

REGIONAL matters

SWEET HOME ALABAMA—FOR PICKLEBALL!

By **Jim Young**

The sport of pickleball is putting Opelika, Alabama on the map. Opelika was known as a railroad town but is now reintroducing itself to the world of pickleball as a destination for the sport. The Plex is a 75-minute drive southeast on I-85 from the Atlanta Airport.

The Opelika Sportsplex (The Plex) is home for 12 state-of-the-art covered pickleball courts. All courts are individually fenced and suited for tournament-style

play. There are 12 more covered courts currently under construction due to be completed by June 1.

This year appears to be a stellar one for Opelika and the Plex with five major tournaments scheduled.

Mayor Gary Fuller of Opelika and the city council have been visionaries and provided strong support for pickleball in Opelika. The local pickleball community is working hard, along with our city government, to truly make Opelika a go-to spot for pickleball. •

