

Charles Kemp

Mayor of Fairmont, N. C.

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Dear Friend and Fellow Citizen,

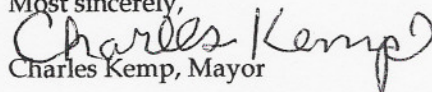
I hope you have been following the progress we are making in Fairmont over the past 22 months and can see improvement in our community. When I assumed the office of Mayor in December 2005 I knew that a long, hard road lay ahead and it would take months, maybe years, to achieve our goal of rebuilding Fairmont and making it the proud little community it once was. So far our start has been positive and there has been much progress on a number of fronts. My letter to you seeks to detail a portion of that progress and provide you with the path which lays ahead.

The center of any small town is the downtown commercial core and my vision called for focusing attention on it first. Since January 2006 a concerted effort has been made in re-structuring the physical layout of downtown and restoring the customer flow to its stores. First came the demolition of the Capitol Theater and the placement of Heritage Park on its site. Next came the hot dog vendor to draw customers to downtown. In between came the N. C. Small Town Main Street Committee whose work this past year has been to focus on re-design, promotion, and economic re-structuring. An attractive announcement sign, painting of the backs of 6 stores and other physical makeovers are all part of our focus. We were informed in early June the GoldenLeaf Foundation had awarded us a \$504,850 grant to remodel and upfit the Pope's Department Store and now we are in conversations with Progress Energy regarding our street light conversion plan. I really believe that within another year Fairmont's downtown will be humming again with renewed vigor and commerce.

There is yet another eyesore which needs attention and it now becomes the topic of my letter today. What used to be a store in mid block on the east side of Main Street is now a big opening and is quite unattractive. My plan from the start of our downtown makeover was for it to become a "stroll through" from Main Street to alley making it convenient for parkers in the rear to reach the community buildings front door. My plan calls for Matt Taylor, the muralist who painted our train in Heritage Park, to design and paint on the interior two walls 8 scenes of our towns history along with placing in the middle section of each interior wall a "Wall of Honor" to memorialize the many former residents of Fairmont whose service and assistance made our community successful. The names on these two wall sections would be in the form of 2" x 4" bronze rectangles similar to those placed on plaques. They would be large enough to be read by those walking through and would be weather resistant. Once completed the "stroll through" would display a wedding cake type stone fountain with cascading water and several semi-circular park benches. Memory Lane, as the alley park would be called, would tie Heritage Park and the Fairmont- South Robeson Heritage Center (our community buildings name) together into a triumverate of memorable and aesthetically pleasing downtown fixtures.

To complete Memory Lane is going to require approximately \$20,000, \$3,400 of which has been awarded us recently through a N. C. Arts Council Grant. I need your help raising the additional \$16,600. You have been sent this letter in hopes you would offer a **\$100 donation** to "memorialize" or honor a family member, relative, or special friend. Their name, emblazoned in bronze on the "Wall of Honor", would make a powerful statement as to the quality of our citizens. With this letter, therefore, I humbly request both your **tax deductible donation and request**. If you know others who may be interested in this project please feel free to share this letter with them. For further information or to make a donation simply fill out the enclosed request slip and mail or deliver it with your donation to one of the members of the Wall of Honor Committee located at the bottom of the enclosed request slip.

Most sincerely,


Charles Kemp, Mayor

"WALL OF HONOR" MEMORIAL REQUEST

YOUR NAME _____

CURRENT ADDRESS _____

CURRENT PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

HOME _____ **WORK** _____ **CELL** _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) TO BE INCLUDED ON "WALL OF HONOR". PLEASE PRINT THE NAME EXACTLY AS YOU WISH TO SEE IT APPEAR.

TOTAL DONATION ENCLOSED/PROVIDED \$ _____

CHECKS MAY BE MADE OUT TO: TOWN OF FAIRMONT/WALL OF HONOR. YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTABLE AND MAY BE MAILED OR DELIVERED TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING "WALL OF HONOR"

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**MAYOR CHARLES KEMP/ PO BOX 248 FAIRMONT, NC
PHOSTENIA MCCRIMMON/PO BOX 113 FAIRMONT, NC
JACKIE KERNS/PO BOX 1047 FAIRMONT, NC
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