

2021 READERS' CHOICE WINNERS

THE EXPONENT READERS' CHOICE awards 21



After a year hiatus due to a little known thing called COVID, Readers' Choice returns in 2021, highlighting the Purdue community's favorites in a variety of categories, just in time for holiday shopping. Here we feature the Best Of, Runners Up, and Honorable Mention winners in a contest that garnered more votes than each of the previous last four years. Thanks to all who participated. We invite everyone to shop at these beloved services, stores, companies and restaurants, and encourage the community to congratulate the individuals and businesses recognized. The Exponent, too, is a small local business, and we appreciate those who **Shop Local!**

BEST LOCAL FURNITURE STORE

One of the most fun experiences of living on your own in college is outfitting your digs with comfy furniture that is all your own style. Star Furniture has long been a favorite for students and faculty alike, and is the winner of this year's Best Local Furniture Store. Since opening its doors in 1983, the discount furniture store has offered a welcoming and personal atmosphere, complete with friendly, low-pressure assistance that helps clients find the perfect pieces, every time.

Star Furniture
3812 Fortune Drive
Lafayette, IN. 47905
(765) 446-1888
starfurnitureindiana.com

WINNER
Star Furniture

RUNNER UP
Merrell's Furniture 1

HONORABLE MENTION
Lehnen's Furniture & Mattress

Index of Finalists

Best Apartment Complex

- 1) Lodge on the Trail
- 2) RISE on Chauncey
- 3) The Century

Best Residence Hall

- 1) Tarkington
- 2) Earhart
- 3) Windsor

Best Fraternity

- 1) Delta Sigma Phi
- 2) Lamda Chi Alpha
- 3) Pi Kappa Phi

Best Sorority

- 1) Kappa Delta
- 2) Alpha Chi Omega
- 3) Phi Mu

Best Cooperative House

- 1) Ann Tweedale
- 2) Glenwood
- 3) Circle Pines

Best Shuttle Service

- 1) Reindeer Shuttle

- 2) CityBus
- 3) Express Air Coach

Best Auto Repair

- 1) Beck's Auto Center
- 2) Mr. & Mrs. Tire
- 3) Lyons Alignment & Auto Repair

Best College/School

- 1) College of Engineering
- 2) College of Health and Human Sciences
- 3) College of Liberal Arts

Best Student Organization

- 1) Boiler Catholics
- 2) Purdue University Dance Marathon
- 3) The Period Project

Best Auto Dealer

- 1) Auto Express
- 2) Bob Rohrman Subaru
- 3) DeFOUW Automotive

Best Place to Study

- 1) Wilmeth Active Learning

- Center
- 2) John W. Hicks Undergraduate Library
- 3) St. Thomas Aquinas

Best Professor/Instructor

- 1) Dr. Andrew Freed
- 2) Dr. Philip Mummert
- 3) Heather Howard

Favorite Purdue Athletic Team

- 1) Purdue Women's Volleyball
- 2) Purdue Men's Basketball
- 3) Purdue Football

Best Purdue Tradition

- 1) Fountain Runs
- 2) Bell Tower Curse
- 3) Breakfast Club

Best Bathroom on Campus

- 1) Purdue Memorial Union
- 2) Wilmeth Active Learning Center
- 3) Stewart Center

Thanks to our loyal customers for voting us BEST LOCAL FURNITURE STORE



UNBEATABLE
Price • Value • Selection

www.StarFurnitureIndiana.com

765-446-1888 | 3812 Fortune Drive, Lafayette, IN



Index of Finalists

Best Place to Take Parents

- 1) Triple XXX Family Restaurant
- 2) East End Grill
- 3) Harry's Chocolate Shop

Best Place to Go on a Date

- 1) 9 Irish Brothers
- 2) East End Grill
- 3) AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer

Best Local Event

- 1) Feast of the Hunters' Moon
- 2) Starry Night Festival
- 3) St. Boniface Germanfest

Best Book Store

- 1) Second Flight Books
- 2) Universtiy Book Store
- 3) Von's Shops

Best Place for Purdue Apparel

- 1) Discount Den
- 2) University Bookstore
- 3) Follet's Purdue West

Bookstore

Best Tattoo Shop

- 1) Revolution Tattoo & Body Modification
- 2) The Tattooed Heart
- 3) Evil Genius Tattoo Club

Best Flower Shop

- 1) Rubia Flower Market
- 2) Wright Flower Shop
- 3) Sharon's Flowers

Best Hair Salon/Cosmetology

- 1) Lam's Nail and Spa
- 2) Evan Todd Salon & Spa
- 3) Henni's Hair Shop

Best Local Furniture Store

- 1) Star Furniture
- 2) Merrell's Furniture
- 3) Lehnen's Furniture & Mattress

Best Liquor Store

- 1) Village Bottle Shoppe
- 2) Bedrock Liquors
- 3) Clark Liquors

Best Grocery Store

- 1) Payless
- 2) Meijer
- 3) Aldi

Best Place for Late Night Food

- 1) AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer
- 2) Mad Mushroom
- 3) Raising Canes Chicken Fingers

Best Place to Dance

- 1) Where Else
- 2) Spot Tavern
- 3) Night Train Swing Dance Club

Best Bar West Lafayette

- 1) Harry's Chocolate Shop
- 2) 9 Irish Brothers
- 3) Brothers Bar & Grill

Best Bar Lafayette

- 1) The G.O.A.T. Pub
- 2) The Black Sparrow
- 3) Escape Velocity Brewing

BEST SHUTTLE SERVICE

Reindeer Shuttle can say they have won Best Shuttle Service for the last four competitions. If the pandemic hadn't sidelined the 2020 Readers' Choice Awards, we think there's good chance they could say five years in a row. Reindeer's customer reviews are full of comments from satisfied passengers who appreciate the service's timeliness, responsiveness, and exceptional customer service from staff.

Reindeer Shuttle
(765) 637-5124
reindeershuttle.com

WINNER
Reindeer Shuttle

RUNNER UP
CityBus

HONORABLE MENTION
Express Air Coach

Find the guide online at purdueexponent.org
under special sections.



2021

2019

2018

2017

**4 YEARS VOTED
BEST SHUTTLE SERVICE**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

BOOK TODAY!
REINDEERSHUTTLE.COM
765-637-5124

**REINDEER
SHUTTLE**

Convenient. Affordable. Reliable.

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Airport

PURDUE
University

CHICAGO
O'Hare Airport

*There was no 2020 competition due to pandemic.

BEST AUTO REPAIR

It's been interesting to see how Exponent readers and followers have increasingly chosen businesses farther away from campus in their Best Of votes over the last several years. Beck's Auto Center, this year's winner for Best Auto Repair, is in Lafayette, which is a tad farther than some shops closer to campus. But that's what trusted customer service will get ya. Beck's has become known as an auto shop of choice for Purdue parents, the "home away from home" shop they know they can trust their young adults to use while attending Purdue. Convenient texting service, excellent follow up, and online booking are just a few of the amenities offered in addition to outstanding automotive

repair and maintenance services.

WINNER
Beck's Auto Center

RUNNER UP
Mr. & Mrs. Tire

HONORABLE MENTION
Lyons Alignment & Auto Repair

Beck's Auto Center
15 Sagamore Parkway S.
Lafayette, IN 47905
(866) 920-8230
becksautocenter.com

BEST PLACE TO WORK OUT

Competition is fierce for workout places on and around campus, but the clear winner in this year's Readers' Choice was the CoRec. Formally known as the France A. Córdova Recreational Sports Center, the facility is a hub of healthy activity for students, staff, and even various Purdue affiliates such as retirees and alumni. The fitness, wellness, and sports programs are all backed by a rigorous mission to provide the Purdue community with recreational and wellness activities that contribute to learning and the pursuit of an active, healthy lifestyle. The online Live Facility Usage feature is a plus, showing the capacity percentage of various parts

of the facility while it's open.

WINNER
France A. Córdova Recreational Sports Center (CoRec)

RUNNER UP
Lafayette Family YMCA

HONORABLE MENTION
Planet Fitness

CoRec
355 N Martin Jischke Drive
West Lafayette, IN 47906
purdue.edu/recwell

Thank you for voting us Best Auto Repair!
We love taking care of our clients with excellent service.



Keeping your vehicle new since 1972!

Schedule online or call/text today.
(866) 920-8230
becksautocenter.com

Index of Finalists

Best Place for Live Music

- 1) Spot Tavern
- 2) 9 Irish Brothers
- 3) People's Brewing Company

Best Local Band/Performer

- 1) Bruce Barker, The Piano Man
- 2) Kyle Bledsoe
- 3) Tod Baldwin

Best Pizza

- 1) Mad Mushroom
- 2) Bruno's Pizza
- 3) HotBox Pizza

Best Food Truck

- 1) EMT Food Truck
- 2) The Guac Box
- 3) Famous Franks

Best Wings

- 1) Buffalo Wild Wings
- 2) Wings, Etc.
- 3) AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer

Best Burger

- 1) AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer
- 2) BRU Burger Bar
- 3) Tripple XXX Family Restaurant

Best Bar Food

- 1) Harry's Chocolate Shop
- 2) DT Kirby's
- 3) Digby's Pub & Patio

Best Italian Food

- 1) La Scala
- 2) Puccini's Pizza & Pasta
- 3) Olive Garden Italian Restaurant

Best Mexican Food

- 1) La Hacienda el Sol
- 2) El Rodeo
- 3) Fiesta Mexican Grill

Best Indian Food

- 1) Sharma's Kitchen
- 2) Taste of India
- 3) Dakshin

Best Mediterranean Food

- 1) Blue Nile
- 2) Hala's Grill
- 3) Akropolis

Best Asian Food

- 1) Happy China
- 2) Yatararasu
- 3) Maru Sushi

Best Vegetarian Food

- 1) Escape Velocity Brewing
- 2) Bistro 501
- 3) Blue Nile

Best Place for Sushi

- 1) Maru Sushi
- 2) Sushii Don
- 3) Katana Sushi & Ramen

Best Place for Breakfast

- 1) Triple XXX Family Restaurant
- 2) West Side Diner
- 3) The Downtowner

Best Coffee Shop

- 1) Greyhouse Coffee & Supply Co.
- 2) Vienna Coffee House & Bakery
- 3) Copper Moon Coffee

Best Bubble Tea

- 1) Latea
- 2) Tsaocca
- 3) Kung Fu Tea

Best Fine Dining

- 1) Bistro 501
- 2) East End Grill
- 3) 8Eleven Bistro

Best Fast Food

- 1) Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
- 2) Raising Caines Chicken Fingers
- 3) Chick-fil-A

Best Ice Cream/Frozen Treat

- 1) Silver Dipper
- 2) Original Frozen Custard
- 3) Culver's

Best Brewery

- 1) People's Brewing Company
- 2) Escape Velocity Brewing
- 3) Brokerage Brewing Co.

Best Craft Cocktail

- 1) Ritual
- 2) Revolution Barbeque
- 3) Boiler Up Bar

Best Medical Services

- 1) IU Health
- 2) Franciscan Health
- 3) Unity Healthcare

Best Dentist

- 1) Zundo Family Dentistry
- 2) Ortman Family Dentistry
- 3) Mohr & Mohr Smiles Dentistry

Best Place to Work Out

- 1) France A. Córdova Recreational Sports Center (CoRec)
- 2) Lafayette Family YMCA
- 3) Planet Fitness

Best Place to Worship

- 1) St. Thomas Aquinas
- 2) Faith Church West
- 3) Purdue Christian Campus House

Best Place to Hike/Run

- 1) Celery Bog Nature Area
- 2) Happy Hollow Park
- 3) Prophetstown State Park

Best Bank/Credit Union

- 1) Purdue Federal Credit Union
- 2) Chase
- 3) First Merchants Bank

Best Internet Provider

- 1) Metronet
- 2) Wintek by Tipmont
- 3) Xfinity

Best Place to Work/Intern

- 1) Purdue Federal Credit Union
- 2) Purdue University
- 3) AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer

Best Law Firm/Attorney

- 1) Ball Eggleston, PC
- 2) Stuart & Branigin LLP
- 3) Purdue Student Legal Services

AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer snagged the most awards of all selections in this year's Readers' Choice Award. In addition to Best Burger, they also came home with Best Place for Late Night Food, and took Honorable Mentions for Best Wings, Best Place to Go on a Date, and Best Place to Work/Intern. Billed as "big Chicago taste in a small college town," the family-friendly restaurant features Chicago-style hot dogs, gyros, Italian beef, burgers, chicken sandwiches, loaded fries, and more. Wash it all down with a delicious draft pint.

AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer
302 Vine St., Suite 150
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 743-1940
eatatajs.com

BEST BURGER

WINNER
AJ's Burgers,
Beef & Beer

RUNNER UP
BRU Burger Bar

HONORABLE MENTION
Triple XXX Family
Restaurant



THANK YOU FOR VOTING US

BEST BURGER & BEST PLACE FOR LATE NIGHT FOOD

Thank you to all patrons and staff. We are pleased to serve you!

HONORABLE MENTION FOR:

- ★ Best Place to Work/Intern
- ★ Best Place to Go on a Date
- ★ Best Wings

ORDER ONLINE EATAJS.COM OR CALL 765-743-1940
302 VINE STREET, SUITE 150

BEST FAST FOOD

Maybe they drive, maybe they Uber, maybe they have it delivered, but one way or another, the Purdue community is committed to getting their Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers fix. For the first time, Freddy's, located near the Meijer plaza in West Lafayette, was voted Best Fast Food, edging out all the restaurants within walking distance of campus. Fresh, made-to-order burgers, sandwiches, hotdogs, fries, and other tasty treats are now favorites of Exponent readers and followers. Download the app on Apple AppStore or Google Play, and check out this ad for a freebie on Freddy's as a thank-you for bringing them into the fold!

WINNER
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers

RUNNER UP
Raising Canes
Chicken Fingers

HONORABLE MENTION
Chick-fil-A

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
2850 US Highway 52 West

West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 497-4200
freddysusa.com

BEST PLACE FOR LATE NIGHT FOOD

A two-time Best Of winner in 2021 (first for Best Burger), AJ's ran away with Best Late Night Food, too. It seems the Purdue community can get behind Windy City eats just as much as owners Adam and Jake have their whole lives. Head to AJ's for gooey burgers and loaded fries, hot dogs dressed better than your grandpa, and a plethora of made-to-order snacks and hearty starters to end the perfect date, bar hopping night, or game night.

AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer
302 Vine St., Suite 150
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 743-1940
eatatajs.com

WINNER
AJ's Burgers,
Beef & Beer

RUNNER UP
Mad Mushroom

HONORABLE MENTION
Raising Canes
Chicken Fingers

Voted Best Fast Food



Thank you to our Purdue Community for your vote!

Come visit us at
2850 US Highway 52 West
West Lafayette, IN 47906
or order online



Download the
Freddy's app
to become a
FredHead today!



FREE
CONE OR DISH
WITH PURCHASE OF COMBO MEAL

FreddysUSA.com
Limited to one scoop of custard per dish or cake cone per combo meal purchase. Toppings or waffle cone available at additional cost. Not valid with any other offer.
VALID AT WEST LAFAYETTE LOCATION ONLY. LIMIT 1 (ONE) PER VISIT.
EXPIRES 01/31/2022

BEST PIZZA

At a recent gathering of Purdue alumni, people at the event wanted one thing: Mad Mushroom. The iconic pizza joint has woven itself into the Purdue community as a tradition, a must-have, a "we can't live without" across the board. Once again, Mad Mush (as we all know it) was voted Best Pizza in the Readers' Choice contest. Their signature pizzas, grinders, and calzones are certainly worth the calories, but most students will attest that the original Cheesestix are one of the best ways to feed your head – ever.

Mad Mushroom
320 W. State St.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
madmushroom.com
(765) 743-5555

WINNER
Mad Mushroom

RUNNER UP
Bruno's Pizza

HONORABLE MENTION
HotBox Pizza

BEST PLACE TO WORSHIP

The largest Catholic campus ministry in the nation – St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center – has captured Best Place to Worship this year, and an honorable mention for Best Place to Study. Affectionately known as St. Tom's, the parish celebrates all of the sacraments year-round, even when Purdue is not in session. They are well-known for reflecting the diverse, youthful energy of campus, offering more than 20 St. Tom's ministries in support of their Community pillar of faith life. St. Tom's registered student organization, Boiler Catholics, received Best Student Organization in this year's Readers' Choice Awards.

WINNER
St. Thomas
Aquinas

RUNNER UP
Faith Church
West

HONORABLE MENTION
Purdue Christian
Campus House

St. Thomas Aquinas Center (765) 743-0426
535 W. State St. boilercatholics.org
West Lafayette, IN 47906



BEST PIZZA **MAD MUSHROOM**
order online: www.madmushroom.com

THANK YOU
for voting us
Purdue's Best
Pizza AGAIN in
2021!
Feed your head.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CATHOLIC CENTER
AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO ST. TOM'S!

As the Catholic Center at Purdue, we joyfully welcome all who wish to meet life's challenges through lived faith in Jesus Christ.

JOIN US:
SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER - 5:30 P.M., \$3
(fall/spring when class is in session)
IGNITE SMALL FAITH GROUPS
across and off Campus
MASS/WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday @ 9 and 11AM and 7 and 9PM
Weekdays @ 11:30 AM, Wednesdays
@ 7PM and Mon/Tues/Thurs @ 5:30PM
LEARN MORE!
Email: officers@boilercatholics.org

VOTED BEST:
"PLACE TO WORSHIP"
"STUDENT ORGANIZATION"
- BOILER CATHOLICS
HONORABLE MENTION:
"BEST PLACE TO STUDY"

VISIT WWW.BOILERCATHOLICS.ORG

2021 Purdue Exponent
Readers' Choice Awards

Voted Best

BANK/CREDIT UNION & PLACE TO WORK/INTERN

TOP 3 REASONS YOU'LL LOVE US TOO

3 Free student checking account¹—no minimum balance requirement & no monthly service fees

2 30,000+ surcharge-free ATMs & 5,000+ shared branches nationwide² for service during breaks & after graduation

1 Official Financial Wellness Provider for Purdue University through Boiler Financial Track



PURDUEFED.COM/STUDENT

¹Subject to approval. Savings account with minimum \$5.00 deposit required. Minimum opening checking deposit of \$25.00. Membership eligibility required. ²Claim based on CO-OP ATM Network website as of November 20, 2021. Federally insured by NCUA.

BEST BANK/CREDIT UNION

We don't think it's a surprise that Purdue Federal Credit Union has once again won Best Bank/Credit Union in Readers' Choice. What we did find interesting is that the credit union has become such an integral part of the Purdue community's lives that one person even nominated them for Best Purdue Tradition for "opening your first Purdue Federal Credit Union Account." Best known for free checking accounts with no minimum balance and no monthly fees, and access to more than 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide, Purdue Federal Credit Union continues to be a leader in

student-friendly banking.

Purdue Federal Credit Union
(765) 497-3328
purduefed.com/student

WINNER
Purdue Federal Credit Union

RUNNER UP
Chase

HONORABLE MENTION
First Merchants Bank

BEST PLACE TO WORK/ INTERN

Students spoke loudly with their votes for Purdue Federal Credit Union for this year's Best Place to Work/Intern. It makes sense, though, that this year's winner for Best Bank/Credit Union would also be a student favorite for working and interning. Incidentally, Purdue Federal Credit Union also is the official financial wellness provider for Purdue University through Boiler Financial Track. Clearly, they are committed to the overall success and growth of Purdue students in general.

Purdue Federal Credit Union
(765) 497-3328
purduefed.com/student

WINNER
Purdue Federal Credit Union

RUNNER UP
Purdue University

HONORABLE MENTION
AJ's Burgers, Beef & Beer

Find the guide online at purdueexponent.org under special sections.