



## RISE TOGETHER - JAN. 7, 2025

### SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

#### LOOKING BACK AT THE SUCCESS OF 2024

In late 2023, the DE&I Committee launched its Lunch & Learn series, events designed to educate staff members about DE&I topics related to the different communities Columbus Recreation and Parks Department serves. Last year, we committed to hosting four Lunch & Learn events—one each quarter.

- **Learning at the Lincoln:** In February, to coincide with Black History Month, a tour of the historic Lincoln Theater was hosted. The event included speaking with staff members and performers, one of whom performed for the 39 staff in attendance.
- **The Somali Experience:** Fatuma Bulle, a Youth Development staff member, spoke about being a Somali refugee, an immigrant to the U.S., and a member of Columbus' Somali community. The event, which was held in July to coincide with Somali Independence Day and included samples of Somali food, was attended by 45 staff.
- **The Story of Dos Hermanos:** Vicente and Lisa Gutierrez, owners of Dos Hermanos, spoke about the challenges of starting and growing a minority-owned business. The event was attended by 45 staff who sampled some of the food from Dos Hermanos.
- **Veterans Among Us:** Chris Scannell, a member of our Design and Construction section, spoke about being an active military member and serving as a Marine overseas. We also recognized some of our department's veterans in attendance. The event was attended by 29 staff.

In all, we had an average attendance of 40 participants per event in 2024, which would not have been possible without your support. As we prepare to expand our programming in 2025, we want to hear from you! What would you like to see? What days would be best for you to attend? [Take our brief, 3-minute survey and let us know!](#)

We've extended the end date for our survey until Jan. 17 so everyone who wants to participate is able to do so.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 20):** Observed on the third Monday in January, this federal holiday celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. King was assassinated in 1968. The holiday was signed into law in 1983 and was first observed on Jan. 20, 1986.
- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Jan. 27):** This day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the genocide of one-third of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated Jan. 27 as a day of commemoration because it was the date when the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated in 1945.
- **Chinese New Year (Jan. 29):** Also known as the Spring Festival, this day celebrates the beginning of the new year on the Chinese calendar and marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring.
- **Black History Month (February):** This annual observance celebrates Black history and culture. Black educators and Black United Students (BUS) at Kent State University first proposed Black History Month in February 1969, before holding the first celebration at Kent State Jan. 2-Feb. 28, 1970. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976. Black History Month is observed in Canada during February, and in Ireland and the United Kingdom in October.
- **World Interfaith Harmony Week (Feb. 1):** The United Nations initiated this week in 2010 to promote harmony among people regardless of their faith.
- **Vasant Panchami (Feb. 2):** This Hindu festival is celebrated on the fifth day of the Hindu month of Magha to honor Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom and the arts. Marked by the prominent use of the color yellow and special ceremonies in educational institutions, the festival signifies the arrival of spring and is considered an auspicious time to begin new educational or artistic endeavors.

## CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS AROUND TOWN

- [Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration](#): Jan. 16, 12-1 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (125 E. Broad St. | 43215)
- [40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast](#): Jan. 20, 7:30 a.m. at Columbus Convention Center (400 N High St. | 43215)
- [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Learning](#): 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Capital University (1 College and Main | 43209)
- [MLK Day March](#): Jan. 20, 3:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Theater (769 E. Long St. | 43202)
- [MLK Day March Program](#): Jan. 20, 5 p.m. at the Lincoln Theater (769 E. Long St., 43202)
- [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration](#): Jan. 22, 10 a.m.-noon at Columbus State Community College, Center for Workforce Development fourth floor ballroom (315 Cleveland Ave. | 43215)

# 2025 PAYROLL CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

Plan ahead and stay organized with the newly published 2025 Payroll Calendar! This essential resource includes all paydays and holidays, ensuring you never miss an important date. Save or print your copy today to keep your schedule and finances on track!

## REMINDER: TIMECLOCKS ROLLED OUT FOR CWA STAFF JAN. 5

As a reminder, CWA staff began using timeclocks on Sunday, Jan. 5; AFSCME staff will begin using timeclocks in February (specific date to be announced). This new system replaces paper timesheets, allowing staff to clock in and out in real-time using timeclocks, tablets or mobile access.

For more information, please review the Electronic Timekeeping System Procedure available on the [intranet's CRPD page](#) and click on the [Policy box](#). This procedure covers essential topics such as core business hours, standard schedules, overtime eligibility, clocking in and out, and what to do if you forget to clock in. Remember, the intranet is accessible only on the City network. If you need a copy of the policy, reach out to your supervisor.

For issues related to timekeeping including clocking in and out and adjustments, please contact Eric Potts at [EEPotts@columbus.gov](mailto:EEPotts@columbus.gov) or 614-724-5549, or Kori DeFelice at [KMDeFelice@columbus.gov](mailto:KMDeFelice@columbus.gov) or 614-645-7570. For technical issues with timeclocks and tablets, please email [CRPDTech@columbus.gov](mailto:CRPDTech@columbus.gov).

## REMINDER: SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

The next Quarterly Staff Leadership Meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 28, 1-3 p.m., at 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room. Don't miss this opportunity to ask your burning questions! [Submit your questions online](#) (anonymously if you'd like) for a chance to have them answered live or featured in the Rise Together newsletter.


Quick Note: We're looking for questions that matter to the whole team. If you have a personal issue or concern, your supervisor or HR representative is the best person to help.

## SUPPORT THE EMPTY BOWLS PROGRAM

Start the year off by giving back through Empty Bowls, benefitting the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. For a minimum \$10 donation, enjoy a delicious bowl of soup and take

1/21/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	31	1

 There are no events on this day.

## KEY DATES JANUARY

### Timeclock Rollout (CWA staff only)

Jan. 5

### Empty Bowls

Jan. 10 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 1533 Alum Industrial Dr.

### Sick Leave Reciprocity Payout (Eligible staff only)

Jan. 17

### Vacation/Personal Business/PTO Use-It-or-Lose-It

Jan. 18

### 2025 Open Enrollment

Jan. 27- Feb. 28

### Quarterly Leadership Staff Meeting

Jan. 28 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 East Broad St., Continental Room

home a handcrafted bowl made by a local artist. Join us this Friday, Jan. 10, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., at 1533 Alum Industrial Dr.

We’re still in need of soup! If you’d like to bring your favorite soup to share, please contact Jill Brumfield at [JCBrumfield@columbus.gov](mailto:JCBrumfield@columbus.gov).

# CELEBRATING YOU

## SUZANNE SCHWARTZ HONORED



This year, the Friends of Schiller Park created the Village Light Award, an honor recognizing individuals whose joy and dedication enrich the beloved park. The inaugural recipient is Suzanne Schwartz, center manager at Schiller Community Center!

The group noted Suzanne’s journey from participant to center manager, the increase in participation and program offerings, and her ability to maintain order with a light touch as reasons for awarding her this honor, saying Schiller Park truly shines brighter because of her.

Congratulations, Suzanne!

# REINVESTING IN YOU

## TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- **Jan. 14:** [Intro to AI for Parks and Rec: 101](#), Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
- **Jan. 17:** [Green Stormwater in Parks: A Win-Win for Urban Resilience](#), City Parks Alliance

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### DAVID STEIN, SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR-DOT HE/HIM/HIS

#### How will you work with staff?

My goal is to help staff accomplish their mission with as little technology headache as possible.

#### Can you share a little about your background?

I have been married to my wonderful wife, Alycia, for 17 years. We have four children and a ton of pets. I live in Springfield, though I am from Columbus and have great memories of Columbus' parks from when I was young. I graduated from Marion Franklin High School in 2004. I then served seven years in the U.S. Army. After leaving the military, I worked construction for a while, then joined the City of Columbus as a cashier at the impound lot, where I worked for almost two years. I transferred to the Tech Desk in 2021 and have spent the last three years there. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Franklin University and I am scheduled to graduate with a master's degree in Business Analytics in January, also from Franklin University.

#### What's your favorite ice cream?

Moose Tracks

#### What's your favorite book or movie?

My favorite books are a series called *Sanctuary* by Robert J Crane

#### What's one piece of advice you'd share?

Life is too short not to enjoy it.

## ARCHIVE

2024



2023



2022

