



Board Member Profile

David Lewis

Second-term board member David Lewis has an impressive resume. With a PhD in Parasitology, he has taught high school in Nigeria, lectured at Universities and carried out Government research before joining Pfizer in the UK in 1980. During his last ten years there (he took an early retirement in 2002), David worked with governmental regulatory agencies in Europe, Africa and Mid East to get new Pfizer Animal Health medicines approved. He served as Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance, reporting directly to Groton, which provided opportunities for regular trips to Connecticut.

David first learned about New London Main Street in 2003, when he was on the Fiddleheads Steering Committee and Board, and he came to New London to talk to CEO Penny Parsekian about the possibilities for locating Fiddleheads here. He liked what he learned, and he joined Main Street's Economic Enhancement Committee.

In 2004, David co-founded Flavours of Life with partner Marcie Boyer. Following a year of working at Fair Trade Markets, Fairs and Festivals, the pair rented their first bricks and mortar store at 189 Bank Street, and moved up to 86 Bank Street a couple of years later. As a Main Street board member, he brings to the table a scientific and educational background, corporate experience (project management/timelines/achieving targets, etc), training in Psychology and a love of New London!

In the fall of 2009, David chaired the committee who orchestrated the Main Street Volunteer Appreciation Party. He says, "I really enjoyed pulling this team together. I value team work and think of myself as a team player. Cooperation and fellowship are important to me."

Describing one of his favorite Main Street projects, David shares, "I enjoyed the Saturday morning spent planting the District Gateway flowerbeds. There must have been about 20 of us in two teams, ably led by Landscape Architect Elena Pascarella. We were creating something attractive and worthwhile, while improving the appearance of the City. Cars were stopping at the lights, and folks were shouting out their thanks and appreciation for what we were doing. We uncovered two enormous stones, rough-hewn squares, really heavy. Someone said that they were cobblestones brought from Europe and used as ballasts in the ship. Isn't that fantastic? Beautifying the new and getting an insight into the history of the City at the same time!

A vision of New London as a city, comfortable with its "gritty" past, with a big hearted community, understanding variable economic circumstances, offering a balance of services and amenities for all demographics is a very attractive one for me. In the next ten years I would hope to see a "greener" city with a thriving, sustainable downtown economy with a much reduced carbon footprint – enjoyed by residents, workers and visitors, with an integrated transport system, more green spaces and pedestrian areas, less intrusive traffic and a reputation as the business, artistic and cultural center for Eastern Connecticut.