

[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. This week, I'm sharing The Breakroom with

Glabra Skipp. She's the deputy

director of utilities and

public works and Liz Johnson,

our sustainability specialist.

We're head we're glad to have

you both back. Welcome back.

[Glabra] Thanks for having us. [Melissa] So it's

that time of year again. Earth

Month. We've got lots of things

planned events, recycling,

activities. Liz, last time

you're here, you had just

started so you've been in the

position. What do we have going

on for Earth Month? [Liz] Um we've

got a lot of events planned for

Earth Month. Um Earth Month is

the month of April. [Melissa] right.

[Liz] Earth Day is April 22nd. So, we

have the scheduled throughout

the whole month starting with  
the sixteenth. We're doing an

oyster creek cleanup with some  
Flagler students and the

Metansis Riverkeeper. [Melissa] Oh Oyster  
Creek remind us where Oyster

Creek is. [Glabra] It's off of US one.

[Melissa] Yeah it's is there it's behind

it's over there by the  
Archaeology. Right? Is that

Oyster Creek? [Glabra] Yes that does  
feed into the Oyster Creek. Um

over Marina Munch area. Oyster  
Creek across the street. [Melissa] But is

it so is the cleanup on US one  
or is it back on Old Dixie

Highway or Old Old Dixie  
Highway? Is that what it is?

[Glabra] It'll be back in that area

[Melissa] Okay. [Glabra] Yeah. [Melissa] Alright. Yeah. So

we're not going to be like

walking on US one with with

with pinchers and bags to clean

up. [Glabra] No, we're going to have

some Flagler college students

working on this. [Melissa] Cool. Alright.

So, Oyster Creek Cleanup. Um

we'll put that out on social

and have some information. Is

there a sign up? [Glabra] No, we're just

going to be working with the

Flagler college group for

that one. [Melissa] So, you'll tell us

about it after it happens.

[Glabra] Correct. [Melissa] Okay. So, nobody can

sign up. Don't get too excited

driving in your car. [Glabra] We're

going to give a shout out to

the Green Beans Club at  
Flagler. [Liz] Yes. [Melissa] Nice. [Liz] The Green

Beans and Natural Sciences  
Club. [Melissa] Green Beans and it's

cool. [Liz] Yeah. [Melissa] Awesome. I think  
that came out of the last time

you were on the break room too.

So people are listening to our

program. Alright. [Liz] Oh yeah it  
did. [Melissa] So green beans. Okay. So

we'll get some some pictures of  
that and show the great work

after that happens. Okay.

Alright so that's Tuesday April

16th Oyster Creek Cleanup with  
Flagler Students and Matanzas

Riverkeeper. What else we got?  
[Liz] And the following week is Earth

Week technically Monday April

22 and Saturday, April

27th. JB Miller he's going to  
be doing a walking tour of Fish

Island and he knows everything  
from all the plants that are

there, the birds that are there  
and there there will be a sign

up sheet for that. [Melissa] So that is a  
public event. [Liz] Mm hmm. [Melissa] Okay. Um

JB's our land management  
coordinator. He's like he's

like the guy. He's the man. He  
is. [Glabra] He's the guru of

everything. [Melissa] He's really smart  
about that stuff. Okay. [Glabra] We are

going to have to limit the  
number of people for that so

watch for the sign up. [Melissa] Okay and  
that be an Eventbrite sign up

free just we need to get a  
headcount. [Glabra] Correct. [Melissa] Okay. And

that's going to be on Monday,  
April 22nd and the Saturday. So

a weekday and a week. Okay.

Very cool. [Liz] And then after the

Monday we'll do on Tuesday  
April 23rd we have the

sustainability workshop. [Glabra] Yeah.

This is our second annual

workshop. So we're really  
excited for this and hope

everyone comes out for it. [Melissa] Last  
year you had a decent showing.

I mean not it wasn't like  
wasn't standing room only but

it was the first year effort.

[Glabra] Yes. Yes. And we were pleased

with it. So that's why we  
want to try again and we're

going to have similar topics as  
we did last year. [Melissa] It's at where

is that at the Galimore? [Glabra & Liz] Yes.  
Yes. [Melissa] Um so that's a Tuesday

April 23rd at the Galimore.

Tell me about some of the

things that people can look to  
participate in or attend. What

are we going to talk about? [Liz] Um  
Saint John's River management

district will come and they'll  
talk about water conservation

and then we do have some people  
coming talking about compost

are they with the master  
gardeners [Glabra] the master gardeners

[Liz] and then this city will kind of  
do an update on sustainability

talk about butterfly gardens

pollinators and just all things

sustainability and then after

that since the Galimore is

right next to the Lincolnville

Community Garden someone from

the community garden is

going to give them a tour and

they can walk around out what

they've got going on. [Melissa] And the

sustainability presentation, is

that what we're doing or is it

also just all around the city,

not just what we're doing? [Liz] It's

yeah, the city will be giving

the presentation, mostly what

we're doing. [Melissa] Okay. [Glabra] And ways

that residents can help be more

sustainable too in their lives.

[Melissa] Okay. Before we move on, are we

doing, speaking of  
sustainability in residents,

are we going to talk a little  
bit about composting and today

or you want to talk about it  
now? [Glabra] We can talk a little bit

about composting? [Melissa] We do that.  
Are we doing the barrels again?

[Glabra] We are. We are Looking forward  
to offering compost bins again

to residents. Last time we did  
it, [Melissa] we sold out. [Glabra] We sold out in

air quotes there because we  
didn't actually sell them.

[Melissa] Right. [Glabra] But they were free to  
residents and we were out

within just a few hours. So, we  
are looking forward to doing

that program again. We're just  
getting the the financials all

set up for that and we will

have a sign up for that as

well. [Melissa] Okay. [Glabra] We're looking

forward to look out. Yeah,

we're looking forward to

targeting that week with the

sustainability workshop. Um so,

pay attention for more

information on compost bins.

[Melissa] Yeah. Composting. That's a big

one. It's like a concert

ticket. [Glabra] Yeah. [Melissa] It's like. [Glabra] Which

is awesome. [Melissa] it sells out like Garth Brooks.

[Liz] Yeah. It's like the trees.

[Melissa] Yeah. Okay. So, continuing on

with the week. So, we got up to

Tuesday the 23rd is a

sustainability workshop. That's

going to be a public sign up.

Um is there a sign up for that

or is it just open? [Glabra] No, it's  
just open. [Melissa] Okay. So, we'll keep

an eye keep an eye out for that  
event. We'll get that on our

Facebook on social and then you  
can just come and show up to

the Galimore for that. Um and  
then what else do we have that

week? We get running into  
Thursday the twenty-fifth. [Liz] Yup.

On Thursday, we're going to do  
a resiliency walking tour with

Jessica Beach and Caitlin. And  
they're going to kind of show

the projects that we're working  
on on the Bayfront and around

the city. [Melissa] I like that idea.  
That's honestly, that's the

first time I'm hearing about

this. So, I'm excited. I know

we often get our subject matter

experts, the Army Corps comes,

all these big, you know, big

wig resiliency folks come and

they do these walking tours but

I'm really excited to hear that

we're able to provide that to

our residents. [Liz] Yeah and then

that's also going to be kind of

a limited number of people but

we'll have a sign up for that

also. And I Then running into

Friday, April 26th, we're doing

the recycle event. It's

going to be from 9 AM to 1 PM.

There'll be paper shredding,

electronic recycling, and then

used cooking while recycling.

[Melissa] And that'll be down. [Glabra] At the  
Solid Waste Solid Waste. That's

our annual Earth Day recycle  
event. [Melissa] That's always a big one

too. [Glabra] It is. [Melissa] That's a big week.  
[Glabra] It really is. We're very

excited. [Melissa] I'm excited for you. I  
I mean we've been talking about

it and you're like yeah we'll  
talk about our week of

activities but now that I'm  
sitting here listening. Hope

our listeners are excited.  
That's a lot of good stuff go

Going on and where can I find  
the information if I'm driving

in my car and I go oh my gosh  
what did they just say? Tell me

the website. [Liz] It'll be on [www.CityStAug.com/Sustainability](http://www.CityStAug.com/Sustainability)

[Melissa] Okay. CityStAug.com/Sustainability

If you're just  
now tuning in you're listening

to the break room and I have  
Glabra Skipp with us. She is

our deputy director of  
utilities and public works

department and Liz Johnson our  
sustainability specialist. Um

Liz and Glabra you both have  
all kinds of stuff going on all

year round and one of the other  
friendly reminders this time of

year in addition to want to  
hear a little bit about pools.

Do we talk about pools this  
time of year about draining our

pools? [Glabra] We can talk about pools.

[Melissa] Pools and and storm drains.

Yes. We got a few minutes left.

[Glabra] Yes. So, storm drains go

directly to our waterways. Pool

discharge, if it is

chlorinated, cannot go into a

storm drain. So, make sure if

you are discharging any kind of

pool water that it's

dechlorinated prior to

discharge. The best thing is to

put it into a grassy area on

your property. Let it filter

through. Um they do have

declaration tablets or you can

let the water sit without

adding any additional chlorine

but just keep chlorinated water

out of the storm drains. It's

not good for aquatic life, the

fish, so [Melissa] is it going to kill

my grass? [Glabra] It shouldn't kill  
your grass but if it does, then

maybe you should add the deh  
chlorination to it but no,

that's a common practice is to  
put it into a grassy area and a

lot of times people aren't  
draining their entire pool.

They're just getting if it  
heavy rain event, they're just  
getting the top layer off. [Melissa] Or  
you're trying kind of you

kind of drain down a bit and  
then put in a fresh kind of

freshen up your pool water  
after the winter. I know when

the leaves fall this time of  
year, you get a lot of that the

tree chemicals end up in your  
pool so you end up having to

treat your pool and all that  
but yeah, when these heavy

rains come, you gotta run that  
water off somehow and so just

put it into your yard not into  
the street. [Glabra] Right. [Melissa] And then

remind us about our storm storm  
drain. We we did our campaign

several years ago. I think  
maybe we could refresh that

video. The only rain down the  
drain. [Glabra] Right. So, leaves are also

bad for our storm drains. They  
clog storm pipes and they can

also break down and contribute  
excess nutrients into the

waterways. So this time of year  
especially there are a lot of

leaves going into the streets,

oak trees, everything is

shedding. So just make sure to

keep the storm drains clear.

[Melissa] One of the thing that I think  
people forget about and I've

made a conscious effort myself  
because I hear you guys down

the hallway. Only rain down the  
drain but is when you're

blowing your leaves really try  
not to blow em into the street.

I know everybody kind of thinks  
like, oh I'll just blow it into

the street, not a big deal.

Like you say, it that gets

caught in the rain and it drain  
and it runs down into the

drains. So, if you're mulching

and you're lawn mowing your

your yard, put it in a mulcher,  
put it in the bag, put it in

the paper sack, not the plastic  
sack. So, you guys have trained

me. [Glabra] I wanted to do a little  
shout out too. If you're inside

city limits and you have storm  
drain, near you or you know of

some somewhere in the business  
area where Liz is looking for

residents or groups to do a  
storm drain marking activity.

[Melissa] So what's that? [Liz] Um we'll walk  
around, look for storm drains

that are missing the red plaque  
that says. [Melissa] Oh the medallion. [Liz] No

dumping. This leads to a local  
waterway. [Melissa] Okay. [Liz] And we'll just

replace it or add one if  
there's one missing. [Melissa] So how do

I volunteer for that? [Liz] We [Melissa] call  
you? [Liz] We. [Melissa] Send an email? [Liz] Yeah.

Well, usually we'll put once we  
have enough people, we'll put

together a sign up or some type  
of thing and we'll get the

group to go out. [Glabra] Yeah and if  
you have a group, you know, if

you have a group of friends, a  
church group, anything and

you're interested in doing it,  
we're more than welcome to find

some locations that need  
updating and we will work with

you and we'd love to host  
groups doing storm drain

marking. [Melissa] So, if my  
neighborhood, my neighborhood

association is looking to do

something to get involved or

just to do something, it's also

a good way to learn about it.

[Glabra] Yes. About what the storm

drains and why the medallions

are important. [Glabra] Exactly. We have

all the supplies. We just need

the people. [Melissa] Just need the

people. And I think you got

have you done that with the

Flagler students in the past?

It's nice to get the residents

involved. [Glabra] Yes. We've done it

with residents. We've done it

with Flagler. We've done it

with school groups, even

elementary school groups. [Melissa] Okay.

[Glabra] Homeschool groups. Yeah.

[Melissa] Alright. So, we've. [Glabra] All ages.

[Melissa] So, remind me about the cooking  
oil, the recycle event is

Friday, April. [Liz] 26th.

[Melissa] 26th. So, start

collecting your used oil. Of  
course, you can drop off your

used oil and your electronics  
anytime. [Glabra] Correct. [Melissa] Yeah. [Glabra] Cooking

oil. [Melissa] Cooking all you don't have  
to wait for the event and then

the composting we can look for  
that [Glabra] stay tuned [Melissa] stay tuned for

the composting and then the  
tree the trees that's in

September gotta keep my  
timelines in order [Glabra] trees we

open applications in June [Melissa] June  
okay [Glabra] and probably you're

thinking September is when the  
window closed okay if we

haven't met quantity limits  
okay so those go fast too trees

composting lots of exciting  
stuff and resiliency

sustainability you guys are  
sustainability not resiliency

but it's all it's all about us  
environmentally aware and

taking care of our earth. We  
only have one. Anything else?

[Glabra] Thank you covered everything.  
We're excited to see everyone

in Earth Month and Earth Week  
and the sustainability

workshops. All of it. [Melissa] Big big  
month big week and big month

coming up. I'm really excited  
about the Earth Month. We're

going to make sure to get all  
that stuff on Facebook. I know

not everybody's on Facebook but  
we will also put it on the

website and we'll get some type  
of a homepage button or

something for you guys so that  
you got some prominent

visibility on the new website  
design by the way. [Glabra] Can't wait.

April's a big month for  
everyone. [Melissa] Well, thank you guys

for coming. [Liz] Thank you for  
having us. [Melissa] You can now find us

on your favorite podcasting  
app. If you missed this episode

or any others, check it all out  
at CityStAugRadio. com.

We want to keep you informed

about what's happening in and

around the city. Follow us on  
social media. You'll see us on

Facebook, Twitter, also known  
as X and Instagram at

CityStAug. Until next time.

Thanks for tuning in. [Narrator] You've

been listening The Breakroom, 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. See

you at this time next week for  
another edition of The

Breakroom.