

# The Pike

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

## CALENDAR

- Town Council.....6/22
- Summer Fest.....7/4
- Town Council.....7/11
- Patriot Club.....7/12
- Town Council.....7/27
- Back-to-School Bash.....8/4
- Town Council.....8/8
- Patriot Club.....8/9
- Town Council.....8/24
- Referendum.....9/8
- Children's Art Show....9/11

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### Town of Pike Road

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Pike Road, AL 36064

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[www.pikeroad.us](http://www.pikeroad.us)

**Welcome Home!**



## Why I Support a 16-mill Ad Valorem Tax

During the regularly scheduled town council meeting June 13, 2011, the Pike Road Town Council voted in favor of proposing an ad valorem tax of 16 mills on all property within the town limits. The tax will now be considered by the people of the town in a referendum scheduled for September 8. All registered voters living within the town limits will be eligible to cast a ballot. In the wake of the town council's decision to recommend a millage rate for the future Pike Road school system, I would like to share with you a few reasons why I personally support the 16-mill proposal and will vote in favor of it in the referendum September 8.

After years of research and volunteer-led planning, the Pike Road Town Council passed a resolution establishing a public school system in December 2010. In accordance with state law, the council asked the state legislature in March for authority to hold a referendum to create an ad valorem tax to fund the school system. The town was given that authority when a local bill received legislative approval and was signed by Governor Bentley in May. That bill authorized the town to vote on a millage rate of up to 25 mills.

How would the 16 mills be used? The 16-mill tax would be dedicated strictly to public education and would be the only ad valorem tax collected by the municipality other than the five-mill tax that goes to the fire department. If voted for by the people, it would provide the necessary resources for building a new school facility and for operating the Pike Road school system. The system would be a full-service K-12 which would begin with K-8 in 2015 and be operational as K-12 within four years.

What does this vote mean to the community? It means taking action on an issue that people have prioritized. Since the early days of the town, citizens have expressed a concern about young people being separated from their neighbors. Children living in each of the 36 neighborhoods in the Town of Pike Road often attend different schools than their neighbors. They have "Saturday friends" with whom they ride bikes and shoot baskets. They may also have a set of school friends with whom they attend extracurricular activities. Unfortunately, in the world of today's school choices, parents have felt they had *no choice*. Now, the citizens of Pike Road have a chance to fund a Pike Road school system. If the referendum passes, this will be a community-owned product with its own school board, superintendent and principals. The vote on September 8 will allow the citizens of the Town of Pike Road to determine if they want to fund a city school system that will be a rallying point for the community. Passing the referendum will let Pike Road's people take control of their educational future.

In summary, a 16-mill increase allows the Town of Pike Road to take the next step toward accomplishing the educational goals voiced by many of the citizens at more than 100 public meetings, numerous committee meetings, multiple summits and other venues over the past several years. Placing this referendum on the ballot allows the voice of the people to be clearly heard, and it is the voices of the people who have made and continue to make the Town of Pike Road the special place it is.

God bless,

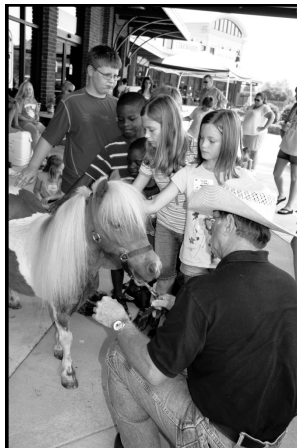
**Gordon Stone**  
Mayor, Town of Pike Road

# Year of the Child: Summer Kick-Off

As part of the Town of Pike Road's 2011 focus on children, known as the Year of the Child, the town welcomed local children to Town Hall Saturday, June 4 for a Summer Kick-off event. The event featured several activities, each of which related to the town's past, present or future, and included both a fun and an educational element. The activities were:

- "Hands-on Patriotism": Children painted a giant American flag with their handprints and learned about Pike Road's mascot, the patriot, as well as the American flag. They even got to play the parts of mayor and council as they conducted a mock council meeting.
- "Chalk up the Town": Using sidewalk chalk, children drew their vision for the future of the town and learned why city planning is important to Pike Road citizens and leaders.
- "Get Growing": Volunteers from Bonnie Plant Farms taught children about how to grow vegetables at home, sending each child home with his or her own tomato plant and instructions on how to make it grow.
- "Four-legged Locals": Children spent time getting to know some of their furry and feathered neighbors, as town residents Carol and Jim Miller and Elizabeth Forks taught them about the animals.
- "Oh My! Tie Dye!": Children tie-dyed tee shirts and learned about colors—primary, secondary and how to mix them to make new colors.

*Right: Town of Pike Road resident Jim Miller talks to children as they get to know one of the Millers' miniature horses. Before "retiring" to Pike Road, the horses "worked" for the Disney Corporation.*



*Below: Some of the children of Pike Road who participated in the Summer Kick-off June 4 at Town Hall*



2011 has been designated the Year of the Child in the Town of Pike Road, and with summer vacation in full swing, several child-centered events are on the town's calendar. Designed to combine good, old-fashioned fun with an opportunity to learn about the community, each event promises an avenue for children and their parents to meet their neighbors and become more connected to their hometown. Most of the activities will be free of charge, but reservations will be required for some. Appropriate ages for each event are indicated in the calendar below. For more information or to register for an event, call the Town of Pike Road at 272-9883.

July 4: Pike Road Fourth of July Parade and Summer Fest, all ages

August 4: Back-to-School Bash, ages 6-12

September 11: Grandparents' Day Patriotic Art Show, grades K-12

October 23: Town of Pike Road Founders' Day celebration and Fall Family Fun Day, all ages

November 4: Fifth Quarter, grades 9-12

December 4: Town of Pike Road Christmas Tree Lighting, all ages

## Know Your Elected Officials

### Town Council Members (all at-large):

Betsy Atkins

Tommy Brassell

Chris Dunn

Rob Steindorff

Lee Tolliver

**Mayor:**

Gordon Stone

# Rolling Hills Park Dedication

Saturday, May 21 residents of the Town of Pike Road joined town leaders for the dedication of a new picnic area at the Rolling Hills park. Work on the picnic area was completed by Joshua Dunn, a resident of the Town of Pike Road and senior at Trinity Presbyterian School. Active in the Boy Scouts since second grade, Dunn planned, raised funds for and constructed the picnic area in order to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Following the dedication of the park, which also features a newly constructed, covered picnic pavilion, Dunn was awarded the high honor of Eagle Scout.



*The new picnic area at Rolling Hills Park off Trotman Road in the Town of Pike Road. The picnic area was planned and constructed by Joshua Dunn, a high school senior from the Town of Pike Road.*



## FOURTH OF JULY IN THE TOWN OF PIKE ROAD

### Summer Fest 2011

Planning is underway for Summer Fest, the Town of Pike Road's annual Fourth of July celebration. The event will be held at The Waters on Monday, July 4 at 5:00 p.m. As in years past, Summer Fest 2011 will feature live music, old-fashioned fun and games for children and families, food vendors and fireworks.

Volunteers are needed to help plan Summer Fest and to oversee various activities during the event. If you are interested in contributing to this fun, old-fashioned celebration, please contact Town Hall at 272-9883, or email [info@pikeroad.us](mailto:info@pikeroad.us). Team meetings will begin soon.

### Volunteers Needed!

Call or email Town Hall to be part of the Summer Fest Team.  
272-9883 or [info@pikeroad.us](mailto:info@pikeroad.us)

### Pike Road Library Events

Beat the heat this summer with a great book and these fun events at the Pike Road Library, located at 9585 Vaughn Road, right next door to Town Hall at Pike Road Station.

Children's events, Mondays at 3:30 p.m.:

June 27: Captain Matt's Pirate Day

July 11: Go to the Land Down Under

July 18: The Lost Fountain of Chocolate

Awesome Book Club for ages 9-12, 4:00 p.m.:

July 13 - *Keepers Trilogy, Book 1: Museum of Thieves* by Lian Tanner

August 10 - *Beyonders, Book 1: A World Without Heroes* by Brandon Mull

Teen Club for ages 13 and up, 4:00 p.m.:

June 29 - *The Infernal Devices, Book 1: Clockwork Angel* by Cassandra Clare

July 27 - *Sherlock Holmes, The Legend Begins: Death Cloud* by Andy Lane

Pike Road Bookies adult book club, 11:15 a.m.:

July 21 - *Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett

August 18 - *The Devil Amongst the Lawyers* by Sharyn McCrumb



### Business Buzz

**Chantilly Cleaners** is now open at **9569 Vaughn Road**, next door to Town Hall in Pike Road Station. Matt Hall and his staff are ready and able to meet all your dry-cleaning needs as well as laundry, alterations and shoe repair. Dry-cleaning Express delivery service and next-day service are also available. Questions? Call or stop by Chantilly Cleaners today!  
(334) 309-7686

### Natural Trail Update

Construction of the first phase of the Pike Road Natural Trail is on schedule and progressing well, according to Town of Pike Road Building Department Director Buddy Garland. At press time, contractors were preparing to install the surface on the first mile of trails and would soon begin work on the bridge structure. The first phase of the trail, which will run four miles along Meriwether Road between Highway 231 and Pike Road, should be complete later this year.

Residents are encouraged to keep up with the trail construction progress and begin making plans for use of both the trail and the staging area near Highway 231.

For updates on trail construction and other trail-related information, contact Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883.

## Pike Road Summer Fest July 4th at The Waters

Make plans now to attend Pike Road Summer Fest July 4th at The Waters. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. and events will begin at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 per car, and all proceeds will be donated to the PRICE Foundation. For more information on the PRICE Foundation, visit [www.pikeroad.us](http://www.pikeroad.us).

Here are some of this year's Summer Fest activities:



- "Blue Monster" water slide
- Face painting
- "Minute to Win It" competition
- Turtle Race
- Baby Crawl
- Team/Family Scavenger Hunt
- Live music
- Fireworks

Summer Fest sponsors have provided great prizes like a year's worth of baby diapers and an electric scooter for the winners of contests and games. Food vendors will be on site. Bring a picnic blanket or folding chairs and join your neighbors for an evening of family-oriented fun!

## September 11 Commemoration and Children's Art Show



Sunday, September 11 will be an afternoon to honor America and American heroes in the Town of Pike Road. At 3:00 p.m., the Pike Road Volunteer Fire

Department's Ladies Auxiliary will host a ceremony at Pike Road Town Hall, commemorating the heroes of September 11. Immediately following the commemoration, the Town of Pike Road will welcome the public to view patriotic art work submitted by local children as part of September's Year of the Child event.

All school-aged children are encouraged to create entries for the art show. Prizes will be awarded, and all entries will be displayed at Pike Road Town Hall September 11-18. Since September 11 is also designated as Grandparents Day, young artists are encouraged to invite or bring their grandparents to the show.

For art show guidelines and entry forms, visit [www.pikeroad.us](http://www.pikeroad.us).



**Town of Pike Road**

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Pike Road, AL 36064

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## Outer Loop Public Meeting with ALDOT June 28

The Alabama Department of Transportation will host a public meeting on the future Outer Loop Tuesday, June 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Pike Road Town Hall. Residents are invited to participate in a public hearing regarding the widening of Vaughn Road from Chantilly Parkway to the first planned interchange. You are encouraged to attend this event and learn how the road construction could affect your neighborhood and daily life.

For more information or to request special accommodations for this meeting, contact Joe Lister with ALDOT at (334) 241-8599.