

New cherry trees planted on South Pine

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One of Spartanburg's most beautiful springtime sights received an upgrade recently after the Men's Garden Club and Trees Coalition planted 52 new Pink Flair cherry trees on South Pine Street.

The new trees were planted in 25 bare spots and several old and damaged trees were replaced as part of the partnership with the Garden Club, Trees Coalition and the city of Spartanburg. There are now 278 cherry trees on South Pine Street.

"Trees grow old and all kinds of

◆ SEE CHERRY PAGE A7



PHOTO PROVIDED

New cherry trees were planted in 25 bare spots and several old and damaged trees were replaced recently on South Pine Street in Spartanburg. The work was done through a partnership with the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, Trees Coalition and the city of Spartanburg.



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CHERRY

From page A1

things happen to them," said Newt Hardie, president of the Trees Coalition. "Trees planted close to roadsides typically don't live as long because of environmental factors and that's why the Trees Coalition is here."

The average lifespan of a cherry tree is about 30 years, but environmental factors can cause the lifespan to run shorter, Hardie said. The first cherry trees were planted on South Pine Street in the

mid-1980s and others were added in the 1990s.

Bob Reynolds, past president of the Men's Garden Club, said during the few weeks in the spring when the cherry trees are in bloom — it's one of the prettiest spots around.

Special care

The Garden Club took special care in selecting which type of cherry tree would be planted and chose the Pink Flair because of its shape, tendency to remain strong, and they typically hold their blooms longer than other varieties, Reyn-

olds said.

There are two varieties of cherry trees on South Pine Street — Yoshinos and Okames.

"Horticulturalists recommend against planting one kind to encourage more diversity," Reynolds said. "Diversity strengthens trees so the strategy is to pick trees that work well together."

City of Spartanburg crews removed old trees and dug holes to make it easier for the Garden Club volunteers to place new ones.

City Grounds Mainte-

nance Coordinator Josh Baker said the partnership works well and is similar to one with the Converse Heights Neighborhood Association in which the neighborhood buys trees for the city to plant.

"The partnerships we have work really well and it makes that section of Pine Street so attractive," Baker said.

To finance the trees and potting soil, which are between \$100 to \$125 each, the Men's Garden Club holds several fundraisers including two annual plant sales.

During Monday night's Spartanburg City Council meeting, Mayor Junie White

said Spartanburg is a more attractive place because of work of the two groups.