

Lee Pavao

Lee Pavao is a truly driven man. Since his arrival in Chapel Hill, he has committed his time and efforts to Chapel Hill, its residents, and its visitors. Through his tireless work in various sectors of the community, he has demonstrated his determination to never shy away from a challenge.

He first came to Chapel Hill in the early 1980s to deliver his son to the University of North Carolina as a Morehead Scholar. After multiple visits during his son's tenure at the University, he moved to Chapel Hill in 1986 and embraced the town as a community in which your lawyer is on Franklin Street, your doctor is on Franklin Street, your pharmacist is on Franklin Street, and your favorite restaurants pave the way in between. Recognizing the virtues of the town, he contributed his skills to guiding and directing a number of non-profit and government agencies and as a member of related boards. His varied involvements gave him an institutional memory which helped the organizations he served understand the background of community institutions and programs.

Lee has been actively involved in volunteering and leading community projects and programs including the Chapel Hill Senior Center, the Robert and Pearl Seymour Center, the Chapel Hill

Parks and Recreation Commission, the Orange County Task Force for Senior Needs in Southern Orange, the Public Library Board and Foundation, the Ronald MacDonald House, the Orange County United Way, and the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau. He has been offered emeritus board status with several groups, in hopes of keeping such a dedicated citizen active and involved. Even as he was volunteering almost full-time, Lee served for eight years as an elected official on the Chapel Hill Town Council, including two years as Mayor Pro-Tem.

As a man who spent more than twenty years living abroad, Lee knows that Chapel Hill is not just a town; it is a feeling that becomes a part of your essential being. He points out that visitors and new residents, when asked why they love Chapel Hill, emphatically state that Chapel Hill imparts a special feeling...a feeling that never leaves you! Lee is sure that even with the growth to come, the mystique of this feeling will hold far into the future. After years of service to the community, he believes this unique spirit explains his dedication to the town that has become his.