



# FAIRHOPERS

December, 2023

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## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

### In This Issue:

- A Message from FSTC President Lee Turner
- A profile on Savan Wilson by Debby Hackbarth
- Update on the new Ecumenical Building by Debby Hackbarth

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

- \$50,000 was given to the Fairhope Library to finish funding the renovation.
- \$400,000 was given to the City of Fairhope to help with the construction of a walking Track at Founder's Park.

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

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

### Office News:

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



### From the President: Lee Turner

Volunteers have always had a strong impact on our utopian community. In early days, volunteers-built roads and worked on infrastructure. They built bookcases in Marie Howland's house on Summit Street, Fairhope's first Library. In our current library, "Friends" stack shelves and run a book store. Thomas Hospital, the Art Center, churches, and schools benefit from dedicated volunteers. Members of Impact 100 empower non-profits and the Rotary Clubs contribute to The Boys and Girls Club and send teams in times of disasters. At the FSTC, we value our volunteer committees: Archives ([fairhopesingletax.pastperfectonline.com/archive](http://fairhopesingletax.pastperfectonline.com/archive)), Cemetery, and Education. Contact the FSTC office to volunteer. Working toward a goal alongside people across political, economic, and racial lines is good for the soul and for our community.



### Dr. Savan Wilby Wilson, "I was meant to be in Fairhope." by Debby Hackbarth

Savan Wilson, who is extremely involved in Archive Committee with Catherine King, was born and raised in Laurel, Mississippi. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi and both graduate degrees (Master's and Doctoral) at the University of Mississippi. Her areas of expertise are in Adult Education and Library Science. She moved to Fairhope in 2005 and worked for seven years at the University of South Alabama in the College of Education teaching school media and librarianship. Both of her children live within an hour of Fairhope and she has six grandchildren.

Dr. Wilson stated that she tried to retire three times. Her first educational career spanned thirty-two years in Mississippi serving in the field as a teacher, librarian, Library Supervisor for two school districts, Director of Education at the Mississippi Educational Television Network, and finally as a University Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her second career brought her to the beautiful island of Sardinia in Italy as an Information Specialist for the Department of Defense. Finally, after moving to Fairhope, she worked for seven years at the University of South Alabama in the College of Education teaching school media and librarianship.

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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 – Debby Hackbarth  
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Since 2006, Savan has been a member of the FSTC and she became involved as a member of the Archives Committee when it was formed in 2013. "Working with our Archives Committee as a volunteer has been so interesting and enjoyable. I often think it much be the reason I ended up in Fairhope and I consider volunteering for the FSTC Archives as one of the most important things I have done." Savan noted that she really enjoys working with Catherine King saving and processing valuable documents, photos, articles, etc. so that they will be available through an online database free of charge. "We are currently working with the University of Alabama with a grant that will put all of our Couriers from 1894-1963 on the Library of Congress database." The FSTC is fortunate to have such a talented and lovely lady working on our behalf. She dedicates a tremendous amount of time on this committee as well as serving in the community on Impact 100 Baldwin County, the Hope Community, and the Coal Ash Action Group.

### Keeping Pace with FSTC Projects by Debby Hackbarth



The new building is finally finished! The FSTC gave EMC matching funds of \$500,000 toward the construction of this beautiful building containing a state-of-the-art kitchen for the Meals on Wheels Program and offices for seven employees. Sally Deane, Executive Director for fourteen years (pictured above with Steve Riggs, Repair Manager) said: "Not only is this a gorgeous building, we finally have our first conference/board room for our meetings".

The Meals on Wheels Program plans to start providing seventy meals a day this month out the two doors on the side of the building. The kitchen is so exquisite that the ventilation hood alone cost \$15,000! Another valuable service that the EMC provide is home and roof repair. Steve stated: "Seven hundred and fifty homes have been repaired in ten years and four homes are currently in process throughout Baldwin County."

Starting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, the building next door will undergo major changes. The store capacity will be enlarged by forty percent. Sally happily expressed: "We should be able to provide another \$200,000 per year to serve Baldwin County due to the increased store area." We are all grateful for these dedicated servants who help so many in our community.