

Winners!

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Congratulations

to the winners of the annual People's Choice contest



Whether it's called "Best of the Best," "Business Best" or "People's Choice," this publication represents the opinion of thousands of people in our communities about the businesses with the best to offer to their customers — whether it's in goods and services, great hours or plain ol' over-the-top customer service.

These businesses are the cream of the crop. But let's not forget those who finished second or third in a category. We are blessed to have so many wonderful, successful companies in our community, and this recognition proves it.

We are proud to present this year's winners after three months of promotion, voting and tabulating. It is a monumental effort, but so worth the effort.

Like so many of the businesses listed here, we, too, strive to produce the best recognition of the "People's Choice."

Please take the time to recognize the places you voted for. Let them know this community respects and appreciates winners!

— Paul Barrett

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50

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57

Professional Services

68

Recreation, Leisure & Outdoor

73

Shopping

DINING

17.18%

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

17.00%

HOME & GARDEN

11.25%

SHOPPING

10.60%

HEALTH & WELLNESS

7.54%

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

7.51%

AUTOMOTIVE

5.66%

PETS

4.95%

PERSONAL CARE AND BEAUTY

4.69%

NIGHTLIFE

4.32%

RECREATION, LEISURE & OUTDOOR

3.86%

FITNESS

3.07%

KIDS

2.36%

Vote percentages by category



*Thank You for Voting Us the
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35-44

22.95%

25-34

22.05%

45-54

17.34%

55-64

14.41%

65 and over

14.04%

18-24

9.19%

Vote percentages by age groups

CELEBRATING OUR CHRISTIE CLINIC WINNERS VOTED #1 BY YOU!

DERMATOLOGY

Department of Dermatology

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Department of Physical Therapy

PODIATRIST

Department of Foot & Ankle Surgery

WALK-IN CLINIC

Convenient Care

COSMETIC

Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology

SPA

Christie Clinic Department of Dermatology

WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

Christie Clinic Transformations Medical Weight Loss Program



CHRISTIE
CLINIC



You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Arts & Entertainment

Art Gallery

1) Prairie Fire Glass

Monticello

2) The Vault Art Gallery

Tuscola

3) Libby Jo Art Studio

Villa Grove

Bookstore

1) The Literary

Champaign

2) Barnes & Noble

Champaign

3) Jane Addams Book Shop

Champaign

Bowling Alley

1) Old Orchard Lanes & Links

Savoy

2) Arrowhead Lanes

Champaign

3) Illini Union Bowling Alley

Urbana

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 a block south of downtown Monticello's Courthouse Square, since 2002.

Where's your trophy going?

It will be proudly displayed next to three other first-place People's Choice Awards on my front cabinet next to my Fu Dog Family.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Business is not about "transactions"; it's about developing relationships.

What band is playing at your company party?

Jimmy Buffett and the Grateful Dead.



In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

A memory — it'll be long gone by then. I'd be happy to just be alive in 25 years!



Voted #1 in Landscaping



Amy B Gardening



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Best: Bookstore

✓ The Literary



The bookstore/coffeehouse/bar/cafe has been offering a “third place” — somewhere that’s not work/school or home — at 122 N. Neil St. in downtown Champaign since the fall of 2021.

Where’s your trophy going?

On our gallery wall between the portrait of Maya Angelou and the sign that says “Actually, this is my first rodeo.”

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

The team at The Literary is deeply invested in enriching our community and works hard to make sure that when you leave The Literary, you feel better than you did when you came in.

What band is playing at your company party?

NSYNC, duh.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Hopefully we’ll still be selling printed books alongside whatever cool digital things they come up with!



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Best: Live Theater

Virginia Theatre



*Presenting plays, films, concerts and other performances since 1921 in downtown Champaign.
Owned by the Champaign Park District since 2000 and on the National Register of Historic Places since 2003.*

Where's your trophy going?

Right in the box office, in plain view, where everyone can see it when they're picking up their tickets.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

The Virginia Theatre is one of the last restored 20th-century theaters in the Midwest and offers a variety

of entertainment, including national touring acts, dance performances, theater and movies on its iconic 52-foot-wide screen.

What band is playing at your company party?

The Traveling Wilburys would have been great, but we're too late for that, unfortunately.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We hope that our offerings to the C-U area will continue to grow and change with the taste and interests of the community. This includes concerts, stand-up comedy, theater, ballet, movies from various film series, dance, live spoken word and podcasts, as well as other events, both public and private.

Date Spot

- 1) **Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In**
Gibson City
- 2) **Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch**
Champaign
- 3) **Punch! Bar & Lounge**
Champaign

Entertainment Venue

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

Live-Music Venue

- 1) **Rose Bowl Tavern**
Urbana
- 2) **Virginia Theatre**
Champaign
- 3) **Bookie's Tavern**
Tuscola

Live-Theater Venue

- 1) **Virginia Theatre**
Champaign
- 2) **Krannert Center**
Urbana
- 3) **Little Theatre on the Square**
Sullivan

Movie Theater

- 1) **Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In**
Gibson City
- 2) **Phoenix Theatres Savoy 16 IMAX**
Savoy
- 3) **AMC Champaign 13**
Champaign

Museum

- 1) **Krannert Art Museum**
Champaign
- 2) **Museum of the Grand Prairie**
Mahomet
- 3) **Douglas County Museum**
Tuscola

Outdoor Amusement

- 1) **Curtis Orchard**
Champaign
- 2) **Harvest Moon Twin Drive-In**
Gibson City
- 3) **Aikman Wildlife Adventure**
Arcola

Video Gambling

- 1) **Jupiter's at the Crossing**
Champaign
- 2) **Bunny's Tavern**
Urbana
- 3) **Old Orchard Lanes & Links**
Savoy



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**VOTED BEST
DISPENSARY
IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS 2025**





You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Automotive

Auto Parts

- 1) **Shields Auto Center**
Rantoul
- 2) **Advance Auto Parts**
Multiple Locations
- 3) **Don's Auto Center**
Homer

Auto Repair

- 1) **Shields Auto Center**
Rantoul
- 2) **Mahomet Car Connection**
Mahomet
- 3) **Don's Auto Center**
Homer

Auto Tinting & Graphics

- 1) **It's a Wrap Automotive**
Champaign
- 2) **V.I.D.A. Bottega**
Champaign
- 3) **Midwest AutoSkins**
Savoy

Car Detailing

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

Car Wash

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

Best: Golf Cart & UTV Dealership

✓ Midwest Carts



Engines started in 2023 in Sullivan; main headquarters moved in April to new building in Tuscola.

Where's your trophy going?

In the lobby at the main office or maybe my office.

What band is playing at your company party?

Prestige Worldwide.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Hard work, hours that are ever-flexible depending on what our customers' needs are, maintenance and service that comes to your home, and a top priority of having excellent customer service.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Maybe have more shops opened all over, or expand into other products; who knows what will be available in 25 years — and who knows, maybe my kids will be here working with me too!

Voted #1 for Manicures & Pedicures!



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Thank you for voting us Top 3 in five categories



Parks

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Walking/Hiking Trails

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Museum

Museum of the Grand Prairie

Golf Course

Lake of the Woods Golf Course

Campground

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve



Best: Towing

Don's 24hr Towing

The Champaign-based family business started in October 1969 as Don's Amoco at the corner of Mattis and University avenues in Champaign; it's now on North Harris Avenue.

Where's your trophy going?

Proudly in the front entrance, alongside our three other People's Choice first-place awards!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our staff is well known for their friendly responses to all of our customer's needs.

What band is playing at your company party?

George Thorogood and the Destroyers.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I can hardly imagine how much the transportation industry will change over the next 10 years. I couldn't possibly see 25 years into the future!



Collision Repair

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

Golf Cart & UTV Dealership

- 1) **Midwest Carts**
Tuscola
- 2) **Central Illinois Cars & Carts**
Newman
- 3) **Battery Specialists + Golf Cars**
Champaign

Motorcycles/Scooters/ATVs

- 1) **Andrae's Harley-Davidson**
Urbana
- 2) **Pilson Powersports**
Mattoon
- 3) **Fagen Scooters**
Champaign

New-Car Dealership

- 1) **Shields Auto Center**
Rantoul
- 2) **Serra Champaign**
Savoy
- 3) **Illini Nissan**
Champaign



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Used-Car Dealership

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

Oil Change

- 1) **Shields Auto Center**
Rantoul
- 2) **Mahomet Car Connection**
Mahomet
- 3) **Jiffy Lube**
Multiple Locations

Tires

- 1) **Shields Auto Center**
Rantoul
- 2) **Tire Barn Warehouse**
Champaign
- 3) **Norris Tire & Auto Center**
Champaign

Towing

- 1) **Don's 24-Hour Towing**
Champaign
- 2) **Tatman's Towing**
Champaign, Urbana
- 3) **Reynolds Towing Service**
Urbana

Best: Auto Tinting & Graphics, Car Detailing

✓ **It's A Wrap Automotive**



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

Where are your trophies going?

In the lobby next to all the others!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We combine expert craftsmanship, premium products, and a genuine passion for protecting and enhancing every vehicle like it's our own.

What band is playing at your company party?

Kygo.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Multiple flagship locations backed by a loyal team and a reputation for unmatched quality and service.



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Best: Auto Parts, Auto Repair, New-Car Dealership, Used-Car Dealership, Oil Change, Tires

Shields Auto Center



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 trophies going?

In the customer waiting lounge and at the check-in counter for Service and Parts.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our business excels because we offer quality products and services with transparent pricing, all while providing a welcoming, no-pressure, family atmosphere — plus we have our Exclusive Warranty Forever.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We envision our business continuing to be a trusted pillar of our community, adapting to new technologies while maintaining our commitment to exceptional customer service and a friendly, family-oriented environment. One of the new technologies that I believe is fully autonomous vehicles, and some potentially without a steering wheel.



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Illini Hearing

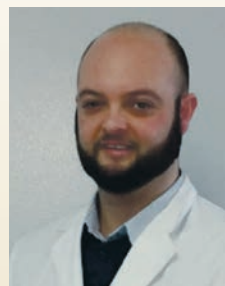
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You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Dining

Overall Restaurant

1) Sun Singer Restaurant, Wine & Spirits

Champaign

2) Smith Burger Co.

Champaign, Urbana

3) Texas Roadhouse

Champaign

Asian

1) 83 Vietnamese

Champaign

2) KoFusion

Champaign, Urbana

3) Sticky Rice

Champaign

Bakery

1) Amy's Sweet Delights

Royal

2) Industrial Donut

Savoy

3) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch

Champaign

Barbecue

1) Black Dog Smoke & Ale House

Champaign, Urbana

2) Li'l Porgy's Barbeque

Champaign

3) Hickory River Smokehouse

Champaign, Urbana

Best: Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt

✓ Jarling's Custard Cup



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?

We will display our newest awards right beside the rest of our hard-earned and appreciated awards in the window for the employees and customers to see!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We have not strayed from what is tried and true. We keep the same recipe, make everything the same — fresh daily — and deliver excellent customer service on top of the quality product that we provide. We do our best to serve up happiness with every treat!

What band would be playing at your company party?

Any amazing band that can play the tune "O Sole Mio." This song is known from generations back and everyone knows that ice cream is near when they hear that tune. Oh, and our favorite local artists! Yay, local!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We are hoping that nothing changes, just as it hasn't since we opened. We like to keep things simple, fun and delicious; why fix what isn't broken? We are a sentimental, nostalgic brand.

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Breakfast

1) The Original Pancake House

Champaign

2) Maple & Yolk

Urbana

3) Le Peep

Champaign

Brunch

1) Maple & Yolk

Urbana

2) The Original Pancake House

Champaign

3) Sun Singer

Champaign

Burger

1) Smith Burger Co.

Champaign, Urbana

2) Farren's Pub & Eatery

Champaign

3) Cast Iron Pub

Tuscola

Doughnuts

1) Industrial Donut

Savoy

2) Curtis Orchard

Champaign

3) Parlor Doughnuts

Champaign

Family Friendly

1) Curtis Orchard

Champaign

2) Old Orchard Lanes & Links

Savoy

3) Jarling's Custard Cup

Champaign

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 trophy going?

On our entryway ledge with our other trophies and certificates!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Because we remain consistent in our recipes as well as the high-quality products used to prepare them.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Let's keep it Italian: Andrea Bocelli!



Best: Asian

83 Vietnamese



First opened in May 2019 at the former Broadway Food Hall in Urbana; closed during the pandemic; reopened in July 2022 in southwest Champaign.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

If you want beef then bring your chopsticks; Mama Lam's pho ain't nothing to mess with.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Wu-Tang is for the children.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

In 25 years, Mama Lam will be 97 years old and still serving the community daily.

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Best: Overall Restaurant, Seafood

Sun Singer Restaurant, Wine & Spirits

What started as a labor of love in 1999 in Monticello became the anchor of south Champaign's Windsor Galleria in 2003, where it's been growing ever since.

Where are your trophies going?

Maybe we'll hang it from the disco ball at our front entrance so it can't be missed! We are very excited!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Sun Singer has always had the best guests and staff around. We've watched multiple generations go in and out our doors, and we are honored!

What band is playing at your company party?

Who else than the Fairly Dangerous Band? They're dynamite, and our chef is their drummer!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

With trust in current and future management, we envision Sun Singer remaining a vibrant, community-oriented business long into the future.



Fish Sandwich

- 1) **Bunny's Tavern**
Urbana
- 2) **Culver's**
Multiple Locations
- 3) **Legends**
Champaign

Food Truck

- 1) **Smith Burger Co.**
Champaign
- 2) **Mo's Burritos**
Champaign
- 3) **Keke's**
Champaign

Fried Chicken

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

Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt

- 1) **Jarling's Custard Cup**
Champaign
- 2) **Sidney Dairy Barn**
Sidney
- 3) **The Main Scoop**
Multiple Locations

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Indian / Middle Eastern

- 1) **Kohinoor Indian Restaurant**
Champaign
- 2) **Shawarma Joint**
Champaign, Urbana
- 3) **The Himalayan Chimney**
Champaign

Italian

- 1) **Manzella's Italian Patio**
Champaign
- 2) **Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano**
Champaign
- 3) **Filippo's Pizza & Italian Food**
Mahomet

Local Coffee / Roasters

- 1) **Mad Goat Coffee**
Champaign, Danville
- 2) **Hometown Grounds**
Tuscola
- 3) **Columbia Street Roastery**
Champaign

Mexican

- 1) **Dos Reales**
Champaign
- 2) **Casa del Mar**
Urbana
- 3) **Maize Mexican Grill**
Champaign

Outdoor Seating

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

Best: Bakery

Amy's Sweet Delights



Baking began in 2022 in Royal.

Where's your trophy going?

Wherever we are set up: markets, kiosks, home.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We work very hard and care a lot!

What band would be playing at your company party?

Dirty Heads.

Best: Mexican

Dos Reales



The fiesta started in September 1995 on North Prospect Avenue in Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

At the entrance, where it's most visible.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Quality and fresh food, attention to clientele and an environment wherein our customers feel like family.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Bad Bunny.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We've already made it to 30 years, so we're hoping we'll continue being a part of the Champaign community for another 25 years.

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Best: Barbecue

✓ **Black Dog Smoke & Ale House**



The smoke began swirling in February 2009 in downtown Urbana; downtown Champaign followed in September 2015.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We do barbecue the way it should be done — we cook low and slow over a real wood fire and don't take shortcuts.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Bones Jugs from Urbana. They did a song about Black Dog Urbana; we have the CD on the wall.

Best: Local Coffee / Roasters

✓ **Mad Goat Coffee**

Things started brewing in 2014 in Danville; the downtown Champaign location opened last year.

Where's your trophy going?

Behind the bar for everyone to see!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We love building community while serving phenomenal coffee.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Retro Via.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Serving great coffee, and building community and happiness in the same place.



Prairie Fire Glass Studio & Gallery

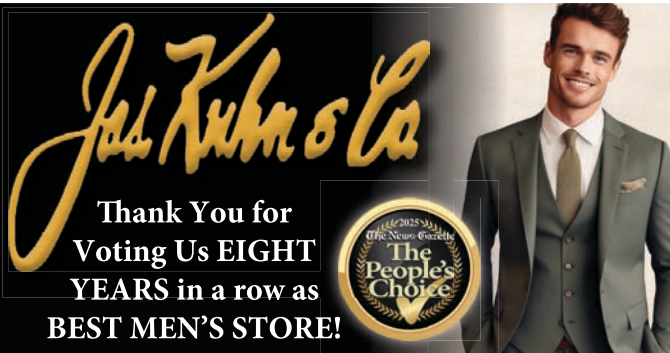
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Pies

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

Pizza

- 1) **Old Orchard Lanes & Links**
Savoy
- 2) **Papa Del's**
Champaign
- 3) **Monical's Pizza**
Multiple Locations

Sandwich

- 1) **Smith Burger Co.**
Champaign, Urbana
- 2) **Baldarotta's Porketta & Sicilian Sausage**
Urbana
- 3) **Martinelli's Market**
Champaign

Seafood

- 1) **Sun Singer**
Champaign
- 2) **KoFusion**
Champaign, Urbana
- 3) **Red Lobster**
Champaign

Steak

- 1) **The Ribeye**
Champaign
- 2) **Texas Roadhouse**
Champaign
- 3) **Hamilton Walker's**
Champaign

Best: Doughnuts

Industrial Donut



Baking began in April 2019 in Savoy.

Where's your trophy going?

With our other trophies on top of our display counter for all to see as they enter our shop!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We are passionate about the fact that we aren't "just a doughnut shop" — we are a complete doughnut (and coffee) experience, where doughnut creations come to life!

What band would be playing at your company party?

90's Daughter!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I see us with multiple locations, still doing what we do best, creating everyone's favorite bakery treat, just how they envisioned it! I would imagine the restaurant world will be full of new innovative technology, and I hope to combine that with a sustained focus on the customer experience.

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Best: Burger, Food Truck, Sandwich

✓ **Smith Burger Co.**

What started as a food truck in December 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 and opened its second location in June at the Yard on Broadway in downtown Urbana.

Where are your trophies going?

Now that we have our new Urbana location, we plan to find a space there to proudly display them.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Customer service. Food quality is extremely important, but making sure our customers are taken care of and enjoy their experience is our No. 1 goal.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Turnpike Trubadors.



In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

A lot can transpire in 25 years, but we hope to continue to grow outside of the CU area. We envision stepping back from the day-to-day operations and our children taking over the business.

Sushi

- 1) **KoFusion**
Champaign, Urbana
- 2) **Sakanaya Restaurant**
Champaign
- 3) **Sushi Man**
Champaign

Tacos

- 1) **Maize Mexican Grill**
Champaign
- 2) **Fernando's Food Truck**
Champaign
- 3) **Mo's Burritos**
Champaign

Vegetarian / Vegan

- 1) **Strawberry Fields Cafe**
Urbana
- 2) **Common Ground Food Co-op**
Urbana
- 3) **Just Bee Acai**
Urbana

Wings

- 1) **Wingstop**
Champaign, Urbana
- 2) **Buffalo Wild Wings**
Champaign, Savoy
- 3) **Stagecoach at Gordyville**
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Fitness

Group Fitness

- 1) **Rally Point Fitness**
Tuscola
- 2) **Stephens Family YMCA**
Champaign
- 3) **Lycan's Den MMA**
Urbana

Gym

- 1) **Rally Point Fitness**
Tuscola
- 2) **Stephens Family YMCA**
Champaign
- 3) **Lycan's Den MMA**
Urbana

Martial Arts

- 1) **Lycan's Den MMA**
Urbana
- 2) **Leaders for Life**
Champaign
- 3) **HMD Academy of Tae Kwon Do**
Savoy

Pilates

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

Yoga Studio

- 1) **Stephens Family YMCA**
Champaign
- 2) **Defy Gravity Pole Fitness**
Urbana
- 3) **Refinery Gym**
Champaign

Best: Pilates, Yoga Studio

✓ **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 are your trophies going?

Our trophies will be displayed proudly on our Member Services desk at the front of the facility.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We're great at what we do because we truly care; about our community, about the people we serve, and about the impact we make. Passion drives our team of dedicated individuals who work hard to create meaningful, high-quality programs and

experiences for everyone who walks through our doors.

What band is playing at your company party?

Obviously, the Village People.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Bigger, more locations, more programs, and continuing to serve the community's mind, body and spiritual needs.



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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 trophies going?

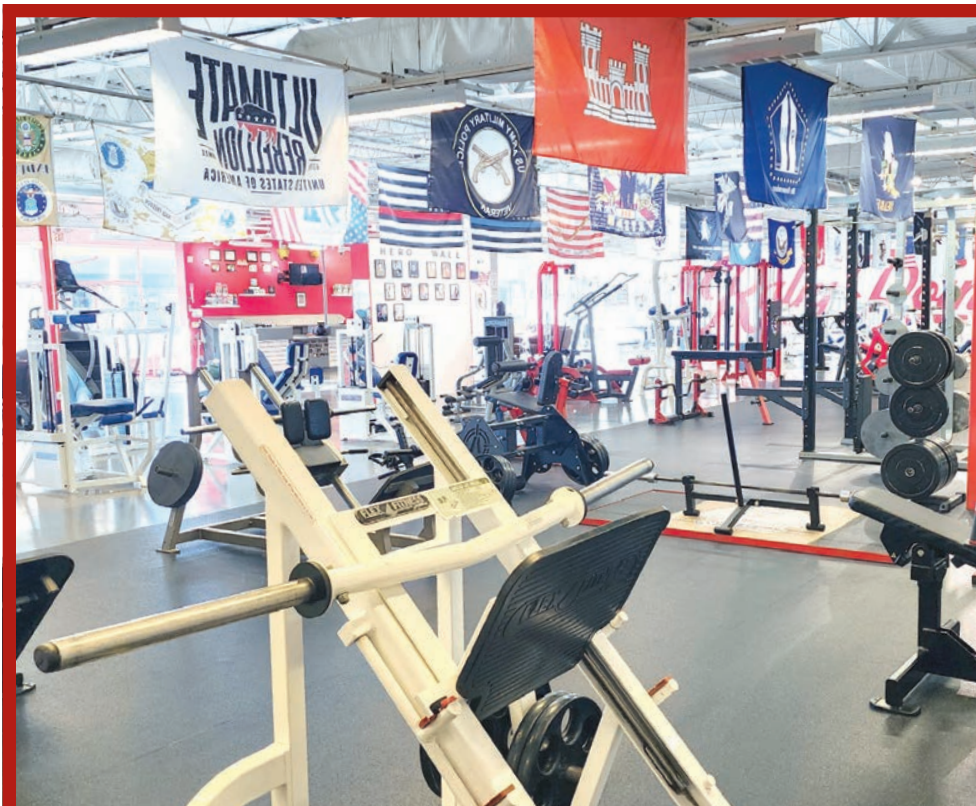
Behind our front desk on the wall, next to the other trophies.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We do things way different than any gym in Central Illinois does. I've invested a lot of money from the top gyms, coaches and agencies in the country to find a better way of running a gym. We aren't even playing the same game as other gyms in the area. Different ballgame.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Maybe a few more facilities throughout the state, doing the same thing we are now. Or sold and I'm retired on a beach; who knows?



Best: Martial Arts

✓ Lycan's Den MMA

Hanging tough since 2022 in Urbana.

Where's your trophy going?

It will be proudly displayed at the front desk for all members to enjoy.



What band is playing at your company party?

Skillet is a staple on our playlist. This summer, Ozzy Osbourne has been on heavy rotation.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We hope to have multiple locations across the region. Our dream is to see many of our current fighters make it to the UFC while continuing to change lives through martial arts and the powerful community we've built. Whether it's on the mats or in everyday life, our mission will always be to empower, uplift and grow together.

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Health & Wellness

Acupuncture Office

- 1) **Alexander Chiropractic**
Champaign
- 2) Jackson Chiropractic
Champaign
- 3) Young Chiropractic & Acupuncture
Champaign

Chiropractor Office

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

Dental Office

- 1) **CU Pediatric Dentists**
Urbana
- 2) Ruffatto Family Dental
Savoy
- 3) Anderson Dental
Champaign

Dermatology

- 1) **Christie Clinic**
Department of Dermatology
Champaign
- 2) Carle Clinic
Champaign
- 3) Vitalskin Dermatology
Multiple Locations

Best: Dermatology, Physical Therapy, Podiatrist Office, Walk-In Clinic, Weight-Loss Center

✓ Christie Clinic

Established in 1929 and going strong.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

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 26 locations, including three convenient-care locations, and more than 170 medical providers, we're 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?

At our front counter for all to see!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We provide a very 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!

What band – is playing at your company party?

Modern Drugs (a great local band!)





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Best: Dental Office

CU Pediatric Dentists



Opened in 1998 by Dr. Chifan Cheng on Colorado Avenue in Urbana; bought by Drs. Vickie Hemann and Leah Davis in 2020 and relocated to Nicklaus Drive in Champaign in 2023.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We are a woman-owned pediatric dental practice and proud to say that we are all certified with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. We are the only board-certified pediatric dental practice in C-U. 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 in Champaign's Royal Plaza; moved to 308 S. Neil St. in July 2014.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our practice thrives on patience, expertise, and personalized care — word of mouth says it all! As a woman-owned and -led business with five team members boasting over 25 years of experience, we make choosing eyewear fun, stress-free, and tailored to every individual.

Who's playing at your company party?

R.E.M., of course — that's "Rapid Eye Movement," ya know! Certainly not Third Eye Blind — not good for the image!

Hearing Center

- 1) Audibel Hearing Aid Center
Champaign
- 2) Quednau Hearing
Champaign
- 3) Illini Hearing
Multiple Locations

In-Home Care

- 1) Synergy HomeCare
Champaign
- 2) PACE
Urbana
- 3) Transitions Care
Champaign

Medical Supplies

- 1) MedServ Equipment
Urbana
- 2) Heel to Toe
Urbana
- 3) Carle Medical Supply
Champaign

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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
Multiple Locations
- 3) Huls Orthodontics
Champaign

Physical Therapy

- 1) **Christie Clinic Department
of Physical Therapy**
Champaign
- 2) Carle Orthopedics
& Sports Medicine
Champaign
- 3) Impact Physical Therapy
& Sports Recovery
Champaign

Best: Hearing Center

Audibel Hearing Aid Center



Established in October 2001 at Champaign's Market Place Mall; now on Big Pine Trail.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

With 24 years of experience, we've earned a reputation for exceptional care by combining advanced hearing technology with a deeply personal, patient-first approach that truly makes a difference.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Our practice will be a nationally recognized leader, powered by cutting-edge technology, a deeply compassionate team and a legacy of transforming lives across generations.

Best: In-Home Care

Synergy HomeCare



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

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Synergy is truly committed to taking care of not only its clients but also its employees.


In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

The sky's the limit for Synergy HomeCare of Central Illinois! We are already the No. 1 Synergy franchise in the country, but our goal always is to provide our top-notch home care services to as many people as possible. So we hope to always keep growing!




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Best: Medical Equipment Supplies

MedServ Equipment

Originally founded in Palatine in 1994; Urbana location has been going strong in Lincoln Square since 2012.

Where's your trophy going?

We will proudly display it on our front desk for all to see!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Because we truly care. Our team takes the time to listen, find the right equipment, and make sure every customer feels supported and confident at home.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Coldplay — minus the kiss cam.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

MedServ will still be locally owned and deeply rooted in the community, but with smarter technology, fully customizable mobility solutions, and even more ways to deliver care and independence right to our customers' doors.



Podiatrist Office

1) Christie Clinic Department of Foot & Ankle Surgery

Champaign

2) Family Foot & Ankle Center

Champaign

3) Carle Health

Champaign

Therapy

1) Grit and Grace Therapy

Mahomet

2) Kendrick Counseling

Champaign

3) Keri Powell Therapy

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) Timeless Grace

Aesthetics & Wellness

Multiple Locations

3) Carle Foundation Hospital

Urbana

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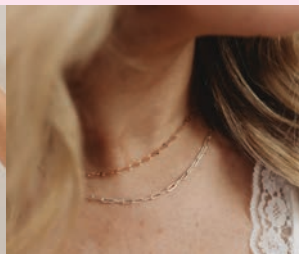
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– Jada Burr



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Home & Garden

Appliance Store

- 1) **Dick Van Dyke Appliance World**
Champaign
- 2) **Lowe's**
Champaign
- 3) **Champaign Appliance Center**
Champaign

Basements

- 1) **C-U Under Construction**
Champaign
- 2) **217 Inc.**
Champaign
- 3) **Fitzzy's Steamatic of CU**
Monticello

Carpet Cleaning

- 1) **KleenRite**
Champaign
- 2) **Stanley Steemer**
Champaign
- 3) **Fitzzy's Steamatic of CU**
Monticello

Cleaning Service

- 1) **Servpro Team McGuire**
Champaign
- 2) **Maid to Perfection**
Champaign
- 3) **Fitzzy's Steamatic of CU**
Monticello

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 blossomed into a team of employees, trucks, trailer and tools.

Where's your trophy going?

My husband has framed every certificate I have received from the People's Choice Awards and my cover of Central Illinois Business magazine.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We are a group of caring and hardworking people who love interacting and forming relationships with our clients.

What band would be playing at your company party?

Little Feat.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I started this business later in life, so it's really hard to think about 25 years from now; I really try hard to stay in the moment. One thing it has done for me is give me confidence in myself that hard work and determination make things possible and things you never thought about can happen. Doors open if you get out of your own way.

A to Z

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Custom Kitchen & Bath

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Champaign
- 2) **Luther Falls Kitchen & Bath**
Champaign
- 3) **Plum Grove Millworks**
Camargo

Door / Window

- 1) **Copper Creek Contractors**
Mahomet
- 2) **Bacon & Van Buskirk**
Glass Co.
Champaign
- 3) **Pella Windows & Doors**
Champaign

Electrician

- 1) **Edelman**
Champaign
- 2) **C-U Trade Services**
Champaign
- 3) **Waters Electric Contracting**
Rantoul

Equipment Rental

- 1) **Herriott's Rents, Tents & Events**
Champaign
- 2) **Rental City**
Champaign
- 3) **Awesome Machines Sales & Rentals**
Savoy

Best: Furniture Store

✓ **Kelsey Furniture**



*Serving East Central Illinois since 1959
from downtown Tuscola.*

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We consistently deliver high-quality furniture pieces that cater to evolving customer needs and tastes, backed by exceptional service.

Who's playing your company party?

Big-hair '80s music.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Same great prices and service with new faces.

Best: Custom Kitchen & Bath

✓ **Kitchen, Bath & Cabinet Co.**



*Doors opened in 1978 at
Stadium View Center in Champaign.*

Where's your trophy going?

On one of our front kitchen displays.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

For over 45 years, we have tried to treat our customers the way we would like to be treated (the golden rule).

Who's playing your company party?

REO Speedwagon opening for Alison Krauss.



Voted #1
Grocery Store

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our guests to local producers
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Best: Equipment Rental

Herriott's Rents, Tents & Events

Opened as Herriott's Cities Service Station in 1951 at the corner of Market and Bradley avenues in Champaign; now at 1420 N. Neil St.

Where's your trophy going?

We're going to proudly display it in our showroom for all our customers to see!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our incredibly talented team runs like clockwork — clear communication, shared attention to detail and a unified goal of exceeding expectations — all coming together to make the event rental experience as simple as possible for our customers.

Who would be playing your company party?

We'd keep it in the family by bringing in our very own, The Digits.



In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

In 25 years, we will have had 100 years in business to evolve into the perfect, unstoppable party machine. We will have tripled our warehouse space, allowing us to further diversify our inventory and offer rentable retail spaces to vendors throughout the industry — florists, photographers, planners, DJs, caterers, stylists and more. We'll have our very own local outdoor destination venue that our customers can book. Finally, we're dedicated to staying on top of advances in technology and foresee customers getting to virtually walk around their venue with our inventory rendered in space in real time.

Farm Equipment & Supply

1) Falcon Equipment & Supply Co.

Ogden

2) Farm & Fleet

Urbana

3) AHW Equipment

Urbana

Fences

1) SK Exteriors

Champaign

2) C-U Under Construction

Champaign

3) Main Street Fencing

Mahomet

Flooring

1) Flooring Surfaces

Champaign

2) Carpet Advantage

Urbana

3) Carpet Master Carpet One

Champaign

Furniture Store

1) Kelsey Furniture Co.

Tuscola

2) Carter's Furniture

Urbana

3) Slumberland Furniture

Champaign



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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) **Danville Gardens**
Danville

Home Entertainment

- 1) **Good Vibes**
Champaign
- 2) **Best Buy**
Champaign
- 3) **Premier Sound & Design**
Champaign

Home Improvement

- 1) **Copper Creek Contractors**
Mahomet
- 2) **C-U Under Construction**
Champaign
- 3) **Ace Handyman Services**
Champaign

Best: Door / Window, Home Improvement, Restoration, Roofing, Siding

✓ **Copper Creek Contractors**



Work began in 2020 in Mahomet.

Where's your trophy going?

In the front of our office!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We don't settle for mediocrity, no matter what the value of the job is.

Who's playing your company party?

Morgan Wallen.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

\$100 million in annual revenue with multiple divisions.

Best: Garage Doors

✓ **George Malloch Co.**



Doors opened in 1972 out of a garage on Elm Boulevard in Champaign.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We're a small, family-owned business that takes pride in delivering high-quality garage-door products and services without overcharging or overselling.

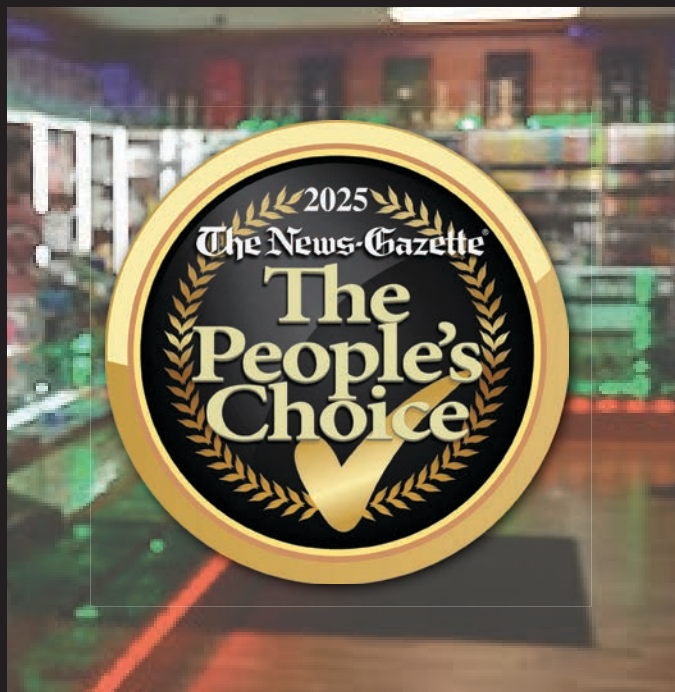
Who's playing your company party?

The Feudin' Hillbillies.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We believe our family will carry on our tradition of providing great service at reasonable prices to our valued customers.

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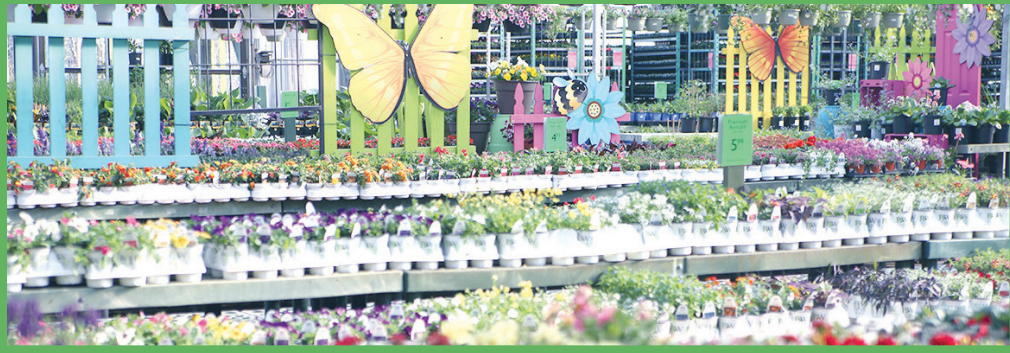
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Best: Garden & Plants

Prairie Gardens



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Where's your trophy going?

We'll proudly display our trophy in the break room, because our team is the heart of our store, and we want them to see and celebrate what they've accomplished together.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our team. Their care, creativity and eye for beauty shine through in everything we choose and how we bring together for your garden, home and holidays.

Who would be playing at your company party?

We opened in 1964, so we're bringing in The Beach Boys!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We'll still be Champaign's favorite garden center, home and seasonal-decor store, but now with self-watering plants, smart decor that changes with the seasons and flying carts that follow you around while you shop.

HVAC

1) Dogtown Heating, Air & Plumbing

Paxton

2) All Pro Heating AC Plumbing

Tuscola

3) C-U Trade Services

Champaign

Landscaping

1) Amy B Gardening

Urbana

2) Goat Mowing

Champaign

3) Country Arbors Nursery

Urbana

Moving Service

1) Two Men and a Truck

Champaign

2) Cheap Charlie's Hauling

Champaign

3) Fitzzy's Property Maintenance

Monticello

Painting Company

1) Hays Does It Best Painting

Champaign

2) C-U Under Construction

Champaign

3) A to Z Painting & Decorating

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

Plumbing Service

- 1) **Dogtown Heating, Air & Plumbing**
Paxton
- 2) **All Pro Heating AC Plumbing**
Tuscola
- 3) **Lanz Plumbing, Heating & Cooling**
Champaign

Pools

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

Restoration

- 1) **Copper Creek Contractors**
Mahomet
- 2) **Servpro Team McGuire**
Champaign
- 3) **C-U Under Construction**
Champaign

Best: HVAC, Plumbing Service

Dogtown Heating, Air & Plumbing

Work began in 2017 in Paxton.

Where's your trophy going?

We have a big front window on a main road; it will sit there with our previous trophies.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We care about people and making sure we have taken care of whatever issues they called us for.

Who would be playing at your company party?

Foo Fighters or Eric Church.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I hope we still carry on the same compassion and empathy for customers. They call us when something is not working correctly in their home, and it is our job to go out there and make it right. I hope we can continue that same level of workmanship and trustworthiness.



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Best: Cleaning Service

 **Servpro Team McGuire**



What began in October 1990 in the Garden Hills neighborhood in Champaign now includes franchises in south Champaign and Piatt/DeWitt and Vermillion counties.

Where's your trophy going?

Right in our front office window, next to our previous years' awards.

Who would be playing at your company party?

It would definitely be someone local. Even

on our staff, we have several musicians as well as vocalists who are all very talented.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We've developed a team who focuses on excellent service, fairness and mutual respect.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

While it's hard to predict the future, one thing I'm certain about: Our core values will remain the same. The customer will be at the heart of everything we do.

Roofing

1) Copper Creek Contractors

Mahomet

2) Central Roofing

Champaign

3) Bash Pepper Roofing

Urbana

Siding

1) Copper Creek Contractors

Mahomet

2) C-U Under Construction

Mahomet

3) Cramer Siding & Window

Champaign

Solar Services

1) C-U Trade Services

Champaign

2) Edelman Solar

Champaign

3) Route 66 Solar

Mahomet

Tree Service

1) Bud's Tree Care

Champaign

2) Myers and Sons Company

Urbana

3) JT's Tree and Crane

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Best: Pools

Ohana Pools, Spas & Billiards



Making a splash since 2003 in Urbana and 2005 in Danville.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Because we care just as much about how our customers feel in their backyard as we do about how it functions — and we don't stop until both are just right.

Who would be playing at your company party?

We'd bring in Zac Brown Band for the perfect backyard-party-meets-good-vibes energy — plus, "Toes" is basically our company anthem.

In 25 years — 2050 — what will your business look like?

Ohana will be a hub for experiential outdoor living — think virtual-reality pool-design previews, solar-heated spa systems and a loyal community of families who've grown up with us as their go-to backyard experts.

Best: Tree Service

Bud's Tree Care



Saving trees since 2003 in the great land of Champaign.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Because we treat every tree like it's Grandma's favorite shade tree — safe, cared for and given the VIP branch trim.

Who would be playing at your company party?

100 percent it's AC/DC, because nothing screams tree care like "Thunderstruck" while a stump grinder's on in the background.

In 25 years — 2050 — what will your business look like?

We'll be running tree crews with robot squirrels, trimming branches with laser saws and still arguing over who lost the last chainsaw wrench.



Join us at these upcoming shows & more:

- Oct 12 MasterChef All-Stars Live!
- Oct 23 Whose Live Anyway?
- Oct 24 An Evening with Fran Lebowitz
- Oct 25 Rocky Horror Picture Show - 50th Anniversary
- Nov 6-8 Alice in Wonderland Jr.
- Nov 10 Ben Folds and a Piano
- Nov 12 Black Violin: Full Circle Tour
- Dec 1 Béla Fleck & The Flecktones
- Dec 13 Sinfonia da Camera: Winter Fantasia



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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.

Early Start PCT

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

Community Transition

Provide services to consumers in a care facility wishing to transition back into the community.

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Assisting persons with disabilities with accessibility home modifications.

Medical Equipment Loan

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

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- Kid's Activities
- Outdoor Seating
- Place for Kids Party



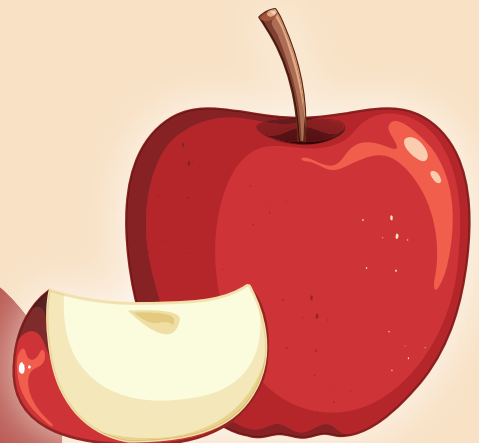
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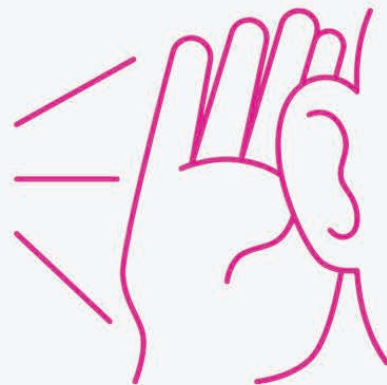


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You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Kids

Day Care

- 1) **Montessori School of C-U**
Savoy
- 2) Next Generation School
Champaign
- 3) Bright Beginnings Learning Center
St. Joseph

Kid Activities

- 1) **Skateland**
Savoy
- 2) Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
Champaign
- 3) Stephens Family YMCA
Champaign

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 C-U**
Savoy
- 2) Next Generation Preschool
Champaign
- 3) Little Lamb Preschool
Champaign

Private School

- 1) **Montessori School of C-U**
Savoy
- 2) Next Generation School
Champaign
- 3) Judah Christian School
Champaign

Best: Day Care, Preschool, Private School

✓ Montessori School of Champaign-Urbana



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

Where are your trophies going?

Since we owe so much gratitude to our families, maybe it should become a traveling trophy between families.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Commitment. Our staff, board and families are all committed to offering a Montessori experience to our community. Commitment is clear when we see so many staff members celebrating 20 to 40 years, often teaching children and grandchildren of previous students. Montessori isn't just the name of our school, it's a way of living our lives.

What band is playing at your company party?

Raffi!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We love our current location, so we are dreaming of expanding our campus to include the entire block!

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Kimberly Baptist, DMD, MSD

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



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

Where are your trophies going?

Our many years of winning People's Choice awards are all displayed in the ticket booth for everyone to see when they enter the lobby.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We are a family friendly entertainment center offering roller skating, laser tag, arcade games and awesome birthday parties.

What band is playing at your company party?

Barry Manilow.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Hopefully, the rink will still be an important part of this community. We currently have the business for sale, so we'll have to see what the future holds.



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You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Nightlife

Bar

- 1) **Bookie's Tavern**
Tuscola
- 2) **Punch! Bar & Lounge**
Champaign
- 3) **Esquire Lounge**
Champaign

Beer Selection

- 1) **Riggs Beer Co.**
Urbana
- 2) **Pour Bros. Craft Taproom**
Champaign
- 3) **Cast Iron Pub**
Tuscola

Brewery

- 1) **Riggs Beer Co.**
Urbana
- 2) **Artesia Brewing**
Thawville
- 3) **Triptych Brewing**
Urbana

Cocktails

- 1) **Bookie's Tavern**
Tuscola
- 2) **Punch! Bar & Lounge**
Champaign
- 3) **Hound's Court**
Champaign

Best: Bar, Cocktails, Karaoke, Sports Bar

✓ Bookie's Tavern

Serving up drinks since April in downtown Tuscola.



Where are your trophies going?

Front and center on our back bar.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We focus on customer service, consistency and hard work.

What band is playing at your company party?

AllNighter or Owen Knap and the Rusty Strings.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Just the same but hopefully with a lot more trophies and amazing memories/stories.



Dr. Jodi Albert & Associates, PC
OPTOMETRISTS



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Best: Brewery

✓ Riggs Beer Co.

Open since 2016 on High Cross Road on the eastern edge of Urbana.

Where's your trophy going?

On our trophy shelf in the taproom. We may have to build another one soon.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Bringing people together over delicious Riggs-grown and -brewed beers.

What band is playing at your company party?

Matt Riggs asked Miley Cyrus, but she was busy.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Hopefully, it will look similar, but with larger trees providing more shade for visitors to the beer garden.



Dive Bar

1) Bunny's Tavern

Urbana

2) Tumble Inn Tavern

Champaign

3) Route 45 Wayside

Pesotum

Karaoke

1) Bookie's Tavern

Tuscola

2) The Axe Bar

Champaign

3) Pipa's Pub

Champaign

Sports Bar

1) Bookie's Tavern

Tuscola

2) Esquire Lounge

Champaign

3) Aspen Tap House

Champaign



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Trivia

1) Hound's Court

Champaign

2) Cast Iron Pub

Tuscola

3) Yellow & Co. Events

Mahomet

Wine Selection

1) Sun Singer Restaurant,

Wine & Spirits

Champaign

2) Punch! Bar & Lounge

Champaign

3) Sleepy Creek Vineyards

Fairmount

Winery

1) Sleepy Creek Vineyards

Fairmount

2) Alto Vineyards

Champaign

3) Wyldewood Cellars

St. Joseph

Best: Trivia

✓ Hound's Court

Serving since March 2024 in the former homes of the Blind Pig on Walnut Street (now Hound's Rest) and Neil Street (now Hound's Court) in downtown Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

It will be proudly displayed behind the bar at Hound's Court — a good reminder of what to order while you're there, and why you should come visit Sunday evenings!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Ultimately, it comes down to the people. We owe so much to Connor, our head bartender, who spearheaded the idea of a cocktail flight night and creates all the recipes, and whom you'll frequently see showing off his advanced mixology skills behind the bar. Monty Joyce has been the voice of trivia at the Neil Street location for at least a decade, and provides an entertaining evening for all who want to test their knowledge (and also writes quite a few questions himself).



What band is playing at your company party?

Between Hound's Rest, Hound's Court and Dandy Hound, I guess the obvious choice would be Three Dog Night!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I'd love for us to be relatively unchanged but known as a staple of a thriving downtown Champaign. We don't need global domination; we just want to be a beloved spot where you can get a great drink and enjoy a good conversation with your mates, loved ones or an unexpected new friend.

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You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Personal Care & Beauty

Barbershop

- 1) **Beard Culture Barbershop & Gallery**
Urbana
- 2) **That's the Cut Barbershop**
Mahomet
- 3) **The Vintage Edge Barbershop**
Champaign

Cosmetic

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

Hair Salon

- 1) **Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa**
Champaign
- 2) **Aeline Salon**
Champaign
- 3) **T.L. Jones**
Champaign

Manicure / Pedicure

- 1) **Nails by Dalenna**
Champaign
- 2) **Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa**
Champaign
- 3) **Nailed Perfection**
Champaign

Best: Haihr Salon, Massage Service

✓ Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa

Doors opened in 2018 at the corner of Windsor and Duncan roads in southwest Champaign.

Where are your trophies going?

To celebrate our team's dedicated work and remarkable contributions, the awards will be displayed in each department they pertain to. This ensures that our team members directly involved in earning the awards can see and appreciate their collective efforts every day.



Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Offering superior services by a highly trained and personable team who values every individual, we strike the perfect balance of style and grace.

What band is playing at your company party?

If there's one thing we know how to do, it's having fun dancing the night away to hits by The Weeknd, Sister Sledge, Sza, Notorious B.I.G., Limp Bizkit, Def Leppard, Bruno Mars, Eminem, Hootie and the Blowfish, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and more!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We will have a continued commitment to our clients, community and staff to remain at the top of our game with services, outreach and education. In 2050, we hope to still be the People's Choice for Hair Salon, Spa, Waxing, Manicure/Pedicure and Massage Service!



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Best: Waxing

✓ Bare



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

Where's your trophy going?

Among my previous years' trophies!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

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.

What band is playing at your company party?

Mannequin Pussy.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

The exact same, still just little ol' me waxing away in my studios. The only differences will be the added bonuses of more gray hair, wrinkles and extra back pain (on top of what I've got now) from having waxer's posture for 34 years.

Massage Service

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

Best: Barbershop

✓ Beard Culture Barbershop & Gallery



The buzz began on June 1, 2021,
at Lincoln Square in downtown Urbana.

Where's your trophy going?

On the top shelf of our merchandise case.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We love what we do and we are highly skilled, professional, dependable and provide a family friendly environment.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I hope that my sons that work with me will take over the business and continue to push it forward making it a family legacy!

Spa

- 1) Christie Clinic Dept. of Dermatology
Champaign
- 2) Benjamin & Co. Esthetique
Champaign
- 3) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
Champaign

Best: Manicure / Pedicure

✓ Nails by Dalenna



Proudly pampering since 2020 at Sola
Salons in the Schnucks Champaign plaza.

Where's your trophy going?

On the top shelf — on full display!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

I focus on bringing out the best in my clients' natural nails — no harsh products, no machines, just gentle techniques that keep nails healthy and beautiful. I also offer freehand nail art to make your nails uniquely yours.

What band is playing at your company party?

My girl, Ariana Grande.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I hope my business is thriving and building even deeper connections and relationships with my clients.

Waxing

- 1) Bare
St. Joseph, Champaign
- 2) Benjamin & Co. Esthetique
Champaign
- 3) Style and Grace Salon & Day Spa
Champaign


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We're setting the standard.**



www.pavlovmedia.com



You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Pets

Cat Boarding

- 1) **All About Animals Pet Clinic**
Mahomet
- 2) **Sportsvet Animal Medical Center**
Savoy
- 3) **Loving Paws Pet Clinic**
Savoy

Dog Boarding

- 1) **All About Animals Pet Clinic**
Mahomet
- 2) **Ruff Dayz Doggy Daycare, Boarding & Grooming**
Mahomet
- 3) **Jodie Vee's**
Champaign

Doggy Daycare

- 1) **Ruff Dayz Doggy Daycare, Boarding & Grooming**
Mahomet
- 2) **Jodie Vee's**
Champaign
- 3) **Crossroads Grooming & Boarding**
Urbana

Grooming

- 1) **Ooh La La Pet Spaw**
St. Joseph
- 2) **Top Knot Grooming**
Atwood
- 3) **All About Animals Pet Clinic**
Mahomet

Best: Grooming

Ooh La La Pet Spaw

Keeping good boys and girls clean since Aug. 1, 2023, in St. Joseph.



Where's your trophy going?

We're going to buy a small case to put our trophy in to make sure it's extra protected since it's going to be out in our grooming salon, but it will go front and center on our wall shelf!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We take the time to make sure every pet has a positive and stress-free experience. Every animal is different, so taking the time to learn and understand what each one of them needs, likes, dislikes or what works best for them helps both us and the pets.

What band is playing at your company party?

Some of our favorites are Justin Bieber, Austin Mahone, Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter, Chappell Roan, and of course, some country music!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We plan on it looking a lot different. We want to eventually buy a big building to expand and add on many different services!

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Pet Rescue/Adoption Service

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

Pet-Sitting Service

- 1) **Cheryl Warren Pet Sitting**
Tuscola
- 2) **Ruff Dayz Doggy Daycare, Boarding & Grooming**
Mahomet
- 3) **Martha McSims Dog Walker**
Champaign

Pet Supplies

- 1) **Prairieland Feeds**
Savoy
- 2) **Jodie Vee's**
Champaign
- 3) **All About Animals Pet Clinic**
Mahomet

Training

- 1) **Jodie Vee's**
Champaign
- 2) **Why Fuss Dog Obedience & Training**
Rantoul
- 3) **Willow Branch Kennel**
Cisco

Veterinary Clinic

- 1) **All About Animals Pet Clinic**
Mahomet
- 2) **Harvest Valley Veterinary Services**
Mahomet
- 3) **Rantoul Vet Clinic**
Rantoul

Best: Pet Supplies

✓ **Prairieland Feeds**

Established in 1985 as a small storefront and one of the first businesses along the U.S. 45 corridor in Savoy; expanded several times since.

Where's your trophy going?

For the past eight years, we have proudly displayed our award at the front counter of our store.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We are a local, family business that is passionate about providing our customers with the advanced knowledge, great service and high-quality products that promote the optimum health of their animals in such a way that the customer experience exceeds expectations (we care deeply about what we do and hire people who share our passion).

What band is playing at your company party?

It's hard because our staff ranges from 17 to 67, so our musical tastes run the gamut. Our manager, Kelsie, said we would



be playing Cody Johnson.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

It will be 65 years old! No doubt, the next generation will leave their mark in the world of animal care and nutrition, but I hope the reason we started the business and our core values (joy, integrity, positive influence, pride in work, respect for others and self, and teamwork) will remain.

Best: Training

✓ **Jodie Vee's**

Training since Jan. 12, 2011, in Champaign.

Where's your trophy going?

In the main entrance!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We remember why we do this: helping people and dogs have better relationships!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We'll continue to offer the latest methods in dog training.



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We're paws-itively grateful to be voted #2 in Training in The People's Choice Awards! Thank you for your support!



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Look for The News-Gazette's 2026 People's Choice Awards starting up in May 2026.

Promotional announcements can be found on all our platforms including The News-Gazette, news-gazette.com, WDWS, WHMS, our Facebook page, and more.

The News-Gazette®

Best: Cat Boarding, Dog Boarding, Veterinary Clinic/Veterinarian

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. In 2021, it underwent a complete interior and exterior remodel.

Where are your trophies going?

In our reception area where our team members and clients can admire them.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

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 evidence-based, common-sense approach to veterinary medicine. We offer luxury boarding and grooming. We have an amazing, highly trained team that focuses on providing a consistent and

positive experience for the pet and owner.

What band is playing at your company party?

The Vax Pack — a vet-themed parody band with songs like “Stayin’ Alive (Heartworm Edition)” and “Don’t Stop Retrievin’.”

In 25 years — 2050 — what will your business look like?

Dreaming Big: we will have grown into a nationally recognized veterinary brand with a flagship campus, thriving mobile services and a pet wellness resort, while our product lines are staples in homes and clinics nationwide.



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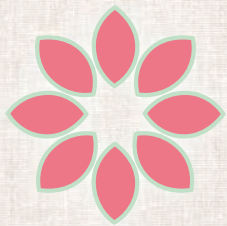
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Professional Services

Place to Work

- 1) **Longview Bank**
Multiple Locations
- 2) **Synergy Homecare**
Champaign
- 3) **Philo Exchange Bank**
Philo

Accounting

- 1) **Kelly's Accounting Services**
Monticello
- 2) **Puzey & Wright Accounting & Tax Service**
Ogden
- 3) **Malaika Williams Enterprises**
Champaign

Tax Preparation

- 1) **Kelly's Accounting Services**
Monticello
- 2) **Puzey & Wright Accounting & Tax Service**
Ogden
- 3) **Overstreet & Co.**
Champaign

Alterations

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

Best: Local Community Service / Nonprofit

✓ Douglas County Autism Tribe



Tuscola-based organization started as a peer group in July 2023 and became an official 501(c)(3) not-for-profit in March 2024.

Where's your trophy going?

On our front table at our sensory-friendly events and with our setup at partnered local events and resource fairs. We are hopeful to be able to have a dedicated space of our own soon where it would also be displayed.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

The more support for a family as a whole means more support and love surrounding the kids.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Our own dedicated space permanently set up for fun and accommodating sensory needs, which will allow us to offer even more meetups/hangouts/events. We will also be able to offer more resources to families and be thriving in a community where inclusion and support have grown to become the norm.




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- Veterinary Clinic/Veterinarian •
- Cat Boarding • Dog Boarding •

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Best: Screen Printing

✓ Stan's Sportsworld



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Where's your trophy going?

Front and center in the office.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

After 51 years, we know to always put the customer first.

Who would be playing at your company party?

Snoop Dogg

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Conquering the world from Champaign-Urbana.

Apartment / Townhome / Condo Complex

1) Regency Multifamily

Champaign

2) Royse & Brinkmeyer

Champaign

3) Midtown Properties

Champaign

Retirement Community

1) Accolade Healthcare

Multiple Locations

2) The Windsor of Savoy

Savoy

3) ClarkLindsey

Urbana

Bank / Credit Union

1) Longview Bank

Multiple Locations

2) Fisher National Bank

Fisher

3) Philo Exchange Bank

Philo

Business Services

1) Lazars Edge

Champaign

2) Within Your Reach Marketing

Arthur

3) Minuteman Press

Champaign

Catering Service

1) Michaels' Catering

Savoy

2) Smith Burger Co.

Champaign, Urbana

3) Yoder's Kitchen

Arthur

Computer / IT

1) Lazars Edge

Champaign

2) Simplified Computers

Champaign

3) Baldwin Bytes

Mahomet

Best: Tattoo Shop

✓ Dark Matter Collective



*Inked a permanent spot in downtown Champaign in 2018;
now double its original size.*

Where's your trophy going?

In our front display with the other four.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We try to deliver the best experience and quality work for each of our clients, new and old.

Who would be playing at your company party?

Roberta Sparrow.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Hopefully, the 30-times-in-a-row best tattoo shop.



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

Longview Bank

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.

Where are your trophies going?

We move our mega trophy from branch to branch every month.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

It's built on the dedication, professionalism and heart of our exceptional employees.

Who would be playing at your company party?

Lynyrd Skynyrd

In 25 years, what will your business look like?

Longview Bank will still maintain its strong community roots, offering personalized service and local decision-making. It will likely offer a paperless digital experience, with AI-powered financial tools and smart budgeting apps. Branches may evolve into financial wellness hubs — spaces where customers can still do person-to-person banking but also use tech-enabled service pods, get advice and attend workshops. Financial education will use tools like gamified learning apps for kids and interactive retirement planning for adults; financial literacy will be more accessible and engaging than ever.



Concrete Services

- 1) **Mayfield Construction**
Champaign
- 2) **Mid-Illinois Concrete**
Urbana
- 3) **Jack-A-Slab Construction**
Sullivan

Convention / Event Center

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

DJ Service

- 1) **Bugbee's DJ Plus**
Champaign
- 2) **DJ Silkee Entertainment**
Champaign
- 3) **Music by Mike**
Champaign



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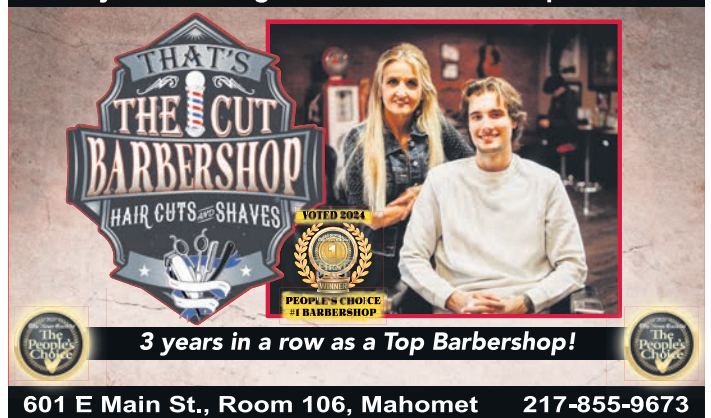
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Dry Cleaner

- 1) **Starcrest Cleaners**
Champaign
- 2) **Colony Square Cleaners**
Champaign
- 3) **DJ's Drycleaners**
Mahomet

Employment Agency

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

Event Planning

- 1) **The Venue CU**
Champaign
- 2) **Hudson Farm**
Weddings & Events
Urbana
- 3) **Pear Tree Estate**
Champaign

Best: Florist

A Bloom Above and Beyond



In bloom since 2007 in Tuscola.

Where's your trophy going?

Right in our front window.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We care about our customers and try to go above and beyond.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I will be 87 — not sure I'll be around, but would love for my kids or grandkids to run it.

Best: Catering Service

Michaels' Catering



Things got cooking in 1984 on South Neil Street in Champaign; now on Tomaras Avenue in Savoy.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We provide a high level of customer service and quality products.

Who's playing at your company party?

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

That will put us at 65 years. Bigger and better. Our business will be very similar, since our core values do not change over the years.



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

The Venue CU

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

Where are your trophies going?

We will proudly display our award in our entryway.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

The commitment of our family ownership team and our amazing staff provides the highest level of service to our customers guiding through every step of their special event.

Who would be playing at your company party?

It has to be R.E.O. Speedwagon! They took an album cover photo in our space many years ago and recently returned for a reunion photo!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We will still be hosting beautiful, elevated and fun celebrations! Certainly, the trends will have changed and new technology will be involved, but the core elements of a joyful gathering of people will remain.



Florist

1) A Bloom

Above & Beyond

Tuscola

2) Abbott's Florist

Champaign

3) Main Street Botanicals

Mahomet

High-Speed Fiber Internet

1) Pavlov Media

Champaign

2) Conxxus

Sullivan

3) I3 Broadband

Champaign

Home Mortgage Services

1) Longview Bank

Multiple Locations

2) Fisher National Bank

Fisher

3) Philo Exchange Bank

Philo



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Best: Business Services, Computer / IT

 **Lazers Edge**



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

Where are your trophies going?

We proudly display our trophies in our showroom!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We combine expert printer knowledge with quick and personalized service to keep homes and businesses running efficiently.

Who would be playing at your company party?

We love supporting local! We would have live music from Ego Trip, a talented local band who are also friends of ours!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Our business will continue to be a leading provider in print solutions, offering cutting-edge technology with the same personalized, hands on service that our customers know today.

Best: DJ Services

 **Bugbee's DJ Plus**



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

Where's your trophy going?

At The Venue CU in Champaign, where I am a co-owner.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We focus on delivering what the client desires. No cookie-cutter plan: their vision, their plan.

Who would be playing at your company party?

Chicago.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Hoping it continues, but it has been a wonderful journey for me since its inception.

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Thank you for selecting us #3 in Cat Boarding

Best: Accounting, Tax Preparation

Kelly's Accounting Services



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

Where are your trophies going?

In the reception area for all to see.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Because my staff and I care about our clients and give great customer service.

Who's playing at your company party?

Dan + Shay.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Wonderful leadership, wonderful staff and service — providing for all accounting needs!

Investment Firm

1) Fisher National Bank Wealth Management

Fisher

2) Boyer and Sappenfield Investment Advisors

Arcola

3) Osterbur Patel Wealth Management of Raymond James

Champaign

Law Firm

1) Meyer Capel

Champaign

2) Spiros Law

Champaign

3) Maatuka Al-Heeti Emkes

Champaign

Local Community Service / Nonprofit

1) Douglas County Autism Tribe

Tuscola

2) Salt & Light

Urbana

3) PACE

Urbana

Best: Local Real-Estate Company

Caryn Happ Team / Keller Williams Realty

Owner began as a real-estate agent in 2015 and formed her team in 2021.

Where's your trophy going?

We're always on the move, so while we wish we could wear it like a medal, you'll probably find it living its best life in our home office — cheering us on between showings and closing deals.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We combine deep local knowledge, genuine relationships and hustle to help clients navigate real estate with confidence and ease.

Who's playing your company party?

Taylor Swift, of course!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Hopefully thriving with a passionate, trusted team at the helm! I hope to have personally taken a step back with sales to give more to my team, helping them reach their goals and focus on running the business side of things, while getting to spend extra time with my family.



Local Insurance Company

- 1) **Insure Champaign**
Champaign
- 2) **Loman-Ray**
Insurance Group
Urbana
- 3) **Arteaga Group /**
Country Financial
St. Joseph

Local Real-Estate Company

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

Memorial Services

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

Best: Memorial Services

✓ Evergreen Cremation Services



Launched in 2022 in a small rental office in Champaign; now on Tiffany Court.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We provide a personalized and compassionate service to families, offering a significant value to East Central Illinois.

Who's playing at your company party?

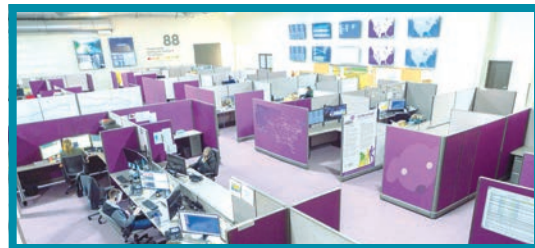
The Indiana Bible College Choir.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

As the national cremation rate surpasses 80 percent, we will continue to provide our personalized and compassionate services.

Best: High-Speed Fiber Internet

✓ Pavlov Media



Wired in since 1994 in Champaign.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Pavlov Media delivers exceptional internet backed by local support and a genuine commitment to community through our Pavlov Cares program — because we believe great service starts with people, not just technology.

Who's playing at your company party?

REO Speedwagon: A perfect match for a company that values speed.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

Pavlov Media will be powering smart communities with seamless, secure, lightning-fast connectivity — and still rooted in exceptional service.



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Best: Local Insurance Company

 **Insure Champaign**



Launched in 2012 on South Neil Street in Champaign.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We put our customers first by offering honest advice, tailored coverage, and a team that truly cares about our clients and our community.

Who would be playing at your company party?

Lynyrd Skynyrd because the president of our company, Mike Tennant, is a die-hard fan, and nothing beats some classic rock at a celebration!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We'll be embracing new technology to better serve our clients, but at our core, we'll still be grounded in the same local values and personal service that built our business from Day 1.

Photography Studio

1) Madeline Wilson

Photography

Tolono

2) Rachel Ray

Photography

Tuscola

3) Holly Birch

Photography

Champaign

Printing Services

1) Eastern Engineering

Champaign

2) Minuteman Press

Champaign

3) Lasers Edge

Champaign

Screen Printing

1) Stan's Sportsworld

Champaign

2) Dixon Graphics

Champaign

3) Brownfield Sports

Urbana



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Tattoo Shop

- 1) **Dark Matter Collective**
Champaign
- 2) **No Regrets**
Tattoos & Body Piercing
Champaign
- 3) **Vintage Karma**
Tuscola

Waste Collection & Recycling

- 1) **Illini Recycling**
Champaign
- 2) **ABC Sanitary**
Champaign
- 3) **Nieto Hauling & Disposal**
Champaign

Wedding Venue

- 1) **The Venue CU**
Champaign
- 2) **Hudson Farm**
Weddings & Events
Urbana
- 3) **Pear Tree Estates**
Champaign

Best: Photography Studio

Madeline Wilson Photography

Launched in 2018 while the owner was a student in the University of Illinois College of Media; studio opened in 2020 on Main Street in downtown Tolono.

Where's your trophy going?

In my studio for all of my clients to see!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

I love my business because I get to document people during their happiest times!

Who would be playing at your company party?

Abba!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I hope to have improved my studio while still keeping the historic integrity. I hope to have built more relationships with new clients and other businesses in my community. Lastly, I hope my son Joey will one day take interest in photography or another small business so we can keep the studio in our family for generations to come!



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THANK YOU!



You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Recreation, Leisure, Outdoor

Agritourism

- 1) **Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch**
Champaign
- 2) Allerton Park
Monticello
- 3) Negangard Pumpkin Patch
Sidney

Bike Shop

- 1) **Durst Cycle & Fitness**
Champaign, Urbana
- 2) Champaign Cycle
Champaign
- 3) The Bike Project
of Urbana-Champaign
Urbana

Campground

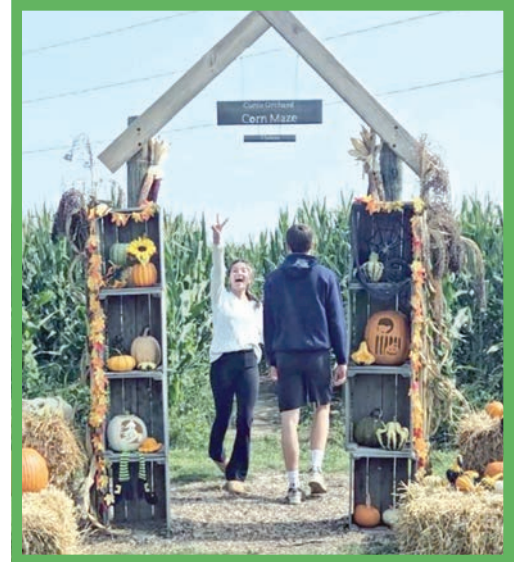
- 1) **Kickapoo State Park**
Oakwood
- 2) Walnut Point State Park
Oakland
- 3) Middle Fork River
Forest Preserve
Penfield

Community Event

- 1) **Urbana Market at the Square**
Urbana
- 2) Christie Clinic
Illinois Race Weekend
Champaign-Urbana
- 3) Mahomet Music Festival
Mahomet

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.

Where's your trophy going?

We usually put the trophy right near our main register, but beyond that, we laminate the individual awards and post them all over the business. It's such an honor to be chosen for any category in the People's Choice Awards.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our family cares deeply about providing a great experience to every customer, and a big part of that is hiring the friendliest, most

helpful people we can find, some of whom have been with us over 30 years.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We are already training the great grandchildren of founders Paul and Joyce Curtis to lead Curtis Orchard in the future. In the meantime, we intend to keep adding more fun farm activities and growing the best apples and pumpkins to keep people smiling for the next 25 years.

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Best: Bike Shop

✓ Durst Cycle & Fitness



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

Where's your trophy going?

In the front showcase.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We believe in being honest and fair with our customers.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

More service based.

AWARD WINNING

The Vault
Art Gallery

**40+ Central Illinois Artists
Distinctive Art • Unique Gifts**

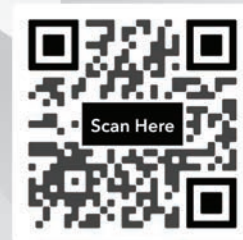
Tu-Sun 10am-5pm
100 N. Main St, Downtown Tuscola
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Best: Walking / Hiking Trail

✓ Allerton Park & Retreat Center

Created in 1900 as the home of Chicago industrialist heir Robert Allerton on land southwest of Monticello in Piatt County. Allerton donated the mansion, gardens, trails and surrounding farmland to the University of Illinois in 1946, and it became a public park.

Where's your trophy going?

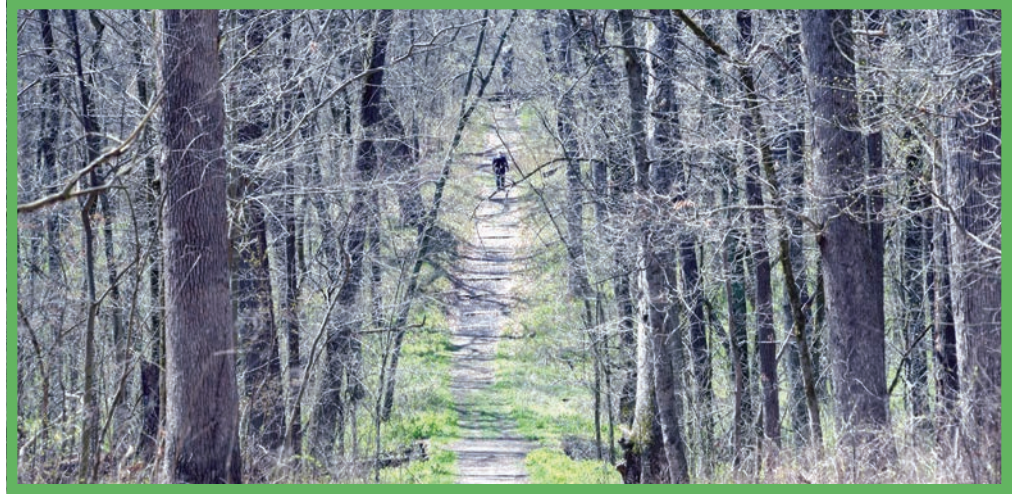
Is anywhere and everywhere a good answer? This award would not be possible without every one of the 20-plus employees who work here, so we may just let the hardware rotate around!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We believe it is due to both our commitment to the past — Robert Allerton set things up nicely between 1900 and 1946 — and at the same to looking to the future, which includes the expansion of The Farms: An Allerton Folk School and soon-to-be creation of a public-friendly artisan village.

What band is playing at your company party?

We're thinking Sly & the Family Stone.



In 25 years — 2050 — what will your business look like?

In 2050, you will notice the continued upkeep of what we have (managing 1,500 acres is a continuing process), while at the same time experience additions that make it an even more appealing destination, including getting the most use out of

existing structures and spaces through deliberate, thought-out updates; creation of the MacFarlane Artisan Village; expansion of additional event space; completion of the Old Timber off-road multi-use trail (walking and bicycling); and much more!

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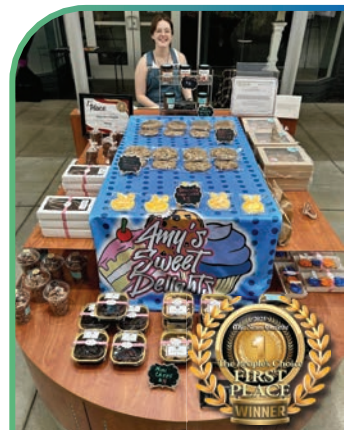
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Kiosk located at Lincoln Square Mall: 201 Lincoln Square, Urbana

✓ Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve

Opened to the public on Memorial Day weekend in 1948 as Lake of the Woods County Park.



Where's your trophy going?

In the Headquarters building by the HI-Tower.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

It stands out for its blend of natural beauty and cultural attractions with outdoor recreation — including the scenic Sangamon River, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Golf Course, and a historic covered bridge — all within 900 acres of diverse landscapes and recreational opportunities.

What band is playing at your company party?

The Tons O' Fun Band because we're in the business of providing fun for our visitors and appealing to a wide audience, and we love a good horn section.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We're going to look much the same because we're in the long-term business of providing education and recreation opportunities in natural areas that have evolved over thousands of years. Of course, we will also look for ways to keep up with public wants and needs to make sure everyone feels welcome and excited to visit.

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Golf Course

- 1) **Legends Golf Course**
Champaign
- 2) **Lake of the Woods Golf Course**
Mahomet
- 3) **Willow Pond Golf Course**
Rantoul

Miniature Golf

- 1) **Old Orchard Lanes & Links**
Savoy
- 2) **The Fringe**
Rantoul
- 3) **Arrowhead Lanes**
Champaign

Hotel / Motel

- 1) **Comfort Suites**
Urbana
- 2) **I Hotel & Conference Center**
Champaign
- 3) **Hilton Garden Inn**
Champaign

Parks

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

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 Family Aquatic Center**
Urbana
- 3) **Hap Parker Family Aquatic Center**
Rantoul

Shooting Range

- 1) **High Caliber Training Center**
Urbana
- 2) **Sadorus Sportsman Club**
Sadorus
- 3) **Foosland Sportsman Club**
Foosland

Walking / Hiking Trail

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



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You voted. We counted. Here are your winners for...

Shopping

Antiques

- 1) **Antiques and More**
at Staley Road
Champaign
- 2) **Three-Toad Treasures**
Mansfield
- 3) **Mercantile Antiques**
& Trading Co.
St. Joseph

Boutique

- 1) **Simply JJ**
Monticello
- 2) **Prairie Gardens**
Champaign
- 3) **Yellow & Co.**
Mahomet

Bridal / Formal Wear

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

Cannabis Store

- 1) **Parkway Dispensary**
Tilton
- 2) **The Dispensary**
Champaign
- 3) **Sunnyside**
Multiple Locations

Best: Boutique, Women's Clothing, Gift Shop

✓ **Simply JJ**



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

Where are your trophies going?

Next to the ones we received last year right up on the counter.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We truly value our shopping community and are well aware that we wouldn't be here without them.

Who's playing your company party?

Journey!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I'll be living my best retired life and my son will have taken the business to the next level. He joined Simply JJ in October and has implemented systems to streamline our processes that have made a world of difference in day-to-day operations. More than 80 percent of our orders are online, so logistics can become rather complicated.



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Best: Educational / Game Store

✓ Dr. G's BrainWorks

The fun and games started Sept. 13, 2013, at Lincoln Square in Urbana and have since moved to Market Place Mall in Champaign.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

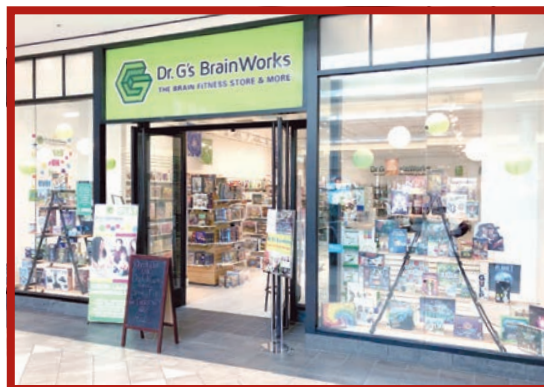
We are unwaveringly loyal and committed to the original standards of quality that define Dr. G's BrainWorks: fun, award-winning, educational products that promote brain health for all ages; and knowledgeable, personal service.

Who's playing your company party?

The Urbana High School Marching Tigers or Jazz Band!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

A vibrant local store, engaged with the community, and maybe a board game café ... providing even more educational and brain fun for everyone!



Best: Vintage

✓ Three-Toad Treasures



Opened in 2001 in Mansfield.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We always try to bring in new items every week so our customers always see something different when coming in or browsing through our Facebook page. We have also built some close relationships with them, sharing stories

and also greet many of them by name when they walk in.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We hope the business will continue its success no matter who is in charge and where it is located.

Men's Clothing

- 1) Kohl's
Champaign
- 2) Joseph Kuhn & Co.
Champaign
- 3) Men's Wearhouse
Champaign

Women's Clothing

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

Consignment / Thrift Store

- 1) Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Champaign
- 2) Salt & Light
Urbana
- 3) Three-Toad Treasures
Mansfield

Educational / Game Store

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

Gift Shop

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

Grocery Store

- 1) Harvest Market
Champaign
- 2) Aldi
Champaign, Urbana, Savoy
- 3) Meijer
Champaign, Urbana

Hardware Store

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

Health-Food Store

- 1) Common Ground Food Co-op
Urbana
- 2) Harvest Market
Champaign
- 3) Family Health Foods
Arthur

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Best: Jewelry

✓ **Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry**



Launched in 2022 as a mobile, pop-up business.

Where's your trophy going?

It will be on my awards table when I do jewelry events!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

My business is solely based on pop-up events and parties. Having the ability to go to the customer and set up truly makes a difference.

Who's playing your company party?

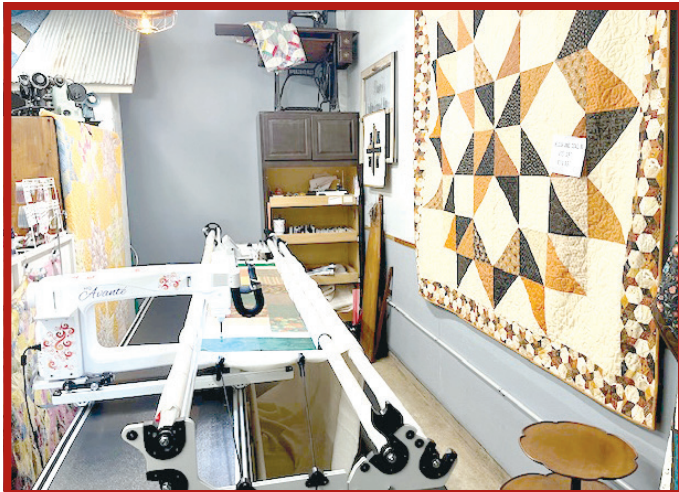
Cody Johnson!

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

If dreams came true, I would open a brick-and-mortar shop with permanent jewelry as the main attraction but also a small boutique!

Best: Quilting / Sewing

✓ **Trisa's Quilting Corner & More**



Needle first met thread on Jan. 7, 2017, in Villa Grove

Where's your trophy going?

My checkout counter.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

We make people feel very welcome and want them to enjoy their time in our shop.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

I would love to pass it on to one of my granddaughters.

We're Honored Once Again!

For the **sixth consecutive year**, Longview Bank has been voted **Best Bank, Best Place to Work, and Best Mortgage Service** in the News-Gazette's People's Choice Awards — and we couldn't be more grateful.

Our deepest appreciation goes out to our **dedicated employees, loyal customers, and the vibrant communities** we proudly serve. Your continued trust, hard work, and support are the foundation of our success, and we are truly honored to be your choice year after year.

Thank you for making Longview Bank a place where excellence thrives!



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International Market

- 1) **H Mart**
Urbana
- 2) **Art Mart**
Champaign
- 3) **World Harvest International**
Urbana

Jewelry

- 1) **Beyond Bonded Permanent Jewelry**
Sidney
- 2) **Spritz Jewelry Co.**
Champaign
- 3) **Cheryl's Creations**
Online

Liquor Store

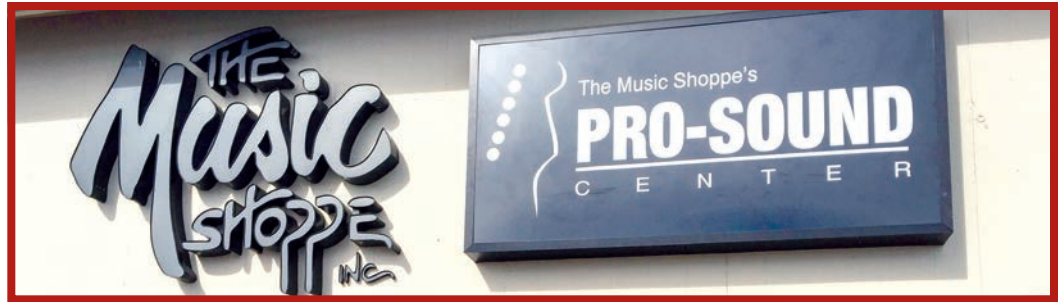
- 1) **Binny's Beverage Depot**
Champaign
- 2) **AJ's Wine and Spirits**
Mahomet
- 3) **Spirits of Tuscola**
Tuscola

Mattress Store

- 1) **Illini Mattress Co.**
Champaign
- 2) **Bender's Mattress Factory**
Urbana
- 3) **Slumberland Furniture**
Champaign

Best: Music Store

✓ 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.

Where's your trophy going?

We have a shelf right at the front door on which we proudly display all our recognitions, including previous People's Choice awards!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

The Music Shoppe has been providing quality service for educators, parents, students, professional musicians and enthusiasts in Illinois communities since 1961 — over 60 years of helping musicians find joy in every stage of their music journey.

Who's playing your company party?

Many of our staff are talented musicians, so we'd play together in one big company-wide jam session!

In 25 years — 2050 — what will your business look like?

The Music Shoppe's mission has remained focused on serving parents, students, musicians and educators for over 60 years! Whatever the future holds, it'll look like that: Sharing the music with as many families as possible to promote the joy of musicianship for 25 years (and more!) to come.



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810 W. Killarney St., Urbana



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Best: Bridal / Formal Wear

✓ **Michelle's Bridal & Tuxedo**



Helping brides "say yes" since 1983 in northeast Urbana.

Where's your trophy going?

Right at our front desk under our willow tree. It'll be one of the first things our brides see when they walk in!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Because we don't just sell dresses; we build lifelong memories, meaningful relationships and a bridal experience rooted in connection and care.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We'll still be helping brides say "yes," led by the next generation, helping brides create unforgettable moments, proof that when you grow together, the legacy lives on.

Best: Shoe Store

✓ **Body n' Sole Sports**



Hit the ground running in 1979 on Green Street in Campustown; now in its own building in the Savoy Plaza.

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Through years of experience, Body n' Sole is able to correctly fit clients with the proper footwear through our free gait analysis offered to everyone.

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

We will expand on our great customer service to simply be the best we can be!



Riggs-Oktoberfest

9/18-9/21



Volksmusik - Bier - Schnitzel - Lederhosen



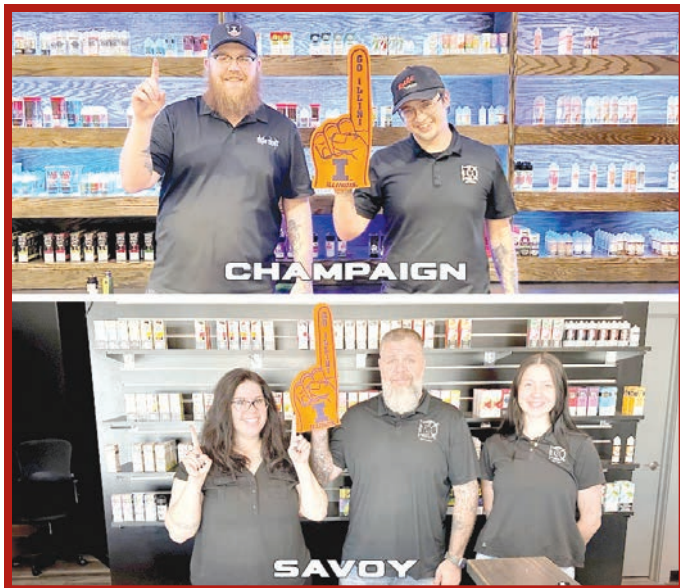
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Best: Tobacco / Vaping

✓ Vape Vault



*The first spark was in 2015 in Champaign;
a second location recently opened in Savoy.*

In 25 years – 2050 – what will your business look like?

More events in addition to our game and movie nights. Maybe a third location and a robot that takes out the trash and mops the floor ... none of us like those jobs.

Music Store

1) The Music Shoppe

Champaign

2) Corson Music

Champaign

3) Upper Bout

Champaign

Office Supply

1) Lazars Edge

Champaign

2) Staples

Champaign

3) Cheryl's Creations

Online

Quilting / Sewing

1) Trisa's Quilting Corner & More

Villa Grove

2) A Quilting Bee

Mahomet

3) Stitch & Sew Fabrics

Arthur

Record Store

1) Exile on Main Street

Champaign

2) Record Swap

Urbana

3) Seven Point

Danville

Shoe Store

1) Body N Sole Sports

Savoy

2) Heel to Toe

Urbana

3) Country Shoe

Arthur

Sporting Goods / Outdoor

1) Dick's Sporting Goods

Champaign

2) Body N Sole Sports

Savoy

3) Tractor Supply

Monticello

Tobacco / Vaping

1) Vape Vault

Champaign, Savoy

2) Tobacco Expo

Champaign

3) Friends in High Places

Arcola

Vintage

1) Three-Toad Treasures

Mansfield

2) Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Champaign

3) DIGS

Champaign

Best: Consignment / Thrift Store

✓ Habitat for Humanity ReStore



Doors opened in May 2003 at what is now Pour Bros. in downtown Champaign; latest iteration is on Glenn Park Drive.

Where's your trophy going?

In our new mini-museum, just inside the doors on the right-side of the store!

Tell us why your business is so good at what it does.

Our strength lies in our heart for people — offering great deals while working alongside the community to create homes, stability, and hope in Champaign County.

What band is playing at your company party?

One created by our former employees: Haunted by Humans!

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*That moment when the lights flipped on,
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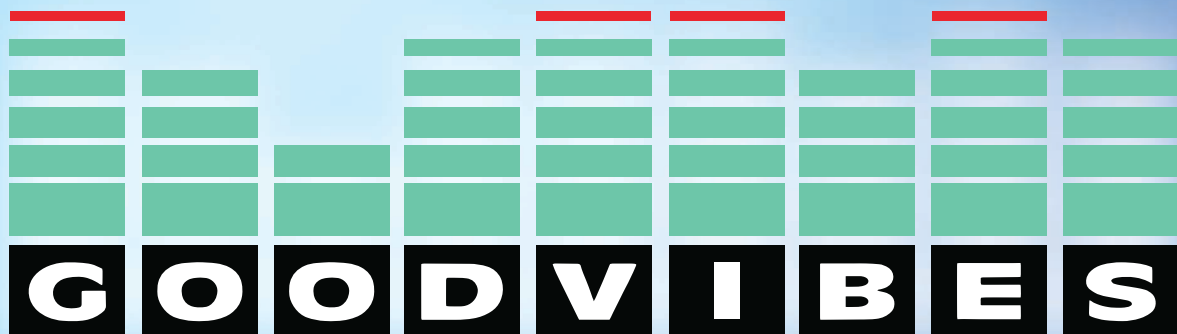
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