

THE PELHAM

# PATHWAY

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A path apart.

# CONNECTED COMMUNITY



Recently, I was privileged to serve on a panel for park and recreation professionals. One of the candidates remarked how difficult and costly it was to find officials and umpires for youth sports because it had become a dangerous profession. One of the panelists shared his experiences as a youth soccer official and described the number of times he and his colleagues had to have a police escort to their vehicle following a game in which spectator behavior became a major concern. Then, I read about a youth football coach near Dallas who was killed after a dispute with another coach over a call by the referee. I felt so thankful to live in Pelham. When I read this issue of *The Pelham Pathway*, I felt even more grateful to live in Pelham.

Research has shown time and again that being a part of a connected community promotes individual health. Among the benefits of connecting with the community include a sense of empowerment which leads to enabling positive change; sharing experiences with others which stimulates innovation and growth; and passion which helps spread confidence and encouragement to create new things that can be shared with others.

As you read through the pages to follow, you will be introduced to Pelham's new high school football coach, Mike Vickery, who emphasizes improvement, the value of hard work, and commitment over scoring touchdowns.

Writer Gina Womack uses her storytelling magic to introduce us to Jim and Carole Chomicz, by whom the reader cannot help but be inspired to be active and connected; to Pelham resident and Birmingham Barons, sportscaster, Curt Bloom, who traveled a great deal and has had the opportunity to be other places, but who prefers to stay here in Pelham. Curt and his wife Laura are connected to the Pelham community. You'll read about a team of youth baseball players and coaches who had amazing success on the field and were recognized for their character. They are connected to the Pelham community.

Lastly, I hope you will take the time to read through the Activity Guide and sign up on the city website to receive updates from Parks and Recreation, the Pelham Public Library, the Pelham Racquet Club, Ballantrae Golf Club, and the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, and discover ways in which you can get connected to your community. Isn't it great to live in Pelham?

*Mehmet Difante*

# CITY IMPROVEMENTS

## DISCOVER THE INVESTMENTS BEING MADE IN CITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

Many major capital improvement projects are underway across Pelham. Some you may notice, while others you may not. As with every issue, we want to keep you informed about what's happening in your community.

### City Hall Renovations

Our City Hall renovation project remains on schedule and is expected to be complete by the end of the calendar year. If all goes as planned, the building should be open to the public in January 2023.

The layout and floor plan have changed throughout the building. Offices for Development Services will now be where the City Council Chambers once were. The Council meeting space is now downstairs where Revenue, Licensing, and Human Resources were once housed.

"We have created a space where we will be able to provide better customer service because we've essentially set up a one-stop-shop for business," said Andre Bittas, Director of Development Services and Public Works. "Community members will also be able to reserve meeting space for events or other gatherings."

**INVESTMENT: \$4.5 million**

### Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

The Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena is getting a facelift. Inside the building, guests can expect to see new and updated banquet halls and restrooms. The banquet halls feature new flooring, paint, doors, and trim, as well as upgrades to the ceiling and lighting. Restrooms were gutted and completely redone. The renovations were necessary because the décor and finishes had outlived their lifespan.

On the outside of the facility, expect to see façade improvements, including new paint on the building and roof. Curb appeal will be enhanced with new hardscaping, landscaping and signage. There will also be a new pedestrian plaza with brick pavers.

Interior work is nearly complete, and the exterior work is expected to be finished in time for the Birmingham Bulls home opener on October 29th.

**INVESTMENT: \$1.4 million**



## New Fire Engines

Two new fire engines are in service in two parts of the city. Engines 94 and 95 were delivered in June and were immediately taken to Emergency Equipment Professionals for final systems tests and outfitting.

After The World Games, the crews at Station No. 4 and Station No. 5 spent a couple of weeks training on their new apparatus before the trucks were fully brought into service in late July. Each engine in the Fire Department fleet is now standardized, in terms of layout and technology.

"These new trucks replaced engines that were 16 and 18 years old," explained Fire Chief Mike Reid. "All of our engines are almost identical now in cab design, compartment layout, and pump capabilities. They are equipped with the newest safety features to better protect our personnel while responding to emergencies."

The old trucks were moved to reserve status.

**INVESTMENT: \$1.3 million**

## Water Meter Replacement

The City began upgrading its water system infrastructure approximately six months ago. The project is estimated to be 40% complete. The investment is aimed at upgrading equipment with the latest technology, which will make meter reading a more efficient process.

"The radio read technology will allow us to collect more accurate readings in less time with fewer resources which will improve efficiency and better customer service," explained Bittas.

The estimated completion of the project is October or November of this year.

**INVESTMENT: \$3 million**

## Creek Clean-Up

A portion of Cahaba Valley Creek will receive some much-needed maintenance in the next few months. The City applied for and received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to remove fallen trees, limbs, and trash from the waterway. The debris removal will be in an area generally from Chandalar Drive to U.S. Highway 31.

"The grant is for a 75 percent/25 percent participation, with the City's portion being 25 percent," Acting City Engineer Chris Cousins explained. On July 5, 2022, the City Council approved \$266,000 in funding for the City's portion of the work. The project has been bid out, and work will begin soon. It is estimated the work will take six months to complete once it begins.



"The creek and its banks are private property. We will have to get access permission from property owners to complete the work," Cousins explained. "The storm debris will be removed through a series of hand work and heavy equipment. The debris will then be transported off-site and disposed of. The goal is to get this portion of the creek cleaned up and free-flowing," he added.

**INVESTMENT: \$1.3 million**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## PELHAM IS SEEING MAJOR GROWTH IN SEVERAL AREAS

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

Pelham is growing in so many areas, and there is a lot of buzz surrounding several development projects across the city. Here, you'll find the latest information on new businesses and the status of major developments in the City.

### Campus 124

Campus 124 is buzzing with excitement. On a recent Saturday night, people packed both the newly opened Half Shell Oyster House and The Beer Hog, spending time with friends and enjoying the atmosphere. Half Shell's General Manager, Will Middleton, says the restaurant's opening weekend drew large crowds.

"We've received such a warm welcome and are thrilled to be working with such an enthusiastic team," Middleton said. "We are looking forward to opening for lunch, but we are still in need of more cooks."

The success of the campus' anchor tenants carries over to other small businesses in the complex. Kevin Hamby is the owner of The Guys' Place barbershop. He says foot traffic has picked up in the last few months.

"As more tenants are entering into the development at Campus 124, there is a lot more life and activity in the hallways. It is great to see customers having a fun time visiting the different businesses on Campus," he said.

Hamby is a long-time Pelham resident and attended school in the very building his business now occupies. "I actually attended Valley Elementary back in the mid-'80s. It feels great to support our hometown and serve customers from Pelham and surrounding cities. The location is extremely convenient for us, and we were thrilled to open the barbershop in Pelham," he explained.

The Guys' Place is in two former classrooms that underwent an extensive renovation. The layout is open and features a comfortable lounge area with complimentary drinks and snacks. Every haircutting service is completed in individual stations complete with its own sink bowl for shampooing. The barbershop specializes in haircuts for men and boys, but it also offers haircuts to women if it is a simple trim and can be completed during the typical time frame of about 25 minutes for a standard haircut.



Hamby is looking forward to more businesses coming to Campus. "I think it would be great for some smaller, retail-oriented businesses to join. I believe the future is bright for both the current and future businesses here."

Next door to The Guys' Place is a new photography studio that opened in August. Christina and Daniel Dennis are the owners of Untold Boudoir Photography. Their names may sound familiar. They are also the owners of Untold Imagery, which they started during the COVID-19 pandemic. They say the space they secured at Campus 124 will allow them to develop their vision for the future of their business.

The Campus still has plenty of space for businesses looking for a unique place to call home. Check out [www.campus124.com](http://www.campus124.com) for details.

### The Canopy

Work at the site of The Canopy has gone vertical. The \$60 million mixed-use development is across from the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Three recognizable brands have signed on to the project: Mountain High Outfitters, Cahaba Cycles, and Taco Mac.

Mountain High Outfitters will be the first of the three to open. It will occupy the old Southland Homes log cabin at the corner of State Park Road and Amphitheater Road. According to owner Christopher Groom, the outdoor retailer and active lifestyle boutique will differ from other locations in the Birmingham area.

"This opportunity was just too different and unique. In Pelham, our store will have a much heavier focus on gear, and that is because we want to appeal to those visiting Oak Mountain State Park."

The finishing touches are being completed both inside and around the building. A three-day grand opening is scheduled for September 16th-18th.

Construction is underway on Cahaba Cycles and Taco Mac. Both are expected to be open by the spring and summer of 2023. Cahaba Cycles has called Pelham home for nearly three decades. The new store at the Canopy will be similar in size to the current location on Pelham Parkway, but it will feature new retail concepts and displays. According to owner Faris Malki, the business plans to increase the number of rentals for mountain bikes and e-bikes, as well as host meetups for cyclists to ride into the park along the newly installed bike lanes.

Cahaba Cycles will be next to Taco Mac, a Georgia-based restaurant chain. This will be the company's first Alabama location and only the second outside of Georgia. The name is deceiving because Taco Mac is known for its wings and craft beer menu. The restaurant also serves a variety of burgers and salads, and yes, tacos are also on the menu.



# Q & A WITH MIKE VICKERY

## Panthers Football Head Coach

Mike Vickery took over the Pelham High School football program this spring when Coach Tom Causey retired after seven years with the program. Vickery spent the last six seasons as the head coach at Northridge High School in Tuscaloosa.

### Did you play football in high school and college?

I played football, basketball, and baseball at Mobile Christian School in Mobile, Alabama. I signed with Faulkner State Community College (now Coastal Alabama South) where I played junior college basketball for a year. After a year at Faulkner, I transferred to the University of Alabama where I was a walk-on wide receiver for three years.

### What inspired you to become a high school football coach?

My father was a head coach and athletic director the day I was born. Coaching is all I have ever really known. My dad coached multiple sports at the high school and collegiate levels. I have always enjoyed being around athletics for many reasons. I saw firsthand how many kids were impacted positively by sports and the coaches they were surrounded by. Athletics were always a huge part of our lives. While at the University of Alabama, I had the opportunity to spend my senior year working as a student assistant coach under Coach Dabo Swinney. I learned so much from the way he treated his players. I also had the opportunity to work as a Graduate Assistant with the men's basketball team. Being around multiple sports and great coaches at a high-level SEC program really changed the way I viewed coaching as a profession.



### What's your transition to Pelham been like since you were hired in March?

The transition to Pelham has been awesome! Our kids, staff, administration, and community have been very welcoming. Pelham is a special school system and city. Everyone is pulling in the same direction and always puts doing things the right way at the forefront of the decisions that are made. PHS has an awesome culture. It speaks volumes about a school where the adults are excited to show up to work every day and stay after to support the students in all of their endeavors. I think that defines the Pelham culture.

### What's your overall vision for the Pelham football program?

Coach Tom Causey did an amazing job by reestablishing a culture of winning here at Pelham. I always felt he did things the right way. Pelham was always a physical football team that always gave great effort. We want to continue building on the culture that is established here. We want to give relentless effort, with an infectious attitude, and be phenomenal teammates. If we do those things daily our kids will be successful at school and in life. We want everyone to know how special Pelham is by the way we carry ourselves in this program.

### What is the best part of being a coach?

I absolutely love watching kids attain success from the best seats in the house. Every student-athlete has the ability to better themselves each day. They may not all achieve athletic stardom, but every student-athlete that works can achieve so many other goals along the journey. That is fun to watch. We have kids who bench press 340 pounds and some who bench press 95 pounds. The joy you see in the face of the 95-pound bench press athlete when they meet the goal they set for themselves is just as special as the wide receiver that catches four touchdowns in a game. Athletics teaches what is possible through hard work and commitment and that is something we get to witness regularly.



## Upgrades at Ned Bearden Stadium

It was a busy summer on the hill. Several upgrades were made to Ned Bearden Stadium, and some are currently in the works to improve aesthetics and the game-day experience.

- New visitors side ticket booth, concession stand, restrooms, and storage
- Improved parking area for emergency vehicles on the visitors' side
- New fencing in and around the stadium, including custom windscreens
- Sidewalk expansion in front of the spring sports field house
- New landscaping
- New dumpster enclosure
- Newly painted side railings throughout the stadium
- New seating (upcoming)
- Installation of handrails in stands (upcoming)



# PELHAM PANTHERS

## 2022 Football Schedule

Aug. 19	vs. Jackson-Olin
Aug. 26	@ Oak Mountain
Sept. 9	vs. Briarwood
Sept. 16	@ Helena
Sept. 23	@ Chelsea
Sept. 30	@ Calera
Oct. 6	vs. Ben. Russell
Oct. 14	vs. Homewood
Oct. 21	@ Chilton County
Oct. 27	vs. Spain Park

# PANTHER PRIDE



BY: NICOLE KNIGHT

## Pelham High School SGA Starts Strong in the New School Year

The Pelham High School Student Government Association (SGA) devoted many hours over the summer to set a new direction for the student-run organization that represents the PHS student body. With a larger number of representatives, the group reorganized to include a team of three executive officers, 12 class officers, 25 grade-level representatives, and two employee sponsors. The SGA goals include promoting school spirit and student engagement, encouraging good citizenship among students, empowering students to succeed academically, and providing leadership opportunities for students.

To start the school year strong, the team of officers and representatives held a two-day summit in June and a one-day leadership retreat in July to establish goals, generate ideas, and implement initial plans. In the areas of student engagement and school spirit, the SGA designed spirit shirts for students, teachers, and the community to purchase and wear throughout the year. In addition, they have streamlined school spirit days and pep rally themes for the Panther football season and Pelham Homecoming Week and have plans for supporting every sport throughout the school year.

The group has already made an impact by volunteering time at Camp Pelham and by helping teachers in their classrooms before the start of school. The group holds formal meetings each month to provide a forum for student ideas and concerns, plan events, and further the goals of the organization. In addition, leaders within SGA serve as the principal's student leadership team. The SGA seeks to provide a voice for every student while promoting inclusivity and unity among students and the faculty.



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NEWS AND EVENTS

 @pelham.sga

# It's a Great Day to Be a Panther

#PelhamFirstDay photos have been a tradition on social media over the past several years, and we love seeing so many students and teachers from the Panther family submitting their photos on the first day of school! You can check out more photos on the Pelham City Schools Facebook page or search #PelhamFirstDay.



# LOVE, ACTUALLY

BY: GINA WOMACK



If you have ever thought about taking up a new sport or hobby, but feel age or lack of skill has passed you by, you have never met Jim and Carole Chomicz. This tennis-playing duo demonstrates a person is never too old to learn, and never too old to find love.

Jim Chomicz took up the sport of tennis back in the mid-1970s when he lived in Atlanta. After playing for about eight years and falling in love with the sport, he and his first wife Carol moved to Franklin, Tennessee. At that point, tennis fell by the wayside when he couldn't find tennis partners in his new city. "I didn't play for 25 years. In 1999, my wife and I retired, and we moved to Alabaster. I just never picked up a racquet in those years."

In April 2010, Jim's wife passed away and he was in a lonely, sad place in life. "It probably took me a year to filter through what had happened." In August 2011, Jim realized that he needed to get out and do something. "I couldn't just sit around and do nothing. I didn't have any real hobbies. One day I was driving around and I saw a big building off in the distance. It turned out to be the Pelham Racquet Club.

I remember enjoying tennis and I took a ride up there and decided to check it out. I met Pelham Racquet Club Director Chaney Mills and a couple of the people working at the facility. I decided to get involved again. I signed up and I've been here since."

After his first visit to the Pelham Racquet Club, Jim joined a team right away. That team ended up going to the sectional tournament in Mobile during his first year to play. Since that time, Jim has been on several other teams. Three of them have gone to the National Championship three different times. "Two of the teams were 55 and older, and then one of them was a 65 and older age group. I'm 77 now, and I will be 78 in October." Jim said all of the pieces just fell into place. "I was in the right place at the right time. Tennis saved me. I won't say it necessarily saved my life, but it saved me from some bad things," he said with a smile.

With all of his new friends at Pelham Racquet Club, Jim's life was on track, and he was no longer lonely. He had a girlfriend and enjoyed his newly-discovered passion for tennis. But his life was about to take another turn, one that involved a 'complicated story.'

Jim's college roommate from their days at West Virginia Wesleyan was in Alabama from his home in Chicago. He was here to visit his cousin Carole, who lived in Cullman. That's right. Another Carole was about to enter Jim's life! Her cousin asked if he could invite his college roommate over for a visit while he was in town. "Jim came to Cullman and brought his girlfriend with him. I was married at the time, but things weren't going well. I divorced and moved to Atlanta not long after that first meeting," explained Carole.

With Carole's sons in the Atlanta area and a new job with Emory Healthcare, Carole started over in her late 50s. "A year goes by. My son and I usually go to Crimson Tide home games together, but on this particular day, he couldn't go." Carole was talking on the phone with her cousin and happened to mention that she was looking for someone to go to the game with her. Her cousin said, "Remember Jim? What about him? He's an Alabama fan." Carole laughed when her cousin said that, and told him, "He has a girlfriend, and I'm not going there." Carole's cousin quickly set the record straight and said Jim and his girlfriend had broken up. "I was surprised because I thought Jim and his girlfriend were pretty serious. I asked my cousin to call Jim to tell him that if he wanted to go to the game, he should call me." Carole's cousin gave Jim her number. He called, and the two decided to attend the game together. "We agreed to meet in front of the gate that Saturday morning. We had a fabulous time, and the rest is history. From that point on, we saw each other every weekend."

Carole quickly learned about Jim's passion for tennis and enjoyed meeting his friends and watching his matches. After a year and a half of weekend dating, with Carole in Atlanta and Jim in Alabama, the couple decided they were tired of a "commuter relationship" and decided to get married. They tied the knot on May 14, 2016.

Carole moved to Alabaster with Jim, and the pair traveled to his sectional matches in various Southeastern cities. After watching Jim play, Carole realized that she wanted to learn the game. Although she had never formally played tennis, she does have an athletic inclination. "I have loved sports all my life. I was a fan of aerobic dancing. It was my thing, but after I moved to Atlanta, I didn't have the time for it. After hanging around the Racquet Club with Jim, I decided to try my hand at tennis." Jim quipped that Carole knew if the pair were going to spend time together, she would have to take up the game. "That and the cute outfits. She loves the cute outfits," joked Jim. Carole protested with a laugh, "Well, I wanted to learn!"

Carole signed up for lessons with Tennis Pro Greg Howe. "After my first lesson with Greg, he said, 'Okay, I think I can work with you.' I didn't realize the first lesson was kind of a determination to discover whether I had any athletic coordination or not. It was enlightening to realize I had the potential to be his student."



Jim and Carole on their first date at an Alabama football game.



Jim and Carole at their wedding reception.

Carole said she thinks the world of Greg, and credits him with helping her stay positive through the valleys of the sport. "Tennis is a roller coaster ride. You have your days when you're just playing great and you're on fire. Then there are days when you think, 'I can't do anything right.' I can express my concerns to Greg and he says, 'We can fix this. You're only slightly off the rails. We can get you back.' I never left a lesson feeling like I should give up. Instead, I always left encouraged and with the feeling that I can do this." She added all the pros at Pelham Racquet Club are like that. "They're encouraging and understanding."

The Chomiczes want to encourage people of all ages to explore the sport of tennis. “There are a lot of women I play with who have played for many, many years. However, there are newcomers as well. I’m 67, but I didn’t start playing until I was 62,” said Carole. “We have a player on our team who is 82. She’s a fabulous player. I mean, she’s running all over the court. The best thing about tennis is that it is a lifetime sport. You can play as a kid, you can play when you’re middle-aged, and you can play as a senior adult. I used to think I was in good shape because of aerobics, but I feel like I’ve got that fitness back at my age. It’s just such a great sport, and it is fun! You’re getting exercise and not even thinking about the fact that you’re getting a workout. I’m out there having fun, and the by-product is that I’m getting a great fitness exercise.” Jim added. “I played with a guy today who is 81. He played great. I’m glad to have him on the team.”



Jim with his team won 3rd place at the National Championships in 2018.

Jim and Carole play tennis at least five or six times a week at the Pelham Racquet Club. “I play Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings. On Tuesday we have lessons with Greg in the morning, and then I play on Tuesday night. So I’m playing five days a week. Sometimes when you’re on a team you play twice a day, you’re playing for fun in the morning, and then you play team matches at night. Carole said they even find time on Sunday afternoons to squeeze in a few sets. “We come out here after church and play with another couple. A few weeks ago it was 96 degrees, so that was a bit challenging.”

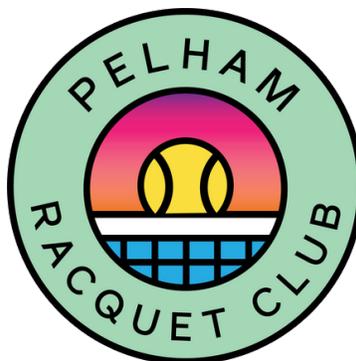
“This club has great opportunities for people who are beginners. If you’re a bit older and just starting, you might think you’ll be in a class with a bunch of kids. This club has accommodation for you to come here with your peers and be a beginner and learn,” said Carole.

For Jim and Carole, rekindling the love for the game and learning how to play as a beginner has been life-changing. “It kept me active after going through such a hard time, like the death of my spouse. When I realized I needed to get out and do something, a wonderful change came over me. It keeps me active, and I don’t feel 77 years old. If you can play three sets out in the heat and not keel over, I think you’re in decent shape,” explained Jim. For Carole, she acknowledged learning the game gave her a new sport to love. “I can’t even count the number of lady friends I’ve made through tennis, and we are all close. Tennis is the best thing that has happened to me, especially at this age.”

Carole shared one more story from her first date with Jim. It is a great comparison of the love they share for each other, and the love they have for the game. “The day we were going to that Alabama game, I was told later that he had to find a substitute because he was supposed to play tennis that day. He gave up a tennis match for me!” When Jim is asked if he’s glad he found that sub, he said, “I am! Giving up a tennis match with a bunch of old guys for a nice young lady? I say it was a good trade-off.”



Jim and Carole encourage you to give tennis a try.



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# CONTINUING THE FIGHT

## HEAD TENNIS PRO DONATES STEM CELLS A SECOND TIME

BY: GINA WOMACK

It's been almost a year since Ryen Valentine participated in a stem cell donation that he hoped would change the life of a total stranger. In October 2021, the Pelham Racquet Club Head Tennis Pro traveled to Boca Raton, Florida to have a procedure to extract stem cells from his blood, which were then used for a patient that needed a bone marrow transplant. Earlier this summer, Valentine received another call, asking if he could donate again.

"I got a call saying they had an update. I was excited because I thought they were going to give me the news that the patient was getting better. But the update was that he needed more of my stem cells," said Valentine.

We first told you Ryen Valentine's story in the December 2021 issue of *The Pelham Pathway*. The path to his donation began six years ago, while he was working at another tennis club. "I helped to organize a tournament for the Be the Match organization. We had a member at the club whose child needed a transplant, and that's why we chose the charity as the tournament beneficiary. Anyone who played or participated, or even came to watch, could be swabbed to be a member of the national registry," Valentine explained. He said he forgot about the registry as the years went by, but one day in 2021 he received a random call saying he was a match for someone.

This year, Valentine went to San Antonio, Texas for his second donation. "This time I did not have to get the injections that make me produce more cells beforehand, so this donation was a little easier in that regard. All I had to do was show up and donate." Valentine was away for two nights, and this year, his wife Lauren was able to make the trip with him while their three young daughters stayed with their grandparents. "We made it a little vacation. San Antonio is beautiful. We went to the River Walk both nights. I felt well enough to get out and about. There were absolutely no complications."

Ryen and Lauren's oldest daughter, who is eight, is mature enough to understand what her dad was doing in a very simple, basic way. "She understands there is a man who is sick and he needs her daddy's blood. Now, the idea of an immune system that has been destroyed by chemo is probably too deep or complex at her age. She just knows that her daddy was going to help him."



Valentine said his five-year-old is a little more fearful. "She's like, 'Wait, they're taking your blood?' She thinks they're taking all of my blood and giving it to someone else," he said with a smile. In all, Valentine hopes his children will look back one day and be influenced by his act of donating stem cells to someone in need. "Maybe I can use this as a teaching moment. I can say, 'Remember the time I did this, well, we should always think of ways to help others.'"

Valentine said he would do it all over again, but there are restrictions. "I think there's a cap on how many times you can donate, maybe three total." He said he's part of a Facebook group of other people who have participated in the Be the Match program, and he's never seen an instance where anyone donated for the third time. As Valentine stated last December, he realizes a stem cell transplant is not a guarantee of a cure; however he remains optimistic for those who receive one. "It might buy someone months or a year with loved ones. That's valuable time."

If you would like to learn more about Be the Match, visit [www.bethematch.org](http://www.bethematch.org).

# CALLED UP TO "THE SHOW"

BY: GINA WOMACK



In Minor League Baseball, players often refer to the ultimate goal of making it to the majors as “going to the show.” Some people may not give it much thought, but the goal of making it to the show is just as much of a dream for minor league broadcasters across the country. These are the announcers you hear doing play-by-play or color commentary for local teams throughout a grueling season that can last anywhere from 132 to 150 games, depending on the level of play. For Birmingham Barons’ long-tenured announcer Curt Bloom, the ultimate dream of calling a major league game came after 30 years in the broadcast booth. In late July, a series of circumstances left the Barons’ parent club, the Chicago White Sox, in need of a radio announcer for a game against the Cleveland Guardians. Bloom was more than happy to step up to the plate.

Bloom, a long-time resident of Pelham, told the story of how he received an email from Cris Quintana, Director of Broadcasting for the White Sox, asking him to join a Zoom call with the other broadcasters in the White Sox minor league system.

“His email said he wanted to talk about prospects and our teams. We had never done this before, but I thought it was a fantastic idea. That Wednesday, I was sitting at my desk at my home here in Pelham and joined the Zoom call. Immediately, my instincts told me something was up. I noticed the guys from the Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Kannapolis clubs were not on the call. I wondered why I was the only guy on the call, but I guessed I was the only one who could keep the clock,” Bloom said with a laugh. “I knew something was going on, but I couldn’t quite put my finger on it.” Bloom said Quintana was asking questions like, “How do you like Birmingham?” and “Tell me about some of the players.” It wasn’t until about two-thirds of the way into the call that Quintana asked the question that Bloom had been waiting on for his entire career. “He said, ‘What are you doing on July 24th?’ The first words out of my mouth were, ‘I don’t know what I’m doing, but I think it’s going to change.’ Like a fool, I looked down at my calendar and said, ‘I’ve got nothing.’ He said, ‘Good because you’re coming to the big leagues. You’re getting called up, and you’re going to do a White Sox game!’ After that, my emotions were running wild and I was like, ‘Wow, whoo!’”

Bloom explained his opportunity to call the White Sox game came about because the broadcast team found themselves a bit short-staffed for the July 24th meeting with the Guardians. "Before the season began, it was announced the television broadcaster for the White Sox, Jason Benetti would call a game for the Peacock network once a week. The radio color broadcaster, Darrin Jackson, had requested some vacation time, and it happened to overlap with Benetti's Peacock broadcast. The White Sox just needed a body, and after 30 years, that body was mine," said Bloom with a laugh. "I found out later that Len Kasper, the radio play-by-play announcer, and Darrin Jackson had a major influence on me getting the job." On that Sunday in July, Bloom joined Kasper in the broadcast booth and fulfilled his goal of calling a major league game for the White Sox.

Bloom said his preparation for the White Sox versus the Guardians was more about studying the opponent than the home team. "I was familiar enough with the White Sox because I knew so many of the players from their days with the Barons. With the White Sox, it was more of recall." When asked if he was nervous, Bloom had a great perspective to share. "You have to act like you've been there before."

Bloom said this year it has been a little more common for a team to call up an announcer from the minor leagues. "I know of several instances recently. I think part of it is that the current group of broadcasters are in their 60s and they're now trying to scale back their schedules." Bloom would love more opportunities to work for the White Sox. "It was only one game, but fingers crossed, perhaps it will lead to more. I had no promises going in, and no promises going out. I can only hope another surprise call comes in."



Bloom grew up in a single-parent family in Upstate New York. "I knew what I wanted to do when I was nine years old. In the New York area, I had the influence of two major league teams for every sport – the Yankees and Mets, Jets and Giants, Rangers and Islanders, and so on. There were three sports talk radio stations at that time. I think if I dig deeper, I see that with my single-parent upbringing, and my mom working long hours, I tended to watch and listen to a lot of baseball at home. Later on, when my friends were starting to drive, and they were spending time with their families, I would be at home on Friday and Saturday nights listening to games on the radio or watching on TV." Bloom said his biggest role model in the broadcasting world was Marv Albert. "Everyone in the tri-state area loved Marv, his voice, his enthusiasm, his passion. We did imitations of him, and everybody wanted to be him. Surprisingly, he broadcast every sport except baseball. He just retired from TNT broadcasting last year at the age of 82."

In high school, Bloom never let go of his dream of being a sports broadcaster. "I graduated from high school in a beautiful sleepy community called North Salem." Interestingly, the young man from southeastern New York decided to go to college at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. After receiving some literature from the school, a chance encounter with an old friend he hadn't seen since middle school possibly set the stage for Bloom's future. "I saw my buddy at a talent show where a band performed that consisted of students from North Salem and my friend's high school. My friend just happened to mention that he and his father were going to UNC Greensboro for a campus visit. He asked me if I wanted to join them."

Once he set foot on the UNC Greensboro campus, Bloom knew it was a place he might want to choose for his higher education. Not only was the weather better than the winter that was still raging in New York, but Bloom discovered something else that sealed the deal. "I only had one question, 'Can I get on the campus radio station my freshman year?' This was important because, at larger broadcasting schools, you might not get on the radio until your junior or senior year. They said, 'Absolutely,' and I made my decision."

Between his freshman and sophomore years, Bloom was back in New York on summer break. His college station, WUAG, became the broadcast home of the local minor league team, the Greensboro Hornets. "You can look through baseball history, and not one team was on college radio. The baseball club had a dispute with the commercial station in town, so they moved to WUAG." My boss at the radio station called me in New York and said, 'I know you want to be a part of this,' so I came back from break and rode the bus with the Hornets for the rest of the season."

"I had this goal to have a job lined up when I graduated. I went to work for the CBS television affiliate in Greensboro as a production assistant. My girlfriend Laura, who eventually became my wife, was still in school, so it made sense to stay in North Carolina." After two years in television, Bloom still had the itch to be a sports broadcaster. He went to the baseball winter meetings in December 1987 where he met two men from the Bakersfield, California minor league team. "I had my tape. I had my resume. These guys said they remembered that I had been calling them for a couple of years. They said, 'We've never seen anyone as aggressive or organized as you are. If you come to Bakersfield, you won't be the number one broadcaster, but you can start as an administrative assistant and then travel with the team on the road.' I took the job, and during the 1988 season, I worked the concession stands during home games and when the team was on the road, I traveled with the team and called the middle three innings of play-by-play."

After his stint in Bakersfield, Bloom went on to a broadcasting job in Woodbridge, Virginia, where he was the number one broadcaster. After that, he went to work for the Huntsville Stars, and then the Birmingham Barons in 1992. He hasn't moved since." According to the Barons, Bloom is the longest-tenured radio broadcaster in the 130-year history of the club.

"In minor league broadcasting, you climb through the ranks, just like the players: rookie league, low-A, high-A, double-A, and triple-A. There came a point where I decided that instead of looking at triple-A jobs, it was the big leagues or the Barons. I had a family, a home, and I wanted to stay here."

The Bloom family has lived in Pelham for many years, and he said they love it. "When I started with the Barons, the team was playing at the Hoover Met. We lived in an apartment for a while before we bought a house to accommodate our growing family. We knew we wanted to stay near the Met, and that's why we ended up living in Pelham." Bloom said he loves his neighborhood and the nice people who live here. "Here in Pelham, it feels like family. We enjoy the Pelham Rec Center and the dog park." Bloom and his wife Laura have been married for almost 34 years. Their two daughters, Chloe and Alexis went to Pelham High School, and are now grown with promising careers. "Alexis made Laura and me grandparents last October, so the baby is almost a year old. Cecilia is the apple of our eye." In the off-season, Bloom calls home football and basketball for Samford University and selective games for UAB.

Bloom said he and his wife have discussed what they would do if the White Sox offered him a full-time job. "Laura is a professor at the University of Montevallo, and she is ingrained into the University and also the Pelham community. Some of the best friends she's made in the past ten years have been through her Saturday morning fitness classes at the Pelham Rec Center. We would have to think about how we would handle the living situation during the regular season. It's not uncommon for my peers to live in hotels or apartments during the summer and go back to their full-time homes in the off-season."

Bloom has come a long way from his boyhood days in New York when he would dream of a career as a broadcaster. With a successful 35-plus-year career under his belt, he's ready for whatever the future holds. Maybe that future includes another trip to the show, but right now, Curt Bloom is happy in his job with the Birmingham Barons and is hopeful for many more years in the business.



Curt with his family.



Curt with Len Kasper, the radio play-by-play announcer for the White Sox.

# THE PELHAM EIGHT

BY: GINA WOMACK



When Michael Yonosko's 10U Pelham Pirates finished the regular season 11-1 and won the Pelham Parks and Recreation league division, his journey with youth baseball this year was far from over. You may remember the head coach and his 10U Pelham Pirates were featured in the June 2022 issue of The Pelham Pathway for their volunteer efforts with the Shelby County Humane Society. Yonosko's is a firm believer that youth baseball is more than what happens on the field. He wants to make sure the players learn some life lessons and serve their community as well. It was during the summer all-star season that a special group of Pelham baseball players got to experience why perseverance, determination, and grit can make a lasting impact on their lives, and on those around them.

After the regular season, the winning coach of the Pelham rec league division is named the head coach of the league's All-Star team for the age group. With that honor going to Yonosko, he chose Pirates coaches Nick Sherman and Kyle Lubsen, along with 10U Pelham Dodgers coach Dan Bethers to make up the summer All-Star coaching staff. The coaches then set out to select a 14-member all-star team from a pool of 41 players from the regular season.

"We started practicing and prepping for tournament play, with the eventual goal of heading to the USSSA All-Star World Series in Gulfport, Mississippi," said Yonosko. Right off the bat, a series of circumstances began that would shape the team's future. "Of our 14 players, some of the guys were also football players, and their pre-season practice was set to begin on July 18. Once they realized the conflict, several players dropped out of All-Stars. We were down to nine players." Although it was a bit of a blow to lose the players, no one panicked, and practice went on. Yonosko described the team as "fired up" and they received some special volunteer coaching from Pelham High School's Head Baseball Coach Sean Anderson, and varsity players Logan Green and Cody Bethers. Even with a reduced roster, the Pelham 10U All-Stars began with a warm-up tournament, where the team beat Huffman and came in third. Then it was on to the Region 6 tournament. "We played some teams with mammoth programs. Chelsea, for example, has 14 teams in regular season 10U, so they had a pool of about 150 kids to pull from. Alabaster was another city with a big program. We beat them, and also baseball powerhouse Hueytown. We beat Northside out of Tuscaloosa, who was the eventual tournament winner. We finished second overall in Region 6," said Yonosko.



The competition became tougher as the team advanced to the State Tournament at Choccolocco Park in Oxford, Alabama. The All-Stars beat Clay, lost to a tough Huntsville team, and then lost a close game to Priceville. "Priceville jumped out to a 13-point lead," Yonosko recalled. "Their team seemed confident that the game was theirs. Then, Pelham started coming back. Although we eventually lost 14-11, the Priceville coach said, 'These Pelham kids just don't go away. They never quit.' That was quite a compliment." Perhaps the coach's words were a foreshadowing of things to come.



It was then time for the culmination of the All-Star season, a trip to the World Series in Gulfport, Mississippi July 13-16. At this point, the other shoe fell. "The World Series started on a Wednesday. On Tuesday night, I received a call that our starting catcher had Covid-19. Just like that, we went from nine players to eight." Yonosko went on to explain the Pelham 10U All-Stars could still play in the World Series with only eight players instead of nine, but according to the rules, when the ninth player comes up in the lineup, the team is forced to take an automatic out. "The World Series director was willing to refund our entry fee if we wanted to opt out, but we stayed and played with only eight guys.



"We were up against the best teams in the South. In the first game, we got smoked by the team from Morris, 18-3. We lost the second game 9-8 to Stone, a team from Mississippi. In our third game, we also lost to Stone in another close one, 13-12," Yonosko recalled. Things weren't looking good for the Pelham 10U All-Stars, but they didn't give up. "We came back Saturday and were scheduled to play the Wetumpka Black 10U All-Stars, a very good team." In Hollywood fashion, the score was tied 4-4 at the end of regulation play, and the game went into extra innings. The story of the team nicknamed the "Pelham Eight" had spread throughout the Gulfport Sportsplex. Because the game was in extra innings, a large crowd of spectators who were between games on other fields gathered to see what would happen.



During the game, the shortstop for the Pelham All-Stars tumbled over a Wetumpka runner and went down. "I knew if he came off the field, we would have to forfeit with only seven players left," said Yonosko. "With the wind knocked out of him, the kid looks up at me and said, 'Coach, I know I've got to get up to play.' He got up, could barely breathe, and went hobbling back to his position. He did that for his team. He didn't want to let them down."

By the time the third extra inning rolled around, hopes were still high. Then, the final blow happened. The lack of players came back to bite the team. Yonosko continued, "We had a runner on third and two outs. Then, the ninth player's position came up in the lineup and we were charged with the automatic out." It was a heartbreaking loss for the team that wouldn't quit, despite the odds.

“The World Series trip for this team was honestly one for the ages. It did not end the way that any of us expected, but it was legendary nonetheless,” said Yonosko.

What happened next is, as Yonosko described, magical. “I still get goosebumps when I think about that week. I can’t even count how many other coaches, umpires, parents, and players from other teams came over to congratulate our guys on their never-quit attitude and all they brought to the field. I can tell you for certain, that out of the 16 teams that were invited to play, every single one of them will remember the Pelham 10U team from the Gulfport tournament.” Yonosko said the tournament officials were so proud of the determination displayed by the team that they declared them “champions” and awarded rings to them. “We went 0-4 in our games, but the impression our kids left on the people in attendance did not go unnoticed.”

One of Yonosko’s favorite congratulatory messages was a text he received from the coach of Chelsea’s all-stars. It said, “Team Pelham, you fought hard. You had many challenges to overcome, but you never gave up and never quit. We are proud of every one of you. Hold your heads high. You are champions. Go, Pelham! Your friends, Team Chelsea.” After reading the text, Yonosko said, “This is just one of the many messages I received during that week from other coaches. For a Chelsea baseball coach to congratulate Pelham, it tells you something,” he said with a laugh.

Yonosko said the entire city of Pelham should be proud of the way the team represented our community. “These kids represented the Pelham spirit and did the city proud with the deck stacked against them. Pelham left its mark in one of the most spectacular and memorable ways possible. They came together like a family that week. I’ve been involved with baseball since I was three years old, and I’ve never been involved with a team like this.”

As the stands emptied, and the sports complex became quiet, the coaches of the Pelham 10U All-Stars handed out the rings that the tournament officials bestowed on them. During the ring presentation, an umpire walked back onto the field to talk to the team assembled there. Yonosko recalled, “He gushed praise on them and told them how proud he was of their example. That’s the kind of impression these kids left on others. Looking back, it was an awesome summer of all-stars. I know I will never forget this team as long as I live.”



# IN PICTURES



Pelham hosted visitors from around the world in July for The World Games 2022. Competitions at Oak Mountain State Park included Canoe Marathon, Waterski & Wakeboard and Orienteering.



Pelham's recreational programs were in full swing this summer. Some of the Pelham Racquet Club's Junior Team Tennis teams won their divisions at the State Championships. Another placed 2nd at the USTA JTT Sectional Championships in Macon, GA. Parks and Recreation hosted several summer sports camps, including football, volleyball, and basketball.



Pelham Parks and Recreation Youth Football and Cheerleading is underway. Pelham High School Varsity Cheerleaders hosted a show-off night for the youth squads to show off all they learned at camp.



Pelham Park Middle School's first football game of the season ended in a 'W' for the home team. The Panthers defeated Moody, 26 - 12.

# MEET PELHAM'S WORKING DOGS



## BAGHEERA

**Breed/Age:**  
Labrador Retriever, age 3

**Years of Service:**  
3 months

**Nickname:**  
Biggie

**Primary Duties:**  
Explosive detection

**Favorite Toy:**  
His red Kong ball

**Favorite Treat:**  
Steak

**Off-Duty Activities:**  
Going running with his handler, Sgt. Johnson

### From Bagheera's Human:

"Bagheera will soon be Pelham PD's first Vapor Wake K-9."

## DRIVER

**Breed/Age:**  
German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP), age 2

**Years of Service:**  
2 years

**Nickname:**  
Driver Man

**Primary Duties:**  
Geese hunting

**Favorite Toy:**  
Anything that squeaks or rolls

**Favorite Treat:**  
Peanut butter pretzel bites

**Off-Duty Activities:**  
Napping with his humans

**From Driver's Human:**  
"Driver keeps the geese at bay at Ballantrae Golf Club, saving the city about \$10,000 per year in repairs to the course. He is loved by the staff and players who visit Ballantrae."

## RIPLEY

**Breed/Age:**  
Labrador Retriever, age 2

**Years of Service:**  
6 months

**Nickname:**  
Rip

**Primary Duties:**  
Explosive detection

**Favorite Toy:**  
Rubber ball

**Favorite Treat:**  
Anything my human will let me eat. I love eating!

**Off-Duty Activities:**  
Swimming in the pool at home

**From Ripley's Human:**  
"Ripley is a great police dog and partner. He is always ready for work. We look forward to serving the City of Pelham and all its citizens for many years."

## THUNDER

**Breed/Age:**  
Labrador Retriever, age 4

**Years of Service:**  
2+ years

**Nickname:**  
Thunderstruck

**Primary Duties:**  
Explosive detection

**Favorite Toy:**  
The one you throw

**Favorite Treat:**  
The one you give me (or drop)

**Off-Duty Activities:**  
Playing fetch & making TikToks

**From Thunder:**  
"Don't let my leash holder fool you. I'm the brains and beauty of our team. I like couch time, walks on the beach, puppaccinos, and Taylor Swift."

# SENSORY CERTIFIED

BY: GINA WOMACK

The Pelham Police Department is taking strides to better serve those in our community with sensory needs. All employees of the department, including patrol officers, dispatchers, and records clerks recently went through specialized training and received the KultureCity Sensory Inclusive Certification. With this training, first responders are better able to serve all citizens regardless of their sensory needs, mental health challenges, or invisible disabilities. The Pelham Police Department joins the Pelham Public Library with this certification. The Pelham Public Library was the first library in the state of Alabama to be 100 percent certified in 2019.

With the Sensory Inclusive Certification, police units displaying a KultureCity sticker on the back windshield are equipped with sensory bags. The items in the bags can help lessen overload and also engage those who have various sensory needs. The objects in the bags can be easily cleaned and sterilized for multiple uses.

Laura Ehrhart, dispatcher and S.A.F.E.R. Coordinator with the Pelham Police Department, said she was approached to oversee the KultureCity training, sensory bag distribution, and overall implementation of the program. "As a department, we wanted to be more mindful of the various needs and communication techniques utilized by those we encounter in daily interactions with the public while providing tools to comfort and calm those with sensory needs."

KultureCity is a Birmingham-based organization and the nation's leading nonprofit on sensory accessibility and acceptance for those with invisible disabilities. Studies show one in six people have a sensory need or invisible disability, including PTSD, autism, dementia, and strokes, just to name a few. Sensory needs are a common medical condition in which the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information that comes in through the senses.



# ACTIVITY GUIDE



SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

4:30 PM

## Music in the Park

Bring your entire family, a chair or a blanket, grab a bite out of the food trucks and enjoy a fall Sunday afternoons together at Pelham City Park. Well-behaved dogs are allowed but must be on a leash.

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 28

6:00 PM

## Halloween Boo Bash

Sign up individually or with a partner for this fun mixed doubles competition at the Pelham Racquet Club. Prizes will be given away throughout the night, and you get extra points if you dress up in a costume. Details are available at [www.pelhamracquetclub.com](http://www.pelhamracquetclub.com).

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 1

6:00 PM

## Día de los Muertos

Day of the Dead is a celebration of life and death. While the holiday originated in Mexico, it is celebrated all over Latin America with colorful calaveras (skulls) and calacas (skeletons). All families are welcome for this educational program at the Pelham Public Library. Crafts and snacks will be provided.

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 12

8:00 AM

## Pelham Parks & Rec 5k

This flat and fast course takes runners along the beautiful Greenway Trail in the City Park along Cahaba Valley Creek. The Pelham Parks & Recreation 5K race route was certified by USA Track and Field in 2021. Register now at [www.pelhamalrecreation.gov](http://www.pelhamalrecreation.gov).

# ACTIVITY GUIDE

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 13, NOVEMBER 10,  
DECEMBER 8

10:00 AM

## Pelham Garden Club

The Pelham Public Library is partnering with local Shelby County Master Gardeners to sponsor the Pelham Garden Club. The club is open to adults interested in all areas of gardening. Pelham residency is not required, and there is no cost to attend.

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 25

10:00 AM

## Iron Bowl Social

Sport your team's colors for this social at the Pelham Racquet Club. Adults and juniors are invited to play doubles for fun. Registration includes a meal. More information is available at [www.pelhamracquetclub.com](http://www.pelhamracquetclub.com).

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 8

6:00 PM

## Christmas with Santa

Bright Star Touring Theatre will present a fun-filled show at the Pelham Public Library just in time for the holidays. Two zany and lovable elves, Scrunchie and Bangles, have accidentally misplaced some of Santa's presents. Packed full of sing-a-long tunes, this show is the perfect way to get audiences of all ages into the Christmas spirit.

MONDAY | OCTOBER 17, NOVEMBER 21,  
DECEMBER 19

6:00 PM

## STEM Family Nights

STEM Family Night at the Pelham Public Library is a great way for children and their families to learn more about science, math, and/or engineering. Activities are geared towards children aged 8 through 12, but families are encouraged to work together as a team to complete them. Registration is required. Find more information at [www.pelhamlibraryal.gov](http://www.pelhamlibraryal.gov).

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 18

2:00 PM & 6:00 PM

## Pelham Skate School Holiday Ice Show

Bring your family and friends to this fun and festive holiday celebration on ice, featuring skaters from the Pelham Skate School, Birmingham Figure Skating Club, Magic City Theatre on Ice, and the UAB Collegiate Team. See soloists, duets, trios, and group numbers from all of the Figure Skating groups that skate at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, from our youngest Learn to Skate Skaters in their very first on-ice recital to the Gold Medalist Magic City Theatre on Ice Team.



# ACTIVITY GUIDE

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 25  
12:30 PM

## Pickleball Clinics

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in America. Pelham Parks & Rec is hosting three clinics for people of all skill levels.

- 12:30 PM: Beginner Clinic
  - Never played before
- 2:15 PM: Advanced Beginner Clinic
  - Played for approximately two months.
- 4:00 PM: 3.0/3.5 Clinic
  - Played for more than six months.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 10  
9:00 AM

## Reindeer Games Team Event

Sign up as an individual for this fun tennis competition at the Pelham Racquet Club. Teams will be randomly selected. Both members and non-members are invited to play. Registration includes a meal and a gift. Learn more at [www.pelhamracquetclub.com](http://www.pelhamracquetclub.com).

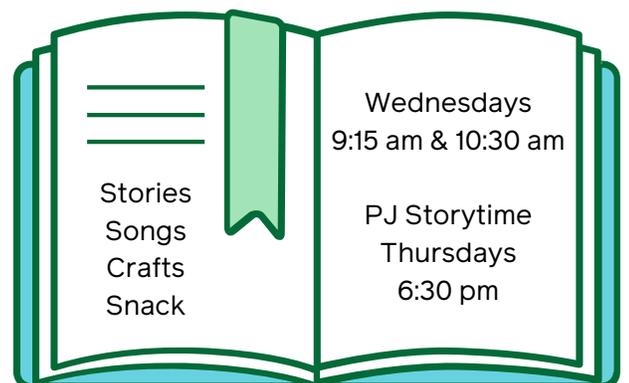
TUESDAY-THURSDAY | DECEMBER 20, 21, 22  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

## Junior Christmas Camps

Improve your skills over the Christmas break. The Pelham Racquet Club is hosting Junior Christmas Camps for all skill levels. The cost is \$45/day or come all three days and get a discounted rate of \$115. Camps offered are beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Learn more at [www.pelhamracquetclub.com](http://www.pelhamracquetclub.com)



## Storytime at the Library



# THE BIRMINGHAM BULLS 2022 HOME SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 29	KNOXVILLE ICE BEARS
NOVEMBER 4	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
NOVEMBER 10	FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN
NOVEMBER 11	KNOXVILLE ICE BEARS
NOVEMBER 18	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
NOVEMBER 19	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
DECEMBER 2	MACON MAYHEM
DECEMBER 9	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
DECEMBER 16	FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN
DECEMBER 17	FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN
JANUARY 5	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
JANUARY 7	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
JANUARY 13	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
JANUARY 16	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
JANUARY 27	QUAD CITY STORM
JANUARY 28	QUAD CITY STORM
FEBRUARY 9	PEORIA RIVERMEN
FEBRUARY 11	VERMILION COUNTY BOBCATS
FEBRUARY 20	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
FEBRUARY 24	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
FEBRUARY 25	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
MARCH 3	ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS
MARCH 10	MACON MAYHEM
MARCH 11	MACON MAYHEM
MARCH 17	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
MARCH 24	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
MARCH 30	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
APRIL 8	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS

Tickets: [www.bullshockey.net](http://www.bullshockey.net)





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PELHAM, AL 35124

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PAID  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 432

*Save the date!*

A PELHAM  
**HOMETOWN**  
EST. 2021 CHRISTMAS

**DECEMBER 10**

Parade begins at 5:00 PM  
Tree lighting, ice skating &  
pictures with Santa to follow.



SCAN FOR MORE



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**OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**  
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205.620.2520



**PELHAM RACQUET CLUB**  
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