Community Planning Quality of Life Public Services Education

Town of Pike Road Community Report

From the Mayor

As we celebrate the beginning of the Town of Pike Road's 20th anniversary year, our fellow elected leaders, town staff and I would like to take this chance to celebrate our recent achievements with you. As in all other years in our history as a municipality, the past several years were filled with activities and accomplishments. Though we have always worked hard to keep our residents up-to-date through various means of communication, as our population has grown, so has the need to grow our efforts to keep you informed. That's why we've put together this report for you.

We organized the report around what we call our Four Pillars, the four priority areas first identified by our founders and which guide our goal-setting and decision-making to this day. Whether you are a new resident or you've been here all your life, our aim is to share with you the satisfaction, pride and hope that are felt among those of us who spend our days serving in Town Hall.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or want to become more involved in the work of your hometown, never hesitate to call, email or drop by Town Hall. We would love to hear from you!

God bless!

Gordon Stone
Mayor

Contact Us.

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Elected Leadership

Mayor
Gordon Stone

Town Council

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Betsy Atkins
Angie Bradsher
Rob Steindorff
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Did you know?

Established in 2012, the ENHANCE Initiative is an umbrella under which the Town of Pike Road's quality of life programs operate. ENHANCE stands for
Exercise,
Nutrition,
Health,
Agriculture,
Nature,
Community, and
Education.

The ball field at Founder's Station will house the Pike Road School softball team until Patriot Park is completed.

In a 2016 survey, quality of life was listed by citizens as the most important aspect of life in Pike Road.

By the numbers

8 ENHANCE organizations

80+ ENHANCE events or programs that took place in 2016

19 New brick pavers added to the Pike Road Veterans Memorial at Founders Station in 2016, for a total of **197 veterans** honored there. There is still room to honor a veteran by placing a paver in his or her honor!

Quality of Life

For more than 200 years now, residents have been choosing to call Pike Road home. The leaders who toiled to bring about the town's incorporation in 1997 knew that for many of those residents, quality of life was a major factor influencing their location decision. That is why, when they identified what we know as the town's Four Pillars, quality of life was included. In the two decades since our incorporation, we have been working to ensure that, with every decision we make, we are preserving and building upon the exceptional quality of life for which Pike Road is known.

Recent Accomplishments

- Parts of the natural trail available for use by community members on Meriwether Road and the trailhead at Founder's Station are complete with handicap-accessible parking, restrooms and a picnic pavilion. Parts of the Marler Road Trail are also open to the public.
- The mural wall, a collaborative art project begun in October 2015 to commemorate the birthday of Pike Road, was finished in the summer of 2016.

On the Horizon

- The development of Patriot Park, a multi-purpose, community-based recreational and educational facility, will provide the Town of Pike Road with baseball, softball, football, track and other outdoor sports facilities and venues.
- We look forward to the continued construction of our natural trail network.

Public Services

In addition to enjoying great quality of life, residents of the Town of Pike Road benefit from the uncommon arrangement the town's founders established for the provision of public services. Wanting to ensure that residents enjoyed top-notch public services without the associated administrative costs, Pike Road's early leaders arranged for those services to be provided through partnerships with various public and private entities. Thanks to excellent relationships built over two decades of working with these partners, Pike Road residents receive top-notch essential services.

Recent Accomplishments

- The opening of the first leg of the Outer Loop in 2016 connected I-85 and Vaughn Road.
- The Town of Pike Road solidified its longstanding committment of support to our volunteer fire departments by allocating 5 mills of the municipal ad valorem tax to help fund the organizations.
- Recycling resources for Pike Road residents were upgraded to newer, mobile receptacles with the capabiility to recycle plastic in 2015.
- Homes in Freeport Estates were renovated and upgraded in 2016 thanks to a Community Development Block Grant awarded by ADECA.

On the Horizon

- We look forward to the development of additional sewage and natural gas capabilities.
- Pike Road continues to develop a relationship with the Montgomery Co. EMA to provide quick response times in the event of emergencies.

Did you know?

Partnerships with public and private entities, as well as Montgomery County, allow the town to keep service costs low. Pike Road has also secured a road maintenance contractor to meet community needs. Some of these partners are:

Montgomery County
Montgomery Water and Sanitary Sewer Board
Adenus
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department
Rolling Hills Lakes Volunteer Fire Department
Waugh/Mt. Meigs Volunteer Fire Protection Authority
Alabama Power Co.
Dixie Electric Coop.
Spire Energy (Alagasco)
Southeast Gas
Advanced Disposal

By the numbers

9 Private utility providers

3 Volunteer fire departments with over **10** stations serving the Pike Road area

100+ citizens responding in times of need

10+ TONS of recyclables collected since June 2016

Did you know?

The Town partners with Alabama universities, including the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama, Alabama State University, Auburn University, Tuskegee University, Troy University and Auburn University at Montgomery to collect data and build relationships.

The four miles of the Pike Road Natural Trail on Meriwether Road are complete with trailhead facilities on either end. Start your stroll at Founder's Station or near the SweetCreek Farm Market.

By the numbers

5 University partners on six campuses help provide the town with important planning and decision-related data.

60+ Distinct neighborhoods within the Town of Pike Road

6 Miles of natural trail currently usable in Pike Road. At least **2** more miles are scheduled for completion in 2017, and when the trail is complete, it will cover **12** miles.

8 Proposed town centers

Community Planning

The rapidly changing landscape of east Montgomery County was one of the driving forces behind the movement to incorporate the Town of Pike Road in the late 1990s, and wise planning has been core to our vision and mission ever since. While growth is expected, we strive to shape that growth by combining citizen input and professional expertise, and create an environment that will continue to be desirable to individuals and families for generations to come.

Recent Accomplishments

- Town leaders secured a voting seat on the Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- The Town of Pike Road qualifies for project funding support as transportation dollars are made available due to its comprehensive municipal transportation plan.
- Pike Road's own traffic study led to the creation of a transportation plan including improvements to intersections and traffic flow.

On the Horizon

- The Planning Department will soon release the Pike Road Comprehensive plan, unveiling details about Smart Code and Conventional Code updates and growth opportunities in the town.
- Town officials will continue implementation and review of the town center growth model by investing in key infrastructure needs and sharing the story of opportunity with potential retail, commercial and professional partners.

Did you know?

The Pike Road Consolidated School was the first in Montgomery County to teach grades 1-12 in one facility. It opened in November 1918.

99 years later in 2017, the school will reopen as a secondary campus of the Pike Road Schools system.

By the numbers

10 Alabama High School Athletic Association-sanctioned sports teams

11 Arts and learner-interest driven extracurricular opportunities

Proudly serving over **1400** learners.

Phase 3 of the capital improvement implementation will add classroom space for additional grade levels.

The Town has also contracted architects to identify ways to serve additional campus needs.

Education

From the earliest days as a rural farming community, Pike Road people have understood the value of education and the sense of pride and unity a local school can generate. That is why residents established the original Pike Road Consolidated School in 1918 and why, nearly a century later, another generation worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for the Pike Road School System that opened in the fall of 2015.

Though a separate entity from the school system, the Town understands the school's importance to the community and supports the high-quality, hometown public education through revenue, capital investments and other efforts. Since 2006 when the idea took flight, Town leadership fought alongside passionate citizens to organize community meetings, engage national consultants in strategic plans, conduct a census count and provide legal assistance for Pike Road Schools. The Town of Pike Road is proud of the school system's success and is pleased to be the primary investor in the education of the community's young people.

We congratulate our first superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Freeman, on her retirement from the system and thank her for her leadership in helping to establish Pike Road Schools. Moving a school system from separation through the initial years of operation is a difficult task that has been accomplished with success. Under Dr. Freeman's leadership, a dynamic team of lead learners is implementing innovative and award-winning educational programs. Thank you, Dr. Freeman for your dedication to Pike Road's young people.

Fiscal Efficiency

Though it's not one of our Four Pillars, it's important to emphasize that the Town of Pike Road has done an outstanding job of managing financial resources since its incorporation. During preparations to issue the bond that would finance the school, the town was awarded an AA+ rating, virtually unheard-of for a less than 20-year-old municipality. The Town of Pike Road maintained its excellent credit rating after its recent review, due, at least in part, to the fact that town leaders committed in 2013 to maintain a 10 percent operating reserve at all times. This is the largest reserve fund held by any Alabama municipality, and it positions the town to weather difficulties smoothly—something gravely important in uncertain times and will greatly benefit future generations of town leaders and residents.

The following excerpts from audited financial reports by Jackson Thornton & Co., P.C., highlight recent town financial activity.

Performance of town funds

At the end of the 2015 fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds reported a combined fund balance of $10.9 million, which includes $7.8 million restricted fund balances to be used for capital improvements, school facilities construction, emergency services, and debt service; $425,000 in assigned fund balances to be used for various capital projects, $19,000 in non-spendable fund balances, and $2.6 million of unassigned General Funds available for future needs.

Budgetary highlights of the General Fund

At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Mayor prepares and submits an annual budget to be considered and adopted by the Town Council. The 2015 fiscal year budget was adopted in November 2014. The town's actual results as compared to the town's budget can be briefly summarized as follows:

Summary of Net Position
(in thousands)

	2015
Assets	
Current and Other Assets	$ 12,051
Capital Assets	65,200
Total Assets	**77,251**
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	1,875
Long-term Liabilities	25,399
Total Liabilities	**27,274**
Net Position	
Invested in Capital Assets, net	45,717
Restricted	1,510
Unrestricted	2,750
Total Net Position	**49,977**

Town of Pike Road & Pike Road Schools

With Education as one of four Pillars identified by Pike Road citizens, the Town is dedicated to supporting our community school system and is thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the education of young people in Pike Road.

For these reasons, the Town of Pike Road has committed more than $29 million support to the school's construction and capital projects and has provided more than $4.5 million of support for operational funding. The Town is pleased to have arranged and paid for land and construction sufficient to provide for two campuses, making PRS one of the only systems in Alabama without any construction debt.

On the Horizon:

A third construction project to provide added classroom space is being pushed forward, and construction has begun on the Patriot Park recreation and educational facility. This park will include both athletic and educational opportunities for learners and families throughout the Pike Road community.

Town of Pike Road

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