

FORT MORGAN NEWS

November 2021~Issue 177



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Thank you to those of you that responded to our inquiry regarding clean up volunteers. Now that the Right of Way has been mowed by the State, I hope you all will take the initiative to adopt and help clean up a stretch of highway. If you would like to participate, but do not have the equipment, please contact us via email fortmorgancivic@gmail.com and we will get you set up.

At this month's meeting, we will establish the Nomination Committee for the 2022 FMCA Board elections. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the FMCA Board, nominations should be submitted to the Committee chair before the January vote.

Remember friends, we are always seeking new membership! If your new neighbor is not a member of our organization, tell them about us and tell them what we do. Invite them to come to our next meeting! I am looking forward to seeing you all on November 8th at 6:30pm for our regular monthly meeting. Thank you for your continued support of the FMCA and our combined efforts 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	Ryan Manning, 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 - Baldwin EMA Partnership - Chan West Memorial Trail Committee - FM Bike Trail Extension - Keep Fort Morgan Beautiful	
New Business - Pilot Town Conservation - FMCA 2022 Board Nominations - Dec FMCA General Meeting / Holiday Event -Open Floor	
Adjournment: Next Meeting, 13 December	

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

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

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.

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

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

Pilot Town Conservation~~~~~

Deep Water Horizon oil spill settlement funds will be used by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to purchase 99 acres known as Pilot Town on the Fort Morgan peninsula. The property will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become part of the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. Please see the full story at:

<https://www.outdooralabama.com/articles/pilot-town-acquisition-protects-prime-coastal-habitat#:~:text=Pilot%20Town%20Acquisition%20Protects%20Prime%20Coastal%20Habitat%20The,heron.%20Photo%20by%20Greg%20Barsh%20October%207%2C%202021>.

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

Pilot Town – a 99-acre new addition to the Bon Secour NWR – read about the history and the natural environment of the site: <https://www.fws.gov/southeast/articles/preserving-utopia-pilot-towns-history-and-addition-to-bon-secour/>

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.

Henrietta Hotel

In the early 1900's Fort Morgan had a hotel. The Henrietta Hotel which sat on Bon Secour Bay was built by Andrew Jackson, a lawyer from Council Bluffs, Iowa, with backing from the Sioux City Company and a group of investors from Chicago, Illinois. No expense was spared during its construction. Running water and electric lights powered by a Delco system generated enough power for the hotel and an ice plant. A pier was built that went ¾ mile into the bay to assure access to deeper water. The hotel had 25 double rooms and private baths. It was very modern for its time. It also had 11 servant rooms for those doing housekeeping and taking care of the grounds. Bay boats such as the "Baldwin" not only brought in passengers and freight, but served as a transport to places like Daphne.

The investors envisioned (in an article in the Onlooker) the hotel becoming the centerpiece of a new town "Shell Banks". However, a 1906 hurricane hit the area hard very hard causing loss of life and major damage to properties. Survivors rebuilt the hotel. The hotel was managed by several managers from 1907-1926 (George Smith 1907-1911, Jesse Smith, George's son 1911-1918 and Ed Strong 1918-1926), until a fire caused major damage and the hotel was never rebuilt.

George Meyer purchased the property and began clearing the site to make way for construction of "cottages". Materials were moved to the west end of the lagoon and then floated by raft to the end of West Beach. Ultimately in an area dubbed "Gulf Shores Hotel", four cottages were built. Two prominent Baldwin County residents – Mrs. Bibb Graves and Dr. W.C. Holmes were among the original owners of the cottages.

This history information is a reprint from the September 2019 FMCA Newsletter.

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	Ryan Manning	251-752-4344	ryanmanning@gulftel.com

Non-Officers

FMCA / Local / State / Federal Government Liaison	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com
Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	kllovins68@icloud.com
Standing Committee Chairs			
Future Fort Morgan Options	Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	twstrong@gulftel.com
Land Use & Conservation	Vacant		
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Legislative/Government	Bonnie Lowry	251-540-9327	
Membership	Vacant		
Sunshine	Vacant		