

ANSWERING THE CALL

Simpsonville firefighters team with state, local agencies to test first responders for COVID-19

City of Simpsonville firefighters have joined the S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control and Upstate Health Care Coalition at the Greenville Convention Center to administer COVID-19 tests for first responders at no charge. Lts. Nate Castle and Ben Williams, engineers Frank Crowe and Paul Patrikis and firefighters Michael Huffstetler and Andrew Terwilliger have assisted with collecting samples and decontaminating equipment.

Lt. Williams said early detection will allow essential workers to quarantine themselves and reduce exposure to family, friends and at-risk populations.

“As essential workers, we have a responsibility to ourselves, our families and the community we serve to remain vigilant about our current health,” Lt. Williams said. “The test facility is a valuable resource that can be utilized to confirm a suspected infection of COVID-19.”

Test results are provided to the first responders within 24 hours to ensure public safety personnel are protected from the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 and prevent the spread of the virus. More than 400 tests had been administered as of April 24 with 45 positive results.

Chief Wesley Williams said the Simpsonville Fire Department supports all efforts by Greenville County and the state to ensure public safety.

“I am very proud that our staff is so willing to answer the call whether it’s floods, hurricanes, tornados or a global pandemic,” Williams said. “The City is very fortunate to have such dedicated employees.”

The Coalition and DHEC have set up a dedicated testing site at the Convention Center for only first responders, who must show their credentials. The onsite screening and testing is done without first responders leaving their vehicles.

Patrikis said he is “honored” to represent the Simpsonville Fire Department during the pandemic

“I feel this was a great opportunity to help the Upstate and make a real difference in the community during these difficult times,” Patrikis said. “I was excited to be part of such a well organized and impactful event managed by the Greenville County Emergency Response Team. I am proud to work for the Simpsonville Fire Department, which is not only dedicated to serving its citizens locally but always willing to help all others.”



The S.C. Department of Health & Environmental Control and Upstate Health Care Coalition are running a dedicated COVID-19 testing site for first responders at the Greenville Convention Center.



Lt. Ben Williams, engineers Frank Crowe and Paul Patrikis and firefighter Michael Huffstetler have assisted with administering COVID-19 tests to first responders at the Greenville Convention Center.

WHAT'S INSIDE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ◆ Administration | 2 |
| Summer Music Series | |
| ◆ SPECIAL FEATURE | 3 |
| Downtown trail completed | |
| ◆ Public Works | 4 |
| Sewer Safety | |
| Yard Waste Reminders | |
| ◆ Parks & Rec | 4 |
| Senior Center News | |
| Movies in the Park | |
| ◆ Fire Department | 5 |
| Cooking Safely | |
| Outdoor Burning | |
| ◆ Police Department | 5 |
| Blood Drive | |
| A Birthday Parade | |



Lt. Nate Castle and firefighter Andrew Terwilliger have assisted S.C. DHEC and Upstate Health Care Coalition in providing free COVID-19 tests to first responders.



Multiple agencies, both state and local, have pitched in to test first responders for COVID-19 free of charge to protect their health and slow the spread of the virus.



— Special Feature —

SIMPLY CONNECTED Downtown trail completed



The first leg of the Swamp Rabbit Trail in downtown Simpsonville has been completed in time to enjoy this spring and summer. Public Works employees have recently finished installing the “zebra” bicycle-lane barriers to ensure the safety of trail users.

Simpsonville City Council approved in May infrastructure work on South Main Street to pave the way for the one-mile long shared-use path from West Trade Street to Fairview Road. Planning and Economic Development Director Jason Knudsen, who has overseen the project, said the City is excited for the first section of trail to be completed.



“As the City of Simpsonville’s trail system grows, it will better connect our community and be a catalyst for further economic growth,” Knudsen said. With the downtown portion of the trail in place, City officials are planning to add onto the trail. Council and other Simpsonville leaders see the downtown leg of the trail as part of a bigger vision and long-term plan. Mayor Paul Shewmaker

brought the Swamp Rabbit Trail to the Golden Strip. “We have plans to add another section connecting downtown to Heritage Park, which would give us approximately 2.5 miles of trail,” Shewmaker said. “Eventually we’ll connect to Fountain Inn and Mauldin’s planned sections as part of the primary Swamp Rabbit Trail network. Simpsonville wants to be connected to our neighbors because if the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it’s that there’s power in teamwork and collaboration.”

er said the City is “proud” to have





Simpsonville
SIMPLY HOME.



Summer Music Series &
Food Truck Rodeo
Simpsonville
SIMPLY SUMMERTIME

FREE

When

July-September
Every Thursday

Where

Hendricks Pavilion
@ City Park

What Time

Food trucks open
at 6 p.m.

Music starts at 7
p.m.



**ADULT BEVERAGES
FOR PURCHASE**

2020 2020 2020

JULY

- 2nd - Jazzy Trinity - Jazz/Pop
- 9th - Outshyne - Popular Country
- 16th - James Radford Band - Country Covers
- 23rd - Luke Edwards Trio - Bluegrass
- 30th - Carolina Lowdown Band - Covers (70s, 80s)

AUGUST

- 6th - Reservoir Dogs - Southern Rock
- 13th - Synergy Twins - Electric Violin
- 20th - Chicago Rewired - Chicago Tribute Band
- 27th - Retro Vertigo - 80s Covers

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd - Randomonium - Pop
- 10th - Dugger Band - Country/Pop
- 17th - Cranford Hollow - Americana/Rock
- 24th - Elvis Tribute



FLUSH THE RIGHT THING

With the potential for shortages in toilet paper during the coronavirus pandemic, the Public Works Department is reminding the public to avoid using items in lieu of toilet paper that are not safe for sewers. Wipes, paper towels and other paper products should not be flushed in toilets. Failure to follow these guidelines can lead to toilet overflows and sewer backups, which can cause property damage, endanger the environment and create a public health concern. Anyone with sewer issues can reach Public Works at 864-967-9531 at 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. or public safety dispatch at 864-967-9536 after hours.



TOILET PAPER

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BODILY WASTES



PAPER TOWELS

BABY WIPES

MAKEUP WIPES

TAMPONS

SANITARY NAPKINS

PROPHYLACTICS

Yard Waste Reminders



- ◆ Grass clippings are collected weekly by ACE Environmental
- ◆ Grass clippings should be bagged in order to be collected

- ◆ Brush should be cut fewer than 6' long and 6" in diameter and not placed near cars or other objects
- ◆ Only residential brush will be collected; brush placed on the curb by contractors will not be picked up
- ◆ Construction debris is not picked up by the City or ACE Environmental
- ◆ The leaf trucks are no longer running routes, but residents may still call 864-967-9531 to have their leaves picked up
- ◆ Junk pickup is an on-call basis, and the truck runs on Mondays



City, Senior Action provide meals to seniors



Parks & Recreation Director Robbie Davis hands out meals provided by Senior Action to seniors.

WHAT: Senior citizens ages 60 years and older can sign up for free meals, which includes 1 hot meal and 1 frozen meal on Mondays and Wednesdays and 1 hot meal on Friday

HOW: Seniors must call the Activity & Senior Center Monday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 864-967-9533 to sign up

WHERE: Activity & Senior Center

WHEN: Meals will be handed out via drive-thru Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12-12:30 p.m.



Building & Facilities Supervisor Barry Hickman helps hand out meals to seniors at the Senior Center on May 4th.

Seniors 60+ call 864-967-9533 on Monday-Thursday at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to sign up!



Movies in the Park

Gates open at 7:30 pm.
Movies begin at sundown in
CCNB Amphitheatre at Heritage Park

Frozen - June 11th

Toy Story 4 - July 16th

Playing with Fire - Aug. 4th

Visit @Simpsonville on Facebook for more information!





COOKING SAFELY



As we follow the state-issued order to stay home, we may be more inclined to cook our meals. While cooking can bring families together, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries. Follow the below tips and reminders to ensure your cooking is simply safe!

Do not leave food unattended when you are boiling, broiling, frying or grilling it

If you are baking, roasting or simmering food, stay home, regularly check the food and use a timer

For grease fires, turn the stove off and slide a lid on top of the pan, leaving it on until the top completely cools; for oven fires, turn off the heat and keep the door closed

Maintain a 3-foot-long "kid-free-zone" around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO ABOUT COOKING SAFELY!



OUTDOOR BURNING



Following rules for outdoor burning is important to prevent smoke pollution and out-of-control fires. Given the negative effects that smoke can have on patients with the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019, knowing the rules about outdoor burning is even more critical.

ILLEGAL to burn: household garbage, paper, motor and waste heating oils, shingles, tar, rubber (e.g. tires), building materials, plastics, paints, agricultural and household chemicals and electrical wire

LEGAL: burning yard waste, campfires, outdoor fires to cook food

A smoke nuisance must not be created when lawfully burning materials outdoors

Limit legal outdoor burning by bagging yard waste for ACE Environmental or the City to pickup ([click here for more info](#))

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO ABOUT OUTDOOR BURNING!



SIMPLY GIVE

The Simpsonville Police Department invites the public to donate blood to the Blood Connection:

- ◆ May 14
- ◆ City Park
- ◆ 2-7 p.m.

Simpsonville police join birthday parade for local girl



Avarie Bryant celebrated turning 4 with the help of Simpsonville police and other agencies. Simpsonville mother Renee Bryant decided to get creative to ensure her daughter Avarie gets the birthday party she deserves

despite social distancing. She reached out to Officer James Ballard for a little help.

"Avarie is sad she can't party with her friends and is now on the couch resting after breaking her elbow," she said in an email.

Ballard said he would see what he could do.

"With COVID-19 going on, we are working hard to make the most of it and assist the community how we can," he said.

Avarie, who likes Spider-Man and Frozen, celebrated her 4th birthday with a birthday parade on April 30 that included vehicles from Fountain Inn PD, Freedom 1st Medical Transport, Greenville County Emergency Medical Services, Greenville County Sheriff's Office, S.C. Department of Public Safety and Simpsonville PD.

Chief Mike Hanshaw said it is important to show community members they are not alone, especially during such difficult times.

"By participating in events like the birthday parade, we are able to help our citizens cope with the unusual circumstances this pandemic has created," he said. "It offers us an opportunity to build a stronger relationship with the community we serve."



National Police Week, which runs May 6-16, is a celebration of law enforcement officials across the country. The City of Simpsonville thanks all law enforcement officials for putting their lives on the line every day, even during a global pandemic. Visit www.policeweek.org for more information.