

Keep Saraland Beautiful
Annual Report of activities
July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Core goals: Beautification, Education, Remove Litter

On October 9, Keep Saraland Beautiful members toured the City's new debris furnace.

On October 11, five Keep Saraland Beautiful members participated in the Fall City Cleanup Day at Public Works. They directed traffic inside the fenced area and provided car litter bags to the residents who came through.

A litter pickup kit was requested by a resident, a man who recently retired and walks daily picking up trash on Shelton Beach Road between Ruby Tuesday and his home. One member took it to his home. After a conversation about the importance of removing litter in the community, he was invited to a Keep Saraland Beautiful meeting, and he joined the group. We are always happy to meet residents and provide them with the supplies needed to remove litter.

Since City Hall moved to its new location, our annual Membership trifold flyer was updated with the new address and copies were made.

Our website www.keepsaralandbeautiful.com was updated to include a link to pay annual dues. We believe this will be helpful for both individual members (\$12 per year) and business members (\$120 per year and above).

Members voted to purchase new car magnets for the Yard of the Month volunteer, as well as a new Yard of the Month yard sign. The high school makes button pins, and we ordered several in the different designs they made. Our members can wear these at public events to show our school pride and identify with KSB.

Publicity is an area KSB needs help with to reach the younger generations. One member is working with Saraland High School to find out if student volunteers can help us with this in exchange for community service hours.

Shemika Brown from Mobile Bay National Estuary Program requested to borrow litter pickup supplies to be used during a conference. We delivered sticks, gloves, and vests to her at the conference site, and she returned them later.

Keep America Beautiful holds an annual conference for its affiliates, called the KAB Summit. KSB voted to allow \$1500 in expenses for one member to attend this year's meeting in New Orleans. Rob McLean represented us there and met leaders from other Alabama affiliates. He learned about nationwide programs, grant opportunities, and what training KAB offers to affiliates like ours.

Our longtime Treasurer for the Adopt a Spot program retired, and Rob McLean volunteered to take over the position. A motion was made to appoint Rob, and the minutes were taken to the bank where he was added to the account.

Members voted to authorize \$800 for members to attend the Keep Alabama Beautiful conference, to cover hotel and registration for up to 4 people.

Keep Alabama Beautiful hosts an annual conference, similar to the KAB Summit. State leader Denise Taylor holds these meetings all over the state to let attendees see what other affiliates are doing and how we all have the same problems. Last year three members attended the meeting held in Selma. This year two members attended the meeting in Auburn. We learned about stormwater and the different types of infrastructure designed to handle it, and things Auburn does as part of its MS4 report. A representative from the Kreher Preserve and Nature Center told us about their property and the summer camps they do with children. The City of Auburn's Recycling Manager discussed their curbside program and how the rules are strict to preserve the integrity of the recyclables. Game day recycling and stadium cleanup is a huge effort that Auburn undertakes during football season. Auburn's Public Works department showed their equipment and plan for mowing and maintaining their rights of way. We heard from the director of Keep Birmingham Beautiful about their recycling efforts. We watched an Enviroscope water table being used, and our friend at ADEM will loan one for a children's event in our area. Keep America Beautiful district director Jason Smith attended and presented on the resources available to affiliates on www.kab.org as well as reporting requirements, social media use, and grant opportunities. Attendees were able to ask questions throughout the conference. We were treated to an outstanding dinner experience at the Botanic restaurant and garden center. At the end of the conference, we met at Auburn's new Public Works facility where we took a tour and received our allotment of litter sticks and specially designed Alabama roadside green trash bags. Mrs. Taylor would like to hold the 2027 conference near the coast, which could be a great opportunity for Saraland.

For the February 21 Mayor's Citywide Litter Cleanup day, KSB donated 24 litter sticks and 120 green Keep Alabama Beautiful trash bags.

At the March 2026 meeting, City employee Kenyeda Swinn gave a report to the members and guests in attendance regarding environmental issues in the City.

On April 9, members toured the electronics recycling facility run by Ransom Ministries in Chickasaw. This tremendous program is in our backyard, only 4 miles away from our Public Works Department. At the intake area, businesses or individuals can drop off outdated electronics, then they are sorted into the different types of items and processed from there. This program employs roughly 25 men and women who are transitioning out of drug treatment programs back into society.

On April 25, members helped out at the Spring City Cleanup Day.

The Secretary/Executive Director answered the annual questionnaire for KSB regarding the City's MS4 report. She took photos of the Adopt a Spots as requested. After learning about what the MS4 report actually is, she is eager to help the City meet its requirements for stormwater education through KSB activities.

One member and his son collected 2 large bags of trash along Cleveland Road near Rural King. As a Lions Club member, he weeded and remulched the Lions' Adopt a Spot. Members are always encouraged to pick up litter in their areas, and our litter bucket program is aimed to equip Saraland residents to easily pick up litter in their own neighborhoods.

On April 28, one member delivered KSB bookmarks, reusable car litter bags, and Saraland magazines (provided by the Chamber staff) to the state Welcome Center in Loxley. On another day, she delivered the same items to the Welcome Center in Grand Bay. The Grand Bay staff said they are continually being asked for Saraland information when encountering visitors who are coming for ball tournaments or moving to the area.

In April, we held the annual Saraland Elementary Bookmark Contest for grades 2-5. All 985 students were invited to participate. Administrators and all 51 teachers helped promote the contest, and we had some amazing entries. Judges selected winners in each grade level, for 13 total winners (including one honorable mention). The bookmarks were professionally printed, and 3000 copies have been sent out into the community and throughout our state. The Welcome Centers received copies, the Saraland Library, Saraland Elementary, local little free libraries, and the statewide Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. Winners were recognized at the May 14 Saraland City Council meeting where Vice President Rob McLean, President Ron Mitchell, and contest chairman for the school Hailey Lambert presented awards. Each winner received copies of their own bookmark, a medal, and a certificate. Gift cards were provided to each teacher who had 50% or more class participation as a thank you. We have proudly

sponsored this contest, or its earlier version of poster/funky junky art, for 17 years. This year's contest cost us \$670.

At our May meeting, Jason Kudulis of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program spoke and gave a slideshow presentation of the waterways in Saraland and the estuary system as a whole. He talked to us about water quality monitoring and grant opportunities for projects that fit their criteria. He presented us a copy of the book written by MBNEP that traces our river system.

Rob McLean corresponded with the manufacturer of Bear Locks for trash cans, and demonstrated them for members. He donated several sets to Councilman Chris Jessee to provide for residents who need them.

The KSB website has a new feature for residents to report abandoned/junk cars.

On May 21, KSB members were invited to participate in the Alabama Tourism Day event held at the Grand Bay Welcome Center. Two members represented us there and gave away reusable car litter bags, pens, coasters, bookmarks, and tshirts. Approximately 1,500 visitors came through during the event and we had a lot of good conversations.

We provided litter sticks to Lt. Hearn for the weekly Community Service cleanups.

We administer the Adopt a Spot program with 14 sites throughout the City.

We reported administrative expenses of \$360 for our website maintenance, www.keepsaralandbeautiful.com, and \$949 for officers and directors insurance.

The Yard of the Month program began in May of 2009 and is still going strong. Member Barbara Sharp has been the Chairman for a few years now, and has added a Business of the Quarter. We are proud to recognize the work of homeowners and businesses who do a great job making Saraland look good.

Keep Saraland Beautiful meets every other month, and Adopt a Spot meets twice a year. We plan and execute projects, take field trips, invite special speakers, and promote our core goals of beautification, education, and litter removal.

Thank you to the City of Saraland for your support of our goals and the finances that allow us to achieve them. We are excited about what we will accomplish together in 2026-2027.