



Lighting the Way: A New Look for Pelham Parkway

Drivers along Highway 31/Pelham Parkway will soon notice a brighter and more attractive appearance. The City of Pelham is replacing the existing wooden light poles with new decorative, aesthetically pleasing light poles along the Highway 31 corridor.

Construction began in late October, and crews are currently laying conduits and preparing foundations for the new lights. Residents can expect to see workers and equipment along the roadway as the project progresses.

Director of Development Services and Public Works, Andre Bittas, noted that the work has required close coordination with several utility companies that have infrastructure in the corridor. The project budget is \$7,579,013, and completion is expected by the end of July.

Once finished, the upgraded lighting will enhance visibility, improve safety, and create a more welcoming gateway into Pelham.



Monumental Move

The Pelham Public Works crew recently completed the relocation of the obelisk honoring outstanding citizens of Pelham. The monument was moved from Pelham City Park to the small park in front of Pelham Fire Station No. 1 to make way for upcoming upgrades to the youth sports facilities.

Next time you're in the area, take a moment to read the names on the monument. Each one represents someone who has made a lasting impact on our community.

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Improvements Underway

Improvements at the Pelham City Park Baseball & Softball Complex are officially underway. On November 10, crews demolished the old restroom and concession stand to make room for a new, modern facility that will better serve players, families, and fans.

The City will celebrate the start of construction with a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, November 14, at 3:30 p.m. This phase of the project is expected to take approximately 180 days to complete once construction begins.

Part of a larger \$3.4 million renovation, the project will feature a completely reimagined central plaza with natural wood accents, shaded seating, and a new concession stand and restroom building, creating a warm and inviting hub at the heart of the complex. The plan also includes six new covered batting cages, four located near the front entrance and two situated between Fields 2 and 3, while retaining the existing cages to provide teams with more space to practice and prepare for game day.

When the work is finished, the complex will offer a fresh, modern experience while preserving the community spirit that makes baseball and softball in Pelham so special.





Pelham Library Receives Grant

In addition to being named Best Library Branch (see page 8), the Pelham Public Library has even more good news to share. State Representative Kenneth Paschal recently presented an Education Community Services Grant to several schools and libraries across House District 73, including the Pelham Public Library.

The \$4,500 donation will help the library better serve the community. Representative Paschal said, "I'm proud to support our public libraries and the vital role they play for families, students, and lifelong learners."

And one more bit of good news: Library Director Mary Campbell announced that the library raised more than \$2,000 during its annual book sale. The sale featured donated books as well as titles that had been removed from circulation. The event serves not only as a fundraiser but also helps clear shelf space for new and updated resources.

MEET PELHAM'S NEWEST K-9 TEAM

Please join us in welcoming K9 Myra and her handler, Officer Harnden, to the Pelham Police Department's K-9 Unit.

This dynamic duo recently completed an intensive six-week training program and graduated from Kassenburg K9 School. K9 Myra is a certified narcotics detection K-9, trained to assist with patrol operations, searches, and helping keep our community safe.



TURNING A PROFIT

At a recent City Council meeting, City Manager Gretchen DiFante recognized the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena team for an outstanding financial turnaround. The facility improved its projected FY2025 loss of \$519,348 to an anticipated profit of \$101,824.

Executive Director Seth Greenberg and Finance Director Loredana Cretu were on hand and credited the achievement to the entire team, including managing partner VenuWorks.

A Pelham Hometown Christmas Returns with New Parade Route

Mark your calendars! Pelham Hometown Christmas returns on Saturday, December 13 with an evening full of holiday cheer, festive music, and family-friendly fun. The event is organized and hosted by Pelham Strong. This year's theme is "Sounds of the Season." Former Mayor Gary Waters will serve as Grand Marshal.

One significant change this year is the parade route. Instead of traveling down Highway 119 as it has for the past four years, the parade will move north along US 31 (Pelham Parkway) and end at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.

The route change was made to avoid disrupting the many businesses along Highway 119, particularly gas stations and restaurants that serve residents and visitors throughout the day. Residents are encouraged to line US 31 North to enjoy the floats, bands, and holiday spirit as the parade makes its way to the Civic Complex. (Full route details will be shared closer to the event.)

Festivities will center around the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena, with activities planned throughout the afternoon and evening:

- Candy Cane Lane opens – 2:30 p.m.
- Free ice skating (10 and under) – 2:30–4:30 p.m.
- Parade – 5:00 p.m.
- Tree lighting – approximately 6:30 p.m.
- Indoor activities – approximately 7:00 p.m.
- Event concludes – 9:00 p.m.

New this year is a 28-player Game Theater with stadium seating, six 55" televisions, and video games across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X, and Nintendo Switch, a big hit in the making for teens and families.

Throughout the evening, you'll find:

- Performances by Pelham Middle and High School choirs during the tree lighting
- Princesses, superheroes, a balloon artist, and a face painter
- High School culinary students serving cookies, hot chocolate, and cider
- Pelham Oaks ambassadors helping on Candy Cane Lane
- High School ambassadors handing out the annual Christmas ornament
- The Pelham High School band in the parade
- The Pelham High School broadcast team streaming the event live, with 93.3 The River airing commentary over the radio.
- SGA students carrying banners in the parade

Pelham Hometown Christmas truly brings together residents, students, volunteers, and community partners to create a memorable night for all ages.

For more information about the event, please email [Pelham Strong](mailto:info@pelhamstrong.com), or [follow A Pelham Hometown Christmas on Facebook](#).

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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.

- Authorized the use of wall space in Pelham City Park for a mural funded by the Pelham B.E.A.T.
- Authorized a budget amendment and fund balance transfer for the purchase of protective and training equipment for the Pelham Police Department.
- Accepted grant funds on behalf of the City of Pelham Parks & Recreation Department from the State of Alabama Tourism Department.
- Accepted the proposal and authorized a scope of work change related to the design of the Sports Complex Renovations Project.
- Accepted the proposal from and authorized a contract agreement with Gorrie Reagan for the replacement and installation of new timeclocks.
- Released bond money and accepted the public street (McAlpin Circle) and rights-of-way within the Ballantrae subdivision.
- Approved a new full-time employee position and job description at Ballantrae Golf Club.
- Approved a revised job description and pay range within the Communications Department.
- Authorized a budget amendment and fund balance transfer for the purchase of a used Zamboni for the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena.
- Authorized a budget amendment related to the property purchase from Live Nation Worldwide, Inc.
- Authorized a Memorandum of Agreement with Shelby County regarding the transfer of ownership of P25 radio units.
- Authorized and allocated non-profit funding requests approved in the FY2026 budget.
- Accepted a proposal from Shelby County Park and Recreation Authority for the construction of pickleball courts and a restroom/pavilion building at the Pelham Senior Center.
- Accepted the proposal from Shepard Electric Company, Inc. for the replacement and installation of primary and secondary surge protectors at the Ballantrae Clubhouse
- Accepted proposals for the demolition and construction of a new circulation desk at the Pelham Public Library.
- Declared certain items (vehicles) as surplus personal property no longer needed for public or municipal purposes and authorized disposal of the same.
- Accepted a proposal from Range Servant America, Inc. for the purchase and installation of a golf ball dispenser for Ballantrae Golf Club.
- Accepted the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Southeastern Sealcoating, Inc. for the Pelham Greenway Trail Phase IV.
- Adopted the City of Pelham Business License Ordinance and repealed previously adopted legislation in conflict.
- Ratified the use of the current depositories for the City of Pelham's municipal funds.
- Designated certain City officials to have the authority to execute financial documents on behalf of the City of Pelham.
- Voted to allow all administrative officers and city council appointed employees to continue temporarily in their respective duties and at their current salaries until such time all applicable appointments/assignments are made permanent or the City Council takes other action.
- Approved an ABC License 020-Restaurant Retail Liquor for BBB Pelham, LLC, operating under the trade name Big Bad Breakfast.

