

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 everyday. 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: Hello and thanks for tuning in, you're listening to The

Break Room. I'm Melissa Wissel, Communications Director for the

City of St Augustine. As we celebrate Black History Month,

we want to set aside some time

this week to talk about the

continuing efforts with the

Community Redevelopment Area

Programs. We have one in

Lincolnville, along with an

update to the Historic Area CRA

Plan Amendment. There's no one

better to keep us on track,

what's happening in those areas

than, Community Redevelopment

Agency Manager Jaime D Perkins.

Jaime, welcome back. JAIME: Hi,

Melissa. Thank you for having

me, yet again. MELISSA: we're always

happy to have you come in.

You've brought a special guest

with you, but we're going to

come back and introduce him in a little

bit. I want to get an update on

some of the projects you've
got. You are a very busy lady.

I'd say you're almost as busy
as Ruben and Todd. JAIME: Busier

MELISSA: Maybe. Let's start with the
Historic Area CRA. It's kind of

gotten the least amount of
attention in recent years, but

you're bringing that back.

JAIME: Right. So, you know that our

Community Redevelopment Area
for the Downtown Historic

District was established in 2000. We implemented

that area mainly just to
focus on the parking blight.

Obviously in 2006, we developed
the parking garage, which is

thriving right now, getting a

major utilization. The Plan

Amendment is basically an opportunity for us to expand

upon that plan, to increase our efforts related to mobility,

addressing the parking and blight challenges that we're

having still in the downtown area. So, we're we're just

expanding on those ideas. MELISSA: And that Downtown Historic Area, is

it primarily that Historic District? JAIME: It is. MELISSA: It kind of

surrounding the parking. JAIME: It encompasses the majority of our

Downtown Historic Area. If you are looking at the map,

you'll see this big gap in the middle of it and that is our

Flagler Model Land and it's not
inclusive of that area. But we

we do maintain the maps on our
website. So, anyone who's

interested to see where those boundaries
are, not only for the Downtown

Historic CRA, but for also
Lincolnvile, they can find

our boundary maps on the CRA
website, which is www.CityStAug.com/CRA, so
they can find those boundary

maps there. MELISSA: Excellent. So
that's Historic Area. Let's

circle back a little bit over
to Lincolnvile. There's all

kinds of stuff going on in
Lincolnvile, and it's not just

what we've been doing. We
actually, as I mentioned, this

is also part of our focus of

Black History Month. We did a

campaign Faces of the Places.

So we have a lot of places town

that are named after people. We
don't always know who those

folks are. And it started with
the Eddie Vickers Face of the

Place. So, Eddie Vickers Park
down there, by, also by Robert B

Hayling Park. You've got some
plans to get that place looking

good. JAIME: Yeah, absolutely. I'm so
excited about what we're

going to be doing at both Eddie
Vickers Park and Dr Robert

B Hayling Freedom Park. Which I
always call our Diamond in the

Rough, down at the very end of
Riberia Street, what was

formerly called Riberia Point,

I believe. So, it really

excited. I've been calling it

personally, and maybe I'll even

make this our campaign,

reimagining Eddie Vickers and

reimagining Robert B Hayling

Park. We have a master plan

that we're working on. We

have brought on Jeremy Marquis

of Marquis Latimer and Halback,

or actually the their entire

company there, Marquis Latimer

and Halback, are working

diligently to develop a master

plan to reimagine what those

parks will look like.

One to just to find some

some really cool spaces for the

locals that live in the in the

Lincolnvile area. Make sure
that they have a a nice, clean
recreational space to enjoy.

Of course, we're going to be

rehabbing, or improving, our
basketball courts. Looking to

improve that space with adding
some pickleball courts, as well.

We know pickleball is the
fastest growing sport. So we're going to add
some courts there. The

master is also calling for, or a
recommending a dog park be

added to Eddie Vickers. Some
additional parking spaces,

cleaning up the parking lot.
Of course it, just increasing

the opportunity for families
and individuals to go down and

enjoy that recreational space.

A kayak launch is in the

works, fishing pier. Just
some really great opportunities,

and that's just at Eddie
Vickers Park. We haven't even

talked about all the great
things that we proposed to do

down at Robert B Hayling
Freedom. We're just

really, that park so much
potential with... MELISSA: Beautiful.

JAIME: Yeah. You know, you can really
get down to the water there, as

one of the best sunsets and
sunrises in the City. So,

yeah, we have a master plan.

The concepts are found on

our website. I'm also happy
to share those. We are

going to be issuing a survey
here. I'm hoping by the end of

this month, will go out to those
local residents out in

Lincolnvile, where they will
have an opportunity to

prioritize some of the elements
of the park, the master plan

design. They'll be able to to
provide their input and engage

with myself and the consultant
on what is most important to

them, what they'd like to see
at those recreational spaces.

So, we'll do a survey and then,
of course, there's other charrettes

that we'll be offering and
workshops, where they'll be able

to provide input so that they

can be involved in that

process. MELISSA: That's a lot.

Those are some great spaces and

they are, they are, I mean, I'll
just say, they are in need of some

face lift.

Improvement. They're okay. That we get down there and
use em. And I will say, if you

haven't been down to the end of
Riberia, get down there. Go

walk that loop. It is,
sits very high up. You have a

complete overlook of, like the
312 bridge area, the

Sebastian River that comes in.
So, it is beautiful. Well,

okay. So, before we lose track
of time. You are listening

to The Break Room. I have Jaime
D Perkins with us in The Break

Room. She is our Community
Redevelopment Agency Manager. She

has a special guest with us, and
I don't want to run out of time,

so that we can talk with you
and Mr. Winston Burse. JAIME: Yeah.

So, I brought... MELISSA: Winston, welcome.
WINSTON: Good morning. Good morning. MELISSA: We

didn't forget about you. WINSTON: Thank
you. Good morning. JAIME: I brought

Mr. Burse with us. He is, I
like to call him, the first

gentleman of St Paul. He is
the the Pastor's husband over

at St Paul. We
continue to partner with

institutions in in all of our
CRAs, but specifically in

Lincolnvile, just because it's the

most active CRA right now. And

we began our partnership with
the St Paul Church just a

few years ago as we implemented
some Institutional

Rehabilitation Projects for
them, even currently working on

a structural assessment for
St Paul Church. But they have

been in the community now for
over 100, or coming up on 150

years. And so, although
the CRA, we have some limits on

the things that we can do. We
are able to partner with our

organizations and institutions,
to just provide them with

platform and provide
efforts for them to just

increase their, the work
that they're able to do in our

CRAs. MELISSA: And it's funding. It's
money. Well so we. Some of it.

JAIME: So the funding comes, you know,

from a more of a brick and

mortar aspect. We're
not able to provide funding for

events and things of that
nature. MELISSA: But the rehab is

where the funding comes.

JAIME: Absolutely. MELISSA: The rehab project.

So, with this
partnership, we want to talk a

little bit though, about you
just mentioned that the church

is 150th anniversary and
you're going to have a

celebration for that. WINSTON: Yes. Yes.

Yes. We are doing 150th

celebration, but it's the
celebration for the holy

community. It's not for the
church. So, we get

one, two, three, four, about
five different events. On May

14th, we partner up with
Romanza. Romanza to do an art

show, which starts at 12 o'clock
in the afternoon, to five

o'clock. Then, we do it in the
Community Gospel Concert, which

is at 6 o'clock. Our headliner
is the emoji. Emoji Robinson.

He is from Greenville. Let
me Greenville, Green Cove. So,

we doing that also. And then on
Thursday, June 1st, we are doing

our community recognition

banquet. This is to recognize

people in the community who've
been doing, working with us for

many many years. So we
recognizing them. On Saturday,

the festival. This festival is
a community festival. Matter of

fact, the school closes early.

But, I wanted to call it the

after school party.

School closing, but we still

going to invite the schools. But
we partner with, actually with

Webster and MJ Murray, Veritas, yes we

are partnering with them. MELISSA:

Wonderful. WINSTON: So, they going to

bring their kids, they going to
do some singing some dancing. We

actually, anybody who wants to

come and get on our open stage

can also do that. Then on that

Sunday, we having 150 worship

celebration. We're having two

celebration, at 10:45 and at 3:00. MELISSA: And what dates are

those again? WINSTON: Those, one is Sunday,

June 11th. MELISSA: June, okay. WINSTON: At 10:45. It's the first service.

And then at three o'clock is

the second. Our website is

StPaul150AME.com. The telephone number there

is 829.3918, and you can get all

the information on our website.

You can call us at the church.

The sponsors Lincolnville, is

one of our sponsors. The

Alligator Farm is one of our

sponsor. Pound Payne is one of

our sponsor. We ask the, partner

up with the City Police, and

like I mentioned earlier, too

Webster School, MJ Murray

School. We got vendors, which is
going to be at the festival,

Florida Blue, Color Street,
Sweet Salt. They can, we

asking for more vendors. We
have space for more vendors.

Partners to, partners with us,
and sponsors who want to

sponsor. MELISSA: Wonderful. So,
community outreach event.

May, June. Look for it.
And you'll be there. JAIME: This is

one of the most important
things that I I really want to

point out in relation to what
the 150th does for the

Lincolnvile community. It's

the cultural aspect. So, what

the CRA does, you know, we

always talk about historic

preservation, historic

preservation, but it's not only

about preserving old buildings

and old structures. It's also

about preserving the culture of

a community, and that aspect

is just as important as

saving a window or a steeple.

Because once you, the culture's

removed from a community, you

no longer have those stories.

You no longer have that, that

meaningful aspect. So,

partnering with St Paul on

this 150th celebration, it

kind of tells the story of

Lincolnvile. It's been around so long, so many people that have

lived in that community for their lifetime have been a part

of the St Paul organization, institution at some point, even

if they're not actually parishioners of the church. You

know, the public outreach that St Paul is known for, those

families and those individuals, residents have been impacted by it. So just, you know, helping to preserve the culture of that

community is a huge part of what the Community

Redevelopment Agency and the Lincolnvile Community

Redevelopment Area does. WINSTON: Yes, because we have Miss Cory Tyson

who's ninety-nine years old, who

actually hosted Martin Luther

King. We have Miss Jacqueline
Bryant who been in that church

now for 71 years. We have
Miss. Cullor, who been in, who

actually marched in 1964. We
have Miss. Trotman who actually

was a teenager who actually was
in prison during that time when

a teenage. So this is so much
history in St Paul in that

church. MELISSA: And we don't want to
lose the storytelling, when

those people are gone, their
stories have to live on. So the

fact that they're still here is
quite... JAIME: so be a part of it, yeah,

amazing, amazing. WINSTON: But we wanted
to celebrate the Church, we

want to celebrate the community,
we want everybody come and see

the richness of the culture, as
you spoke about. The culture is

still there and we happy, and we
thanking you all for giving us

this opportunity to speak.

Pastor Ford, first is saying

thank you for this opportunity. JAIME:

Thank you for being here with

us. MELISSA: So, we have a quick minute, we
didn't actually get to about

the Fix It Up Program. Give me
in a minute quick. What can

you tell me about the Fix It
Up? We got some more money in

it. JAIME: Sure. Yeah. So, really
quickly, we were just awarded an

opportunity to increase the
grant award to \$50,000 total.

So, that's \$50,000 per home,
actual household that can be

injected into a residential
property. There are some

qualifications. If you
matriculated through the

program in the past, you still
have an opportunity to come

back and receive those funds.

We have been doing some

marketing. We're still working
with St Johns Housing

Partnership on that grant
award. So looking for

residents to.. MELISSA: Yeah, check it out
on the website. Look it

up. CityStAugCRA. com.
And check out the Fix It Up

Program. Be on the lookout for

information about the 150th

Community Celebration. And with
that, thank you both for joining

us. WINSTON: Thank you. JAIME: Thank you.

Appreciate you, Melissa. MELISSA: As we

wrap up another edition of The
Break Room. If you missed

anything, you want to go back
and hear previous episodes of

The Break Room, you can find us
on CityStAug Radio.com.

We're also podcasting now. So,
if you want to find a list of

all of those social podcasting
platforms you can find us on.

That's also available at CityStAugRadio.com. We

want to keep you informed about
what's happening in and around

the City, and most importantly

that you hear it here from the

people doing the work and
making it happen every day. You

can find us on Facebook,
Twitter, and Instagram @CityStAug. And you can also find
the CRA at CityStAugCRA.com. Until next time,
thanks for tuning in. ANNOUNCER: You've

been listening to The
Break Room, a weekly program

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.