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America in Bloom Results Announced

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Arroyo Grande in Bloom Committee has reason to celebrate after taking home second place honors for their first year involved in the America in Bloom competition.

“For a first time effort we really pulled together a tremendous group of volunteers,” said Bob Lund, Arroyo Grande in Bloom Program Coordinator Co-Chair. “We have accomplished an awful lot in four short months.

We have created an ongoing entity that will help our city government with tidiness, beautification, environment and any other way we can. Our whole objective is to beautify and clean the City of Arroyo Grande without adding a burden to our existing government staff.”

Contestants were judged in eight categories including community involvement, environmental effort, floral displays, heritage, landscaped areas, tidiness urban forestry and turf and groundcover. Cities were also rated on municipal, commercial and residential efforts.

Based on population size, Arroyo Grande competed against Red Wing Minnesota, Frankfort, Indiana and Forest Park Ohio. RedWing took home first place honors. In addition to second place honors Arroyo Grande also won special recognition for community involvement.

Five members of the committee recently returned from Rockford, Illinois where they attended the in Bloom Symposium and Awards

Program. According to Lund the experience offered a wealth of information, ideas.

“It was a very valuable experience,” he said. “We saw what another city, a larger city, has done in the way of beautification and historical improvement.”

As a group the volunteer In Bloom committee spent the last eight months enhancing the visual appeal throughout the city. Improvements included planting flowers and trees, trash pick up, weeding, landscaping and general beautification.

“It has been exciting to see what started out with a few driven and dedicated professionals who wanted to beautify and improve our already gorgeous city, to what has now bloomed into a gar-

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