



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Kent, 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.”

Kent received a four bloom rating and a special mention for their efforts in Heritage Preservation. In addition, they received a special award for having the best commercial streetscape.

Kent 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.

Jack Clasen and Jim Sutton, 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 25,001 to 30,000 category were Wake Forest, NC; West Chicago, IL and Winter Park, FL.

Clasen and Sutton were impressed with Kent's efforts in the area of heritage preservation and commented, “The active Kent Historical Society, with 300 members, raises money to purchase additional buildings to preserve. The Society has a quarterly newsletter, its own press to publish local historical books, and maintains the Kent Historical Society Museum with two part time paid staff. The museum is first rate with rotating exhibits. The downtown has experienced extensive redevelopment in the past few years, led by the restoration of the Old Hotel and Acorn Corner, both beautiful gems in the center of town.”

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Congratulations to Kent!

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 dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.*

*America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.*

*For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).*

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