



Fireworks fly high each summer over Lake Cameron during Summerfest, the Town of Pike Road's annual 4th of July celebration.

## THE TOWN OF PIKE ROAD

### *Welcome Home*

“Our people make The Town of Pike Road special,” said the town’s Mayor Gordon Stone. He praises the town’s residents and their passion for their home every chance he gets, pointing to their level of engagement as a driving force behind its recent growth and prosperity. “We’ve seen so much progress in such a short time and that’s due to our citizens getting involved in our town, participating in our planning and supporting the schools, churches, businesses and each other,” he said. It’s evidence of The Town of Pike Road’s true and deep sense of community that’s personified in its motto “Welcome Home.” Add its pastoral scenery, relaxed pace and friendly vibe, and the town is an almost perfect snapshot of idyllic small-town life.

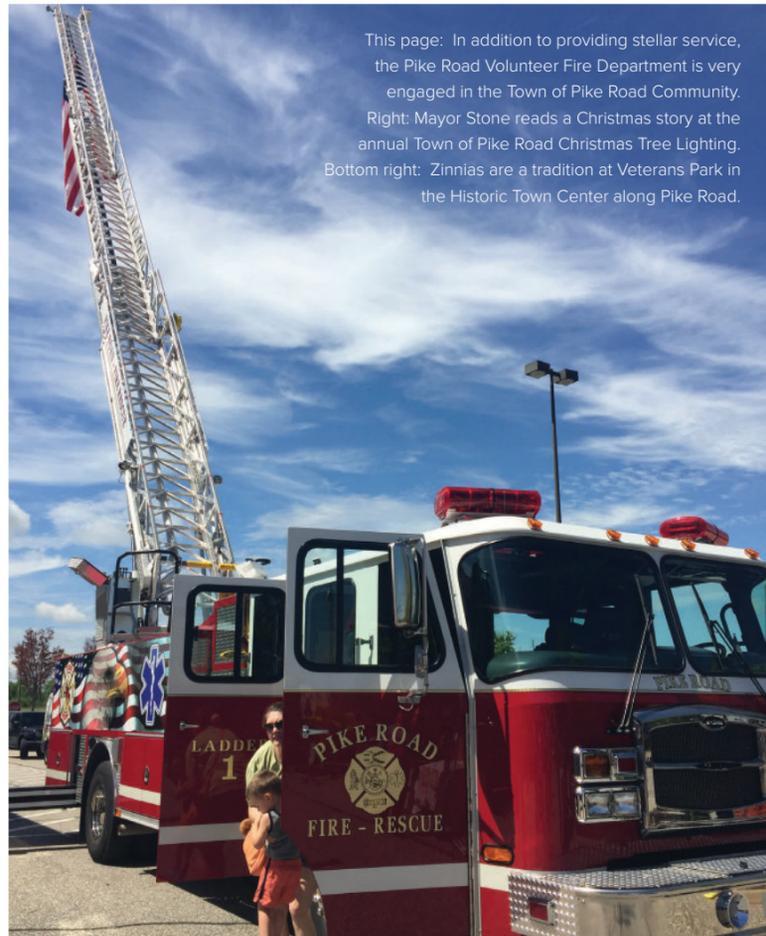
### **Yesterday**

Incorporated as a municipality in 1997, The Town of Pike Road is still quite young, yet people have chosen to make a life in the Pike Road area for more than 175 years. It all began with the arrival of three families in 1815, the Marks, Mathews and the Meriwethers, who settled in the area just east and south of Montgomery. They farmed the fertile land and were soon joined by other families. A small but thriving town took root at the intersection of Pike and Meriwether Roads, both major thoroughfares with heavy traffic. Pike Road earned its name from the toll or “pike” that travelers desiring to travel it had to pay. The community that formed near the crossroads borrowed its name and was known simply as Pike Road until the Town of Pike Road was officially established.

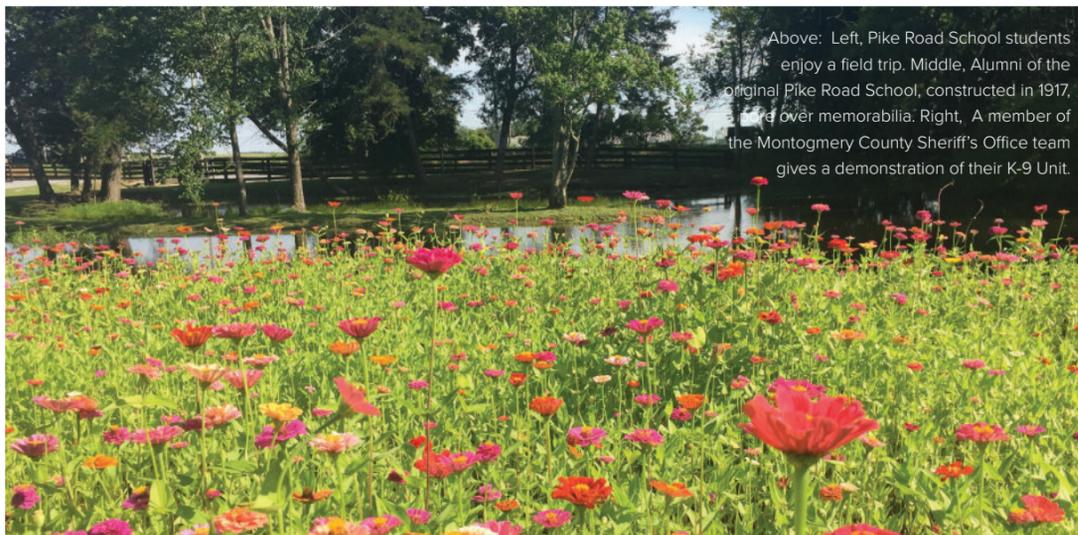
### **Today**

The town’s sprawling meadows and woodland glens are dotted with more than 70 unique neighborhoods, each with its own personality and including some of the region’s oldest settlements. The population of approximately 9,500 residents is diverse, with citizens across the demographic spectrum calling the Town of Pike Road home. Now, as the area draws new families, those looking for both the tranquil appeal of days gone by and the excitement and fresh ideas of a modern town, a happy marriage of old and new anchors The Town of Pike Road and every decision made.

The town and its residents honor their heritage and preserve the past while planning for continued prosperity. It is this detailed planning that has allowed the town to grow, but grow in the right way. From its founding, leaders and residents have focused on four primary priorities and consistently evaluate how new goals and actions will affect them. Protecting and promoting these four pillars — quality of life, public services, community planning and education — always guides their steps. “The people of Pike Road started this town from scratch, and I am thankful that we have remained visionary while also making the practical daily decisions to get us to our goals,” Mayor Stone said. “Our four pillars are critical to the mission to maintain our character while realizing progress. It is a delicate balance, but we look to the four pillars every day to maintain that balance. It has been the people of Pike Road who have engaged and supported this process that has made it work. The unique working relationships between citizens, business, and town leaders have been amazing!”



This page: In addition to providing stellar service, the Pike Road Volunteer Fire Department is very engaged in the Town of Pike Road Community. Right: Mayor Stone reads a Christmas story at the annual Town of Pike Road Christmas Tree Lighting. Bottom right: Zinnias are a tradition at Veterans Park in the Historic Town Center along Pike Road.



Above: Left, Pike Road School students enjoy a field trip. Middle, Alumni of the original Pike Road School, constructed in 1917, find over memorabilia. Right, A member of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office team gives a demonstration of their K-9 Unit.



The Pike Road Veterans Memorial, located at Veterans Park in the Historic Town Center along Pike Road.

And it's not just the mayor and other leaders who have had a say and played a role in the town's direction. Over time, several planning sessions have hosted open discourse and exchanges of ideas, with many residents adding their thoughts to the conversation and helping set the zoning regulations and construction standards that govern continued development. After 3 years of assertive work from internal and external professionals, as well as multiple citizen groups, the town has also wisely created a comprehensive growth plan, meaning it is ready to respond to citizens' needs as the area continues to move forward. "It's great to see how our development has been nurtured by our process to ensure that everything meets the standards put in place by our community members," Mayor Stone said. "Preserving the character of our community is of the utmost importance."

Providing top-notch essential services at a low cost has been a part of the town's plan from day one. To achieve this, the town founders built relationships with public and private entities for public services and can boast accomplishments including continued support of several stellar volunteer fire departments, spreading sewer and water services as well as garbage and recycling services. This partner-provider model allows the town to continually evaluate services, collect citizen feedback, and revisit relationships when necessary to ensure citizens receive the best possible outcome.

To fuel the town's booming economy, an economic development director works closely with the area's existing businesses to meet their needs while also spearheading efforts to bring even more jobs to the town.

In 2012, an initiative called ENHANCE was put in place to ensure an exceptional quality of life in the town. Standing for Exercise, Nutrition, Health, Agriculture, Nature, Community and Education, the program is led by volunteer committees who create innovative ways to conserve the area's agricultural heritage, expand recreation and broaden artistic offerings. More than 80 events each year contribute to the initiative. ENHANCE also led to the creation of the town's Natural Trails System, a group of beautiful multi-use trails that crisscross the town's rural landscapes and connect neighbors, family and friends. Eight miles of trails are currently complete, and six more are soon to follow. Patriot Park, an Innovation Campus for Agriculture, Life Sciences and Wellness, began construction in 2017. Once completed, this education and recreation complex will provide flexible learning spaces for local students, sports facilities including football, softball, baseball, and more.

The multitude of community activities and events in the town also highlight its close-knit character. "It's exciting to see so many people of all ages participating in so many different events," said

Mayor Stone. "From our Summer Fest celebration and our annual Art Market, to our Veteran's Day Ceremony and our Christmas Tree Lighting each December, they draw diverse crowds. The best part about these activities is that they are led by citizens and held by citizens."

Perhaps the town's most visible success has been the Pike Road School System and its first completed campus, which welcomed students in the fall of 2015. This milestone was the culmination of a vision shared by countless community members for decades. Parents and students have the opportunity to experience a unique and creative quality public education system in their hometown, and it's just one more tool in the Town of Pike Road's efforts to offer a promising future for all of its residents. When the first group of students graduate, the school will be serving more than 1900 students. "It gives me great joy to visit the school and see so many young people proudly wearing their Patriot t-shirts. It also warms my heart thinking about the hundreds and hundreds of people who put thousands of hours into making the school happen, and we are also thankful for those who are continuing the hard work that it takes," said Mayor Stone. In the fall of 2018, the Town of Pike Road school system experienced 100 percent participation in its parent teacher organization across both campuses, one housed in a remodeled, century-old community school building that connects generations of learning in the Pike Road community.

As there are more and more announcements to share, town leaders work diligently to keep residents abreast of town news and aware of upcoming events and opportunities. Using emails, social media, its website, newsletters, and more, the town pursues constant and transparent communication.

In its short lifespan, The Town of Pike Road has accomplished so much, and it has done it all with exemplary fiscal efficiency. By carefully managing its financial resources since its founding, the town earned an AA+ credit rating, a ranking not often received for a city just two decades old. It has also kept a 10 percent operating reserve at all times; this is the largest reserve of any municipality in the state and will prove a vital safeguard if difficulties arise in the future.

### Tomorrow

In the 20 years since its incorporation, The Town of Pike Road has expanded into a flourishing town and one of the fastest growing areas in the state. But it has never lost sight of what makes it distinct. "We have such great people, and the town's leadership has listened to them and stayed true to what is important to them," Mayor Stone said. "Now, seeing our citizens coming together and investing both their prayers and passions in their hometown is very exciting. It is special to live and work in a place that has so many engaged people!"