

FORT MORGAN NEWS

March 2020~Issue 157



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members and an especially warm welcome to new members. March is off to a great start here in our little slice of paradise!

The 2nd Annual Fort Morgan Mardi Gras Parade was a great success with beautiful weather and significantly larger crowds than last year. With nearly 100 riders and 1,000's of throws, the most impressive aspect of the parade was the crowd in attendance. They came out to enjoy the event and before they left, picked up the trash and debris leaving the parade route cleaner than when they got there! Good Job Everyone!!!

Speaking of trash, the 2nd Annual "Fort Morgan Clean Up" is scheduled for February 28th at the Fort Morgan Boat Launch. I am hoping that this will be as big of a success as it was last year. We have partnered with some great sponsors this year like "Sassy Bass", "Navy Cove Oyster Co." and the "Alabama Coastal Foundation". I have been approached by many more organizations already that want to be involved next year! You will probably see some of the goings-on on our official Facebook page: Fort Morgan Civic Association. Log on and give us a "like" and a "follow". You will notice in the coming months that we are running a social media campaign urging visitors to remove items from the beach daily and help preserve our beautiful beach resources. Help us spread the word on proper stewardship of our coastal playground by encouraging your rental companies and your guests to help us keep Fort Morgan beautiful.

Also, on the calendar for March is the Fort Morgan Fire Rescue Ladies Auxiliary "Spaghetti Dinner". This biannual fundraising event is hosted at FMFD Station 1 on 14 March 2020. All proceeds go to the Fort Morgan Fire Department Benevolence Fund, so if you are able, come out to show your support. This group really is a huge help to our community and they are in need of volunteers! If you would like to join the ladies auxiliary, please contact Thelma Strong at twstrong@gulftel.com

This month's meeting of the FMCA will be on March 9th, 2020 at 6:30pm. Please remember you're your membership renewal is due in January. If you have not sent in your 2020 membership dues, please do so at your earliest convenience to continue receiving updates and our monthly Newsletter. 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. Come to the meetings, invite your neighbors and follow us on Facebook to help our visibility.

Joe
Joe Emerson

FMCA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday March 9th

FMCA 2019/2020 MEETINGS:

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



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 |
| 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 | |
| -County Strategic Planning -Mardi Gras Parade -Fort Morgan Clean Up -Website Updates | |
| New Business | |
| -Open Floor | |
| Adjournment: Next Meeting, Apr 13 | |

FMCA Membership ~~~~~Jennifer Noojin

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually. Additionally please contact FMCA Membership Chair at 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.

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

On the Beat!!!

Well its warming up and time for the visitors to start pouring in. Remember "You see something – You say something". The deputies ride your community a lot, but they are not always there.

Something you may have noticed; may be the break they were looking for in a case. Having that said there has only be (1) Theft call on February 10, 2020. An enclosed trailer was stolen from 5740 Beach Blvd. The trailer and its contents were estimated to be worth approx. \$7000.00. Due to some fine investigators, and patrol deputies that took the time to look for cameras in the area, the trailer was recovered a short time later. The deputies then identified the suspects and made an arrest on February 18, 2020.

If you have camera systems learn their functions. Know how long the video will be stored before it is erased, know how to make copies if need be. This will help in assisting law enforcement bring criminals to justice.

Thank You,
Sgt. Michael Walker

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

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

The Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday Mar 4th at 9 am in the Shell Banks Baptist Church Fellowship Hall to consider two variances from wetland setbacks. The public is invited to attend. One property is located on Gulf View Drive in Surfside Shores and the other on Veterans Rd. Please review the documents at <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/planning-zoning-info>

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

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

Please go to www.fws.gov/bonsecour, the NWR Bon Secour Facebook page or call the Refuge office at 251-540-7720 for information on upcoming events and Refuge information. The NWR Bon Secour office is located at 12295 State Highway 180, Gulf Shore, AL 36542 and is open between 9 am and 2 pm Monday through Friday.

3 March – Fort Morgan Voting Information~~~~~Thelma Strong

Voting for Fort Morgan (Voting Precinct 40) residents will be 3 March from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Fire Station 1 on Hwy 180 (adjacent to Shell Banks Baptist Church). You must bring a valid photo id to vote.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

BAKE SALE



COOKBOOKS



50-50 RAFFLE



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

\$8/PLATE EAT- IN OR TAKE OUT

FORT MORGAN VFD STATION #1

12105 ST. HWY. 180 WEST

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT FORT MORGAN
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BENEVOLENCE FUND**

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

Postal Service Establishment in Fort Morgan

Through Rain, Sleet, Wind & Snow the postal motto could also have included swamp, wetlands and bayous because when the postal service finally came to Fort Morgan that had to be the determination of the carriers. William Gasque, a retiree Probate Judge of Baldwin County, who lived in Daphne AL was of Huguenot descent born on December 6, 1811 in the old town of St Stephens, Washington County AL. Judge Gasque held many positions in both Mobile and Baldwin counties from 1835 thru 1892. He never married and was the last survivor of his family. The Gasque post office was established in 1880. Perhaps the old post office at Gasque was named properly because all the people who carried the mail like Mr. Grim, Mr. Grahem, Mr. Galloway, Ms. Violet Nelson (postmaster until 1950), and Ms. Galloway (who took over the water route) came from the same cut of cloth serving their community.

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 | 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

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| 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 | 251-540-7383 | twstrong@gulftel.com |
| Land Use & Conservation | Chan West | 251-979-4932 | chan@goefish.com |
| Legal | Judy Newcomb | 251-955-1572 | judynewcomb@aol.com |
| Legislative/Government | Bonnie Lowry | 251-540-9327 | |
| Membership | Jennifer Ishler Noojin | (205) 249-1025 | jnoojin1@gmail.com |
| Sunshine | Vickie Matranga | 251-543-1555 | vpowers110@gmail.com |