



# WE PLAY TO WIN: THE WEEKLY PLAYBOOK

FEB. 24, 2026

## SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

### UPCOMING C.R.E.A.T.E. EVENTS

#### March Madness

Cheer on your favorite collegiate basketball teams! Take your work on the go, and enjoy the first round of March Madness with colleagues on March 19-20, in the Training Room at 1111 E. Broad Street. Multiple games will be shown at a time throughout the day. Bring snacks and potluck items to share. [Sign up if you plan to bring some food to share.](#)

#### Spring Wellness Challenge

The Spring into Wellness challenge starts March 23! Gather a team of at least four people or join the host team. Sign up for this fun four-week competition by March 19, and keep an eye out for exclusive events for those competing. The trophy will be handed off to the winners at the luncheon on April 24!

Spring into health! [Get your team together, and sign up today.](#)

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### JOIN US TODAY FOR THE 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.

# EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND WELLNESS ANNOUNCES NEW INSURANCE COVERAGE RATES

On Thursday, Feb. 19, Employee Benefits and Wellness emailed the new insurance coverage rates for all plans for 2026. These rates take effect April 1, and deductions for your selected plan will be applied to the first pay period in April. Rates are [available online](#).

## Your Options and Next Steps

The City is allowing eligible staff a **one-time opportunity** to change their benefit election plan, due to a mid-year adjustment in premium costs.

Staff will have the following options:

- Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) enrollees will have the option to drop down to the High-Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) **OR** to waive coverage altogether.
- HDHP enrollees will have the option to waive coverage altogether.

To change your coverage, you must complete and return the [election change form](#) to [EmployeeBenefitsAndWellness@columbus.gov](mailto:EmployeeBenefitsAndWellness@columbus.gov) by Friday, March 6. If you plan to retain your current coverage, you do not need to act.

If you choose to waive your benefits from the City, we encourage you and/or your dependents to confirm eligibility to obtain insurance coverage with other parties, prior to submitting this form. It is important to note that these changes are final until our next open enrollment period, and that employees who waive coverage are personally responsible for their coverage moving forward.

## Resources and Information

The City is proud to offer employees an enhanced range of offerings as part of our new coverage with Anthem and CVS Caremark. Plan details [are available](#), and our partners at Anthem and CVS Caremark are hosting a webinar on Friday, Feb. 27, at 11 a.m. to share best practices about accessing care and utilizing your benefits. This session will include a live question and answer period. We encourage all enrolled employees and those considering their coverage options to attend the webinar. A recording will also be available. [Register for this webinar](#).

We have also included a [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQ) document for review. Employees are encouraged to review the FAQ before seeking additional information.

If you have any questions about coverage costs or your options, please contact us at [EmployeeBenefitsAndWellness@columbus.gov](mailto:EmployeeBenefitsAndWellness@columbus.gov). Our team is available to support you or answer questions about coverage and eligibility.

# RUN OR VOLUNTEER AT THE CAP CITY MARATHON AND SUPPORT THE CRP FOUNDATION

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Foundation (CRP Foundation) is proud to partner with the OhioHealth Capital City Half and Quarter Marathon and Columbus Promise 5K as an Official Charity Partner. Race day is Saturday, April 25, at 8 a.m. at the Columbus Commons. Join us and be part of Columbus' largest celebration of community and a healthy, active lifestyle — all while giving back to support parks, programs and recreation across our city.

Join our fundraising team to save 10 percent on registration, with a portion of your entry fee donated back to the CRP Foundation. Participants can also choose to donate during registration. [Click here to register with CRP Foundation for the race](#).

Not able to participate, but still want to join in the fun? Sign up to volunteer at our refueling station at Schiller Park! Help keep participants hydrated and motivated as they take on the Cap City course, and experience race day from the heart of the action. [Click here to volunteer at Schiller Park on Saturday, April 25.](#)

3/3/2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	2	3	4

March 3

March 3 @ 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

School's Out Spring Registration

## KEY DATES

### FEBRUARY

#### Quarterly Leadership Meeting

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

#### [Benefits Webinar: Accessing Care and Utilizing Your Benefits](#)

Feb. 27 | 11 a.m.-noon

#### Free Fitness Classes

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

## MARCH

### **Optional Benefits Changes Due**

March 6

### **March Madness (Optional Potluck)**

March 19-20 | 1111 E. Broad Street-Training Room

### **Spring Wellness Challenge**

March 23-April 24

## LIVING OUR VALUES

### GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND TO SAVE THE PLAQUE FOR NOLAN'S BENCH AT WHETSTONE PARK



Jessica Green in Parks recently Owned the Moment and went above and beyond for a resident!

Mrs. Lucas reached out in August 2024 about a wooden bench she had donated a decade before in honor of her grandson, Nolan, who had passed away. The bench by the pond at Whetstone Park had become badly weathered, and Mrs. Lucas wanted to know if we could refurbish it. The awesome Building Maintenance team took the bench apart and refinished it. Mrs. Lucas cried on the phone after seeing what a nice job the team had done.

A year later, Nolan's bench was removed for the Whetstone Park pond renovation. Jessica received a call from Mrs. Lucas asking where Nolan's bench was. Mrs. Lucas also shared that she has been battling a health issue. Jessica's grandmother had recently lost her battle with the same issue so Jessica knew time was essential. Jessica learned Nolan's original bench was in storage during construction and would be returned to the pond. She reached out to Mishelle Hilliard in Construction and shared the family's painstakingly-found location for the bench. Mishelle told her they could put a bench in that original location, but it wouldn't be the original wooden bench—it would be a metal one, along with a new plaque.

Upon hearing this, Jessica tried to locate the original wooden bench to see if the City would return it to Mrs. Lucas' family, but she unfortunately found out it had been destroyed. She reached out to Mishelle, who connected Jessica with the construction foreman who found the piece that included Nolan's original plaque. Working with Jimmy Amick, the Building Maintenance supervisor who runs the carpentry shop, Jessica refinished the plaque with guidance and tools to cut, sand and oil the remaining piece. She dropped it off to Mrs. Lucas in person, and Mrs. Lucas teared up at seeing the plaque, hugged Jessica and shared special memories about Nolan. We want to give a shout-out to Jessica for Owning the Moment and working hard to ensure a special memory was returned to a resident.



Jimmy Amick and Jessica Green

**Before:**



**After:**



Nolan's Plaque

## REINVESTING IN YOU

### FEATURED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Know someone looking for a new opportunity? Tell them to check out Columbus Recreation and Parks!

Current opportunities include:

- **Recreation administrative coordinator:** This is an open position, and this role is responsible for the overall direction and coordination of programs and activities for the Community Centers and Programs section. *This position closes on Friday, Feb. 27.*
- **Summer positions:** Part-time seasonal opportunities, including lifeguards, park maintenance and summer camp staff.

[All job opportunities are posted online.](#)

It's worth noting that all positions are reviewed and approved internally, then reviewed and approved at the City level before posting, due to budget considerations. We're working hard to fill vacancies as quickly as possible.

#### **Attend the OPRA Region 4 Networking Event on May 19**

Are you a member of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA)? They are offering a free OPRA Region 4 Networking Event at Blendon Woods Metro Park, 4265 E. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, on Tuesday, May 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. It's free for OPRA members. Come check out the OPRA award-winning Blendon Woods Inclusive Playground, along with a sneak peek of the newly renovated nature center. Columbus and

Franklin County Metro Parks staff will provide background on each of these areas and then open up the day for networking and play! A Panera Bread lunch buffet will be served. Please park at the Inclusive Playground upon arrival. The deadline to RSVP for the event is May 12. [RSVP for this event today!](#)

# ARCHIVE

**2026**



**2025**



**2024**



**2023**



**2022**



## NATURE

[Nature](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Educational Gardens](#)

[Nature Preserves](#)

[Outdoor Education and Recreation](#)

[Parks](#)

[Pollinator Habitats](#)

[Trails](#)

[Urban Forestry](#)

[Summer Camps](#)

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## WELLNESS

[Wellness](#)

[Aquatics](#)

[Athletics](#)

[CoGo Bike Share](#)