



FAIRHOPERS

July, 2022

Vol. 4, No.2

SUMMER IS HERE!

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- A Message from FSTC President Lee Turner
- A profile on Director, Fred Watkins Jr. by Jim Estes
- Update on the Fairhope band uniforms by Debby Hackbarth

News You Can Use: Council Actions and Deliberations:

- A portion of road between Blueberry Ln. Rd. and the River Mill subdivision will be paved, striped, & given to the county for the city to maintain.
- Up to \$24,000 has been approved to fund 1,000 lineal feet of sidewalk along Windmill Road to connect adjoining neighborhoods.

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

www.fairhopesingletax.com



From the President: Lee Turner

During the last two FSTC meetings we have had wonderful turnout. Many new members were in attendance and they offered great input. At our last meeting we discussed the criteria for funding projects as we work toward making Fairhope a Utopian community. The short non-negotiable answer is as follows:

- 1) The project must relieve the burden of government. This is required to keep our 501(c)(4) status.
- 2) The project must benefit our lessees. This is to meet a requirement of the FSTC constitution.
- 3) The constitution does not allow the FSTC to borrow money.

The FSTC also considers these guidelines:

- First dollar, last dollar, matching dollar
 - We like to help fund projects that may not be completed without FSTC participation.
- Large projects
 - We wish to make an impact with groups who need significant funding by working across several organizations.
- Bricks and mortar
 - We prefer projects that provide long-term benefits for the community.

I am impressed with the process our officers use to vet projects. I respect and support their decisions one hundred percent, even in the rare cases when I do not agree with them.

The next membership class will be held from August 16th until October 25th.

A Profile on Director, Fred Watkins Jr. by Jim Estes



Fred has served as a director for sixteen years. "It is my hope that our organization keeps the vision that our Forefathers had to preserve the betterment of our community. As a director, we are entrusted by our members to study each project in detail before voting to do what is right for our members, our lessees and for our city (colony) we call Fairhope".

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,
Office Manager

LeAnn Amond
Pam Hill
Malinda White

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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.

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

Email – Debby Hackbarth
helpme2spell@gmail.com

The family moved from Massachusetts to Louisiana where Fred grew up with Terry Bradshaw and Joe Ferguson. After moving to Fairhope, Fred graduated from Fairhope High School in 1969 and the University of South Alabama in 1973. He was in Army ROTC in college and became a quartermaster in the Army at Fort Lee, Virginia. After active duty, he served eight years in the reserves.

Fred was introduced to the floorcovering field when he helped his dad install a floor for Don Olds. Fred bought the business from his father in 1989. The Watkins floor covering shop was at the corner of Fairhope Avenue and Summit Street for twenty-five years. Their store is currently located on Greeno Road South.

His involvement with FSTC began with his dad who was influential in getting Fred to join. He stated that "without FSTC we probably would not have had a waterfront or a city pier, numerous parks and a first-class library. These early accomplishments from our founders helped shape Fairhope". He served over the years on different committees: Finance, Rent Study, Bylaws, Education, and Archive. He feels fortunate to live on lessee land as it makes him feel vested.

There are several memorable projects for Fred: the Nature Park with its surrounding beauty; Fairhope's Museum that contains information about the founders of Fairhope, the single tax theory, the jubilee phenomenon, the history of pottery on the eastern shore, and the bay boats on Mobile Bay; and the Thomas Hospital emergency room where countless lives have been saved.

He and his wife Teresa have three children and six grandchildren. As an avid fisherman, he has been involved with the Southern Kingfish Association for twenty years. In fact, Fred won first place in the amateur's division and he came in second place in the pro's division. He humbly stated that "We had a good team".

Keeping Pace with FSTC Projects by Debby Hackbarth

On November 11, 2020, a request was made by W. Fillingim, M. Petersen, and S. Thompson to fund band uniforms at Fairhope High School in the amount of \$25,000. Monies from FEEF, property tax funds, and band members would cover the additional \$63,000 of the \$88,000 needed to purchase the 200 uniforms.

On December 9, 2020, there was discussion about this request because it was not a "brick and mortar" project. However, the \$25,000 was approved because it was seen as a project with a long-term benefit for the community.

During 2021, the uniforms were purchased and worn by the band. In fact, they wore them at the competition on October 23, 2021, when they won first place in their entire division.

