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Congratulations to the Best of Louisa 2025 winners

The community voted in record numbers, and the Best of Louisa 2025 is here. With more than 10,000 votes cast, local residents recognized outstanding individuals and businesses across a wide range of categories — from best bartender, boss, teacher, and volunteer to favorite antique store, flower shop, and pizza.

We sincerely thank everyone who took the time to participate, nominate, and vote for their favorite local people and places. Every vote truly mattered, and several categories were really close!

The Central Virginian has recently reported on several local businesses that have chosen to close their operations, serving as an important reminder of how vital community support is. We encourage everyone to shop

locally and continue supporting small businesses in 2026 and beyond.

While this publication is just one platform to showcase the services and products offered throughout the Louisa area, we hope it inspires readers to spread the word about all that our community has to offer.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners and nominees, and best wishes for continued success in 2026!



Mitchell Sasser
- Editor

Best Entertainment '23 - '25



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Best of Louisa 2025

Winners and Nominees

BEST ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT

- ★ Christmas Parade
- Louisa County Fair
- Homecoming Parade

BEST ANTIQUE STORE

- ★ Mineral Mercantile
- Plum Pickings
- Crossroads Vintage & Antiques

BEST APPLIANCE SALES/SERVICE

- ★ Fuller's Appliance
- Quality Appliance Repair of Louisa

BEST ASSISTED LIVING/RETIREMENT FACILITY

- ★ Louisa Health & Rehabilitation Center
- Spring Oak at Louisa

BEST AUTO BODY SHOP

- ★ Davis Body Shop
- Haymaker Auto Repair
- Kennys Auto

BEST AUTO CARE SERVICE

- ★ Navarre's Auto
- Haymaker Auto
- Gibson's Auto

Best Farmers Market '25

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*Winners and Nominees (continued)***BEST NEW VEHICLE DEALER**

★ **Reynolds Auto**
CMA Colonial Auto Center
CarMax

BEST USED VEHICLE DEALER

★ **CarMax**
CMA Colonial
TNT Auto Sales

BEST AUTO DETAILING

★ **Lee Creek Detailing**
D's Detailing
Luxury Coating Applications

BEST AUTO PARTS

★ **NAPA Louisa Auto Parts**
Advance Auto Parts
AutoZone

BEST BAKERY

★ **Floozie's Pie Shop**
Doshier's Donuts
Mad Batter Bakery

BEST BANK

★ **Wells Fargo**
Blue Ridge Bank
UVA Credit Union

BEST BARBER

★ **Mineral Barber Shop**
Hometown Hair
Buzzed by Bethany

BEST BAR

★ **Southern Revere Cellars**
The Cove at Lake Anna
Lake Anna Taphouse

Best Lawn Care Service '20 -'25

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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST BARTENDER

★ Rachel Emily
Michelle Harris
Moriah Jones

BEST BED & BREAKFAST

★ The Boxley Place Inn
Prospect Hill Inn & Restaurant
Dunnlora Inn

BEST BOSS

★ Wesley Childs
William Blount
Jessie & Ann Austin

BEST BOAT DEALER

★ Lake Anna Marina
Anna Point Marina
Louisa Boat & Motor Sales

BEST BOAT DETAILERS

★ Lake Anna Mobile Detailing
Luxury Coating Applications
Mid-Atlantic Lake Anna Detailing

BEST BOAT RENTALS

★ Anna Point Marina
Lake Anna Watersports
Mid-Atlantic Boat Rentals

BEST BOAT REPAIR

★ Lake Anna Watercraft
Central Virginia Marine
Lake Country Marine

BEST BOATING SAFETY INSTRUCTION

★ Lake Anna Watersports
Lake Anna Better Boating Academy
Mid-Atlantic Watersports Instruction

Best Auto Parts Store '14, '16 - '25

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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST BOAT TOURS/CHARTERS

★ **Cruise Rusty**
Mid-Atlantic Watersports Charters
Sunshine Swan Boat Excursions

BEST BREWERY

★ **Southern Revere Cellars**
Lake Anna Taphouse
Coyote Hole Craft Beverages

BEST BRIDAL VENUE (TIE)

★ **Callie Opie's Orchard**
★ **Earlyhouse**
Tavern on the Rail Event Barn

BEST BUILDING SUPPLY STORE

★ **JS Purcell Lumber**
Main Street Supply
Tractor Supply

BEST CAMPGROUND

★ **Christopher Run Campground**
Small Country Campground
Shenandoah Crossing

BEST CAR WASH

★ **Louisa Car Wash**
Aqua Express
Crossroads Car Wash

BEST CARPET/FLOORING STORE

★ **Lake Anna Flooring**
House of Carpets

BEST CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

★ **Verizon**
AT & T
T-Mobile

*Winners and nominees
continue on page 10.*

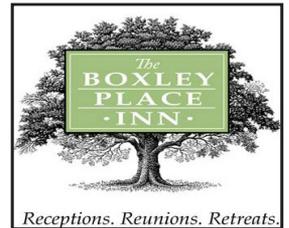
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Best Hair & Best Nail Salon '25



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BEST HAIR SALON
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Best Bartender: Rachel Emily

John Hajduk III
Reporter

With a steady hand and a welcoming smile, Rachel Emily has poured thousands of drinks over nearly two decades, earning the admiration of patrons and colleagues alike. Now, the 2006 Louisa County High School graduate has been recognized as an individual winner in the 2025 Best of Louisa Awards, taking home the honor of Best Bartender.

Emily works at Obrigado Restaurant on Main Street, where she has spent the past ten years, becoming a familiar and beloved presence among staff and diners. She credits the restaurant's warm, community-focused atmosphere for keeping her there.

"Obrigado is a community hub. Our staff are kind, genuine people who love what they do! Delusional? Perhaps, but sincere none the less!" Emily said jokingly. "All walks of life are welcome and it's the diversity in our clientele that makes Obrigado so appealing. Jade & Debbie's dedication to sourcing ingredients from local vendors, hosting live music nights for local talent & sponsorship of great local causes such as the ASPCA is what really makes Obrigado such a staple in our commu-

nity. It's wonderful to work for women who are passionate about community & environmentalism."

Before returning to Louisa, Emily spent nine years in St. Petersburg, Florida, calling it her second home and continuing to visit at least once a year.

"Working in St. Pete is really where I got my chops," she said. "It's where I learned to bartend, how to multitask in extremely fast paced environments & how to survive in a city that adopts a 'spring break' lifestyle 24/7, 365."

Emily also spoke to the physical demands of the service industry, noting that fitness is essential for longevity. Off the clock, she describes herself as an old soul who enjoys traveling and reading physical books, striving to reduce screen time as much as possible. Her coworkers describe her as a constant source of positivity.

"[Emily] is also the front of the house manager and is very considerate, kind and enthusiastic," Obrigado co-owner Jade Lourenco stated. "She always shows up bright eyed and bushy tailed and is just an all around pleasure to be around."

Reflecting on her personal growth, Emily shared that she was not always outgoing, but blossomed after interacting with people on a daily basis. When faced with rude customers—a rare occurrence in her experience—she emphasizes remaining calm.

"If someone is being outright derogatory, I'll ask them what they mean. This allows them to reflect on their statement & usually causes embarrassment & humility," Emily explained. "Folks can get caught up in the heat of the moment. Giving them the opportunity to reflect on their words usually diffuses the situation. When all else fails—if you can't hang, there's the door, baby!"

Looking to the future, Emily plans to continue traveling, sampling exotic dishes, and transitioning from renting to homeownership.

Upon learning of her award, she expressed heartfelt gratitude.

"I am really flattered. I truly love my work & to see that love reflected back in this way is so gratifying," Emily said. "Shout out to my mother, Mary Eden, who for years tried to convince me to move back home from Florida. When I asked, 'Mom, where would I work in Louisa?!' She'd always cheerfully reply, 'Obrigado!' I didn't know it then, but she was absolutely correct—and it has been the most gratifying employment of my life. Thanks, Ma!"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rachel Emily has served at Obrigado on Main Street for the past 10 years, becoming a familiar face and beloved figure among patrons and staff alike.

Best Bridal Venue '25

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Montpelier Vision Center
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Dr. Jeffrey Workman O.D. & Dr. Amanda Kelley O.D.

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Best BBQ '23 - '25, Best Wings '25, Best Lunch Spot '23-'24

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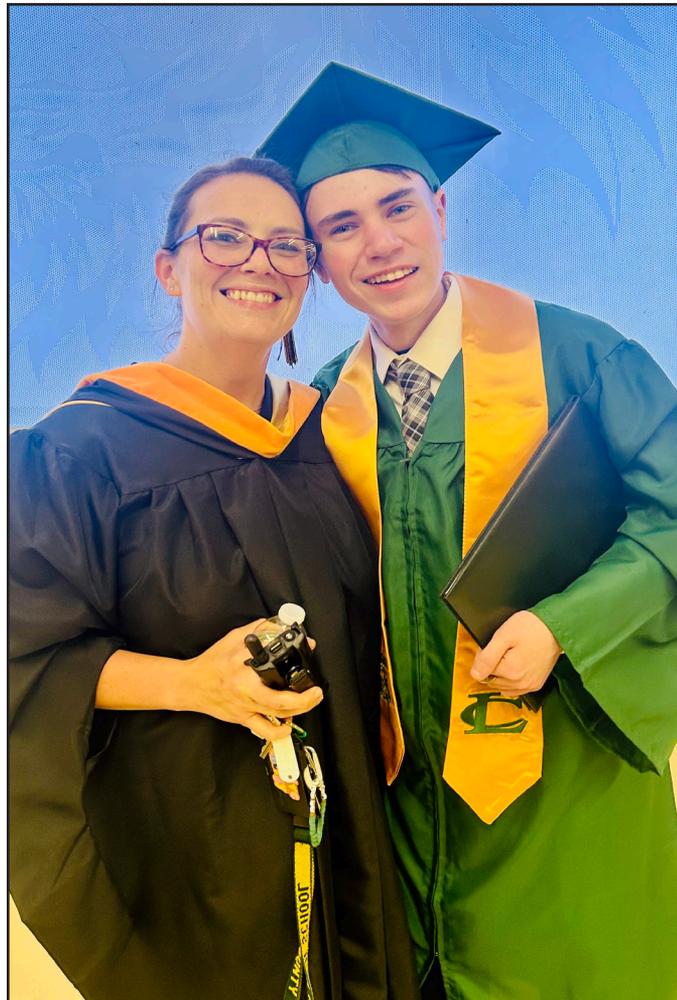
Best Teacher: Maria Seay

By Mitchell Sasser

Editor

Stepping into Trevilians Elementary School as a kindergarten student in 1995 was how Maria Seay got her start in Louisa County; 30 years later, she's continuing her dedication towards education by supporting students in the classroom.

Seay was born and raised in Mineral. After graduating from Louisa County High School, she went onto North Carolina Wesleyan College where she graduated with a degree in criminal justice. She started teaching with Louisa County Public Schools (LCPS) in 2016 as a special



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maria Seay has been with Louisa County Public Schools since 2016 helping students succeed in the classroom. Seay with one of her students, Mikey Gardner.

education teacher/case manager who provides accommodations for students with different learning needs.

“When I got that email [that said that I won], my jaw dropped,” Seay said. “Being from here and growing up here as a kid, Louisa gave me so much. When you’re younger you don’t fully understand how special it is here. As I’ve gotten older, that appreciation deepens and grows. I know how much I respected all of my teachers from kindergarten through twelfth grade and they are the ones who inspired me to teach. To know that they are members in this community and could have potentially been some of the people that voted for me — that’s such a huge compliment. It’s such an honor to be seen as the ‘best of anything’ in Louisa.”

Seay works with students in all four grades at the high school, a “pivotal moment” in their lives, she said. But it’s the students that provide her motivation.

“The best part of my job and where I think I thrive is the relationship I build with my kids,” Seay said. “At [high school age], there’s a lot going on. I’m able to be a sounding board — whatever emotions they are feeling that day, they know that somebody is here, they know that somebody is listening, they know that somebody loves them. That’s my biggest thing.”

Seay is also involved with Teacher Leadership & Influence within LCPS, where she provides professional development to teachers and assists with school-wide improvement plans to ensure that students and teachers are progressing in the class in a positive way. She is also a co-sponsor with the senior council, the group that organizes activities like the senior picnic, the senior trip, as well as graduation in May.

Louisa graduates often come back to teach or coach, Seay observed.

“There’s a reason why we do that,” Seay said. “Louisa has always fostered this culture and community of family. Louisa has always been home.

Lee Downey, the director of secondary education with LCPS, worked with Seay when he was the principal of the high school.

“She always is a humongous team player as far as doing whatever it takes to help kids succeed,” Downey said. “She is always there for them and has the heart of a Lion in every form and fashion. We say, ‘once a lion, always a lion,’ and she just embodies that.”

Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST CHURCH

★ **Mineral Baptist Church**

Bethany Christian Church
New Life Church

BEST CLEANING SERVICE

★ **Heaven's Way Cleaning**

Heaven Sent Cleaning
Two Sisters Cleaning & Organizing

BEST CLOTHING STORE

★ **LCRC Clothes Closet**

The Purple Pumpkin
Goodwill

BEST COFFEE SHOP

★ **DK's Coffee & Ice Cream**

Bethel Brews & Bites
Floozie's

BEST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

★ **MDG Contracting & Design**

Loudin Building Systems
Bethel Builders

BEST CONVENIENCE STORE

★ **Dickinson Store**

Elk Creek Country Store
MacQueen's

BEST CPA

★ **Tommy Luck**

Stephen Wunsch
Redmond Bruce

BEST CUSTOM EMBROIDERY & SCREEN PRINT

★ **Lake Anna Signs & Printing**

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Best Barber '20 - '25




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Best Sub '23 - '24, Best Sandwich '25

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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST DAY CARE PROVIDER

★Mrs. Elizabeth's Daycare
Zion Christian Children's Center
Abundant Love Child Development Center

BEST DENTAL OFFICE

★Dr. Darryl Pearlman
Mineral Dental Care
Spring Creek Family Dentistry

BEST DOCTOR'S OFFICE

★Louisa Family Practice
Medical Associates of Louisa
Central Virginia Health Services

BEST ELECTRIC UTILITY

★Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Dominion Energy
Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

BEST ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

★Spark's Electric Company
Harper Electric
Luck Electrical

BEST EMPLOYER

★Louisa County Public Schools
North Anna Power Station
County of Louisa Parks & Recreation

BEST ENTERTAINMENT

★Louisa Arts Center
Karaoke Night at Southern Revere
Louisa Skate Park

BEST EVENT SPACE RENTAL

★Betty J Queen Center
Earlyhouse
Callie Opie's Orchard

Best Real Estate Agency '23, '25

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Sherry Palmer
Broker/Owner



Crystal Hill
Realtor

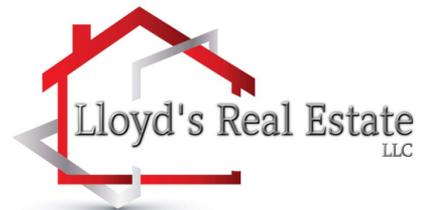


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Winners and Nominees (continued)

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BEST FARM SUPPLY/EQUIPMENT

★ **Tractor Supply**
Besley Implements
EB Mercantile

BEST FARMERS MARKET

★ **Mineral Farmer's Market**
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BEST FIREMAN

★ **Stuart Cameron**
Mason Maddox
Mark Stanton

BEST FITNESS CENTER

★ **Fisher's Fitness**
NOW Fitness

BEST FLOWER SHOP

★ **Lake Anna Nursery & Landscaping**
Hottingers Greenhouses
Mineral Florist

BEST FUNERAL HOME

★ **Woodward Funeral Home**
Preddy Funeral Home
Lacy Funeral Home

BEST FURNITURE STORE

★ **Seay's Furniture**
Village Furniture
Crossroads Vintage & Antiques

Best Pet Grooming Service '17-'25



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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST GARDEN CENTER/NURSERY

★ **Hottingers Greenhouses**

Lake Anna Nursery & Landscaping
EB Mercantile

BEST GIFT SHOP

★ **Mineral Mercantile**

The Purple Pumpkin
Crossroads Vintage & Antiques

BEST GLASS REPAIR

★ **Virginia Glass Man (In Loving Memory)**

Tommy's Glass Repair
Davis Body Shop

BEST GOLF COURSE

★ **Cutalong at Lake Anna**

Spring Creek Golf Club
Shenandoah Crossing

BEST GROCERY STORE

★ **Food Lion**

Miller's Market
Local Provisions

BEST GUTTERS/ROOFING

★ **Talley's Roofing**

Cornerstone Roofing & Construction
Specialty Restoration

BEST HAIR STYLING SALON

★ **Hometown Hair**

Buzzed by Bethany
Off the Hook Hair & Nail Spa

BEST HANDYPERSON

★ **S & M Handyman**

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Best Tractor Dealer '24 - '25



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Winners and Nominees (continued)

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★ **Ace Hardware**
Main Street Plumbing & Supply
Tractor Supply

BEST HAULING

★ **S E Winn Trucking**
C & C Hauling & Excavating

BEST HEATING & AIR

★ **Wayne's Heating & Cooling**
Lloyds Heating & Cooling
The Air Nerds

BEST ICE CREAM SHOP

★ **Frosties Rail Stop**
Moo Thru at Lake Anna
DK's Coffee & Ice Cream

BEST INSURANCE AGENCY

★ **L. Payton & Associates**
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State Farm Insurance

BEST LAWN CARE SERVICE

★ **Zac's Lawn Care**
Chiles Enterprises
Southern Pines Lawn Care

BEST LAW OFFICE

★ **Purcell & Purcell**
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Stephen C. Harris

BEST MARINA

★ **Anna Point Marina**
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Sturgeon Creek Marina

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Best Bridal Venue '15 -'19, '21 - '25

Earlyhouse
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BEST OF LOUISA 2025
The Central Virginian

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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST MASSAGE SPA

★ **Lake Anna Spa**
The Rose & Yarrow
Healing Hands Massage

BEST NAIL SALON

★ **Hometown Hair**
Lake Anna Spa
Off the Hook

BEST NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

★ **Louisa County Resource Council**
Louisa Humane Society
Louisa Little League

BEST PAINTER

★ **Stanley's Painting**
S & M Handyman Services
John Seay

BEST PARAMEDIC/EMT

★ **Kate Markin Maddox**
Josh Andrews
John Foster

BEST PEST CONTROL

★ **Ferrell's Termite & Pest Control**
Helping Hands Pest Control
EcoShield Pest Control

BEST PET GROOMING SERVICE

★ **Hair of the Dog Grooming**
For the Love of Paws
Grooming by Stacie

BEST PHARMACY

★ **Walgreens Pharmacy**
CVS Pharmacy
Montpelier Pharmacy

Best Tractor Dealer '24 -'25



*Honored to be voted
Best of Louisa—thank you!*



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The Central Virginian

*Winners and Nominees (continued)***BEST PLUMBING CONTRACTOR**

★ **Wayne's Heating & Cooling**
Wet Spot Plumbing
Precision Plumbing

BEST PLUMBING SUPPLY

★ **Main Street Supply**
JS Purcell Lumber Corp

BEST PHOTO STUDIO /PHOTOGRAPHER

★ **Lake Anna Photography**
Denise Feagans Photography
Claire Bickley Photography

BEST POLICE OFFICER

★ **Chuck Love**
Deputy Hicks
Jason Walker

BEST PRINCIPAL

★ **Amanda Harper**
Gary Black
Julie Bryant

BEST PRINTING SERVICE

★ **Lake Anna Signs & Design LLC**
Midtown Printing

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY

★ **Lloyd's Real Estate**
The Hoffman Group
Lake Anna Island Realty

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT

★ **Ashley Hoffman**
Crystal Carter
Crystal Hill

BEST REHABILITATION CENTER

★ **Louisa Health & Rehabilitation Center**
Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy

BEST SEPTIC SERVICE

★ **Lakeside Electric & Septic Services**
All In Septic Services
Shifflett Septic

BEST SIGNAGE

★ **Lake Anna Signs & Design LLC**
Midtown Printing

BEST SWIM INSTRUCTION

★ **Lake Anna Swim Company**
Jenn Mastro

BEST STORAGE UNITS

★ **Louisa Self Storage**
Cuckoo Self Storage

Best Doctor's Office '20 - '25

Louisa
**FAMILY
PRACTICE**

Health Care for the Whole Family

Thank you for your votes!

We are honored to have been nominated as Louisa's Best Doctor's Office in the Central Virginian's Best of Louisa 2025. It is a pleasure for us to treat and serve the residents of Louisa County. Thank you for your continued support.



101 Woolfolk Ave., Louisa, VA 23093

540-967-2202 • LouisaFP.com

Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST TEACHER

★Virginia/Maria Seay
Kaitlin Rakes
Kelly Sheely

BEST THRIFT/CONSIGNMENT

★RuralLove
LCRC Community Closet
The Dusty Shelf

BEST TITLE COMPANY

★Louisa Title Agency
Northern VA Title & Escrow

BEST TOWING COMPANY

★Rollin' Wheels
Navarre's Towing
Parrish Towing

BEST TRACTOR DEALER

★Besley Implements
Tractor Supply
Cardinal Home Center

BEST TREE SERVICE

★Sharp's Tree Service
Stumpbusters
Hawk's Tree Service

BEST UPHOLSTERY

★Trident Marine Canvas & Upholstery LLC
Watercraft Renovations

BEST VETERINARIAN

★Lake Anna Veterinary Hospital
Animal Medical Center of Louisa
Crossroads Animal Hospital

Best Title Company '15 - '25



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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST VINEYARD/WINERY

★ **Southern Revere Cellars**
53rd Winery & Vineyard
Everleigh Vineyards

BEST VOLUNTEER

★ **Stuart Cameron**
Joe Starkey
Jennifer Ford

BEST YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUE

★ **Louisa Little League**
Louisa Youth Athletic Association
Upward

BEST BREAKFAST SPOT

★ **Mineral Restaurant**
DK's Coffee & Ice Cream
Bethel Brews & Bites

BEST DINNER SPOT

★ **El Sabor de Mexico**
Asian Café
El Mariachi

BEST LUNCH SPOT

★ **Asian Café**
Joe's Place
Country Boys BBQ

BEST HAPPY HOUR

★ **The Cove at Lake Anna**
Rhett's Bar and Grill
Obrigado's

BEST BARBECUE

★ **Country Boys BBQ**
Barbeque Exchange
Smokin' Eddies BBQ

The Central Virginian

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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST BURGER

★ **Joe's Place**
The Cove at Lake Anna
JoJos Super Heroes and Pizza

BEST PIZZA

★ **Roma's**
Joe's Place
Mineral Restaurant

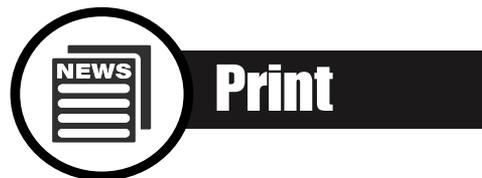
BEST SANDWICH

★ **Joe Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza**
Country Boys BBQ
Obrigado

BEST SEAFOOD

★ **Tim's at Lake Anna**
Rhett's Bar and Grill
The Cove at Lake Anna

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Winners and Nominees (continued)

BEST STEAK

★ **The Lion's Den**
Obrigado
Callie Opie's Orchard

BEST SUBS

★ **Joe's Place**
Mineral Restaurant
Joe Joe's Super Heroes & Pizza

BEST WINGS

★ **Country Boys BBQ**
Joe's Place
Tim's at Lake Anna

BEST DESSERT

★ **Floozie's**
DK's Coffee & Ice Cream
Louisa Farmstand & Cafe

BEST SERVER

★ **Everybody at El Gran Patron**
Rachel Emily
Alex Riddick

BEST TAKEOUT

★ **Los Tres Potrillos**
Country Boys BBQ
Dixie Joe's Crab Shack

Best Assisted Living '24 - '25



Thank you for voting us #1

We are honored to be voted Best Assisted Living Facility and Best Rehabilitation Facility!

Thank you to our residents, staff, and community for your trust and support. This recognition inspires us to continue providing exceptional care every day!



Louisa Health & Rehabilitation Center

More Information :



540-967-2250



210 Elm Ave., Louisa, VA 23093



louisahealthrehab.com



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Winner Certificates

If you are listed as a Best of Louisa 2025 winner and you have not yet received your certificate, please contact us at:
 Email: thecv@thecentralvirginian.com | Call: 540-967-0368



Congratulations to the Best of Louisa 2025 winners and nominees. The Central Virginian is proud to celebrate the businesses, organizations, and individuals that make our community shine.

The Central Virginian

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Best Employer '25



LOUISA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOTED **BEST EMPLOYER** IN LOUISA

All of us at Louisa County Public Schools are honored to be named **Best Employer** in the **Best of Louisa Awards**. This recognition is a testament to the incredible students, staff, administrators, and community who make our schools such a special place to learn and work. Their positivity, dedication, and spirit of innovation are what help us lead the way here in Louisa!

Together, we are **#TeamLCPS**.



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Best Pest Control '15 - '25

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