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CHOICE**

*Awards*

**2021**

**readers'  
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*A Reader's Choice Award  
Favorite 2018, 2019,  
and 2020*

# A letter to our readers

**T**oday, we kick off voting for the 21st annual LNP|LancasterOnline Readers' Choice Awards! The goal of the awards is to celebrate and recognize the best our community has to offer as voted on by you, our readers. Like last year, all of the votes will be cast online at [LancasterOnline.com/readerschoice/vote](http://LancasterOnline.com/readerschoice/vote).

As the Director of Client Solutions, my team and I have the privilege of working with thousands of local businesses each year. We work hard to build trust and produce results for each of them and, oftentimes, personal friendships result. It's one of the best perks of our job.

The relationships we've built with local business owners is one reason we watched with so much pride and appreciation as the Lancaster County business community rose to meet all of the difficult moments COVID-19 handed them in the last year. From restaurants supplying meals to first responders to local distilleries pivoting from making alcohol to making hand sanitizer in the face of a national shortage, the list of resourceful, not to mention kind, deeds from local business owners in the last year goes on and on.

And while there's been no shortage of questions throughout the pandemic, the willingness, you could even call it eagerness, to shop local and support area businesses by the residents of Lancaster County was never in doubt. From supporting local restaurants through takeout orders to buying gift cards from local businesses, the community truly showed up for Lancaster County businesses in 2020.

If all of this sounds like a love letter to local businesses and the remarkable community that supports them, that's because it is. Lancaster County is a place unlike any other in the world. It didn't take a year like 2020 to prove that, but it sure did underscore it.

In this year's Readers' Choice Awards, we're giving our readers more than 200 categories to vote on. This is your opportunity to tell us your favorite place to get a wedding dress altered! Cast your vote for favorite pediatric dentist! Mark your ballot for Lancaster County's best barber shop! If you can imagine it, we've probably got a category to vote on it!

The Readers' Choice Awards is a fun way to tip your cap to your favorite local businesses and make sure your neighbors and friends know about them, too!

The number of votes each business receives not only determines the winner of each category, but is also another demonstration of Lancaster County's support for local business. I'm asking you to show your support by not only voting for your favorite businesses, but also to pay each one a visit, and maybe find a few new ones to try, too!

The results of the 21st annual Readers' Choice Awards will be published in print and online on Sunday, Aug. 29. I'm looking forward to congratulating all of the winners, as well as the celebrations that come along with it!

Finally, thank you for being a valued reader of LNP|LancasterOnline. We could not do this without you.

Sincerely,

**Christine Stahl**  
Director, Client Solutions  
LNP Media Group



# VOTE



## Your Favorite heating & cooling company in Lancaster



# Thank You

Thank you for voting us a favorite for the past 21<sup>🐾</sup> years, we look forward to being your favorite again!

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# Like a word-of-mouth recommendation

**LAURA KNOWLES**  
FOR LNP | LANCASTERONLINE

What's the best place to get a haircut? Where can you find the best fresh locally grown produce? Who is the most recommended dentist in Lancaster County?

When LNP readers want to know the answers to these questions, and more, they often turn to the annual Readers' Choice Awards. It's kind of like getting a word-of-mouth recommendation. Except instead of getting that recommendation from one person, it's coming from lots of friends and neighbors in Lancaster County who vote for their favorite local goods and services providers, from home and garden, apparel, and food and beverage suppliers to those offering education, medical, legal and financial services.

With 251 categories and around 100,000 votes cast, LNP's Readers' Choice Awards winners have something to be proud of when they are chosen as the best of the best. When readers want to know where they should go for great hamburgers, friendly banking or a law firm to do a will, the Readers' Choice Awards provide recommendations they can trust.

"We were honored to be named as a favorite farm market," says Brian Dom of Kauffman's Fruit Farm in Bird-in-Hand, which sells a varied supply of fresh fruit, local products, and homegrown apples, cherries, pears and peaches from their own vast orchards.

For Fox Country Sheds in Lititz, coming in first in the Best Place to Buy a Shed & Outdoor Structures category was a big win. They are hoping to have another win in 2021.

Winning the Readers' Choice Awards has been a great testimonial for the family-owned business founded in 1998 and located on Route 322 near Brickerville. Fox Country Sheds manufactures backyard storage sheds and other prefabricated buildings, such as garages, garden sheds and pool houses. Their sheds are also part of the trend for man caves and she sheds. This past year,

they have found a whole new market for those who wanted to use them for home offices and home gyms when they were working at home or working out at home.

"We feel that the readers chose us because of our long-standing reputation for a quality product and excellent customer service," says Jeannie Kontis of Fox Country Sheds. "We hear it time and time again, that customers have selected us after shopping around, because we have taken the time to listen to their concerns regarding their budget and their storage needs, as well as ease of ordering. We think especially due to the pandemic, customers really appreciated that they could customize and order their backyard shed right on our website in the comfort of their home."

As Kontis points out, the Readers' Choice Awards shows potential customers that they are in good hands. Whether a customer is purchasing a small 8-by-8 garden shed or a 14-by-28 two-story garage, they know they will receive excellent customer service and that their patronage is appreciated.

Customer service might not be a category in the Readers' Choice Awards, but for winners in various categories, it is the biggest factor of all. That is certainly the case with Optometric Associates of New Holland.

Dr. Kathryn Andrews, who works at Optometric Associates and other eye care offices, received a Readers' Choice Award in the Pediatric Optometric Eye Care category in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Dr. Andrews developed her passion for children when she was just a teenager, working at her family's preschool. After receiving her doctor of optometry degree, she went on to complete a residency in pediatric optometry through the New England College of Optometry.

She has extensive training in the management of conditions in pediatric patients such as strabismus, amblyopia and medically necessary contact lenses in infants and pediatric patients. She

also cares for adults with double vision, patients with neurological conditions and individuals with disabilities. Many of her patients are too young to communicate with others or have disabilities that affect their ability to communicate.

"Dr. Kathryn Andrews and her husband, Dr. John Andrews, always put our patients first and make sure they have individualized care for their needs," says Connie Leininger of Optometric Associates. "That makes all the difference."

Josh March of emPower Training Systems agrees that serving his customers has been a key to winning the Readers' Choice Awards in the Personal Training, Cross Training and Fitness categories for eight years running.

"Readers' Choice Awards are like getting a word-of-mouth recommendation from a friend," March says. "People tend to listen to each other and, thankfully, the people who come here are letting others know that they like what we are doing here."

When they choose emPower Training Systems, they are choosing to work out and get fit in a place that offers a sense of community and a family feel. March says that family setting makes working out and getting in shape a fun experience that they can enjoy.

Readers' Choice Awards are not only about what people like. For Playful Pups Retreat, which has two Elizabethtown-area locations, it's about the furry family members who had their people pick Playful Pups as their favorite in the Kennel and Doggie Daycare category in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

"We are absolutely hoping to win again in 2021," says Laurie Yost of Playful Pups Retreat, adding that they are very proud of the services they offer and pleased to get the word out to pet owners in Lancaster County.

Yost credits their clients — both human and canine — with being so supportive of their small business, especially over the past year of COVID-19.

Playful Pups offers an upscale environment and a level of care unlike any other local pet care facility, she says. The original location on Milton Grove Road offers overnight lodging, along with an array of activity packages and bathing services.

"Our goal is to tailor each dog's vacation with us to best meet their physical and mental needs through daily enrichment activities, so they are having a fun time and getting lots of attention while with us," Yost says.

The second location, on Hershey Road, is a daycare and training center that provides a variety of daycare services, including traditional doggie daycare, puppy social skills daycare, a Canine Enrichment Club, and day boarding with training.

Playful Pups has been in business since 2010. Yost, the founder of Pitties Love Peace, has been a dog-lover her whole life. Her love of pups means that she aims to offer a canine utopia at both locations, and caters to dogs and their people with a dedicated team of pet care professionals who are highly trained in dog behavior, canine communication and pet first aid.

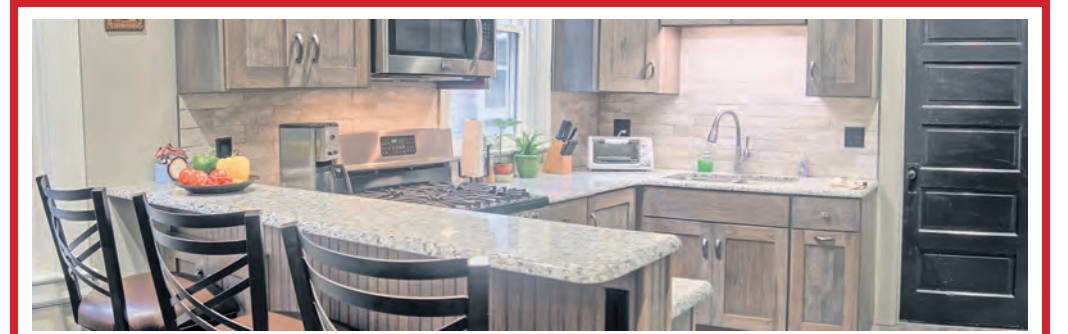
"That enables us to maintain a happy, fun, healthy and safe environment for all of the dogs we have the pleasure of caring for," Yost says. "We have been honored to be selected in the Readers' Choice Awards. We love sharing that we are a favorite in our marketing and I feel it separates us from other facilities and helps to show potential clients that we are an exemplary pet care facility."



WINNY TENNIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Readers' Choice Award winners, clockwise from top: Josh March, owner of emPower Training Systems; Lonnie Kauffman, CEO of Kauffman's Fruit Market; and Alex, Jeannie and Adam Kontis at Fox Country Sheds

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WINNY TENNIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top: Facility manager Megan Gingrich plays with a dog at Playful Pups Retreat. Above: Dr. Kathryn Andrews of Optometric Associates was voted best in pediatric optometry.

# How to vote for your favorites

The LNP|LancasterOnline Readers' Choice Awards give our readers the chance to nominate and vote for their favorite Lancaster County businesses. We're proud of the ways that Readers' Choice has grown and changed over the years, but the main goal has always been the same: to give praise and show support for our readers' favorite Lancaster County businesses!

Each vote is important and meaningful to local businesses, who look forward to this contest each year.

This year, Readers' Choice voting will be online only. Please visit [LancasterOnline.com/readerschoice/vote](http://LancasterOnline.com/readerschoice/vote) to cast a vote for your favorites.

The categories fall into 14 groups: Apparel, Automotive, Bridal, Education, Financial & Legal, Food & Beverage, Health & Beauty, Home & Garden, Kids, Leisure, Medical, Miscellaneous, Pets, and Shopping. The list of each of the categories can be found below.

This year's categories are:

**APPAREL**

- Dry Cleaner
- Men's Clothing Store
- Place to Buy Athletic Footwear
- Place to Buy Shoes
- Women's Clothing Store

**AUTOMOTIVE**

- Auto Dealer Service Department
- Auto Dealership
- Auto Painting
- Auto Repair Center
- Body Shop
- Car Wash
- Diagnostic Center
- Limo Service
- Motorcycle Dealership
- Oil Change
- Tire Store
- Towing Company
- Trailers
- Transmission Repair Center
- Transportation
- Used Car Dealership

**BRIDAL**

- Dress Alterations
- Engagement & Wedding Rings
- Entertainment

- Florist
- Rehearsal Dinner
- Wedding Cakes
- Wedding Dress
- Wedding Photographer
- Wedding Transportation
- Wedding Venue

**EDUCATION**

- College/University
- Place To Take College Courses
- Place To Take Graphic Design Classes
- Private School

**FINANCIAL & LEGAL**

- Accounting Firm
- Favorite Place to Bank
- Friendliest Place to Bank
- Financial Planner
- Friendliest Teller (Include Name/ Company/Branch)
- Insurance Agency
- Law Firm
- Law Firm For Criminal Defense
- Law Firm For DUI
- Law Firm For Elder Law
- Law Firm For Estate Planning/Wills
- Law Firm For Family Law
- Law Firm For Immigration Law
- Tax Preparation Service

Business Advisory Services

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

- Asian Food Restaurant
- Bakery
- Banquet Facility
- BBQ Restaurant
- Beer Distributor
- Breakfast Spot
- Brewery
- Brunch Spot
- Buffet/Smorgasbord
- Candy Store
- Casual Dining Restaurant
- Caterer
- Coffee Shop
- Deli
- Diner
- Discount Grocer
- Donut Shop
- Family Restaurant
- Farm Market
- Fine Dining Restaurant
- Food Truck
- Greek Restaurant
- Grocery Store
- Happy Hour Location
- Health Food Store
- Homemade Chocolates
- Ice Cream Shop



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- Place To Buy Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
- Place To Buy Olive Oil
- Place to Buy Pies
- Place To Buy Ribs
- Place To Buy Salads
- Place To Buy Seafood
- Place To Buy Six Packs
- Place To Buy Sticky Buns
- Place To Buy Subs/Hoagies
- Place To Buy Wings
- Sandwich Shop
- Seafood Restaurant
- Steak House
- Sushi Restaurant
- Tea Shop
- Winery

**HEALTH & BEAUTY**  
 Barber Shop  
 Beauty Salon

- Cross Training Facility
- Dermatologist
- Drug Store/Pharmacy
- Fitness Center
- Holistic Health
- Laser Hair Removal Center
- Nail Salon
- Personal Training Facility
- Skin Care Provider
- Spa
- Tattoo Shop
- Yoga Studio

**HOME & GARDEN**

- Appliance Repair
- Appliance Store
- Awnings
- Battery Supplier
- Birding Store
- Cabinetry
- Carpet Cleaner
- Countertops
- Deck Treatment
- Doors
- Electrician
- Exterior Remodeler
- Fireplace/Stove Dealer
- Floor Covering Store
- Framing
- Furniture Consignment
- Furniture Store

- Garage Doors
- Garden Center
- Greenhouse
- Grills, Smokers & Accessories
- Hardscaping
- Hardware Store
- Heating/Cooling Service
- Home Builder
- Home Cleaning Service
- Home Insulation Company
- Home Security
- Interior Designer
- Kitchen/Bath Remodeler
- Landscaper
- Lawn Care Provider
- Mattress Store
- Outdoor Furniture
- Painting Company
- Pest Control Specialists
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**Awards**

**2021**



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 Place To Take Cooking Classes  
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 Travel Agency

**MEDICAL**

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 Eye Care Center  
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