Jan. 23rd - 9:00 am, Jan. 30th - 9:00 am.

### **Medicinal and Edible Plants Walk**

Take a journey back to when native tribes and early colonizers needed to rely on the land around them to supply the medication and food they needed to live in this coastal habitat. This walk will begin at the Jeff Friend Trail. **Dates:** Jan 11th - 9:30 am (**Office will be closed**), Jan 23rd - 10:00 am, **Feb 8th- 9:30 am (Office will be closed).**

### **Dynamic Dunes Walk**

Come join us for a walk along the Gulf shore and discover why this dune habitat is so important. The talk includes a bit of history, coastal ecology, and native plants. The guided walk will meet at the Mobile Street parking lot. **Dates:** Feb. 6th - 3:00 pm, Feb. 13th- 3:00 pm, Feb. 20th - 3:00 pm.

### **Guided Beach Walk**

Marine ecosystems are fascinating, dynamic, and sensitive to impacts from thousands of miles away. Come learn about the different marine habitats, the creatures that live there and their complex interactions. The guided walk will meet at the Mobile Street parking lot on Feb. 13th- 10:00 am.

*The guided walks are free to the public; however, space is limited to 12 people per walk. Therefore, a reservation is required. The walks last between 1-2 hours and will meet at the designated trailhead. We request at least 24 hours' notice for cancellations. Please be aware, there are no restroom facilities available on the trails*

## **Winter Talks**

### **Shark Spiel**

This talk explores the diversity and complexity of our ocean's apex predator and the integral role they play in sustaining a healthy ecosystem. **Dates:** Jan 14th- 10:00 am, Feb. 11th 10:00 am.

### **Sea Turtle History and the Conservation Movement Talk**

Have you ever been curious where the sea turtle story all began? Join us for this talk on the history of the conservation movement and the efforts to protect the sea turtles. **Dates:** Jan. 28th- 10:00 am, Feb. 18th 10:00 am.

### **U-boats in the Gulf**

This talk will introduce audiences to the history of World War II and the presence of German U-boats in the Gulf of Mexico. The speaker will regale audiences with stories of growing up on the beached of Gulf Shores during the height of WW2 and share her firsthand experience of seeing U-boats in the Gulf. **Dates:** Jan. 21st- 10:00 am, Feb. 4th- 10:00 am.

*The Shark Spiel, U-boats in the Gulf and Sea Turtle History and the Conservation Movement talks will be held at Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Station #1 located next to Shell Banks Baptist Church at 12105 State Highway 180, Gulf Shores, AL 36542. Attendees are asked to park their vehicles on the helicopter pad adjacent to the fire station. These talks are free to the public but are limited to 24 people. Reservations are required.*

These are very popular events and reservations are required. The guided tours are limited to 12 people and the talks are limited to 24 people. A 24-hours' notice is asked if you must cancel.

Please call the Refuge office at 251-540-7720 to book a walk or a talk, or drop into the office at 12295 State Highway 180, Gulf Shore, AL 36542, between 9 am and 2 pm Monday through Friday. Dates and times will also be available on the Refuge's website [www.fws.gov/bonsecour](http://www.fws.gov/bonsecour) or their Facebook page.

## 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*

## Fort Morgan Census

In the 1920 federal census there were 30 soldiers with families at the fort, plus another 230 unaccompanied soldiers. There were also civilian doctors, engineers, laborers, plumbers, merchants, electricians, carpenters, laundresses, clerks, a watchman and a lighthouse keeper. All totaled 356 at the fort. Ten years later in 1930, the federal census listed Fort Morgan as a “Old U.S. Post Hospital” which housed three families:

The Sanders family – Donald (age 32), Norma (age 22), Eugene (age 5) and Frances (age 3). Mr. Sanders was a radio operator for the United Fruit Company.

J. Mullihan (age 52) was the caretaker of the Fort.

The Bangold family – Thomas (age 40), Anya (age 20), Annie (age 3) and William (age 1 ½). Mr. Bangold was the lighthouse keeper.

*Special thanks to Bonnie Lowry, longtime Fort Morgan resident for her contribution to the Fort Morgan History segment this month.*

## FMCA Executive Board Contacts

### Officers

President	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	<a href="mailto:captjoesells@gmail.com">captjoesells@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

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
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Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	251-979-4932	<a href="mailto:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</a>
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Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	251-540-9327	
Membership	Jennifer Ishler Noojin	(205) 249-1025	<a href="mailto:jnoojin1@gmail.com">jnoojin1@gmail.com</a>
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	251-543-1555	<a href="mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com">vpowers110@gmail.com</a>