



MEDIA RELEASE

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Holliston, MA 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.

James Sutton and Karin Rindal, 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 15,001 to 19,000 population category were Ottawa, IL; Arroyo Grande, CA; and Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

Holliston received a prestigious five bloom rating. In addition, they received a special recognition for their efforts in historic preservation.

Judges said, “We knew immediately that this was a town steeped in history. It was also clear that while they honor their past, they are also planning for the future. The involvement of youth in the evening presentations was uplifting and excellent efforts are being done to include them in the present and teach them to celebrate their past. Volunteer efforts and hours are evident at every turn. It seemed volunteers served on commissions and committees and were much empowered. Volunteers play a critical role especially as budgets tighten! ”

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Congratulations to Holliston!

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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