

FORT MORGAN NEWS

October 2020~Issue 164



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

What a difference a month can make! As we begin the long process of rebuilding, I encourage you all to remember that it is people, not property that make a community. I have witnessed firsthand the resiliency and fortitude of our residents during the tough days following Hurricane Sally. Even through the destruction, there is something uniquely beautiful about seeing neighbors helping neighbors. From the crews of young men and women clearing trees and debris by hand to get help people get access their homes, to the volunteers helping to distribute relief supplies and others cooking for anyone in need of a hot meal and comradery; this community cares.

<https://www.wsfa.com/video/2020/09/24/recovery-continues-fort-morgan-after-hurricane-sally/>

<https://www.al.com/news/mobile/2020/09/cosmopolitan-kitchens-pop-up-to-replace-lack-of-government-aid-in-areas-hit-hardest-by-hurricane-sally.html>



We were unable to hold the September meeting of our association due to the arrival of Hurricane Sally. Luckily, our State Representative, Steve McMillan was able to reschedule with us and will be present for the October 12th meeting. We have lots to discuss and I hope to see you there. Please keep in mind the ADPH guidelines regarding COVID-19 while in attendance.

Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA.

Joe
Joe Emerson
#fortmorganstrong

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
Government Affairs Report	Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison
Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Cte.	Ernie Church, Chair
Old Business	
- BCSO Letter	
- Landmark District	
- Community Yard Sale	
New Business	
- Vote to fill FMCA Secretary position	
- Fort Morgan Bike Trail Extension	
- Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 9 November	

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

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 ~~~~~

Fort Morgan Fire Rescue ran 66 calls in September.

29 Fire Alarms	2 Public Assistance
22 Medical Calls	1 Missing Person
9 Human rescues	1 Smell of Smoke

Please remember to think safety. More people are injured or killed during storm clean up than during the storm. Please stay Both Weather and Covid 19 aware.

Stay Safe,
Jerry Ralston, Chief FMVFD

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

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:

Fort Morgan Parkway Bike Trail Extension ~~~~~

The State has contracted Volker to build the Bike Trail Extension. FMCA is asking for input from members on the project in advance of a meeting with Volker. Please submit input on desired design elements or any other related concerns by 5 pm 22 October. Submit to the following email address Fortmorgancivic@gmail.com .

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 ~~~~~

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 ~~~~~

Check for current updates on refuge operations by <https://www.facebook.com/BonSecourNWR/>, calling the office at 251-540-7720 or emailing bonsecour@fws.gov, messages will be returned as soon as possible.

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 – Continued from September newsletter Maude M. Midgette, November 1st 1912

When the rain slacked up, we could see almost to Ft. Morgan and imagine our joy when we could see the tug Nim Rod down there, so we at once set a flag for her to come to our assistance. (For our flag, we used a sheet), but it was no more than hoisted when it was torn in shreds as the wind was still blowing very hard. We made sure that she would come to our rescue as her crew could not but see that Navy Cove was entirely gone with the exception of but a very small part of three houses.

When our flag was blown to pieces we became very much discouraged until someone brought to light a beautiful American flag and it was quickly hoisted (with union dower) to the highest tree that was left standing near us; but all the flags were of no avail, for she (the Nim Rod) soon turned her prow towards Mobile while we poor storm beaten and half frozen people were destined to stay (on what once had been our dear Navy Cove) many hours longer.

Later in the day Papa suggested that someone go to Ft. Morgan for provisions, but this trip they all seemed afraid to make until two of the boys more courageous than the rest said “We’ll go!” so a boat and some poles were found and they were soon on their way, with the good wishes from all for a safe and speedy return.

In the meantime, we saw a small boat coming towards our island, and it proved to be Captain Mund (the fisherman) and his two sons (who were at the time fishing at Navy Cove). Their large schooner had gone ashore between Navy Cove and Ft. Morgan and they had made their escape in the

small boat. When they reached our island, we were glad to see them, for we thought they had all been drowned.

On their way to us they found Mr. Ladnier and his daughter Dole, and they took them in the boat with them. These two, father and daughter, were all that were left of a family of seven (except one other daughter). The rest were swept from the roof of their home by a tidal wave. Ruth the other remaining daughter was spending the night with her aunt; that is why she came to be with us. When the boat landed and Ruth saw only her father and sister, she said it seemed as if her heart ceased to beat; for she knew they were all gone. Oh! It was awfully sad when these remaining ones met, and just think, losing a mother and four brothers.

These people were almost frozen when they reached the spot where we were and Dole being attired in a bathing suit was very nearly frozen and blue with the cold. We made these newcomers as comfortable as we could and shared all our wet bedding and quilts with them (the best we had), still we were thankful to have even those.

When the wind had subsided some-what we walked down on the beach (as far as we dared go) and were viewing our surroundings when we saw some more people not more than three hundred yards from us, but it was still blowing too hard for us to make them hear should we call to them, and besides there was a channel twenty feet deep (that had cut through from the Gulf) between us. We at last made them out to be the Johnsons; and we quickly devised a plan to get them over with us. Some of the men found a small boat and some ropes, and managed to pull the boat back and forth (across this channel) by the ropes until the last one arrived safely over where we were. When they had all arrived safely over, we were glad to see that they had escaped such a terrible death that of drowning; but ah! There was one missing and that was their poor aged father who had been crushed to death by his house falling on him, and oh! how sad to think they had to come away and leave him beneath the ruins. We shared our shelter with these poor heart-broken ones, and consoled them as best we could.

When dark came that evening, we were all getting chilly from having to remain in wet clothes so long. Finally, someone made another trip back into the half-fallen house and found some matches and then it wasn't very long before we had a very large fire, using parts of houses, fences and trees for wood then things began to look more cheerful. A mattress, a cot, a chair and some bedding were brought from a near-by house which added much to the comfort of our elders (in fact most all of us).

Just at dark the boys arrived from Ft. Morgan with the provisions which consisted of several kinds of canned goods and crackers. The best the army could afford, and we were thankful they shared with us. We enjoyed this our first meal (since the day before) very much, as each and every-one had an enormous appetite and we were thanking those kind soldiers, from the very depths of our hearts, for this was but the beginning of the kindness shown to us by these brave and fearless soldiers. When just about eight-thirty we were (most of us) trying to get a few moments sleep when we heard several people whistling and every-one got up and came down near the water's edge to see if we could see any one coming, when Lo! and behold! it proved to be the soldiers coming from the Fort coming in a large submarine boat to our rescue.

Never were soldiers greeted with more joy than those noble fellows who risked their lives for us. Just half of our crowd went to the Fort that night, as the wind was blowing very hard and it took them (the soldiers) quite a while to make their way there and return. So, the rest of us had to spend another night in what once had been Navy Cove. About 2:30 in the morning we heard the soldiers returning for the rest of us. They were all so kind, they could not do enough for us poor storm sufferers. They sat up the remainder of the night and kept the fire burning brightly while we storm-tossed ones tried to sleep as much of us was very nearly exhausted.

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

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