



# The Pike

Newsletter of the Town of Pike Road • www.pikeroad.us • Spring 2010

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Town Council.....	6/14
Patriot Club.....	6/15
Business Council.....	7/1
4th of July Parade.....	7/3
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### Town of Pike Road

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Pike Road, AL 36064

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**Welcome Home!**

## Resolving Litigation Between the City of Montgomery and the Town of Pike Road

The Town of Pike Road remains committed to resolving the issues that have caused us to be in litigation with the City of Montgomery. To further explain what was involved in the previous attempt to reach a settlement and what options are available for the future, the town is providing the three articles included in this newsletter. We hope these provide a deeper understanding of what happened. Further, we hope this explains the issues, benefits and opportunities that remain.

Based on the ever-changing nature of the previous settlement negotiation, the Town of Pike Road determined that public meetings provided the best forum for explaining and discussing the details of the agreement. However, since the previous agreement did not come to fruition, the Town would like to use this opportunity to explain what happened and to illustrate the opportunities that were included. Since the Town and the City must now start over, we have a window of opportunity. We ask you to review the explanations and if you find problems or confusion, please contact the Town. It is imperative that we use this time to build awareness and support within the Town and to work out any possible obstacles.

**The Settlement Agreement.** As all of you know, 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. Specifically, it would have furthered the work on a municipal public school system, robust community services, accessible recreational facilities, and conscientious planning for the future. Prior to the public announcement of a settlement, the town council on a unanimous vote endorsed this agreement and authorized the mayor to finalize the negotiations. In addition, the final details were presented to the council on the Monday night prior to the announcement. The final step necessary for completing the settlement was put in the hands of the Alabama legislature.

**Legislature Rejects Settlement Agreement.** Legislators were asked to validate the complex agreement which contained numerous compromises and legally intertwined outcomes. Once the agreement went to the legislature, it became a "political football." Regional concerns about tangential issues entered into the debate. Further, the agreement was opposed by a group of landowners and a Pike Road council member who changed his position and decided to work against it. Primarily, the opponents were concerned about six or seven parcels that had been previously annexed by the City of Montgomery, the future of the Woodland Creek subdivision, and a deannexation request from the Knollwood community. In the end, local politics and these special interests were too divisive for the bills to survive.

**Resolving Concerns.** Hopefully, the issues of Knollwood, Woodland Creek and these individual landowners will be addressed in the near future. It is the desire of the Town of Pike Road that these obstacles be addressed and be off the table for future dialogue between the City and Town. However, the responsibility for resolving these issues really falls on the property owners and the appropriate municipality.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Arbor Day Celebrated at Pike Road Town Hall

The Town of Pike Road's annual Arbor Day celebration took place at Town Hall February 24. As a light snow fell on the assembled crowd, Mayor Gordon Stone spoke about the town's commitment to planting and properly caring for trees. Renee Burch's fifth grade class from Macon-East Montgomery Academy was on hand for the announcement of the local Arbor Day poster contest winner, Sammy Nesbit. Free saplings were distributed to attendees, who were asked to plant the trees within the Town of Pike Road. Following a tradition begun in 2009, a tree was planted on the front lawn of Town Hall.

"Healthy trees are an important part of our community's well being," said Mayor Stone. "We want to help spread the word that trees help us save energy and care for the beautiful surroundings with which this area is blessed."



Above; Members of Renee Burch's fifth grade class gather with Mayor Stone after the Arbor Day event at Town Hall.



Above; Local and state leaders assist in planting a tree on the front lawn at Town Hall.

## News from the Pike Road Patriot Club

The April meeting of the Pike Road Patriot Club was hosted by Keller-Williams Realty of Pike Road. A large live oak tree provided shade for a pleasant cookout on the deck of the Keller-Williams office by the Post Office on Pike Road. In May, more than 40 attendees enjoyed the Patriot Club luncheon at The Oaks Plantation. Town Clerk Charlene Rabren shared plans for Pike Road's annual Fourth of July events, and Project Manager Liz Scroggins spoke about the newly established Pike Road Business Council. Finally, Councilman Rob Steindorff and Mayor Gordon Stone offered updates on several of the town's ongoing projects.

The Patriot Club meets on Tuesday following the monthly Town Council Meeting. The purpose of the Patriot Club is to provide a vehicle to bring citizens together and provide information about events that affect the town. The next meeting of the Patriot Club will be Tuesday, June 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The location is yet to be announced. If you would like to receive email notification about Patriot Club luncheons, please call Town Hall at 272-9883.

### Doing business in the Town of Pike Road? Make plans to be part of the new Pike Road Business Council!

The council will meet the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For locations and other information, call Pike Road Town Hall at 272-9883.

## Pike Road Library News

The Pike Road Library is always "hopping", and the spring and summer schedule is filled with fun for all ages. Beginning in April, the Kids and Youth Hour will move to Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

This year's Summer Reading Program (SRP) will begin Monday, June 7, and run through July 19. Registration opened Monday, May 4, and a kick-off event will take place at the library Tuesday, June 8.

For more information on these and other Pike Road Library events, contact the library at 244-8679.

Kids and Youth Hour Schedule of Activities

May 18: Kids and Youth Hour, 3:30 p.m.

May 25: Movie: "The Princess and the Frog", 3:30 p.m.

Jun. 1: Kids and Youth Hour, 3:30 p.m.

Jun. 7: SRP begins (runs through July 19)

Jun. 8: Kids and Youth Hour, 3:30 p.m., SRP Kick-off Party

Jun. 15: Kids and Youth Hour, 3:30 p.m.



## Business Buzz

- February 6 marked the grand opening of **G S Cook & Company** on Bridge Street at The Waters. The CPA firm offers a full range of accounting services, including tax preparation and planning, bookkeeping, assurance and audit services, software training, continuing education courses and information technology consulting.
- **The Blue Heron Café** is now open at 61 Bridge Street in The Waters community. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, the Blue Heron also offers catering services. The café's menu is available online at [www.blueheroncafeandcatering.com](http://www.blueheroncafeandcatering.com), where you can also sign up for the email list. Make plans to visit Chef Jennifer and staff and enjoy a casually priced, gourmet meal this week.

## Meet the Pike Road Team

As the Town of Pike Road has grown, the increasing workload at Town Hall has led to the addition of three more outstanding staff members.

Patty Payne, PRICE Foundation Coordinator, began working part-time for the town in 2007. In her three years with the town, Patty has coordinated many events and programs, including the newly formed Patriot Club. She is also a dedicated volunteer, serving on the Curriculum Committee and organizing the recent trip to P.K. Yonge School. Patty served more than 22 years in the U.S. Navy and holds degrees from both Troy University and the Air Command and Staff College. Patty's favorite aspect of working for the town is the "small cadre of staff who are always a joy to be around" as well as serving alongside Mayor Gordon Stone. Patty has an adult son, John, and she and her husband, Richard, attend Brewer Memorial Church.

Liz Scroggins joined the Town of Pike Road team in the summer of 2008 and now serves as Project Manager. An Alexander City native, Liz is a graduate of Benjamin Russell High School and Troy University. Among the things she enjoys about working for the town, Liz lists the people with whom she works the abundant learning opportunities and the town's vision for the future, adding, "It's exciting to be a part of the process." Liz is currently preparing to begin the Master's of Public Administration program at Auburn University Montgomery.

The most recent addition to the staff is Tammy Stricklin, Assistant Town Clerk. Tammy joined the town staff in March, following a 20-year career in banking. A graduate of Troy University, she is a native of Union Springs. Asked about her favorite aspect of working for the town, Tammy mentions the people. "They are so kind and compassionate about their community." Tammy and her husband, Scott, have a ten year-old son, Coston, and they are members of Frazer United Methodist Church.

## Representative Rogers Visits Pike Road Town Hall

Pike Road Town Hall welcomed Congressman Mike Rogers of Alabama's third district Wednesday afternoon, March 31 as part of Congressman Rogers' "Congress on Your Corner" initiative. The event, held at Pike Road Town Hall at Congressman Rogers' request, was open to the public. Attendees had the opportunity to ask the congressman questions about current legislation and his work as the district's representative. A reception followed the hour-long question and answer session.



*Above: A Pike Road resident discusses the issues with Congressman Mike Rogers at Pike Road Town Hall.*

## Rolling Hills Lakes VFD Completes Training Facility

Rolling Hills Lakes Volunteer Fire Department (RHLVFD) recently completed construction of a live fire training facility on its property on Trotman Road. The modular, two-storey structure's first floor is designed to be burned repeatedly so firefighters can practice extinguishing the blaze. The second storey features movable walls which allow alteration of the building layout for search and rescue training. The facility's flat roof is ideal for practicing ventilation techniques, and the exterior of the structure is equipped for rappelling practice. The facility was funded by RHLVFD.

RHLVFD is always looking for additional volunteers. Those who live in the department's coverage area are encouraged to call the station at 288-7344 to find out more about volunteering or otherwise supporting the organization.

The Town of Pike Road is fortunate to benefit from the excellent service provided by its volunteer fire departments, and thanks all the volunteers and career staff for their courage and dedication. To learn more about RHLVFD, visit their website: [www.rhlvfd.org](http://www.rhlvfd.org).

## The Waters Featured in “Alabama Passport to Fitness”

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) recently announced that The Waters community in the Town of Pike Road is included in its publication, “Alabama Passport to Fitness.” The passport contains walking guides to 85 walking trails throughout the state, and two of those trails are located at The Waters. In addition to the print publication, which is available at The Waters and Pike Road Town Hall, the guides are available online at [www.adeca.alabama.gov](http://www.adeca.alabama.gov). The guide contains maps of all 85 trails, as well as a section for stamps. After walking the trails at The Waters, stop by the Blue Heron Café for an official stamp.



## Summer Fest 2010: Celebrate the Pike Road Family

Independence Day is just around the corner, and that means it is time to mark your calendars for the Town of Pike Road's annual Summer Fest on Sunday, July 4. This year's theme is "Celebrate the Pike Road Family," and many fun, family-centered events are planned, including a scavenger hunt, healthy menu contest, and the town's first ever turtle race. Summer Fest will take place at The Waters on Marler Road. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m., and activities will begin at 5:00 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy the family fun, food and fireworks at Summer Fest!

Another great Pike Road tradition, this year's Fourth of July parade will be held Saturday, July 3. Everyone is welcome to take part in the parade, and registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Pike Road Baptist Church on Pike Road. The parade will begin at 10:00 at the church and progress down Pike Road to the Feed Lot on Meriwether Road.

For more information, contact Town Hall at 272-9883.

Each year, Summer Fest sponsors help the Town of Pike Road host a fun, family-friendly Fourth of July celebration.

### Consider being a Summer Fest sponsor this year.

Call Town Hall today for more information.



**Town of Pike Road**

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## Be a hero: Join a local volunteer fire department!

The Town of Pike Road benefits from the dedication and service provided by our local volunteer fire departments. These organizations depend on the community for support and volunteer personnel. Consider joining or contributing to a volunteer fire department this year. Your involvement is an asset to the community!



# Resolving Litigation, continued from page 1

The Town is working to resolve the issues with Knollwood. The other concerns are with the City and individual landowners. A speedy resolution is encouraged. (See "Addressing Problems" below.)

**Uncertainty Hinders Progress.** The sad reality of the final result is that it put a roadblock in front of the good things that would have happened for the more than 5000 Pike Road citizens and the many residents of the City of Montgomery. Yes, the roadblock can be overcome but it will take revisiting many issues and additional resources. The Town of Pike Road and the City of Montgomery will continue to analyze the opportunities to see if a different approach to the settlement can be implemented. Revenue issues, residential development, economic growth, boundary lines, fire districts, police coverage, libraries, schools, trails, parks, etc. will be adversely impacted by pushing an agreement aside.

**How You Can Help.** With a new settlement opportunity still possible in the future, the Town of Pike Road asks that citizens help us in two ways:

1) Please attempt to understand the complex issues and voice any concerns or questions you have regarding the previous settlement to us now. We would like to make every effort to address concerns prior to developing a new settlement agreement.

2) Please be prepared to advocate for any new settlement agreement. To assist your understanding of the benefits of settling the lawsuits, we have provided a list of the six most prominent benefits that were included in the previous agreement. We will work to include them in a future agreement, also.

**Not the End of the Road.** The Town commits to all citizens that we will continue to move forward. We will look to capitalize on opportunities and will continue to value your input. Together great things can and will continue to happen!

Thank you and God Bless,  
Gordon Stone  
Mayor, Town of Pike Road

## Addressing Problems Identified During the Recent Settlement Discussion

Explaining the Challenges – To ensure that the public was aware of the different aspects of the recently proposed settlement agreement, the Town of Pike Road participated in two public meetings. During the discussions, three principal issues were brought forward that caused concern on the part of a group of citizens in the eastern part of the county. Each of the issues can be addressed as outlined in the following statements:

1) Woodland Creek – Due to the fact that the land on which the development is located was annexed into the City of Montgomery in 2005 and the fact that no court has finalized a ruling which would overturn the annexation, the land owners wanting to be annexed into the Town of Pike Road face a predicament. They must first develop a strategy that will result in an official determination that their property is under Montgomery County's jurisdiction. Once this is achieved, the land owners can officially be annexed into the Town of Pike Road. To achieve this goal, the land owners will have to either get the City of Montgomery to deannex them or a judge to declare the original annexation to be invalid. While the "vote" idea that was included in the settlement agreement was not popular, it would have provided a third option for accomplishing this goal. However, the vote concept was taken off the table prior to the demise of the previous agreement. Therefore, the "vote" idea appears to not be an option for the future.

2) Knollwood – Since parcels were originally annexed into the Town of Pike Road, the town has agreed to address the concerns of a group of landowners from within the Knollwood community and surrounding areas. These land owners want to be returned to the jurisdiction of Montgomery County. The Town has started the process of deannexation and is awaiting the final paperwork for the remainder of the residents that are seeking removal. Once the paperwork is received, the Town will submit the final papers to the Probate Judge so the parcels can be deannexed.

3) Individual Parcels – A group of landowners in the most eastern part of the county were displeased with the jurisdiction in which they found their property. Now that the first settlement attempt is over, these landowners must recognize that they have two basic options. First, they can seek to be deannexed by the municipality holding the petition that was previously filed on behalf of that property. In most cases, the City of Montgomery holds the petitions. Second, they can seek to have a judge declare their original annexation to be invalid. Unfortunately, the Town of Pike Road cannot address the concerns of these landowners and the "islands" of property due to the fact that the City of Montgomery holds petitions asking for the parcels to be annexed into their jurisdiction. In addition, if the property owners are satisfied with their property being in the City (even if some of the citizens deem the location to be out-of-place) then they

# Six “Large-Scale” Benefits of a Settlement Agreement

These are the results that would have occurred in the previous agreement and illustrate the goals that will be on the table for future discussions.

- 1) **Ending the Expense of the Litigation** would have benefited both municipalities.
- 2) The **Volunteer Fire Departments, Sheriffs Department and Service Providers** would have benefited. The establishment of clear boundary lines between the City of Montgomery and the Town of Pike Road would have been a tremendous help to the emergency service providers. For example, the town is authorized to provide a specific portion of property taxes already collected from our residents to support the fire departments. The adoption of the agreement would have provided additional revenue to these services. Also, the resolution of boundary line disputes would have provided clarity to the concerns of who will respond in a time of crisis. Further, the deal would have set neighborhoods in a position to be served in their entirety by one municipality or the other. The road and street maintenance providers, sanitation providers and other service industries would have benefitted from the settlement.
- 3) A larger **Retail Base** would provide additional revenue for both municipalities. For the Town of Pike Road, the settlement provided a unique opportunity to achieve a positive resolution to the retail relationship with Home Depot and Wal-Mart on Chantilly Parkway. The final result of the settlement would have allowed each municipality to collect sales tax from the two stores. Further, the settlement opened the door for each municipality to collect from the future stores located in the areas where the boundaries were clarified.
- 4) Clarifying the uncertainties of “who, what and where” properties are located would have helped the real estate professionals, **Prospective Home Buyers** and home builders.
- 5) Keeping **Neighborhoods and Developments Intact** was another benefit of the agreement. While this is not a complete list, it does illustrate the significance of the deal. The majority of property owners in these neighborhoods and developments have always been in the Town of Pike Road. However, with the agreement, they would have been solidified so that no property within them would have been in a different municipality:

Barnes Road	Beau Paysage	Bon Terre	Pecan Tree
Bridle Brook	Gray Ridge	Deer Ridge	Mason Mill
Farmington	Foxchase	Freeport	Kerington
Glynlakes	Laurelwood	Lochshire	Milly Creek
Meriwether Trace	Merry Lakes	Merry Station	Oak Ridge
Merrywood	Mockingbird Lane	Old Pike Lakes	Merry Place
Providence	Ridgewater	Rolling Hills	St. James
Stone Park	The Waters	Vaughn Crossing	Williamsburg
Vaughn East	Waterscapes	Timber Creek	Milly Branch

6) Finally, the settlement allowed the Town of Pike Road to **Contiguously Connect** parcels of land from Woodley Road to Waugh. The result of this connectivity would be a consistent style of development and business climate that would encourage all of the neighboring properties to be in a similar form.

## What is Next

Now is truly a time for the people of the Town of Pike Road to give thanks for our many blessings and to look forward to an exciting future as we continue to grow. The Town of Pike Road remains steadfast in its commitment to finding a resolution to the litigation, establishing a world-class public school system, providing community recreational facilities, encouraging green spaces, offering services that complement development, and providing a great climate for business expansion. The leaders of the Town of Pike Road will continue to be prayerful and persistent as we pursue our passion to enhance the overall quality of life for our citizens.

# Renovation of New Town Hall Facility Underway

Renovation of the new home of Pike Road Town Hall is underway. The former fine foods market in the Pike Road Station began its transformation in late February, and work is scheduled to be complete in July.

When the renovation is finished, the former commercial space will contain all the town’s administrative offices, a large assembly hall, a smaller meeting room, kitchen and atrium-style entry. In addition, the space will contain a future space at the mezzanine level which will later be finished as an auditorium and will seat approximately 250

people.

The project is being coordinated by Purdue Construction, and according to Town of Pike Road Planning Director Buddy Garland, the work is progressing on schedule.

“We are delighted with the team we have been able to put together,” said Garland, “and excited about the opportunities for community activities which this new facility represents.”

The transition is projected to be complete and the new facility in use in August.