



MEDIA RELEASE

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Belpre, OH America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Honors for the prestigious 2012 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 22.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom participation is helping participating towns achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

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

Specially trained judges visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Additional competitors in this category were Demopolis, AL; Charles City, IA; and Greendale, IN.

Belpre competed in the population category of 4,501 to 8,000 and received a three bloom rating with special recognition for its landscaped areas..

The judges, Alex Pearl and Dwight Lund, commented, " Special kudos to Leslie Pittinger and her band of energetic, willing volunteers, who in the short span of less than one year have set goals and accomplished so much. Among the many individuals and organizations that require us to shout out a big hooray for making Belpre in Bloom a reality include the Women's Club, Belpre Garden Club, Chamber of Commerce, Jon Neff and Bob's Market, Mayor Lorentz and his city council, numerous city commissions and the city work force, school superintendent Tony Dunn and the entire school system. You make Belpre special every single day. "

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Registrations for the 2013 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2013.

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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