

E-NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF PELHAM
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Building a Better Pelham

Pelham City Manager Gretchen DiFante delivered her annual State of the City presentation, titled "Building a Better Pelham," to the Pelham City Council on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025. The data-driven presentation highlighted a year of significant progress, strong financial stewardship, and strategic investments that position the City for a sustainable and optimistic future.

"Building a better Pelham is what we're always striving to do," DiFante said as she began her address. "This was a year of significant progress and continued strong financial stewardship. That doesn't happen by accident—it comes from being intentional, planning, and making sure we're prepared for both today and the future."

DiFante reflected on the conclusion of the 2020–2025 City Council term and the beginning of the 2025–2029 Council, noting steady progress across all City departments.

Financially, the City continues to demonstrate stability, with balanced budgets, no audit findings, and disciplined long-term planning. Since 2017, Pelham has averaged approximately 4% year-over-year revenue growth while maintaining expenditure growth near 3%, including capital investments.

"We are saving proactively and setting funds aside for projects we're committed to, rather than spending money only if it's left over at the end of the year," DiFante said. "That shift has allowed the City to make significant capital investments while maintaining balanced budgets and strong reserves."

Building permit and business license revenues both showed substantial gains in 2025, reflecting continued development and economic activity throughout the community.

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City Council President Chad Leverett emphasized the City's disciplined approach to financial management and long-term planning. "The state of Pelham is strong. We are financially sound, fiscally conservative, and intentional in how we manage taxpayer dollars, which positions our City well for continued growth and long-term success," Leverett said. "This strength is the result of strong leadership and teamwork across our organization, and I'm excited about the future as we continue building on this momentum."

The presentation also highlighted record-setting attendance and revenues at several City-owned recreation, arts, and cultural facilities. Ballantrae Golf Club experienced its strongest year on record, with increased rounds played, higher visitation, and an operating profit exceeding \$400,000. Pelham's Civic Complex and Ice Arena recorded more than 119,000 unique visitors in 2025 and achieved its first-ever net operating profit. Collectively, City-owned recreation and cultural amenities welcomed more than 1.1 million visits during the fiscal year.

Expanded parks and recreation amenities have driven increased participation across all age groups. The Pelham Recreation Center has seen a nearly 200% increase in membership since 2022, while special event attendance rose by 74% despite weather-related challenges. The Pelham Senior Center also reported substantial growth in membership since the pandemic.

Public safety and infrastructure improvements were also key themes of the presentation. The Pelham Police and Fire

Departments reported operational enhancements, expanded training opportunities, and strengthened regional partnerships. Infrastructure investments included water and wastewater efficiency measures that reduced water loss and generated significant annual savings, data-driven traffic improvements at major intersections, and continued progress on citywide street resurfacing projects.

Mayor Rick Wash echoed the City's forward-looking focus. "The State of the City presentation confirms the incredible growth Pelham has experienced over the past several years while maintaining responsible financial stewardship," Wash said. "That progress is reflected in the significant investments we've made to enhance our community and the increased use of our City-owned recreational facilities. With several major projects already underway, we're excited about what the coming year will bring for the Pelham community."

DiFante concluded by emphasizing the City's commitment to proactive planning, fiscal responsibility, and transparency. She credited Pelham's continued success to the dedication of its more than 260 full-time employees. She noted that the information presented reflects a City well-positioned to continue building a better Pelham in the years ahead.

[See City Manager Gretchen DiFante's presentation deck here \(pdf\).](#)

[Watch City Manager Gretchen DiFante's presentation here.](#)

