

ANNOUNCER: You've tuned in to another edition of The Break Room. A

weekly conversation about how the City of St Augustine

works from those who do the work every day. Hosted by the

City of St Augustine's Communications Director, Melissa

Wissel. The Break Room offers a closer look at the different

city departments and provides updates on current and upcoming

projects and events. And now your host, Melissa Wissel. MELISSA:

Thanks for tuning in to The Break room. I'm Melissa Wissel,

Communications Director for the City of St Augustine.

National Night Out is coming up on Tuesday, October 4th and

I've invited St Augustine
Police Department's Public
Information Officer, Dee Brown
to join me in the studio this

week to tell us all about it.

Dee, welcome back. DEE: Thank you

for having me. MELISSA: National Night
Out, just let's get down to it.

Tell us what it is, where it
is, and all the cool stuff that

happens out there. DEE: So, National
Night Out is basically a

community event to establish
relationship with the

community, law enforcement,
community policing, is exactly

where everybody wants to be.
You get a chance to come out,

meet different agencies,

different community partners.

And this event has been going

on since like 1984. And like

I said, it is typically it

starts, it's held the first

Tuesday every August. But

what we've decided, and St

Augustine Beach Police

Department, it's kind of their

baby. So what we've

decided is the first Tuesday in

October, because the first

Tuesday in August is extremely.. MELISSA:

Hot. Oh gosh. Yeah. DEE: So, but the

event is held at the the St

Augustine Beach Pier, the

parking lot. And agencies from all

over... Coast Guard, FWC, St

Johns, Saint Augustine Beach,

Saint Augustine Police

Department, both fire
departments, County and City

Fire. It's just a a great
community event. MELISSA: It's like an

expo. I mean it's cool. There,
they do music and food kind of

stuff? DEE: Music. They do food. A
lot of dancing, kids. MELISSA: I think

last time didn't they get, who
was out there dancing? Was it

when when Sheriff Hardwick was
chief? He was out there

dancing? He was dancing when he
was. MELISSA: Chief Michaux dances, she

cut the rug out there? DEE: Nah, she
would never cut the rug out

there. And and kids get to
sit in all the vehicles.

Boats are out there. The

helicopters there. They get to

sit in and see... maybe they'll
bring the new helicopter this

year. This is a lot
bigger. You know, kids last

year were like, wow, we didn't
realize the helicopter was so

small inside. And but
the Sheriff's Office have like

three helicopters now so. MELISSA: They,
and so all of the apparatus is

cool. And so you just mentioned
a bunch of the agencies Florida,

the Fish and Wildlife
Commission, Coast Guard. You

guys bring out your special
vehicles. DEE: I will bring out a few,

my wrap vehicle will be
out there. We may

bring out one of the ghost
vehicles. You know, because

the kids are, they love that. MELISSA: And
what's that? DEE: So, it's our traffic

unit, a traffic division. They
have white Tahoes and you can't

see the lettering until the
lights hit. So that's where

the ghost comes from. MELISSA: Like headlights
at night? DEE: Yeah. MELISSA: Okay I wondered

about.. I will tell you, I have
been, I have seen that out there

yeah and wondered what that was.
I thought maybe somebody forgot

to finish.. DEE: No, it's the traffic division,
yes. MELISSA: And our Fire Department,

they come out, they bring ladder
truck? DEE: Just depends,

because they're still working.
But typically they would bring

a ladder truck or the engine,
you know. I don't know. MELISSA: Maybe the

Merv? DEE: Yeah the Merv is
definitely going to be there. MELISSA:

Definitely going to be there.
And you guys bring your cart,

what is, what do you guys call
your Merv? It's not a Merv. DEE:

Side by side. Okay. Yeah. Side
by side. MELISSA: And you guys

getting any new vehicles this
year? Any any hints or

inklings? We'll talk about that
another time? Not sure yet what

we're getting? DEE: Yeah, we'll talk
about another. MELISSA: Okay. Yeah.

Alright. You have to you have
to tune back in on the next
time. DEE: Absolutely. MELISSA: Now, I recall

seeing, I have not ever made

it out for one and I have to
apologize for that. But every

time I see the pictures and the
videos the next day, it is

quite the scene. I think
there was some alligators out

there last year. DEE: Yes so FWC,
actually last year was

interesting. They were going to
stop by the alligator farm and

grab a alligator to show. MELISSA: Just
swing by and grab an alligator.

DEE: But they got a call in the
northwest part of the county, so

they picked up an alligator and
they brought that one to the

National Night Out. MELISSA: An actual live, wild, alligator. Yeah. Do they

tape them? They have to tape

it shut. DEE: They do. They do. They,

the mouth with tape and. MELISSA: How big
was it? Remember? DEE: Wasn't very

big. No, they don't they
don't bring any big ones there.

But big enough for you to hold.

MELISSA: A gator is still a gator in my

book. That's still a
reptile of some sort, that I

don't like that. Kids
love it though. DEE: They do and I

mean, tons of kids take
pictures with them. It is

amazing to see, you know. But
if it was loose, everyone's

running, you know. MELISSA: Is there
anybody in particular that like

comes to speak or makes a
presentation? Or, it's really

just almost like a carnival or
a fair. DEE: It's a community event

in kids go where they want to
go. So, our new vehicles the

sirens are extremely loud. So
the kids gravitate to our

trucks, our our
vehicles. So that's a good

thing. You know they love the
lights. So every vehicle will

have lights on. There'll be
SWAT trucks out there. I mean,

it's just. MELISSA: And everybody's in
their uniforms so everybody's

looking good. DEE: Everybody's in
uniform looking good. And it's

just a fun event for the kids. MELISSA:
Get to know the officers.

And hopefully there are
no, like, free rides so to speak.

And taking anybody off in one.

DEE: Yeah, I think we got that under

control. MELISSA: You are just now
tuning in. You are listening to

The Break Room. I'm Melissa
Wissel, Communications Director

for the City of St Augustine.

And I have Dee Brown with me in

studio this week. We are
talking about National Night

Out. It is a community wide
public safety event. St

Augustine Beach Police
Department is the hosting

agency, but you can come out
there on Tuesday, October

4th. What time does it
start? Do you know at off the..

Evening-ish? DEE: Evening-ish, 5 to

8, I believe, that's.. MELISSA: Music,

food, Vehicles,

apparatus. DEE: You've got the

beach. You know, if you want to

take a dip, you know. MELISSA: Come down

to the beach. Yeah. Absolutely.

What else is going on in the

at the Police Department? DEE: Oh we

got a few things going on.

Things to look for. Well as you

know school is back in.

Flagler College. Nights of

Lights is coming up. So you

should be aware of just a

pedestrian traffic that's

going to increase rapidly over

the next few months. But

something brand new and huge is

coming up is Protech DNA. We

are going to be doing bicycle
registrations through Protech

DNA and it's a technology that
you can use a gel or a sticker

and.. Hard to find on the bike.

Only you know where it's at and

if we find a bike, we can use a
magnifying glass that Protech

DNA provides and you can see
the serial numbers inside the

gel. It's a very cool
technology that's coming to

St Augustine. MELISSA: So, okay. So,
let's recap. Okay, let's go

back. So, I buy, I get a bike.

And come to the Police

Department. And you and I find a
spot that only you and I know.

DEE: Well, you should be the only
one. MELISSA: I'm, I'll be the only one

to know. And you mark
that spot with this gel.

And then when I
unfortunately get my bike

stolen and you recover it, you
say, okay, tell me where that

spot is. And then you
can go and look with your, is

it like a decoder ring or like
a, you know, that red

cellophane stuff? No, it's
fancier than that. DEE: Yeah, it's a

lot fancier. It's a lot
fancier. Like you can see the

gel. I mean in this, it's a dot.
Think about nail polish, just

when you wipe the, is it called
the drip? The the tip of it

off? MELISSA: Yeah. DEE: That way. MELISSA: Oh then

the little brush? DEE: Yeah. That

little bit, you'd be surprised

what you can get out of it.

MELISSA: Just a little drop. DEE: Just a

little drop. MELISSA: Okay, so a drop of

nail polish basically. On

my bike with my number in it.

And when I lose my bike and I

come down to claim it, you can

find that. DEE: And the good thing

about it is, it's free.

And also through Protech DNA,

they're able to, tie it in to all

the pawnshops as well. So, if

your bike is pawned and we're

looking for it, once we identify that

it is a bike that looks like

yours. We contact you,

find out where you put your

serial number. And we'll
scan it. If it is, then. There

we have it. MELISSA: Now, I'm going to
ask you a question. Put you on

the spot a little bit. I've
never thought about this before

until you just said it. Is
there anything that a pawnshop

can do, or I don't know, is
required to do. But, if I were to

bring a bike to the pawnshop,
that they would be able to look

on that bike before they even
try to re-sell it, to try to re-

resell it to even know that it
was stolen before they try to?

Is there anything like that? DEE: I
don't know about that, but it's

a certain amount of time that
they have before they can sell

it. So that's what
prevents. So, if it's stolen and

then they can go back and look
and figure out who they sold it

to. I mean, it's a whole
process. MELISSA: So there are ways.

Of tracking stuff through
pawnshops other than the DNA.

That's really cool. How are
things going, before we sign off

here... How are things going with
the body cams? I mean, that

was that was a big big thing,
big undertaking to get them, to

sort of justify having them. Of
course, things were heated, so

it was very important at the
time when we got them. Is it

making a difference? Is it

helping? DEE: It is. And and the

unique part about it is we've
always been open to 'em. But, it's

kind of helped out the
surrounding agencies, different

department. Just, you know, think
people say things happen. Okay,

hold on, let's go back and look
at the body camera footage. MELISSA:

Let's roll the tape there, Dee.

Let's see what that, yeah, well.

DEE: So, it's it's helped out more
than just the Police Department. MELISSA:

Okay and it's it's really been,
helps you guys defend your

actions. Because you guys come
under this, under scrutiny so so

much. DEE: Absolutely. MELISSA: New officers
coming in? You guys were doing

some last time you were here. DEE:

We have a few that are in

field training right now, and

maybe a few months they should

be out and they'll be on on

their own again And it's, you

know, we're constantly growing.

The City, the County,

everything's growing. So we're,

we have to be able to keep up

with it. MELISSA: Are we full? We at

capacity? We still need people

to apply and come join the

force. Be part of our team.

DEE: We we are full, but we like I

said, we always need people to

apply. MELISSA: Right. And you guys are

downtown. Bikes. Segways. More

bikes. Segways. What do we

have? DEE: No, segways didn't

work for for the city.

The bicycles that we have,

that's, not even electric bikes

will work for us, because you

can't maneuver a stop of the on

a dime to get through traffic

when you have to. So, it

works for other cities. It just

doesn't work for us, the way of

St Augustine, the

infrastructure is set up. MELISSA: I do

see a presence. You guys are

out all the time, in your ghost

trucks, in the new trucks, in all

the trucks. We see you in your

fancy vehicle. You're still

having fun doing your outreach? DEE:

I am having a lot of fun, but

it's it's it's weird because

I've always drove, driven a

marked car. And now that

it's marked, you know, people's

I saw you.. I'm like, where did

you see me? MELISSA: Yeah, you gotta be... do

you forget sometimes like that

you that your car is painted? DEE: I

do, because people, before, noone

stared at my car right. they

would, just thought it was some

regular mom vehicle or

something. And now they staring

at me... I'm like why are they

staring at me? And then I

realize, oh alright, it's. And

typically now, I'm seeing like

younger kids, because it's like

wow, look at the lion look at

the lighthouse, you know. MELISSA: It's a

cool vehicle, yeah. It's a very cool vehicle. Well, we'll make

sure to try to look for the vehicle out at National Night

Out. Again, that's going to be on Tuesday, October 4th.

5 to 8, evening time
ish out at the beach. Come out

and check out all of the participating agencies. Bring

your kids, young and old.
Entertainment, dancing, fun.

Come out and get to know your local law enforcement public

safety agencies. You guys do a lot of great work for us and

and we're happy to have you.
Protecting us. DEE: Thank

you. MELISSA: Anything else? DEE: That is it.
MELISSA: That's a wrap. Alright. Dee

Brown, thank you for coming and
stopping by. You've just now

tuned in to The Break Room. If
you missed any part of this

broadcast or you want to go
back, you can find us on CityStAugRadio.com. That's
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happening in and around the

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thanks for tuning in. ANNOUNCER: You've
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addressing projects and

programs offered by the City of
St Augustine. Join us each

week as the City's
Communications Director,

Melissa Wissel has in-depth
conversations with the people

who make our town work to meet
the needs of our community. The

Break Room is produced by

Communication Specialist for

the City of St Augustine,

Cindy Walker. See you at this

time next week for another

edition of The Break Room.