

Carolina Forest residents work to maintain integrity of the area

By Liz Cooper – ABC 15 News - Sunday, January 10th 2016



Liz Cooper/ Beautify Carolina Forest group works to keep the area clean and landscaped as the busy area grows

Community members in Carolina Forest are stepping up to make sure their neighborhoods are litter free.

Beautify Carolina Forest is a recently established group whose members are taking matters into their own hands.

"Unfortunately we have a lot of inconsiderate people that either throw trash out the window," said Richard Skrip, found of Beautify Carolina Forest.

Skrip, along with a dozen others that live in the area, say enough is enough when it comes to litter in their community.

"We have over this past weekend picked up 51 bags of garbage just in a matter of a four mile stretch, which unfortunately is a record amount of us in a monthly period," he said.

Trash wasn't their only concern.

"About a year and a half ago, my wife and I turned the corner onto Carolina Forest Boulevard and saw a lot of weeds growing in the medians," said Skrip. "We figured we had to step in and correct that problem."

Carolina Forest is in the unincorporated area of Horry County, so the group decided to take it upon themselves and beautify the area along the boulevard.

"We'd like to put some ornamental palm trees or whatever we chose to do out there and we would like to on the medians and also on the boulevard where we have crepe myrtles, put some palm trees down there and just make it our own," said Carol Franceski.

The rapidly growing area is known for nice homes and communities, but Skrip and others are worried all the traffic in that area is going to ruin the integrity of Carolina Forest.

"That's what attracted us to the area, was the natural beauty," said Skrip. "We felt that it's important to enhance that natural beauty by planting some trees and shrubs in the medians of the highways."

Their group hopes to reach others, so they can take care of the problem before it gets worse.

They believe it only takes a few people to fix the problem created by many.

"We hope to reach other people in the area to help, so they are aware of the problem," said Franeski.

Beautify Carolina Forest was recently awarded the 2016 Community Pride Grant of \$2,500.

The total cost of landscaping the medians in the area is estimated at \$25,000. And the project is funded entirely on grants and donations.