

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## September 2021~Issue 175



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As I am writing this, we are all drying out from a rainy weekend associated with Hurricane Ida. We were fortunate enough to have only sustained minor flooding and damage along the peninsula. Unfortunately for our friends and neighbors in Mississippi and Louisiana, that is not the case. Please keep the residents of those areas affected by the storm in your thoughts and prayers. You can help locally by visiting <https://unitedway-bc.org/baldwin-county-voad>. For volunteer opportunities in Louisiana, <https://volunteerlouisiana.gov>.



As you know, our organization works on many different projects throughout the year. From coordinating with the County government and their departments regarding local issues to monitoring USACE/ Planning & Zoning permitting requests and new developments in our community, as well as planning and hosting community outreach and engagement events. Staying on top of all of this is a tall order and as our organization and community grows, so does the depth of responsibility. If you would like to be more involved in taking on a role in the association, whether it be as a chair or you just want to help with special projects, come out on September 13th!

Remember, we are always seeking new membership! If your neighbor is not a member of our organization, tell them about us and invite them to come to our next meeting! See you all on June 14th at 6:30pm. Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA and our combined efforts to preserve and protect the Fort Morgan community.

Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA and our work to preserve and protect 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	Vacant, 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 - Ryan & Wilkes - Baldwin EMA Partnership - FMPZAC Nominations	
New Business - Vote for FMCA Secretary - Chan West Memorial Committee - Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful -Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 11 October	

**FMCA Membership ~~~~~**

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

**Baldwin County Commission Planning and Zoning Department ~~~~~**



**BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT**

**22251 Palmer Street**  
**Robertsdale, Al. 36567**  
**Telephone: 251.580.1655**  
**Fax: 251.580.1656**

**COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM PROGRAM**

Baldwin County is located in southwestern Alabama on the Gulf of Mexico. The county encompasses an area of approximately 1,596.35 square miles and is bordered to the northwest by Washington County, to the north by Clarke and Monroe Counties, to the east by Escambia County, Florida, to the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and to the west by Mobile County and Mobile Bay. The County seat is in the City of Bay Minette which is located in the north central part of the county.

Due to our location in the northern Gulf of Mexico, property and structures are put at risk from coastal storms, not only when hurricane season arrives, but our subtropical climate often brings heavy rainfall events with the potential to cause flash flooding in low-lying areas. As a coastal county, the county’s position on the shoreline places its citizens and the built environment at risk from flooding as a result of heavy rains, flash flooding and storm surge not only from the Gulf of Mexico but also from tidally influenced wetlands, bays, rivers and watersheds.

Hurricane and Tropical Depression Events since 2004 that affected Baldwin County:

- ✓ Hurricane Ivan, 2004
- ✓ Hurricane Katrina, 2005

- ✓ Hurricane Gustav, 2008
- ✓ Tropical Storm Ida, November, 2009
- ✓ March 26-27, 2009 Heavy Rains
- ✓ April 29-30, 2014 historic flooding

**You have received this letter because your property is in an area that has been flooded several times due to past hurricane or tropical storm events.**

Baldwin County is concerned about the repetitive flooding issues and has an active program to help you protect yourself and your property from future flooding. Baldwin County actively participates in the NFIP Hazard Mitigation Program which you may be eligible for. The objective is to support cost-effective measures implemented during disaster recovery that will reduce the risk of damage and suffering from future disasters.

FEMA can fund up to 75 % of the eligible cost of each project, while the remaining 25 % of the cost is funded by the grant recipient. Any structure that has flooded more than three times in a 10-year period and can pass cost-effectiveness guidelines, may be eligible for participation in the program.

**Among one of the things, you can do beforehand:**

- Check with the Building Inspection Department on the extent of past flooding in your area. County staff will meet with you to discuss your past losses and causes and visit your property to review potential flood protection measures.
- Prepare for flooding by doing the following (these are minimum suggestions):
- Familiarize yourself with watches and warning signals, remain alert and listen for weather updates;
- Have your vehicle ready to go. Check gas, oil, water and maintenance;
- Make plans of what you will do and where you will go in advance, and be prepared to evacuate in a moment's notice;
- Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go;
- Make a household inventory, especially of family heirlooms, photographs and things of value;
- Put insurance policies, health records, wills, deeds, bank accounts and other valuable papers in a safe place.

**Consider some permanent flood protection measures:**

- Clearly identify your fuse or breaker box. Turn water and power off at the main valves, breakers or fuses;
- Turn off propane gas tanks that serve individual appliances like a stove or grill. Do not turn natural gas off unless local officials advise to do so;
- Consider elevating your home above flood levels. Many of the repetitive loss properties have been built for many years, some prior to the latest minimum flood elevations established by the FIRM maps. By elevating your home in these areas could help you in the future from losing your most valuable possessions. Contact the Building Inspection Department for more information.
- There are several brochures available for free of charge at the local libraries and county courthouses that serve as a guide to retrofitting and other solutions to help eliminate future flooding. Go by today and pick one up, they could save you tomorrow.

**Talk to the Baldwin County Building Inspection Department for information or financial assistance programs.**

- Discuss your options with the Hazard Mitigation Program;
- Obtain a flood insurance policy. It will help pay for repairs after a flood and in some cases, it

will help pay the cost of elevating a substantially damaged structure.

- Homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. You can purchase a separate flood insurance policy since Baldwin County participates in the NFIP. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to anyone, even properties that have had past flooding.
- Be sure and have your building contents coverage.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and amounts of coverage.

Visit our Website for Additional Information on Flood related issues: [www.planning.co.baldwin.al.us](http://www.planning.co.baldwin.al.us)

<p><b><u>IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS</u></b></p> <p><i>BALDWIN COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT</i></p> <p>251.972.6837</p> <p><i>BALDWIN COUNTY PLANNING &amp; ZONING DEPARTMENT</i></p> <p>251.580.1655</p> <p><i>BALDWIN COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT</i></p>
--

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

The Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department is seeking volunteers. No experience necessary. Must be full time resident of Fort Morgan. Training is provided. We meet the first and third Monday at 6:30 p. m. at Fire Station one. Come and visit our sessions.

Stay Safe,  
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.sheriffofbaldwin.com](http://www.sheriffofbaldwin.com)**

**Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):**

**<http://sheriffofbaldwin.com/contactRC.asp>**

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

**Share the Beach/ Alabama Coastal Foundation** ~~~~~

As September begins, our Fort Morgan Share the Beach volunteers are continuing morning patrols and adding evening nest monitoring as we move into hatching season! This is an important time for our sea turtles. Hatchlings are especially vulnerable to lighting disorientation, beach debris and even small holes. You can continue to help our nesting females, along with our hatchlings, but following these turtle-friendly (and beach-friendly) habits:

- **Leave Only Footprints:** Remove all trash, toys, canopies, beach furniture and other items from the beach every evening when you leave, and fill in any holes.

- **Use only "Sea Turtle Friendly" Flashlights:** Make our beaches inviting for nesting turtles by using our Share the Beach Flashlights (*see below for 20% discount code*), changing to sea turtle-friendly exterior light fixtures on beach facing property, and closing blinds and window coverings on beach-facing windows at night.
- **Keep the Trash Out of the Splash:** Secure all trash and other items when you're out on the water boating and fishing, and don't leave items loose when trailering boats home.
- **If you see a sea turtle:** Stay back (at least 50 feet), stay low to the ground, stay quiet, no flashlights or flash photography, and call our hotline at (866) SEA-TURTLE (866-732-8878).

**Coastal property owners:** Please educate your guests about good sea turtle practices by purchasing our [refrigerator magnets](#) and [yard signs](#).

**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 the FMCA newsletter editor if you are interested in researching Fort Morgan history or providing personal memories to share of Fort Morgan.***

MY CHILDHOOD

I mention that we leased a cabin from Capt. Ed Strong. That began when the road was paved and my father wanted to come to the beach every weekend. He had a shared ownership of the Pine Beach house and the cabin was leased for \$100 a year from 1936 through 1941. The cabin had a screen porch across the front facing Bon Secour Bay, two small rooms, and a kitchen with a pitcher pump and kerosene stove across the back and an outhouse. That stove would flare up if there was a breath of wind. It was soon replaced with a wood cooking stove.

During the summers of those year Capt. Ed's grandsons Greg, Arthur, and Lloyd were sent to stay with him and were the companions of me and my brothers in unsupervised adventures, mainly fishing from the wharf for sharks or exploring in a rowboat. We also made and flew kites. My father was in the building supply business. We had window sash rope for shark lines and even used it for kite line when the wind was strong and we made kites of ¼" plywood. I remember one day we had "a big un" on the shark line. It took the whole crew to pull the catch to shore. It turned out to be a huge string ray about 36" across, which gave birth to live babies when it was beached.

We would row to Shell Bank Bayou and at the midden there would have contests spinning pottery shards across the water to see who could get the most skips.

*This was a continuation of the August Dogs of My Childhood. Thanks posthumously to long-time resident Chan West for her history contribution.*

## 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	Vacant		

### Non-Officers

FMCA / Local / State / Federal

Government Liaison	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	<a href="mailto:mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com">mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com</a>
Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>

### Standing Committee Chairs

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	Vacant		
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	<a href="mailto:judynewcomb@aol.com">judynewcomb@aol.com</a>
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	251-540-9327	
Membership	Vacant		
Sunshine	Vacant		