



## Pelham Launches HOA Collaboration Network

In May, the City of Pelham hosted the first meeting of a new Homeowners Association (HOA) Collaboration Network, bringing together representatives from 13 communities and drawing more than 30 attendees. The goal of the initiative, led by City Manager Gretchen DiFante, is to create a consistent channel for communication, support, and shared learning between neighborhood leaders and city officials.

“This has been a goal for some time,” said DiFante. “We want to understand how we, as a city, can help all of our neighborhoods be the best they can be—whether they have an official HOA, an unofficial group, or none at all.”

The meeting included roundtable discussions where attendees shared their most significant challenges as volunteer leaders. One of the highlights was a presentation by Julia McKay, Executive Director of the Alabama chapter of the Community Associations Institute (CAI). Thanks to Pelham’s membership in CAI, HOA leaders now have access to free leadership training and professional resources. “It was excellent to have Julia there,” DiFante said. “She walked the group through each training module, and the response was overwhelmingly positive.”

What was initially planned as a quarterly or semi-annual meeting is already shifting to a monthly schedule at the request of attendees. DiFante emphasized that the group belongs to the community: “It’s their organization, their meeting. We’re excited about what they will learn from one another and the professionals in the field.”

The initiative promotes citywide collaboration, encourages neighborhood-to-neighborhood support, and provides valuable insight to city leadership. DiFante said, “A safe city, great parks, strong schools—all contribute to our growth. But strong neighborhoods are just as essential.”

If your neighborhood is interested in joining the HOA Collaboration Network, [email Stacey Primero-Currier](mailto:Stacey.Primero-Currier@pelhamalabama.com), Executive Assistant to the City Manager and Mayor Waters.



## City Council Adopts Streamlined Parking Ordinance

The Pelham City Council recently adopted a new, streamlined parking ordinance designed to improve enforcement, enhance public safety, and align parking regulations with modern land use and development patterns. This update creates clearer, more consistent standards for parking across the city.

The new ordinance also addresses ongoing issues such as street, sidewalk, and yard parking in residential neighborhoods—helping to improve traffic flow, protect property, and support neighborhood aesthetics.

“Previously, parking regulations were scattered throughout the City’s code,” said Assistant City Manager Justin Smith. “This ordinance consolidates them, clarifies key areas, and gives our police department and municipal court better tools for enforcement.”

While most of the content remains the same, the reorganization supports more effective governance and public safety citywide.

You can read the full text of Ordinance No. 524 on the [Pelham, Alabama website](http://www.pelhamalabama.com).

## City Council Considers Extension of VenuWorks Management Agreement

At the May 19, 2025, City Council Work Session, officials discussed an amendment to the City's management agreement with VenuWorks of Pelham, LLC. This firm operates the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. The original five-year contract, approved in 2021, included an option to extend for an additional five years.

Both City leadership and VenuWorks Regional Vice President H.R. Cook expressed interest in continuing the successful partnership. City Manager Gretchen DiFante praised the current VenuWorks team, led by Executive Director Seth Greenberg, noting staff satisfaction with their performance. The amendment is scheduled for council consideration on June 2.



### Key Dates & Information

## Pelham Municipal Elections

It's election season in Pelham. Voters will elect a Mayor and five at-large City Council members on August 26, 2025. All voting will take place at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

Candidate qualifying begins June 10, or once the notice is posted, and ends June 24 at 5:00 p.m.

[For full details, visit the Municipal Election section on the City of Pelham website.](#)



## Meet Major: Pelham PD's Newest Four-Legged Officer

The Pelham Police Department has a new team member on patrol—meet Major, a 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois with a nose for justice and a soft spot for steak. After completing eight weeks of intensive training, Major earned narcotics detection and tracking certifications. He's been proudly serving the city for two months alongside his handler, Officer Knotts.

Nicknamed "Major Payne" (yes, like the movie), this K-9 officer takes his job seriously—but still makes time for fun. His favorite toy? His reward toy for locating narcotics. His favorite treat? Steak, of course. When he's off duty, you'll find him roughhousing with his furry brothers, Archer and Finn.

"Major is a faithful companion who is always happy to serve the city and citizens of Pelham," said Officer Knotts. And if you ask Major himself? "Paw prints on the ground, justice all around."



## STEPPING UP FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Staff from the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena laced up their sneakers for the VenuWalks Challenge, a nationwide fitness initiative organized by VenuWorks Inc. Competing against 12 other venues, Pelham’s team—fittingly named Are We There Yet—secured second place and took home a \$1,000 prize.

Rather than keep the winnings, the team donated the full amount to Pelham Strong, a local nonprofit supporting families in the community. “We’re incredibly proud of our team—not just for their effort, but for paying it forward,” said Executive Director Seth Greenberg.

Top stepper honors went to Skate Coach Graham Newberry, who logged an impressive 754,767 steps during the four-week challenge.

## Disc Golf Course Coming Soon to Coker Park

A new recreational opportunity is taking shape on the east side of Pelham. The city’s first disc golf course is being constructed at Coker Park. Pelham Parks & Recreation Director Brian Cooper says residents can expect something fun and accessible for all skill levels.

“This will be another recreation amenity in our town,” said Cooper. “It’s a 10-hole disc course with water and wooded areas to contend with—what we’re calling a moderate challenge course.”

At the May 19, 2025, meeting, the Pelham City Council approved a license agreement with six neighboring property owners, allowing the course to cross portions of their land. “These agreements give players access to trails and terrain that make the course more interesting and challenging,” explained Cooper. Work is underway to complete signage, clear trails in the wooded sections, and install baskets.

Pelham Parks & Recreation pursued the project to expand recreational offerings and to meet the growing interest in disc golf. “Pelham doesn’t currently have a disc golf course,” said Cooper, “and we want to provide as many recreational opportunities for our community as possible.”

Disc golf is considered a lifetime sport—one people can enjoy from youth through adulthood—and the course adds another valuable amenity to Pelham’s east side. The department anticipates opening the course to the public in late June or early July.

Stay tuned for the grand opening announcement!



## 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.

- Entered into a license agreement with six property owners to utilize a portion of their real property for recreational purposes (This allows the City to have the option to install equipment and/or fixtures related to a disc golf course at Coker Park).
- Accepted a private donation to be used exclusively to purchase and install a bench at Carroll Park.
- Declared a vehicle as surplus property and authorized its disposal.
- Affirmed and adopted the process for filling various municipal board vacancies.
- Entered into an agreement with OpenGov for budgeting and planning software.
- Accepted the annual Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Program Report.
- Accepted a proposal from TTL, Inc. for professional services related to geotechnical subsurface exploration and testing for the Pelham City Park Renovations project.
- Entered into an agreement with Shelby County and accepted a Senior Programs Grant Initiative on behalf of the Pelham Senior Center.
- Passed Ordinance No. 524 to regulate parking within the city limits of Pelham.
- Adopted the City of Pelham's mission statement, vision statement, organizational values, and Seven Pillars of Excellence.

## Honor the Flag with a Thoughtful Farewell

The City of Pelham will host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day—Saturday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Pelham City Cemetery, home to the City's designated flag retirement pit. This respectful ceremony provides a meaningful way to retire worn or tattered American flags in accordance with U.S. flag code.

Residents are encouraged to attend and may bring flags for proper disposal. If you're unable to attend in person, you can drop off flags in advance at The Home Depot on Pelham Parkway, in the flag retirement box at the Pelham Senior

Center, or at any Pelham Fire Station. All donated flags will be included in the ceremony.

Mark your calendars and join us as we honor our nation's symbol with dignity and respect.



## Juneteenth Closings & Special Hours: Thursday, June 19, 2025

**Pelham City Hall & Administrative Offices:**  
CLOSED

**Pelham Public Library:**  
CLOSED

**Pelham Senior Center:**  
Open regular hours

**Pelham Rec Center:**  
Open 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Pelham Racquet Club:**  
Open regular hours

**Ballantrae Golf Club:**  
Open regular hours with holiday rates

**Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena:**  
Open regular hours

**Amwaste:**  
Service will not be affected