

Transcript

00:00:00 **Narrator**

You've tuned into another edition of.

00:00:02 **Narrator**

The Break Room.

00:00:03 **Narrator**

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 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.

00:00:20 **Narrator**

The whistle.

00:00:22 **Melissa Wissel**

Welcome to The Break Room. Thanks for tuning in. I'm Melissa Wissel, communications director for the City of Saint Augustine. 4th of July is next week, and that means lots of cars, lots of people, locals and visitors alike. There'll be traffic, parking, you name it. It's all the same. At 4th of July. So I've invited Todd Clark, our mobility coordinator.

00:00:41 **Melissa Wissel**

In studio, to remind our listeners about what to keep in mind for the 4th of July when it comes to mobility. Todd, welcome.

00:00:48 **Todd Clark**

Back. Oh, thank you. It's nice to.

00:00:50 **Melissa Wissel**

Be here so parking it's everyone's favorite topic.

00:00:54 **Todd Clark**

Yeah.

00:00:54 **Melissa Wissel**

And you get to talk to people.

00:00:56 **Todd Clark**

About a lot pretty much all day long. Even when I'm not working, people ask me about parking.

00:01:00 **Melissa Wissel**

OK.

00:01:01 **Melissa Wissel**

You don't wear your shirt though, since says like parking on it. No, you don't want people to be able to identify.

00:01:04 **Todd Clark**

I'm I'm.

00:01:06 **Todd Clark**

You.

00:01:07 **Todd Clark**

No, I don't. Not usually no. I dress business.

00:01:07 **Melissa Wissel**

Outside of the office.

00:01:09 **Melissa Wissel**

OK.

00:01:11 **Melissa Wissel**

OK, so let's talk about 4th of July parking. The one thing I want to remind people, you and I were just talking about this no parking off the island. There's no downtown. There's no north city. This is all Anastasia Blvd. for 4th of.

00:01:25 **Todd Clark**

July that's correct. We'll be shuttling.

00:01:27 **Todd Clark**

From three locations on the island this year.

00:01:30 **Todd Clark**

Those locations are the Anastasia Baptist Church, the amp parking lot, and then RB Hunt is as well. You can also park at the Alligator Farm and we will have a gift and security officer there that will help you across the street to pick the shuttle up.

00:01:44 **Melissa Wissel**

At RB Hunt school. So if I'm coming from the South, those are great options. I can still drive around if I want to.

00:01:52 **Melissa Wissel**

If I'm coming from the north, the island shuttle is fantastic, but the other thing we want to remind people is it takes all day to get in.

00:02:01 **Melissa Wissel**

And not as fast getting back out. So patience.

00:02:04 **Todd Clark**

It it, yes, the IT probably takes a couple hours to get everybody out of town and the and the bridge alliance will close from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM and we will start shuttling at 6:00 PM and the the fireworks will run from 9:30 to 9:00.

00:02:20 **Todd Clark**

50 soon as 950 hits, we get a massive amount of humanity coming down the bridge. Alliance, probably about will shuttle about 2000 people will probably have about 6000 people on that street. They're parked all through the neighborhood, so there will be long lines at the shuttles so.

00:02:25

Yeah.

00:02:38 **Todd Clark**

We we try.

00:02:38 **Todd Clark**

To tell people recommend.

00:02:40 **Todd Clark**

People you know, maybe hang out in town.

00:02:42 **Todd Clark**

Maybe half hour or two an hour, you know, get an ice cream or a soda and.

00:02:46 **Todd Clark**

Relax. Yeah, relax a little bit and walk around town a little bit before you come back.

00:02:46 **Melissa Wissel**

Tax just enjoy.

00:02:51 **Melissa Wissel**

To the shuttle and the shuttles, we were talking about where the pickup locations are in terms of driving your car and parking, and it drops us where it does not come across.

00:02:58 **Todd Clark**

The bridge alliance. It does not. It will drop at the we. We do it at the corner of Flagler Alcazar and Gallardo St.

00:03:07 **Todd Clark**

There's kind of like a little star there, if you will, in the road and that's where we pick people up and.

00:03:09 **Melissa Wissel**

Stop, right?

00:03:12 **Todd Clark**

Drop them off. But we is.

00:03:14 **Todd Clark**

There a porta potty there. Yes, OK, yeah. We have them in the cult SAC, and then we also have them at the intersection of Flagler and Gerardo. OK.

00:03:22 **Melissa Wissel**

And so I get dropped off at the cul-de-sac area lsh. I walk for that and that star.

00:03:29 **Todd Clark**

Yeah.

00:03:30 **Todd Clark**

Yeah. And then you would.

00:03:30 **Melissa Wissel**

But I'm going to walk through that cul-de-sac probably OK.

00:03:32 **Todd Clark**

And then you walk down through the cul-de-sac and then head over to the bridge.

00:03:34 **Melissa Wissel**

Head across the bridge. I can stand on the bridge. Absolutely. And I can go downtown while we're talking about 4th of July. I'll also remind folks that we do have a concert in the Plaza 6.

00:03:46 **Melissa Wissel**

30 and then the fireworks starts at 9:30. But let's talk about some other parking. You mentioned one more time before we move on to other parking. Remind us again, where do we park on 4th of July on the island?

00:03:58 **Todd Clark**

What?

00:03:59 **Todd Clark**

On the island, you can park at Anastasia Baptist Church, the amp and RB Hunt School, as well as the Alligator Farm.

00:04:06 **Todd Clark**

OK. And if you do find a parking space somewhere in the neighborhood, you can walk to these locations and get on a shuttle, and we'll shuttle you back to those lots. Also, when there is a long line on the egress, when we're leaving, the RB hunt is only about a 20 minute walk from the bridge. Yeah.

00:04:07 **Melissa Wissel**

Starts at 6.

00:04:25 **Todd Clark**

Able bodied and you don't want to stand.

00:04:26 **Todd Clark**

In line. Yeah, it's not.

00:04:28 **Todd Clark**

That it's not that.

00:04:28 **Melissa Wissel**

Far.

00:04:28 **Todd Clark**

Far of a walk.

00:04:29 **Melissa Wissel**

When you're when you're just considering you've spent all day standing around town waiting for the.

00:04:32 **Todd Clark**

Fireworks and the Heat index is about 105

00:04:34 **Melissa Wissel**

Yeah, it's going to be hot. OK, so that's 4th of July. Let's talk a little bit. We've also got coming up the end of the summer in September, we're going to have seeing out loud. We also have shuttles for that.

00:04:47 **Todd Clark**

Yes. So for singing out loud, we're going to be running out shuttles out of brownies. They're also going to be running out of 301 San Marco as well as the health department and the admin, but.

00:04:58 **Todd Clark**

Building.

00:04:59 **Todd Clark**

We're going to be shuttling from noon to midnight. We're saying out loud. We will have one shuttle available at 8:00 AM out of Brody's lot coastal. The Amp is hiring coastal shuttles, and they're going to run one shuttle down to the Vic. And if you are working downtown and you need to park somewhere, you can park at brownies.

00:05:19 **Todd Clark**

And on the shuttle ride in and then when it's ready.

00:05:22 **Todd Clark**

I believe you can go to the Vic and get on the.

00:05:25 **Melissa Wissel**

Candies bus and go back to brownies and that was one of the lessons learned last year. You know, we were providing the shuttle, but lots of the downtown workers said, hey, if I if I had been able to get into work, that would have been great. So that's a that's a great learned lesson. And I'm glad to hear they're bringing that in for our our locals.

00:05:37 **Todd Clark**

Yeah.

00:05:43 **Todd Clark**

Yeah, we we did find a lot of people that took alternative transportation and they either ubered in or they biked in or got dropped off and.

00:05:48 **Todd Clark**

That's fine too, but we.

00:05:50

Right.

00:05:50 **Todd Clark**

Will have the Brady lot available at 8:00 in the morning for those people that do need to get downtown to go to work.

00:05:55 **Melissa Wissel**

And that's on Saturday, both Saturday and Sunday.

00:05:58 **Melissa Wissel**

So that's another reminder, last year seeing out loud was Friday and Saturday.

00:06:02 **Melissa Wissel**

And they moved it.

00:06:03 **Todd Clark**

That's correct. This year it's Saturday and Sunday and.

00:06:06 **Melissa Wissel**

Sunday and we're going to see the garage.

00:06:07 **Todd Clark**

Closed. Yes. The garage will be closed and they are expecting a sellout for Eric Church. So they are expecting about 25,000 people for that show.

00:06:15 **Melissa Wissel**

Big numbers. That's a lot of people. That's a lot of people, and shuttling is kind of a it's not really a new thing. And we've been doing it now, what, 8-9 years?

00:06:27 **Todd Clark**

About 8:00.

00:06:28 **Melissa Wissel**

And it works. It does work. It's we've started some other programs. If you're just now tuning in. I'm Melissa. Whistle, communications director, talking with **Todd Clark**. He's our mobility coordinator. We're talking about parking specifically, started off talking about 4th of July, but I do want to switch gears haha.

00:06:49 **Melissa Wissel**

To to talk about mobility and parking and.

00:06:52 **Melissa Wissel**

In general, we started a star circulator. Tell us about that. That's it. I love the star circulator, and I'm going to give it a bigger plug here in a second about concerts. But tell us about the star.

00:06:55 **Todd Clark**

Yes, we have.

00:07:02 **Todd Clark**

Circulator so we started the star circulator last summer, and we're shuttling on an average about 3000 people in a month, so it it's people are using it.

00:07:12 **Todd Clark**

And it runs from the Vic.

00:07:14 **Todd Clark**

It stops in two locations before it circles back to the Vic. The first stop is in front.

00:07:20 **Todd Clark**

Of river and.

00:07:20 **Todd Clark**

Fort and then it it circles around and it stops on cathedral placed by the Bank of America. The Old Bank of America building. And then it goes back to the IC. It runs from 10:00 PM to 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

00:07:32 **Melissa Wissel**

So all day. So I'm going to this is where I'm.

00:07:34 **Todd Clark**

Seven days a week.

00:07:35 **Melissa Wissel**

This is where I'm going to give the plug for concerts in the Plaza, because that's a big summertime activity that we host.

00:07:41 **Melissa Wissel**

Every Thursday night, and we were we've been promoting also with parking as the Park St. Aug resident discount, Saint Johns County discount \$3 yes. Have you been having to deal?

00:07:54 **Todd Clark**

With that, not not so much. That's pretty much terrorism. Megan Lee.

00:07:55 **Melissa Wissel**

Not not so much. That's Tara. So if I get my \$3 entrance admission cost for and I'm a resident, I can drive to this parking garage, park my car, hop on that star circulator because, like, you were just talking about, it's hot right now. So I don't necessarily want to have to lug.

00:08:16 **Melissa Wissel**

Not lug, but I don't want to carry my chi.

00:08:18 **Melissa Wissel**

But I can hop on that star circulator. It's going to drop me off at Cathedral, walk across the street, listen to the concert. Concerts are.

00:08:27 **Melissa Wissel**

6:00 to 8:00.

00:08:28 **Melissa Wissel**

And the shuttle runs till 10, so I got plenty of time to hop back on that and get back to.

00:08:32 **Todd Clark**

My car. Yeah. So to get your discount, you want to go to parksaintaug.com?

00:08:38 **Todd Clark**

And you want to fill out the application you want to get a copy of your driver's license and your registration so you can attach it in the boxes when you're filling out the application, and then they will approve you. It takes a little time to get approved. They've only got two people working on this, and sometimes they're about 500 requests.

00:08:55 **Todd Clark**

Deep and they will approve you when you get your e-mail and then you can get \$3.00 an hour or \$3 per visit in the garage and it's \$0.50 an hour on the.

00:09:02 **Melissa Wissel**

Yeah, entrance. Yeah.

00:09:04 **Melissa Wissel**

Street with your discount as well. So the discount also applies on to on street parking. And I just said I thought I'm going to have to circle back.

00:09:05 **Todd Clark**

With your discount.

00:09:13 **Melissa Wissel**

On that one, but the.

00:09:15 **Melissa Wissel**

The resonant discounts.

00:09:18 **Melissa Wissel**

Like you just said and there is a mobile app, but I don't have to.

00:09:21 **Todd Clark**

Use the mobile app. They do not have to use a mobile app. You can, when you get approved for the discount you can go to the machine and type your license plate into the machine and it will know on the back end.

00:09:31 **Todd Clark**

Will know that you're.

00:09:32 **Todd Clark**

A special Parker. One thing to remember, if you do have a zero in your drivers license.

00:09:36 **Todd Clark**

It's a 0, not an O.

00:09:38 **Todd Clark**

OK, I always told people. No, Oscar, it's it's.

00:09:40 **Melissa Wissel**

A zero and that was my other thing was when I drive through the parking or into the parking garage, if I've got my vehicle plate.

00:09:49 **Melissa Wissel**

Heard do I stop it? It's a license plate.

00:09:52 **Todd Clark**

Yes.

00:09:52 **Todd Clark**

Reader yeah, there is a there's a license plate reader and then the the, the, the worker inside the the box moved that we'll see that come up on their screen and it identifies them as a as a resident Parker and it gives them the discount and they charge you \$3 you can either pay.

00:09:53

Yet.

00:09:59 **Melissa Wissel**

Booth. Yeah.

00:10:09 **Todd Clark**

With cash or credit?

00:10:10 **Melissa Wissel**

OK. And so that's our * circulator and the and concerts in the Plaza. Let's talk a little bit about the brownie lot nights of lights. We do shuttle on light up night on the.

00:10:26 **Melissa Wissel**

Island. Yes, we do.

00:10:28 **Melissa Wissel**

And then during December, that's where we kind of change it up and we're not shuttling from the island, but light up night.

00:10:35 **Todd Clark**

We we only use the island on light up night and we have permission to use the Anastasia Baptist Church. We can use the amp if there's not an event. The last two years there was a concert and a private outing, so we were unable to use that lot that night we did. We were allowed to use our behind. We do not use the Alligator Farm on light up night.

00:10:52

OK.

00:10:54 **Melissa Wissel**

And right. And we'll come back. We'll have you guys back or have have you come back and talk about that as it gets closer. Talk a little bit about. Let's talk just a few minutes.

00:11:05 **Melissa Wissel**

The browdy lot we love because it's flat and it's free.

00:11:09 **Todd Clark**

And it's close.

00:11:10 **Melissa Wissel**

And it's close, but we're going to see some changes over there in the next couple of years. Any any news or anything you can tell us about what that's going to look like when we get that construction?

00:11:19 **Todd Clark**

Going so the only thing I've heard so far is that it is in design and we are hoping that the design is going to be in within hopefully the next six to eight months it. It would be nice if we.

00:11:30 **Todd Clark**

Break ground next summer, right, hoping that happens, but yeah.

00:11:33 **Melissa Wissel**

In an ideal world.

00:11:35 **Todd Clark**

Once we do break ground, though, we will probably not be able to use that as a shuttle.

00:11:39 **Todd Clark**

Queen location. We will be going to the north side of town and using 301 San Marco and the Health Department on a regular basis when?

00:11:46 **Melissa Wissel**

That does happen, and the ultimate goal there, of course, if folks do or don't know they're at the corner of US1 and W King, which is currently a tire car something and and the brownie liquor store.

00:11:57 **Todd Clark**

Yeah, that won't.

00:12:00 **Melissa Wissel**

There will be a.

00:12:00 **Melissa Wissel**

Whole compound of parking and business shops.

00:12:09 **Melissa Wissel**

And but there will be.

00:12:10 **Todd Clark**

A parking garage. There's gonna be a parking garage at my understanding. Also, there's supposed to be maybe some two bedrooms and one bedroom apartments for workforce. So that will be nice too. If they're actually able to include that in this.

00:12:15 **Melissa Wissel**

Apartment OK.

00:12:20 **Melissa Wissel**

Project, sure, but from a parking standpoint, parking garage would go in, so that would be another way to park.

00:12:28 **Melissa Wissel**

Again, it might not be free, but if you're a resident Saint, Johns County resident, that's going to offer that discounted rate, that's correct. Yes. And.

00:12:37 **Melissa Wissel**

I think you and I are also talking, hopefully that star circulator is going to make a lap over there ultimately.

00:12:42 **Todd Clark**

I believe that is the goal to send the Star circular over there and we'll probably have to extend the hours to it. Right now it's 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. We'll probably have to start shuttling out there. Maybe at 7:00 in the morning to have to start circulator, go over to get people and bring them into town.

00:12:53 **Melissa Wissel**

Right.

00:12:56 **Melissa Wissel**

Yeah, for work. So lots of things happening. I would think you've seen a lot of change.

00:12:57 **Todd Clark**

Yes.

00:13:01 **Todd Clark**

I've been here 44 years. I've been working in the city for almost 21 years.

00:13:03 **Melissa Wissel**

I'm gonna say you have been working for.

00:13:05 **Melissa Wissel**

The city that long?

00:13:05 **Todd Clark**

No, no, 21 years of.

00:13:07 **Melissa Wissel**

It might feel like that.

00:13:07 **Todd Clark**

The city.

00:13:09 **Todd Clark**

It feels like 44 years, that's for sure.

00:13:12 **Melissa Wissel**

What's what's the best thing you've seen come out of mobility and parking?

00:13:17 **Melissa Wissel**

Putting you on the spot here.

00:13:20 **Todd Clark**

I think what we do for the residents, for the discount. Yeah, I think that's really important. We do have monthly passes at the garage that are \$34 a month. So if you're working downtown, that's something that, you know, people really should take advantage of. It kind of takes you out of the equation of getting parking.

00:13:25

Yeah.

00:13:36 **Todd Clark**

It's your car is in a secure location. It's it's under cover. So your car is not going to be 100.

00:13:43 Melissa Wissel

Degrees when you get inside of it. Yeah. And you've got access to the circulator doing.

00:13:47 Melissa Wissel

Those operating hours.

00:13:48 Melissa Wissel

Do I have to be a St. John's County resident to get a parking pass? You do a monthly parking pass.

00:13:52 Todd Clark

Not.

00:13:54 Todd Clark

No. Anybody can buy one, so if you're a Flagler College student and you don't have the the the privileges of parking on campus.

00:14:02 Todd Clark

You can get a discounted rate there at 34.

00:14:04 Todd Clark

Dollars a month.

00:14:05 Melissa Wissel

Well, and also we got a lot of kind of a lot of, I'll say Flack a little bit of when we were really doing the heavy rollout, reminding folks about the resident discount and we got a lot of, but I work downtown, how do I get that discount if I, but if I work in Saint Johns County?

00:14:22 Melissa Wissel

Live in Flagler. How do I get that discount? The easy solution is by a parking pass by a parking pass. Yeah. OK. And with that, we.

00:14:26 Todd Clark

Technically in the garage.

00:14:30 Melissa Wissel

The time.

00:14:31 Melissa Wissel

See that it went by really fast, so keep be on the lookout for parking on the island for 4th of July. Todd, thanks for coming in and giving us.

00:14:38 **Melissa Wissel**

An update on.

00:14:38 **Melissa Wissel**

Mobility. Thank you.

00:14:39 **Todd Clark**

Thanks.

00:14:39 **Melissa Wissel**

Melissa excellent. If you missed part of this broadcast, you want to go back and listen from the beginning. Check it out at citysaintaugradio.com. There's a complete listing of our podcasting apps, as well as a listing of this.

00:14:51 **Melissa Wissel**

Episode and past episodes, we want to keep you informed about what's happening in and around the city. Follow us on social, on Facebook, Instagram.

00:14:58 **Melissa Wissel**

Gram and X, formerly known as Twitter at City Saint Aug. Thanks for tuning in until next time.

00:15:04 **Narrator**

You've been listening to.

00:15:05 **Narrator**

The Break Room, 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 Russell 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.

00:15:22 **Narrator**

Of The Break Room.