

# The Pike

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## Building the Future Together

It is no secret that the Town of Pike Road is working toward the establishment of a public school system. We continue to be diligent in our pursuit of this opportunity. As readers of *The Pike*, you are aware of our plans to host another community-wide summit on the school later this spring. Faculty members, parents and students from a Professional Development School in Gainesville, Florida, have been invited to speak at this event. The summit will provide a terrific opportunity for input from the people of Pike Road. During this exciting time in Pike Road, however, we must not lose sight of the lessons to be learned from the recent closing of Pintala Elementary School. The opportunity to control our own educational destiny is vital and is rapidly becoming a reality.

In addition to designing our public school system, the people of Pike Road have numerous opportunities to participate in the exciting work of shaping this great place. The Town of Pike Road continues to seek volunteers for community organizations and events such as the following:

- Willing Pike Road Patriots are needed to help with SummerFest, our annual Fourth of July celebration.
- The Pike Road Area Your Emergency Response (P.R.A.Y.E.R.) Team currently needs ten volunteers who are able to assist others in their times of need.
- The *Building a Foundation for Excellence* Capital Campaign and the first Town of Pike Road Yard Sale will both benefit the Pike Road Investing in Community and Education (P.R.I.C.E.) Foundation and all Pike Road residents and supporters are asked to consider participating in these worthy projects.

These are just a few of the avenues through which you can help build the future of this exceptional community. I encourage you to visit the town's website, [www.pikeroad.us](http://www.pikeroad.us), to learn more about service opportunities, and to call Town Hall today to get involved.

The people of the Town of Pike Road share in the unique experience of creating a place that we and future generations will feel blessed to call “home”. Consider what gifts you can contribute to the effort, and please join us today.

God bless,

**Gordon Stone**

**Mayor, Town of Pike Road**

Visit the Town of Pike Road online:  
[www.pikeroad.us](http://www.pikeroad.us)

## P.R.I.C.E. Foundation Kicks off Capital Campaign

The P.R.I.C.E. Foundation, an independent nonprofit foundation created to serve as a fundraising vehicle for community and education interests in the Town of Pike Road, Alabama, recently began the *Building a Foundation for Excellence* Capital Campaign. The foundation recognizes that a quality education is essential if our students are expected to achieve personal and civic success, and further recognizes that providing a quality education is essential for the economic growth of our community. Having the opportunity before us to provide a unique school system that will benefit the quality of education throughout Alabama, this campaign is therefore not merely about building buildings but providing the tools to help educate young men and women who will be a positive influence throughout the state.

The first site for a Pike Road school has already been donated. The 40 acre site adjacent to The Waters will provide a delightful setting for many future generations of Pike Road students. The goal of *Building a Foundation for Excellence* is to obtain the funds needed to move forward with our school plans. Recognizing the importance of education to any community, the town is prepared to establish and maintain a public school that meets the educational demands for distinction. That demand will be met by creating unique partnerships that utilize the expertise of higher education and the Professional Development School Model. The *Building a Foundation for Excellence* capital campaign for The P.R.I.C.E. Foundation will be a celebration of the achievements the Town of Pike Road has experienced since our incorporation in 1997, as well as the goals it has established for the future.

# A “Founding Father” Steps Down

After more than a decade of devoted service to the Town of Pike Road, town council member and former mayor Wayne Rabren has resigned from his council seat. Councilman Wayne Rabren, who served as the town’s first mayor, announced his decision to fellow council members during February’s council meeting.

Councilman Rabren, a native of Auburn, Alabama, relocated to the Pike Road area in the 1980s. He and his wife, Town of Pike Road Town Clerk Charlene Rabren, were among the area residents who worked diligently on the petition that, in 1997, gave residents the opportunity to vote to incorporate. After the town’s incorporation, Councilman Rabren ran unopposed and was elected to Pike Road’s highest seat. After one term as mayor, he chose not to run for re-election. This decision came from his desire to devote his attention to drafting the town’s zoning ordinance. Councilman Rabren became the chairman of the town planning commission and oversaw the drafting of the town’s long range plan.

Another project that has long been dear to Councilman Rabren is Pike Road SummerFest, which he organized in 1999. A deeply patriotic person, Councilman Rabren served in the U.S. Army Special Forces, reaching the rank of first lieutenant. He also served in the 20th Special Forces Group, Airborne, Green Beret, of the Alabama National Guard. According to his wife, “Wayne envisioned SummerFest as a way to give back to the volunteers who had done so much for several years during the incorporation process, as well as an opportunity to celebrate this great nation.”

More recently, Councilman Rabren has served as the head of the Pike Road Natural Trail Committee, which secured funding and is working toward the construction of a network of riding and walking trails that will encircle the town when completed.

“As citizens of the Town of Pike Road, we owe a great deal to Councilman Rabren for his vision and devotion, both of which were instrumental in the town’s formation and have continued to fuel our successes. Wayne Rabren is a true ‘Pike Road Patriot.’ To say his leadership and vision will be missed is a tremendous understatement,” said Mayor Gordon Stone.

# Town Marks Arbor Day

On February 9, 2009, Mayor Gordon Stone issued a proclamation establishing the week of February 22 through 29 as Arbor Week in the Town of Pike Road. In the proclamation, Mayor Stone recognized the value of trees to environmental conservation, quality of life and property values. The proclamation encouraged residents to “plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations” during Arbor Week and throughout the year.



In conjunction with the proclamation, the Town of Pike Road received more than 100 seedlings from the Alabama Forestry Commission. Residents of the Town of Pike Road are encouraged to stop by Town Hall to pick up free seedlings to plant on their property. There is a limit of two per household, so the seedlings will go quickly! Residents should call Town Hall before stopping by to be sure there are seedlings remaining.

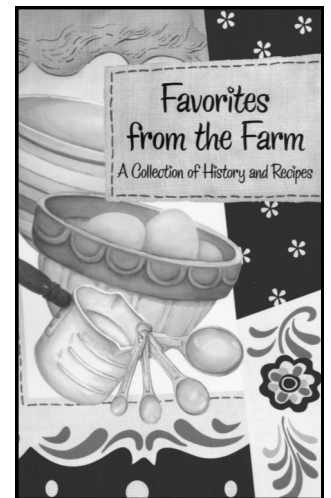
## New Bridle Brook Cookbook Available Now

A stroll through the peaceful streets of the Bridle Brook community in the Town of Pike Road will reveal a neighborhood in which variety and individuality are prized. From the hearts and homes of this charmingly eclectic village comes a new cookbook that reflects the variety and heritage of Bridle Brook, *Favorites from the Farm: A Collection of History and Recipes*.

Situated on land that was once the Huddleston Cattle Farm, Bridle Brook today retains reminders of its productive past. The community clubhouse, for example, once served as the carriage house for the cattle ranch. One has little trouble imagining what life was like on the ranch not so many years ago.

In memory of the land’s productive past and in keeping with Bridle Brook’s uniquely eclectic present, *Favorites from the Farm* features recipes from residents, their family members and friends. In addition to tasty concoctions, thumbing through the pages of the cookbook will offer readers a stroll through the history of the Pike Road area.

The cookbook, which was produced by the Bridle Brook Events Committee, can be purchased by email, phone or mail. Details can be found by visiting [www.mybridlebrook.org](http://www.mybridlebrook.org), under the “Cookbook” tab, or by calling Margaret Watkins at 272-2212.



## What’s New?

**The Pike is looking for great historical tidbits, news stories and calendar items to include in upcoming issues. If you have an idea for a story your neighbors would enjoy, please let us know!**

**Call Charlene or Patty at Pike Road Town Hall, 272-9883, or email [pikeroadnews@gmail.com](mailto:pikeroadnews@gmail.com).**

# Special Thanks to “Pike Road Count” Volunteers

Over the past several months, many dedicated citizens of the Town of Pike Road have devoted their time to assisting the town with the official count to certify a population of more than 5,000 required to move forward with the establishment of our community public school system. This project is one of the most important in the town’s history, and it could not have been accomplished without the tireless efforts of our citizens. The Town extends a tremendous, heartfelt thanks to each of you. There is exciting news on the horizon, and, as always, it would not have been possible without our volunteers! Thank you!

## Pike Road Welcomes Wal-Mart

The Town of Pike Road rang in the new year with a celebration as the Wal-Mart on Chantilly Parkway was annexed and became the town’s largest retail entity.

Town of Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone said, “Wal-Mart has been a friend to Pike Road since the first day the store opened its doors. We have actively worked to develop a relationship that would promote their success and, at the same time, provide a wonderful service to our citizens.”

Mayor Stone pointed out that the tax revenue Wal-Mart will generate will constitute a huge step toward the much anticipated Pike Road school system. Being within the municipal limits of the Town of Pike Road will only mean a sales tax increase of one half of one percent, bringing the total for the store to 8.75 percent, including state and county taxes.

To show his personal appreciation to the retail giant, Mayor Stone provided Wal-Mart gift cards to the first 40 people in attendance. The mayor noted that he and his family had purchased the cards and encouraged the recipients to “go forth and shop.”

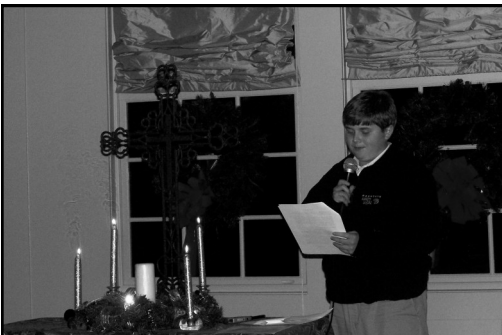
Residents are encouraged to support this and all of Pike Road’s local businesses. Contact Town Hall at 272-9883 to find out if a business is within the Town of Pike Road.

## Pike Road Celebrates a Small Town Christmas

The Town of Pike Road loves to mark special days with celebration, and Christmas 2008 was no exception. Two events hosted by the town drew crowds of residents during December. The first, the annual town Christmas tree lighting, was held at Town Hall on the evening of December 7. True to tradition, the event featured entertainment by the talented Tanya McLemore, who led the crowd in singing Christmas songs. Once again, the crowd enjoyed seeing local children join McLemore “on stage” for a few songs. Mayor Gordon Stone shared a story with those who gathered, and after the ceremonial countdown and tree lighting, all enjoyed free hot chocolate and tasty treats.

For the second year, Pike Road residents, family and friends gathered December 21 for a Christmas candlelight service in the Meeting House on Chapel Hill at The Waters. Coordinated by Ellen Stone, wife of Mayor Stone, the service included Scripture readings, Christmas hymns and inspirational remarks by Pastor Willie Richardson, of Antioch Baptist Church. Mayor Gordon Stone spoke briefly, noting the blessings the town experienced during 2008. During the singing of the final hymn, a handheld candle was lit by each person in the crowd and carried out of the church, creating a memorable scene.

As always, the Town of Pike Road thanks each of the volunteers who made these events possible, as well as all who attended.



## First Town of Pike Road Community Yard Sale

To benefit the Pike Road Investment in Community and Education (PRICE) Foundation, the Town of Pike Road is hosting a community yard sale on the grounds of Town Hall Saturday, March 21 from 7:00 a.m. to noon. In the case of inclement weather, the yard sale will be held March 28. Ten by ten foot booth spaces are available to the public, and can be reserved by calling Patty Payne at 221-9004, or by calling Town Hall at 272-9883.

The proceeds from booth reservations will benefit the PRICE Foundation, a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization established to provide an avenue for citizens to make tax deductible donations in support of the town's most vital projects. Among these projects are the Pike Road Natural Trail and the school system. Town leaders are committed to projects that will add to the quality of life in our town, as well as to the value of property in the area. Your donation to the PRICE Foundation now will speed the completion of these and other great works and improve the future of our great town.

Do your spring cleaning and *turn your trash into cash* all while supporting a worthy local cause at the Pike Road Community Yard Sale!



## Spring Events in the Town of Pike Road

### Home Depot Spring Fling

Join us for FREE fun activities and yummy hot dogs!  
Saturday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
Home Depot Parking Lot on Chantilly Road

### Pike Road Yard Sale

Buy, sell or do BOTH on the "town green!"  
Saturday, March 21, 7:00 a.m.—Noon  
(In case of rain, March 28)  
Pike Road Town Hall, 4902 Pike Road

### The Waters In Full Bloom

This event will include a 5K run as well as a fun run,  
so lace up and we'll see you there!  
Saturday, April 11, 8:00 a.m.  
The Waters on Marler Road  
For more information, contact The Waters at 272-3200.

### Town of Pike Road Education Summit

Find out the latest on the Pike Road school and support  
St. James UMC's spaghetti dinner fundraiser!  
Thursday, April 16, 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.  
St. James United Methodist Church, 9045 Vaughn Road



**Town of Pike Road**

4902 Pike Road  
Pike Road, AL 36064

## Tell us *Your* Pike Road Story

We would like 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](mailto:pikeroadnews@gmail.com).