



Joyce Brown

Joyce Brown is an Orange County native who grew up in Hillsborough in the 1930s. Her family has been in Orange County for generations. Joyce is a direct descendent of Matthew McCauley, one of the original land donors who helped create the University of North Carolina. Joyce and her family

frequently visited Chapel Hill when she was young and lived there sporadically beginning in 1957. Joyce moved to Chapel Hill permanently about twenty years ago, taking up residence in the house her great-uncle built in the 1920s in what is now the Historic Cameron-McCauley district.

Joyce was involved with a statewide environmental group when she moved into Chapel Hill. She ran for Town Council, hoping to introduce an environmental perspective into the local government of Chapel Hill. She was elected to the Chapel Hill Town Council in 1989 and served for twelve years. During that time, she focused on environmental and energy conservation, as well as neighborhood preservation. Since she left the Town Council in 2001, Joyce has remained actively involved in the Westside Neighborhood Association, serving as an officer and continuing advocate for the preservation of local neighborhood identities.

- Joyce is proud of the twelve years she spent serving the people of Chapel Hill on the Town Council. She is particularly proud of the local attention she brought to issues of energy conservation and neighborhood preservation. She felt honored to be elected and worked hard to be responsive to citizens and community needs. Reflecting on that period she recalled, “I have always been impressed by the intelligent and respectful manner that the citizens of Chapel Hill bring to public forums and meetings. It has been a real pleasure to serve and work with the citizens of Chapel Hill.”
- When asked to reflect on how Chapel Hill and Carrboro have changed, Joyce cited the significant growth of the last few decades as the most noticeable difference.
- Joyce fondly remembers traveling to Chapel Hill frequently with family and friends as a child. It is hard for her to pick a favorite memory. Instead, she prefers to remember the multitude of happy memories from her many visits. Popular stops for Joyce and her friends included the cafeteria at the Carolina Inn, the Carolina and Varsity Theatres, shops on Franklin Street, The Rathskeller, Sutton’s Drug Store and Kemp’s record store. Joyce also enjoyed listening and dancing to jukebox music at The Rendezvous in the basement of the Morehead, eating at Brady’s, listening to the wonderful music at the Folk Festival and, of course, attending sporting events at UNC.
- In the future Joyce hopes “the community will be cognizant of environmental resources as they plan for potential growth.” She continued, “The Town needs to prepare based upon its worst-case drought scenario to sustain our current livability instead of focusing on population density.”