

E-NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF PELHAM
GINA WOMACK, EDITOR



Highway 261 Widening Project: Where It Stands

Drivers frustrated with the traffic jams and gridlocks on Highway 261 can find a reason for hope in the New Year. The widening project for the congested road, which includes parts of Pelham, Hoover, and Helena, is a step closer to clearing a major hurdle.

City Manager Gretchen DiFante gave the Pelham City Council an update on the project at the December 16, 2024, meeting.

“There were 69 properties (rights of way) that needed to be acquired so the project could move forward. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has acquired sixty-six parcels, and three are in court,” reported DiFante. She and André Bittas, Pelham’s Director of Development Services & Public Works, attended a recent court hearing for one of the remaining three properties. She reported the issue has not been resolved, but she will continue to monitor the situation.

A funding agreement was reached in 2022 between Pelham, Hoover, Helena, Shelby County, and ALDOT to widen Alabama Highway 261. Plans call for a total of five travel lanes from Bearden Road to US Highway 31. Once complete, there will be two lanes of travel in each direction with a designated center left turn lane. The project also extends to Valleydale Road, which will be widened to five lanes between US 31 and Riverchase Parkway East.

Each municipality and Shelby County contributed \$675,000 to the project. With \$33.3 million in federal funds, and \$4 million in state funds, the entire project is estimated at \$40 million dollars.

To learn more about the project, and keep up with the progress, visit the [Highway 261 Widening Project page on the City of Pelham website](#).

THIS MONTH:

Take the Plunge

Get Out and Skate

EMS Transport Begins

Your City at Work

Commercial Development Update

New Use for Vacant Building



Take the Plunge!

Are you brave enough to plunge into the icy waters at Oak Mountain State Park in the middle of winter? Each year, hundreds of residents and local police officers willingly run into Double Oak Lake to raise money for a good cause. Here's your chance to get involved in the event, which will take place on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m, with check-in beginning at noon.

The Pelham Polar Plunge is an annual Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run event hosted by the Pelham Police Department to benefit Special Olympics Alabama.



For over 50 years, Special Olympics has been building a movement to break down barriers, both on and off the field, through the power of sport.

In 1981, what started as a spark became the roaring flame known as the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Law enforcement officers around the globe have raised awareness and more than \$1 billion for the cause.

We hope you will join us this year. Learn more and register on the [Pelham Police Department website](#).



Crush Your Fitness Goals in 2025!

Pelham Parks & Recreation is hosting its annual Fitness Motivator: New Year, New Moves. This month, we're encouraging you to push your limits, build healthy habits, and commit to your fitness goals. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned athlete, our challenge will help you level up your strength, endurance, and overall fitness.

Simply pick up a challenge card at the Pelham Rec Center. Play the game to complete five challenges before January 31 and win a cool t-shirt. [Email Tabitha Dudley](#) for details.



Youth Sports Spring Registration

Time is running out to register your child for Pelham Parks & Recreation spring sports. Early registration ends on January 8, and late registration opens January 9 - 15, with a \$10 late fee.

Offerings include T-ball, Boys Youth Baseball, Girls Youth Softball, and Youth Soccer. To see the age divisions, cost of the sport, and other details, please visit the Youth Sports section on the [Pelham Parks & Recreation website](#). From there, follow the links to register.

Pelham Public Library Presents: A Maritime Disaster With Alabama Ties

The Pelham Public Library presents a special program that connects post-Civil War Alabama with one of the greatest disasters in American maritime history. Professor Mollie Smith-Waters, appearing courtesy of the Alabama Humanities Alliance, brings this often-forgotten part of history to life on Saturday, January 18, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

As the American Civil War was coming to a close, many Confederate prison camps paroled their inmates. The Cahaba Federal Prison in Cahaba, Alabama, released their prisoners of war in March 1865. The majority of those men traveled to Vicksburg Mississippi where they boarded steamboats heading north.

Nearly 1,000 former prisoners of war were on board the steamboat Sultana when it

exploded in the Mississippi River on April 27, 1865. Although accounts vary as to how many people perished, the Sultana disaster remains on record as the greatest loss of life in American maritime history.

While this catastrophic event made news at the time, it was overshadowed by headlines surrounding President Abraham Lincoln's death and the hunt for his assassin.

Through this presentation, go back in time to explore Cahaba Prison's origins, how it became a prisoner of war camp, and what prison conditions were like. Learn how a large number of Cahaba inmates ended up on the Sultana, and the lingering impacts of these events today.

The program is free and open to the public.



Also this month at the Library:

Pelham Garden Club

Thursday January 9 @ 10:00 a.m.

Adult Craft Class

Monday, January 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

The ABC & D's of Medicare

Thursday, January 16 @ 10:00 a.m.

Dungeons & Dragons for Teens & Tweens

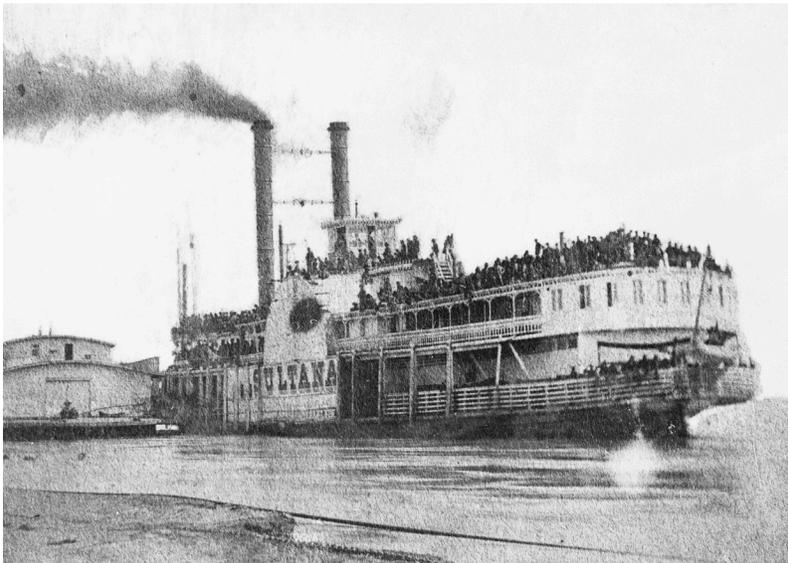
Each Tuesday @ 3:45 p.m.

Preschool Storytime

Each Wednesday @ 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

PJ Storytime

Each Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.



Youth Soccer Spring Clinic

Pelham's rec league soccer is growing, and we're helping our youth reach their potential. Pelham Parks & Recreation, in partnership with the Pelham High School soccer coaches and players, will hold a co-ed spring clinic on Tuesday, January 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The clinic will be held at Pelham High School in Ned Bearden Stadium. The clinic costs \$10 per child and is open to children aged 5-12.

The clinic will offer training for both new and experienced players, focusing on learning skills, drills, and the fundamentals of soccer. All equipment is provided, and all skill levels are welcome.

Registration ends on January 13. Questions? [Email Recreation Coordinator Charlie Sanders.](#)

[Learn more about Pelham Youth Soccer on the Pelham Parks & Recreation website.](#)



Join Pelham Youth Soccer



Take the Class!

Learn to Skate

Learn to Skate at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena is where every skater's journey begins. These classes are designed to help build a foundation in skills, confidence, and technique for every figure skater or hockey player. Classes begin January 6th.

[Read More on the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena website.](#)



● Get Out and Skate Day - January 4

Want to try ice skating and don't know where to start? January 4th is Get Out and Skate Day at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

Enjoy free skating and a complimentary figure skating or hockey lesson from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Skate rentals are \$2.

Bring the whole family, and don't miss exciting exhibitions from the Birmingham Figure Skating Club and others.



Mother/Son Blue Jean Ball

Mothers and sons, wear your favorite denim and dancing shoes and join Pelham Parks & Recreation for the Mother/Son Blue Jean Ball, Friday, February 7, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pelham Rec Center. This mother-son date night will feature food, desserts, music, dancing, games, give-a-ways, and lots of fun.

The cost is \$20 per couple (mom and son), and \$8 for an additional son, aged five to 12. Tickets include dinner, dessert, a corsage for moms, and boutonnières for sons. Space is limited, and registration is required. Register online or at the Rec Center starting January 2.

INDOOR YARD SALE

The Second Annual Indoor Community Yard Sale, hosted by Pelham Parks & Recreation, is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pelham Rec Center Gymnasium.

If you wish to participate as a seller, indoor booth space (12'x12') is \$20, and outdoor booth space (12'x12') is \$10. Sellers must bring their own tables and chairs. No commercial or business sales.

Read more on the [Pelham Parks & Recreation website](#).



JANUARY AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Water Color Painting
Tuesday, January 28
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. &
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Baking Class
Thursday, January 16
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Crafting Together
Wednesday, January 8
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Opioid Awareness
Monday, January 27
1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

Pelham Parks & Recreation has some exciting events planned this spring. Mark your calendars now and follow Pelham Parks & Recreation on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest details:

Kites & Bites
March 2 | 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Pelham City Park

Paws in the Park
April 13 | 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pelham City Park

Pelham Palooza
May 17 | 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Pelham City Park

