

FORT MORGAN NEWS

June 2020~Issue 160



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

As you are probably aware, the State of Alabama began taking actions to reopen the economy in May. We have had record numbers of visitors to Fort Morgan since the reopening of our beaches. With the arrival of visitors come many of the same issues we face every year, specifically traffic and trash. In an effort to help educate the public on beach etiquette, the FMCA has partnered with the Alabama Coastal Foundation and Baldwin County Solid Waste to create a social media campaign as well as a "clean beach initiative" pilot program for 2 different areas of our community. So far, the FMCA has built and installed garbage can cages at the Surfside Shores & Our Rd beach access points. The County has supplied (2) cans at each location and is currently making pickups 3 times weekly at these locations to help keep our beaches clean. We hope that in the coming months/years more neighborhood and HOAs will join us in this effort.



The social media campaign, currently funded by the ACF, is performing well. This campaign uses purchased ad space that appears on Facebook and Instagram newsfeeds and gives users an opportunity to click on the ad which links to an informational page on the FMCA website. That page gives guests information on beach etiquette, helps to educate visitors on the importance of removing belongings at the end of each day as well as filling in holes that have been dug in the sand. This ad campaign is targeted specifically in Fort Morgan so unless you are here or have visited recently, you may not have seen it. I will not include the link to the ad because every click takes away from our extremely limited budget but here is the link to the informational landing page.

https://fortmorgancivic.org/Clean-Beach-Initiative.html?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=may2020&fbclid=IwAR2I3ZRcRB-uASD_7Y_X4oCNrG7eJfkpmQxj3A8Go6scoZgmOc6_CTMH0ck

At our next General meeting, I will be asking our membership to consider contributing to the budget for this campaign to help more people see the ad in the coming high season months.

Next, I am happy to report that we have made some great contacts with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources regarding the upcoming bike path project. I was assured by the DCNR Commissioner, Chris Blankenship, that the FMCA will have input on the design phase of the project. Also, our State Representative, Steve McMillian, has informed me that construction on the Fort Morgan Pier will begin this month. I will, as always, keep you up to speed as more information about these projects comes available.

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.

Keep in mind that our Secretary position on the Executive Board is currently vacant. If you have an interest in serving, please let us know via email! fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

Finally, the Executive Board has been able to meet via ZOOM to discuss ongoing Association business this month. Given the ADPH regarding social distancing precautions, we will not be meeting in June and are looking at our options for July. We are also exploring the option of an online GA meeting to keep our members active and involved.

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. 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)

For membership application by mail or online, access Fort Morgan Civic Association website (<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/>), click on membership tab, and select desired process (online or mail), then follow the prompts.

Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department~~~~~

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

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.

Fort Morgan Peninsula Neighborhood Safety & Crime Report ~~~~~

“If you see something, Say something”. It is so important, for the Sheriff’s Office to know what you know.

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 Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Department is scheduled to resume meetings in June. If local cases are presented to the county, our local planning and zoning advisory committee will also resume its schedule to review those cases upon their receipt. Notice of such meetings will be posted on the civic association website (<https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/>) and will include links to each case file.

Hurricane Season Starts 1 June~~~~~

A reminder that the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season runs from 1 June through November 30. The following National Weather Service link, <https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-plan> , has useful preparedness information and links to help you prepare your family and property in advance of Tropical Storm / Hurricanes. Another good resource is The Baldwin County Emergency Management Agency Disaster Guide which is located at <http://www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com/digitaledition/index.html?id=54d983ab-e579-4484-b408-3e1cfcbb7a34> . Preparedness is the key to limit loss of life and property.



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION
PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

**22251 Palmer Street
Robertsdale, Al. 36567
Telephone: 251.580.1655
Fax: 251.580.1656**

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM PROGRAM

Baldwin County is located in southwestern Alabama on the Gulf of Mexico. The county encompasses an area of approximately 1,596.35 square miles and is bordered to the northwest by Washington County, to the north by Clarke and Monroe Counties, to the east by Escambia County, Florida, to the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and to the west by Mobile County and Mobile Bay. The County seat is in the City of Bay Minette which is located in the north central part of the county.

Due to our location in the northern Gulf of Mexico, property and structures are put at risk from coastal storms, not only when hurricane season arrives, but our subtropical climate often brings heavy rainfall events with the potential to cause flash flooding in low-lying areas. As a coastal county, the county's position on the shoreline places its citizens and the built environment at risk from flooding as a result of heavy rains, flash flooding and storm surge not only from the Gulf of Mexico but also from tidally influenced wetlands, bays, rivers and watersheds.

Hurricane and Tropical Depression Events since 2004 that affected Baldwin County:

- ✓ Hurricane Ivan, 2004
- ✓ Hurricane Katrina, 2005
- ✓ Hurricane Gustav, 2008
- ✓ Tropical Storm Ida, November, 2009
- ✓ March 26-27, 2009 Heavy Rains
- ✓ April 29-30, 2014 historic flooding

You have received this letter because your property is in an area that has been flooded several times due to past hurricane or tropical storm events.

Baldwin County is concerned about the repetitive flooding issues and has an active program to help you protect yourself and your property from future flooding. Baldwin County actively participates in the NFIP Hazard Mitigation Program which you may be eligible for. The objective is to support cost-effective measures implemented during disaster recovery that will reduce the risk of damage and suffering from future disasters.

FEMA can fund up to 75 % of the eligible cost of each project, while the remaining 25 % of the cost is funded by the grant recipient. Any structure that has flooded more than three times in a 10-year period and can pass cost-effectiveness guidelines, may be eligible for participation in the program.

Among one of the things you can do beforehand:

- Check with the Building Inspection Department on the extent of past flooding in your area. County staff will meet with you to discuss your past losses and causes and visit your property

to review potential flood protection measures.

- Prepare for flooding by the following (these are minimum suggestions):
 - Familiarize yourself with watches and warning signals, remain alert and listen for weather updates;
 - Have your vehicle ready to go. Check gas, oil, water and maintenance;
 - Make plans of what you will do and where you will go in advance, and be prepared to evacuate in a moment's notice;
 - Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go;
 - Make a household inventory, especially of family heirlooms, photographs and things of value;
 - Put insurance policies, health records, wills, deeds, bank accounts and other valuable papers in a safe place.

Consider some permanent flood protection measures:

- Clearly identify your fuse or breaker box. Turn water and power off at the main valves, breakers or fuses;
- Turn off propane gas tanks that serve individual appliances like a stove or grill. Do not turn natural gas off unless local officials advise to do so;
- Consider elevating your home above flood levels. Many of the repetitive loss properties have been built for many years, some prior to the latest minimum flood elevations established by the FIRM maps. By elevating your home in these areas could help you in the future from losing your most valuable possessions. Contact the Building Inspection Department for more information.
- There are several brochures available for free of charge at the local libraries and county courthouses that serve as a guide to retrofitting and other solutions to help eliminate future flooding. Go by today and pick one up, they could save you tomorrow.

Talk to the Baldwin County Building Inspection Department for information or financial assistance programs.

- Discuss your options with the Hazard Mitigation Program;
- Obtain a flood insurance policy. It will help pay for repairs after a flood and in some cases, it will help pay the cost of elevating a substantially damaged structure.
- Homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. You can purchase a separate flood insurance policy since Baldwin County participates in the NFIP. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to anyone, even properties that have had past flooding.
- Be sure and have your building contents coverage.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and amounts of coverage.

Visit our Website for Additional Information on Flood related issues: www.planning.baldwincountyal.gov

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

BALDWIN COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

251.972.6837

BALDWIN COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

251.580.1655

BALDWIN COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

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~~~~~

The Alabama Historic Commission has been closely monitoring developments related to the coronavirus and Covid-19, following the guidelines and recommendations of Governor Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health. As we enter a new stage of response to the ongoing situation, Governor Ivey and public health officials have instituted a phased re-opening strategy. In response, the Alabama Historical Commission will re-open the grounds of select historic sites that have “green spaces” available to the public, including Fort Morgan Historic Site, effective Friday, May 1, 2020. Standard operating hours will apply. The gift shop and museums on site will remain closed as to ensure the safety of visitors and AHC staff. AHC encourages all visitors to wear protective facial coverings, observe social distancing regulations, and all other recommended safety guidelines. AT THIS TIME, WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING CASH! ENTRANCE FEE MUST BE MADE WITH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD ONLY. Please continue checking for updates 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, 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

Storm of 1906 – Remembrance of Impact at Navy Cove

Dear Old Navy Cove

My thoughts are today in dear old Navy Cove,
Which brings to me those sweet childish days,
When I used to roam the woods among the turtle dove,
I can see my home as we lived in old fashioned ways,
Standing beneath the old magnolia bloom;
And my parents old and gray were protected from above.
I never shall see again that dear old home,
Tis my home way down in dear old Navy Cove.
Way down in dear old Navy Cove,
That's where I am longing to go.
But my thoughts are all in vain,
For that spot I'll never see again.

It was swept away by a tidal wave,
Which day by day I'll ever crave,
Where the orange trees used to grow,
Way down in dear old Navy Cove.
But one day there to my sorrow came
The rushing waters from the Gulf of Mexico,
Still in all, I find no one to blame.

From the ruins where the water ebbs and flows,
It was on the twenty-seventh day of September
In the darkest night, well I remember
Each and every one's head in prayer was bowed.
Way down in dear old Navy Cove
Was a sad scene to behold,
Cast upon two sacred knolls
were forty-seven storm-worn souls.
They were lying on the cold, chilled ground,
Expecting every minute to be drowned.
Alas! through God, they are saved.
There were mothers with their babes,
Cast upon this sacred knoll;
Exposed to rain, wind and cold,
On a knoll where four stately oaks grow,
Way down in dear old Navy Cove. –Sydney Andrew Ladiner.

This month's history item is an excerpt from https://baldwincountyal.gov/docs/default-source/archives/archival-records/historical_society_1973-1982_part_8_of_10.pdf?sfvrsn=4ef9f0c_4

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	Vacant		

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