



Lee Raines

The Spartanburg Downtown Association is a community-based organization that plans, markets, and advocates for Downtown Spartanburg.

The association's goal is to be a guiding force for positive growth and improvement of the downtown area by providing leadership, and marketing as the dynamic center of commerce in the Greater Spartanburg community.

SDA performs services directly related to downtown development, such as promotion and advertising, business retention and recruitment, and planning and problem solving among downtown residents, businesses, property owners, employees, and community leaders.

Lee Raines was raised in Spartanburg and attended Byrnes High School. He went to work at Springs Mills in Lyman and later began training in the police academy.

Lee began his career in Law Enforcement in 1993. He patrolled the south side of Spartanburg organizing Neighborhood Watch programs. He organized the clean up of Irwin Park. In 1996 he began working as a foot patrol officer walking the entire downtown area. His goal was to meet every business owner downtown. In 1997 he began riding a bike, allowing him a quicker response to calls. In 2005, Lee was promoted to Sergeant and he supervises our downtown unit of bicycle officers.

Lee earned a certification in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

He serves on site plan committees and acts as a consultant regarding the safety of many of our downtown buildings. He has served on the board of Partners for Active Living. He has taken part in The Assault on Mt. Mitchell three times. He is a certified LEBA instructor (Law Enforcement Bicycle Association) and a trainer for police officers.

Lee is married to Philomena Raines and they have four grown children. They reside on the East side of Spartanburg with their cocker spaniels, Lewis and Ginger.

Lee is responsible for starting the Downtown Merchants Association many years ago and for re-organizing it in 2003 when he realized its decline. He recruited a new President and Vice President and the organization grew to become today's Spartanburg Downtown Association. Lee serves in an Ex-Officio capacity on the Board of Directors.

