

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: Welcome to The Break Room. Thanks for tuning in. I'm

Melissa Wissel, Communications Director for the City of St

Augustine. This week, I'm sharing The Break Room with

Glabra Skipp. She's our

Environmental Program

Supervisor and Laura Arnot,

Environmental Compliance

Inspector. Glabra, glad to have

you back and Laura, this is

your first time at The Break

Room. Welcome. LAURA: Thank you for

having me. GLABRA: Thanks. Good to be

here. Before we get started in

all the cool stuff that Laura

does, because we want to talk

about the cool stuff Laura

does. Glabra, I want to

talk to you about the upcoming

Earth Day Recycling Events.

You're always busy when we have

you on. There's always

something up and coming. We

want to remind our listeners

what they can bring, where it
is, and tell us about Earth Day

Recycling GLABRA: Yes. So, it's
going to be our annual Earth

Day Recycle Event. It's the
Friday, April 21st, 9am to 1pm at our Solid Waste Facility,
which is 601 Riberia Street.

We're going to have free
document shredding, which is

always super popular with the
residents. So, you can watch on

site. You can drop and go,
whatever works for you. We're

there from 9 to 1. We're also going to have

recycling of outdated
electronics, which we usually

offer. So, bring the old VCRs
or whatever you have. MELISSA: I got a

sound bar I can bring in, that
somebody like gave me like, yeah

I don't, I think it works. Try
it out. Yeah it doesn't work.

GLABRA: Yep bring it. And also of
course the used cooking oil. We

also promote that, as well.
If you do any frying for Easter,

bring that for the recycle
event. But we're working on

a lot of initiatives for Earth
Day and week. So stay tuned.

We're working on some
sustainability workshops that

we're going to be offering
related to composting and water

conservation. That'll be on
the Tuesday, April 18th. We'll

be releasing information about
that. MELISSA: Great. The we've

got some PSAs, before we get off
the recycling event. I, when you

say 601 Riberia, just so
folks know, you go down Riberia

Street past Customs and Border
Patrol, past the Galimore Center,

you go down there. Do you just
kind of go just past it, as if

you were going to go to Hayling
Park and swing in there? Or do

you need to turn left and and
circle back around? Because I

know it's kind of a drive
through. GLABRA: Keep left. So when

you go past the Galimore, follow
the fence line left. And we will

have the gate open at the
wastewater treatment plant and

you'll pull through there, and

then you'll drop off in solid

waste, and then you'll exit
through the back, right by

Hayling Park. MELISSA: And you don't have
to out of your car. GLABRA: You do not.

MELISSA: You've got lots of folks down
there. Lots of friendly faces

from the City. So, it's kind of
a fun thing. You guys do really

well with those events. GLABRA: Yes,
they're very popular. MELISSA: Alright.

So, don't forget, Friday, April
21st, 9 to 1. Head down to

waste, solid waste facility,
document shredding, outdated

electronics, used oil. What can
we not bring? GLABRA: No hazardous

waste. The City does not have a
permit to haul hazardous waste,

so we cannot accept it. Paint,
pesticides, herbicides. MELISSA: Tires?

GLABRA: No tires.

MELISSA: No car batteries? GLABRA: Car

batteries are okay. We are
accepting batteries.

Yes. MELISSA: Check the website. GLABRA: Check
the website. We have a flyer.

We have a list of acceptable
items. Okay, great. Okay. So,

moving on from
our Earth Day

sustainability. We've got
some PSAs coming out. One of

them, we're going to talk about
illicit discharge. Tell us

about the tree canopy. Give us
an update on that one. GLABRA: Yeah.

So, we just wrapped up our
second year of plantings and we

did 31 trees this year,
installed for residents. We

had seven different
native species and there were

14 different neighborhoods that
were represented this time. So,

we had a great turnout, very
positive feedback from our tree

program. MELISSA: Little more manageable
this year? GLABRA: Much more

manageable. We had a lot. We
did not restrict the number the

first year because we wanted to
give it a big, you know, first

year initiative. And in future
years, we're going to keep

limiting the number to keep it
more manageable. MELISSA: And every not every, not so

many people either get

disappointed. GLABRA: Right that is true.

MELISSA: Great, well, so keep your, when do we do the next one? Is that an

annual thing, one time a year? GLABRA: It is annual, we open applications

I believe in June. And then the planting usually happens

the following season, so it's usually winter months, so

we did them this year in February, so it'll probably be

around the same time next year.

MELISSA: So stay tuned in June for the

opening of the tree program.

Remind our listeners, what exactly

we're talking about when we say you planted all these trees, what

do they have? GLABRA: Right. So, you can apply to get a free tree

planted on your property. So,
these are large trees. These

are not the little saplings
that you get at Earth Day, and

it's a very popular program. We
will plant it in your front

yard, backyard, right of way,
wherever we can find the

appropriate spot and we work
with you and we have people

that go out and look at your
property and make sure that the

tree is fitting the space. MELISSA: But
I have to water it. GLABRA: You do have
to water. MELISSA: Okay. GLABRA: Yes. You do
have to water it. MELISSA: You think I'm

being funny, but I'm not really
great at that. I haven't

applied yet. Cuz I'm afraid I
would kill it. Okay. So we got

tree canopy program coming in
June. Recycling event in April.

And stay tuned for the
sustainability workshop that

week of April 18th. And that's
all of our sustainability.

Let's look over here and say hi
to Laura. Hi Laura. LAURA: Hi. MELISSA: So

welcome to Team Environmental
Compliance. LAURA: Thank you. MELISSA: We're

glad to have you. Tell us a
little bit about what you do

with environmental compliance.

LAURA: So one of my big focus is

working with the City
stormwater permit that's issued

by the state making, sure that
all the documentation is

compiled for that. And I also

assist with the Grease Trap

Inspections, Cross Connection

Control Program, helping with

the industrial pre-treatment
program, and analyzing samples

at the lab. MELISSA: And the lab is down

at the Wastewater Treatment

Plant or Water Treatment Plant? LAURA:

Wastewater Treatment. MELISSA: Wastewater,

okay. That's where you guys give
tours, too. Have you, are we

going to do that again this
year? Maybe October. GLABRA: Yes and we

have, I will say, we just wrapped
up some, a lot of tour groups.

So we are constantly giving
tours. MELISSA: And if I'm a member of

the public, I live here, can I
call you and get a tour of the

Wastewater Treatment Plant?

GLABRA: Sure. We try to group them, but

yes absolutely. MELISSA: Neighborhood

Association, school groups, if

you want to schedule a tour.

I've always said that going

down there and seeing the

Wastewater Treatment Plant was

probably one of the coolest

things when I first started

working at the City. I know

people think it's weird, but if

you've never been down there,

right? It's like, it's where

everything goes.

You flush your toilet, it goes

to the Wastewater Treatment

Point. Yeah. GLABRA: Okay. It's

awesome. It's eye opening. MELISSA: It

it is. So, Laura, what, you

talk about City stormwater
permit? I don't know what that

means. I didn't know I needed
to have a permit for

stormwater. Really. Tell us
about the stormwater permit

program. LAURA: It's kind of a
mouthful. It's a municipal

separate storm sewer system.

So, MS4. It publicly, the

publicly owned
stormwater system. So our catch

basins, the underground, the
pipes, the storm drains that

you see on the streets. So
this permit allows our City to

discharge stormwater into those,
as long as we're following our

state approved stormwater

management program. MELISSA: Great,

guidelines basically. Keeping

us, keeping us within the

guidelines of how our storm

drains work. LAURA: Yes. There's quite

a few of them. So that's,

takes up a big chunk of my time

is getting all the

documentation needed for that.

MELISSA: What is the program? How do, how

does the program work? So a

couple things that are involved

is like public outreach and

education. So, we create a lot

of those public service

announcements. There'll be a

couple coming out soon. We

have some billing inserts

that'll be in the bills

probably around next month.

MELISSA: Okay so look for that in your

utility bill. LAURA: Yep. And we

help on the web page also, to

again trying to help the public

and educate them. Public

involvement and participation.

So cleanup events. We had

one recently and there'll be

another one coming up in April.

Stormwater drain marking. So,

if your neighborhood

association is interested in

helping mark some storm drains,

just please let us know. We can

set up a date for that. MELISSA: And

when you say mark the storm

drain, is that with those

medallions? LAURA: Yep. Okay. Those

are all around the City next to

the storm drains, just letting
everybody know that that does

drain to our waterways. Okay.

And it's not treated. And then another

big part of that is illicit
discharge detection and

elimination. So, proactive
education and inspections and

reactive investigations. So,
along with that is educating

the businesses on illicit
discharge and how they can help

make sure they're not washing
equipment in the parking lot. MELISSA: In the streets.

LAURA: Yeah and draining into
our storm water system. MELISSA: And

you're talking about that for
businesses. But even as a

resident draining your pool,

washing your car, blowing your

leaves into the street. All of

that can be considered illicit

discharge. LAURA: Exactly. Okay. Yes.

MELISSA: That's a whole another

conversation. LAURA: Yeah. So some of

the PSAs coming out will help with that in educating the

residents. Construction

sites, stormwater runoff

control, so inspecting

construction sites, making sure

they have the correct

protections up, like the silk

fencing and entrances are set

up to prevent dust and dirt

from entering the streets.

And then pollution

prevention, and just Fleet and

Marina inspections. So making

sure that the Fleet where we

take all of our vehicles for
inspection and the Marina are

all following those rules. And
street sweeping program and

pond maintenance, those are both
tracked for both the stormwater

programs. MELISSA: So, when you're, so,
Marina, are you talking about

like their oil drum that's up
there or? When they rinse

their boats, LAURA: Yeah. So, they
have to dispose of their oil

correctly and we get those
manifests. MELISSA: Okay. So, if I'm on

a boat, I do know the marina
has a big oil drum up there.

It's really intended for, you're
not really supposed to take

your car oil that you drained

in your driveway over there.

That's really for the Marina
boaters to use for discharging

the oil. That they're
using. So when we talk about

illicit discharge. I know we
were just talking about it

before. Soap, water. I don't
think people realize what

happens when they blow their
leaves. And I will say I've

become educated. I don't blow
it all into the, okay I might

blow a little bit of it in the
street. I don't like, blow all

of it. But I do try to blow it
all into a pile. Put it in my

paper bag and put it out for
yard waste pickup. LAURA: Yes. MELISSA: What's,

tell me the secret about pool
discharge? I know we've been

working on a, I'm going to throw
myself under the bus here a

little bit. I think Glabra and I
have been talking about a pool

discharge PSA for a while. I
think we're finally getting it

together. How do I properly
drain my pool or eliminate

water? I have a pool, and when
we get those really big storms,

I look out there and the pool
is just about over the edge of

my pool. So, I do have to drain
it. But I'll tell you honestly,

I don't, because I haven't we
haven't put the PSA together

yet. I don't know how to do it.
How how do we correctly get rid

of the extra water in our pool?

LAURA: Well, we do prefer if you do

need to drain it. Try

to do it in a grassy area.

So that can help filter

out the chlorine in it. If

that's unavailable, you would

need to dechlorinate the pool.

Before discharging it.

MELISSA: So, I go to my pool store and I

say I need to dechlorinate. LAURA: Yeah,

there's tablets and mats.

There's a lot of different

options. You can let it

sit for a few days too and help

get rid of some of the

chlorine. MELISSA: Or just don't

chlorinate my pool for a couple

days, like I have a habit of

doing, it'll be fine. Alright, I

didn't realize you could
actually dechlorinate. I

thought it was more about
getting the water physically

out of the pool itself. So,
it's also dechlorinating. LAURA: Yes,

that is an option. MELISSA: Well, we're
almost out of time,

GLABRA. What else do we
got going on? Anything exciting

going on? We covered all of our
topics? GLABRA: Yeah, we covered

everything. We have a lot going
on and hope we'll be back soon

and talk about some more. MELISSA: We're
going to do one more reminder

to our listeners: Friday, April
21st, 9am to 1pm is the Solid

Waste recycling event down at the
end of Riberia. You're going to

follow that down past the
Galimore Center. Hook left.

Follow it around through the
facility. You don't even have

to get out of your car. Paper
shredding, outdated

electronics, VCRs, DVD players.
If anybody even knows what

those are anymore, your
recycled oil. And stay tuned for

the sustainability workshop
also coming that week. Thank

you ladies for coming and
joining. We're done. LAURA: Thank you.

MELISSA: We didn't even get to do our
mid, we didn't even get to do

our midway reminder. If you
missed part of this broadcast

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

find on your favorite podcast
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listing of all of our podcast
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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.

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media platforms. You can find

us on Facebook, Twitter, and
Instagram @CityStAug.

Thanks for tuning in. Until
next time. 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.