

TBR with Todd Clark, Mobility Manager, November 4, 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:

Welcome to The Break Room I'm Melissa Wissel communications director for the city of Saint Augustine. Nights of Lights is upon us and that means area residents and visitors will be coming to the nation 's oldest city to experience one of the most spectacular holiday lighting displays in the nation. Last year was unprecedented. Crowds, cars, people, congestion. And where does everyone park when they get here? We've been running shuttle services for about 9 years and this year we are expanding operations, days of service and even trying a new component at Saint Augustine beach with the star circulator. Joining me this week to talk about all things park and ride once again our mobility coordinator Todd Clark welcome back.

Todd Clark:

Thanks for having me back Melissa.

Melissa Wissel:

You've been very busy.

Todd Clark:

Yes we're extremely busy there's a lot going on right now.

Melissa Wissel:

A lot going on. I have to say First off thank you for making all operations of the shuttle it's it it's 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Todd Clark:

Yes it.

Melissa Wissel:

it's all the same.

Todd Clark:

We're doing the same thing here on the mainland every every what we're doing 33 dates this year as opposed to 15 that we did last year.

Melissa Wissel:

Tell us about wh,y where did we go from that, from so few to so many. And it's not necessarily all week long.

Todd Clark:

It really started with this year the week in between when the kids get out of school right from Christmas to New Year's this year it was just over, overpopulated and the the Broudy Lot was shutting down almost every night. So, we've decided that we're going to have to run out of the north side of town all for the whole time we're going to be using 301 San Marco which is down by Dos and then also from the health department we will also have the admin building as an overflow as well as the they call it the permit center lot at Saint Johns county. There was a. Wooden bridge that will connect that lot to the admin building and folks will have to walk to the health department to pick up the. Shuttle there.

Melissa Wissel:

And the Health department though is where you go?

Todd Clark:

yes that's where the shuttle will be.

Melissa Wissel:

Shuttle will be. And we're doing not just Saturdays but Friday Saturday Sunday.

Todd Clark:

Yeah so the first weekend at Light-Up! Night is Saturday and we're doing the Sunday after that immediately after that every weekend will be Friday Saturday Sunday until we get to December 19th which is a Friday we will run every day until January 4th excluding Christmas Day. We will not be running our Christmas Day and then the the weekend after New Year's which is I think we have the 9th 10th and 11th right well do those 3 days and then Nights of Lights will be over and then the shuttling will come to an end.

Melissa Wissel:

OK so we also want to remind folks Broudy parking lot, 301 San Marco, health department. Let's also talk a little bit about Light-Up! Night because those will run like you said Saturday and Sunday we do have shuttle service on the island let's talk about that and this is for Light-Up! Night only.

Todd Clark:

Light-Up! Night only which is Saturday. We will have Anastasia Baptist Church and RB Hunt will be the 2 parking lots. Last year we shuttled about 700 folks in and then we'll probably expecting about the same this year. You'll get dropped off at the corner of Flagler Boulevard Gerardo Street now it's like a little 5 star intersection to the east of the bridge and then you'll walk down Alcazar Street to the Bridge of Lions and walk into town

Melissa Wissel:

walk into town. And let's also talk give me some do's and don'ts. Anything in particular that we want people, can we bring strollers, coolers, chairs and I put you on the spot a little bit.

Todd Clark:

Well one of the things you can't bring is is an animal unless it is a service animal.

Melissa Wissel:

OK.

Todd Clark:

As far as strollers yeah you can bring them they had plenty of uh as long as it's something that can collapse up and sit in your lap I think they're they're OK with nothing really large though

Melissa Wissel:

Let's talk a little bit about the STAR Circulator. let's talk a little bit about what is the STAR circulator right now how does it operate right now and then we'll talk about what changes about it.

Todd Clark:

OK so right now the STAR circulator runs 7 days a week from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM downtown it leaves the VIC circle the clock circle it will stop in front of River and Fort. And then it will proceed South and turn right onto cathedral place it stops near where Bank of America used to be and then after it sits there for a few minutes it it moves on back to the clock circle. For Nights of Lights we usually stop at 5:00 o'clock this year we're going to be stopping at 4:00 o'clock so we're going to run on the mainland we're going to run 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and then we're going to move the shuttle over to the island starting on November the 16th and. We are going. To run from 5:00 o'clock until midnight. And it's basically going to do the same route that the that the beach bus does. OK it's gonna be at Gerardo Street, South of Anastasia Boulevard it used to be a doctor's building there I can't remember the name of the doctor and then it will travel South it will stop at the Alligator

Farm and then it will proceed down to the City Hall beach City Hall and then down to beach Boulevard and it will make a run South and then turn come back north stop at various locations and then head back to Gerardo Street.

Melissa Wissel:

The STAR circulator on the beach just to clarify for listeners because we want residents on the beach we want visitors at the beach to use this as a way to get into town. Can they park? Where's the best places to park if I want to use this STAR circulator I'm a local what's the best way for me to get there without clogging up the private businesses.

Todd Clark:

So the two parking lots that we had been told are are OK to use is the the City Hall, the Beach City Hall lot and then also the Pier, so those are our two locations. Other than that this is a walk and ride service.

Melissa Wissel:

Walk and ride

Todd Clark:

yes

Melissa Wissel:

so if I live on the beach this is a great way for me to walk down to A1A Beach anywhere along the way I think isn't I think they want to see there's a total of 15.

Todd Clark:

YeahThere's about I think it's 16 spots yeah where it stops and we're and it and it stops for a couple of minutes and you'll wait a few minutes for somebody to get on and then you know they'll proceed to the next stop it's also if you live in like north or South Davis shores and

you want to go to the beach and have dinner just get a hop on it and take a ride out there and you can go to get off at 8th street and go to various locations yeah.

Melissa Wissel:

Go to dinner and the shuttle so on the island right there at the base of the bridge you're going to come in a block or so a couple of blocks in and it's going to be on the right so.

Todd Clark:

About two blocks

Melissa Wissel:

It's gonna be on the South side that's.

Todd Clark:

That is correct and and at Gerardo Street.

Melissa Wissel:

So different than where this where the Light-Up! Night shuttle drops you which is on the north side of A1A.

Todd Clark:

Correct

Melissa Wissel:

on the South. Side

Todd Clark:

correct

Melissa Wissel:

And we're going to have that information on the website. All of this information of course citystaug.com/Light Up Night. The parking information citystaug.com/parking. If you're just now tuning in I'm Melissa Wissel communications director for the city of Saint Augustine and we have Todd Clark with us in studio talking about all things park and ride shuttle. And I also want to talk a little bit and remind folks about. Other parking we're really trying to remind folks that this is a walking event. We want you to come and park in the satellite parking take those shuttles in and walk around downtown not necessarily drive through town. And parking spot Finder is another way to find parking locations, parking lots. How's the garage looking for this season? Can you tell us about some any any changes coming with the parking garage?

Todd Clark:

There really aren't many changes in the garage that I'm aware of. It is going to go to, when there is a shuttle that's going during Nights of Lights it will be \$40.00 to park there instead of \$20.

Melissa Wissel:

OK so if you're coming into town when there are shuttles running. In other words you can take a free shuttle instead of coming into the parking garage if you want to try to see if the garage is open and there are spots it's going to be \$40.00.

Todd Clark:

yeah

Melissa Wissel:

That's for non residents.

Todd Clark:

The resident discount still applies

Melissa Wissel:

but you have to be registered

Todd Clark:

that's correct.

Melissa Wissel:

for the resident discount

Todd Clark:

that is correct

Melissa Wissel:

yeah hopefully folks are picking up on that. I'm going to switch gears on you a little bit and ask just say what other kind of what other of the initiatives this year are you working on we've got like four minutes left so if you want to talk about the porta potties are you involved in all of that

Todd Clark:

No no I'm not involved.

Melissa Wissel:

or the bike racks.

Todd Clark:

Yes a little bit of that

Melissa Wissel:

Some of the oh street closures let's talk about some of the

Todd Clark:

the MOT

Melissa Wissel:

Just the MOT. that there's going to and you don't have to talk about exactly but you can mention things like This road, whatever those streets were they will be shut down is it.

Todd Clark:

It's it's it's it's a left hand turn southbound right hand turn northbound.

Melissa Wissel:

OK and and. There will be barricades so. Let's just talk about that OK alright we'll come back to that now OK.

Todd Clark:

Yeah.

Melissa Wissel:

Todd you've also been working on some of the other transportation concerns a lot of this came out of last year like. You mentioned lots of people lots of intrusion into the neighborhoods tell me tell our listeners if you would some of those changes they can look to see they're going to see some barricades and some street closures and blocking of streets. So talk about that.

Todd Clark:

Yes that's correct they call them orange drums and they are going to be there are 6 intersections on US1 we will be shutting off the left hand southbound turn and the northbound right hand turn that is going to be between Rohde Avenue and then moving South to Carrera Street. The the turn lane going to Malaga street will remain open we're just going to shut off the actual left hand turn and right hand turn onto those streets.

Melissa Wissel:

There's not a light there at Malaga at that point.

Todd Clark:

Not yet

Melissa Wissel:

right that's coming that's a different interview that's a different conversation so and this came out of.

Todd Clark:

A lot of the folks. In those neighborhoods they were they were kind of unhappy about a lot of the traffic that was going down their street and they felt that was kind of unnecessary and and a lot of people parking in the neighborhood. That's uh didn't really. Live there so they

Melissa Wissel:

Didn't need to be there. And that brings us to our other change or thing that we've we've we've changed or updated is the parking fine for illegal parking are you seeing a let me pun intended are you seeing a curb in illegal parking since that's been instituted?

Todd Clark:

I I don't think we've seen anything yet because still really. Slow time of the year. We are going to be putting signs up going from I believe it's Cincinnati north down into Abbott Track and also which don't know what Abbott Track is that shanandoah, Joiner, Abbott and then over into Flagler Model Land which is your Valencia street, Saragasso and during Nights of Lights you must have a permit to park in those neighborhoods and you must live in those neighborhoods to get a permit to park there and it is a \$100 fine.

Melissa Wissel:

So it's really going to look different this year in the sense of we're not going to be able to just drive up or down US1 and turn into Flagler Model Land that area doesn't matter north or South you said.

Todd Clark:

Yet we are leaving. Cincinnati open so the folks that live in Uptown north city can get. Can access their neighborhood through Cincinnati and well King Street will still be open so if you live in Saragossa, Valencia, Lemon, Almeria you'll still be able to get in from Cordova Street. Marklin you'll still be able To get into those roads.

Melissa Wissel:

so lots of changes with with our mobility like I said you've been very busy working on the MOT and anything important that we need to remember about the shuttles.

Todd Clark:

Not really the

Melissa Wissel:

we're going to run early on the morning of the.

Todd Clark:

We are.

Melissa Wissel:

Christmas parade

Todd Clark:

the Christmas parade. Will run 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM but but every day we are running from 1:00 o'clock to 11 other? Than the Christmas parade which I think this year is on.

December the 6th

Melissa Wissel:

I think so. Saturday

Todd Clark:

yeah and then the island we're running from 4:00 o'clock until 11:00 o'clock for Light-Up!
Night light up night.

Melissa Wissel:

Light Up Night only

Todd Clark:

Yeah so we're starting at 4:00 o'clock

Melissa Wissel:

I'm excited to see how these STAR circulator on the island. You know pans out

Todd Clark:

I think I'll do well

Melissa Wissel:

I think it will do very well I think they've got good ridership as it is but I think during Nights of Lights folks are going to really see that as a benefit.

Todd Clark:

you know if it really takes off Maybe we can do. It all the time right maybe we'll see what happens.

Melissa Wissel:

Very very exciting well I think the long term on the circulator as we've talked in the past eventually would there would be some type of a connector shuttle connecting the beach with downtown. Things through the star program.

Todd Clark:

Possibly, yeah.

Melissa Wissel:

And Todd one last question Flagler College parking garage.

Todd Clark:

We're going to try something new this year. We have an agreement with Flagler College and we are going to be able to sell 250 passes during December 13th through January the 4th. For people who work downtown now in this parking lot you don't have to be a business owner or manager. Any individual can come down to 50 Bridge Street or go online and apply and you can buy 2 permits and I believe they're around 50 to \$53.00 a month but that's something new we're going to try this year we may even be using it for 4th of July for next year as well.

Melissa Wissel:

And that's Flagler College parking garage only during the period of time that they're shut down for school.

Todd Clark:

That is correct December 13th through January 4th and that is on Malaga street.

Melissa Wissel:

OK. Very exciting lots of new things to try and see what works and what doesn't. Are you excited you nervous you're just ready to get it going?

Todd Clark:

Get it over with.

Melissa Wissel:

it's a lot

Todd Clark:

yeah it's a lot

Melissa Wissel:

it's a lot well you guys I remember the first time you and I were talking about this the first time you've come on you came on The Break Room you're an old hat at it now you know your stuff and it's great to have you to come on and tell our listeners all the great things that are happening.

Todd Clark:

thank you very much it was great to be here

Melissa Wissel:

so we'll look forward to seeing. You during Nights of Lights

Todd Clark:

all right thank you.

Melissa Wissel:

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Narrator:

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