

BUCKHANNON – The efforts of the City of Buckhannon’s employees and various volunteer organizations that are committed to making the City of Buckhannon a cleaner, more beautiful and environmentally-friendly community were rewarded last Tuesday when the Make It Shine Program named Buckhannon the "West Virginia Make It Shine Clean Community" for the year.

The West Virginia Make it Shine Community Awards program was established in April 1993 in an effort to encourage the communities of West Virginia to assist in making West Virginia the cleanest state in the nation. The Clean Community award is based upon ten (10) specific criteria including Community Cleanup, Recycling, Youth Participation, Adopt-A-Highway, Illegal Dump Cleanup, Public Land Improvement & Beautification, Community Environmental Education, River & Stream Cleanup, Earth Day and other miscellaneous projects.

The City of Buckhannon submitted a detailed 14-page summary of the numerous projects undertaken by the City’s employees, the Special Olympians, the Upshur County Solid Waste Authority, the West Virginia Wesleyan College WE LEAD team, Stockert Youth Center, all Upshur County public schools, the City’s horticulturalist, the City’s Street & Waste Departments, Create Buckhannon, Art26201, the Buckhannon River Watershed Association, Fishing Report WV, the Opportunity House, Callie Sams, Region VII Planning & Development Council, the City’s Sustainability Committee, Upshur County Trails, the residents of the City, the students at West Virginia Wesleyan Collection and numerous others throughout the year.

Mayor David McCauley states “Naturally, everyone associated with our City is very pleased with this latest recognition”.

The City of Buckhannon’s recognition as the winner of this year’s Clean Community Award follows the City being recently awarded the WVDEP’s Cabinet Secretary’s Award for West Virginia’s most sustainable community as well as the WV Rural Water Association’s Water System of the Year.

The number of applications for this year was one of the largest groups in the Make It Shine’s history. Ten applications were received and out of those ten, seven communities qualified as Make It Shine communities.

Terry Carrington, the Make It Shine Coordinator for the WVDEP – REAP program, noted that each community honored will receive two signs to erect at the entrances to the community announcing that they are “Make It Shine Award” recipients while the City of Buckhannon will also receive \$500.00 to be used towards future cleanup & beautification projects.