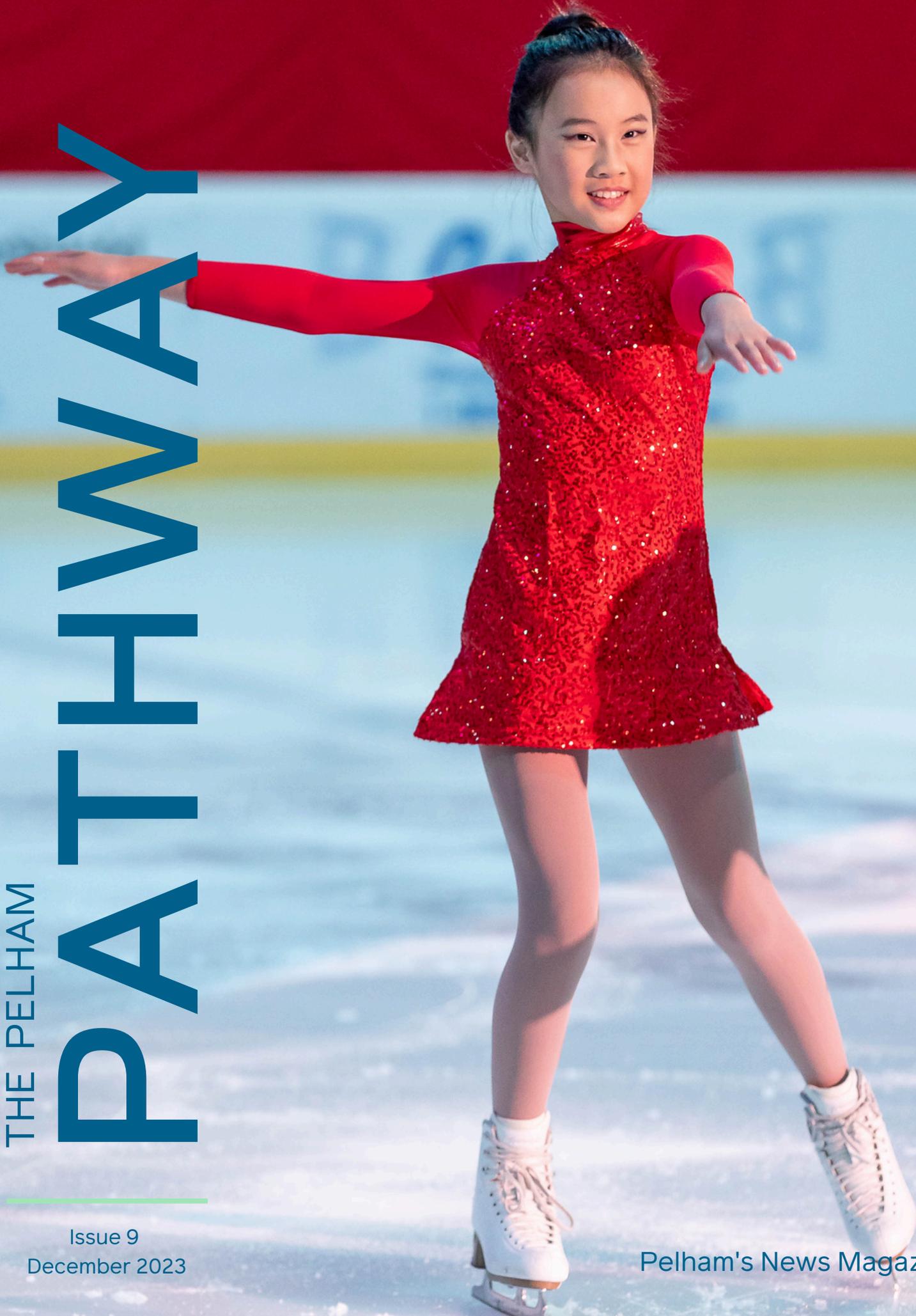


THE PELHAM

PATHWAY



Issue 9
December 2023

Pelham's News Magazine

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CITY DIRECTORY

ELECTED LEADERS



Mayor Gary W. Waters
mayor@pelhamalabama.gov



Maurice Mercer, City Council President
mm@pelhamalabama.gov



David Coram, City Council Place 1
davidcoram@pelhamalabama.gov



Chad Leverett, City Council Place 2
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Mildred Lanier-Reed, City Council Place 5
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DEPARTMENTS

Administration

205.620.6400

Building Department

205.620.6495

Pelham Water Works

205.620.6420

Municipal Court

205.620.6407

Police Department

205.620.6550

Fire Department

205.620.6500

Library

205.620.6418

Parks & Recreation

205.620.6426

Senior Center

205.620.6064

Ballantrae Golf Club

205.620.4653

Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

205.620.6448

Pelham Racquet Club

205.621.3380

PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS

Central Office

205.624.3700

Pelham Ridge Elementary School

205.624.3704

Pelham Oaks Elementary School

205.624.3703

Pelham Park Middle School

205.624.3702

Pelham High School

205.624.3701



Pelham City Hall, 3162 Pelham Parkway



Pelham's new 'Report a Concern' portal allows you to engage with the City as you always have but with improved features. We also have an app for your convenience!

Pelham 311

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

The City of Pelham is implementing new 'Report a Concern' software, and we believe it will make a world of difference in how we serve our community. This improvement is a crucial step forward for us, and we want to inform you why it's important.

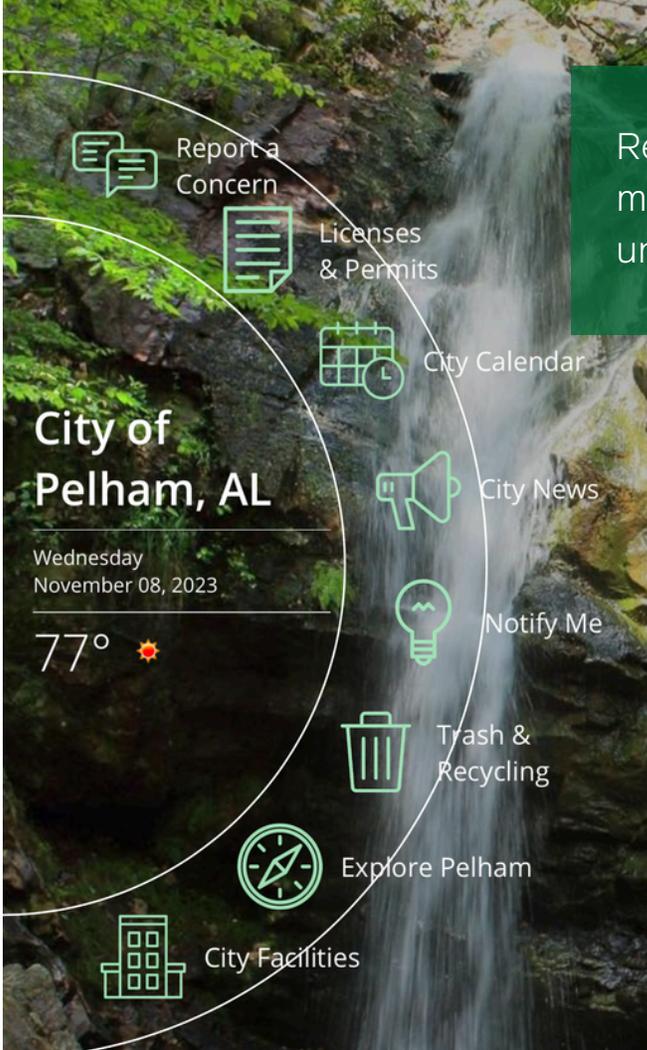
Why the Change?

The new 'Report a Concern' software is designed to bring efficiency and effectiveness to our City's operations. When you report a concern, it automatically catalogs the issue creating a history by problem type and connects it to the history of that particular asset. Rather than being sorted to one staff member, all staff members can see the concern and respond if they have specific knowledge related to that issue. In addition, the new mobile app is much more user-friendly. We're committed to enhancing the quality of life in Pelham, and this upgrade is a part of that effort.

Setting Up an Account is Easy and Still FREE

You must set up a new account in the new portal. We want to emphasize that the process is easy and completely free, like the previous software! Here's a quick overview of what you can expect:

- **Simplicity:** Creating an account and submitting concerns will be as easier than before.
- **Efficiency:** With the integration into our ERP system, we'll be able to respond with more historical information to your concerns.
- **Transparency:** The new system will provide better tracking and visibility so that you can stay informed about the status of your reported concerns.



Reporting a concern to the City of Pelham may look different, but the process remains unchanged, and functionality is improved.

Transition Period Ahead

The current 'Report a Concern' software will be phased out in the coming weeks. This phased transition will provide everyone ample time to register and get accustomed to the new and improved system. During this transition, we will continue to provide access to the current software for existing tickets, but all new concerns must be reported through the new software. We encourage you to explore and familiarize yourself with the new portal today.

Introducing Pelham 311 - the City's New App

In addition to the web-based 'Report a Concern' software, we are excited to announce the launch of the City of Pelham app. Pelham 311 will serve as a one-stop shop for all your interactions with City staff. It will provide an easy and convenient way to report concerns, access city services, and stay updated on all things Pelham.

Your input and reports are invaluable to us, and we want to make it as convenient as possible for you to engage with the City. Whether you are concerned about a pothole, park maintenance or speeding in your neighborhood, your voice matters, and we're here to listen and take action.

Step-by-Step

Reporting a concern to the City of Pelham may look different, but the process remains unchanged, and functionality is improved.

- Instead of several categories, you'll see just one dropdown menu with all requests listed alphabetically.
- If the location is required for that request type, you may type in the address to populate the map or manually search the map with your cursor.
- In the next section, you will enter your request details and upload any images you want to include.
- Finally, you'll enter your contact information and submit.

Like the current system, you will receive emails when updates are available about your request.

We are dedicated to providing you with the best possible tools to engage with the City of Pelham. With the new app and integrated 'Report a Concern' software, you'll have access to:

- Seamless Reporting: Easily report concerns from your mobile device.
- Service Requests: Submit various service requests directly through the app.
- Real-time Updates: Stay informed about the status of your reported concerns.
- City Information: Access important city news, events, and information.

We understand that change can be difficult, but it is inevitable and brings opportunities for improvement. The transition to our enhanced 'Report a Concern' software and the Pelham 311 app will enable us to serve you better and make your voice heard more effectively. We encourage you to stay connected with us as we make these positive changes for our community. Your input and involvement are what make Pelham a great place to live.





Year in Review

BY: GRETCHEN DIFANTE, CITY MANAGER

This is the time of year we reflect on all we accomplished over the past twelve months and provide a synopsis to our customers – the readers of this publication.

I am proud to lead a team that cares about integrity, transparency, and fiscal accountability. The City exceeded its revenue expectations for the third consecutive year, and staff came in under the operations budget. On behalf of our elected officials and city staff team, we appreciate the opportunity to serve Pelham.

Pelham Awarded Largest Grant in the Country

By far, the biggest news this past year was that the Federal Railroad Administration awarded your City a \$42 million grant, the largest in the country. This was a first-time grant program offered by the federal government, and Pelham was prepared with research and engineering studies.

While we had a quick turnaround to meet the deadline, we worked tirelessly for weeks to put together all the information to ensure evaluators would pay attention to Pelham's submission. The level of teamwork required to accomplish this task was incredible. Everyone had to put aside personal feelings and ideas about what was best and look at the application from several different perspectives, even considering the benefits of another community over those for Pelham, to tell a compelling story about why the funding was needed. This project is a game-changer for traffic improvement in Pelham – the #1 priority for the citizens of Pelham, as communicated in the 2022 Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

“ ———
This project is a game-changer for traffic improvement in Pelham.



New Police Chief Hired to Complete Senior Management Team

In our annual summary last year, we told you how excited we were to hire Chuck Crocker, the City's Information Technology Director. This year, following the retirement of Police Chief Pat Cheatwood and Deputy Chief Doug Setliff, we found ourselves in an unusual situation with no internal candidates meeting the minimum qualifications for Chief of Police.

We began a national search with no search firm to help. We had the pleasure of speaking with law enforcement professionals from all over the country, and in this process, we learned a great deal about best practices. Our persistence paid off as we had 40 qualified candidates, which we quickly narrowed to eleven for initial interviews. We brought five excellent finalists to Pelham and put them through what three of the candidates told us was the toughest interview process they had ever seen. Brent Sugg, the former Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, rose to the top and accepted the position as Pelham's new Chief of Police in April.

The quality of the candidates we were able to recruit for the job in Pelham was among the best I have seen in my career, and that speaks volumes about the community, elected and appointed officials, and staff members. Chief Sugg has had a very busy first few months and is making great strides in setting the tone for a new culture at Pelham PD. I interviewed every officer to ask them what they wanted in the culture and a Chief, and they clearly communicated the desire for change in accountability and consistency. Chief Sugg is bringing the leadership the department members asked for and the city needed, and we are proud to have him in Pelham.

CR 52 Railroad Crossing Elimination Project



Transport Services Approved to Begin in 2024

There is undoubtedly a national healthcare crisis. It's difficult to turn on the news, read through your social media feeds, or listen to the radio without hearing about Emergency Medical Services, including transport.

For many, the Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic is the first interaction a patient has in the healthcare delivery chain. In Pelham, over 80% of our firefighters are licensed paramedics. When you make a medical call to 911, 99% of the time, you get the highest level of emergency medical technician care. However, similar to many communities nationwide, an ambulance may not reach you for up to an hour. In October 2023, the International City/County Management (ICMA) reported that 55 communities had lost their ambulance providers in the past two years, and those numbers were projected to increase rapidly.

One factor impacting this situation is severely understaffed hospitals. When an ambulance transports a patient, that crew is responsible for the patient until the hospital accepts that patient, supposedly within 15-20 minutes of arrival.

But increasingly, hospitals are not taking the patients, at least not right away. Instead, ambulances are frequently lined up at emergency room doors, and paramedics tend to patients in hallways against the wall, often for hours.

The interval between the paramedic's arrival with the patient until the hospital takes over care of the patient is referred to as the 'wall time.' We see wall times increasing tremendously. Hospitals are on diversion, meaning the hospital is full, or at least the provider-to-patient ratio dictates the hospital is full even if there are many available beds, so that facility cannot accept additional patients.

EMS ECONOMICS 101

EMS agencies are funded typically from two sources: fees for services and public funding. The cost to operate the system is greater than the fees generated from the service, so the public has to cover the remaining cost. The most expensive part of EMS service delivery is the cost of readiness, that is, having enough resources available (i.e., not committed to a response) to meet the community's desired 911 EMS response time. The increase in the number of paramedics needed, the lack of increase in reimbursements along with rising service costs, are forcing providers to redesign EMS approaches for sustainability. Very few 911 calls for EMS are life-threatening emergencies that require a fast response and advanced life support care - generally less than 10%. Two of these tactics are tiered deployment and right-sizing response times. As Pelham gets into EMS transport business, we will continue to work to find ways be efficient and remain sustainable to serve the needs of our citizens.



*Adapted from the October 2023 issue of *Public Management*

The cities of Pelham, Alabaster, Calera, and Helena, also known as the Quad Cities, put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to look at all ways to contract for transport. Separately, the City of Pelham hired the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) to study and provide recommendations on how Pelham could best provide ambulance service itself if needed. The City Council decided to follow the recommendations of CPSM and fund two ambulances for Pelham with one backup unit. Shelby County is providing the ambulances, and Pelham is equipping and staffing them. Pelham-provided transport services will begin in December 2024.

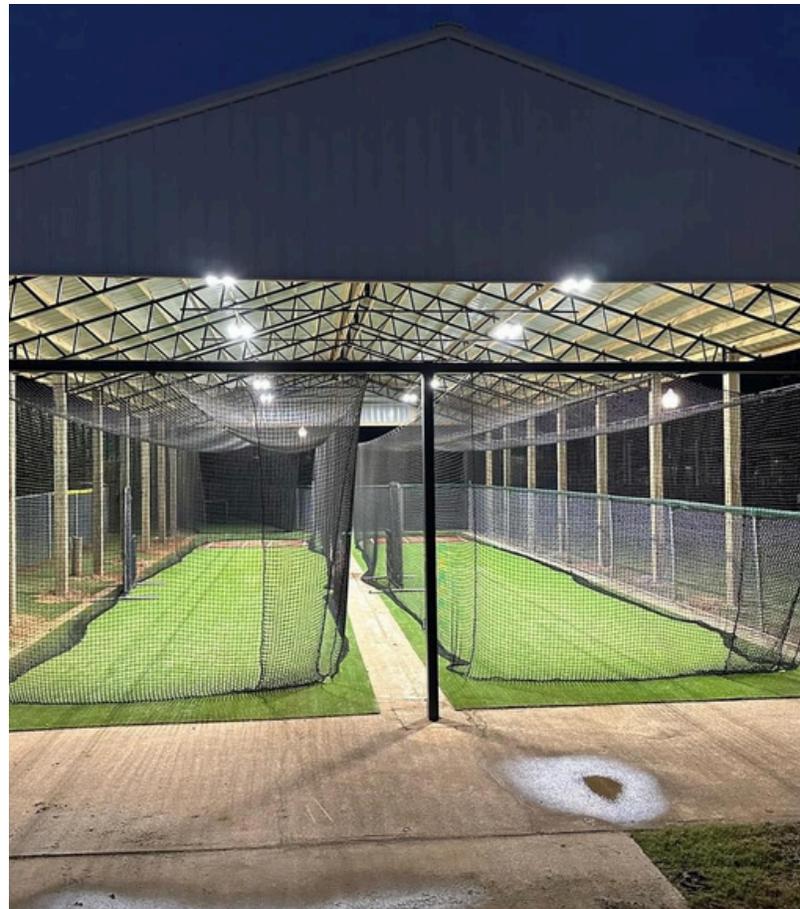
Park Amenities

City residents and visitors can enjoy the new splash pad and bathrooms at the north end of City Park, right next to the dog park. In addition, we covered three batting cages on the south side of the park, and the senior center unveiled its two pickleball courts and a beautiful new covered pavilion. More than a dozen new activities were added to the park and recreation offerings, including increased trips for seniors and more entertainment geared toward families. Overall attendance at park activities this year more than doubled over pre-COVID levels. Citizens asked for more opportunities to gather as a community and have diverse recreational offerings, and your city staff responded in a big way. Thank you to all our community members who are taking advantage of the many opportunities to engage, be active, and get involved!

Information Management

Last year, we doubled down on implementing our Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) to complete all modules. We went live with licensing and permitting, and for the first time, customers can complete the application and pay for a permit online. We also went live with our revenue and business license module and Enterprise Asset Management, making tracking, maintaining, and managing all the city's assets easier. As mentioned in the previous pages, the new Pelham 311 app and upgraded 'Report a Concern' portal make it easier and more convenient for you to interact with us.

It's vital to our success to utilize data in management decision-making. We finally have the capability to see financial transactions in real-time and have made so many of our processes (including payments) available to customers in much more efficient and effective ways. We will continue to learn about the software and its capabilities and make improvements over the next year. Your feedback is valuable to us as you interact with the new technology and help us learn how we can increase transparency and create a user experience that is seamless and simple.





Continued Investment in City Infrastructure

In FY 2023, Pelham completed its four-year 'catch-up' on critical maintenance and repair of long-time neglected city facilities. Fire Station No. 2, the Pelham Tennis Center, and Ballantrae Golf Club all required significant work due to poor construction, maintenance, or both.

We incorporated long-term maintenance in the capital plan and accompanying budget to prevent future neglect of city assets. City Council has spent several years investing in our infrastructure and assets, and protecting those investments requires funding.

After approving the one-cent sales tax increase, the Council requested that the annual paving budget be increased from \$750,000 to \$1.25 million. This allows the City to better address the priorities of the Citizen Satisfaction Survey with attention to critical infrastructure needs.

Traffic signal upgrades will address congestion, another top priority identified in the survey. Imaging and thermal detection technology will be installed at all intersections over the next three years to improve signal timing and synchronization. This technology will replace in-ground loops, which are more complex and costly to repair and maintain. The sales tax increase allowed the Council to double the number of intersections receiving this upgrade in FY 2024.

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS



Highway 261 Widening

- Project bids in 2024



Amphitheater Rd Widening

- Paving in December
- Est. completion: Jan. 2024

Critical Economic Development Projects

The City continues to have projects with significant impact on economic development:

Wellborn Street - Pelham's Commercial Development Authority sold the Wellborn Street property to United Construction and Design. United plans to construct a mixed commercial, retail, restaurant, and office space with three buildings.

Ascension St. Vincent's - This freestanding emergency department, primary care, and multispecialty space is highly anticipated in the area. A facility of this magnitude could be the differentiator between life and death for someone needing immediate care. The proposed project includes medical specialty as well.

Oak Mountain Trail Development - This development off CR-52 is pad-ready and is already home to Tractor Supply. Since Ascension announced its approval of the freestanding ED, interest in the other pads on the property has increased.

Pelham Park Development - The property in front of the library is moving forward with plans for a retail/office space with dining choices and a city-managed outdoor gathering space for residents and visitors to enjoy. The details of the development agreement are being finalized, and we plan to have announcements about retailers by the publishing of this document.

The Pelham Arts & Entertainment District is in place and encompasses the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, Campus 124, the Canopy, and Creekside BBQ. It will expand the area where community members and visitors can gather while allowing alcohol in approved cups in designated areas.

New Restaurants - Following the opening of Half Shell Oyster House at Campus 124 in 2022, the City welcomed Taco Mac at the Canopy Development at the end of 2023.





PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Shelby County Chamber recognized first responders for their dedication to keeping communities safe.

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

The Pelham Police Department and Pelham Fire Department announced the recipients of the 2023 Public Safety Award from The Shelby County Chamber. In recognition of their exceptional dedication and service, those honored were the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) led by Sgt. Brad Jordan and Firefighter/Paramedic Buddy Ingleright.

Criminal Investigations Division

The Pelham Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division, under the leadership of Sgt. Brad Jordan, received the 2023 Public Safety Award from The Shelby County Chamber for their unwavering commitment to safeguarding society's most vulnerable demographic – our children.

This dedicated team of investigators works tirelessly in collaboration with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Over the past year, they have taken on complex and stressful investigations, resulting in the identification and arrest of individuals who have exploited and harmed our children in unimaginable ways.

The CID's dedication to protecting our community's children exemplifies their commitment to the law enforcement profession and the welfare of our citizens. We extend our gratitude for their service and celebrate their successes, which result from their collective knowledge, skills, and unwavering dedication. Please join us in congratulating first responders for their well-deserved recognition.



Criminal Investigations Division: Det. Isaac Cruz, Det. Todd McCann, Det. Donnie Petersen, and Sgt. Brad Jordan.



Firefighter/Paramedic Buddy Ingleright

Firefighter/Paramedic Buddy Ingleright is the Pelham Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year for 2023. Buddy's nomination for this award was a testament to his impeccable EMS skills, which have played a pivotal role in the success of the RSI pilot program coordinated through the Alabama Office of EMS. The program aimed to enhance the level of care for patients in the field, focusing on Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI). This skill allows medics better to manage a patient's airway in critical situations, and Buddy has been the lead medic in multiple life-saving cardiac arrest cases. Recently, Buddy achieved the highest level of training for a paramedic by becoming a Critical Care Paramedic, and he will soon pursue certification in the challenging Smoke Divers program at the age of 52.

Lt. Judson Houston praised Buddy's consistently positive attitude, emphasizing how it has positively impacted the department's morale and camaraderie. Buddy is an integral part of the PEER Support team and contributes to the department's breast cancer research awareness and fundraising initiatives.



Fire Chief Mike Reid, Janet Ingleright, Firefighter/Paramedic Buddy Ingleright, Beth Ingleright Cannon, Lt. Judson Houston, and Deputy Fire Chief Chris Carpenter

“ — Perhaps one of Buddy's most remarkable qualities is his consistently positive attitude.

EMS Evolution

How the Pelham Fire Department became a trailblazer for improved medical care in the field.

BY: GINA WOMACK

The world of medicine changes quickly, as does how first responders save lives. The Pelham Fire Department is one of only two fire departments in the state with personnel trained in a protocol that could be a game-changer for those with medical emergencies.

"We are going from the Stone Age to the 21st Century in about three years as far as emergency medical services are concerned," said Firefighter/Paramedic Buddy Ingleright, who played an integral role in the success of the pilot program for Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI). "Up until now, in Alabama, we (paramedics) couldn't do RSI in the field. It was limited to critical care paramedics, usually those assigned to helicopter units or a few mobile critical care units. The state's EMS Control Committee, which I am a member, has established protocols and training to allow paramedics to intubate in the field. Now, we can go ahead and use medication to sedate a patient quickly and take their airway for them before they get to a hospital. Doing this on the scene saves time, which is critical for these patients."

“ —
| This allows our patients
| to get better care
| earlier.

Ingleright explained how RSI got its name. "Most people think rapid sequence intubation is about the speed of our actions, but it's not. Let's say a person is burned very badly and they've inhaled a lot of hot air. When that happens, the airway tends to swell up. Once it swells, there's no way to get a tube in there, so it's better to intubate early. However, if you're still talking to me and you have a gag reflex, I can't intubate. I must give you medication to relax you and put you under sedation so you don't know I'm doing it. The sedation allows us to get the tube in without the person gagging. In the past, we'd have to wait for a helicopter to get there, not necessarily to transport you to the hospital, but for the crew on the helicopter to perform RSI. In that respect, we're saving time." He compared the work in the field to an extension of a hospital emergency room. "This allows our patients to get better care earlier."

According to Ingleright, RSI is not used often. "Burns and head trauma are two of the more likely times we'll use it, but we can also use it if someone is having a bad stroke and can't protect their airway. In this case, they might be drooling a lot of secretions, and there's a danger of all that getting in their airway. We don't have a ton of these cases, but for the times we need it, we need it badly."

The Pelham Fire Department hopes the pilot program's success will show that RSI is workable in the field and can be expanded to other departments around the state. Within the Pelham Fire Department, enough paramedics are RSI trained to staff each shift adequately.

Inglersight and Firefighter/Paramedic Colby Ramsey work as partners on Medic 96. While Medic 96 is housed within Station Number One, the Medic 96 team covers the entire city. "We carry all the medical equipment that our engines carry, including advanced life support and RSI capabilities, and we travel in a separate vehicle," said Inglersight. "When we show up on scene, we're an extra set of hands for any type of call we respond to. We even have our fire bunker gear in the truck, so we can jump in and help if needed. We're also prepared to do advanced airway procedures if needed." He said the department will soon put an IV pump into service for Medic 96. "Some of our drugs have a drip rate, and it's hard to count the drips with a roller and try to figure out the exact amount. With a pump, we can tell the machine the person's weight, the amount of drug needed, and the correct amount is pushed. It will be much better for the patient."

Soon, a new addition to the EMS efforts of the Pelham Fire Department could become a reality. The department hopes to carry blood products, which is relatively new in the EMS world. "Critical care has been doing it for a while. Now, we're going to start doing it. If you're in a bad wreck and you're bleeding badly, I can keep your blood pressure up by giving you fluids. However, the fluids do not have oxygen-carrying capacity. If I can give you blood products with oxygen-carrying and blood-clotting capabilities, your chances of a good outcome are exponentially higher."

Inglersight is proud of the advanced life-saving efforts performed by the Pelham Fire Department. "I would put us up against any department in the state, EMS-wise." He credits Dr. Shea Duerring, Pelham Fire Department's medical director, and EMS Director, Captain Matt Maples, for providing continued training opportunities and their support of the RSI pilot program. "When they started working with us on cardiac arrest and how we deal with cardiac arrest as a team, we call it 'pit crew CPR.' Everyone has a job and a responsibility. Our success rates have gone much higher than they used to be because we're doing things much better. It takes every person on the scene to do their job. When we're on a call, and we get a pulse back, it was the team that made it work. No one individual can say, 'I did that.' Our EMS work is a team effort every time."

Inglersight said that while the department is doing many great things, it also puts much responsibility on the paramedics and EMTs. "The things we do in the field make things better in the emergency room, which makes things better for the patient. We do it to make things better for the citizens of Pelham. We hope they are in a better condition when they reach the hospital than when we found them."





PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS UPDATE

Village Voices

BY: NICOLE KNIGHT

Pelham City Schools recently launched Village Voices, a new series of workshops connecting families, schools, and the community. The workshops are presented by Pelham City Schools in collaboration with community partners such as Compact, Vineyard Family Services, and others. The workshops are intended to share knowledge about ways we can help students achieve success, gain confidence, and make connections that positively impact their lives.

The first workshop in October featured a Family Game Night theme where families played classic games, learned new games, shared stories, and learned about the life skills gained through playing games. In addition to critical thinking and other academic applications, playing games helps students practice valuable skills such as taking turns, cooperating, learning rules, and working through setbacks. And those are all great reasons to pull out the games and enjoy family game night any day of the week!

Future Village Voices workshops include topics about getting active as a family, digital safety, the Family Dinner Project, mental health awareness, and more. Follow Pelham City Schools on Facebook, Instagram, and X for announcements on upcoming events.





BUS DRIVERS

NEEDED

EXPLORE A NEW PATH

If you're self-employed, have a flexible schedule, retired, or are looking for a new career, consider driving a school bus for Pelham City Schools. Qualified candidates must be 25 or older, have a good driving record, and like to be around children. Candidates must also pass a background check and an Alabama School Bus Driver Physical or a DOT Physical.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.pelhamcityschools.org

Panther Pride



Pelham City Schools Ranks in Top 10% of Alabama Districts on Niche.com

Pelham City Schools is ranked #12 in the state on the Niche.com listing of the 2024 Best School Districts. Niche's annual rankings are based on the collection of key data points, parent and student reviews, quality factors, finances, and more. The #12 position ranks Pelham City Schools among the top 10% of all school districts in Alabama! In addition to the Best District ranking, Pelham received an Overall Niche Grade of A and ranked the #7 Most Diverse District in Alabama and #12 District with Best Teachers in Alabama.





Outside-In Day

Pelham High School students from the Peer Helpers group recently spent a whole day connecting with Pelham Park Middle School students at Outside-In Day. The Peer Helpers collaborated with BridgeWays Alabama to host the annual event which encourages students to communicate, be considerate, and find connections with others through engaging activities and conversations. The PHS Peer Helpers led the discussions and provided guidance about finding commonalities, avoiding assumptions about others and not being a bystander in bullying situations. While the discussions touched on serious topics, there was also plenty of fun for all the participants as evidenced by the games, laughter and friendly competition throughout the day.

Pelham Potluck & Chili Cookoff

The Pelham United Club at Pelham High School hosted the annual Pelham Potluck and Chili Cookoff in November. The Pelham Police Department and Pelham Fire Department faced off in the Chili Cookoff, and the honor of Chili Champions went to the Pelham Police Department in the highly competitive event! In addition to the cookoff, Pelham's English Learner families and community members shared food representing their country of origin or traditions for the potluck dinner. The food, performances, and community spirit made for a fantastic event enjoyed by all who attended!





MAGIC CITY SOCCER

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

The newest addition to the City of Pelham's professional sports lineup is indoor soccer. The Magic City Soccer Club is a new National Indoor Soccer League (NISL) team and will call the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena its home.

"On behalf of the City of Pelham and Venuworks of Pelham, we welcome the Magic City SC and the NISL to the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. We are delighted to add a second professional sports franchise to our facility and can't wait to start the season. Having the ability for fans to watch professional indoor soccer at our facility and play here is very exciting for us," said Seth Greenberg, Executive Director of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

"We are thrilled that the Magic City Soccer Club has decided to make its home in Pelham," said City Manager Gretchen DiFante.

"They will provide entertainment and promote soccer in the area, and we will also be able to host competitive indoor soccer leagues and tournaments at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. This will also provide another sport for youth and adults in our community," DiFante added.

The choice of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena as Magic City SC's home arena is a testament to the vibrant soccer community in the metro area. With state-of-the-art facilities and a location that is easily accessible, fans can anticipate an unparalleled match-day experience that combines the intensity of indoor soccer with the warmth of Southern hospitality.

"The addition of Magic City SC to the NISL family marks a significant milestone in our league's growth," said Gary Tufford, Commissioner of the NISL. "We are excited to welcome the team to the league and are confident that their presence will enhance the level of competition and entertainment that our fans have come to expect."

Founded in January 2021 by a group of seasoned sports team and league owners, the NISL has quickly established itself as a dynamic force in indoor soccer. The league features both a Men's and Women's Division, presenting double-header game days that span a 16-game regular season from January to May. The current roster of teams includes the Central FL Crusaders (Orlando), Columbus Rapids (Georgia), Fayetteville Fury (North Carolina), Memphis Americans, Tampa Bay Strikers, and an upcoming team from Albany, Georgia.

Magic City SC will operate both a men's and a women's team, treating fans to thrilling double headers that promise action-packed soccer entertainment. Season tickets start at \$120 for all eight regular-season doubleheaders. Season tickets are now on sale and can be purchased online.

Tickets & Info



This new addition to the facility lineup is exciting and will showcase our ability to flip from one event to another in a matter of hours. The addition of soccer will have no impact on our current sports or activities, as our operations crew will be able to cover the ice with decking, install the turf, turn our main arena into a soccer field, and then flip it back to suit our ice sports immediately after the soccer game. We first undertook a flip of similar magnitude this last season with great success.

What's more exciting is that the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena was chosen as the host venue for the 2024 NISL postseason championship series. The NISL championship weekend, May 18-19, 2024, will showcase teams from the men's and women's divisions, ensuring a comprehensive celebration of indoor soccer talent.

Both men's and women's regular season champions will automatically advance to the title games, while the #2 seed will go head-to-head with the #3 seed in gripping semi-final clashes.

"We are ready to welcome the top teams and the most passionate fans to Pelham. This will be an unforgettable weekend for everyone, and we look forward to working closely with the NISL organizers to ensure its success. Pelham is ready to shine on the national stage, and we can't wait to share our warm Southern hospitality with all who attend," said Greenberg.

The City of Pelham, the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, and Discover Shelby are partner sponsors who collaborated to bring the event to Shelby County in the heart of Alabama.

"The NISL Playoffs represent a fantastic opportunity for Pelham to showcase its vibrant yet laid-back atmosphere and world-class recreational offerings," said Michael Simon, Pelham's Economic Development Director. "The influx of visitors, athletes, and spectators will boost our hospitality industry and highlight the outstanding amenities and attractions Pelham offers."

"We are honored to welcome the NISL Playoffs to Pelham, Shelby County, and Alabama! We look forward to showing the players, families, and fans why Shelby County is a fantastic place to visit and live. There is so much adventure to enjoy while not on the turf. From Oak Mountain State Park to American Village – everyone can find their trail in Shelby County," added Kendall Williams, Manager of Tourism and Events with Discover Shelby.

Stay tuned for more exciting details, including game times, ticket pricing, and other important information, which will be released in the coming months leading up to the event.



Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena Executive Director Seth Greenberg

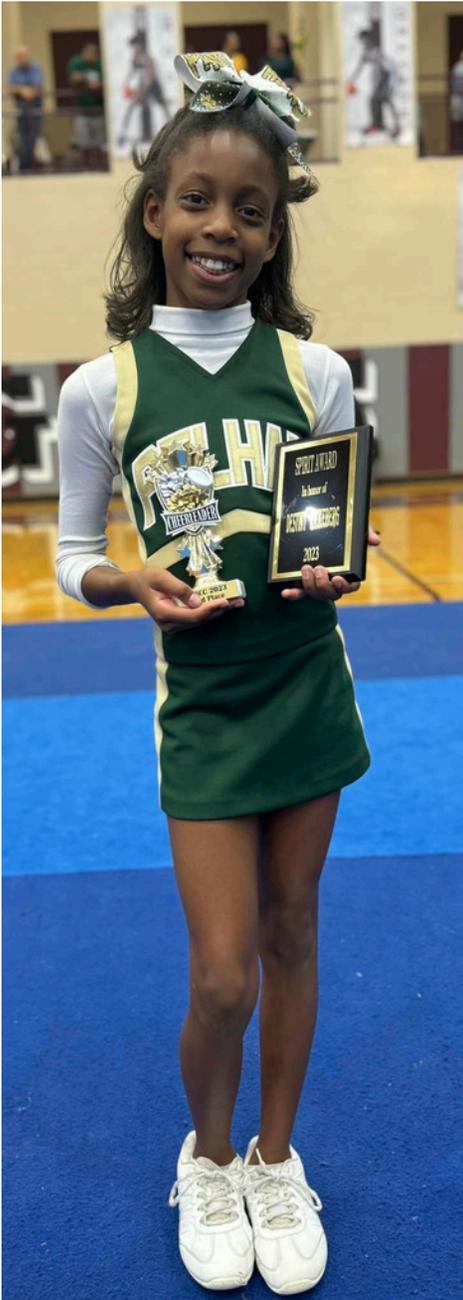
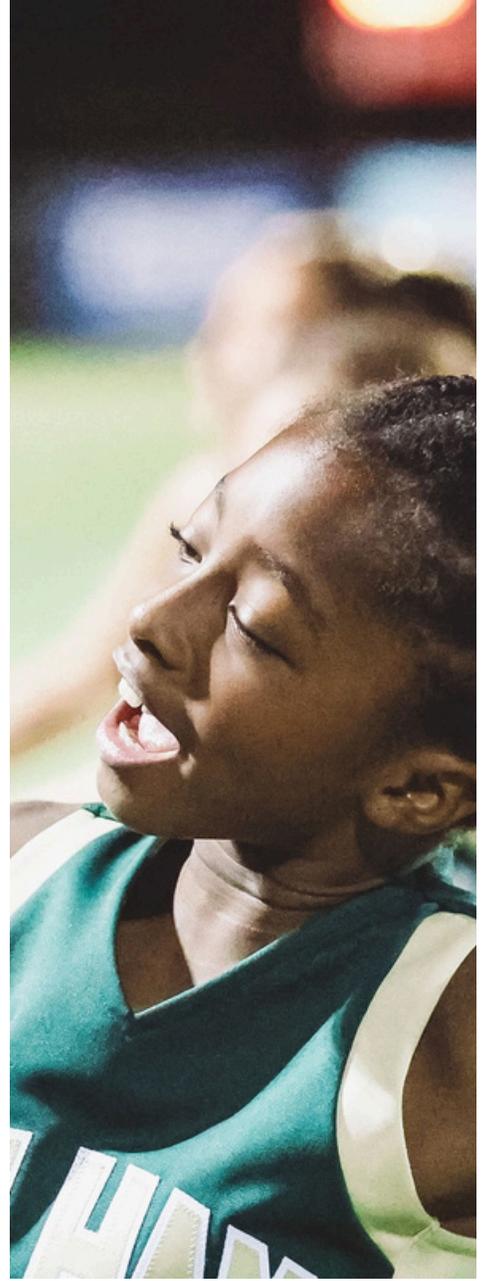
PICTURE THIS



Fall is a beautiful time of year, and the community certainly takes advantage of the cooler weather. Whether it's pickleball, an afternoon under the pavilion or a special event, we love to see the community come together to enjoy all Pelham has to offer.



The Green Machine, Pelham High School's Marching Band, recently won the 6A Championship at the Alabama Marching Band Championship at Jacksonville State University. The band also received awards for Most Outstanding Percussion and Most Outstanding Musical Achievement.



The Pelham youth football and cheer season is always something special. We want to congratulate all of our youth cheerleaders for a great competition season. All of our squads placed, and two won championships. Several girls won individual championships and awards, including 5th grader Jace Mays, who won the Destiny Riekeberg Spirit Award.



Pelham Parks & Recreation offers a number of youth sports in the fall. More than 500 children participated in fall youth sports in 2023. Soon, NHL Street Hockey may join the line up. The Alabama Recreation & Parks Association and NHL Street recently hosted a free showcase in Pelham to introduce the community to the sport.



Holiday Schedule

City Hall & Administrative Offices

Closed December 25th & 26th

Closed January 1st

Ballantrae Golf Club

Closed December 24th & 25th

Closed January 1st

Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

December 24th - Closing at 1:00 p.m.

Closed December 25th

Open for Public Skate Monday, January 1 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Pelham Public Library

Closed December 23rd, 24th, 25th & 26th

Closed January 1st

Pelham Recreation Center

Closed December 21st - 27th for gym floor resurfacing

Closed January 1st

Pelham Racquet Club

Closed December 24th & 25th

December 26th - Open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

December 31st - Open 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Closed January 1st

Pelham Senior Center

Closed December 25th & 26th

Closed January 1st

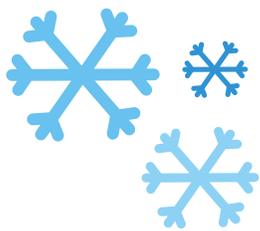
Trash & Recycling

No pickup on December 25th or January 1st

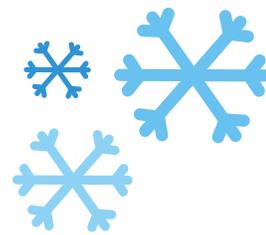
Pickup for Monday/Thursday routes will occur on Thursday



*Merry
Christmas!*



CHRISTMAS EVE SANTA STOPS



Quint 91

- 4:00 High Ridge Dr. @ High Ridge Trce.
- 4:08 High Ridge Dr. @ Highview Cv.
- 4:16 Village Ln. @ 124 Village Ln.
- 4:24 Village Parking Lot
- 4:32 Mid-Ridge @ Cul-de-Sac
- 4:40 Southern Pines Chiropractic
- 4:56 Holland Lakes Dr. North @ Holland Trl.
- 5:04 Holland Lakes Dr. @ Holland Cv.
- 5:12 Holland Lakes Dr. @ Creekside Ln.
- 5:20 Creekside Ln. @ Creekside Cir.
- 5:28 Creekside Ln. @ 253 Creekside Ln.
- 5:36 Stonehaven Trl. @ Walker Way
- 5:44 Stonehaven Way @ Stonehaven Trce.
- 5:52 Walker Rd. @ Stonebrook Ln.
- 6:00 Stonehaven Trl. @ Heather Ln.
- 6:08 Stonehaven Trl. @ Stonehill Cir.
- 6:16 Stonehaven Trl. @ Pebble Cir.
- 6:24 Stonehaven Dr. @ Stonehaven Trl.
- 6:32 Stonehaven Dr. @ Stone Rd.
- 6:40 King Valley Cir. @ King Valley Dr.
- 6:48 Heather Ridge Dr. @ Heather Ln.
- 6:56 Heather Ln. @ Stonebrook Ln.
- 7:04 King Valley Rd. @ King Valley St.
- 7:12 Ivy Brook Dr. @ Ivy Brook Trl.
- 7:30 Ivy Brook Trail @ Juniper Cir.
- 7:45 Yeager Pkwy @ Armory
- 8:10 Camellia Ridge Dr. @ Camellia Ridge Cv.

Engine 92

- 4:00 Brookhollow Dr. @ Entrance
- 4:08 Hidden Creek Pkwy @ Hidden Creek Cir.
- 4:16 Hidden Creek Pkwy @ Hidden Creek Trl.
- 4:24 Coales Branch Dr. @ Coales Branch Ln.
- 4:32 Chase Creek Cir @ Entrance
- 4:40 David Dr. @ Keith Rd.
- 4:48 David Dr. @ Indian Creek Dr.
- 4:56 Cedar Cove Dr. @ Cedar Cove Ln.
- 5:04 Victory Trl. @ Panther Trl.
- 5:12 Creekview Dr. @ Creekview Cir.
- 5:20 Creekview Dr. @ Overhill Dr.
- 5:28 Crosscreek Trl. @ Creekview Dr.
- 5:36 Crosscreek Church
- 5:44 Crosscreek Trl. @ Valleyview Dr.
- 5:52 Wilderness Rd. @ Rycroft Rd.
- 6:00 Wilderness Rd. @ Colesbury Cir.
- 6:08 Frontier Dr. @ Wilderness Rd.
- 6:16 Canyon Park Dr. @ Canyon Trl.
- 6:32 Ridge Dr. @ Crestmont Ln.
- 6:40 Chandalar Court
- 6:48 Southgate MHP
- 6:56 Green Park South MHP
- 7:04 Valleydale MHP
- 7:12 Little Mountain Chateau

Engine 93

- 4:00 Wild Timber Pkwy @ Wild Timber Dr.
- 4:08 Grey Oaks Dr. @ Grey Oaks Way
- 4:20 1002 Grey Oaks Way
- 4:30 Woodridge Cir. @ Woodridge Dr.
- 4:38 Dickerson Rd. @ Dickerson Ln.
- 4:49 Oak Forest Way @ Oak Forest Trl.
- 4:57 125 High Crest Ln. @ Gate
- 5:05 Chatham Ct. (W) @ Deer Springs Cir.
- 5:13 Bent Rail Ln. @ Cul-de-sac
- 5:21 Kelly Dr. @ Deer Springs Cir.
- 5:29 Weatherly Way @ Talmadge Dr.
- 5:37 Weatherly Way @ Cheshire Ln.
- 5:45 Weatherly Way @ Clock
- 5:53 Weatherly Way @ Kings Crest Ln. (N)
- 6:01 Kings Crest @ 245 Kings Crest
- 6:12 Simms Landing @ Simms Trl.
- 6:20 Grand Reserve Office
- 6:28 Huntley Office
- 6:36 Publix
- 7:06 Brookshire Ln. @ 141 Brookshire Ln.
- 7:16 Hwy 35 @ Mallard Point Dr.
- 7:26 Hwy 72 @ Pintail Dr.
- 7:34 Silverleaf Dr. @ 181 Silverleaf Dr.
- 7:42 Hunters Trce. @ Red Fox Dr.
- 7:50 Hwy 361 @ Eagle Cove Dr.
- 7:58 Eagle Cove Dr. @ Eagle Cove Ln.
- 8:06 Legacy Parc Dr. @ Legacy Parc Cir.
- 8:12 High Hampton Dr. @ Hampton Lake Dr.
- 8:20 High Hampton Dr. @ Hampton Ln.
- 8:30 Emerald Lake Dr.

Engine 94

- 4:00 Sommersby Dr. @ Sommersby Cir.
- 4:08 Sugar Dr. @ Entrance
- 4:16 Shine Dr. @ Entrance
- 4:24 Cobblestone Ter. @ Entrance
- 4:32 Amanda Pl.
- 4:40 Aaron Rd. @ Aaron Parc Ct.
- 4:48 Aaron Rd. @ Kristen
- 4:56 Royal Ln. @ Royal Chase Dr.
- 5:04 Royal Ln. @ Elizabeth Dr.
- 5:12 Royal Ct. @ Royal Way
- 5:20 Saddle Run Cir.
- 5:28 Beaver Creek Pkwy @ Beaver Trl.
- 5:36 Stratshire Ln. @ Norridge Pl.
- 5:44 Greenway Dr. @ Stratford Cir.
- 5:52 Mitoba Tr. @ Hayesbury Ct.
- 6:00 140 Keeneland Green
- 6:08 Tecumseh Trl. @ Wooddale Ln.
- 6:16 Wooddale Ln. @ Glen View
- 6:22 Trail Ridge Dr. @ Trail Ridge Cir.
- 6:28 Trail Ridge Dr. @ Burning Tree Dr.
- 6:36 Burning Tree Dr. @ Indian Hills Rd.
- 6:42 Indian Hills Rd. @ Blazing Star
- 6:50 Chandawood Dr. @ Blazing Star
- 6:58 Chandawood Dr. @ Chandawood Ln.
- 7:06 Chandawood Dr. @ Dalton Dr.
- 7:14 Dalton Dr. @ Chandalar Ln.
- 7:22 Chandaway Dr. @ Chandagreen Ln.
- 7:30 Chandaway Dr. @ Chandalar Ln.
- 7:38 Chandalar Ln. @ Hamilton Rd.
- 7:46 Hamilton Rd. @ Dalton Dr.
- 7:54 North Chandalar Ln. @ Wellington Dr.
- 8:02 Wildwood Dr. @ Wellington Dr.
- 8:10 North Wildwood Dr. @ North Chandalar Dr.
- 8:18 North Chandalar Dr. @ Windsor Ridge Dr.

Engine 95

- 4:00 Normandy @ Swim Club
- 4:12 Grey Oaks Ter. @ Grey Oaks Vily.
- 4:20 Oaklyn Hills Pavilion
- 4:27 Rolling Hills Dr. @ Oaklyn Hills Dr.
- 4:32 Bent Creek Way @ Bent Creek Trce.
- 4:48 Deer Ridge Ln. @ Fawn Dr.
- 5:03 Wysteria Dr. @ Camellia Dr.
- 5:28 Perthshire Rd. @ Perthshire Way
- 5:36 Dunrobin Ln. @ Dunrobin Cv.
- 5:44 Strathaven Rd. @ Strathaven Ln.
- 5:52 Strathaven Ln. @ Eastdale Ln.
- 6:00 Ballantrae Swim Club
- 6:18 Birkdale Ln. @ Ballantrae Club Dr.
- 6:32 Kilkerran Ln. @ Kilberry Way
- 6:43 Kilkerran Ln. @ Glenn Iris Cir.
- 6:51 Glenneagles Ln. @ Cul-de-sac
- 7:01 Ballantrae Pkwy. @ Roundabout
- 7:08 Stonekirk Rd. @ Caliston Way
- 7:16 Stonekirk Rd. @ Stonekirk Ln.
- 7:24 Lauchlin Way @ Lauchlin Ln. (168)
- 7:32 Lauchlin Way @ Lauchlin Ln. (108)
- 7:42 Kinross Ln. @ Kinross Cir.
- 7:56 Cove Ln. @ Cove Cir.
- 8:05 Oxford Way @ 383 Oxford Way
- 8:13 Windsor Ln. @ Windsor Trl.
- 8:21 Windsor Ln. @ Windsor Way
- 8:30 Windsor Ln. @ Windsor Cir.
- 8:38 Windsor Cir. @ Kings Crest Ln.





Twirling Through Life

BY: GINA WOMACK

On any given day, the Pelham Senior Center is filled with smiling, active adults enjoying fun, fellowship, and making new friends. If you can talk with them, you'll discover that everyone has amazing life stories and rich experiences that make the conversation well worth the time. You might be surprised at the things they have accomplished over the years. Where else can you meet a person who is a former Ms. Senior Alabama, winner of the Granny Smith Apple World's Greatest Granny competition, an actress, a cancer survivor, and a viral sensation? All these accolades belong to Pelham resident Dianna Brown Murphree, a new member of the Pelham Senior Center. If you happen to meet Dianna, make it a point to ask about her life. You'll be in for a treat.

At almost 80 years old, Dianna Murphree shows no signs of slowing down, even if cancer did sideline her for three years. Now that she is cancer-free and finished with treatments and medications, Dianna, a former Miss Majorette Alabama, is as dynamic as ever.

Even as she was confined to the hospital in 2022, she didn't let cancer treatments stop her from cheering for her beloved Crimson Tide. Dianna "went viral" after her grandson posted a video of her twirling a baton in her hospital room and singing "Rammer Jammer" following a big Alabama win.

"My grandsons, Matthew and Taylor, visited the hospital to watch the game with me. They made sure I had my baton because that's my tradition. I watch the Alabama games with my baton beside me and stand up and twirl when the team makes a touchdown or great play," Dianna explained. "Matthew made a video of me twirling a baton in my hospital gown and sent it to a friend who is a University of Alabama Crimsonette. The next thing I knew, Mike Dubberly from WBRC had the story, and the video spread. Matthew and I were even interviewed live for WBRC's Fox 6 News at 11:00."



Dianna Murphree's love of twirling started at a young age.

Dianna has been twirling batons since she was four years old, growing up in the Powderly neighborhood of Birmingham. "A girl across the street was a majorette. She would practice in the yard, and then she would come over and let me twirl her baton." That majorette told her band director about the tiny twirling sensation, and soon Dianna was invited to be the mascot of the Jones Valley High School marching band.

At nine years old, Dianna entered the Miss Birmingham Junior pageant sponsored by Lad and Lassie Clothing Store in Mountain Brook at the prompting of her dance teacher, Jack Saxon. "I was from the other side of town and didn't think I had a chance, but lo' and behold, I won!" It was her first pageant, and there were many more to come. She also took drama lessons from James Hatcher, the founding director of Birmingham's Town and Gown Theatre. She performed in several productions with the Children's Theatre.

Dianna eventually attended Jones Valley High School, like her parents before her. She was a majorette in high school and won the title of Miss Majorette Alabama. She was also named Miss Jones Valley, which she said was a lifelong dream. "I bought my pageant dress with the money I earned teaching baton on the weekends." The night she won the high school title, her little sister also won the Miss Junior High pageant.

Dianna was offered a scholarship to Ole Miss as one of eight majorettes in the University's marching band. But life took a turn. "I ran off and got married. Then I began having children, and I never went to college."

After having three boys, Dianna and her husband divorced. She would soon meet Melvin Murphree, whom she called her soulmate. "My mother introduced us. My parents and I would go to the Indian Ford Lodge for Saturday night performances. She told me she wanted me to hear a particular band," said Dianna. Melvin was an emcee and singer with the country band "Steelbillies." All the band members worked at U.S. Steel. "One night Melvin came out and said, 'I understand you sing. Would you like to sing something with us?'" Dianna declined, stating she would need to practice with them first. Dianna's father seized the opportunity to ask Melvin a question. "He said, 'I've seen you so many times. You're a good-looking guy. Why haven't I seen you with a woman?'" Melvin said, "Well, I'm going through a divorce," recalled Dianna. After his divorce was final, Melvin eventually asked Dianna for a date. "He had four tickets to a drum and bugle corps show at Legion Field, so he suggested inviting my parents. Our first date was chaperoned by my momma and daddy."

While Dianna was on her own, she decided to return to acting in local theatres. "Melvin loved the fact that I enjoyed acting. He would support me in anything I did, and he was my biggest booster. After one of my performances, a friend said, 'Dianna, I can't watch the show because I love to watch Melvin watching you. He is so enamored!' I told her the feeling was mutual."



Dianna Murphree doesn't shy away from the stage.



Dianna Murphree's grandchildren Brandon Stephens, Lauren Stephens, Taylor Stephens, and Matthew Stephens



Dianna Murphree was crowned Ms. Senior Alabama in 2006.

Melvin and Dianna settled into their life together and moved to Pelham's Hunters Glen neighborhood in 1976. Melvin and Dianna were involved locally in the Lions Club, and Melvin served on the City of Pelham Industrial Development Board.

In 2002, Dianna's grandson Matthew saw an ad in the Shelby County Reporter that read, "Tell us about your grandmother." The ad was for the Washington State Apple Commission's annual search for the Granny Smith Grandmother of the Year. She was only 58 years old, but Matthew had plenty to say about his beloved "Muzzy." Dianna recalled, "He wrote an epistle! When he showed me what he'd written, I pointed out the rules that stated the entry should be 100 words or less. We went to work to cut it down. After he sent the entry, I didn't think any more about it. One day, my grandsons were at my house. I had gone to the grocery store, and when I returned, they were excited. They told me the Washington Apple Commission had called me. I called them back, and they asked me what I knew about apples. I told them, 'Honestly, I don't know much about apples. I'm from the South. I can tell you about peaches!' The man on the phone said, 'Oh no, now you're cussing!' I did tell them I'd seen the movie Cider House Rules at least two times," Dianna said with a laugh.

The Washington Apple Commission must have liked her sense of humor because she was chosen as one of five finalists. "We're not in an apple region, so it was a bit unusual for someone from Alabama to move on in the contest. I flew to Washington State and participated in the annual Apple Blossom Parade. After the parade, the women gathered onstage to find out who would be the Granny of the Year. I was so surprised when my name was called. It was so much fun!" Dianna had the opportunity to travel around the country, representing the Washington Apple Commission because of her title.

Dianna decided to enter the Ms. Senior Alabama pageant when she turned 61. "I entered a preliminary pageant in Baldwin County one year and then a preliminary pageant in Trussville the next. I moved on to the state pageant and won the Ms. Senior Alabama 2006 title. I traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the Ms. Senior America pageant. We had about 30 people who went with us to watch the competition. It was the best time!" Dianna finished in the Top 10 for Ms. Senior America and traveled the state as Ms. Senior Alabama for the next year.

One of Dianna's favorite memories of her travels as Ms. Senior Alabama was an appearance in a Mardi Gras parade in Mobile. When the parade was over, she was walking to meet Melvin and was approached by an older man with overalls. "So, you're Ms. Senior Alabama," he said. Dianna responded, "Yes sir, I am, but you know, I don't feel like a senior. I still think of my parents as being seniors." The man backed up, looked at Dianna, and said, "Well, you ain't no spring chicken!"

"I about fell out. That was the best thing I ever heard in my life. I've shared that story a million times because that was the truth – I wasn't a spring chicken! Every time anyone asks me about being Ms. Senior Alabama, I always tell that story," Dianna said with a laugh.

Dianna worked with several local theatres through the years, including the Montevallo Main Street Players, Terrific New Theatre, and Pelham's South City Theatre. Her role as Amanda Wingfield in the Montevallo Main Street Players' production of *Glass Menagerie* won a 2014 Broadway World Birmingham Regional Award for Best Local Actress in a Play.

On top of being a theatre "triple threat" or someone who can sing, dance, and act, Dianna is also a published poet and author. Her work is included in *Grits Guide to Life and Ordinary* and *Sacred as Blood: Alabama Women Speak*.

Melvin and Dianna enjoyed traveling, and she fondly recalled a trip they took to Scotland with Briarwood Presbyterian Church and a 14-day trip to Bangkok, Thailand, for an international convention with the Lions Club. Melvin and Dianna talked about returning to Scotland, but Melvin was diagnosed with cancer. He had dreamed of going to Hawaii, so they took a Hawaiian cruise instead.

Melvin passed away in 2016, which devastated Dianna. "Everybody said, 'Give yourself some time.' When Melvin died, I didn't even know how to put minutes on my phone, but praise God, I always had my children and grandchildren around me. I keep going for them. I'm the matriarch of the family."

Dianna realized her house in Hunters Glen was too big, so she downsized to a smaller house in Ballantrae. Dianna's grandson Taylor bought the old family home because he wanted his children to grow up there. These days, Dianna goes back to the house several days a week to take care of her great-grandson, James, who is ten months old. "It's a blessing to take care of him. He's so precious." In addition to Dianna's three sons from her previous marriage, she is also a "bonus mom" to Melvin's two daughters. In all, she has four grandchildren, three boys and a girl, as well as great-grandson James. Sadly, her son, Brody, passed away in 2018 from the flu. He was only 44 years old.

These days, Dianna performs with the Showstoppers, a tap-dancing troupe she joined in 2003. She is currently the group's emcee and sings between acts. "We appear at many senior activities and perform in nursing homes and private clubs." The group will perform at the Pelham Senior Center's Christmas Party in December.

Dianna has been spending time at the Pelham Senior Center since earlier this year. "Most women in my neighborhood are younger, and they work. I'm light years away from them in age. I wanted to get with other people my age, so I started going to the Senior Center. I started playing cards. Then, I went on the trip to Arlington Historic Home and Gardens. That was wonderful. We went to *Petals from the Past* and spent the day. I have enjoyed several crafts and painting classes."

On growing older, Dianna said, "I think everyone should be proud of it. You should thank God you've been able to grow old. Not everybody gets that privilege. It's wonderful if you're in good health and can come out and be with other seniors and hear what they have to say and find out what's going on in their lives. I've met some lovely people here that I've enjoyed being friends with."

Spend some time at the Pelham Senior Center and hear the stories of people like Dianna Murphree and many more fascinating active adults.



Dianna Murphree's great-grandson James



Recent Reads

Book recommendations from our Librarians



Going Infinite

by Michael Lewis

Categories: Adult Non-Fiction

“*Moneyball* author, Michael Lewis, chronicles the meteoric rise and downfall of crypto king, Sam Bankman-Fried. Both a psychological portrait and financial roller-coaster ride, *Going Infinite* is Lewis at the top of his game.



Iron Flame

by Rebecca Yarros

Categories: Adult Fiction

“The first year at Basgiath War College will make you, but the second year just might break you. Book two in this wildly popular fantasy series follows Violet as she returns to the quadrant with a life altering secret. Can she keep those she loves safe when she can barely keep herself alive?



Where You See Yourself

by Claire Forrest

Categories: Teen Fiction

“Wheelchair-bound Effie wants nothing more than to attend college in New York City—but how can she convince her parents to let her go when she has trouble simply trying to speak up for herself at her accessibility-unfriendly high school? A perfect read for fans of books like Julie Murphy's *Dumplin'*

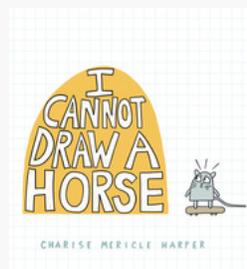


Cookies & Milk

by Shawn Amos

Categories: Children's Literature

“Based on Shawn Amos's childhood as the son of Wally “Famous” Amos, Ellis Bailey Johnson's dad has just started a new business: the world's first chocolate chip cookie store! It's up to Ellis to help his dad when some family secrets threaten to undo their hard work. Can they make everything come together in time for the grand opening?



I Cannot Draw a Horse

by Charise Mericle Harper

Categories: Children's Literature

“This book can draw many things, so it starts by drawing a cat. Cat really wants a horse, but the book cannot draw a horse. Book draws many other things to pacify cat, but only a horse will do. Can the book find a way to make something to satisfy Cat?

ACTIVITY GUIDE



THURSDAY | DECEMBER 14, JANUARY 11,
FEBRUARY 8
10:00 A.M.

Pelham Garden Club

The Pelham Garden Club is open to all adults interested in all areas of gardening. A Pelham residence is not required, and there is no cost to attend. The club meets at the Pelham Public Library, Roberts Room A.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16
10:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M. & 3:00 P.M.

Holly Jolly Laser Tag

Join us at the Pelham Public Library as Team Elf and Team Reindeer battle it out in an epic game of Christmas-themed laser tag. Registration required. For youth grades 6th - 12th.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16
8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

GRINCHMAS

Ballantrae Golf Club presents Grinchmas! Enjoy a Pancake Buffet at the Clubhouse in your pajamas with hosts, The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who. Adults \$10 and children 5 and under \$5.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 17
3:00 P.M.

Christmas Follies on Ice

Almost 100 skaters of all ages and skill levels will spread holiday cheer at this annual holiday ice show. Watch featured skater Graham Newberry, four-time British Men's Champion. Tickets are available at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena or via Ticketmaster.

ACTIVITY GUIDE

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 20

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Blood supplies run low during the holiday season. Give the gift of life and donate blood at Pelham Public Library.

JANUARY 2-31

Fitness Motivator: New Year, New Habits

It doesn't matter if you're a beginner or need a reboot; the Pelham Parks & Recreation is here to help with a healthier you. Work at your own pace, log your own time, hit the goal, and receive a t-shirt at the completion of the program. In-person and online registration opens on December 18th.

www.pelhamalrecreation.gov

SATURDAY | JANUARY 6

10:00 A.M.

Get Out & Skate Day

Bring the family for a day on the ice at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Enjoy beginner lessons, free skating, and watch an awesome skating exhibition. Plus, you'll have a chance to learn about available classes and programs.

TUESDAY | JANUARY 9

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Youth Soccer Clinic

This clinic focuses on skills, drills, and the fundamentals of soccer. All equipment is provided and all skill levels are welcome. The clinic is provided by Pelham Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Pelham High School soccer coaches and players. In-person and online registration ends January 9th.

www.pelhamalrecreation.gov

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 22

Youth Spring Sports Registration

It's time to register your child for spring baseball, softball, t-ball, and soccer. Early bird registration ends on January 15th, and late registration closes on January 22nd. Register in person or online.

www.pelhamalrecreation.gov

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 3

2:00 P.M.

The Freedom Rides of 1961

This presentation examines the Freedom Rides, a campaign involving 436 Black and white men, women, and youth from 35 states who traveled into the Deep South during the summer of 1961, risking their lives and their freedom to try to end these segregated practices. Pelham Public Library, Roberts Rooms A & B.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAYS 9:15 A.M.

THURSDAYS 6:30 P.M.

Storytime at the Library

Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Ashley present stories, songs, and more, along with a craft and a snack. Preschool Storytime on Wednesdays; P.J. Storytime on Thursdays.



REMAINING HOME SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| DECEMBER 8 | HUNTSVILLE HAVOC |
| DECEMBER 15 | FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN |
| DECEMBER 21 | QUAD CITY STORM |
| DECEMBER 29 | PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS |
| JANUARY 6 | PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS |
| JANUARY 12 | QUAD CITY STORM |
| JANUARY 13 | QUAD CITY STORM |
| JANUARY 15 | KNOXVILLE ICE BEARS |
| JANUARY 27 | EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS |
| FEBRUARY 3 | ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS |
| FEBRUARY 10 | EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS |
| FEBRUARY 16 | HUNTSVILLE HAVOC |
| FEBRUARY 17 | HUNTSVILLE HAVOC |
| FEBRUARY 19 | EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS |
| MARCH 8 | FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN |
| MARCH 9 | FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN |
| MARCH 15 | ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS |
| MARCH 16 | ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS |
| MARCH 22 | FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN |
| MARCH 29 | MACON MAYHEM |
| MARCH 30 | MACON MAYHEM |



www.bullshockey.net



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2024 "I DID IT MY WAY" TOUR **JANUARY 20, 2024**



ON ICE!



XTREME INTERNATIONAL ICE RACING



PELHAM CIVIC COMPLEX & ICE ARENA | 500 AMPHITHEATER RD | PELHAM, AL

TICKETS: \$30 GOLD LEVEL | \$25 GENERAL ADMISSION | \$10 KIDS TICKETS

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA
TICKETMASTER OR AT
THE PCCIA BOX OFFICE



PRESENTED BY



RACING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM

LOCAL RIDERS WANTED
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE INFO

VISIT WWW.PELHAMCIVICCOMPLEX.COM A



MANAGED ARENA FOR MORE INFORMATION