



FAIRHOPERS

May, 2023

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HAPPY SPRING

In This Issue:

- A Message from FSTC President: Lee Turner
- A profile on Director, Geoffrey F. Kennedy by Margaret Neely
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News You Can Use: Council Actions and Deliberations:

- The FSTC spent \$475,000 for the transfer of leasehold of the property at 0 Fairhope Ave. to protect the view of the bay.
- The FSTC gave \$400,000 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



From the President: Lee Turner

On May 18, 2023, at the direction of the FSTC directors, Ed Davidson and I executed the purchase of the building at the foot of the bluff. This well-known area has hosted many dramatic and symphonic performances over the years.

We may have paid more than the appraisal value; however, this bluff has an iconic view in Fairhope and has been important to our sense of place. The FSTC directors felt it was extremely important to guarantee no future development will block this view.

A Profile on Director, Geoffrey F. Kennedy: Margaret Neely



Geoff Kennedy - A Fairhoper Who Missed Home

Geoff Kennedy, FSTC Director, grew up in Fairhope. His most memorable summers as a child were spent riding his bicycle all over town. He also enjoyed waterskiing and sailing on Mobile Bay.

After graduating from Fairhope High School, Geoff attended Tulane University in New Orleans, where he earned a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. After graduation, he worked for seven years at Alabama Power as an engineer. While working at Alabama Power, he became interested in electricity trading. This interest led to his earning his M.B.A. at the University of Texas.

A move to Birmingham included a job as an equity analyst for a mutual fund and a wedding to his lovely wife. After the birth of his second child, Geoff realized he really missed Fairhope. He moved his family back home where his children could experience the fun on the water he had growing up. Moving back to Fairhope also gave Geoff the opportunity to join his father as a financial advisor at Kennedy Advisory.

Geoff and his wife purchased a home on Single Tax Property. As a new lessee, Geoff was interested in learning more about Single Tax and became a member in 2011.

Directors:

H.C. "Cliff" Pitman
Catherine King
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,
Executive Director
LeAnn Amond
Pam Hill
Malinda White

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Fairhoppers, the historical plaques, 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.

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

Email – Debby Hackbarth
helpme2spell@gmail.com

Shortly after becoming a member, he joined the finance committee. Later, he had the opportunity to become a FSTC director.

Geoff's hope is the FSTC will continue to improve Fairhope and strive to educate the community and visitors about its wonderful history.

Keeping Pace with FSTC Projects: Coach Wayne Miller



1,700 Meals 64 Volunteers 2 Staff

Every month over 1,700 nutritious and delicious meals are served on the Eastern Shore, courtesy of the Meals on Wheels program through the Ecumenical Ministries Inc. or (EMC). EMC is a faith-based, non-denominational social agency providing services in Baldwin County. The Meals on Wheels program is headed by Carol Rupp, who has been Program Director since 2009. Along with an assistant, she plans the meals, helps cook, and oversees sixty-four volunteers. These volunteers include kitchen workers and the drivers who deliver meals on seven routes five days a week.

The purpose of this program is to provide meals to homebound elderly or disabled persons who cannot cook the meals themselves. The charge for each meal is five dollars. If a person cannot afford the meal, Ecumenical Ministries can help subsidize these meals. But another more important part of the program is the daily interaction between volunteer and recipient. For many of the homebound, this brief exchange at the front door might be the only outside contact with someone that entire day.

Currently, the meals are prepared at Fairhope Christian Church while a new building that will house the kitchen is being built. Fairhope Single Tax Corporation has given Ecumenical Ministries matching funds of \$500,000 toward construction of new offices and a commercial kitchen.

Volunteers load up their containers each day starting at 10:30 AM before heading out to deliver. The Tuesday volunteers include Yvonne, Naomi, Elizabeth, Wayne, and Knight. Along with the meal, Carol includes a detailed list with directions and information on each recipient. Josephine Sewell is a long-time volunteer who came to the Meals on Wheels program through the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). Jess and Betty Williams are now clients, but over thirty years ago they delivered meals.

Carol reflected on her years of leading with these words: "I am blessed to be able to work with such wonderful volunteers who care about their community. I enjoy my job, especially knowing that we are helping the elderly and disabled receive a good meal and that someone sees them five days a week. The clients are very appreciative, and we have developed close friendships with many of them." Not only Carol is blessed, but the whole community is blessed to have such a passionate and dedicated leader as Carol.