

NEW CITY COUNCIL SETTLES IN WITH CIVIL DEBATE, IMPORTANT ISSUES

Council Chambers — With the swearing-in of three new members and a two-term mayor, Simpsonville City Council took their respective seats behind the dais in Council Chambers Jan. 9 to an audience of family members and friends, staff, the media and members of the public. With the bang of the gavel, Mayor Paul Shewmaker ushered in the 2024-2025 term of Simpsonville City Council.

Since their first business meeting, City Council has debated several issues, including a change to the ordinance spelling out time and place for council meetings; adding a new expenditure to the budget to ensure the continuation of Greenlink Route 601; litter prevention and Adopt-a-Street programs and approval of accommodations tax funding recommendations for tourism-related projects in the city.

To ensure the residents and taxpayers of Simpsonville and the public have ready access to these and other deliberations and decisions of Council, Mayor Shewmaker kicked off the year by adding another tool to the City of Simpsonville's communications toolbox.

"2024 is off to a great start for me," Mayor Shewmaker said. "I am always committed to improved communications, and I

had an idea for a new thing to do just that."

City staff have uploaded audio of Council meetings to simpsonville.com for several years, but as the Mayor explained, navigating the audio in search of specific agenda

items or points in a meeting is nearly impossible, especially for people who did not attend the meeting.

"Starting at the first of the year, I began producing a YouTube version of the audio," Mayor Shewmaker said. "In the descriptions of each YouTube video, I put timestamps that once clicked on will redirect users to each important corresponding segment. This makes it especially easy to find a specific point in the meeting."

The "video" portion of the YouTube video is a series of slides that identify the agenda item, topic, vote, etc. at that point in the audio for additional aid. City staff have added a link for viewing these videos to simpsonville.com/meetings.

The first order of business for Council at their first meeting of



The 2024-2025 term of Simpsonville City Council began Jan. 9 with three new council members: Chad O'Rear of Ward 1, Shannon Williams of Ward 3 and Tim Pinkerton of Ward 5. From left, Aaron Rupe of Ward 2, Williams, Pinkerton, Mayor Paul Shewmaker, O'Rear, Mayor Pro Tem Sherry Roche of Ward 4 and Lou Hutchings of Ward 6.

the year was electing a mayor pro tempore, a position that assumes the responsibilities of the mayor in appropriate circumstances. Council unanimously voted to appoint six-year veteran Councilwoman Sherry Roche to the position. Councilwoman Roche said she was honored to have been nominated by Councilman Lou



Councilwoman Sherry Roche was unanimously elected by her fellow Council members to the position of mayor pro tempore.

Hutchings of Ward 6 and subsequently appointed mayor pro tem by her peers in a 7-0 vote.

“Council’s confidence in my ability to serve as mayor pro tem is appreciated,” Councilwoman Roche said. “Although I hope I am never needed and wish Mayor Shewmaker great success this term, I will do my best for Simpsonville if called - Semper Paratus!”

Councilman Tim Pinkerton is one of the trio of new council members elected to their first terms in November. Pinkerton, who represents Ward 5, said the swearing-in and participation on Council represent a “unique privilege and honor to serve our community,” adding that Council “hit the ground running” in the first few meetings that featured issues for discussion and debate.

Flanked by veterans Councilwoman Roche and Councilman Hutchings at the dais, Pinkerton

said the meetings and trainings at the Municipal Association of South Carolina Legislative Action Day and Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government in February “provided a good basis of knowledge on public affairs” and were valuable.

“As a new member of Council, there is a learning curve involved, and so far I have engaged in matters worthy of discussion and feel like a part of the Council team,” Pinkerton said. “I will be leaning on the incumbent council members and city administrator for their expertise on council and city affairs.”

As budget season approaches, Pinkerton said he next wants to be a part of ensuring sources of income are spent “to the benefit of our citizens and most importantly improving our infrastructure.”

Councilman Chad O’Rear was also elected to Simpsonville City Council for his first term in November to represent Ward I. Like his fellow freshman Councilman Pinkerton, Councilman O’Rear has made the most of the first several meetings of the year with questions and constructive debate. Councilman O’Rear said he is really enjoying himself after having decided to run for Council and then “put in the hard work” needed to “properly represent” his fellow citizens. Councilman O’Rear’s love of how things work has aided his transition.



Simpsonville City Councilman Chad O’Rear is sworn into office on Jan. 9 to represent Ward 1 residents.



Simpsonville City Councilman Tim Pinkerton is sworn into office on Jan. 9 to represent Ward 5 residents.



Simpsonville City Councilwoman Shannon Williams is sworn into office on Jan. 9 to represent Ward 3 residents.



Simpsonville City Councilwoman Shannon Williams of Ward 1, Councilman Tim Pinkerton of Ward 3, Mayor Paul Shewmaker and Councilman Chad O’Rear were sworn into office for 4-year terms at Simpsonville City Hall on Jan. 9. Shewmaker began his second term while O’Rear, Pinkerton and Williams began their first terms.

“Getting to know the procedures of how the city government runs has been something that is of great interest to me,” Councilman O’Rear said, adding that his fellow council members have been “very welcoming and gracious” to him. “I have enjoyed getting to know them as we discuss the issues that have come before the Council. The city administration has also been very helpful in letting me know who does what and when and guiding me through the details of the inner-workings of the city. Nothing has surprised me yet, but I always try to prepare myself for any situation.”

Having run unopposed, Councilwoman Shannon Williams was also elected to her first term in November to represent Ward 3. Councilwoman Williams has enjoyed her time on Council. Describing the Council meetings as “run smoothly” and “well organized,” Councilwoman Williams said all council members have been respectful, kind and helpful with each other.

“I have learned something new at every meeting,” Councilwoman Williams continued. “I also have seen how important it is for the community to speak to and share with Council how a decision will impact the city and the direct perspectives of a topic. I am still adjusting and learning, but I am excited for the future. I have seen how much the community really loves Simpsonville, and it’s an amazing thing to be a part of.”

For his part, Councilman Aaron Rupe, who was elected to his first term in 2021 to represent Ward 2 feels optimistic about the start of the 2024-2025 term of Simpsonville City Council.

“So far so good for 2024!” Councilman Rupe said. “Stay tuned for some possible ordinance changes coming up.”

As of March City Council has approved a resolution forming The Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Litter Prevention Program, amended an ordinance to provide more flexibility for the time and location of Council meetings as well as changed meeting times to 6 p.m. and approved a budget expenditure to keep Greenlink Route 601 in Simpsonville for at least one more year.

Councilman Hutchings had the initial concern that Council would experience a less than optimal performance due to the need-

ed adjustment to learning curves of policies and procedures after so many seats changed in the election. Councilman Hutchings’s concern was allayed.

“I was encouraged to see that our new Council members approach the issues we face with the preparation and professionalism required of us,” Councilman Hutchings said. “Because of their dedication to their newly-elected positions, we have been able to function efficiently and effectively as we move into the new term. We don’t all always agree on every issue, but we are able to give these issues a fair hearing as we serve the residents of our City. With this new Council, I look forward to continuing the progress that began with the Council to which I was elected in 2016.”

Simpsonville City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall on 118 N.E. Main St. in Council Chambers.



After elections in November, Simpsonville City Council of 2024-2025 took their respective seats at the dais in Council Chambers with the US and SC flags and City seal behind them. Like any other business meeting, the meeting on Jan. 9 started with a bang of the gavel by Mayor Paul Shewmaker and the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

Simpsonville

SIMPLY HOME.

DOUBLE FEATURE: SMASH MOUTH & MUSIC SERIES



SMASH MOUTH HEADLINES SIMPLY FREEDOM FEST JUNE 30 AT CCNB AMPHITHEATRE AT HERITAGE PARK

WITH #1 HITS "ALL-STAR," "WALKIN' ON THE SUN"

The global phenomenon Smash Mouth is coming to Simpsonville this summer to bring its high-energy live performance and No. 1 hits "Walkin' On the Sun" and "All-Star" to the CCNB Amphitheatre at Heritage Park stage to be followed by a spectacular fireworks show - and it's free to the public.

The City of Simpsonville is hosting its annual Independence Day celebration Simply Freedom Fest on June 30. Rebranded from Celebrate Simpsonville in 2023 to capture the purpose and mood of the event, Simply Freedom Fest features a con-

cert and 15-minute fireworks show, and admission is free.

Simpsonville Community Relations Specialist Justin Campbell said the City of Simpsonville is excited to host the alternative/indie band.

"Smash Mouth is certainly a world-renowned artist with more than a billion online streams, iconic hits and a reputation for amazing live shows," Campbell said. "All of CCNB Amphitheatre will be singing along with the five maestros before watching in awe a dazzling fireworks finale."

Gates for Simply Freedom Fest open at 5:30 p.m., and the concert starts at 6 p.m. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive to Heritage Park early - parking lots

will open at 4:30 p.m. If parking capacity fills up, attendees will have to find parking elsewhere, and the gates will be closed if capacity in the Amphitheatre is reached.

For more information about the event visit the [Simpsonville Simply Freedom Fest Facebook event page](#).

Parking lots open at 4 p.m.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Show starts at 6 p.m.

Food, beer, wine and liquor will be available for purchase

Permitted: chairs, diaper bags

Prohibited: outside food and beverages, firearms and tents

NO TICKETS REQUIRED



Music Series &
2024 Food Truck Rodeo
Simpsonville
 SIMPLY ENTERTAINING

Sixth season of popular concert series to feature 9 artists, 9 food trucks

Series runs every Thursday in May, June at the CCNB Amphitheatre at Heritage Park

2024 Artist Lineup

Kami Ocean & The Rhythm	May 2
Neon Arcadia	May 9
Hot as a Pepper	May 16
Away Team	May 23
Flying High Again	May 30
BR385	June 6
American Elton	June 13
Soultown Revue	June 20
The Abbey Elmore Band	June 27

2024 Food Truck Lineup

<u>May 2</u> Dos Bros Tacos Havana Cuban Cuisine Mac Attack Vampire Penguin	<u>May 9</u> Chef on the Run Chick-fil-A Rolito's Tacos & More Chocolate Artworks	<u>May 16</u> Dos Bros Tacos Mac Attack Substreet Vampire Penguin
<u>May 23</u> Chef on the Run Chick-fil-A Rolito's Tacos & More Chocolate Artworks	<u>May 30</u> Dos Bros Tacos Mac Attack Substreet Vampire Penguin	<u>June 6</u> Chef on the Run Chick-fil-A Rolito's Tacos & More Chocolate Artworks
<u>June 13</u> Chef on the Run Chick-fil-A Rolito's Tacos & More Vampire Penguin	<u>June 20</u> Havana's Cuban Cuisine Chick-fil-A Substreet Chocolate Artworks	<u>June 27</u> Chef on the Run Dos Bros Tacos Mac Attack Vampire Penguin



Kami Ocean & The Rhythm, a cover band, kicks off the Simpsonville Music Series & Food Truck Rodeo on May 2 at the CCNB Amphitheatre at Heritage Park.

Stage Sponsor



Stage Sponsor



Stage Sponsor



Stage Sponsor



Gates open at 5:30 pm

Food available at 6 pm

Concerts start at 7 pm

Permitted: chairs, blankets, small snacks for children

Prohibited: outside food and beverages, pets (except for service animals), picnic baskets, coolers

FREE ADMISSION

NO TICKETS REQUIRED



SIMPSONVILLE STARTS FIRST MUNICIPAL ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM IN COUNTY



Golden Strip Sunrise Rotary Club member Bill Harclerode and Mayor Paul Shewmaker unveiled the first street sign in the Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Adopt-a-Street Program in March at the corner of South and West Curtis streets.

Members of the Golden Strip Sunrise Rotary Club, Simpsonville City Council and City of Simpsonville staff gathered on a cool morning in March for the unveiling of the first street sign in the Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Adopt-a-Street Program. Mayor Paul Shewmaker and Rotary Club member Bill Harclerode removed a black heavy duty contractor trash bag from the sign at the corner of South and West Curtis streets to recognize the adoption of South Street by the Rotary Club. Simpsonville Community Relations Specialist Justin Campbell leads the program and was in attendance.

“The Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Adopt-a-Street Program was realized with the unveiling of the sign,” Campbell said. “Seeing the sign on South Street inspired me as both a City employee and more importantly Simpsonville resident. We expect it will do the same for other community members.”

Council approves litter prevention resolution

The Adopt-a-Street Program is a subsidiary of The Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Litter Prevention Program, a new initiative by the City of Simpsonville with a comprehensive approach to litter prevention. Prior to 2024 the City conducted biannual citywide litter cleanups.

“Two cleanups a year just isn’t enough to combat the growing litter problem in Simpsonville and Greenville County,” Campbell said. “We need a two-pronged approach that includes litter removal and litter prevention, the latter of which is crucial to a truly successful effort.”

The City’s prevention arm of the program will include education, social media and public information campaigns and collaboration with state and county litter prevention agencies PalmettoPride and Keep Green-

ville County Beautiful. Campbell said picking up litter is “a whole lot easier” than changing habits.

“Prevention is a challenge because the goal is altering people’s behavior, such as refraining from tossing trash or cigarette butts out of their vehicles, securing loads with tarps and picking up litter that they come across when safe to do so instead of ignoring it,” Campbell said. “Our volunteers’ Adopt-a-Street signs will be the first public education tool by reminding motorists and pedestrians that their trash will have to be picked up by volunteers if they litter. A lack of shame precludes any kind of true pride and integrity.”

Litter removal efforts by the City



of Simpsonville will continue with an additional two citywide cleanups for a total of four cleanups per year plus the Adopt-a-Street program. Any individual, family, group, business or organization can apply to adopt a city-owned street or road by completing a short application. When the application is approved, the applicant will be assigned a street with 90 days to conduct the first of the required four cleanups within 365 days. After the first cleanup is completed, the Simpsonville Public Works Department will fabricate and install the signage within 30 days. Adopters must report to the City the outcome of each cleanup by filling out a short form.

Prior to the sign unveiling, City Council voted 7-0 at the March business meeting to approve Resolution 2024-01, which memorializes the formation of The Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Litter Prevention Program without hesitation. At the February Committee of the Whole meeting when Council voted unanimously to move the item to the March meeting, Councilwoman

Sherry Roche said the Litter Prevention Program is “awesome.”

“We’ve needed this for a long time,” said Councilwoman Roche, who made the motions at both meetings to approve the resolution. “We’ve just kind of been inching along. PalmettoPride does a little bit. We do a couple of cleanups, but it’s a constant problem, and the heavier the population becomes the more litter we end up seeing, and nobody wants to live in a dirty city. ... I think the incentive-based program works.”

Councilman Chad O’Rear said the street signs would show the community that the City of Simpsonville is addressing the litter problem.

“When you grow up in the community like this, I remember seeing some disasters out on the interstate, and people do see and they do notice and they wonder, ‘Do they even do anything about this?’” Councilman O’Rear said. “Well that sign is going to say, ‘Yeah.’ You can’t be perfect all the time, but we’re doing something, and we’re



Golden Strip Sunrise Rotary Club received its street sign after cleaning South Street, addressing (the litter problem).”

Councilman Tim Pinkerton suggested the City work with neighborhood community groups and Homeowners Associations to adopt out the streets in their communities, while Councilman Lou Hutchings recommended having the Simpsonville Youth Advisory Board adopt a street.

In addition to the Adopt-a-Street applications from Golden Strip Sunrise Rotary Club and Hillcrest High School, the City has received applications to adopt a street from a family, individual, business and political group. Campbell said that his vision is for Simpsonville SIMPLY PROUD. Adopt-a-Street Program signs to cover the City of Simpsonville.

“As of early April, there are two signs marking the adoption of South Street, which is just the beginning,” Campbell said. “Within a year I estimate the number of signs will be in the dozens. One might say the City will be ‘littered’ with them.”

Individuals and groups wishing to adopt a street or road in Simpsonville can visit simpsonville.com to access the [Adopt-a-Street Application](#) by navigating to “Community Relations” under “Administration” in the “DEPARTMENTS” drop-down menu and then “Adopt-a-Street.”



Mayor Paul Shewmaker and Simpsonville City Council members Lou Hutchings, Shannon Williams and Chad O’Rear voted with Council members Tim Pinkerton and Sherry Roche to approve a litter prevention resolution.

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

LEADERSHIP PROMOTES 'A CULTURE OF TEAMWORK'

Public Works admin sets tone for the department

In the lead up to the transition from a private contractor to in-house sanitation services, Simpsonville Public Works Department Administrative Assistant Holly Smith oversaw the preparation and attachment to new trash cans of informational letters for the more than 8,600 residents and businesses in the City of Simpsonville.

"The project took the entire department many months of preparation before the

third-party contract ended and trash collection by the City began," Smith said. "As the new service started, the phone calls were non-stop for several weeks, and at one point, I had 1,500 voicemails," (which is the maximum storage of voicemails). "After the first month, residents were mostly calling to give positive feedback on the smooth transition."

As administrative assistant for Simpsonville Public Works,

Smith does and takes care of so many things that an entire newsletter dedicated to listing such tasks and responsibilities would not be enough. Here's just a fraction of what Smith does: mitigate and resolve residents' concerns regarding sanitation, streets, signs, storm water and



Administration of the Simpsonville Public Works Department includes Assistant Public Works Director Pete Lupu, Director Andy West and Administrative Assistant Holly Smith.

sewer issues; update the list of streets within the city limits as new subdivisions are constructed or new property annexed; report any issues within the City to the proper governing agencies, e.g. utility companies, South Carolina departments of Health & Environmental Control and Transportation and Greenville County; and track brush and junk drivers through software to communicate requested pickups with drivers.

"I think a better title for Holly would be 'Director of Doing All the Things,'" Simpsonville Community Relations Specialist Justin Campbell said. "From a community relations perspective, Holly is a master at interacting and communicating with members of the public, who are sometimes understandably frustrated or angry about a problem they're experiencing. Holly knows what she's doing, gets things done and treats people with respect."



Simpsonville Public Works Administrative Assistant Holly Smith has worked for the City of Simpsonville since 2013. Smith plays an integral role in the successful, efficient and smooth operation of the department. Her knowledge of Public Works and City as a whole are invaluable to the mission of public service that Public Works Director Andy West wants to provide.

Smith's bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Administration and subsequent hotel experience have served her well as a Public Works administrative assistant. After graduating in 1988, Smith was a hotel assistant manager for Hyatt Hotels in Greenville and New Orleans before becoming the front office manager and manager in San Francisco. "Working in the City position is very similar to working in a hotel, except the residents stay a lot longer," Smith said with her classic deadpan tone. "As far as working with the Public Works employees, I am here to support them with any emerging issues. I am the only female working with 24 men, so suffice it to say every day is different, and I learn something new every day I am here."

Smith and her 24 male colleagues report to Andy West, director of the Simpsonville Public Works Department. Simpsonville City Council of 2018-2019 appointed West to the director position in 2019 after he had served as assistant director of Public Works for the former director, Jay Crawford, 2018-2019. When asked what his responsibilities are as Public Works director, West kept it short and sweet.

"I ensure that public services run efficiently while being fiscally responsible with the funds allocated to us by City Council," West said.

West is being a bit humble as he oversees and manages five divisions, all of which have been covered in the "Behind the Scenes" series: Sanitation, Sewer, Streets & Beautification, Building Maintenance and Fleet Services. The amount of investment for projects in which West plays a major role as Public Works director is in the tens of millions of dollars.

But you will never hear Andy West bragging about such things since he prefers more to recognize the guys who work in those five divisions. When asked of what is he most proud as the Public Works director, he pointed to his staff.



Andy West has worked for the City of Simpsonville since 2008 and served as director of the Public Works Department since 2019. With support from his employees, West led the transition from third-party sanitation service to in-house sanitation service in 2021.

"I am most proud of the team work that I see at 2 a.m. when there are multiple trees down after a thunderstorm has rolled through the City," West said. "If employees work well together in the middle of the night with little to no sleep, imagine how well they work together during normal business hours."

West began his career in public service with the City of Greenville after earning an associate's in Horticulture Technology from Spartanburg Community College in 1999 and bachelor's in Ornamental Horticulture from Clemson University in 2004.

From 2004 to 2008, West was Greenville's assistant superintendent of grounds in the Beautification Division of Parks & Grounds. West managed crews that maintained more than 500 sites, oversaw the installation of streetscapes in downtown and led a crew that planted street trees in neighborhoods paid for by the Tree Foundation.

What drove West in his early career continues to drive him today as head of the Public Works Department.

"I can speak for all of us on the administrative side by saying that we truly enjoy public service," West said.

Under the leadership of West, the Simpsonville Public Works Department has assumed from the Parks & Recreation Department the landscape maintenance of downtown, utilized a new software tool to track an updated survey of the sewer system and integrated software that enables the department to track costs associated with sewer activities.

But what has been most visible to residents and businesses is the establishment of in-house sanitation service. The first order of business for West after assuming leadership of Public Works was transitioning from several years of trash pickup by a third-party contractor to the creation of an entirely new Sanitation Division with the mission of serving more than 8,000 residences and businesses.

Selecting, purchasing, receiving and preparing the requisite vehicles and equipment; finding and hiring qualified drivers and staff; mapping out routes; securing and delivering 8,300-plus cans; creating new policies and procedures; and the actual implementation of sanitation service: while the responsibilities and duties of making the Sanitation

"I can speak for all of us on the administrative side (of Public Works) by saying that we truly enjoy public service." -Andy West, Public Works Director



Assistant Public Works Director Pete Lupu emigrated to the US in 2000 and working for the Simpsonville Public Works Department in 2006, rising from a technician II driver to second-in-command.

Division of the Simpsonville Public Works Department a reality was the effort of dozens of staff, the buck stopped with West as far as City administration and City Council would be concerned.

Again, West is a humble guy from Laurens.

“Bringing sanitation back in-house was a challenging project, but seeing everyone work together to successfully accomplish this task is a testament to the culture of teamwork we have established within the department,” West said, leaving out that if the operation were a failure, he’d be the one standing behind the lectern in front of Council.

Second-in-command is Pete Lupu, an 18-year veteran of the Public Works Department who started in 2006 as a Technician II part-time driver only one year after earning his U.S. citizenship following his emigration in 2000 from Romania, where Lupu earned a technical degree in auto-body work. Before joining the City of Simpsonville, Lupu also worked at Waffle House, a golf course, textile manufacturing and moving and trucking companies.

Lupu rose up in Public Works by serving as Streets & Beautification Division Supervisor until his promotion to assistant director in 2023.

“My position here at Public Works is to manage the day-to-day tasks, procure and purchase the necessary equipment and items for a smooth operation from top to bottom and obtain equipment pricing and quotes for budgeting,” Lupu said.

Like West Lupu is focused on the invaluable role played by the Public Works employees and the importance of serving the public. Lupu added the significance of good leadership.

“Working for Simpsonville Public Works is a great feeling, especially seeing our employees succeed and develop,” Lupu said. “It gives me great pleasure when we can deliver on any big projects and provide great services to our citizens. I believe having a good department starts with good leadership at the top, which we have in our director, Andy West, and City Administrator Diana Gracely, and that makes the City of Simpsonville a great place to work for.

While Lupu was not involved in the initial start of the Sanitation Division, he saw firsthand how the Public Works Department works under the leadership of West with support from Smith.

“From what I witnessed, the transition to a Sanitation Division was a well-planned effort with many discussions beforehand and collective contribution,” Lupu said. “To run this place, it takes commitment and dedication. Even though it can be a little stressful at times, the end result makes it all worth it.”

And what is Lupu most proud of at the Simpsonville Public Works Department?

“Our employees take pride in them-

selves and the work they do,” Lupu said, also highlighting the other employees as West did. “I love it when we can be proactive and are able to take on challenges and succeed.”

Public Works Director Andy West said the sanitation transition has not been the only major project in which Public Works has been involved the past few years. Public Works is currently using \$12 million in grant funds from the S.C. Infrastructure Investment Program to accomplish the goal of reducing inflow and infiltration within the City’s sewer system. Reducing in-flow and infiltration reduces the potential negative environmental impacts of our system from local and regional perspectives.

On top of these major projects, West has committed to ensuring the Simpsonville Public Works Department is seen not only on roads, sidewalks and in trash and brush trucks - he wants the public to see his guys in the community as well. By participating in events like National Night Out with touch-a-truck, participating in events at local schools and even starting a Facebook page for the department at a time when many local governments are running away from social media, West has reinforced in Simpsonville Public Works culture the importance of giving back to the community.

“I can only lead a department if I have great employees to lead,” West said. “Fortunately, I have been blessed to have people under my purview who truly have a desire to make an impact through service. Without employees like these guys, accomplishing the goals expected from the Public Works Departments would be an uphill battle.”

And if the Simpsonville Public Works Department ever does face an uphill battle? They have the employees, administrative assistant and leadership to win that battle.

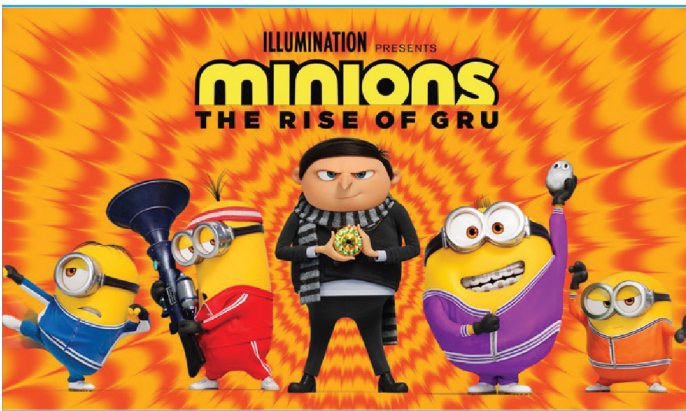
Thank you for following “Behind the Scenes: A Series on the 5 Public Works Divisions.” Check out the spring, summer, fall and winter 2023 editions of the City of Simpsonville E-newsletter for parts I, II, III and IV.



Movies in the Park

Simpsonville

SIMPLY CINEMATIC



June 11th



July 16th



Aug. 6th

Gates at 7:30 p.m.

FREE Movies at sundown

PERMITTED:

Chairs

Outside food

Outside beverages

Coolers

FREE PROHIBITED:

Alcoholic drinks

Pets (except for service animals)

Ray guns

Pizza shenanigans

Sea creatures

Sponsored by

FREE



FOUNDERS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



SIMPSONVILLE PD HOLDS 2024 BANQUET
OFFICERS, STAFF RECOGNIZED



Sgt. Karlee Patrikis was awarded both the Supervisor of the Year Award and the Chief's Award.



Traffic officers Darius Gleaton and Cassandra Calzone were both awarded the Life Saving Award by Chief Mike Hanshaw.



Property & Evidence Records Clerk Diane Kennedy was awarded Civilian Employee of the Year.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Rookie of the Year
Officer Cassandra Calzone | Civilian of the Year
Diane Kennedy |
| Officer of the Year
Officer Thomas Lee Powell | Sergeant Ernie Byrd Mentorship Award
Lieutenant Jay Weibel |
| Supervisor of the Year
Sergeant Karlee Patrikis | Captain Ken Abercrombie Award
Captain Cheryl Schofield |
| Investigator of the Year
Investigator Andrew Guest | Chief's Award
Sergeant Karlee Patrikis
SPD Foundation |
| School Resource Officer of the Year
SRO Drew Sweatt | Life-Saving Awards
Officer Cassandra Calzone
Officer Ryan Cayer
Officer Darius Gleaton |
| Dispatcher of the Year
Dispatcher Kristen Koepke | |