

FORT MORGAN NEWS

February 2021~Issue 168



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all FMCA members!

2021 is off to a roaring start and we have a few things on the horizon.

The Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Dept has made a request for donation to the residents and homeowners of Fort Morgan. Some of you may have already received that donation letter. I encourage everyone to help support the FMVFD in their funding goals. The request is for \$100 per household. This amount is requested because there have been no requests for donations in the past 2 years. This amounts to about \$0.14 per day over the 2 years. This year, the Fire Department is planning to purchase a fire truck that is better suited for access to "tight" driveways, specifically on the North side of the highway near the East and South side of Fort Morgan on the West as well as the construction of a new Station 2. Donations can now be sent electronically via their new website: <https://www.fortmorganvfd.com/> Please donate!



Recently, there have been efforts by some great folks in our community to get the ROW along the highway cleaned up. BIG Thanks to you for taking time to pick up the remnants of Hurricane Sally and helping to "Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful".

Its quickly approaching time again for the Annual Fort Morgan Clean Up! This will be our 3rd year and its already sizing up to be a great turn out. We have already been contacted by the Gulf Shores Women's Club with an expressed desire to join the effort and by the "First Baptist Church Youth Quake" from McKinney, Texas. The Youth Quake group will be bringing approximately 40 volunteers the week of March 7th to join the cleanup effort. They have also expressed their intent to provide a helping hand to anyone who may need it while they are here visiting on their mission of service. If you have a project but not enough hands to help, they will be here, ready to work. Let me know and I will get you in touch with them to schedule.

While there is lots of interest in volunteering for this year's Fort Morgan Cleanup event, there is a definite need for folks that can help plan and coordinate. If you would like to help, please reach out at fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

Lastly FMCA Board Elections were held during the January meeting. There were no nominations for any of the offices. All board officers accepted reinstatement.

Thank you all 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	
New Business	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 8 March	

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

Reminder: Annual Dues are due by Due December 31 annually. Additionally, please contact FMCA Membership Chair at 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.

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~~~~~

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

“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>

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, 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 December newsletter
Maude M. Midgette, November 1st 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.

When we had finished our exploring, we came back and found the rest of our party waiting for us as breakfast was being served at the Major's Quarters for us. Never shall I forget the group they presented as we came up to them. The soldiers came over from the Canteen and this is what they served to us: a large pan full of biscuit, another of gravy, and still another of fried beef steak, and last of all came the coffee and Oh! the size of the cups were immense, but we did not mind that for we were thankful for even that much. They gave us sugar for our coffee but the milk was lacking, and when everyone started eating, my!! What a group for a Kodak for some was sitting on the floor, others standing and some even kneeling. Twas a picture worthy of a frame.

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

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

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