

## A Note from Mayor Gordon Stone

"The holiday season is upon us, and next week we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Then, the Town Christmas Tree Lighting and the Christmas holiday will be just around the corner. As we enter this season of celebration and joy, we are reminded of our many blessings. We have so much to be thankful for in the Town of Pike Road, and we are so appreciative of everything you do to make this town a special place to call home.

First, we want to congratulate our young people in Pike Road. We have so many great things happening. The Pike Road High School Patriots football team is going to the third round of the state playoffs for the first time. The cheerleader teams, volleyball, cross country, band, and all of our other fall athletes are receiving wonderful recognition for their excellence. We are so excited about the many successful extracurricular programs at PRS! Our academic programs are continuing to show achievements like having our first National Merit Scholar Finalist. It is exciting to be a Patriot supporter. Congratulations to all of our young people. We have many things much for which to be thankful!

As we give thanks for our abundance, we ask you to remember that there are families around us for whom this is a time of great need. We encourage you to get involved in a variety of opportunities to give back, including the Pike Road Arts Council's Christmas Tree Silent Auction and the Season of Giving holiday collections drive. This weekend, all are invited to stop by the Pike Road Arts Center on Wallahatchie Road to check out the wreaths and mini trees, decorated with hand-crafted ornaments, that are available for auction. All proceeds from this activity go directly to the Food Pantry at Woodland UMC, which serves nearly 100 families each month. Then, the Town Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 3 will kick off the Season of Giving. During this annual collections drive, we invite the community to drop off non-perishable food items, personal hygiene items, and cold-weather clothes for both the Food Pantry and local veterans in need. The Central Alabama Veterans Health Care Systems, which serve veterans across Alabama and into Georgia, and volunteers from our local food pantry will distribute your gifts to those in need. To learn more about these opportunities, give us a call at 334.272.9883 or visit www.pikeroad.us.

One of the many things we have to celebrate is our growing business community. Whether you're in business in the Pike Road area or you are interested in entrepreneurship, we encourage you to join us on Dec. 9 for the final Business Association Lunch & Learn of 2021. We'll network and enjoy lunch from a local restaurant, and Professional Trainer Sharleen Smith of Troy University Continuing Education & Outreach will lead "Leadership During Change" to help us each prepare to lead our way into the New Year. Visit <a href="https://www.pikeroad.us">www.pikeroad.us</a> to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter and receive updates on events like this and others in our area. The weekly e-newsletter is just one of the many ways to stay connected to the Town of Pike Road, but we're also on social media (just search @townofpikeroad), and we have a monthly radio show that visits local businesses and locations across Town.

As we prepare to gather with friends and family for the holidays, we ask you to remember that COVID-19 is an ongoing challenge in our community and our state. One of the most effective tools to combat COVID-19 is vaccination. Vaccines are free and readily available at multiple locations within our community, and individuals ages 5+ are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Click here to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and where you can receive yours.

As always, we will continue to pray for you, and we encourage you to pray for each other.

Thank you and God Bless."