

**Pride of Kinston, Inc.**  
**Report to the Board of Directors**  
**June 22, 2006**

**As we take stock of the year just ending, we find Pride of Kinston, Inc. in very good shape, and poised to continue the momentum we built through 2005-2006.**

**It has been an active and fruitful year for downtown, and for Pride.**

**BUDGET: Our budget is in good order: Income for the year was budgeted at \$322,800. Actual income through June 16 stands at \$392,900. The expense budget you approved a year ago stood at \$362,800. Through June 16 this year, we have spent \$315,400.**

**One highlight: The privately contributed income budget in Marketing & Promotions was \$6,000. To date, we have collected nearly \$16,000...and we will do even better before June 30. This mainly due to sponsorships for last Fall's "Sand in the Streets," the Kinston 8000 race in March, the sponsorships collected so far for the Sand in the Streets 2006 summer series, and the contribution of \$2,000 from the Kinston-Lenoir County Tourism Authority to re-print the Kinston's Museum Row brochure.**

**YEAR END:** We will end the year generally in the same position as we ended 2004-2005 with a more-than-adequate balance in the bank....approximately \$150,000....a little more than 40% of the budgeted income (\$351,982) for 2006-2007.

**ORGANIZATIONAL OUTREACH:** Pride this year has reached out to the whole community for participation and support. Restoring Kinston's downtown is vital to the entire community, not just for those within the 27 blocks of the MSD. The decision to add board members from outside downtown was a major step in this objective. We saw a major increase in the number of volunteers who have assisted with the various Pride projects throughout the year. Projects such as the Kinston Waterfront – Now! Task Force with the partnership with North Carolina State University, the Kinston 8000 race, the Spring downtown clean-up project, the activities and workshops produced by Alice Tingle and the Kinston Enterprise Center...these works and other activities have incurred the interest and support of an ever widening circle of Pride of Kinston advocates.

**MEDIA:** Pride has enjoyed excellent media support throughout the year, with a number of activities and initiatives drawing editorial endorsement: specifically the proposal to re-design Queen Street, the riverfront project, our emphasis on downtown development.

**SPECIFIC ITEMS OF MERIT:** Trimming the trees in downtown Kinston; installation of planters on Herritage Street; and the “renovation” of planters on Queen Street; restoration of a plan to display American flags on Queen Street during holidays; creation and promotion of the Museum Row concept; assistance with creating the historic cemeteries task force, a project now under the umbrella of the Lenoir County Historical Association; the successful experiment with installing brighter lights on Queen Street; the use of Pride as a platform to call attention to important issues: hosting Susan Moffett-Thomas from New Bern, hosting Jim Clinton from Southern Growth Policies Board, helping to host NC Secretary of Cultural Resources;

*“The Structure of Hope is built on the Scaffolding of Dreams.”*

**ACQUISITIONS:** The Bylaws mandate that we report to you at the end of each year the properties acquired during the year. We acquired

- 101-105 S. Queen Street through donation, with an appraised value of \$175,000;
- 132 N. Queen Street, through donation, with an appraised value of \$64,000;
- 115-121 W. North Street, through donation, with an appraised value of \$100,000;

- **106, 112 and 114 N. Queen Street, through donations and payment of \$1,000 plus past-due taxes of \$6,559.91, on behalf of the Gunboat Association to allow an enlarged Civil War Museum. Pride will be reimbursed for all costs associated with these transactions, which allow the association to plan for a far greater museum attraction for downtown than originally planned.**
- **117 W. Blount Street, purchased for \$25,000, to facilitate improved parking in this end of downtown;**
- **Other real estate projects which cannot go unmentioned are these: Tonight is the official opening of the *Chef and the Farmer* which illustrates the value of Pride's catalytic capacity. The building was donated to Pride. We took bids for re-development for the property. A family picked up the "option," so to speak, to create a fine dining restaurant. The investment to turn an aging print shop into a major eastern North Carolina dining destination has been substantial...as all can see. The new jobs, construction jobs as well as restaurant jobs, the new taxes, the new purchasing requirements, the new opportunities for leisure ... when folded into the community mix...shows what dreams, hope and hard work can bring. Pride was the catalyst.**
- **Then there is Ike Hines' major addition to his studio currently underway...more investment to see greater business dreams. The Briary**

**Bistro is yet another example of dollars and dreams....becoming not only an economic asset but also a social amenity for downtown Kinston.**

**THANK YOU: Of all our projects this past year, the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary dinner to which we invited all past Pride board members ranks among the most memorable. It was the first dinner hosted by the Chef and the Farmer. It brought together many current and former leaders of Pride. It was an evening to thank Buddy Ritch and his cohorts of 1984 for creating a Pride of Kinston, and to welcome him back into the leadership role he so richly serves. And it was a time we could simply feel good about what we are doing. Those moments are just as important as poring over budgets and plans. Enjoyment and relaxation are just as vital as exertion and sweat.**

### **2006-2007 Challenges**

**There are a number of issues and challenges which will require close attention in the coming months.**

- **Working to begin implementation of recommendations pertaining to the Kinston Waterfront – Now! plan developed with the NCSU College of Design;**

- **Crafting a program to assist interior as well as exterior renovations for downtown businesses;**
- **Working to generate additional support for Pride's downtown real estate development objectives;**
- **Working to restore deserved support from Lenoir County;**
- **To improve efficiencies in the organization's operations;**
- **Decision about the property occupied by the CSS Neuse II;**

**These and other challenges will require the continuation of vital partnerships we have established over the years. It will require keeping our eyes fixed on the dreams, and hard work to build the scaffolding to make them come true.**

**Adrian King**

**Executive Director**