



RISE TOGETHER - MARCH 28, 2023

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Girls Empowerment Day

On Saturday, our department held Girls Empowerment Day at Dodge Community Center, hosting 55 participants who all had an amazing and unforgettable day. As part of the event, the participants attended sessions in art, health and wellness, nature and outdoors.



Girls Empowerment Day was spearheaded by Suzanne Schwartz, and she was supported by the managers of different community centers who reworked their schedules to allow staff members to work the event. Mayor Andrew J. Ginther and

4/3/2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26 ●	27 ●	28 ●	29 ●	30 ●	31 ●	1 ■
2 ●	3 ●	4 ●	5 ●	6 ●	7 ●	8 ●
9 ●	10 ●	11 ●	12 ●	13 ●	14 ●	15 ●
16 ●	17	18	19	20 ●	21 ●	22 ●
23 ●	24 ●	25 ●	26 ●	27 ●	28 ●	29 ●
30 ●	1 ●	2 ●	3 ●	4 ●	5 ●	6 ●

February 14

All day

YOUTH BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND TEE BALL SPRING LEAGUE REGISTRATION

All day

English

Director Bernita Reese were both present at the event to show support for all of the young girls in attendance.

NRPA Innovation Awards

Last week, the department submitted four awards as part of NRPA's Innovation Awards. This program recognizes and honors the latest advancements in the field of parks and recreation, showcasing the inspiring agencies that have improved and empowered their communities through innovative practices.

A lot of great work took place in 2022, and the list of potential entries was long! These four awards were submitted:

- Innovation in Equity Award: The Stockbridge Park project expanded park access in one of the City's most underserved communities. The project planted 2,400 native trees, doubled the size of the park and expanded the access points into the park.
- Innovation in Conservation Award: The City took significant steps to protect nature preserves, including implementing the City's first-ever nature preserve code, developing management plans for all nature preserves and educating people about the importance of protecting this environmentally significant land.
- Innovation in Health Award: The VOICE project provides support for victims of crime at their hospital bedside with the goal of preventing re-injury or entry into a correctional institution. Comprehensive case management connects participants with resources to help the recovery, meet daily needs and find positive and engaging activities.
- Innovation in Park Design Award: Livingston Park was redesigned to meet the unique needs of the local community and of patients and families at the adjacent Nationwide Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. This 138-year-old park serves nearly 7,000 residents, and it is available to the 1.6 million patients who visit Nationwide Children's Hospital each year.

Awards will be announced later this summer and presented at the NRPA Annual Conference in Dallas in October.

2023 GO, LUNCH! SITE APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

All day

OAL SPRING JURIED EXHIBITION

All day

SCHOOL'S OUT SPRING REGISTRATION

All day

**ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES - SUMMER I SESSION
REGISTRATION**

All day

**ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUES - SPRING SESSION
REGISTRATION**

Thank you to all of the subject matter experts who helped develop these entries!

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Extreme Sport

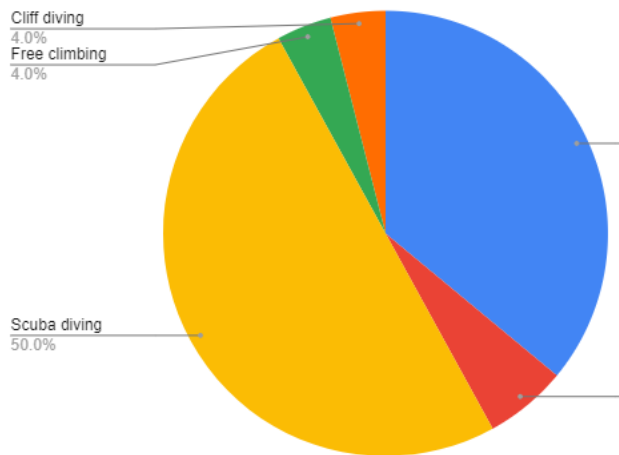
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Which extreme sport would you try first?

- Sky diving
- Bungee jumping
- Scuba diving
- Free climbing
- Cliff diving

Submit

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LEADERSHIP UPDATE

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

KEVIN CROSS



Section

Sports – Sports Field Maintenance Supervisor

Length of Employment

3 months

Favorite aspect of Columbus Recreation and Parks?

Seeing kids and families enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Favorite project that you have worked on?

Lining the soccer fields, it's been challenging and rewarding.

Favorite ice cream flavor?

Mint Chocolate Chip

What is your favorite book or movie?

Star Wars Episode IV

What is one piece of advice you have?

Take pride in the work you do every day. What you do for the community has a long reach in adding health and strength to families all across Columbus.

Nominate A Coworker for the Staff Spotlight

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) They will be notified that they were nominated in order to answer spotlight questions.

CELEBRATIONS

DEI UPDATE

Throughout March, we celebrated Women’s History Month. Our department is lucky to have strong female leadership, including Director Bernita Reese, Community Relations Chief Dominique Shank, Assistant Director Dawn Turnage, Executive Assistant Aniko Williams and COAAA Administrator Katie White. We thank them and all of the women at Columbus Recreation and Parks Department for their commitment to the City of Columbus.



As we continue to work in the DEI Committee, we’d love to hear from you. Let us know what you’d like to see the DEI Committee do by filling out [this online survey](#). It won’t take too long, and it will help shape the work done by the committee in pursuit of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Important Dates

- **Ramadan** (3/22-4/21): Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer, reflection and community.
- **World Autism Awareness Day** (4/2): An internationally recognized day annually on April 2, encouraging countries to take measures to raise awareness about autistic individuals throughout the world.
- **Passover** (4/5-4/13): Also known as Pesach, Passover is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the story of the Israelites’ escape from slavery in Egypt.
- **Easter** (4/9): Also called Pascha or Resurrection Sunday, Easter is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

CELEBRATIONS

MARCH PROMOTIONS

Admin

None

Business Services

- Jenny Doan, Management Analyst I

COAAA

None

Community Centers

- Anthony Courtney, full-time Custodial Worker

- Deshaun Flemister, full-time Custodial Worker
- Michael Kibby, full-time Custodial Worker

Community Relations

None

Parks and Facility Operations

None

Recreation Services

None

Youth Development

- Kennedy Billups, Rec Program Specialist

[To request your name be removed from the monthly list of birthdays, please fill out this form.](#) This form only needs to be filled out once.

ARCHIVE

2023



2022



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