

FORT MORGAN NEWS

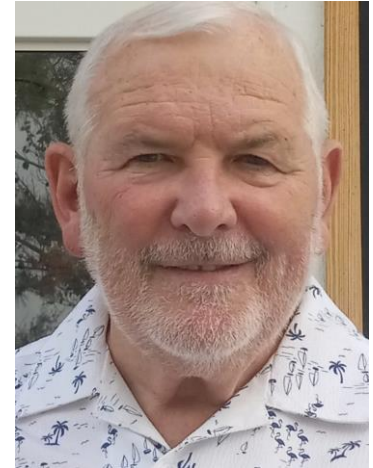
March 2022~Issue 181



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone ~

I'd like to give a warm welcome to our new FMCA Members and thank our members who have already renewed for 2022. If you have not renewed your membership, please renew ASAP (membership application is online at FortMorganCivicAssociation.Org). The majority of our FMCA members stated on their membership application the reason they have joined our association is: to be informed, be involved, protect the character of the area, and protect the land in Fort Morgan Community.



As President, I am doing my best to inform everyone about real issues and concerns facing our community. The best way for You to be involved and part of the solution is to voice your concerns publicly by attending Baldwin County & ADEM meetings in-person or emailing your concerns. Your greatest advantage in being a member of FMCA is that all 391 members have a similar desire to protect the character of Fort Morgan and have environmentally sensitive development. By standing together we are stronger! Please let your voices be heard.

We hope to see ya'll at our next FMCA meeting Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Shell Banks Baptist Church. Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. Matthew Brown, Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Director.

I appreciate everyone who took time to write a letter voicing your concerns related to BCSS Permit ALSI9902013 and Re-Zoning case #PRD22-000005. We have not heard the decision on these cases, so I will update you via email as I have more to report. The BCSS permit will increase the pumping of wastewater in the Fort Morgan Sewage Plant by 65% increase. My main concern is enforcement of all regulations and safety precautions put in place, so that Fort Morgan does not become the "Outhouse" of Baldwin County.

Thank you all for your continued support of FMCA and Fort Morgan Community.

George Mitchell, FMCA President

Fort Morgan Civic Association purpose is: Promoting the interests of the Fort Morgan Community, Working together for its betterment, Preserving its natural resources, and Ensuring environmentally sensitive development. If you have any questions or concerns, please email FMCA at: fortmorgancivic@gmail.com

Agenda for this month's FMCA General Meeting:

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance	George Mitchell, President
Previous FMCA General Meeting Minutes	Jamie Strategier, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Greg Strategier, Treasurer
Government Affairs Report	Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison
Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Cte.	Jamie Strategier, Chair
Old Business - To be distributed separately	

New Business - To be distributed separately Guest Speaker Open Floor	
Adjournment	

Next FMCA General Meeting: 11 April 2022, 6:30pm

FMCA General Meeting – Upcoming Guest Speakers ~~~~~

March 14: Guest Speaker - Mark Your Calendar!! FMCA is pleased to Welcome Mr. Matthew Brown, Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Director, to our general meeting on March 14, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Shell Banks Church located at 12125 Alabama State Hwy. 180 in Fort Morgan near mile marker 12. Mr. Brown will be addressing the Long-Range Land Use planning for District 25, Fort Morgan and other issues related to planning and zoning in our community. In order for us to properly plan for our meeting, you are encouraged to email any questions you have for Mr. Brown prior to March 10th to our email address: FortMorganCivic@gmail.com. We will compile your questions and send to Mr. Brown ahead of time, so the meeting is most effective for our members. Please take time to send an email with your questions and attend the meeting to meet Mr. Brown as he addresses Land Use in the Fort Morgan district.

April 11: On April 11th, FMCA is planning to Welcome Ms. Debbie Harbin, “Share The Beach” non-profit Fort Morgan Volunteer Supervisor for our community. Ms. Harbin will address Sea Turtle Nesting Season (May 1 - October 31) and how we can help our visiting Endangered Mama Sea Turtles and her babies who will begin their lives on the beaches of Fort Morgan.

We are currently planning guest speakers for the remainder of this year’s monthly meetings now. If you would like to recommend a speaker or a relevant issue you would like to hear more information about, please email your ideas to: FortMorganCivic@gmail.com

FMCA Membership ~~~~~

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

Government Affairs ~~~~~**Michael Ludvigsen, FMCA Government Liaison**

US Fish & Wildlife

The efforts continue to have Pine Beach Trail renamed in honor of Chan West. Jackie Sablan of Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge reports that things are still progressing. But to keep in mind that it is the federal government and that it will take time. The search continues for a replacement for the Director, Jeremy Phillips. We hope to see a replacement by Spring.

Alabama Legislature

Please continue to keep our state representative Steve McMillian and his wife Gayle in your prayers as they battle cancer. The ARPA expenditure was passed and there are items that may affect

us. There was \$277 million allocated for Broadband Internet. \$225 million for Water/Sewer & Clean Water Infrastructure. \$10 million for Volunteer Fire Departments. More to follow on these.

ALDOT

Fort Morgan Road overlay project is nearly complete. Please let me know if you see any major issues. i.e.: pavement cracking, paint stripping issues, missing reflectors. Please note that the large painted abbreviations along the roadway are not related to the paving but are related to the proposed ADOC Bike Path.

BCSS / ADEM

An update will be provided during the March 14th FMCA General Meeting.

Baldwin County

FMCA has been working with Baldwin County’s Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to create signs that will be posted in Fort Morgan at beach access points and our local businesses related to Water Safety. An update will be forthcoming at the next meeting. When we get an update, we will share the details with the FMCA membership. We are also working with the county to try to procure (2) large mobile signs that would be kept here on the peninsula for use when hazardous or emergency situations occur.

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

Anonymous Tip Email Address (NOT for Emergencies):

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

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.

Please support the FMVFD Ladies Auxiliary **Spaghetti Dinner 19 March 11:00-2:00**. There will also be a Bake Sale and Cook Books available for purchase. Proceeds go to support FMVFD.

Stay Safe,
FMVFD

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee~~~Jamie Strategier, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair

Case #PRD21-000005, Our Road Cottages was reviewed by the Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee (FMPZAC) last month. Members of the FMPZAC met on February 18, 2022 to review, discuss, and make recommendation on the case. The Members recommended Denial of the case due to non-compliance, advertising errors, and being incomplete at the time of meeting.

FMPZAC received numerous emails from FMCA members voicing their concerns and opposition to this case. All emails have been forwarded to the Baldwin County P&Z Commission.

This case will be on the agenda for Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission meeting **March 3, 2022**. The meeting will be held **at 4p.m. in Baldwin County Central Annex Auditorium, 22251 Palmer Street, Robertsdale, AL 36567**. There is an opportunity for public comments. We hope to see many of FMCA members attend this important meeting to have our concerns recorded in the public forum and addressed by Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission. If you do not wish to speak, then please come out to show your support the Fort Morgan Community.

The application, submitted and placed on the agenda for the March 3, 2022 meeting, is to develop an entire new subdivision with multiple dwellings. This PRD will have significant impact on an already stressed infrastructure on the Fort Morgan Peninsula.

At the time of the FMPZAC meeting, the application for # PRD21-000005 was non-compliant and incomplete such that members of the Fort Morgan Community cannot provide informed comment prior to the hearing of this matter. Therefore, at this time, the application should not be allowed to progress in the approval process until it is compliant and complete.

The Fort Morgan Community is suffering from the ripple effects of the recent explosive growth in our community and at each turn another resident is facing unique challenges on their property that they have not had to face in previous decades. We realize the delicate nature of our sensitive land and we value it. Fort Morgan Civic Association has worked diligently with Baldwin County in the past to create Ordinances that directly address the delicate nature of our land in district 25 with plans to have environmentally sensitive development in the future. We expect all new development to follow all Baldwin County Zoning Ordinances, the Local Provisions for District 25, Fort Morgan and all other agency requirements (ADEM, USFWS, USACE, Historical Agency, etc.).

The applicant should submit a completed application that complies with current regulations, and ordinances and then set a timeframe for public comment. A compliant and completed application should be mandated for this and all new development in Fort Morgan prior to seeking public comment and placement on the Planning and Zoning Commission Agenda.



Garbage Truck cannot make the turn on Our Road due to illegally parked vehicles blocking the roadway. How can Emergency vehicles access Our Road?



Illegal parking next to the “No parking” sign on Our Road.



The tiny bit of cement is not a sidewalk - that is what is left of Our Road for other vehicles to use. This is typical for Our Road between Memorial Day - Labor Day.



The Red Arrow shows the location for the PRD site plan and additional street being recommended for this development - at the same location where the illegal parking and traffic block Our Road.

Case number ZVA22-000013, Ellis Property: 6597 Palmetto Drive in District 25.

Applicant is requesting a variance from wetlands to build a single-family home on the property. The application is complete and has been approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers and US Fish & Wildlife Service. The Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Board recommended approval of the application.

If you have any questions about these cases, the complete public files are available on the Baldwin County Planning & Zoning website under "Upcoming Meetings". We apologize for the #PRD21-000005 case not being linked to FMCA website. The PRD application is extremely long and too big to put all the pdfs on the website; linking with the County is not allowed.

Future Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Committee meetings will be noted on <https://www.fortmorgancivic.org/> as well as associated case files.

Upcoming Events/ Community Support Opportunities in Fort Morgan:

4th Annual Fort Morgan Cleanup~~~~~

4th Annual Fort Morgan Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 12th from 11am- 4pm. This year's cleanup will focus on the R.O.W. along State Hwy 180 and other roadways along the Fort Morgan peninsula. Come out and help #keepfortmorganbeautiful. Members interested in helping at the check in locations, please contact Joe Emerson at captioesells@gmail.com for coordinating information

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.

Postal Service Establishment in Fort Morgan

Through Rain, Sleet, Wind & Snow the postal motto could also have included swamp, wetlands and bayous because when the postal service finally came to Fort Morgan that had to be the determination of the carriers. William Gasque, a retiree Probate Judge of Baldwin County, who lived in Daphne AL was of Huguenot descent born on December 6, 1811 in the old town of St Stephens, Washington County AL. Judge Gasque held many positions in both Mobile and Baldwin counties from 1835 thru 1892. He never married and was the last survivor of his family. The Gasque post office was established in 1880. Perhaps the old post office at Gasque was named properly because all the people who carried the mail like Mr. Grim, Mr. Grahem, Mr. Galloway, Ms. Violet Nelson (postmaster until 1950), and Ms. Galloway (who took over the water route) came from the same cut of cloth serving their community.

This history information is a reprint from the March 2020 FMCA Newsletter.

FMCA Executive Board Contacts

Officers

President	George Mitchell	601-934-3427	georgemitchell0312@gmail.com
Vice President	George Mitchell	601-934-3427	georgemitchell0312@gmail.com
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	samsplace41805@gmail.com
Secretary	Jamie Strategier	504-616-3275	samsplace41805@gmail.com

Non-Officers

FMCA / Local / State / Federal

Government Liaison

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter

Standing Committee Chairs

Future Fort Morgan Options

Hospitality

Land Use & Conservation

Legal

Membership

Sunshine

Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com
Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
Ernie Church	334-220-0851	ecaces4@gmail.com
Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	twstrong@gulftel.com
Vacant		
Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	judynewcomb@aol.com
Vacant		
Vacant		

Fort Morgan Civic Association
P.O. Box 5313 • Gulf Shores, AL 36547
www.fortmorgancivic.org

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM – ANNUAL DUES \$25.00 (as of 1 Jan 2022)

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Fort Morgan Address _____ Phone _____

This property is west of mile 14.7: _____yes _____no -- See Article III, Section 1 below Associate Member? _____ yes

Email (please provide for special alerts) _____

Your employment _____ Spouse's employment _____

Reason for joining the Association _____

We need volunteers to help the Association in the following areas. Which can you assist in? (circle)

Program Planning: Speakers Phone/Survey Members for Interests

Zoning: Attend Meetings of Baldwin County/Gulf Shores Write Brief Reports

Membership: Recruitment Phone Tree Hospitality at Meetings Help with Pot-Lucks

Communications: Postal Mailings E-mail Writing for Newspaper, Publicity Releases, etc.

Newsletter: Desktop Graphics/Layout Gather/Submit News Items Write Brief Articles Photography

Computer: Set Up/Maintain Data Base Spreadsheets Excel Access Word PowerPoint

What other skills, experience or talents could you volunteer? _____

From the By-laws Adopted April 11, 2005

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Regular (voting) Membership in this association shall be open only to property owners and/or residents in the unincorporated area west of mile 14.7 of the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Section 2 Associate (non-voting) Membership shall be open to residents of areas outside the Fort Morgan Peninsula whose interests coincide with those of the Association including the preservation of the environment and quality of life of the Fort Morgan peninsula.

Section 3 Membership application shall be made by completion of a form provided by the Association and payment of the required dues. Dues for the following year shall be determined at the October general meeting and shall be for the following calendar year January 1st through December 31st.

Section 4 Payment of Regular (voting) Membership dues entitles a member household to one (1) vote. A member household is comprised of Association members living at one physical address. Past year member households paying dues after January 31st and new members joining the Association will have no voting rights until thirty (30) days after payment of dues.

Section 5 Payment of Associate (non-voting) Membership dues entitles the member to attend all member meetings and receive the monthly newsletter.

Make checks payable to: **Fort Morgan Civic Association or FMCA**

I would like to make a donation to the Operating Fund in the amount of \$ _____

Annual dues @ \$25/household \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Your donation to the Fort Morgan Civic Association is not tax deductible as we do not qualify because of our political activity in attempting to prevent proliferation of large-scale high-rise development on Fort Morgan Peninsula.