



The Pike

Newsletter of the Town of Pike Road • www.pikeroad.us • Fall 2011

CALENDAR

Town Hall Closed.....10/10
 Referendum.....10/11
 Town Council.....10/13
 Lions Club.....10/25
 Town Council.....10/26
 Year of the Child.....11/4
 Town Hall Closed.....11/11
 Town Council.....11/14
 Town Council.....11/23
 Town Hall Closed..11/24-25

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Town of Pike Road

9575 Vaughn Rd.
 Pike Road, AL 36064

(334) 272-9883 (P)
 (334) 272-9884 (F)

www.pikeroad.us

Welcome Home!



Hawkins: Pike Road School Makes “Dollars and Sense”

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor of the Troy University system and a homeowner in the Town of Pike Road, spoke with The Pike recently about his thoughts on the upcoming referendum. Here is an excerpt of that conversation.

The Pike: Why did you and Mrs. Hawkins choose the Town of Pike Road as your “home away from home” and the place where you will retire?

Jack Hawkins: We consider Pike Road to be the “jewel in the crown” of the central Alabama region. The town’s commitment to creating a forward-thinking, quality-driven school system is one reason for this opinion.

TP: What are your thoughts on Troy University’s role in the development of the Pike Road school system’s educational program?

JH: I am so proud of Troy University’s College of Education and the leadership role our faculty have taken in the design of the Pike Road school system. I know that the citizens of this town will be proud of the results of their work.

TP: As a property owner in the Town of Pike Road, what are your thoughts on the proposed ad valorem tax increase to fund a local school system?

JH: The bottom line is, the Pike Road school system will benefit every homeowner in the community. There are economic impact studies that show that home values in Pike Road will increase more than 25 percent during the first five years the school is open. So, aside from the impact a public school system has on our quality of life, the investment makes sense—dollars and “sense”—for the people of the town.

TP: If I asked you to summarize your reasons for supporting the establishment of a Pike Road school system in one sentence, what would you say?

JH: I believe we have a responsibility to provide a high quality education for our children, and we must do so with the knowledge that the return on investment will far exceed the cost.

Move Forward with Faith, not Fear

By Mayor Gordon Stone

As I contemplate the momentous decision the voters of the Town of Pike Road will make in the October 11 referendum, I am reminded once again of the power of faith. As Dr. Hawkins, a great education leader, stated so well, a high quality public school system is an investment that

will pay enormous returns for the people of this town well into the future. Even though it can be scary to step into uncharted territory, it is by taking bold steps that we realize the greatest rewards. As you prepare to vote on the proposed tax increase, I hope you will do so fearlessly, with faith in the evidence that you are making a wise investment. God bless!

See the insert for a summary of Dr. Keivan Deravi’s study of the impact of a public school system on property values in the Town of Pike Road.

Year of the Child Back-to-School Bash & Art Show

As part of the Town of Pike Road's 2011 focus on children, known as the Year of the Child, the town hosted events in August and September. The August event was a Back-to-School Bash at the Rolling Hills Park on Trotman Road. Equipment and personnel from the Rolling Hills Lakes Volunteer Fire Department were on hand and taught the children how the equipment are used. The town provided inflatable water games as well as snow cones. More than 60 children participated in the afternoon's activities, which also included old-fashioned field games.

September's event was a children's art show following the Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department's September 11 memorial event. Art from local K-12 students was displayed, including awards in each age division. A special award was given in each division for a patriotic work of art, and a Best of Show winner was selected for the overall best patriotic piece. A full list of art show participants and awards can be viewed on the town's website, www.pikeroad.us.



Above and right: More than 60 children participated in the Back-to-School Bash at Rolling Hills Park.



Below: Art show attendees view high school submissions, and Kaiden Byrom, a kindergartener from Pike Road, is shown with her painting, "Thank You, God, for America," the Best of Show selection.



Ladies Auxiliary Hosts September 11 Memorial

The Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary hosted a memorial event at Pike Road Town Hall on Sunday, September 11, 2011, to mark the tenth anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks. The program featured the Montgomery County Honor Guard, emcee Mark Wilder and music by bagpiper Charles Hightower. In addition, remarks were delivered by PRVFD Chief Mike Green, State Representative Greg Wren and Mayor Gordon Stone. Town of Pike Road resident Dennis Eddy, a retired federal police officer who was serving in New York City at the time of the attacks, shared with the crowd his reflections on the tragic events. Following the speakers, red, white and blue balloons were distributed to the crowd by Pike Road children. In a symbolic and moving gesture, the balloons were released as Hightower played "Going Home".



Left: PRVFD firefighters look on as balloons are released, concluding the Ladies Auxiliary September 11 memorial program.

45th Annual Pike Road Arts & Crafts Fair

November 5, 2011
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Marks House on Pike Road
Tickets available at Pike Road Town Hall

Town Hall Updates Complete

Pike Road Town Hall recently underwent construction to improve accessibility and accommodate a broader range of activities. The addition of an elevator and third stairway improve access and traffic flow to facility's second floor. Improvements to the second floor created a meeting and banquet space that can be used for community gatherings and social events. In addition to the accessibility improvements, the upstairs space will soon contain a stage and better access to the building's commercial kitchen, located on the first floor of the former grocery. The second floor currently contains several offices that will not be altered in the construction.

For more information or to reserve the new space, contact Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883.

Natural Trail Open

The first phase of the Pike Road Natural Trail is complete and ready for use. Parking is available at the trailhead on Meriwether Road near U.S. Highway 231. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail.

A grand opening ribbon-cutting will be held in October at the trailhead on Meriwether Road. Visit the town's website, www.pikeroad.us, or "like" the town on Facebook for more information.

New Restaurant Open at Pike Road Station

A brand new restaurant, **Sarris's at the Station**, is open in Pike Road Station near Town Hall. Sarris's serves lunch and dinner seven days a week, with a dinner menu featuring steaks, seafood and nightly chef's creations. Meet your friends for lunch at Sarris's and choose from salads, sandwiches or a meat-and-three. Sarris's also offers a kids' menu and an appetizer menu. Make plans to watch your favorite college and NFL teams play on multiple tv's in the smoke-free lounge, or relax and enjoy the cool, fall air on Sarris's patio.

Chef Vincent Sarris has wowed customers and clients with his culinary creations for more than 25 years. Sarris served as a culinary arts instructor at UAB, founder and chef at Sarris's Seafood and Steak in Hoover and a multi-unit operator for large franchises. In addition, he served 18 months in Iraq in camp operations with the Department of Defense and was AlaGasCo's featured chef for all media, cooking live on Channel 13 in Birmingham for years.

Vincent Sarris and his family will be involved in day-to-day operations of Sarris's at the Station, and they invite your family to make their table *your* table today!

"Pike Night" for Teens November 4 at Town Hall

The Town of Pike Road continues its celebration of the Year of the Child with "**Pike Night**," an evening of dancing, games, karaoke and good, old-fashioned fun for grades 7-12 **Friday, November 4 at Town Hall**. Teens are asked to **bring one non-perishable food item** for admission. All items collected will be donated to local food pantries. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Tell your friends to join you at Pike Night, Friday, November 4 from **7:00 to 10:30 p.m.** at Pike Road Town Hall. For more information on the event, visit www.pikeroad.us, or "like" the town on Facebook for updates.

Hey, Look at Us! Hay Bale Contest Returns

The Pike Road Neighborhood Leaders program will sponsor the "Hey, Look at Us!" hay bale decorating contest again this fall. Large, round bales will be delivered to each neighborhood October 10-17 and should be decorated by October 22 at 3:00 p.m. when judging begins.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three hay bales: \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$75 for third place. The rules for the contest are as follows:

- Contest must be entered as a neighborhood group, and all neighborhoods are eligible to enter.
- A preliminary sketch of theme and decoration must be submitted to Town Hall.
- Entries will be judged on visual appeal, construction, creativity and use of materials.
- Hay bales may be placed on their sides or ends, but the orientation should be specified in the entry form.
- Decorations must be weather- and wind-proof.
- All decorations must remain clear of the Right-of-Way.
- Paint may be applied to hay bale or grass, but should not be applied to concrete or asphalt.
- No political or commercial signs of any kind will be allowed.
- Decorations may not be removed from bales before November 12.

For more information, call Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883.

2011 Farm-City Festival

Monday, October 17, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Bartlett Ranch on Pike Road

Pike Road Lions Club

The Lions Club will hold an informational meeting at Pike Road Town Hall Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in being part of a Pike Road Lions Club is invited to attend. For more information, contact Durden Dean at 306-4904 or email durdendean@yahoo.com.

Pike Road Library Events

Awesome Book Club for ages 9-12, October 12, 4:15 p.m.
The Graveyard Book, a Newbery Award Winner, by Neil Gaiman
Teen Book Club for ages 13 and up, October 26 at 4:15 p.m.
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
Pike Road Bookies adult book club, October 20 at 11:15 a.m.
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
Story Times for ages 3-7, Mondays at 4:15 p.m.
(October 3, 24 and 31)

October 11 Referendum Voting Information

Tuesday, October 11, the Town of Pike Road will hold a referendum election in which all registered voters residing within the town's limits will have the opportunity to participate. Voters will choose to vote in favor of or against a 16-mill ad valorem tax increase to fund a municipal school system within the town. The following information pertains to voter registration and absentee balloting for the October 11 referendum:

- Individuals must be registered to vote in the Town of Pike Road in order to cast a vote in the referendum. Those who are uncertain about their registration status can call Pike Road Town Hall (272-9883) or the Montgomery County Board of Registrars (832-1215).
- Voter registration forms can be picked up at Pike Road Town Hall or the Montgomery County Board of Registrars or downloaded from www.alabamavotes.gov.
- The final date to register or update registration information for the Pike Road referendum election is **September 30, 2011**. The voter registration/update form may be hand-delivered to the Montgomery County Board of Registrars, Pike Road Town Hall or mailed to the registrar at the address below. If mailed, it must be postmarked on or before **September 30, 2011**. The Board of Registrars mailing address is P.O. Box 1667, Montgomery, AL 36102 .
- Any Pike Road resident and registered voter wishing to vote

absentee must obtain an application for absentee ballot at Pike Road Town Hall or at www.alabamavotes.gov. The completed application must be signed by the applicant, with signature witnessed, and returned to the Absentee Election Manager at Pike Road Town Hall. Once the completed and signed application is received, a ballot package will be issued in person or by mail. Detailed instructions are included. Anyone can pick up blank applications, but **only the applicant can return a completed application, receive a ballot, or return a voted ballot.**

- The last day to request an absentee application is five days before the October 11 election, which is Thursday, October 6, 2011. **Due to the October 10 federal holiday, it is recommended that the ballot be mailed/postmarked by Saturday, October 8, 2011, to ensure the ballot is received by mail before Election Day.**
- A list of eligible voters for the referendum will be posted on the town's website, www.pikeroad.us, **Friday, September 23**. If you believe you are eligible to vote and do not see your name on this list, call Town Hall at 272-9883.
- Voting will take place at Pike Road Town Hall, located at 9575 Vaughn Road. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. October 11.

For more information on the October 11 referendum, visit the town's website, www.pikeroad.us, or call 272-9883.



Town of Pike Road

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Referendum Information Session October 4 at St. James UMC

The Town of Pike Road will host one final community gathering to discuss the upcoming referendum and proposed school system **Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at St. James United Methodist Church** on Vaughn Road. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will feature former Alabama Superintendent of Education and Auburn University President Dr. Ed Richardson. Other invited guests include Troy University Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., and Auburn Montgomery economics professor, Dr. Keivan Deravi. Attendees will have the opportunity during this event to ask questions about the proposed ad valorem tax and school system. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please call Town Hall at 272-9883 for more information.