'Showing up'

Public Works participates in 'Careers on Wheels' Day at Simpsonville school

In a long line of other public service and safety vehicles, a Simpsonville Public Works lift truck picked up and put down part of a large tree stump as students from Rudolph Gordon School on Scuffletown Road watched in excitement.

The Simpsonville Public Works Department participated in "Careers on Wheels" Day at Rudolph Gordon School on March 16. Public Works Director Andy West said in March that Public Works accepted the invitation to "Careers on Wheels" Day to "show up" for the Simpsonville community in ways other than the traditional services provided by a public works crew.

"It's important for members of the public to see people who are in public service out in their communities in impactful ways," West said. "Showing up at events like 'Careers on Wheels' Day tells parents and families that Simpsonville Public Works crew members care about the communities in which they work, including those outside city limits."

Stationed at the front of the school in the car loop, West, Public Works Assistant Director Pete Lupu and Technician Robert Ruvolo talked to three groups of students for about three hours. Ruvolo operated the lift truck to show the students how it could pick up large items like tree stumps, but what the students really enjoyed

Assistant Public Works Director Pete Lupu helps students in and out of the lift truck at "Careers on Wheels" Day at Rudolph Gordon School.

was blowing the truck's horn.

"I blew the horn to show the kids, then one of the kids blew the horn and then all of the kids wanted to blow the horn," Lupu said with a laugh. Lupu's role for the morning quickly became helping the students in and out of the truck.

"The horn was definitely the show-stopper. Seeing the kids' faces light up when the horn blared made being out in the cold more than worth it."

Asst. Public Works Director Pete Lupu, Tech Robert Ruvolo and Director Andy West at "Careers on Wheels" Day at Rudolph Gordon School.