

FORT MORGAN NEWS

August 2020~Issue 162



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

I would like to start with an update on the fishing pier. Our friends at the Fort Morgan Historic Site have announced that construction is set to begin this week. Due to ongoing construction, access to the Mobile Point beaches will only be through the Burgoyne Road access. I will try to get some information about the build plan to share with you.

Our Clean Beach Initiative has certainly gotten the attention of A LOT of people. High Seas Design House, who has been managing our campaign, reports that as of 7/31/20 our targeted ads have been displayed an impressive +210,000 times via social media since May. This means that nearly 70,000 people that live and visit the Fort Morgan peninsula have seen the ad at least twice during their visits. Along with that reach, there have been over 2600 people that visited our newly developed website by clicking on the ad. It is for this reason that I have asked the executive board to again approve a \$200 payment to supplement the \$350 budget for this ad campaign for August. This campaign has gotten the attention of locals and visitors, as well as nearby municipalities and the County Commission. I am currently working with the Alabama Coastal Foundation on behalf of the FMCA on laying the foundation to expand and enhance the program for 2021. More details on this at our meeting.



I would like to remind everyone that we are currently seeking to fill the vacant Secretary position on the executive board. The Secretary's responsibilities include keeping, 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. If you are interested in a nomination as Secretary, please let us know by email: fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

Finally, I am happy to announce that we will be holding an in-person meeting of the FMCA on Monday, August 10th. This meeting will take place at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall at Shell Banks Church. As you may know, there is limited seating available. I encourage folks to wear masks and practice social distancing. If you are not comfortable attending this meeting, I will do my best to either live stream or video record this meeting for later posting.

Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA.

Joe
Joe Emerson

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by 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.

Agenda for this month's FMCA General Meeting:

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance	Joe Emerson, President
Previous FMCA General Meeting Minutes	
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer
Membership Report	
Government Affairs Report	Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison
Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Cte.	Ernie Church, Chair
Fort Morgan Fire & Rescue Report	Michael Ludvigsen, Acting Chief FMF&RD
Old Business	
-Beach Initiative Update	
New Business	
- Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 14 September	

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

ADEM Burn Band is May 1 thru Nov. 1. Only cooking fires are allowed thru Nov. 1. Please pay attention to the Rip Current Warning Signs when activated. 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.sheriffofbaldwin.com
Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):
<http://sheriffofbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>

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

The Fort Morgan planning and zoning advisory committee met on July 29th and recommended the county approve a rear yard variance for a single-family residence at 659 Cherokee Rd. The variance was needed to accommodate a 50-foot front yard setback in a VE flood zone.

Future Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Committee meetings will be noted on <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/> as well as associated case files if a meeting is scheduled.

Hurricane Season Started 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.

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

Please check for current updates on daily operations / park entry procedures at Facebook (Fort Morgan State Historic Site) and website <http://www.fort-morgan.org> .

Bon Secour NWR

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

Diary of the Storm – September 26-17, 1906 Maude M. Midgette, November 1st 1912

We were spending the summer at our home in Navy Cove when this terrible storm occurred.

The storm really began on Sunday, September 24th. The weather was gloomy, rain every now and then, and the wind was from the north-east. Sunday evening it was raining too hard for anyone to make any calls.

Monday came and with it more rain, and the wind increasing rapidly. Monday evening a crowd of girls and boys donned bathing suits and took a walk over to the south beach to view the Gulf, which looked very angry at the time. There wasn't but a very small part of the beach left, and the water was threatening to roll over Navy Cove then. The remainder of that day we spent in packing, as we intended coming to Mobile on Wednesday. Monday night just at twelve o'clock there came an awful crash of thunder. It seemed as though it rent the Heavens in twain. Such like was never heard in Navy Cove before. The oldest inhabitants (in fact everyone old and young) who heard it said it was a warning of an approaching storm; and what seemed so awfully strange to everyone was that one loud peal of thunder was all that was heard during the whole storm. Some people have the nerve to say it was foolish to pray, but those kind of people, well!! I will not express my opinion of them here on paper, nevertheless it shall not keep me from thinking.

Well here I am drifting far away from my subject, so I must go back and take up the thread of my story where I left off.

Tuesday morning came and a more dreary day cannot be imagined. We were still busy packing to come to Mobile.

Tuesday evening Papa came home and we were very glad to see him, and he being somewhat used to stormy weather, said we were going to have a storm, that being the day before the storm signals were hoisted at Fort Morgan. The Pilots always said that when the storm signals were hoisted at Fort Morgan was a sign that the storm was over, but in this case their sayings proved untrue.

Wednesday came and we were expecting the boat (which we had engaged) to move us to Mobile, but as the wind was continually increasing, we finally gave her up and knew that we were in for a very rough time.

The crowd tried to get over to the South beach again on Wednesday evening, but where we once used to walk over there dry shod, this time we went in a row boat, as the water had entirely covered that end of the Cove; that is rain water and salt water together.

The wind kept increasing all the time, in fact, so much that most all the people decided to stay up and watch the water for fear that it would rise up and cover the whole place before we could make our escape to higher ground.

Matilda and I (in fact all of us except Papa and Mama) retired for the night so we thought but precious little sleep we or everyone else had that night. So, Papa decided we would all stay up and wait for the worst. The wind then was blowing (at least) seventy-five miles an hour. Matilda and Joe said they were going on the beach to see how high the tide really was. They did not have but a short distance to go, still they had a hard time to stand on their feet. After returning from the beach, they then went over to awaken the family who was our next door neighbor; this family numbered three, husband, wife and baby, and they, just think of it, knew nothing at all of the now raging storm, so in less time than it takes to tell, they were awakened and told to come over to our house as we had intentions of going farther down the beach, as the land in that part of the place was wider and we thought more safe.

We awakened all the children and wrapped them up as best we could then started down the beach. Little did we think (at that moment) that we were leaving our home never to return, and to think we never gave one backward glance towards it.

Oh! If we had only known we were leaving it forever, still I suppose it was best we did not know. As we left from our front gate, we could hear our two dogs barking; and O! how very lonesome it sounded. It was eleven-thirty when we left our house, and we proceeded on down the beach; and it was midnight when we reached Pilot Charles Ladnier's house. The storm was then raging. We intended staying the remainder of the night in this house, that is, if it would stand the storm. Finally, we thought we would lie down and try and sleep, but such a thing was utterly impossible; as the wind was howling and the rain pouring in torrents something fierce. The wind was blowing so awfully hard that we all decided to stay in one room of the house for fear we would all have to leave the house and get outside.

To be continued in the September FMCA newsletter. *Thanks to Chan West, long time Fort Morgan resident and FMCA member for this submission.*

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