



**LAGRANGE**  
GEORGIA

*News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 14, 2018**

## **City of LaGrange Honored by Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation for Litter Pick-up Campaign**

**LaGrange, Ga. December 14, 2018** – The City of LaGrange is being honored by the Keep Georgia Foundation for the city’s “Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It” litter pick-up campaign.

The City of LaGrange received second place in both the State Award, Litter Prevention – Government Agency category and the State Award, Overall Community Improvement – Government Agency category at the 2018 Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation Awards.



*Pictured from left to right: Keep Troup Beautiful Executive Director Scott Landa, Keep America Beautiful President & CEO Helen Lowman, and City of LaGrange Marketing/Communications Manager Katie Mercer Van Schoor*

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation, an affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful program, held its annual convention and awards celebration in Macon recently. KGBF also celebrated 40 years of preventing litter, reducing waste, providing water education, and beautifying public spaces across the state.

“We’re proud of the strides we’ve made toward sustainability over the last 40 years,” said Keep

Georgia Beautiful Foundation Executive Director Natalie Johnston-Russell. “It has been an honor welcoming members of our network to celebrate this milestone together.”

The annual awards ceremony recognized outstanding efforts in the areas of litter prevention, waste reduction and recycling, community beautification, and overall community improvement. Individual awards are presented to a public works official, law enforcement officer, elected official, student, male volunteer, female volunteer, and executive director of the year.



“It’s exciting to consider the scale and impact of our affiliates over the last four decades,” said Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation Board President

Michael Power. “None of it would be possible without the individuals, schools, corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies that come together to improve our communities.”

LaGrange City Manager Meg Kelsey wanted to send a message to the community that the City of LaGrange is serious about cleaning up litter and rolled out the city’s campaign, “Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It.” The City of LaGrange closed non-essential business the morning of April 20<sup>th</sup> and nearly four hundred employees picked up trash throughout the community.



Hundreds of city employees picked up litter throughout LaGrange April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The city continues to have monthly litter pick-up events throughout the community. The public is invited to join city employees in this initiative.

The city works closely with Keep Troup Beautiful on these litter pick-up events.

“Getting the community to stop littering is a slow, educational process and we feel we’re making a dent in it one step at a time,” said LaGrange City Manager Meg Kelsey.

“I think our initiative has been successful because we are joining the community with our city staff and youth council members - all pulling together for a common cause. At the end of the day we are picking up litter in our community and helping our environment.”

If you would like to have a litter clean up in your neighborhood contact Scott Landa with Keep Troup Beautiful. For more information go to [www.keeptroupbeautiful.com](http://www.keeptroupbeautiful.com) or call (706) 884-9922.

### **About Keep Georgia Beautiful**

Keep Georgia Beautiful has a 40 year history of doing the little things that make a big difference in Georgia communities. Established as the first-ever state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful in 1978 by Governor George Busbee, Keep Georgia Beautiful became a 501(3)c nonprofit in 2011 and builds sustainable communities through litter prevention,

waste reduction, recycling, water resource management, and community greening. Keep Georgia Beautiful provides support to the largest network of local affiliates in the country, and our 78 local programs represent 80% of Georgia's population. For more information, visit [www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org](http://www.keepgeorgiabeautiful.org).

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