



Fast Food Favorite Returns to Pelham

Bojangles is making a comeback in Pelham. The Carolina-born restaurant chain known for fried chicken and biscuits will soon occupy the vacant Burger King building at 3076 Pelham Parkway near Summer Classics.

The property was purchased by developer Oldacre McDonald, a full-service commercial real estate firm specializing in developing shopping centers and build-to-suit retail, restaurant, and office projects across the United States. People in

Alabama might be familiar with one of the team's signature shopping center developments, Tiger Town in Opelika. The developer announced in January a fast-food franchise would occupy the building, but the name of the franchise was not announced until mid-March.

The original Bojangles location in Pelham, 2581 Pelham Parkway, opened in 2009. It closed before the COVID-19 pandemic and was temporarily occupied by Little Tomato.



Big Bad Breakfast

If you've been looking for a sign that an exciting new breakfast spot is coming to Pelham, here it is! A "coming soon" banner now hangs at Big Bad Breakfast's future home in The Canopy, where interior construction is underway.

Big Bad Breakfast is a popular regional chain with 21 locations across eight southern states. Local diners may already be familiar with its Greystone and Homewood locations, which serve hearty, Southern-style breakfast and brunch favorites.

Pelham's newest breakfast destination will occupy a 3,451-square-foot space at The Canopy, a mixed-use development on Amphitheater Road, directly across from the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. The restaurant will be the end unit of a first-floor retail block within one of the development's residential buildings. The Canopy will also feature eight additional retail spaces, with dedicated parking in front of the building and overflow parking across the street. [Read more about Big Bad Breakfast on the company's website.](#)

A New Home for Chocolate

Pelham's destination for fine confections, Elizabeth Moore Chocolates, is on the move! This April marks three years since owner and chocolatier Susan Notter introduced her artisan, single-origin chocolates to the city. Now, she's preparing for the next chapter—a relocation to a larger space that will allow for exciting new opportunities.

In 2022, Notter opened her confectionery at 2742 Pelham Parkway. Now, she's moving just three minutes north to the Pelham Promenade shopping center, where increased space will allow her to expand her menu and class offerings.

"This new space is an evolution of different things," said Notter, eager to utilize the additional square footage. With a dedicated kitchen and an expanded classroom area, she plans to offer a wider variety of hands-on experiences, from chocolate-making classes for the general public to unique team-building workshops for corporate groups.

The new location will also introduce exciting new pairings and treats. Notter has long partnered with Baba Java Coffee, and guests can look forward to curated coffee and chocolate tastings. And just in time for summer, she'll debut a new selection of ice cream scoops and sundaes, sure to delight customers of all ages.

With spring in full swing, Elizabeth Moore Chocolates is celebrating the season by featuring candies filled with mouthwatering flavors like lemon, blueberry, and strawberry cheesecake. She will have a full line of Easter treats for your baskets, including beautifully crafted chocolate bunnies, filled eggs, and festive seasonal confections.

Notter is thrilled about the move and the opportunities that come with it. "We've built a wonderful customer base in Pelham, and we can't wait to welcome both familiar faces and new ones to our new space."

Whether you're a longtime fan or have yet to experience these handcrafted delights, Elizabeth Moore Chocolates' new location will surely be a sweet addition to the Pelham community.



See a list of classes and offerings at elizabethmoorchocolates.com



A sneak peek at the beautiful marble-like floors inside Elizabeth Moore Chocolates' new location. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Moore Chocolates/Facebook



Some of the beautiful Easter creations from Elizabeth Moore Chocolates. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Moore Chocolates/Facebook.



Commercial Development Update: Library Property

The commercial development at the Pelham Public Library property is taking shape. Here's the latest on the confirmed tenants:

- Construction on Bullet Coffee is progressing. It won't be long before you can grab your favorite brew on the go.
- Waldo's Chicken & Beer has officially broken ground, bringing crispy chicken and a laid-back atmosphere to Pelham.
- Edgar's Bakery has submitted plans for review. The existing Edgars location on Southgate Drive will become an operations center for the company's entire footprint. The new building on Pelham Parkway will become the restaurant.



Follow-up

A Larger Space

Specification Rubber is expanding its operation and creating a warehouse facility in the 120,000-square-foot former Wal-Mart building on the south end of Pelham. Engineering Manager Scott Reaves reported interior renovations have begun. The company plans to move the warehouse operations to the new facility, with the long-term goal of moving some production there.

The Pelham City Council voted to approve an Alabama Department of Tax Revenue Tax Abatement agreement between the City and Specification Rubber.

Innovate Alabama Network

Pelham has been selected to join the [Innovate Alabama Network](#). This designation connects the city with a statewide community of innovative cities, fostering collaboration, growth, and new opportunities for the future. Being part of this network strengthens our commitment to forward-thinking solutions, economic development, and creating a vibrant community.

As part of this designation, Pelham received a Network Designation Grant, which will be used to construct a public green space as part of the new commercial development at the library, enhancing community access and quality of life.





Banking on Commercial Success

A private developer is transforming the former Wells Fargo branch in Pelham into a new commercial development featuring a convenience store, restaurant, and gas station. The building at 3350 Pelham Parkway will soon be home to Mama’s Country Cooking, a convenience store with a drive-thru utilizing the former bank teller lanes.

The project includes a complete interior remodel of the existing structure, exterior upgrades such as a fresh coat of paint on the brick façade, and the relocation of exterior doors. Additionally, a new canopy will be installed over the gas pumps.

A separate entrance will provide access to Toast Trends, a liquor store that has applied for ABC license approval alongside the convenience store.

While initial renderings depict BP branding for the gas station, signage has not yet been finalized. The city has issued the necessary building permits, and periodic inspections are underway. Royal Builders is serving as the project’s general contractor.

BRINGING MORE RESTAURANTS TO PELHAM

One of the most frequent suggestions from Pelham residents is, “We need more restaurants.” While everyone has a favorite, bringing new dining options to the city is a complex process influenced by multiple factors.

Restaurant and retail recruitment depends on whether a business is in expansion mode, whether the community’s demographics align with their requirements, and whether a suitable location and workforce are available. Developers also evaluate existing businesses, looking at their sales performance and whether competitors are opening new locations in the area.

Pelham’s population plays a significant role in attracting new businesses. With just under 25,062 residents, some commercial developers consider Pelham a small market. Many companies rely on a strong local customer base, and in the development world, there’s a common saying: “Retail follows rooftops.” Higher traffic counts, new schools, and residential growth make a community more appealing to investors.

City leaders are actively working to attract new restaurants and retail by offering economic development incentives. Successful initiatives like Campus 124 and Canopy have utilized strategies such as sales tax revenue-sharing agreements, land use and zoning adjustments, and infrastructure investments to make projects feasible.

Another key factor is the franchising model many well-known restaurant and retail brands use. For a business to establish a location in Pelham, there must be an available territory and a willing franchisee with the necessary financial resources—often requiring between \$800,000 and \$2 million in liquid assets. Beyond finances, franchisees must meet strict site and market criteria before moving forward.

Attracting new restaurants and retail takes time, but the City of Pelham continues to work diligently to create an environment where businesses can thrive.





Understanding Pelham's Commercial Development Process

When a new business opens or a property is redeveloped in Pelham, many factors come into play. The process often begins with a business owner or developer purchasing property or leasing space. If land is involved, they assess zoning regulations, commercial potential, and other key considerations before investing.

Not all available properties have "For Sale" signs, as companies often rely on real estate professionals to find suitable locations. This can surprise residents when development begins seemingly out of nowhere.

Zoning plays a crucial role in shaping Pelham's growth. The city's Planning and Zoning requirements focus on sustainable development, environmental protection, and economic stability. "Plan Pelham," the city's comprehensive plan adopted in 2020, provides guidance on land use, growth management, and infrastructure decisions. If a business type aligns with a property's existing zoning, the owner can follow the city's zoning ordinance. Otherwise, a zoning change request can be submitted, with final approval resting with the City Council.

Once a property is under contract, developers undergo a "due diligence" period, during which city professionals review plans to ensure compliance with land use and zoning codes. These professionals include the Building Official, Planning and Zoning Administrator, Zoning Inspector, Fire Marshal, and others. They assess building codes, architectural design standards, signage, parking, and landscaping requirements.

Inspections during construction ensure compliance with building and fire codes, safeguarding the public. Before opening, businesses must obtain a City of Pelham business license.

[Read more about doing business in Pelham on the City of Pelham website.](#)



CITY OF PELHAM
Business License Application
 P.O. Box 1236, Pelham, Alabama 36164 • (205) 320-6100

APPLICATION TYPE: New Owner Change Name Change Location Change

LEGAL BUSINESS NAME: _____
 TRADE NAME (DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE): _____
 FORM OF ORGANIZATION: Sole Proprietorship Partnership Corporation
 Limited Liability Co. Professional Association
 Other (Specify): _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____
 MAILING ADDRESS (if different from above): _____

OWNER, PARTNER, OR OFFICER (List all on separate sheet if necessary):
 Name: _____ SSN: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____

**Number of employees: _____
 NAME & PHONE FOR CONTACT PERSON: _____
 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN PELHAM: _____
 BUSINESS LOCATED IN _____, OR OUT _____ OF PELHAM CITY LIMITS
 DATE ACTIVITY TO BEGIN IN PELHAM: _____
 BUSINESS HAS A PHYSICAL LOCATION IN PELHAM, LIST MANAGER'S NAME: _____
 DATE SALES OR USE TAX NUMBER: _____ FEDERAL ID NUMBER: _____
 FORMS NEEDED: SALESSELLER'S USE CONSUMER'S USE RENTAL
 LICENSING LIQUOR GAS NOTE

Application has been examined by me and is to the best of my knowledge a true & complete representation of the above business.

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____ TITLE: _____