



**The Town of Cottage City
3820 40th Avenue,
Cottage City, MD 20722
(301)-779-2161**

Memorandum:

To: Cottage City Commission

From: John Hoatson, Town Manager

Date: September 1, 2026

Subject: America In Bloom Symposium 2026

The America in Bloom Symposium will be held September 24–26, 2026, in Alexandria, Virginia.

The cost to attend the full symposium is \$375, which includes meals, the Thursday evening dinner and awards ceremony, and the Saturday evening banquet.

Thursday Evening – Community Champions Awards

Thursday evening will feature the recognition of the Community Champions, with each participating town receiving a plaque in recognition of its outstanding criteria. Former Mayor Gant will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

For those who are unable to attend the full symposium, there are also options to attend the evening events only:

Thursday AIB Dinner and Awards: \$150

Saturday AIB Dinner and Awards: \$150

This is a great opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of participating communities and recognize their outstanding work.

Here is the America in Bloom itinerary for Friday, September 25 when we host the America In Bloom Symposium in the Port Towns and College Park.

America In Bloom Symposium Itinerary -Visit to Bladensburg, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and Edmonston

Friday, September 25, 2026

12:00 p.m. Lunch at the Westin – Alexandria, VA, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA 22314

Videos presented

1:00 p.m. Board the Buses – Bus #1, #2 and #3.

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bus #1 Arrives Bladensburg Eco City Farms/Compost Outpost and visits Town Hall for break and review of grounds. – Refreshment Break at Town Hall

Bus #2 Arrives Cottage City Town Hall to Tour grounds and Community Garden/Leaves for Colmar Manor to tour mural/dueling grounds/Town Hall – Refreshment Break

Bus #3 Arrives Edmonston Community Forklift/ Walk to Veteran’s Park/Murals/Rain Gardens

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bus #3 Arrives Bladensburg Eco City Farms/Compost Outpost and visits Town Hall for break and review of grounds. – Refreshment Break at Town Hall

Bus #1 Arrives Cottage City Town Hall to Tour grounds and Community Garden/Leaves for Colmar Manor to tour mural/dueling grounds/Town Hall – Refreshment Break

Bus #2 Arrives Edmonston Community Forklift/ Walk to Veteran’s Park/Murals/Rain Gardens

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Bus #2 Arrives Bladensburg Eco City Farms/Compost Outpost and visits Town Hall for break and review of grounds. – Refreshment Break at Town Hall

Bus #3 Arrives Cottage City Town Hall to Tour grounds and Community Garden/Leaves for Colmar Manor to tour mural/dueling grounds/Town Hall – Refreshment Break

Bus #1 Arrives Edmonston Community Forklift/ Walk to Veteran's Park/Murals/Rain Gardens

5:00 -6:15 p.m. - Reception/Tour of LEED Certified City Hall at College Park

6:30 p.m. - Arrive at Bladensburg Waterfront Park – Salsa Lessons

7:00 p.m. - Dinner catered by Sardis

8:00 p.m. - Fireworks

8:15 p.m - Board buses to return to Westin Alexandria Old Town