

[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

[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
dechlorination 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 de
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

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app. If you missed this episode

or any others, check it all out
at [CityStAugRadio. com](http://CityStAugRadio.com).

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around the city. Follow us on
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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.