# The People's Choice



2026




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## Cheers,

*This year's winners of the People's Choice contest aren't the only ones in a celebratory mood.*

Here at Central Illinois Multimedia Group, we're just as happy. Getting to deliver the good news — and then getting to know these top-tier businesses — is a treat for all involved, a labor of love that we look forward to every year. That includes this magazine, a colorful ode to the cream of the crop.

But wait, there's more.

At news-gazette.com, you'll find additional photos and responses from this year's champs who played along with our light-hearted line of questioning, from "If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?" to "If you had a theme song, what would it be?"

The answers – like the businesses featured in these pages — are fantastic.

## Congratulations!

The People's Choice magazine is published annually by Champaign Multimedia Group, 2101 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61820. ©2025 by Central Illinois Multimedia Group, all rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

# Look for our People's Choice Companion Piece in Today's Newspaper

# Arts and Entertainment

## Art Gallery

1. Libby Jo Art Studio
2. Prairie Fire Glass
3. The Vault

## Book Store

1. The Literary
2. Illini Union Bookstore
3. Jane Addams Book Shop

## Bowling Alley

1. Old Orchard Lanes and Links
2. Illini Union Bowling Alley
3. Arrowhead Lanes

## Craft \ Art Supplies

1. Art Coop, inc
2. The Idea Store
3. Trisa's Quilting Corner

## Date Spot

1. Cast Iron Pub
2. Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In
3. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch





Art Gallery
1. Libby Jo Art Studio

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Every project and event is a unique, customized, one-of-a-kind creation and experience; right from the brain and heart of Libby — with your inspiration.*

## Entertainment Venue

1. Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In
2. Virginia Theatre
3. Yellow & Co.

## Live Music Venue

1.Cast Iron Pub
2. Virginia Theatre
3. Rose Bowl Tavern

## Framing

1. Prairie Gardens
2. International Galleries
3. Resh Frame Shop

## Live Theater

1. Virginia Theatre
2. Krannert Center
3. Little Theatre On the Square







Thank You for Voting Us
#2 Shoe Store and
#3 Medical Equipment Supplies

2026 The News-Gazette The People's Choice




HEELtoTOE
106 W MAIN, URBANA, IL 61801
P 217.367.2880
www.heel2toe.net



Live Theater
1. Virginia Theatre

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Maybe some of our past Ebertfest guests ... Warner Herzog, Spike Lee, Tilda Swinton.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We have been serving the Champaign community for over 100 years through film screenings, concerts, musicals, dance recitals and so much more.*

Thank you to everyone who voted for

Resh Frame Shop

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## Movie Theater

1. Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In
2. Virginia Theatre
3. Lorraine Theatre

## Museum

1. Krannert Art Museum
2. Museum of the Grand Prairie
3. Douglas County Museum

## Outdoor Amusement

1. Curtis Orchard
2. Aikman Wildlife
3. Allerton Park and Conference Center

## Video Gaming

1. Old Orchard Lanes & Links
2. Jupiter's At The Crossing
3. Bunny's Tavern

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# Automotive

## Auto Parts

1. Shields Auto Center
2. Serra Champaign
3. Don's Auto Center Inc

## Auto Repair

1. Napleton Auto Park of Urbana
2. Shields Auto Center
3. Beaumont Alignment Plus

## Auto Tinting \ Graphics

1. It's A Wrap Automotive LLC
2. Midwest AutoSkins
3. Beaumont Alignment Plus

## Car Detailing

1. It's A Wrap Automotive LLC
2. Mr. and Mrs. Auto Detail
3. Touch of Class

## Car Wash

1. Happ-y Daze Shine Car Wash
2. Smitty's Car Wash
3. Crew Carwash








## Used Car Dealership
## 1. Rick Ridings Ford

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?*

*Kevin Costner (playing Rick).*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Should Have Been a Cowboy" by Toby Keith.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*A seasoned service department that keeps vehicles running for years, paired with a sales staff dedicated to a genuine customer-first experience.*






## Collision Repair

1. Gallo-Miller Paint & Collision
2. Fifth Dimension Collision Repair
3. Caliber Collision

## Golf Car \ UTV Dealership

1. Midwest Carts
2. Central Illinois Cars & Carts
3. Battery Specialists + Golf Cars

## Motorcycles \ Scooters ATV

1. Andrae's Harley-Davidson
2. World of Power Sports
3. Fagen Scooters



















Golf Car & UTV Dealership
1. Midwest Carts

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Where everyone can see it, obviously. You know, right next to last year's!*

## New Car Dealership

1. Shields Auto Center
2. Serra Champaign
3. Rick Ridings

## Oil Change

1. Napleton Auto Park of Urbana
2. Shields Auto Center
3. Jiffy Lube

## Tires

1. 4 Big Tires
2. Shields Auto Center
3. Norris Tire & Auto Center



*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We don't just sell golf carts — we know them, customize them, service them and stand behind what we sell long after it leaves our lot. We're determined to do right by our customers each and every day.*

## Towing

1. Don's 24 Hour Towing
2. Feldkamp's
3. Tatman's Towing

## Used Car Dealership

1. Rick Ridings Ford
2. Shields Auto Center
3. Mahomet Car Connection


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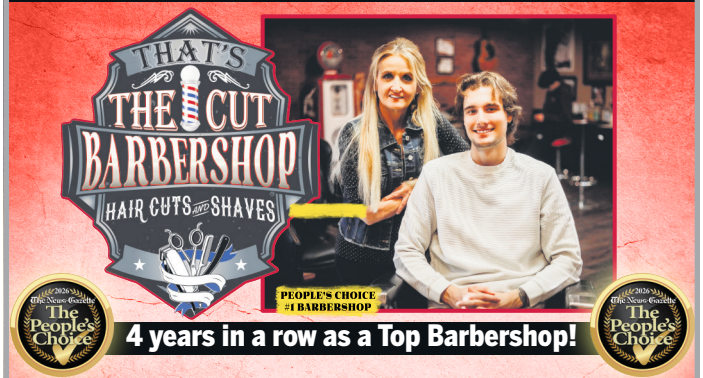
Thank you for voting for us in 2026




4 years in a row as a Top Barbershop!

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# Dining

## Asian

1. KoFusion Champaign/Urbana
2. Sticky Rice
3. 83 Vietnamese

## Bakery

1. Dessert First
2. Amy's Sweet Delights
3. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch

## Barbecue

1. Hickory River Smokehouse
2. Li'l Porgy's Barbeque
3. Black Dog Smoke & Ale House

## Breakfast

1. Maple & Yolk
2. The Original Pancake House
3. The Breakfast Place

## Brunch

1. Maple & Yolk
2. The Original Pancake House
3. Sun Singer






Asian Dining
1. KoFusion

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*On the display case at the restaurant.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We source high-quality heritage meats from small farms and seafood from reputable vendors. Quality is the thread that runs through all of the ingredients that we use in the food that we serve.*

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## Burger

1. Smith Burger Company
2. Cast Iron Pub
3. Farren's Pub & Eatery

## Doughnuts

1. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
2. Parlor Doughnuts
3. Royal Donut

## Family Friendly

1. The Yard on Broadway
2. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
3. Hometown Grounds Coffee & Events

## Fish Sandwich

1. Esquire Lounge
2. Legends
3. Bunny's Tavern

## Food Truck

1. Smith Burger Company
2. Keke's
3. Mo's Burritos

## Fried Chicken

1. Watson's Shack & Rail
2. Yoder's Kitchen
3. Chick-fil-A

## Ice Cream Frozen Yogurt

1. Jarling's Custard Cup
2. Sidney Dairy Barn
3. The Main Scoop Ice Cream




Bakery
1. Dessert First

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Behind our display case on the shelf.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Our dream is to have our sweet little bakery in a Hallmark movie so I'd say Candace Cameron Bure and Lacey Chabert.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Crisco" by Miranda Lambert.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We believe dessert is more than something sweet — it's comfort after a long day, a reason to celebrate and a way to bring people together. Every treat is made with love and served with small-town hospitality.*



## Indian \ Middle Eastern

1. Kohinoor Indian Restaurant
2. Shawarma Joint
3. The Himalayan Chimney

## Italian

1. Filippo's
2. Manzella's Italian Patio
3. Biaggi's Restaurante Italiano

## Local Coffee \ Roasters

1. Hometown Grounds Coffee & Events
2. Columbia Street Roastery
3. Mad Goat Coffee

## Mexican

1. Mi Veracruz, Tuscola
2. Casa Del Mar
3. El Toro



Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt
1. Jarling's Custard Cup

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Well, since he tweeted about us, I think it would be fair to give the lead role to Tom Hanks. Thanks, Tom!*







Bowling Alley
1. Old Orchard Lanes

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Billy Bob Thornton and Julie Bowen.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Old Orchard offers more than a bowling alley — we're a family tradition built on hospitality, quality and creating lasting memories.*



## Outdoor Seating

1. Riggs Beer Company
2. Briks Pizzeria
3. Sun Singer Restaurant Wine & Spirits

## Overall Restaurant

1. Cast Iron Pub
2. Texas Roadhouse
3. Sun Singer Restaurant Wine & Spirits

## Pies

1. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
2. Yoder's Kitchen
3. Pies By Inge

## Pizza

1. Old Orchard Lanes & Links
2. Papa Del's
3. Filippo's





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## Sandwich

1. Cast Iron Pub
2. Baldarotta's
3. Smith Burger Company

## Seafood

1. KoFusion
2. Sun Singer Restaurant Wine & Spirits
3. Red Lobster

## Steak

1. The Ribeye
2. Cast Iron Pub
3. Texas Roadhouse

## Sushi

1. KoFusion
2. Sakanaya Restaurant
3. Sushi Man

## Tacos

1. Maize Mexican Grill
2. Fernando's Food Truck
3. Mo's Burritos Bar & Grill

## Vegetarian \ Vegan

1. Just Bee Acai
2. Common Ground
3. Strawberry Fields Cafe

## Wings

1. Cast Iron Pub
2. Wingstop
3. Buffalo Wild Wings



### Wings
### 1. Cast Iron Pub

*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*In 2019 in Tuscola.*

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Top of our bar.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Henry Golding as owner/chef Kenny Hogue, Kristen Wiig as owner/manager Amanda Hogue and Emmy Rossum as bar manager Kassie Henderson.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Man in the Box" by Alice In Chains.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Chef Hogue honed his craft in Michelin-starred restaurants across Chicago, New York and San Francisco, developing a refined yet approachable style rooted in technique, flavor and intention.*

## Outdoor Amusement
## 1. Curtis Orchard

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Our business offers a wide variety of agricultural experiences and fun activites intended to educate and entertain. From our bakery, restaurant and gift shop to our play area, orchard and pumpkin patch, we hope to leave people smiling.*






## Outdoor seating
## 1. Riggs Beer Co.

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Will Ferrell, Steve Buscemi and Tom Hanks.*







# Thank You For Voting Us #1 Italian Dining and Top 3 in Best Pizza!




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# Fitness

## Group Fitness

1. Rally Point Fitness
2. Wake Up Ready
3. J.Gil Fitness

## Gym

1. Rally Point Fitness
2. J.Gil Fitness
3. Stephens Family YMCA

## Martial Arts

1. Lycan's Den MMA
2. HMD Academy of Tae Kwon Do
3. Leaders For Life

## Pilates

1. J.Gil Fitness
2. Refinery Gym
3. Ascend Pilates

## Yoga Studio

1. Wake Up Ready
2. J.Gil Fitness
3. Refinery Gym






Pilates
1. J.Gil Fitness

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*The real J.Gil Fitness team. They're the ones with the best stories, the confidence boosts and the "I almost didn't come today" moments that turn into "I'm so glad I did." Our community has always had that main character energy.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We're your friend with health benefits. Expert coaching meets real community, creating a safe place where everybody is known, challenged and celebrated.*

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## Yoga Studio
## 1. Wake Up Ready

*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*April 2026 in Homer.*

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*In the lobby of our studio.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Absolutely Richard Simmons would play the lead role. The Steppin' to the Oldies class at Wake Up Ready studio was inspired by his Sweatin' to the Oldies workouts and I've always admired how he made exercise welcoming, fun and accessible to everyone.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Here Comes The Sun" by the Beatles. It fits our logo, our mission and the idea that every day is a chance to wake up ready and start fresh.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Wake up Ready is not a gym. It is a welcoming community helping people of all abilities build strength, balance and mobility for everyday life.*

# Health and Wellness

## Acupuncture Office

1. Alexander Chiropractic
2. Young Chiropractic & Acupuncture
3. Jackson Chiropractic

## Office

1. Alexander Chiropractic
2. Wertz Chiropractic
3. HealthSource Chiropractic of Champaign

## Dental Specialties

1. Baptist Orthodontics
2. Huls Orthodontics
3. Shafer Smiles

## Dermatology

1. VitalSkin Dermatology
2. Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology
3. Carle Clinic

## General Dentistry

1. Andrew White Dentistry
2. Jones Dental
3. Gray, Black & Stimmel, DDS

## Hearing Center

1. Audibel Hearing Aid Centers
2. Christie Clinic Hearing Aid Services
3. Illini Hearing



## In - Home Care

1. SYNERGY HomeCare
2. PACE, Inc.
3. All Ways Caring

## Medical Equipment Supplies

1. MedServ Equipment Corp.
2. Carle Medical Supply
3. Heel to Toe

## Optometrist Office

1. Dr. Jodi Albert & Associates
2. Chittick Eye Care
3. Christie Clinic Department of Ophthalmology

## Physical Therapy

1. Tuscola ATI
2. Christie Clinic Department of Physical Therapy
3. Carle Orthopedics and Sports Medicine



Therapy

1. Grit and Grace Therapy

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy because it feels warm, relatable, funny and very "we genuinely care about people while also putting out 47 fires before lunch."*


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Dermatolgy
1. VitalSkin Dermatology

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*I'd like to think Henry Cavill, but it would probably be Jonah Hill.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"In The Air Tonight" by Phil Collins.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We do one thing exceptionally well: Dermatology. Expert physicians, personalized care and the latest medical, surgical, dermpath and cosmetic treatments — all focused on you.*

## Podiatrist Office

1. Christie Clinic Department of Foot & Ankle Surgery
2. Carle
3. Kirby Medical Center

## Therapy

1. Grit and Grace Therapy
2. Kendrick Counseling, PLLC
3. Keri Powell Therapy

## Walk - In Clinic

1. First Line Urgent Care
2. Christie Clinic Convenient Care
3. Carle (Multiple Locations)

## Weight Loss Center

1. Christie Clinic Transformations Medical Weight Loss Program
2. Timeless Grace Aesthetics & Wellness
3. Carle Foundation Hospital



# Home and Garden

## Appliance Store

1. Dick Van Dyke Appliance World
2. Walden's Appliances
3. Lowes'

## Basements

1. C-U Under Construction
2. Wood's Basement Systems
3. Steamatic of Champaign

## Cabinets \ Countertops

1. Cabinetland
2. Kitchen Baths and Cabinets
3. Hampton's Kitchens

## Carpet Cleaning

1. Steamatic of Champaign
2. KleenRite
3. Exact Extraction / Cliff Stoker

## Custom Kitchen \ Bath

1. C-U Under Construction
2. Kitchen, Bath & Cabinet Co.
3. Luther Falls Kitchen & Bath





Home Entertainment

1. Good Vibes

*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*1971 on Green Street next to Deluxe Lunch and upstairs from Record Service.*

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*We used to keep them by the door, so you'd see 'em first thing. Then somebody stole one, so they're at the counter now.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*You kiddin'? "Good Vibrations" of course!*




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**Independent Living Services**

Assist persons with disabilities in achieving and/or maintaining independence.

**PA/PSW Referral Services**

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**Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services**

Provide resources to consumers who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

**Low Vision Services**

Assisting persons that are experiencing vision loss.

**Safe Housing Initiative**

This program assists people with disabilities with application fees and/or security deposits for housing in Champaign County.

**Emergency Housing Services**

With a partnership with HACC and PACE Inc. Funding is available for consumers with disabilities to secure and/or maintaining housing

**ITAC**

A program that provides adaptive equipment to support consumers who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, orhave a speech disabilty, improving everday communication for the consumer.

**Medical Equipment Loan**

Program that provides medical devices to consumers in need with a $30 donation made to PACE.

**Early Start PCT**

Prepare students 14-21 years of age with an IEP or 504 Plan not in STEP progam for life after high school.

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Equipment Rental
1. Rental City

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*On the front counter.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Customer service is a priority for us. We enjoy helping customers find the right equipment for their needs.*

## Door \ Window

1. Copper Creek Contractors
2. Horn's Construction
3. C-U Under Construction

## Electrician

1. C-U Trade Services
2. Waters Electric
3. Aladdin Electric

## Equipment Rental

1. Rental City
2. Awesome Machines Sales & Rentals
3. Herriott's Rents, Tents & Events

## Farm Equipment \ Supply

1. Falcon Equipment & Supply Co.
2. Farm & Fleet
3. Birkey's

# More Than Internet.
# **We're Invested in Every Connection.**

At Pavlov, we believe strong communities start with real connection — not just online, but in the everyday moments that matter. Whether it's supporting local causes, helping families get connected, or volunteering alongside our neighbors, **Pavlov Cares is how we turn service into impact**. We're here to strengthen the communities we serve — both online and off.




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2025 The News-Gazette The People's Choice FIRST PLACE WINNER

2026 The News-Gazette The People's Choice FIRST PLACE WINNER

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## Fences

1. SK Exteriors
2. C-U Under Construction
3. Main Street Fencing

## Flooring

1. Flooring Surfaces Inc.
2. Carpet Advantage
3. Carpet Weaver's

## Furniture Store

1. Carter's Furniture Inc.
2. Slumberland Furniture
3. Beck's Country Shoppe & Furniture

## Garage Doors

1. Furry Overhead Door Co.
2. George Malloch Co.
3. Rocke Overhead Doors

## Garden \ Plants

1. Prairie Gardens
2. Country Arbors Nursery
3. Danville Gardens

## Home Entertainment

1. Good Vibes
2. Best Buy
3. Premier Sound & Design

## Home Improvement

1. Copper Creek Contractors
2. C-U Under Construction
3. Ace Handyman Services East Central Illinois

## HVAC

1. Dogtown Heating, Air & Plumbing
2. All Pro Heating AC Plumbing
3. Lanz Plumbing, Heating & Cooling




## Garage Doors
## 1. Furry Overhead Door Co.

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Christian Bale, directed by Christopher Nolan. So basically, I'm Batman.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We answer every phone call. We communicate during the entire process. You're family to us, not just a transaction.*




## Restoration & Specialty Cleaning
## 1. SERVPRO Team McGuire

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We have some wonderful competitors, but I think our company's heart is unique. Our people not only take care of our customers, but they also take care of each other. We celebrate each other's accomplishments and support each other when someone is struggling. We love practical jokes and having fun at work.*

Thank You for keeping Dogtown a Top People's Choice for another year!

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## Landscaping

1. Country Arbors Nursery
2. Amy B Gardening
3. Goat Mowing

## Pest Control

1. Weldon Termite & Pest Control
2. Terminix
3. TLC Pest Control

## Moving Service

1. Two Men and a Truck
2. Illini Movers
3. Hutchcraft Van Service

## Plumbing Service

1. All-Pro Heating Air Conditioning & Plumbing
2. Dogtown Heating, Air & Plumbing
3. Lanz Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

## Painting Company

1. Hays Does It Best Painting
2. Topkote Painting
3. Aaron Weaver Painting

## Pools

1. Cardinal Patio Furniture
(formerly Cardinal Pool and Outdoor)
2. Ohana Pools, Spas & Billiards
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## Landscaping
## 1. Country Arbors Nursery



*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*Country Arbors Nursery's Landscape Division has been in place since 1988. (Country Arbors Nursery itself is a fifth-generation nursery, but the landscape division has been around in Urbana for 38 years.)*

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Prominently in the landscape office alongside our other People's Choice awards.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Chandler Womack (landscape director) would be played by Riz Ahmed; Sophia Wagner (landscape design manager) by Freya Allan, as a blonde; Brandon Blom (lanscape designer) by John Krasinski; Hailey Olson (landscape office) by the fictional character of April Ludgate from "Parks & Rec;" landscape crew by Danny DeVito, Dave Bautista and Tom Cruise.*


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## Residential Cleaning

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3. Steamatic of Champaign

## Restoration \ Specialty Cleaning

1. SERVPRO Team McGuire
2. Copper Creek Contractors
3. C-U Under Construction

## Roofing

1. Copper Creek Contractors
2. Swanson Roofing "The Roofing Dog"
3. C-U Under Construction

## Siding

1. Copper Creek Contractors
2. C-U Under Construction
3. SK Exteriors

## Solar Services

1. Route 66 Solar
2. C-U Trade Services
3. Edelman Solar

## Storage Facilities

1. Storage 309
2. Scotty's Storage
3. Hideaway Storage

## Tree Service

1. Myers and Sons Company
2. Bud's Tree Care
3. Beez Trees



Plumbing Service
1. All-Pro Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*In 2017 out of John's garage in Tuscola with hopes, dreams and prayers!*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*John Goodman as John Mannen, who started the business then sold to Blake Crockett and Miles Cantrall; Jeff Bridges as Crockett and Adam Sandler as Cantrall.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We are the only veteran-owned HVAC and plumbing company that is dedicated to serving the local communities in East Central Illinois.*


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## Door/Window, Home Improvement, Roofing, Siding
## 1. Copper Creek Contractors

*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*In 2020 in Mahomet.*

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Front and center in our Mahomet office, where our team and customers can celebrate it together.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*John Krasinski: Hard-working, approachable and someone you'd trust to get the job done. Or Chris Pratt!*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, and "Hard Work" by John Handy.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We combine quality craftsmanship, honest communication and genuine customer care, treating every home as if it were our own.*



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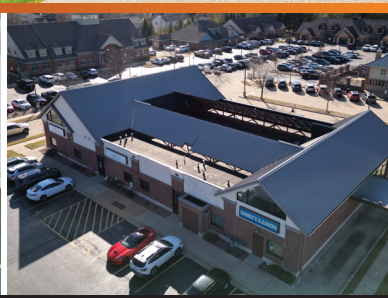

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# Kids

## Day Care

1. Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana
2. Bright Beginnings Learning Center
3. Peter Pan Early Learning Center

## Kid Activities

1. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
2. Skateland
3. Elevate Trampoline Park

## Place for a Kid's Party

1. Skateland
2. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
3. Hometown Grounds Coffee & Events

## Preschool

1. Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana
2. Judah Christian School
3. Little Lamb Preschool

## Private School

1. Judah Christian School
2. Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana
3. St. John Lutheran School





Place For A Kid's Party
1. Skateland

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We offer great customer service. We receive many compliments on how friendly and helpful our staff are. We offer great birthday party packages and moms love that we provide everything.*

Day Care
1. Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Helen Hunt could play Maria Montessori since Ms. Hunt went to a Montessori school. Guest appearance by Steph Curry, who is also a Montessori alumni.*




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# Nightlife

## Bar

1. Esquire Lounge
2. Cast Iron Pub
3. Bookie's Tavern

## Beer Selection

1. Cast Iron Pub
2. Riggs Beer Company
3. Triptych Brewing

## Brewery

1. Riggs Beer Company
2. Triptych Brewing
3. Blind Pig Brewing

## Cocktails

1. Esquire Lounge
2. Cast Iron Pub
3. Bookie's Tavern

## Dive Bar

1. Tumble Inn Tavern
2. Bunny's Tavern
3. Bookie's Tavern



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## Dive Bar
## 1. Tumble Inn Tavern

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"I Love This Bar" by Toby Keith. I hear that song played often on our Touchtunes.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We've been a longstanding family-owned business in the community for almost 80 years now. I'm very proud to be the fourth generation. Also plaid carpet!*

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## Trivia
## 1. Hound's Court

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Kristen's the boss, so let's transpose some letters and have Kirsten Dunst!*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Where else can you sit at a bartop from the 1800s and enjoy some of the best cocktails in Champaign?*



## Wine Selection
### 1. Sun Singer Restaurant, Wine & Spirits

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Most definitely Stanley Tucci: passionate (about wine), unpretentious, approachable and appreciative of life's little pleasures. Don't the best stories begin with a great bottle!*

## Karaoke

1. The Axe Bar
2. Bookie's Tavern
3. The Social Oasis

## Sports Bar

1. Cast Iron Pub
2. Bookie's Tavern
3. Esquire Lounge

## Trivia

1. Hound's Court
2. Cast Iron Pub
3. Yellow & Co. Events

## Wine Selection

1. Sun Singer Restaurant, Wine & Spirits
2. Art Mart
3. Bookie's Tavern

## Winery

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2. Sleepy Creek Vineyards
3. Wyldewood Cellars


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# Personal Care and Beauty

## Barber Shop

1. Beard Culture Barbershop & Gallery
2. A Cut Above The Rest Barber Academy
3. The Vintage Edge Barbershop

## Cosmetic

1. Blue Moon Esthetics
2. Christie Clinic Dept of Dermatology
3. Benjamin & Co. Esthetique

## Hair Salon

1. Ella Salon
2. Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
3. Blondi's

## Manicure \ Pedicure

1. Nails by Dalenna
2. Nails De Miriam
3. Christie Cllinic Barefoot Medical Spa

## Massage Service

1. BodyWork Associates
2. Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
3. Muscle Vitality



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Oct 27 Night of the Living Dead (1968)
*Film Screening & Book Event Featuring: Daniel Kraus*
Oct 30 Straight No Chaser
Nov 5-7 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical
Nov 12 Campus Nights Tour
Nov 15 Little Feat: The Last Farewell Tour
Dec 15 Mannheim Steamroller Christmas
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## Barber Shop

1. Beard Culture Barbershop & Gallery

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Wrote My way Out" by Nas, Dave East and Lin-Manuel Miranda. It explored how writing lyrics/poetry could help escape poverty and depression. I used this mantra and titled my podcast "I Cut My Way Out!" My ability to cut hair provided me an outlet as well!*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Top tier cuts, professionalism, safe environment, investing in professional development for continued growth.*




## Spa

1. Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology
2. Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
3. Benjamin & Co Esthetique

## Waxing

1. Bare
2. Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
3. Work Of Heart Brow & Skin Studio




Manicure/Pedicure
1. Nails By Dalenna

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*The trophy has a brand new home in the studio. Come in and find out where!*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*I would love to see someone like Margot Robbie or Zendaya bring my nail magic to life.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Dedicated to the health and wellness of your natural nails, I enhance natural beauty through gentle techniques, without the use of harsh chemicals or machinery.*




Waxing
1. Bare

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Willem Dafoe.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Loud Bark, Deep Bite" by Mannequin Pussy.*







# Pets

## Cat Boarding

1. All About Animals Pet Clinic
2. Sportsvet Animal Medical Center
3. CATSNAP

## Dog Boarding

1. Paw-sitive Vibes Dog Daycare, LLC
2. All About Animals Pet Clinic
3. Jodie Vee's

## Doggy Daycare

1. Paw-sitive Vibes Dog Daycare, LLC
2. Jodie Vee's
3. Why Fuss Dog Obedience and Training

## Grooming

1. Top Knot Pet Grooming Atwood
2. Ooh La La Pet Spaw
3. Paw-sitive Vibes Dog Daycare, LLC

## Rescue \ Adoption Service

1. Champaign County Humane Society
2. CATsNAP
3. Moore's Rescue Ranch





Cat Boarding
1. All About Animals Pet Clinic

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Ryan Reynolds for the humor, teamwork and ability to stay calm when everything gets chaotic, and Betty White would definitely make a special appearance as the ultimate animal lover.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"You've Got a Friend" by James Taylor. It's a reminder that we're here for families through every stage of a pet's life, from the excitement of a new puppy or kitten to some of the hardest days they'll ever experience.*






Pet Sitting Service
1. Martha McSims Dog Walker

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Hands down Sandra Bullock. She would do a great job portraying the fun and seriousness in the career of pet sitting and dog walking.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"The Walker" by Fitz and The Tantrums.*

## Pet Sitting Service

1. Martha McSims Dog Walker
2. Cheryl Warren Pet Sitting
3. Paw-sitive Vibes Dog Daycare, LLC

## Pet Supplies

1. Prairieland Feeds
2. Jodie Vee's
3. All About Animals Pet Clinic

## Training

1. Jodie Vee's
2. Why Fuss Dog Obedience and Training
3. Willow Branch Kennel

## Veterinary Clinic \ Veterinarian

1. Sportsvet Animal Medical Center
2. All About Animals Pet Clinic
3. Rantoul Vet Clinic







## Pet Supplies
## 1. Prairieland Feeds

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*This is our ninth People's Choice trophy! We keep the current one at our register as a way to thank our customers for their votes and support over the years.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Ted Danson for Garry and Sally Field for Lisa Herzog.*

## Training
## 1. Jodie Vee's

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Katherine Heigl.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Who Let The Dogs Out!"*



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# Professional Services

## Accounting

1. Kelly's Accounting Services
2. Puzey & Wright LLP
3. D'Amico Accounting

## Alterations

1. Noy Tailoring & Alterations
2. Yong's Alteration & Embroidery
3. Jesye J. Fashion

## Apartment \ Townhome Condo Complex

1. Royse & Brinkmeyer
2. Regency Multifamily
3. Fairlawn

## Bank

1. Longview Bank
2. Fisher National Bank
3. Philo Exchange Bank

## Business Services

1. Lazers Edge
2. Minuteman Press
3. Within Your Reach Marketing



Law Firm
1. Meyer Capel

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Mantle in the 306 front lobby.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Tom Hanks and Viola Davis: trusted, authentic and exceptionally skilled professionals who bring intelligence, integrity and heart to everything they do — much like the Meyer Capel attorneys and staff.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*With 32 attorneys across 19 practice areas, Meyer Capel combines well-rounded attorneys, trusted relationships and personalized service to deliver effective legal service to our clients.*




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## Catering Service

1. Michaels' Catering LLC
2. Smith Burger Company
3. Yoder's Kitchen

## Computer \ IT

1. Simplified Computers
2. Imperion Technology Solutions
3. UBreakIFix

## Concrete Services

1. Mid Illinois Concrete
2. Jack-A-Slab Construction
3. A1 Pavement

## Convention Event Center

1. The Venue CU
2. I Hotel and Conference Center
3. Hudson Farm Weddings & Events

## Credit Union

1. University of Illinois Community Credit Union
2. CEFCU
3. Central Illinois Credit Union

## DJ Service

1. Mr. Six - Bingo Host
2. Bugbee's DJ Plus
3. Maggie Baker

## Dry Cleaner

1. Starcrest Cleaners
2. Colony Square Cleaners
3. DJ's Drycleaners

## Florist
## 1. A Bloom Above And Beyond

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star(s) would play the lead role?*

*Michelle Pfeiffer.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Flower Shops" by Morgan Wallen.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We care about our customers. We live in the same towns as a lot of our customers so we know them as friends. We love what we do.*



## Bank
## 1. Longview Bank

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Small Town" by John Mellencamp. It reflects our roots, our communities and our commitment to serving rural Illinois.*


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# Employment Agency

1.Spherion Staffing & Recruiting
2. Express Employment Professionals
3. Manpower

# Event Planning

1. The Venue CU
2. Pear Tree Estate
3. Hudson Farm Weddings & Events

# Florist

1. A Bloom Above And Beyond
2. Abbott's Florist
3. CU Flower House

# Hi - Speed Fiber Internet

1. Pavlov Media
2. Conxxus
3. I-3

## Catering Service

1. Michaels' Catering

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*We would want Ellen Barkin for Whitney, Russell Crowe for Steve, and Sandra Oh for Ling.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"9 to 5" by Dolly Parton but change the title to "9 to 9" because we're always working!*



# Home Mortgage Service

1. Fisher National Bank
2. Longview Bank
3. Philo Exchange Bank

# Investment Firm

1. Longview Wealth Management
2. Fisher National Bank Wealth Management
3. Boyer and Sappenfield Investment Advisors










## Employment Agency
## 1. Spherion Staffing & Recruiting

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*We have all the People's Choice awards front and center in our reception area of our office*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*I got a variety of answers from my staff on who would play me: Laura Dern, Renee Zellweger, Sigourney Weaver and Julianne Moore.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

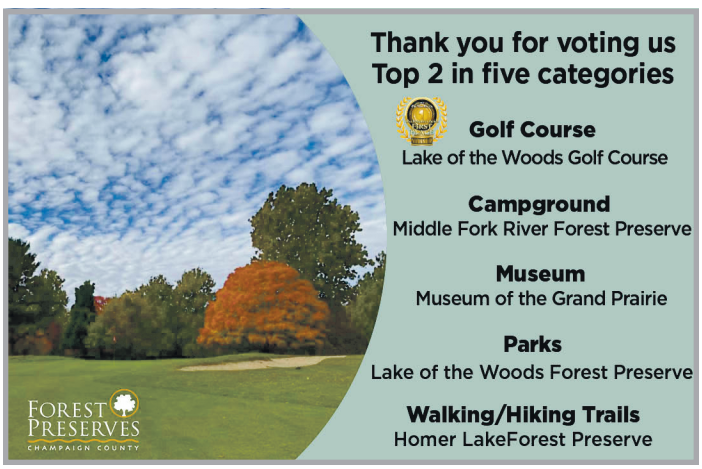
*"Unstoppable" by Sia.*

# Junk Removal

1. Nieto Hauling & Disposal
2. The Junk Mule
3. Cheap Charlie's

# Law Firm

1. Meyer Capel
2. Ruth Wyman
3. Spiros Law












# Local Community Service \ Non - Profit

1. Douglas County Autism Tribe
2. Salt & Light
3. PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living

# Local Insurance Company

1. Loman-Ray Insurance Group
2. Insure Champaign
3. State Farm Agent - Brian Hanson

# Local Real Estate Company

1. Ryan Dallas Real Estate
2. Happ Realty
3. Taylor Realty Associates

# Memorial Services

1. Evergreen Cremation Services
2. Sunset Funeral Home & Cremation Center
3. Freese Funeral Home

# Paving

1. Champaign Asphalt Company
2. A-1 Pavement Maintenance
3. Open Road Asphalt Co.

# Photography Studio

1. JCrane Photography
2. Madeline Wilson Photography
3. Allie Christine Photography

## Business Service
## 1. Lazers Edge

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?*

*Tim Allen. He's known for solving problems and fixing things with a little humor, and we like to think that's how we approach helping our customers every day.*






## Tattoo Shop
## 1. Dark Matter Collective

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*The cast of "Jackass" if we're being honest.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We always strive to put clients first. We also try and give the client the absolute best work we can. And make everyone feel welcome.*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## Place to Work

1. Longview Bank
2. Philo Exchange Bank
3. The Venue CU

## Printing Services

1. Lazers Edge
2. Minuteman Press
3. Eastern Engineering

## Retirement Community

1. ClarkLindsey
2. The Windsor of Savoy
3. Villas of Holly Brook

## Screen Printing

1. Stan's Sportsworld
2. Brownfield Sports
3. Campus Ink Screen Printing

Accounting

1. Kelly's Accounting Services

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Judy Hopps from Disney's "Zootopia" (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin).*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Where Everybody Knows Your Name," the theme song from "Cheers."*




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Local Community Service/Nonprofit
1. Douglas County Autism Tribe

*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*Our front table at our sensory friendly events and also with our setup at partnered local events and resource fairs.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?*

*Melissa McCarthy. Her chaotic and hilarious energy would match us perfectly.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We are the people we serve. Operating from a variety of lived experience to ensure ALL support needs feel welcomed, included and most importantly belong.*


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Photography Studio

1. JCrane Photography

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"God Story" by Anne Wilson. I give the Lord all the praise and glory for anything I set out to do and accomplish.*



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## Tattoo Shop

1. Dark Matter Collective
2. The Forest Body Art and Adornments
3. Vintage Karma

## Tax Preparation

1. Kelly's Accounting Services
2. John B. Bennett, EA
3. Puzey and Wright

## Transportation

1. MTD
2. Peoria Charter
3. Amtrak

## Waste Collection Recycling

1. Illini Recycling
2. Chris's Service Company
3. Nieto Hauling & Disposal

## Wedding Venue

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# Recreation Leisure and Outdoor

## Agritourism

1. Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
2. Allerton Park
3. Negangard Pumpkin Patch

## Bike Shop

1. Durst Cycle and Fitness
2. Trek Bicycle
3. The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign

## Campground

1. Kickapoo State Park
2. Middlefork Forest Preserve
3. Walnut Point State Park

## Community Event

1. Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend
2. Urbana's Market at the Square
3. Mahomet Music Festival

## Golf Course

1. Lake of the Woods Golf Course
2. Legends Golf Course
3. Willow Pond Golf Course



*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*The Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend was "born" in 2007. After almost two years of planning, the first race weekend took place in April 2009 in Champaign-Urbana.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. Our event has weathered some tough times over the years and come back stronger.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Our event stands out by making each entrant feel like we're putting on the race just for them. Personal touches every step of the way.*



Community Event
1. Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend




Golf Course

1. Lake of the Woods Golf Course

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*We see our staff as a fun and eclectic group, so maybe a bit of a throwback but the stars of "Caddyshack" could slide in well (Chevy Chase, Bill Murray, Ted Knight, Rodney O'Keefe, maybe even a Rodney Dangerfield).*



## Hotel \ Motel

1. I Hotel & Conference Center
2. Hilton Garden Inn
3. Hotel Royer

## Membership Pool

1. Stephens Family YMCA
2. Indian Acres
3. Hap Parker Family Aquatic Center

## Miniature Golf

1. Old Orchard Lanes & Links
2. Parcadia
3. The Fringe

## Parks

1. Allerton Park
2. Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
3. Homer Lake




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Public Pool
1. Sholem Aquatic Center

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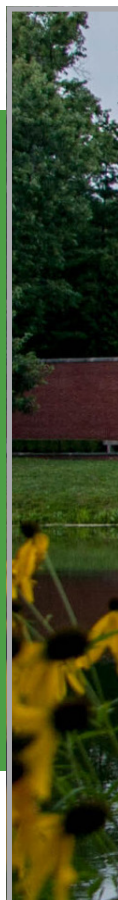
Parks
1. Allerton Park

*What year did your business open — and where was it?*

*Robert Allerton donated his estate located in Monticello to the University of Illinois in 1946.*

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?*

*Neal Patrick Harris as Robert Allerton.*





*Where will you display your People's Choice trophy?*

*In our "Fish Bowl" office!*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

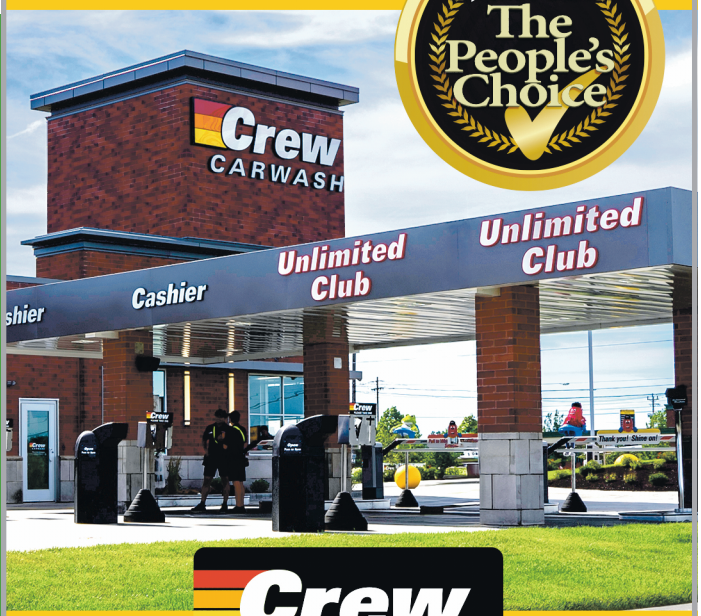
*"Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Our lifeguards are top-notch and make Sholem Aquatic Center not just a fun experience but a safe one. Also, of course, the lazy river.*


**Thank You!**

2026 The News-Gazette The People's Choice

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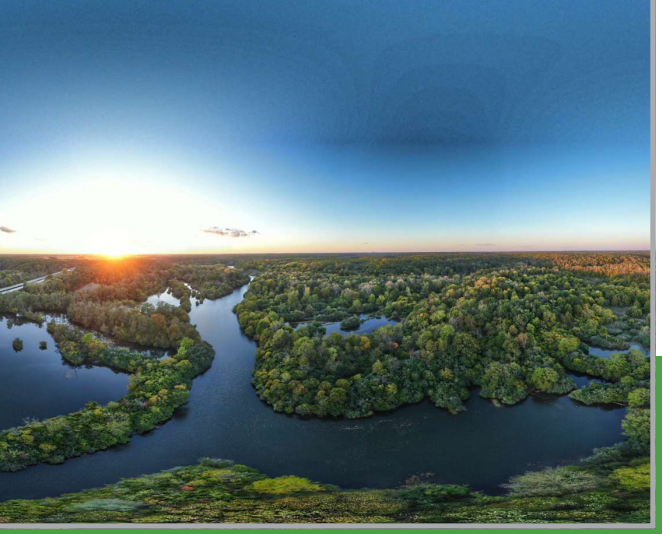

Campground
1. Kickapoo State Park

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?*

*Chevy Chase would be the perfect fit!*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Won't You Be My Neighbor" by Fred Rogers.*

## Public Pool

1. Sholem Aquatic Center
2. Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center
3. Monticello Family Aquatic Center

## Regional Airport

1. Willard Airport
2. Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA)
3. General Wayne A. Downing Peoria International Airport

## Shooting Range

1. High Caliber Training Center & Indoor Range
2. Sadorus Sportsman Club
3. Foosland Sportsman Club

## Walking \ Hiking Trail

1. Allerton Park
2. Homer Lake
3. Meadowbrook Park




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**– Jada Burr**





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# Shopping

## Antiques

1. Mercantile Antiques & Trading Co.
2. Antiques and More at Staley Road
3. Three-Toad Treasures

## Boutique

1. Simply JJ
2. Art Mart
3. Shimmer & Sheek Boutique

## Bridal \ Formal Wear

1. Michelle's Bridal & Tuxedo
2. Jesye J. Fashion
3. Lindsey Lane Bridal Cottage

## Cannabis Store

1. Parkway Dispensary
2. Sunnyside
3. NuEra

## Consignment Thrift Store

1. Salt & Light
2. Three-Toad Treasures
3. Briella's Boutique



## Educational Game Store

1. Rad Lad Games
2. Titan Games
3. Boxcar Books and Vinyl

## Gift Shop

1. Simply JJ
2. Art Mart
3. Prairie Gardens

## Grocery Store

1. Harvest Market
2. Rick's Country Market
3. Aldi



Educational/Game Store
1. Rad Lad Games

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Big Casino" by Jimmy Eat World. It is a very fun and energetic song that always gets me going — and it's truly about someone feeling so incredibly fortunate to have been able to live the life they're living today. I absolutely love my job and am so grateful to get to do this. And I enjoy the song's reminder: "There's still some living left when your prime comes and goes."*







Boutique
1. Simply JJ

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Jennifer Garner.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*Consistency. We show up every day, give our best effort, build genuine relationships and create a shopping experience our community can count on.*




## Hardware Store

1. Champaign Do it Best Hardware
2. Ace Hardware
3. Menards

## Health Food Store

1. Harvest Market
2. Common Ground
3. Strawberry Fields

## International Market

1. Art Mart
2. H Mart
3. World Harvest International & Gourmet Foods

## Jewelry

1. Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry
2. Spritz Jewelry Co
3. Caitlin Hicks Design


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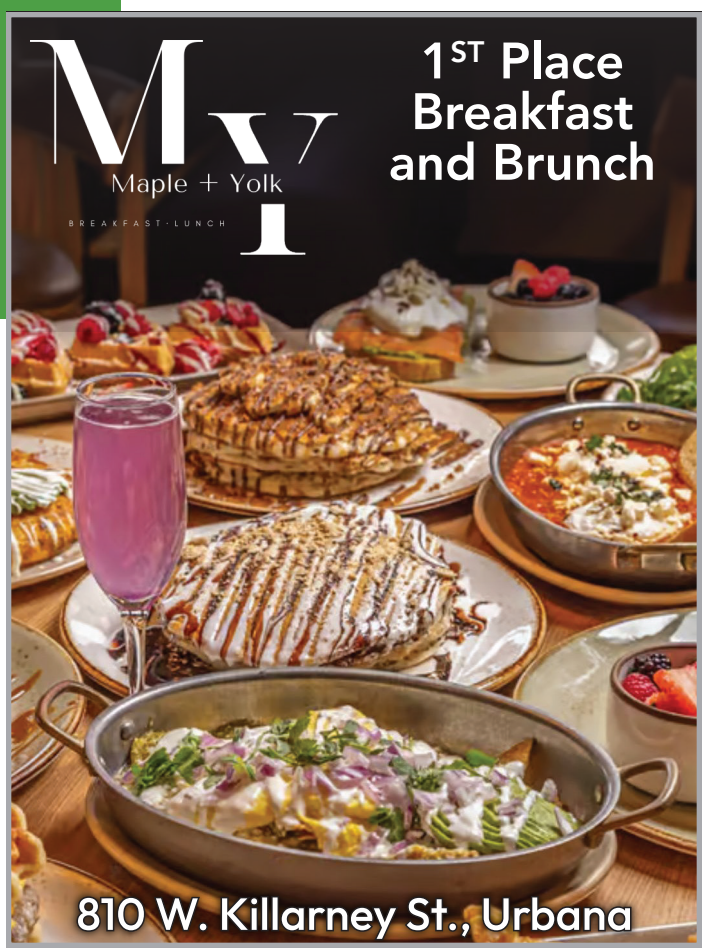



## Liquor Store

1. Binny's Beverage Depot
2. Spirits of Tuscola
3. AJ's Wine & Spirits

## Mattress Store

1. Illini Mattress Co
2. Slumberland Furniture
3. Ashley Furniture

## Men's Clothing

1. Jos. Kuhn and Co.
2. Men's Warehouse
3. Suits by Souljah

## Music Store

1. The Music Shoppe Inc.
2. Corson Music
3. The Upper Bout

## Office Supply

1. Lazers Edge
2. DP Supply
3. Stocks

## Quilting \ Sewing

1. A Quilting Bee
2. Trisa's Quilting Corner & More
3. AKA Yarns & Studio

## Record Shop

1. Record Swap
2. Exile on Main
3. Seven Point

## Jewelry
## 1. Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what star would play the lead role?*

*Blake Lively.*

*If you had a theme song, what would it be?*

*"Confident" by Demi Lovato.*

*What separates your business from the pack?*

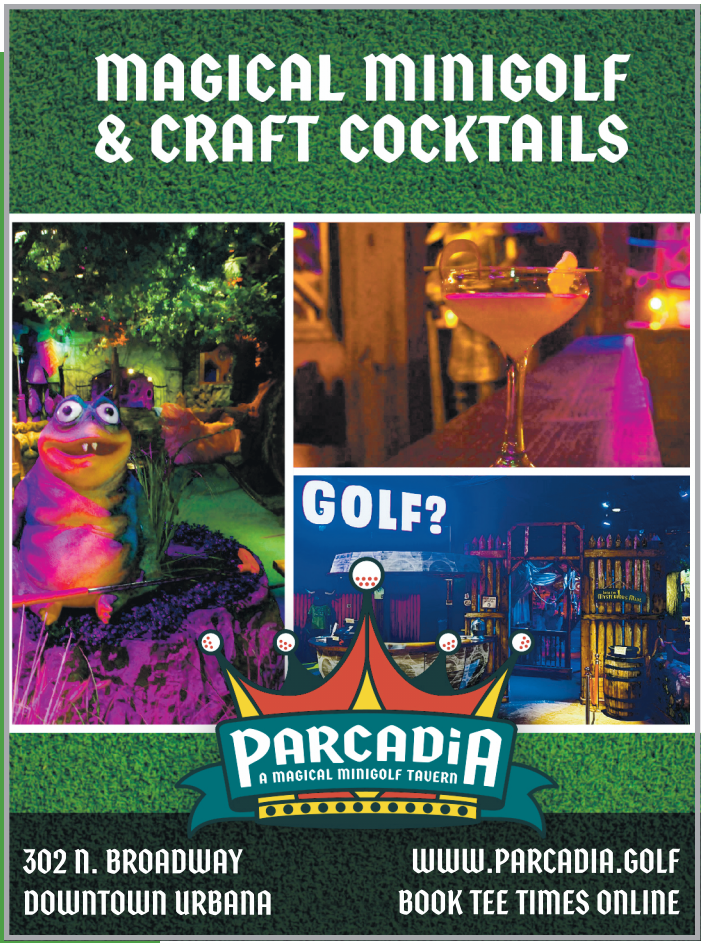
*Aside from my knowledge and experience, I think my ability to come to your space and setup is an intimate experience you won't forget.*



## Shoe Store
## 1. Body N Sole Sports

*If Hollywood made a movie about your business, what stars would play the lead role?*

*Kevin Costner in "Shoe Guy."*




## Shoe Store

1. Body N Sole Sports
2. Heel to Toe
3. Jos. Kuhn & Co. Menswear

## Sporting Goods \ Outdoor Recreation Store

1. Body N Sole Sports
2. Dick's Sporting Goods
3. Tractor Supply Monticello

## Tobacco \ Vaping

1. Friends in High Places
2. Tobacco Expo
3. Vape Vault



Music Store

1. The Music Shoppe

*What separates your business from the pack?*

*We are a full-line dealer — we sell all kinds of music product and service it, too. We're proud to be your local one-stop Shoppe.*

## Vintage

1. Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County ReStore
2. Three Toad Treasures
3. Goose & the Gander

## Women's Clothing

1. Simply JJ
2. Shimmer & Sheek Boutique
3. Prairie Gardens

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