

# City of Pikeville Kentucky



Pikeville is a Third Class City located in the beautiful mountains of southeastern Kentucky and serves as county seat to the largest county in Kentucky, Pike County. With a population of just under 6400, Pikeville is the major trade and service center in the region. Pikeville is home to a newly expanded regional hospital, regional library facility, six local financial institutions, a tri-weekly newspaper and independent school district, a four-year liberal arts college with an Osteopathic Medical School, a newly completed 680 vehicle parking garage, and serves as the headquarters for several major coal companies.

Pikeville was officially chartered by the State of Kentucky as a city on May 6, 1893, by Governor John Young Brown, however the town has been around since 1824. Pikeville has been known simply as Pike, as Pickett and since 1850, Pikeville. Pikeville was named in honor of the western explorer and U.S. Army officer Zebulon Montgomery Pike, for whom the county and Pikeville's northeast suburb of Zebulon were also named.

Because of its location along U.S. 23/460 and U.S. 119 on the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, the citizens of Pikeville were often plagued by spring flood waters which caused millions of dollars in damage. In October 1987 Pikeville completed one of the most ambitious engineering efforts east of the Mississippi River – a \$77 million federally funded cut-through project designed to eliminate frequent flooding, relieve traffic congestions, and alleviate the critical shortage of level land in the downtown area. The Levisa Fork was diverted from its looping course through the city into a half-mile-long cut through Peach Orchard Mountain. Railroad tracks and streets were rerouted from the area and bridges were removed. The former river channel was filled in with dirt and rock from the cut-through, the end result



giving the city nearly four hundred acres of new level land for commercial and institutional development.

Pikeville City Hall is located at 118 College Street in the former Pikeville Collegiate Institute Building. Constructed from bricks made on site in 1889, the building may be one of the oldest structures within the city limits.

