



MEDIA RELEASE

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Madisonville, KY 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."

Madisonville 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.

Bruce Riggs and Bill Hahn, 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 18,001 to 25,000 category were Calabasas, CA and Ottawa, IL.

Madisonville received a three bloom rating.

Riggs and Hahn said, "Madisonville has many notable heritage sites to crow about. This shouldn't be such a secret when residents benefit from a solid identity and sense of community. The Historic District begs for tourism, the new Justice Center contrasts with the repurposed old Courthouse, the Railroad Depot, Historical Society and Hopkins County Geological Society each have multiple stories waiting to be told.

The Downtown Turnaround Project (DTP) has been very active in revitalizing the downtown area. The decorative trash containers made by local artists with recycled materials add a vibrancy that has made a very positive impact. Each one of the 18 containers has a sponsor, so everyone wins as a result of this innovative project."

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Congratulations to Madisonville!

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.

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.

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