



# FAIRHOPERS

January, 2020

Volume 2, Number 1

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- Education Committee Chair Wayne Miller Sits Down with George Gilmore
- Archives Committee members reminder and news about our online collection
- A Message from FSTC President Lee Turner
- The Fairhope History Lecture Series Schedule
- What's Going on at the Colony Cemetery?

**Where'd my Rent Go? News you can Use: Interesting Actions by FSTC from November 2019.**

**\$500,000**

**Thomas Hospital 3D whole breast ultrasound and 3D Mammography Machines. Thomas Hospital must raise \$250,000.**

**\$500,000**

**Ecumenical Ministries new store at present location. Conditional on EMI raising \$1 million.**

**\$259,000**

**Preserving the Fairhope Clock property as park land. City of Fairhope must approve matching funds.**

**\$33,131**

**New sidewalk approved for Nichols Avenue linking Mershon Street and South Section Street.**

2020 Lecture Series on Fairhope History  
Thursday Evenings, January through May

Fairhope Public Library Giddens Auditorium 6pm-7pm

**January 9th - The Life and Times of Marie Howland, Social Reformer**

Speaker: Trista Lackey

**February 13 - A History of the Longleaf Pine in Baldwin County**

Speaker: Patrick Waldrop

**March 5th - The Story of Clay in Fairhope**

Speaker: Zach Sierke

**April 2nd - The Gulf of Mexico: A Maritime History**

Speaker: John Sledge

**May 7th - Finding Clotilda**

Speaker: Ben Raines



"Founders' Vision: A Fairhope of Success," oil on canvas by Dean Mosher

## From the President: Lee Turner

A pet peeve of mine is the word Fairhopian. We are actually Fairhoppers. The origins of the word dates back 125 years with the founders of our town who advertised that their new community on the bluff overlooking Mobile Bay had a "fair hope of success."

For twenty years I have served on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Each time a new subdivision is proposed, neighbors pack the meeting and speak against it. "It will decrease my property value, increase traffic, cause run off." Sometimes it seems that each resident is ready to close the gate on the next one.

Our founders had a different perspective. In fact, they set aside the best land parcels for the community to enjoy: the two-mile strip along the bay, the Big Pier area and the bluff overlooking Mobile Bay sunsets, and parklands around the town. And very importantly, the utilities are public with proceeds benefitting the town. The founders' focus went beyond themselves and included what would benefit the community as a whole in the long run.

Fairhope has become the desirable place to live because of the attitude of its people - those who began here and those who have followed bringing new energy.

As we move into 2020, let us celebrate what makes Fairhope unique: the beauty of the land and the warmth of the people. Yes, we are Fairhoppers.

## FSTC Archives Online: More Content being Added This Year

The Archives Committee reminds us to check out the FSTC Archives online to view historic documents at <https://fairhopesingletax.pastperfectonline.com/>. Coming in 2020: photographs and videos will be added!





### Directors

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*Fairhoppers*, and the History Lecture Series is brought to you by the FSTC Education Committee. Faye Earnest, 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

## Colony Cemetery-Part II: The Present

By Margaret Neely

There are approximately 1764 burials in the Colony Cemetery, restricted to members of the FSTC and lessees of FSTC residing on their leasehold. (To look up a resident of the cemetery, go to [findagrave.com/cemetery/22732/colony-cemetery](http://findagrave.com/cemetery/22732/colony-cemetery)). There are 460 plots open on the cleared land, with more land to be developed, if needed.

When an eligible member/lessee dies, the family or responsible party must make a request for interment and be verified by FSTC. After verification, the family meets with Pat King, the cemetery custodian, to select a cemetery plot. The family or responsible person must provide a permanent marker or monument for the grave to be installed within six months of interment. Reserving burial plots is not allowed and husband and wife are buried double deep.

The cemetery is not perpetual care and each gravesite must be maintained by the families of the deceased.

## Who is George Gilmore? Depends on Who you Ask!

By Wayne Miller

George is a Fairhope resident with at least four fascinating identities. At Spring Hill College in Mobile, he is known as the distinguished professor of World Religions, now in his 47<sup>th</sup> year. On Dauphin Island, he is identified as the president of the Dunes Homeowners Association. To many in the Mobile area, George is a leader of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue--an organization that he has energized to help promote religious tolerance. And to the members of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony, he has been active since 1988 in various positions.

Born in Manhattan, New York, and raised in Maryland, George has led an active life. He graduated from a Jesuit high school and then enrolled in Woodstock College and Fordham University in the Bronx. At Woodstock, he was a seminarian studying theology. He received his Bachelor's (1962), master's degree (1964), and Ph.D. in 1974. As a graduate student, he gave horse riding lessons after a twenty-mile bicycle ride three times a week.

His first job after graduation was an instructor at a Jesuit high school where he taught senior level Latin. Nine years later, he found his way to Spring Hill College to teach world religions and has never wavered in his quest as a master teacher.

His move to Fairhope in 1987 started his participation in the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation. George has held various offices and now is considered a member with extensive knowledge of FSTC history and its constitution. Even after moving to Baldwin County, he was still working with horses.

Lee Turner, current president, considers George the bridge between the purists and the modern era of our organization. George has met and talked with the old guard families. As a trustee at FSTC council meetings, George occasionally injects some pertinent facts that help them make decisions.

His two most prized accomplishments in the FSTC are being the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, that was able to amend and update the FSTC constitution (a fascinating document) in the late 1990s, and teaching the FSTC membership history and economic classes with Oliver Gilmore.

The residents of Fairhope and the members of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation are grateful for the presence of George Gilmore.

