



## Take the Plunge for A Great Cause!

Don't let the post-holiday winter blues get you down –jump into the new year with one of Pelham's most anticipated traditions. The Pelham Police Department invites the community to take part in the 2026 Pelham Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 17, benefiting the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The event will be held from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Oak Mountain State Park beach at Double Oak Lake. Each year, hundreds of residents and law

enforcement officers brave the chilly waters to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics Alabama. Whether you're plunging into the lake or cheering from the shoreline, the Polar Plunge is a high-energy, family-friendly event that brings the community together for a meaningful cause.

The Pelham Polar Plunge is part of the Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run, a global movement that has raised more than \$1 billion for Special Olympics athletes worldwide. For more than 50 years, Special Olympics has helped break down barriers and create opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities through the power of sport.

Community members of all ages are encouraged to participate, form a team, or support a plunger. On-site registration and festivities begin at 12:00 p.m., with the official plunge starting at 2:00 p.m.

**Location:**

Oak Mountain State Park Beach (Double Oak Lake)

**Date:**

Saturday, January 17, 2026

**Time:**

12:00–3:00 p.m.

[Registration information and event details are available on the Pelham Police Department website.](#) Come out, show your support, and help make a difference, one chilly plunge at a time.

Still need some convincing to plunge into the icy water? [Watch this short video from the 2023 Polar Plunge to see how much fun you could have.](#)

We welcome sponsors for the Pelham Polar Plunge. If your business or organization would like to be part of this fantastic event, [please see our Sponsorship Proposal here](#) (pdf).



## Community Input Needed

The Pelham Public Library is inviting the community to share ideas and feedback on how the Library's MakerSpace can best serve Pelham residents.

The MakerSpace is designed to be a flexible, creative environment for learning, exploration, and collaboration. Whether you're interested in 3D printing, sewing, coding, crafting, or simply curious about what the space could offer, your input will help shape future programming, equipment, and opportunities.

Community feedback is an essential to ensuring the

MakerSpace reflects the interests and needs of those who use it. We encourage patrons of all ages and experience levels to participate.

To share your ideas, please scan the QR code included with this announcement or complete the online feedback form at the link below:

[Submit your MakerSpace ideas here.](#)

Together, we can continue building a MakerSpace that inspires creativity and serves our community in meaningful ways.



## Big Art, Tiny Format

The Pelham Public Library is inviting teens to get creative with its upcoming Tiny Art Show program. Designed for students in grades 6–12, this hands-on workshop will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2026, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the library's MakerSpace.

Local artist Bo Hughins will guide participants through painting two miniature artworks. After the workshop, teens will select one of their pieces to be featured in the library's Tiny Art Show, giving young artists a chance to showcase their creativity.

Registration is required, and space is limited. Registration opens January 11 [on the Pelham Public Library website.](#)



## New Year, New Programs at the Pelham Library!

Make it your New Year's resolution to take advantage of the great programs the Pelham Public Library has to offer. There's so much going on this month, with activities for all age groups. [Visit the Pelham Public Library website](#) to find out what's on the schedule for January.

# January Fitness Motivator

Kick off the new year with Pelham's biggest fitness tradition! The 5th Annual Fitness Motivator Challenge is designed to help you stay active, stay accountable, and start 2026 feeling stronger than ever.

Complete 150 minutes of exercise each week — any activity counts — and you'll earn:

- A limited-edition Year 5 T-Shirt
- Weekly prize drawing entries
- Bragging rights and early-year momentum!

You can participate solo or as a team of 2-6! Team participation is optional, but adds extra motivation, weekly shoutouts, and a shot at a team grand prize.

Age: 8 & Up

Cost: Free for Members

Dates: Jan 5- Jan 31

Register online until Jan 12 to receive your Activity Log

[Read More on our website](#)



Fitness Motivator

## EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS JAN 11

Late Registration Ends Jan 19 (\$10 Fee)

# Spring REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

NOW ACCEPTING PLAYERS FOR 2026!



Scan to Register

Register in Person at The Depot across from the Rec Center 8am-5pm M-F or inside the Rec center after 5pm & on the weekends.

[www.pelhamalrecreation.gov](http://www.pelhamalrecreation.gov) 205-620-6426

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**Spring Soccer**  
 6U-8U \$100 | 9U-11U \$110  
**Soccer Clinics**  
 Jan 12  
 \$10/clinic



**Spring CO-ED T-ball**  
 4-5 year old | Feb-May \$100  
**Spring Softball**  
 5-12 year old | Feb-May \$175  
**Spring Baseball**  
 5-12 year old | Feb-May \$175



## Learn to Play & Start Smart Programs

Pelham Parks & Recreation is offering two great introductory youth programs designed to build skills, confidence, and a love for activity.

### **Start Smart Soccer - \$60: Ages 3-5**

Introduces young players to the fundamentals of soccer in a fun, non-competitive environment using age-appropriate equipment.

### **Learn to Play Archery - \$15: Ages 8-12**

Provides a four-week, instructor-led experience focused on safety, technique, and skill development, with all equipment and park entry included.

Registration is now open—visit our [youth sports & youth activities](#) pages for more details.



## Register Now for Pickleball & Adult Sports Programs

Stay active this season with a variety of pickleball and adult recreation programs at the Pelham Recreation Center! Morning and evening Indoor Pickleball sessions are available for ages 16+.

Players can also sharpen their skills at our Pickleball Clinic on March 14, led by USA Pickleball-certified instructors and offered in beginner, 3.0, and 3.5 levels.

Looking for team-free play? Adult Pick-Up Volleyball runs March 9–May 11, offering a fun, structured open-gym experience for all skill levels. Many programs are free for members, with affordable options for non-members. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required, so sign up early. Visit our website for full details and registration.

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## Become a Coach!

Pelham Parks & Recreation welcomes volunteer youth coaches!

Visit [pelhamalparksandrec.com](http://pelhamalparksandrec.com) to sign in or create an account and submit a Coach Application. All coaches must complete required documentation, including a background check and ARPA Coach Safely certification, before coaching on-field.

Applying does not guarantee placement. For more information, contact the Athletics Department.



## Ice Skating for All Ages at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena



Ice skating continues to grow in popularity across Pelham, and the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena is at the center of it all. Home to the Pelham Skate School, the facility offers professional instruction for beginning figure skaters, hockey players, and recreational skaters of all ages and skill levels. Learn to Skate sessions are now registering, making it the perfect time to step onto the ice.

“Our goal is to make skating accessible and welcoming for everyone,” said Christian Newberry, Director of Skating at the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena. “Whether someone wants to skate for fun, fitness, or future competition, we provide a supportive environment where skaters can build confidence and skills at their own pace.”

Beginning level-instruction follows the nationally recognized Learn to Skate USA curriculum. All Skate School coaches and the Director of Skating are Learn to Skate USA certified and members of U.S. Figure Skating and/or USA Hockey, ensuring high-quality instruction across disciplines. Group classes are offered in eight-week sessions, meeting once per week, and are designed to provide a well-rounded foundation for long-term skating success.

“Learn to Skate is truly the gateway to everything on the ice,” Newberry said. “It’s where skaters discover what they enjoy most—figure skating, hockey, or simply recreational skating—and gain the skills they need to move forward.”

Skaters may join a session at any time, and fees are automatically prorated, making it easy to start whenever the timing is right. Current session schedules are available on the Session Dates page.

Families interested in hockey are also encouraged to explore Little Toro’s Learn to Skate, an introductory hockey skating program. For upcoming dates and details, contact [jharris@pelhamalabama.gov](mailto:jharris@pelhamalabama.gov).

In addition to instructional programs, the Pelham Civic Complex offers public skate sessions every day in January, giving families and individuals plenty of opportunities to enjoy the ice together. Whether you’re learning something new or just looking for a fun winter activity, now is the perfect time to skate.

“Skating is something the whole community can enjoy,” Newberry added. “We invite everyone to come out, get on the ice, and experience everything the Pelham Civic Complex has to offer.”

[Learn more and register today—the ice is waiting.](#)



**Pelham  
Civic Complex  
& Ice Arena**

**LEARN TO  
SKATE  
USA**

## Learn to Play Tennis

Ready to pick up a racquet or get back into the game? Our Adult Learn to Play Tennis program is designed for beginners looking to learn the fundamentals in a fun, supportive group setting. The next session begins Monday, January 12, and runs for four weeks, meeting on Monday evenings.

At just \$40 total, this is a great deal and the perfect opportunity to try something new this year! Participants will learn basic strokes, scoring, and court positioning while enjoying the social side of tennis. Space is limited—register early!

[Read More on our website](#)



## Junior Academy

The Pelham Racquet Club Junior Tennis Academy provides young athletes with the foundation they need to succeed both on and off the court. Participation in youth sports helps build confidence, discipline, teamwork, and healthy habits—while also preparing players for high school competition and even collegiate-level tennis.

Our academy offers Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced training groups, allowing players to develop at their own pace while receiving high-quality instruction in a structured, supportive environment.

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### Academy Schedule:

- Beginner:  
Mondays | 4:30–5:30 p.m.
- Advanced:  
Mondays | 5:45–7:15 p.m.
- Intermediate:  
Tuesdays | 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Whether your child is just starting or working toward competitive goals, the Junior Academy is the next step in their tennis journey. [Register now and invest in their future on the court.](#)

## Private Lessons

Improve your game with individual or group instruction led by our talented tennis professionals. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, our pros offer personalized coaching to help you reach your goals.

Visit our website to learn more about each pro's background and contact them directly to book and confirm availability.

[View the Tennis Pro Profiles on our website.](#)



Head Pro  
Ryen Valentine