

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.

October 2018- September 2019 Annual Report to Mayor Dr. Rubenstein and Council, City of Saraland, Alabama

January 23, 2020

On October 10, 2019, I was re-elected to the job of president of Keep Saraland Beautiful (KSB).

Janice Harvison, Executive Director

Janice makes all reports to Keep America Beautiful (KAB) and reports on KAB-required reporting and activities.

Highlights from 2018-2019 include:

Our **membership** remains steady with 12 individual members and 11 business members (Adopt-A-Spot sponsors included).

We meet ten times per year at the Saraland Chamber of Commerce meeting room and we have a home-cooked meal for only \$3.

Yard of the Month - Barbara Sharp

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, but they are also 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 special recognition.

City Wide Cleanup Participation in March and October

We assisted where ever we could help. We commend the City of Saraland this great environmental cleanup semi-annual event.

Adopt-A-Spot, nine locations

Total number of spots: 9

Total number rented: 8

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 "Keeps Saraland Beautiful" at the bottom in small print.

I have begun the process of adding another Adopt A Spot sight on the West side of I-65 on Hwy 158.

Free Garden Workshop in the Spring and Recycling Workshop in the Fall

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.

RECYCLING

We supported a new paper recycling program at Saraland Middle School with a \$1000 contribution in 2018 and continue to monitor their progress.

In addition, we made a contribution to Saraland Early Learning School for its recycling program and a student vegetable garden.

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. Students in the 2nd through 5th grades were eligible to participate in the Bookmark Contest, and approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the student body participated, with 12 total winners and 12 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, I presented the awards this year. Principle Stan Stokley and teacher sponsor Hailey Irvin has 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 bookmarks. The UPS Store in Saraland gave a generous discount as well as set up the bookmarks for printing.

City Parks

Congratulations on the new Splash Pad Park on Highway 43. In addition, I commend the Mayor on the maintenance of all city parks. Greenspace, walking paths and recreation fields that make the City of Saraland an exceptional place to live.

COMMUNICATION

Monthly membership meetings take 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 two members who regularly make updates to these pages.

We are using Facebook for paid and unpaid advertising for our organization and have gained some visitors to both workshops and meetings.

STATE OF ALABAMA CHAMPION TREE

Located in the City of Saraland is a State of Alabama Champion Tree. The tree was registered by Councilmember Paul Stanley in 1994. The Champion Tree is now located on property owned by Olde Oak Apartments property. Our plan is to have a special recognition meeting at the Tree location on Arbor Day, Monday, April 24, 2020.

Insurance

We maintain officer and director insurance.

Keep Alabama Beautiful affiliate

We send representatives to Keep Alabama Beautiful's annual meeting.

100 Palm trees planted on Saraland Boulevard.

This is funded by the property owners because each tree will be on private property, not the state ROW.

ADVERTISING the City of Saraland

The city of Saraland logo is clickable on the Keep Saraland Beautiful website and the City logo is on every page.

Q & A

Annual Report respectfully submitted by Ron Mitchell, President