

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: Thanks for tuning in. You're listening to The Break Room. I'm

Melissa Wissel, Communications Director for the City of St

Augustine. If you follow the City on social media, you've

seen our Faces of the Places  
campaign as part of Women's

History Month, highlighting not  
only the rich history we have

in the Nation's Oldest City, but  
also the women behind that

history. So joining me in studio  
this week, I've invited our City

Clerk Darlene Galambos back to  
help me recap the who and the

where behind the Faces of the  
Places for Women's History

Month. Darlene, welcome back. DARLENE: I'm  
happy to be back. MELISSA: We've got a

lot of places to cover. You were  
with us for the recap of our

Black History Month Faces of  
the Places, so let's jump right

in. Our first one we're going to

talk about is Gibbs Park. DARLENE: Gibbs

Park is a little park at the  
foot of the Lions Bridge. It

was dedicated in 1986 to  
Clarissa Anderson Gibbs. Her

family's association goes  
pretty far back, in the mid 1800's  
with the City.

People might recognize Dr.

Andrew Anderson's name. She  
spent her life doing a

multitude of things for the  
community ,carrying on her

father's legacy with his  
medical background, with Flagler

Hospital, supporting the  
community with children's

activities. She was the former  
president of the Women's

Exchange, which is, they are

housed in the Pena Peck House. And

she also oversaw the  
restoration and refurbishing of

the Markland House, which was  
the, at one time the home of her

father, Dr. Anderson. A  
significant thing about her

family's history is her  
connection, obviously to her

father. But he was responsible  
for commissioning two very

prominent figures in our  
community that most people know.

And that's the Medici Lions  
that sit on either side of the

the Bridge. MELISSA: Bridge of Lions.  
DARLENE: The Bridge of Lions. MELISSA: So

she's pretty significant and  
like you said, that's that

little park down there by the  
Marina. I never knew it had a

name. I just always called it  
the park by the Marina. DARLENE: The little

green space right? Oh yes it  
has a name for a wonderful

woman. MELISSA: Wonderful. Moving on to  
our next woman that we were

highlighting is Lucy Abbott, and  
of course that would be Abbott

Tract. Yes, that's the  
neighborhood just north of

Ripley's Museum. Lucy Abbott  
moved here in 1860. And when she moved  
here, she was in her 20s, so

she's quite young. But she was  
clearly an entrepreneur and

started buying property in the  
Abbott Tract and constructing

homes. Nine of those structures

still stand today, and they date

from anywhere from 1861 to  
1894. So, clearly she didn't

waste any time. MELISSA: And she, so she  
started the short-term rentals.

We can  
trace that back to the

1890s. Okay. 1860s. Okay.

DARLENE: So the the Abbott Tract is on

our National Register of  
Historic Places and still

contains 124  
historic buildings. MELISSA: Oh wow. DARLENE: A

little fun thing about her. She  
was the organist at the St

Augustine Episcopal Church  
during her lifetime for about

15 years. MELISSA: Okay. We're  
going to talk another

geographic place, a park and  
that's Davenport Park.

DARLENE: Davenport Park is a little  
special to me, just because of

how we acquired it. Naomi  
Davenport, the daughter of

George Davenport from  
Davenport, Iowa, moved down

here for health reasons for her  
father. And he just absolutely

fell in love with St  
Augustine and wanted to do

more. Well, she kept his word  
for the City and left an

endowment to create a park in  
his name. And that park is right

by the public library, next to  
the Waterworks Building still

you know a community park today.

MELISSA: We used to have the carousel. DARLENE: It

used to have the carousel. No no,  
that's moved to a new home.

However. MELISSA: Maybe we'll get one  
back, I don't know. DARLENE: Never know,

never know. There is still  
historic piece of that, the

little stem wall that borders  
the park was from the former

St, San Marco Hotel. MELISSA: Original  
San Marco Hotel. DARLENE: Original San Marco Hotel. MELISSA: Which is

now where the new.... DARLENE: The VIC.  
MELISSA: Next to the VIC parking garage.

DARLENE: The new structure that was  
built. Yeah. So that was that

was quite a quite a building.

MELISSA: Right. In the original days.

Yeah. So the the little ballers  
that you see around that park

come from the original San

Marco Hotel. DARLENE: Yes. MELISSA: Very cool. DARLENE: A

way to repurpose. MELISSA: And there is  
a playground? Is that a,

no. The thing that spins  
around? Seesaws. Teeter

totters. Swings. Slides I don't know. DARLENE: You can  
take your children out there

and play and have fun, wonderful time. MELISSA: It's  
been a while.

Mine's 21. It's been a  
while since I've been there. DARLENE: In

the shade of the oak trees.

It's a wonderful time. MELISSA: Very

nice. And that is right next  
door to, like you said, the

library and the Waterworks  
Building. The, you are now

listening to The Break Room.

I'm Melissa Wissel,

Communications Director for the  
City of St Augustine. I have

Darlene Galambos in studio this  
week. She is our City Clerk.

We're talking about the Faces  
of the Places campaign that we

did on social media as part of Women's  
History Month. We did a similar

series for Black History Month.  
Circling back to our places

that we were talking about, we  
were just talking about two

physical place, two parks. Let's  
switch gears Darlene and talk a

little bit about a couple of  
building spaces that we have

that are named after our  
Women's History. Dr Sue

Middleton Archaeology Center.

DARLENE: Yeah, that building is located

right now 30 Pellicer Lane, right  
next to our fleet maintenance

building. Dr Middleton  
was a pioneer in many ways.

She was a scientist, a  
community activist, a local  
psychologist, beautiful woman.  
If you don't know this, she

passed along her love of  
historic preservation onto her

daughter, who was our current  
Mayor, Miss Nancy Sikes-Kline.

When she passed away  
in her will, she donated her  
home to continue supporting the  
City's Archaeology Program. And

so what started with our  
current building will be  
expanded in the near future.

And to house... MELISSA: So we'll

be able, we're basically  
going to sell her home and use

the proceeds.

To build a new facility or

center. DARLENE: Fortify our history.

And still in the works.

MELISSA: So stand by for what happens  
next, but that is exciting. DARLENE: It

is very exciting. She really  
wanted to provide a dedicated

space to our archaeologist, who  
could search for evidence of

our past and preserve it.

She was a deep believer in the

importance of our past,  
obviously. And that the evidence

is right here beneath our feet.

MELISSA: Archaeology, digging all the

time. I love the fact that  
we have an archaeology program.

I dig it. DARLENE: You dig it? I dig it.

MELISSA: I dig it too. Okay. So

that's the middle, Dr Sue A  
Middleton Archaeology Center,

over on Pellicer, if you drive  
over there on, it's kind of also

Old Dixie Highway area by the  
Oyster Creek. So it's

kind of a hidden little pocket  
over there. You don't know

what's really there. Lots of cool stuff there. DARLENE: No, but go  
and meet them and volunteer.

MELISSA: And when Archaeology Month,  
we're going to do, well I guess

we've already had Archaeology

Month. But I think we're

going to try to do tours of  
that facility during City

Government Week this year.

So we can get some more public

visibility of the cool stuff.

DARLENE: It's fascinating. MELISSA: Yeah. Really

cool what they do there. Our  
next place is Ketterlinus

Elementary School. Tell us  
about Miss Ketterlinus. DARLENE: So,

Elizabeth Ketterlinus, known as  
Lizzy. She was the last of

the original Warden family to  
occupy the Castle Warden. If

you don't know what Castle  
Warden is, just go visit

Ripley's Museum and you'll be  
standing inside of it.

So she was a landowner in the  
1900s. Had a big

heart for her community and a

desire to always make it

better. So, she donated the  
land on the, excuse me, the

corner of Mulvey and Orange  
Street to the St Johns

County School District, and for  
their, that's where their

district offices are located.

The piece of property next

to that's quite large. She  
originally was going to sell it

to a land developer and built  
to build homes, small homes. And

as luck would have it, they went belly  
up. And so she connected with

the City and sold it to the City for a bargain price, and

that is now known as Francis  
Field. MELISSA: So, we coulda had condos

there. What is with these women

in the late 1800s,

1900s. They were entrepreneurs. DARLENE: They knew what

they were doing. MELISSA: Boy, good thing she didn't get her way.

Man, we'd really be in trouble.

DARLENE: Exactly. So, I'd much rather

have the events, Visitor Information Center, and that

beautiful events field, and SWING park. MELISSA: Right. All of

that's. And of course, the school district offices are still

there. And then of course, Ketterlinus. Yes. School itself.

DARLENE: So, it was originally a high school that caught fire and, you

know, changed over time because of that. And now it's, went from

a high school to a junior high  
school. I attended junior high

school there. And now  
it's an elementary school. MELISSA: So,

it stayed in the education  
realm. And remained filled

here. DARLENE: Fulfilled her destiny.  
MELISSA: Wonderful. That's fantastic.

And so, we're almost out of time.  
But I would say that no Women's

History in St Augustine  
would be complete without

talking about Miss Carrie  
Johnson. DARLENE: The voice, and I call

the heart, of Lincolnville. I  
think whenever you hear the

name Carrie Johnson, you  
immediately see her riding down

the sidewalk on her tricycle  
waving and hollering, hey darlin'.

You know, she just was the fabric of  
everything community. She

did a lot of volunteering  
during her life. She also

created the annual Christmas  
caroling galore and she started

that in 1995, I believe. And  
that was just a tradition that

I think a lot of families  
really enjoyed, you know,

caroling with her. MELISSA: Before she  
passed away, I remember. I never

knew her in her, in her healthy  
years, in her heyday, in her

healthy years. But we did  
arrange with her, for her, with

Chief Fox, when Chief Fox was  
still Police Chief, before she

passed away they did a trolley

ride for her, and her family, yes,

and they sang. And people  
showed up in droves. In the plaza. DARLENE: Oh

she was, they call her the voice  
of Lincolnville, but I think

she's really the heart of the  
City. She also established a

foundation for homeless  
students and certainly the

Lincolnville 150th  
Anniversary Celebration. She

was a founding member of the  
Anniversary to Commemorate the

Civil Rights. And also with  
what's currently known as the

Accord Museum. She was Vice  
President of Fort Mose

Historical Society. And we  
remember her forever because we

dedicated a street in her name.

It was Bravo Street. She lived

on that that street, and the  
dedication ceremony in 2021 was

probably one the most memorable  
dedications I've attended. You

know, her family was there and  
they sang for her and... MELISSA: They

did. They sang some gospel  
songs and. It was very

moving. DARLENE: It was extremely. I  
mean. MELISSA: David Nolan spoke.

DARLENE: Yeah, it was beautiful. MELISSA: Yeah,  
that was great. So, lots of

history here. DARLENE: I think, what I  
love about doing this series is

whenever you think about the  
city, you hear about Pedro

Menendez. You hear about Henry  
Flager. You hear about a lot

of these men. You don't really  
think at how many women were

responsible for creating  
exactly what the fabric of

St Augustine is. It's the  
the education, the

neighborhoods. MELISSA: I was to say  
that small neighborhood

community feel. Giving  
back to the community. DARLENE: S we

thank these women for  
dedicating themselves to the

City and creating who we are.

MELISSA: And thank you for coming and

helping us recap all of that.

DARLENE: Thank you. MELISSA: It's a great visit.

Great conversation and we'll  
have you back. Come back

and see us. DARLENE: Okay. Certainly. MELISSA: If you

missed part of this broadcast

and want to go back and listen  
from the beginning, you can

find us on your favorite  
podcast app. Look for us on

Spotify, Apple Podcast  
Spreaker, and more. You can

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those podcast platforms and our  
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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 platforms. You'll see us

on Facebook, Twitter, and

Instagram @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

the City of St. Augustine, Cindy

Walker. See you at this time

next week for another edition

of The Break Room.