



# Tyson's Corner



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2009

## WELCOME...

Spring and summer are the time of year when many festivals and fairs take place in Columbus. As the City Council Chair of Recreation and Parks, I am committed to doing all that is possible to make sure the many cultural events we host in our public parks and throughout our neighborhoods be amazing successes.

The wonderful thing about the many festivals we have is that they give us an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of cultures and interests of the Columbus community. For example, the annual Asian Festival that occurred over Memorial Day weekend is the largest event of its kind in the United States.

The Juneteenth celebration that comes to Franklin Park every June is also a unique opportunity for all members of the community to come together to celebrate the unique history of African-Americans in our country. And then there is Riverfest, the annual event that celebrates and promotes the protection of Columbus' waterways.

I am also happy to mention that Festival Latino will return for another year to the banks of the Scioto thanks to the our wonderful partner, the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA).

And of course, who can forget the Jazz and Ribs Festival? Any way you look at it, Columbus has a fun summer in store. As you will discover, some annual festivals have and will be taking place in a different area of downtown. This is due to the continued work on the Scioto Mile, which will be the premier downtown park.

In this month's issue, I also highlight other happenings in the Recreation and Parks Department, and in the Columbus arts community. The recreation centers play a big role in giving our youth fun activities to participate in during the summer. This is why I never miss the opportunity to thank the many fine community organizations that stepped up and helped the city keep doors open on a number of these centers. More information on these special partnership are discussed later in the newsletter. For more information on our recreation centers, call (614) 645-3300 or visit [recparcs.columbus.gov](http://recparcs.columbus.gov).

I want to encourage everyone to get out this summer and enjoy all the different events we have to offer and visit our recreation centers and pools on those hot summer days.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (614) 645-2933.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sponsored Legislation 2

Davis Performing Arts 3

Friends of Westgate Park

Recreation Center Partnerships 4

Wheeler Dog Park Opening 5

Upcoming Meetings 6  
Summer Festivals Preview



## SPONSORED LEGISLATION

Below you will find a list containing some of the legislation I was proud to sponsor during the previous three months. My sponsorship of these ordinances reflects my dedication and commitment in making sure Columbus remains a strong, growing and dynamic city.

City of Columbus Legislation Report		Official City Seal Created by the City Council March 10, 1803
File Number: 0582-2009		
Emergency	File Type: Ordinance	Status: Passed
File Number: 0582-2009	Controlling Body: Recreation and Parks Committee	Introduced: 5/4/2009
Version: 1	File Name: Appropriation of \$1,000,000.00 from Fund 222 for regular and services to 2009 and to include emergency.	
Requester: Ray, R. Parks Director	Cost: \$1,000,000.00	Fiscal Action: 1/1/2009
Auditor Code #:	Auditor: When assigned as Auditor Certificate Holder 1, the City Auditor audits audits that occur in the treasury or accounts in cases with the interest, and are approved for use other programs, the amount of interest specified herein is not for the Public Debt.	
Contact Name/No: Carl Collins 661-8420	Floor Action (Check & Office Date)	
Mayor's Action		
Mayor:	Date:	Date Passed/Adopted:
City Clerk:	Date:	City Clerk:
Title: To authorize the appropriation of \$1,000,000.00 from the appropriation balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Program Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to continue performing regular and emergency services during 2009, with a service emergency. (\$1,000,000.00)		
Attachments:		
Page 1 of 1		

- HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS STAY INDEPENDENT:** The Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today (PASSPORT) program provides home care services as an alternative to nursing home admission for Medicaid-eligible clients. Ordinance 0580-2009, sponsored by Recreation & Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson, authorized the appropriation of \$70,690,000 in grant funds from the Ohio Department of Aging to continue operation of the PASSPORT program. Services include case management, adult day care, homemaker visits, meals, personal care, respite, transportation, and emergency response. Approximately 4,100 clients are currently being served by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging under the PASSPORT program. Additionally Councilmember Tyson recently sponsored Ordinance 0582-2009, which allocated grant money to the Senior 2009 Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. Over 4,000 seniors are expected to be served by this program.
- TYSON SUPPORTING SUMMER FESTIVALS:** Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson sponsored legislation that will support two of Columbus' most popular summer festivals. *Ordinance 0422-2009* will authorize a \$100,000 contract with Class Acts Columbus, Inc., for professional and fiscal services to *Music in the Air* and the Office of Special Events for the *Jazz and Rib Fest* to be held July 24, 25 and 26, 2009 and other events as needed. Services include all details pertaining to artist booking, advance performance, travel and production arrangements. Fiscal agent services include processing artist contracts and payment of contract deposits and artist fees.
- SUPPORTING AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMMING:** The *Capital Kids* program provides Columbus City School students from low- and moderate-income families with after-school programming that promotes a sense of self-worth, academic ability, and community responsibility in Columbus youth. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson sponsored *ordinance 0553-2009* to authorize the expenditure of \$79,500 to continue funding the program. *Capital Kids* programming provides academic assistance, enrichment activities, prevention units, recreational activities, socialization, strong family involvement, and nutritional food services.
- ZOO DAYS AT CITY COUNCIL:** Some furry friends from the Columbus Zoo visited Council Chambers to help promote the 2009 *Melvin B. Dodge Summer Zoo Days program*. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson sponsored *ordinance 0694-2009* to help approximately 2,000 area children enjoy Zoo Days this summer. The Columbus Zoological Park Association will provide in-kind services in the amount of \$17,500 to be used toward transportation, novelties and admission for playground participants in 2009. In conjunction with this legislation, Councilmember Tyson also presented *resolution 0082X-2009* to declare June as Zoo and Aquarium Month in the city of Columbus.
- PROTECTING GREEN SPACE:** Preserving valuable green space in Columbus is the goal of City Council, as Recreation and Parks Committee chair Priscilla R. Tyson sponsored *ordinance 0275-2009* to accept a Clean Ohio grant in the amount of \$310,000. The funding will be used to acquire property in the Alum Creek corridor to preserve the wetlands habitat and maintain a natural buffer in the flood plain to aid in flood abatement. Letters of support were submitted by the Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) watershed group and the Central Ohio Greenways Committee.



## Davis Performing Arts Sponsors German Exchange

This past year the Davis Performing Arts Programs for Youth and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department created an exciting new international partnership with one of Columbus's Sister Cities, Dresden, Germany. The Davis Center was able to join forces with the largest youth theatre company in Dresden, the **Theater Junge Generation**. The German youth theatre troupe had been planning to do a play for teens that would be written in English. It was soon realized this would be a perfect opportunity to have teenagers from Germany and the United States working together.

After an intense audition process three Columbus teens, 15 year-old Tenara Caem (*The Graham School*) 15 year-old Stanley Byas (*The Charles School*) and 18 year-old Cherno Biko (*Westerville North/Ft. Hayes Career Center*)

were chosen by the director of the show and flown to Dresden for five weeks. Four teens from Dresden were also cast in the show. All seven young performers met in Dresden in February of this year to rehearse the new play, *The Heights*, written by Lisa McGee.

The families of the German actors generously opened their homes to the group, giving the Columbus performers a place to stay during the rehearsal period. This allowed the kids to have a safe place to stay at no cost to them. It also gave the American teens a glimpse into the lives of their German counterparts.



*Councilmember Tyson with Davis Center director Geoff Martin and Columbus teens Stanley Byas and Tenara Caem, who traveled to Dresden, Germany to perform in a theater festival.*

In the end, the play was a big success, selling out six performances. In May, the Columbus and German met again in Dresden to perform the show for the German National Youth Theatre Festival.

## Friends of Westgate Park



As many people know, I love to garden, so I have a special connection to our friends" that tend to the gardens in partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department. While all friends do an amazing job of

collecting donations, organizing volunteer labor, and stretching their dollars to purchase flowers, I am always impressed when they come up with another new way to invest in their park.

Friends of Westgate Park, like ten other such 501c(3) nonprofit organizations,

received a \$1000 matching grant from the city last year. Knowing that the funding opportunity would likely be lost because of the tight economic times our city is facing, they opted to invest in flowering perennials for their gardens.

Lisa Grazier, President of Friends of Westgate Park, along with board members and other volunteers, were offered significant discounts last fall from a local company, **Growing Solutions**, and were able to get about twice as much for their money. The friends purchased 236 perennial plants that were cultivated over the winter and early spring, while Growing Solutions provided necessary soil amendment for planting and grass seed for 500 sq ft at no charge. The group invested just about \$800, which would have easily totaled well over \$1,400 if the perennials were purchased at retail.

## Recreation Center Partnerships

Recreation centers are the heart of many neighborhoods. When these important facilities close, it affects the quality of life in Columbus. With the help of our community partners, we have been able to re-open many of these centers in a fiscally prudent way and continue to provide vital services to our communities. I am hopeful that after August, we will be able to continue operations at all our recreation centers!

Recreation centers that have reopened and our partners in operating them are:

- **Tuttle Recreation Center – \$27,600**  
Through a partnership with Campfire USA, Central Ohio Chapter, the non-profit group with the support of the Columbus Foundation will offer a variety of programs for area residents.
- **Krumm Recreation Center – \$45,485**  
Through a partnership with the East Fifth Avenue Civic Association and the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, the Recreation and Parks Department will provide part-time staff during after-school hours and during the summer playground season.
- **Holton Recreation Center – \$10,000**  
The Brian Muha Memorial Foundation Inc. will offer after-school tutoring programs to the children in the Hilltop and Franklinton neighborhoods.
- **Sawyer Recreation Center – \$60,000**  
Neighborhood House, a long-time tenant of the center, will expand their programming and offer recreational opportunities. We are also working with the Mount Vernon Ave. District Improvement Association to provide programming opportunities.
- **Columbus Performing Arts Center – \$70,090**  
The City of Columbus continues to work with the Phoenix Theatre to operate this program for area youth. The Phoenix Theater will work in partnership with the community group Friends of the Davis to support the theater's operations.
- **Golden Hobby Shop – \$20,608**  
The Golden Hobby Shop Board will provide staffing and cover other personnel costs. The City will pay for utilities while maintaining the building and grounds.
- **Sullivant Gardens Recreation Center - \$45,485**  
Recreation and Parks working with the Capital Kids After School program will provide part-time staffing during after school hours and during the summer playground season.

Funds will also be allocated to continue support for the Douglas Recreation Center. It is important to note that the reopening of these centers does not necessarily mean a return to the full level of programming residents enjoyed before the shutdowns.

I have also secured funding for groups that run some popular summertime events, attractions that draw thousands of visitors to Columbus and generate hundreds of thousands of tourism dollars. The festivals receiving funding are:

Festival Latino (CAPA)	\$10,000
Jazz & Rib Fest	\$15,000
FESTAC	\$ 4,000
Fall Harvest Jamboree	\$ 1,000



*Councilmember Priscilla Tyson addresses and thanks partners at Sullivant Gardens Recreation Center "reopening" event.*

The Partnership through Sponsorship Program also provides limited funding for many of the smaller, unique festivals that add flavor and character to many Columbus neighborhoods. See page six for a listing of those sponsored events.

## Wheeler Dog Park Opening



*Councilmember Priscilla Tyson with Director Alan McKnight and volunteers at the opening of the Wheeler Dog Park in Harrison West/Victorian Village.*

Key volunteers included Julie Koehler (Alexandria Colony), Rob Harris and Bob Mangia (Harrison West), Greg Maynard & Amy Kobe (Friends of Goodale), Renda Radcliff Sullivan (Goodale DogPAWS), Bob Benton, and Tim Bledsoe.

The new park is just over one acre in size. The extensive project includes a metal kiosk for information distribution that matches those used in the Short North and other urban neighborhoods; installation of a water line and hydrant; and renovation of the electrical system and placement of decorative poles and lights like those used throughout the Victorian Village and Harrison West neighborhoods.

A few interesting points emerged as the project progressed. There has been a request to erect a monument recognizing the original location of Flytown. It turns out that Wheeler Park was the heart of this urban neighborhood that contained two factories, residential development and a major road called Dollar Avenue. The picnic area is located on the site of a former factory, and the walkway in the off leash area overlays the original brick of Dollar Avenue.



*On the first day it opened, the dog park already began to see major traffic from neighborhood canines and their friends.*

On May 9, 2009, I was pleased to give remarks at the opening of the Wheeler Dog Park. The dog park is yet another example of the great public-private partnerships that Columbus is putting together to provide services to our community. In addition to the city capital fund dollars devoted to the project, the community contributed funds to cover the cost of upgraded site fixtures for the park. These metal benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables greatly enhance the aesthetics of the park for its human users. In addition, community leaders of the Harrison West neighborhood, residents and the Friends of Goodale Park volunteered time as steering committee members for the design. They have also been strong advocates in the community.



*Councilmember Tyson offers remarks at the opening of the Wheeler Dog Park.*

Flytown was a neighborhood of various ethnic groups that was razed in the 1950s for highways and residential development. Some were much less fond of it than others, as accounts of the neighborhood vary a good deal. All of the land that was possible to develop is now part of Harrison West. We now have the opportunity to recognize its existence and important contributions to Columbus.

I want to thank all who were involved in this exciting project.

In addition to Wheeler Dog Park, Sycamore Fields at Three Creeks Park was also recently added to our growing network of dog parks throughout Columbus.



Columbus City Council

Office of  
Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson

90 West Broad,  
2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

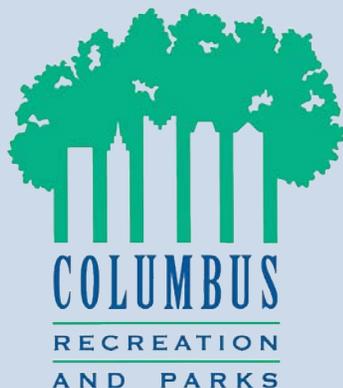
Phone: (614) 645-2933  
Fax: (614) 645-0533

Carl Williams, Legislative Aide  
E-mail: [cgwilliams@columbus.gov](mailto:cgwilliams@columbus.gov)

[www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson](http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson)

#### Staff

Mark Harris, Jr.  
Kelli Arthur Hykes  
Thomas Diamond  
Rachel Klegman



[recparcs.columbus.gov](http://recparcs.columbus.gov)

## RECREATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING & EVENTS

In an effort to encourage greater public involvement, I host a committee hearing on a regular basis. The date(s) for some upcoming meetings are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will begin at 5:30 P.M. in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, in downtown Columbus.

### Upcoming hearings:

- July 16, 2009

### Upcoming events:

- *Special Event:* Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 5:00 p.m.  
Krumm Recreation Center Grand Reopening  
854 Alton Ave, Columbus, OH 43219

## Summer Festivals Preview

### 19TH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH OHIO FESTIVAL

June 19, 20, & 21, 2009

Franklin Park

[www.juneteenthohio.net](http://www.juneteenthohio.net)

### FOCAL POINT CONCERT SERIES

July, 2009

James "Buster" Douglas Amphitheatre

Mount Vernon Avenue & 20<sup>th</sup> Street

### SOUTHFIELD REUNION

July 11, 2009

Marion-Franklin Recreation Center

### JAM-N-JEFFERSON PARK FESTIVAL

July 11, 2009

Jefferson Park

### JAZZ & RIBS FESTIVAL

July 24 & 26, 2009

This year the Jazz & Ribs Fest will be in the Arena District. Featured artists at the 2009 Jazz & Rib Fest will include: Norman Brown's Summer Storm featuring Patti Austin & Eric Darius, and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band.

[www.hottribscooljazz.org](http://www.hottribscooljazz.org)

### FESTIVAL LATINO

August 15 & 16, 2009

The 2009 Festival Latino will return to Genoa Park from 11am-8pm each day. Admission will be free. The festival will feature Ohio-based Latino bands and dance companies, national music acts, and a variety of family entertainment and delicious Latin cuisine.

[www.festivallatino.net](http://www.festivallatino.net)

### CRUISE THE 'VILLE

August 20, 2009—Studio 35

August 22, 2009—Whetstone Park

[www.cruisetheville.com](http://www.cruisetheville.com)



*Jam-N-Jefferson Park Festival*