



MEDIA RELEASE

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Belpre, OH America in Bloom Awards Results Announced

(COLUMBUS, OH): Top honors for the prestigious 2014 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Philadelphia, PA on October 4.

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

All participants were evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays. Additionally they were judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential, and commercial sectors. America in Bloom is the only national awards program that sends specially trained judges to personally visit participants and provide a detailed written evaluation that can be used as a guide to future improvements.

Susie Stratton and Sue Amatangelo, 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 4,501 to 10,000 population category were Greendale, IN; Catskill, NY; and Estes Park, CO.

Belpre received a four bloom rating and an outstanding achievement award for community involvement. The outstanding achievement awards only go to one participant among ALL the AIB entrants across ALL population categories. In addition, they received a special mention for their efforts in historic preservation.

The judges said, “Belpre is a delightful community on the banks of the Ohio River. The commitment by its community members runs as deep and rich as their history. Residents have been known to grow up, leave the community and come back to raise their family which is a testament to the quality of life and the people who live here.”

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Congratulations to Belpre!

Registrations for the 2015 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2015. 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 enhancement.

For more information, visit www.americainbloom.org.

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