



MEDIA RELEASE

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America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2016 America in Bloom National Awards Program were announced at the annual awards held in Arroyo Grande, CA on October 8.

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscaped areas, and floral displays. Additionally they were judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained judges to personally visit participants. In addition, each participant receives a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

The following awards were given: population category winners, outstanding achievement awards, special awards, community champion, and YouTube video award.

Population category winners are:

| Town | Population Category |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Castle Rock, WA | <3,000 |
| Lewisburg, WV | 3,000-5,000 |
| Logan, OH | 5,000-10,000 |
| Morro Bay, CA | 10,000-14,000 |
| Holliston, MA | 14,000-20,000 |
| Calabasas, CA | 20,000-30,000 |
| Midland, MI | 30,000-50,000 |
| Lexington, KY | >50,000 |
| Gallipolis, OH | Champions* – Small |
| Washington, MO | Champions* – Medium |

*The Champions categories are for towns that have a combination of any three: population category win and/or outstanding achievement awards.

New members of the Circle of Champions are: Holliston, MA; Calabasas, CA; Winter Park, FL; Belpre, OH; and Logan, OH.

Outstanding Achievement Award winners are:

| Town | Award |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Winter Park, FL | Heritage Preservation |
| Saratoga, CA | Urban Forestry |
| St. Charles, IL | Landscaped Areas |
| Belpre, OH | Overall Impression |
| Holland, MI | Environmental Efforts |
| Edmonston, MD | Community Involvement |
| Greenwood, SC | Floral Displays |

Special Award winners are:

| Town | Award |
|----------------------|---|
| Arroyo Grande, CA | Best Example of Water Wise Gardening |
| Brewton, AL | Best Adaptive Reuse of an Historic Structure |
| Catskill, NY | Best Program for Engaging Young People |
| Henderson County, NC | Most Striking Public Wall Mural |
| Holland, MI | Cooldest Downtown |
| Ironton, OH | Best Use of Local Bloom Committee Logo |
| Morro Bay, CA | Best Heritage Tree Program |
| Newtown Square, PA | Best Combination of Plants in Hanging Baskets |
| Venice, FL | Most Successful Implementation of a New Project |
| Washington, MO | Most Impressive Pollinator Garden |

John R. Holmes III Community Champion Award: Tim Kant, former mayor of Fairhope, AL.

YouTube video award: Castle Rock, WA.

For a full list of results, go to www.Americainbloom.org.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping towns and cities of all sizes achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's group is again remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live in America.”

To date, 250 communities from 41 states have participated in the program and more than 22 million people have been touched by it.

Registrations for the 2017 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2017. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancement.

For more information, visit www.AmericaInBloom.org.

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