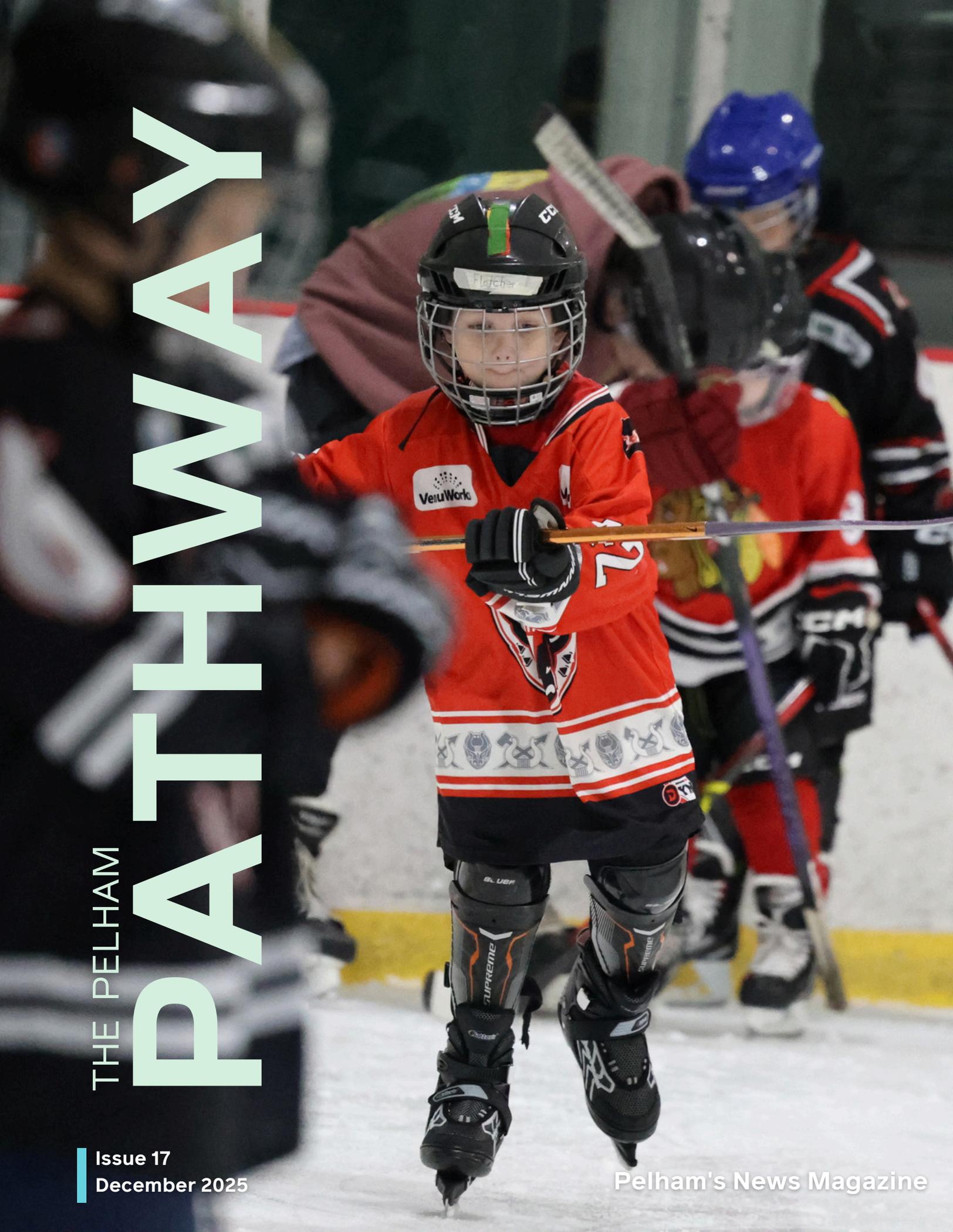


THE PELHAM

# PATHWAY

Issue 17  
December 2025

Pelham's News Magazine





# CONNECT WITH US

Are you following the City of Pelham on social media? Hit that "follow" button to stay updated on popular events, important notices, and more. Not on social media? Our website is the best resource for staying informed about what's happening in Pelham. Don't be out of the loop - connect with us!



## SOCIAL MEDIA



@CITYOFPELHAMALABAMA



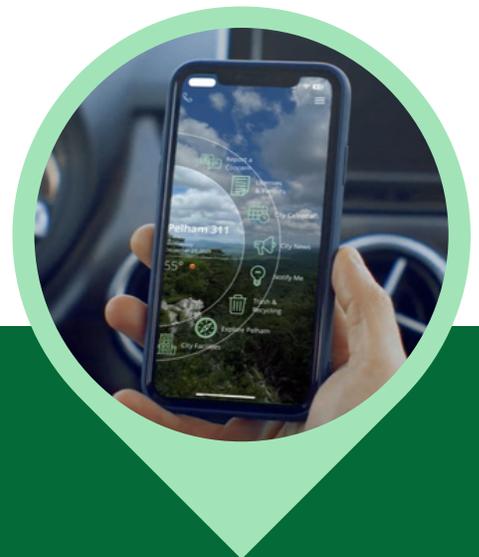
@CITYOFPELHAMAL



## WEBSITES

CITY OF PELHAM OFFICIAL WEBSITE  
[WWW.PELHAMALABAMA.GOV](http://WWW.PELHAMALABAMA.GOV)

EXPLORE PELHAM  
[WWW.EXPLOREPELHAMAL.COM](http://WWW.EXPLOREPELHAMAL.COM)



## PELHAM 311

Do you have an issue the City needs to know about? Maybe it's just a question? Please use the Pelham 311 app to report your concerns or reach out to the City's Management Team. Available in the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

# CITY DIRECTORY



Gretchen DiFante  
City Manager  
gdifante@pelhamalabama.gov  
205.620.6520



Justin Smith  
Assistant City Manager  
jsmith@pelhamalabama.gov  
205.620.6403



Stacey Primero-Currier  
Executive Assistant to the City Manager  
& Mayor  
spcurrier@pelhamalabama.gov  
205.620.6402



Mayor Rick Wash  
mayor@pelhamalabama.gov



Michelle Power  
City Council Place 1  
mpower@pelhamalabama.gov



Chad Leverett  
City Council President  
cleverett@pelhamalabama.gov



Christine Townes  
City Council Place 3  
ctownes@pelhamalabama.gov



Markus Hal Snowden  
City Council Place 4  
msnowden@pelhamalabama.gov



Michael Harris  
City Council Place 5  
mharris@pelhamalabama.gov

## DEPARTMENTS

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Administration<br>205.620.6400      | Library<br>205.620.6418                          |
| Building Department<br>205.620.6495 | Parks & Recreation<br>205.620.6426               |
| Pelham Water Works<br>205.620.6420  | Senior Center<br>205.620.6064                    |
| Municipal Court<br>205.620.6407     | Ballantrae Golf Club<br>205.620.4653             |
| Police Department<br>205.620.6550   | Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena<br>205.620.6448 |
| Fire Department<br>205.620.6500     | Pelham Racquet Club<br>205.621.3380              |

App Store



Google Play



THE PELHAM  
**PATHWAY**



**DECEMBER  
2025**

CO-EDITOR &  
DESIGNER  
Jenni Hodges

CO-EDITOR  
Gina Womack

CONTRIBUTOR  
Nicole Knight

COVER PHOTO  
Jenni Hodges

**4**

Building a Better Pelham:  
2025 in Review

**16**

Mayor Gary Waters:  
A Life of Service,  
A Legacy of Stewardship

**19**

Pelham News & Notes

**22**

A New Chapter of  
Leadership

**26**

Pelham's Growth:  
Shaping The Future

**28**

People in Pelham  
A Celebration of  
Community

**30**

Activity Guide

**34**

Pelham Beat  
Bringing Energy, Art,  
& Beauty to Our City

**37**

Holiday News  
& Updates

**39**

Panther Pride



*Subscribe*

---

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Between issues, you can get City news delivered straight to your inbox.  
Subscribe to the City of Pelham's E-Newsletter today!



8



36



15



18



37



# BUILDING A BETTER PELHAM

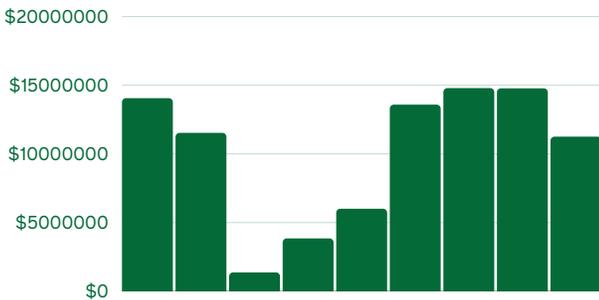
## 2025 IN REVIEW

BY: GRETCHEN DIFANTE

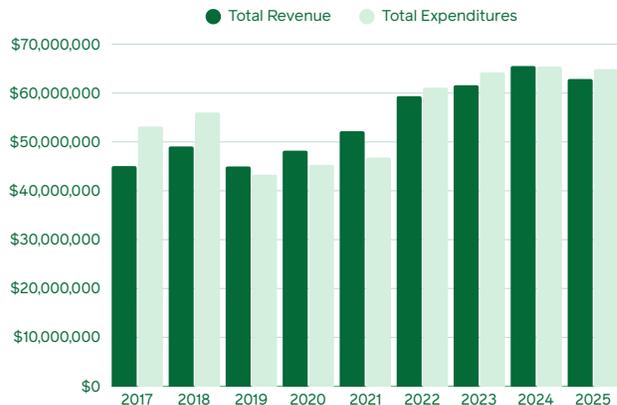
2025 was a whirlwind. We accomplished our goals, including the update of our business license ordinance, the kickoff of the most significant development in decades, a change in leadership for our police department, and the tremendous amount of work the staff put in to support the election process and all the candidates. As we recently concluded the tenure of the 2020-2025 Pelham City Council, approach the holidays, and enter a new calendar year, we decided it was a great time to reflect on the past five years.

Please join me for a review of the progress on some of the city's recent priorities, as well as highlights and accomplishments from the last few years.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL 2025 FINANCIAL INFORMATION IS REPORTED UNAUDITED.



General Fund Historical Analysis Including Capital Expenditures



### Financial Stewardship that Supports Our Future

The city manager presents a balanced budget each year for approval by the city council, and once again, we ended the year with a strong financial position.

Since 2017, we have averaged year-over-year revenue growth of 4% and expenditure growth of 3%. The expense column includes large capital engineering and construction projects that the city has prioritized over multiple years and for which it has proactively saved funds (see the chart to the left). This includes infrastructure critical for safe travel, increased focus on traffic management (cited as the number one priority by citizens), improved recreational facilities, and development expenses.



## RECREATION, ARTS, & CULTURE: GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

### Ballantrae Golf Club: From Fairways to Financial Wins

We are excited to highlight the work of the Ballantrae Golf Club. Under the leadership of General Manager Hal Brown, we have experienced a significant increase in the number of rounds played, resulting in revenue growth.

**Since 2009, we've seen a nearly 66% increase in the number of rounds played annually, with almost 26% growth over the last five years alone.**

Data obtained from Placer AI, a location intelligence software used by local governments to protect personally identifiable information while utilizing cellular data to determine consumer behavior and foot traffic. The platform enables organizations to understand visitation trends, analyze demographics, and assess their competitive landscape, informing decisions about marketing, site selection, and strategy.

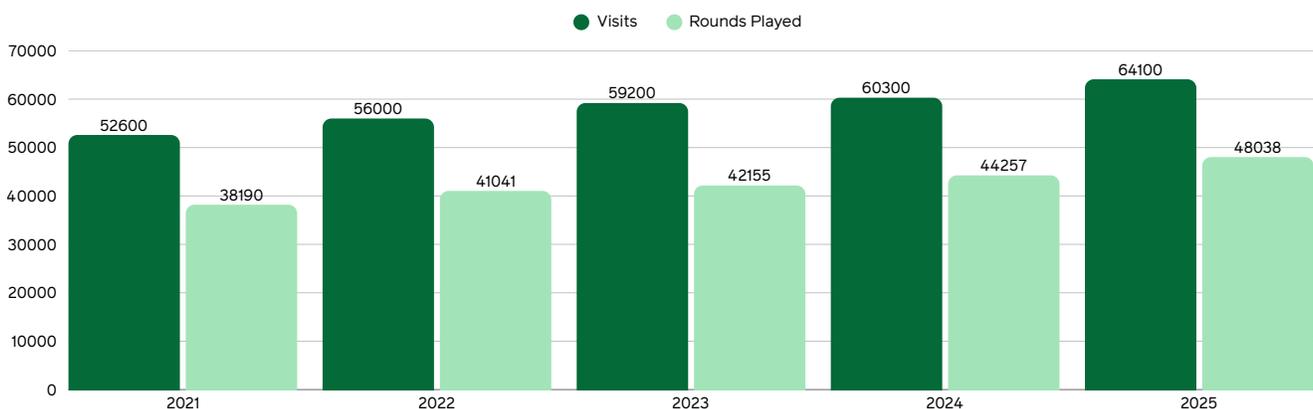


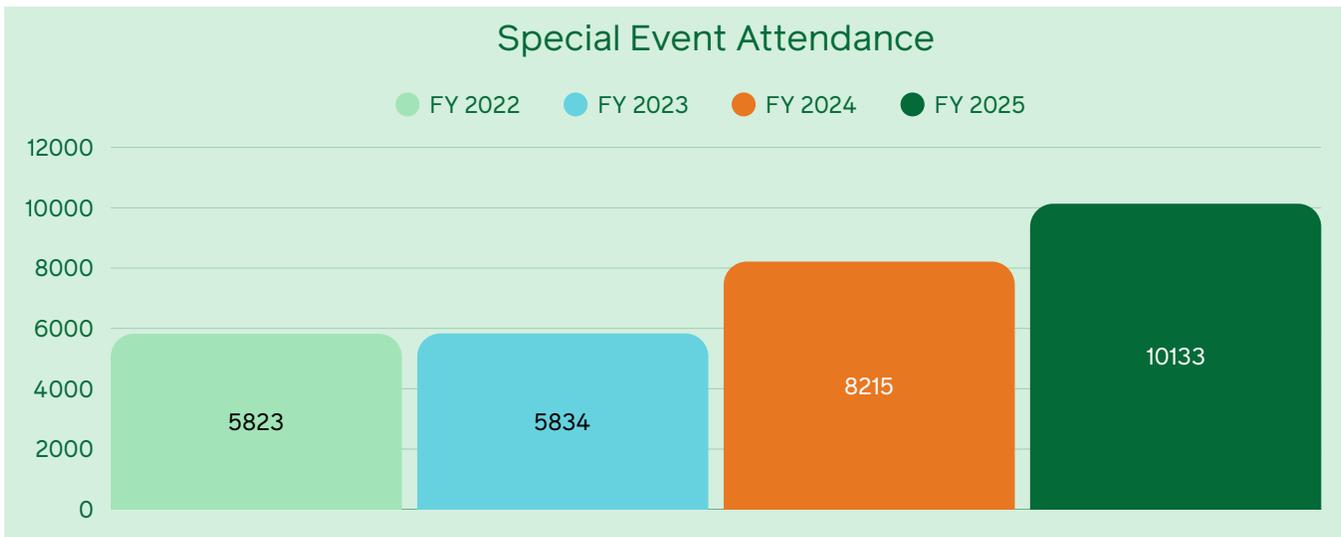
This data shows an increase in visits and visitors to Ballantrae over the last five years, with a 22.9% increase in visits and a 68.0% increase in unique visitors.

With the increase in the number of visitors and rounds played, coupled with improved operations, revenue growth naturally followed. The Club saw a 95% increase in gross revenue since 2010, including a 51% increase over the last five years.

The Club transitioned from operating at a loss or marginal profit to closing out fiscal year 2025 with an operating profit of \$435,548.73!

Ballantrae Visits & Rounds Played





### Pelham Parks & Recreation: Growing Programs and a Stronger Community

Ballantrae wasn't the only recreational amenity playing at a whole new level. The Parks and Recreation Department has experienced steady growth over the last five years. Increased recreation options, such as the Pelham Splash Pad and Coker Park Disc Golf, as well as additional offerings for seniors and families, along with a new outdoor soccer and hockey rink, have driven this growth.

Even when it rains on their parade (or the Pelham Palooza, as the case may be), the department finds ways to pivot and keep the engagement going. Despite consecutive rainouts of our marquee event, Pelham Palooza, the last four years have seen a 74% increase in special event attendance.

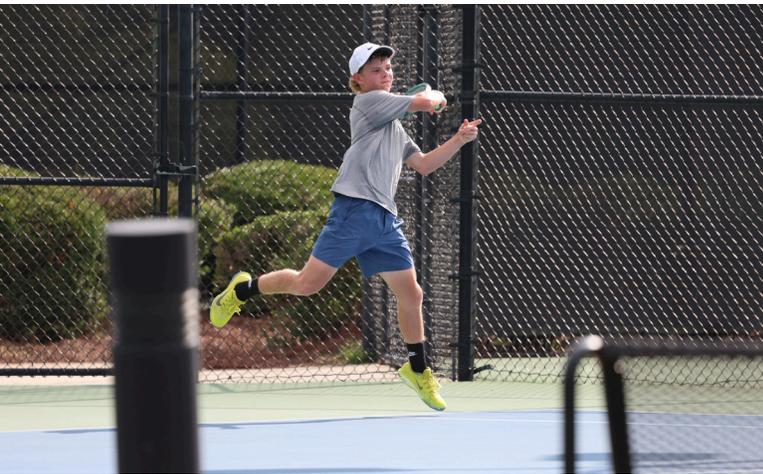
**Pelham's Active Adult groups continue to excel, achieving three consecutive record-setting years following scaled-down pandemic operations, with a 169% increase in members and program participation.**

Members of the Pelham Senior Center have the opportunity to participate in trips, flex their creative muscles through art programs, and take advantage of exercise and movement classes to maintain both physical and mental well-being.



**Additionally, membership at the Pelham Recreation Center has increased by 199% since 2022,**

Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Alicia Walters credits this trend to intentional growth and facility improvements. According to Walters, “Membership at our Recreation Center continues to grow as we expand our programs and services to meet the needs of our entire community better. Our team has listened carefully to member feedback and worked diligently to make meaningful improvements. We’ve added new fitness equipment to the weight room, upgraded gear for our weekly fitness classes, introduced open-league adult sports programs, and remain committed to maintaining a clean, modern facility for everyone to enjoy.”



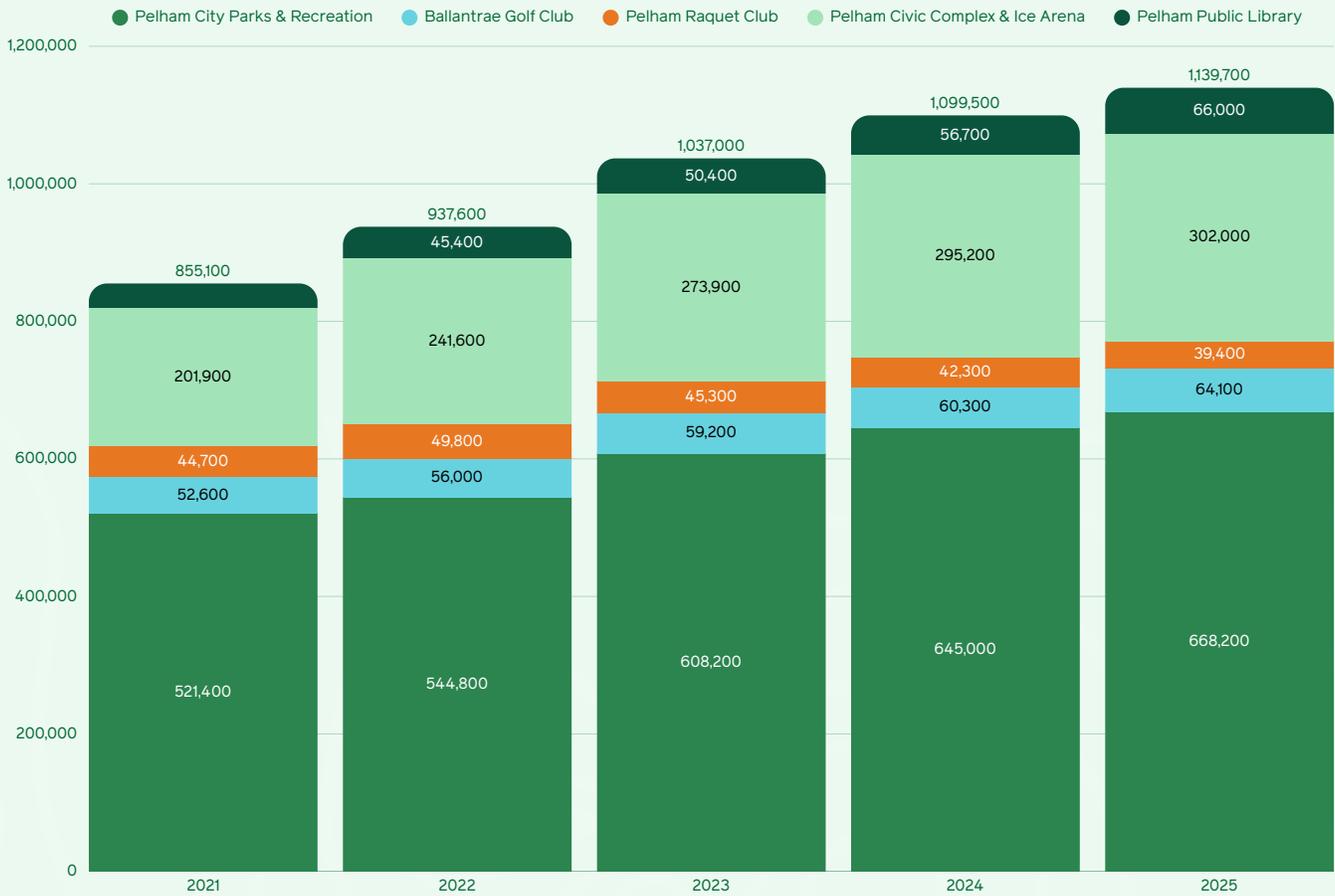
**Game, Set, Growth at the Pelham Racquet Club**

The Pelham Racquet Club has a lot to be proud of in the past year as well. Gross revenues are up 10% from 2022, driven in part by the tremendous growth in instruction across both the Pelham Racquet Club and the Pelham Tennis Center. In 2025 alone, the City’s tennis pros delivered an incredible 12,308 lessons, reflecting a 6% increase in lessons over the last two years and a rising demand for high-quality instruction.

**Much of this momentum comes from new offerings, such as Ready, Set, Tennis classes. Ready, Set, Tennis is a three-step, USTA-sanctioned program that teaches adult beginners the fundamentals of the game. This year, the Club has completed more than five full sessions, with additional classes now open for enrollment. According to USTA Alabama, the program has quickly become one of the most successful in the region.**

The addition of these beginner programs, along with ongoing open clinics for kids, juniors, and adults, highlights the Racquet Club’s commitment to growing the game of tennis and ensuring players of all ages and skill levels feel welcome on the courts.

## Visits to City-Owned Recreation, Art & Cultural Amenities (Source: Placer AI)



### A Record Year on Ice at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

At the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, our management company, VenueWorks, has been working tirelessly to expand programming and improve utilization.

**Data sourced from Placer AI shows a record-setting year for the number of unique visitors, which drove record-setting revenues and the first net operating profit of just over \$100,000!**

Combining all the city's recreational and cultural amenities and examining total visits, we can see that visits to city-owned recreational, arts, and cultural amenities have increased by at least 33% over the last five years (some neighborhood parks did not have sufficient data to be included in the analysis).

To put it in perspective, that accounts for 1,139,700 total visits in FY 2025. According to data obtained by Placer AI, Oak Mountain State Park had 936,700 visits over the same time frame – that amounts to 21% more visits to city-owned facilities than the State Park, though these certainly complement and help each other thrive.





## Protecting Pelham: Public Safety in Action

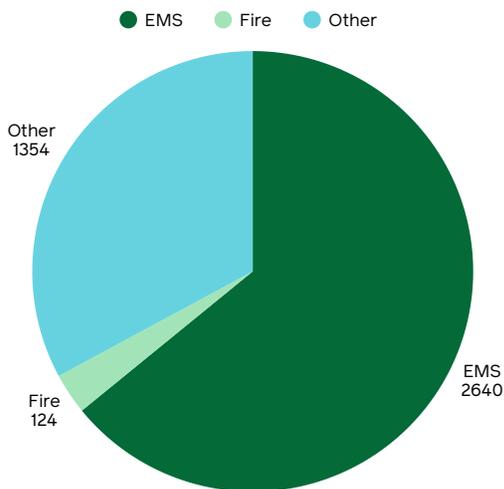
The Pelham Fire Department began offering EMS transport service on January 1, 2025. With less than a full calendar year under its belt, the addition of this service has made an immediate impact in the community, with 1,896 EMS responses and 1083 transports through September 8, 2025 – all this with an average response time of just over 8 minutes.

**Pelham has also enhanced the regional network of EMS services by providing 47 mutual aid transports to neighboring jurisdictions - a net gain of +16 against those received by Pelham.**

In 2024, the Pelham Fire Department responded to 3,870 calls. In Fiscal Year 2025, they responded to 4,118. Incidents in the “Other” category include weather, hazardous materials, false alarms, and more.

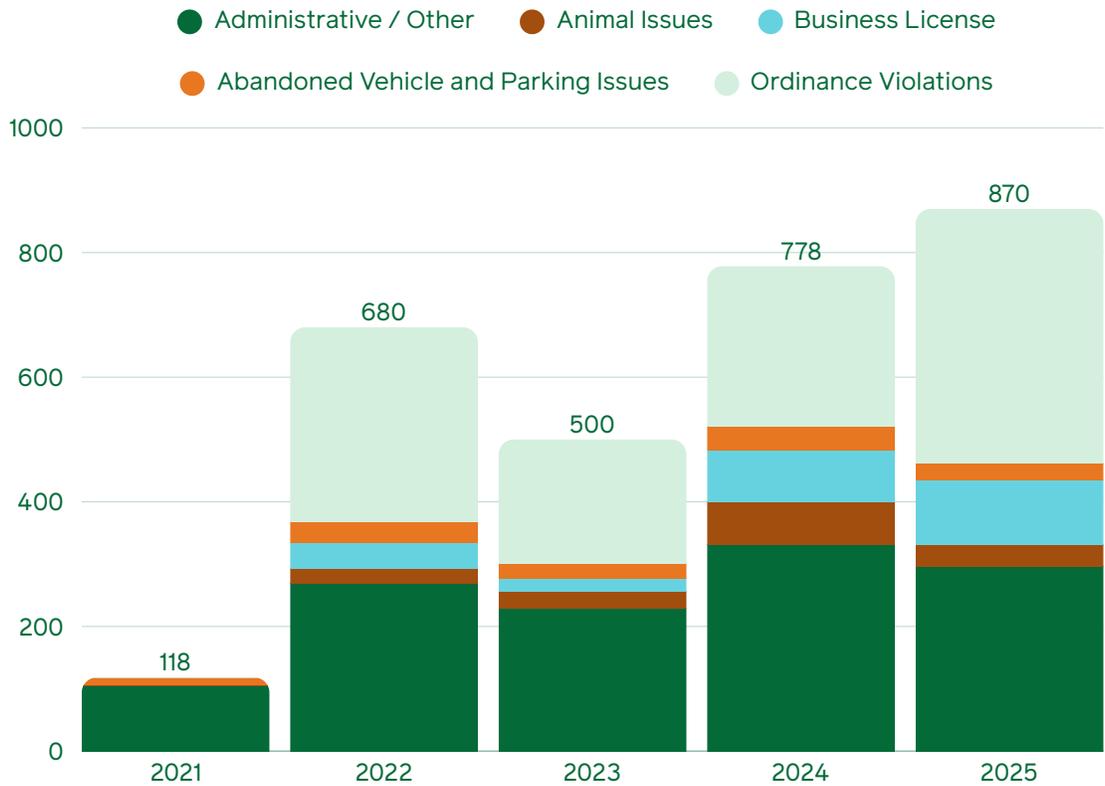


Pelham Fire Department  
Incident Totals 10/01/24-09/30/25





## Code Enforcement Activity: Police Department

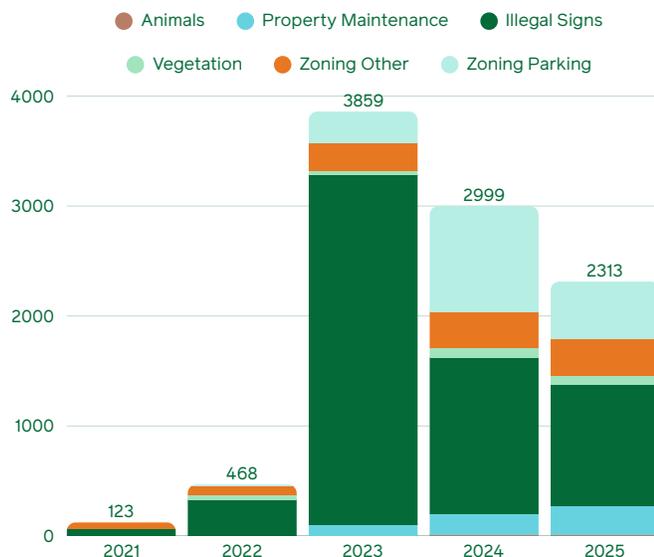


### Code Enforcement That Reflects Our Community Standards

Residents have made it clear that the physical character of their community is essential. The Police Department has been working effectively, and in addition to its routine law enforcement duties, has continued to provide extra assistance with a strong emphasis on code enforcement.

The same can be said for our Zoning Inspectors. Most of the time, our staff members are able to work with residents and businesses to achieve compliance without penalties. This suggests that the large majority of our community members become compliant quickly after receiving a notification. We appreciate the help the community provides with compliance – another priority for our citizens. The Municipal Court still saw a record number of individuals brought into court compared to a decade ago, with the most common being operating without a business license.

### Ordinance Violations Initiated By Zoning



# PUBLIC WORKS: INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WORKS FOR PELHAM

## Smart Investments That Stop Leaks & Save Money

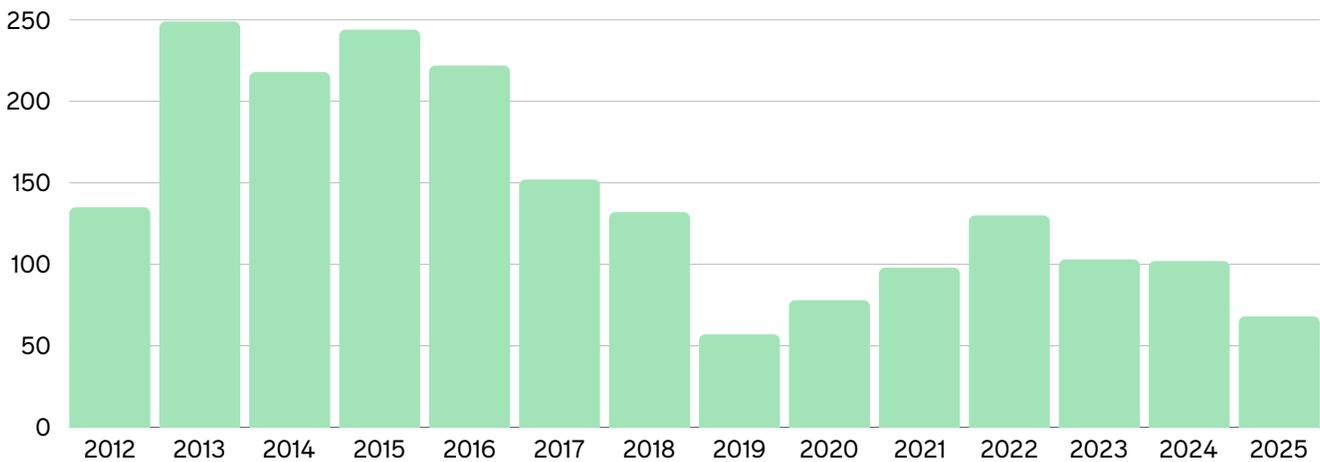
We strive to be good stewards of our resources while providing efficient service. Replacement of water lines has resulted in a significant reduction in water leaks and, consequently, water loss.

**There has been a 72% decrease in the number of leaks over the last decade, primarily due to water infrastructure replacement and proactive maintenance by city staff. The last two years have seen a 31% decrease in average monthly water loss. This translates to nearly \$250,000 in annual savings and significantly improved customer service with substantially reduced downtime.**

Let's not forget our wastewater treatment improvements. Since the 2023 wastewater rehabilitation project, our pumps now run 40 minutes less every day. That means we're no longer having to pump and treat about 20,000 gallons of wastewater a day — or roughly 7.3 million gallons every year. By reducing the amount of water that needs to be treated, the City saves approximately \$30,000 per year in operating costs and delays or avoids a \$240,000 plant capacity upgrade that would otherwise be necessary to handle higher water flows.



### Water System Main Leak History





## Listening to Our Residents:

### Real-Time Data for Real Traffic Relief

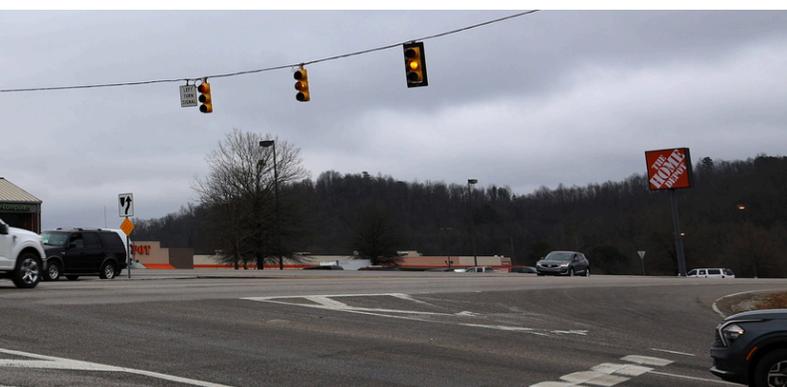
Over the past year, we have been upgrading our traffic signal cameras to new technology, bringing us closer to what our residents have stated as their #1 priority: improved traffic management.

Most of our signals use wire loops buried in the pavement to detect vehicles. When a car drives over the loop, it sends a signal to the traffic light. This technology is high maintenance with frequent downtime and limited information.

**Now, many of our busiest intersections have been upgraded to a system called NoTraffic, which utilizes cameras, radar, and artificial intelligence to detect vehicles and measure traffic flow.**

Instead of simply sensing the vehicle, the system counts the number of vehicles and calculates wait time. The engineers can also measure the number of vehicles arriving at a green versus a red light.

Using NoTraffic data, the city collaborated with the state's Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP) for a two-phase approach to refine the timing at Pelham's major intersections. The data shows more drivers arriving on green and spending less time sitting at red lights.



## Real Time Examples of Improvement:

AL-119 and I65: Since May 2024, the combined southbound and northbound ramps have seen almost a 10% improvement with vehicles arriving on green rather than red. Wait time at red for the northbound ramp has dropped from 26 to 16 seconds, and the southbound wait time has decreased from 21 to 15 seconds.

Since May 2025, the intersection at Chandalar Drive and US-31 has seen a 48% improvement in vehicle arrival times while the light is green. Residents and visitors can expect these results to improve as we continue installation and begin to realize trends by the specific time of day.

## INTERSECTIONS UPGRADED

### PHASE 1

Installed in May of 2024

- AL-119 at Woodward Dr.
- AL-119 at I-65 North Ramp
- AL-119 at I-65 South Ramp
- AL-119 at Drivers Mart Way/Oak Mountain Park Rd.
- AL-119 at Southgate Dr.
- US-31 at Old Montgomery Hwy.
- US-31 at Winslett Rd.
- US-31 at Cahaba Valley Rd./AL-119
- US-31 at Crosscreek Trl.

### PHASE 2

Installed in May of 2025

- US-31 at Stonehaven Trl.
- US-31 at Old Walmart
- US-31 at Chandalar Dr.
- US-31 at Opportunity/Meadowview Ln.
- Word Dr. at Home Depot Access Dr.
- CR-33 at Word Dr.
- CR-52 at I-65 South Ramp
- CR-52 at I-65 North Ramp
- CR-52 at McCain Pkwy/Oak Mountain Trl.
- CR-52 at Huntley Pkwy/Racquet Club Pkwy.
- Valleydale Rd. at Business Center Dr.



### Paving More Streets, Sooner

In 2025, the City of Pelham's street resurfacing program delivered more than initially planned — and did it ahead of schedule and under budget.

**Due to efficient planning and favorable construction conditions, the streets included in the initial 2025 paving plan were completed ahead of schedule, enabling the City to advance several future projects and resurface them this year.**

As a result, ten additional streets were paved in 2025. Project managers prioritized these streets based on current pavement conditions and the absence of any upcoming utility work, ensuring tax dollars were used wisely. This effort is part of the City's ongoing commitment to making smart infrastructure investments that keep Pelham's roads safe, smooth, and well-maintained.



### Keeping Pelham Connected: IT Improvements

In FY25, the Information Technology Department completed a significant upgrade to the City's network. The team identified, evaluated, and implemented new network services that securely connect all of Pelham's physical locations, while also adding a redundant internet connection for backup. This project was completed on time and replaced an older, slower service with a modern, fiber-optic wide-area network that provides the bandwidth our operations now require.



**At the same time, IT upgraded the City's network infrastructure with current switching technology and a centralized, cloud-based management portal. This system enables IT staff to monitor the health of network equipment in real-time, track bandwidth usage, and adjust or resolve issues from any location with internet access.**

One of the most noticeable upgrades for residents and visitors is at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Previously, inadequate network and Wi-Fi coverage affected everything from video replay at Birmingham Bulls games to Ticketmaster transactions and even guests trying to scroll social media between skating sessions. With new equipment, stronger Wi-Fi, and dedicated bandwidth, the Civic Complex is moving closer to an "always on" technology environment that better supports events, staff, and patrons.

### Informing, Engaging, & Connecting Our Community

The Communications Department is responsible for keeping Pelham residents informed about city news, public safety, and the many activities that enhance our quality of life. Our three-person team manages nine official Facebook pages, including the City of Pelham and several departmental accounts, as well as eight Instagram accounts and the City's official Nextdoor presence. We produce an in-depth, award-winning monthly e-newsletter for subscribers, and the Pelham Pathway magazine is mailed quarterly to Pelham Water Works customers. Residents can report concerns through the City's 311 app, and we work diligently to keep our extensive city website up to date. Our goal is for Pelham residents to be among the best-informed citizens in Shelby County.



## CONTINUING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

We hope that this Year (and More) in Review has given you a clear picture of how your city is working to achieve the goals you've helped us set. Your feedback reaches us in various ways — through the citizen survey, the 311 portal, conversations with elected officials and staff, and questions and comments on the City's official social media accounts.

City staff do not monitor non-city social media pages or groups, and those spaces often include false or misleading information. If you're looking for accurate and timely updates, we encourage you to follow and engage with the City of Pelham's official channels and contact us directly with your questions. Your city is always working for you, and the more we hear about your good news, concerns, and ideas, the stronger our community becomes.

We look forward to another successful year as we complete projects like the new section of the Pelham Greenway Trail and the Highway 31 lighting project. We will also begin navigating utility construction along Highway 261, select a master developer for the former Live Nation property, and continue to monitor the development in front of the library as it comes to life.

There is a great deal happening in Pelham, and on behalf of the Mayor, City Council, and City staff, I appreciate the opportunity to walk this path with you.

*Gretchen*

## Pelham by the NUMBERS

**12,308**

Number of Tennis Lessons Given at Pelham Racquet Club & Pelham Tennis Center

**10,133**

Attendance at City of Pelham Community Events in 2025

**39,714**

E-Resource Circulation at the Pelham Public Library

**24,015**

Number of Fire and EMS Training Hours

**313**

Number of Full-Time City Employees

260 General Fund and 53 Other

**1,182**

Total Enrollment for Learn to Skate Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

We encourage all residents to stay informed by subscribing to city newsletters and attending council meetings whenever possible. Staying connected ensures you receive the most up-to-date information about our community's progress and ongoing initiatives.



Between issues, you can get City news delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe to the City of Pelham's E-Newsletter today!



WHAT DOES  
*Recreation*  
 LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

The City of Pelham takes pride in the recreation services it offers to the community. All of our city-owned facilities provide opportunities for children aged 12 and under to learn a sport they can enjoy for years to come.

Visit their websites and social media for details:

**Ballantrae Golf Club**  
[www.ballantraegolf.com](http://www.ballantraegolf.com)

BallantraeGC

**Pelham Racquet Club**  
[www.pelhamracquetclub.com](http://www.pelhamracquetclub.com)

pelhamracquetclub

**Pelham Parks & Rec**  
[www.pelhamalrecreation.gov](http://www.pelhamalrecreation.gov)

PelhamParksandRecreation / pelhamparksrec

**Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena**  
[www.pelhamciviccomplex.com](http://www.pelhamciviccomplex.com)

PelhamCivicComplex / pelhamcivic\_ice



# MAYOR GARY WATERS

A Life of Service,  
A Legacy of Stewardship

**BY: GINA WOMACK**

For someone who spent 13 years as mayor, Gary Waters never carried himself like a politician. He didn't posture, didn't crave attention, and didn't pretend to be anything other than who he was. The people closest to him will tell you that's precisely why Pelham trusted him, and why his retirement feels so significant.

Before he ever stepped into City Hall, Waters lived a life steeped in service. Born and raised in Baldwin County, he grew up a scrawny, sickly kid with one working lung and a fierce determination to do whatever needed to be done. His childhood friend, Chuck Tolbert, remembers him as "real skinny, dark around the eyes, but tough as nails." The two met in fifth grade and quickly became inseparable. Chuck was bigger, so the bullies tended to leave Gary alone when he was in Chuck's presence. Gary was steadier, kinder, and more grounded than most boys their age.

Their friendship deepened when Chuck needed a safe place to go. At the age of 15, Chuck moved into the Waters family home. Gary's parents, Jane and Herbert Lee Waters, treated him like their own son. They fed him, encouraged him, and gave him what stability they could. "His father called me 'son,' and I'm still grateful for that," Chuck said. "I've admired that family my entire life."

That bond would come full circle decades later, when Chuck's kidneys failed after multiple bouts with cancer. Without hesitation, Waters volunteered to be tested. Chuck's own family couldn't donate due to health conditions, but Waters was a perfect match. The transplant surgery was more invasive for Gary than for Chuck. When Chuck realized what his friend had gone through, he broke down in tears. "He saved my physical life," Chuck said. "Jesus Christ saved my soul, and Gary saved my life on this earth. I wanted to live in a way my Savior and Gary could both be proud of."



Waters' instinct to serve didn't stop with childhood friendships. After training as a military firefighter and crash/rescue specialist in the U.S. Army, he became the City of Pelham's first paid firefighter in 1977. As newlyweds, he and his wife, Lynn Edington Waters, left Bay Minette and moved to Pelham so he could take the job. Over the next 31 years, including 24 as fire chief, he built one of the most respected departments in Alabama.

Through all of it, Lynn has stood by him through thick and thin. This year, they celebrated 49 years of marriage, nearly five decades that have included long shifts at the fire station, late-night calls, challenging seasons in public life, and the constant push and pull of a demanding career serving others. Together, they raised their three children, Kyle, Emilee, and Zac, here in Pelham, and today their six grandchildren, Collin, Emma, Jacob, Lyla, Malachi, and Lucy, are never far from Pop and GG's thoughts. In conversation, Waters often circles back to Lynn and their family, quick to say that whatever credit he receives for his work, he shares with the woman who walked beside him through it all.

Fire Chief Mike Reid, whom Waters hired for his first full-time firefighting job in 1999, remembers watching him long before they ever worked together. As a young fire explorer in Montevallo, Reid stood in awe as the Pelham Fire Department Honor Guard presented the colors at a statewide event. "They were the most professional group I'd ever seen," Reid said. "I remember thinking, 'I want to work for Pelham.' That was because of Gary."



Reid says Waters' leadership set the tone for everything the department became and still is. "He was wise, steady, and always fair," Reid said. "He believed in servant leadership. He taught us, supported us, and then trusted us to do our jobs. He never micromanaged. He fought for what we needed to serve this city well."

When Waters retired from the fire department in 2008, he assumed his public service chapter had come to an end. But in 2012, he was elected Pelham's fifth mayor, a role he accepted with the same humility that marked every phase of his life.

City staff often describe how grounded he remained. Robin Wilkinson, his administrative assistant at the fire department, saw it firsthand. "He was always hands-on," she said. "Even as mayor, he would go out with the street crews. He'd ride the trucks, pick up limbs, whatever needed doing. Most mayors wouldn't dream of that. But for him, that's how you lead. You show up."

That willingness to grab a shovel or climb into a city truck wasn't for show. It was simply who he was, a man who believed leadership meant effort, not title. His successor, Mayor Rick Wash, put it plainly: "He's a good man; a good soul. What you see is what you get with Gary Waters. He leaves a set of shoes that cannot be filled, a void that we'll never span, and to be honest, we won't even try."

City Manager Gretchen DiFante added, "When you talk to him, you can actually feel him listening. He's trustworthy and a man of integrity."



During his tenure, Waters helped guide Pelham through unprecedented growth, significant restructuring, and years of careful planning that reshaped the city's long-term trajectory. Earlier this year, he received The Shelby County Chamber's Alex Dudchock Community Leadership Award, recognizing his insistence on ethical, steady governance and his genuine care for people.

For all he accomplished, Waters never claimed credit. When he first won the mayor's seat, he told a reporter, "The emotion I feel right now is pride in our city. It has very little to do with what I did. We just told the truth, and the voters did the rest."

That humility never faded.

On the day before his final day in office, he climbed into a Pelham firetruck for one last ride-along, a quiet moment of symmetry for a man who began his life here in turnout gear and ended it in the mayor's office.

In retirement, Waters won't be idle. His son Kyle jokes that "Dad's not the rocking-chair type," and anyone who knows him agrees. He reads constantly, loves history, and rarely goes anywhere without a notebook tucked under his arm. Many have encouraged him to write a book, and if he ever decides to do it, he has a lifetime of stories that Pelham, and well beyond, will want to hear.

He'll return to Baldwin County, just a mile from Chuck Tolbert's home, where the two childhood friends expect to pick up right where they left off. "As much as our wives will allow," Chuck said with a laugh.

For a man who has given so much of himself to his family, to his hometown, to his adopted city, and to the friend whose life he saved, it feels right that his next chapter begins in the place where it all started.

Pelham is better, steadier, and kinder because Gary Waters was here. And long after he's settled into retirement, his imprint on this city, its people, its departments, its culture of service, will remain.

What you see is what you get with Gary Waters. And what Pelham got was a gift.



# PELHAM

## NEWS & NOTES

Pelham is always on the move, and there's never a shortage of good news to share. Since our last issue in September, our community has celebrated big wins, special milestones, and everyday moments that make life here feel a little brighter. This section highlights some of the people, events, and stories that bring Pelham to life, so you can stay connected to the place we're all proud to call home.

### A Family Favorite Library With Big Plans

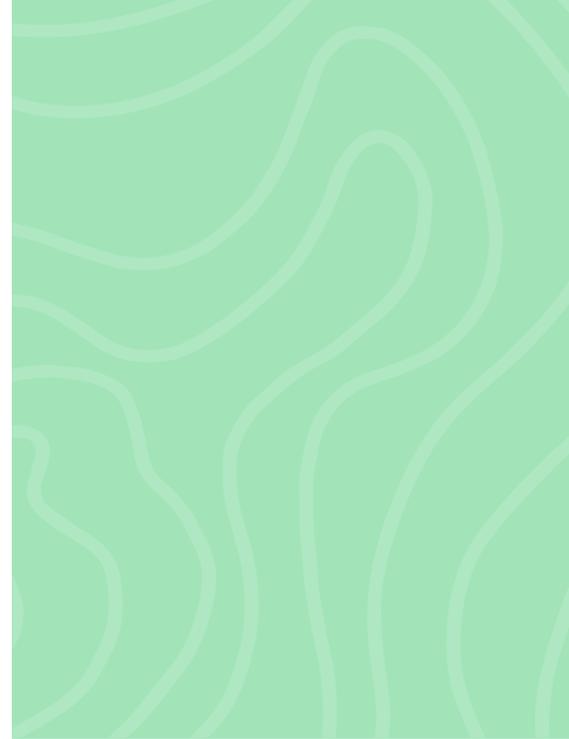
We've always known the Pelham Public Library is a special place, and now the entire metro area agrees. The library was recently voted a 2025 Family Favorite in Birmingham Parent magazine's annual awards, earning the title of Favorite Library Branch among well-known libraries across Jefferson and Shelby counties. Thank you to everyone who voted and continues to support the Pelham Public Library.



There's even more good news to share. State Representative Kenneth Paschal recently awarded an Education Community Services Grant to several schools and libraries across House District 73, including a \$4,500 donation to Pelham Public Library. "I'm proud to support our public libraries and the vital role they play for families, students, and lifelong learners," he said.

Library Director Mary Campbell also announced that the library raised more than \$2,000 during its annual book sale. Featuring donated books and titles removed from circulation, the sale not only serves as a successful fundraiser but also helps clear shelf space for new and updated resources for the community.

Library patrons may notice some construction in the coming weeks as the circulation desk undergoes a much-needed upgrade. The original desk offers limited workspace for staff and their daily tasks, and the new design will better accommodate both people and technology. Demolition of the old desk will take place after hours, and patrons will be assisted at a temporary desk while the work is underway.



## Meet Pelham's Newest K-9 Team

Please join us in welcoming K9 Myra and her handler, Officer Harnden, to the Pelham Police Department's K-9 Unit.

This dynamic duo recently completed an intensive six-week training program and graduated from Kassenburg K9 School. K9 Myra is a certified narcotics detection K-9, trained to assist with patrol operations, searches, and helping keep our community safe.

K9 Myra joins an exceptional team of four-legged officers at the Pelham Police Department, working alongside K9 Major in narcotics detection and K9s Thunder and Ripley, who specialize in explosives detection. Together, these highly trained K-9s and their handlers play a vital role in maintaining safety and security throughout the city.



## Disc Golf Scores Big at Coker Park

The new disc golf course at Coker Park is quickly becoming one of Pelham's favorite places to play. Since opening in late August, the course has earned rave reviews from players who praise its thoughtful design and layout. Nearby property owners also demonstrated true Pelham spirit by collaborating with Parks & Recreation staff to allow limited foot traffic on portions of their private land, which helped make the course possible.

Pelham Parks & Recreation Director Brian Cooper said the addition has breathed new life into one of the city's lesser-known parks. "The disc golf course has activated Coker Park in a way we've never seen before," Cooper said. "We averaged around 60 players a day in the first few weeks and continue to see steady participation, with even higher numbers on weekends and sunny days."

The excitement isn't slowing down anytime soon. Cooper said residents can look forward to tournaments and introductory disc golf sessions planned for spring 2026.

## Blue Envelope Program Promotes Safety and Understanding

The Pelham Police Department is proud to partner with The Arc of Shelby County to bring the Blue Envelope Program to our community. The initiative is designed to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) during interactions with police officers and first responders.

Each bright blue envelope can hold important information such as emergency contacts, communication methods, support needs, and calming strategies. The kit also includes a seatbelt cover that alerts first responders that someone in the vehicle may require extra time or assistance. Blue Envelope kits are available for free in the lobby of the Pelham Police Department. To learn more about the program, visit [thearcofshelby.org/the-blue-envelope](http://thearcofshelby.org/the-blue-envelope)



## Better Stormwater Management

The Pelham City Council has approved an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to install and maintain a stream gauge at Buck Creek. This new equipment will collect real-time data on water levels and flow, providing the City with valuable information to monitor water quality and enhance stormwater management. The data will also help Pelham protect local waterways and better prepare for periods of heavy rainfall.



## Monumental Move

The Pelham Public Works crew recently completed the relocation of the obelisk honoring outstanding citizens of Pelham. The monument was relocated from Pelham City Park to the small park adjacent to Pelham Fire Station No. 1 to make way for planned upgrades to the youth sports facilities.



Next time you're in the area, take a moment to read the names engraved on the monument. Each one represents someone who has made a lasting impact on our community.



## Music in the Park Hits All the Right Notes

The 2025 Music in the Park series was a hit, drawing more than 1,000 people to Pelham City Park over three lively October afternoons. Concertgoers enjoyed a diverse range of music spanning several genres, with families, friends, and neighbors gathering to unwind, dance, and celebrate community in a stunning setting.



This year's series even started early with two bonus shows at Park 124 in September, because we couldn't wait to kick off the music!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the incredible bands who filled the park with sound and to everyone who came out to make each night special. The Pelham Parks & Recreation team is already planning next year's lineup and looks forward to another season of music, memories, and togetherness.





# A NEW CHAPTER OF LEADERSHIP:

## Serving Pelham with Heart, Vision, and Purpose

BY: GINA WOMACK

A new era of leadership has begun in Pelham. With three new members joining two incumbents on the city council and a new mayor, the first in more than a decade, our city is turning the page into an exciting new chapter. Each of these dedicated public servants brings unique experience, fresh ideas, and a shared commitment to keeping Pelham a wonderful place to call home. Meet your newly elected officials and learn what inspires them to serve our community.

### Mayor Rick Wash

Mayor Rick Wash grew up in Pelham and is proud to call the city home. A graduate of Pelham High School and the University of Alabama, he has deep roots in the community and a long-standing dedication to public service. Wash served as a police officer for the City of Pelham before his retirement. He was elected to the Pelham City Council, Place 3, in 2020. Wash threw his hat in the ring for the mayoral seat in early 2025 and was elected in August. "I never imagined I would one day be involved in politics, but I have embraced this tremendous opportunity with pride and gratitude," he said. "It is an honor to help move our city forward."

For Mayor Wash, Pelham truly is home. "I believe Pelham is the best city in the state, and I am proud to call it home," he said.

"I moved here as a young child, grew up in this wonderful community, and graduated from Pelham High School (Go 'Ham), as did all of my children. I've had the privilege of serving our city as a councilman for the past five years and now as your mayor. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the community that has given me so much."

As mayor, Wash's priorities include community safety, city infrastructure, and responsible, strategic growth. He's optimistic about the city's future. "I believe we have the best city staff anywhere, and with our newly elected officials, we have a real opportunity to make a lasting difference," he said.



“Pelham is in a pivotal place, and the next four years will set the precedent for how we move forward together as a community. My hope is to see responsible and strategic growth that helps Pelham continue to thrive as the family-friendly city it has always been. I’m committed to encouraging our citizens and families to get more involved and to creating more opportunities and resources for the people who call Pelham home.”

Personal: Married to Cindy Wash. They have six children and six grandchildren. The Wash family has called Pelham home since 1976.

**Michelle Power,  
Pelham City Council, Place 1**

If Michelle Power’s name sounds familiar, it’s because she’s been part of Pelham City Schools for more than 22 years. Currently the Tier 2/3 ESL Instructional Specialist, Power has dedicated her career to empowering students and supporting teachers. Now, she’s extending that passion for service to the City Council as one of three newly elected members.

Born and raised in Pelham, Power’s family has called the city home for generations. She earned her bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Montevallo and a master’s in education in English for Speakers of Other Languages from UAB.



“My passion for education and service stems from more than two decades of supporting students,” she said. “I believe in listening, collaborating, and advocating for the needs of every resident.”

Her priorities include strengthening city-school partnerships, improving communication and community engagement, and promoting inclusive opportunities that enrich the lives of all residents.

Personal: Married to Adam Power. Mom to Madelyn, Molly, and Logan. Resident of Pelham since 1974.



**Chad Leverett,  
Pelham City Council President, Place 2**

Chad Leverett’s journey is rooted in perseverance, integrity, and a strong sense of community. He credits his grandfather’s unwavering presence and guidance during his childhood as the foundation for the man he is today. “My grandfather never missed a ballgame, academic recognition, or special moment,” Leverett said. “His influence shaped who I am and taught me how to be a better father for my son.”

Leverett was appointed to the Pelham City Council in May 2023 to fill a vacant seat and was elected to Place 2 in August 2025. In November, he was elected Council President.

Professionally, Leverett has built a distinguished career in financial services and data governance, currently serving as a leader in Data Governance at NISource.

His priorities include strengthening recreation and wellness opportunities, beautifying the city's main corridors, improving infrastructure, and supporting the city's dedicated staff.

Personal: Married to Melissa Leverett. Father of one son. A resident of Pelham since 2010.

**Christine Townes,  
Pelham City Council, Place 3**

Christine Townes is a first-generation Mexican American and the third child of immigrant parents who instilled in her the values of hard work, faith, and family. She grew up in Southern California before moving to Alabama, where she and her husband found the perfect place to raise their family. Together, they have five sons, ages 3 to 24, two of whom serve in the United States Marine Corps.

Guided by faith, Townes views her path to public service as one shaped by purpose rather than ambition. Her years of volunteering in schools, churches, and community programs reflect her heart for connection and service. "Strong communities are built through listening, showing up, and serving others," she said.



Townes is committed to responsible growth that preserves Pelham's neighborly spirit while fostering spaces where families can gather, businesses can thrive, and children can play safely.

Personal: Married to Adam Townes. Mom of five sons. Pelham resident since 2005.



**Markus Hal Snowden,  
Pelham City Council, Place 4**

Markus Hal Snowden was elected to the Pelham City Council, Place 4, in September 2025 after running on a platform of fiscal accountability and strategic growth. A resident of Pelham for nearly 30 years, Snowden has witnessed the city's remarkable transformation and is focused on ensuring its continued success.

His priorities include improving traffic flow along County Road 11, advancing infrastructure projects, supporting first responders, and fostering economic development. "The previous administration and council have established a solid foundation," he said. "I believe the future is bright, and we should all look forward to what's ahead with excitement and enthusiasm."

Snowden has over 40 years of experience in engineering and construction, holding a Bachelor's degree from Louisiana Tech University and a Master's degree from Samford University.

Personal: Married, father, and proud grandfather. Enjoys football, basketball, baseball, NASCAR, and bike riding. A Pelham resident for nearly 30 years.



**Michael Harris,  
Pelham City Council, Place 5**

A lifelong Pelham resident and 2000 graduate of Pelham High School, Michael Harris has devoted more than two decades to serving his hometown. A proud small business owner, Harris values hard work, integrity, and service, principles inspired by his father's firefighting career.

He was appointed to the City Council in 2024 to fill a vacant seat and elected to Place 5 in August 2025. His deep commitment to Pelham's youth and recreation programs is evident through his service as president of the Pelham Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and his years of coaching local youth teams.

"I'm dedicated to strengthening public safety, supporting responsible growth, and investing in Pelham's schools and small businesses," Harris said. "Our best days are still ahead when we work together."

Personal: Married to Ashley Harris. Dad to Corbin, Carly, Camryn, and Collins. Pelham resident since 1982.

Pelham's newly elected leaders share a common goal: to serve with integrity, collaboration, and a heart. Together, they represent the spirit of a community rooted in pride, progress, and connection. With their combined experience and shared vision, Pelham is poised to grow thoughtfully, preserving its hometown charm while building a bright, welcoming future for all who call it home.

## AGENDAS, MINUTES, & MEETINGS



The Pelham City Council meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Pelham City Hall.

Scan the QR code to find links to agendas, minutes, and streaming information.



# PELHAM'S GROWTH: SHAPING THE FUTURE

BY: GINA WOMACK

## **Pelham City Park Baseball & Softball Complex Improvements**

Improvements at the Pelham City Park Baseball & Softball Complex are officially underway. In November, crews demolished the old restroom and concession stand to make way for a new, modern facility that will better serve players, families, and fans. This phase of construction is expected to take about six months to complete.

As part of a larger \$3.4 million renovation, the project will create a reimagined central plaza featuring natural wood accents, shaded seating, and a new concession and restroom building at the heart of the complex. Plans also include six new covered batting cages, four located near the front entrance and two situated between Fields 2 and 3, while retaining the existing cages to provide teams with even more space to practice and prepare for game day.

While construction is in progress at the main entrance to the baseball fields, please expect equipment traffic and ongoing work. The area will remain open, but walkers are encouraged to adjust routes to avoid the work zone and use extra caution near equipment and vehicles. Thank you for your patience as we make these improvements.

## **Highway 31 Lighting Project**

Drivers along Highway 31/Pelham Parkway will soon notice a brighter, more attractive corridor. The City of Pelham is replacing the existing wooden light poles with new decorative fixtures between Word Drive and Amphitheater Road, creating a more cohesive and welcoming look along this busy gateway into the city. Construction began in late October, and crews are currently installing underground conduits and preparing foundations for the new lights. The \$7.58 million project requires close coordination with multiple utility companies that have infrastructure in the area. Work will continue through the summer, with completion expected by the end of July. Once finished, the upgraded lighting will enhance visibility, improve safety, and provide a more polished first impression of Pelham.

## **Highway 261 Widening Project**

Pelham is one step closer to long-anticipated improvements along Highway 261. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has completed all 69 property acquisitions in Pelham, clearing the way for the following primary phase of the widening project: utility relocation.



Pelham's Director of Development Services & Public Works, André Bittas, is working closely with ALDOT to establish a timeline for utility relocation, which will be the first visible sign of construction activity along the corridor.

"We're thrilled to see this project moving forward," City Manager Gretchen DiFante said. "While the utility work will require some patience from all of us, the result will be a smoother, safer Highway 261 for everyone."

### **Pelham Greenway Trail System: Phase IV Nears Completion as Final Phase Prepares to Launch**

Pelham's Greenway Trail system is moving steadily toward completion, with Phase IV nearing the finish line. Crews from Shelby County completed the grading and drainage work in October, and paving is scheduled to begin in early December. This phase will connect the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena to Park 124 and is expected to open in January 2026.

The Greenway Trail is planned as a six-and-a-half-mile route, built in five phases, although construction has not followed the numerical order. Phases I and II opened in the summer of 2020, creating a continuous path from Bearden Road through the City Park Complex. Due to access limitations and other planned development, Phases III and IV were temporarily paused while Phase V proceeded. The first portion of Phase V was completed when Shelby County widened Oak Mountain State Park Road in 2022, and the second portion followed in 2024 with the City's Amphitheater Road widening project.

With Phase IV, the connection between Campus 124 and the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena, wrapping up, attention now turns to Phase III, the final link in the system. The City of Pelham has been working on right-of-way acquisition, and once it is complete, construction can begin. This segment will connect City Park to neighborhoods along Cahaba Valley Creek, locally known as Bishop Creek, and to Pelham's Entertainment District at Campus 124, bringing the complete vision of the Greenway Trail closer than ever.



### **ReAmp: Reimagine OMA: Transforming the Former Oak Mountain Amphitheatre Site**

The City of Pelham took a significant step toward reimagining the former Oak Mountain Amphitheatre property this fall. In late September, the City issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for master developer services for ReAmp: Reimagine OMA. This transformational project will reshape 43 acres at the heart of Pelham's growing Entertainment District. The City purchased the property at 1000 Amphitheater Road on July 29, 2025, and the site has since been cleared, leaving a largely blank slate that remains zoned B2 – General Business.

This past July, Pelham hosted a three-day planning charrette to gather ideas from residents and stakeholders. The resulting vision emphasizes mixed-use development, vibrant public spaces, and strong connections throughout the Entertainment District, including nearby dining, entertainment, and recreation amenities. The RFQ invited qualified development teams to propose a master plan that reflects that vision, along with an option to purchase the property under negotiated terms. The application period closed in mid-November, and the City expects to take the next step before the end of the year, moving our vision closer to reality.



# People in Pelham

## A Celebration of Community



### Pelham Public Safety Award Honorees: Recognizing Courage, Service, and Teamwork

The Shelby County Chamber recently honored several of Pelham's first responders at the 2025 Public Safety Awards Luncheon, held at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. From the Pelham Fire Department, Fire Medic David Douglass was named Pelham's Firefighter of the Year. With 23 years of experience in the fire service, prior service as a U.S. Marine, and his recent completion of paramedic licensure, Douglass is known for his dedication and perseverance. He was selected for this honor following his swift, life-saving response on August 25, 2025, when he immediately cleared an airway obstruction and saved a choking 7-month-old child—an example Chief Mike Reid described as the very best of what it means to be a Pelham firefighter.

In addition to this recognition, Douglass was later honored with the Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System (BREMSS) Paramedic of the Year for Shelby County, further underscoring his impact in the field.

From the Pelham Police Department, Officer Berry, Officer Harnden, Detective Hayakahua, Officer Perkinson, and Officer Rhodes were jointly recognized as Pelham's Police Officers of the Year. The team was honored for their vigilance and investigative work during a multi-jurisdiction case that began in Hoover and extended into Pelham. Their coordinated efforts led to the arrest of two suspects found with more than 5,000 gift cards, including hundreds that had been altered, with an estimated \$1 million in losses to businesses nationwide. The thoroughness of their work led federal law enforcement and the U.S. Secret Service to adopt the case, reflecting the high level of professionalism and commitment within the Pelham Police Department.



**Lt. Michael Freeman:  
Advancing Leadership  
Through Innovation**

Pelham Police Department's Lt. Michael Freeman recently graduated from the National Public Safety Innovation Academy, an eight-week executive-level program. The STEM-based curriculum focuses on using science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to strengthen leadership, problem-solving, and community engagement in public safety. Lt. Freeman's achievement reflects his ongoing commitment to innovation and excellence in service to the Pelham community.

**Lt. Steve Johnson, Sgt.  
Chris Johnson, and Sgt.  
Paul Martin Recognized  
for Leadership Excellence**

Pelham Police Department's Lt. Steve Johnson, Sgt. Chris Johnson, and Sgt. Paul Martin have earned the prestigious FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award after completing all three leadership courses: the Supervisor Leadership Institute, Command Leadership Institute, and Executive Leadership Institute. This achievement highlights their commitment to professional growth, strong leadership, and continued service to the Pelham community.



**Justin Smith:  
Representing Pelham on  
the National Stage**

Pelham Assistant City Manager Justin Smith was recently elected SE Region Vice President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the professional organization of more than 13,000 appointed local government leaders worldwide. ICMA is dedicated to advancing professional local government management through leadership, innovation, and ethics.



Smith was sworn in during the ICMA Annual Conference in Tampa on October 28 and will serve alongside leaders from Franklin, Tennessee, and Douglasville, Georgia, in representing the Southeast region.

**Leslie Hernandez:  
Honored for Life-Saving  
Action**

The Pelham Fire Department recently recognized Leslie Hernandez for her heroic actions that helped save a man's life outside Pelham's Texas Roadhouse. Hernandez quickly stepped in to perform CPR after witnessing a medical emergency, remaining calm and focused until first responders arrived.

Deputy Fire Chief Matt Maples presented her with the department's Life Saving Medal, commending her quick thinking and compassion. Hernandez said she was thankful for the teamwork of the Texas Roadhouse staff and relieved that the man recovered. "It was an ordinary day that turned into something extraordinary," she said.





# ACTIVITY GUIDE

DECEMBER 15 | JANUARY 5  
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

## Intro to Cricut

Join us at the Pelham Public Library MakerSpace for a hands-on introduction to the Cricut Maker 3, for teens (13+) and adults. Registration is required, and space is limited. Device availability is also limited, so participants are encouraged to bring their own Cricut, if possible.

DECEMBER 19  
5:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

## Christmas Mania

Give Santa's helpers a little extra time this season by dropping the kids off at the Pelham Recreation Center for an evening of Christmas Mania. Children ages 7-14 will enjoy games, arts and crafts, e-sports, and more, with dinner provided. Parents must check their children in and out. Registration is available online or in person through December 17.

DECEMBER 20  
5:30 P.M.

## Christmas Show on Ice

Enjoy a holiday-themed ice show at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena featuring local skaters from the Pelham Skate School and competitive skaters from the Birmingham Figure Skating Club. This festive performance is the perfect way to enjoy the season with family and friends.

DECEMBER 21  
2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

## Jingle Bell Doubles

This event is a fan favorite amongst adults and juniors at the Pelham Racquet Club. Sign up online with or without a partner. The cost is \$30 per person, and a meal is included. [www.pelhamracquetclub.com](http://www.pelhamracquetclub.com)

DECEMBER 22-23  
9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

## PRC Christmas Camp

Kids of all skill levels are invited to Pelham Racquet Club's Christmas Camp, a fun "learn to play" tennis clinic for beginner, intermediate, and advanced players. Campers will build skills, gain confidence on the court, and enjoy fast-paced drills and games in a festive holiday atmosphere.

JANUARY 3  
9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

## Get Out & Skate Day

Enjoy free skating and a complimentary figure skating or hockey lesson at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Skate rentals are \$2. Don't miss exciting exhibitions from the Birmingham Figure Skating Club and others.

JANUARY 5  
TIME VARIES

## Learn to Skate

Start 2026 with a new eight-week Learn to Skate class at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. With sessions for skaters as young as two and a dedicated adult-only class, this popular program fills up fast. Register early and feel the excitement in this Olympic year! Additional date & time options available.

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 7  
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

## Ping Pong Open Play

We're excited to announce open play on our brand-new ping pong table at the Pelham Senior Center! Members are welcome to drop in anytime for a few friendly matches—no experience needed. Registration is not required.

RETURNING JANUARY 7

## Storytime at the Library

After a holiday break, Preschool Storytime and PJ Storytime return beginning January 7 at the Pelham Public Library. Let your little ones dive into the joy of reading with stories, songs, crafts, and more as they gather with Ms. Rebecca and Ms. Ashley for fun-filled Storytime sessions.

**Preschool Storytime -**  
Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**PJ Storytime -**  
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (pajamas encouraged!)

It's a fun and engaging way to build early literacy skills and make lasting memories.

JANUARY 12  
5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

## Spring Youth Soccer Clinic

Interested in learning more about soccer or building skills for the spring season? This \$10 clinic, held at Pelham High School's Ned Bearden Stadium, offers training for players aged 5-12, with a focus on fundamentals, drills, and skill development for both new and experienced players. Clinics are run in partnership with Pelham High School soccer coaches and players, and registration is currently open.

JANUARY 24  
10:30 A.M.

## That Puppet Guy

Enjoy Lee Bryan, "That Puppet Guy," as he brings Aesop's Fantastic Fables to life with lively puppets and plenty of laughs at the Pelham Public Library. This family-friendly performance will be held in the Roberts Room.

JANUARY 30

1:00 P.M.

## Scam Prevention

Active Adults 55+ are invited to the Pelham Senior Center for a scam prevention seminar presented by Carl Bates, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Central & South Alabama. Since scammers often target adults 55 and older, Bates will share practical tips, warning signs, and key steps you can take to protect yourself and your finances.

FEBRUARY 6

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

## Mother/Son Blue Jean Ball

Moms and sons are invited to the Neon Nights-themed Blue Jean Ball at the Pelham Senior Center, where white or bright neon outfits will glow under the lights. Enjoy a fun-filled evening with dinner, desserts, music, dancing, giveaways, and a special flower for mom. Space is limited, and registration is required. Sign up online or at the Pelham Recreation Center beginning January 2, 2025.

## Coming In March

Here are some activities that will have you dreaming of spring during the long winter months:

- **Indoor Yard Sale**  
Saturday, March 7  
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Pelham Recreation Center  
Online registration opens  
January 26
- **Kites & Bites**  
Sunday, March 8  
3:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Pelham City Park
- **Adult Pickup Volleyball**  
Mondays beginning March 9  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Pelham Recreation Center  
Registration opens January 5



*Open Now!*

### SPRING SEASON REGISTRATION

- ▶ T-BALL
- ▶ BASEBALL
- ▶ SOFTBALL
- ▶ SOCCER

*Don't Miss Out*



 FOR ALL 8+

KICKS OFF  
JAN 2

2026  
**FITNESS  
MOTIVATOR  
CHALLENGE**

**FREE**

Full Month of Challenges  
Join us for a month of motivation, fun, and transformation. Let's make 2026 the year you crush your goals!

SIGN UP  
STARTING  
DEC 15!

Sign-Up at Front Desk in the Rec Center



# Santa

## STOPS 2025

### STATION 1

4:00 - HIGH RIDGE DRIVE @ HIGH RIDGE TRACE  
 4:08 - HIGH RIDGE DR. @ HIGHVIEW COVE  
 4:16 - 124 VILLAGE LN  
 4:24 - PELHAM PKWY @ CR 68 (THERAPY SOUTH LOT)  
 4:32 - 437 MID-RIDGE LN.  
 4:40 - 3405 PELHAM PKWY (PELHAM CHURCH OF CHRIST)  
 4:48 - HOLLAND LAKES DR. NORTH @ HOLLAND TRAIL  
 4:56 - HOLLAND LAKES DR. @ HOLLAND COVE  
 5:04 - HOLLAND LAKES DR. @ CREEKSIDE LN.  
 5:12 - CREEKSIDE LN. @ CREEKSIDE CIR  
 5:20 - CREEKSIDE LN. @ 253 CREEKSIDE LN.  
 5:28 - WALKER WAY @ STONEHAVEN WAY  
 5:36 - WALKER ROAD @ STONEBROOK LANE  
 5:44 - HEATHER LANE @ HEATHER RIDGE CIRCLE  
 5:52 - STONEHAVEN TRAIL @ STONEHILL CIRCLE  
 6:00 - STONEHAVEN TRAIL @ PEBBLE CIRCLE  
 6:16 - 186 STONEHAVEN DR. (CUL-DE-SAC AREA)  
 6:24 - KING VALLEY CIR. @ KING VALLEY DR.  
 6:32 - HEATHER RIDGE DR. @ HEATHER LN.  
 6:40 - KING VALLEY RD. @ KING VALLEY ST.  
 6:48 - IVY BROOK DR. @ MEADOWVIEW CIRCLE  
 6:56 - IVY BROOK TRAIL @ JUNIPER CIR  
 7:12 - YEAGER PKWY @ CAMBRIAN RIDGE TRL  
 7:22 - BROOKHOLLOW DR. @ ENTRANCE  
 7:30 - HIDDEN CREEK PKWY @ HIDDEN CREEK CIR  
 7:36 - HIDDEN CREEK PKWY @ HIDDEN CREEK TRAIL  
 7:44 - COALES BRANCH DR. @ COALES BRANCH LN

6:36 - GRAND RESERVE OFFICE  
 6:42 - HUNTLEY @ THE OFFICE  
 6:50 - PUBLIX  
 7:00 - BROOKSHIRE LN. @ 141 BROOKSHIRE LN.  
 7:10 - MALLARD POINT DR. @ MALLARD POINT CIR  
 7:18 - PINTAIL DR @ BLUE WING CIR  
 7:26 - SILVERLEAF DR. @ 161 SILVERLEAF DR.  
 7:34 - HUNTERS TRACE @ REDFOX DR.  
 7:42 - EAGLE COVE DR. @ EAGLE COVE LN (HWY 361 SIDE)  
 7:50 - EAGLE COVE DR. @ EAGLE COVE LN (HWY 35 SIDE)

### STATION 4

4:00 - CAMELLIA RIDGE WAY @ CAMELLIA RIDGE COVE  
 4:06 - CAMELLIA RIDGE DR. @ CAMELLIA RIDGE WAY  
 4:14 - SOMMERSBY DR. @ SOMMERSBY CIR.  
 4:20 - SUGAR DR. @ ENTRANCE  
 4:26 - SHINE DR. @ ENTRANCE  
 4:32 - COBBLESTONE TER. @ ENTRANCE  
 4:38 - AMANDA PLACE  
 4:46 - AARON RD. @ AARON PARC CT.  
 4:52 - ROYAL LN @ AARON RD.  
 4:58 - ROYAL LN @ ROYAL CHASE DR.  
 5:04 - ROYAL LN. @ ELIZABETH DR.  
 5:10 - ROYAL CT. @ ROYAL WAY  
 5:18 - SADDLE RUN CIR.  
 5:26 - BEAVER CREEK PKWY @ BEAVER TRAIL  
 5:32 - STRATSHIRE LN. @ NORRIDGE PLACE  
 5:40 - GREENWAY DR. @ STRATFORD CIR.  
 5:50 - MITOBA TR. @ HAYESBURY CT.  
 5:56 - HAYESBURY CT. @ 100 HAYESBURY LN.  
 6:04 - 140 KEENELAND GREEN  
 6:12 - TECUMSEH TRAIL @ WOODDALE LN.  
 6:18 - WOODDALE LN. @ GLENVIEW  
 6:24 - TRAIL RIDGE DR. @ TRAIL RIDGE CIR  
 6:30 - TRAIL RIDGE DR. @ BURNING TREE DR.  
 6:36 - INDIAN HILLS RD. @ CHANDAWOOD DR.  
 6:42 - CHANDAWOOD DR. @ BLAZING STAR  
 6:48 - CHANDAWOOD DR. @ CHANDAWOOD LN.  
 6:54 - CHANDAWOOD DR. @ DALTON DR.  
 7:00 - DALTON DR. @ CHANDALAR LN.  
 7:06 - CHANDAWAY DR. @ CHANDAGREEN LN.  
 7:12 - CHANDAWAY DR. @ CHANDALAR LN.  
 7:18 - CHANDALAR LN. @ HAMILTON RD.  
 7:24 - HAMILTON RD. @ DALTON DR.  
 7:30 - NORTH CHANDALAR LN. @ WELLINGTON DR.  
 7:36 - WILDWOOD DR. @ WELLINGTON DR.  
 7:42 - NORTH WILDWOOD DR. @ NORTH CHANDALAR DR.  
 7:48 - NORTH CHANDALAR DR. @ WINDSOR RIDGE DR.

### STATION 2

4:00 - CHASE CREEK CIR @ ENTRANCE  
 4:08 - DAVID DR. @ KEITH RD.  
 4:16 - DAVID DR. @ INDIAN CREEK DR.  
 4:22 - CEDAR COVE DR. @ CEDAR COVE LN.  
 4:30 - VICTORY TRAIL @ PANTHER TRAIL  
 4:40 - CREEKVIEW DR. @ CREEKVIEW CIR  
 4:48 - CREEKVIEW DR. @ OVERHILL DR.  
 4:56 - CROSSCREEK TRAIL @ CREEKVIEW DR.  
 5:04 - CROSSCREEK CHURCH  
 5:12 - VALLEYVIEW RD @ CAHABA MANOR LN.  
 5:20 - CROSSCREEK TRAIL @ VALLEYVIEW DR.  
 5:28 - WILDERNESS RD. @ RYCROFT RD.  
 5:34 - WILDERNESS RD. @ COLESBURY  
 5:40 - FRONTIER DR. @ WILDERNESS RD.  
 5:50 - CANYON PARK DR. @ CANYON TRAIL  
 6:04 - RIDGE DR. @ CRESTMONT LN.  
 6:14 - CHANDALAR COURT  
 6:22 - SOUTHGATE MHP ENTRANCE  
 6:32 - GREEN PARK SOUTH MHP ENTRANCE  
 6:50 - VALLEYDALE MHP OFFICE  
 7:00 - TERRACE 31 APARTMENTS (BLD. A PARKING)  
 7:18 - CANOPY PARK APARTMENTS OFFICE  
 7:30 - EMERALD LAKE DR  
 7:40 - HIGH HAMPTON DR. @ HAMPTON LAKE DR.  
 7:46 - HIGH HAMPTON DR. @ HAMPTON LN  
 8:00 - LEGACY PARC DR. @ LEGACY PARC CIR

### STATION 5

4:00 - OAKLYN HILLS PAVILION (292 OAKLYN HILLS DR.)  
 4:08 - LAKELAND RIDGE @ GREY OAKS DR.  
 4:16 - ROLLING HILLS DR. @ OAKLYN HILLS DR.  
 4:24 - NORMANDY @ SWIM CLUB  
 4:32 - BENT CREEK WAY @ BENT CREEK TRACE  
 4:44 - DEER RIDGE LN. @ FAWN DR.  
 5:00 - WYSTERIA DR. @ CAMELLIA DR.  
 5:20 - PERTSHIRE RD. @ PERTSHIRE WAY  
 5:26 - DUNROBIN LN. @ DUNROBIN COVE  
 5:32 - STRATHAVEN RD. @ STRATHAVEN LN.  
 5:42 - STRATHAVEN LN. @ EASDALE LN.  
 5:50 - BALLANTRAE SWIM CLUB  
 6:00 - BIRKDALE LN. @ BALLANTRAE CLUB DR.  
 6:10 - KILKERAN LN. @ KILBERRY WAY  
 6:20 - KILKERAN LN. @ GLENN IRIS CIRCLE  
 6:30 - GLENEAGLES LN. @ CUL-DE-SAC  
 6:36 - BALLANTRAE PKWY @ ROUND-ABOUT  
 6:46 - STONEYKIRK RD. @ CALISTON WAY  
 6:56 - STONEYKIRK RD. @ STONEYKIRK LN.  
 7:06 - LAUCHLIN WAY @ LAUCHLIN LN (168)  
 7:16 - LAUCHLIN WAY @ LAUCHLIN LN (108)  
 7:24 - KINROSS LN. @ KINROSS CIR.  
 7:36 - COVE LN. @ COVE CIR.  
 7:46 - OXFORD WAY @ 383 OXFORD WAY  
 7:54 - WINDSOR LN. @ WINDSOR TRAIL  
 7:58 - WINDSOR LN. @ WINDSOR WAY  
 8:00 - WINDSOR LN. @ WINDSOR CIR

### STATION 3

4:00 - GREY OAKS VLY @ GREY OAKS TER  
 4:06 - 1002 GREY OAKS VALLY  
 4:12 - GREY OAKS CT @ GREY OAKS DR.  
 4:18 - GREY OAKS DR. @ GREY OAKS WAY  
 4:26 - WILD TIMBER PKWY @ WILD TIMBER DR.  
 4:36 - WOODRIDGE CIR @ WOODRIDGE DR.  
 4:42 - DICKERSON RD. @ DICKERSON RD.  
 4:50 - OAK FOREST WAY @ OAK FOREST TRAIL  
 5:00 - 125 HIGH CREST LN (@ GATE)  
 5:12 - CHATHAM CT WEST @ DEER SPRINGS CIR  
 5:20 - BENT RAIL LN @ CUL-DE-SAC  
 5:28 - KELLY DR. @ DEER SPRINGS RD.  
 5:40 - WEATHERLY WAY @ TALMADGE DR.  
 5:46 - WEATHERLY WAY @ CHESHIRE LN.  
 5:52 - WEATHERLY WAY @ CLOCK  
 6:00 - 200 WEATHERLY WAY (@ KINGS CREST LN.)  
 6:06 - KINGS CREST @ 245 KINGS CREST  
 6:12 - KINGS CREST LN @ WINDSOR CIR  
 6:26 - SIMMS LANDING @ SIMMS TRL





**A New Holiday Tradition Begins**

Pelham BEAT keeps the holiday spirit alive with the first-ever Christmas in the Park, happening Thursday, December 18, at 6:00 p.m. at Pelham City Park.

Before the event, local businesses and community groups can join the fun by purchasing a 5-foot plywood snowman to decorate and display along the park's snowman trail. Each snowman costs \$100, and arrangements can be made by emailing pelhambeat@gmail.com. Venmo or cash is accepted. The installation date is December 12, with judging scheduled for December 16, and awards to be presented during the event.

The evening will feature a caroling concert by the Pelham High School Choir, food trucks serving hot beverages, an appearance by Miss Shelby County, and, of course, the debut of the snowman trail—sure to become a favorite holiday tradition for Pelham families.

**1,000 Daffodils for Pelham**

The Pelham BEAT is already looking ahead to spring with a project that will bring a burst of color to the city. In November, team members planted 1,000 daffodil bulbs in Pelham City Park and at several other locations across town.

After a long winter, residents can look forward to cheerful yellow blooms that welcome the season and add a bright touch of beauty to Pelham's landscape.



**Focus on Pelham: Showcasing Local Talent**

The next time you visit Pelham City Hall, take a moment to enjoy the Focus on Pelham photography wall outside the City Council Chambers. Initiated by Pelham BEAT, the wall currently features eight striking photographs captured by Pelham High School photography students.

The wall is a work in progress, with title cards soon to be added to highlight each student photographer. The BEAT plans to rotate the images periodically, offering visitors a chance to experience the creativity and perspective of Pelham's emerging artists.



# PELHAM *Polar Plunge*



*Save the Date!*

Saturday, January 17

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



@Oak Mountain State Park

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS  
PELHAMPD.COM





# Holidays

## News & Updates

### **PELHAM HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS RETURNS WITH A NEW PARADE ROUTE**

Pelham Hometown Christmas returns on Saturday, December 13, offering an evening filled with holiday cheer, festive music, and family-friendly fun. Organized by Pelham Strong with support from the City of Pelham, this beloved community tradition celebrates all the “Sounds of the Season.” This year’s Grand Marshal will be Mayor Gary Waters, leading a night that shines a spotlight on community spirit and on a brand-new parade route.

#### **A New Look for a Favorite Tradition**

One of the most significant changes to this year’s celebration is the parade route. Instead of traveling down Highway 119, as it has for the past four years, the parade will now move north along US 31 (Pelham Parkway) and end at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

The new route was carefully chosen to minimize disruptions to businesses along Highway 119, particularly gas stations and restaurants that serve residents and visitors throughout the day. Families are encouraged to line the east side of US 31 North to enjoy floats, bands, lights, and holiday surprises as the parade makes its way toward the Civic Complex.

#### **A Full Day at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena**

While the parade is the centerpiece, Pelham Hometown Christmas is truly an all-day experience centered around the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. Festivities begin in the afternoon and continue into the evening, allowing families ample time to soak in the season.

Candy Cane Lane opens the fun at 2:30 p.m., followed by free ice skating for children 10 and under from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The parade steps off at 5:00 p.m., leading into the tree lighting at approximately 6:30 p.m. Indoor activities begin around 7:00 p.m., and the evening concludes at 9:00 p.m.



New this year is a 28-player Game Theater, complete with stadium seating, six 55-inch televisions, and video games on PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, and Nintendo Switch. It is expected to be a big hit with teens and families looking for a little extra excitement between events.

### **A Community Effort**

Pelham Hometown Christmas is truly a community effort, with students, staff, volunteers, and local partners all playing a part. Throughout the evening, you will see and hear:

- Performances by Pelham Middle and High School choirs during the tree lighting
- Princesses, superheroes, a balloon artist, and a face painter greeting families
- Pelham High School culinary students serving cookies, hot chocolate, and cider
- Pelham Oaks ambassadors assisting on Candy Cane Lane
- High School ambassadors handing out the annual Christmas ornament
- The Pelham High School band marching in the parade
- The Pelham High School broadcast team streaming the event live
- 93.3 The River providing commentary on the radio
- SGA students carrying banners in the parade

From the first notes of the choirs to the final twinkle of the tree lights, Pelham Hometown Christmas brings neighbors together in the heart of the city. With a refreshed parade route along US 31 and a full slate of activities at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, this year's celebration promises to be one to remember.

For more information about the event, please email Pelham Strong at [christmas35124@gmail.com](mailto:christmas35124@gmail.com).

# Holiday Closings & Adjusted Hours

## **December 22–28, 2025**

- Pelham Recreation Center:  
Closed for resurfacing of the gymnasium floor

## **December 23, 2025**

- Pelham Public Library: Closes at 5:00 p.m.

## **Christmas Eve – December 24, 2025**

- Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:  
Closes at 1:30 p.m.
- All other facilities are closed.

## **Christmas Day – December 25, 2025**

- All facilities closed

## **New Year's Eve – December 31, 2025**

- Pelham City Hall & Administrative Offices:  
Open
- Ballantrae Golf Club: Normal hours
- Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:  
Closes at 5:00 p.m.
- Pelham Public Library: Closes at 5:00 p.m.
- Pelham Racquet Club: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Pelham Recreation Center: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Pelham Senior Center:  
Regular hours, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

## **New Year's Day – January 1, 2026**

- Ballantrae Golf Club:  
Normal hours; holiday rates in effect
- Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:  
Opens at 1:00 p.m.
- All other facilities are closed.

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 19, 2026**

- Pelham City Hall & Administrative Offices: Closed
- Ballantrae Golf Club:  
Normal hours; holiday rates in effect
- Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:  
Open regular hours
- Pelham Public Library: Closed
- Pelham Racquet Club: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Pelham Recreation Center: 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Pelham Senior Center: Closed

## **Amwaste Holiday Schedule:**

For Amwaste holiday service changes, please follow the City of Pelham's official social media channels for updates to the trash pickup schedule.

# PANTHER PRIDE



## Pelham City Schools Welcomes Superintendent Dr. Keri Johnson

**BY: Nicole Knight**

Pelham City Schools is proud to welcome Dr. Keri Johnson as Superintendent, bringing more than two decades of educational leadership experience and a reputation for collaborative, forward-thinking leadership. Since joining Pelham in August, Dr. Johnson has hit the ground running, connecting with students, teachers, families, and the community to build on the strong foundation that defines Pelham City Schools.





Dr. Johnson holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Samford University and has dedicated her career to advancing public education through teamwork, high expectations, and a clear, student-focused vision. Her plans for Pelham City Schools center on fostering a culture of collaboration, celebrating success, and ensuring every student has access to exceptional opportunities that prepare them for the future.

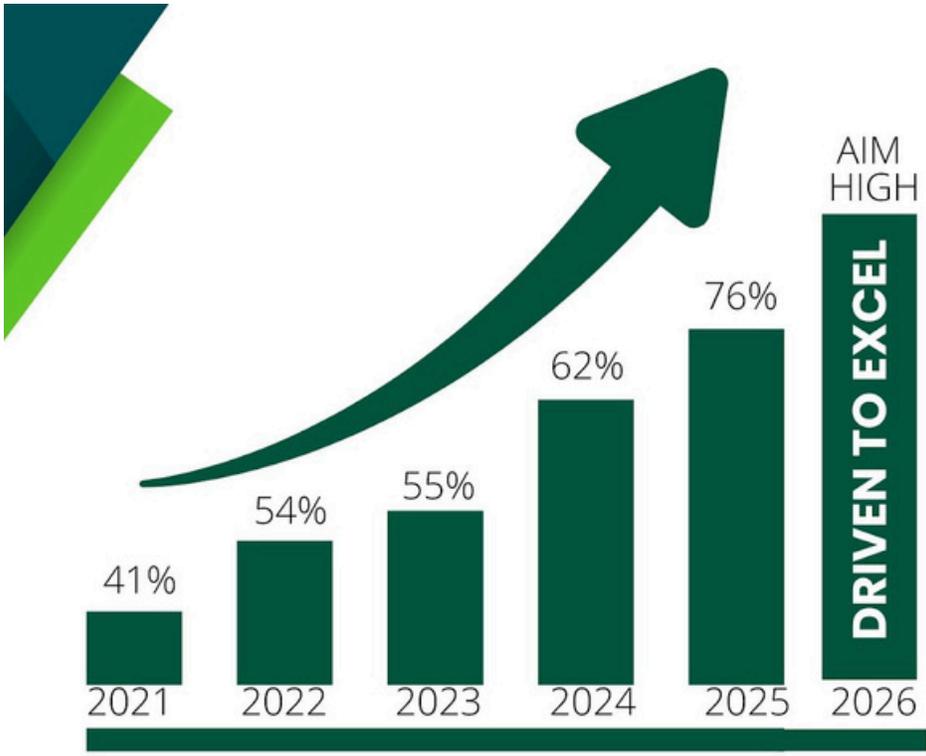
“As I’ve spent time in classrooms and at community events, it’s clear that Pelham City Schools is filled with people who care deeply about students and one another,” Dr. Johnson said. “Together, we’ll continue to build on the district’s tradition of excellence and prepare our students to achieve great things, both in school and in life.”

A veteran educator and administrator, Dr. Johnson’s career reflects a passion for cultivating strong school cultures, supporting teacher growth, and expanding opportunities for students to excel. Before coming to Pelham, she most recently served as Superintendent of Tuscaloosa County Schools. “From the very first day, I’ve been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I’ve received from the Pelham family,” Dr. Johnson said. “My interactions with students, teachers, parents, and community members have reaffirmed why Pelham is such a special place. You can feel the pride and the heart of this community.”

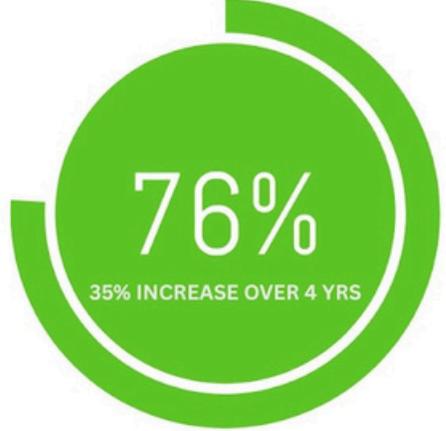
From the start, Dr. Johnson has made it a priority to listen, learn, and lead with intention. She has visited every school, engaged with students, participated in community events, and collaborated with staff on district goals, achievements, and opportunities for continued growth.

“Dr. Johnson’s leadership is rooted in relationships and collaboration,” said Pelham Board of Education President Robert Plummer. “She values people, brings fresh ideas, and is committed to sustaining the district’s upward momentum in every area.”





**PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
AP PASS RATE**



**EXCELLENCE  
THE PELHAM WAY**

# Pelham's Academic Excellence

Record-Breaking AP Scores & Top 10 Ranking by US News & World Report

BY: NICOLE KNIGHT

Pelham High School continues to raise the bar for academic excellence, with students achieving record-breaking results on Advanced Placement (AP) exams and earning recognition as one of the Top 10 High Schools in the Birmingham metro area by U.S. News & World Report.

In 2025, Pelham High School students took more than 600 AP exams across 17 courses, with an impressive 76 percent earning a qualifying score of 3, 4, or 5 – a 35 percent increase over the past four years. The number of students earning passing scores has risen 68 percent since 2021, and more than 40 percent of Pelham juniors and seniors are now enrolled in at least one AP course.

“These results reflect the hard work and dedication of our students and teachers,” said Pelham High School Principal Sabrina Tutchtone. “We’ve been intentional about providing access to advanced courses while ensuring students have the support they need to succeed. This achievement shows what’s possible when opportunity meets effort.”



## Aiming High: Growth in Every Area

Pelham's AP pass rate has climbed steadily from 41 percent in 2021 to 76 percent in 2025, outpacing state and global averages in multiple subjects. Courses such as AP Art (with a 100 percent pass rate), AP Language (with a 97 percent pass rate), and AP Literature (with a 90 percent pass rate) stood out for their exceptional performance.

Several others — including Biology, Computer Science Principles, Government, and U.S. History — posted mean scores above Alabama's state averages.

Beyond AP, Pelham students are excelling in college- and career-ready pathways. Students in the Class of 2025 earned more than 389 college credit hours through dual-enrollment programs. Meanwhile, students have also earned over 1,000 industry-recognized credentials through Career & Technical Education (CTE) since 2021. The school's overall College and Career Readiness (CCR) rate reached 92 percent in 2025, marking four consecutive years of improvement.

"Our teachers have done a phenomenal job of building a culture where rigorous academics and real-world readiness go hand-in-hand," Assistant Principal Valerie Slay added. "Whether students are pursuing college or career after high school, they're leaving Pelham with skills and knowledge to help them be successful."

## Teaching Excellence Behind the Results

Collaboration, student preparedness, and data-driven instruction have contributed to Pelham's sustained growth. Yet the goal is much more than a test score — it's about teaching students how to think critically, manage time, and build the confidence to tackle college-level work.

Teachers meet throughout the year to analyze practice data, align instruction, and offer targeted review sessions in preparation for exams. Support structures, such as mock exams, tutoring, and Saturday study sessions, have helped students strengthen their skills and alleviate test anxiety.

## National Recognition Reflects Local Commitment

Pelham High School's recent inclusion in U.S. News & World Report's Top 10 High Schools in the Birmingham metro area underscores the district's steady climb in both academic performance and readiness outcomes.

According to U.S. News, the annual rankings evaluate schools based on six weighted indicators: college readiness (mainly driven by AP/IB participation and success), state assessment proficiency and performance, performance of underserved students, college curriculum breadth, and graduation rate.

"Being recognized among the top 10 in the region is a point of pride for our entire community," said Dr. Keri Johnson, Pelham City Schools superintendent. "It confirms that our focus on high expectations and engaging instruction is working."





## Continuing the Climb

Looking ahead, Pelham High School plans to expand its AP offerings, increase participation in dual enrollment and CTE programs, and continue to strengthen academic support for students at every level.

“The growth we’re seeing didn’t happen overnight,” Valerie Slay continued. “It’s the result of a school culture that believes in our students’ potential — and students who are willing to rise to the challenge.”

As Pelham continues to aim high, the momentum is unmistakable: driven to excel, inspired to achieve—that’s The Pelham Way.

See why Pelham is rated a **Top 10 High School** in Birmingham Metro according to the 2025 U.S. News & World Report

**636**

AP exams taken in 2025 across 17 courses

**40%+**

of juniors and seniors enrolled in AP

**389**

college credit hours earned via dual enrollment by the Class of 2025

**1K+**

industry credentials earned through CTE

**92%**

College & Career Readiness rate – 4 years of continuous growth

**76%**

AP pass rate (3–5) | 35% increase since 2021



# PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## 2025

### July

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

### August

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

### September

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

### October

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

### November

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

### December

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

## 2026

### January

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

### February

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

### March

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

### April

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

### May

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

### June

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

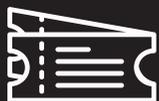
JULY	
4	Independence Day
AUGUST	
1	Teacher Workday
4	Institute / Professional Development
5	Professional Development
6	Teacher Workday
7	First Day of School for Students
SEPTEMBER	
1	Labor Day
OCTOBER	
6	Parent-Teacher Conference Day
10	End of First 9 Weeks
13	Professional Development
15	E-Learning Day for Testing (PHS Only)
NOVEMBER	
11	Veterans Day
24-28	Thanksgiving Break
DECEMBER	
19	End of Second 9 Weeks
22-Jan. 2	Winter Break
JANUARY	
5	Teacher Workday
6	Professional Development
7	Students Return to School
19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
FEBRUARY	
16	Presidents Day
MARCH	
6	End of Third 9 Weeks
10	E-Learning Day for Testing (PHS Only)
23-27	Spring Break
APRIL	
17	Professional Development Day
MAY	
21	End of Fourth 9 Weeks
21	Last Day of School
21	Pelham High School Graduation
22	Teacher Workday
25	Memorial Day
JUNE	
19	Juneteenth Emancipation Day

- Schools / Offices Closed
- First & Last Day of School
- E-Learning Day (PHS Only)
- Teacher Workday/ Professional Development (No school for students)
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (No school for students)
- Early Release



# 2025-2026 BULLS HOME SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 4	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
DECEMBER 5	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
DECEMBER 26	MACON MAYHEM
DECEMBER 27	MACON MAYHEM
JANUARY 3	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
JANUARY 9	PEORIA RIVERMEN
JANUARY 10	PEORIA RIVERMEN
JANUARY 19	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
JANUARY 30	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
JANUARY 31	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
FEBRUARY 13	MACON MAYHEM
FEBRUARY 14	MACON MAYHEM
FEBRUARY 16	HUNTSVILLE HAVOC
FEBRUARY 20	KNOXVILLE ICE BEARS
FEBRUARY 21	KNOXVILLE ICE BEARS
FEBRUARY 26	EVANSVILLE THUNDERBOLTS
MARCH 5	KNOXVILLE ICE BEARS
MARCH 13	ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS
MARCH 14	ROANOKE RAIL YARD DAWGS
MARCH 20	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS
MARCH 21	PENSACOLA ICE FLYERS



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



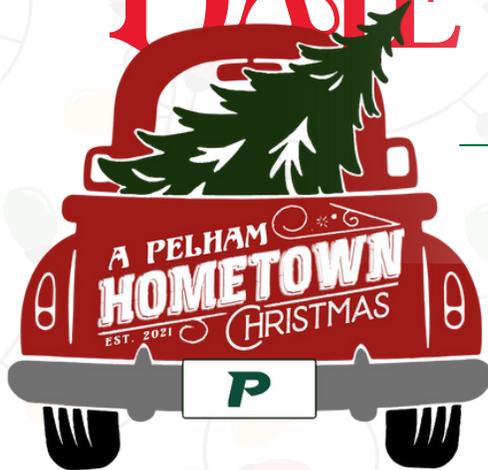
P.O. BOX 1419  
PELHAM, AL 35124

Prsrt Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 432

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE  
THE  
DATE



## A PELHAM HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

Saturday,  
December 13, 2025

Pelham Strong presents A Pelham Hometown Christmas. This year's theme will be "Sounds of the Season." Make plans now to join us for Pelham's favorite festivity!

### EVENTS INCLUDE

SHELBY COUNTY  
TOY DRIVE

TREE  
LIGHTING

CANDY CANE  
LANE

FREE ICE  
SKATING

CHRISTMAS  
PARADE

A VISIT WITH  
SANTA



*& much more!*

Follow Pelham Strong and A Pelham Hometown Christmas for updates!