

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## December 2020~Issue 166



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

Crews continue clean-up efforts along the Fort Morgan peninsula since Hurricane Sally made landfall. Baldwin County reports historic amounts of vegetive debris have been collected for removal. No definitive word from the Dept of Solid Waste regarding a cut-off date for debris to be placed roadside but it has been suggested that the final sweep will be in February.

There have been new opportunities arise that would allow the FMCA to help promote and preserve a few historical sites located along the peninsula. This year, the Baldwin County Commission approved the creation of the Baldwin County Historic Site Tours app. This app, available through both Apple and Google Play stores for free, provide readily accessible information, audio tour, pictures, and video geolocated at various historic sites around Baldwin County. Currently, the site hosts 6 historic sites mostly located in the North end of county. After a brief conversation with the County Administrator, I expressed the importance of including District 25 in this virtual tour given the amount of tourist that visit the area. I have since been provided with a cost break down of what it takes financially to create these tours. I think this may lend an opportunity for the FMCA to help identify, preserve, and educate locals and visitors alike about historic sites such as Pilot Town and the Indian Village "Achuse". Over the coming months I will be discussing this further with the County Admin and Executive Board and will present more information for the membership to vote on moving forward to getting these tours active.



I regret to inform everyone that after advice by FMVFD and the ADPH, the community holiday party scheduled for Dec. 14 has been cancelled. We will however be conducting a brief meeting that evening at Shell Banks Church in thee Fellowship Hall at 6:30. If I don't see you there, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I hope the New Year finds you healthy and happy as we move to 2021.

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	Jim Aucoin, Secretary
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	
- Board Election Committee	
- SWIM Program	
New Business	
- Baldwin County Historic App	
- Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 11 January	

## **FMCA Membership ~~~~~**

**Reminder:** Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually. Additionally, please contact FMCA Membership Chair at [fmcamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:fmcamemberships@gmail.com) 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.

## **Notice: FMCA Officer Elections- January 11 2021~~~~~Jim Aucoin, Secretary, FMCA**

Secretary Jim Aucoin is coordinating the list of candidates for the four offices. If you wish to nominate yourself or another member for an office, please email Jim Aucoin at [jimaucoin@yahoo.com](mailto:jimaucoin@yahoo.com). Current officers are requested to let Jim Aucoin know if they want to stand for the office they hold for another term.

### FMCA Bylaws: ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

Section 2 Officers shall be elected annually by a majority of the votes cast at the regularly scheduled January General Meeting. The first item on the agenda shall be the elections. Nominations shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three current members elected by the membership at the October general meeting. Nominations also may be made from the floor after announcement of the Nominating Committee's nominee for each of the four offices. Nominations shall not be closed until the general members have an opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor. Each nominee shall be given five (5) minutes to state his or her qualifications and present a platform. Voting will immediately follow the close of nominations for each office. Outgoing officers shall deliver all records to the respective incoming officers at the conclusion of the meeting.

Section 3 Vacancies occurring in an office before the end of term, with the exception of Section 5 below, shall be filled by election by a majority vote of current members. Such officer shall serve until the end of the unexpired term.

Section 4 Working closely with the Executive Board and general membership, the President shall provide the leadership to develop and accomplish the goals and objectives of the Association as approved by the membership. The President shall preside at meetings of the Association as facilitator through the democratic process and may call special meetings and appoint ad hoc committees.

Section 5 In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of President. Upon the President's resignation, removal or inability to perform the duties of office, the Vice-President shall become President until the next annual election of officers. The Vice-President shall be responsible for representing the interests of the general membership, for assisting the President in facilitating the democratic process and for carrying out the decisions of the members.

Section 6 The Secretary shall keep, 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.

Section 7 The Treasurer shall receive all monies, pay all legitimate bills, and prepare a financial report to be submitted at each regular meeting. The Treasurer also shall disburse funds as directed by majority vote of a quorum of members at a scheduled meeting. Amounts of less than two hundred dollars (\$200) for legitimate, receipted expenses shall not require a vote but may be disbursed at the Treasurer's discretion. All checks drawn on the Association account shall bear the signatures of two officers of the Association. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining official financial records of the Association and an alphabetical roster of members, for ensuring the appropriate and legal disbursement of the Association's funds and for arranging an annual independent accounting review of the Association's financial records.

**Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee~~~~~Ernie Church, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair**

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.

**Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department~~~~~**

Fort Morgan Fire Rescue ran 29 calls in November. Remember SAFETY FIRST while cleaning up and making repairs from the storms. Also remember to get your regular Flu shot and practice COVID-19 safety.

Stay Safe,  
Jerry Ralston, Chief FMVFD

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

The Sheriff's Office has recently seen an increase in fraud activity related to storm clean up and contractors working in the area. Please be vigilant in screening contractors that you hire for repair work to ensure that they are who they claim to be. There has also been a number of residential burglaries and thefts from homes damaged by Hurricane Sally. Please keep a watchful eye out for your neighbors' belongings during this time of recovery. As always, we ask that if you see something, say something and report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office. This allows us to better serve the Fort Morgan Community.

Thank you,  
Sergeant Rob Lindell

"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](http://www.sheriffobaldwin.com)**  
**Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):**  
**<http://sheriffobaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>**

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

**Share the Beach~~~~~**

Turtle nesting season ended 31 October. 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 prior to the 2021 turtle nesting season (starts 1 May 2021). Contact Alabama Coastal Foundation or US Fish and Wildlife for details. Make sure to continue to fill in holes and take up beach equipment to ensure safe beaches for residents, visitors and turtles throughout the year.

**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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 1912**

I must now return to the boat or we will never get to our journey's end.

A more forlorn and weary looking crowd you never wished to see, and then again it was a mite laughable to look around the boat and see what comical pictures each one presented, for here was one wrapped in a quilt, another in a blanket, several with oil-coats, old skirts, waists, and even soldier coats which they were kind enough to lend us, as it had never ceased raining. We tried to keep the smaller children well wrapped until the Fort was reached, and many thanks to the kind soldiers we were well provided for. Still another cause for laughter when we reached the Fort, for we had to be carried (by the soldiers) from the boat to the land; and several times it took more than one soldier to carry one of us as there was a great many large ones in the crowd.

Upon reaching the Fort we were met by the 1st Sergeant of the 99th Co. who kindly gave us permission to take full possession of the Major's Quarters, he the Major and his family having left the Fort a week previous to the storm. So we took the 1st Sergeant at his word and soon we were making our selves at home for the present, and (we some of us) soon became restless and could not stay in the house (tho this being our first time inside a house since Wednesday night, and the time being Friday a.m.) so we strolled around the Fort to see what destruction the storm had wrought. We were given permission to go anywhere on the Fort we pleased.

We walked about a mile around what is known as the "old Fort" and the water from the Gulf was still washing into it. While we were on the Gulf side, we saw all sorts of dead fish, and also some oranges we supposed had come from the trees in the Cove. Finally, we came in sight of Fort Morgan light house and dwelling, and the storm came very ear washing it away. During the storm the light house keeper with his family were up in the tower (which is located on top of the "old Fort"). Their position was a perilous one, but they all came through the storm unhurt.

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

## **FMCA Executive Board Contacts**

### **Officers**

President	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	<a href="mailto:captjoesells@gmail.com">captjoesells@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	<a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jim Aucoin	251-610-8167	<a href="mailto:jimaucoin@yahoo.com">jimaucoin@yahoo.com</a>

### **Standing Committee Chairs**

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	<a href="mailto:ecaces4@gmail.com">ecaces4@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	<a href="mailto:twstrong@gulftel.com">twstrong@gulftel.com</a>
Land Use & Conservation	Chan West	251-979-4932	<a href="mailto:chan@goefish.com">chan@goefish.com</a>
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	<a href="mailto:judynewcomb@aol.com">judynewcomb@aol.com</a>
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	251-540-9327	
Membership	Jennifer Ishler Noojin	(205) 249-1025	<a href="mailto:jnoojin1@gmail.com">jnoojin1@gmail.com</a>
Sunshine	Vickie Matranga	251-543-1555	<a href="mailto:vpowers110@gmail.com">vpowers110@gmail.com</a>