



# FAIRHOPERS

December, 2022

Vol. 4, No.3

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**In This Issue:**

- A Message from FSTC President Lee Turner
- A profile on Trustee, Teresa Watkins by Coach Wayne Miller
- The Windmill Road sidewalk by Debby Hackbarth

**News You Can Use: Council  
Actions and Deliberations:**

- The FSTC gave \$125,000 to the city for the development of the Arts Alley.
- The FSTC gave \$250,000 to the Fairhope Library as part of the Capital Campaign.

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

[www.fairhopesingletax.com](http://www.fairhopesingletax.com)



**Directors:**

- H.C. "Cliff" Pitman
- Catherine King
- Geoffrey F. Kennedy
- Fred Watkins, Jr.
- James "Jim" H. Reid, Jr.

**From the President: Lee Turner**

About two years ago, a group of devoted Fairhope Single Tax Corporation members came to our board and pushed the idea that we negotiate with the city and a developer to attempt to purchase the land where the Fairhope Clock stands. I did not think it was a good idea. I felt the cost for such a small piece of property was too high and that there is quite a bit of public space downtown. How much land could that same dollar amount purchase out of town center? But as president, I am duty bound to serve and support our directors and members, even if I "know" that everyone but me is wrong.

Well, after looking at the Facebook and Instagram photos from The Lighting of the Trees last week, I admit I was wrong. What an incredible use of a public space we have to bring Fairhoppers together in celebration. If you have not seen the photos or videos, may I suggest, go to Mayor Sherry Sullivan's Facebook sight and check them out. On today's Clock Corner, the sight near Fairhope's first well (on a dirt road in 1894), you will find pictures of children and adults with broad smiles and full hearts, singing and cheering in the season. Happy Holidays, friends.

**A Profile on Trustee, Teresa Watkins by Coach Wayne Miller**  
The Columbarium at the FSTC Cemetery



Fairhope Single Tax Corporation has contributed to many "brick and mortar" projects through the years, but none is more beautiful than the Columbarium built in the FSTC cemetery. The cemetery team, led by Chairman Teresa Watkins, spent countless hours in the planning phase. Over the last four years, Teresa led team members along the journey: Libby McCawley, Bobby King, and Martha Cronkhite, and Trustees George Ferniary and George Jackson.

The duties of the Cemetery Committee include overseeing the upkeep of the cemetery, paying bills and budgeting for improvements, engraving of plaques, security, maintaining roads, and removing dead trees. The additional challenge has been the building of the Columbarium. It is on full display now at the entrance to the FSTC cemetery. Teresa said this section was chosen because there are no trees, no

### Officers:

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

### Trustees

Pat King  
Teresa Watkins  
George Gilmore

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

### The Lecture Series is in place:

January- 5 - Alan Samry, his new book - Mapping Fairhope  
February - 2 - Ben Raines, Clotilda  
March - 2 - Allen Todd, Day Trips from Fairhope  
April - 6 - John Sledge, The Gulf Waters

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

Email - Debby Hackbarth  
[helpme2spell@gmail.com](mailto:helpme2spell@gmail.com)

graves, just a beautiful location. Landscape architect Paul Fontenot listened to the committee's ideas and developed a plan to blend the Columbarium perfectly in the natural setting.

Construction of this 2500 square feet building with 720 double unit niches started on March 1, 2019. The final cost of the Columbarium was \$617,011.63. Bo Freeland was the creative and hard-working stone mason who labored daily to complete this final resting place for FSTC members. Mr. Freeland's wife died during this construction, and he placed a special heart-shaped stone in the north wall to honor her.

January 31, 2021, at the Annual Meeting, the Columbarium was dedicated. Speakers at the dedication included Lee Turner and Catherine King. A new FSTC cemetery logo, initially sketched out by Darby Ulery and completed by artist Sam Gambino, was shown for the first time. This logo will be used on all official documents.

Teresa Watkins led this project with passion and determination. Her desire was to build a Columbarium that would add to the beauty of the FSTC cemetery and honor our ancestors. The mission has been accomplished!

### Keeping Pace with FSTC Projects by Debby Hackbarth

At the FSTC meeting of 4/13/2022, the directors approved \$24,000 for the creation of a sidewalk along Windmill Road on the east side of Fairhope. About nine-hundred feet of sidewalk was needed to connect other spans of sidewalk that ran along the road. The FSTC would pay for sand and forms and the city would pay for concrete.

At the FSTC meeting of 8/10/2022, it was reported that the city had ordered the concrete. At the meeting on 9/14/2022, it was mentioned that the city was pouring about one-hundred and fifty feet of concrete. In September, October, and November, a total of \$27,420 had been paid out for the completed project. Additional square footage was needed to complete the project, so it did go over budget slightly.

As of the middle of November, the beautiful sidewalk has been completed. The FSTC has sponsored many sidewalk projects along the bay and throughout various neighborhoods bringing the old and new together. Our goal, as well as that of our founders, is to keep our citizens safe in our lovely community.

