

[Narrator] You've tuned in to another edition of The Breakroom, a

weekly conversation about how the City of Saint Augustine

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

City of Saint Augustine's communications director,

Melissa Wissel. The Breakroom 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

Breakroom. I'm Melissa Wissel, communications director for the

City of Saint Augustine. This weekend, we're kicking the 30th

anniversary of Nights of Lights

no hurricanes no tropical

storms this year thank goodness

and most importantly

construction at the base of the

Bridge of Lions is cleaned up

so the best part is the

shuttles are back not just for

light up night but they

continue Thanksgiving weekend

and in December and who better

to talk about shuttles than our

very own mobility manager

Xavier Pellicer welcome back [X] hey

great to be here Melissa [Melissa] well I

do kind of feel like we only

have you here when we're

talking about shuttles and

mobility that's what you're the

expert at. [X] That's alright. Hey,

I'll I'll come in here and I'll  
talk about shuttles, the star

circulator, I'll talk about  
anything you want me.

[Melissa] Excellent. Let's so let's  
start. We're going to talk a

little bit about Light Up  
Night. Saturday November. Let's

not rush things. Saturday,  
November 18th and it's our

usual operations. Uh we've got  
Showtime USA. It's a dance

performance at city hall. We've  
got all-star orchestra at the

gazebo. The lighting ceremony  
starts at 6:30. Biggest question

is, how do I get into town?  
That's where you come in. [X] Well,

I mean, there's the, you know,  
our parking garage is always

the best place but what's been  
happening over the past decade

or so is we have so many people  
come in that our parking garage

can't handle it anymore. So,  
we've evolved into now a

shuttle system which we call it  
satellite parking and so we

have some parking lots that are  
on the outskirts of town close

to town but on the outskirts  
and then, we shuttle 'em in

with small buses. So, it works  
very well. It'll crank up on

light up night, Saturday and  
we've got multiple different

things on that actual Saturday  
on light up night. It kind of

weans down a little bit at once

we get past Saturday. Light up

night is a big time and and and

the downtown plaza area just

it's amazing when when you go

down there for light up. If

you've never been down there,

it is a cool time to go down

there to the plaza. [Melissa] It's

going to be cool. [X] People are

all shoulder to shoulder and

then you get the countdown.

Five, four, three, two, one,

boom, light up. [Melissa] Yeah. [X] And then

but it it is it is really neat.

So over over the decade or so

we've got so many people

coming. We have outlying

parking spots and and and where

this and I'll go ahead and list

some of them. [Melissa] Sure. [X] For for our audience out there. We've got

on light up night we do for that one day use Anastasia

Boulevard, Anastasia Island and the church the Anastasia

Baptist Church has been a really great partner with us

and and so that's one spot and then we will be using the R.B.

Hunt School. We we normally like to use the amphitheater.

The amphitheater at the last minute all of a sudden had a an

event that popped up on them.

So we're not able to use the

amphitheater this year but the other two spots and then we

bring the folks in. We drop  
them off near the Bridge

of Lions. It's on the east end  
of the Bridge of Lions. So we

we don't want to try to go over  
the bridge. It's it's just too much

traffic. And then on the on the  
north end of town we've got 301

San Marco Avenue. That's our  
San Marco lot. It's at the very

north end of San Marco Avenue.  
And we also make use of the

Saint Johns County Health  
Department and and then we've

got another spot on the west  
kind of the west south side of

town if you will and we call  
that our Broudy's Lot. It's at

US1 at King Street and  
that's proved to be a very good

parking spot because it's it's  
one of the closest lots to the

Visitor Information Center.

That's our drop off point for

for all the spots on the north  
and the west end of town as

we're bringing them in to our  
our parking garage facility the

Visitor Information Center and  
so we bring em in, drop em off

there. The shuttles are running  
about every 10 or 15 minutes

for light up night. The in town  
ones will start will be from 1

PM to 11 PM. Um on Anastasia  
Island for Light Up Night. It

will be from 4 PM to 11 PM. Um  
we've got a lot of this

information. I know I'm

spitting out a lot it's on our

web page. [Melissa] City Saint Aug com  
on the homepage or you can go

City Saint Aug.com forward  
slash Light Up Night. [X] Right.

[Melissa] Yep. [X] And so that's generally  
it's from 1 PM to 11 PM. So

once we get past light up night  
we've got the Friday Saturday

after Thanksgiving and and then  
we kind of enter into our 1PM

to 11 PM time frame except for  
the parade I think what time

does the parade start [Melissa] 9 o'clock  
nine maybe 9 9 [X] so we will start

at 8 o'clock shuttling 8  
o'clock in the morning and

[Melissa] that's the parade downtown not  
the boat parade right but the

Christmas parade [X] Santa Claus

[Melissa] December 2nd yeah December [X] so

yeah so so for that one day

we're starting it at eight

o'clock because believe it or

not our parking garage fills up

about 9: 30 or 10 o'clock in the

morning [Melissa] people want a good seat

[X] kind of unbelievable yeah but but

that's what we've come to

expect nowadays we've just got

a lot of people that come into

our downtown heart of our

historic district area [Melissa] well the

Broudy Lots are really good

location because you know we're

talking about what what may go

in there in terms of a

transportation hub ultimately

so it's a really good exercise

in that location being used.

[X] Yeah. [Melissa] And it is utilized. [X] And

the Broudy's lot is we we had a

lot of comments coming from

folks that are coming from the  
south end of town from Saint

Augustine Shores from Saint

Augustine you know the south

end. They're saying there's  
nothing for us down here. Well

that's the Broudy's lot. [Melissa] Right.

[X] And so come on up US1 hang a

left there on King Street. The  
parking lot's right there. You

can hop on the and it's free. [Melissa] Free, free, free

[X] It's free shuttle. So you don't

you know if you do go to the  
parking garage it does cost

money whether you've got the

the full price or the park now

card or or the or your discount

card. [Melissa] Right. [X] Uh so but the the

shuttle is free. Parking is

free and and the and the

shuttles move very well. Uh

like I said about every 10/15

minutes they're picking you up

right now. [Melissa] We have. [X] In a nice

new air condition. [Melissa] Right. Very

clean buses. [Melissa] The I use the bus

the shuttle for Sing Out Loud.

And so we've kind of mastered

this process and if people

haven't ever used it, they

should try it. [X] Yeah. [Melissa] You just

have to be patient. [X] Well. [Melissa] You

know, it takes people all day

to get into town or that you

know, folks start coming in at  
one o'clock or four o'clock and

all of a sudden, there's sort  
of this mass exit. It's not

quite so bad as Fourth of July.

Yeah. [X] Well, Fourth of July is a

whole different and Fourth of  
July is just you know, there's

just a lot of people say  
there's about 80,000 people like

you're at a football game.

[Melissa] Right. [X] You know, and and that

and that last second field goal  
gets made. [Melissa] Yeah. [X] And 80,000

people leave. [Melissa] Leave the  
stadium. [X] They all go to their

car and they all start up their  
car and they all move about 10

feet and then they all look at  
each other. [Melissa] I know jeez this is

taking really long. Yeah. [X] But

but let me switch gears a

little bit. [Melissa] Let me hold on. Let

me just do a quick

identification. You're

listening to the break room. I

have X Pellicer here in studio with

us this weekend. We're talking

about night to light shuttles,

light up night transportation.

Go ahead. [X] Well, I wanted to

switch gears because the

shuttle works very well and it

brings in folks but then, we've

also had a lot of comments and

things about moving people

around downtown. So, that's

where we've recently started

our Star Circulator and so Star

is an acronym STAR stands for

Saint Augustine Rider and it  
works very well. Um people are

still learning about it. It's  
free and it runs a circle in

our downtown core historical  
core area which is our visitor

our parking garage visitor  
information center is kind of

our main starting hub. Comes  
out, drives up the Bayfront. Um

it has one stop along the  
Bayfront near the Fort where

the Crosswalk is and then a  
second stop is on Cathedral

Place about Midway Down  
Cathedral and then it circles

back and it comes routinely  
precisely every 15 minutes. You

can almost set your clock to it  
and so that's it's very

dependable. [Melissa] Mm hmm. [X] It's free.

Every 15 minutes, you can park

at the parking garage and and  
whether or not you're parking

at the parking garage even if  
you come in on the shuttle, you

can still walk. [Melissa] You can pick it  
up anywhere. You can pick it up

on any spot. [X] You can pick it up  
at any spot. [Melissa] Right. [X] So that

it's it works very well. We're  
getting pretty good ridership.

The the the first couple of  
weeks we were doing it. We had

over 2000 folk utilizing it  
which was astounding. [Melissa] Sure. [X] And

then it's it's weaned down from  
there. We started it back in

middle of July. We still had a  
lot of people in town but once

school started in there wasn't  
as many people in downtown

Saint Augustine so there wasn't  
a huge ridership but it is

starting to pick back up now.

[Melissa] And the star circulator is the

blue and white bus. [X] Yep. [Melissa] Um Old  
Town Trolley is our vendor for

that. [X] The vendor there. [Melissa] They're  
doing a great job. The other I

would say about that or to  
remind folks when when it's

regularly operating it's 10 AM  
to 10PM, but we do have that

little asterisk on the sign  
that says during Nights of

Lights and other high traffic

volumes we may change that so

we are bringing that back we're  
we're dialing that back a

little bit because the whole  
point is that you get around

quickly and we all know that  
once that sun starts to set

during Nights of Lights you're  
not going to get around quickly

so us about that change in  
times. [X] Yeah, thanks for

reminding you that because  
normally we are 10 AM to 10 PM

and that's 365 days a year  
except for when there's certain

events like a parade or or  
there's nights of lights.

[Melissa] Right. [X] So now lights of lights  
you know it gets dark about

five thirty to six o'clock and  
the traffic just goes you know.

[Melissa] Lots of people. [X] There's just not  
much movement and so it we say

15 minutes is a round trip but  
it it takes about 30 to 45

minutes and so for that reason  
we we will only be running the

star circulator from from 10 AM  
until 5 PM so [Melissa] through the end of

January or just December? [X] the kick in on  
light up night the Saturday of

light up night and it will go  
until January 1st [Melissa] okay [X] so on

January 2nd [Melissa] okay [X] the very next  
day after New Year's Day we'll

go back to our normal 10 AM to  
10 PM [Melissa] and you're talking about

these shuttles I do want folks  
to realize you really want to

go to the website City Saint

Aug.com or CitySaintAug

com/Light Up

Night the parking information

because you know you talked

about the health department and

we do also have it operating

the last week of December

between Christmas and New Years

but those hours are a little

different Um you also mentioned

the parade so you've got

Saturdays in December and the

the shuttle service will end in

December, the end of December.

[X] Right. [Melissa] Um but because you've

got some of those funny days

where there's that little this

day it's a little different.

This day's you want to check

the website. [X] Yeah and and  
between Christmas and New Years

traditionally schools out.

People are on vacation a little

bit and so normally Saturdays  
is our very busiest congested

day in downtown Saint Augustine  
well between Christmas and New

Year's everyday is like a  
Saturday [Melissa] right [X] and so we

because of that we we will be  
running the shuttle everyday

the very next day after  
Christmas and so then I think

when is Christmas? [Melissa] on it's on  
Monday [X] so Tuesday Wednesday

Friday Saturday we'll run the  
shuttle Sunday is New Year's

Eve and and traditionally we  
don't have quite as many people

downtown normally the parking  
garage does not close on New

Year's Eve so and that it gets  
close [Melissa] right [X] but but there is a

little [Melissa] and it might so don't  
hold us to that [X] right but it so

so that's why we don't run the  
shuttle mainly the shuttle is

for for on days that we expect  
that the parking garage is

going to close so that's what  
we're kind of moving towards

[Melissa] well and it's it is nice to be  
able to park your car not have

to worry about chasing down a  
parking spot before we sign off

I do want to remind folks it's  
a touchy subject but I'm just

going to put it out there. We

did change the hours of

enforcement. Get your Park Now

cards out. Uh your Park Now

card is your best way if you're

a Saint Johns County resident

to get a discount and I do

want to remind folks, we do

have a mobile app. The mobile

app is not currently available

in the parking garage so you do

want to use your Park Now card

but you can get those discounts

using Park Now and using the

Park Saint Aug app. [X] And we

want evolve this thing a little

bit too. We're, you know, the

the park now card is something

that's been around for a long,

long time and so, we're

evolving to where it's not just  
a card but you you register

your your car. [Melissa] Right, your  
vehicle. [X] You're registering

your license plate number.

[Melissa] Right. [X] And so and you can have

multiple license plate numbers  
and and you can and if you're a

Saint Johns County. [Melissa] Yeah.  
[X] Resident, you get the discount.

Now, if you're if you're  
outside the county, well then,

you're you're paying the full  
amount but then, you're not

paying City of St. Augustine  
taxes, you're not paying Saint

Johns County taxes. So, if if  
you're a local resident, you

you do receive some perks. So  
we get that comment a lot. A

lot a lot of the locals they  
want to say you don't do

anything for the locals. Right.

You know. [Melissa] But we do. [X] But we do.

[Melissa] Well and a good reminder to the  
like you just said using that

mobile app. You need to  
register your vehicle, your

license plate. You just upload  
it to the to the website. It's

Park Saint Aug.com. Um well  
we're about to run out of time

but we'll we'll get you back on  
to talk about that too. [X] But it

does take you know give it a  
couple of days when you

register it it's not automatic  
where you're registered within

5 minutes. It it it does take.

[Melissa] It's a day or two. Yeah. So go

ahead and get your Park Now

card or not your park now card

sorry. Get your car registered

on your Park Saint Aug mobile

app. So when you come downtown

you can get those discounts

around town in the parking lots

and the street parking [X] for our

Saint Johns County residents.

[Melissa] Saint Johns County residents.

Absolutely. So we're at a

Time, X. [X] It where it just zips on

by. [Melissa] It zips on by. Just like

traffic. [X] Time flies when you're

having fun. [Melissa] Thanks for coming

by. Great job on on getting all

of this happening and hope our

residents will get out and take

advantage of the shuttles.

[X] Great. Um it's always good to

be here with you Melissa.

[Melissa] Thanks X. We want to keep you

informed about what's happening  
in and around the city and most

importantly that you hear it  
from the people who do the work

to make it happen every day.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter,

and Instagram. We're at City  
Saint Aug. Check out the

website City Saint Aug com and  
of course, check out our

parking information for Nights  
of Lights at City Saint Aug.

com forward slash Light Up  
Night. Until next time, thanks

for tuning in. [Narrator] You've been  
listening to The Break Room, a

weekly program addressing  
projects and programs offered

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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.