

FORT MORGAN NEWS

March 2021~Issue 169



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all and a warm welcome to our new FMCA members!

March is here and we are gearing up to do a little "Spring Cleaning". The 3rd Annual Fort Morgan Cleanup is scheduled for the afternoon of March 7th, 2021. This year, our cleanup efforts will focus on the ROW along Highway 180. Since Hurricane Sally, the ROW has been in a terrible state with litter and debris left over from what the big removal trucks were unable to retrieve! Help us get an accurate estimate of Volunteers by clicking here: www.fortmorgancivic.org/community-events.html to RSVP.

We have some great sponsors for this year's event! Mobile Baykeeper (www.mobilebaykeeper.org) has committed equipment, networking/advertising, and volunteers to help in the cleanup effort. We are also looking forward to the support of the Alabama Coastal Foundation (www.joinafc.org), who is partnered with us in the Fort Morgan Clean Beach Initiative.

I'm especially excited to have some of my longtime friends, Ryan & Maggie Caver, join us for the cleanup effort. The Caver family and their organization, Clean Horizons, have been working along the Gulf Coast for quite some time to encourage good stewardship of our beaches. They are getting some great publicity and are now planning ANOTHER Cleanup for Fort Morgan beaches in June of this year. The "litter rodeo" will be a great event, especially for kids. Here is great news report about Clean Horizons and their history: https://www.wbrc.com/2021/02/21/absolutely-alabama-one-mans-trash/?fbclid=IwAR3RcRAyya0qrxmoBlpQRk46ZlPl01rfui2fDGeDKAluoWomm5W3_1j1-g4

We will be utilizing 2 different locations this year for sign in: Fort Morgan Fire Stations 1 & 2. Sign-In begins at 11am and we expect to be wrapped up by 4pm. Pray for good weather and I hope to see you there.

Last month, the FMVFD sent out letters to property owners in the Fort Morgan community asking for donations to help fund upcoming projects like a new Fire House. There has been great participation in this donation effort so far but it was noted that these letters were only sent to residential property owners. If you are a condominium owner, ask your HOA Board if they have contributed to the Fort Morgan Fire Dept on your behalf! If you did not receive a letter, please feel free to donate all the same. These volunteers answer the call of service at all hours of everyday and certainly deserve our support. Remember, a contribution to the FMVFD is easy! Just visit their website at www.fortmorganvfd.com and click the donate button. Your donation goes a long way and its tax deductible.

The First Baptist Church "YouthQuake" from McKinney, Texas www.YouthQuake.com will be in our area on March 6th on a mission of service. This youth group has requested that anyone that needs assistance with hurricane clean up, simple maintenance or other projects around the house that may be too much for someone to handle on their own, get in touch with them. They only have 1 project scheduled so far for their time here and would love to hear from you. Contact Deanna Phillips deanna@firstmckinney.com to add your project to their list.



We had a great turn out at the February meeting, and it was great to see all of you that attended in person. I hope to see you all again at the next FMCA GA meeting on March 8th, 2021. Remember to get there early, the meeting will come to order at 6:30pm.

Thank you all for your continued support of the FMCA and the work we do in the Fort Morgan community.

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 -3 rd Annual Fort Morgan Cleanup	
New Business - Executive Board Opening	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 12 April	

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.

FMCA Executive Board Opening: Secretary ~~~~~

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

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. Remember to continue to practice COVID-19 safety.

Stay Safe,
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:

3rd Annual Fort Morgan Cleanup 7 March~~~~~

3rd Annual
FORT MORGAN
CLEAN-UP

March 7th, 2021 11:00am - 4:00pm

Come out and help us
#KEEPFORTMORGANBEAUTIFUL

Trash Bags and Gloves Provided

Sponsored By:

 FMCA FORT MORGAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION		 IN THE WEEDS, LLC land management
 CLEAN HORIZONS CNG #RESTORETHESHORE	 EST. 2015 FMS FORT MORGAN SERVICES CONSTRUCTION (251) 543-7000 fortmorganconstruction.com	 MOBILE BAYKEEPER®

Sign in at Fort Morgan Fire Stations 1 & 2

Vessel Wake Awareness Program for Property Owners along Mobile Bay~~~~~

Last year, the Alabama Coastal Foundation developed a program to track large vessels that create large wakes in Mobile Bay which claw away at our shorelines. They are looking for shoreline property owners to take video for this project. If you, or anyone you know (or know anyone who knows someone) can help in providing video footage please contact:

ACF Administrator Pamela Brewer: pbrewer@joinACF.org
or
Coastal Relations Coordinator Toni Thomason: tthomason@joinACF.org

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 the 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**

Breakfast over (and again thanking the soldiers) we again strolled around the Fort glad of so much freedom. In the meantime, Papa and the rest of the crowd had arrived from the Cove with the body of Mr. Johnson. He was brought up to the 8th Co. Barracks to wait to be conveyed to the city for burial. While we were standing on the Government wharf (or at least a part of it) we saw a Fruiter coming around the Fort, and we also knew that she was coming in with-out a pilot, for both pilot boats were blown away in the storm (but no lives lost). After the first Fruiter came, four more soon followed and last came a very large Steamer, and for want of a Pilot she ran aground and had to remain there for nearly a week after the storm.

Papa (being a pilot) quickly decided that he would pilot one of the vessels to the city, as the captain of each one was afraid to make an attempt, for all the channel lights and stakes were gone and there was nothing left for a guide. So, the boys rowed Papa (in a small boat) to one of the Fruiters, and he at once started for the city of Mobile. I shall never forget how he looked as he made his way to the ship. He was wet and cold and very much worn out, and so down-hearted, and he felt very uneasy about Mobile. He said he knew that the city had been damaged a great deal; hence his eagerness to be on his way. The Captain of the Fruiter gave Papa several bunches of ripe bananas, and he (Papa) gave them to the boys to bring to us on shore, which we all enjoyed very much.

Papa had left on the Fruiter and was but a short distance up the bay, when the Captains of the other vessels grew braver and quickly followed; for well they knew that the one in the lead had on board a pilot capable of bringing her safely to Mobile.

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

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	Jim Aucoin	251-610-8167	jimaucoin@yahoo.com

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
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