



MEDIA RELEASE

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Madisonville, KY 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.

Leslie Pittenger and Alex Pearl, 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 19,001 to 24,000 population category were Venice, FL; Calabasas, CA, and Portsmouth, OH.

Madisonville received a four bloom rating and an outstanding achievement award for its efforts in heritage preservation. Only one of these awards is given each year. In addition, they received a special mention for efforts in overall impression.

The judges said, “This was Madisonville’s fourth year participating in the America in Bloom program ... “the best town on earth” has had a terrific year. Results of past judges’ comments and observations appear to be influences on the many changes taking place. Community leaders are seeing the community take notice of changes. The streets are cleaner and homes are better maintained. The downtown business district is aware of the AIB program and its impact on the community.”

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Congratulations to Madisonville!

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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