

[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] Welcome to The
Breakroom. Thanks for tuning

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

City of Saint Augustine. In a
city where there is so much

history It seems there's always

something to celebrate, a

particular day, a special

event, and in some cases, an

entire year and for the City of

Saint Augustine Municipal

Government, 2024 is an

historic year to celebrate a

100th anniversary and joining

me today in the break room to

talk about it. Mayor Nancy

Sikes-Kline. Mayor, welcome

back. [Nancy] Well, thank you. Hello.

Hello. Um there's a lot going

on. [Melissa] There is. [Nancy] Um this year is

going to be amazing. [Melissa] Um. We

tell me about our 100th

anniversary. Let's start with

[Nancy] okay well this is going to this

is year is the anniversary of

the first official American
delegation to visit the Kingdom

of Spain following the signing
of the Treaty of Paris and that

was about it was at the end of
the Spanish American War so in

1924 the City of Saint
Augustine sent representatives

as part of a official
delegation and this historic

visit is often considered the
start of our relationship with

Aviles Spain which Eventually
turned into the Sister Cities

organization. [Melissa] Sure. [Nancy] Um so in
celebration of that official

visit, we're planning several
events throughout the year.

Yeah. Um [Melissa] We just started one.

[Nancy] We did. We just finished 1 this

morning. We did something

that's been going on for many

years. It's a annual tradition.

We just laid a wreath to

recognize Pedro Menendez de

Aviles's birthday. Um he is of

course everyone knows the

founder of the City of Saint

Augustine. [Melissa] It was actually I

was impressed. I have to tell

you we had there was actually a

school that was here from

Orlando. So we had a nice

little crowd of elementary

school kids. Um we had folks

visiting from the Nao Trinidad.

Of course city staff is always

they always come down for but

we had quite a few folks. We
had cupcakes. [Nancy] Mm hmm. [Melissa] It's a

good time. [Nancy] Yeah. We were joined
by the Sister Cities. Um the

historic Florida militia came.

Um Pedro Menendez de Aviles

himself. [Melissa] That's right. [Nancy] Showed
up and read a proclamation for

us. [Melissa] Yes. Yes she did. [Nancy] Um it was
really nice. So yeah that's was

really nice to have the crew of
the Nao Trinidad. [Melissa] Yes. [Nancy] Join us

and I'm I'm happy that we have
to talk a little bit about that

because it's amazing if people
haven't had an opportunity to

go down to the City Marina and
tour it and they're going to be

here until [Melissa] the end of April.

[Nancy] End of April right? [Melissa] Yep. Um and

if to what the mayor's talking
about the Nao Trinidad is a

replica vessel of the ship that
Magellan sailed around the

world his circumnavigation. I
also thought it was interesting

you mentioned in your remarks
during Menendez Day that he

sailed in 1519, which is the
same year that Menendez was

born. Which is kind of
interesting. And then when you

do the math it's less than 50
years from when he started that

circumnavigation that Menendez
landed. So when you start

looking at the timeline of
things it seems like a long

time but 450 years of our
founding and I guess you could

kind of say it goes by fast.

[Nancy] It's definitely does. And so

you know Going back to we have
a quite a bit of planned of

things to do planned over the
years, the year. [Melissa] Right. [Nancy] Um

through this year. Um and maybe
even we might even extend that

into twenty twenty-five. [Melissa] Yeah.

[Nancy] Um because we do have some

plans that are in the long
haul. [Melissa] Long haul. Don't tell that yet. And that is

[Nancy] okay. Alright so but tell me a
little bit. I think people

want to know a little bit about
some of the things and that are

going to be happening and I
think the first thing that's

after what we did today the
next event will be in March and

right will be in conjunction
with Saint Patrick's Day Parade

yeah [Melissa] there's a band that had
reached out to Ramanza they're

a Corvera pipe band so I think
a lot of people associate pipe

bands with Irish heritage but
they actually originated in in

Spain even before that but
there's going to be a pipe band

here for the Saint Patrick's
Day Parade and they are from

the same region as Aviles which is the
Asturias region so they'll be

in the parade but they're also
going to perform some few

little performances down in the

plaza and then I've gotta get

with Eric over there at the

Marina they're going to do

couple little performances

there in front of the Nao

Trinidad up there on the park

which hasn't yet been

officially named but we have

named it Harbour Master Park of

course so that'll be down by

the Marina and that's the

weekend of the Saint Patrick's

Day parade March 7th through

the 9th. [Nancy] Excellent. Excellent.

So the next thing I guess we've

got going on after that is big

doings in April. It won't be

happening here. But there is a

festival a traditional festival

in Aviles our Sister City. Um
called El Bollo. [Melissa] Yes. [Nancy] It's

interesting. It's spelled B O L
L O Bollo Festival. And it's a

very big festival and we have
received an invitation from the

Aviles Mayor Marivi to come and
send a delegation over for

that. So there will be a small
delegation visiting Aviles for

El Bollo. It's a really fun
festival. Uh they have parades.

Uh it comes at the end of Holy
Week. [Melissa] Right. [Nancy] Uh which is a huge

celebration in Spain for people
that not may may not know that

about Spain and Holy Week is a
is a whole different affair

than what we see in for example
at Mardi Gras. [Melissa] Yes. [Nancy] Um it's a

whole different affair but
comes at the end of that and

they will they have a family
meal. They basically just every

street downtown is filled with
long tables and chairs and

people bring their picnics.

It's a family affair and

there's two seatings. There's
so many there's not enough

table seats for and the whole
city. [Melissa] Miles of it. [Nancy] Yeah, it

just goes on and on and it's
just it's just so incredible.

They shut all the cars down. [Melissa] Everything shuts down.
[Nancy] It's only people oh oh right

yeah everything all the shops
everything's closed so it's

really a fun thing so I'm

really excited that we're

going to get to see somebody

from the city represent us for

their for their hometown [Melissa] they

really they really revere Saint

Augustine over there I don't

think people realize that and

so it really is something of a

cultural exchange to see that

and really you come back with

it having a new appreciation of

our own history [Nancy] you do it's

it's it's an incredible

experience and you know you you

can ask for more warm welcoming

people who are just really do

love us to death. [Melissa] They do. [Nancy] They

just really really love us. Um

it's we're their connection to

America and you know and and a
legacy. [Melissa] Yes. [Nancy] What they see is

their legacy in a lot of ways
is the colonial America. [Melissa] I

think Aviles is very very proud
that they received that

delegation in 1924
and that we're able to do that.

I am going to just do a quick
identification. If you're

tuning in just now, you're
listening to the break room.

I'm Melissa Wissel,
communications director for the

city and it is my pleasure this
week to have Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline

. We're talking about
plans for the year ahead

celebrating our 100th
anniversary. That's with our

relationship of Aviles Spain
and one of the things that the

city of Saint Augustine is
working on UF, Historic Saint

Augustine, Historical Society,
all the participating

attractions. It's the third
year that they are creating a

Saint Augustine History
Festival and it really is to

extend that invitation to our
residents so I really want to

make a point about this one
this one is Mother's Day

weekend some of the activities
start on Thursday and we have

literally the guy who wrote the
book on our history and I'm

going to give a shout out you

and I were brainstorming about

how the city could really do
something this year and I love

the suggestion and we did run
it. So, the gentleman's name is

Roman Alvarez and he wrote the
book in partnership with Nardo

Villaboy and Nardo's also
bringing an exhibit later this

year but the Saint Augustine
History Festival is going to be

in May and we are bringing
excuse me Roman. Roman over

here. [Nancy] Right. He will be. He's
coming. He's coming and I'm

really looking forward to
seeing him again. He's a long

time fan of the City of Saint
Augustine. He's been here many

times. He's done lectures here
and his book is really amazing.

It talks about that long
relationship that that we that

the city has with Aviles and
just all the different things

that that cities have done, the
activities, the exchanges that

they've done and the
celebrations they've done

together and the gifts they've
given each other. It's really

amazing and my understanding is
that he's going to be updating

that book. [Melissa] Right. [Nancy] Um when it
was published, it was the first

90 years. [Melissa] Right. [Nancy] So, he's going
to update it to this 100 years

which is really going to be
special. We're we're excited

about having him and this is a
good opportunity for our

residents the people that live
here not just the visitors but

the people that live here to
meet him and talk to him he's

very easy to talk to and come
and join us for that so that's

exciting he [Melissa] yeah he's going to
do his talks at the mission and

I learned this just in the last
couple of years that we

actually have the outer casket
of Pedro Menendez on display at

the mission in the Museum and
that was talking about gifts.

That was a gift to the city in
1924. So, look out for

the dates and times of Ramon's

presentation about that

history. Come down to the
mission and see the casket

that's on display there in the
museum. [Nancy] That's right. Okay.

Well, let's move on to August.

[Melissa] Let's move on to August. And

September. Let's jump. So, I'm
going to I'm going to jump

ahead of that one Mayor if you
don't mind. August is another

celebration Aviles. Um I
believe they're going to be

doing a recreation of that
initial 1924 visit. I

know that you will be going
with the delegation. I want to

jump quickly ahead though to
September because we have an

exciting itinerary of our
Founders Day, September 8th,

the weekend of September 8th.

Um we've got just a few
minutes. Let's run down the
list if you would. Tell us what

all we've got happening in
September. [Nancy] So, we have on

Thursday, September the fifth,
the Tejador concert will be free in at

Flagler Auditorium on Friday
the sixth of September. Um

there will be an marker
unveiling. This is sort of a

virtual in a way exchange. Um
Aviles will be doing a marker

talking about the history of
our relationship and

interpretive panel hopefully
and we've got some photographs

we think we can do on it. Uh

they'll be doing theirs and

we'll be doing ours here. Um we

haven't select location yet but

we will let you know Doctor

Susan Parker has generously

agreed to spend her time doing

the research for the text on

the panel on the marker.

Saturday the seventh of

September is the big day.

That is Founders Day events and

that is always at the Mission

de Nombre de Dios and we

will have the public the

reenactment. [Melissa] Yup. [Nancy] Um there is a

mass and we will be host our

guests from Spain. We've got a

lot of invitations out. Um we

even send an invitation to the

king and queen and we shall
see. [Melissa] We shall see. [Nancy] Yeah. And

that was quite some time ago
and we haven't heard yet but

you know, you have to extend
the invitation. You know, you

just, you gotta try. It'd be
nice if they could come. Um

they have been twice. [Melissa] Yes. [Nancy] You
know, we've had the king and

queen visit twice. So, who
knows? Um and then there'll be

a a luncheon at the Fountain of
Youth and then another concert

with the Tejador. And then also
and which will be free. [Melissa] Right.

[Nancy] The the concert will be free
and then we will on Sunday

Tejador will perform again.

[Melissa] Right. [Nancy] So we're going to have

lots of opportunities to see

Tejador. There will you

describe a little bit more

about the band itself. Like how

many members they have? Do they

come in costumes or I mean so

[Melissa] my understanding is that so he

is a bagpiper and he has four

people in his band but they're

also bringing dancer I think 4 to six

dancers I don't recall exactly

Sister Cities Association Saint

Augustine Sister Cities

Association is coordinating

that as well and it's going to

be quite quite the event so

lots of opportunities to see

Tejador in concert free to the

public they will be down in the plaza on Sunday the ninth just

to wrap out that weekend that you were talking about in

September so lots of and I hate to say it but we're about out

of time. [Nancy] Wow. [Melissa] I we didn't even get to the end of the year but

lots happening towards the end of the year. We may have to

have you come back and have the conversation again. Uh we'll

see if we can get some other folks in to talk about it as

well as we get closer. [Nancy] Yes, I'd and I'd like to just add one

thing that's important and it's it's I think we we're doing

this. Why are we doing this

because it's you know, we

want to keep the history and
the culture in the forefront in

our city and it's not just for
visitors. We a lot of times we

hear from residents and they
say, no, well, everything is

for the visitors. Everything's
but this is really for us about

our history and our culture and
our education and our interest.

So, this is an effort to share
as a gift, our history, and a

bit of our of our Sister City's
culture with our residents, not

just the visitors. [Melissa] Excellent,
very true. So, all of those

listeners that are locals, keep
your eye out. We'll be putting

all of this information out on
our social media. We'll be

stuff in news and notes and
you're right. This is our gift

back to our residents. So, very
well said. Great great wrap up.

Thanks for coming. [Nancy] Absolutely.
[Melissa] We're done. [Nancy] My pleasure.

Wonderful. [Melissa] We'll have you back.
[Nancy] Okay. [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 podcasting app,

CityStAugRadio.com has a
listing of those podcasting

platforms and links to this
episode and our past episodes.

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

around the city. Follow us on

social, you'll find us on

Facebook, Instagram, and X at @CityStAug. Thanks for tuning

in. Until next time. [Narrator] You've

been listening to The

Breakroom, a weekly program

addressing projects and

programs offered by the City of

Saint 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 Saint Augustine,

Cindy Walker. See you at this

time next week for another
edition of the break room.