



MAY 5, 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON RISE

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

You may be aware that the City of Columbus has been working hard to make our digital content more accessible. But do you know why we are working toward that goal? Or what we are doing to reach that goal?

First, here's an example of the kind of challenges we are trying to address:

"Individuals who are blind may use a screen reader to deliver visual information on a website or mobile app as speech. The department might post an image on its website that provides information to the public. If the website does not include text describing the image (sometimes called 'alternative text' or 'alt text'), those individuals may have no way of knowing what is in the image because a screen reader cannot 'read' an image."

If our websites and mobile apps are not accessible, that can make it difficult or impossible for people with disabilities to access our services!

You may not know it, but you already have a tool that can help. Anyone who uses Microsoft products, like Word or Outlook, already has access to an accessibility tool. Next time you create a document or compose an email, try the "Check Accessibility" button (it's under the "Review" Tab). When you click that button, a sidebar will pop up with recommendations to make your document more accessible. Try it! This tool won't fix every issue on its own, but it's a great start. Try it on the next document you create.

As always, if you have more ideas about how to make our department more equitable and accessible, or if you have resources to share that would benefit your co-workers, please reach out to Geoffrey Martin, RISE co-chair at GAMartin@columbus.gov.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

CATCH EACH OTHER BEING BOLD

Do you remember what the acronym BOLD stands for? B - Build Strong Connections, O - Own the Moment, L - Lift Each Other Up and D - Dependable on Purpose. The C.R.E.A.T.E. Committee launched a new staff recognition program at last week's all staff meeting. Caught Being BOLD is up and running, and everyone is encouraged to participate!



department location. Nominations will be collected quarterly, and entered into a drawing. [Check out the overview](#) for all of the details, and [share this flyer](#) with your co-workers to encourage them to participate.

Recognizing each other builds a strong culture of appreciation.

If you have questions, email CREATE@columbus.gov.

MOU PROCESS AND TEMPLATE DOCUMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

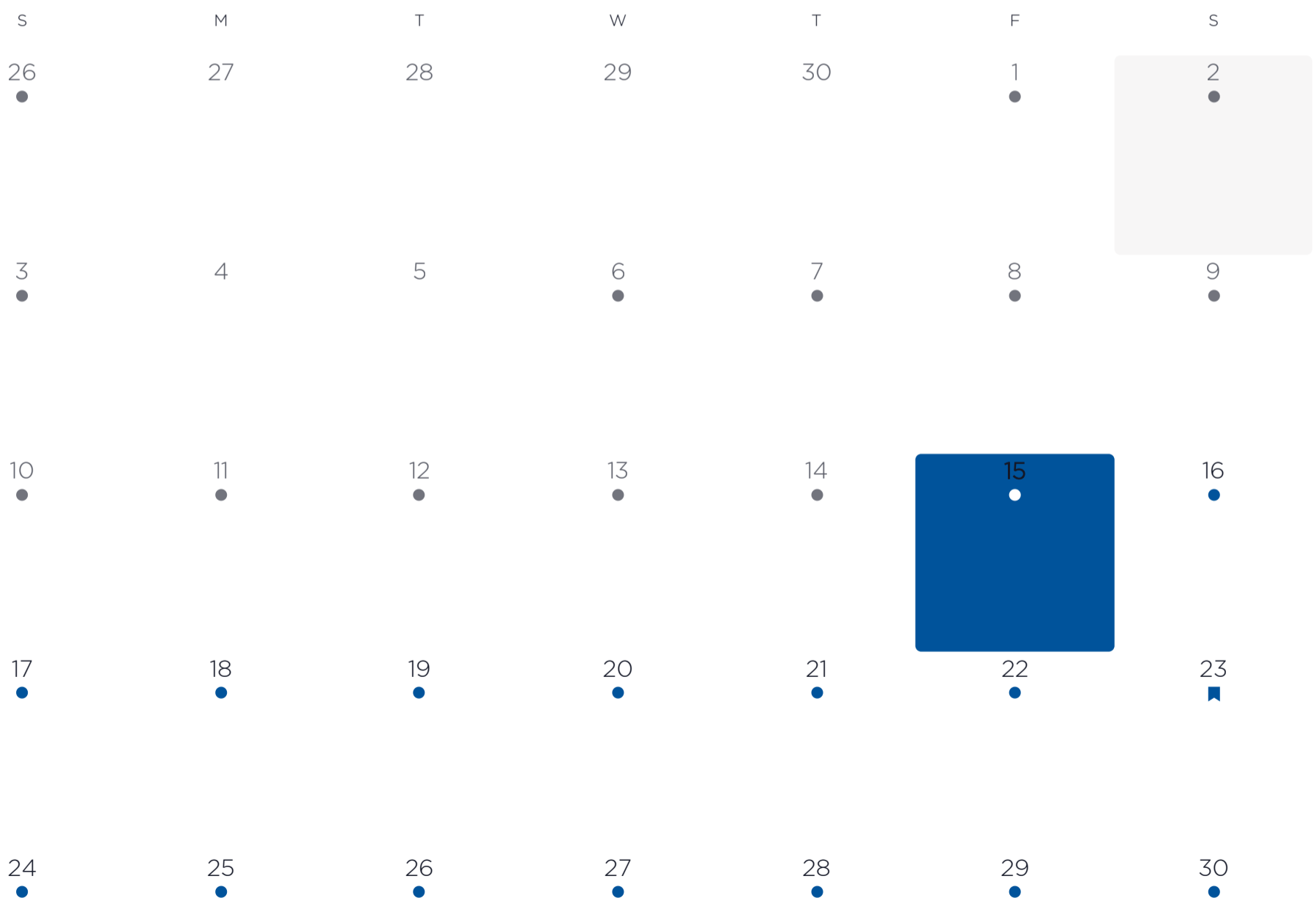
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) documents [are now available via the intranet within the Legal section](#). You can find a PowerPoint presentation, procedural guidance and blank templates for MOU. Reach out to Shannon Prince at SOPrince@columbus.gov with any further questions.

PARTICIPATE IN BIKE TO WORK DAY ON MAY 13

Join the Columbus Department of Public Service for Bike to Work Day on Wednesday, May 13. Bagels and coffee will be provided for anyone who bikes, scoots or rolls to the city plaza at the corner of Gay Street and Front Street from 8 to 10 a.m.

Riders from across the area will participate in Bike to Work Day. Last year, the city won a friendly MORPC competition among local governments for the most staff participation. Help us repeat as Commuter Champions! Bike commuting offers a great start to your morning with a low-cost, sustainable and healthy way to travel. Get more information about Bike to Work Day, the best route to ride, or how to pair with another rider in commuting from your neighborhood by emailing bikeways@columbus.gov.

5/15/2026





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

May 15 @ 2:00 pm

Adams – Mobile Produce Market

May 15 @ 2:00 pm

Douglas – Mobile Produce Market

May 15 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Westgate Children’s Theatre presents Mary Poppins Jr.

KEY DATES

MAY

Free Fitness Classes

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

Take Your Section to the Park Day

May 6 | Tuttle Park Community Center

JUNE

Free Fitness Classes

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

Cybersecurity Literacy Training Deadline

June 30

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MIKAELA BLACK

RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER (TENNIS) IN THE SPORTS SECTION

How long have you worked for the department? Two years.



people while creating programs that use a non-traditional sport like tennis to increase exposure and access within the community. It's especially rewarding to introduce the game to new participants and see the impact it can have in bringing people together and expanding opportunities.

What is your favorite project you have worked on at the department? One of my favorite projects during my time here has been developing and leading this tennis initiative focused on expanding and growing the game within our community. It has been especially rewarding to build a program around a non-traditional sport, introduce new participants to tennis and create more

accessible opportunities for individuals of all ages.

What's your favorite ice cream? Cookies N Cream.

What's your favorite book or movie? Black Panther.

What's one piece of advice you'd share? Keep an open mind, and be willing to step outside of your comfort zone. Some of the most meaningful growth happens when you take on new challenges, try unfamiliar approaches and embrace opportunities that may initially feel uncertain.

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.

REINVESTING IN YOU

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY RESOURCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Job searches can be challenging, particularly for young people who lack previous work experience. Citywide Training and Development has compiled resources for high school-aged children who are considering entering the workforce and looking for a leg up on the competition. Please feel free to share these resources with your children or loved ones.

- [Elevator Pitch | Tell Me About Yourself](#)
- [How to Know Your Skills & Strengths](#)
- [Mastering the Interview - Youth Edition](#)
- [Dress for Success: Professional Attire and Fashion Do's & Don'ts](#)

FEATURED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

Current opportunities include:



[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 no 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 time that best suits your availability.

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

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

ARCHIVE

2026



2025



2024



2023



2022



NATURE

[Nature](#)

[Conservation](#)

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[Nature Preserves](#)

[Outdoor Education and Recreation](#)