



# Voter's Guide

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- 2** **VOTE** for the 2024 People's Choice awards  
FEBRUARY 17th through MARCH 2nd
- 3** **RESULTS** for the 2024 People's Choice awards  
will publish in the Effingham Daily News  
Winners Edition on MARCH 30th.

*Limit one voting ballot submission per registered user. People's Choice ballot will consist of the top nominees in each category.*

*All voting is conducted online at [effinghamdailynews.com/peopleschoice](http://effinghamdailynews.com/peopleschoice).*

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# People's Choice Voting to begin today

The Effingham Daily News each year conducts the annual People's Choice Contest. This popular battle of the businesses begins with the People's Choice Nomination ballot in January. For two weeks in January, Effingham Daily News readers are asked to go online and actually type in the name of their favorite business in over 200 different categories. Since we do not provide names of businesses on the ballot to choose from, having readers type in the name of your business on this ballot is quite an honor. Our readers care enough to take the time to let our local businesses know just how much they really enjoy their products and services by recognizing them on the ballot. When the nomination process ends, we receive a list of all businesses recognized. At this point, the top 5 in each category then go on to be listed on the People's Choice Voting ballot.

The People's Choice Voting ballot will be available online starting today through Saturday, March 2. See page 2 of this People's Choice Voting edition to find out how to register and begin the voting process. We encourage our readers to take the time to vote for their favorite business of the top 5 listed in each category. As you read through the voting ballot, you will notice that some categories have more than 5 listed while a few have less than 5 listed. For those categories with more than 5, there was a tie or multiple ties for 5th place. It is only fair then to also include all those who tied for 5th on the voting ballot. Rest assured, in many cases there were even more wrote in than those listed on our Voting ballot. We thank our readers for their votes, even though they did not make the top 5. For those categories with less than 5, we have listed all those who were nominated on

the January Nomination ballot.

If you go in to register for this Voting ballot and have trouble getting registered, please give Jody Hardiek a call at (217)347-7155 for assistance.

Once the Voting ballot process has ended, we will tabulate the results and report the winner in each category in our March 30 People's Choice Winners guide. It really is fun for us when we get to contact a business to let them know they were the winner in their category. There is immense pride and many times they are very humbled by the news. We truly live and work in an area where businesses support one another and cheer each other on. They really love what they do and this award is just one way for us to let them know just how much they are appreciated and loved by their customers and our readers. And the best part is that they get to promote this all through the year on their

billboards, in their advertisements in the newspaper, and on their Facebook page, just to name a few. It really is an honor to be recognized as a "favorite" among the majority of our Effingham Daily News readership. Each winner also receives a wooden plaque that includes a certificate to hang

on their wall at their place of business in yet another way to promote their achievement.

So, from all of us to all the businesses in our readership area, best of luck during the next two weeks during the Voting ballot process. And please know that even if your business is not chosen as the top winner

in your category, we very much appreciate what you provide in products and services to this area and beyond. We know it takes all of us to provide the needed products and services to this area we are proud to call home.

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Joe Sippers Cafe

**Best Bakery**

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Holli's Flour Shop  
The Cookie Jar  
Joe Sippers Café  
Niemerg's Steakhouse

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Pork BBQ  
Kirby Foods  
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Gabby Goat  
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# How communities benefit when consumers shop local



Ideas about shopping are never set in stone, and the pandemic illustrated just how quickly consumer trends and opinions can change. Many individuals are now reevaluating how they spend their hard-

earned money, particularly since inflation has affected just how far a dollar can be stretched. When consumers think about which stores to patronize, locally owned businesses may be the smartest option for a

number of reasons - not the least of which is the way such enterprises benefit the communities they call home.

## *More money kept in the community*

Shopping locally means that more money will stay in the community. According to recent research from Civic Economics, local eateries return nearly 79 percent of revenue to the community, compared to just over 30 percent for chain restaurants. Overall, for every \$100 spent at a local business, around \$73 remains in the community, versus roughly \$43 when shopping at a non-locally owned business.

## *Get a personal touch*

Local business own-

ers typically are inclined to go the extra mile for their customers and are personally invested in the services and products they are selling. As a result, shopping locally tends to be a personalized experience. Furthermore, a local business owner may be more amenable to ordering products for specific clientele. Such personalized service is typically not accessible when shopping big box stores or other shops where owners are off-site.

## *Lines are short*

Waiting in long lines for checkout or to pick up merchandise ordered online can drain consumers- energy and contribute to stress. Local businesses tend to have short lines

and small crowds, which can lead to a more pleasant shopping experience.

## *Generates tax revenue*

Local businesses generate more tax revenue per sales dollar, according to Rubicon, a digital marketplace for waste and recycling businesses. Taxes paid by local small businesses go to support schools, parks, roads, and other programs that benefit the community as well.

## *Support nonprofits*

Local businesses often support good work in the community, such as nonprofit groups. These can include schools and sports teams, among other groups. According to Dr. Sue Lynn Sasser, professor of economics at

the University of Central Oklahoma, studies indicate nonprofits "receive 250 percent more support from small businesses than larger ones."

## *Support other local businesses*

Local business support other local businesses by buying and selling among each other. A local, independently owned restaurant may source its ingredients from local farms, which means visitors to such eateries are supporting multiple local businesses each time they dine out.

Small businesses are a boon to the economy, particularly local economies. These enterprises help their communities in a multitude of ways.



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 Pork BBQ  
 Kirby Foods

**Best Chicken**

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 Pork BBQ  
 Deb's Catering  
 Popeyes

**Best Chinese Food**

China Express  
 China Buffet  
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 Niemerg's Steakhouse  
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**Best Hot Dog**

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The Wurst Wiener  
Big Papa's Cocktail and  
Gaming Lounge  
Andrew's Eats  
Cruiser's Drive Thru

# Did you know?

Local businesses contribute to greater wealth in their communities. According to data from Civic Economics, for every \$100 spent at local businesses, around \$73 remains in the local economy.

By comparison, only \$43 remains in the local economy when people shop at non-locally-owned businesses. Proceeds come from paying taxes that support the community, and local businesses

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**21 Reasons Your Kids Should Take Dance Classes**

By Christina Katz

When you think of dance, you probably think of diva ballerinas or overly meddlesome mothers. But dancers learn many helpful, practical skills that carry over naturally into everyday life. If you visit a few local studios in your area, you will likely find a vibe and set of values that are a good match with your child and family. Here is a list of the benefits of taking consistent dance classes:

**1. Listening better.**

In order to learn, dancers have to hear and absorb verbal instructions from their teachers, often on the fly. In the practice room, instruction is offered in many ways, which helps children learn to pay attention before, during, and after learning something new.

**2. Observing closely.**

Another way dancers learn is by watching demonstrations. Dancing is a multi-sensory skill, so there are many ways

to learn and watching closely is an important part of the process, especially for more visual learners.

**3. Expanding social circles.**

Dancers can make new friends in dance class and expand their social circles beyond the neighborhood and the classroom. Friendships tend to deepen over time and kids who spend a lot of time working on new skills together are likely to form tighter friendships.

**4. Growing more fit.**

We often think of dancers as dainty and delicate but dancers are a lot stronger than you might think. Regular dancing increases cardiovascular health, builds muscles, and, over time, increases physical endurance.

**5. Gaining musicality and rhythm.**

If you want your child to become more musical, even without practicing an instrument, dance is a good choice. The measured movements

kids learn in dance help them intuitively understand and adapt to other kinds of rhythms in life.

**6. Building strength.**

In my daughter's 5th grade classroom, a petite veteran competitive dancer routinely beats the football players at arm wrestling. Dancers must be strong no matter what their size because they need core strength as well as individual muscle strength to leap, turn and twist without injury.

**7. Becoming more flexible.**

Don't worry if your child is not necessarily flexible or agile before beginning dance. Flexibility is something that is approached incrementally as a dancer learns and grows. After a few years of stretching and flexing, any dancer can become more limber.

**8. Focusing on following through.**

If your child has trouble

See **DANCE** on 11



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## DANCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

concentrating for periods of time, dance might be a good way to build this skill. Because dance is kinesthetic as well as musical and rhythmic, children who have trouble sitting still in school can concentrate more easily by moving to learn a complete dance movement, which still takes considerable concentration, focus and practice.

9. Responding to feedback. Dancers receive ongoing feedback from instructors. The onus is on them to receive feedback as graciously as they can and apply it to their routines so they can improve. This teaches responsiveness and collaboration instead of defensiveness and oversensitivity.

10. Practicing poise. Even if your child often trips or bumps into things, dance can cure the curse of klutziness. Poise in the practice room will eventually translate into increased body aware-

ness and better motor control outside the studio, as well.

11. Aiding self-discipline. So many situations in life require us to be able to train ourselves to do things to the best of our ability. By teaching mastery of a routine through practice, dancers learn how to aim for a goal and reach it. Repeated over time, this ability to get things accomplished can be applied to any task or healthy habit.

12. Finding opportunities for self-expression. Although dance is rarely verbal and routines are often choreographed, dancers express themselves artistically through movement, agility, showmanship, poise, and by letting their personalities shine through. Some dances offer a variety of roles and dancers may either be cast in a role or offered a solo based on ability and personality.

13. Test-driving commitment. Dancers learn they can earn dividends on what they invest. When your dancer invests consistently and fully, the

payoff is great. Half-hearted or lax engagement typically yields poorer results.

14. Increasing confidence. Confidence comes from doing. It's one thing to watch a dance recital. It's quite another to perform in one. Dance is multi-sensory, so don't be surprised if it boosts your child's confidence in ways you may not anticipate.

15. Acquiring excellent posture. Body language experts have proven that by changing our posture, we can change our attitude and our feelings. Dancers practice excellent posture, which has both short and long-term benefits physiologically and emotionally.

16. Improving body awareness. Dancers' bodies come in all shapes and sizes and dancers learn that an active, healthy body helps you accomplish your objectives with greater ease no matter what size you are. Dancers learn first-hand the benefits of eating healthy and fueling their bodies.

17. Teaching teamwork.

Dancers often literally depend on each other to lift each other up, to hold each other up, and to connect to make a whole. By working hard together and learning to trust each other, dancers learn to trust themselves in a group.

18. Emphasizing a positive attitude. When you smile, the whole world smiles with you, so the saying goes. Like posture, tests have shown that smiling makes you feel better whether you want to feel better or not. The dance studio is a place where your child is reminded to put a best face forward.

19. Reducing stress. Life gets bumpy sometimes, even for kids. Dancers who are experiencing stress in life outside the studio, may find that the consistency, focus, and health benefits of dance counterbalance negative effects of any stress in their personal lives. Children experiencing stress typically benefit from expressive outlets for their considerable energy.

20. Respecting instructors. Parents do not typically

coach or volunteer in dance classes. Most instructors are trained and studios expect kids to be respectful towards their teachers. Dancers who treat instructors with admiration tend to get more out of the process than dancers who behave in a disrespectful manner or act out in class, just like in real life.

21. Joining an extended community. Dancers are not just part of

a class, they are part of an extended community. A studio is composed of the owner, the instructors, the students, and the parents and families of the students. Dancers learn that they can be a significant part of the whole and still shine as individuals. They can look to others for good examples and also set a good example. They learn, most importantly to work hard, do their best and still have fun.



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**5 Categories At The Bottom Under "Everything Else"**

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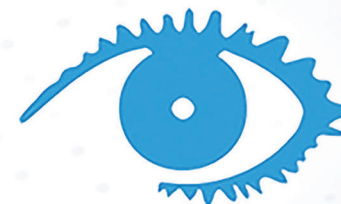


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**Best Pizza Dine-In**

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Lucia's Italian Kitchen  
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**Best Salads / Salad Bar**

Pizza Man  
Niemerg's Steakhouse  
Iron Horse Restaurant  
at Kirby Foods  
Panera Bread  
Joe's Pizza & Pasta  
Joe Sipper's Cafe

**Best Sandwiches**

Jersey Mike's  
Jimmy John's  
Joe Sipper's Cafe  
McAlister's Deli  
Gabby Goat

**Best Seafood**

Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse  
Firefly Grill  
Long John Silver's  
TGI Friday's  
Puerto Vallarta  
El Rancherito

**Best Sports Bar**

Gabby Goat  
Big Papa's Cocktails and Gaming Lounge  
Chili's Grill & Bar  
Gopher's Grill  
Chaser's Grill & Bar

**Best Steaks**

Firefly Grill  
Gabby Goat  
Chaser's Grill & Bar  
TGI Friday's  
Chili's Grill & Bar

**Best Taco Place**

La Terraza Express Taqueria  
Puerto Vallarta  
Taqueria Don Pedro  
Maria's Tacos  
Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant

**Best Truck Stop Restaurant**

Popeyes  
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**Best Wine List**

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Village Wine & Spirits  
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Vahling Vineyards

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# How consumers can spread the word about local businesses

Thriving small businesses are vital to strong local economies. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses contribute roughly 65 percent of all new jobs, while a report from the Congressional Research Service indicated that firms with between 20 and 499 employees had the best job creation record of any size company. That's a significant feather in the cap of small businesses, as the jobs such firms create help to build thriving local economies that benefit from the tax revenue generated through employment and its ripple effects, such as the greater buying power that being employed creates.

With so much to gain from a thriving small business sector, local residents can help to spread the word about small businesses in their communi-

ties. A handful of simple and effective strategies can help to promote local businesses, and each can potentially benefit consumers and communities.

- Take to social media. Though it certainly has its detractors, social media remains wildly popular. An April 2023 report from Global WebIndex indicated 60 percent of the world's population uses social media, and the daily average usage is two hours and 24 minutes. Data from Meta indicates that 83 percent of Instagram users discover new brands while using the platform. Such reports illustrate how effective positive reviews and references to small local businesses can be. Consumers won't need much time to share a story about a great local business on their social media accounts, but that small investment of time can

pay big dividends for those companies.

- Share experiences through word-of-mouth. Word-of-mouth marketing still works, and consumers can play an important role in ensuring that it benefits local businesses. According to the marketing solution experts at HibŸ, word-of-mouth marketing remains the most popular way to recommend a business. Consumers trust what others say about a business, so positive experiences with a local firm can be shared with family, friends and neighbors looking for similar services.

- Review the business online. Review Trackers reports that more than 81 percent of consumers are likely to visit Google Reviews prior to visiting a business. That's a testament to the value of online review aggregators. After a positive experi-

ence with a local business, consumers can visit Google Reviews or another online review aggregator like Yelp and share the details of their encounter. Chances are

strong the review will be read and compel others to patronize the business.

A successful small business sector can have a profound impact on local communi-

ties. Consumers have an important role to play in the creation of a thriving small business community.



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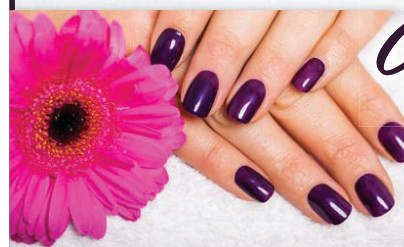
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Schackmann Hearing  
Rachel Frichtl – Beltone  
Shawn Wilcox – Audibel  
Hearing Center

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(Sarah Bush Lincoln)  
Brenda Shields (Effingham  
Prompt Care/Dr. Navi Arora)  
Brittney Roling  
(SHS Medical Group)  
Jennifer Smalls  
(SBL Surgery Center)  
Candi Estes (Family  
Care Associates)

**Best Nursing Home**

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& Health Care  
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Heartland Senior Living, LLC  
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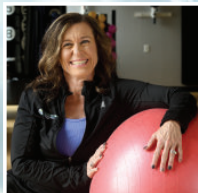
Dr. Joseph Spraul – Effingham  
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Surgery  
Dr. Ryan Pine – Advanced  
Ophthalmology

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Optiks  
Dr. Tony Weber – Weber  
Optiks  
Dr. Brian Sehy – Drs. Sehy &  
Jones Optometrists  
Dr. Matthew Jones – Drs. Sehy  
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Amanda Fisher – Walmart Pharmacy  
Abby Lueken – Kirby Foods Health Mart Pharmacy  
Peyton Koester – Walgreens Pharmacy  
Emil Kaldas – Walmart Pharmacy

**Best Pharmacist**  
Chip Andes – Andes Health Mart Pharmacy  
Duane Kremer – Kremer Pharmacy

Rachel Daugherty – Walgreens Pharmacy  
Andrea Hille – Brown's Drug Store  
Michael Andes – Andes Health Mart Pharmacy

**Best Pharmacy**  
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# 5 advantages local business have over the competition

Small businesses on Main Street and big box chains have been competing for consumers' attention for decades. Historians say that big box stores were born in the early 1960s when Wal-Mart, Target and Kmart entered the retail landscape. It's been more than 60 years since these chains arrived and they certainly have garnered their share of devotees. Big box businesses have size, inventory and often price on their side. However, when consumers look beyond those factors, it's easy to see all of the benefits small businesses offer that behemoths cannot.

1. Passionate owners and operators

Walk into a big box store or other business and you may find a handful of dedicated employees, but not quite at the level of small businesses. Small business owners prioritize the customer experi-

ence because they know they need to work hard to retain customers. This translates into knowing the products well, and sharing as much knowledge as possible with customers. Big box businesses vulnerable to heavy staff turnover often do not have a vested interest in the brand.

2. Work the local niche

What makes big box retailers so familiar to shoppers is one can stop in a store in the middle of Nebraska and likely find the same items as a store in Hawaii, with only a few subtle differences between the locations. Big box companies work with the same suppliers and ship the same products all over the world. Customers seeking personalized items and services for their particular regions are better off utilizing local small businesses that can bring in regional vendors more readily.

3. Better shopping experience

Big box stores draw customers during peak times when they're home from school or off from work. That often translates to long lines both at checkout and at customer service or return counters. By contrast, there may be no apparent rhyme or reason to when shoppers visit small businesses, meaning there likely will not be crowds. It's much more pleasant to browse wares without having to contend with shopping cart traffic and people blocking aisles.

4. Advanced technology

Big box companies have invested millions of dollars into their point-of-service systems and other technologies, which means it can be a very slow transition to new options as times change. Small businesses generally can shift to newer, better technology

more readily because they do not have to do so on the same scale as their larger competitors.

5. General agility

Changing technology on a dime is not the only ways small businesses excel. They can experiment in other ways, such as a home contractor offering a special price deal for a certain period of time, or a clothing store experimenting with new in-store decor. Big chains cannot pivot that quickly, and any changes must be approved by corporate and implemented across all centers.

Although small businesses may have a tough time beating big box retailers on overall price, there are many other advantages such enterprises have over the competition.



## Support Your Local Restaurants/ Bars and Grills

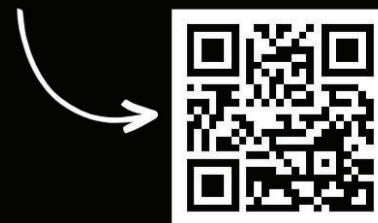
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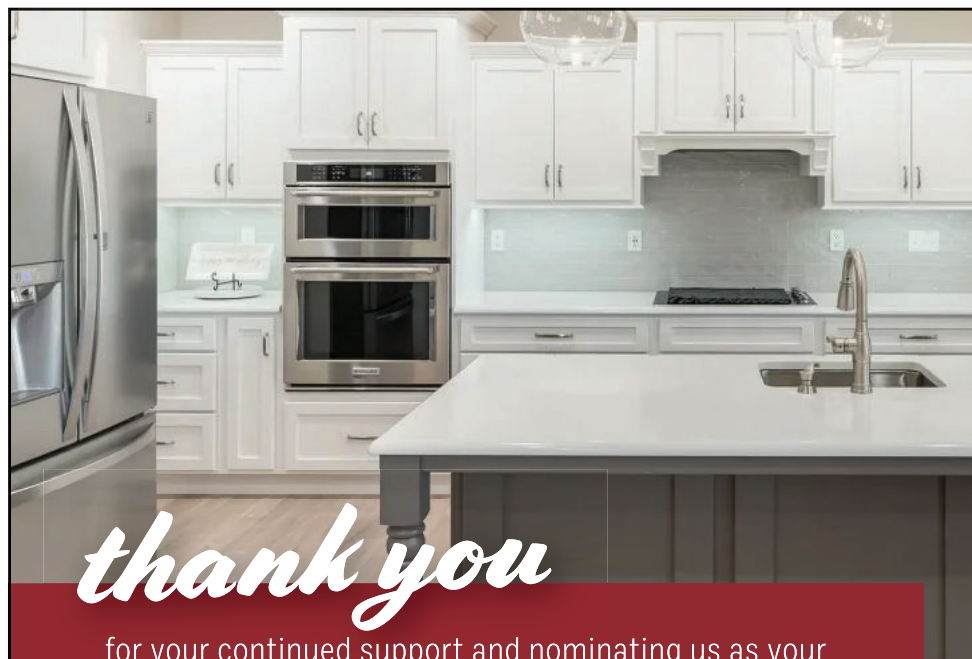
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 No 7 Interiors

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Ruholl  
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Washing

**Best Real Estate Agency**

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Re/Max Key Advantage  
Benchmark Realty  
Full Circle Realty  
Shelby County Realty

**Best Real Estate Agent**

Alex Steppe – Re/Max  
Key Advantage  
Mandy Vergara – Whitten  
Real Estate Agency  
Keith Hartman – Re/Max  
Key Advantage  
Deb Sanders – Benchmark  
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Sarah Mietzner – Full Circle  
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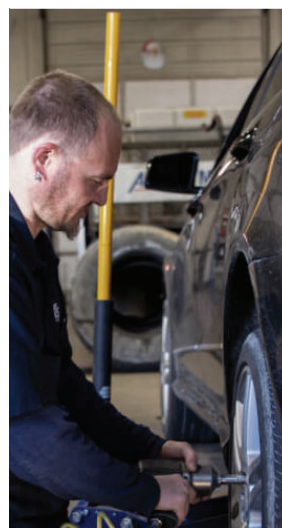


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Jessie McLaughlin – Tolliver &  
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Duke Erickson - Tolliver & Co.  
Barbers

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Hair Xperts  
Renegade Barber & Co.  
The Royal School of Barbers

**PERSONAL SERVICES****Best Barber**

Tyson Tolliver – Tolliver & Co.  
Barbers  
Kandice Houser – Renegade  
Barber & Co.  
Marcus Robinson – The Royal  
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David Newberry – Renegade  
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Sage Studio  
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 and Wellness Complex  
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 Planet Fitness  
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 HSHS Medical Group  
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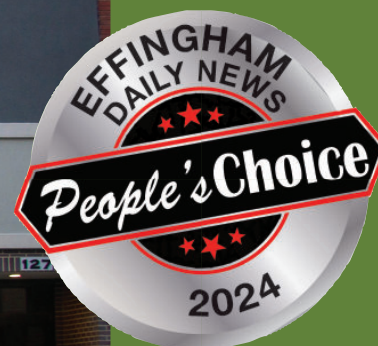
@signaturewedevents

## Thanks for Nominating Us Top 5!

- ☒ **Best Attorney Chad Chojnicki**
☒ **Best Attorney Dave McDevitt**
☒ **Best Attorney Kirsten Osteen**  
☒ **Best Front Desk Receptionist - Tammy Monroe - Conley**

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 for Your  
 Votes!

McDEVITT OSTEEN CHOJNICKI & DETERS, LLC  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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David  
 McDevitt



Kirsten  
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Chad  
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Ed  
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Dale  
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Bill  
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INSURANCE

**NCUA**



Tracey Tonn – Re/Max Key Advantage  
 Sam Richardson – Al's Tire Mart  
 Susan Leasher - East Side Veterinary Clinic  
 Michelle Schaefer - New Health Chiropractic  
 Hannah Mette – Montessori Kids Universe

### Best Funeral Home

Johnson Funeral Home  
 Pagel Funeral Homes  
 Bauer Funeral Home  
 Giesecking Funeral Home  
 Meyer Funeral Home

### Best Hair Stylist

Lindsey Snell (Hair Xperts)  
 Allie Woods (Serenity Salon)  
 Brittany Tucker (Stylez)  
 Rebekah Robertson

(Sage Studio)  
 Grace Lybarger (Plot Twist Salon & Spa)

### Best Massage Therapist (incl. name of business)

Amanda Haynes (Effingham Massage Clinic)  
 Megan Nickles (New Health Chiropractic Massage)  
 Ashley Swingler (Ashley Swingler's Massage)  
 Rob Yardley (Branches Massage & Spa)  
 Johnnie Adams (Shanti Massage and Bodywork)

### Best Nail Salon

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 Serenity Salon  
 Mainly You Salon & Spa  
 T - A Nails & Spa  
 O K Nails



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 Laynae Arnold (Parlour  
 on 3rd)  
 Aleah Hamilton (Hair Xperts)

**Best Photo Studio  
/ Photographer**

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 Sara Moran Photography  
 Tisha Greuel - Priceless  
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 Mandi Bushur - Mandi B  
 Photography  
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Tucker Accounting

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Osteen Chojnicki & Deters  
Law  
Tracy Willenborg - Taylor  
Law Office  
Dave McDevitt – McDevitt  
Osteen Chojnicki & Deters  
Law  
William Love  
Kirsten Osteen – McDevitt  
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Law

### Best Bank Teller

Deb Repking – Washington  
Savings Bank  
Bali Hockman Thies –  
Crossroads Bank  
April Florida – FNB Waterloo  
Lisa Warfel – Crossroads Bank  
Alice Neal – Crossroads Bank  
Teresa Kreke – Dieterich Bank  
Erika Walk - FNB Waterloo

### Best Banking Institution

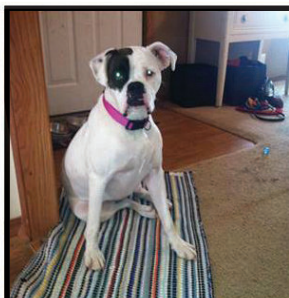
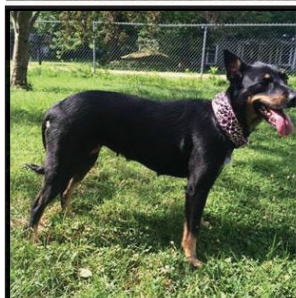
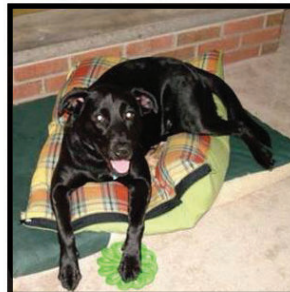
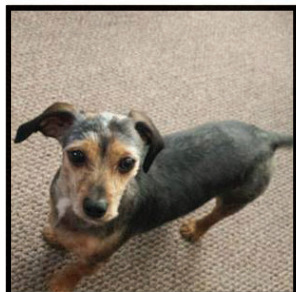
Crossroads Bank  
Dieterich Bank  
FNB Waterloo  
Midland States Bank  
Teutopolis State Bank  
Washington Savings Bank

### Best Credit Union

Effingham Highway  
Credit Union  
Land of Lincoln Credit Union



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### Best Banking Institution

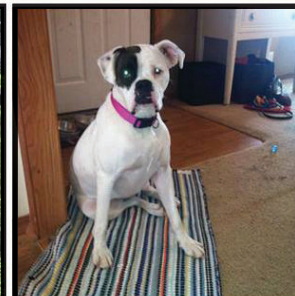
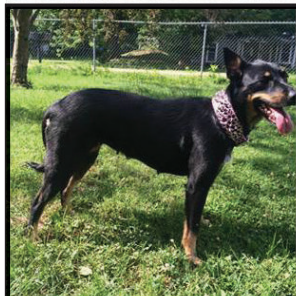
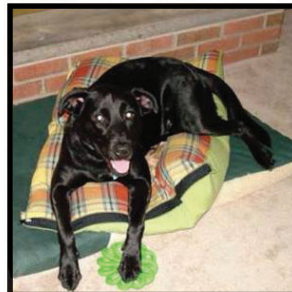
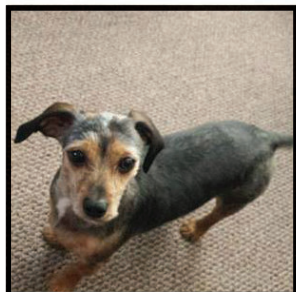
Crossroads Bank  
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Washington Savings Bank

### Best Credit Union

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**Best Insurance Agent**

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 Meinhardt)  
 Nick Kinkelaar (Mid-State  
 Farm Insurance)  
 Stephanie Uebinger (State Farm)  
 Jeff Muhlbachler (Muhlbachler  
 Insurance)  
 Tom Henderson (State Farm  
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Jenny Kinkelaar – Brucke  
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Lynn Deters – Edward Jones

Julie Pike – World Financial

Christo Schultz – Midland  
 Bank

Chad Sutton – Endurance  
 Capital

Mark Niebrugge – Smith  
 Moore

Alec Ring – Ring Financial

Adam Steppe – Smith Moore

**Best Mortgage Co.**

FNB Waterloo

Washington Savings Bank

Dieterich Bank

Crossroads Bank

Chuck Poulin – Cross Country

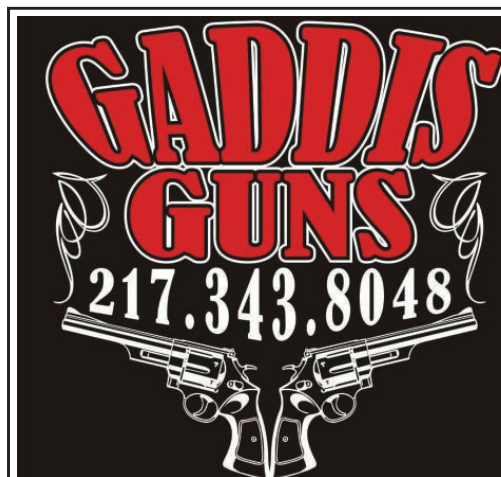
Mortgage

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Goeckner Bros  
AutoZone

**Best Auto Repair Place**

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota  
Rock's Advanced Auto Care  
Roy Schmidt Honda  
Al's Tire Mart & Electronics  
Goeckner Bros  
Porterformance Auto Care

**Best Boat Dealer**

Lake Sara Marina

**Best Car Rental**

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota  
Goeckner Bros  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
Budget Car Rental  
The Car Company

**Best Car Wash**

Southtown Car Wash  
Everclean Car Wash  
Goeckner Bros  
Rainstorm Effingham  
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Best Banking Institution & Best Mortgage Company  
Best Bank Teller - Alice Neal, Lisa Warfel & Bali Hockman Thies  
Best Financial Advisor & Investment Rep. - Kory Doty



# Thank you for Nominating Us!

**Remax- Best Real Estate Agency****Alex Steppe and Keith Hartman- Best Real Estate Agent****Tracey Tonn- Best Front Desk Receptionist**

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Elliott Goeckner (Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota)  
 Doug Koester (Goeckner Bros)  
 Tim Rahn (Petro)  
 Rock Hartke (Rock's Advanced Auto Care)  
 Dewayne Day – Foreman's Towing  
 Justin Brummer (Rock's Advanced Auto Care)

**Best Motorcycle Dealer**

Legacy Harley-Davidson  
 CW Motorsports  
 Owen Motor Sports  
 ATVs & More  
 Car Corral Polaris

**Best Motorcycle /  
ATV Repair**

Legacy Harley-Davidson  
 CW Motorsports  
 Owen Motor Sports  
 W Bros Powersports  
 77 Cycles

**Best New Car Dealer**

Roy Schmidt Honda  
 Russ Braunecker Auto Group  
 Goeckner Bros  
 Northside Ford  
 Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota



**Thank you for the nomination of  
Best Auto Glass business.**



From rock chip repair to full windshield replacement & recalibration, we are Effingham's  
Premiere Auto Glass Shop.

Come see us at our new shop at 817 N. 3rd in Effingham  
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Mobile service available too.

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY FAIR**

**July 27-  
August 3  
2024**

**Thank  
You for  
Nominating  
us for Best  
Event in  
Effingham  
County!**

**THANK YOU!!**

**MANY THANKS FOR THE NOMINATIONS IN THESE CATEGORIES:**

BAKED GOODS & PIES • BAKERY • BARBECUE • BUFFET • CATERING • CHICKEN  
 CUSTOMER SERVICE GROCERY STORE • DELI • DONUTS (KIRBY FOODS)  
 DONUTS (MIDTOWN FUELS) • JAPANESE FOOD • SALADS/SALAD BAR  
 PHARMACY TECHNICIANS JAMIE WESTJOHN HEUERMAN AND ABBY LUEKEN • PHARMACY  
 BUTCHER SHOP • CONVENIENCE STORE (MIDTOWN FUELS) • FLORIST • GROCERY STORE  
 MEAT DEPARTMENT • PRODUCE/PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

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 Downtown Effingham





**Best New Car Salesperson**

Blain Poland (Russ Braunecker Auto Group)  
 Cody Frailey (Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota)  
 Doug Mette (Roy Schmidt Honda)  
 Jason Payne (Roy Schmidt Honda)  
 Mary Burrell (Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota)

**Best Oil Change Place**

Al's Tire Mart & Electronics  
 Goeckner Bros  
 Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota  
 Northside Ford  
 Roy Schmidt Honda  
 Porterformance Auto Care  
 Russ Braunecker Service Express  
 Beck's Auto Body & Repair

**Best Radiator Repair**

TRS Radiator & Air Conditioning  
 Teutopolis Auto Repair  
 Webster Tire & Auto  
 Rock's Advanced Auto Care  
 Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota  
 Beck's Auto Body & Repair

**Best RV Sales & Service**

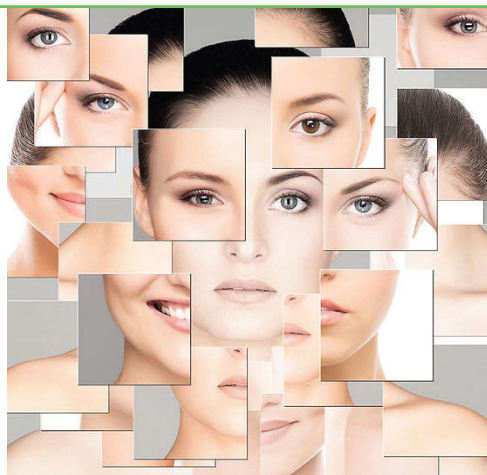
Legacy Recreational Vehicles  
 Mid-State Camper Sales  
 S & S RV Sales & Service  
 Kuhl's Trailer Sales  
 J & K Mitchell RV and Camper Sales

# THANK YOU!

**For Your Nominations & Support!**  
**Your Votes Matter!**

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**Best Tire Dealer**

Webster Tire and Auto  
Al's Tire Mart & Electronics  
Effingham Tire and Auto  
Wabash Tire & Auto Repair/  
Salem Tire  
Tim's Quality Tire  
Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota

**Best Transmission Repair**

DHB Transmission  
Rock's Advanced Auto Care  
Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota  
Goeckner Bros  
Teutopolis Auto Repair  
Roy Schmidt Honda

**Best Trucking Co.**

Poverty Trucking  
Nelson Trucking  
Eric Probst Trucking  
3 Sisters Logistics  
Hetzel's Overland Transport Inc  
Andrew Heuerman Trucking

**Best Used Car Dealer**

Northside Ford  
Jansen's Auto Sales  
Roy Schmidt Honda  
Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota  
Goeckner Bros

**Best Used Car Salesperson**

Kary Jansen (Jansen Auto Sales)  
Cody Frailey (Dan Hecht  
Chevrolet Toyota)  
Mary Burrell (Dan Hecht  
Chevrolet Toyota)  
Clint Antrim (Roy  
Schmidt Honda)  
Thorin Goeckner (Goeckner  
Bros)  
Jason Payne (Roy  
Schmidt Honda)  
Blaine Poland (Russ  
Braunecker Auto Group)  
Brandt Mayhood (Northside  
Ford)

**Best Wrecker Service**

Tri Power Towing & Recovery  
Heartland Towing & Recovery  
Foreman's Towing & Repair  
Interstate 70 Towing & Recovery  
808 Enterprises LLC

**RETAIL STORES****Best Antique Dealer**

Wolf Creek Antique Mall  
It's Almost Home  
Country Peddler's Antique  
& Craft Mall  
Banker Street Antiques  
The Black Goat  
Silk Purse

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Matthew  
Jones**

**Doctor  
Brian Sehy**

**Doctor  
Craig  
Woods**



**DRS. SEHY & JONES OPTOMETRISTS**  
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## RETAIL STORES

**Best Appliance Dealer**

Weber Bros  
 Probst Refrigeration & Heating  
 Menards  
 Roger's Home Appliances  
 Card's Appliance Sales  
 & Service

**Best Archery Shop**

Smith Archery, LLC  
 Buckstop Archery

**Best Athletic Goods Store**

Boots & Soles  
 Hibbett Sports

**Best Bridal Store**

Vayda Jane Bridal  
 Wild Rose Formals  
 A Queen's Dream  
 Beanstalk Boutique  
 Ooo La La Brides & Prom  
 Queens

**Best Butcher Shop**

Nuxoll Food Center  
 J & J Processing  
 Kirby Foods  
 Howe's Custom Deer  
 Processing  
 McMahon Meats

**Best Carpet Dealer**

Habing Furniture & Flooring  
 Wright's Furniture & Flooring

Menards  
 Holland House Flooring

**Best CBD Dispensary**

RISE Effingham  
 Lucky Luciano's Smoke Shop

**Best Cellular Phone Dealer**

Al's Tire Mart and Electronics  
 - Verizon  
 AT&T  
 Russell Cellular-Verizon  
 Cricket Wireless  
 T-Mobile

**Best Children's Clothing Store**

Humbled Soul Boutique  
 Sugar N Spice &  
 Everything Nice  
 Beanstalk Boutique  
 Kohl's  
 Ten Brooke LeAnne

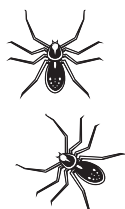
**Best Christian Book Store**

Lifeline Christian Books  
 & Gifts  
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Jansen Computer Sales  
& Repair  
Magoo & Associates, LLC  
Dieterich Computer Solutions  
KTD Computers  
SDS Technology

**Best Convenience Store**

QuikTrip  
Wessel's  
Effingham Fast Stop  
Midtown Fuels (Kirby Foods)  
Mach 1

**Best Electronics Dealer**

Als Tire Mart & Electronics  
GameStop  
Effingham Computer Sales  
and Service  
Walmart

**Best Farm Feed Store**

Rural King  
The Equity  
South Central FS Farm Store  
Mile End Ag Service  
Tractor Supply

**Best Farm Supply Store**

Rural King  
The Equity  
South Central FS  
Mile End Ag Service  
Tractor Supply

**Best Florist**

Burkland's Florist & Gifts  
Flowers by Kirby Foods  
Blossom Paradise  
Heartland Landscaping Inc  
Ginger's Gardens & Gifts

**Best Flooring Store**

RDM Designs Custom  
Cabinetry & Flooring  
Holland House Flooring  
Wright's Furniture & Flooring  
Habing Furniture & Flooring  
Bob's Discount Home  
Improvement  
Menards

**Best Furniture Store (New)**

Habing Furniture & Flooring  
Wright's Furniture and Flooring  
W.S. Broom & Co Furniture  
Bob's Discount Home  
Improvement  
Niebrugge Furniture



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## RETAIL STORES

**Best Furniture Store (used)**

It's Almost Home  
Silk Purse  
Goodwill  
Secondhand Dan's - Newton

**Best Game Place**

BA Sounds & Systems  
GameStop  
Gopher's Grill  
Bella's Gaming & Bar  
Big Papa's Cocktails &  
Gaming Lounge

**Best Garden Center**

Alwerdt's Gardens  
Rural King  
Heartland Gardens  
Menards  
The Equity

**Best Gift Shop**

Burkland's Florist & Gifts  
Hazel Jayne Crystals and  
Gift Shop  
My Favorite Things  
Brown's Drug Store  
The Beanstalk Boutique

**Best Greeting Card Store**

Walgreens  
Brown's Drug Store  
Lifeline Books & Gifts  
Burkland's Florist & Gifts  
Dollar Tree

**Best Grocery Store**

Kirby Foods  
Save A Lot  
Nuxoll Food Center  
Aldi  
Beecher City Foodliner

**Best Gun Shop**

Accuracy Firearms  
Gaddis Guns  
County Line Shooting Center  
Locked and Loaded  
Rural King

**Best Hardware Store**

Weber Bros  
The Equity  
Menards  
Effingham Builder's Supply  
Rural King

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- ✓ **Best Hardware Store**



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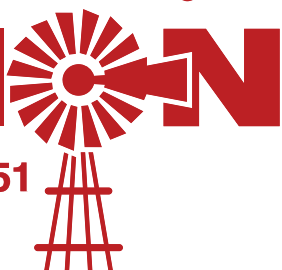
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## RETAIL STORES

**Best Hunting or Fishing  
Supplies Shop**

Walmart  
Rural King  
Accuracy Firearms  
Smith Archery  
Buck Stop Archery

**Best Jewelry Store**

Weber's Jewelry  
Reiniger Jewelers  
Kay Jewelers  
Anderson's Jewelry  
Ten Brooke LeAnne

**Best Lawn / Garden Store**

Rural King  
Menards  
Bahrns Equipment  
Heartland Landscaping  
The Equity  
Burrow Lawn Care

**Best Liquor Store**

A1 Liquors  
Top Shelf Beer, Wine & Spirits  
D-J's Party Supply  
Lions Liquor  
Village Wine & Spirits

**Best Meat Department**

Nuxoll Food Center  
Kirby Foods  
J & J Meat Processing  
Beecher City Foodliner  
McMahon Meats  
Altamont Foods

**Best Men's Clothing  
Store**

Weber's Clothing  
Kohl's  
Walmart  
Rural King  
Jasper Clothiers

**Best Music Store**

America's Groove Record Store  
Chesnut Music

**Best Paint Dealer**

Sherwin Williams  
Menards  
Dust & Son

**Best Party Supply Store**

Party Worx  
Dollar Tree  
Hobby Lobby

**Best Produce / Produce Dept**

Kirby Foods  
Aldi  
Altamont Foods  
Nuxoll Food Center  
Save A Lot

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***Best Coffee Shop******Best Bakery******Best Business Lunch*****Effingham IL****[joesippers.com](http://joesippers.com)****217-347-2233**



**Best Resale Shop**

Nearly New Fashions  
Silk Purse  
Catholic Charities / Second  
Hand Rose Resale  
It's Almost Home  
Kathy's Resale Shop  
Country Closet

**Best Shoe Store**

Ten Brooke LeAnne  
The Thomas Shop  
Kohl's  
Humbled Soul Boutique  
Boots & Soles  
Famous Footwear  
Silk Purse

**Best Tea Shop**

Ginger Ale's  
Panera  
Fox Holler Coffee  
Joe Sippers Café  
The Human Bean

**Best Vape / Tobacco Shop**

Discount Tobacco  
Lucky Luciano's Smoke Shop  
Fogwind Vapor Company  
Top Shelf Beer, Wine & Spirits  
The Stash Box

**Best Women's Boutique  
/ Specialty Store**

The Red Thread Boutique  
Daisies & Denim Boutique  
Ten Brooke LeAnne  
Humbled Soul Boutique  
The Thomas Shop

**Best Women's  
Clothing Store**

Ten Brooke LeAnne  
Humbled Soul Boutique  
The Red Thread Boutique  
Glik's  
The Thomas Shop

**HOME & BUSINESS  
SERVICES****Best Auctioneer**

Trent Schmid – Schmid  
Auction Service  
Ethan Kremer – Schmid  
Auction Service  
Justin Krile – Krile Auction  
Service  
Mark Schackmann -  
Schackmann Auction Service  
Marty Smith – Smitty's  
Auction Service  
Langham Auctioneers

**Best Commercial Design**

Elizabeth Yager Designs  
& Cabinetry (formerly  
Kuche Cabinetry)  
Akra Builders  
Grunloh Construction  
FCI Contracting Inc  
Utz & Associates

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## HOME &amp; BUSINESS SERVICES

**Best Concrete Company**

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Esker & Walker  
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J B Esker & Sons, Inc

**Best Counter Tops**

Pyramid Marble & Granite  
Mette's Cabinet Corner  
Lustig Custom Cabinets  
Menards  
Bob's Discount Home  
Improvement

**Best Electrician**

Pals Electric  
K-C Electric  
Burford Electric  
Integrity Electric &  
Plumbing/Kevin Stang  
Goeckner Electric

**Best Farm  
Equipment Dealer**

Bahrns Equipment  
Sigel Equipment  
Dittamore Implement  
Sloan Implement  
Buening Implement  
Bobcat of Effingham  
The Equity

**Best Heating / Cooling  
Sales & Service**

Jansen's Heating and Air  
Merz Heating & Air  
Conditioning  
Probst Refrigeration  
& Heating  
KCH Mechanical  
Effingham Heating and Air  
Steffen Heating & Air

**Best Landscaping Service**

Heartland Landscaping  
Kiefer Landscaping  
Wolke Nursery Landscaping  
Estrada's Lawn Care Service  
Illinois Central Curbing  
Allen Lawn & Land Management

**Best Lawn Care Service**

Kiefer Landscaping  
Raddatz Lawn Care  
Heartland Landscaping  
Lakeside Service – Jason Vahling  
Mike Harper – Lawnkeepers  
Quality Lawn Care

**Best Locksmith**

Barlow Lock and Security

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Security Alarm  
FieldWorx

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Innovative Staff Solutions  
StaffQuick

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Ordner's Tree Service  
Kreke's Tree Service  
Buff's Tree Service  
JT's Tree Service  
Strasburg Tree Service  
L & M Tree Service  
Odds & Ends Tree  
& Bucket Service

**Best Waste  
Disposal Service**

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Rubbish Gobbler  
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Expires 12/31/24

Puerto Vallarta  
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**217-342-3177 • 3005 S. Banker St., Effingham**



**Thank You For Your Nominations!**



**Thank you for nominating Chris A.  
Koester and Tracy A. Willenborg for  
2024 People's Choice for Best Attorney**

**TAYLOR**  
LAW OFFICES PC



**Best Art Studio**

Stang Arts

**Best Cleaning Service**

Paige Ord - Refresh

Taylor Veach - Fresh Start

Cleaning

Effin' Clean Bins

S &amp; M Cleaning Crew

A Notch Above the Rest

Hakman's Cleaning Service

Cramer Cleaning Service

**Best Dance Instructor**

Rachel Anderson (LARA of Dance)

Avery Braunecker (LARA of Dance)

Bryonna Meskimen (Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &amp; Dance Center)

Lynn Vogel Buenker (LARA of Dance)

Ashli Davidson (Exclusively Dance)

**Best Dance Studio**

LARA of Dance

Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &amp; Dance Center

The DanceLife Center

Exclusively Dance

**Best Entertainment Venue**

Keller Convention Center

Tuscan Hills Winery

Effingham Axe Throwing

Effingham Performance Center

Effingham Event Center

Village Wine &amp; Spirits

Village Square Mall Cinemas

**Best Event in Effingham County**

Teutopolis Cruise Night

Effingham County Fair

Downtown Effingham

Cruise Night

Artisan Fair

Hometown Christmas

HSBS St Anthony Memorial

Hospital Women's Health

Showcase "Girls Night Out"

**Best Hotel / Motel**

Holiday Inn

Hampton Inn &amp; Suites

Comfort Suites

Cobblestone Inn &amp; Suites

LaQuinta by Wyndham

Quality Inn

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Consolidated Communications

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Wabash Communications

KNR Wireless

Mediacom

A T &amp; T

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Party Worx

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Emma Kessler (Exercise with Emma)

Holly Sigrist (Workman Sports Complex)

Hillary Meyers (The Zone 24-Hour Fitness Center)

Tara Higgs (Higgs Lifestyle)

**Best Pet Grooming / Services**

Flying Fur

Pawsleys Dog Grooming

Dogs By Design

Heidanes Hidden Timbers

Pet Wellness Center of

Southern Illinois

Fetching Mobile Pet Grooming

**Best Pet Store**

Noah's Ark Pet Shoppe

Pawsleys Dog Grooming

Special Pet Foods

Rural King

Menards

**Best Taxidermist**

Brad Wendte (Wendte

Taxidermy)

Tony's Taxidermy

Brad Hoene

Clint Reardon

JDitty Taxidermy

**Best Tumbling Instructor**

Jamie Werner Pearson - U Tumble 2

Cayla Myers - Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &amp; Dance Center

Bryonna Meskimen - Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &amp; Dance Center

RyLee Dittamore - Jansen's Preschool &amp; Power Tumbling

Emma Bloemer - Effingham Academy of Gymnastics

Kaylie Koeberlein - Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &amp; Dance Center

Debbie Hardiek - Jansen's Preschool &amp; Power Tumbling

**Best Tumbling Studio/Gym**

U Tumble 2

Neeley's Tumble &amp; Fitness

Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &amp; Dance Center

Jansen's Preschool &amp; Power Tumbling

Effingham Academy of Gymnastics

**Best Veterinarian**

Dr. Chad Ely - Effingham

Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Tanner Kirby - Effingham

Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Nanci Wood-Huels -

Pet Wellness Center of

Southern Illinois

Dr. Brittany Ishmael - Advanced

Veterinary Care LLC

Dr. Jeannie Heischmidt -

St. Elmo Pet Clinic

Dr. Amy Flynn - East Side

Veterinary Clinic

**Best Veterinary Clinic**

Effingham Veterinary Clinic

East Side Veterinary Clinic

(former Walton &amp; Haarmann Veterinary Clinic)

Pet Wellness Center of

Southern Illinois

Advanced Veterinary Care LLC

St. Elmo Pet Clinic

**Best Wedding Venue**

Teutopolis Banquet Hall

Effingham Event Center

Tuscan Hills Winery

Thelma Keller Convention Center

Firefly Grill

Carriage House Event Center





# JT's TREE & CRANE



**Voted #1 People's Choice  
Favorite Tree Service by EDN  
Readers 8 Years Total!  
2016, 2017, 2018, 2019,  
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
Over 35 Years Combined Service**



**Mitch & Matt Pierce, Owners**

**JT's Tree and Crane has elevated its  
operations with the acquisition of a Sennabogen!**

**We Cut & Trim Trees & Remove The Mess Left Behind!  
FREE ESTIMATES**

## **OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- **Tree Clearing • Tree Pruning • Tree Shaping • Tree Trimming**
- **24 Hr Emergency Service • Complete Professional Clean-Up**
- **Experienced Climber • Storm Damage and Insurance Work**
- **Stump Grinding**



***Licensed & Insured***

**[www.jtstreeandcrane.com](http://www.jtstreeandcrane.com)**

**217-372-1225**