

2020



READERS' CHOICE

THE REVEAL

VOTES ARE IN

FOR THE **LOVE** OF
CHARLOTTESVILLE



CELEBRATING CHARLOTTESVILLE'S BEST OF 2020

Since the early '90s, we, The Daily Progress, have polled you, our readers, on which people and businesses make our area fabulous. We christened the resulting publication "Readers' Choice," and every year since we've struck up the band and rolled out the red carpet to recognize Charlottesville's most beloved businesses -and the people behind them- for the magic they make.

It's an annual tradition we've come to adore and so has Charlottesville.

As all of us are aware, 2020 is no ordinary year. This publication comes to you in the midst of a pandemic and your favorite businesses, with perhaps a few exceptions, are closed. They are struggling and their futures uncertain. That is a harsh reality. Yet, we recognize and celebrate our winners, since you, our readers, have spoken. We owe them that. With one eye to the future, we're calling this iteration

of Readers' Choice "The Reveal".

Because at the appropriate time, Charlottesville will be back in business. And when that happens, our pledge to you is that Readers' Choice will make a second appearance this year, a publication we have christened "The Return". We will again celebrate our local businesses, while they are making plans for a brighter future.

Until then, we will not only report, but also support. We will cover the issues that are important to you, and we will continue to support our local business community. Just two weeks ago we initiated a program that will award up to \$250,000 in matching

marketing grants for local businesses, in an effort to help them cope and survive these difficult times.

Since our inception we have partnered with local businesses across the region to deliver their messages to customers in both times of prosperity and in times of great challenge. Readers' Choice is a prime example of that commitment.

We do these things because we know that together, we are stronger.

Enjoy Readers' Choice "The Reveal", stay safe and healthy, and we look forward to bringing you Readers' Choice "The Return" later this summer.

The Daily Progress

NOW. MORE THAN EVER.

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PETER YATES

SPECIAL SECTIONS EDITOR:
RICHARD ALBLAS

ART DIRECTOR:
CHRIS CONKLIN

DAILYPROGRESS.COM

COVER PHOTO:
CLOTHING & MODELS
COURTESY OF WHIMSIES
2020 RUNNER-UP: BEST
CLOTHING SHOP FOR KIDS

PHOTO BY JEN FARIELLO

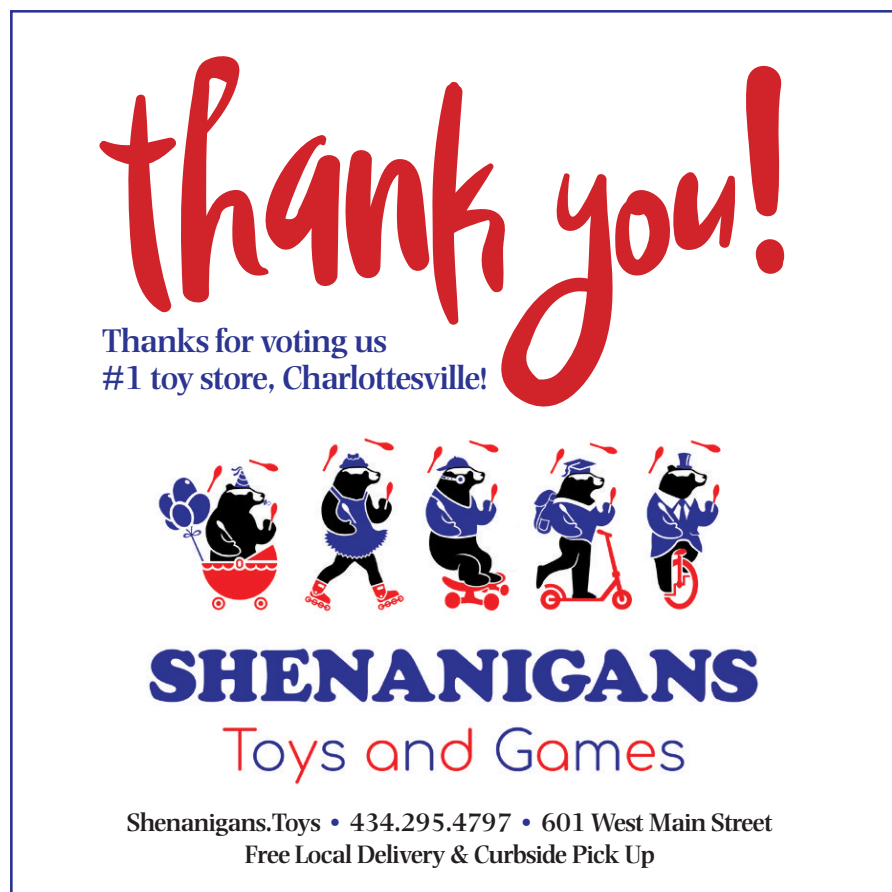


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2020

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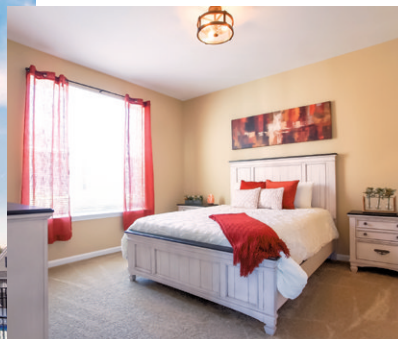
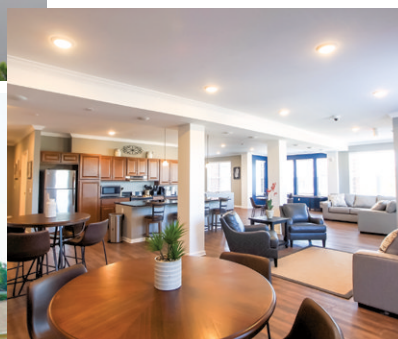
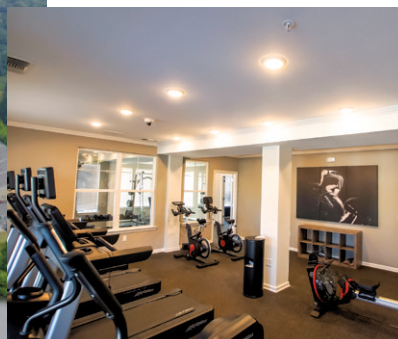
She has been awarded the Accredited Buyers Representation (ABR®) designation by the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Counsel (REBAC) and the SRS® designation which is the premier credential in seller representation, and Rising Star of the year 2018 by Charlottesville Area Association of Realtors (CAAR).

She is an enthusiastic member of the community. In her spare time you can find her volunteering on the Board of Directors of Child Health Partnership. Ashley feels that it's important to give back to the community you live in.

Call her for your real estate needs today!



VIBRANT



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-Judi



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EATS, DRINKS, AND TREATS

ASIAN CUISINE

WINNER: Peter Chang China Grill
RUNNER-UP: Chimm
FINALIST: Lime Leaf

...

AUTHENTIC BBQ

WINNER: Barbecue Exchange
RUNNER-UP: Mission BBQ
FINALIST: Wahoo BBQ

...

BAKERY

WINNER: Chandler's Bakery
RUNNER-UP: MarieBette Cafe and Bakery
FINALIST: Albemarle Baking Company

BREWERY

WINNER: Three Notch'd Brewery
RUNNER-UP: Blue Mountain Brewery
FINALIST: Devils Backbone Brewing Co.

...

BRUNCH

WINNER: Tip Top Restaurant
RUNNER-UP: Moose's By The Creek
FINALIST: Bluegrass Grill and Bakery

...

BURGER

WINNER: Riverside Lunch
RUNNER-UP: Citizen Burger
FINALIST: Jack Brown's Beer & Burger Joint

...

CHEF

WINNER: Laura Fonner (Duner's)
RUNNER-UP: Loren Mendosa (Lampo)
FINALIST: Spencer Marshall (Tavern on the James)

CIDERY

WINNER: Bold Rock Cidery
RUNNER-UP: Albemarle Cider Works
FINALIST: Potter's Craft Cider

...

COFFEE HOUSE

WINNER: Shenandoah Joe
RUNNER-UP: C'ville Coffee
FINALIST: Mudhouse

...

COMFORT FOOD

WINNER: Tip Top Restaurant
RUNNER-UP: Wayside Fried Chicken
FINALIST: Moose's By the Creek

...

DISTILLERY

WINNER: Silverback Distillery
RUNNER-UP: Vitae Spirits
FINALIST: Ragged Branch Distillery

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Back when Ruckersville was 'way out in the boonies', as Ruckersville native Len Lamm describes it, his dad realized even then that real estate was important. Especially, if that real estate was situated on a corner. "He was a very smart man that way," Lamm said about his dad, who would run The Corner Store convenience store in Ruckersville for a few decades, starting in the early 60s. By 1983 son Len took over the store, which eventually would become The Corner Store Garden Center.

"Back then it was still a convenience store," Lamm said. "We had a deli counter, sold gas and plants and groceries," he said. "Slowly but surely, the focus shifted to the gardening side of things," he said.

By 2000, when The Corner Store was physically moved to its current location, Lamm decided to completely transform the convenience store to a gardening center.

"It felt like a natural move," Lamm said. "Convenience stores were every-



where and so transitioning to a gardening center felt like the best thing to do. I did discuss it with my dad at the time, and he agreed that it would be a good idea. And so we did it and that's twenty years ago this year," Lamm said.

Apart from shifting the focus of his business twenty years ago, nothing

**AFTER 37 YEARS
OF DEALING WITH
CUSTOMERS EVERY
DAY, THERE'S NOTHING
MORE IN THIS WORLD
LEN LAMM LIKES
MORE THAN HELPING
PEOPLE OUT.**

much has changed otherwise. "I like people to feel at home when they visit," Lamm said. "My store still has an old feel to it, with original wood floors. A place where you can come in for a chat, even if you're not buying anything."

After 37 years of dealing with customers every day, there's nothing more in this world Len Lamm likes more than helping people out.

"I feel blessed. I wake up every day and I can't wait to get to work. That's just how I feel about it. I love giving people great customer service and helping them out with whatever they came in for," he said.

While doing that, Lamm relies on 4 fulltime employees who he describes as 'extremely knowledgeable'.

During the current pandemic, Lamm is allowed to keep his business open, for which he is grateful. "There's nothing I sell that you need in order to



survive, but I'm happy I can stay open and serve my customers."

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the store is closed to all public and Lamm and his employees only prepare pick-up orders and make free deliveries.

"Around this time of year, with spring already here, lots of folks are getting their mulch or their cold crops, like cabbages," he said. "They also shop for their annual plants. I love this time of year, and normally fill the store with all kinds of new baskets. But every time of year has something wonderful to offer. I also love pumpkin season or selling Christmas trees."

Being voted best garden center in this year's Readers' Choice contest means a lot to the Ruckersville native.

"It really does. It means a lot there are people out there that think enough of me and my business to go and vote for it. Yes, I take that seriously and it means something to me."



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DONUTS

WINNER: Duck Donuts
RUNNER-UP: Carpe Donut
FINALIST: The Donut Kitchen

...

FOOD TRUCK

WINNER: Little Manila
RUNNER-UP: Angelic's Kitchen
FINALIST: The Bavarian Chef

...

FRENCH FRIES

WINNER: Riverside Lunch
RUNNER-UP: BurgerBach
FINALIST: Tubbys Restaurant & Deli

...

FRESH BREAD

WINNER: Albemarle Baking Company
RUNNER-UP: MarieBette Cafe and Bakery
FINALIST: Breadworks

...

HAPPY HOUR

WINNER: Sedona Taphouse
RUNNER-UP: Bonefish Grill
FINALIST: Tavern on the James

...

LATE NIGHT SPOT

WINNER: The Whiskey Jar
RUNNER-UP: Jack Brown's Beer and Burger Joint
FINALIST: Fellini's

...

NACHOS

WINNER: Beer Run
RUNNER-UP: Timberwood Taphouse
FINALIST: The Bebedero

...

NEW RESTAURANT

WINNER: Wahoo BBQ
RUNNER-UP: Royalty Eats
FINALIST: Quality Pie

...

OVERALL RESTAURANT

WINNER: Moose's By The Creek
RUNNER-UP: Tip Top Restaurant
FINALIST: Burtons Bar & Grill

PIZZA

WINNER: Dr. Ho's Humble Pie
RUNNER-UP: Lampo Neapolitan Pizzeria
FINALIST: Marco's Pizza

...

SANDWICH/SUB

WINNER: Tubby's
RUNNER-UP: Feast
FINALIST: Ivy Provisions

...

SEAFOOD

WINNER: Bonefish Grill
RUNNER-UP: Public Fish and Oyster
FINALIST: Shadwell's Restaurant

...

COCKTAILS

WINNER: Alley Light
RUNNER-UP: Whiskey Jar
FINALIST: Tavern on the James

...

STEAK

WINNER: Aberdeen Barn
RUNNER-UP: The Downtown Grille
FINALIST: Prime 109

...

SUSHI

WINNER: Now and Zen
RUNNER-UP: Ten
FINALIST: Sushi King

...

TACOS

WINNER: Brazos
RUNNER-UP: La Michocana
FINALIST: El Jaripeo

...

TAKEOUT

WINNER: Sticks
RUNNER-UP: Wahoo BBQ
FINALIST: Barbecue Exchange

...

WAITSTAFF

WINNER: Tip Top Restaurant
RUNNER-UP: Moose's by the Creek
FINALIST: Wahoo BBQ

WINE SELECTION

WINNER: Market Street Wine Shop
RUNNER-UP: Foods of All Nations
FINALIST: Tastings of Charlottesville

...

WINERY

WINNER: Barboursville Vineyards
RUNNER-UP: King Family Vineyards
FINALIST: Trump Winery

...

WINGS

WINNER: Wild Wing Cafe
RUNNER-UP: Lazy Parrot Backyard BBQ
FINALIST: Moose's By The Creek

EXPERIENCE

AREA PARK

WINNER: Pen Park
RUNNER-UP: Darden Towe Park
FINALIST: Pleasant Grove Park

...

BED & BREAKFAST

WINNER: Prospect Hill Plantation Inn & Restaurant
RUNNER-UP: Lafayette Inn & Restaurant
FINALIST: 200 South Street Inn

...

PLACE TO NETWORK

WINNER: Piedmont Virginia Community College
RUNNER-UP: Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce
FINALIST: Greene County Chamber of Commerce

...

BEST POOL

WINNER: Meade Park
RUNNER-UP: Brooks Family YMCA
FINALIST: Fry's Spring Beach Club

COUNTRY CLUB

WINNER: Boar's Head Resort
RUNNER-UP: Farmington Country Club
FINALIST: Keswick Hall

...

DANCE STUDIO

WINNER: Charlottesville Ballet
RUNNER-UP: Brushwood's School of Dance
FINALIST: Crozet Arts

...

TRANSPORTATION

WINNER: Ambassador Limousine
RUNNER-UP: Norm's Executive Transportation LLC
FINALIST: Camryn Limousine

...

GOLD COURSE

WINNER: Spring Creek Golf Club
RUNNER-UP: Meadowcreek Golf Course
FINALIST: Greene Hills Country Club

LIVE THEATER

WINNER: The Paramount Theater
RUNNER-UP: Live Arts
FINALIST: Four County Players

...

FESTIVAL/EVENT

WINNER: Virginia Festival of the Book
RUNNER-UP: Crozet Arts & Crafts Festival
FINALIST: Toy Lift Charities

...

MOVIE THEATER

WINNER: Alamo Drafthouse Cinema
RUNNER-UP: Violet Crown Charlottesville
FINALIST: Regal Stonefield & IMAX

...

PLACE TO CREATE ART

WINNER: IX Art Park
RUNNER-UP: Wine & Design
FINALIST: Muse Paintbar - Charlottesville

PLACE TO SEE ART

WINNER: McGuffey Art Center
RUNNER-UP: IX Art Park
FINALIST: The Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia

...

PLACE TO SEE MUSIC

WINNER: Sprint Pavilion
RUNNER-UP: John Paul Jones Arena
FINALIST: The Paramount Theater

...

WEDDING VENUE

WINNER: King Family Vineyards
RUNNER-UP: Keswick Vineyards
FINALIST: Guildford Farm

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SPOTLIGHT

AMY BARNABEI

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RUNNER-UP: BEST BOSS



PETOGRAPHY CVILLE

Green Dogs Unleashed is a non-profit organization committed to rescuing animals in need, rehabilitating them, and professionally training them to become Therapy dogs and then placing them in homes to give back to the community.

"It really takes a village, and we are thankful to each and every member in ours!"
-Erika



For more information on our services, please visit our website GreenDogsUnleashed.org or e-mail us at greendogsunleashed@yahoo.com

When she was in high school, Amy Barnabei, a Louisa County native and Fluvanna County resident, knew without a doubt what her path would be; she wanted to make a difference in kids' lives and enter the teaching profession.

And that's exactly what she did; starting in 1998 she became a teacher, serving students in 6th grade at Fluvanna Middle School. Five years later she was promoted to assistant principal at that school and starting in 2010, she would move on to become principal of both West Central Primary and Central Elementary School.

Whatever she does, whatever the day brings, one thing prevails above everything else: "We do what we do every day for the kids."

According to Barnabei, going to work feels like a blessing. "It's because it feels like being with family," she said. "That's what living, working and playing

in Fluvanna means. My kids are in this school system and I know it very well."

Securing the second place in the category "Best Boss" in this year's Readers' Choice is 'quite the honor' she said. But, Barnabei is the first one to point out that it wouldn't have been possible without the people around her.

"I work with amazing people every day. They make it possible for me to do my job and do it well."

**THE BIGGEST CHANGE
IN HER FIELD DURING
HER TENURE, IS THAT
THE SCOPE OF WHAT
TEACHING ENTAILS
HAS WIDENED.**



Her style of leadership is best described as down to earth, and always respectful toward others.

"It's really quite simple," Barnabei said. "I treat people as I would like to be treated. And I think the best part of my job is that we all, collectively, work toward the same goal. We are here to make a difference in the lives of the students we serve."

The biggest change in her field during her tenure, is that the scope of what teaching entails has widened.

"It's not just about the academics," she said. "We also focus on the social and emotional wellbeing of our students. That's what today's world asks of us teachers."

For the foreseeable future, Barnabei isn't going anywhere. She is exactly where she wants and needs to be. "I love being part of this team and I love being part of such a family-oriented community."



*Thank
You!*

To our homeowners, communities, neighbors, and friends for voting us the Daily Progress Readers' Choice Builder for 11 years in a row. We are honored to be your favorite local homebuilder and extremely proud of the relationships we have built.





SPOTLIGHT

CHARLOTTESVILLE BALLET

WINNER: BEST DANCE STUDIO

PSDAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Founded in 2007 by Sara Clayborne and Emily Hartka, Charlottesville Ballet is not just the only professional dance company in the Charlottesville area, it also has a proven track record of engaging people from all walks of life and ages into the many dance programs Charlottesville Ballet has to offer.

"Currently, our youngest student is one and a half years old, the oldest student is over 90 years old," Sara Clayborne, co-director of Charlottesville Ballet said. "It's safe to say we have something to offer for the whole community."

Charlottesville Ballet was named best dance studio in this year's Readers' Choice contest.

New York native Clayborne and Hartka, who calls Roanoke her hometown, both earned their stripes in the world of ballet and traveled the country as professional dancers with prestigious ballet companies.

By 2007, they decided to team up and start a professional ballet company, with a mission to be more inclusive than they had experienced.

"First and foremost, health and wellness have always been the goal in everything we do," Clayborne said.

"Through our own experiences, we've learned that the world of professional ballet isn't always as inclusive as we would like it to be. For instance, female dancers have to be a certain weight that isn't always healthy. We wanted to step away from that and open up our company to anyone, no matter the age, experience level or body type."

Clayborne said that she and Hartka started the company 'from the ground up.'

"We got our start in a donated space in Greene County," she said. "It took a few years, but we have always been able to grow."

Thirteen years later, Charlottesville Ballet consists of three major pillars, said Clayborne, that allow the company to touch the lives of community members from young to old.

"Our professional ballet company is comprised of 15 extremely talented dancers from all over the world," Clayborne said. "On an annual basis, we perform at The Paramount Theater and PVCC in Charlottesville, as well as in Lynchburg and Fairfax."

The second and third pillars are geared toward the community; the Charlottesville Ballet Academy (CBA) is the official training school of Charlot-

tesville Ballet, and through a program called CB Moves, the company offers several community outreach programs.

"Our academy was founded in 2011 and we have reached at least 600 kids during that time," Clayborne said. "Through the academy, we offer training in all dance genres, from ballet, to jazz, to hip-hop and tap."

According to Clayborne, the academy offers 99 classes on a weekly basis.

Through CB Moves, the third pillar,

"CURRENTLY, OUR YOUNGEST STUDENT IS ONE AND A HALF YEARS OLD, THE OLDEST STUDENT IS OVER 90 YEARS OLD."

the company is able to get out into the community and bring dance to schools, seniors or people who are experiencing movement disorders.

"Through CB Moves we also try to cater to the whole spectrum of the community," Clayborne said. "Through a program called 'Chance to Dance', we currently offer after school dance classes at six public schools," she said. "Silver Swans is another program under the CB Moves umbrella, and consists of a free class once a week at The Center, teaching seniors the basic principles of ballet, with a focus on flexibility, strength and conditioning."

A last CB Moves initiative Clayborne wants to highlight is 'Movement for Parkinson's', a weekly free class with a focus on people who experience movement disorders, and their care partners.

Charlottesville Ballet employs around 35 people and both Clayborne and co-founder Hartka are 'filled with gratitude'



looking back on the past 13 years and being named best dance studio in this year's Readers' Choice.

"We both had a clear idea of what we wanted to create," Clayborne said. "A ballet and dance company for everyone, no matter your age, experience or body

type. Health and wellness, and having fun being part of our classes, were always the main goals. Seeing where we started and where we are now, we are filled with gratitude and just grateful to be part of this community," Clayborne said.



The Earlysville Exchange is a 501c3 non-profit that exists to recycle unwanted goods, find new homes for them through our retail thrift store, and then donate funds generated from those sales to other 501c3 businesses in our area. To date, we have donated over \$155,000 back to the community in the 5 and 1/2 years we have been in operation.



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FINACIAL SERVICES

BANK/CREDIT UNION

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RUNNER-UP: BB&T
RUNNER-UP: Wells Fargo, Charlottesville VA
FINALIST: Atlantic Union Bank at Lake Monticello

TIE

CPA/TAX PREPARER

WINNER: Hantzmon Wiebel LLP
RUNNER-UP: The Tax Ladies
FINALIST: Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates

INSURANCE AGENCY

WINNER: Cynthia Shifflett - State Farm
RUNNER-UP: Josh Griffith Agency - Farmers Insurance
FINALIST: State Farm: Hunter Wyant

LAW FIRM

WINNER: Tucker Griffin Barnes P.C.
RUNNER-UP: Marks & Harrison
FINALIST: Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen

MORTGAGE COMPANY

WINNER: UVA Community Credit Union
RUNNER-UP: C&F Bank
FINALIST: First Heritage Mortgage
FINALIST: Fulton Bank

TIE

WEALTH MANAGER

WINNER: Wells Fargo
RUNNER-UP: Davenport & Company LLC
FINALIST: Member Wealth Management, (UVA Community Credit Union)
FINALIST: Edward Jones - Financial Advisor: Marianne L. Shepard

TIE

HEALTH & BEAUTY

CHIROPRACTOR

WINNER: Scott Wagner
RUNNER-UP: Douglas Cox
FINALIST: Wayne Fusco

DENTIST'S OFFICE

WINNER: Spring Creek Family Dentistry (John H. Knight and Associates)
RUNNER-UP: Aesthetic Dentistry of Charlottesville
FINALIST: Clarke and Farmer, DDS

DERMATOLOGIST

WINNER: Albemarle Dermatology Associates
RUNNER-UP: Charlottesville Dermatology
FINALIST: Dermatology PLC (Dr. Scott, Dr. Burkholder)

EYE DOCTOR

WINNER: My Eye Dr
RUNNER-UP: Charlottesville Eye Associates
FINALIST: Blue Ridge Ophthalmology

MASSAGE

WINNER: ACAC
RUNNER-UP: Halo Salt Spa
FINALIST: Silver Lining Day Spa

MEN'S CUT

WINNER: Tangles Salon (Forest Lakes)
RUNNER-UP: Chung's Barbershop
FINALIST: His Image Barber Shop

ORTHODONTIST OFFICE

WINNER: Spring Creek Family Dentistry (John H. Knight and Associates)
RUNNER-UP: Hamner and Glasik Orthodontics
FINALIST: Children's Dentistry of Charlottesville

PEDIATRIC OFFICE

WINNER: Pediatric Associates of Charlottesville
RUNNER-UP: Piedmont Pediatrics
FINALIST: UVA Northridge Pediatrics

PLACE TO DO YOGA

WINNER: ACAC
RUNNER-UP: Hot Yoga Charlottesville
FINALIST: Flydog yoga

PHYSICAL THERAPY

WINNER: ACAC
RUNNER-UP: Spectrum Therapy
FINALIST: Move Better Physical Therapy

PLACE TO WORK OUT

WINNER: ACAC
RUNNER-UP: YMCA
FINALIST: Orangetheory Fitness

PRIMARY CARE DR.

WINNER: Dr. Kathy Phan
RUNNER-UP: Dr. Andrew Chang
FINALIST: Dr. Ann Klecan
FINALIST: Dr. Renee Fischer

TIE

SPA

WINNER: ACAC
RUNNER-UP: Silver Lining Day Spa
FINALIST: Boar's Head Spa

WOMAN'S CUT

WINNER: Anew Salon
RUNNER-UP: Ederra Salon
FINALIST: Bristles

YOGA/FITNESS INSTR.

WINNER: Teresa Harris (ACAC)
RUNNER-UP: Kira Sullivan
FINALIST: Melissa Whittaker (Anytime Fitness- Ruckersville)

HOME FAVORITES

ARBORIST

WINNER: Van Yahres Tree Co.
RUNNER-UP: Nigel Wood Tree Service
FINALIST: Habitat Services

ARCHITECT

WINNER: Candice M. P. Smith Architect
RUNNER-UP: Robin Meyer
FINALIST: W. Douglas Gilpin, Jr

CARPET & FLOORING

WINNER: Floor Fashions of Virginia
RUNNER-UP: Carpet Plus
FINALIST: Ceiling & Floor Shop

ELECTRICIAN

WINNER: Robertson Electric
RUNNER-UP: W. E. Brown
FINALIST: Kennedy Electric

FURNITURE STORE

WINNER: Grand Home Furnishings
RUNNER-UP: Habitat Store
FINALIST: Circa
FINALIST: Twice Is Nice

TIE

GARDEN CENTER

WINNER: Corner Store Garden Center
RUNNER-UP: Snow's Garden Center
FINALIST: Southern States Harris Street

HANDYMAN

WINNER: HandyMike
RUNNER-UP: Intrastate Service Co.
FINALIST: Charlottesville Handyman Service

HEATING & COOLING

WINNER: Albemarle Heating & Air
RUNNER-UP: Robertson Heating and Air
FINALIST: Mack Morris Heating and Air

HOME BUILDER

WINNER: Southern Development Homes
RUNNER-UP: Craig Builders
FINALIST: Jefferson Area Builders

HOME DECOR

WINNER: Twice is Nice
RUNNER-UP: Qute Scraps
FINALIST: SPCA Rummage Store

LANDSCAPING CO.

WINNER: Snow's Garden Center
RUNNER-UP: J. W. Townsend
FINALIST: Meriweather Mowing Service



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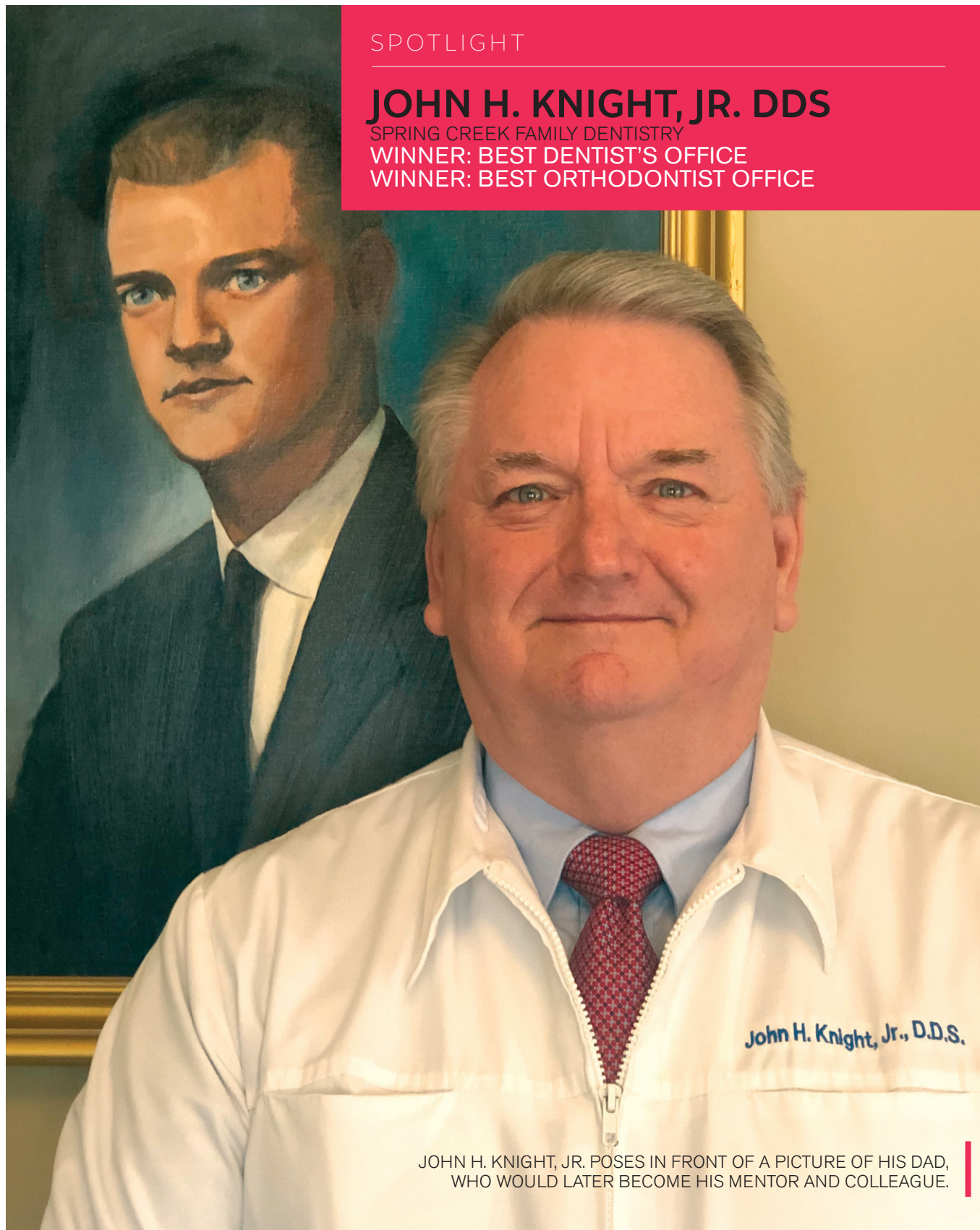
SPOTLIGHT

JOHN H. KNIGHT, JR. DDS

SPRING CREEK FAMILY DENTISTRY

WINNER: BEST DENTIST'S OFFICE

WINNER: BEST ORTHODONTIST OFFICE



JOHN H. KNIGHT, JR. POSES IN FRONT OF A PICTURE OF HIS DAD, WHO WOULD LATER BECOME HIS MENTOR AND COLLEAGUE.

Growing up in Charlottesville, Jay Knight, Jr. remembers vividly that dinner at the Knight family was at 6 p.m. sharp every night. It was a time for the family to get together and discuss the day that was. Patriarch John H. Knight Sr., a renowned and well-known dentist at the time, would share stories about his work, and Junior loved every tale he ever told.

"What struck me most about that was that my Dad genuinely loved his work," John "Jay" Knight, Jr. reflects. "For some people work is just work. For my Dad, dentistry was a calling. For me, it's a calling as well. It just took me a while to get there."

Jay Knight, Jr. is now owner of two dental practices in Charlottesville and Zion Crossroads, employs almost thirty people, loves to help his patients with their dental needs, and, like his Dad, genuinely loves his work. He is proud to carry on the legacy started by his Dad. His career path, though, took a detour before Knight, Jr. was where he wanted to be.

"I attended Elon College in North Carolina and majored in business," Knight, Jr. said. "After I graduated I worked in hotel and restaurant management, as well as in real estate development. I worked with people every day, and in some ways those jobs were fulfilling. But I kept thinking about my Dad, our dinners, his stories and how happy he was in his work. I always had an affinity with dentistry and by my mid-thirties I decided to change careers. I was going to be a dentist."

Easier said than done. Knight Jr., an Albemarle High School graduate, went back to school to take all the sciences classes he needed and after that enrolled in the Dental School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I was an older student and it had been a while since I had been in school," he said. "I had to relearn how to learn. It was tough."

What made it tougher was that Knight Jr. was a single dad at the time,

went to school fulltime and waited tables during weekends.

"It's the hardest thing I have ever done," he said. "But it's also the best thing I could've done. And having a dentist-Dad was obviously a big help. I could go to him for advice and use him as my sounding board."

All his hard work paid off and Jay Knight Jr. graduated dental school in 2001. He joined his Dad's practice and embarked on what he calls 'a unique period in his life'.

"At that point my Dad wasn't just my Dad and my mentor, we were now colleagues. Instead of him telling stories at the dinner table about work, we could now share them. I think it's pretty unique to have that kind of relationship with your Dad."

In 2004 Junior took over the Charlottesville practice, and Senior took on a more advisory role. Four years

later, Knight Jr. decided to expand the business.

"We had a lot of patients coming to Charlottesville from Louisa and places closer to Richmond," he said. "We thought it would be great if we could offer them a more convenient location. That's why we opened Spring Creek Family Dentistry in Zion Crossroads."

Although construction started during the Great Depression of 2008, the business was able to take off; Zion Crossroads has seen a boost in businesses locating there, as well as many

new housing developments that took shape over the last decade or so.

"My vision for that practice was to have a place where the whole family can go for their dental needs," Knight Jr. said. "And although we very rarely have to refer patients, we are what you would call a one-stop-shop."

John H. Knight Sr. passed away in 2012.

"What's amazing is that I still see patients that started with my Dad in the 60s. And I see their kids, and grand kids. In some cases I see the fourth

generation of a family that started with my Dad."

John H. Knight Jr. DDS & Associates in Charlottesville, and Spring Creek Family Dentistry in Zion Crossroads took home the number one spot in the category Best Dentist Office and Best Orthodontist Office in this year's Readers' Choice contest.

"I'm honored by that. But I feel like a parent in this case; this is all about the wonderful people I work with. They deserve this."

Looking back at his journey that made Jay Knight Jr. a successful health care professional, only one word comes to mind.

"Amazing. It's been very rewarding. People say it's not about the destination, but about the journey, and I agree. My Dad always used to say: Do what makes you happy, and do it often. That's exactly what I'm doing."

"WHAT'S AMAZING IS THAT I STILL SEE PATIENTS THAT STARTED WITH MY DAD IN THE 60S. AND I SEE THEIR KIDS, AND GRAND KIDS. IN SOME CASES I SEE THE FOURTH GENERATION OF A FAMILY THAT STARTED WITH MY DAD."



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SPOTLIGHT

TOP NOTCH COMPUTERS
 WINNER (TIE): BEST COMPUTER REPAIR

As a kid growing up in Detroit, Christian Argie developed a love for all things computers. He used to watch his dad work, who was a computer engineer in the Motor City, working for the automobile industry. It didn't take Christian long to venture out on his own and help folks with their computer issues, to earn himself some extra cash.

"By the time I was 19, I started my own computer company out of my basement," Argie said. He named his business Top Notch Computers and

at that time, it was a part time job. By age 22, Argie decided he found his calling and the founder and owner of the new business went fulltime. What started out as a one-man undertaking, has grown into a business with several locations, over twenty employees and a reputation to match. Argie himself is recognized as an authority in IT administration and cyber security, and has been featured on CBS, NBC and FOX in that capacity.

Top Notch Computers & Technology Services offers services to both

commercial businesses and residential customers alike. Whether a large, local business is looking for smart IT solutions, or if someone has a laptop that needs repair, Top Notch Computers can handle the task.

"It's because we have such a dynamic, diverse and talented team," Argie said. "Whatever the problem we have someone on the team that can handle it."

Argie is a firm believer in doing business with his clients face-to-face. "It's the best way to get a good relationship

with a client. Getting to know each other is important. To me it doesn't matter if you own a small business in town, or if you are part of a Fortune 500 company. Everyone deserves the same level of customer service."

Top Notch has locations in Charlottesville, Richmond and Washington D.C. and running a successful business with over 20 employees in three locations keeps Argie busy, to say the least.

Still, three years ago, Argie and his wife Leah founded Top Notch Family

Pharmacy on Preston Avenue. "That really is my wife's baby," he said about the pharmacy.

Leah Argie, a VCU grad with a PharmD degree under her belt, wanted to become a pharmacist as long as she could remember. When she learned that a local pharmacy in Charlottesville was disappearing to make way for a big retail chain, she decided to step in and fill the void; Top Notch Family Pharmacy.

Despite both Christian and Leah be-



"BY THE TIME I WAS 19, I STARTED MY OWN COMPUTER COMPANY OUT OF MY BASEMENT."

ing successful business owners, they remain humble and are able to put things in perspective.

"My wife is a hard worker and mostly wants to stay out of the limelight," Argie said. "I'm the same way. Every day, I just put my head down and do the best

possible job I can. There's no need to get greedy, or to get over ambitious."

That doesn't mean Argie doesn't want to grow his business further.

"I'm a terrible planner," he laughed. "The vision for Top Notch Computers is to expand and to continue to deliver

a great service to businesses and residents. When you work hard, those possibilities will come."

For Argie it comes as no surprise he works with a dedicated and highly professional staff. Just how dedicated, he learned during times of a global pandemic.

"In a time when most people were staying home because of COVID19, folks might have seen our vans driving around town," he said. "That's not because I was somehow demanding that my staff kept working. We were going to close, but the state of Virginia threatened to sue me if I did. We are an essential business and had to stay open. Thankfully, most of my staff volunteered to stay on the job. For those who couldn't, we made sure there was a way for them to work remotely. That says a lot about how dedicated my staff is."

RUNNER-UP

READERS' CHOICE

2020

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RUNNER-UP: Fluvanna ACE Hardware
FINALIST: Habitat Store

...

MATTRESS PLACE

WINNER: Grand Home Furnishings
RUNNER-UP: Monticello Mattress & More
FINALIST: Schewels Furniture

...

PLUMBER

WINNER: W.E. Brown, Inc
RUNNER-UP: Laco Plumbing
FINALIST: Fitch Services

...

REAL ESTATE CO.

WINNER: Avenue Realty, LLC
RUNNER-UP: Nest Realty
FINALIST: Roy Wheeler Real Estate

REALTOR

WINNER: Trey Durham
RUNNER-UP: Pam Whorley
FINALIST: Ashley Jurney

...

ROOFING CO.

WINNER: Roof Top Services
RUNNER-UP: W.A. Lynch Roofing Co
FINALIST: Blue Ridge Roofing

...

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

WINNER: Sigora Solar
RUNNER-UP: Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)
FINALIST: SunDay Solar

...

WINDOWS & DOORS

WINNER: Charlottesville Glass and Mirror
RUNNER-UP: Overhead Door Company of
Charlottesville
FINALIST: Window Depot

LIVE, LEARN, WORK

APARTMENTS

WINNER: The Reserve at Belvedere
RUNNER-UP: Terrace Greene Apartments
FINALIST: Carriage Hill

...

BEST BENEFITS

WINNER: Our Lady of Peace
RUNNER-UP: Cathcart Group
FINALIST: UVA Physicians Group (UPG)

...

BEST BOSS

WINNER: Sara Warden-Our Lady of Peace
RUNNER-UP: Amy Barnabei, Principal
FINALIST: Carla Moody, St. Mark Lutheran
Preschool



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BEST PAY

WINNER: Our Lady of Peace
RUNNER-UP: University of Virginia
FINALIST: St. Mark Lutheran Preschool

...

BEST WORK CULTURE

WINNER: Our Lady of Peace
RUNNER-UP: Hospice of the Piedmont
FINALIST: Jefferson Area Board for Aging

...

DAYCARE PROVIDER

WINNER: UVA Child Development Center-Earhart
RUNNER-UP: St. Mark Lutheran Preschool
FINALIST: JABA's Adult Care Center

...

KIDS CAMP

WINNER: Girl Scout Camp Sugar Hollow
RUNNER-UP: Triple C Camp
FINALIST: YMCA

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

WINNER: Hospice of the Piedmont
RUNNER-UP: Our Lady of Peace
FINALIST: Dogs Deserve Better Blue Ridge

...

PLACE TO WORK

WINNER: Our Lady of Peace
RUNNER-UP: University of Virginia
FINALIST: West Central Primary & Central Elem (Fluvanna)

...

PRESCHOOL

WINNER: St. Mark Lutheran Preschool
RUNNER-UP: JABA Shining Star Preschool (Charlottesville)
FINALIST: West Central Primary School (Fluvanna)

PRIVATE SCHOOL

WINNER: Tandem Friends School
RUNNER-UP: St. Anne's-Belfield School (STAB)
FINALIST: Covenant School

...

PUBLIC SCHOOL

WINNER: Albemarle High School
RUNNER-UP: Monticello High School
FINALIST: West Central Primary & Central Elem (Fluvanna Co.)

...

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

WINNER: Our Lady of Peace
RUNNER-UP: The Independence
FINALIST: The Colonnades



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-John H. Knight, Jr. DDS



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BEST ORTHODONTIST

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SPOTLIGHT

MEG WEST

WINNER: BEST LOCAL ARTIST



Meg West, a Baltimore native, professional painter and nature lover, has called Crozet home for the past 34 years. It has become her hometown. For the past 20 years, West has been a professional landscape painter, taking her blank canvas to wherever Mother Nature beckons her.

With great results. Not only has West been able to make a living as a professional artist for two decades, this year she was voted 'Best Local Artist' in the Daily Progress' Readers' Choice contest.

"I was always attracted to the arts," West said. She attended the Philadelphia College of Art, where she majored in graphic design and minored in painting. After working as a graphic designer for several years, West decided to become a fulltime painter around the turn of the century.

"I am what's called a plein air

painter," West explained. "It's a French expression that means the act of outdoor painting. I love being outdoors and I love painting landscapes."

Renoir and Monet, to name just a few, were plein air painters as well.

West paints everyday and for most of the time, it's a job that requires her to be alone. "Like many other people, I sometimes like the solitude," she said. "And the work itself comes with challenges, like the weather, dealing with sunlight and shade, and bugs as well. There are things in nature that are always moving and that can be difficult to capture."

In times when West enjoys the company of likeminded individuals, she relies on a solid network of local painters, who get together and venture out to paint together.

Some of these outings are sponsored by local galleries, who will exhibit the paintings for a month or so,

and take a percentage of the sales for their efforts. Participating artists are usually invited by the gallery.

One such outing is in Lexington, West said.

"It's always in the Fall and obviously was canceled this year. But in previous years friends of the gallery there will volunteer a bedroom, or two, for local artists to stay in when they are there for the painting and opening night. To me, that showcases how the arts can bring a community together."

It's hard to say how many painting West sells on a yearly basis, since she paints both big and small paintings. Her husband, a carpenter, often helps out for a finishing touch.

"We make our own frames for my paintings," West said. "We use Virginia grown Cherry wood for that. It's great to have a carpenter for a husband."

West said she is 'very honored' to be awarded first place in the category

'Local Artist'.

"It's wonderful to know that my work is known with at least some of the Daily Progress readers," West said. "It makes me very happy that my work is making an impact."

West is a member of the Crozet Artisan Depot, Cville Arts and some of her favorite spots to paint are the many local vineyards in Western Albemarle, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Garth Road and Chiles Peach Orchard in Crozet.

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— 50 —

SPOTLIGHT

CREATURE BIG AND SMALL

WINNER: BEST PET DAY CARE
WINNER: BEST PET GROOMING



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Creatures Great and Small, the boarding and pet grooming business in Charlottesville, won two categories in this year's Readers' Choice: Pet Day Care and Pet Grooming.

"I'm shocked, and I'm honored," owner Katie Emanuel said.

Creatures Great and Small started in 1992, when Emanuel's mom took over the Berkmar Park Pet Center. She moved here from Maryland, where the family lived on a horse farm, and would take care of their dogs.

"We would be grooming our dogs all

**"TAKING CARE OF
ANIMALS IS OBVIOUSLY
OUR CALLING,"**

the time; it was a natural process for us. It was an easy transition to start grooming other people's dogs."

In the 28 years that Creatures Great and Small has been in business, the connection with the local community and her customers have been the most rewarding part of Emanuel's job.

"Taking care of animals is obviously our calling," Emanuel said. "We board and groom all dogs that come through our doors, but we have specialized in taking care of dogs that have issues. Dogs that tend to bite, have been abused or are elderly. That's what we love to do. In doing so, we have cultivated wonderful relationships with our customers. Our customers become our family."

That became apparent two years ago when Emanuel's mom suddenly passed away.

"Our customers organized a sit-in in our lobby and they mourned with



us," Emanuel said. "That's what I mean when I say that our customers become our family. Without those wonderful customers, we wouldn't be here."

Emanuel said the same thing about her employees. She calls them dedicated and family members as well. Creatures Great and Small has around 10 employees.

It's safe to say that Emanuel's life revolves around animals. When she's not working at Creatures Great and Small, she cares for her 15 Anatolian Shepherds on her farm. She travels the country showing her dogs in dog shows and has even participated in the Westminster Dog Show.

With Emanuel's daughter now helping out at her store, a third generation of the family is now involved in day-to-day operations.

"We are a small family-owned business," Emanuel said. "And we are proud of it."

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MERCHANTS

ANTIQUE SHOP

WINNER: Circa
RUNNER-UP: A & W Collectibles
FINALIST: Twice Is Nice

BIKE SHOP

WINNER: Blue Ridge Cyclery
RUNNER-UP: Blue Wheel Bicycles

CLOTHING FOR KIDS

WINNER: Kid 2 Kid
RUNNER-UP: Whimsies
FINALIST: Green Bean Baby Boutique

COMPUTER REPAIR

WINNER: PJ Networks
WINNER: Top Notch Computer
RUNNER-UP: Advantage Office Systems

CONSIGNMENT/ RESALE

WINNER: Twice Is Nice
RUNNER-UP: Hey Gorgeous Boutique (Louisa)
FINALIST: Earlysville Exchange
FINALIST: Kid-to-kid

FARMER'S MARKET/ CSA

WINNER: Charlottesville City Market
RUNNER-UP: Scottsville Farmers Market
FINALIST: Farmers in the Park (Meade)

HEALTH FOOD STORE

WINNER: Rebecca's Natural Food
RUNNER-UP: Whole Foods
FINALIST: IY Foods

GROCERY STORE

WINNER: Foods of All Nations
RUNNER-UP: Reid Super Save Market
FINALIST: E.W. Thomas Grocery, Inc

SPECIALTY FOOD

WINNER: Foods of All Nations
RUNNER-UP: Feast
FINALIST: Rebecca's Natural Food

HOME APPLIANCES

WINNER: Doug's Maytag Home Appliance Center
RUNNER-UP: Davis Appliance LLC
FINALIST: Charlottesville Sanitary Supply



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HOTTUB/SPA/ POOL SUPPLIES

WINNER: Charlottesville Sanitary Supply
FINALIST: Charlottesville Aquatics

JEWELRY STORE

WINNER: Tuel Jewelers
RUNNER-UP: Andrew Minton
FINALIST: Reines Jewelers

MEN'S ATTIRE

WINNER: The Men's & Boys' Shop
RUNNER-UP: Twice is Nice
FINALIST: Eljo's Traditional Clothes

PHOTOGRAPHER

WINNER: Amy Yang Photography
RUNNER-UP: Rob Garland Photographers
FINALIST: Ashley McKinney Photography

SHOE STORE

WINNER: Richey and Company
RUNNER-UP: Boutique Boutique /
The Shoe Store Next Door
FINALIST: OESH Shoes

SHOPPING CENTER

WINNER: Barrack's Road Shopping Center
RUNNER-UP: 5th Street Station
FINALIST: The Shops at Stonefield

TOY STORE

WINNER: Shenanigans
RUNNER-UP: Alakazam
FINALIST: Kid-to-kid

WOMEN'S ATTIRE

WINNER: Twice Is Nice
RUNNER-UP: Darling Boutique
FINALIST: Spring Street Boutique

PERSONALITIES

BARTENDER

WINNER: Ted Norris, Maya
RUNNER-UP: Micah LeMon, The Alley Light
FINALIST: Jessica Fields, Holly's Diner

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

WINNER: Belmont
RUNNER-UP: Lake Monticello
FINALIST: Forest Lakes

ENTREPRENEUR

WINNER: Ted and Susan Anderson/
Anderson's Seafood
RUNNER-UP: Amy Benson, Moose's By The Creek
FINALIST: Toan Nguyen, C'ville Central

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SPOTLIGHT

PJ NETWORK COMPUTER SERVICES
WINNER (TIE): BEST COMPUTER REPAIR

For the 6th year in a row, PJ Network Computer Services in Charlottesville has won the category "Computer Repair" in the annual Daily Progress Readers' Choice contest. But don't think for a moment owner and CEO Phil Jaderborg will rest on his laurels to enjoy that success. It's not how he's wired. Complacency has no place in Jaderborg's work and personal life.

"A reputation is the most important thing to a small family-owned business," Jaderborg said. "And you have to work hard everyday to make sure that reputation stays good."

Jaderborg is a Central Virginia native, who ventured out to California for about a decade, but couldn't resist the call of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He returned and in 2005 started his own business; PJ Networks. With that company, he set out to provide businesses in his community with first class computer support.

"We really offer a broad range of services for businesses," Jaderborg said. "If I were to highlight the most important ones, it would be remote workplace solutions, business networks and managed services."

That last one is particularly important in the business world, Jaderborg said.

"In times past, a business like us would get a phone call whenever there was a problem. We would come out and then fix it. That might still happen, but with managed services, we monitor our clients' systems in real time and can act pro-actively before a problem arises."

Not long after Jaderborg got his busi-

ness off the ground, with his wife Kelly by his side as Administrative Director, the business owner noticed another need in the community and decided to fill the void.

"A lot of the computer repair places in town were disappearing," he said. "But at the same time, we really noticed a demand for these services. So we decided to expand our services."

Now, PJ Networks supports mostly small to mid-sized companies streamline their computer network environments, but residents who have issues with their equipment, from a broken laptop screen to computer viruses, have a place to go for expert help.

"Whatever the case, I am a strong believer in face-to-face contact with our clients," Jaderborg said. "It's how you build good relationships. We are not a company that solves a problem and sends an invoice. That's not how

we work. We also make sure that we assign a primary engineer to a specific business. That way, the business gets to know their point person on a personal level and help is always just one phone call away."

The 14 employees at PJ Networks Computer Services are like family, Jaderborg said.

"For me, it really is unique. They are always willing to step in and help out when needed. If a certain primary engineer is not available to help a client, someone else steps in, makes sure he or she knows the client, the issues, and gets the job done."

Finally, in a world that is more and more characterized by automated phone menus or online forms to fill out, Jaderborg is adamant about making sure when someone calls his business, that person gets to speak with a live person.

"That is a guarantee," he said.

"A REPUTATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO A SMALL FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS."

CIVIC LEADER

WINNER: Joe Thomas
RUNNER-UP: Tom Powell
FINALIST: Lloyd Snook

...

EDUCATOR

WINNER: Dr. Tenia, Principal Fluvanna MS
RUNNER-UP: Rob Garland
FINALIST: Will Cooke, Charlottesville City

...

ARTIST

WINNER: Meg West
RUNNER-UP: Chico Lorenzo
FINALIST: Brian McCrory

...

CELEBRITY

WINNER: Josh Fitzpatrick
RUNNER-UP: Chris Long
FINALIST: The Rock

...

MUSICIAN/GROUP

WINNER: The Barons
RUNNER-UP: Cheap Whiskey
FINALIST: Love Canon

...

TRENDSETTER

WINNER: Jason Elliot
RUNNER-UP: Rob Shilling
FINALIST: Joe Thomas

...

WEDDING PLANNER

WINNER: Brian Schornberg
RUNNER-UP: Logan Paige
FINALIST: The One Moment Events

PET PICKS

PET DAY CARE

WINNER: Creatures Great and Small
RUNNER-UP: All Things Pawssible
FINALIST: Autumn Trails Veterinary Center

PET GROOMER

WINNER: Creatures Great and Small
RUNNER-UP: The Dogg House
FINALIST: Pooch Spa by Lisa Beyer

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PET OBEDIENCE SCHOOL

WINNER: Green Dogs Unleashed
RUNNER-UP: Canine Campus
FINALIST: Pampered Pets

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PET RESCUE ORG.

WINNER: CASPCA
RUNNER-UP: Green Dogs Unleashed
FINALIST: Dogs Deserve Better Blue Ridge

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PET STORE

WINNER: Natural Pet Essentials
RUNNER-UP: Pet Food Discounters
FINALIST: Happy Tails

...

VETERINARY CARE

WINNER: Georgetown Veterinary Hospital
RUNNER-UP: Charlottesville Veterinary Hospital
FINALIST: Old Dominion Animal Hospital

WHEELS, DEALS, & AUTOMOBILES

AUTO BODY SHOP

WINNER: Hall's Auto Body
RUNNER-UP: Taylor's Auto Body
FINALIST: Masters Auto Body

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AUTO REPAIR

WINNER: J Team Auto Repair & Exhaust
RUNNER-UP: Airport Road Auto Center
FINALIST: Bob's Wheel Alignment

NEW CAR DEALER

WINNER: Umansky Toyota
RUNNER-UP: Colonial Auto
FINALIST: Price Hyundai

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OIL CHANGE

WINNER: Airport Road Auto Center
RUNNER-UP: Bob's Wheel Alignment
FINALIST: Jim Price Chevrolet

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TIRE STORE

WINNER: University Tire
RUNNER-UP: Campbell Equipment, Inc
FINALIST: Bob's Wheel Alignment

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USED CAR DEALER

WINNER: Jim Price
RUNNER-UP: Colonial Auto
FINALIST: Edgecomb's Auto Sales

CONGRATULATIONS
 TO ALL OUR 2020 WINNERS!

The Daily Progress

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PROJECT REBOUND



WORKING TOGETHER
TO RESTORE
BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce
City of Charlottesville | Albemarle County | UVA



Share your ideas today

www.CvilleChamber.com/rebound

Project Rebound is a local economic recovery initiative to address the COVID-19 economic crisis and assist businesses in Charlottesville and Albemarle County to emerge from the current stay-at-home order.