



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: December 3, 2013

**TOMMY B. BAKER GIFTS 100 TREES TO CHARLESTON BUSINESSES
TO FURTHER 10,000 TREES FOR CHARLESTON INITIATIVE**

Charleston, SC - In honor of South Carolina Arbor Day on Friday, December 6, 2013, Tommy B. Baker, President and CEO of Baker Motor Company, has purchased 100 oak trees to gift to businesses and private property owners along Savannah Highway for the 10,000 Trees for Charleston initiative. Beginning December 6, 2013, on a first come first serve basis, private property owners may claim a tree by contacting 10,000 Trees for Charleston at no cost (<http://www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?nid=809>). Residents and businesses owners can plant the tree on their property along Savannah Highway, helping to increase the charm and beauty of this highly traveled corridor. Mr. Baker's mission is to have all 100 trees planted before the year is over.

On Arbor Day, Friday December 6th, at 11am 10,000 Trees for Charleston and Baker Motor will be hosting an event celebrating Arbor Day and highlighting the tree planting plans for Savannah Highway and the 100 tree giveaway. The event will be at Baker Motor Cadillac, 1623 Savannah Highway.

Jimmy Bailey, Chairman of 10,000 Trees as well as Tommy Baker will share information on the proposed plantings and the 100 tree give away and offer updates. In addition to the two speakers there will also be presentation boards highlighting upcoming median plantings along Savannah Highway.

The 10,000 Trees for Charleston initiative was founded by Mayor Joseph P. Riley in his January 2012 State of the City address to enhance the livability, health and beauty of the Charleston community by planting 10,000 trees. The commission has partnered with the City of Charleston and the Charleston Horticulture Society to promote community awareness and raise funds for purchasing and planting trees.

Chairman Jimmy Bailey said, "Trees play such a vital role in our community. Not only will planting 10,000 trees enhance the beauty of Charleston, but it will improve the air quality, increase property values and provide habitats for wildlife."

When Mr. Bailey was first appointed to this mission by Mayor Riley, he planted three trees in the names of his grand-children. "My grandchildren love knowing that there are trees planted just for them. They always ask me to see their trees, and my granddaughter is eager to decorate her tree every year for Christmas."

To continue this tradition, Mr. Baker is encouraging people that come to claim a tree to plant it in honor of a loved one. "A tree is a symbol of life. It would be extraordinary to fill Savannah Highway with trees that are dedicated to the people that make Charleston the best place to live."

About The 10,000 Trees for Charleston Commission:

The 10,000 Trees for Charleston initiative focuses on planting trees in seven key Charleston corridors: Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Glenn McConnell Parkway, Savannah Highway, St. Andrews Boulevard, Old Towne Road Folly Road and Upper Meeting Street. All donations go toward purchase and planting of trees along the public right-of-way. The cost includes an 8-10 foot tree, planting the tree, one year of regular watering, and other maintenance as needed for the duration of the tree's life. All donations to 10,000 Trees for Charleston are tax deductible.

To learn more, visit <http://www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?nid=809>.

FOR MORE INFO:

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