

## ACCG ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACCG Annual Conference was held Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> through Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. Lt. Col (Retired) **Rob "Waldo" Waldman** was the featured speaker at the Lifelong Academy Leadership Luncheon on Friday, and the Opening Keynote Speaker was **David Horsager**. Both were outstanding!

The County Buyer's Mart was open on Friday and Saturday afternoons and featured exhibits by vendors, organizations, and agencies from throughout the state, including the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions. The Saturday session also featured an excellent legislative update. On Sunday, there were several interesting and informative continuing education sessions, along with the Officer and Board Installation Luncheon. **Harry Lange** of Harris County was installed as President, and Oglethorpe County Commission Chairman **Billy Pittard** was installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Newton County Commissioner **Nancy Schulz** is a member of the Board of Managers, and **John Daniell** of Oconee County Chairs the ACCG-IRMA Program. Active Past Presidents from Northeast Georgia are **Tommy Lyon** and **Kevin Little**. Also of note, **Dave Wills** was named ACCG Executive Director during the Conference.

## JIM DOVE RECEIVES 2018 ACCG JERRY R. GRIFFIN EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

ACCG, Georgia's county association, recently awarded **Jim Dove**, Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, with the 2018 Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award. Each year, ACCG presents leadership awards to county officials to recognize them for their outstanding public service and leadership in county government. The Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award is presented to an elected or appointed county official who exhibits commitment to public service in their local government and community. Dove accepted the award at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center during the 2018 ACCG Annual Conference.

"As ACCG continuously strives to equip Georgia's county officials with the necessary tools and resources to lead their local communities, it is important for the association to recognize and honor local leaders," said ACCG Executive Director Dave Wills. "ACCG's annual awards program recognizes selected county officials for their committed service which ultimately benefits all Georgians."

Jim Dove has served with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission for over four decades and is the longest tenured Director in the history of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, with 31 years in this position. He was responsible for the creation of the Cherokee County Planning Department and served as the county's first Planning Director. Dove has overseen the expansion of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's membership from 10 counties and 47 cities to 12 counties and 54 cities. He was appointed by former Gov. Perdue to the Service Delivery Task Force of the "Commission for a New Georgia" in 2009 which enhanced service delivery by regional and state bodies to local governments and their citizens.

"Having served with many outstanding and dedicated county elected and appointed officials through the years; it is truly an honor to receive this award from ACCG. I am most appreciative to Northeast Georgia County Commissioners, the ACCG Board of Managers, and staff for their many efforts in this regard," said Mr. Dove.

The Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award was created in 2011. The award is named in honor of a former ACCG executive director, Mr. Jerry R. Griffin, who served as the association's leader for more than 23 years. Throughout his professional career, which traversed other organizations including the Georgia Municipal Association, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (now known as the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority), Griffin was a recognized leader who established a solid foundation of programs and services that still exist today. The Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award recognizes an individual who has worked toward achieving this kind of lasting positive impact on his or her community. **(Press Release provided by ACCG.)**



(L-R) Billy Pittard, Dove, Allen Poole, Dave Wills

## FOX THEATRE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES GRANT WORKSHOPS

The Fox Theatre Institute (FTI) and its Preservation Grant Program's goal are to award funding for historic theatres across the state of Georgia. Grants are awarded to projects designed to provide significant economic and cultural impact to the communities they serve. Grant award winners will also receive operations expertise and guidance through seminars, and strategic planning fostering professional development.

The 2018/2019 FTI Grant cycle begins with three workshops throughout Georgia in Tifton on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Macon on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta on June 28<sup>th</sup>. All application materials for the new grant cycle will be available June 1<sup>st</sup> on our website and the deadline for all grant applications this year must be postmarked by August 15, 2018. Application materials will not be accepted electronically or after this deadline.

During the Grant Applicants' Workshops, FTI will share helpful grant writing and best practices as well as answer any questions concerning the Fox Theatre Institute's Grant Program. Attendees will leave with a good understanding of the grant application process and its requirements.

Attendees should represent organizations interested or intending to apply for an FTI grant in the 2018/2019 cycle. In the 2018/2019 grant cycle, FTI will offer grant funding in four categories: Urgent/Emergency Needs, Historic Structures Studies or Planning, Technical Assistance and Services, and "bricks and mortar" Preservation Grants. The next two, upcoming workshops will be held at the following locations:

- **THURSDAY, JUNE 14 - GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MACON**
- **THURSDAY, JUNE 28 - FOX THEATRE, ATLANTA**

Registration and additional information are available via this link: <https://www.foxtheatre.org/support/fox-theatre-institute/grants-program>

During the last cycle of funding, three NEGRC communities received awards for theatres in the Cities of Greensboro, Madison, and Winterville. On May 10-11, 2018, all three Cities participated in a check presentation by the Fox Theatre Institute hosted by the respective communities. Winterville's ceremony was held on May 11, 2018 in the Winterville Auditorium where the grant helped fund interior improvements including installation of an air conditioning system. Performances were held at this event which was well attended, including Mr. Dove, Executive Director; **Mott Beck**, Executive Assistant; and **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services. As more improvements are made, the Winterville Auditorium is expected to expand its performances; attracting many new visitors to the community.



Mayor Dodd accepts Grant Award

## LEDFORD AND WHITE RECEIVE ANNUAL AWARDS

**Howard Ledford** is the 2018 recipient of the Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian Award. The presentation was made at the Annual Meeting of the NEGRC Council held in conjunction with the May meeting. He is currently Dean of the Jackson County Campus of Lanier Technical College. He previously served as CEO/Director of the Technical Career Academy of Northeast Georgia. For five years he was Director of Family Connection of Oglethorpe County. Dr. Ledford serves on the Jackson County Family Connection Board of Directors and the Board of Directors for both the Banks County and Jackson County Chambers of Commerce. He is a member of the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board and the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council, serving as a member of the Planning and Government Services Committee.

Monticello City Manager **Doug White** was honored at the event as Local Government Administrator of the Year. Mr. White is serving a second tour of duty as Manager in Monticello. Previously, he served as the first Social Circle City Administrator and the first Forsyth City

Administrator. He has also worked with private consulting firms during a lengthy career. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserves and Georgia Army National Guard after 25 years of military service.



Left: Council Member Amrey Harden with Dr. Ledford

Bottom: Monticello City Officials with Mr. White

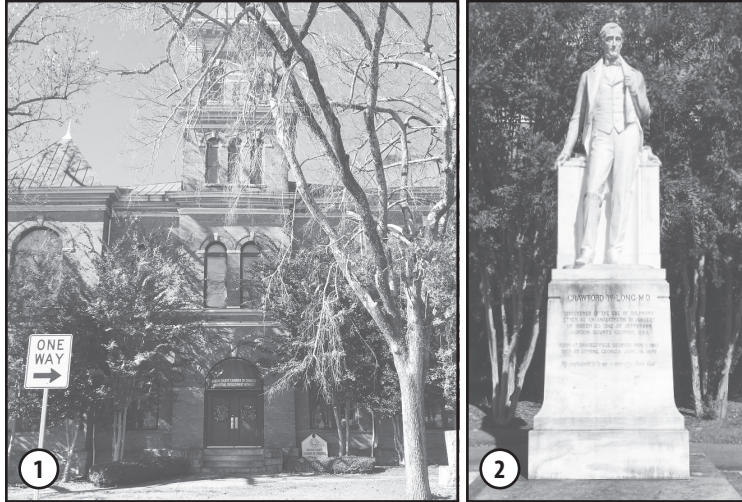


## DANIELSVILLE – BIRTHPLACE OF CRAWFORD W. LONG

Danielsville was designated as seat of newly formed Madison County in 1812. It was incorporated as a town on November 27, 1817. The City honors General **Allen Daniel**, an officer of the Militia, who also served as Captain in the Revolutionary War. The City is governed by Mayor **Todd Higdon** and Councilmembers **Joseph Federico**, **Jon Hendrix**, **Libby Loftis**, and **Michael Wideman**.

Dr. **Crawford W. Long**, the physician who introduced the use of ether as a surgical anesthetic, was born in Danielsville in 1815. His statue sits in the Courthouse Square. The Madison County Courthouse, constructed in 1901, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Town grew around the Courthouse, which was built in the Romanesque Revival Style.

Located 15 miles north of Athens on U.S. 29, with a population of approximately 600 persons, the City is a short distance to many interesting locations. Nearby Watson Mill Bridge Park is home to the longest covered bridge in Georgia. For wine lovers, a visit to Boutier Winery for a tour and tasting is a must. The Broad River Water Trail flows north of Danielsville and offers opportunities for river enthusiasts.

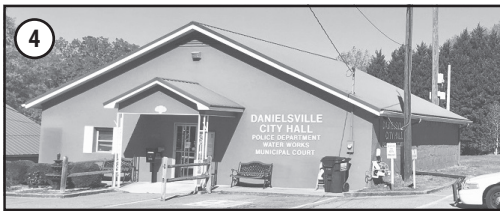


1: Historic Courthouse

2: Crawford W. Long Statue

3: Historic Hardware Store

4: City Hall



## BRASELTON MAIN STREET PROGRAM EARNS ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

Main Street America awarded its reaccreditation credentials to Main Street Braselton upon a thorough review of its 2017 work plan and acknowledgement of nearly \$2 million in private and public investments in its downtown. Braselton's "Community Impact Report" formed the basis of the application to be reaccredited for another year since its original national certification in 2016. The report confirmed more than 250 promotional events were held attracting over 72,000 attendees. Among those featured were the Garden Party, Zombie Run, Chocolate Walk and Pooches in the Park events. **Amy Pinnell** is Braselton Main Street's Director. "It's exciting and rewarding to receive the national recognition again based on rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street

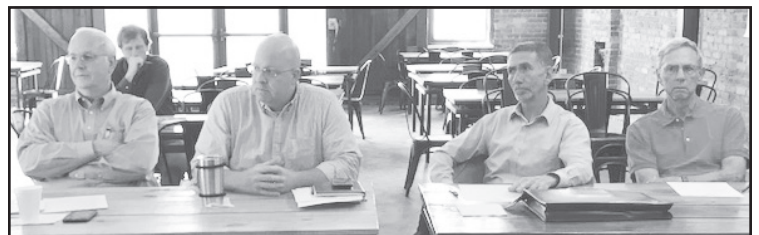
Center. Our work upholds the national mission of preservation-based economic development and revitalization of commercial districts like ours in America," she said. Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than thirty-five years. Braselton Mayor **Bill Orr** added, "Braselton Main Street is making a huge, positive difference in our small town quality of life, and we congratulate Amy and the program for achieving another year of recognition and success."

## GARC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE HELD

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions' Annual Economic Development Conference was held at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands on May 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Council Member and GARC Vice Chairman **Lamar Houston**, Mr. Dove, Mr. Walker, and **Jordan Shoemaker** represented the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission at the Conference. USDA-RD State Director **Joyce White** provided the opening address on Sunday evening. Sessions on Monday included Logistics – Road and Air, Logistics – Ports, DCA – Rural Zones and CDBG Funding Update, Tourism Product Development, and EDA – Program Update and Administrative Procedures. The Monday Dinner Keynote Address was delivered by DCA Commissioner **Christopher Nunn**. The Conference concluded on Tuesday morning with separate meetings of the GARC Board and the staff-level Economic Development Committee.

## PLANNING RETREAT HELD FOR MONROE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The Annual Visioning Retreat for the Monroe Mayor and Council was held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and facilitated by Mr. Dove and Ms. Beck. The meeting began with a review of the short and long term goals established at last year's retreat, along with programs associated with those. Other accomplishments were noted, along with an overview of current projects/items underway. The Mayor and Council discussed at length several items including Infill Development, SPLOST Overview, Council Meetings Format, and Directions for the City Administrator and Department Heads. Attendees also suggested short term goals for the next twelve to eighteen months and selected priorities, before updating long term goals for the City.



Retreat Participants



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# Update

## REGIONAL MEETINGS JUNE

|    |            |                               |                                |
|----|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19 | 10:00 a.m. | ADRC Advisory Board           | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 19 | 1:30 p.m.  | Northeast Georgia EMS         | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |
| 21 | Noon       | NEGRC Council                 | Athens Holiday Inn             |
| 21 | 3:30 p.m.  | Firefly Trails Advocacy Group | E.H. Culpepper Conference Room |



*Sincerely & Respectfully,*