

Congratulations
TO THE



WINNERS
AND
RUNNERS-UP



Congratulations

TO THE 2025 WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

FOOD & BEVERAGE

**Best Asian Food
Winner:**

**Fujiyama Japanese
Steakhouse**

First Runner-Up: China Express

**Best Baked Goods & Pies
Winner:**

Niemerg's Steakhouse

First Runner-Up: The Cookie Jar

**Best Bakery
Winner:**

Kirby Foods

First Runner-Up: The Cookie Jar

**Best Barbecue
Winner:**

**Lickin' My Chicken
& Pullin' My Pork BBQ**

First Runner-Up:
Doug McCain's

**Best Bartender
Winner:**
Steve Fritcher
at Tuscan Hills Winery
First Runner-Up: Alex Hoefler at
The Wheat Penny

**Best Beer Establishment
Winner:**
Gabby Goat
First Runner-Up: Orchard Inn

**Best Breakfast Place
Winner:**
Kountry Kitchen
First Runner-Up:
Niemerg's Steakhouse

**Best Buffet
Winner:**
Pizza Man
First Runner-Up:
Niemerg's Steakhouse



BOOTS & SOLES

EDN People's Choice
2025

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- ✓ **Best Shoe Store**
- ✓ **Best Athletic Good Store**















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Questions or Comments
Phone: (217)347-5868
Email: Homes@Effingham-Homes.com
17962 N. US HWY 45, Effingham, IL 62401

Thank you for choosing and trusting us!





Best Business Lunch Place**Winner:*****Gabby Goat***

First Runner-Up: Pizza Man

Best Catering**Winner:*****Deb's Catering***First Runner-Up: Lickin' My Chicken
& Pullin' My Pork BBQ**Best Chicken****Winner:*****Lickin' My Chicken &
Pullin' My Pork BBQ***First Runner-Up: Niemerg's
Steakhouse**Best Chinese Food****Winner:*****China Express***

First Runner-Up: China Buffet

Best Coffee Shop**Winner:*****Fox Holler Coffee***

First Runner-Up: Joe Sippers Café

Best Customer Service**Grocery Store****Winner:*****Kirby Foods***First Runner-Up:
Nuxoll Food Center**Best Deli****Winner:*****Kirby Foods***First Runner-Up:
Nuxoll Food Center**Best Donuts****Winner:*****Kirby Foods***First Runner-Up: Daylight
Donuts**Best Fast Food****Winner:*****Cruiser's Drive Thru***

First Runner-Up: Andrew's Eats

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for Voting Us #1 Best Assisted Living Community!



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Thank You for voting

Dr. Joseph Spraul Best Ophthalmologist and Dr. John Kay Runner-Up.

We Appreciate Our Patients!



Dr. Joseph Spraul

Dr. John Kay

Effingham Ophthalmology

903 Medical Park Drive • Effingham, Illinois 62401
(O) 217.347.2933 • (F) 217.347.2932

Best Fine Dining

Winner:

Firefly Grill

First Runner-Up: Gabby Goat

Best Food Truck

Winner:

Lickin' My Chicken

& Pullin' My Pork BBQ

First Runner-Up: La Terraza
Express Taqueria

Best Hamburgers

Winner:

Andrew's Eats

First Runner-Up: Cruiser's Drive
Thru

Best Home Cooking

Winner:

Kountry Kitchen

First Runner-Up: Cracker Barrel

Best Hot Dog

Winner:

Curbed Cravings

(formerly The Wurst Wiener)

First Runner-Up: Gabby Goat

Best Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt

Winner:

Homewood Grill

First Runner-Up: Teutopolis Treats

Best Iced Tea

Winner:

Sweet Tea & Jesus

First Runner-Up: McAlister's Deli

Best Italian Food

Winner:

Joe's Pizza & Pasta

Effingham

First Runner-Up: Lucia's Italian
Kitchen

Best Japanese Food

Winner:

Fujiyama Japanese

Steakhouse

First Runner-Up: Baan Thai 2

Best Mexican Food

Winner:

Puerto Vallarta

First Runner-Up: El Rancherito

Best Milkshake

Winner:

Homewood Grill

First Runner-Up: Steak n Shake

Best Outdoor Dining

Winner:

Pinky's

First Runner-Up: Firefly Grill

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Effingham, IL 62401

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Sales Person - Caydin Vaughn

RUNNER-UP

- Best Personalized Gift Business
- Best Promotional Products
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2025 People's Choice Winner

Best Bank Teller—Deb Repking

2025 People's Choice First Runner-Up

**Best Banking Institution
Best Mortgage Company**



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**Best Pizza Carry Out Only
Winner:
Pizza Man**

First Runner-Up: Joe's Pizza & Pasta

**Best Salads / Salad Bar
Winner:
Pizza Man**

First Runner-Up: Niemerg's Steakhouse

**Best Seafood
Winner:
Fujiyama Japanese
Steakhouse**
First Runner-Up: Firefly Grill

**Best Steaks
Winner:
Firefly Grill**
First Runner-Up: Chaser's Grill & Bar

**Best Pizza Dine In
Winner:
Pizza Man**
First Runner-Up: Joe's Pizza & Pasta Effingham

**Best Sandwiches
Winner:
Gabby Goat**
First Runner-Up: Jersey Mike's

**Best Sports Bar
Winner:
Gabby Goat**
First Runner-Up: Gopher's Grill

**Best Taco Place
Winner:
Puerto Vallarta**
First Runner-Up: La Terraza Express Taqueria

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Alex Steppe Best Real Estate Agent!
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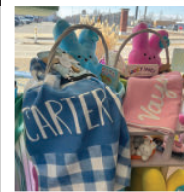
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Best Medical
Spa**

Madison Niebrugge



Voted #1

Massage Therapist



Crystal Spahr-Finley

Voted #1

Esthetician

Best Truck Stop Restaurant

Winner:

IHOP

First Runner-Up: Chaser's Grill & Bar

Best Wine List

Winner:

Tuscan Hills Winery

First Runner-Up: Village Wine & Spirits

Best Winery

Winner:

Tuscan Hills Winery

First Runner-Up: Barn & Bottle

HEALTHCARE

Best Alzheimer Community

Winner:

Willowbrook Memory Support Residences

First Runner-Up: StoneBridge Memory Care (formerly Lavender Ridge)

Best Assisted Living

Community

Winner:

Brookstone Estates

First Runner-Up: Villas of Holly Brook

Best Chiropractor

Winner:

Dr. Justin Pals

First Runner-Up: Dr. Jason Frichtl

Best Dental Office

Winner:

Dr. Ted Koester Family Dentistry

First Runner-Up: Effingham Dental Group

Best Dentist

Winner:

Dr. Ted Koester

First Runner-Up: Dr. Scott Moore

Best Doctor

Winner:

Dr. Ruben Boyajian – HSHS Medical Group

First Runner-Up: Dr. Eric Bloemer – Springfield Clinic Runde

Best Esthetician

Winner:

Crystal Sphar-Finley – The Skin Refinery

First Runner-Up: Madilynn Arend – Boho Chic Clinique

Best Eye Clinic

Winner:

Weber Optiks

First Runner-Up: Drs. Sehy & Jones Optometrists

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Best Podiatrist
Dr. John Killough, DPM



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Best Optometrist - Dr. Chris Weber
Runner Up - Best Optometrist -
Dr. Tony Weber

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Best Hearing Aid Clinic**Winner:*****Sarah Bush Lincoln ENT
Effingham Clinic***First Runner-Up: Schackmann
Hearing**Best Hearing Aid Specialist****Winner:*****Dr. Jaclyn Jansen – Sarah
Bush Lincoln Audiology***First Runner-Up: Kerri
Schackmann –
Schackmann Hearing**Best Home Health
Care Services****Winner:*****Sarah Bush Lincoln
Home Care***First Runner-Up: HSHS Illinois
Home Care**Best Hospital****Winner:*****Sarah Bush Lincoln
Health Center***First Runner-Up: HSHS St.
Anthony's Memorial Hospital**Best Lactation Consultant****Winner:*****Jacquelyn Ordner***

First Runner-Up: Nikki Davis

Best Medical Assistant**Winner:*****Brittney Royse – Sarah Bush
Lincoln***First Runner-Up: Summer Nohren –
Family Care Associates**Best Medical Clinic****Winner:*****Family Care Associates***

First Runner-Up: SBL Bonutti Clinic

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**Best Alzheimer's
Community**

Willowbrook has been providing exceptional memory care to the Effingham
and surrounding communities for over 13 years.

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Best Medical Spa

Winner:

Behold Aesthetics

First Runner-Up: The Skin Refinery

Best Nurse

Winner:

Candi Estes - Family Care Associates

First Runner-Up: Maria Strohl
– HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

Best Nurse Practitioner

Winner:

Kimberly Burgess, APRN – SBL Altamont Medical Center

First Runner-Up: Vickie Bushur,
APN – Springfield Clinic Effingham

Best Nursing Home

Winner:

Lutheran Care Center

First Runner-Up: Heartland Senior Living, LLC

Best Ophthalmologist

Winner:

Dr. Joseph Spraul – Effingham Ophthalmology Associates

First Runner-Up: Dr. John Kay – Effingham Ophthalmology Associates

Best Optometrist

Winner:

Dr. Chris Weber – Weber Optiks

First Runner-Up: Dr. Tony Weber – Weber Optiks

Best Orthodontist

Winner:

Dr. Chuck Schumacher

First Runner-Up: Dr. Michael Hage

Best Pharmacist

Winner:

Chip Andes – Andes Health Mart Pharmacy

First Runner-Up: Duane Kremer – Kremer Pharmacy

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Best Pharmacy**Winner:****Andes Health Mart
Pharmacy**First Runner-Up: Kremer
Pharmacy**Best Pharmacy Technician****Winner:****Kelci Butler – Andes Health
Mart Pharmacy**First Runner-Up: Kathie Helmuth
– HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial
Hospital**Best Podiatrist****Winner:****Dr. John Killough**

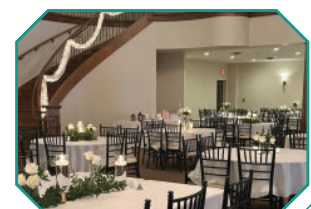
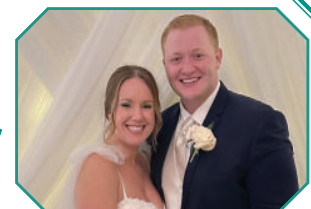
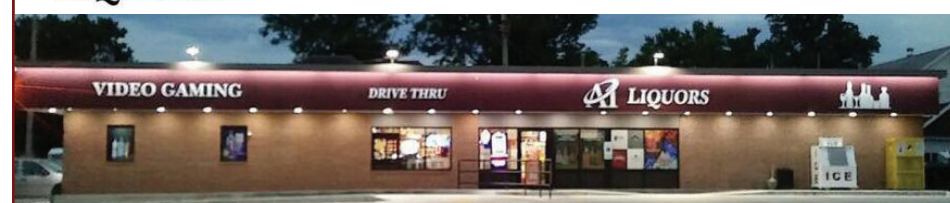
First Runner-Up: Dr. James Graham

Best Rehabilitation Services**Winner:****HSHS St. Anthony's
Physical Rehabilitation and
Wellness Center**First Runner-Up: Sarah Bush
Lincoln PT**Best Surgeon****Winner:****Dr. Ruben Boyajian – HSHS
Medical Group**First Runner-Up: Dr. Jason
McAllaster – Springfield Clinic
Effingham**AROUND THE HOME****Best Building Contractor /
Remodeler****Winner:****Bloemer Construction**First Runner-Up: Grunloh
Construction**Best Cabinet Shop****Winner:****Mette's Cabinet Corner**First Runner-Up: Whitney
Woodworking**Best Handyman Services****Winner:****Chance Kuhns –
Kuhns Construction**
First Runner-Up: KDT Property
Improvement**Best Home Builder****Winner:****Waldhoff Construction**
First Runner-Up: Bloemer
Construction**Best Home Improvement Store****Winner:****Menards**First Runner-Up: Effingham
Builder's Supply**Best Interior Decorators****Winner:****Wright At Home**First Runner-Ups: Elizabeth Yager
Designs & Cabinetry
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Effingham****PACKAGE - BAR - EVENTS - FOOD TRUCKS**

Best Interior Design

Winner:

Wright's Furniture / Wright At Home

First Runner-Up: Ivy & Birch

Best Lighting Store

Winner:

Mette's Distinctive Lighting

First Runner-Up: Menards

Best Mobile / Modular Home Dealer

Winner:

Effingham Homes

First Runner-Up: Clayton Homes

Best Pool & Spa Store

Winner:

W.E.T. Pools & Spas Inc.

First Runner-Up: Leisure Times

Best Power Washing Company

Winner:

Koester's Pro Wash

First Runner-Up: MR Power Washer
– Matt Ruholl

Best Real Estate Agency

Winner:

Re/Max Key Advantage

First Runner-Up: Benchmark Realty

Best Real Estate Agent

Winner:

Alex Steppe – Re/Max Key Advantage

First Runner-Up:
Mandy Vergara – Whitten Real Estate Agency

Best Roofing Service

Winner:

Central Roofing LLC

First Runner-Up: Whitney Roofing Inc

PERSONAL SERVICES

Best Apparel Decoration

Winner:

Tskols Cheesecake LLC

Best Barber

Winner:

Noah Mulheron - Renegade Barbers

First Runner-Up: Tyson Tolliver – Tolliver & Co. Barbers

Best Barber Shop

Winner:

Renegade Barber & Co

First Runner-Up: Tolliver & Co. Barbers

Best Beauty Salon

Winner:

The Emerald Room

First Runner-Up: Mainly You Salon & Spa

Best Bridal Services

Winner:

Vayda Jane Bridal

First Runner-Up: Wild Rose Bridal

Thank You for voting
Amy Eubanks
for Best Photo Studio/Photographer!



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**Best Cleaning Service
Winner:**

**Taylor Veach – Fresh
Start Cleaning**

First Runner-Up: A Notch Above

**Best Day Care
Winner:**

**Montessori Kids Universe
Effingham**

First Runner-Up: Little Hearts (for-
merly Little Lambs)

**Best Day Spa
Winner:**

The Skin Refinery
First Runner-Up: Behold
Aesthetics & Wellness Center

**Best Dry Cleaning
Winner:**

Wiedman Cleaners
First Runner-Up: Weber's Clothing

**Best Fitness Center
Winner:**

**Richard E. Workman Sports
and Wellness Complex**

First Runner-Up: The Zone 24-Hour
Fitness Center

**Best Front Desk Receptionist
Winner:**

**Lisa Bushue –
Schumacher Orthodontics**
First Runner-Up: Kelsey Hagen –
Whitney Roofing

**Best Funeral Home
Winner:**

Johnson Funeral Home
First Runner-Up: Bauer Funeral
Home

**Best Hair Stylist
Co-Winners:**

**Lauren McGregor –
Mainly You Salon & Spa
and Hayley Lankford –
The Emerald Room**
First Runner-Up: Allie Woods –
Serenity Salon



Thank You

Thanks for voting Wright at Home
and Wright's Furniture & Flooring
as People's Choice among Effingham
Daily News readers.



Wright's Furniture
& Flooring

**Best Carpet Dealer
Best Flooring Store**

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Best Interior Design**

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Best Massage Therapist

Winner:

**Madison Niebrugge –
The Skin Refinery**

First Runner-Up: Amanda Haynes –
Effingham Massage Clinic

Best Nail Salon

Winner:

T - A Nails & Spa

First Runner-Up: Angel Nails

Best Nail Technician

Winner:

Jason Luong (T - A Nails)

First Runner-Up: Kara Curtis –
Let Me Take Kara You

Best Personal Trainer

Winner:

**Jeremy Zumbahlen –
The Zone 24-Hour Fitness
Center**

First Runner-Up: Hillary
Meyers – The Zone 24-Hour
Fitness Center

Best Pet Grooming / Services

Winner:

Flying Fur

First Runner-Up: The Paw
Parlor

Best Photo Studio /

Photographer

Winner:

**Amy Eubanks Boudoir
Photography**

First Runner-Up: Alicia Schuette
Photography

Best Tanning Salon

Winner:

Tan Express Effingham

First Runner-Up: Planet Fitness

Best Taxidermist

Winner:

Brad Hoene

First Runner-Up: Tony's
Taxidermy

Best Travel Agency

Winner:

Effingham Travel Agency

First Runner-Up: Travel
Quarters

Best Veterinarian

Winner:

**Dr. Chad Ely – Effingham
Veterinary Clinic**

First Runner-Up: Dr. Jeannie
Heischmidt – St. Elmo Pet Clinic

Best Veterinary Clinic

Winner:

Effingham Veterinary Clinic

First Runner-Up: St. Elmo Pet Clinic

Best Weight Loss Center

Winner:

**Jeremy & Andrea Zumbahlen
– The Zone 24-Hour Fitness
Center**

First Runner-Up: Amanda Settle –
Nutrition Wise



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- TAKING ITEMS TO AUCTION SITE
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INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
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- LANDSCAPING
- MOWING
- COMPLETE PREPARATION FOR
HOUSE SHOWING FOR SALE

FIRST RUNNER-UP Best Cleaning Service

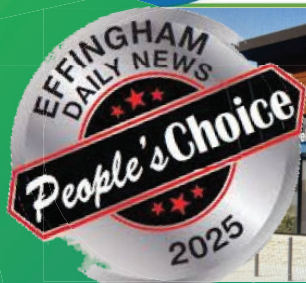


A NOTCH ABOVE

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INSURED



Winner Winner Winner

- Best Pharmacy
- Best Pharmacist (Chip Andes)
- Best Pharm Tech - Kelci Butler

◀◀◀ 805 West Fayette in Effingham ▶▶▶

**Thank you for voting us
People's Choice Best Travel Agency**

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FINANCIAL / LEGAL / INSURANCE

Best Accounting Firm Winner:

Tucker Accounting

First Runner-Up:
West & Company

Best Attorney Winner:

Dustin Probst –

Boehm & Probst Law, LLC

First Runner-Up: Tracy
Willenborg - Taylor Law Office

Best Bank Teller Winner:

Deb Repking –

Washington Savings Bank

First Runner-Up: Teresa Kreke –
Dieterich Bank

Best Banking Institution Winner:

Dieterich Bank

First Runner-Up: Washington
Savings Bank

Best Credit Union Winner:

Land of Lincoln Credit Union

First Runner-Up: Effingham
Highway Credit Union

Best Financial Advisor Winner:

Luke Doedtman –

Brucke Financial

First Runner-Up: Alec Ring –
Ring Financial

Best Insurance Agent Winner:

Kate Passalacqua –
Weis Insurance

First Runner-Ups: Stephanie
Uebinger – State Farm Insurance
and Jacob Donsbach – Donsbach
Meinhart Agency

Best Insurance Provider Winner:

Weis Insurance

First Runner-Up: Country
Financial Donsbach Meinhart
Agency

Best Investment Representative Winner:

Jenny Kinkelaar –

Brucke Financial

First Runner-Up: Alec Ring –
Ring Financial

Best Mortgage Co. Winner:

Dieterich Bank

First Runner-Up: Washington
Savings Bank

Best Title Co. Winner:

Allied Capital Title

First Runner-Up: Law Group LTD

TRANSPORTATION (PURCHASE/REPAIR/CARE)

Best ATV Dealer Winner:

CW Motorsports

First Runner-Up: Owen Motor
Sports

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Best Seafood
for 2025**



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Best Auto Body Shop**Winner:****J & R Collision**

First Runner-Up: Probst Auto Body

Best Boat Dealer**Winner:****Lake Sara Marina**

First Runner-Up: Tommy Miller Marine

Best Car Rental**Winner:****Enterprise Rent-A-Car**

First Runner-Up: Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota

Best Car Wash**Winner:****Southtown Car Wash**

First Runner-Up: Everclean Car Wash

Best Mechanic**Winner:****Rock Hartke - Rock's Advanced Auto Care**

First Runner-Up: Jordan Roepke - 170 Truck Center

Best Auto Dealer Service Dept.**Winner:****Roy Schmidt Honda**

First Runner-Up: Northside Ford

Best Auto Glass Repair**Winner:****Auto Glass Unlimited**

First Runner-Ups: Double K Auto Glass and Schmidty's Auto Glass

Best Auto Parts Dealer**Winner:****Dust & Son Auto Supplies**

First Runner-Up: O'Reilly Auto Parts

Best Auto Repair Place**Winner:****Rock's Advanced Auto Care**

First Runner-Up: Konrad Automotive Repair

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**Best Mobile Auto Detailing
Winner:**
Willenborg Reconditioning
First Runner-Up: Steve's Car Clean

**Best Motorcycle Dealer
Winner:**
Legacy Harley-Davidson
First Runner-Up: CW Motorsports

**Best New Car Salesperson
Winner:**
**Blaine Poland – Russ
Braunecker Auto Group**
First Runner-Up: Doug Mette – Roy
Schmidt Honda

**Braunecker Service Express
Best Radiator Repair
Winner:**
Rock's Advanced Auto Care
First Runner-Up: TRS Radiator &
Air Conditioning

**Best Motorcycle / ATV Repair
Winner:**
CW Motorsports
First Runner-Up: Owen Motor
Sports

**Best New Car Dealer
Winner:**
Northside Ford
First Runner-Up: Russ Braunecker
Auto Group

**Best Oil Change Place
Winner:**
Rock's Advanced Auto Care
First Runner-Up: Russ

**Best RV Sales & Service
Winner:**
Mid-State Camper Sales
First Runner-Up: S & S RV Sales &
Service



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Best Tire Dealer**Winner:**

Al's Tire Mart & Electronics
First Runner-Up: Effingham Tire
and Auto

Best Transmission Repair**Winner:**

Rock's Advanced Auto Care
First Runner-Up: DHB
Transmission

Best Trucking Company**Winner:**

3 Sisters Logistics LLC
First Runner-Up: Hetzels
Overland Transport Inc

Best Used Car Dealer**Winner:**

Northside Ford
First Runner-Up: Roy Schmidt
Honda

Best Used Car Salesperson**Winner:**

***Blaine Poland – Russ
Braunecker Auto Group***
First Runner-Up: Clint Antrim – Roy
Schmidt Honda

Best Wrecker Service**Winner:**

Tri Power Towing & Recovery
First Runner-Up: Heartland Towing
& Recovery

RETAIL STORES**Best Antique Dealer****Winner:**

It's Almost Home
First Runner-Up: Country
Peddler's Antique & Craft Mall

Best Appliance Dealer**Winner:**

Roger's Home Appliances
First Runner-Up: Probst
Refrigeration & Heating



Johnson Funeral Home
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Larry Ring
Jackson Holste

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Best Archery Shop

Co-Winners:
Buckstop Archery
and Addis Archery

Best Bridal Store

Winner:
Vayda Jane Bridal
First Runner-Up: Wild Rose Formals

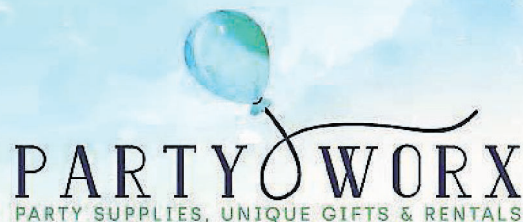
Best Athletic Goods Store

Winner:
Boots & Soles
First Runner-Up: Hibbett Sports

Best Butcher Shop

Winner:
McMahon Meats
First Runner-Up: Nuxoll Food Center

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LINES**



PERSONAL LINES

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Best Carpet Dealer

Winner:

Wright's Furniture & Flooring

First Runner-Up: CR Flooring

Best CBD Dispensary

Winner:

RISE Effingham

First Runner-Up: Lucky Luciano's

Smoke Shop

Best Cellular Phone Dealer

Winner:

Al's Tire Mart and Electronics

- Verizon

First Runner-Up: AT&T

Best Children's Clothing Store

Winner:

The Beanstalk Boutique

First Runner-Up: Kohl's

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- Bakery • Deli • Donuts • Convenience Store - Midtown Fuels
- Customer Service Grocery Store

And Many Thanks For 1st Runner Up in these 3 Categories:

- PRODUCE & PRODUCE DEPT • GROCERY STORE • FLORIST



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DR. RUBEN BOYAJIAN



Readers' Choice

★ **Best Doctor**

★ **Best Surgeon**

Thank You to the people of our Effingham community and beyond for voting me as Best Doctor and Best Surgeon. I feel so humbled to be selected as there are so many very talented fellow physicians and surgeons who I have the pleasure to work with in a community and area that is blessed with a such a good variety of medical services to offer.

I also extend a special thank you to our St. Anthony Hospital colleagues who deeply care for our patients and to the Administration and Staff at HSHS Medical Group.

I am very grateful for the history of support from the many patients and their families that I have treated in the past, and I pledge to continue to provide the highest quality general surgical care that you have come to expect and truly deserve. It is a God given opportunity to serve all of you, and I pray that God continues to bless me and all of you on this medical journey.

- DR. RUBEN BOYAJIAN

Best Christian Book Store
Winner:
Lifeline Christian Books & Gifts
 First Runner-Up: Hazel Jayne

Best Electronics Dealer
Winner:
Als Tire Mart & Electronics
 First Runner-Up: Effingham Computer Sales and Service

Best Flooring Store
Winner:
Wright's Furniture & Flooring
 First Runner-Up: Menards

Best Furniture Store (Used)
Winner:
It's Almost Home
 First Runner-Up: Silk Purse

Best Computer Store
Winner:
Effingham Computer Sales and Service
 First Runner-Up: Jansen Computer Sales & Repair

Best Farm Feed Store
Winner:
Rural King
 First Runner-Up: The Equity

Best Florist
Winner:
Burkland's Florist & Gifts
 First Runner-Up: Flowers by Kirby Foods

Best Game Place
Winner:
Gopher's Grill
 First Runner-Ups: Big Papa's Cocktails & Gaming Lounge and Effingham Event Center – The Hall

Best Convenience Store
Winner:
Midtown Fuels (Kirby Foods)
 First Runner-Up: Wessel's

Best Farm Supply Store
Winner:
Rural King
 First Runner-Up: The Equity

Best Furniture Store (New)
Winner:
Niebrugge Furniture
 First Runner-Up: Wright's Furniture & Flooring

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First Runner-Up Best Wrecker Service

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 Runner Up
 Best Surgeon**
**Dr. Jason
 McAllaster**



**First
 Runner-Up
 Best Nurse
 Practitioner**
**Vickie
 Bushur, APN**

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Best Garden Center
Winner:
Alwerdt's Gardens
 First Runner-Up: Potted Charm

Best Gift Shop
Winner:
Burkland's Florist & Gifts
 First Runner-Up: The Beanstalk Boutique

Best Greeting Card Store
Winner:
Dollar Tree
 First Runner-Up: Brown's Drug Store

Best Grocery Store
Winner:
Aldi
 First Runner-Up: Kirby Foods

Best Gun Shop
Winner:
Accuracy Firearms
 First Runner-Up: County Line Shooting Center

Best Hardware Store
Winner:
Menards
 First Runner-Up: The Equity

Best Hunting or Fishing Supplies Shop
Winner:
Accuracy Firearms
 First Runner-Up: Rural King

Best Jewelry Store
Winner:
Weber's Jewelry
 First Runner-Up: Reiniger Jewelers

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Best Christian Book Store!

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Candi Estes, APN-FNP
Best Nurse
(Practitioner)

Summer Nohren
Runner Up
Best Medical Assistant



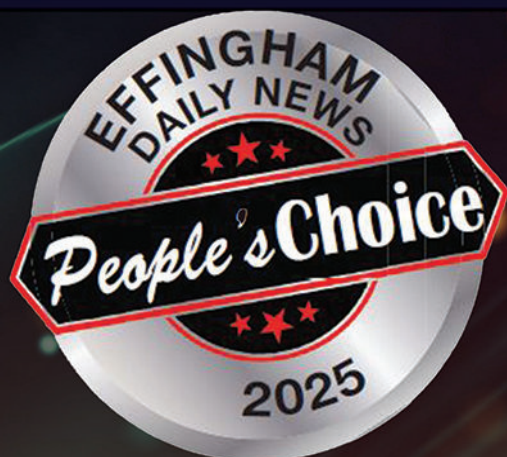
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Best Lawn / Garden Store**Winner:****Menards**First Runner-Up: Heartland
Landscaping**Best Liquor Store****Winner:****A1 Liquors**First Runner-Up: Top Shelf Beer,
Wine & Spirits**Best Meat Department****Winner:****Nuxoll Food Center**

First Runner-Up: McMahon Meats

Best Men's Clothing Store**Winner:****Weber's Clothing**

First Runner-Up: Kohl's

Best Metaphysical Shop**Winner:****Hazel Jayne****Best Music Store****Winner:****America's Groove Record Store**

First Runner-Up: Chesnut Music

Best Paint Dealer**Winner:****Sherwin Williams**

First Runner-Up: Menards

Best Personalized Gift Business**Winner:****The Beanstalk Boutique**First Runner-Up: Sport Designs
& Graphics**Best Pet Store****Winner:****Noah's Ark Pet Shoppe**First Runner-Up: Dianna's
Barkery & More**Best Shoe Store****Winner:****Boots & Soles**First Runner-Up: Famous
Footwear

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PERSONALIZED GIFTS**Best Party Supply Store
Winner:****Party Worx**

First Runner-Up: Hobby Lobby

**Best Promotional / Personal-
ized Product Sales Person
Winner:****Caydin Vaughn – Sport
Designs and Graphics**First Runner-Up: Jackie Tabbert –
Tabbert's Treasures**Best Resale Shop
Winner:****Silk Purse Thrift Store**

First Runner-Up: Country Closet

Best Tea Shop**Winner:****Ginger Ale's**

First Runner-Up: Joe Sippers Café

Best Vape / Tobacco Shop**Winner:****The Stash Box**First Runner-Up: Top Shelf Beer,
Wine & Spirits**Best Women's Boutique****/ Specialty Store****Winner:****Daisies & Denim Boutique**

First Runner-Up: The Thomas Shop

Best Women's Clothing Store**Winner:****Maurices**First Runner-Up: Daisies & Denim
Boutique**Thank You For Voting Us Best Men's Clothing!!****WEBER'S CLOTHING**

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Best Auctioneer Winner:

Trent Schmid – Schmid Auction Service

First Runner-Up: Justin Krile – Krile Auction Service

Best Business Coaching Winner:

Teresa McCloy – The REALIFE Process, LLC

Best Commercial Design Winner:

Grunloh Construction

First Runner-Up: Wright At Home

Best Concrete Company Winner:

J B Esker & Sons, Inc

First Runner-Up: MBI Concrete Construction

Best Countertops Winner:

Pyramid Marble & Granite

First Runner-Up: Mette's Cabinet Corner

Best Electrician Winner:

Pals Electric

First Runner-Up: Burford Electric

Best Farm Equipment Dealer Winner:

Bahrns Equipment

First Runner-Up: Sloan Implement

Best Heating / Cooling Sales & Service Winner:

Jansen's Heating and Air

First Runner-Up: Merz Heating & Air Conditioning

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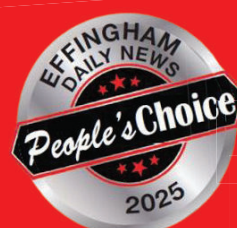
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Best Landscaping Service

Winner:

Wolke Nursery Landscaping

First Runner-Up: Heartland
Landscaping

Best Plumbing Service

Winner:

Drees Plumbing

First Runner-Up: R & H
Plumbing, Heating & Electric

Best Lawn Care Service

Winner:

Couple Guys Lawn Care

First Runner-Up: McCollum Lawn
Care

Best Promotional Products

& Advertising

Winner:

Designs Unlimited

First Runner-Up: Sport Designs &
Graphics

Best Locksmith

Winner:

Barlow Lock and Security

Best Security / Alarm Dealer

Winner:

Barlow Lock and Security

First Runner-Up: VP Fire &
Security

Best Marketing Company

Winner:

Black Label Branding LLC

First Runner-Up: Luminous Digital
Marketing

Best Staffing Service

Winner:

Innovative Staff Solutions

First Runner-Up: StaffQuick

Best Pest Control

Winner:

ARAB Termite & Pest Control

First Runner-Up: Arrow Termite &
Pest Control



EFFINGHAM DAILY NEWS
People's Choice
2025

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Congratulations People's Choice Winners & First Runners-Up

It's hard to believe we are about to close the first quarter of 2025 and even harder to believe we are announcing the annual winners of our 2025 People's Choice Contest! All of us here at the Effingham Daily News would like to thank the thousands of readers who took the time to go online and vote for their favorite business or individual. And a big congratulations to the winner and first runner-up in each category.

I'm sure that my staff will agree that one of our favorite things to do during the year is deliver the People's Choice plaques to the winners. The smiles, the hugs, and the thank you's are so worth it. But even more so is how humbled the winners are when told they won the award. It just makes us so proud to be able to assist them with their ads throughout the year and that they are genuinely so thankful for what we do for them.

We encourage our readers to continue to support their local businesses, no matter if they were voted #1, because they all contribute so much to our economy and our community, providing employment and

supporting local schools and non-profit organizations to name a few.

Together we will get through the highs and lows that the economy hands to us. We are confident of that. How do we know? This area of central Illinois that we call home boasts one of the strongest economies of anywhere in the state. Every business and the people who support it are the reason for that. And because of that, all the businesses in the area are winners in our eyes. Cheers to all of you and best wishes for a successful rest of 2025!



Put An Extra Sparkle In Your Smile



Thank you for naming Dr. Ted Koester
As Your 2025 #1 People's Choice For
FAVORITE DENTIST
and #1 People's Choice for
FAVORITE DENTAL OFFICE

"The staff and I are very honored once again to be your

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE DENTIST WINNER AND
PEOPLE'S CHOICE DENTAL OFFICE WINNER!**

I appreciate the support from the many patients I have treated and pledge to continue to provide the highest quality dental care that you have come to expect and deserve."

Ted B. Koester, D.M.D., P.C.

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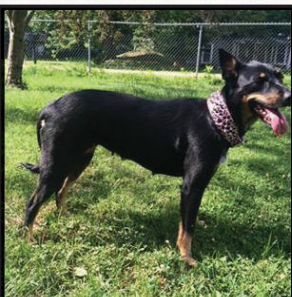
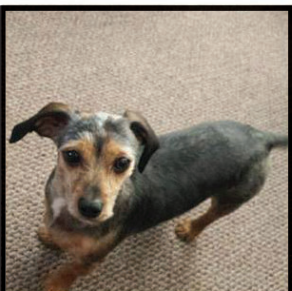
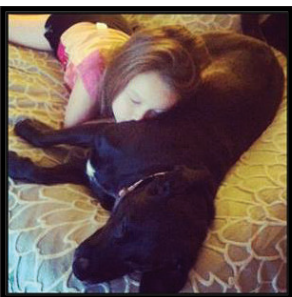
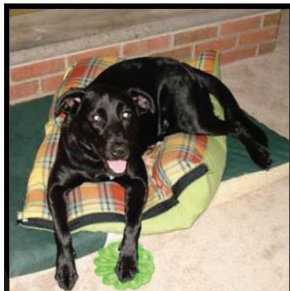
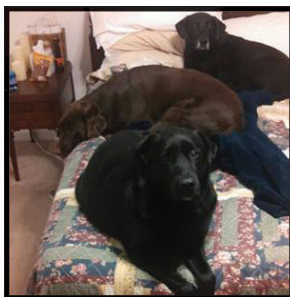


**People's
Choice Winner
2018, 2020
2021, 2022,
2024, 2025**



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Best Tree Service**Winner:****Buff's Tree Service**First Runner-Up: Jay's Tree
Service – Jason Dunaway**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT****Best Art Studio****Winner:****Stang Arts**First Runner-Up: Abby Hartke –
Stuck Designs**Best Dance Instructor****Winner:****Avery Braunecker**
(LARA of Dance)First Runner-Up: Bryonna
Meskimen (Cayla's Power
Tumbling, Cheer & Dance Center)**Best Dance Studio****Winner:****LARA of Dance**First Runner-Up: Cayla's Power
Tumbling, Cheer & Dance Center**Best Entertainment Venue****Winner:****Effingham Performance Center**First Runner-Up: Teutopolis
Banquet Hall**Thank You for Voting Us First
Runner-Up Best
Mexican
Restaurant!****EL RANCHERITO**
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Best Event in Effingham County
Winner:
Effingham County Fair
 First Runner-Up: Teutopolis Cruise
 Night

Best Gymnastics / Tumbling
Instructor
Winner:
Debbie Hardiek – Jansen's
Preschool & Power Tumbling
 First Runner-Up: Cayla Myers –
 Cayla's Power Tumbling, Cheer &
 Dance Center

Thank You for voting us

Best Buffet, Best Pizza Carry Out, Best Pizza Dine-In,
Best Salads/Salad Bar, Runner-Up for Best Business Lunch Place.

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 CLOSED Sunday & Monday

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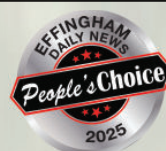


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Best Hotel / Motel**Winner:****Holiday Inn**

First Runner-Up: Hampton Inn & Suites

Best Internet Provider**Winner:****American Fiber Network**

First Runner-Up: Wabash Communications

Best Martial Arts Studio**Winner:****EpLegends Martial Arts****Best Party Rental****Winner:****The Arena Trampoline Park**

First Runner-Up: Party Worx

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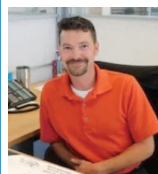
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and First Runner-Up for:

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- Doug Mette
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Best Tumbling Studio/Gym**Winner:*****Cayla's Power Tumbling,
Cheer & Dance Center***First Runner-Up: Jansen's
Preschool & Power Tumbling**Best Wedding Venue****Winner:*****Carriage House Event Center***First Runner-Up: Teutopolis
Banquet Hall

Congratulations

Congratulations***Blaine Poland*****Best Used Car Salesman and
Best New Car Salesman*****Russ Braunecker*****217-347-0505 or 800-347-9499**2309 S. Banker, Effingham
www.effinghamgmc.com**Thank You for voting us
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Best Customer Service Grocery Store,
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THANK YOU EFFINGHAM- BEST ELECTRICIAN WINNER



Pals Electric is incredibly grateful to the Effingham community for their support and recognition. We look forward to continuing to serve the Effingham community and beyond with our expertise and professionalism. Thank you again to everyone who voted for us. Your support means the world to us!



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Coffee* 1.45/2.00
Iced Coffee* 2.75/4.50
Cappuccino Hot or Iced 3.75/5.05
Espresso Single 2.25/2.95
Latte Hot or Iced 3.75/5.05
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Frappes/Shakes* 4.95

Belgian Chocolate • Cake Batter • Caramel • Cookies 'n Cream
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Smoothies*

4.95
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Pulled Pork Nachos 8.60
Pumpkin Spice 5.85
Pulled Pork Sandwich 5.95
Soup of the Day 4.50/5.95

Giant Soft Pretzels

Cheesecake Stuffed 5.80
Cinnamon & Sugar 4.80
Plain 4.80
Salted 4.80
Everything Bagel 4.80
Ranch 4.80
Garlic & Herb 4.80

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Gourmet Cookies 2.85
Dipped! Dots 3.80
Muffins 2.85



Fountain Drinks*

Coke • Pepsi • Mountain Dew • Dr Pepper • Sprite
Root Beer • Cherry Coke • Ginger Ale • Code Red
Diet Coke • Diet Pepsi • Diet Dr Pepper • Diet Mountain Dew
Coke Zero • Sprite Zero • Orange • Fruit Punch

Homemade Drinks*

Sweet Tea • Unsweet Tea
Lemonade • Diet Lemonade • Arnold Palmer • Sparkling Water

Additional Drinks

Bubble Milk Tea* 4.50
Cherry or Strawberry 4.50
Limeade* 4.00
Ginger Freeze 3.25
Ginger Juice or Ginger Snap 3.25
Butter Beer Cream 5.20
Frosted Lemonade 3.50
Frosted Blue Dew 4.50



Drink Additions

Boba 1.35
Strawberry, Cherry, Peach, Kiwi, Mango
Blueberry, Rainbow, Honey, Yogurt, Caramel
Sweet Cold Foam 1.50
Shimmer 1.50

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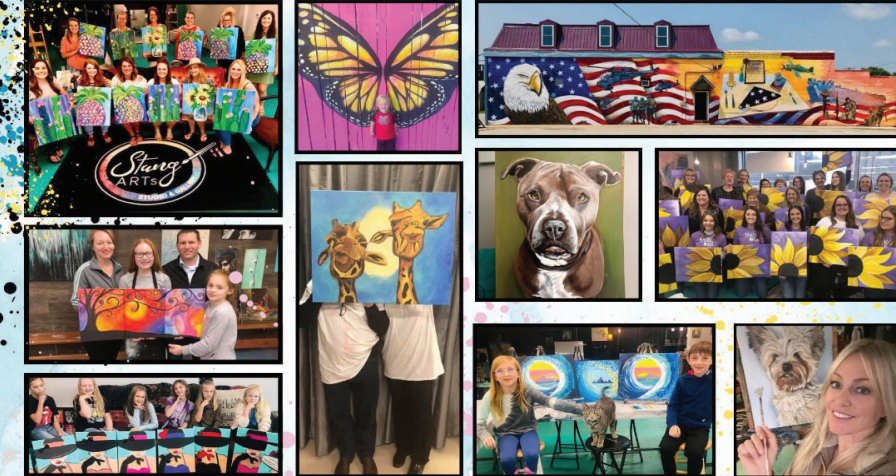


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Why supporting local small businesses matters

While online giants and big box retailers seem to be everywhere, offering an endless array of products with the convenience of low prices, small businesses provide a range of benefits that go far beyond the ease of a mouse click or mountains of merchandise. Shopping local retailers is more than just a transaction - it is crucial for maintaining the economic foundation of local communities. Let's take a look at the many ways it pays to shop small businesses during the holidays and all year long.

- **Strengthen the local economy:** A large percentage of the money spent at small businesses stays in the community. That's because these businesses often are owned and operated by local residents who are invested in the community themselves. Various studies indicate that for every \$100 spent at a small business, roughly \$70 stays in the community.

- **Enhanced customer service:** Owners and employees of small businesses have a keen interest in keeping customers happy. They often do so by providing superior customer service. Tailoring recommendations, exhibiting a willingness to accommodate special requests,



offering a more engaging shopping experience, and being more friendly and connected with regular customers sets many small businesses apart.

- **Support the community:** Small businesses serve the community through the products and services they offer, and many give back in other ways as well. Small, locally owned businesses often sponsor schools, sports teams and charities. This helps foster a sense of belonging in the community.

- **Innovative offerings:** Small businesses are not beholden to corporate policies or franchise restrictions, so they can more readily bring new life to existing ideas and trends. Small businesses can offer customers different options

that larger retailers cannot match.

- **Job creation:** Small businesses employ a significant percentage of the workforce and frequently provide jobs that might not be available in larger corporate settings. The U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy says small businesses have generated 12.9 million net new jobs over the past 25 years, accounting for two out of every three jobs added to the U.S. economy. Keeping residents working helps strengthen local communities.

There are numerous benefits to shopping at small businesses throughout the year. Such firms help to establish a more resilient, diverse and bustling local community.

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