

COOLING CENTERS TO OPEN MONDAY, JULY 15

Beginning **Monday, July 15**, until the extreme weather subsides, we will open cooling centers at five regional community centers and waive pool entry fees to give residents a place to cool off. Our pools and spraygrounds will also be open for extended hours.



RISE TOGETHER - JULY 9, 2024

SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

know that it's the second largest Somali community in the U.S.

During the 1990s, Columbus saw a large influx of Somali immigrants, many of them coming as refugees looking to escape the ongoing civil war. Although many Somalis initially came to other parts of the U.S., many eventually moved to Columbus, largely due to the low cost of living and affordable housing. Today, according to the [Somali Community Association of Ohio](#), 45-50,000 Somalis live in Columbus.

Columbus' Somali community is thriving, with many Somali Americans establishing successful businesses. One such example is Hoyo's Kitchen, a Somali cuisine restaurant. Established in 2014 on the North Side, Hoyo's Kitchen now boasts three central Ohio locations in the North Market, Dublin and New Albany.

Likewise, many Somali Americans from Columbus have gone on to make names for themselves while positively impacting the City. Two such individuals are Ohio House District 3 Representatives Isail Mohamed and Munira Abdullahi, who became the first two Somali-American representatives in Ohio in December 2022.

As part of our inclusivity and accessibility efforts, the department consistently creates marketing collateral in Somali, the third-most spoken language in Columbus. Our website can also be translated into Somali (as well as 11 other languages!), making it accessible to our Somali-speaking residents.

Want to learn more about the Somali diaspora in Columbus? Attend *The Somali Experience*, our Lunch & Learn today from noon-1 p.m. at the Jerry Hammond Center's Continental Room. Hosted by the DEI Committee, this Lunch & Learn will feature guest speaker Fatuma Bulle, who will speak about her own experience as a Somali moving to the U.S. If you would like to attend but haven't signed up, [register](#) by 11 a.m. today!

You can still share your opinion with the DEI Committee! Please contact any committee member or complete this quick [online survey](#).

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AROUND TOWN

- [Columbus Salsa & Bachata Weekend](#): July 11-14 at Dance Edge, 1400 Dublin Road, Suit 103, 43215
- [American Homeboy Film Screening](#): July 12, 7-11 p.m. at Ohio Village, 800 E. 17th Ave., 43211
- [2024 Irish Music Festival](#): July 13, 3 p.m.-12 a.m. at Shamrock Club of Columbus, 60 W. Castle Road, 43207
- [PBJ & Jazz - Latin Grooves](#): July 20, 12 p.m. at Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave., 43215
- [Cultural Fusion Festival](#): July 20, 1-8:30 p.m. at Nafzger Park, 2845 Noe Bixby Road, 43232
- [2024 Columbus African Festival](#): July 26-28 at Genoa Park, 303 W. Broad St., 43215

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Disability Pride Month (July)**: Celebrates people with disabilities, their identities, their culture and their contributions to society. Aims to change the way people think about and define disability, to end the stigma of disability and to promote the belief that disability is a natural part of human diversity. The first official Disability Pride celebration occurred in 2015.
- **Somali Independence Day (July 1)**: Celebrates the unification of the Trust Territory of Somaliland and the State of Somaliland into the Somali Republic on July 1, 1960; this national holiday is observed in Somalia. Columbus boasts a Somali community of around 50,000.
- **Independence Day (July 4)**: Commemorates the Declaration of Independence's ratification by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.
- **Al-Hijri - Beginning of Islamic New Year (July 7-8)**: Marks the beginning of a new lunar Hijri year;

observed by most Muslims on the first day of the



of global population issues, first established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program in 1989.

- **National Disability Independence Day (July 26):** Celebrates the 1990 enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark U.S. civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

NEWS AND INFORMATION



For nearly 40 years, we have celebrated Park and Recreation Month in July to promote building strong, vibrant and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. This month is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating you and all you do to improve the quality of life for our residents.

This year's theme – "Where You Belong" – celebrates the many ways we foster a sense of belonging in our community by providing welcoming and inclusive programs, essential services for all ages and abilities, and safe, accessible spaces to build meaningful connections.

July 15 is also the department's birthday - this year, we're 114 years old!

This month, take a moment to think about everything we do for our community and how we make a difference every day. Know that your efforts have been noticed. We'll share some kudos we've received from residents in the newsletter.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	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	31	1	2	3

There are no events on this day.

KUDOS: EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

The Forestry team received [this letter from a resident thanking the team for providing wood chips for their community garden](#). The group shared they were able to provide 600 pounds of produce from the garden to neighbors and food pantry guests. It also helped to beautify the neighborhood.

This is an example of how we can work with outside groups to make a difference in our community!

REINVESTING IN YOU

This year, one of our areas of focus is reinvesting in our staff. In this section, we highlight some of the ways you can grow, personally and professionally, and celebrate those who have reached a professional milestone.

DIVE INTO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH FREE TRAINING

Dive into professional development this summer with Citywide Training & Development! The summer lineup includes a variety of enriching courses designed to help you learn, grow and thrive. From Career Development to Microsoft Office, from Supervisor Skills to Wellness, there's something for everyone. [Explore all of the courses being offered in July](#) and register today!

TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- [Due July 29 - Annual Ethics Training: 50 Years of Promoting Governmental Ethics](#): If assigned, you must complete the training by July 29.



Have you recently earned a degree, award or certification? [Let us know, and we will share your accomplishment in the newsletter!](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**TISH
GAUNTNER**
SHE/HER/HERS



Section: Center Manager, Tuttle Park Community Center

Length of employment: 9 years

What's your favorite aspect of working for the department? I love providing great programs and special events for the Tuttle Park community.

What's your favorite project? There have been many favorites, but I am truly enjoying being the chair of the Art Committee and working on getting department staff trained in a variety of media, techniques, and processes that they can utilize at their centers.

What's your favorite ice cream? Strawberry

What's your favorite book or movie? Book-Franny & Zooey by JD Salinger;
Movie-Pump Up the Volume

What's one piece of advice you'd share? Embrace changes.

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

2024



2023

