



WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

SEPT. 3, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON RISE

CELEBRATE LATINO HERITAGE MONTH IN COLUMBUS

The City of Columbus is officially celebrating Latino Heritage Month for the fourth year, from Sept. 15 – Oct. 15. Led by the Latino Heritage Month Committee (founded in 2022 by Councilmember Lourdes Barroso de Padilla's office), the celebration promotes visibility, cultural pride and togetherness — making a lasting impact across our community.

This year's festivities include an Illumination Ceremony honoring Latine leaders, the La Feria Art Show featuring art, music and culture, and a parade and festival in downtown Columbus.

There's something for everyone — join in and experience the vibrant traditions that make our city stronger.

LATINO HERITAGE PARADE: WALK WITH US!

Celebrate culture and community by joining Columbus Recreation and Parks in the Latino Heritage Parade on Saturday, Sept. 13!

[Register today](#) to walk with us, represent our department and show your pride in this vibrant citywide celebration.

Events

- [Latino Heritage Month Padrinos Reception and Illumination Ceremony](#): Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Columbus City Hall (90 W. Broad St. | 43215)
- [Feria Internacional del Libro \(International Book Fair\)](#): Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Columbus Metropolitan Library (96 S. Grant Ave. | 43215)
- [¡Celebrando! – Community Discussion](#): Sept. 15, 1-5 p.m., at Ohio History Center (800 E. 17th Ave. | 43211)
- [Latino Heritage Month Parade and Feria](#): Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in Downtown Columbus
- [La Feria](#): Oct. 4, at Blockfort Gallery (162 N. 6th St. | 43215)

Observances

- **National Hispanic Heritage Month** (Sept. 15-Oct. 15): Celebrates and recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture and achievements of the United States. The beginning of this month coincides with the independence day for several Latin American countries such as Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (Sept. 15), Mexico (Sept. 16) and Chile (Sept.

- **Rosh Hashanah** (Sept. 22-24): Celebrates the Jewish New Year. It is one of two “High Holy Days” of Judaism and begins a 10-day period of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur.
- **HeForShe** (Sept. 20): A solidarity movement for the advancement of gender equality, initiated by the United Nations. Grounded in the idea that gender inequality is an issue that affects all people socially, economically and politically, HeForShe seeks to involve men and boys in achieving equality for women by taking action against negative gender stereotypes and behaviors.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

OFFICE 365 TRANSITION IS UNDERWAY

The department began transitioning to Office 365 yesterday and will wrap up by Sept. 9. This move gives us mobile access to all Office products, making collaboration and file sharing smoother than ever. To prepare for this change, [review the getting started and training resources on the intranet](#).

Big news: Outlook is finally returning to mobile devices! The Tech Team has already submitted a list of users whose job classes will benefit most from email access on their cell phones. A department-wide email with setup instructions will land in your inbox on Sept. 9.

Questions? Contact David Stein at 614-645-7350 or DMStein@columbus.gov.

REMINDER: MANDATORY TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND TIMEKEEPERS

In-person Dayforce training for managers and timekeepers is now live and runs throughout September. These sessions use real-time data from your own teams, giving you the perfect opportunity to sharpen your skills and ask questions.

If you're required to attend, you'll receive an email with sign-up details. Training is held at 111 N. Front St., with limited free parking available in the adjacent garage.

A few spots remain in the makeup session on Sept. 8. To register, reach out to Neisha Collins (NDCollins@columbus.gov, 614-645-5766), Eric Potts (EEPotts@columbus.gov, 614-724-5549) or Kori DeFelice (KMDeFelice@columbus.gov, 614-645-7570).

FALL INTO WELLNESS WITH CREATE CULTURE

Start the season by building healthier habits and connections!

Join the CREATE Culture Committee for a four-week Wellness Challenge from Sept. 22 – Oct. 19. Compete with a team of coworkers or join a house team to meet new people while focusing on your well-being.

Here's how it works:

- Track weekly wellness indicators (accessible to all abilities).
- Submit your progress weekly to climb the leaderboard.
- Join optional wellness events each week.
- Celebrate your hard work at a fun after-work gathering when the challenge wraps.

[Register by Sept. 17](#) and make this your healthiest fall yet!

9/12/2025

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		20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

September 12
All day
Nite Owl Classic (Men’s and Women’s)
All day
GSL Worlds
September 12 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Far East Mobile Produce Markets
September 12 @ 2:00 pm
Barnett Mobile Produce Markets
September 12 @ 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Columbus Jazz Orchestra with Byron Stripling

KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER

CREATE Culture Committee: Staff Lunch - [RSVP Today](#)

Sept. 12 | 11:30 a.m.17 p.m. | 1533 Alum Creek Dr.

[Latino Heritage Parade: Walk With Columbus Recreation and Parks](#)

Sept. 13 | 10-12 p.m. | Downtown Columbus

Let's Get Social: CREATE Culture Staff Social

Sept. 18 | 4-7 p.m. | Land-Grant Brewing

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

Sept. 22-Oct. 19

OCTOBER

[Extended Leadership Meeting](#)

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

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

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

LIVING OUR VALUES

TURNING FALLEN TREES INTO LASTING VALUE



In March 2024, Building Maintenance and Forestry launched a bold idea: give removed trees a second life as usable lumber. Instead of chipping logs from storm damage, safety hazards or City projects, the team began milling them into material for park needs.

The results speak for themselves. More than 100 trees have produced 25,000 board feet of lumber—valued at over \$125,000—at only the cost of staff time. That wood has already supplied \$10,000 in decking, replaced tens of thousands in lumber purchases and even furnished offices with desks and tables that would have cost more than \$40,000. The program is set to pay for itself within three years.

The benefits go beyond savings. Using locally salvaged wood cuts hauling costs, avoids chemical treatments and keeps carbon stored—offsetting the equivalent of 13,500 gallons of gasoline!

This initiative shows how we are owning the moment—protecting resources, saving money and finding smarter ways to serve our community. Thanks to Jimmy Amick, James Ballenger, Cody Wendell and Chad Karg for being bold and living the values!



MAHOGANY HARRIS, COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONIST-YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SHE/HER/HERS



How long have you been with the department? It'll be a year in September.

What's your favorite aspect of working here? My favorite aspect of working for the department is that I've been given the opportunity to give back to the very community that I'm from and currently live in.

What's been your favorite project? Thus far, outside of my day-to-day job functions, which I passionately enjoy, is being able to be a part of Cap City.

What's your favorite ice cream? My favorite ice cream is strawberry

What's your favorite book or movie? A book I really enjoyed is "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

What's one piece of advice you'd share? One piece of advice I'd give is to show up daily to work being your authentic self and build connections within the community.

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

