

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## May 2020~Issue 159



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

As you can imagine, it has been a slow month here in Fort Morgan, but things may be returning to a level of normalcy in the coming month. Governor Ivey's "Safer-At-Home" directive has been issued to slowly reopen our State economy. The most significant item (for us) of this new directive is the reopening of Alabama's beaches. Baldwin County Sheriff's deputies will continue to patrol the beaches to ensure that beach goers are following social distancing guidelines and staying safe. You can check our website for more detailed information.



I would like to take a moment to recognize someone that has been such an important part of this organization for many years. Executive Board Secretary, Mrs. Carol Kittrell, has gone above and beyond the parameters of her position and has been a key member of the Fort Morgan Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you for all you have done over the years for this organization and our community and I hope you will still come visit us from time to time.

As you may know, have launched our new website and with it our new online membership feature. You can now apply for membership/renew existing membership from your PC, laptop or mobile device. I am incredibly happy with the functionality of the website and would like for you to check it out and give us feedback. <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/>

Also, as we build our online presence and expanding our social media, you can now find us on Instagram. IG: @fortmorgancivicasociation If you have some great pictures from our area, we would love to feature them on our profile and website! Feel free to submit your hi-def photos to our email account [fortmorgancivic@gmail.com](mailto:fortmorgancivic@gmail.com).

Can't wait to see you all at our next general meeting. We will do our best to let you know as soon as we can when that date will be. Remember folks: Be safe, help if you can, and wash your hands

**Joe**  
Joe Emerson

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

**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](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.

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

Fort Morgan Fire Rescue ran 18 calls in April.

12 Medical Calls	2 Public Assistance
2 Fire Alarms	1 Elevator Entrapment
1 Auto Fires (2 vehicles lost)	1 Boater in Distress

ADEM Burn Band starts May 1 thru Nov. 1. Only cooking fires are allowed thru Nov. 1.

The COVID 19 threat is real. Please remember your social distancing and wear your mask in public.

Our beaches are open again. Please pay attention to the Rip Current Warning Signs when activated. We need to strive for a second year without a drowning. Watch for Emergency Vehicles on the beach.

If you have an Emergency call 911. Do not go to the Fire Station, doing so wastes valuable time.

Stay Safe,  
Jerry Ralston,  
Fire Chief

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

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](http://www.sheriffofbaldwin.com)**

**Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):**

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

**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.

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

**Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful-----Chan West**

**THE MOWERS ARE COMIN'. THE MOWERS ARE COMIN'**

ALDOT says that they will be mowing Hwy 180 the week of May 4. Our team members have been notified, but anyone can help by picking up any trash they may see. My favorite before/after mowing example is a Styrofoam ice chest lid.

**Share the Beach-----**

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. Make sure to fill in holes and take up beach equipment at night to prevent disruption or harm to nesting sea turtles.

**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. 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](mailto: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*

**Memories of the Gasque Post Office-----Chan West**

Bonnie Lowry recently wrote about the Gasque Post Office. I have personal memories of it from the late 1930 - 1940's. Mr. Will Galloway was the mail carrier. He would have to drive north from the Fort Morgan Road to the Intracoastal Waterway Canal, row a boat to Bon Secour to collect the Gasque mail. Return and deliver the mail to the Post Office and to permanent residents, who had mail boxes. We were summer residents and had to go to the Post Office to get our mail. This was before there were telephones down this way; however, there was overnight mail from Mobile.

Mrs. Violet Nelson was the postmistress. One of my brothers and I would be charged with walking to get the mail. The Post Office was an enclosed cubicle at one end of the front porch of her home. The door had been cut in half. When you knocked, she would open the top half. The mail was stored in a galvanized garbage pail – to protect it from the mice! MS Violet would open the pail, hold up to her eyes a pair of glasses with temples missing, which was tied to a string affixed to one of the pail handles, and find any mail for my family.

*Thanks to long time Fort Morgan resident, Chan West for her contribution this month.*

### **FMCA Executive Board Contacts**

#### **Officers**

President	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	<a href="mailto:captjoesells@gmail.com">captjoesells@gmail.com</a>
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Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	<a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Vacant		

#### **Standing Committee Chairs**

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>
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