



Richmond Times-Dispatch

The Best

WINNERS ISSUE

FEATURING:



Historically good

By Ben Swenson

To attend an event at The Hippodrome Theater – the site of this year’s “Best” celebration – is to walk in the footsteps of legends.

More than a century after its construction, The Hipp, as it’s affectionately known, stands as a cornerstone of historic Jackson Ward, paying homage to its illustrious past while offering a unique concert hall, event venue and dining space.

Located on historic North Second Street, The Hippodrome’s modern incarnation is the product of Ronald A. Stallings, owner and president of development firm Walker Row Partnership. Stallings’ father, the late James R. Stallings, was a well-known Richmond businessman who acquired numerous properties in Jackson Ward, The Hippodrome among them.

When Ronald Stallings undertook the \$12 million renovation of the theater and the adjacent Taylor Mansion around 2010, the building had been vacant for decades, and the project was intended to help breathe life back into Jackson Ward, a National Historic Landmark. Stallings said that he has accomplished what he set out to do, “and then some.”

A year after The Hippodrome’s renovation, Southern Living magazine featured Jackson Ward in its “Travel: Best of the South” section, mentioning a visit to the theater on a perfect day’s itinerary.

Today, The Hippodrome has four unique spaces – the Speakeasy and Speakeasy Balcony, located in the onetime mansion of community leader Reverend W.L. Taylor; the expansive Hippodrome Theater, which includes a bar, dance

floor and stage; and the Screening Room, located on the balcony of the theater.

Each space is designed to accommodate different needs and capacities so the venue can “right size” events, according to Stallings.

Corporations and community organizations, such as Altria and Virginia Commonwealth University, regularly hold functions at The Hippodrome, and private groups rent the venue for all manner of gatherings, such as weddings and banquets. One family came to The Hippodrome to host their engagement party and then returned to celebrate several times as life unfolded through marriage, anniversaries and baby showers.

Modern musical performances light up The Hippodrome’s stage, both well-known ensembles and notable events such as the Richmond Jazz Festival. Very often, Stallings said, The Hippodrome hosts multiple events in a single day.

Whatever brings them to The Hippodrome, revelers are steeped in history, and not just with the Art Deco-inspired furnishings that were the thrust of the restoration. When the venue opened in 1914, Jim Crow was alive and well in Richmond.

The Hippodrome was more than a theater. It was the cultural heart of Jackson Ward, pulsing with the richness of Black culture, hosting performers such as Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong and James Brown. The vibrancy of The Hippodrome, and Jackson Ward at large, earned this quarter a

nickname: “The Harlem of the South.”

As decades passed and the fortunes of Jackson Ward ebbed and flowed, The Hippodrome changed, too. Stallings’ father repurposed the venue as a single-screen movie theater in the 1970s, but that was done in by the rise of megaplexes. The theater eventually sat empty.

Stallings’ new vision brought back its former glory. But less than a decade into The Hippodrome’s new life, the pandemic threatened the venue’s upward trajectory, or would have, had Stallings not heeded sage advice from his father.

“He said, ‘When you make money, you save money,’” Stallings said.

Because of that, and Paycheck Protection Program support, The Hippodrome was able to retain and pay greater than 80 percent of staff.

Stallings said that he knew The Hippodrome needed to be ready to resume operations, because “when we came out of the pandemic, people would be starving to get together.”

Stallings said the secret to making sure that The Hippodrome remains among Richmond’s most beloved event spaces is making sure that the experience is memorable. “At the end of the night, people ask, ‘Was the event fun and was the food good?’”

Stallings said he and his colleagues take great pride in preparing fresh food onsite instead of having to rely on an outside caterer. “That’s grandma’s house 101,” he said.

SMALL BUSINESS INSURANCE



THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

For the eighth year in a row our readers have celebrated excellence by voting in the RTD The Best contest. As we prepare to celebrate this year’s winners, we look back at the seven businesses that won their categories an impressive seven years in a row.



From left: M. Carey Bliley, president and CEO, and Eric A. Bliley, manager.

Photo by Clement Britt

Redefining how we experience loss

By Doug Childers

Joseph W. Bliley Sr. moved to Richmond in 1869 and began working at a livery company that boarded horses for Broad Street merchants. It was a dynamic period for cities, with a groundswell of people leaving the countryside for an urban lifestyle.

The growing popularity of city living meant residents had left behind private family cemeteries and often had to turn to professionals for funeral services. Typically, cabinetmakers and liverymen were the ones who stepped forward.

Bliley recognized the business opportunity. After his employer died, he took over the livery company and transitioned it to funeral services, said M. Carey Bliley, president and CEO, and the senior Bliley’s great grandson. And thus was born a family- and locally-owned funeral home that will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2024.

For more than a century, Bliley’s Funeral Home operated out of its original building at North Third and East Marshall streets in downtown Richmond. It relocated to Augusta Avenue in 1995, after the city announced plans to build the Greater Richmond Convention Center in the 400 block of East Marshall Street.

Today, Bliley’s has three locations in the Richmond area. The company’s most recent expansion is a cremation center at the Hull Street Road location. Cremation has become a popular option nationwide in recent years, but Bliley’s wants to shift how we think about it.

“In the U.S., some funeral homes look at cremation from a price perspective, and cremations often happen behind closed doors in industrial areas of town,” said Bliley. (He and his cousin, Eric Bliley, are the fourth generation to work in the

family business.) “But that minimizes the chance to make the process a ritual experience for family members.”

By contrast, cremations in Asia and Europe are often considered a ritualized ceremony in which family members participate. Bliley’s has designed its cremation center to offer that experience, as well. “You don’t have to be religious to appreciate the importance of rituals,” Bliley said.

The company’s focus on the meaning and impact of its services has helped it to be recognized by Richmond Times-Dispatch readers as the best funeral home seven years in a row.

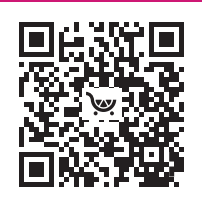
“We’re one of the national leaders when it comes to cremation,” Bliley said. “A lot of our colleagues have visited our cremation center to see how they can help families. I would like to see other funeral homes expand on what we’ve done.”

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James Harrison III, president and managing partner

Photo by Clement Britt

A century of legal excellence

By Rachel Kester

Law firm Marks & Harrison might be over a century old, but expertise gained through experience has allowed it to prosper and serve generations of Virginians.

Founded in 1911 by Virginia House of Delegates member David A. Harrison Jr., the practice was originally located in Petersburg before its headquarters was moved to Richmond in 1995. The firm has since expanded to 10 offices throughout the commonwealth, featuring more than 25 attorneys and 75 support personnel, all of whom are dedicated to guiding you through everything from car accidents to dog attacks and wrongful death.

The firm, which has been named best law firm seven years

in a row by Richmond Times-Dispatch readers, also handles Social Security disability, workers' compensation claims and mass tort cases.

While their TV ads are a major attractor, many Marks & Harrison clients actually come from positive word-of-mouth. "People regularly contact us after being referred by family, friends and colleagues who have been helped by us, and that's the highest compliment we could ever receive," said Hannah Snyder, the firm's director of marketing.

Marks & Harrison aims to create a family atmosphere. Snyder said that the firm once had a client involved in a terrible car accident that left him a quadriplegic. "While he was

in the hospital recovering, one of our attorneys stepped in to take his children out for an afternoon of fun, which included going to the movies," she said.

Besides aiding with legal troubles, Marks & Harrison reaches out to the community in various other ways, including shopping for back-to-school supplies and sponsoring events in Northside Richmond that offer free health and wellness screenings. "We strive to be more than a law firm helping injured people," Snyder said. "We are committed to giving back to the communities that have given us so much for more than 110 years."



Gary Glover, president Puritan Cleaners

Photo by Clement Britt

Innovative planning and old-fashioned customer service keep company on top

By Doug Childers

Dry cleaning hasn't changed a lot since Puritan Cleaners opened its first location in downtown Richmond in the 1940s. It's still a hands-on, labor-intensive process. But succeeding as a dry-cleaning business for going on 80 years requires innovation and the ability to modify services as customers' needs shift.

The practical side of dry cleaning might be straightforward, but agility and a lot of creative thinking drive the business. About 12 years ago, for example, Gary Glover – Puritan's president – launched a free home delivery service, driven in part by the growing success of home-delivery companies like Amazon.

"Home delivery was big in the 1950s and 1960s, when people got their milk and even their groceries delivered," said Glover, whose family bought Puritan in the 1960s. "It has become popular again because it's convenient."

Today, Puritan serves 5,000 delivery customers twice a week, with drivers running 14 delivery routes. And the company uses technology to boost its efficiency. "We send texts to our delivery customers the night before, asking if they have something to pick up," Glover said. "It saves us a lot of time and fuel."

Another service in which they wash, dry and fold customers' clothes was launched during the pandemic and has proved popular as well. "It's done by the pound, and we're close to handling 25,000 pounds every two weeks," Glover said.

Puritan's creative approach to staying competitive has paid off. When Glover began working at the family business in 1980, the company had three locations. Today, it has 14. Emphasizing customer service has boosted the company's bottom line, too.

"We serve customers with longer hours than our competitors, we're open on Sundays, and we offer same-day service," Glover said. "People might not always need same-day service. But when they do, they remember it and appreciate it."

Not all of Puritan's focus is on profits, though. It runs several charitable programs for the local community. "Our oldest and most notable is Coats For Kids, which we've done for 35 years," Glover said. "Our team has collected more than 500,000 coats, which we've repaired and cleaned. The Salvation Army is our distribution partner."

Another program, 100K Meals, has collected enough food and donations to serve two million meals in 15 years. "We feel great being the middleman," Glover said. "We have a prime seat to see how people care in Richmond. It's a very giving community."

Puritan's focus on customer service and charitable programs has helped it to be recognized by Richmond Times-Dispatch readers as the best dry cleaner seven years in a row.

"We're honored to be recognized," Glover said. "It means a lot to us."

Thank you,
Richmond!



Patient First®





Kim Fisher, Kim Imajo, Leah Ball and Debra Ogilvie

Photo provided by Richmond Hearing Doctors

‘Caring for our local community has always been at the core’

By Doug Childers

In a real sense, Richmond Hearing Doctors was born out of a crisis. The company’s four founders – Leah Ball, Kim Fisher, Kim Imajo and Debra Ogilvie – were working for a local company when it was bought out by a larger, national one. They feared the new employer emphasized profits over patients. “We came together feeling like we had no other choice because we needed the freedom to care for our patients with their best interests at heart,” Ball said. Initially, the newly formed Richmond Hearing Doctors worked out of a one-room office rented from a Midlothian dentist. As its patient base grew, the founders moved to a larger office and added a second location in western Henrico County. Today, the company has seven audiologists. “We also offer services in the clinics of five local retirement communities – Westminster Canterbury, Lakewood Manor, Cedarfield, Masonic Home and Brandermill Woods,” Ball said. The company’s services include diagnostic hearing testing, tinnitus treatment, and hearing aid evaluations and fittings. The need for comprehensive hearing care is significant. On average, two to three children out of 1,000 are born with hearing loss, which gets worse as we age. Twenty-five percent of individuals between the ages of 65 and 74 have disabling

hearing, and that number doubles for people 75 or older. Sometimes, the solution can be simple. And technology has improved significantly in the past decade. “Perhaps the biggest change in hearing aids in the past ten years has been the incorporation of wireless/Bluetooth connectivity,” Ball said. “Most hearing aids today are capable of connecting wirelessly to cell phones, computers, televisions and other devices. Some hearing aids even monitor the user’s health, including tracking steps and monitoring heart rate, and they can even detect falls.” But people often delay treatment. “While hearing aids are an effective treatment option for nearly all types of hearing loss, most people wait an average of seven years before acknowledging the issue and seeking help,” Ball said. “That’s seven years of missing certain sounds, words in conversation and reduced quality of life.” In addition, waiting to treat hearing loss can make it harder to acclimate a patient’s brain to unfamiliar sounds. And there’s a strong link between untreated hearing loss and dementia, Ball said. “The brain can not only lose the ability to discriminate speech and tolerate noise, but studies clearly show the more

the brain strains to hear, the greater the chance of dementia,” she said. Over-the-counter hearing aids are a hot topic these days, and Richmond Hearing Doctors plans to incorporate them into the practice. “While we fully embrace the improved accessibility and believe over-the-counter aids will be a great option for some, we worry patients will be confused by all the new options,” Ball said. “Patients should focus on finding the right provider, rather than focusing on a particular hearing aid.” That’s why the four founders created the practice 11 years ago. And the company’s attention to patient care has earned it recognition by Richmond Times-Dispatch’s readers as having the best hearing aid specialists for seven years in a row. “Caring for our local community has always been at the core of everything we do,” Ball said. “It’s our ‘why’ and something that we work on maintaining throughout every aspect of our company. When every level of the company is part of the local community, there is a feeling of kinship, trust and connectedness that larger companies just can’t achieve.”



Clockwise from left: Antonia Evans, Satomi Harding, Jimmie Yarres, Cindy Harvey and Kara Randall; Sallie Withrow, greenhouse manager at the Mechanicsville Turnpike location; John M. Breeden, operations manager, florist division.



Photos by Mark Gormus

Greatness in bloom

By Ben Swenson

Floristry is a trade that dates back more than a century-and-a-half, and for most of that time, Strange’s Florists, Greenhouses and Garden Centers have been a pacesetter for the industry in Central Virginia. That longstanding commitment to serving Richmond’s floral needs has cultivated the sort of reputation that has landed Strange’s on the Richmond-Times-Dispatch’s “Best” list seven years in a row. Part of that prominence is built on longevity, according to John Breeden, a division manager who has been with Strange’s for more than seven years. “We like to say that we are a fourth-generation florist,” he said. The firm dates back to the 1930s when founder and namesake Gideon A. Strange set up a flower business to supplement his income as a U.S. Postal Service employee. By the 1970s, the business was in the hands of William Gouldin Sr., and two more generations, including some of Gouldin’s

children and grandchildren, have been part of the firm’s leadership ever since. Strange’s currently has three locations, all in the Richmond area – two retail operations on West Broad Street and Mechanicsville Turnpike, and a wholesale business on Creighton Road. But Central Virginians’ affinity for Strange’s is not solely based on its standing in the community, Breeden said. There’s also been a concerted effort to provide the conveniences and products that modern customers demand. Strange’s was in a strong position to maintain its service to the community when the pandemic brought the world to a halt, according to Breeden. Having a strong web-based component of the business was a lifesaver. “We’ve been doing online, same-day delivery anywhere in the U.S. for a decade,” he said. “We had a mobile-friendly website seven or eight years ago.”

Instead of stopping business altogether, the pandemic shifted the recipients of Strange’s products. Even though traditional weddings, funerals and graduations were on pause, people still wanted to express their affection florally, and many customers placed orders to send to loved ones who were shut in while social distancing. The key to maintaining positive relationships in the community, according to Breeden, is listening to the needs of the customers, not only for the features that allow for ease of shopping, but with the products themselves. There are classic flowers and plants that are perennial favorites, but just like in fashion, new tastes emerge all the time, and Strange’s keeps track of trends. “That’s our advantage, and that’s how we’re able to adapt faster than big box stores or giant online retailers,” Breeden said. “We can meet the consumer needs directly.”



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Photos by Mark Gormus

From left: Dr. Locke A. Taylor with June Bug. Veterinary assistants Nicole Townsend, left, and Lindsay Payne, right, help Dr. Taylor.

Caring for our special friends

By Ben Swenson

For more than a half-century, Richmonders have entrusted the well-being of their pets to veterinarian Dr. Locke A. Taylor. With deep roots in Central Virginia and a veterinary practice that, in more than one sense, has evolved into a family affair, Locke A. Taylor Veterinary Hospital has fostered a loyal following among locals.

The practice is so trusted that it was named best veterinarian seven years in a row by Richmond Times-Dispatch readers. Taylor remembers wanting to work with animals as a boy. When he first began practicing in 1969, he had only three employees, two of whom were volunteers – his wife and mother.

More than five decades later, the animal hospitals that bear his name have dozens of employees at three locations in the

Richmond area. Along the way, untold thousands of pets have been cared for by Taylor and his colleagues.

Taylor began his venture into veterinary medicine treating both pets and livestock, one of few area practitioners that served farmers. A few years into practice, he handed the farm animal business to a colleague and focused strictly on domestic animals.

While Taylor didn't plan on his practice becoming a family affair, "it turned out that way," he said. His son and two of his grandsons work in the practice, and he has a granddaughter in veterinary school. But Taylor says that "many employees are like family," having been with the practice for 10 or 20 years, and sometimes longer.

Taylor attributes his success to influential and important

people who have surrounded him throughout his life. There was O.W. McClung, a mentor during his early years as a veterinarian, who taught him the importance of practicing the profession with thoroughness and integrity. And his wife, whom he married before veterinary school, and who has been his rock for six decades, he said.

Taylor said his colleagues, to a person, genuinely care about the well-being of the animals they serve, and that concern is evident to the pet owners. "I think they know that we are as concerned as they are, and we want things to go well as much as they do," he said.



Wendy Carter

Photo by Clement Britt

A good agent is your best insurance

By Rachel Kester

Insurance isn't a topic that most people enjoy thinking about, but Wendy Carter wants to change that.

As an Allstate agency owner, her job is to guide clients through various insurance policies to help them find coverage that will give them peace of mind should something happen. Carter's goal is to educate clients about insurance and find options that fit their specific needs.

"Insurance isn't cookie cutter, it's more à la carte and clients appreciate our approach," she said.

Surprisingly, insurance wasn't what Carter planned to do with her life. She originally studied accounting in college but found she didn't enjoy it. During her senior year, Carter went to work at her mother's insurance office until things could get sorted out – an experience that soon sparked a great passion that has lasted for 31 years.

Since then, Carter has built a strong agency that has grown to a team of six. Her reliability is perhaps the secret to her in-demand services, as she understands the issues that many of her customers are going through.

For instance, she once assisted a client who was suffering

through a house fire – a devastating problem her family also experienced when she was in high school. "I went to the scene to help direct the fire department about retrieving photos and documents," she said. "I knew they were important and irreplaceable but you're not thinking about that at the time."

She also makes sure to get to know her clients personally. "We represent a large brand, but we're local. We know someone's dog's name, where they went on vacation and where their kids attend college. We might also email a client a recipe or recommend gardening tips if they were talking about something similar in the office."

Besides this, Carter is extremely versatile with her services and is happy to meet in person or over a quick Zoom call. "We're not limited to a geographic location in Virginia. Even if a client moves away, we still try to help. Modern technology has made it very easy to keep in touch."

With this genuine devotion to helping others, it's no wonder why Carter has been named Richmond's best insurance agent for the past seven years.





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Bruce's Super Body Shops

Second runner-up
Caliber Collision

The Best Auto Detailer/Cleaning Shop
Flagstop Car Wash

Multiple Locations
flagstopcarwash.com

First runner-up
Car Pool Car Wash

Second runner-up
Nash Mobile Detailing

The Best Auto Repair Shop
Bill Talley Ford

6280 Mechanicsville Turnpike
billtalley.com

First runner-up
Certified Auto Repair

Second runner-up
McGeorge Toyota

The Best New Car Dealer
Bill Talley Ford

6280 Mechanicsville Turnpike
billtalley.com

First runner-up
McGeorge Toyota

Second runner-up
Richmond Ford West

The Best Used Car Dealer
CarMax

Multiple locations
carmax.com

First runner-up
Bill Talley Ford

Second runner-up
McGeorge Toyota Pre-Owned Center

THE WINNERS

Beauty & Fitness

The Best Barbershop
Cutz for Guys

Multiple Locations
cutzforguys.com

First runner-up
Fadéz & Bladéz Barber Shop

Second runner-up
Great Clips

The Best Gym
American Family Fitness

Multiple locations
amfamfit.com

First runner-up
Studio M

Second runner-up
acac Fitness & Wellness Center Midlothian

The Best Hair Salon
K Baucom Salon

6113-B Lakeside Avenue
kbaucomsalon.com

First runner-up
Layers Hair Salon

Second runner-up
Mango Salon

The Best Nail Salon
MiMi Nails Spa

6165 Harbourside Drive
miminailsspa.com

First runner-up
Ruby Nails & Spa

Second runner-up
Escape Nails & Spa

The Best Dance Studio
Evolution Dance Center

10400 Iron Bridge Road
edcva.com

First runner-up
Fred Astaire Dance Studio Richmond

Second runner-up
Tip Tap Toes Dance Company

The Best Gymnastics Facility
Xtreme Heights Gymnastics

12830 West Creek Parkway
xtremeheightsgym.com

First runner-up
Richmond Olympiad Gymnastics

Second runner-up
All American Gymnastics

The Best Martial Arts School
Grandmaster Dong's Karate School

Multiple Locations
dongs.com

First runner-up
Master Cho's Tae Kwon Do and Martial Arts

Second runner-up
Martial Arts World of N. Chesterfield

The Best Specialty Fitness Studio
Jazzercise Richmond Fitness Center

7115-A Old Staples Mill Road
jazzercise.com

First runner-up
Evolve Fitness, LLC

Second runner-up
American Family Fitness

THE WINNERS

Dining, Drinks & Nightlife

The Bakery
Ukrop's Market Hall

7250 Patterson Avenue
ukropshomestylefoods.com

First runner-up
Shyndigz

Second runner-up
Pearl's Bake Shoppe

The Best Burger Spot
Five Guys

Multiple locations
fiveguys.com

First runner-up
Carytown Burgers & Fries

Second runner-up
Burger Bach

The Best Craft Beer
Hardywood Park Craft Brewery

Multiple locations
hardywood.com

First runner-up
Triple Crossing Beer

Second runner-up
Center of the Universe Brewing Company

The Best Food Truck or Cart
Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen

Various locations
facebook.com/mrsyoderskitchen

Frist runner-up
Christopher's Runaway Gourmay

Second runner-up
River City Wood Fire

The Best Local Brewery
Hardywood Park Craft Brewery

Multiple locations
hardywood.com

First runner-up
Southern Revere Cellars

Second runner-up
Triple Crossing Beer

The Best Barbecue
Mission BBQ

Multiple locations
mission-bbq.com

First runner-up
Buz and Ned's Real Barbecue W Broad St.

Second runner-up
ZZQ Texas Craft Barbeque

The Best Caterer
Homemades By Suzanne

101 N 5th Street
homemadesbysuzanne.com

First runner-up
MISSION BBQ

Second runner-up
MOSAIC Catering + Events

The Best Dessert Spot
Shyndigz

1903 W Cary Street
shyndigz.com

First runner-up
Gelati Celesti Ice Cream

Second runner-up
MABEL'S

The Best Happy Hour
Sedona Taphouse

Multiple locations
sedonataphouse.com

First runner-up
Wood & Iron Gameday Restaurant and Bar

Second runner-up
Joe's Inn the Fan

The Best Local Coffee Shop
Little Bean Coffee Company

7032 Mechanicsville Turnpike
littlebeancoffeecompany.com

First runner-up
Lamplighter

Second runner-up
The Daily Fix

The Best Breakfast
First Watch

Multiple locations
firstwatch.com

First runner-up
Bell Cafe

Second runner-up
SB's Lakeside Love Shack

The Best Chef
David Dunlap - Midlothian Chef's Kitchen

11501 Busy St #1
chefdaviddunlap.biz

First runner-up
mike moore Dots Back Inn

Second runner-up
Ed Vascio Edo's Squid

The Best Doughnuts
Country Style Donuts

Multiple locations
Facebook

First runner-up
Krispy Kreme

Second runner-up
Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen

The Best Hidden Gem in Richmond
Midlothian Chef's Kitchen

11501 Busy Street
midlothianschefskitchen.com

First runner-up
Brick House Diner

Second runner-up
Kuba Kuba

The Best Patio
The Boathouse at Sunday Park

4602 Millridge Pkwy
boathouseva.com

First runner-up
The Boathouse at Rocketts Landing

Second runner-up
Portico Restaurant

The Best Brunch
Joe's Inn Bon Air

2616 Buford Road
joesinnbonair.com

First runner-up
SB's Lakeside Love Shack

Second runner-up
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

The Best Cocktail Menu
Old Towne's Alibi

305 N Sycamore Street
Facebook

First runner-up
Industrial Taphouse

Second runner-up
Firebirds Wood Fired Grill

The Best First Date Spot
Maymont Japanese Garden

1700 Hampton Street
maymont.org

First runner-up
Brambly Park Winery

Second runner-up
Bottoms Up Pizza

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First runner-up

Mellow Mushroom Richmond - Carytown

Second runner-up

Mary Angela's Pizzeria

The Best Sushi

Sticky Rice

2232 W Main Street
ilovestickyrice.com

First runner-up

Wild Ginger

Second runner-up

Red Salt Chophouse and Sushi

The Best Wait Staff

Chick-fil-A

Multiple locations
chick-fil-a.com

First runner-up

Ruth's Chris Steak House

Second runner-up

Old Towne's Alibi

The Best Winery

Trump Winery

Multiple locations
trumpwinery.com

First runner-up

Upper Shirley Vineyards

Second runner-up

Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants

THE WINNERS

Entertainment

The Best Beach

Outer Banks NC

Various locations
outerbanks.org

First runner-up

Virginia Beach

Second runner-up

Sandbridge Beach

The Best Local

Afternoon Radio Show

The Jeff Katz Show

WRVA 1140 AM
thejeffkatzshow.com

First runner-up

Kat Simons Mix 98.1

Second runner-up

Garret Doll, K95

The Best Local Band

The KOS Band

Richmond, VA
kosband.com

First runner-up

Three Sheets to the Wind

Second runner-up

Shades of Gray

The Best Museum

Virginia Museum

of Fine Arts

200 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd
vmfa.museum

First runner-up

Science Museum of Virginia

Second runner-up

American Civil War Museum

The Best Summer Camp

YMCA Camp

Thunderbird

9300 Shawanodasee Road
ymcarichmond.org/
locations/ymca-camp-
thunderbird

First runner-up

Camp Hanover

Second runner-up

Richmond SPCA Critter Camp

The Best Charity Event

Special Olympics

Virginia

3212 N Skipwith Road
STE 100
specialolympicsva.org

First runner-up

A Night For Scott

Second runner-up

The Father Figure

The Best Local Athletic

Event for Participants

Ukrop's Monument

Avenue 10k

Monument Avenue
sportsbackers.org

First runner-up

Flying Squirrels- Between innings

Second runner-up

Richmond SPCA Dog Jog
and 5K Run

The Best Local Morning

Radio Show

John Reid Show

WRVA

Richmond, VA
facebook.com/
JohnReidOnline

First runner-up

Elliot in the Morning

Second runner-up

The Barry Farmer Morning
Show 101.1 The FAM

The Best Performing

Arts Theater

Altria Theater

6 N. Laurel Street
Altriatheater.com

First runner-up

The National

Second runner-up

Swift Creek Mill Theatre

The Best Way

to Place Your Bets

Virginia Lottery

600 E. Main Street
valottery.com

First runner-up

Rosie's Gaming Emporium

Second runner-up

Draft Kings

The Best Golf Course

The Country Club

of Virginia -

James River

709 S Gaskins Road
theccv.org

First runner-up

Hanover Golf Club

Second runner-up

Richmond Country Club

The Best Local Athletic

Event for Spectators

Richmond Flying

Squirrels

3001 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd.
milb.com/richmond

First runner-up

VCU Basketball

Second runner-up

Richmond Raceway

The Best Local TV

Personality

Andrew Freiden

NBC12

5710 Midlothian Tpke
nbc12.com/authors/
andrew-freiden

First runner-up

Megan Wise NBC12

Second runner-up

Curt Autry NBC12

The Best Place to Spend

the Day as a Family

Maymont

1700 Hampton Street
maymont.org

First runner-up

Metro Richmond Zoo

Second runner-up

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

The Best Wedding Venue

The Jefferson Hotel

101 W. Franklin Street
jeffersonhotel.com

First runner-up

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Second runner-up

The Mill at Fine Creek

THE WINNERS

FINANCIAL

The Best Bank

Atlantic Union Bank

Multiple locations
atlanticunionbank.com

First runner-up

Wells Fargo Bank

Second runner-up

Truist

The Best Credit Union

Virginia Credit Union

Multiple locations
vacu.org

First runner-up

Navy Federal Credit Union

Second runner-up

Henrico Federal Credit Union

The Best Local

Accounting Firm

Pilc & Moseley

4312 Grove Avenue
pmcpas.net

First runner-up

Keiter CPAs

Second runner-up

Blair & Assoc

The Best Local

Financial Planner

Atlantic Union

Financial

Consultants-

Holly Stallworth

3900 Westerre Pkwy
atlanticunionbank.com

First runner-up

Michael Greer- Greer
Financial Group

Second runner-up

Atlantic Union Financial
Consultants- Holly Stallworth

The Best Financial

Services Firm

RBC Wealth

Management Branch

– Richmond

919 E. Main Street

rbwealthmanagement.org

First runner-up

Fidelity Investments

Second runner-up

Carlson Financial



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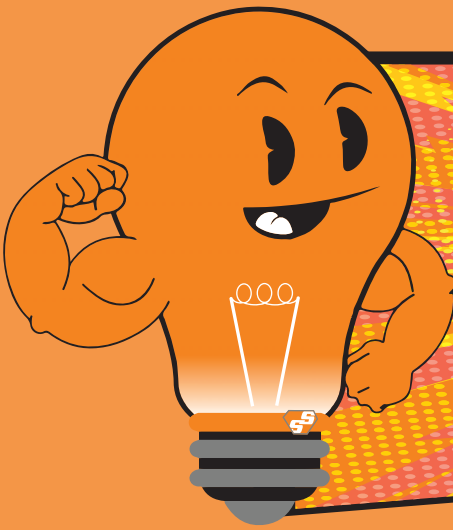


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Congratulations to all the winners a nominees and we look forward to seeing you for our 2023 contest!

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**MARKS
& HARRISON**

THE WINNERS

Health & Medical

The Best CBD Store
Bremo Pharmacy
2024 Staples Mill Road
bremorx.com
First runner-up
South River Compounding
Pharmacy
Second runner-up
Kultivate Wellness Short Pump

The Best Chiropractic Practice
Spinal Correction Center of Richmond
8536 Patterson Avenue
lovethatspine.com
First runner-up
Atlee Chiropractic Center
Second runner-up
First Choice Chiropractic

The Best Cosmetic Surgery Practice
Dr. Joseph Niamtu III, DMD
11319 Polo Place
lovethatface.com
First runner-up
Richmond Plastic Surgeons
Second runner-up
Dermatology Associates Of Virginia-Midlothian Office

The Best Dental Practice
Virginia Family Dentistry
Multiple locations
vadentist.com
First runner-up
River Run Dental
Second runner-up
Commonwealth Dentistry

The Best Family Physician Practice
Commonwealth Primary Care
Multiple locations
cpcva.com
First runner-up
Midlothian Family Practice
Second runner-up
PartnerMD Richmond

The Best Hearing Aid Store
Richmond Hearing Doctors
Multiple locations
richmondhearingdoctors.com
First runner-up
Costco Wholesale
Second runner-up
Virginia Hearing Center

The Best Hospital
Henrico Doctors' Hospital
1602 Skipwith Road
hcavirginia.com
First runner-up
Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital
Second runner-up
VCU Medical Center Main Hospital

The Best In-Home Healthcare Provider
Care Advantage
Multiple locations
careadvantageinc.com
First runner-up
Always Best Care
Second runner-up
Assisting Hands Home Care - Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, VA

The Best Local Pharmacy
CVS
Multiple locations
cvs.com
First runner-up
Walgreens
Second runner-up
Bremo Pharmacy

The Best Massage Therapy
Hand and Stone Massage and Facial Spa
Multiple locations
handandstone.com
First runner-up
Massage Envy
Second runner-up
Good Karma

The Best OB/GYN Practice
Virginia Physicians for Women
Multiple locations
vpfw.com
First runner-up
Virginia Women's Center
Second runner-up
Siobhan Dunnivant

The Best Optometry Practice
Virginia Eye Institute
Multiple locations
vaeye.com
First runner-up
Richmond Eye Associates
Second runner-up
Chesterfield Optometric Center

The Best Orthodontic Practice
Virginia Family Dentistry
Multiple locations
vadentist.com
First runner-up
Horsey Orthodontics
Second runner-up
Doswell Orthodontics

The Best Orthopedic Practice
OrthoVirginia
Multiple locations
orthovirginia.com
First runner-up
Bon Secours — Tuckahoe Orthopedics
Second runner-up
VCU Health Short Pump Pavilion

The Best Pediatric Practice
Pediatric Associates of Richmond
Multiple locations
parpeds.com
First runner-up
VCU Childrens Medical Center
Second runner-up
RVA Pediatrics

Estate Planning

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- Heat Pumps
- Chillers

Plumbing:

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- Sewer Lines
- Garbage Disposal

Electrical:

- Service Upgrades
- Lighting
- Fans

Maintenance:

- HVAC Plans
- Plumbing Plans
- Electrical Plans

Appliances:

- Refrigerators
- Washer/Dryer
- Stove

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Air Conditioning Company

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Health & Medical continued

The Best Physical Therapy Practice
Spinal Correction Center of Richmond
8536 Patterson Avenue
lovethat spine.com

First runner-up
OrthoVirginia
Second runner-up
Sheltering Arms Institute:
Physical Rehabilitation Hospital

The Best Spa
Deux Amis Med Spa
4181 Celebration Avenue
deuxammismedspa.com

First runner-up
Club West Med Spa
Second runner-up
Hand and Stone Massage
and Facial Spa

The Best Specialty Weight Loss Program
Hope 30
hopeessentails.com

First runner-up
Virginia Weight and Wellness
Second runner-up
Virginia Commonwealth
University Health

The Best Urgent Care Facility
Patient First
Multiple locations
patientfirst.com

First runner-up
BetterMed Urgent Care
Second runner-up
Bon Secours Short Pump
Emergency Center

THE WINNERS

Restaurant

The Best Asian Inspired Restaurant
Peter Chang Restaurant
Multiple locations
peterchangrestaurant.com

First runner-up
Peking Restaurant
Second runner-up
Yen Ching Henrico

The Best Greek Restaurant
Stella's
1012 Lafayette Street
stellasrichmond.com

First runner-up
Grapevine | The Greek &
Italian Restaurant
Second runner-up
The Crazy Greek

The Best Mexican Restaurant
Mexico Restaurant
Multiple locations
mexico-restaurant.com

First runner-up
Pepe's Mexican Restaurant
Second runner-up
En Su Boca

The Best Seafood Restaurant
The Boathouse at Rocketts Landing
4708 E. Old Main Street
boathouseva.com

First runner-up
Latitude Seafood Co. Richmond
Second runner-up
Riptides Seafood Restaurant

The Best Bar North of the River
Industrial Taphouse
10392 Leadbetter Road
industrialtaphouse.com

First runner-up
Joe's Inn the Fan
Second runner-up
Penny Lane Pub

The Best Indian Restaurant
Anant Cuisine of India
4348 Pouncey Tract Road
anantva.com

First runner-up
Lehja Restaurant
Second runner-up
Taste Of India

The Best New Restaurant (1 year)
Buttermilk and Honey
Multiple locations
buttermilkandhoneyrva.com

First runner-up
NAPA Kitchen and Wine
Second runner-up
Unplugged Games Café

The Best Steakhouse
Buckhead's
8510 Patterson Avenue
buckheads.com

First runner-up
Texas Roadhouse
Second runner-up
Ruth's Chris Steak House

The Best Bar South of the River
Sedona Taphouse
Multiple locations
sedonataphouse.com

First runner-up
O'Tooles Restaurant Midlothian
Second runner-up
Wood and Iron | Game Day
Restaurant and Bar

The Best Italian Restaurant
Maggiano's Little Italy
11800 W Broad Street
maggianos.com

First runner-up
Edo's Squid
Second runner-up
Mama Cucina | Italian Restaurant

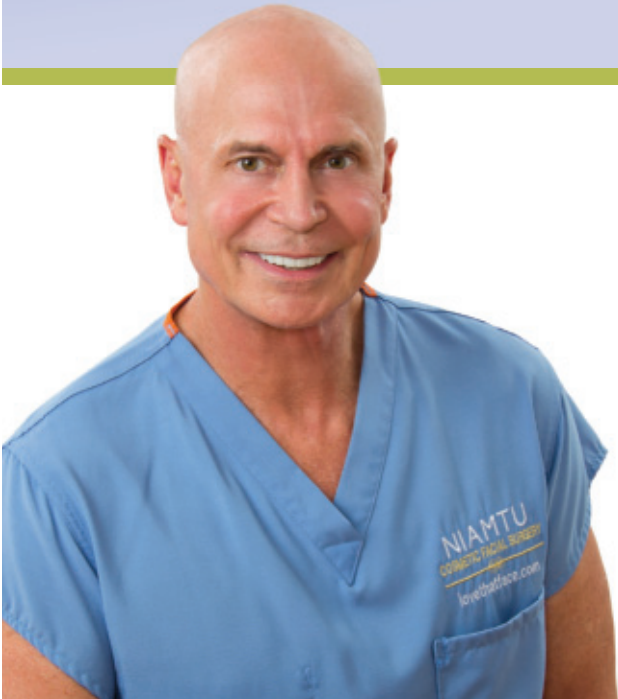
The Best Overall Restaurant
Buckhead's
8510 Patterson Avenue
buckheads.com

First runner-up
Texas Roadhouse
Second runner-up
Stella's

Thank



for voting us *Best Cosmetic Surgeon* once again.
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THE WINNERS

Home & Garden

The Best Antiques
Lazy Daisy Gift Stoare

Multiple locations
lazydaisygiftstore.com

First runner-up
Sixty West Vintage

Second runner-up
West End Antiques Mall

The Best Foundation Repair
JES Foundation Repair

2410 Southland Drive
jeswork.com

First runner-up
Stable Foundations

Second runner-up
Kefficient

The Best Home Cleaning Company
Five Star Maids

Multiple locations
fivestarmaids.com

First runner-up
2 maids and a handyman

Second runner-up
MaidPro Richmond

The Best Mattress Store
The Original Mattress Factory

Multiple locations
originalmattress.com

First runner-up
Havertys Furniture

Second runner-up
BoxDrop RVA (East Richmond)

The Best Plumbing Company
Plumber Near Me LLC

13513 E Boundary Rd
plumbernearmerv.com

First runner-up
James River Air Conditioning Company

Second runner-up
R.J. Tilley Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

The Best Carpet Cleaner
Chem-Dry of Henrico

10451 Chamberlayne Road
chemdryofhenrico.com

First runner-up
Stanley Steamer

Second runner-up
Ponds Carpet Cleaning Services

The Best Furniture Store
Green Front Furniture

Multiple locations
greenfront.com

First runner-up
Virginia Wayside Furniture

Second runner-up
Ethan Allen

The Best Homebuilder
Eagle Construction of VA

10618 Patterson Avenue
eagleofva.com

First runner-up
Main Street Homes

Second runner-up
Boone Homes INC

The Best New Homes Community
GreenGate

3340 Haydenpark Lane
eagleofva.com

First runner-up
Cosby Village

Second runner-up
Chickahominy Falls

The Best Real Estate Agent
Max Williams United Real Estate

9011 Arboretum Pkwy
unitedrealestaterichmond.com

First runner-up
Dianne Long-Napier Realtors

Second runner-up
Elliott Gravitt - Providence Hill Real Estate

The Best Commercial Real Estate Company
Napier Commercial Real Estate

Multiple locations
napierera.com

First runner-up
Capital Square

Second runner-up
RE/MAX Commonwealth

The Best Garden Center/Nursery
Stranges Florist & Garden Center

Multiple locations
stranges.com

First runner-up
The Great Big Greenhouse and Nursery

Second runner-up
Cross Creek Nursery & Landscaping

The Best HVAC Company
James River Heating & Air Conditioning

1905 Westmoreland Street
jamesriverair.com

First runner-up
Griffith Heating & Cooling Inc

Second runner-up
Woodfin

The Best Painting Company
N Chasen & Son Inc

2924 W Marshall Street
nchasen.com

First runner-up
CertaPro of NW Richmond & Midlothian

Second runner-up
H. J. Holtz & Son, Inc.

The Best Real Estate Firm
Napier Realtors, ERA

Multiple locations
napierera.com

First runner-up
Providence Hill Real Estate

Second runner-up
Long & Foster

The Best Flooring Company
Costen Floors

9840 Mayland Drive
costenfloors.com

First runner-up
Floor & Decor

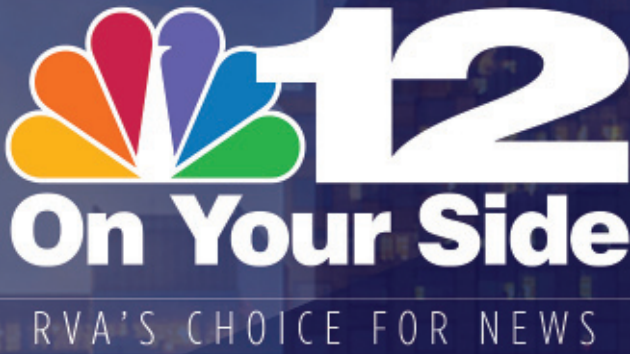
Second runner-up
L & M Carpet One Floor & Home

The Best Lawn Service/Landscaping
Virginia Green

Multiple locations
viriniagreen.com

First runner-up
Cross Creek Nursery & Landscaping

Second runner-up
Yard Works



THANK YOU TO THE RTD READERS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO NBC12'S OWN



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- Adolescent Gynecology
- Obstetric Care
- Preconception Consultations
- Mammography
- Urogynecology
- Menopause Care
- Weight Management
- ThermiVa
- Problem Care
- State-of-the-Art Surgery Center

Southside

Koger Center (new!)
St. Francis
Prince George



virginia physicians
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804-897-2100
vpfw.com

West End

West Creek
St. Mary's
Henrico Doctors'

Home & Garden continued

The Best Real Estate Team (2 or more people)
Erin & Company, Long and Foster
11225 Nuckols Road
viewrichmondhomes.com

First runner-up
The Yeatman Group

Second runner-up
The Strum Group

The Best Remodeling Company
Mueller Builders Roofing
5050 Prince George Drive
muellerbuildersllc.com

First runner-up
Bon Air Exteriors

Second runner-up
Paragon Construction

The Best Roofing Company
Mueller Builders Roofing
5050 Prince George Drive
muellerbuildersllc.com

First runner-up
C L Wright Roofing Inc

Second runner-up
A Plus Roofing

The Best Senior Living Facility
Brandermill Woods Retirement
14311 Brandermill Woods Trail
brandermillwoods.com

First runner-up
Westminster Canterbury Richmond

Second runner-up
Lakewood Manor

The Best Window Company
Pella Windows & Doors of Richmond
9830 Mayland Drive Suite A
pellabrand.com/virginia

First runner-up
Richmond Window Corporation

Second runner-up
Window Depot USA of Richmond

Thank you for voting us One of The BEST for 8 consecutive years!



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THE WINNERS

Services

The Best Attorney
John C Shea - Marks & Harrison
1500 Forest Ave rm 100
marksandharrison.com
First runner-up
Tara Brown - Whitbeck Bennett Law
Second runner-up
Vicki Horst - Hairfield Morton

The Best Childcare
Bundle of Joy Child Development Centers
Multiple locations
bundleontheweb.com
First runner-up
Starling International Schools
Second runner-up
Kiddie Kingdom

The Best Customer Service
Wendy Carter - Allstate Insurance
Multiple locations
thecarteragencyinc.com
First runner-up
Virginia Family Dentistry
Second runner-up
Richmond SPCA

The Best Dry Cleaners
Puritan Cleaners
Multiple locations
puritancleaners.com
First runner-up
Mechanicsville Cleaners
Second runner-up
Rambo Dry Cleaners

The Best Funeral Home
Bliley's Funeral Homes
Multiple locations
blileys.com
First runner-up
Bennett & Barden Funeral Home
Second runner-up
Cremation Society of Virginia

The Best Insurance Agent
Wendy Carter - Allstate Insurance
Multiple locations
thecarteragencyinc.com
First runner-up
John Zachary - Wesley Development L.L.C.
Second runner-up
Nicole Frost - State Farm

The Best Law Firm
Marks & Harrison
Multiple locations
marksandharrison.com
First runner-up
Smith Strong Attorneys at Law
Second runner-up
Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen

The Best Local Electric Company
SS ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS LLC
11610 Busy Street
sselectricalrva.com
First runner-up
James River Air Conditioning Company
Second runner-up
Davis & Green Services

The Best Local Non-Profit Organization
Feed More
1415 Rhoadmiller Street
feedmore.org
First runner-up
Richmond SPCA
Second runner-up
Richmond Animal League

The Best Local Photographer
Megan Lindsey Photography LLC
meganlindseyphoto.com
First runner-up
Jessica Robertson Photographic Artistry
Second runner-up
Smiling Heart Portraits and Design

The Best Moving Company
Heroes Moving and Storage
4100 Tomlynn St Suite B
heroesmovingandstorage.com
First runner-up
Hilldrup
Second runner-up
Two Men and a Truck

The Best Pest Control Company
Loyal Termite & Pest Control
340 Hill Carter Pkwy Suite H
loyalpest.com
First runner-up
Dodson Pest Control
Second runner-up
Home Paramount Pest Control

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The Best

Richmond Times-Dispatch

FINALIST 2022

Services continued

The Best Pet Daycare/Boarding
Holiday Barn Pet Resorts
Multiple locations
holidaybarn.com

First runner-up
Hanover Your Pet LLC

Second runner-up
Happy Camper Pet Lodge

The Best Pet Groomer
Diamonds and Dutch
Pet Bath & Spa
121 W Brookland Park Blvd
diamondsanddutchpetbathand-
spa.com

First runner-up
Shaggy Paws Spa, LLC.

Second runner-up
Dog Krazy, Inc.

The Best Place to Work
Bill Talley Ford
Multiple locations
billtalley.com

First runner-up
Napier Realtors ERA

Second runner-up
Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth
University
**The Best Towing/
Roadside Assitance**
AAA Glenside Car Care Insurance
Travel Center
7009 W Broad Street

aaa.com
First runner-up

Llewellyn Towing & Repair
Second runner-up

Axselle Auto Service
The Best Travel Agent
Nancy Cassano VTA -
Go Bucket List Travel LLC
gobucketlisttravel.com

First runner-up
Globetrotting with G

Second runner-up
AAA Willow Lawn

The Best Veterinarian
Locke A. Taylor DVM
and Associates
Multiple locations
lockeataylordvm.com

First runner-up
Wellesley Animal Hospital

Second runner-up
River Run Animal Hospital



The Best
WINNERS ISSUE

Historically good

SMALL BUSINESS INSURANCE



The Best
Richmond Times-Dispatch

“The Best” is a specialty publication of the Richmond Times-Dispatch
Advertising sales directed by Stephen Summerell
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Editor: Clay Barbour
Design: Dwayne Carpenter

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THE WINNERS

Shopping

The Best Appliance Store
Appliances On Lakeside

5418 Lakeside Avenue
appliancesonlakeside.com

First runner-up
Lowe's Home Improvement, Midlothian, VA

Second runner-up
The Home Depot

The Best Gift Shop
Tweed

4035 Lauderdale Drive
tweedathome.com

First runner-up
Lazy Daisy Gift Store

Second runner-up
Mongrel

The Best Kids' Clothing Store
Old Navy

Multiple locations
oldnavy.com

First runner-up
Carter's

Second runner-up
Kid to Kid Mechanicsville

The Best Local Women's
Clothing Store
Pearls and Chicks Boutique

1375 Acquinton Church Road
pearlsandchicks.com

First runner-up
Chico's

Second runner-up
For Posh Sake

The Best Farmer's Market
Pole Green Produce

6547 Pole Green Road
Facebook

First runner-up
Tom Leonard's Farmer's Market

Second runner-up
South of the James Market

The Best Grocery Store
Publix

Multiple location
publix.com

First runner-up
Wegmans

Second runner-up
Kroger

The Best Local Men's
Clothing Store
Franco's Fine Clothier

Multiple locations
francos.com

First runner-up
Jos A. Bank

Second runner-up
Dillard's

The Best Shoe Store

Saxon Shoes

11800 W Broad Street Suite 2750
online.saxonshoes.com

First runner-up
DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse

Second runner-up
Fleet Feet Richmond

The Best Florist
Coleman Brothers
Flowers Inc.

2104 Dumbarton Road
colemanflowers.com

First runner-up
Strange's Florists, Greenhouses
and Garden Centers

Second runner-up
King William Florist

The Best Jewelry Store
Emily's Bracelets

Richmond, VA
emilysbracelets.com

First runner-up
Schwarzschild Jewelers

Second runner-up
Linda Allard Jewelry

The Best Local Pet Store
PetSmart

Multiple locations
petsmart.com

First runner-up
Dog Krazy, Inc.

Second runner-up
Fin & Feather Pet Center, Inc.

The Best Thrift or
Consignment Shop
Lazy Daisy Gift Store

Multiple locations
lazydaisygiftstore.com

First runner-up
Goodwill of Central and Coastal Virginia

Second runner-up
JuJuBee's



The
Best

Richmond Times-Dispatch

FINALIST 2022

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 13513 E. Boundary Rd. Suite A-C,
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