

'Behind the Scenes: A Series on the 5 Public Works Divisions

'LIFE ON THE STREET CREW IS NEVER MUNDANE'

Streets & Sewer is 'catchall' division of Public Works

"The Streets & Sewer Division of the Simpsonville Public Works Department is a multi-faceted operation that is critical in ensuring the functioning of other essential services," Public Works Director Andy West said.

Those essential services include protecting the environment from the impacts of an ill-maintained sewer system; opening streets up for emergency services after storms; maintaining streets to ensure safe traffic flow and evaluating the streets for future paving.

One of five Public Works divisions, the Streets & Sewer Division

is comprised of eight guys who maintain more than 100 miles of city-owned roads, sidewalks, curbs and catch basins in the right-of-way, 115 miles of sewer mains and about 4,000 manholes. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Division inspected almost 50,000 linear feet and cleaned more than 40,000 linear feet of sewer main.

After working for the City of Simpsonville 2008-2012, Chris Miles returned in 2022 to become the Streets & Sewer Division supervisor. Miles has extensive experience in equipment operation, asphalt maintenance, concrete finishing and

performing advanced tree work. Assisting Miles is Jimmy Reese, who started working for the City in 2013 in the Parks & Recreation Department under West, who was then grounds superintendent. After Reese joined his current department, he was made in 2022 the first crew leader in the history of the Simpsonville Public Works Department.

Reese is an experienced equipment operator and has the National Association of Sewer Service Contractors Pipeline

Assessment Certification, making him one of only two crew members to have such an achievement. Technician Ricky Campbell, who performs more than 3,000 locates a year, is the second crew member.

"This is the first time that two Public Works employees have held this certification," West said. "This helps the Public Works Department assess the internal integrity of sewer mains and where focus is needed in sewer rehabilitation projects."

The Streets & Sewer Division operates by permit through ReWa, which is the regional collection agency for treating sewer. The City of Simpsonville is preparing for another round of sewer rehabilitation by using almost \$12 million in grant funds from the Rural Infrastructure Authority through its S.C. Infrastructure Investment Program.



From left, Tech 3 Tyler Ford, Supervisor Chris Miles, Tech 2 Ray Slaughter, Tech 3 Ricky Campbell, Tech 3 James Carpenter, Tech 3 Tommy Norman, Crew Leader Jimmy Reese and Tech II Eyder Ruiz comprise the Streets & Sewer Division.

"This is truly the catchall division for Public Works," West said. "A successful Streets & Sewer Division requires staff members who enjoy a challenge, perform a multitude of tasks and are capable of effective cross-training. One thing is for sure: life on the Streets crew is never mundane."



The Public Works Streets & Sewer Division maintains 85 miles of city-owned streets, 113 miles of sewer and more than 4,000 manholes.



Jimmy Reese of the Sewer & Streets Division is the first employee to hold a crew leader position in the Public Works Department.