

The News-Gazette

1/inners!











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Congratulations

to the winners of the annual People's Choice contest

t's that time of year again, and once more, as we count the thousands of ballots, the cream rises to the top. I make a point to visit many of the People's Choice winners each year to learn their secrets, and invariably, their success comes down to two things: friendliness and commitment.

Friendliness to each and every person who walks in the door, and a commitment to the success of that relationship and transaction. The companies that place first, second and third in their respective categories have learned the art of customer satisfaction and practice it each and every day. That consistent commitment to excellence is what sets them apart.

Winners go above and beyond. This publication is loaded with winners. Shop their stores and businesses and you will see. And congratulate them on this year's results.

– Paul Barrett

Executive Vice President and Publisher Champaign Multimedia Group

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The winners

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Automotive

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22 **Health & Wellness**

28 Home & Garden

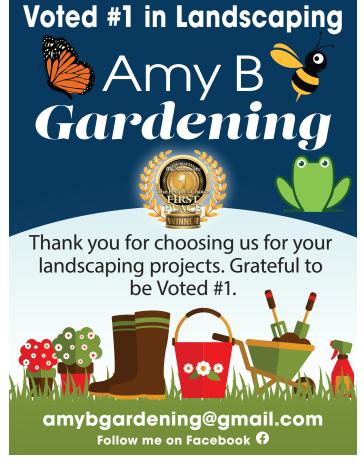
39 Kids 46 **Personal Care & Beauty** 48 Pets 51 **Professional Services** 60

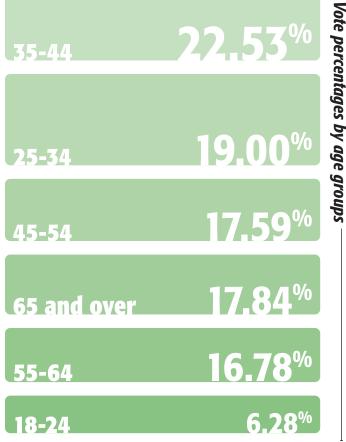
Recreation, Leisure & Outdoor

64

Shopping

DINING	26.58 [%]
	•
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	14.23 [%]
HOME & GARDEN	10.72 [%]
SHOPPING	8.15 [%]
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	8.12 [%]
HEALTH & WELLNESS	6.78 [%]
AUTOMOTIVE	4.99 [%]
NIGHTLIFE	4.48%
PERSONAL CARE AND BEAUTY	4.36%
PETS	4.18%
RECREATION. LEISURE & OUTDOOR	3.01%
FITNESS	2,52%
KIDS	1.88%





4

CHRISTIE CLINIC NAMED PEOPLE'S CHOICE

#1 DERMATOLOGY

Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology

#1 PHYSICAL THERAPY Christie Clinic Department of Physical Therapy

#1 PODIATRIST OFFICE Christie Clinic Department of Foot & Ankle Surgery

#**1 SPA** Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology

#1 WALK-IN CLINIC Christie Clinic Convenient Care

#1 WEIGHT LOSS CENTER Christie Clinic Transformations Medical Weight Loss Program





Arts & Entertainment

Art Gallery

- 1) Prairie Fire Glass Monticello
- 2) The Vault Tuscola
- 3) Cinema Gallery Urbana

Bookstore

- 1) Barnes & Noble Champaign
- 2) Jane Addams Book Shop Champaign
- 3) The Literary Champaign

Bowling Alley

- 1) Old Orchard Lanes & Links Savoy
- 2) Arrowhead Lanes Champaign
- 3) Monticello Bowl & Lounge Monticello

Craft/Art Supplies

- 1) Hobby Lobby
- Champaign
 2) Art Coop

Urbana

3) The Idea Store Urbana

Best: Art Gallery

Prairie Fire Glass



The business has been at 217 W. Washington St., just off downtown Monticello's Courthouse Square, since 2002.

Where are your People's Choice trophies going?

This year's award will be displayed prominently on the front cabinet next to the 2021 and 2022 first-place awards.

Claim to fame:

Developing relationships! I realize I have a "nice to have" product in a "have to have" world. My philosophy is to treat every customer like I would want someone to treat my mom, with kindness, empathy, compassion and respect. Running a business is not about transactions, it's about developing relationships.



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THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Best: Live Music Venue

O Rose Bowl Tavern



The tunes and brews have been flowing since 1946 at 106 N. Race St. in downtown Urbana.

Where are your People's Choice trophies going? In the VIP balcony.

Claim to fame: Live music featuring local, regional, national and sometimes international talent of all genres, every day. Rotating draft beer on 12 taps. A spirits selection and prices you'll have to check out to believe. Wine and non-alcoholic options available. Good people, good times, 24/7/365.



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Best: Date Spot, Movie Theater Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In

The first major business on Gibson City's south side opened on July 8, 1954, and initially closed in the late '70s; in its current iteration, it's been going strong since June 16, 1989.

Where are your People's Choice trophies going?

We will put it in our display case in the main snack bar alongside other awards and historical pieces from the drive-in's past.

Claim to fame: we

love to say we're Central Illinois' best outdoor theater. With a wide range of fun events, new movies, hit favorites and retro charm, a trip to the drivein is making memories under the stars!

Date Spot

- 1) Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Gibson City
- 2) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign
- 3) Yellow & Co. Events Mahomet

Entertainment Venue

- 1) Virginia Theatre Champaign
- 2) Skateland Savoy
- 3) Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Gibson City

Live-Music Venue

- 1) Rose Bowl Tavern Urbana
- 2) Virginia Theatre Champaign
- 3) The Cadillac Paxton

Live-Theater Venue

- 1) Virginia Theatre Champaign
- 2) Krannert Center Urbana
- 3) Station Theatre Urbana



Movie Theater

- 1) Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Gibson City
- 2) Phoenix Theatres Savoy 16 + IMAX Savoy
- 3) Virginia Theatre Champaign

Museum

- 1) Krannert Art Museum Champaign
- 2) Museum of the Grand Prairie Mahomet
- 3) Monticello Railway Museum Monticello

Outdoor Amusement

- 1) Curtis Orchard Champaign
- 2) Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In Gibson City
- 3) Allerton Park Lost Garden Monticello

Video Gambling

- 1) Jupiter's at the Crossing Champaign
- 2) Bunny's Tavern Urbana
- 3) Route 45 Wayside Pesotum

Chambana for 7 Peoples Choice Awards!!

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CHOICE

PEOPLE'S

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Auto Parts

- 1) Shields Auto Center Rantoul
- 2) AutoZone Multiple Locations
- 3) Advance Auto Parts Multiple Locations

Auto Repair

- 1) Shields Auto Center Rantoul
- 2) Beaumont Tire & Auto Service Champaign
- 3) Myler Automotive Champaign

Car Detailing

- 1) It's a Wrap Automotive LLC Champaign
- 2) V.I.D.A. Bottega Champaign
- 3) Mahomet Car Connection Mahomet

Car Wash

- 1) Rainstorm Car Wash Champaign
- 2) Smitty's Car Wash Champaign
- 3) Happ-y Daze Shine Car Wash Homer

Collision Repair

- 1) Crash Champions Champaign, Urbana
- 2) Gallo-Miller Paint & Collision Champaign
- 3) Fifth Dimension Collision Repair Champaign

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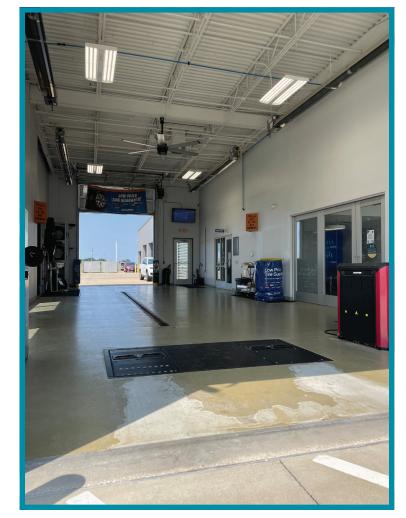
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What started in 1994 on Meyers Street in Rantoul moved to a state-of-the-art building on Broadmeadow Road in 2019.

Where are your People's Choice trophies going?

At our front reception desk in our Ford showroom.

Claim to fame: we are a local, family-run car dealership. We have a wonderful, loyal customer base that supports their hometown dealer, where they are treated like family. We offer a great selection of quality new and used vehicles. most of which include our exclusive Lifetime Powertrain Warranty. Our newest service is complimentary pickup and delivery for service.



2024

SEPTEMBER

Best: Car Detailing Virap Automotive LLC



Launched in 2017; had its grand opening on April 7, 2018, in the Shops at Glenn Park in west Champaign.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

In our lobby as soon as clients enter the establishment.

Claim to fame: We pride ourselves in correcting and protecting our clients' vehicles. More importantly, we enjoy teaching our clients how to care for their vehicles so they have more peace of mind going down the road.



Best: Towing Don's 24hr Towing



New-Car Dealership

- 1) Shields Auto Center Rantoul
- 2) Serra Champaign Savoy
- 3) Rick Ridings Ford Monticello

Used-Car Dealership

- 1) Shields Auto Center Rantoul
- 2) Rick Ridings Ford Monticello
- 3) Mahomet Car Connection Mahomet

Motorcycles/Scooters/ATVs

- 1) Andrae's Harley-Davidson Urbana
- 2) World of Powersports Urbana
- 3) Fagen Scooters Champaign

Oil Change

- 1) Shields Auto Center Rantoul
- 2) Beaumont Alignment Plus Champaign
- 3) Jiffy Lube
 - Champaign

The Champaign-based family business started in October 1969 as Don's Amoco.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

We will proudly display this year's first-place trophy right beside our 2022 and 2023 trophies in the front office!

Claim to fame: we

pride ourselves on being the friendly tow company. We understand that your are most likely having a stressful day when you call our office. Our goal is to make your day a little better.

Tires

- 1) Shields Auto Center Rantoul
- 2) Beaumont Alignment Plus Champaign
- 3) Norris Tire & Auto Center Champaign

Towing

- Don's 24hr Towing Champaign
- 2) Tatman's Towing Urbana
- 3) Reynolds Towing Service Urbana

Voted #1 in:

Veterinary Clinic/Veterinarian
 Cat Boarding
 Dog Boarding
 Grooming

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Dining

Overall Restaurant

- 1) Sun Singer Restaurant, Wine & Spirits Champaign
- 2) The Ribeye Champaign
- 3) Smith Burger Co. Champaign

Asian

- 1) Sticky Rice Champaign
- 2) 83 Vietnamese Champaign
- 3) KoFusion Champaign-Urbana

Bakery

- 1) Amy's Sweet Delights Royal
- 2) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign
- 3) Industrial Donut Savoy

Barbecue

- 1) Black Dog Smoke & Ale House Champaign
- 2) Hickory River Smokehouse Multiple Locations
- 3) Li'l Porgy's Barbeque Champaign

Breakfast

- 1) The Original Pancake House Champaign
- 2) Le Peep Champaign
- 3) Sammy's Pancake House Champaign

Brunch

- 1) The Original Pancake House Champaign
- 2) Silvercreek Restaurant Urbana
- 3) Big Grove Tavern Champaign

Burger

- 1) Smith Burger Co. Champaign
- 2) Farren's Pub & Eatery Champaign
- 3) The Space Champaign

Doughnuts

1) Industrial Donut

Savoy

- 2) Ye Olde Donut Shoppe Champaign
- 3) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign

Best: Breakfast, Brunch

🖤 The Original Pancake House



The Champaign franchise opened in 1976; current owner Eric Faulkner bought it in 2000.

Where are your trophies going?

By the front desk.

Claim to fame: The Original Pancake House is known for its delicious food and friendly staff. The average employee has worked there over 10 years, and several over 20 years. We work as a team and a family; most employees that are hired are related to or a friend of an employee. We have expanded four times in the last 20 years, adding over 100 seats.



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Best: Overall Restaurant

🔮 Sun Singer Restaurant, Wine & Spirits



What started as a labor of love in 1998 in Monticello moved to become the anchor of south Champaign's Windsor Galleria in 2003, where it's been arowing ever since.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

We'll be displaying all our awards front and center in our entry vestibule. Thanks everyone!.

Claim to fame: From retail wine, spirits and beer, gourmet deli and cafe, Sun Singer has grown into a full-service restaurant and patio while still maintaining the intimacy our guests enjoy. After all these years, while the scale has changed, the story hasn't: We're still passionate about getting people to try new wines. Join us!

serjond Bonded PERMANENT JEWELRY

Thank you all so much for supporting me and voting for me! My small business would not be where it is today without you.

– Jada Burr

SEPTEMBER 2024

Beyond Bonded

beyondbondedllc@gmail.com

Best: Burger, Food Truck

Smith Burger Co.



What started as a food truck on a snowy December day in 2020 in the parking lot of Long's Garage in Urbana now also has a brick-and-mortar home at Collective Pour in downtown Champaign.

Claim to fame: We strive to provide the best experience for our customers. Obviously we put a lot of time and hard work into our product, but our food is only as good as the service we provide with it.

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Best: Doughnuts

Industrial Donut



Baking began in April 2019 in Savoy.

Where's your trophy going?

Next to the others on top of our counter for all to see when they enter! We're very proud of this honor!

Claim to fame: Industrial Donut is a made-to-order donut and coffee shop specializing in fresh cake donuts customized with a large assortment of icing and topping choices. We're more than donuts, we're a "hole" donut experience!



- Best: Vegetarian / Vegan, Health Food Store
- Common Ground Food Co-op



Launched in 1974 as a buyer's club as part of a nationwide movement to create a more equitable food system; rented space in the basement of the Illinois Disciples Foundation on the University of Illinois campus before moving to its current home in Lincoln Square Mall in 2008.

Where's your trophy going?

It will be proudly displayed at our check-out registers.

Claim to fame: Common Ground Food Co-op is a communityowned grocery store that focuses on sourcing local and organic foods. We host cooking classes, display work from local artists in our Flatlander Art Gallery and raise more than \$50,000 a year for local nonprofits and community organizations.



Family Friendly

- 1) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign
- 2) Jarling's Custard Cup Champaign
- Old Orchard Lanes & Links Savoy

Fish Sandwich

- 1) Bunny's Tavern Urbana
- 2) Legends Champaign
- 3) Smith Burger Co. Champaign

Food Truck

- 1) Smith Burger Co. Champaign
- 2) Fernando's Champaign
- 3) Keke's Champaign

Fried Chicken

- 1) Watson's Shack & Rail Champaign
- Yoder's Kitchen Arthur
- 3) County Market Multiple Locations

Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt

1) Jarling's Custard Cup

Champaign

- 2) Sidney Dairy Barn Sidney
- 3) The Main Scoop Multiple Locations

Best: Italian Manzella's Italian Patio



First opened in 1960 on Locust Street in downtown Champaign; soon moved a block down the road to its current location at 115 S. First St.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

This year's award will go right next to previous years' awards in the entryway of our waiting area.

Claim to fame: Keeping our customers happy with authentic Italian cooking! We have remained consistent in our preparations and menu items and offer a wide variety of delicious entrees served up by our great team of servers!

Best: Sandwich

Baldarotta's Porketta & Sicilian Sausage



From hosting pop-up events in 2017 to drop-off catering in 2018 to a fully fledged restaurant in 2019 inside Urbana's Lincoln Square.

Where's your trophy going?

On our front counter!

Claim to fame: We take pride in presenting traditional yet original Sicilian/Italian-American sandwiches. From small gatherings to large community events, our recipes have been tested to be tried and true. With a combination of family recipes and original creations, we have created an undeniable taste that boasts passion and flavor.



Thank You for Your Votes! Stop by to see Ramie & Jimmy!

Mon-Fri: 10am - 5pm Sat: 9am - 2pm

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THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

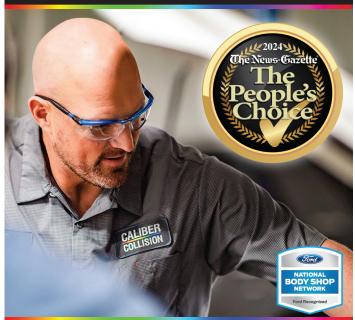
Best: Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt

Jarling's Custard Cup



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Thank You for Your Continued Support Serving up frozen treats since April 28, 1983, in the same iconic space on Kirby Avenue just west of Neil Street in Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

Right next to the others in the front lobby, with this one in the spotlight for all customers to see!

Claim to fame: We serve up happiness to all ages! We are known for the best dessert in many different outlets, but that is because of our consistent superior product and our wonderful crew that pays attention to detail. We put the customer first, always getting the same product every time! And we are proud to be serving such a diverse community!



Join us at these upcoming shows:

- Oct 5#IMOMSOHARD: Ladies NightOct 8Celtic Thunder: Odyssey
- Oct 10 Brad Williams: Tour '24
- Oct 18 Jeff Tweedy
- Oct 24 Mike Birbiglia: Please Stop the Ride
- Nov 21 Bored Teachers: The Struggle is Real!!
- Dec 29 Mannheim Steamroller Christmas 2024 by Chip Davis



thevirginia.org 203 W Park Ave, Champaign 217-356-9063



Indian / Middle Eastern

- 1) Kohinoor Indian Restaurant Champaign
- 2) The Himalayan Chimney Champaign
- 3) Panda Express Champaign

Italian

- 1) Manzella's Italian Patio Champaign
- 2) Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano Champaign
- 3) Baldarotta's Porketta & Sicilian Sausage Urbana

Local Coffee / Roasters

1) Columbia Street Roastery Champaign

2) Mad Goat Coffee **Multiple Locations**

3) Espresso Royale **Multiple Locations**

Mexican

- 1) Casa Del Mar
- Urbana 2) Maize Mexican Grill
- Champaign 3) Huaraches Moroleon
- Urbana

Outdoor Seating

- 1) Riggs Beer Co. Urbana
- 2) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign
- 3) Billy Barooz Champaign

Pies

- 1) Curtis Orchard Champaign
- 2) Pies by Inge Monticello
- 3) Yoder's Kitchen Arthur

Pizza

- 1) Old Orchard Lanes & Links
- Savov 2) Papa Del's Champaign
- 3) Filippo's Mahomet
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Sandwich

- 1) Baldarotta's Urbana
- 2) Smith Burger Co. Champaign
- 3) Martinelli's Market Champaign

Seafood

- 1) Red Lobster
- Champaign 2) KoFusion Champaign
- 3) Sun Singer Champaign

Steak

- 1) The Ribeye Champaign
- 2) Texas Roadhouse Champaign
- 3) The Beef House Covington, Ind.

Sushi

- 1) KoFusion
- Multiple Locations 2) Sakanaya Restaurant Champaign
- 3) Sushi Siam Champaign

Tacos

1) Maize Mexican Grill

Champaign

2) Fernando's Food Truck

Champaign

3) Huaraches Moroleon

Urbana

Vegetarian / Vegan

1) Common Ground Food Co-op

Urbana

2) Just Bee Acai

Urbana

3) Strawberry Fields Cafe Urbana

Wings

1) Buffalo Wild Wings

Champaign, Savoy

2) Bunny's Tavern

Urbana

3) Wingstop Champaign



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Group Fitness

- 1) Rally Point Fitness Tuscola
- 2) Stephens Family YMCA Champaign
- 3) J.Gil Fitness Champaign

Gym

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

Martial Arts

- 1) Lycan's Den MMA Urbana
- 2) HMD Academy of Tae Kwon Do Savoy
- 3) CU Jiu Jitsu Urbana

Pilates

- 1) Stephens Family YMCA Champaign
- 2) J.Gil Fitness Champaign
- 3) Ascend Pilates Savoy

Yoga Studio

1) Stephens Family YMCA Champaign

2) J.Gil Fitness

- Champaign
- 3) Defy Gravity Pole Fitness and Aerial Arts Studio | Urbana

Best: Pilates Stephens Family YMCA

Originally opened in 1938 in the former home of Sen. William B. McKinley in downtown Champaign; moved to its current location in the southwest corner of the city in March 2012.

Where's your trophy going?

We will proudly display our trophy at our front check-in desk.

Claim to fame: The Stephens Family YMCA excels in fostering community wellness through diverse programming for all ages. We offer top-notch fitness facilities, inclusive programs and impactful initiatives, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Best: Group Fitness, Gym Rally Point Fitness



Army veteran and founder Gunnar Edwards opened the doors on Sept. 1, 2020, in Tuscola.

Where are your People's Choice trophies going?

We will put our trophy right behind our front desk for everyone to see.

Claim to fame: We help everyday people get into the best shape of their life by providing a place they actually enjoy being at, with people who all want the best for them. We take pride in being different than every facility in the area. There's no comparisons.



THANK YOU for voting us your favorite Educational/Game Store again this year!



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CHOIC



Best: Martial Arts S Lycan's Den MMA



Hanging tough since 2022 in Urbana.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

In the trophy case in our lobby for everyone to see!

Claim to fame: At Lycan's Den MMA, we truly practice what we preach. We are the only gym in town with active professional athletes and instructors that solely teach what they executed during competition. We teach real self-defense techniques to people of all ages and skill levels!





Acupuncture Office

- 1) Young Chiropractic & Acupuncture Champaign
- 2) Alexander Chiropractic Champaign
- 3) Urbana Acupuncture LLC Urbana

Chiropractor Office

- 1) HealthSource Chiropractic of Champaign Champaign
- 2) Wertz Chiropractic Champaign
- 3) Alexander Chiropractic Champaign

Dental Office

- 1) CU Pediatric Dentists Urbana
- 2) Anderson Dental Champaign
- 3) Andrew White Dentistry Champaign

Dermatology

- 1) Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology Champaign
- Vitalskin Dermatology
 Urbana

3) Carle Clinic Champaign Best: Dermatology, Physical Therapy, Podiatrist Office, Walk-In Clinic, Weight-Loss Center

Oristie Clinic

Established in 1929 and going strong.

Claim to fame: Christie Clinic is one of the largest physician-owned, multi-specialty-group medical practices in Illinois. It has a rich history of delivering quality and personalized health care to the East Central Illinois region. Driven by our mission — "We Listen. We Care" — our providers and staff are known throughout the community for having a truly personal touch with patients. Our culture is a unique blend of core values and a united vision. Our vision



focuses on creating a healthy community. By retaining the best providers and team members, and staying on top of technology, we're making health care easier for everyone involved. With 23 locations, including three convenient-care locations, and more than 207 medical providers, Christie Clinic is dedicated to providing the care you need when and where you need it.

Best: Chiropractor Office

HealthSource Chiropractic of Champaign



Established in May 2017 on Round Barn Road.

Where's your trophy going?

We will display it at our front desk!

Claim to fame: We provide a thorough, holistic chiropractic evaluation, listen to each patient's needs, and give exceptional care to meet their health and wellness goals and get them back to doing what they LOVE!

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US #1!



Follow us on Facebook and book your next cut at The People's Choice #1 Best Barbershop!

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CHOIC

PEOPLE'S

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Best: Hearing Center

🤨 Quednau Hearing Inc.



Established by Teri Quednau in 2019 in southwest Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

Right in my office for all my patients to see so I can thank them for their support and votes.

Claim to fame: From the day I started, I knew this industry was desperately needing someone who understood what people with hearing loss needed, and that was a partner. I have worn a hearing aid since age 32 and am the ambassador for better hearing. And what we do best as a woman-owned company is make sure the lost art of service is still the biggest goal.

Best: In-Home Care

🔮 Synergy HomeCare



Launched in 2013 in Bloomington, home of owners Jim and Gaye Aaberg.

Where's your trophy going?

We keep all five of our trophies right at the front of our Urbana office! We are so proud!

Claim to fame: We help seniors and all other aged people stay in their beautiful homes they love regardless of aging, disabilities, etc. We are available 24/7 and can help them with personal care, medication reminders, transportation, housekeeping, meal prep, dementia care and so much more!

Hearing Center

- 1) Quednau Hearing Inc.
 - Champaign
- 2) Audibel Hearing Aid Centers Multiple Locations
- 3) Beltone Multiple Locations

In-Home Care

1) Synergy HomeCare

Urbana

2) Home Instead

Champaign

3) PACE Inc.

Urbana

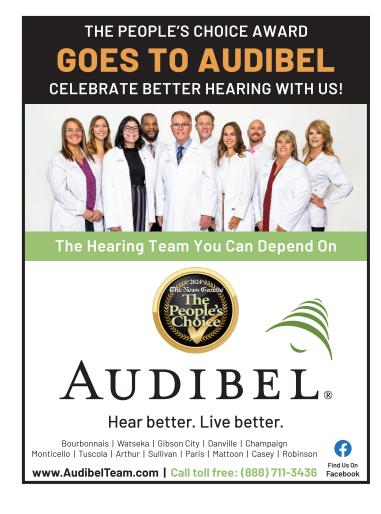
Medical Equipment Supplies

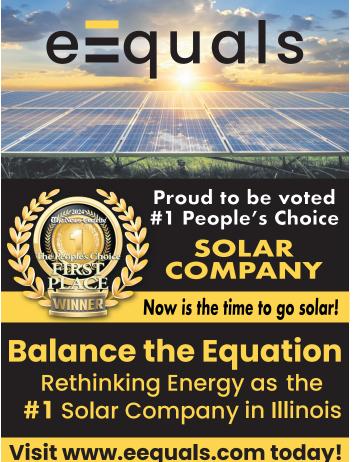
1) MedServ Equipment Corp.

Urbana

- 2) Carle Medical Supply Champaign
- 3) Heel to Toe

Urbana





SEPTEMBER 2024

Optometrist Office

- 1) Dr. Jodi Albert & Associates Champaign
- 2) Chittick Eye Care Multiple Locations
- 3) Christie Clinic Department of Ophthalmology Champaign

Orthodontist Office

- 1) Baptist Orthodontics Champaign
- 2) Shafer Smiles Champaign
- 3) Huls Orthodontics Champaign

Physical Therapy

- 1) Christie Clinic Department of Physical Therapy Champaign
- 2) Carle Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Champaign
- 3) Athletico Multiple Locations

Best: Dental Office CU Pediatric Dentists



Originally opened in 1998 by Dr. Chifan Cheng on Colorado Avenue in Urbana; now owned by Drs. Vickie Hemann and Leah Davis and located on Nicklaus Drive in Champaign since December 2023.

Claim to fame: We are a woman-owned pediatric dental practice and proud to say that we are all board-certified with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. We are the only board-certified pediatric dental practice in Champaign-Urbana. We provide comprehensive oral health care for infants and children up to age 18.

Best: Optometrist Office Dr. Jodi Albert & Associates



Acquired in 1998 from Dr. Alex Sorkin and originally located four doors down from Pickles in Champaign's Royal Plaza; moved to 308 S. Neil St. in July 2014.

Claim to fame: What makes our practice awesome is our patients! Word of mouth travels fast! Most of our patients have been with Dr. Albert or Dr. Jewel Lewis for a long time and refer their friends and family! Six of our staff members have 25-plus years in the industry, and we use our expertise to recommend the best options for each individual based on their needs and wants. Choosing eyewear should be fun, and we love making sure it's easy!

DARK MATTER COLLECTIVE



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Best: Therapy

Kendrick Counseling PLLC



Born in May 2021 in a small one-office space on Fox Drive in Champaign; now in its own spot a few doors down.

Claim to fame: Kendrick Counseling is a team of compassionate and dedicated professionals who prioritize you. Outside of working with many outreach organizations, we receive numerous referrals from the family-court system to provide therapy in hopes that a clinical intervention can help heal. It is a priority to go above and beyond for our community, advocating for the healing journey of our beloved clients.

Best: Medical Equipment Supplies MedServ Equipment



Originally founded in Schaumburg in 1994; Urbana location has been going strong in Lincoln Square Mall for 13 years.

Claim to fame: Our commitment to exceptional customer service is what sets us apart! At Medserv Equipment, we go the extra mile to ensure satisfaction. Customers have trusted us for almost 30 years for exceptional care and support that is tailored to their needs.

Podiatrist Office

- 1) Christie Clinic Department of Foot & Ankle Surgery Champaign
- 2) Carle | Champaign
- 3) Family Foot & Ankle Center Champaign

Therapy

- 1) Kendrick Counseling PLLC Champaign
- 2) Keri Powell Therapy | Champaign
- 3) Creative Solutions Counseling Group Champaign

Walk-in Clinic

- 1) Christie Clinic Convenient Care Multiple Locations
- 2) Carle Clinic | Multiple Locations
- 3) OSF OnCall Urgent Care Multiple Locations

Weight-Loss Center

- 1) Christie Clinic Transformations Champaign
- 2) Two Roads Wellness Clinic Multiple Locations
- 3) Carle Foundation Hospital Urbana



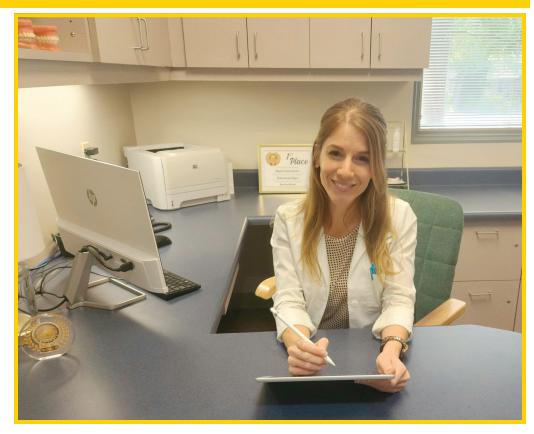
Best: Orthodontist Office Baptist Orthodontics

Open since September 2021 in southwest Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

We are excited to display our first-place trophy in our consultation room, letting patients know that they are in trusted hands at Baptist Orthodontics. It's a nice reminder that when you're with us, you're receiving top-notch care and an award-winning smile!

Claim to fame: We create lifelong smiles with toptier customer service! Your satisfaction with the orthodontic process and results are our top priority. Our friendly and diverse team customizes your treatment plan with flexible payment options, and our in-house lab delivers your clear aligners within days of your consultation!







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Appliance Store

- 1) Dick Van Dyke Appliance World Champaign
- 2) Champaign Appliance Center Champaign
- 3) Hays Does It Best Painting Champaign

Basements

- 1) C-U Under Construction Champaign
- 2) B-Dry System Champaign
- 3) Fitzy's Steamatic of CU Inc. Monticello

Carpet Cleaning

1) KleenRite Champaign

- 2) Fitzy's Steamatic of CU Inc. Monticello
- 3) Brandon Carpet Cleaning Monticello

Cleaning Service

- 1) Maid to Perfection
- Champaign
 2) Fitzy's Steamatic of CU Inc.
 Monticello
- 3) KleenRite

Champaign

st: Carpet Cleaning



Opened by Damon and Darla Hackleman in 1998 on Country Fair Drive in Champaign.

Claim to fame: KleenRite has been the preferred Central Illinois carpet cleaner and restoration professional since 1998. Family-owned and -operated, we pride ourselves in honest, helpful solutions tailored to your unique cleaning challenges. Contact us today for a free, no-obligation estimate on any of your cleaning needs!

Basements, Restoration

C-U Under Construction



What started in 2006 has expanded to plumbing, HVAC and electrical (C-U Trade Services).

Claim to fame: We offer a complete range of services for the exterior and interior of your home of business. Our in-house plumbing, electrical and HVAC companies help our projects run efficiently and with central accountability. Our renovation department can quickly work to help with damage caused by weather or other unexpected events.





THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Best: Furniture Store

Kelsey Furniture



Serving East Central Illinois since 1959 from downtown Tuscola.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

We will put it at our checkout counter for everyone to see and on our social-media accounts.

Claim to fame: Discover unbeatable prices on furniture and bedding at our expansive 30,000-square-foot showroom in downtown Tuscola. With three well-stocked warehouses, we ensure that you won't have to wait for your orders. Plus, our dedicated delivery team provides full-service delivery for a seamless shopping experience.



SERVING YOU IS THE REAL HONOR.

We are humbled that you voted us as the No. 1 collision repair center in the Champaign-Urbana community.

WE CHAMPION PEOPLE.

Door / Window

- 1) Cramer Siding & Window Champaign
- 2) Pella Windows & Doors Champaign
- 3) Bacon & Van Buskirk Glass Co. Champaign

Electrician

- 1) Edelman Inc.
- Champaign
 2) C-U Trade Services
 - Champaign
- 3) Davis Electric Urbana

Equipment Rental

- 1) Rental City
 - Champaign

- 2) Falcon Equipment & Supply Co. Ogden
- 3) Awesome Machines Sales & Rentals Savoy

Farm Equipment & Supply

1) Falcon Equipment & Supply Co. Ogden

2) Rural King Champaign

 Birkey's Farm Store Urbana

Fences

1) SK Exteriors

Champaign

- 2) C-U Under Construction Champaign
- Main Street Fencing Mahomet

Flooring

1) Flooring Surfaces Champaign

2) Wilson Elite Tile Newman

Carpet Advantage
 Urbana

est: Garden & Plants **Prairie Gardens**



Keeping landscapes beautiful since 1964 in west Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

In a spot where our employees will see it every day so they can see how members in their community recognize and appreciate all their hard work.

Claim to fame: Locally owned since 1964, Prairie Gardens features a top-100 Garden Center in the U.S. and a yearround indoor shopping experience with a unique mix of home, garden and seasonal decor, along with a women's boutique and custom frame shop.



www.dogtownheatingandair.com • 217-841-4728

Fences

SK Exteriors



Going strong since 1981 in west Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

In our showroom.

Claim to fame: We take pride in our service! We love helping our customers.

Home Entertainment Good Vibes



Opened in November 1971 on Green Street in Campustown. Now doing business at Round Barn Centre in west Champaign.

Claim to fame: Good Vibes explains, sells and installs top quality electronics. We integrate (hide wires) and calibrate so your installation looks and sounds great. We excel at service after the sale. Phone support and in-home tech support ensure you'll enjoy technology rather than be frustrated by it.

Furniture Store

- 1) Kelsey Furniture Co.
 - Tuscola
- 2) Carter's Furniture Urbana
- 3) Ashley Furniture

Champaign

Garage Doors

1) George Malloch Co.

Urbana

- 2) Furry Overhead Door Co. Champaign
- 3) Champaign-Danville **Overhead Doors** Ogden

Garden & Plants

1) Prairie Gardens

Champaign

- 2) Country Arbors Nursery Urbana
- 3) Plant Mode Champaign



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3160 N. Vermilion St. (217) 703-4156

200 Turner Dr. (217) 892-4000



SEPTEMBER 2024

Home Entertainment

1) Good Vibes

Champaign

2) Best Buy Champaign

3) Premier Sound & Design Champaign

Home Improvement

- 1) Copper Creek Contractors Mahomet
- 2) Cramer Siding & Window Champaign
- 3) C-U Under Construction Champaign

HVAC

1) Dogtown Heating, Air & Plumbing Paxton

2) Edelman Champaign

3) All Pro Heating AC Plumbing Tuscola

St: Moving Service



The franchise started by Dan and Rene Shunk on Pioneer Street in 2008 now has locations in Bloomington and Springfield, as well as Lafayette, Ind.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

In the display case in the front of the office.

Claim to fame: Two

Men and a Truck excels in careful and compassionate moving services. Its trained professionals handle belongings with precision and care, ensuring a stress-free relocation for residential and commercial customers, with extra attention to fragile and specialty items.





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https://longviewcap.com



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#1 Accounting Service
#1 Business Services

*5 Consecutive Years

Best: Landscaping

🤌 Amy B Gardening



The product of a pandemic-induced career change launched June 1, 2020, as a garden weeding and maintenance service and has flourished since.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

I was lucky enough to be acknowledged the last two years in the second-place spot. My husband, Mark, framed my certificates and they are hung above my beloved stepfather's desk in our dining room. The trophy will be placed there as well.

Claim to fame: My employees. They are the hardest-working people and we all enjoy working together to make our clients happy. I love our positive work environment, knowing that even on hard days, we can lean on each other.

Landscaping

- 1) Amy B Gardening
 - Champaign
- 2) Country Arbors Nursery Urbana
- 3) Fitzy's Property Maintenance LLC Champaign

Moving Service

- 1) Two Men and a Truck Champaign
- 2) Fitzy's Property Maintenance LLC Champaign
- 3) Hutchcraft Van Service Urbana

Painting Company

- 1) Hays Does It Best Painting Champaign
- 2) A to Z Painting & Decorating Thomasboro
- 3) C-U Under Construction Champaign

We're Grateful to be Voted Best

✓ Bank - ★ 5th Consecutive Year ★
 ✓ Place to Work - ★ 5th Consecutive Year ★
 ✓ Mortgage Service - ★ 5th Consecutive Year
 ✓ Accounting Service - 1st Year
 ✓ Business Services - 1st Year



In 2024, Longview Bank commemorates its 125th year of dedicated service to Central Illinois. Our immense appreciation goes out to our valued customers, hardworking associates, and vibrant local communities. Your steadfast support and commitment over these years truly merits our deepest gratitude.



longviewbank.com

FDIC **E**

Pest Control

- 1) Weldon Termite & Pest Control Champaign
- 2) Terminix Urbana 3) TLC Pest Control
 - Champaign

Plumbing Service

- 1) Dogtown Heating, **Air & Plumbing** Paxton
- 2) Edelman Champaign
- 3) Lanz Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Champaign

Pools

- 1) Imperial Pools Champaign
- 2) Ohana Pools, Spas & Billiards Urbana
- Cardinal Pool & Outdoor 3) Champaign

Restoration

- 1) Copper Creek Contractors Mahomet
- 2) C-U Under Construction Champaign
- 3) Fitzy's Steamatic of CU Inc. Monticello



Roofing

- 1) Copper Creek Contractors Mahomet
- 2) Cramer Siding & Window Champaign
- 3) Central Roofing Sullivan

Siding

- 1) Copper Creek Contractors Mahomet
- Cramer Siding & Window Champaign
- 3) C-U Under Construction Champaign

Solar Installation

- 1) eEquals Solar Champaign
- Copper Creek Contractors Mahomet
- 3) C-U Trade Services Champaign

Tree Service

- 1) Bud's Tree Care Champaign
- 2) JT's Tree and Crane Altamont
- 3) Beez Trees Tree Service Camargo

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Oticon Intent is designed to let you engage in life – using unique technology that understands your hearing needs and adapts to give you the best support wherever your day takes you.

Clarity – Hear more clearly, be more engaged, and enjoy life fully with 4D Sensor technology.

Confidence – Get the power to enjoy your day with all-day battery life* packed into a small, discreet design.

Connectivity – Quickly and easily connect to the devices and the people that matter most to you.

*Expected use time for rechargeable battery depends on use pattern, active feature set, hearing loss, sound environment, battery age and use of wireless accessories.

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Day Care

- 1) Next Generation School Champaign
- Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana Savoy
- Busy Bulldogs Preschool & Child Care Mahomet

Kid Activities

- 1) Skateland Savoy
- 2) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign
- 3) Shamrock Academy of Irish Dance Champaign

Best: Kid Activities, Place for a Kid's Party Skateland



On a roll since 1976 at 208 W. Curtis Road in Savoy; under current ownership since 2002.

Where are your trophies going?

In our entrance lobby for all to see.

Claim to fame: We love the roller-skating business and meeting the families in our community. It's always a great experience welcoming new guests to our business and repeat kids and families as they enter the building. We pride ourselves in offering awesome birthday-party packages that are affordable for parents and fun for kids. We continue to offer the Kids Skate Free Club for those 10 and younger to make skating affordable for families.



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Place for a Kid's Party

1) Skateland

Savoy

- 2) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch Champaign
- 3) Elevate Trampoline Park Champaign

Preschool

- 1) Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana Savoy
- 2) Next Generation Preschool Champaign
- 3) All God's Children Mahomet

Private School

- 1) Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana Savoy
- 2) Next Generation School Champaign
- 3) Judah Christian School Champaign

Best: Preschool, Private School Montessori School of C-U



Doors opened in 1962; classes are currently held in Savoy.

Where are your trophies going?

They will travel between classrooms because the magic happens there and we know that "teamwork makes the dream work"!

Claim to fame: For almost 60 years, Montessori School of C-U has been a home away from home for our students, faculty and families. We are a community committed to encouraging lifelong learners, respecting independence and positively impacting the world, one child at a time. From 24 months to sixth grade, we have prepared spaces for children to explore!

Best: Day Care Mext Generation School



What was founded as a center for early education just off Mattis Avenue in 1996 has expanded to five buildings and programs for students ages 6 weeks to eighth grade.

Claim to fame: Since 1996, Next Generation School has proudly guided CU's children on a journey of discovery — encouraging exploration, curiosity and innovation while instilling confidence and tenacity from 6 weeks old and beyond! In our loving, compassionate schools, every child is celebrated, cherished and supported along their educational trail.



There is a wide variety of creative work available for purchase by 50 local artists.



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Bar

- 1) Esquire Lounge Champaign
- 2) Punch! Bar & Lounge Champaign
- 3) Bunny's Tavern Urbana

Beer Selection

- 1) Pour Bros. Craft Taproom Champaign
- 2) Riggs Beer Co. Urbana
- 3) Collective Pour Champaign

Brewery

- 1) Riggs Beer Co. Urbana
- 2) Triptych Brewing Savoy
- 3) Big Thorn Farm & Brewery Georgetown

Best: Bar Sequire Lounge



Folks have been bellying up to the venerable downtown Champaign bar since March 1975.

Where's your People's Choice trophy going?

In a prominent spot behind the main bar.

Claim to fame: One of the things we do best is provide a friendly, laid-back atmosphere with plenty of quality food and beverage choices at a reasonable price. We also make a great houseinfused pineapple tequila that we use to make our signature cocktail, the famous pineapple margarita.



Thank You for Voting Us #1 Bar & Best Sports Bar!

Come In and Check Out Our

 Patio Seating • Frozen Drinks • Burgers • Pool Tables • Pizza & Sandwiches



Best: Brewery

V Riggs Beer Co.



Open since 2016 on the eastern edge of Urbana.

Where's your trophy going?

We have a trophy shelf in our taproom where we'll proudly display it!

Claim to fame: Bringing the community together by serving locally grown and made beer in our taproom and family-friendly beer garden. Make new friends here and take them to your favorite local bar or restaurant for more Riggs beers!



Best: Sports Bar
Tumble Inn Tavern



First kegs were tapped on St. Patrick's Day 1947 on Hickory Street; since 1975, they've been flowing at 302 S. Neil St. in downtown Champaign.

Claim to fame: We take our history, staff, patrons, and sports seriously at the Tumble Inn Tavern! From cheering on our Illini, rallying the Cubs and the Cardinals, lifting up local high school teams, supporting charities and ringing in the holidays, we've cemented ourselves as "A Timeless Gathering Place since 1947."



Best: Karaoke

The Axe Bar

Axes started flying on June 11, 2021, at 114 S. Neil St. in downtown Champaign.

Claim to fame: We pride ourselves on giving exceptional customer service and providing a fun atmosphere seven days a week! From the wide variety of bar food, draft beer, signature cocktails, bar games like giant Jenga and TVs to watch your favorite sports game, we have something for everyone to indulge in while throwing axes!

Best: Cocktails





Opened in July 2019 in downtown Champaign's Hyatt Place Hotel.

Where's your trophy going? On our back bar, right next to the ones we've won every year since opening.

THE

AXE BAR.

Claim to fame: We strive to curate a bar experience that is unrivaled in Illinois; one in which our only competition is from the best-of-the-best cocktail bars in Chicago.



- 1) Punch! Bar & Lounge Champaign
- 2) Bunny's Tavern Urbana
- 3) TreeHive Meadery Brocton

Dive Bar

THE A

- 1) Bunny's Tavern Urbana
- 2) Good Spirits Farmer City
- 3) Tumble Inn Tavern Champaign

Karaoke

- 1) The Axe Bar Champaign
- 2) Pia's Sports Bar & Grill Champaign
- 3) Pipa's Pub Champaign

Sports Bar

- 1) Tumble Inn Tavern Champaign
- 2) Esquire Lounge Champaign
- Bunny's Tavern Urbana



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Trivia

1) Yellow & Co. Events

Mahomet

2) Pour Bros. Craft Taproom Champaign

3) The Space Champaign

Wine Selection

1) Sun Singer Restaurant,

Wine & Spirits

Champaign
2) Art Mart

Champaign

3) Punch! Bar & Lounge Champaign

Winery

1) Alto Vineyards

Champaign

- 2) Sleepy Creek Vineyards Oakwood
- 3) TreeHive Meadery Brocton





Doors opened in 2017, with live events beginning in 2021.

Where's your trophy going?

On our bar so it will be visible for our customers during events. The award honors them just as much for attending and supporting us.

Claim to fame: Yellow & Co. is a destination retail/event space offering great gifts and top-caliber comedians and musicians in an upscale venue. Our trivia nights provide an opportunity for friends to gather for friendly competition in our swanky space. We have recently added some monthly themed trivia nights, such as Disney movies.



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Personal Care & Beauty

Barber Shop

1) That's the Cut Barbershop

Mahomet

2) Beard Culture **Barbershop & Gallery** Urbana

3) Hansen & Co. Barbershop Champaign

Cosmetic

- 1) Blue Moon Esthetics Champaign
- 2) Lively Aesthetics Monticello

3) Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology Champaign

Hair Salon

- 1) Aeline Salon Champaign
- 2) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa Champaign
- 3) Ippatsu Salon Champaign

Painting & Decorating, Inc

Best: Hair Salon Aeline Salon



Doors opened in February 2021 in south Champaign.

Claim to fame: The heart of our salon's success lies in our talented and dedicated team. They bring creativity and sincere heartfelt care to every client interaction. We are deeply proud of the team we've built and the clientele who put their trust in us. Their loyalty and support are essential to our success and we are thankful to serve them.

by

Best: Waxing \checkmark Bare



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Going strong in St. Joseph since 2016; Champaign location opened in 2022.

Where's your trophy going? It will be placed with my other two!

Claim to fame: Bare is the best at creating a welcoming and inclusive space for folks of all body types and gender expressions to come and get waxed.



217-419-6090 • 105 N Mattis Ave., Champaign

Best: Manicure / Pedicure Nails by Dalenna



Established in 2020 inside Sola Salons in the Schnucks plaza in west Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

I will be putting up a special shelf for all my trophies.

Claim to fame: "Great nails don't happen by chance. They happen by appointment." Here to enhance your natural beauty without using harsh chemicals and machinery. Whether you prefer clean and short nails or want to grow and strengthen your nails, I am your gal! P.S. I am a great listener and can do freehand nail art.



Vases, Bowls, Jewelry, Paperweights, Holiday Ornaments, Garden Ornaments, Custom Lighting & More!



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Best: Massage Service

BodyWork Associates



Began in April 1982 above what is now Pekara at the corner Springfield and Prospect avenues in Champaign; moved on to three locations throughout the city.

Where's your trophy going?

We will put it in the lobby of our location at 407 Windsor Road, which is our largest location and has the most traffic.

Claim to fame: Our massage therapists excel at problem solving, helping people who struggle with muscular aches and pains and often do not know where else to turn. The approach we use, precision neuromuscular therapy, is a highly focused and specific treatment to create real and lasting results. It is this approach that has helped us to be one of the largest, if not the largest, independent massage therapy clinics in Illinois.

Manicure / Pedicure

- 1) Nails by Dalenna
- Champaign 2) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
- Champaign 3) Christie Clinic Barefoot Medical Spa Champaign

Massage Service

- 1) BodyWork Associates Champaign
- 2) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa Champaign
- 3) Muscle Vitality Champaign

Spa

- 1) Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology
- Champaign 2) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa Champaign
- 3) Beau Visage Spa Urbana

Waxing

- 1) Bare St. Joseph
- 2) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa Champaign
- 3) Beau Visage Spa
- 3) Beau Visage Spa Urbana



Cat Boarding

- 1) All About Animals Pet Clinic Mahomet
- 2) Loving Paws Pet Clinic Savoy
- 3) All Creatures Animal Hospital Urbana

Dog Boarding

- 1) All About Animals Pet Clinic Mahomet
- 2) Ruff Dayz Doggy Daycare, Boarding & Grooming | Mahomet 3) Willow Branch Kennel
- Cisco

Pet Rescue / Adoption Service

- 1) Champaign County 2) Hospice Hearts **Humane Society** Champaign
- 3) Moore's **Rescue Ranch** Champaign

Doggy Daycare

- 1) Ruff Dayz Mahomet
- 2) Jodie Vee's Champaign
- 3) Willow Branch Kennel Cisco

Grooming

- 1) All About Animals Pet Clinic
- Mahomet 2) Harvest Valley **Veterinary Services**
- Savov 3) Top Knot Grooming
 - Atwood

Best: Cat Boarding, Dog Boarding, Grooming, Veterinary Clinic All About Animals Pet Clinic



Opened in 2012 on Tin Cup Road in Mahomet; moved to its current home on Prairieview Road a year later.

Claim to fame: We cater to busy pet parents who only want the best for their family. We offer convenient gold-standard care with flexible scheduling, up-to-date technology, and an evidencebased, common-sense approach to veterinary medicine.



Urbana

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Best: Doggy Daycare, Pet-Sitting Service Ruff Dayz Doggy Daycare, Boarding & Grooming



Opened in 2019 in Mahomet.

Where's your trophy going?

On the front desk with our other awards for clients to see when they come in.

Claim to fame: We understand that every dog is unique. That is why we create personalized care plans tailored to each dog's individual needs and preferences. Visit our social-media pages to see photos and videos of happy dogs enjoying our top-notch services. Come join our community of delighted pet owners!

Best: Pet Rescue / Adoption Service Champaign County Humane Society



Venerable agency has history going to back to early 1900s; moved to its current home in west Champaign in April 2023.

Claim to fame: In addition to pet adoptions, we make sure all our animals get veterinary care and behavioral enrichment while at our shelter. We also provide community services and programs, including humane education, dog-training classes, humane investigations, pet-owner support, and visits to nursing homes and classrooms with pets.

Pet-Sitting Service

- 1) Ruff Dayz
 - Mahomet
- 2) Cheryl Warren Pet Sitting Tuscola
- 3) Willow Branch Kennel Cisco

Pet Supplies

- 1) Prairieland Feeds
- 2) All About Animals Pet Clinic Mahomet
- 3) Pet Supplies Plus Champaign

Training

- 1) Jodie Vee's Champaign
- 2) Dog Training Club of C-U Urbana
- 3) Willow Branch Kennel Cisco

Veterinary Clinic

- 1) All About Animals Pet Clinic Mahomet
- 2) Harvest Valley Veterinary Services Mahomet
- 3) Loving Paws Pet Clinic Savoy





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Place to Work

- 1) Longview Bank Multiple Locations
- 2) Philo Exchange Bank Multiple Locations
- 3) The Venue CU Champaign

Accounting

- 1) Longview Bank Multiple Locations
- 2) Kelly's Accounting Services Monticello
- 3) MH CPA PLLC Champaign

Tax Preparation

- 1) Kelly's Accounting Services Monticello
- 2) MH CPA PLLC Champaign
- 3) Puzey & Wright Accounting & Tax Services Ogden

Alterations

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

Apartment / Townhome / Condo Complex

- 1) Royse & Brinkmeyer Champaign
- Fairlawn Real Estate Savoy
- 3) Legends Apartments Champaign

Retirement Community

- 1) The Windsor of Savoy
- Savoy
- 2) ClarkLindsey Urbana
- Carriage Crossing Multiple Locations

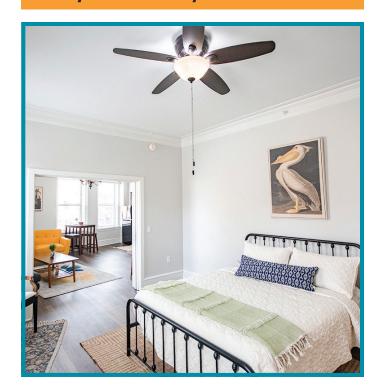
Bank / Credit Union

- 1) Longview Bank Multiple Locations
- Philo Exchange Bank Multiple Locations
- 3) Busey Bank
- Champaign

Business Services

- 1) Longview Bank
- Multiple Locations
 2) Lazers Edge
- Champaign
- 3) Minuteman Press Champaign

Best: Apartment / Townhome / Condo Complex Complex Brinkmeyer



Providing a place to call home since 1975; main office in Champaign.

Claim to fame: Royse & Brinkmeyer works hard to provide the best possible service to our residents. People are our business, so we make sure we're the very best at helping people. And it's not just our residents — we work hard to serve our staff and our C-U community as well!





SEPTEMBER

2024

Catering Service

- 1) Pan & Cake **Catering Company** Savoy
- 2) Michaels' Catering LLC Champaign
- 3) Party In A Pinch Catering Farmer City

Computer / IT

- 1) Lazers Edge Champaign
- 2) Simplified Computers Champaign
- 3) Baldwin Bytes Mahomet

Concrete Services

- 1) Mid-Illinois Concrete Multiple Locations
- 2) Jack-A-Slab Construction Sullivan
- 3) Hislope Backhoe Services Monticello

Best: Computer / IT **2** Lazers Edge



Opened in 1992 in Illini Plaza in south Champaign; now at 1303 N. Mattis Ave.

Claim to fame: Lazers Edge is a locally owned and operated business that has served the community for 32 years. We are your source for printers, copiers, and printing supplies. We offer in-home or office printing solutions, along with phone support. Our local delivery service and managed print solutions can save you time and money!

Best: Convention / Event Center, Event Planning Second Place: Wedding Venue

🔮 The Venue CU



Doors opened in summer 2020 on Main Street in downtown Champaign.

Claim to fame: We are an upscale event space located in downtown Champaign. We offer a wide range of services to create the event you desire in our modern, industrial setting. You will find our flexibility and comprehensive event model provides accommodations that will fit the vision of any wedding day or event!



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Best: Florist

The CU Flower House by A. Hunt Design



Started in 2012 in Encinitas, Calif., before moving to south Champaign.

Claim to fame: Customer service and thinking outside the box when it comes to floral design and how a flower shop can operate.

Best: Concrete Services Mid-Illinois Concrete



What started in June 2011 in a rented room at United Fuel in Urbana is now on its fourth location due to growth.

Claim to fame: We put customers first while having professional attitudes. We think our quality of work and attention to detail is excellent. We work hard to provide an environment where employees can communicate well with each other and customers. We provide a safe, healthy and fun environment for employees.

Convention / Event Center

- 1) The Venue CU
 - Champaign
- Hudson Farm Weddings & Events
 - Urbana
- 3) I Hotel & Conference Center Champaign

DJ Services

- 1) Bugbee's DJ Plus
 - Champaign
- 2) Music by Mike Sidney
- 3) DJ Belly
- Champaign

Dry Cleaner

JODIE

EE'S

- 1) Starcrest Cleaners Multiple Locations
- 2) Colony Square Cleaners Champaign
- Perfectionist Dry Cleaning & Laundromat Champaign



Thank you to EVERYONE who voted Jodie Vee's #1 People's Choice in Dog Training 4 YEARS IN A ROW! ...and #2 in Doggy Daycare





217-841-3909 jodievees.com 2703 Clark Rd Champaign

Employment Agency

- 1) Spherion Staffing & Recruiting Savoy
- 2) Express Employment Professionals Champaign
- 3) Adecco Staffing Champaign

Event Planning

- 1) Hudson Farm Weddings & Events Urbana
- 2) The Venue CU Champaign

3) Pear Tree Estate Champaign

Florist

- 1) The CU Flower House By A. Hunt Design Champaign
- 2) A Bloom Above & Beyond Tuscola

3) Blossom Basket Urbana

Best: Photography Studio Madeline Wilson Photography



Founded in 2018; studio opened in 2020 on Main Street in Tolono.

Claim to fame: How lucky am I to have a career where I get to experience all of the happiest moments in people's lives? I feel as though I leave every photo session with a new friend and have been able to connect with my clients on a personal level. I'm grateful to all the great people I've met in this profession!

Best: Tattoo Shop

🗿 Dark Matter Collective



Inked a permanent spot in downtown Champaign in 2017; now double its original size.

Claim to fame: We always strive to make our clients come first and give them the best tattoos we can in an atmosphere that is welcoming to everyone.





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Best: Investment Firm

🗿 Loman-Ray Insurance



Lyle and Sue Loman opened the first location in 1981 *in Broadlands.*

Claim to fame: We are a full-service independent agency providing comprehensive insurance solutions, including home, auto, life, health, commercial and agricultural products. Our commitment to local communities allows us to offer exceptional customer service and build strong relationships. Unique events and personalized service set us apart, making us a trusted partner in the insurance industry.

Best: High-Speed Fiber Internet **Pavlov Media**



Wired In since 1994 in Champaign.

Claim to fame: Pavlov Media delivers unparalleled fiber-optic internet services with lightning-fast speeds, comprehensive Wi-Fi and unmatched reliability. Our innovative solutions cater to both multidwelling units, businesses and residential homes, ensuring seamless connectivity and exceptional customer satisfaction. We're dedicated to excellence, continuously pushing the boundaries of technology to keep you connected.

High-Speed Fiber Internet

- 1) Pavlov Media
 - Champaign
- 2) Conxxus
- Paxton
- 3) I3 Broadband
 - Champaign

Home Mortgage Services

- 1) Longview Bank
 - Multiple Locations
- 2) Philo Exchange Bank
- Multiple Locations
- 3) Busey Bank
 - Champaign

Investment Firm

- 1) Ruedi Wealth Management
 - Champaign
- 2) Cozad Asset Management Champaign
- Fisher National Bank
 Fisher



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Law Firm

1) Spiros Law Champaign

2) Meyer Capel Champaign

3) Maatuka Al-Heeti Emkes Champaign

Local Community Service / Nonprofit

1) Salt & Light

Urbana

- 2) Eastern Illinois Foodbank Urbana
- 3) Habitat for Humanity ReStore Champaign

Local Insurance Company

- 1) Loman-Ray Insurance Group Urbana
- 2) Brian Hanson / State Farm Urbana
- The Arteaga Group / Country Financial St. Joseph

Best: Tax Preparation

Kelly's Accounting Services



Number crunching began in 1988 in the owner's basement in Monticello.

Claim to fame: Our business is amazing and it's because of my staff. The staff works so hard and they all make customer service a huge priority. We wouldn't be getting this award if it weren't for them.

Best: Employment Agency Spherion



Finding the right people for the job since 1981.

Claim to fame: We care! We take time with our employees to find out what they are trying to achieve in their career search and help them to achieve their goals. We listen to our clients and make placements with candidates that can help them achieve their business goals.



Best: DJ Services

Bugbee's DJ Plus



Started spinning in 1986 in Western Michigan and in 2000 in Champaign.

Claim to fame: We are a longstanding benchmark in the Midwest and Central Illinois for the highest-quality wedding and corporate event DJ service. The majority of our team works in house at our sister company, The Venue CU. We specialize in customizing the music, production and presentation to meet your vision.

Best: Screen Printing Stan's Sportsworld



Going strong since 1974 in Campustown.

Where's your trophy going? On our desks.

Claim to fame: Customer Service and beating budgets. Creating designs and meeting deadlines! Most of our clients are repeat customers, so our integrity speaks for itself.

Local Real-Estate Company

- 1) Ryan Dallas Real Estate Champaign
- 2) Caryn Happ Team / Keller Williams Realty Champaign
- 3) Taylor Realty Associates Mahomet

Memorial Services

- 1) Freese Funeral Home Multiple Locations
- 2) Sunset Funeral Home & Cremation Center Multiple Locations
- 3) Evergreen Cremation Services Champaign

Photography Studio

- 1) Madeline Wilson Photography Tolono
- 2) Rachel Ray Photography Tuscola
- 3) Staske Photography Savoy



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Printing Services

1) Minuteman Press Champaign

2) Dixon Graphics Champaign

 Awards Limited Champaign

Screen Printing

- 1) Stan's Sportsworld Champaign
- 2) Dixon Graphics Champaign
- Wagner Signs & Graphics
 St. Joseph

Tattoo Shop

1) Dark Matter Collective

Champaign

2) No Regrets Tattoos & Body Piercing Champaign

Vintage Karma Tuscola



🍼 Longview Bank

Waste Collection & Recycling

- 1) Illini Recycling
- Champaign 2) ABC Sanitary
- Champaign 3) Chris's Sanitary Service Philo

John and Marge Albin and family purchased controlling interest in 1978 in Longview. Currently, there are branches in Chrisman, Georgetown, Newman, Marshall, Paris, Ogden, Royal, Sidney, St. Joseph, Tuscola and Villa Grove and a loan production facility in Danville.

Claim to fame: Longview Bank is humbled and proud to receive these awards. We treat employees like family, and they in turn extend the same care to our customers. We are privileged to provide essential services for the families and agriculture leaders of our local communities. The name "Longview" itself suggests a forward-looking perspective. It aligns with the bank's mission and commitment to its clients' financial success. That's what makes our organization so special.

Wedding Venue

Best: Place to Work, Accounting, Bank / Credit Union, Business Services, Home Mortgage Services

- 1) Hudson Farm Weddings & Events Urbana
- 2) The Venue CU Champaign

ILLINOIS' HOMEGROWN

3) Pear Tree Estates Champaign



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Agritourism

- 1) Curtis Orchard Champaign
- 2) Georgetown Agricultural Fair Georgetown
- 3) Urbana Market at the Square Urbana

Bike Shop

- 1) Durst Cycle & Fitness Champaign
- 2) Champaign Cycle Champaign
- Schlabach's Bike Shop Arthur

Campground

- 1) Lake Shelbyville Shelbyville
- 2) Walnut Point State Park Oakland
- 3) Kickapoo State Park Oakwood

Community Event

- 1) Christie Clinic Illinois Race Weekend Champaign-Urbana
- Urbana Market at the Square Urbana
- Georgetown Agricultural Fair Georgetown

Golf Course

- 1) Lake of the Woods Golf Course Mahomet
- 2) Willow Pond Golf Course Rantoul
- University of Illinois Golf Course Savoy

Hotel / Motel

- 1) I Hotel & Conference Center Champaign
- 2) Comfort Suites Urbana
- 3) Hyatt Place Champaign/Urbana
- Champaign

Best: Bike Shop Durst Cycle & Fitness



Pedals started turning in 1935 at 503 N. Romine St. in Urbana, on what is now the OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center campus; wheels turning nearby at the corner of University and Goodwin.

Claim to fame: We are a third-generation family-owned business where we offer friendly, knowledgeable advice to fit customers' needs associated with bicycles and fitness equipment.



Best: Golf Course

Lake of the Woods Golf Course



First nine holes opened in 1949 in Mahomet; full course teed off in 1951.

Where's your trophy going?

On the shelf adjacent the Pro Shop check-in desk.

Claim to fame: We pride ourselves on customer service and providing affordable recreation opportunities for all backgrounds to participate in golf. We've put a lot of resources into improving all facilities over the past six years. Our par-3 course is also a valuable venue for all ages to practice and play.

Best: Public Pool

🗿 Sholem Aquatic Center



Making a splash in Champaign's Centennial Park since 1960.

Where's your trophy going?

We are out of room in our front office, so into our aquatics manager office, or as we call it, "the fishbowl," it goes!

Claim to fame: We are a family-friendly facility with a young, enthusiastic staff! We offer swim lessons, water aerobics, lap swim, our popular walk-the-river and tiny-tots programs, and our very own swim team, the Sholem Sharks.



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Membership Pool

1) Stephens Family YMCA

Champaign

2) Indian Acres Champaign

3) Lincolnshire Fields Country Club Champaign

Public Pool

1) Sholem Aquatic Center Champaign

2) Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center Urbana

 Monticello Family Aquatic Center Monticello

Miniature Golf

1) Old Orchard Lanes & Links Savov

2) The Fringe Rantoul

3) Arrowhead Lanes Champaign

Parks

- 1) Allerton Park
 - Monticello
- Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve Mahamet
- Homer Lake Forest Preserve Homer

Shooting Range

- 1) High Caliber Training Center & Indoor Range
 - Urbana
- 2) Sadorus Sportsman Club Sadorus
- 3) St. Joseph Sportsman Club St. Joseph

Walking / Hiking Trail

- 1) Allerton Park Monticello
- 2) Lake of the Woods Mahomet
- 3) Meadowbrook Park

Urbana

Best: Agritourism

Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch



Started life as part of a corn, bean and hog operation off South Duncan Road in Champaign that has been in the family since they moved here in 1878; opened to the public in 1980.

Claim to fame: Curtis Orchard offers fun, educational, affordable on-farm experiences for guests of all ages. Together, friends and family make lifetime memories while experiencing how food is grown and enjoying a relaxing time in the country. Our café, bakery, fresh apples, cider and produce along with activities appeal to everyone.



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Antiques

- 1) Mercantile Antiques & Trading Co. St. Joseph
- 2) Three-Toad Treasures Mansfield
- 3) Captain Jack's Treasures Savoy

Boutique

1) Simply JJ Monticello

- 2) Prairie Gardens Champaign
- 3) Yellow & Co. Mahomet

Best: Antiques

Omercantile Antiques and Trading Co.



Opened in 2004 in the mini mall in downtown St. Joseph; within four months, it had outgrown that space and moved to its current location on Northgate Drive.

Where's your trophy going? Right on our front counter for everyone to see!

Claim to fame: We are ever evolving with fantastic merchandise offered, awesome displays, excellent customer service and great customers from all over the country.



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Best: Boutique, Women's Clothing

Simply JJ



Launched in July 2015 in the owner's living room in Monticello; storefront opened its doors in September 2023 at the corner of Charter and Washington Streets in Monticello.

Where's your trophy going?

It will have a place of honor right on our front counter!

Claim to fame: Our business brings people together through clothing, accessories, gifts and home decor. Our goal is to turn customers into friends, and we have made a lot of friends through the years. We have regulars who come to the shop almost every week, sit down on one of the couches and visit with each other. It is the best and everyone is welcome!

Bridal / Formal Wear

- 1) Michelle's Bridal & Tuxedo
- Urbana
- 2) Lindsey Lane Bridal Cottage Rantoul
- 3) Men's Wearhouse

Champaign

Cannabis Store

1) Molly's Joint /

Parkway Dispensary

ппоп

2) The Dispensary

Champaign

3) Sunnyside

Champaign

Consignment / Thrift Store

1) Salt & Light

Urbana

- 2) Briella's Boutique Savoy, Mahomet
- 3) Three-Toad Treasures Mansfield



Men's Clothing

- 1) Joseph Kuhn & Co. Champaign
- Kohl's Champaign
 Dick's Sporting Co.
- 3) Dick's Sporting Goods Champaign

Women's Clothing

- Simply JJ Monticello
 Prairie Gardens
- Champaign 3) Kohl's
- Champaign

Educational / Game Store

- 1) Dr. G's BrainWorks Champaign
- 2) Rad Lad Games Mahomet
- 3) Gopher Games Urbana

Gift Shop

- 1) Art Mart Champaign
- 2) Yellow & Co. Mahomet
- 3) Simply JJ Monticello

Best: Gift Shop Art Mart



First opened in 1958 as a gallery for UI faculty and staff artwork at the northeast corner of First and Healey streets in Champaign; now just south of Kirby and Prospect avenues.

Claim to fame: We do our best to provide unique items in C-U that are from around the region, country and world. We pride ourselves on finding these items and having a curated selection of foods, gift, wines and toys.

Best: Educational / Game Store



The fun and games started on Sept. 13, 2013, in Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana; they are now at Market Place Mall in Champaign.

Claim to fame: We pride ourselves on (1) our huge selection and wide variety of awardwinning brain-building games, puzzles and educational/learning activities for all ages, (2) our knowledgeable/trained staff, (3) excellent customer service, and (4) a personalized shopping experience. Everything in our store is focused on nurturing the power of the human brain!



www.prairielandfeeds.com

Best: Grocery Store

V Harvest Market



Opened in 2016 as the new anchor of the former Carriage Center car complex in south Champaign.

Claim to fame: Harvest Market focuses on local producers and makers. We thrive on thinking outside the box to make a visit to our store an experience. We love sharing good food!

Grocery Store

- 1) Harvest Market
- Champaign
- 2) Aldi Multiple Locations
- 3) Schnucks Multiple Locations

Hardware Store

- 1) Ace Hardware
- Champaign
- 2) Champaign Do It Best Hardware Champaign
- 3) Menards
 - Champaign

Health Food Store

- 1) Common Ground Food Co-op Urbana
- 2) Harvest Market
- Champaign
 3) Strawberry Fields Cafe
 - Urbana

International Market

- 1) World Harvest International & Gourmet Foods Urbana
- 2) Art Mart
- Champaign
- 3) Martinelli's Market | Champaign



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Jewelry

- 1) Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry Sidney
- 2) Caitlin Hicks Design Monticello
- 3) Spritz Jewelry Co. Champaign

Liquor Store

- 1) Binny's Beverage Depot Champaign
- 2) AJ's Wine and Spirits Mahomet
- 3) A1 Liquor Mahomet

Mattress Store

- 1) Illini Mattress Co.
- Champaign
 2) Bender's Mattress Factory
- Urbana 3) Slumberland Furniture Champaign
- **Music Store**
- 1) The Music Shoppe Champaign
- 2) Exile on Main Street Champaign
- 3) Corson Music Champaign

Best: Mattress Store Illini Mattress Co.



Selling the stuff dreams are made of since 1990 on North Mattis Avenue; at its current location on Country Fair Drive since July 1996.

Claim to fame: We care about our clients' needs and do our best to help them get their best sleep possible. We provide a no-pressure shopping experience. We pride ourselves on providing old-fashioned customer service and strive to delight our clients!



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ш

Best: Music Store

O The Music Shoppe

The music began in 1961 in Bloomington; the Champaign store opened in 1988 on the corner of Clark and State streets and is now in Market View Center.

Claim to fame: We are truly a onestop music store. We carry everything from guitars and drums to band and orchestra, and we offer lessons and repairs for nearly every instrument.



Best: Jewelry

Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry



Opened in October 2022 while owner Jada Burr was teaching special education full time.

Claim to fame: Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry is unique because I travel to you. I also do not charge a set-up, fee so it does not cost business owners anything to have me set up at their place of work.

Office Supply

- 1) Lazers Edge
 - Champaign
- 2) Staples
- Champaign
 3) Rogards
- Champaign

Quilting/Sewing

1) A Quilting Bee Mahomet

2) Trisa's Quilting Corner & More

- Villa Grove
- Everyday Quilting Company Urbana

Shoe Store

1) Heel to Toe

Urbana

- 2) Body N' Sole Sports Savoy
- 3) Mosser's Shoes Champaign



Sporting Goods / Outdoor Recreation Store

- 1) Dick's Sporting Goods Champaign
- 2) Body N' Sole Sports Savoy
- 3) Falcon Equipment and Supply Ogden

Tobacco / Vaping

- 1) Tobacco Expo Champaign
- 2) Vape Vault Champaign
- 3) Jon's Pipe Shop & Cigar Smoking Lounge Champaign

Vintage

1) Furniture Lounge Champaign

- 2) Three-Toad Treasures Mansfield
- 3) Habitat for Humanity ReStore Champaign

Best: Liquor Store

Ø Binny's Beverage Depot



Original location opened in 1948 at Clark and Sheffield in downtown Chicago; first downstate location opened in 2012 on Town Center Boulevard in Champaign.

Claim to fame: Binny's is the go-to source for wine, spirits and beer. With great prices on the widest selection — if you can't find it at Binny's, it's probably not worth drinking.



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