



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Gallipolis, OH America in Bloom National 2013 Awards Results Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): After months of anxious waiting, top honors for the prestigious 2013 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Orlando, Florida on September 21.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, “America in Bloom is helping participants of all types achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable.”

Gallipolis earned a three bloom rating in the under 4,000 population category and an outstanding achievement award for its floral displays. Outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories. They also received a special mention for overall impression. In addition, they received a special award for their hanging basket/container program and because of cumulative successes in America in Bloom have now entered the ranks of the “Circle of Champions.” In addition, Beverly Dunkle was named AIB’s 2013 Community Champion. Her commitment to the program has provided an excellent example of volunteerism to Gallipolis on a year-round basis. She is dedicated to the goals of improving the community - not only by the beautification through flowers, but also by encouraging the interaction of businesses and city government to include environmental improvements and implementation of new ideas to all sectors of the city.

Gallipolis was judged on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Alex Pearl and Dwight Lund, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the under 4,000 population category included Echo, OR; Castle Rock, WA; and Slippery Rock, PA.

Pearl and Lund were very taken by the city’s overall impression and commented, “Gallipolis is a city on the go. Enthusiastic people lead the way. Volunteers, municipal employees, managers and residents put their hearts and souls in making Gallipolis shine. Gallipolis is an inviting, clean, liveable and satisfying river community with beautiful flowers, gardens, and friendly, supportive citizens. What a wonderful place to live.”

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Congratulations to Gallipolis!

Registrations for the 2014 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2014. Eligible participants include towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

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*America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. America in Bloom envisions communities across the country as welcoming and vibrant places to live, work, and play – benefiting from colorful plants and trees; enjoying clean environments; celebrating heritage; and planting pride through volunteerism. For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).*

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