

FORT MORGAN NEWS

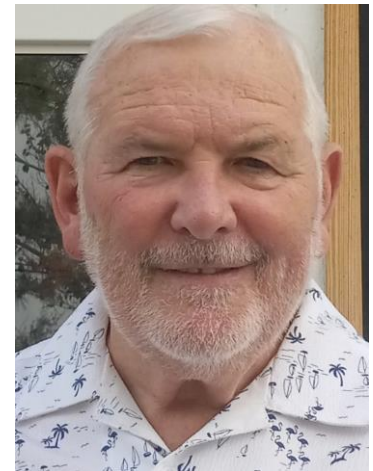
August 2022~Issue 186



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All:

As we begin full the final full month of our tourist season, we can all anticipate the slower peninsula pace that prompted most of you to choose Fort Morgan for your home. I know that I am eager to have less congested stores in which to shop and a relatively traffic-free highway to get to them. To the merchants on fort Morgan and in Gulf Shores, I hope your season was successful.



This month's meeting at Shell Banks Baptist Church, August 8 at 6:30 will be packed with interesting information about the community; an update on the BCSS / ADEM application to increase its throughput 67%, update on Alabama legislation affecting Fort Morgan, a report on Baldwin County's effort to put together a long-range land use plan, and a report from the Fort Morgan Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee on zoning requests to name a few.

Bring a friend.

Would you like to meet your neighbors and discuss your concerns and ideas for Fort Morgan in an informal setting? We would like to invite you to our Meeting-Before-The-Meeting at 6:00 p.m. for a social time. Soft drinks, coffee, and a light snack will be available while you visit with your neighbors and get to know our group. Please make time to attend.

As a reminder to the membership, 2022 dues help support our newsletter and our civic involvement programs. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so immediately to remain active on our mailing list and voting rolls.

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

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

US Fish & Wildlife

The efforts continue to have Pine Beach Trail renamed in honor of Chan West.

Alabama Legislature

No update.

ALDOT

No update.

ADCNR

The Fort Morgan Pier work is ongoing.

BCSS / ADEM

An update will be provided during the next FMCA General Meeting.

Baldwin County

An update will be provided during the next FMCA General Meeting.

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

Fort Morgan Planning & Zoning Committee~~~~~**Chuck Scott, FM P&Z Advisory Cte Chair**

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-----

Alabama's sea turtle nesting season is in full swing. Please help our visitors know that, sea turtles and people like our beaches clean, dark, and flat:

- **CLEAN:** Remove all trash and beach items (chairs, tents, towels, etc.) from the beach every day when you depart.
- **DARK:** Turn off outside lights, avoid white flashlights, and consider changing to sea turtle-friendly lighting if you have beachfront property.
- **FLAT:** Enjoy digging holes and building sand castles during your stay, but knock down and fill in all areas before you leave so our sea turtles can enjoy the beach as well. It also keeps it safer for people enjoying a nighttime stroll or emergency responders driving down the beach!

As always, if you see a sea turtle, stay back at least 30 feet, stay low, stay quiet, and call us on the hotline at (866) SEA-TURTLE (866-732-8878).

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.

Diary of the Storm – September 26-17, 1906 Maude M. Midgette, November 1st 1912

We were spending the summer at our home in Navy Cove when this terrible storm occurred.

The storm really began on Sunday, September 24th. The weather was gloomy, rain every now and then, and the wind was from the north-east. Sunday evening it was raining too hard for anyone to make any calls.

Monday came and with it more rain, and the wind increasing rapidly. Monday evening a crowd of girls and boys donned bathing suits and took a walk over to the south beach to view the Gulf, which looked very angry at the time. There wasn't but a very small part of the beach left, and the water was threatening to roll over Navy Cove then. The remainder of that day we spent in packing, as we intended coming to Mobile on Wednesday. Monday night just at twelve o'clock there came an awful crash of thunder. It seemed as though it rent the Heavens in twain. Such like was never heard in Navy Cove before. The oldest inhabitants (in fact everyone old and young) who heard it said it was a warning of an approaching storm; and what seemed so awfully strange to everyone was that one loud peal of thunder was all that was heard during the whole storm. Some people have the nerve to say it was foolish to pray, but those kind of people, well!! I will not express my opinion of them here on paper, nevertheless it shall not keep me from thinking.

Well here I am drifting far away from my subject, so I must go back and take up the thread of my story where I left off.

Tuesday morning came and a more dreary day cannot be imagined. We were still busy packing to come to Mobile.

Tuesday evening Papa came home and we were very glad to see him, and he being somewhat used to stormy weather, said we were going to have a storm, that being the day before the storm signals were hoisted at Fort Morgan. The Pilots always said that when the storm signals were hoisted at Fort Morgan was a sign that the storm was over, but in this case their sayings proved untrue.

Wednesday came and we were expecting the boat (which we had engaged) to move us to Mobile, but as the wind was continually increasing, we finally gave her up and knew that we were in for a very rough time.

The crowd tried to get over to the South beach again on Wednesday evening, but where we once used to walk over there dry shod, this time we went in a row boat, as the water had entirely covered that end of the Cove; that is rain water and salt water together.

The wind kept increasing all the time, in fact, so much that most all the people decided to stay up and watch the water for fear that it would rise up and cover the whole place before we could make our escape to higher ground.

Matilda and I (in fact all of us except Papa and Mama) retired for the night so we thought but precious little sleep we or everyone else had that night. So, Papa decided we would all stay up and wait for the worst. The wind then was blowing (at least) seventy-five miles an hour. Matilda and Joe said they were going on the beach to see how high the tide really was. They did not have but a short distance to go, still they had a hard time to stand on their feet. After returning from the beach, they then went over to awaken the family who was our next door neighbor; this family numbered three, husband, wife and baby, and they, just think of it, knew nothing at all of the now raging storm, so in less time than it takes to tell, they were awakened and told to come over to our house as we had intentions of going farther down the beach, as the land in that part of the place was wider and we thought more safe.

We awakened all the children and wrapped them up as best we could then started down the beach. Little did we think (at that moment) that we were leaving our home never to return, and to think we never gave one backward glance towards it.

Oh! If we had only known we were leaving it forever, still I suppose it was best we did not know. As we left from our front gate, we could hear our two dogs barking; and O! how very lonesome it sounded. It was eleven-thirty when we left our house, and we proceeded on down the beach; and it was midnight when we reached Pilot Charles Ladnier's house. The storm was then raging. We intended staying the remainder of the night in this house, that is, if it would stand the storm. Finally, we thought we would lie down and try and sleep, but such a thing was utterly impossible; as the wind was howling and the rain pouring in torrents something fierce. The wind was blowing so awfully hard that we all decided to stay in one room of the house for fear we would all have to leave the house and get outside.

This history information is a reprint from the August 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		fortmorgancivic@gmail.com
Communications	Karrie Lovins		fortmorgancivic@gmail.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		fortmorgancivic@gmail.com
FMCA / Local / State / Federal			
Government Liaison	Michael Ludvigsen	217-473-9728	mtludvigsenjr@gmail.com
FMCA Social Media Manager	Joe Emerson	251-550-9021	captioesells@gmail.com

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.