

The Pike

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More Signs of Positive Growth

The vision for the future of the Town of Pike Road includes growing wisely and with plans that will allow this great place to retain the characteristics that make it special. In an effort to advance that vision of smart and sustainable growth, the Town of Pike Road recently acquired the Pike Station Shopping Center on Vaughn Road, creating a vital link to the future. Having out-grown our present town hall facility, the acquisition of this property also provides an excellent and highly visible location to accommodate municipal events. The possibilities for the future development of a town center at the corner of Vaughn and Pike Roads is enhanced by the purchase. The Town is working with surrounding developers to achieve this goal. Progress continues on the school project. The recent education summit was tremendously successful, and the town continues to receive great feedback. The trail program remains on schedule. Hopefully, construction will begin in the early part of the summer. It is easy to see we have much to celebrate in the Town of Pike Road. I hope you will join me in celebrating this great town and nation at Summer Fest July 4.

God bless,

Gordon Stone

Mayor, Town of Pike Road

Visit us on the Web!

www.pikeroad.us

Pike Station Shopping Center New Home for Town Hall

The Town of Pike Road has announced the purchase of the Pike Road Station located at 9589 Vaughn Road in Pike Road. Plans are being developed to design the interior of the center space into new town hall spaces. The location is sufficient to allow for much needed expansion of office space for the fast growing town. It will also allow for the development of a civic auditorium. Infinity Architecture will be designing the

interior with a plan to retrofit the existing space with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system that guides sustainable green building practices. Pike Road intends to be a model for municipal facilities illustrating the latest technological advancements for efficiency and access.

"The Town of Pike Road sees this purchase as moving one step closer to fulfilling our vision of developing town center locations at the traditional crossroads of the community. With the proximity to the public library and the post office, occupying the Pike Road Station allows the town to centralize many important public services. Further, the new town hall will be a center piece for what we anticipate will develop into one of the municipality's initial first town centers. We have already initiated conversations with neighboring landowners about the exciting possibilities that may be forthcoming as a result of this move. It is a great day for the Town of Pike Road," said Mayor Gordon Stone.



The Pike Road Station Shopping Center on Vaughn Road

Stay Cool, Save Money this Summer with WAP

Alabama summers can be unbearable for residents whose homes are not equipped to keep the heat out, and efforts to stay cool are often cost prohibitive. For these reasons, the Town of Pike Road wants residents to know about the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) recently funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Administered by the Central Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission (CARPDC), the purpose of the program is to help low-income home-owners, primarily the elderly, disabled and those with children under 18, improve their homes' energy efficiency. A maximum of \$6,500 will be awarded to those deemed eligible based on a one-page application. An assessment of each home will identify its weatherization needs, and contractors selected by CARPDC will bid on the work. Upon completion, work will be inspected for quality and compliance with program standards. Weatherization will result in lower utility bills and a more comfortable home. To find out if you are eligible to participate, visit www.carpdc.com or call (334) 272-4300.

Census Leaders Needed

The U. S. Constitution requires a national census be conducted of all U. S. residents – citizens and non-citizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every ten years since. The 2010 Census questionnaire will be quick and easy to complete, and the information citizens provide will be confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share anyone's questionnaire responses, even with other federal or law enforcement agencies.

The census is important to our community because an exact, federally certified accounting of our residents will make us eligible for various critical community services. Some of these services are obtainable through state funding and block grants such as Title 1 grants to education and public safety agencies.

Key leaders in each Pike Road neighborhood will be selected to serve on the town's Complete Count Committee. The volunteer leaders will help design and implement a census awareness campaign to ensure all questionnaires are returned in a timely manner. It is our goal to be a model town for the U.S. Census Bureau and to assist them in any way possible to ensure they obtain an accurate count and 100 percent feedback from our citizens.

If you are interested in becoming a Complete Count Committee leader for your neighborhood, please call Town Hall at 272-9883.

Town Yard Sale a Success

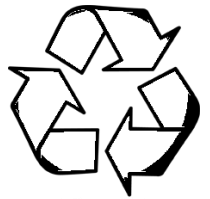
The Town of Pike Road's first community-wide yard sale., held March 21, generated a significant profit for the P.R.I.C.E. Foundation, which supports vital municipal projects such as the establishment of a school system. Due to the sale's success, the town plans to have a booth at the Pike Road Arts and Crafts Fair the first Saturday in November. Items for sale at the town's booth will include a variety of Christmas decorations which were donated for the sale by the Pike Road Wal-Mart. More details will appear in the next edition of *The Pike*.

Unsung Patriots

The folks at Town Hall have noticed Pike Road residents taking on tasks great and small to improve the quality of life in our town. These unsung heroes are accomplishing much for the community without being asked or recognized. If you know of someone who deserves a "pat on the back" for contributing in this way, we would like to recognize him or her. Please call Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883, or email townofpikeroad@charterinternet.com to tell us about a Pike Road Patriot you know.

"Go Green" with the Town of Pike Road

As part of our efforts to be good stewards of our resources, the Town of Pike Road reminds residents to take advantage of recycling opportunities the town provides. Recycling containers located at Town Hall collect the following materials:



- Aluminum beverage cans, rinsed
- Newspapers, tied with string or in a paper bag
- Cardboard, including cereal, cake mix and cracker boxes, flattened corrugated boxes, tissue and paper towel rolls, brown paper bags and other cardboard of this type
- "Slick" magazines, catalogs and brochures

Remember, recycling saves landfill space, energy, natural resources and money. Please help the Town of Pike Road practice good stewardship by participating in this free program.

**It's great doing business with friends...
...take time this week to visit your Pike Road neighborhood retailers.**

Sharing the Pike Road Story

In previous editions of The Pike we have asked readers to submit their Pike Road stories in an effort to share and build on the unique history of our town. The following essay, "Coming Full Circle," was submitted by Dr. Mike Darnell. Dr. Darnell is a resident of The Waters community in the Town of Pike Road, where he practices as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Coming Full Circle

My earliest memories of Pike Road are visiting my grandparents, Mama and Papa Hammond. They owned a large, five-bedroom brick house with front and back porches located between the Harwells and the Wyatts. Every night at the same time, the train would roar down the tracks, which were only twenty-five yards from the front porch. The entire house would shake, and the light fixtures would dance from the vibration.

As a child I remember being stung several times for throwing rocks at the beehives. "Mike, you're gonna make those bees mad," Mama Hammond warned. The sight of my grandparents ringing a chicken's neck for Sunday dinner is still a vivid memory. I loved watching clothes being washed in a large tub filled with boiling water over a hot fire. Just a short trip down the railroad tracks were Bell's and Kirksey's stores. On our way to the store we would have a contest to see who could walk on the tracks the longest without falling off. We always searched for empty Coke bottles which we could turn in for a two-cent deposit and buy candy kisses. I liked the banana kisses best.

We Darnells lived in Montgomery at the time. Dad was a plumber. There were 11 children, all born in 16 ½ years: Buddy, Darlyn, Pete, Mike, Melita, Nona, Conie Mac, Robby, Macy, Noel and Dale. When I was 13 and in the eighth grade, Dad's plumbing business fell on hard times financially, so we moved into my grandparents' house in Pike Road. My grandparents had moved to Montgomery. Each room had a fireplace and twelve-foot ceilings. I remember freezing in the winter and burning up in the summer! Thank God for fans and porches! Over time, the noise of the train and water pump just outside my window became sounds of comfort during a night's sleep. However, to those who dared spend the night, it sounded more like the train was coming through the living room—scary!

A tiny Methodist church was located just across the tracks. At 16 years of age, I preached my first sermon there. It was rather warm that Sunday evening, and Mr. Harwell turned the fan on to move the air around. The breeze caught my seven pages of handwritten sermon notes just right, and they ended up in the front pews. I never recovered!

The "church yard" across the tracks was the place to be after school and on weekends. There was always a football game to be found, usually between Alabama and Auburn. The teams were made up of McNeeses, Alford's, Usserys and the many Darnells.

Then there was the famous Pike Road Junior High School, which I attended in eighth and ninth grades. J.C. Robertson was almost a one-man show: principal, coach, teacher and mentor.

He was the greatest. I often remember friends like Gene Dis-mukes, George Howell, Jr. Alford, Allan Dukes, George McKinely and John Robertson and beautiful girls like Kay Hay, Gail McClirkin and Becky Hanie. Gail could out-run most of the guys! I remember the football team somehow acquired the name "The Pike Road Polecats."

Stopping on my way home from school by Kirksey's store for an RC cola, oatmeal pie or shotgun shells was a ritual for me. I would just say, "Charge it, Mr. Kirksey!"

My neighbor, Dan Jones, was the first real cowboy I had ever seen. He invited Jr. Alford and me to assist him in castrating some young bulls. That made a lasting impression on this city dude!

Good grades were never my forte, so Mom shipped me off to Bob Jones Academy in the tenth grade. I only returned to Pike Road for an occasional summer or short visit. I was off preaching around the country. In 1983 I moved back to Montgomery from having been a pastor in Dallas, Texas. I became a Licensed Professional Counselor and have been counseling for 25 years. Strangely enough, in 2005 my wife and I moved to The Waters community. I am back home in Pike Road, my old "stomping grounds."

One of the highlights and surprises of our moving back has been the renovation of a tiny church with just 14 pews in Cecil, Alabama. Brewer Memorial Church had been vacant for several years. Years ago Mickey Castleberry rode the train from New Orleans on weekends to pastor Brewer Church. Several families pitched in and the restoration began about a year ago. Today the little church is alive again.

I feel somewhat like a salmon that has come full circle, back to the stream in which it was spawned. I hope I am not coming back to die just yet! It is exciting to see the planning and direction of the Town of Pike Road mixing history with vision. The best is yet ahead! So, let me say, "Roll Pike Road Polecats!" Oops! I meant GO PIKE ROAD PATRIOTS!

The Pike would like to thank Dr. Darnell for sharing his memories of Pike Road, and we invite you to share your Pike Road story on the pages of this newsletter. In doing so, you will help shed light on what has made this place special to so many over the years. Your unique view of this community—what brought you here, memories of days gone by, visions for a bright future—can unite us in shaping that future. If there is a Pike Road story you would like to tell, we would like to share it. Please email your stories (or story ideas) to pikeroadnews@gmail.com.

Fourth of July in the Town of Pike Road

Calling all Patriots! In the Town of Pike Road, we love to celebrate freedom, and we “go all out” on Independence Day. This year, two long-time traditions return on the Fourth of July.

The annual Fourth of July parade, sponsored by the Pike Road Community Club, will begin at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 4 in the parking lot of Pike Road Baptist Church near the intersection of Pike and Wallahatchee Roads. Those planning to walk or ride in the parade should gather there a half hour before the parade begins. The route leads to The Feed Lot on Meriwether Road, where ribbons will be awarded to the most spirited parade participants. The parade theme this year is “Pike Road Celebrates Family and Country”.

Continue to enjoy the celebration at Pike Road Summer Fest at The Waters community on Marler Road. Beginning at 6:00 p.m., the family friendly event includes games and contests and numerous food and beverage vendors from the Pike Road community. As always, Summer Fest will culminate with a fireworks show just after dark.

Of course, volunteers are needed for Summer Fest! If you are able to help in any way, please call Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883.

Auburn Montgomery's Pike Road Summer Camp

Auburn University Montgomery is inviting Pike Road families to participate in its first Pike Road Summer Enrichment Camp July 6-23 on the Auburn Montgomery campus on Taylor Road. Designed to stimulate children's interest in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and physical education, the three-week program is limited to the first 75 children who enroll. To be eligible to participate, students must have completed one year of kindergarten, be between the ages of five and 12 and agree to attend all three weeks of the program. Tuition for the program is \$90.00, and that includes instruction and materials. Sessions will be held in the School of Education Building Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

For more information, contact the Auburn Montgomery School of Education at 244-3399 or 244-3549. Applications can be picked up at Pike Road Town Hall. To request one be sent to you via email, call Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883 or email townofpikeroad@charterinternet.com.

Make plans to join your friends at camp this July, but do not delay—classes are expected to fill up quickly.



Town of Pike Road

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Pike Road, AL 36064

Stay in the Loop—Join the Town of Pike Road Email List!

Often, the Town of Pike Road has special announcements to share with residents, or there is a need to send out reminders about special events. Our ability to communicate quickly is only as good as our email address list, and we need your help filling up that list. Send an email with your name, address and phone number to townofpikeroad@charterinternet.com. Additionally, if you know of neighbors who have recently become part of our town, please pass this request on to them!

