

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

Contact:

Jim Minor
Solid Waste Director
843-255-2735

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Beaufort County Plants Crape Myrtle Trees, Beautifies Depot Road

Beaufort County residents visiting the Depot area in Beaufort will soon enjoy the blooms of 26 Sioux Crape Myrtle trees that now line Depot Road near Bay Street.

Keep Beaufort County Beautiful, an affiliate of *Keep America Beautiful*, received a grant to complete a beautification project, allowing them to remove 20 overgrown trees and plant 26 new Sioux Crape Myrtle trees on Depot Road. The volunteer-based group is steered by the Solid Waste Section of the Beaufort County Public Works Department.

“This is a beautification project with benefits that are three-fold,” said Jim Minor, Beaufort County Solid Waste Director. “We’re not just focused on beautification, but also safety and education.”

The trees that lined the streets prior to this project grew into the power lines causing a safety hazard. The new trees were planted to meet SCE&G compliance and will only grow to a certain height, keeping the trees below the power lines.

Area residents were educated on Sioux Crape Myrtle trees and the importance of purchasing and planting trees appropriate for the specific planting site.

“And what’s even more special about this project is that it was a grassroots effort that began with one concerned citizen,” said Michael Murphy, Chairman of Keep Beaufort County Beautiful.

It all began with one brave call to Beaufort County made by 89-year-old Beaufort County resident Betty Waskiewicz to inform officials that the trees that lined the street at the time were over-grown and unhealthy.

“I sat up there on the corner at the street light and saw a tree that looked like a hay stack,” said Waskiewicz. “I knew something had to be done and made the call.”

That small phone call led to a huge collaborative project.

The grant was funded through [Palmetto Pride](#), of which Keep Beaufort County Beautiful is affiliated. Several groups collaborated to complete the project including Beaufort County, City of Beaufort, SCE&G, South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Bartlett Tree Experts, Horticultural Management Services, Preservation Tree Care, Southern Palmetto Landscaping and Southern Tree Services.

“What was so impressive was not only the initiative of the grant, but also the strong sense of community and collaboration,” said Cindy Carter, Information Coordinator for Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling. Between the County and the City and all of the partners who came together, it’s been remarkable.”

Photos from the project can be viewed below. A [full photo gallery](#) is available on the County’s Facebook page. For more information, visit Keep Beaufort County Beautiful online [here](#).

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(Staff photos)

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