



May 12, 2011
For Immediate Release

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**COLUMBUS COMMONS DEBUTS THURSDAY, MAY 26 WITH *LIVE + LOCAL* MUSIC SHOWCASE
FEATURING NEW HOLLOW, LOVESICK RADIO, NAKED KARATE GIRLS AND MORE:
CAPITOL SOUTH ANNOUNCES FULL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE FOR OPENING WEEKEND AND BEYOND**

Capitol South gained control of City Center Mall in downtown Columbus in late 2007. Just over two years later and after extensive public feedback and collaboration, the nine acre site has now been transformed into a vibrant downtown park that will be activated throughout the year with varied programming to draw people from across central Ohio. Capitol South is in the final stages of preparation for the park's debut on May 26 starting at 4:00pm, which will feature a free "Live + Local" music showcase anchored by Ohio-based teen band and Billboard HOT 100 artists, New Hollow. New Hollow has selected the Columbus Commons opening concert as the venue to release nationally its new CD single, Airplanes.

Beginning at 4:00pm and concluding around 11:00pm, the Columbus Commons opening concert will also feature legendary Ohio bands playing everything from contemporary original music to rock, country, dance and retro cover music. These bands represent the dynamic musical talent that exists throughout the state and region's live music scene. More than just music, the bands deliver enthusiastic performances that include the audience and result in devoted fans. Thousands are expected to attend the Columbus Commons opening to enjoy the following bands:

- New Hollow www.newhollow.com Billboard Hot 100 Artists, first single "SiCK" debuted #1 in its first week
- Lovesick Radio www.LoveSickRadio.com Has opened for Bon Jovi and other national acts
- Naked Karate Girls www.nakedkarategirls.com Featured band at Riverwatch Tailgate Party
- The Websters www.websters.org "Best Ohio Cover Band"
- The Floorwalkers www.thefloorwalkers.com Recently named #1 Local Columbus Band
- The Spikedrivers www.thespikedrivers.com Just released its second album in May

Friday through Sunday of Memorial Day weekend the fun continues with special activities and stage performances to celebrate the opening of Columbus Commons. Music fans, garden lovers, young professionals, families and children will find plenty that's free to do and enjoy. For the full schedule and updates please refer to www.columbuscommons.org.

Ongoing, all performances and activities at Columbus Commons are free of charge and presented by Capitol South in collaboration with various community partners including CAPA, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Franklin Park Conservatory, Phoenix Theatre for Children, 2nd and 7 Foundation, Shadowbox Theatre and others. All musical and theatre performances will occur on the Columbus Commons stage located in the north quadrant of the park and other activities will be presented throughout the park.

The full schedule is as follows:

Grand Opening Day:

Thursday, May 26 – 4:00pm – 11:00pm

A *Live +Local* music showcase on the Columbus Commons stage. Thousands are expected at Columbus Commons to be a part of this unique showcase of live music that will include the national release of New Hollow's CD single, *Airplanes*. Columbus Commons will be rocking through the evening with bands and DJs creating a one of a kind, seven hour concert experience in the heart of downtown. Music genres will include contemporary, rock, country rock, pop, dance and retro.

Beginning at 5 p.m., play in the park at Wonderland's inaugural Trophy Thursday adult recess event. Wiffle ball and corn hole are on the agenda tonight, so whether you're in work clothes or casual dress, you can compete for bragging rights and a trophy.

Grand Opening Weekend Performances and Activities:

Friday:

Friday, May 27, 9am-12pm – Commons for Kids – Free carousel rides, inflatables, face-painting, balloon artists

Friday, May 27, 11:45am-1pm – Eric Dove

Friday, May 27, 5:30-9:30pm – Backyard Blues and Brews - Sample local beer and experience local legend Sean Carney while taking on your friends and co-workers in the Commons Challenge with Big Glove Boxing, Rock em' Sock em' Joust, Bungee Run and Climbing Wall!

Saturday: All Day Family Day

Saturday, May 28 - 12pm - Grand Opening of the Columbus Commons Outdoor Reading Room

Saturday, May 28 12pm – OSU Celebrity Storytime

Saturday, May 28 – 1pm – Columbus Zoo Animals Show

Saturday, May 28 – 2pm – Columbus Metropolitan Library Puppet Show

Saturday, May 28 – 3pm - Franklin Park Conservatory Craft

Saturday, May 28, 3pm - Ohio State Pep Band Performance

Saturday, May 28, 4pm - 6pm - Arnett Howard

Saturday May 28, 7-8:15pm – Phoenix Theatre for Children play “Reach for the Stars” kids play

Saturday, May 28, 9pm – Raiders of the Lost Ark Movie

Sunday:

Sunday, May 29, Tea & Tours – 2pm-5pm – Franklin Park Conservatory tours of the Garden, Outdoor Tea Room in the Bosque of Trees

Sunday, May 29, 5pm-8pm - Downtown Residents' Association of Columbus host “Lounge on the Lawn” with music and lawn games

Sunday, May 29, 8-10:15pm – Shadowbox Live “Back to the Garden”

Throughout the summer there will be plenty to do for families, downtown office workers and area residents as Columbus Commons comes alive with lunchtime performances, organized sports and special events. The most current schedule information can be found at www.columbuscommons.org as the programming continues to evolve.

Ongoing Summer Schedule:

Regular Programming:

Lunch on the Lawn, Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00pm June 1- August 31

Wednesdays will be *the* day to have lunch at Columbus Commons. In addition to lunch offerings from Burgers, Dogs and Fries, the Commons will play host to a Farmers' Market sponsored by the Harmony Project; Urban Arts Outdoors, an outdoor art gallery managed by the OSU Urban Arts Space; live music programmed by CAPA; and a food cart food court.

CAPA sponsored lunchtime performances include:

June 1, 10:30am-2pm – Matt Munhall
June 8, 10:30am-2pm – Meredith Evans Duo
June 15, 10:30am-2pm – Gemini (Chaz Mechenbier Duo)
June 22, 10:30am-2pm – Christian Howes Creative Strings Ensemble
June 29, 10:30am-2pm – Maggie Green Duo
July 6, 10:30am-2pm – Danny Beirne
July 13, 10:30am-2pm – Francisco Rojas
July 20, 10:30am-2pm – Amber and Tim
July 27, 10:30am-2pm – Matt Munhall
August 3, 10:30am-2pm – Bob Piascik
August 10, 10:30am-2pm – Silver and Spruce
August 17, 10:30am-2pm – Jon and Kerry of the Floorwalkers
August 24, 10:30am-2pm – Eustace Bobb
August 31, 10:30am-2pm – Eric Dove

Play in the Park Thursday Night, 5:30pm - 9pm (June 2-August 25)

Thursday Night is the night to stay and PLAY in Downtown Columbus with live music, outdoor games and happy hour. Wonderland will be running Trophy Thursdays, an adult recess featuring fun, and competitive schoolyard games like tetherball, wiffle-ball, and more. The Downtown LIVE concert series will be moving the park, along with the Capitol Square Kickball League to make Columbus Commons the Thursday night destination for young professionals.

Downtown LIVE concert series schedule:

Thursday, June 02, 2011 G Finesse Fabulous Johnson Brothers
Thursday, June 09, 2011 99 problems Swagg
Thursday, June 16, 2011 Philip Fox Green Light Go
Thursday, June 23, 2011 Feedback featuring Isis Yasmeen LDNL
Thursday, June 30, 2011 Moonbats Spikedrivers
Thursday, July 07, 2011 Town Monster Andy Shaw Band
Thursday, July 14, 2011 Nick Tolford Floorwalkers
Thursday, July 21, 2011 Phantods Jared Mahone
Thursday, July 28, 2011 Alex White Band Ark Band
Thursday, August 04, 2011 Crescent Fresh Reaganomics
Thursday, August 11, 2011 Yumbambe
Thursday, August 18, 2011 Mojoflo
Thursday, August 25, 2011 Wet Darlings Karate Coyote

Commons for Kids, Every Friday, 10:30am-12pm (June 3-September 2)

Friday mornings are all about kids at Columbus Commons. The free event will kick off with celebrity story time by OSU athletes and coaches, in partnership with the 2nd & 7th Foundation, and will be followed by a fun, interactive children's activity, with everything from jugglers and musicians, to inflatable and face painters. Kids can read, play,

and take a free spin on the carousel. The Columbus Metropolitan Library will also bring the book mobile to Columbus Commons from 10am to 2pm, and will be sponsoring free Wi-Fi in the Reading Room.

Family Fundays, noon-5pm June 12, July 10, August 14

Bring your family to Columbus Commons on the second Sunday of each month for free family programming and entertainment. Each month will have a different programming theme with June slated for Children's health and fitness, featuring a live kids fitness demo with Fit Club. July will focus on kid's literacy and the Columbus Metropolitan Library will be bringing nationally-known performer Jim Gill. August will be all about animals, with a butterfly release into the gardens by Franklin Park Conservatory.

Weekly Recreation Classes:

Fit Club is pumping up the Columbus Commons programming calendar with free weekly recreational class offerings.

Fit Club Bootcamp, Mondays, 5:30pm-6:30pm (June 6 through August 29)

Fit Club Bootcamp is a constantly varied mix of functional movements using your body weight and other equipment. Each class starts out with a group warm-up, followed by a fast-paced workout, and concludes with a cool-down. You will work hard, have fun and get results.

Fit Club Kickboxing, Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm (June 1 through August 31)

Fit Club Kickboxing is a constantly varied mix of martial arts skills (kicking & punching) and functional movements using your body weight. Each class starts out with a group warm-up, followed by a fast-paced workout and concludes with a cool-down. You will work hard, learn usable skills, have fun and get results.

Fit Club Yoga, Saturdays 9:00am-10:00am (June 4 – September 3)

Fit Club Yoga is a Vinyasa Flow Yoga series with a mix of movement and breathing. Basic yoga poses and breathing techniques are blended together to create an invigorating workout that will leave you balanced and ready for a busy weekend.

Columbus Commons Movie Series, Dates TBD, Programming Season Memorial Day- Labor Day

This event kicks off with Raiders of the Lost Ark, presented Saturday May 28th as part of the park's Grand Opening festivities. Guests will come to the Commons with blankets and chairs in-hand to sprawl out on the Grand Lawn and enjoy a free summer of cinema at the Columbus Commons..

Actors' Theatre Production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Thursday August 11-Sunday August 14, 8pm

Thursday August 18-Sunday August 21, 8pm

Columbus Commons is located in downtown Columbus at 160 S. High Street and is bordered by High Street, Rich Street, Third Street and several buildings along State Street.

The Commons has parkside parking options with over 4,500 spaces located in adjacent garages and underneath the park itself. The park is staffed with private security 24 hours a day, seven days a week and welcomes patrons of all ages. Children 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Capitol South manages the operations, maintenance and programming of Columbus Commons and has collaborated with the following organizations to present programming:

- CAPA – Stage entertainment
- Capitol Crossroads SID – Farmers’ Market, kickball and Thursday concert series
- Franklin Park Conservatory – 12 world-class gardens
- Columbus Metropolitan Library – Outdoor Reading Room and complimentary wi-fi in the reading room
- Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library – Outdoor Reading Room
- 2nd and 7 Foundation – Outdoor Reading Room
- Harmony Project – Farmers’ Market
- FitClub – Recreation Classes

About Columbus Commons

Capitol South led the effort to repurpose 1.2 million square feet of dead urban space and turn it into 9 live acres of inviting green space with trees, flowers, grass and walking paths. Now known as Columbus Commons, the former City Center Mall site debuts in May 2011 with an aggressive schedule of activities, events and performances designed to attract people of all walks of life downtown. Columbus Commons is within steps of the Ohio Statehouse and is expected to help support the development of walkable neighborhoods that integrate residential living with retail, office and entertainment space. Columbus Commons is located at 160 S. High Street and is bordered by High Street, Rich Street, Third Street and several buildings along State Street.

About Capitol South

Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation is a private, non-profit development corporation designed to lead city-changing projects. The Board of Directors is made up of senior business and institutional leaders who have a strong commitment to the downtown revitalization. Created in 1974 to revitalize and redevelop the area just south of Capitol Square, the organization owns and operates Columbus Commons and its Main and Underground Garages. Capitol South is aligned with the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation and the two organizations have a shared mission to transform Downtown Columbus into one of the most attractive and vibrant center cities in the United States.

For more details about the Columbus Commons and the 2011 Programming Season visit www.columbuscommons.org.

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