



## RISE TOGETHER - DEC. 12, 2023

### SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

#### FIRST LUNCH & LEARN A SUCCESS

On Nov. 30, the DE&I Committee hosted its inaugural Lunch & Learn, centered around the theme “See Me, Not My Disability.” Therapeutic Recreation Assistant Manager and DE&I Committee Member Preston Shepard delivered a compelling presentation, sharing his experiences. Attendees also got hands-on with adaptive sports from our Therapeutic Recreation team. The excellent turnout for our first Lunch & Learn was inspiring, and we extend heartfelt thanks to those who participated. Stay tuned for details on upcoming events in the new year!

#### MULTICULTURAL HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER

December features several holiday celebrations. Below is a list featuring some that you may be familiar with and some that you may have yet to learn about.

- **Chalica (Dec. 4-10):** Unitarian Universalism – Each day, a chalice is ignited, a principle is read, and honored through various acts.
- **Hanukkah (Dec. 7-15):** Judaism – Also known as the Festival of Lights, commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem.
- **Bodhi Day (Dec. 8):** Buddhism – Celebrating the day Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) experienced enlightenment.
- **Pancha Ganapati (Dec. 21-25):** Hinduism – A five-day festival honoring Ganesha, Patron of Arts and Guardian of Culture.
- **Yule (Dec. 21-Jan. 1):** Pagan/Wiccan – Marks the first day of the winter season at the winter solstice.
- **HumanLight (Dec. 23):** Humanism – Celebrating human values of reason, compassion, humanity, and hope.
- **Newtonmas (Dec. 25):** Atheist/Skeptic – Celebrating Isaac Newton’s birthday as an alternative to Christmas.

**Dec. 25):** Christianity – Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

- **Kwanzaa (Dec. 26-Jan. 1):** Pan-African festival – Celebrating African harvest festival traditions.
- **New Year's Eve (Dec. 31):** Global – Ringing in the last day of the Gregorian year.

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### CELEBRATE BLACK & GOLD DAY TODAY

This past Saturday, Columbus Crew won the MLS Cup at home! The Columbus Crew has been a great community partner all year, and we could not be more proud of the team. In honor of the Crew's massive accomplishment, we are celebrating Black & Gold Day today so wear your Columbus Crew or black and gold apparel in recognition of our three-time winners!

The Crew will hold a championship parade today, starting at 12 p.m. at the corner of Nationwide Boulevard and N. 3rd Street, before heading west toward Lower.com Field. The department will be among those featured in the parade so come out during your lunch break, and show your support.

### EMPOWERING SAFETY: 10 STAFF MEMBERS ATTAIN RED CROSS CPR/FIRST AID CERTIFICATION

Safety is thrilled to announce a significant milestone as 10 dedicated members of our department have successfully achieved certification as Red Cross CPR/First Aid instructors. We extend our congratulations to Sean Magginis, Carlos Joglar, Eby Day, James Sheridan, Jon Hillman, Eric Eiselstein, Julia Hatton, Dawn Turnage, Preston Shepard and Jalon Toy for their commitment to safety and their dedication to advancing their training and certification!

Whether you're seeking initial certification or renewing your CPR/First Aid training, we invite you to connect with Lauren Nye at LMNye@columbus.gov to schedule your training session. At Safety, we prioritize equipping our staff with the knowledge and skills to ensure the well-being of our community.

Congratulations to our certified instructors, and thank you for contributing to a safer and more prepared environment!

### SEE YOU AT EMPTY BOWLS

Don't forget to stop by the Empty Bowls event on Friday, Dec. 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hungry Soldier Room at 1111 for Empty Bowls! For a \$10 donation, you'll receive a beautifully crafted bowl along with soup (soup-only option available for \$5). All proceeds will go to support the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Your participation will make a meaningful difference!

### FINISH THE YEAR ON A HEALTHY NOTE WITH THE GET ACTIVE WELLNESS EXPO

Get your sweat on by attending the Get Active Wellness Expo at Dodge Community Center this Saturday, Dec. 16. The event starts at 10 a.m. and will feature sample fitness classes, sports demonstrations, vendors and more!

There will be resource tables and activities for all ages including a fun run and walk for those who arrive early at 9 a.m. This event will give you the chance to get to know some of the fitness classes and programs our department has to offer. [Learn more and register.](#)

# UNLOCKING DIVERSITY: INTRODUCING EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS (ERGS)

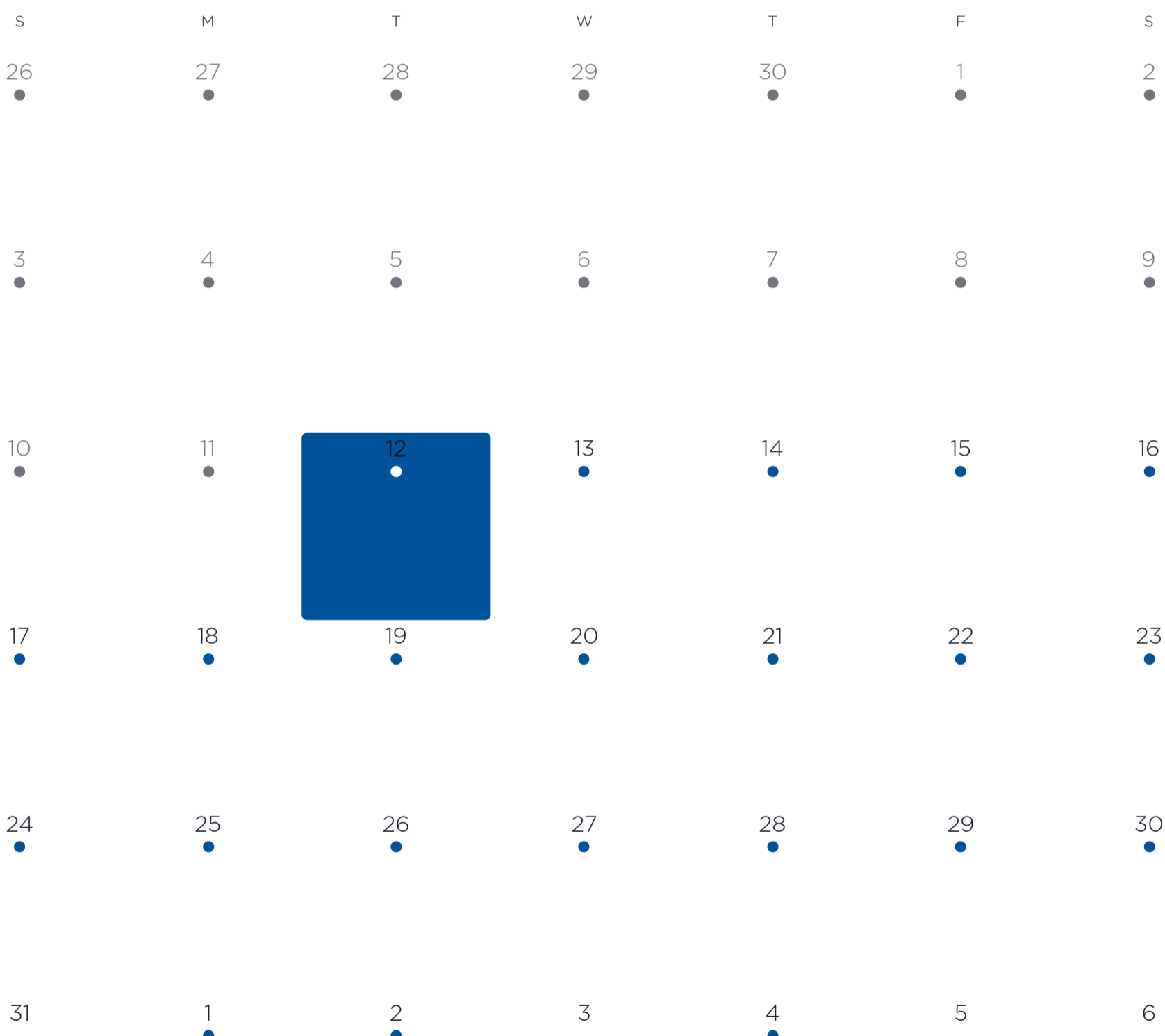
The Office of Diversity and Inclusion proudly introduces Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), emphasizing our commitment to an inclusive work environment. These dynamic groups provide a platform for employees to connect, share experiences, and actively contribute to a more inclusive workplace.

The array of ERGs includes:

- B.L.A.C.C. (Black Leaders Achieving Commitment and Change)
- W.I.N (Women’s Initiative Network)
- Nosotros - “US”
- Veteran
- LGBTQ+

[Join an ERG today](#), and be part of shaping a workplace where diversity is celebrated and inclusion is a reality.

## 12/12/2023



November 17

All day

A COLLIDE OF SCOPE EXHIBITION

All day

ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUES - WINTER SESSION REGISTRATION

All day

ADULT VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES - WINTER SESSION REGISTRATION

All day

FALL CHAMP OF CHAMPS TOURNAMENT

# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Are any of these holidays new to you?  
Check all that apply!

kfrancisapr@gmail.com [Switch account](#)



Not shared

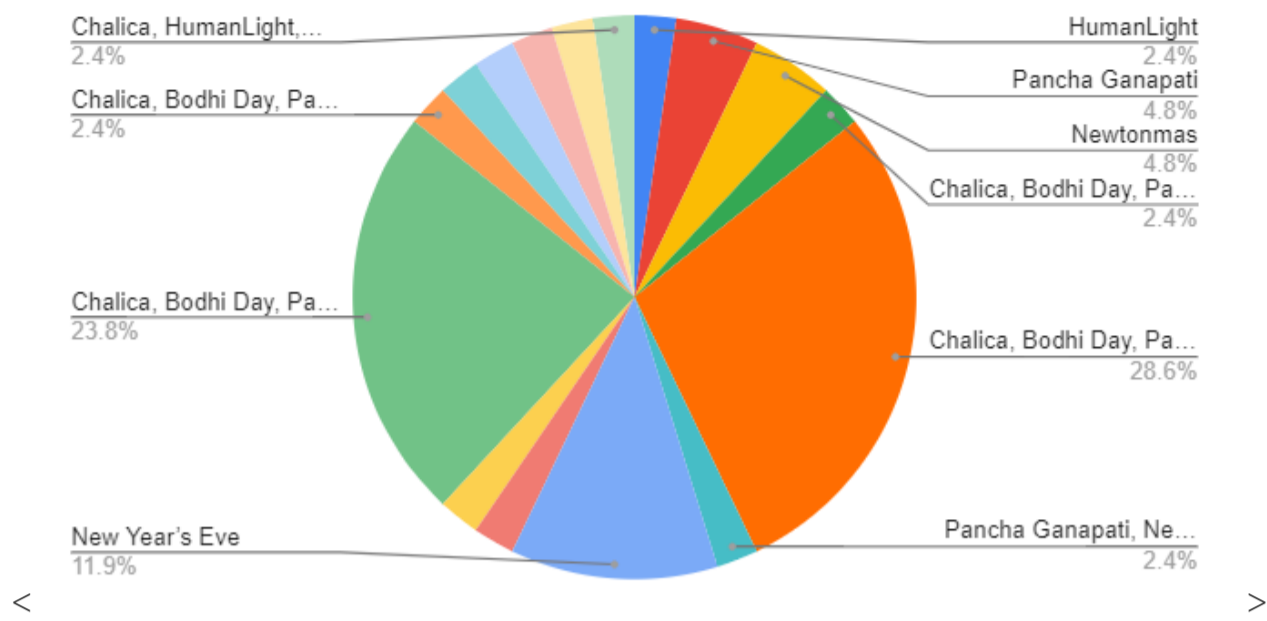
\* Indicates required question

Are any of these holidays new to you? Check all that apply! \*

- Chalice
- Hanukkah
- Bodhi Day
- Pancha Ganapati
- Yule
- HumanLight
- Newtonmas
- Christmas
- Kwanzaa



Count of Are any of these holidays new to you? Check all that apply!



# LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Rise Together Leadership Update - Dec. 12, 2023



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## ALYSSA FRIEND

She/Her/Hers



**Section**

Human Resources Analyst – COAAA

**Length of Employment**

Nine months

**What's your favorite aspect of Columbus Recreation and Parks?**

I love being surrounded by people all working toward the same goal of making our community better. There is no better job than one where you invest your time in improving the lives of others.

**What's your favorite project that you have worked on?**

I am currently working on End of Year reporting for COAAA. I'm excited to gather this data because I love seeing all of our successes from this past year brought to light and the hope it gives us for the future!

**What is your favorite ice cream flavor?**

Black Raspberry Chip

**What is your favorite book or movie?**

The Matrix

**What is one piece of advice you have?**

Give yourself grace! As with any government job, there is a lot to learn. Don't let your confidence in your role depend on perfection—be proud of your effort, and remember that we're in this together!

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**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.

ARCHIVE