

The Break Room with Kevin Moon, Foreman Streets and Grounds, October 28, 2025

Narrator:

You tuned in to another edition of *The Break Room* 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. Melissa Wissel.

Melissa Wissel:

Thanks for tuning in and welcome to *The Break Room* I'm Melissa Wissel communications director for the city of Saint Augustine as we close into the end of hurricane season we are looking forward to Nights of Lights and our kickoff with Light Up! Night it's great news we have a new guest in studio this year to talk to us about Light Up! Night and Nights of Lights we've invited Kevin Moon he's a foreman with the streets and grounds division. We do not have Joel with us Kevin welcome and thanks for stepping in this year.

Kevin Moon:

Thanks for having me.

Melissa Wissel:

So you're a little bit on the spot so we're going to get through this but what I really want to talk about first of all is a little bit of background tell us about Kevin moon you have been with the city for?

Kevin Moon:

6.

Melissa Wissel:

6 years tell us a little bit about how you came to be with us. And what it is you guys do. On a day-to-day basis before we jump into Nights of Lights.

Kevin Moon:

Sure uh Joel got me the position here.

Melissa Wissel:

excellent

Kevin Moon:

He got me hired. And I started off small and now I started with the the lights for past 5 years being my 6.

Melissa Wissel:

Is it something you look forward to or is it something you kind of have that oh man here we go again a little bit of both?

Kevin Moon:

At first it's rough and then it gets easier

Melissa Wissel:

Yeah

Kevin Moon:

and then I like of course the light up night with everybody together.

Melissa Wissel:

And you have a you have a job with Light Up! Night we don't want to spoil any surprises but you're very important to the switch flipping we have our honorees in the gazebo and you might be working behind the scenes.

Kevin Moon:

That's right

Melissa Wissel:

Lighting things up

Kevin Moon:

I will be. I'll be hitting the switch with somebody else.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and tell us about the getting those lights up. we started early this year and then we got some feedback from the community about why are the wreaths already up so tell us about the timeline a little bit of when you guys get started how long that takes.

Kevin Moon:

Sure it does it takes. 2 months. I mean all the way till the 15th it'll take so September first We had to get started I know it was early but we had wind we had some damages so. We had to start early.

Melissa Wissel:

And when you you guys have to watch. The weather when the storms come through.

Kevin Moon:

Every day.

Melissa Wissel:

And it take sometimes it kind of wreaks havoc on them you have to go back and redo.

Kevin Moon:

That's right every year every year there's some sort of redo broke torn down.

Melissa Wissel:

And you get up in the bucket?

Kevin Moon:

Up in the bucket every every year.

Melissa Wissel:

Is there there's got to be a method to how you guys hang those there's somebody down below going? Oh little bit on the left.

Kevin Moon:

That. There is there's someone down below and he is. In the box. Plugging them in hand them to me. And were there hours every night.

Melissa Wissel:

And you guys don't work during the. Day.

Kevin Moon:

Not unless there's a storm where we get behind.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and do you hang the wreaths and wrap the poles and do all of it?

Kevin Moon:

we wrap every poll. And the wreaths, the Garland, and plug in the lights. Make sure they're all working every day every day we're back there. Checking them and the gazebo. Too the gazebo is done.

Melissa Wissel:

OK it's already done?

Kevin Moon:

It is. Done. Ribbon is wrapped up.

Melissa Wissel:

OK so OK tell us about that you know about the tree this year.

Kevin Moon:

The tree will be here. The 10th

Melissa Wissel:

OK

Kevin Moon:

wait that's Monday November 10th.

Melissa Wissel:

OK November 10th and then do you get to decorate the tree too.

Kevin Moon:

We have a week to decorate.

Melissa Wissel:

How big is the tree you know?

Kevin Moon:

used to be 20 feet I think.

Melissa Wissel:

So we're going back. To a real tree this year.

Kevin Moon:

Real tree it's going to be good one.

Melissa Wissel:

And how much do you guys have to keep up with that in terms of I know it gets it's sad to say but people steal. Stuff off of it.

Kevin Moon:

Every year they steal stuff. Hopefully they won't do it this year, but we're there every morning. We'll turn the tree on and check it. Make sure there's nothing missing all lights are on.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and are we decorating it do we put the little fence around it?

Kevin Moon:

We will put the fence around.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and the fence helps keep people away.

Kevin Moon:

Try yeah kind of.

Melissa Wissel:

You ever go down there at night and kind of keep an eye on things yourself?

Kevin Moon:

I live a mile away.

Melissa Wissel:

OK

Kevin Moon:

so I drive past it every night.

Melissa Wissel:

All right, what's your favorite part about it? About the whole season?

Kevin Moon:

Whole season is seeing everybody there together

Melissa Wissel:

Yeah. And the last day.

Kevin Moon:

The last day?

Melissa Wissel:

Yeah it's like when you buy a boat you're the best day of buying of having a boat is the day you buy it and the day you sell it so it's right decorating it's great to get it started but you're ready for it to come down

Kevin Moon:

And it's and it's great to get it finished.

Melissa Wissel:

OK what else do you guys work on I mean in the in the middle of all of the Nights of Lights you still have. Your regular duties.

Kevin Moon:

We still got to keep up with the grounds make sure the grass is mowed no weeds, mulch.

Melissa Wissel:

Around the Plaza and the city.

Kevin Moon:

So Yep around the whole city and plazas so everybody has a place to sit.

Melissa Wissel:

Beautiful beautification and are you familiar with I'm sure you know about the legend of the single red light bulb can you tell us about the the red bulb I know we don't know where.

Kevin Moon:

Where we don't know where.

Melissa Wissel:

And what's can you tell us the story of it.

Kevin Moon:

I know it was originally started by Bobby Mangles and he put it up for his children and now it's for his grandchildren extra bulb for everybody to find.

Melissa Wissel:

And he puts and nobody knows. Where they go is he still he still works here?

Kevin Moon:

He still works here and I don't know where he puts it it's a big secret.

Melissa Wissel:

Does he come back at night like when nobody 's looking and climb up a tree?

Kevin Moon:

He's he steals the bucket truck at night and does it.

Melissa Wissel:

Does he really? Well let's not get him in trouble he doesn't steal the bucket. He comes in and he does it when.

Kevin Moon:

For a little Overtime

Melissa Wissel:

OK alright well we'll have to look for that this year and you said there's a couple. So there's red and green.

Kevin Moon:

And I think. A blue one

Melissa Wissel:

OK. Yeah so we. Need to be on the lookout for. The special red bulb yeah. Should be 3 OK this year alright if you're just now tuning in you're listening to *The Break Room* we have Kevin Moon with us this year he's a foreman with streets and grounds we're talking Nights of Lights Light Up! Night decorations all the things that Kevin works on with Joel and one of the other questions I have for you just in general about streets and grounds Arbor Day. You part you participate with Arbor Day.

Kevin Moon:

I plant the tree on Arbor Day I help do it with a few few guys.

Melissa Wissel:

OK. And do we know when that when we do we know where yet don't know where yet?

Kevin Moon:

We don't know where yet.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and it's the 3rd Friday in January and I don't have that date off the top of my head but.

We should be. Out of Nights of Lights by then.

Kevin Moon:

Yes.

Melissa Wissel:

Because we shortened a little bit in January OK and anything else you guys do that you're working on that you know you want to tell us about any big projects or just day-to-day keeping things going.

Kevin Moon:

Mid. Yeah. The big project right now is all the lights.

Melissa Wissel:

How many of you are there?

Kevin Moon:

7.

Melissa Wissel:

7 streets and grounds. Yeah that put all the lights on.

Kevin Moon:

And So with Joel its' 8 yeah.

Melissa Wissel:

And Joel is the supervisor keep y'all in line.

Kevin Moon:

That's right he's the boss.

Melissa Wissel:

OK anything in particular how about the trees down in the Plaza are they all still in pretty good shape.

Kevin Moon:

They are all in good shape. Mark Ayres had them all trimmed pruned up.

So we can get all the lights up.

Melissa Wissel:

Any challenges what's the what's the hardest part about it?

Kevin Moon:

The wind.

Melissa Wissel:

OK because you can't doesn't matter whether it's a hurricane or just a nor'easter.

Kevin Moon:

Right strong wind will stretch them and they'll go out so we'll be repairing them so we'll be checking them every night.

Melissa Wissel:

And do the strands break or just the. Bulbs go out.

Kevin Moon:

Both.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and we have lots of extras in stock

Kevin Moon:

we have plenty extra.

Melissa Wissel:

OK OK here's one for you where do you go when the ornaments get stolen. Do you have do you like run to Walmart?

Kevin Moon:

Hobby Lobby

Melissa Wissel:

OK Hobby Lobby alright

Kevin Moon:

Joe goes to Hobby Lobby with the card.

Melissa Wissel:

OK so this other question I had to ask Joel this and I don't honestly don't remember his answer I don't know whether you personally celebrate Christmas but does doing the decorations get you more than spirit or less in the spirit of holidays yeah.

Kevin Moon:

No no it's it's more. And when you're down there and everybody's. Side by side is pretty good.

Melissa Wissel:

People are pretty friendly and happy to see you out there.

Kevin Moon:

That they're they're. Happy when it's done and Light Up! Night.

Melissa Wissel:

Yeah yeah how long you hang around downtown after I light. Up.

Kevin Moon:

I'll be there for 2 or 3 hours.

Melissa Wissel:

OK any major catastrophes happen ever that.

Kevin Moon:

No.

Melissa Wissel:

You're like oh man.

Kevin Moon:

The police have it situated good

Melissa Wissel:

And the lights, It' something to be proud of.

Kevin Moon:

It is it's a relief and you have them all done and everything turns on it's great feeling.

Melissa Wissel:

Alright well we appreciate the work you do and thank you for coming in to talk to us about this year all right.

Kevin Moon:

Thank you.

Melissa Wissel:

Thank you for tuning into *The Break Room* we like to keep you posted on what's happening in and around the city and that you hear it here from the people doing the work every day follow us on social at face on Facebook Instagram and X our handle is @CityStAug you can catch this episode and all of our episodes at CityStAugRadio.com. Visit us on the website at CityStAug.com sign up for news and notes and until next time thanks for tuning in.

Narrator:

You've been listening to *The Break Room* weekly program addressing projects and programs offered by the city of Saint Augustine join us each week as the city 's

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