

# FORT MORGAN NEWS

## April 2022~Issue 182

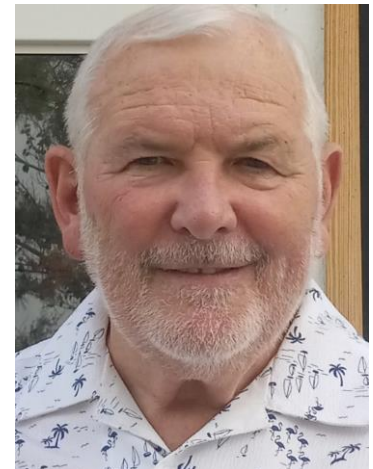


### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone ~

Happy Spring, Everyone! You are invited to the FMCA Easter Potluck dinner on April 11, 2022 @ 6:30pm at the Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department #1 (across from Shell Banks Baptist Church). We will also have Debbie Harbin from Share the Beach as the guest speaker. There will be no FMCA business discussed during the 11 April FMCA General Meeting – it will solely be an Easter Potluck and Guest Speaker.

I would like to thank everyone who sent letters to ADEM regarding the BCSS permit to increase capacity at the Fort Morgan Sewage plant. From a site visit, we are not certain the plant has the capability to meet the proposed increase. We have not heard when there may be action on the ADEM permit, but will keep you updated as we hear anything on this.



FMCA wishes to thank Mr. Ernie Church for his decade of dedicated service to the Fort Morgan Community. Ernie has been a tremendous advocate in protecting the peninsula as he has served on the Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Committee and Baldwin County Board of Adjustments for many years. We will miss Ernie and his wife, Judy, when they move out of our district and we wish them all the best!

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](mailto:fortmorgancivic@gmail.com)

**Next FMCA General Meeting: 9 May 2022, 6:30pm**

### **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 General Meeting April 11th– Easter Potluck~~~Thelma Strong, Hospitality Cte Chair**

All – please bring your favorite dish to share during the Easter Potluck on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Fire Station #1. Bring your dishes with a serving utensil between 6:15-6:30. If you have any questions, please contact Thelma Strong at 251-540-7383.

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

**April 11:** FMCA welcomes **Ms. Debbie Harbin** from **Share the Beach** as our guest speaker!

 Debbie Harbin is the team leader for the Fort Morgan Share the Beach team. She has been a member of Share the Beach for 11 years and team leader for 7 years. Share the Beach is our local Sea Turtle Conservation program that helps protect visiting Endangered Sea Turtles and their hatchlings on the beaches of Fort Morgan. Each year between May 1 - October 31, our beaches become a nesting area for Endangered Sea Turtle. The hatchling sea turtles begin their lifelong journey right here on our beaches. When they become adults, the females return to the same location where they were born to nest and continue the circle of life for a new generation of sea turtles. Share the Beach volunteers work daily to help protect sea turtles and their nests. You can do your part by leaving only footprints on the beach at the end of each day so sea turtles have a safe place to nest (including filling in large holes that could trap & harm adult and hatchling sea turtles). You should also turn off all exterior lights facing the Gulf of Mexico or switch to the **Amber Light Bulbs** which are sea turtle friendly and approved by US Fish & Wildlife Agency.

<https://www.facebook.com/ShareTheBeachAlabamaSeaTurtles/>

 **FMCA will be donating 50 amber light bulbs to residents and members who live along the beaches facing the Gulf (one per residence). Come and get your Sea Turtle Friendly Light bulbs at the meeting on April 11 and help to Protect Our Endangered Sea Turtles**   **!!**

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](mailto:FortMorganCivic@gmail.com)

## **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 May 9th 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](http://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.

Stay Safe,  
FMVFD

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

Case # PRD21-000005 Our Road Cottages has been withdrawn by the applicant. FMCA wishes to thank everyone who vocalized their concerns about this case to the Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Commission. Our voices are heard when we work together for the betterment of the Fort Morgan Community.

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.

The Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Advisory Board has an opening for a new appointment by FMCA to the committee. If you are interested, please email [fortmorgancivic@gmail.com](mailto:fortmorgancivic@gmail.com). We hope to make this appointment during our May 9<sup>th</sup> FMCA General Meeting. FMPZAC members must be a resident and registered voter in Fort Morgan District. Additional information about the FMPZAC is in the excerpt below from AL Code § 45-2-261.62 (2019).

**Section 45-2-261.62 Planning and zoning advisory committee established; composition; purpose and duties.**

*(a) There is established the Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee, hereinafter referred to as the planning and zoning advisory committee, to be composed of the following members: Two members appointed by the Baldwin County Commission from a list of not less than four nominations by the Fort Morgan Civic Association, Inc.; and three members appointed by the Fort Morgan Civic*

Association, Inc. All members shall be residents and registered voters in the Fort Morgan District. All members shall serve a term of four years and may be reappointed to succeeding terms. Members shall serve until a replacement is appointed and qualified. Any vacancy on the committee shall be filled by the original appointing authority. Members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses in the performance of their duties by the county. A member may be removed for cause by his or her original appointing authority....

(b) The planning and zoning advisory committee shall adopt bylaws to administer this subpart. The planning and zoning advisory committee shall select a chair and may create other offices. The term of the chair shall be two years with eligibility for reelection. The planning and zoning advisory committee shall hold one regular meeting each six months or upon call of the chair and shall keep a record of its actions, all of which shall be a public record. The planning and zoning advisory committee shall be subject to the Alabama Open Meetings Act and other requirements of this subpart. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

(c) The purpose of the planning and zoning advisory committee shall be to make recommendation to the Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission concerning any proposed changes to zoning ordinances or regulations or the master plan, or variances thereto, related to the Fort Morgan Zoning District.

**(Act 2015-411, §3.)**

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:**

**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.**

**Fort Bowyer**

Fort Bowyer was a small wooden fort built on the sands of Mobile Point peninsula to guard the entrance to Mobile Bay during the War of 1812. It was located near the site of where Fort Morgan is located today. Fort Bowyer was an important part of the of Mobile Bay during the War of 1812. The fort withstood one British assault in September 1814, altering British plans to take New Orleans, but succumbed to a second, much larger assault in February 1815 just before news arrived that a peace treaty had been signed. Two days after Fort Bowyer fell, the British commanders received news that the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 and all fighting in the region, already had been signed. The fort was returned to the United States. It was later abandoned and replaced by the

heavier fortifications of Fort Morgan. Fort Bowyer is widely considered to be the site of the last land battle between the United States and the British in the War of 1812.

*Material is an excerpt from <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-3582>; please visit the site for more information on the battles associated with Fort Bowyer. This history information is a reprint from the April 2020 FMCA Newsletter.*

### FMCA Contacts

#### Officers

President	George Mitchell	601-934-3427	<a href="mailto:georgemitchell0312@gmail.com">georgemitchell0312@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	George Mitchell	601-934-3427	<a href="mailto:georgemitchell0312@gmail.com">georgemitchell0312@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Greg Strategier	337-849-6506	<a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jamie Strategier	504-616-3275	<a href="mailto:samsplace41805@gmail.com">samsplace41805@gmail.com</a>

#### Standing Committee Chairs

Bylaws	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>
Communications	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>
Hospitality	Thelma Strong	251-540-7383	
Legal	Judy Newcomb	251-955-1572	<a href="mailto:judynewcomb@aol.com">judynewcomb@aol.com</a>
Legislative/Government	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	<a href="mailto:mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com">mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com</a>
Land Use & Conservation	Vacant		
Membership	Vacant		
Sunshine	Vacant		

#### Other Positions

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	<a href="mailto:klovins68@icloud.com">klovins68@icloud.com</a>
FMCA / Local / State / Federal			
Government Liaison	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	<a href="mailto:mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com">mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com</a>
FMCA Social Media Manager	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	<a href="mailto:captjoesells@gmail.com">captjoesells@gmail.com</a>

**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 31<sup>st</sup>.

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.