

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 wrap up Black History Month, this

gives us a chance to talk about
some of the very rich history

we have here in the Nation's
Oldest City and more

importantly, the people of that
history. And who better to have

a conversation with than City
Clerk Darlene Galambos. She's a

huge fan of our City's history.
She's often responsible for

researching that history for
projects and public records

requests. Darlene, welcome back
to The Break Room. DARLENE: Thanks for

having me back. MELISSA: Glad to have
you. We're usually here talking

about boards and sort of, I
won't say boring, because.. DARLENE: The

business end of the city. MELISSA: The

business end of the city. This

is the fun part. So, I do
want to talk about the Faces of

the Places. It was a social
media campaign that we ran on

Facebook and Instagram, and we
featured some of our Faces of

the Places named throughout the
City for Black History Month.

Let's start with Willie
Galimore Center. DARLENE: Well it's

definitely my favorite part of
my job is the history and

the research, you know because
you stumble across all kinds of

really cool information.

Willie Galimore. He was a

resident of the City of St
Augustine. He attended the

St Augustine Excelsior High
School, which is now the home of

the Lincolnville Museum and
Cultural Center, And then he

went on to attend the Florida A
and M University. Just

incredible football player. I
think arguably one of our star
athletes from the City.

He was running back for

Chicago Bears from 1957 to 1963.

He was inducted in 1999 into

the College Football Hall of
Fame. He did at one point

before his passing come back to
St Augustine to participate

in Civil Rights
Movement. And he actually

was the first black guest to
check in at the then all white

Ponce De Leon Motor Lodge.

Which is pretty. MELISSA: A lot of and a

lot of our our folks from our

Black History Month really were

very pivotal in St Augustine

during Civil Rights. DARLENE: Incredibly

pivotal. Pivotal. Pivotal. MELISSA: The,

so the Galimore Center. Let's

tell folks where the Galimore

Center is. It's down at the end,

or towards the end of Riberia

Point. If you've

never been there, it is a it's

a community center now. DARELENE: Yes and

you can rent it for any sort of

like dance classes or exercise

classes or event, church

services. There's anything you

you wanted is available for

rent. You know, a quite popular

place to to hold private events. MELISSA: And there's a swimming pool. DARLENE: There is a

swimming pool. Which won't be too much longer and it'll be

open back up. MELISSA: That's right. DARLENE: And it was renovated, I guess a few

years ago, the pool. But we're going to be renovating the

Galimore Center facility and the grounds itself in in the

coming years. So, definitely looking forward to that. MELISSA: Some

great improvements down there.

Yes. So right next to the

Galimore as we just started to kind of hint at is Eddie

Vickers Park. That's another one that's going to see a big

renovation through our CRA and
our LCRA. But tell me a little

bit about Eddie Vickers. DARLENE: So it
was originally called Little

Links. I know quite a few of
my friends who played Little

League down there. and so Eddie
Vickers was initially employed

by the city as a key member of
our Parks and Recreation.

Whenever we combined with the
County. He worked through the

County, coached many, many,
many kids here and is

definitely deserving of the
honor of having that that

sports complex named
after him. MELISSA: Nice. And there's

basketball, baseball, playground
area. And I know, it's in

need of a facelift. But as we

said, Jaime Perkins, our CRA

Manager. She's working with

some program funding and stuff

down there, so we should see it...

DARLENE: If you're a pickleball fan, we're

going to be installing

pickleball courts there, as well,

already. Renovate, so...

MELISSA: Excellent. So, Eddie Vickers

Park and the Willie Galimore

are down at the end of Riberia

Point on your way down. DARLENE: And

because of his service to the

City and the community. He was

honored with the deAviles

Award. One of our top awards in

1988. MELISSA: So a lot

of history. Yes. Let's move on

to Robert B Hayling Park.

They're all kind of down in
that end of town. DARLENE: Yes. MELISSA: That's a

beautiful point down there.

It's gorgeous. DARLENE: It's got a

walking park. The Chimes
project is down there. It's

just a really wonderful place
to get outside and enjoy some

sunshine, get much needed
vitamin D. MELISSA: So, I'll give a

shout out. My son actually did
his eagle project. DARLENE: Oh very

nice. MELISSA: Putting out picnic tables
and planting some of the plants

that are down there along the,
the what you would consider rip

wrap, I guess. DARLENE: Yeah I couldn't
imagine a better use for a

property like that. MELISSA: So, tell me about Robert B Hayling. He's,

he's a name of legend in and of himself. DARLENE: Yes, absolutely. He was

definitely a key player in the Civil Rights Movement. He

was Air Force veteran, a dentist by trade. His dental

office is a part of the Accord Civil Rights tour, and he was an NAACP adviser for the youth council,

worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

with Dr Martin Luther King.

He was definitely, he

definitely experienced pretty hard. MELISSA: He suffered a bit. Quite

a bit. DARLENE: Yes. During the Civil Rights. And he is the

only person to receive both of

our top awards. Both the La

Florida and the deAviles

Award. MELISSA: That, I've and I honestly,

until we were researching this,

I never knew that either. DARLENE: Oh

yes. It was in, I know he

received the La Florida in

2014. The 50

years of the signing of the

Civil Rights. Yes. MELISSA: So, if you're

on that end of town. Robert

B Hayling Park is the beautiful

ending there on Riberia. You

can see the Intercoastal or not

the intercoastal, the yeah the

Matanzas Rivers down there.

You've got the Oyster Creek

comes up, and beautiful sunsets.

You can walk along the walking

path. And the chimes are
down there. That was actually

erected by Compassionate St
Augustine. DARLENE: Yes. A wonderful

project. That beautiful
project. MELISSA: If you're just now

tuning in, you are listening to
The Break Room. I'm Melissa

Wissel, Communications
Director for the City of St

Augustine with Darlene Galambos.
She is the City Clerk and we

are talking about the Faces of
the Places. When you go around

the city and you see places
named after certain people,

these folks were named. They
were leaders during, a lot of

them during the Civil Rights.
And it is the culmination of

our Black History Month. Let's
talk about down in the plaza,

Andrew Young Crossing. I think
people walk through there and

they see those bronze
footprints on the sidewalk and

unless you read the sign, you
wouldn't necessarily know what

that's all about. DARLENE: I feel like
this is one of our more

significant pieces in our City,
just because of what it

represents. And you know, having
been a part of the development

of this this project, it's
just really beautiful and

moving. So, Dr Young was a
senior lieutenant to Dr

Martin Luther King. He was

sent to St Augustine in 1964

to organize peaceful protest.

He led a march from

Lincolnvile to the plaza where
a group of demonstrators

disrupted that protest. And
he was approached by a large

mob and he was struck several
times to the point where he

lost consciousness. And
staying true, he stayed

nonviolent. And I think
historians agree that this was

one of the pivotal events that
led to the passage of the Civil

Rights Legislation. He would
go on to become America's first

African American United Nations
Ambassador. He's a two-term

mayor of Atlanta. He was the
first black congressman since

the reconstruction from the
South. He's a recipient of the

US Presidential Medal of
Freedom. And

the co-chair of the Atlanta
Olympic Games. MELISSA: Went on to quite

a lot of accomplishments. DARLENE:
Absolutely and I've.. MELISSA: That's

perseverance. DARLENE: One of the most
honorable, you know, memories I

have is I got to be there
whenever we dedicated the

crossing to him. MELISSA: Oh that's
cool. DARLENE: And so to meet him was.

MELISSA: Oh absolutely. DARLENE: Amazing. MELISSA: Yeah.
The, so, if you're down in the

plaza, that's what those bronze
footprints are in the southwest

corner. If you're coming across
from government house. And there

are some information panels
there that talks about what

happened and tells you about
Andrew Young. So, one last one

last one before we wrap up for
our Black History Month wrap

up. We'll go back over to
Lincolnvile, a little bit over

to Twine Park. It's a little
pocket park. DARLENE: Yes. MELISSA: And we just

we just planted a tree there.

DARLENE: We did. MELISSA: It's a

pretty little park. DARLENE: Beautiful park. I love
the pocket parks in the City.

Well, this one is definitely
special because it's

dedicated to pretty amazing man,

too. Henry Twine served in

World War II and when he
returned from the war, he

worked for the St Augustine
Record. During the Civil

Rights Movement, he chaired the
first meeting that Dr King

spoke at in St Augustine. He also served as a City

Commissioner and he was the
first Black Vice Mayor of the

City. His greatest
accomplishments arguably as

Vice Mayor were to construct
and name the Galimore Center, as

well as the acquisition of what
is now the Fort Mose property.

He served as president of
the NAACP and after the

passage of the Civil Rights

Act, he was responsible for

visiting local establishments

to test whether or not the new

Civil Rights Laws would be

observed. MELISSA: Interesting. DARLENE: Very

brave man. MELISSA: Absolutely. And we

what, we, you mentioned the

Lincolnvile Museum. And you, we

talked about our history. The

the service counter from

Woolworths is now in the

Lincolnvile Museum. We do

have an upcoming

proclamation that we're going

to read in honor of Black

History Month that recognizes

the bravery of what we call

the St Augustine four.

And so that's that's coming up,

and I'm really excited about
that. There's one of them still

living, and she will attend and
accept the proclamation.

MELISSA: Wonderful. Yeah. And you say
she, so I'm going to make a note

here if, if listeners are paying
attention. We've been talking

about a of men in Black History
Month. But we have Women's

History coming up in March.

DARLENE: Yes. So. So I'm going to save

Women's History for next month.

MELISSA: Okay and I know you love coming

on The Break Room. DARLENE: Oh yes.
Absolutely. MELISSA: But we're doing

great. It's a great
conversation. So, what's really

interesting though, all of these
as we said before. Their

relationships during civil
rights, and I believe in some of

our research, a lot of the one
another. DARLENE: Oh yeah. Absolutely.

MELISSA: So they work together. DARLENE: So we
don't have something. We don't

have something. So major as a
Civil Rights Movement without

everybody coming together for one purpose and

and that's freedom.

And so you know, these these

people are are true heroes.

MELISSA: True Americans. And to

know that they all, I guess you
could say survived, but then

went on to such great success in their individual

lives. Got married, had
families, came back, made such

a difference and an impact on
ourselves. DARLENE: And continue to make

a difference. MELISSA: Right. You know.
We've we have, I don't, I think I

really was excited about the
way we came up with our Black

History Month theme this year
of the Faces of the Places.

So, I look forward to continuing
that. We're going to try it

again next month, Faces of the
Places. Because we have places

around town that are named
after women. DARLENE: Yes. MELISSA: And so we'll

we'll get a shout out to our
Women's History Month next.

DARLENE: It's kind of nice to kind of
put an actual face in human

being. MELISSA: Literally. DARLENE: With the, why
is it Twine Park. Who

Twine. MELISSA: And Twine and who
are we talking about? Twine and

Mr Vickers had very
influential wives. So we'll be
back to talk about their better
halves. DARLENE: Absolutely. And they

have birthdays coming up this
year, too. Really soon. MELISSA: And I'm
going to have you come back.

DARLENE: Okay. MELISSA: And you can help us recap
our Women's History Month.

DARLENE: Absolutely. MELISSA: Alright. Well,
thank you for coming. We're out
of time. We ran through all of
that. Check out our cool
places throughout the City.

Willie Galimore Center, Eddie
Vickers Park, Robert B Hayling

Park, Twine Park, and Andrew

Young Crossing. DARLEN: And you can

learn about many more at the

Lincolnvile Museum and

Cultural Center. MELISSA: Absolutely.

Great shout out to them. They

have a fantastic facility. DARLENE: Yes,

they do. It's really cool. MELISSA: If

you missed part of this

broadcast and want to go back

and listen from the beginning,

you can now find us on your

favorite podcasting app. Look

for us on Spotify, Apple

Podcast, Spreaker, and more. You

can find a complete listing of

those podcasting platforms and

our past episodes including

this one 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. Follow us on all of our

social media platforms. We're

on Facebook Twitter, and

Instagram. Check back on those

platforms Facebook and

Instagram for our Black History

Month highlights @CityStAug. 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

City of St Augustine, Cindy
Walker. See you at this time

next week for another edition
of The Break Room.