



WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

FEB. 10, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON RISE

R.I.S.E. IN 2026: A FOCUS ON ACCESSIBILITY

The R.I.S.E. Committee is a group of staff committed to strengthening our department by uniting staff, advancing equity and ensuring everyone can access our programs, spaces and services. The acronym stands for Reach, Inspire, Support and Empower—and it guides how we show up for one another and the community.

In 2026, the R.I.S.E. Committee is focusing its efforts on accessibility, with special attention to language access and physical access. The goal: fewer barriers, more belonging.

Several initiatives are already underway:

- **ADA Audit completed.** [The Planning and Design team has finished an ADA audit of department facilities.](#) By identifying gaps, we can take meaningful steps toward creating safer, more welcoming spaces for everyone.
- **More accessible digital content.** The Communications and Marketing team is working to improve accessibility across our website and social media platforms, aligning with ADA Title II digital accessibility standards. This helps ensure online services — from websites to mobile apps — are usable by individuals with disabilities.
- **Learning opportunities ahead.** The R.I.S.E. Committee is planning events and learning opportunities focused on practical ways staff can help make our spaces and resources more accessible.

Have ideas, resources or suggestions? Reach out to Geoffrey Martin, R.I.S.E. co-chair, at GAMartin@columbus.gov.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and Columbus offers countless ways to honor the history, culture and contributions of the Black community.

Explore events and experiences across the city, including:

- Explore the CBUS Soul [Sculpture Trail](#)
- Ubuntu Conversation: The Black Diaspora with Columbus Public Health and the Department of Neighborhoods at 1111 E. Broad St., on Feb. 12, 5-7:30
- [All Arts Day: A celebration of artist Aminah Robinson](#) at the King Arts Complex on Saturday, Feb. 21
- Visit the [Long Street Cultural Wall](#)
- [Black History Month Event Series](#) at the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesdays at noon during February
- [Columbus Metropolitan Library events](#)

- You can even attend a [celebration at Dodge Community Center](#) on Thursday, Feb. 19

Did you know? In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week to highlight African American contributions to society. In 1976, President Gerald Ford expanded it to Black History Month, making this celebration either 50 or 100 years old, depending on how you count it.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

RESCHEDULED: NEXT EXTENDED LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

The winter Quarterly Staff Leadership Meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. at 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room. Hear updates from the extended leadership team, and learn what's happening across the department.

- All extended leadership team members should plan to attend.
- All staff are encouraged to join.

Have a question? [Submit it online](#), anonymously if you'd like. Selected questions will be addressed during the meeting and shared in the newsletter.

NEW BENEFIT PROVIDER UPDATE: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Our new benefits provider officially began Feb. 1, and we've pulled together a few helpful tools and resources to make the transition easy.

ID Cards: Anthem ID cards are on the way and should begin arriving in your mailbox this week. Delivery timing may vary based on the mail service. You'll receive one Anthem ID card, which also includes your CVS Caremark prescription information — no separate pharmacy card needed. Don't want to wait? You can access a digital ID card anytime through the Sydney Health app or the Anthem member website.

Need Help? We've Got You Covered: Contact Anthem Dedicated Support at 855-350-1290, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Family and clinical advocates can help with portal registration, claims questions, finding providers, and support programs, including pain management and fertility services.

Contact CVS Caremark Dedicated Support at 833-296-1889 24 hours a day, seven days a week for help with prescription coverage questions, mail-order setup and in-network pharmacy verification. For assistance with specialty prescriptions, contact CVS Caremark Specialty RX at 855-299-3262.

Helpful Tools at a Glance: Here are some resources to help you navigate these changes:

- Find care
- Register with Anthem
- Prescription home delivery
- Sydney Health mobile app
- Digital member tools

TOOLBOX TIP: HEART HEALTH

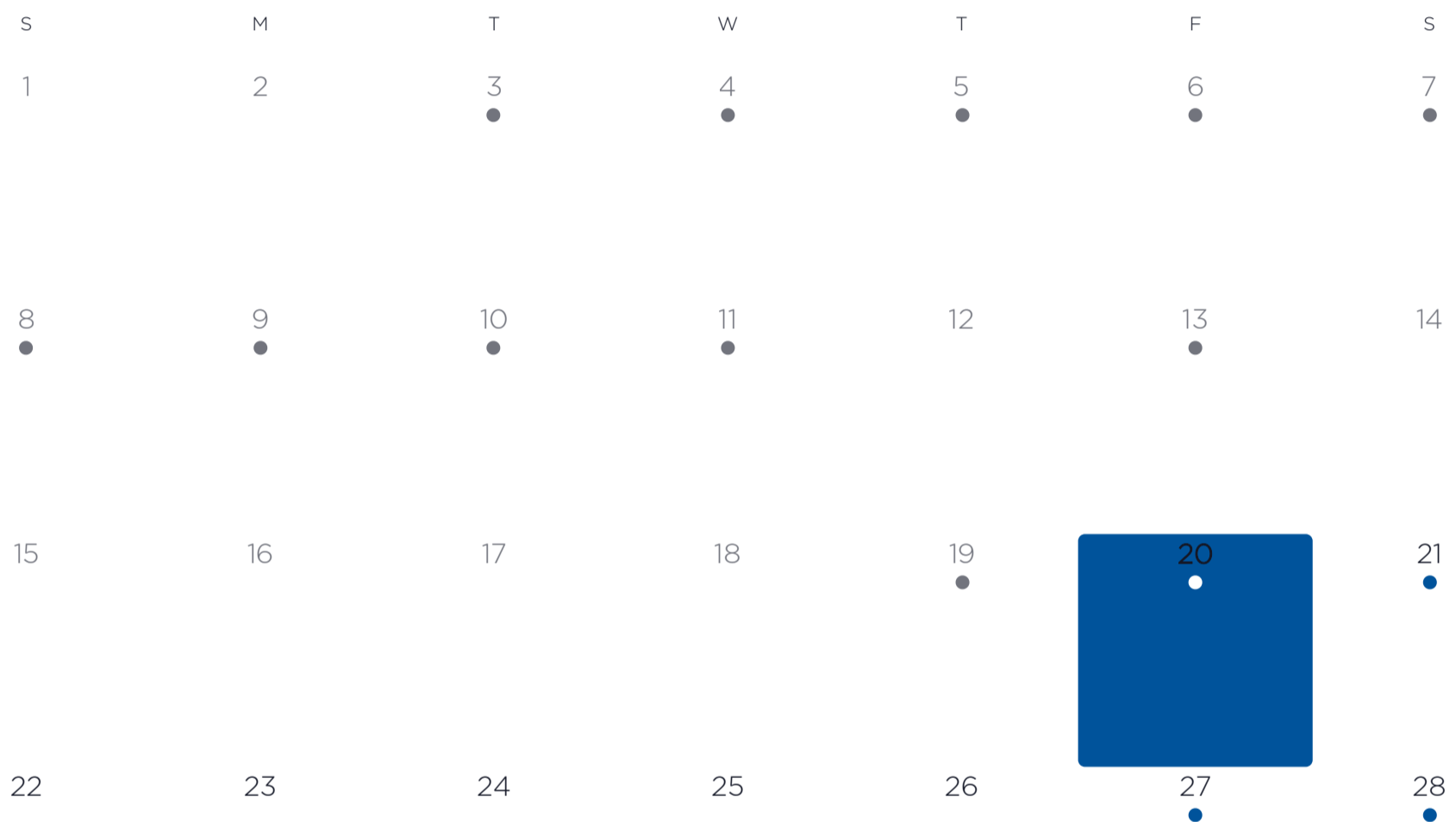
February is American Heart Month, a reminder that heart disease remains a leading cause of death for both men and women. And that prevention matters.

According to experts, up to 80 percent of heart disease and stroke events are preventable through lifestyle changes and management of chronic health conditions.

Read this month's toolbox talk for simple, life-saving actions, such as calling 911 and locating the nearest AED.

Reminder: City employees may use community center gyms and workout equipment free of charge. For CPR, AED or First Aid certification—or to renew an expiring certification—contact Lauren Nye at LMNye@columbus.gov.

2/20/2026



February 20

February 20 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Drop-In Cell Phone and Computer Support

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

Quarterly Leadership Meeting - NEW DATE

Feb. 24 | 1-3 p.m. | 1111 E. Broad St., Continental Room

Free Fitness Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 11:25 a.m.-noon | 1111 E. Broad St., Hungry Soldier Room

LIVING OUR VALUES

ALL HANDS, ALL HEART: OWNING THE MOMENT IN THE SNOW



When winter weather hit, our team didn't wait for perfect conditions — they owned the moment.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, our department stepped up when it mattered most, doing what needed to be done without hesitation. While many staff pitched in throughout the week, 14 staff from Parks, Forestry and Building Maintenance went above and beyond, working Sunday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., helping the Department of Public Service (DPS) clear snow from the streets. They returned at 3 a.m. Monday, and some continued clearing the roadways while others began clearing snow from our facilities.

DPS shared that, together, the city's response team cleared one of the largest snow events in Columbus history and serviced all 4,640 miles of roadways within less than 60 hours of the event ending. They expressed their gratitude, saying, *"This is something that simply would not have been possible if not for all the help from you and your respective teams. You spent time away from your regular jobs, putting more load on co-workers and missed time with family and loved ones to help the community. We are incredibly grateful for your willingness to help, and our entire community thanks you."*

Thank you to Lucas Easterbrook, Eric Eiselstein, Taylor Evans, Melissa Adkins, Russ Swank, Derrick Darr, Ian Elmore, Nathan Weaver, Todd Keferl, Zaire Dawson, Gage Thompson, Brandon Butcher, Zack Farley and Josh Allen.

This is what Owning the Moment looks like!



REINVESTING IN YOU

NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITY: OTTERBEIN ADVANTAGE PARTNER PROGRAM

The City of Columbus is partnering with Otterbein University through its Advantage Partner Program to offer employees educational opportunities.

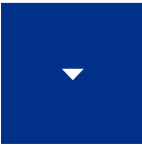
[Register for a virtual information session on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from noon to 1 p.m. to learn more about tuition benefits, affordability and the admissions process.](#)

ARCHIVE

2026



2025



2024

