Pikeville, KY

Pikeville, Kentucky, is located in the eastern part of the state not far from Virginia and the Big Sandy River that forms the borders of Kentucky and West Virginia. In 1824, Pikeville was established as the county seat of Pike County on land owned by Elijah Adkins, who donated an acre of land for the County Court House. Pikeville and Pike County were named in honor of the popular hero General Zebulon M. Pike, who led expeditions of the west and southwest and who died in combat during the War of 1812.

The infamous Hatfield and McCoy feud that raged in the Kentucky–West Virginia area between 1863 and 1891 was settled in the Pikeville house belonging to James York, the attorney who represented the McCoys through the entire feud trials. This house is now known as the Dils/York Cultural & Heritage Center and opened in January 2017 after extensive renovations with an exhibit of biblical artifacts on loan from the government of Israel. The Center also houses historical displays and provides heritage education and interactive arts.

The Big Sandy Heritage Center preserves the history of the Big Sandy Valley. Exhibits cover the antebellum decades, farming, coal, floods, frontier era, transportation, illegal liquor, personalities, moving mountains, and the Hatfield and McCoy feud.

Plaques and flags represent each branch of the armed forces in the Veteran's Hall of Honor located in the Pike County Courthouse. The Hall showcases war memorabilia contributed by county veterans. The 10 display cases in Heritage Hall are dedicated to Pike County's prehistory (Native Americans), agriculture, industry and commerce, politics, famous Pike County residents, the history of coal, travel and public improvement projects, literary history of Pike County, law enforcement (specifically those who have died in the line of duty), and the future of Pike County.

Jenny Wiley Theatre is eastern Kentucky's only professional theater offering year-round productions. Cultural, educational, and entertainment events are held at the Eastern Kentucky Expo Center.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Pikeville is a commercial, governmental, as well as residential area. Some homes in the downtown date from the 1800s, while others were built in the early decades of the 20th century.

The Bowls Addition is located close to downtown Pikeville. Some houses date from the beginning of this development in the 1950s, and others were more recently constructed. Homes were built in single- and multiple-story styles.

Dating from approximately 1985, the Cedar Creek neighborhood is also located near the downtown. Cedar Creek features brick houses in various architectural styles that range from one to three stories. Bob Amos Park is located nearby.

The Northmonte neighborhood is a gated community that was built in the 1990s on top of a mountain and provides views of the surrounding mountains. The neighborhood features large, custom-built homes in various styles situated on large lots. Chloe Ridge, another gated neighborhood, is located on top of a mountain that overlooks the city. This neighborhood was developed in 2005. The houses are primarily large traditional, multistoried brick homes built on large lots.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Pikeville has six parks. Pikeville City Park, where several Civil War battles were fought, has a historical monument, playground area, and gazebo. A ball field with lights, bleachers, and dugouts are major features of the Bob Amos Park, which also has an off-leash dog park, tennis courts, playground, walking trails, and walking track. Two playground sets and an open grassy area can be found at the Pikeville Mini Park. The Pikeville Hambley Athletic Complex has football and baseball fields that are shared by the city, school district, and University of Pikeville. Randy Jones Memorial Park and Veterans Memorial Park are also located in Pikeville.

Other recreational activities available in Pikeville include the White Lightning Zip Lines and drag racing at the Wrightway Raceway in the River Fill.

The Hillbilly Days Festival, which is celebrated in April, offers food and craft booths, a huge carnival, and music throughout the town. The festival is sponsored by the Shriners, the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Pike County Government, City of Pikeville, and local volunteers.

EDUCATION

Pikeville Independent School District educates approximately 1,200 students in one elementary school (grades prekindergarten through grade 6) and one junior high/high school (grades 7 through 12).

Higher education is available at the University of Pikeville, which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The University is home to the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Elliott School of Nursing, and Kentucky College of Optometry.

Big Sandy Community and Technical College offers academic and technical programs. The Go2Work program delivers accelerated training that leads to careers in 2 years or less. The Go2Transfer program provides basic college education for those seeking to continue their education at a 4-year school.

HEALTH CARE

Pikeville is served by the Pikeville Medical Center with 300 licensed beds.

CITY STATS	2015
City Population	7,012
County Population	61,792
Per Capita Personal Income, Pike County	$33,354

Photograph courtesy of Mary Reed Runyon.