



FROM COUNCILMAN MCMILLAN

July was a flurry of activities preparing the schools for the new school year. The work that had been done and the work in progress in preparation for the first day was evident during registration. In just one month, the new Pelham City School System was able to accomplish a multitude of feats, including the deep cleaning of all schools with freshly waxed floors, basic landscape around the schools and the new city school names on the school buses. Pelham High School also had all of the halls, administrative offices and gymnasium painted. Ned Bearden Stadium was not left out as it also received a thorough cleaning and replacement of the outdated light fixtures.

I had the opportunity to attend the kickoff meeting for all Pelham City Schools employees. Dr. Coefield did an amazing job of laying out what to expect and his vision for the new school year. As a parent, I am so proud of the exciting new opportunities that will be available to our students. Please read school board member Angie Hester's article. It is amazing to think that our students will soon be able to participate in focused academies and dual enrollment while in high school. My tenth

grade insider has reported that he is enjoying the extra room and smaller class sizes at Pelham High School. He is also looking forward to the pep rallies that were not offered last year.

There are also many things happening at the Pelham Civic Center and Ice Arena. First, I would like to welcome Craig Henderson to the civic complex. He will be the Director of the Pelham Skate School. He was a world figure skating competitor and comes to us from Stockton, California. It will be very exciting to watch our skate school and hockey teams flourish with the additions to our leadership team.

Plans have been set in motion to add seating for almost four hundred spectators in the Practice Arena. This will allow two events to take place at one time with room for spectators to attend both events. This is a significant undertaking which requires a small addition to the Practice Arena and will give us the ability to host larger events with multiple events going on at the same time.

In the upcoming months there will be several opportunities to appreciate talented skaters. In September, the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena will be

hosting The Magic City Ice Classic. This is a U.S. Figure Skating competition featuring beginner to advanced ice skaters. On December 12-13, the Pelham Civic Complex and Ice Arena will be hosting Christmas Traditions.

I hope that you had a chance to attend "Fire on the Water" and the Pelham Golden Jubilee. "Fire on the Water" was a spectacular fireworks show at Oak Mountain State Park. The event drew thousands of spectators and will hopefully become a long lasting Pelham tradition.

The Pelham Jubilee was a fantastic two day event to celebrate Pelham's fiftieth birthday. There was a kid zone, food, arts and craft, free ice skating and a wide variety of vendors. The vendors covered just about everything including the best fruit pepper jelly I have ever had. We enjoy hosting these events and are anxious to add additional events to bring our community together.

If the thought of all of that skating makes you hungry, keep



in mind that the Taste of Pelham will be October 7th at the Pelham Civic Center and Ice Arena. This is a delicious event featuring local food vendors and benefitting the Pelham Library Guild. This will be the second year for the Taste of Pelham and there are sure to be many more. My family attended the event last year and had a great time. We are planning on attending again this year and hope to see you there.

In September, the City of Pelham will be going "teal" to show our support for Gynecologic Cancer Awareness. City Hall, the Library, the Racquet Club, and the Civic Complex and Ice Arena will all participate by using teal lights to shine on their buildings. I encourage you to also support and show your awareness during September.

We are Pelham! It's a great day to be a Panther!

Beth McMillan **Beth**



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