

...WHY I LOVE SHELBY COUNTY...



Brian Puckett

Helena Beautification Board Vice Chairman

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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Brian Puckett and his family have called Helena home for the last 13 years and "love the community." He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters, Mallory, 8, and Abby, 3. He has worked for Regions Bank for nine years. Brian is passionate about being involved in the community. "I am continuously looking for how I can lend a hand in the community, whether it is on the Helena Beautification Board, at church, in the schools or coaching rec league soccer among a few things. In my free time, I like seeing things coming to life either planting new plants or building something in my workshop."

What do you love about Shelby County?

How much time do we have? What makes up how good the county is all of the towns that make it up. The county is so unique in that no matter what type of lifestyle you have, it can be found here. If you want the hustle and bustle, Shelby County has you covered. If you want to have that small-town atmosphere, well, Shelby County has that too. Most important, the school system in Shelby County is really good.

How long have you been involved with the Helena Beautification Board, and in what capacities?

I have been the vice chairman and secretary of the Helena Beautification Board for the past year and will serve another three years in that capacity. I have been able to help start an educational program for residents on what and how to plant plants that are sustainable to the area, which is one of my personal highlights, but really I will do whatever is needed to make Helena

beautiful and bring the community together. I have been given the opportunity within the board to use my skills of strategic execution to ensure that projects stay on time and budget giving the best outcome possible with the end product.

What is the board's purpose?

The Helena Beautification Board is an appointed board by the City Council with our role being a multitude of things. We work closely with city officials and departments to plan and implement the city's overall beautification plan. We host several events each year to bring the community together to keep Helena looking good.

What projects has the board worked on or completed this year in Helena?

It has been a really busy year this year for the Beautification Board. We have planted over 600 plants this year. The annual basket planting that happens each spring is the one that always gets the most attention as people drive through Old Town Helena.

We launched a new website, Helenabeautiful.com, that includes all of the various plants we have planted throughout town, pictures of various events and how-to articles to make anyone have a green thumb.

We also started the educational program where markers are out around town next to various plants with a QR Code on them to allow people to quickly gets tons of information on that specific plant.

The board also undertook a redesign of the strip in Old Town this year bringing in Earth-Kind Roses and native perennials to promote sustainability within planting. We put out the fall decorations and scarecrows in town.

In February we were able to form a partnership with Texas A&M to further research Earth-Kind roses.

The board is also working toward hosting the First Helena Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 1. ●