



SEPT. 16, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

OUR VALUES IN ACTION: A SUMMER TO CELEBRATE

Summer is always our busiest season—festivals, pools, camps, park maintenance, golf and more—and this year our values shined brighter than ever.

When extreme heat hit, we opened cooling centers across the city to keep residents safe—an example of how we *Lift Each Other Up*. Through the APPS Job Readiness Program, 340 youth gained valuable skills by working with City departments and local organizations—proof of how we *Build Strong Connections*.

These are just two examples of how our values guided our work and strengthened our community. Each of you played a role in this success. Want a reminder of the impact? Watch our summer recap video on social media—it’s a celebration of you and your work!

Take a moment to reflect on how our values guided you this summer—and send a quick thank-you to a colleague who lived our values. A simple note means a lot.

Thanks for making this summer one to remember!

NEWS AND INFORMATION

IMPORTANT CHANGE: PPO OPEN ENROLLMENT MOVES TO OCTOBER

Big news—Open Enrollment is moving up. This year’s enrollment period will run Oct. 27–Nov. 30, and it will be the **only Open Enrollment for 2026 coverage**. The spring PPO-only enrollment is no longer offered.

Both PPO and HDHP plans will be available during this fall enrollment. Elections made in October and November will be in effect Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2026.

9/29/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

TEE IT UP AT THE CRPD 2025 GOLF OUTING

Dust off your clubs and grab your co-workers—our annual golf outing is back! Join us for a fun-filled day on the greens at Mentel Memorial Golf Course (6005 Alkire Road) on Sunday, Oct. 12, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

This year’s outing is a 4-person scramble, perfect for golfers of all skill levels. Whether you’re a seasoned pro or just out for a good time, it’s a great way to connect with others, enjoy some fresh air and share a few laughs. Build a team of colleagues, or grab your family and friends – all are welcome!

The cost is just \$55 per player, which includes green fees, cart, food and prizes. Payment can be made the day of the event by cash or electronic payment.

Register by Oct. 3 by emailing your team’s names to Mark Williams at MAAWilliams@columbus.gov.

Don’t miss out—come for the golf, stay for the camaraderie and help us keep building our culture together!

Sponsored by the CREATE Culture Committee. Proceeds will support future staff appreciation events.

LAST CALL: WELLNESS CHALLENGE AND STAFF SOCIAL

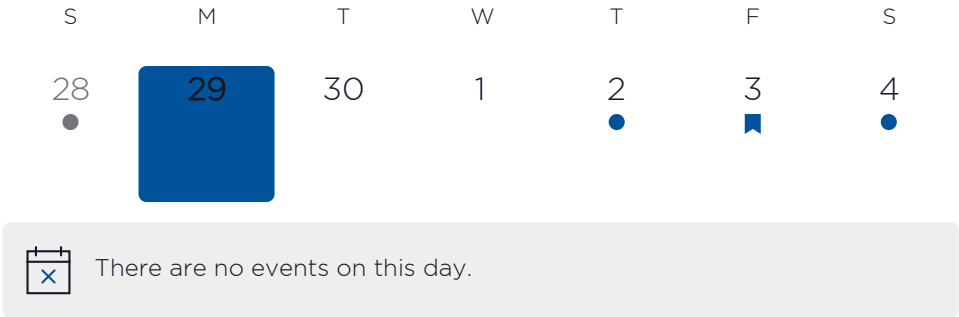
Last call to register for the CREATE Culture Committee Fall Wellness Challenge. The challenge runs Sept. 22–Oct. 19. [Register by Sept. 17](#) and make this your healthiest fall yet!

The next staff social is Sept. 17, 4–7 p.m., at Land-Grant Brewing. No RSVP needed; friends and family welcome!

CITY EMAIL IS BACK IN YOUR POCKET

Good news: After you receive the email confirming your migration to Office 365, you’ll be able to access City email on your phone. Do this:

- Delete old apps: Remove Boxer and Absolute Secure Access.
- Download Outlook: Install the Microsoft Outlook app.
- Sign in: Use your City username and regular City password.
- If you see “government account detected” and the app closes, reopen Outlook—your email will appear.



KEY DATES SEPTEMBER

Let’s Get Social: CREATE Culture Staff Social

Sept. 17 | 4-7 p.m. | Land-Grant Brewing

[Fall into Wellness: CREATE Culture Wellness Challenge](#)

Sept. 22-Oct. 19

Mandatory Dayforce Training for Managers and Timekeepers Due

Sept. 30

OCTOBER

Open Enrollment for ALL 2026 Medical Coverage

Oct. 27-Nov. 30

[Extended Leadership Meeting](#)

Oct. 28 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St.-Continental Room

That’s it—email on your phone is back. Questions?
Contact the Tech Team or reach out to David Stein at
614-645-7350 or DMStein@columbus.gov.

GIVE BLOOD, GET PERKS

You have two opportunities to donate blood this
September – and they both come with some perks! On
Thursday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., head to 77 N.
Front St. and receive one of four limited-edition Red
Cross x PEANUTS T-shirts. On Wednesday, Sept. 24, from
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., stop by 240 Parsons Ave. to donate and
get a \$10 Amazon.com gift card delivered by email.

Donating this month also comes with extra perks. Every
donor will receive a BOGO ticket offer for select
Columbus Blue Jackets home games and be entered into
a weekly drawing for a Blue Jackets prize package. Plus,
you can visit BigTen.org, scroll to “We Give Blood” and
submit a photo of your donation to receive details on how
to claim a free Big Ten T-shirt for your team of choice,
while supplies last.

[Schedule your appointment today, and make a difference!](#)

REINVESTING IN YOU

UPCOMING TRAINING

Check out these upcoming training opportunities.

- October: [Strategies for Dealing with Development Pressure on Parks](#), City Parks Alliance

All staff are members of City Parks Alliance; reset your password to log in and register.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Kerry Francis Rarey, APR, Senior Manager Strategic Communications-Community Relations
- Communications and AI Certificate
- New York University

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

LIVING OUR VALUES

HOW WE LIFT EACH OTHER UP WITH CREATIVE

SOLUTIONS

Columbus Recreation and Parks piloted its first-ever goat grazing program at Antrim Park—and it was a win for conservation, the community and our values.

This passion project of Conservation Horticulturist Specialist II Pam Steck showed how we Lift Each Other Up by supporting bold ideas. Instead of contractors and heavy equipment, goats from Goats on the Go Columbus Northwest grazed two acres of steep terrain, clearing invasive plants like honeysuckle, tree of heaven and poison ivy. The approach saved money, reduced fuel use and created healthier habitats.

Thanks to promotion by Tina Mohn and Stephanie Garling, the project received weeks of media coverage, sparking community interest and excitement. Residents enjoyed watching the goats in action, and now Antrim Lake has clearer views where invasive plants once blocked the shoreline. A perfect example of how we Build Strong Connections while leading in conservation!



NOMINATE A COWORKER FOR THE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

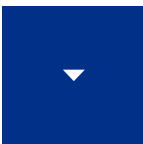
[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) The employee and their assistant director will be notified that they were nominated.

ARCHIVE

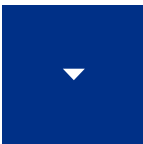
2025



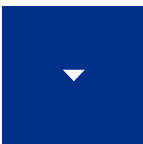
2024



2023



2022



NATURE

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