



FAIRHOPERS

November, 2021

Vol. 3, No.3

Happy Holidays

In This Issue:

- A Message from FSTC President Lee Turner
- A profile on Director Jim Reid by Coach Miller
- Update on the Nichol's sidewalk by Debby Hackbarth

News You Can Use: Council Actions and Deliberations

- \$2,000 was approved for the Baldwin Pops.
- \$400,000 was approved for the Founder's Park Track.
- The River Mill Park was finished.

For links to the online archives and past newsletters visit the FSTC website.

www.fairhopesingletax.com

Office News:

The office lobby is open. Maintain social distancing. Stay home if you are feeling ill.



From the President: Lee Turner

When I ran for FSTC president in 2013, I wrote in the FSTC campaign letter that I would like to continue taking the FSTC in the direction of the vision that Larry Thomas, the president for the prior 10 years, had for our village. I was asked by a few people what I meant. Larry had a vision of what FSTC could be with its newly presented non-profit 501C4 designation. Larry's vision saw the FSTC working with partners like The City of Fairhope or Thomas Hospital to put FSTC surplus dollars in projects rather than State and Federal taxes.

The Fairhope History Museum, Thomas Hospital Emergency Room, and Fairhope Public Library were the 3 large projects done during his tenure. What a positive difference these projects and Larry Thomas, in general, have made in Fairhope! I really hope I have lived up to my campaign promise. Larry Patrick Thomas 8-2-45 to 10-27-21 Rest in Peace

Director Jim Reid by Coach Miller



Jim was born in Greenville, Alabama, and raised in the small town of Allen. His family later moved to Mobile where he graduated from Murphy High School in 1963. Jim then served in the Navy from 1963-1967. After his tour overseas he returned and enrolled at the University of South Alabama and earned a degree in Political Science. His next stop was Law school at University of Alabama and then onto a successful career as an attorney. When friends and peers suggested he run for judge, he made the leap, and soon gained admiration for his fairness in interpreting our laws.

Now a retired attorney and judge, he is still giving his time and expertise to guide the future of Fairhope. He was a Marietta Johnson School of Organic Education school board member back in the early 1980s. He remembers when Harold Dahlgren donated tools and supplies to restore the old high school. Jim and fellow volunteers grabbed their paint brushes, hammers, and saws, and spruced up the old building. Incidentally, that was probably the last time that any major work was done on the old building, now called Dahlgren Hall. Forty years later it is being used for monthly FSTC board meetings and Tuesday evening single tax classes taught by Oliver and George Gilmore. He took the FSTC class and became a member in 1987. He is currently taking the class again, 34 years later, this time with his daughter!

Directors:

H.C. "Cliff" Pitman
 Carol Saltz
 Geoffrey F. Kennedy
 Fred Watkins, Jr.
 James "Jim" H. Reid, Jr.

Officers:

Lee Turner, President
 Charles Lake, Vice President
 Reuben "Ed" Davidson III,
 Secretary
 Michael Upchurch, Treasurer

Trustees

Pat King
 Teresa Watkins
 George Gilmore

Staff:

Jennifer Evans Sanford, Office
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Fairhoppers and the History
 Lecture Series are brought to
 you by the FSTC Education
 Committee: Debby Hackbarth,
 Kris Lafferty, Wayne Miller,
 Margaret Neely, Alan Samry, and
 Pam Turner.

Have a story idea for an
 upcoming newsletter or want to
 serve on the FSTC Education
 Committee?

Email Wayne Miller
Waynemiller77@yahoo.com

As one of five directors, he is most proud of the ongoing sidewalk construction, and FSTC role in keeping the space and the clock on the corner of Section Street and Fairhope Avenue. Jim states that "I prefer brick and mortar projects, and projects that are not likely to succeed without FSTC assistance". Groups that make a presentation to the Directors asking for money find that Jim always asks inquiring and respectful questions.

Married to his wife Beverly for 53 years, they have raised a son Brian and daughter Caren, both civil engineers, and are proud grandparents of four granddaughters. He spends his free time gardening and reading history books, and of course, still helping our beautiful community of Fairhope!

Keeping Pace with FSTC Projects by Debby Hackbarth

On 10/9/2019, a request was made for sidewalks on Nichols Avenue from Section Street to Mershon Street. This sidewalk would protect pedestrians as it crosses 3 potentially hazardous streets; especially during public outdoor events. Because single tax land was limited in this area, one lessee offered to poll the property owners to see if they would pay a proportionate share of the building cost.

President Turner offered to ask Mr. Roberds to prepare an estimate of the cost. The following month, the quote came back and phases 1-4 were approved at of cost of \$33,131 with the City of Fairhope or COF to build an aluminum walkway over the drainage area of the south side of Nichols. Even though the property is not on FSTC land, if the FSTC funded the entire project (except the bridge), it could relieve the burden of government and benefit single tax lessees. No further action from property owners was necessary.

In August of 2020, the COF had the bridge proposal in their budget and the structure had been ordered so that the project could move forward. However, in February of 2021, the COF needed to re-engineer the project which increased the cost by about \$35,000 for a total of \$67,221. The FSTC decided to ask the COF to prepare the sidewalk bed. Finally in April of 2021, Richard Johnson, Director of Public Works for the COF quoted a price of \$53,425 for construction of the sidewalk. This new amount was approved. As of October, the sidewalk is still under construction; however, a good portion of it has poured concrete. The bridge has not been installed yet.

