



# NEWSLETTER

## City of Simpsonville

### MEET THE MAYOR

Newly-elected Mayor Paul Shewmaker was sworn into office on Jan. 14 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Hometown:** Jacksonville, IL.

**Favorite Movie:** *Casablanca* — Mayor Shewmaker noted that the most misquoted movie line of all time is from *Casablanca*, which is, "Play it again, Sam," because the actual line is "not as catchy." The character Ilsa, played by Ingrid Bergman, actually says, "Play it once, Sam. For old times' sake."



Mayor Paul Shewmaker is the City of Simpsonville's seventeenth mayor.

**Favorite Book:** *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe — Mayor Shewmaker said asking someone's favorite book is one question that he uses to get to know a person.

**Favorite Food:** Italian

**Favorite Color:** Blue

**Mayor Paul Shewmaker reads more than 60 books a year.**

**Favorite Music Genre:** Alternative — Mayor Shewmaker said he usually picks an alternative radio station but listens to a "really broad range" of music. He most enjoys listening to his Pandora "Thumbprint Radio" station, which pulls music from user feedback. Mayor Shewmaker said the station is "the most eclectic mix of alternative, electrotango, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Johnny Cash, Etta James and Django Reinhardt that you'll ever hear."

**Favorite Hobby:** Woodworking — Mayor Shewmaker rates his skill as a woodworker this way: "I can make a great toy box, but a breakfront china cabinet is beyond my skill level."

**Favorite Part of Simpsonville:** "The best of it all" — Mayor Shewmaker said Simpsonville has friendly people, a great climate, places to shop and eat and "all the good things of small town life." Mayor Shewmaker said the City of Greenville is "just the right distance away" if someone wants what a big city offers and Simpsonville is "tucked right up against" the mountains for those who enjoy the outdoors. Even the beach isn't that far away. "It just doesn't get better," Mayor Shewmaker said.

**Fact about the Mayor Residents Should Know:** Avid reader — Mayor Shewmaker said he typically reads more than 60 books a year. "I read. A lot," Mayor Shewmaker said.



Mayor Paul Shewmaker is sworn into office by Rev. Dr. Mike Smith of Simpsonville United Methodist Church. Mayor Shewmaker's good friend and Scoutmaster for Troop 700 Lee Ledford holds the 80-year-old Bible of Mayor Shewmaker's late father Rev. Richard L. Shewmaker.

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### PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### FEBRUARY

- City Council Business Meeting - 11th
- Committee of the Whole - 25th

#### MARCH

- Planning Commission - 3rd
- City Council Business Meeting - 10th
- Committee of the Whole - 24th

#### APRIL

- Planning Commission - 7th
- City Council Business Meeting - 14th
- Committee of the Whole - 28th



# Simpsonville

PUBLIC WORKS



## BULK PICKUP



To better manage the normal rise in brush pickup as the spring approaches, the Public Works Department now picks up appliances and other large items only on Mondays on a call-in basis. You may schedule a pickup by calling 864-967-9531.



## WINTER WEATHER



It's that time of year again, and whether you are a South Carolina native or new to the area, you know that one thing for certain is crazy winter weather: we may be wearing flip-flops one day and shoveling snow the next. Make sure that you are ready for the ice and snow when it hits. Have plenty of batteries, flashlights and food that will not spoil. Remember that all essential services, including the fire, police and public works departments, will be working to get things back to normal as soon as possible in the event of power outages, automobile accidents, fallen trees and medical emergencies.



## POT-HOLES



With the possibility of freezing temperatures and an increase in moisture, the occurrence of potholes will increase. A pothole is formed when moisture gets into the pavement and enters into a cycle of freezing, thawing and freezing. If you see or feel these notorious villains of the roadway, please call the Public Works Department at 864-967-9531. If the pothole is on a S.C. Department of Transportation road, still give us a call, and we'll put the work order in for you because you have better things to do with your time.

### Acceptable Items

Appliances (remove refrigerator doors)

Bed frames

Bikes

Carpet (roll)

Chairs

Furniture

Mattresses



Garbage Issues?  
Call 864-967-9531



# Simpsonville

PARKS & REC



## Simpsonville

DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT

- Feb. 14th
- 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Activity Center
- \$30 per couple + \$15/extra child
- Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Activity Center
- For questions, call 864-967-9533



Daddy Daughter Date Night 2019



Feel free to use #SimplyValentines on social media posts if you attend and take photos!

Free Secure Your ID Day

BBB

April 17  
9 a.m - 12 pm

Real Possibilities South Carolina

## Shred Day

FREE on-site document shredding and electronic recycling at Heritage Park (861 S.E. Main St.) on April 17th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.!

Max of 3 -10" x 12" x 15"- size boxes or -13 gallon size- plastic bags per person, business or vehicle

Old desktop computers, laptops, monitors and printers will be accept by Goodwill. Hard drives are wiped clean to the standards of the U.S. Department of Defense

Event is first come, first serve or until the shred trucks fill up

For more information, contact BBB at 864-242-5052.

# WINTER FIRE SAFETY

## Home fires occur more in winter than any other season

- Working smoke alarms are especially important during a loss of power when people may use alternate forms of heating equipment, portable generators and candles
- Portable generators are useful during storms but if not used safely they can cause injury and death
- Be alert. Do not smoke after taking medicine that makes you tired
- Never use candles for emergency lighting
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows and as far away as possible from your home
- Never smoke around medical oxygen as it can explode if a flame or spark is near
- Use flashlights for emergency lighting and stock up on batteries
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month  
*Smoking is a leading cause of home fire deaths*
- Never smoke in bed as mattresses and bedding can catch on fire easily and you may fall asleep with a lit cigarette
- Have a qualified repair company or licensed electrician inspect water-damaged appliances and home wiring after a flood
- Smoke outside
- Put your cigarette out in an ashtray or bucket with sand, and use ashtrays with a wide base so they won't tip over and start a fire
- Put cigarettes out all the way every time



# SHOP-WITH-A-COP

Several officers from the Simpsonville Police Department participated in Shop-with-a-Cop on Dec. 20, 2019 at Walmart on Grandview Drive. Shop-with-a-Cop was a joint effort between Simpsonville police and Walmart to ensure the children of three families who met specified income criteria had the presents that they deserved on Christmas morning. Milena Banquez of the Simpsonville Police Department helped lead the effort. "Shop-with-a-Cop is a great way for Simpsonville police to give back to the community," Banquez said. "The officers enjoy it just as much as the kids, if not more," she added with a laugh.



Simpsonville Police Department officer Jordan Carson participates in Shop-with-a-Cop at Walmart on Dec. 20, 2019



Simpsonville Police Department officers Karlee Foster and Jessica Porter participate in Shop-with-a-Cop at Walmart on Dec. 20, 2019.



The speed limit on South Main Street from West Trade Street to Plain Street will be lowered from 35 mph to 20 mph to ensure the safety of users of the new one-mile-stretch of trail.



A mile-long stretch of trail has been established on South Main Street in Downtown Simpsonville.



## PROGRESS ON ARTS CENTER RENOVATION CONTINUES



*DP3 Architects drew renderings of the new Simpsonville Arts Center in October 2018. Once the architectural firm completes the design for the renovation project, the City of Simpsonville will put the bid out for construction of the Arts Center in the spring.*

The City of Simpsonville plans to bid out the design for construction on the Simpsonville Arts Center in the spring and hopes to begin construction in the summer.

Architectural firm DP3 Architects is currently working on the design for the Arts Center renovation after Simpsonville City Council

voted unanimously in December to hire the firm.

The community theater Mill Town Players is already slated to start production at the Simpsonville Arts Center in 2021. Based in Pelzer, the Mill Town Players’s current season includes “Charlotte’s Webb,” “Classic Country” and “Simple Man.”

The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded Simpsonville a \$500,000 grant for the Simpsonville Arts Center renovation project in July. The project encompasses exterior and interior renovations, including a new sound system and lighting to ensure quality productions for both residents and visitors.

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Simpsonville City Council will hold a Committee of the Whole meeting on Feb. 25 in Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:30 p.m. Urban planning firm MKSK will present to Council a draft of the Downtown Simpsonville Master Plan. Among some of the projects that Council plans to prioritize in the Master Plan are streetscape improvements to Curtis and Main streets, addition of a festival street to South Main Street, new lighting and improvements to City Park.