



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

lkunkle@ofa.org

614-487-1117

Springfield, OH America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Honors for the prestigious 2012 America in Bloom (AIB) 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."

Springfield, 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 Fayetteville, AR and Racine, WI.

Springfield competed in the population category of 50,001 to 100,000, receiving a prestigious four bloom rating and a criteria award for its efforts in the area of urban forestry. A criteria award is considered a "best of the best award".

The judges, Bruce K. Riggs and Marlborough Packard, commented, "Congratulations Springfield on achieving a four-bloom rating in only your third year of participation in America in Bloom. Each year your city has made improvements that increased the score. The number of programs benefitting the city has blossomed and you are the beneficiaries of all that hard work. You should be proud of your achievements and we know that what you have planned for the future will meet with even more future success.

So many people of all walks of life have combined their expertise and energy and resources to get things done. All the little things have added up to some very large successes. Your new hospital is such an example of teamwork, perseverance and a solid vision of what needs to be accomplished."

-more-

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.

###