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LIGHTNING SAFETY

Perry Weather System Installed at City Park

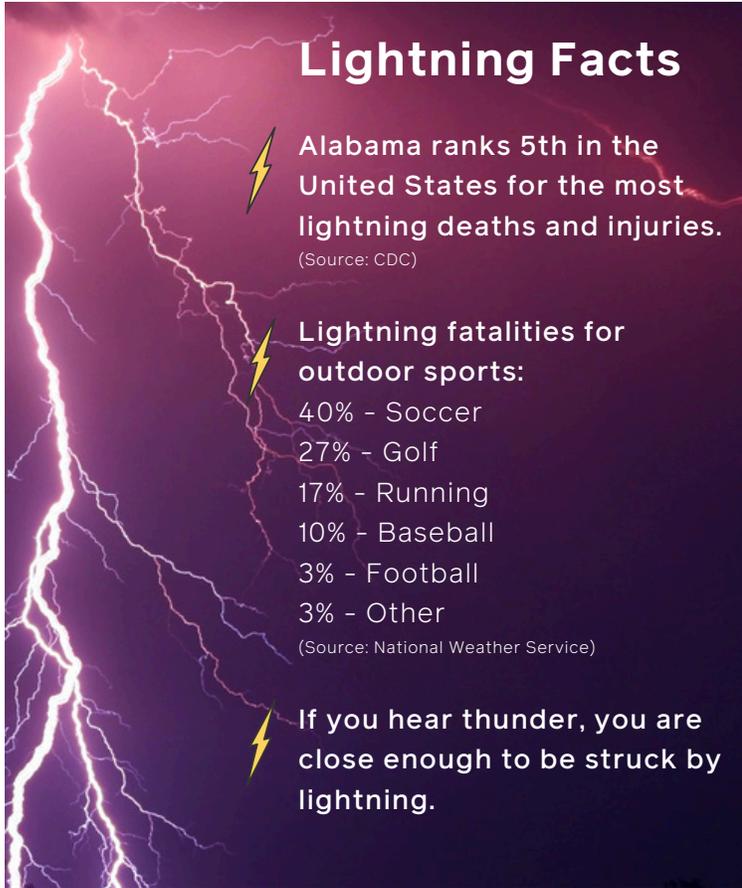
Pelham Parks & Recreation is excited to announce the recent installation of the Perry weather system. This new system will enhance safety by alerting visitors to lightning activity within eight miles of the City Park Complex. "I am very excited to have the Perry Weather System installed and activated at City Park," said Brian Cooper, Director of Pelham Parks & Recreation. "Advanced warning of lightning can save lives. On average, 20 people die each year from lightning strikes, and another 50 or more are injured. We want a safe environment for our citizens to enjoy their activities, yet know when to seek shelter."

Cooper said the Perry Weather System was installed to provide a warning system for the entire park. "Many of the programs we schedule and supervise had an alert system via a weather app. However, we did not have a way to inform parkgoers who were here for informal recreation activities such as walking and enjoying the dog park, playground, or pickup basketball. Now, when the alarm sounds, the entire park will hear it, and with proper signage, they will know they should seek shelter."

There are several key features of the Perry Weather System:

- **Lightning Alerts:** The system will sound a horn for 25 seconds to signal the presence of lightning within eight miles. It will beep three times to indicate it is safe to resume activities.

(The article continues on the next page.)



Lightning Facts

- Alabama ranks 5th in the United States for the most lightning deaths and injuries.
(Source: CDC)
- Lightning fatalities for outdoor sports:
 - 40% - Soccer
 - 27% - Golf
 - 17% - Running
 - 10% - Baseball
 - 3% - Football
 - 3% - Other(Source: National Weather Service)
- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

- **Countdown Clock:** After each lightning strike, a 30-minute countdown begins. If additional strikes occur, the countdown resets to 30 minutes. Activities can resume once the clock reaches 0:00.
- **Siren Coverage:** The sirens will project sound up to 1300-1500 feet in each direction (2600-3000 feet diameter), depending on environmental factors like trees, buildings, and ambient noise.
- **Neighborhood Notification:** Residents in neighborhoods bordering the park may hear the sirens. Just so you know, these signals are for lightning alerts, not tornado warnings.

Additional Information:

- **Signage:** We will post signs around City Park with details about the new system.
- **QR Code Access:** Perry will provide a QR code that links to a website where visitors can monitor weather conditions in real time.

Cooper said Pelham Parks & Recreation is committed to the safety of its visitors and community. "Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we implement this important safety measure."



Fun-Go-Holler Improvements

The Pelham City Council approved a renovation project for the restrooms at Fun-Go-Holler Park. The money for the upgrade will come from the Parks & Recreation Fund. Pelham Parks & Recreation Director Brian Cooper said the City of Pelham has invested in park infrastructure over the past seven years, and the restrooms at Fun-Go-Holler Park were one of the last areas needing attention. "We want to provide a safe, clean, healthy, and fun environment for our citizens when they visit our parks; having clean, modern restrooms is an integral part of this."

Renovation plans call for demolishing all existing restroom fixtures, including toilets, sinks, partitions, grab bars, and other wall-mounted equipment. Workers will repair damage to interior walls, ceilings, and floors, and white fiberglass reinforced plastic will be installed over all interior walls. After a coat of fresh paint, new toilets, urinals, partitions, valves, sinks, and faucets will follow. Improved LED lighting will complete the upgrades to the park amenity. Automatic timer switches will be installed on the exterior doors so that the bathrooms are locked when the park closes and unlocked daily when it opens.

"We anticipate our park users at Fun-Go-Holler will recognize and appreciate the updated facilities," said Cooper.



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Report Your Concerns

Reporting concerns to city management is the best way to ensure your issue gets the attention it deserves. City management professionals are dedicated to handling day-to-day operations and have the resources and expertise to address concerns quickly and effectively. They work closely with various departments and have direct access to resources necessary to implement solutions.

If you have a concern the City needs to know about, or 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.

PELHAM 311



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Did You Know?

A Monthly Update from the Pelham Public Library

By: Melanie Carden

Did you know that anyone in Alabama can access live, on-demand career assistance from the career coaches at [Homework Alabama](https://www.tutor.com/homework-alabama)? Career coaches can prepare you for interviews and critique your resume and cover letter! If you need to improve your job skills, Homework Alabama also offers GED test-prep tutoring and a Skills Center resource library you can browse.

This surprisingly free resource is available through the Alabama Public Library Service, and a library card is NOT required. Homework Alabama can be accessed from virtually any computer or mobile device with an internet connection while in the state of Alabama. If you do not have internet access at home, please visit your local public library to get online. Homework Alabama is available from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days per week, 361 days per year. (There is no live tutoring on Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.)

For more information on Homework Alabama, visit <https://www.tutor.com/homework-alabama> or email Pelham PubLibrary'sry's Technology Librarian at mcarden@pelhamalabama.gov

Voter Information

The 2024 General Election is just two months away. Be sure your voice is heard by checking or updating your voter registration information. The [Voter & Election Information](#) section on the City of Pelham's website has important dates for the 2024 election cycle, plus links to the Alabama Secretary of State's website and polling locations.

Prepare for the General Election on Tuesday, November 5th, and get out and vote!



K-9 Driver looks forward to a relaxing retirement.



This photo from 2020 shows the damage Canadian geese were causing on the Ballantrae golf course.



K-9 Driver Retires

In 2020, Ballantrae Golf Club General Manager Hal Brown had a problem. Flocks of Canadian geese were destroying the picturesque club's beautiful greens, and repair costs were adding up. Not only did groundskeepers have to clean up after them, but the amount of labor, sod, seed, and fertilizer for repairing just one green totaled over \$500 a month.

That's when the City of Pelham hired a new four-legged employee. Driver, a German shorthaired pointer, came to Ballantrae as a four-month-old puppy. He was trained to chase the geese off the greens and proved his worth after just a few months. "We calculated a year's worth of labor, sod, seed, fertilizer, and deterrents. The total cost was \$10,000," said Brown. "Driver eats about \$100 worth of dog food and treats a month, so the tradeoff was very economical."

Driver lives a comfortable life with the Brown family when he's off the clock. When Hal Brown decided it was time for Driver to retire and enjoy the good life, there was no question of where he would spend his days. "He's a great family dog that loves people, especially kids. He travels with us, and he's treated like a family member. He's also spoiled rotten," Brown said with a laugh.

The Pelham City Council approved a resolution declaring Driver surplus city property, which allowed Brown to purchase the dog from the city. A recent Instagram post by Ballantrae Golf Club stated, "We would like to thank Driver for his efforts over the past few years for chasing Canadian geese from the golf course. He has chased hundreds of geese and saved the facility over \$50,000 in repairs to the greens."

Driver's successor is a one-year-old boxer named Commander. Golf Course Superintendent Rodney Bryant will train and handle the new geese-chaser, who will ensure the greens at Ballantrae are protected and Driver's legacy lives on. Commander fully understands he has some big paws to fill.

Happy retirement, Driver! You are a good dog who has earned some well-deserved R&R.

(Left) K-9 Commander will assume the geese-chasing duties at Ballantrae.



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.

- Approved a night shift compensation stipend for sworn officers and dispatchers of the Pelham Police Department.
 - Approved internal guidelines for part-time, non-classified employees regarding cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).
 - Accepted a grant award from the State of Alabama through the Alabama Department of Tourism for the Pelham Parks & Recreation special event programs.
 - Approved a four-year hardware service agreement with Panasonic Corporation North America to provide Panasonic Toughbook computers for the Pelham Police Department.
 - Declared certain personal property (Public Works/Water/Sewer Departments - Vehicles and Equipment) of the City of Pelham as surplus.
 - Approved a final summary change order for the Shelby County Highway 11 PVC Water Main Replacement Project.
 - Approved a public works contract with Summit Waterproofing, Inc. to replace the insulation and coatings on the roof of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.
 - Accepted the lowest and most responsive quote from Spectrum Industrial Services, Inc. to aid in the water service line material inventory per Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) guidelines and to amend the Pelham Water Department's FY2024 operational budget.
 - Renewed the Alabama Power Company electric franchise agreement, which shall continue until August 5, 2054 (30 years).
 - Approved an ABC license for Partners Brothers and Friends, LLC (Poppa G's Billiards).
 - Entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Pelham and the Pelham Board of Education regarding the shared use of the Pelham Recreation Center's floor covering.
 - Entered into a 24-month service agreement with Gorrie-Regan & Associates for employee attendance
- (This article continues on the next page.)*



**Labor Day
Closings & Special Hours
Monday, September 2, 2024**

Pelham City Hall & Administrative Offices
• CLOSED

Ballantrae Golf Club
• Special Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The last tee time is 3:00 p.m. The practice facility is open until 4:00 p.m. Holiday rates apply.

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 September 1st & 2nd

Amwaste
• Monday routes will run on Tuesday;
Thursday routes will run on Friday

hardware, software, and training for the Human Resources Department.

- Declared Ballantrae Golf Club's K-9 (Driver) as surplus personal property and transferred ownership to his handler, Ballantrae Golf Club General Manager Hal Brown.
- Declared certain personal property (Ballantrae Golf Club Equipment) of the City of Pelham, which are no longer needed for public or municipal purposes, as surplus.
- Entered a three-year licensing agreement with Environment Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) to provide licensing and support services for the city's ESRI GIS mapping software.
- Amended the Pelham Water Department's FY2024 operational budget to aid in the water service line material inventory per Alabama Department of Environment Management (ADEM) guidelines.
- Approved a scope of work for repairs and renovations to the Fun-Go-Holler restrooms.
- Accepted a grant award from the State of Alabama through the Alabama Department of Tourism for the Pelham Racquet Club's and Pelham Parks & Recreation Department's special event programs.
- Adopted the City of Pelham 2024 Compensation Pay Plan and repealed Resolution 2022-03-21-08.
- Approved the city's manager's revised employment agreement.
- Accepted the most responsive and responsible bid to amend the Vehicle Reserve Funds to provide funding and authorized the purchase of five replacement police vehicles for the Pelham Police Department.

New Hours for Splash Pad

Summer may be winding down, but there's still some time to have fun at the City Park Splash Pad before the season ends on September 29th. Here's the September schedule:

Through Labor Day:

Tuesday - Sunday
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

After Labor Day:

Saturdays & Sundays (through September 29th)
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

