



MAY 19, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE

THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE

Summer is our busiest season, and many of us are doing more with less. That can feel exhausting at times. It's important that we lift each other up and make sure we're taking care of ourselves, too.

When there's a lot coming at you, it's easy to focus on everything that's going wrong or everything you wish you could change. One way to reduce stress and stay focused is to think about what falls into three categories: what you can control, what you can influence and what is simply gravity.

What you can control: You can control your attitude, effort and how you respond to challenges. You can prioritize your work, support your teammates and take pride in doing your best work, even on difficult days.

What you can influence: You may not control every decision or outcome, but you can influence them. If a process isn't working, speak up respectfully and offer solutions. Share ideas. Raise concerns early. Collaboration and constructive problem-solving help us work smarter together.

What is gravity: Some things are outside our control no matter how much we care or how hard we work. Equipment deliveries may be delayed. Hiring seasonal staff takes time. Some processes require approvals we can't speed up. Pools can't safely open without enough staff on-site. Gravity issues are the realities that exist whether we like them or not.

Here's an example. Imagine your team is preparing for a major project or event, but needed equipment is delayed. You can control completing your assigned tasks and staying solution-focused. You can influence the outcome by communicating concerns early and suggesting alternatives. But you cannot control shipping timelines. That part is gravity.

As we move through a busy summer season, focus your energy where it can make the biggest impact. Control what you can. Influence what you can. And learn to let go of gravity.



NEWS AND INFORMATION

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.

CHECK OUT THE DRESS CODE POLICY

With the warmer weather, we want to remind you to revisit the department's [dress code policy](#)! This is a great time to review what is acceptable for the warmer summer months.

TOOLBOX TALK: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

[May is Mental Health Awareness Month](#). While mental health is important to address year-round, this month provides a dedicated time for us to join our voices and broadcast the message that mental health matters. It is a vital component of our overall well-being and is equally as important as our physical health and safety. Please share this toolbox talk with your respective teams and emphasize the practical tools and strategies that can help foster positive mental health both at work and in our personal lives.

1.) Recognizing the Signs

Mental health struggles are not always obvious. Look out for changes in yourself or your teammates, such as:

- Increased impatience or irritability.
- Persistent fatigue or lack of energy.
- Withdrawal from social interactions or team activities.

2.) Destigmatizing Conversations

We want to foster an environment where everyone feels safe speaking up. Remember, discussing your mental well-being is just as important as reporting a physical safety hazard.

3.) Stress Management and Self-Care

Taking proactive steps can help manage daily pressures:

- Prioritize Basics: Focus on quality sleep and regular exercise.
- Take Breaks: Step away from your workstation to recharge.
- Manage Workload: Communicate early if you feel overwhelmed by tasks.

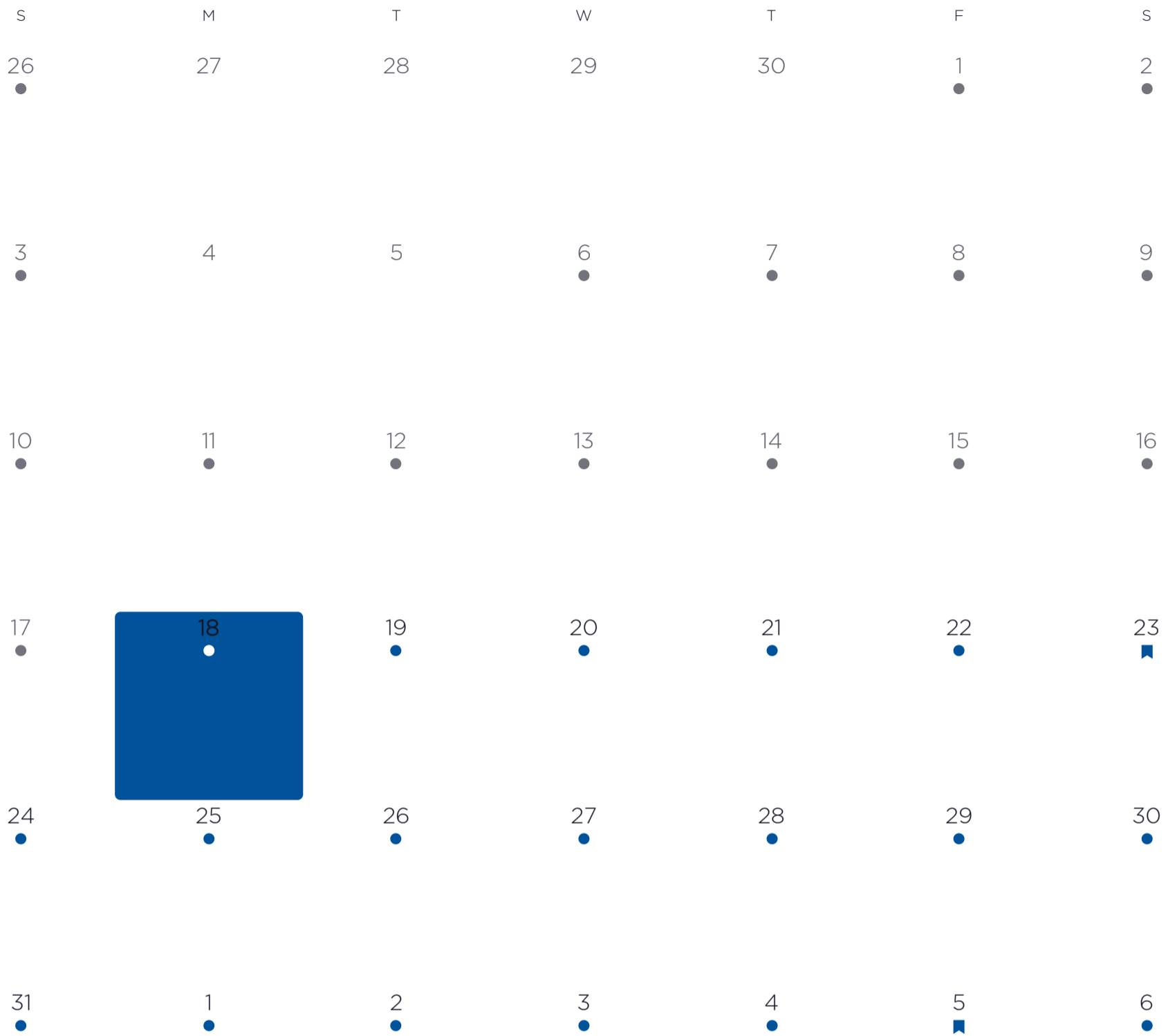
4.) Support Systems

You are never alone. If you or a colleague needs support, please utilize these resources:

- [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP): Call 614-645-6894 to set up an appointment. The counseling offered is free—take advantage of it!
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 anytime.
- Team Support: Lean on your supervisors and teammates for a supportive, communicative environment.



5/18/2026



May 8

All day

Main Gallery: The Pandemic Portraits by Nicholas Hill

All day

Loft Gallery: Staying in Place by Marge Bender and Barbara Vogel

All day

Columbus Baseball Invite

KEY DATES

MAY

Free Fitness Classes

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



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Cybersecurity Literacy Training Deadline

June 30

LIVING OUR VALUES

LIFT EACH OTHER UP: INVESTING IN YOUTH, STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS



Four participants from the APPS Job Readiness Program (AJRP) are continuing to grow with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department after being hired at three of our community centers! Marshaun Copeland will be working at Douglas Community Center, Alonna Spillman will be working at Scioto Southland Community Center and Allana Moore and Joel Brown will be working at Brentnell Community Center.

Their journey reflects what it means to Lift Each Other Up—creating opportunities for young people while strengthening our teams with staff who already understand our mission and the communities we serve.

From developing workplace skills through AJRP to stepping into roles where they can make a difference every day, these participants are proof that investing in youth creates lasting impact. Their success helps our community centers continue delivering welcoming, supportive spaces for residents while building the next generation of leaders within our department.

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.](#)



(DC) webinar on Wednesday, May 27, from 12-1 p.m. You'll get a comprehensive review of the Ohio DC plan and details you need about the retirement process, contributing payout balances and more.

[Register for your spot here.](#)

CHECK OUT CITYWIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Citywide Training is offering four development opportunities this spring – The Coach-Approach Leader Cohort, The Management Container: Supervisor Success Series, The Intersections of Us: Identity, Power and Justice and The Power of Yet: Developing a Growth Mindset.

Log into the Training Gateway for more information and to register.

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Lindsay Acker | Event Coordination Specialist-Special Events | Master of Public Administration, Franklin University

Kenton B. Curtis, Jr. | Assistant Director – Administration | Master of Public Administration, Franklin University

Kyra G. Jones | Recreation Administrative Coordinator- Community Centers | Master of Public Administration, Franklin University

Siobhan Thompson | Community Interventionist Supervisor-Youth Development | Master of Public Administration; Organizational Leadership, Franklin University

Dawn Turnage | Assistant Director-Administration | Master of Public Administration, Franklin University

Have you recently earned an award, degree or certification? [Let us know, and we will share your accomplishment!](#)

ARCHIVE

2026



2025



2024



2023



2022

