

2023 Observances/Holidays/Notable Events
Upper Arlington Community Relations Committee

Updated 1/19/23

JANUARY

DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
1	New Year's Day	City offices closed, Monday, January 2	Federal holiday celebrating the first day of the year.
9	Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (LEAD)		Annual celebration in support of law enforcement officers who have answered the call to public service.
15	Makar Sakranti/Pongal - Hindu		A holiday dedicated to the sun god, Surya. The day also marks the sun transitioning into Capricorn.
16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	City offices closed	Federal holiday held on the third Monday of January, celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader.
26	Vasant Panchami - Hindu		A festival of North India that marks the initial preparations for Spring and is celebrated with the color yellow.

FEBRUARY

DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
February	Black History Month		Month-long observance that honors the triumphs and struggles of African Americans throughout U.S. history.
5-6	Tu B'Shvat - Jewish		This day in the Hebrew calendar celebrates the "New Year for the Trees." It is a day about trees and planting them to make the land healthy and vibrant.
14	Valentine's Day		An annual celebration of romantic love, friendship and admiration!
17-18	Isra and Mi'raj - Muslim		Isra and Mi'raj references the "Miraculous Night Journey" of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Muslims celebrate this night by offering prayers, or by illuminating cities with electric lights and candles.
18	Maha Shivarati - Hindu		"The Great Night of Shiva" is the most significant event in India's spiritual calendar.
20	Presidents Day	City offices closed	Third Monday in February, honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The day is sometimes understood as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents.
22	Ash Wednesday - Christian		Marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day "season" for repentance, fasting, reflection and celebration.

MARCH

DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
March	Women's History Month		Month-long observance highlighting the contributions of women to events in history and society.
March	Irish-American Heritage Month		Month-long observance honoring the achievements of Irish immigrants and their descendants living in the U.S.
6-7	Purim - Jewish		Holiday to commemorate the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, as told in the Book of Ester. This day is celebrated by exchanging food and drinks, and partaking in a celebratory meal known as se'udat Purim.
8	International Women's Day		Celebrated as a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women.
21	Holi - Festival of India		Popular ancient Indian festival, also known as the "Festival of Love," the "Festival of Colours" and the "Festival of Spring." The festival celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna.
12	Daylight Savings Time begins		Clocks "spring" forward one hour ahead of standard time for the warm weather months.
17	St. Patrick's Day		A cultural and religious celebration commemorating St. Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrating the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.
March 22-April 21	Ramadan - Islamic holy month		Holy month of fasting, introspection and prayer for Muslims, the followers of Islam. It is celebrated as the month during which Muhammad received the initial revelations of the Quran, the holy book for Muslims. The dates for Ramadan can vary across the globe, based on the sighting of the moon.
30	Rama Navami - Hindu		A celebration of the birth of Rama, the seventh avatar of the deity Vishnu.

APRIL

DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
April	National Distracted Driving Awareness Month		A time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road.
April	Arab American Heritage Month		Month-long celebration of Arab American heritage and culture, paying tribute to the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans.
1	April Fool's Day		Celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, though its origins are unclear. Traditions include playing practical jokes on others. Jokesters typically expose their actions by shouting "April Fools!"
2	Palm Sunday - Christian		Recalls an event in the Christian Scripture (New Testament) of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by people waving palm branches. Marks the first day of the Holy Week.

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APRIL cont.			
4	Mahavira Jayanti - Jain		Celebrated to observe peace and harmony and spread the teachings of Mahavira. Jainism (an Indian religion, also known as Jain Dharma) lays focus on peace and harmony such that no/minimal harm is brought to living creatures.
7	Good Friday - Christian		The Friday that comes before Easter Sunday in Christian religions.
13-May	Passover - Jewish		Celebration of the Jewish peoples' freedom from the pharaoh of Egypt over 3,000 years ago, known as the Exodus.
9-15	National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week		A week honoring 911/dispatch personnel for their public service.
9	Easter Sunday		One of the most important days for Christians, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
16	Easter Sunday - Orthodox Christian		Celebrated the Sunday after the first full moon after Passover.
18	Laylat al-Qadr - Muslim		Qadr Night or Laylat al-Qadr holds significance as a night in which angels descend to earth with a myriad of tasks, leading to a night of peace, blessings, and divine guidance (qadar) until the dawn.
21-22	Eid al-Fitr - Muslim		This religious holiday is celebrated by Muslims worldwide to mark the end of Ramadan.
23-29	National Library Week		Sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the U.S. each April, in celebration of the valuable role of libraries, librarians, and library workers.
25-26	Yom HaAtzmaut - Jewish		Commemorates the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948 and is celebrated with fireworks, barbecues, and public concerts.
28	Arbor Day		Celebrated the last Friday in April in the U.S., Arbor Day is marked by the planting of trees and emphasizes their importance as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources.

MAY			
DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
May	Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month		Month-long celebration of the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the U.S.
May	Jewish American Heritage Month		Month-long observance that recognizes the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American
May	National Bike Month		Promoted by the League of American Bicyclists, showcasing the benefits of bicycling.
May	Mental Health Awareness Month		Month-long observance to bring awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness, to celebrate recovery from mental health conditions and to help reduce the stigma around mental health.
May	National Pet Month		A time to celebrate all the benefits our furry friends bring to our lives.
May	Local History Month		Largely celebrated in the UK, Local History Month highlights, promotes and increases awareness of local history.
1-5	Teacher Appreciation Week		Honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make in our lives.
4	National Day of Prayer - Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Jewish		An annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, this day invites people to pray for the Nation.
5	Cinco De Mayo		A remembrance of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day is also known as Battle of Puebla Day.
5	Vesak - Buddhist		Considered the holiest day of the Buddhist calendar, celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death of Siddhartha Gautama, or Buddha.
8-9	Lag BaOmer - Jewish		A Jewish religious holiday celebrated on the 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer.
14	Mother's Day		A day that celebrates and honors motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.
14-20	National Police Week (includes Peace Officer Memorial Day)		National Police Week recognizes law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.
17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (LGBTQ+)		A day created to raise awareness to the discrimination experienced by members of the LGBTQIA community.
21-27	National Public Works Week		A celebration and recognition of the importance of public works in our society!
21-27	EMS Week		EMS week honors those on the medical frontlines and the role they play in our communities.
25-27	Shavuot - Jewish		The "Feast of Weeks" is celebrated seven weeks after Passover. Its origins are found in an ancient grain harvest festival, but it is also identified with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.
28	Pentecost - Orthodox Christian		Celebrated seven weeks after Easter Sunday, this day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus, as described in the New Testament of the Christian Bible.
29	Memorial Day	City offices closed	A federal holiday honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

JUNE			
DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
June	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Pride Month		Month-long celebration to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, New York and recognize the impact that LGBTQ individuals, organizations, and groups have had on history locally, nationally and internationally.

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JUNE cont.			
June	Caribbean-American Heritage Month		Month-long celebration of the generations of Caribbean Americans who have contibuted to American society.
June	National Safety Month		The goal of Summer Safety Month is to increase public awareness of the leading safety and health risks that are increased in the summer months to decrease the number of injuries and deaths at homes and workplaces.
June	Great Outdoors Month		A month-long celebration of healthy and safe outdoor recreation.
June	African American Music Appreciation Month		Also known as Black Music Month, this month-long observance celebrates the African American musical influences that make up an essential part of our society.
4	Pentecost - Orthodox Christian		Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th day after Easter Sunday to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ.
18	Father's Day		A day that celebrates and honors fatherhood, paternal bonds, and fathers in society.
19	Juneteenth	City offices closed	Federal holiday commemorating the emanipation of enslaved African Americans in the US, June 19, 1865.
28-29	Eid al-Adha - Islamic		Honoring the tale of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God, as described in the Quran.

JULY			
DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
July	National Parks & Recreation Month		Month-long celebration created by the National Recreation and Parks Association to highlight the contributions that the people parks and recreation provide and the ways they make our communities better!
3	Asalha Puja - Buddhist		Also known as "Dharma Day," a celebration of new beginnings as it represents the day Buddha gave his first sermon.
4	Independence Day	City offices closed	A federal holiday celebrating the United States gaining independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.
19	Al-Hijra - Islamic New Year		Al-Hijra commemorates the journey the Prophet Muhammad made from Mecca to Medina to flee persecution and establish the first Islamic state.
July 19-August 16	Muharram - Muslim		One of four sacred months of the Islamic calendar. Muharram typically begins after the sighting of the new moon on the final day of the Islamic calendar.
27-28	Ashura - Muslim		As the first month of the Islamic calendar, this day is observed with fasting and meditation as it holds religious and historical significance for Muslims worldwide.

AUGUST			
DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
1	National Night out		Annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood
26	National Dog Day		National Dog Day encourages dog ownership of all breeds. Whether mixed or purebred, all dogs deserve a happy, safe, and abuse-free life!
30	Raksha Bandan - Hindu		Also known as Rakhi, this important Hindu festival is dedicated to brothers and sisters.

SEPTEMBER			
DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
4	Labor Day	City offices closed	A federal holiday celebrating the contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity and
6-7	Krishna Janmashtani - Hindu		An annual Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Krishna.
September 15-October 15	National Hispanic Heritage Month		A month dedicated to the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry can be traced to over 20 contries in Latin America, including Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.
11	Patriot Day		Occuring on September 11th every year, this day is held in memory of the people killed in the September 11, 2001 tragedy.
11-18	Paryushana - Jain		The most important Jain religious observance is a time of intensive study, reflection and purification.
15-17	Rosh Hashanah - Jewish Holiday		Rosh Hashanah marks the start of a new year in the Hebrew calendar.
19	Ganesh Chaturthi - Hindu		A festival also known as "Vinayaka Chaturthi," celebrating the birth of the Hindu god Ganesh, an elephant-headed deity, known as the god of prosperity and wisdom.
24-25	Yom Kippur - Jewish		Day of fasting, repentance and worship, considered the holiest day in Judaism. Also known as the Day of Atonement, when Jewish communities reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins they have

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OCTOBER

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October	National Disability Employment Awareness Month		Month-long observance honoring the contributions of American's workers with disabilities.
October	Domestic Violence Awareness Month		This month raises awareness about domestic violence and promotes healthy relationships.
October	Global Diversity Awareness Month		Month-long celebration of the positive impact a diverse culture of people can have on society as a whole.
7-8	Simchat Torah - Jewish		A celebration to mark the completion of the annual reading of this section of the Bible.
8-14	Fire Prevention Week		Commemorates the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, and is used as to teach communities about fire safety.
9	Indigenous People's Day		A day honoring Indigenous American people, their history and their cultures.
15	Mysore Dasara - Hindu		A 10-day festival commemorating a battle of good vs. evil, where the goddess Chamundeshwari defeats
15-24	Navratri - Hindu		An annual festival honoring the goddess Durga.
21	Sweetest Day		A holiday to express love or appreciation toward everyone!
23	Dussehra - Hindu		Dussehra celebrates the Hindu god Rama's victory over the demon king Ravana and the triumph of good over evil.
24	Vijayadasami - Hindu		A festival celebrated at the end of Navratri.
26-27	Milad an-Nabi (Mawlid) - Islamic		Celebrated as the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.
28	National Make a Difference Day		Community clean-up activities.
28	First Responders Day		On this day we honor our Nation's heroes who put their lives on the line every day.
October 31-November 2	Día de los Muertos - Mexican & Aztec		A holiday widely observed in Mexico, where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for not only a reunion, but a celebration.

NOVEMBER

DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
5	Daylight Savings Time ends		A return to standard time, clocks "fall" back by one hour.
7	General Election Day		The annual day for general elections of federal public officials. Get out and VOTE!
11	Veterans Day	City offices closed Friday, November 10	A federal holiday honoring military veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.
12	Diwali - Hindu, Jain, Sikh		A festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world, in celebration of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.
23	Thanksgiving Day	City offices closed	A federal holiday celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year.
24	Native American Heritage Day		Celebrated the day after Thanksgiving to recognize the cultures, accomplishments, contributions and heritage of American Indians.
27	Kartik Purnima - Jain, Hindu, Sikh		A cultural festival celebrated on the 15th lunar day of the month of Kartika (November or December of the Gregorian calendar). It is also known as Tripurari Purnima or Deva-Deepawali, the gods' festival of lights.

DECEMBER

DATE	OBSERVANCE/HOLIDAY/NOTABLE EVENT	CITY HOLIDAYS	DETAIL
7-15	Chanuka/Hanukkah - Jewish		Celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the larger Syrian army. The hanukiah (or hanukkah menorah) is a candle holder, an important Hanukkah symbol. It has nine branches. Traditionally, one candle is separated from the rest, usually by being higher than the other eight.
10	Human Rights Day		Commemorates the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
24	Christmas Eve - Christian		The evening or entire day before Christmas Day, the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus.
25	Christmas Day - Christian	City offices closed	For two millennia, people around the world have been observing Christmas Day with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature.
Dec 26-Jan 1	Kwanzaa		Celebrates African heritage, unity, and culture. Kwanzaa (/ˈkwɑːn.zə/) is an annual celebration of African-American culture, culminating in gift-giving and a feast of faith, called Karamu Ya Imani.
31	New Year's Eve		In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve is the evening or the entire day of the last day of the year, 31 December. Start the Count Down!