



WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

SEPT. 30, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON RISE

OCTOBER: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual global campaign aiming to increase awareness of the disease and raise funds for research into its cause, prevention and a search for the cure.

Founded in 1985 in a partnership between the American Cancer Society and Imperial Chemical Industries, its intent from the outset has been to promote mammography as the most effective way to combat breast cancer. In the early 1990s, the pink ribbon quickly became a symbol of solidarity in the battle against breast cancer.

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, breast cancer-related deaths in the U.S. have dropped by 44 percent since 1989, largely due to the rise in awareness about the disease.

Ways to show support in the battle against breast cancer include making a donation, wearing a pink ribbon or attending any of the various events taking place this month.

EVENTS

- [All Out ERG - LGBTQIA+ Trivia](#): Oct. 1, 1-30-3 p.m., at Jerry Hammond Center, Gold Room (1111 E. Broad St. | 43205)
- [La Feria](#): Oct. 4, at Blockfort Gallery (162 N. 6th St. | 43215)
- [Diwali-Tihar Festival](#): Oct. 4, 2-8 p.m., at Huber Park (1640 Davidson Dr. | OH 43068)
- [Shades of Strength - A Breast Cancer Awareness Event](#): Oct. 4, 12-1:30 p.m., at CML Whitehall Branch (4445 E. Broad St. | 43213)
- [Somos Latin-OH 5K](#): Oct. 12, 6:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at Genoa Park (303 W. Broad St. | 43215)
- **All Out ERG - Queer History Walking Tour**: Oct. 15, 4:30 p.m., starting and ending at Slammers (202 E. Long St. | 43215)
- [13th Annual Breast Cancer Survivorship Conference](#): Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at The Fawcett Center (2400 Olentangy River Rd. | 43210)
- [Day of the Dead Festival](#): Oct. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Green Lawn Cemetery (1000 Greenlawn Ave. | 43223)
- [Diwali 2025](#): Oct. 18, 4:30-7:30 p.m., at Hinson Amphitheater (170 E Dublin Granville Rd. | 43054)

OBSERVANCES

- **LBGTQ History Month (October)**: Celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Rodney Wilson.
- **Global Diversity Awareness Month (October)**: Celebrates the positive impact diverse cultures have made on society as a whole.
- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)**: Commemorates the contributions of people with disabilities to U.S. workplaces and the economy. This year's theme is "Access to Good Jobs for All."
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October)**: Increases awareness of breast cancer and raises funds for research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. This annual international health campaign, organized by

major breast cancer charities, was founded in 1985 in partnership between the American Cancer Society and the pharmaceutical division of Imperial Chemical Industries.

- **World Mental Health Day (Oct. 10):** Increases awareness of and advocacy for mental health education and advocates against social stigmas. This international day was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health.
- **International Day of the Girl (Oct. 11):** A key global moment on which to celebrate girls everywhere, amplifying their voices, actions and leadership. It is a day that belongs to everyone who cares about girls and their rights. This year’s theme is ‘Girls’ Vision for the Future.’
- **International Coming Out Day (Oct. 11):** LGBTQIA+ awareness day observed on October 11 to support anyone “coming out of the closet”.
- **Indigenous People’s Day (Oct. 13):** Celebrates and honors indigenous American peoples and commemorates their histories and cultures. In the U.S., it’s held on the second Monday in October and is an official holiday in various localities.
- **Spirit Day (Oct. 16):** Increases support and awareness for people who identify as LGBTQIA+. Observed on the third Thursday in October, this annual awareness day began in 2010 in response to a rash of widely publicized bullying-related suicides of gay school students. Observers wear purple as a visible sign of support for LGBTQIA+ youth.
- **Diwali (Oct. 20):** Also called Deepavali or Deepawali, this is the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions such as Jainism and Sikhism. It celebrates the victory of good over evil, or light over darkness.
- **Samhain (Oct. 31-Nov. 1):** Marks the end of the harvest season, the beginning of the Pagan and Wiccan New Year and honors ancestors and the dead. This celebration is also known as All Hallows.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE FORM UPDATE

A quick reminder: the discipline procedure itself hasn’t changed, but the form has been updated. Please make sure you’re using the [new version posted on the intranet](#) going forward.

NEW DAYFORCE LOGIN STEPS


Heads up! Starting in late September and rolling through October, Dayforce will move to a new three-step login process. Don’t worry—your login information stays the same, but you’ll enter it in three separate screens instead of one:

1. Enter Company: cityofcolumbus
2. Enter User Name: your six-digit user name
3. Enter Password: the same password you currently use

This change adds an extra layer of security to protect you and your data.

10/14/2025

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 ●
26 ●	27 ●	28	29 ●	30 ●	31 ●	1 ●

 There are no events on this day.

LAST CALL: CRPD 2025 GOLF OUTING

Spots are filling fast for our annual golf outing! Join us at Mentel Memorial Golf Course (6005 Alkire Road) on Sunday, Oct. 12, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$55 per player, which covers green fees, cart, food and prizes. Payment can be made the day of the event by cash or electronic payment.

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

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

FLU SHOTS MADE EASY

Flu season is coming—don’t let it catch you off guard. Employee Benefits and Wellness is hosting on-site flu shot clinics throughout October and November. [Check the schedule, and sign up today.](#)

Can’t attend a clinic? Staff and adult dependents (18+) covered by the City’s health plan can get vaccinated for free at any Walgreens through March 17, 2026, [using a voucher](#). [Separate vouchers are also available for employees age 65+.](#)

Request your voucher by emailing EmployeeBenefitsandWellness@columbus.gov. Stay healthy this season!

KEY DATES

OCTOBER

2025 Golf Outing

Oct. 12 | 8 a.m. | Mentel Memorial Golf Course

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

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!](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

KYLE MERCER

ARBORIST-PARKS, FORESTRY AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE



How long have you been with the department? 13 years.

What's your favorite aspect of working here? Helping to maintain and increase the tree canopy cover for the city of Columbus.

What's been your favorite project? The bank retention project along Alum Creek at Cooper Park and Alum Creek Trail

What's your favorite ice cream? Pistachio.

What's your favorite book or movie? Conan the Barbarian (1982).

What's one piece of advice you'd share? Try to advance in your department at every chance you get, you'll suddenly realize five years have passed in the blink of an eye.

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.

LIVING OUR VALUES

OUR HR TEAM OWNS THE MOMENT SO WE CAN, TOO



Friday, Sept. 26, was HR Professionals Day—a perfect time to recognize how our HR team truly *Owens the Moment!*

Developing and supporting staff isn't just good for individuals; it strengthens the whole department. Over the past year, HR has rolled out creative, low- and no-cost ways to help employees grow and succeed. That includes connecting staff to Dayforce training and supervisory skills training, and enhancing our onboarding program so new team members feel supported from day one.

They've also launched a new driver safety program and brought back group fitness classes at 1111, giving staff tools to stay healthy on and off the job. And there's more to come!

Take a moment this week to thank our HR team for their commitment to helping us all thrive.



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ARCHIVE

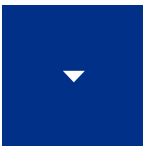
2025



2024



2023



2022

