

The people vs. the median, volunteers vow to keep boulevard beautiful

By [wbtlucaslalde](#) Published: July 18, 2015, 7:10 pm

Volunteers gave their time and money Friday morning, to keep Carolina Forest Boulevard looking beautiful.

After complaints about poorly-maintained medians between highway 501 and Gateway Drive these volunteers with the Carolina Forest Beautification Group, took it upon themselves to make a difference.

It was the second and final phase of their beautification project, cutting shrubs and clearing branches on the street.

The medians were initially maintained by the overarching property owners association, but that association disbanded.

The Rotary Club of Carolina Forest-Sunrise stepped in maintain the medians last year, but that ended at the end of June.

So Richard Skrip teamed up with a dozen other concerned folks living in the area, to do the work themselves.

“We pay for the fuel, we pay for the equipment, its our time. It’s an all volunteer program,” said Skrip.

They’ve taken on the task because the county says it would cut down the shrubbery, and bush hog the medians, if no one took over.

To Skrip, “it’s a matter of it looks nice, it increases property value, it makes everyone feel better its just the right thing to do.”

But it’s not necessarily an easy thing to do, there was an equipment failure and Skrip was forced to trim the bushes by hand.

Luckily, however, a passerby was willing to lend a hand.

“i was passing by and i saw him using hand clippers so i just stopped and gave him a set of trimmers to trim his bushes with,” said good samaritan Kevin Register.

To Skrip, “it was something that was unexpected. We tried to get ours repaired and couldn’t do it. He offered to loan us one for a few hours, we truly appreciate it.”

Register says he was glad to join in on the spirit of community, “i volunteered to help a volunteer.”

The Carolina Forest Beautification Group’s contract with the county expires next year.

Members hope they can grow the group in that time and find a permanent solution to maintain the medians.