

# DISCOVER



## About Bee City USA®

- An initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon.
- Mission: To galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitats rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides.
- Learn more about [Bee City USA](#).

## THE BUZZ

### Pelham Receives Bee City Designation

The Pelham Garden Club had a vision for Pelham. They wanted the city to become more friendly to pollinators, which play a vital role in our food chain and human survival. The late Dr. Teresa Nichols Riddle was the driving force behind that vision, and her death in March came just weeks before the city received the good news that Pelham is now a Bee City USA® affiliate, one of only two cities in the state of Alabama with the designation.

When Dr. Nichols became ill in November 2023, Garden Club member Jim Collins took up the reins of the Bee City USA application process to continue her work. "Teresa had started the application process, which was extensive. A resolution was passed by the Pelham City Council on November 20, 2023 and, approved by Mayor Waters and supported by City Manager Gretchen DiFante. I just needed to get up to speed on the status with Bee City officials, and I worked with Brian Cooper, Director of Pelham Parks & Recreation, to complete it."

The application was accepted by Bee City USA as the Pelham Garden Club awaited news. "The announcement came in about three weeks. The Garden Club was extremely pleased, and I know Teresa would have been ecstatic. I want to think she knew of the outcome because it was so important to her."

The City of Pelham will work with the Pelham Garden Club to create pollinator  
*(Article continues next page)*



habitats by increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites. Citizens will also be educated on ways they can help. “As we begin to implement parts of the program, residents can do things like using native plants and wildflowers in their personal landscaping. There will be opportunities to attend meetings in the future to learn more about the program. The Pelham Garden Club will have a booth at Pelham Palooza, and I encourage everyone to stop by and see what’s going on,” said Collins.

Pollinators like bumble bees, sweat bees, mason bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds, and others are responsible for the reproduction of almost 90 percent of the world’s flowering plant species and one in every three bites of food we consume.



## Flowers for Destiny

The Pelham Garden Club recently spent a morning planting flowers at the Destiny Riekeberg memorial at Pelham City Park. Destiny was a 9-year-old Pelham youth cheerleader who passed away on September 17, 2020, from hepatoblastoma, a rare form of liver cancer. Destiny’s parents, Loretta and Dustin, and their son joined the group for a photo.

It was the first Garden Club project since the death of Dr. Teresa Nichols Riddle, who was instrumental in organizing the club. David Smith of the Pelham Public Library said the project honors Destiny, but in a way, the club also honors Teresa’s memory by carrying on her work.



The Pelham Garden Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the. It is open to all adults interested in all areas of gardening. A Pelham residence is not required, and there is no cost to attend.



## Your City At Work

Here are some of the recent items approved by the Pelham City Council. Please visit the City of Pelham website for the complete text of the agendas, minutes, ordinances, and resolutions.

- Voted to participate in the State of Alabama's 2024 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday the weekend of July 19-21 and all future Back-to-School Sales Tax Holidays until rescinded by the Pelham City Council.
- Entered into a marketing agreement with WBRC Fox 6 to secure the title sponsorship for the Summer Staycation campaign from May 31 to July 29.
- Accepted the lowest and most responsible bid for the Aaron Road - Kristen Circle Water Main Replacement Project.
- Accepted a proposal to convert lighting in the municipal courtroom to LED.
- Accepted responsibility for the electrical bill only for one new streetlight at 1713 Woodview Lane.
- Accepted a proposal for storm sewer repairs to include the replacement of corrugated plastic drainage pipe at 212 Stonebrook Lane and replacement of a concrete valley gutter and driveway affected by the construction.
- Approved an agreement between the City of Pelham and Jack's Family Restaurants for the purchase and sale of real estate.
- Reappointed Bob O'Neil to the Pelham Board of Education, Place 1, with the term of office ending June 2029.
- Approved a public works project for sidewalk repairs and replacement in the Beaver Creek neighborhood.
- Approved the lone bid for traffic signal detection upgrades at ten sites within the City of Pelham.
- Approved an agreement with Alabama Power Company to convert 87 city-owned streetlights at signalized intersections to LEDs.
- Entered into an extension agreement with Mark Dinan, Broker, for the sale and exclusive right to sell, trade, convey, or exchange city-owned properties located at Oak Mountain Trail.
- Entered a public works contract to purchase and install two fire hydrants along Ballantrae Club Drive.
- Approved an ABC license application for a 140 Special Events Retail-Liquor License for Event Concessions, Inc., operating under the trade name Xterra, located at 200 Terrace Drive, Pelham, AL 35124.



**Memorial Day Closings & Special Hours**  
**Monday, May 27, 2024**

**Pelham City Hall & Administrative Offices**  
• CLOSED

**Ballantrae Golf Club**  
• Holiday Hours & Rates

**Pelham Recreation Center**  
• Special Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Pelham Senior Center**  
• CLOSED

**Pelham Public Library**  
• CLOSED

**Pelham Racquet Club**  
• Special Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena**  
• CLOSED



## Civilian Lifesaver Awards

The Pelham Fire Department held its annual Promotional, Badge Pinning & Awards Ceremony on April 18th. Six promotions were celebrated with badge pinnings, and five new hires and two Apparatus Operators took their oaths and received their badges.

This year, the Pelham Fire Department recognized five civilians with Lifesaving Awards. Fire Chief Mike Reid told those assembled that 60 to 70 percent of all PFD responses are medical-related. Sometimes, citizens provide CPR, saving lives until fire medics arrive.



That was the case on October 6, 2023. David Harris was volunteering for Love in Action, a local food pantry when he became unresponsive. Don Jones Jr. administered CPR and is credited with saving Harris' life that day. The Pelham Fire Department recognized Jones for his heroic actions.

During last year's XTERRA event at Oak Mountain State Park, another group of civilians was awarded the Lifesaving Award for their heroism. Mike Edwards suffered cardiac arrest while biking. Dr. Nicole Carter, a pediatrician from Auburn, along with Valerie Shows, began CPR on Edwards. Two lifeguards, Jonah Abercrombie, and Jack Smith, saw the commotion on the other side of the lake, crossed over quickly, and ran barefoot up the trail to provide help. These four people did CPR for at least 15 minutes before fire medics located the emergency in the park and arrived on the scene. Edwards was able to thank his rescuers at the Awards Ceremony. Abercrombie and Smith were in attendance, while Carter and Shows joined via video conference. Chief Mike Reid also awarded the Unit Citation Award to the eleven PFD personnel responding to the Oak Mountain State Park scene.



Reid ended the evening with the recognition of Fire Medic Buddy Ingleright, who was previously awarded the Shelby County Chamber Firefighter of the Year. Chief Reid then surprised Ingleright with the Battalion Chief Eldon "Don" Green Excellence in EMS Award. Chief Reid said Ingleright exemplifies the standard of excellence in EMS that the late Don Green promoted.



## Dispatcher of the Year

Congratulations to Stephanie Morris, Pelham's 2024 Dispatcher of the Year. Stephanie's colleagues praised her for her professionalism and ability to maintain composure during an accident involving Officer Elizabeth Minter last summer. She has been commended for consistently remaining calm, providing accurate information over the radio, managing stressful calls, and maintaining a positive attitude in the workplace.

Her supervisor, Jeanie Davis, said Stephanie exhibits dedication to her role by arriving early and actively seeking self-improvement. She supports her team and is always ready to assist with questions and provide guidance without judgment.

Thank you, Stephanie, for being the calm voice we all need when facing an emergency. We appreciate our entire public safety telecommunications team.



**Hole #8 - Before**



**Hole #8 - After**

## Ballantrae Update

Great things are happening at Ballantrae Golf Club, and it's shaping up to be a great summer at the beautiful course. Here are some of the highlights that will enhance your golf experience:

- Bunker renovations are complete. During a recent heavy rain, we were able to photograph a "before and after" comparison of the improvements to drainage.
- The cart path repairs are underway. The project should be completed the week of May 6th.
- New sod will be added to select areas around the course within the next month.
- Golf Course Supervisor Rodney Bryant and his staff repaired several drainage issues over the winter. They identified areas without drainage and corrected the problems.
- The maintenance Monday schedule begins on May 6th. The first tee time is noon, and the practice facility opens at 11:00 a.m. to allow the maintenance staff time to mow and maintain the greens.