

FORT MORGAN NEWS

April 2020~Issue 158



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members. As you know, the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has greatly impacted the Fort Morgan area. What would usually be the beginning of our busy season came to an abrupt halt when, on March 19th, Governor Ivey declared all beaches closed on the Alabama Coast. Reopening is tentatively set for April 18th but that date is subject to change.

The Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency has been activated and is providing updates to the public with the new text alert system. To receive text alerts from the Baldwin EMA to your mobile device, text: BALDWINCOVID to 888777

In an effort to share information on our local situation and the ongoing response to coronavirus, the EMA is implementing a weekly newsletter specifically for Baldwin County residents. The FMCA will be emailing this newsletter out to our members as we receive it from EMA. There is also a dedicated dashboard on the Baldwin County website where you can find the latest. You can find that link here:

<https://baldwincountyal.gov/departments/EMA>

In accordance with Alabama Dept of Public Health & Safety recommendations, all meetings of the Fort Morgan Civic Association are suspended until further notice. If you have a pressing subject that you would like information on or you would like to make an announcement to the membership, please reach out and let me know how I can help.

The Fort Morgan community is made up of resilient people who care about our homes and our neighbors. Just like in other past times of emergency and natural disaster, I feel that we will make it through this and come out stronger on the other side. Be safe, help if you can and wash your hands.

Joe
Joe Emerson

FMCA Monthly Meetings Cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19

Attention all members!

Pertinent information is currently being relayed through the FMCA from the Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency during this State of Emergency. A weekly newsletter from the Baldwin EMA will be sent to your on-file email address. Getting this information to the public is a priority. In past years been our policy to remove unpaid members from the mailing list on April 1st but given the situation, the grace period for membership dues is to be extended until May 1st, 2020. Please send unpaid dues:

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



If you are unsure of your membership status, please send us an email: fortmorgancivic@gmail.com with "Membership Inquiry" in the subject line.

Keep in mind that with a membership to the FMCA, not only will you be receiving our monthly publication, "The Fort Morgan News", you will also receive the latest Baldwin County planning and zoning request packets, USACE requests and other information as it comes available. Public input is crucial for the Baldwin County Commission, Board of Adjustment and other entities to make the best decisions for each situation. Our membership acts as a bridge to help you stay in the know and lends an easy way to help make your voice heard for the future of our community.

FMCA Membership ~~~~~Jennifer Noojin

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually (**See above for grace period for 2020**). 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 Planning & Zoning Committee~~~~~Ernie Church

All meetings associated with planning and zoning at our level as well as the county level have been cancelled until further notice.

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

Fort Morgan Fire Rescue ran 19 calls in March.

10 Medical Calls	2 Elevator Entrapment
3 Fire Alarms	1 Smoke Investigation
2 Auto Accident Public Assistance	1 Missing Person

The Lucas automated CPR Device purchased by the Fort Morgan Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary has been utilized for the first time. It performed beyond all expectation. THANK YOU LADIES!

The COVID19 Virus is in our community. As an EMS professional I have seen patients stricken with this virus. Please Stay home. Please practice social distancing. Please help slow the spread of this virus in our community

The Fire Dept. will continue to respond to Medical Emergencies as long as we can. We are terribly short of Personal Protective Equipment. We are doing everything possible to secure more.

If you have an emergency CALL 911. Do not call the fire station, a fire fighter friend or come to the fire station. This will waste valuable time and prevent needed information from being transmitted.

Please check on our neighbors.

Stay Safe,
Jerry Ralston,
Fire Chief

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

As I sit and ponder what advice, I can give you guys in these unusual times. My mind is running 90 to nothing!!!! So many things going on, or not going on. The closures of the beaches, the social distancing, the fear of the unknown.

So, I guess the best thing to let you know is the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office is doing everything in our power to make sure things run a smoothly as possible in these unprecedented times. We have added beach patrols, added deputies to regular patrol duties. We will not shy away for our duty, but stand talk and do what's best for you our citizens.

I would like to remind each and every one of you "If you see something, Say something". You will probably hear this from me every time, in this newsletter. But it is so important, for the Sheriff's Office to know what you know. The reported crimes on Fort Morgan have been low, and it's our goal to keep that way. In closing no big parties, the beaches are closed, keep your social distancing up, and if you need the Sheriff's Office give us a call

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.sheriffofbaldwin.com

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):

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

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful~~~~~Chan West

The Department of Transportation usually mows the shoulders of Fort Morgan Road in the Spring; however, DOT does not pick up trash before they mow. I am attempting to be notified of when this will happen, so that our loyal volunteers can collect trash before it would be shredded. Stay alert for a message! During this time when many of us are avoiding social contact, picking up roadside trash is a community activity in which all of us can participate.

Share the Beach~~~~~

For those who wish to volunteer to support Share the Beach - sign up for 2020 season by going to alabamaseaturtles.com. On the menu - Click on the volunteer tab and follow the link to sign up.

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

All beaches and access points will be closed beginning March 19, in accordance with Governor Ivey’s public health order issued this afternoon in response to the spread of COVID-19. All of Fort Morgan State Historic Site, including the fort, will be closed beginning Friday, March 20 until further notice. Please continue checking for updates about reopening at Facebook (Fort Morgan State Historic Site) and website <http://www.fort-morgan.org> .

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

The trails at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge are currently open to the public. However, the refuge beaches are closed in compliance with Alabama's State Health Officer's order, including the end of Pine Beach Trail. Although Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center is closed to the public the office can be reached by calling 251-540-7720 or emailing bonsecour@fws.gov, messages will be returned as soon as possible. For a new way to explore the trails at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge print out the Discovery Journal booklet at the Refuge's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BonSecourNWR/>) . Please tag us with your journal discoveries, we would love to see what you are uncovering!

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 Bowyer

Fort Bowyer was a small wooden fort built on the sands of Mobile Point peninsula to guard the entrance to Mobile Bay during the War of 1812. It was located near the site of where Fort Morgan is located today. Fort Bowyer was an important part of the of Mobile Bay during the War of 1812. The fort withstood one British assault in September 1814, altering British plans to take New Orleans, but succumbed to a second, much larger assault in February 1815 just before news arrived that a peace treaty had been signed. Two days after Fort Bowyer fell, the British commanders received news that the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 and all fighting in the region, already had been signed. The fort was returned to the United States. It was later abandoned and replaced by the heavier fortifications of Fort Morgan. Fort Bowyer is widely considered to be the site of the last land battle between the United States and the British in the War of 1812.

Material is an excerpt from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3582> ; please visit the site for more information on the battles associated with Fort Bowyer.

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