

Keep Saraland Beautiful, 501 (c)(3), Since 1998
www.keepsaralandbeautiful.com
Keep America Beautiful Affiliate

Mission

We inspire and educate people to take action every day to improve and beautify our community environment.

2016 Annual Report to Mayor Dr. Rubenstein and Council, City of Saraland, Alabama

February 22, 2017

October 1, 2016 Jason Weatherby began his job as the newly elected president of Keep Saraland Beautiful (KSB). Ron Mitchell is outgoing president.

Janice Harvison, Keep Saraland Beautiful KSB Executive Director
Janice makes all reports to Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and reports on KAB-required reporting and activities.

BEAUTIFY COMMUNITY

Tree Planting on Industrial Parkway in March

With a \$1000.00 grant from Alabama Power Company to KSB, crape myrtles were purchased. Half were planted alongside the newest welcome sign on Industrial Parkway, and the rest were planted on the other side of the highway.

Yard of the Month

Homes throughout the city are surveyed by our seasoned team for yards that meet our requirements for the Yard of the Month. Care is taken, when possible, to rotate to the older more central part of town and the newer development in the Celeste Road area. The winners not only receive a certificate and informational materials about KSB, they are posted to the KSB website, keepsaralandbeautiful.com. This is a program that raises awareness of our organization, and gives homeowners who work hard on their yards some recognition.

Great American Cleanup in April

Blackjack neighborhood was our focus area this year. Our corporate sponsor was Shell Chemical Company. Shell Chemical is very civic minded and a pleasure to work with. A large sign was purchased and posted at the railroad tracks on Bayou Sara Avenue announcing the cleanup and giving contact information to the residents.

About 350 volunteers, mostly students from Saraland High and Saraland Middle schools, worked through the neighborhood bagging trash, raking lawns, moving debris curbside, and cutting grass

and limbs on rights of way. An estimated 1000 bags were filled with leaves and debris during the cleanup. Keep Alabama Beautiful reimbursed KSB for \$1000.00 in materials purchased for the cleanup.

Adopt-A-Spot, nine locations

KSB administers the State of Alabama Highway Department approved Adopt-A-Spot highway island beautification program. Each site is permitted by the State of Alabama Highway Department. Businesses are solicited to sponsor an island, which pays for the landscaping. In return a small sign is placed on the island that reads "Company Name" in large print at the top and "Keep Saraland Beautiful" at the bottom in small print.

Free Garden Workshop in the Spring

Alabama Cooperative Extension Agent James Miles returned to discuss appropriate trees for our area, varieties of fruit and vegetable plants that thrive in our area, and answer gardening questions from the audience. Door prizes, supplied by members and businesses, were given away and refreshments served.

IMPROVE RECYCLING

Free Recycling Workshop in the Fall

Elizabeth Phillips from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service presented a workshop on upcycling items that are destined for the trash. She shared ideas and provided many examples for the audience to examine. Pieces for the garden as well as gifts for the home were shown. Audience members discussed their own projects, and all seemed to learn from and enjoy the topic. Door prizes were given away and refreshments served.

END LITTERING

Bookmark Contest at Saraland Elementary

One high priority that KSB has is to teach children to be litter-free. Our bookmark contest is an opportunity to get kids thinking of how they can make our city beautiful. This year's theme was "Every Day is Earth Day," and the contest deadline was Earth Day, April 22. Every student on campus received a copy of a winning bookmark. As they use the bookmark at school or at home, we want them to be thinking of beautifying our city and learning that litter hurts our city and its reputation. All students K-4 were eligible to participate in the Bookmark Contest, and approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the student body participated, with 15 total winners and 15 different bookmarks that were printed. Teachers with high classroom participation were given a gift card as a thank you for their help generating interest in the contest. All participants received a certificate, and the top three winners from each grade level received a special winner's certificate along with copies of their bookmarks. The winners were kept secret until the school's May Honors Days, and KSB representatives attended several of them to announce the winners. When KSB representatives were not available, Principal Stan Stokely was gracious to present the awards on our behalf. He and teacher sponsor Hailey Irvin have been a pleasure to work with on this

contest. Special care was given this year to bookmark distribution to the student body. The contest chairman ensured that each grade received bookmarks from its grade level and in particular, classes received copies of their classmate's winning bookmark. The UPS Store in Saraland gave a generous discount as well as set up the bookmarks for printing.

COMMUNICATION

Monthly membership meetings took place on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Noon at the Saraland Chamber of Commerce, 939 Saraland Boulevard S, meeting room.

We inform the community and our members of our activities by maintaining a website, www.keepsaralandbeautiful.com, and a Facebook page, Keep Saraland Beautiful. We have appointed two members who regularly make updates to these pages.

ADVERTISING

City of Saraland logo, clickable to the City of Saraland web site, is on every page of the KSB website.

Annual Report respectfully submitted by Janice Harvison and Ron Mitchell