



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Appalachian Mountain Spirits is the September winner of the Area Beautification Award.

Two monthly awards are presented

The chamber of commerce recently announced its September and October winners of the Area Beautification Award.

For September, the award was presented to Appalachian Mountain Spirits in the Park District.

Appalachian Mountain Spirits is a newly opened business in downtown Marion. It is also the home of Virginia Sweetwater Distillery that provides products such as War Horn Whiskey, Virginia Sweetwater Moonshine, and Revelations - A Single Malt Corn Whiskey. Appalachian Mountain Spirits is a small craft distillery that provides music and entertainment, crafts, art, and mountain music. The store front has displays that show off the beauty of Southwest Virginia.

The winner of the award

for October, the Rye Valley District, was the Octagon House. The Abijah Thomas Octagonal House was built in 1850. The house features 10 bedrooms, a parlor, sitting room, family living room, dining room, winter kitchen and plantation office.

The Octagon House was bought by the Orr family of Smyth County and will be gifted to The Abijah Thomas Octagonal House of Smyth County organization to work toward and oversee the restoration and rehabilitation of the home. Since the Orrs have owned the house, they have cleared trees, brush, vines, and planted shrubbery to help restore this beautiful home to make it visible from the main road for all who pass by to see.

The Area Beautification Contest is a project of the

Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County, organized in conjunction with the Smyth County Board of Supervisors. The supervisors select judges for each of the magisterial districts and contests are held on a monthly basis, April through October. One winner is selected each month and represents one of the magisterial districts.

Each of the monthly winners is eligible for the Overall Area Beautification Award. The overall winner is selected through an open polling process each November, with the winner being honored at the chamber of commerce annual dinner meeting.

For more information or to make a nomination, contact the chamber of commerce at 276-783-3161.

Smyth chamber