

FORT MORGAN NEWS

May 2022~Issue 183

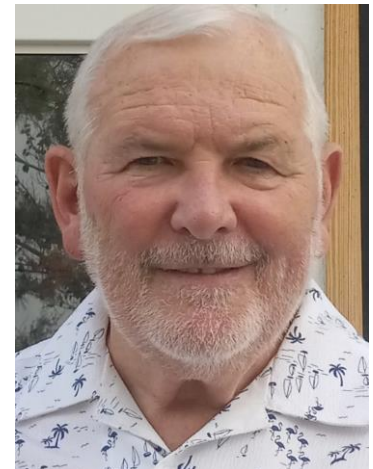


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone ~

I hope you all had a Happy Easter. Thank you to all who attended our FMCA Easter Pot Luck dinner on April 11. Thanks again Debbie Harbin and Susan West, our guest speakers from Share the Beach, for their most-interesting presentation on the effort to protect the sea turtles.

Our meeting on May 9 at 6:30 p.m., we will discuss the proposed update to our bylaws, which is of particular importance. This will be the first change to our bylaws since April 2005. These rules have served the organization well for the last seventeen years and with your input and support, this updated document can be effective far into the future. Please make your plans to attend.



Thank you again for your advocacy regarding FMCA's opposition to the ADEM proposed permit to allow Baldwin County Sewer System a 67% increase in its throughput. Mr. Lance R. Lefleur, ADEM Director, announced April 15, 2022 that a session for public comment will be held on Thursday, May 19 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at The Gulf Shores Activity Center located at 260 Clubhouse Drive in Gulf Shores. ADEM also announced that the period for public comment has been extended to 5:00 p.m., May 20, 2022. If you cannot attend, I encourage you to submit your written comments and questions prior to the session. With your help, Baldwin County's Peninsula Privy can be Prevented from Percolating.

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

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.

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

We are currently planning guest speakers for the remainder of this year's monthly meetings. 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

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

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

An update will be provided during the May 9th FMCA General Meeting.

ADCNR

Marine Resource Division is expecting to reopen the Pines Boat Launch by the end of May. The Fort Morgan Pier is expected to open in early June.

FMCA has requested an update from ADCNR regarding the status of the Fort Morgan Bike Trail (if a final route design has been determined, a plan for public input and a plan for construction). At the time of this publication no update has been received.

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

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~::~::~::~Chuck Scott, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair

Your Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory committee is once again fully staffed and ongoing. New members are Renee Hicks and Jennifer Ishler Noojin who both bring a history of participation in our community, and join long term members Thelma Strong, Randy Ulrich, and new Chairperson Chuck Scott. This committee provides valuable insight and opinion to the County Commissioners regarding the protection of Fort Morgan lands and assist in identifying positive development going forward.

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:

Share the Beach~::~::~::~

Our turtle nesting season starts May 1 and ends August 31. Our turtle team is on the beach every morning at daylight looking for turtle tracks. We usually just have loggerhead turtles who nest after dark. They prefer a dark beach and will often disorient in bright lights and not nest or wander all over the beach and wear themselves out before returning to the water. Turtle sightings can be reported to 866-seaturtle. We will be contacted and will send one of our team members to make sure she makes it back to the water without being disturbed. Mostly we just ask that everyone stay back, keep lights off and let her do her job.

While we can't ask anyone to take their tents and stuff in at night we would like to ask if they stack everything in a corner so mamas have plenty of room to move around. Also fill in any holes. Sea turtles are not able to back up and if they get in a hole may not be able to get out. It's also a danger for people walking on the beach. If you are staying in a home beach-side please turn off outdoor lighting (especially if it's white light) at night during turtle nesting season and keep window curtains/ blinds closed to keep light from disorienting the turtles. Special amber lights that are turtle friendly can be used for outdoor lighting – please see this link for more information: <https://www.joinacf.org/stb-sea-turtle-lighting-retrofit-soa-ser>

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.

Memories of Gasque Post Office

Mr. Will Galloway was the mail carrier in 1930s-1940s. He would have to drive north from the Fort Morgan Road to the Intracoastal Waterway Canal, row a boat to Bon Secour to collect the Gasque mail. Return and deliver the mail to the Post Office and to permanent residents, who had mail boxes. We were summer residents and had to go to the Post Office to get our mail. This was before there were telephones down this way; however, there was overnight mail from Mobile.

Mrs. Violet Nelson was the postmistress. The Post Office was an enclosed cubicle at one end of the front porch of her home. The door had been cut in half. When you knocked, she would open the top half. The mail was stored in a galvanized garbage pail – to protect it from the mice! MS Violet would open the pail, hold up to her eyes a pair of glasses with temples missing, which was tied to a string affixed to one of the pail handles, and find any mail for my those picking up mail.

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

FMCA 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

Standing Committee Chairs

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

Other Positions

Editor Fort Morgan Newsletter	Karrie Lovins	580-917-4593	klovins68@icloud.com
FMCA / Local / State / Federal			
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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.