

E-NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF PELHAM
GINA WOMACK, EDITOR



PLANS FOR SCHOOL GROWTH

Recent rezoning requests for new subdivisions and developments have many Pelham residents asking, “How will our school system handle the increased enrollment?” Pelham City Schools Superintendent Dr. Chuck Ledbetter recently spoke to the Pelham City Council to discuss current numbers, trends, and how the school system strategically plans for future growth.

About two years ago, Pelham City Schools worked with a demographer who put together a study based on statistical information at that time. The data used was based on current school system enrollment numbers and trends. Soon after, interest rates went up, and housing sales went down. Pelham City Schools had to adjust projections based on the economic conditions.

Fast forward to the 2024-2025 school year. There are 3,401 students currently enrolled in Pelham City Schools. Ledbetter said enrollment projections for the next five years are based on where we are now.

Ledbetter provided the City Council with enrollment numbers for each grade and class sizes for all schools. Currently, the 8th-grade class is the largest, with 323 students. The smallest is first grade, with 234 students. He reported classroom sizes remain low across all schools.

The school system has a five-year growth plan to accommodate 1,500 students. The school system purchased 69 acres of land at Highway 52 and 11 to build a new high school. “We are two to three years away from breaking ground,” said Ledbetter. When the new high school is completed, the school system will shift some facilities to gain more space. In repurposing existing schools, Ledbetter said Pelham would have an intermediate school to accommodate grades 3-5. Ledbetter said the school system wants to explore the possibility of adding a Pre-K program in the future, which is currently restricted by the lack of available space.

Ledbetter also addressed a rumor concerning bus overcrowding. With the exception of special needs buses, most of the Pelham City School system’s fleet has a capacity of 72 people per bus. Of all the routes, only one route is near capacity, with 70 students. Most of the buses carry fewer students than the capacity.

THIS MONTH:

BookTok-centric
Book Club

2025 Street
Paving Schedule

Curb Appeal



Community Yard Sale Back for Second Year

Here's a win-win: you can declutter, make cash, or shop for bargains. Either way, you'll score with the Pelham Parks & Recreation Community Yard Sale.

The Community Yard Sale is back for its second year, and Parks & Rec Assistant Director Alicia Walters said to expect more sellers. "We've added more indoor spaces, and we're adding outdoor spaces as well." She said there will be 40 indoor spaces and 10 outdoor spaces for shoppers to browse at the Pelham Recreation Center on

Saturday, March 1st, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

"Last year, our sellers were very successful and asked us to bring back the Community Yard Sale as an annual event. They appreciated the ability to set up indoors on Friday night. Rain or shine, we can have the indoor portion of the yard sale," said Walters. "We also had a strong turnout from shoppers within the community. It was a great event for both shoppers and sellers!"

Registration for booth space is now open on the [Pelham Parks & Recreation website](#).



Kites & Bites

With the approach of spring comes warmer weather, and we're more than ready to get outdoors! Pelham Parks & Recreation is excited about Kites & Bites, the first outdoor family event for the new year. Make plans to attend this free event on Sunday, March 2nd, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Pelham City Park.

You are encouraged to bring a kite, grab a bite from the food trucks, enjoy live music, kid's crafts, a balloon artist, hula hoop fun, and more.

Let's shed the winter doldrums and watch the colorful kites float in the bright blue sky!

E-SPORTS TOURNAMENT NIGHTS

Age 8-13
Starting Friday
March 14th
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Alternating Months

NBA2K MADDEN
SUPER SMASH BROS. MARIO KART

NEED A PICK ME UP?

TRY PICK-UP VOLLEYBALL

MARCH-APRIL
Adult Drop-In League
Scan For More Info

Local Author Meet & Greet at Pelham Public Library

Local author Kevin Washburn loves living in Pelham. With roots in upstate New York, he and his wife have called Pelham home for the past 20 years. As an avid runner and cyclist, he enjoys all of the outdoor offerings in the city, especially the bike paths and the pedestrian trail.

The author, educator, fitness coach, and consultant has many interests, but he said he's most passionate about helping people grow. That passion ultimately inspired his latest book titled, "Uprise: Building Resilience in Ourselves & Others."

Washburn will share practical strategies and insights to help you thrive at a meet and greet hosted by the Pelham Public Library on Saturday, February 8th, at 1:00 p.m. The free event will be held in the library's Roberts Room A & B.

"The inspiration for "Uprise: Building Resilience in Ourselves & Others" came from noticing a gap in how people approach mindset, grit, and resilience. "Researchers have identified these as essential components of achievement, but they're often treated as separate concepts," said Washburn. "At conferences, I'd hear compelling presentations on each topic individually, but I kept wondering, 'Why aren't we connecting these dots?'"

Driven by his curiosity, Washburn began diving into the research to explore how these ideas intersect and influence our efforts to pursue goals. "What started as a

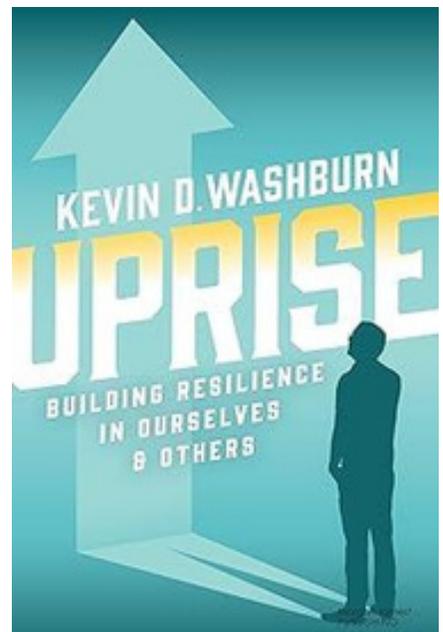
personal quest to understand these connections better quickly turned into a deeper realization: these concepts are interrelated, and vital for navigating setbacks and staying on course."

Washburn said the strategies shared in the book will help others thrive in their professional lives and personal and physical pursuits. "As a coach, I aim to equip my runners with strategies to confront challenges and stay focused on achieving their goals. As an educator and consultant, I strive to empower teachers to help their students regroup and persevere through the hurdles of learning and growth."

Washburn said his presentation during the meet-and-greet will focus on practical strategies for improving mindset, cultivating grit, and responding with resilience. "I want to dive right into the 'how-to' aspects of the book, giving attendees tools they can immediately apply to their own goals and challenges," he explained.

Beyond the presentation, Washburn hopes people will walk away feeling inspired and equipped with strategies for pursuing their goals more effectively.

Washburn leaves us with a parting thought, "We all face challenges, but with the right mindset, perseverance, and resilience, we can turn obstacles into opportunities."



AT A GLANCE:

- Local Author Meet & Greet with Kevin Washburn
- Saturday, February 8, 2025
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Pelham Public Library, Roberts Room A & B
- Reserve your seat today on the [Pelham Public Library website](#).



Also this month at the Library:

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.

Storytelling With Music!

February 8 @ 10:30 a.m.

Pelham Garden Club

February 13 @ 10:00 a.m.

February STEM Family Night: Snowy Science

February 17 & 24 @ 6:00 p.m.

The ABC & Ds of Medicare

February 20 @ 10:00 a.m.

Pelham 4-H Art Club

February 24 @ 4:00 p.m.

*Links are provided for additional information.

BookTok

Pelham Public Library has the perfect book club for BookTokers or anyone who wants to learn more about the BookTok community.

The BookTok book club is a new program spearheaded by Young Adult Librarian Liz Winn. The idea came about after the Library added a sub-section of Adult Fiction called "New Adult," which features protagonists aged 18-30. Books in this genre often deal with life events or challenges faced by those in college or their 20s. "Many of the titles discussed in the BookTok community fall into this category," explained Liz. "I've been advertising the "New Adult" section by word of mouth and realized we have a lot of BookTok fans in our patron base. I figured there would be interest."

The first BookTok meeting is February 22nd at 10:30 a.m. in the MakerSpace at Pelham Public Library. Liz said anyone who is an Adult BookTok fan or curious about the BookTok community is welcome.

"While there is no set 'book of the month' to read, patrons will have the chance each meeting to discuss their favorite (or most disappointing) BookTok reads. It's also a good chance to get recommendations."

Liz looks forward to a large turnout at the BookTok meeting. She said that meetings are planned once a month, usually on a Saturday. "Our first meeting is at 10:30 a.m., but we are open to changing the time of future meetings if there is enough demand for it."

Set yourself a reminder and plan to attend this new BookTok-centric book club IRL (For the uninitiated, that means "In Real Life"). As Liz said, "If it's on BookTok, chances are we'll be "tokking" about it!"

AT A GLANCE:

- BookTok Book Club
- Saturday, February 22, 2025
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Pelham Public Library, MakerSpace
- Questions? [Email Liz Winn.](#)

Written By: Melanie Carden

Did You Know? Learn a Language for Free

Your Pelham Public Library card gives you free access to a language-learning service called Mango Languages. Much like Babbel or DuoLingo, Mango Languages teaches fundamental conversation skills for practical communication in over 70 languages, including English, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, and Spanish.

Through fun and engaging interactive lessons, Mango Languages makes learning a new language fast, easy, and incredibly effective. As you listen to and repeat after native speakers, you'll learn more than

just words and phrases. You'll learn how those pieces can be rearranged and combined to make new thoughts, new conversations, and even more practical communication!

The system is completely web-based and easily accessible from your computer, tablet, or phone. If you would like to get started, visit the [library's resource page](#) or download the Mango Languages app from the App Store or Play Store. For more information on Mango Languages, stop by the library or email the Pelham Public Library's [Technology Librarian](#).



Tech Help for All

Melanie Carden is the Technology Librarian at Pelham Public Library. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from UAB and a master's in library and information studies from the University of Alabama. Along with providing one-on-one Tech Help sessions to the public, Melanie hosts STEM/STEAM programming for children and families. If you would like to learn more about her Tech Help sessions or upcoming programs, you can email her at mcarden@pelhamalabama.gov

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MANGO



PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
2000 Pelham Park Blvd.
Pelham, AL 35124
205.620.6418

LIBRARY HOURS:
M - Th: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
F - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sa - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Su- Closed

Plunge for a Good Cause

The Pelham Polar Plunge was rescheduled from late January to February 22nd, so now you have more time to sign up to participate!

The Pelham Polar Plunge is an annual Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run event hosted by the Pelham Police Department that benefits Special Olympics Alabama. It is held at Oak Mountain State Park's Double Oak Lake. Each year, more people join the fun and dive into the cold water with Pelham Police and other local law enforcement officers.

For over 50 years, Special Olympics has built a movement to break down barriers on and off the field. Through the Law Enforcement Torch Run, officers around the globe have raised awareness and more than \$1 billion for the cause.

[Read More & Register on the Pelham PD website](#)



Pelham Polar Plunge
Saturday, February 22, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



South City Theatre

God of Carnage

South City Theatre presents the black comedy, "God of Carnage". The story surrounds two married couples who meet to discuss a scuffle between their sons and gradually degenerate into children themselves.

The show will be presented February 14-15 and February 21-22 at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee February 16 at 2:00 p.m.

[Read More and purchase tickets on the South City Theatre website.](#)



● Birmingham Bulls Home Games This Month

Here are the Birmingham Bulls home games scheduled this month at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:

Saturday, February 1
Hawaiian Shirt Night
vs. Fayetteville @ 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14
Fleece Blanket Night
vs. Pensacola @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15
Nickelodeon Paw Patrol
Night & Weiner Dog Races
vs. Pensacola @ 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 17
President's Day/Happy
Hour/Adult Hat Giveaway
vs. Huntsville @ 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 28
Military Night/Kids Jersey
Giveaway
vs. Huntsville @ 7:00 p.m.

[Ticket information Here](#)

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