

E-NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF PELHAM
GINA WOMACK, EDITOR



Tom Seale: A Legacy of Public Service

It takes a unique skill set to be a professional municipal clerk, but it takes an exceptional person to fill the role with the professionalism, impartiality, and integrity the position demands.

After a distinguished 25-year private sector career in banking and 20 years in local government, Tom Seale is retiring as Pelham's City Clerk/Treasurer. It is an understatement to say his impact on the city and its people will be missed.

Born and raised in Shelby County, Seale is deeply passionate about the place he calls home. He served as a councilman in his hometown of Columbiana for 16 years and held the office of interim mayor for a short time.

Mayor Gary Waters described Tom with a single word: character. "He's extremely honest, has a heart for service,

and possesses a strong work ethic. He's one of those employees you never have to worry about—always on time, always prepared, and always contributing to the success of our city. He has the perfect combination of experience and skill."

The Mayor acknowledges Tom as a good friend, albeit an unlikely one. "We didn't grow up in the same place and are very different people. I'm loud and boisterous, while he's quiet, calm, and reserved. I will miss his company, even though we're polar opposites. But we do share many common interests. He has a passion for history, and he's well-read and well-educated. I enjoy spending time just talking with him."

Mayor Waters added, "Some may laugh at this, but Tom has served as City Clerk for three mayors, and that's remarkable. It doesn't

THIS MONTH:

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April Walking
Tours

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Improvements

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Understanding
Commercial
Development

just make him a survivor; it makes him invaluable. He has given sound counsel to me, the City Manager, and the City Council. Tom takes care of every detail behind the scenes so city leaders can truly shine."

City Manager Gretchen DiFante recalled a story involving Tom's wisdom and thorough knowledge of city government. "During my first week, Tom showed me a list he had kept for several years. It was a list of items he thought needed to change in Pelham in order to make the city more efficient and effective. It was much like a list of things he couldn't believe we were still doing and needed to change. He told me he would show it to me one day, and I didn't press.

"After four years of working together, Tom walked into my office with a tattered piece of paper with lines drawn through items. He held it up and said he wanted to show me that every item on his list had been achieved," said DiFante.

She added how much she values Tom as a person. "Tom is like a brother to me. We have been through a lot of change together, and he has always been there for every citizen inquiry, every request from elected officials and every need from staff. He is uncompromising in his integrity, and truly one of the finest people I know."

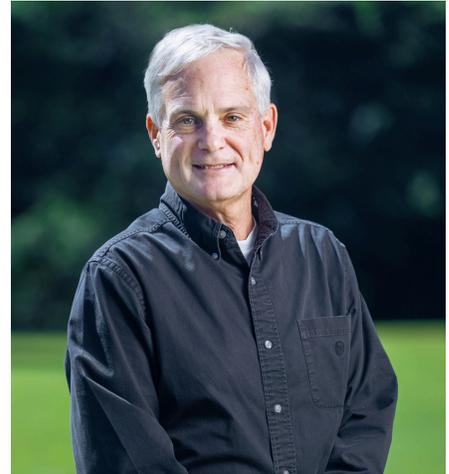
Pelham city employees are confident that the transition between Tom and the next City Clerk/Treasurer will be smooth. His successor is none other than his son, Jonathan Seale. As a student at the University of Alabama, Jonathan interned with the City of Pelham, gaining valuable experience in municipal

government. After graduation, he served as City Clerk/Treasurer for Harpersville and later for Clanton.

"Tom has clearly instilled his work ethic, passion for good work, and honesty in his son," Mayor Waters said. "Jonathan has learned from his dad and his mother, Brenda, what it means to be a good man and person. The continuity will be evident, and there won't be any lull at all."

Jonathan holds deep admiration for his father. "My dad has always been servant-hearted and civic-minded. I saw him serve on the Columbiana City Council and as interim mayor. He served on various boards and was almost always selected as treasurer. I grew up around local government and had a front-row view of how it should be done. He set an example in both work ethic and the importance of a person's reputation."

Jonathan vividly recalled a moment that set his career path in motion. "When I was a senior in high school, I attended Alabama Boys State in Tuscaloosa, a week-long event that simulates government activities at every level. Six hundred students were split into eight cities, and I was selected to serve as the city clerk of mine. I remember having to write 50 ordinances, so I called my dad while sitting on the steps of Gorgas Library to ask his advice. I'm sure he had a million other things to do, but he took the time to help me brainstorm. He read off some of the ordinances Pelham had adopted over the years. That was the moment I knew I wanted a career in local government. Having my dad set the standard and mentor me in life and my career has made all the difference."



Tom Seale served as the Pelham City Clerk/Treasurer for 20 years.



Tom Seale and Mayor Waters.



Passing the torch: Jonathan Seale and his father, Tom Seale at a recent City Council meeting.

One of the biggest lessons Jonathan has learned from his father is to lead and serve with integrity. "I recall him quoting Luke 12:48: 'To whom much is given, much is required.' In our roles, we are entrusted with serving the citizens and employees of Pelham to the best of our ability every single day. This is not a job I take lightly, but it is one I am proud to have."

As his father leaves his full-time career behind, Jonathan hopes his parents take time to enjoy themselves. "Both my mom and dad made sacrifices for my brother and me for many years so we could have the best possible childhood. My hope for them is to get some much-needed rest and travel as much as possible. Don't be surprised if you see my dad on the beach with his toes in the sand, eating a fresh fried shrimp po'boy. Happy retirement, Dad—you've earned this!"

Jonathan, we couldn't agree more. To Tom Seale, thank you for your hard work and your great example. Best wishes for a wonderful retirement!



Joy & Jonathan Seale and Brenda & Tom Seale

Pelham Remembers Community Leader June Fletcher

The Pelham City Council honored the late June Fletcher, a dedicated community leader, during its meeting on Monday, March 3. Fletcher, who passed away on January 30, 2025, at the age of 82, devoted her life to making Pelham a better place to live.

Mayor Gary Waters issued a proclamation in her memory, which her dear friend, Neville Peacock, read.

The proclamation highlighted Ms. Fletcher's distinguished career as Chief Executive Officer for the Red Cross of Alabama and the Central Gulf Coast Region for Blood Services. Following her retirement, she became a tireless advocate for Pelham, boldly

championing improved infrastructure, government transparency, and responsible leadership. She held city officials to high standards, working to enhance conditions for residents—especially in her beloved Chandalar community and throughout the city.

Elected officials, City staff, and community members shared heartfelt memories of "Ms. June," leaving no doubt that Pelham is a better place because of her efforts.

The City of Pelham owes a debt of gratitude to this dedicated public advocate. May we all look to June Fletcher's legacy as a reminder of what can be achieved when citizens dare to make a difference.



June Lovett Fletcher
June 6, 1942 - January 30, 2025

Paws in the Park

Paws in the Park will take place at Pelham City Park from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., featuring a variety of pet-friendly vendors, food trucks, exciting demonstrations, and adorable adoptable pets from local shelters. Whether you're looking to pamper your pup with treats and accessories or hoping to find your next furry family member, this event has something for everyone.

Event Highlights:

- 🐾 Bama Air Dogs
- 🐾 Adoption Opportunities
- 🐾 Vendor Market
- 🐾 Police Dog Demo
- 🐾 Pet Vaccinations Clinic
- 🐾 Pet Parade
- 🐾 Kid's Activities

[More information, including a list of vendors, is available on the Parks & Recreation website.](#)



A Very Special Easter Egg Hunt

Pelham Parks & Recreation is excited to offer A Very Special Easter Egg Hunt at the Pelham City Park Football Field. This event is designed for individuals with disabilities and their families, providing a fun and inclusive Easter celebration for all ages.

Date: April 15

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Pelham City Park Football Field

The event is free to attend, but registration is required. [Visit our events page](#) for more information, and to register.



Tippi Toes® Dance

Toddler & Me dance classes are for children 18 months up to the age of 3 years. Music, movement, balance, and the basic dance steps are introduced in a fun, friendly, and positive manner. Mom, Dad, or another loved one participates in the class along with the little dancer. Our teachers will keep the music and curriculum moving while parents encourage, support, and keep the little dancer on track. Ballet slippers are suggested for proper foot movement. However, they are not required for this age.

Saturday's 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

[Details and registration links are available on our camps & classes page.](#)

REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Smart Start Soccer

Start Smart Soccer is an introductory soccer program for children 4-5 years old. The program prepares children for organized soccer in a fun, non-threatening environment, focusing on skills like kicking, dribbling, trapping, throw-ins and agility instead of competition.

Parks & Rec provides players with a t-shirt, soft bounce soccer ball, cones and a set of shinguards.

There will be an introductory 30-minute parent meeting for registered participants on Tuesday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Pelham Recreation Center. All information and equipment will be handed out at this meeting.

[Register now](#), or email [Will Mayhall](#)



E-SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

Next Tournament May 28th
Space is limited! 10 Player Max!
[Register Now!](#)

THE CITY OF PELHAM
PARKS & REC



Football & Cheer

Youth Cheer & Tackle Football are for participants from first through sixth grade. The season runs from July to November.

Youth football teaches the fundamentals of football, skill development, and the value of team sports. Cheerleading teaches our youth the fundamentals of cheerleading and positive sportsmanship.

Scheduled practices vary throughout the week, and games are played against teams from surrounding communities.

Follow us on social media for registration updates and information on other sports, including Flag Football, coming soon.

[Sign Up Now](#)

NHL Street Summer League

Pelham Parks & Recreation is making waves in the youth sports community by expanding NHL Street into a second season. This innovative and accessible street hockey program is designed to bring the excitement of hockey to a broader audience. The introduction of NHL Street is a testament to Pelham Parks & Recreation's commitment to offering innovative programs that cater to the evolving interests of the community.

[Register Online](#) for the Summer League. Divisions are available for players ages six through twelve. During the week, practices and games will be played in-house at Pelham Parks & Recreation. The season runs from late June to early August.

Space is limited!





Adventure Camp

Adventure Camp is a place where campers spend time in the outdoors, challenge themselves and make new friends. Campers will get to experience a stream walk down the Cahaba River, rock climbing at UAB, hiking Ruffner and Red Mountain, and several other planned activities. Join us for a week of fun under the sun!

Space is limited.

Registration:

Residents March 31 - May 18
Non-residents April 7 - May 18

Date: 2 Dates Available

June 16-June 20, 2025

July 14-July 18, 2025

Age:

8-12 years old

Cost:

\$185.00

Times:

Drop off: 8:00 a.m.

Pick-up: 4:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

[Visit the Registration Page for Details](#)



Magic City Ice

The Magic City Ice Classic is Alabama's premier competition event, hosted yearly by the Birmingham Figure Skating Club at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

In 2024, Pelham welcomed more than 300 skaters and 447 entries from all over the Southeast and as far as Boston, Minnesota, and South Dakota at MCIC 2024!

Vendors are on-site at every Magic City Ice Classic to offer skating and non-skating products.

Come to Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena to watch some of the best skaters in the Southeast region compete.

Date: May 2nd - 4th

[For more information, visit the Birmingham Figure Skating Club Website.](#)



Ice Skating

The Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena is home to world-class skate instructors. In addition to public skating, the complex offers 8-week Learn to Skate sessions for kids and adults!

All sessions include 8 weeks of instruction for \$160, plus one FREE public session pass for each week of class to practice.

What to Expect

- 30 minutes of instruction
- 30 minutes of practice time each week + FREE public session pass per week for individual practice
- Instructional tracks available for figure skating and hockey

Join anytime or begin during the next official session on April 28th. [Visit the webpage for details.](#)

Written By: Jenni Hodges

Health Expo for 55+ Community

The Pelham Senior Center is gearing up for its much-anticipated Health & Wellness Expo, an event designed to educate, empower, and connect the 55+ community with valuable health resources. Over the past four years, the expo has grown into a cornerstone event, offering a wide range of health services, screenings, and community connections that support overall well-being.

The Health & Wellness Expo was inspired by the Senior Center's commitment to promoting preventative care, mental and emotional well-being, healthy nutrition, and physical activity. The center aims to increase awareness of available health resources by hosting this event while fostering a proactive approach to senior health.

Since its inception, the expo has continually expanded its reach. "Each year, we have grown our partnerships with local healthcare providers and have been able to diversify the health services and screenings offered," Katie Augsburg, Recreation Coordinator for the Senior Center, shared. This growth has allowed attendees to access a broader range of essential health resources in one convenient location.

This year's event promises to be bigger than ever, featuring over 25 vendors offering valuable resources, health information, and free screenings. Attendees can also enjoy door prizes, giveaways, and light refreshments as they explore the many health and wellness opportunities.

One of the biggest draws of the expo is the free health screenings offered to attendees, including:

- Blood Pressure Checks
- Vision Screenings
- Fall Risk Evaluations
- Memory & Cognitive Health Assessments

In addition to these essential screenings, visitors can connect with vendors at community resource booths, receive educational materials, and take home health-related giveaways.

The Health & Wellness Expo has profoundly affected the local community. Hosting this event has benefited seniors, their families, caregivers, healthcare providers, and local businesses. Many seniors have been able to access free health screenings they might not have otherwise received and have built relationships with local healthcare providers—all under one roof.

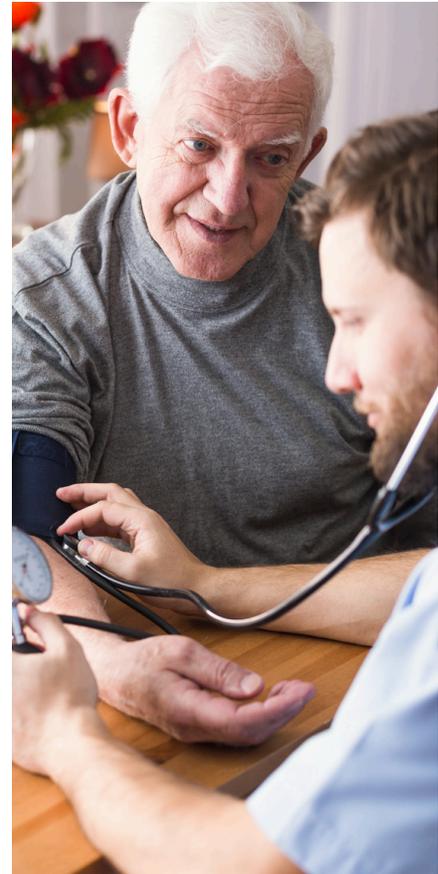
The expo has continued to grow with each passing year, reinforcing the Pelham Senior Center's dedication to health, wellness, and community engagement. If you or a loved one are 55+, don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of this invaluable event!

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Cost: Free to the public, aged 55 & up

[A list of participating organizations is available on the Pelham Parks & Recreation website.](#)



PICKLEBALL 101 CLINIC

Pelham Senior Center is presenting a five-day pickleball clinic. Classes are \$4 each, but they are discounted to \$15 if purchased all up front!

Dates: April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Time: 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Register at the Front Desk



National Tournaments at Pelham Racquet Club

Written By: Jenni Hodges

National Tournament at Pelham Racquet Club

The Pelham Racquet Club is honored to host the National Women's Singles & Doubles Championships, a Level 1 USTA event, from April 1-6, 2025. This prestigious tournament will bring some of the nation's top female tennis players to Pelham, competing in age divisions 55, 65, 75, 85, 90, and 95.

As one of the country's highest-level senior women's tennis events, the tournament will showcase outstanding athleticism, skill, and sportsmanship. The Pelham Racquet Club, known for its top-tier facilities and commitment to growing the game of tennis, is proud to be the host venue for this esteemed event.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our club and the city of Pelham to welcome some of the nation's best senior women's players," said Ryen Valentine, Tournament Director and Head Pro at Pelham Racquet Club. "We look forward to a fantastic week of competition and camaraderie as these athletes take the court."

In addition to the Women's Singles and Doubles tournament, there will also be National Mixed Doubles Championships competing in age divisions 65, 75, 85, 90, and 95.

Spectators can expect an exciting week of high-level tennis featuring intense singles and doubles matchups. The event celebrates the competitive

spirit and lifelong dedication to the sport, offering a chance for the local community to witness elite tennis up close.

Event Details:

Dates: April 1 – 6, 2025

Location: Pelham Racquet Club, 100 Racquet Club Parkway, Pelham, AL

Divisions: Women's Singles & Doubles (ages 55-95)

Visit the [official USTA tournament page](#) for more information about the event and to stay updated on match schedules.

Join us in celebrating the spirit of competition and cheering on these incredible athletes as they compete for national titles right here in Pelham!





Pelham Hosts Fun USTA Husband & Wife Event

Pelham Racquet Club is thrilled to host the National Husband/Wife Tennis Tournament this April!

This USTA-sanctioned event brings married couples together for an exciting doubles competition, where teamwork and skill take center stage. Couples compete in divisions based on their combined ages (100-, 100+, 120+, 140+), making for an exciting and competitive tennis weekend of .

Don't miss the action as couples from across the country showcase their passion for the sport!

Tournament Dates
April 25, 2025 - April 29, 2025



WELLNESS SCREENING

Take charge of your health with Therapy South! Join us at the Pelham Racquet Club on Thursday, April 11th, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a free wellness screening. Whether you're looking to prevent injuries, improve mobility, or check in on your overall wellness, Therapy South's expert team will be on-site to provide valuable insights and recommendations. Don't miss this opportunity to prioritize your health!



Open Tennis Clinics - April 2025

Beginner/Intermediate Adults	Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.	\$20 per session	PRC
Beginner & USTA 2.5 Clinic	Thursday 9:00-10:30 a.m.	\$25 per session	PRC
Adult Drop-in Doubles Drills	Friday 9:00-10:30 a.m.	\$25 per session	PRC
Beginner Classes Red/Orange/Green Ball	Mon & Wed 4:30-5:30 p.m.	\$80 mth \$140 mth	PRC
Junior Intermediate	Mon, Tue & Thu 5:30 -7:15 p.m.	\$25 per session	PRC
Beginner Classes Red/Orange/Green Ball	Mon & Wed 4:30-5:30 p.m. Sat 10:00-11:00 a.m.	\$20 per session	PTC
Junior Intermediate	Saturday 10:00-11:00 a.m.	\$20 per session	PTC

**To register visit [Clubhouse Online](#).
 Call club for additional assistance at [205.621.3380](tel:205.621.3380).**

BALLANTRAE GOLF CLUB

CRAWFISH

Boil

Ballantrae Golf Club Patio

April 18 | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



P

Pelham Athletics Invitational

Join us on Monday, April 14, 2025, at Ballantrae Golf Course for a day of competition, camaraderie, and great golf supporting Pelham Athletics!

For more information or to register, email [Trey Simpson, Athletic Director, Pelham City Schools](mailto:Trey.Simpson@pelhamcityschools.org).

The Size of These PANCAKES

Pancake Breakfast is every first Saturday of the month at Ballantrae! That means you can join us on April 5th for out-of-this-world pancakes. You'll be surprised at what Food & Beverage Manager Robert Shoemaker and his team can crank out in their kitchen on the hill!



GO GET SOME *Great* FOOD!

Fireside Grill is Open Weekdays until 6:00 p.m., & 8:00 p.m. on Fridays!



Ballantrae Launches Noteefy App

Stay in the Loop with Noteefy at Ballantrae Golf Club! We're introducing Noteefy, a convenient new notification system for tee time openings.

How it Works

- Enter your date and time preferences
- Get notified of openings by text or email
- Click to book directly from the message
- Once booked, stop your search and enjoy your round!

[Sign up for your account today!](#)

Available to Members and Non-Members!

Written By: Ainsley Allison

Pelham Connection: Alabama Tourism's April Walking Tours

Pelham is proud to announce its participation in the Alabama Tourism Department's April Walking Tours, with events scheduled for April 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025. These free, guided tours will commence at 10:00 AM each Saturday, starting from the Pelham Greenway Trailhead at 2020 Pelham Park Blvd., Pelham, AL 35124.

The Pelham Garden Club will lead the tours and highlight the club's ongoing conservation and beautification projects along the Pelham Greenway Trail. Participants will learn about:

- **Invasive Species Management:** Efforts to identify and control non-native plants that threaten local ecosystems.
- **Promotion of Native Species:** Initiatives to cultivate and maintain indigenous plants that support local wildlife and promote biodiversity.
- **Creek Cleanup Efforts:** Volunteer activities focused on maintaining the health and cleanliness of our local waterways.
- **Bluebird House Project:** Installation and monitoring of bluebird nesting boxes to support the population of these native birds.
- **Bee City USA Initiatives:** Projects aimed at creating sustainable habitats for pollinators, emphasizing the importance of bees in our ecosystem.

These tours offer a unique opportunity to engage with the community, enjoy the natural beauty of the Pelham Greenway Trail, and learn about local environmental efforts. No prior registration is required; meet at the trailhead before the tour begins. Comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate attire are recommended.

Pelham's participation is part of a broader statewide initiative, with various cities offering walking tours throughout April. For more information on other participating cities and tour details, [visit the Alabama Tourism Department's webpage](#).

We encourage all residents and visitors to join us in celebrating Pelham's rich natural heritage. Follow [Pelham Parks & Recreation](#) and the [Pelham Garden Club on Facebook](#) for updates and additional information.

We look forward to walking with you!



Whether you have a green thumb or are just beginning your gardening journey, the Pelham Garden Club welcomes you! Our monthly meetings are an excellent opportunity to learn from experts, share gardening tips, and connect with fellow plant enthusiasts. With engaging programs covering topics like native plants, flower arranging, and birdwatching, there's always something new to discover. Best of all, our meetings are free and open to everyone—no Pelham residency required! Join us on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Pelham Public Library. We'd love to grow with you!



Read & Watch Book Club

Our much-anticipated Read & Watch Book Club featuring New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult is Wednesday, April 2, starting at 5:30 p.m. We invite you to read Picoult's captivating novel, "By Any Other Name". We'll discuss the book at 5:30 p.m., and then at 6:00, we'll tune in together for a live, virtual talk with Ms. Picoult - an exclusive opportunity to gain insight straight from the author.

Don't miss this exciting chance to connect with fellow book lovers and bestselling authors. Mark your calendar and prepare for an outstanding literary experience at Pelham Public Library!



[Read & Watch Book Club featuring Jodi Picoult](#)



A Brief History of Dowsing Program Rescheduled

Our special program, "A Brief History of Dowsing," with Elysium House Healing, was canceled in March due to severe weather. We've rescheduled it for Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Pelham Public Library, Roberts Room A.

Mark your calendars for this fascinating program with Jason Kirby of Elysium House Healing. Explore the origins of dowsing, learn about the common misconceptions, and discover how the applications are used today.

[For more details, visit the Pelham Public Library website.](#)



Pelham Public Library Introduces "Library of Things"

The Pelham Public Library is expanding its collection beyond books! Beginning in April, the library will launch a Library of Things, providing adult patrons in good standing (no overdue or lost items and no fines over \$10) with the opportunity to borrow a variety of useful items.

The Library of Things is built on resource-sharing and sustainability principles. Community members can borrow items instead of purchasing, storing, or using them infrequently. This initiative helps reduce waste and makes a wide range of tools, games, and technology more accessible to everyone.

The Pelham collection will feature board games, STEM activity sets, tool sets, and more—alongside the mobile hotspots and Chromebooks that the library already circulates.

[See what's available through our online catalog.](#)

This Month at the Library

Dungeons & Dragons for Teens & Tweens
Each Tuesday | 5:00 p.m.

Preschool Storytime
Each Wednesday | 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

PJ Storytime
Each Thursday | 6:30 p.m.
(*No PJ Storytime on April 3)

Read & Watch Book Club Featuring Jodi Picoult
April 2 | 5:30 p.m.

Taste of Pelham
April 3 | 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena

Storytelling With Music!
April 5 | 10:30 a.m. | Registration required

Pelham Garden Club
April 10 | 10:00 a.m.

Adult Craft Workshop
April 14 | 6:30 p.m. | WAITLIST

ABC & Ds of Medicare
April 17 | 10:00 a.m.

Let's Talk #BookTok Book Club
April 19 | 10:30 a.m.

April STEM Family Night: Rocket Science
April 21 | 6:00 p.m. | Registration required
April 28 | 6:00 p.m. | Registration required



THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025
6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.
PELHAM CIVIC COMPLEX & ICE ARENA

All proceeds benefit the Pelham Public Library



Scan to purchase tickets
\$40 in advance
\$50 at the door



Cahaba Valley Elks To Host Fish Fry

Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge #1738 is planning its annual fish fry, which will benefit the group's charity and community programs. The Elks say their catfish is "the best in town."

The all-you-can-eat dinner will be held on Saturday, April 5, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Lodge at 1738 Morgan Park Drive in Pelham. Plates are available for eat-in or take-out and cost \$17 per person.

Call 205.987.1738 to order tickets, or [visit the Cahaba Valley Elks Lodge #1738 website](#).