



The Pike

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2010 Wraps up with a Long-Awaited Blessing

As another eventful year draws to a close for the Town of Pike Road, our commitment to resolving the issues that have caused us to be in litigation with the City of Montgomery has finally paid off. Though previous attempts to reach a settlement agreement were unsuccessful, negotiations with the city have resulted not only in tangible benefits for the Town of Pike Road, but in more positive relations between the leadership of Montgomery County's two municipalities. The following pages of this special holiday edition of *The Pike* were designed to answer any questions our residents may have and to share the excitement of this event with you during this blessed time of year.

History of the Settlement. In the Spring, the Town of Pike Road and the City of Montgomery reached an agreement settling the legal disputes related to property boundaries and revenue produced along Chantilly Parkway. While the agreement did not provide perfect results for either municipality, it did provide the opportunity for the Town of Pike Road to continue to make progress toward the quality of life issues which the citizens have identified as most important. The final step necessary for completing the previous attempt to reach a settlement was the validation of the complex agreement by the Alabama Legislature. However, concerns about the location of the several parcels created division among citizens, and the controversy caused the bills' defeat within the local delegation.

Previous Concerns Resolved. After the legislation was unsuccessful, the Town of Pike Road encouraged dissatisfied parties to work with the appropriate municipalities to resolve their concerns. Building on the goodwill established during the previous settlement process, the Town of Pike Road and the City of Montgomery were able to resume negotiations and arrive at a new agreement. Among other changes, the new settlement places the entire Woodland Creek subdivision in the Town of Pike Road. Individual landowners who were not happy with the municipality in which their properties were placed by the last agreement were accommodated by the new settlement as well. A special tax district containing the major retailers on Chantilly Parkway will provide revenue to the Town of Pike Road as well as the City of Montgomery. The town is offering residents of the Knollwood neighborhood the opportunity to resolve the issues with their subdivision, and any landowner in Knollwood has until January 30 to express a desire to be deannexed. They should simply present the town with a written and signed request to be deannexed, the parcel's legal description, and a proof of identity.

No More Uncertainty. With municipal boundaries fixed by the settlement, the Town of Pike Road has now been able to move full speed ahead toward its most exciting goals. The town, with a population of more than 5,000 residents, has taken the first step in the process of building our own educational entity by voting to create a school system and school board. Revenue from the special tax district will also help the town move forward with plans for first-class recreation facilities and the town's trail system. Additionally, certainty over boundary locations will aid in residential development, economic growth, fire and police coverage and a number of other essential municipal functions.

Pressing On. Leaders of both municipalities and the county are happy to put an end to the long process of resolving these disagreements. It is now time to move forward with determination and take advantage of the many gifts this community has been given by the Lord. As we begin a new year, we also begin a new chapter in the story of the Town of Pike Road. It is my hope that this will be the most productive and blessed chapter yet.

Thank you to our families, the many volunteers, the magnificent team of employees, the council members (past and present), the previous mayors and the great support team of lawyers, engineers, planners, etc. The success of the town is due to each of you living by our pledge to be in "prayerful, persistent pursuit of our passion." We must stay true to our commitment to make sure the voices of the people are heard and the special features of our town are evident. We must make sure our "Welcome Home" slogan is forever a true resemblance of the Town of Pike Road. Go Patriots!

God Bless,
Gordon Stone
Mayor, Town of Pike Road



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Your Questions Answered

The Pike Road School

The following information is provided by Patty Payne, PRICE Fund Coordinator and leader of the Patriot Club.

The number one question in Pike Road for the past several years has been “When are we going to get a school?” Finally, now that a settlement has been completed between the City of Montgomery and the Town of Pike Road that established firm boundary lines, and secured the initial revenue stream, we can enthusiastically turn our attention toward the development of a school system. And, (drum roll please!) we plan to open a K-8 school in the year 2015!

Building a school system from the ground up is no simple endeavor when one considers the cost of building construction, hiring quality faculty and staff, installing technology in the 21st Century classroom, stocking a library and the myriad of other hurdles that must be met before any doors can open. An obvious hurdle is how we complete the financing of a school system. Town leadership and volunteers on the Pike Road Educational System for Excellence in Teaching (PRESET) Committee have stated the importance of resources from the outset. If we are going to pursue an education program in the Town of Pike Road it must be one that not only provides excellent instruction, but one that helps direct the vision of education throughout the State of Alabama. Clearing that hurdle now becomes easier with an identified revenue stream from the settlement. However, just as the Pike Road citizens came together nearly 100 years ago to build the first Pike Road School, it will be up to each of us to roll up our sleeves to make our dream a reality.

The next immediate step in the process of establishing the school is to define the requirements for school board members, appoint the board and develop financial school operations plans and refine construction plans. The Town of Pike Road has obtained the assistance of a school finance expert to lead us through those planning processes. Once town leadership believes we have attained the fiscal strength to operate a school, qualified citizens will be appointed to serve on a school board and continue the educational vision for the school that has been developed by the PRESET Committee.

Fortunately for us, The Waters community off Marler Road has donated the site for our initial K-8 school building. That generous donation represents a huge savings for the city and our taxpayers and will speed the process of building the first of our system's schools. Once we get closer to “breaking ground” you may have questions about such things as attendance, magnet schools, transportation, exceptional learning programs, sports programs, etc. You will want to know precisely how a Pike Road School System will impact your own children. Many of those issues will be the topic of future negotiations between the Montgomery County School Board and the Pike Road School Board.

You will be able to keep up with the news about the Pike Road School System through the town's web page, www.pikeroad.us. An abbreviated project timeline and new developments will be posted under PRESET on the homepage. You can also attend the Patriot Club meetings that are held monthly at different locations around Pike Road, usually at lunch time. If you want to be on the email list for the Patriot Club just send your request to me at patty@pikeroad.us. The Neighborhood Leaders also meet the last Thursday of each month. So, if you have questions or concerns about the future school in Pike Road you can ask your Neighborhood Leader. I urge you to email me your questions and concerns about our future school as you think of them. The earlier we start identifying and knocking down the obstacles, the faster we will reach the destination! This is the beginning of very exciting times in our small town. It is not every day a town gets to build a school system from the ground up and to realize a dream that has been long in the making. And, it is not every day that a small town like Pike Road has the opportunity to make a huge impact on education that embodies the highest ideals of teacher preparation and student achievement!

Planning and Development

The following information is provided by Buddy Garland, Director of Planning for the Town of Pike Road.

The most important thing for residents, businesses, landowners and builders to know is that the settlement will not affect the planning, zoning, or permitting processes in the Town of Pike Road. Zoning will be applied to all properties within the defined boundaries according to current ordinances. This must take place in order to maintain a current Town of Pike Road Zoning Map. All parcels will remain status-quo until rezoning is requested by the property owner. In most cases, the settlement will not change the municipality in which a parcel is located. However, in a limited number of cases, certain properties may be specifically designated for a different municipality or may be located outside both municipalities' boundaries, in Montgomery County. Permitting and inspections will continue as currently established. The number of permits and associated inspections should increase as new developments are initiated. While the settlement fixes the boundaries that have been disputed for the past several years, the Town of Pike Road's boundaries shall be subject to changes as a result of future annexations. Neighbors whose properties are contiguous to the Town's corporate limits may still petition for annexation after the settlement according to current town ordinances. Residents who are curious to know how the settlement will change the look and feel of the Town of Pike Road can rest assured that our commitment to careful planning will remain a central focus of our staff and leadership. Certain areas of the town may increase in density of residences, businesses, and population after the settlement. Commercial and retail offerings should increase and will become more central to the various neighborhoods via planned town centers. Again, the Town of Pike Road remains committed to careful planning that will preserve the best of this area's past while building an even brighter future. Anyone with additional questions is welcome to call Town Hall at 272-9883.

Administrative Operations

The following information is provided by Charlene Rabren, Town Clerk.

Though the settlement agreement will not change the level of service you will experience when you visit, call or email Town Hall, the fixing of our municipal boundaries will bring improvements to several of our on-going administrative tasks. For example, businesses will now find it much easier to determine in which jurisdiction(s) they should be licensed. While the permitting and inspections process for building projects will not change, it will now also be easier for contractors to know which municipality to contact for these services. Fees for business licenses and permits will not change due to the settlement either. Over time, Pike Road Town Hall may receive fewer calls from people asking which jurisdiction a home or business is located in, but our staff will always be happy to answer questions and help in any way we can. Additionally, residents and friends are welcome to stop by our new town hall facility in the next few weeks to see the map of the town's boundaries as established by the agreement. As always, feel free to call Town Hall at 272-9883.