



RISE TOGETHER - APRIL 29, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON BELONGING

JOIN *COLLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS* ON MAY 22

Join us for *Collective Conversations*, an interactive event that will feature several groups having discussions that will help shape future department activities.

Collective Conversations will take place at Linden Community Center (1350 Briarwood Ave., 43211) on Thursday, May 22, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Spots are limited, so if you want to take part in the conversation, make sure you [register now!](#) If you are interested in being a discussion facilitator, please reach out to Kennedy Billups at KMBillups@columbus.gov.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May):** Recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture and achievements of the United States. President George H. W. Bush initially designated May Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in 1992 before renaming it to its current moniker on May 1, 2009.
- **Jewish American Heritage Month (May):** Recognizes and celebrates Jewish Americans' achievements and contributions to the history, culture and achievements of the United States. President George W. Bush first proclaimed the month on April 20, 2006.
- **Mental Health Awareness Month (May):** Raises awareness about mental health and encourages individuals to talk openly about it. It was started in the U.S. in 1949 by [Mental Health America](#). Each year, Mental Health America releases a [toolkit of materials](#). This year's theme is Where to Start.
- **Older Americans Month (May):** Recognizes the achievements and vitality of older people. President John F. Kennedy established the national month in May 1963.
- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (May 21):** Highlights the richness of the world's culture and the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and development that is sustainable. The observance was established in 2002 by the United Nations.
- **Memorial Day (May 26):** Honors and mourns the U.S. military personnel who died while serving the U.S. Armed Forces. Memorial Day is a federal holiday.

Find an Open House Near You

- [2025 National Flag Day Celebration](#): May 17, 2-5 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church (1475 Morse Road, 43229)
- [What Do We Protect?](#): May 16 – June 21, Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center (139 W. Main St., 43215)
- [Echoes of Tradition](#): May 19, 3-4:30 p.m., Fort Hayes Career Center’s Performing Arts Center (546 Jack Gibbs Blvd., 43215)
- [Collective Conversations](#): May 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Linden Community Center (1350 Briarwood Ave., 43211)
- [Columbus Asian Festival](#): May 24-25, Franklin Park (1755 E. Broad St., 43203)
- [Ohio Black Expo](#): May 24-25, Genoa Park (303 W. Broad St., 43215)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

SPRING CLEANING: CLEAR OUT THAT OLD TECH

Have old tech collecting dust in your office? Now’s the perfect time to declutter!

We’re collecting unused or outdated tech equipment—think old cell phones, laptops, desktops, keyboards, monitors, and yes, even that mysterious mouse you haven’t touched in years. If it’s tech-related, we’ll take it and ensure it’s properly disposed of through DOT.

Not sure if your item qualifies as “tech”? Send an email to David Stein at DMStein@columbus.gov—he will let you know if we can take it. If not, he will help you figure out the right way to recycle or dispose of it. Let’s clean up our spaces and make room for what we do use!

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT REMINDER

If you’re enrolled in the City’s Tuition Reimbursement Program, here’s a must-know reminder: Before you take any class, you must submit a Tuition Reimbursement request in Dayforce and receive approval. This step is required for every single class—if you skip it, your tuition might not be reimbursed.

Questions? Reach out to Rob Ricer at RLRicer@columbus.gov or 614-645-2348.

CREATE STAFF LUNCH FUNDRAISER – MAY 2

Don’t forget to register for the next CREATE Culture Committee’s staff lunch fundraiser! Swing by 1533 Alum Creek Drive (Training Room) on Friday, May 2, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and enjoy a delicious lunch for a great cause.

5/9/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	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

May 7	
All day	Heart of Ohio Senior National
All day	Great Lakes Mothers Day Classic
May 9 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Far East Mobile Produce Markets
May 9 @ 2:00 pm	Barnett Mobile Produce Markets

KEY DATES APRIL

CREATE Culture Wellness Challenge
April 7-May 4

Find an Open House Near You

games and time to connect with your coworkers! All proceeds will support future staff appreciation events hosted by the CREATE Culture Committee.

Register [to let us know you're coming](#). Come hungry, leave happy, and help us continue building a great workplace culture!

LAST CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CRPD DIAPER DRIVE

There are just two days left to participate in the diaper drive to support local families through the City's CelebrateOne initiative! CelebrateOne works to ensure children are raised in healthy environments. You can contribute by [donating diapers through Amazon](#) (no need to go to the store) or [making a financial donation](#)—every bit helps! The drive ends tomorrow, Wednesday, April 30. Scan the QR code to purchase diapers to be shipped to the City.

MAY

CREATE Culture Lunch

May 2 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | 1533 Alum Creek Dr.

Collective Conversations

May 22 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Linden Community Center

REINVESTING IN YOU

TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- May 14: [OPRA Region 4 Networking Event](#), Bob Crane Community Center, 3200 Tremont Road, 43221
- June 25: [Climate Resilience and Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

Reminder: All staff are members of City Parks Alliance! Use your email to log in; reset your password if needed.

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

DOCK CREW DELIVERS—RAIN, WIND OR SHINE

Hoover.

Known as The Docks Crew, these staff members are pulled from various locations within our section to tackle this highly specialized, physically demanding job. Here’s what they do:

- Install 316 dock spaces for public rental
- Set up seven boat launch ramps across all three reservoirs
- Complete the full installation before the May 1 deadline
- Conduct weekly inspections and repairs
- Return in fall (starting Nov. 1) to remove and store the docks for winter

Working on water in freezing temps—often in the 30s and 40s with biting wind—makes this one of the most challenging seasonal tasks we take on. And yet, year after year, this crew meets their deadlines and ensures a safe and successful boating season for our community.

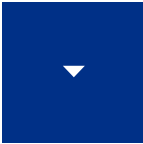
The current crew includes Lucas Easterbrook, Tim Monahan, Russ Swank, Taylor Evans, Ryan Allen and Scott Curtis. We’d also like to recognize Mike Plageman, the longest-serving member of the crew, who wasn’t able to participate this year but provided valuable input and support throughout the process.

Thank you to the entire Docks Crew for your hard work, grit and consistency. Your work may go unseen by many, but it is deeply appreciated!

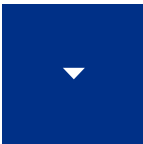


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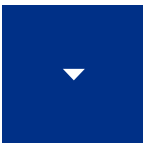
2025



2024



2023



2022

