



WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

NOV. 10, 2025

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

CULTURE ISN'T A POSTER ON THE WALL — IT'S HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

With busy workloads and constant challenges, the one thing we can control every day is how we support each other. Culture isn't created through slogans or trainings, it's built in small, consistent acts of respect and appreciation.

Showing appreciation doesn't need to be elaborate. A simple "thank you," a quick note or recognizing someone's effort can make a big difference. When people feel valued, teams work better, morale rises and the tough days get easier.

To make appreciation meaningful and easy, we've created [Five Ways to Recognize](#), a short guide inspired by *The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace*. It includes easy, real-life ideas anyone can use, from words of affirmation to acts of service, helpful gestures or small tokens of appreciation.

Try one this week. Thank a coworker who helped you. Write a quick note. Take time to teach something new. Small actions change culture, and every one of us plays a part.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

OPEN ENROLLMENT UPDATE: SEARCH FOR YOUR DOCTORS

One of the most common questions when switching medical providers is if your current doctors, specialists and hospitals participate in the Anthem network. You can now begin checking online. Note that our plan is the National PPO (Blue Card PPO).

- [Look up your provider on the Anthem website](#). You don't need to log in.
- Enter your ZIP code and click continue.
- Enter your provider's name in the search bar.

English  green checkmark, your provider is in-network.

You can also call your provider's office and ask if they accept the National PPO (BlueCard PPO) Network Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield.

A separate CVS Caremark prescription lookup tool will be available soon to help you confirm your medications and pharmacy coverage.

Don't forget to complete all of your Open Enrollment tasks no later than Sunday, Nov. 30:

1. [Review the 2026 plan information.](#)
2. [Attend an information session.](#)
3. [Make your elections in Dayforce.](#)
4. [Review your beneficiary designations in Dayforce.](#)

Call the Employee Benefits and Wellness Office at 614-645-8624 (Monday through Friday). You can also reach out to your Benefits contact, Kori Hetrick (KMDeFelice@columbus.gov, 614-645-7570) or Eric Potts (EEPotts@columbus.gov, 614-724-5549).

NEW CONTACT FOR RECORDS REQUESTS

[Ohio's Public Records Act](#) gives any person access to records that document the work of the department. This includes emails, policies, processes, applications and more. If someone requests a public record, we are obligated to provide the documents.

To ensure we're complying with the law and not sharing information that isn't a public record, all public records requests are managed through our Policy and Legal Office. If you receive a public records request, send it to Steve Dyer at SODyer@columbus.gov. He will contact the requester and process the request.

A more detailed policy is being developed and will be shared when it's complete.

GET FIT FOR FREE: YOUR EMPLOYEE FITNESS PASS IS HERE

Staying healthy has never been easier—or cheaper.

The City of Columbus Employee Fitness Pass promotion is officially underway! Starting Nov. 1, all City employees can take advantage of the following benefits:

- A free Fitness Pass, granting access to 20 Get Active Fitness Centers, and access to open gyms at 27 community centers. Stop by any center with proof of employment (your ID, a paystub or your work email) to sign up.
- A 25 percent discount on green fees at our golf courses. Bring proof of employment to the golf course. It's Ohio – hopefully there will be good days for golf in January!

This benefit is free for employees and cost-neutral for the department, since all discounts redeemed are reimbursed. The more staff who participate, the better!

Sign up, spread the word to colleagues across the City and start moving toward your 2026 fitness goals!

PROTECT YOUR FILES AND KEEP COMPUTERS RUNNING QUICKLY

Remember to save documents on your network drives (either in your personal shared drive/U Drive) or in the appropriate place in the department's shared drive (P Drive or G Drive).

This keeps computers running quickly, and it protects your files; items saved directly on the desktop or in the Documents folder could be lost in the event of a hardware failure. Also, saving items on the network drive enables you to access all these items from any City computer connected to the network, regardless of location.

If you have questions, contact the CRPD Tech Team at CRPDTech@columbus.gov.

11/24/2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	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	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

There are no events on this day.

KEY DATES

NOVEMBER

Friendsgiving Staff Lunch

Nov. 14 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Champions Golf Course

Collective Conversations

Nov. 18 | Noon-1 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St., Citywide Training Room 9

Open Enrollment Deadline for ALL 2026 Medical Coverage

Nov. 30

DECEMBER

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

STRONG CONNECTIONS BUILD A NEW HOME FOR ALAN THE SNAPPING TURTLE



Thanks to the hard work of Alex Miu and James Ballenger, our snapping turtle in residence, Alan, has a beautiful new home!

Outdoor Education and Building Maintenance leveraged their connections to create a more suitable environment for Alan to live in and explore. With this new home, Alan has access to both water and land features, which closely resemble a natural habitat for a native snapping turtle. He will also live right next to the window, which will allow him to experience lots of natural light. Alan is in the process of getting acclimated to his new home and looks forward to showcasing his exhibit to participants and staff in the future.

Thank you, Alex and James, for your collaboration and hard work!



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

FORESTRY TEAM LIFTS UP THE LIVINGSTON AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD



The Livingston Avenue Area Commission chair recently sent a letter thanking the Forestry Team, Rosalie Hendon and Chad Hoff in particular for the work they have done to increase the tree canopy along the Livingston Avenue corridor. The team recently planted trees in Old Oaks Park.

He noted how small but meaningful steps like this go a long way in lifting up our community.

“Not only will the tree canopy bring a visible investment into the neighborhood, but it also gives a strong indication that the city is committed to doing its part to mitigate climate change,” he shared. “Supporting our desire for more trees reflects our shared commitment to revitalizing our neighborhoods, and creating places where residents feel valued and proud to live.”

Notes like this are a great reminder that our work is noticed, and it’s making a difference every day.

Thanks to the team for lifting up the Livingston Avenue community!

ARCHIVE

2025



2024



2023



2022



NATURE

[Nature](#)

[Conservation](#)