



WE PLAY TO WIN. THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

OCT. 15, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

We're about six months out from the launch of our new values. Building a strong workplace culture takes time, and it takes everyone to keep the momentum going. Here are a few ways

- Stop by the [We Play to Win website](#) to dive into what our values look like in action.
- Recognize a colleague for living the values by [nominating them for the staff spotlight](#).
- Kick off a meeting by reminding everyone of our shared commitment - [this video highlights what being bold means to our staff](#).
- Join the [C.R.E.A.T.E. Culture Committee](#) and participate in events hosted by the committee.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

ATTEND THE NEXT EXTENDED LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

The next Quarterly Staff Leadership Meeting is just two weeks away! Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. at 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room, to hear updates from the extended leadership team.

As part of these meetings, we're asking you to submit your burning questions! [Submit your questions online](#) (anonymously if you'd like) for a chance to have them answered live or featured in *The Weekly Playbook* 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.*

THANKFUL TOGETHER: JOIN THE C.R.E.A.T.E. FRIENDSGIVING LUNCH

Join the C.R.E.A.T.E. Committee for a festive luncheon on Friday, Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Champions Golf Course. Enjoy a full Thanksgiving meal for \$10 (cash or online). [Pre-registration is strongly encouraged](#). A 50/50 drawing will be held at 12:30 p.m., and the driving range will be open (clubs and balls provided).



DECEMBER

We're proud to celebrate our colleagues who have served, are currently serving or have a spouse who served in the military. Join us for a Veterans Day Employee Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 11 a.m. at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

Enjoy lunch, explore the museum, and connect with fellow employees as we honor your service and sacrifice. Admission, parking and lunch are provided.

[RSVP today.](#)

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE—MAKE YOUR CCC PLEDGE TODAY

Every dollar counts! City employees donated more than \$112,000 last year through the Combined Charitable Campaign, helping local charities in need. The City covers all administration costs, so 100 percent of your gift goes directly to your chosen causes.

[Pledge online](#) (User ID: COC+Employee ID (Example: COC12345) and password: coc2025)

Already give through payroll deduction? Your pledge rolls over automatically unless you make changes in ePledge.

If you have questions, email CityofColumbusCCC@uwcentralohio.org or Jennie Hanna (JNHanna@columbus.gov).

10/27/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 ●



October 27

October 27 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Harvest Wreath Workshop

KEY DATES

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

REINVESTING IN YOU

INVEST IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT WITH CITYWIDE TRAINING

End your year by investing in your career with Citywide Training and Development! Register for free classes in supervisory skills, developing positive habits, stress management and more. Family members can also take advantage of most courses (exceptions noted in the catalog).

Review the [2025 Fall Catalog](#), or visit the [Training Gateway](#) to explore courses and register today.

TRAINING GATEWAY ASSISTANCE

Have a question about training assignments, login issues, manager/approver updates in the Training Gateway? Reach out to Whitney Washington (WHWashington@columbus.gov, 614-645-5179).

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.



[accomplishment in the newsletter!](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

RYAN ALLEN

HE/HIM/HIS

**DOWNTOWN GARDENER-PARKS, FORESTRY AND BUILDING
MAINTENANCE**



Own the Moment – When a man in distress entered the pond at Topiary Garden at Deaf School Park, Ryan stayed calm under pressure. He quickly alerted security, called police for assistance and helped clear the area so first responders could safely reach the man. Ryan's quick thinking and steady leadership helped ensure the man received the care he needed. Thank you for working hard during a stressful situation, Ryan!

How long have you been with the department? 8+ years

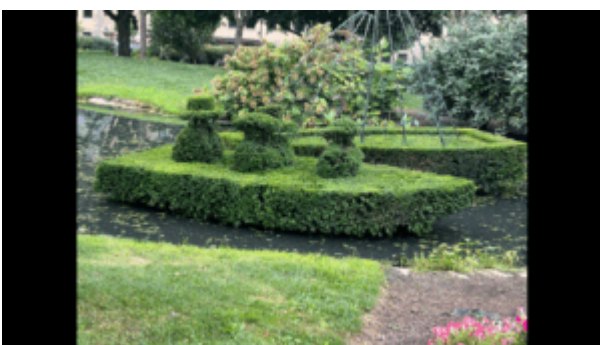
What's your favorite aspect of working here? The balance of compensation and doing what I love.

What's your favorite project? Turning a 'less than desirable' flower bed into a jaw-dropping work of art.

What's your favorite ice cream? UDF's peanut butter chocolate chip cookie dough.

What's your favorite movie? War Room (movie).

What's one piece of advice you'd share? When I stay engaged with co-workers, visitors and my tasks, I enjoy my hours more and accomplish more.





SPOTLIGHT

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

LIVING OUR VALUES

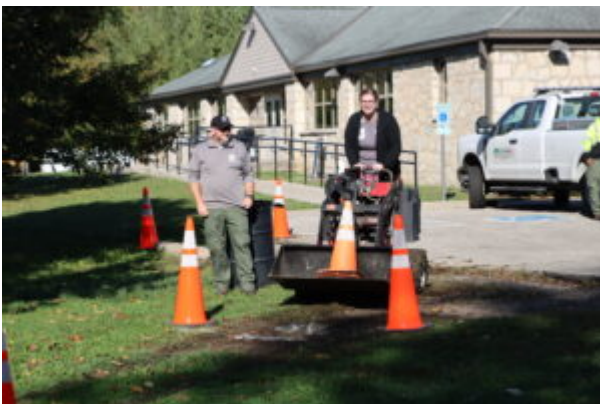
ANNUAL CHAINSAW GAMES BUILD CONNECTION ACROSS THE DEPARTMENT



Did you know our Forestry team receives 5,000-6,000 resident requests each year and cares for 140,000 street trees? They plant, prune and remove trees to grow and protect our urban forest. To ensure our City keeps moving, the team is on call 24 hours a day to respond to tree emergencies at all hours after severe weather rolls through – they are first responders!

Last week, the team hosted its annual Forestry Chainsaw Games to highlight its work to colleagues across the department. Staff could test their tree knowledge and try some of the skills Forestry staff use daily. The Forestry team also competed against each other at some of the more skilled tasks, like assembling a chainsaw and climbing a tree – it was American Ninja Warrior: Forestry Edition!

It was a great way to build strong connections across the department and with each other! If you didn't make it, watch for next year's event!



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.