



APRIL 21, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK YOU DO

As we get ready to celebrate the impact we make at next week's 2026 All Staff Meeting, here's a quick reminder: people are paying attention, and they like what they see!

Earlier this month, the [National Recreation and Park Ethnic Minority Society \(NRPEMS\)](#) hosted its inaugural Urban Parks Tour, bringing parks and recreation professionals from across the country to Columbus. They got a behind-the-scenes look at how we do the work, from Kilbourne Run Sports Park and Champions Golf Course to our operations and maintenance team, Bicentennial Park and the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center. The feedback was consistent: strong team, standout spaces and a model worth learning from. Thank you to everyone who helped host and share our story!

That momentum carried into another big win. The department was recently honored with the Short North Alliance's Community Partner Award, recognizing organizations that strengthen the district through collaboration, advocacy and engagement. It's a nod to the everyday work happening across our system, from caring for parks and trees, to building new spaces, to welcoming residents at the Columbus Aquatics Center and Thompson Community Center.



This award may spotlight one neighborhood, but it reflects something bigger: the reach and impact of our team across the entire city.

These moments highlight the impact we have on our community, and reinforce how focusing on building a stronger workplace culture to support our staff is critical to our success.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

ALL STAFF MEETING IS ONE WEEK AWAY: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The 2026 All Staff Meeting is only a week away! Join us on Tuesday, April 28, from 1-2:30 p.m. for our upcoming all-staff meeting at the Espy Adaptive Sports Complex at 1755 E. Broad St., 43203. The theme of this gathering is "The Power of Us," recognizing the people behind our parks, programs and services and the difference you make in the community.

- **Parking:** Carpooling is encouraged! Please enter through the Broad Street entrance. The loop will be open for staff parking; staff will direct you. Please pull forward, and park with two wheels off the road



- **Submit Your Questions:** You are encouraged to submit questions in advance to help guide the Q&A discussion. You can remain anonymous if you wish. [Submit your questions for leadership.](#)
- **Check Out the Resource Fair:** After the meeting, check out the resource fair to see what's available to help you focus on your well-being.

Staff who are scheduled to work at that time are expected to attend.

NOTE FOR EMPLOYEES: QR CODES WILL BE POSTED BY EVERY TIMECLOCK

If you use a timeclock to start and end your day, we have some good news! QR codes (linked to the Time and Attendance Smartsheet) have been posted by every timeclock. If an employee misses a clock in or clock out, they scan the QR code and complete the form. All managers are set to receive notification when one of their staff submit this form for approval, and then the managers will correct the employee's timesheet in Dayforce.

Human Resources has been currently testing this in Aquatics, Sports, Parks and Forestry, but this will be rolled out to all sections beginning on Monday, June 1. Reach out to your manager if you need assistance.

DON'T FORGE TO TAKE YOUR REQUIRED CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

In accordance with [Ohio Revised Code section 9.64 \(ORC §9.64\)](#), all local governments must establish cybersecurity training requirements for all employees of political subdivisions.

To establish and sustain compliance with this law, the Department of Technology (DOT) is partnering with Citywide Training to provide mandatory cybersecurity literacy training for all City employees.

The initial training consists of a series of short videos, typically a few minutes each, paired with an assessment. Additional training in the second half of 2026 will introduce role-based, specific scenarios, such as handling sensitive data or remote access.

The first courses were assigned via the Training Gateway last week; please complete these by the end of June. It only takes about 10-15 minutes.

Managers/HR Personnel:

- Alternate assignment options may be available. Contact Citywide Training (CTD@Columbus.gov or call 614-645-8294) to assist with your planning.
- Group watch sessions are permissible. Schedule training events in your respective areas or reach out to Citywide Training to assist with planning. During the upcoming week, further information (instructions & sign-in sheets) will be available. Note for staff: If you intend on reaching out to Citywide Training to coordinate something for your teams, please include Whitney Washington in Human Resources (WLWashington@columbus.gov) on any communications with Citywide Training so our HR team stays in the loop.

WHY IS THIS TRAINING IMPORTANT?

Approximately 82 percent of successful data breaches involve human interaction. No cyber defense approach can effectively address cyber risk without a means to address people as a fundamental vulnerability.

It is tempting to think of cyber defense primarily as a technical challenge, but people's actions play a critical role in the success or failure of the City's cybersecurity defenses. People fulfill important functions at every stage of system design, implementation, operation, use and oversight.



understood, leaving executives and system owners with no reasonable way to make the investments necessary to mitigate them. Additionally, empowering people with good cyber defense habits can significantly increase readiness and reduce cybersecurity risk.

If you have any cybersecurity questions, reach out to DOT by emailing TechDesk@Columbus.gov or calling 614-645-5758.

COMPLETE THE PACKET TODAY FOR TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY ON APRIL 23

On April 23, the City of Columbus is hosting Take Your Child to Work Day! This event helps children ages 5-18 understand the daily routine of working parents, better understand the workplace and explore future career paths. They will meet our City's elected officials, interact with police and fire units and participate in many other fun and engaging activities throughout the day! For children to participate, you must complete the [Parental Packet](#) and email it to Neisha Collins in HR at NDCollins@columbus.gov by Tuesday, April 21. Parents should note that children are not permitted on shuttles.

SAFETY CORNER

TOOLBOX TIP: DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS

Our April Toolbox Talk is about Distracted Driving Awareness, with emphasis on cellphone use and defensive driving practices.

The use of cellphones while driving, whether for texting, calls, navigation or apps, is one of the most common and dangerous distractions.

Even a few seconds of inattention can lead to serious incidents.

Please remind our team members that if a call or message cannot wait, they must pull over to a safe location before using their device. [It is also important to remember that Ohio has been a hands-free state since April 2023.](#)

In addition to minimizing distractions, this month's talk highlights the importance of defensive driving.

We expect our team member drivers to remain alert, anticipate the actions of others, maintain safe following distances and strictly obey speed limits.

Use extra caution in high-traffic or unpredictable areas like work zones, parks and neighborhoods.

Share this toolbox talk with your respective teams, and review practical ways to eliminate distractions and apply defensive driving techniques during their daily operations.

PREVENT MALWARE AND RANSOMWARE INCIDENT

There is a growing computer scam known as ClickFix that we want you to be aware of.

How it works: You may encounter a pop-up, error message or prompt—on a website or in an email, even one that appears trustworthy—claiming there is an issue with your computer. The message will then instruct you to “fix” the problem by copying and pasting a command into your system.

Do not follow these instructions. Doing so can give an attacker access to your computer, allowing them to steal passwords, install ransomware or cause other serious damage.

How to protect yourself:

- Never copy and paste commands from a pop-up, website or email into your computer—especially if prompted to open Run (Win+R), PowerShell or Command Prompt. Legitimate software will not require



interact with it. Report it as follows.

- If it originates from an email, click the Report Suspicious button.
- If it appears in a web browser, report it to TechDesk.

HR UPDATE: WELCOME BACK TO PAYROLL BENEFITS CLERK BRENDA VAWTERS

We are excited to share that Brenda Vawters has returned to the HR team! She will be overseeing the payroll for all community centers, as well as the Espy Adaptive Sports Complex, Outdoor Education and Recreation, Cultural Arts Center, Columbus Performing Arts Center and the Fran Ryan Center, along with Aquatics and Youth Development. Her email is BMVawters@columbus.gov, and her desk number is 5-6494.

4/22/2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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 ●

April 22

April 22 @ 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Linden Green Line - Second Public Open House

April 22 @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



KEY DATES

APRIL

Free Fitness Classes

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

Spring Wellness Challenge

March 23-April 24

C.R.E.A.T.E. Spring Clothing Swap

April 13-24 | 1111 E. Broad St., Capital Planning Area

All Staff Meeting – Submit Your Questions for Leadership

April 28 | 1-2:30 p.m. | Espy Adaptive Sports Complex

MAY

Take Your Section to the Park Day

May 6 | Tuttle Community Center

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



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RECREATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST AT THE FRAN RYAN CENTER

How long have you worked for the department? 16 months.

What's your favorite aspect of working for the department? At the Fran Ryan Center, I work alongside many artists and creatives who have a genuine passion and investment in what they do and how it serves members of our community. It is a privilege to work with others who care so much about what we do and why we do it. Their sense of pride, responsibility and service goes well beyond holding a job or fulfilling a contract.

What is your favorite project you have worked on at the department? My favorite project has been developing a new, unique Artist-in-Residence Program for local artists aged 50 and older. Programs like this offer important opportunities to build connections, foster community and provide education – not only to artists, but to our participants and to the community at large.

What's your favorite ice cream? Coffee with Cream and Sugar from Jeni's

What's your favorite book or movie? Robert Eggers' film "The Lighthouse"



Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, and that our most important responsibility is to serve our community.

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

LIFT OTHERS UP: RELOCATING CLASSES DURING CONSTRUCTION AT THE PRISCILLA R. TYSON CULTURAL ARTS CENTER



We want to give a shout-out to Todd Camp, administrator of the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center, as he has lifted others up during the reconstruction of the Tyson Cultural Arts Center! Todd has been instrumental in preserving “art therapy” for hundreds of program participants during the facility’s extensive renovation. It would have been easy to cancel classes to avoid temporarily retro-fitting operations, but Todd and his team worked tirelessly to relocate class offerings to the Whetstone Community Center, Fran Ryan Center and the Columbus Performing Arts Center.

In addition to planning and guiding relocation efforts, Todd has taken great care in modernizing the business processes in the gallery, gift shop and rental space. Todd’s leadership during this time has preserved the culture that staff and participants find comfort in, and he should be commended for his efforts. Thank you to all of the sections that have helped support Todd and his team during this exciting transition! The Tyson Cultural Arts Center is expected to reopen to the public soon.

Thanks for helping to Lift Each Other Up, Todd!



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:

- **Summer positions:** Part-time seasonal opportunities, including lifeguards, park maintenance and summer camp staff. We would love to get these positions filled as we head into summer so please share!

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

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY EARN & LEARN INFORMATION SESSIONS

Franklin University has been providing educational options for busy adults for more than 110 years. The City of Columbus and Franklin University are bringing you an opportunity to earn an in-demand master's degree with little to \$0 out-of-pocket costs. The Earn+Learn Master's Program allows you to complete a master's degree in 18 months while maximizing your tuition reimbursement benefit.

Join us for a virtual session to learn more about this opportunity! Complete the RSVP link below for the date and time that best suits your availability.

- Tuesday, April 28, 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.: [Register here.](#)
- Thursday, May 14, 11 a.m. or 7 p.m.: [Register here.](#)

Can't attend? No problem! Please RSVP to either date to ensure a recorded session, and the next steps will be emailed to you. You can email partners@franklin.edu with any questions.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Carlos Mojica | Communications and Marketing Manager-Community Relations | Columbus Business First 40 Under 40 Class of 2026

Congratulations to Carlos Mojica for being named to [Columbus Business First's 40 Under 40 for 2026](#)! This prestigious honor highlights Columbus' best and brightest upcoming leaders who make an impact in their community and organizations. In his more than three years at Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Carlos has helped expand the department's media relations and community efforts, especially with New American and Spanish-speaking communities, and he has spearheaded internal cultural-competency events.



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](#)

WELLNESS

[Wellness](#)

[Aquatics](#)

[Athletics](#)

[CoGo Bike Share](#)

[Fitness](#)

[Food and Nutrition](#)