



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact Laura Kunkle

[lkunkle@ofa.org](mailto:lkunkle@ofa.org)

614-487-1117

## **Calabasas, CA WINS America in Bloom National 2013 Awards**

(COLUMBUS, OH): After months of anxious waiting, top honors for the prestigious 2013 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Orlando, Florida on September 21.

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

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

Calabasas earned a prestigious five bloom rating and is the overall winner in the 18,001 to 25,000 population category.

Bruce Riggs and Bill Hahn, 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 18,001 to 25,000 category were Madisonville, KY and Ottawa, IL.

Riggs and Hahn said, "Calabasas's municipal and residential floral displays consist almost exclusively of in-ground complimentary, yet at times, strikingly contrasting color combinations. The hand of a master is evident in this work along the many homeowners associations, whose annual displays are changed up to four times each year, featuring four seasons of interest. The plant palette for each HOA is customized to specific conditions present."

Congratulations to Calabasas!

Registrations for the 2014 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2014. 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 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](http://www.americainbloom.org).*