

*Congratulations*  
TO THE



WINNERS  
AND  
RUNNERS-UP



# Congratulations

TO THE  
2024 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: Amy Welter**

**at Jewett Tavern**

First Runner-Up:

Katlyn Johnson

at Orchard Inn

### Best Beer Establishment

**Winner: A1 Liquors**

First Runner-Up: Gabby Goat

### Best Breakfast Place

**Winner:**

**Niemerg's Steakhouse**

First Runner-Up:

Kountry Kitchen

### Best Buffet

**Winner: Pizza Man**

First Runner-Up:

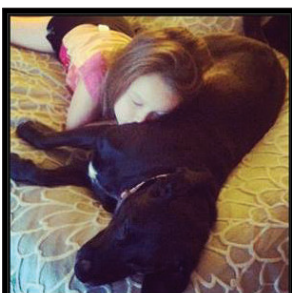
Niemerg's Steakhouse

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY FAIR



July 27-  
August 3  
2024

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



**Dr. Chad Ely**

**Dr. Dale Spindler**

**Dr. James Gratz**

**Dr. Jessica Schultz**

**Dr. Mara Fehrenbacher**

**Dr. Lindsey Goeckner**

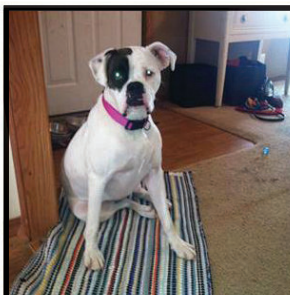
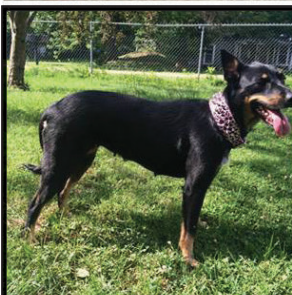
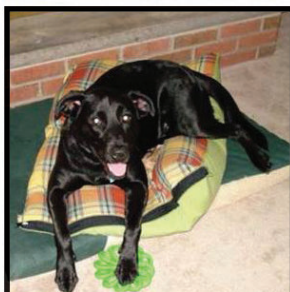
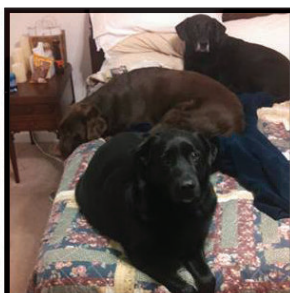
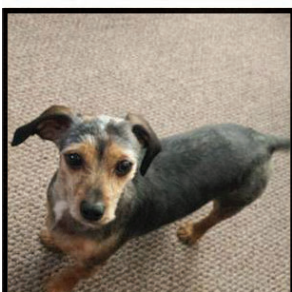
**Dr. Tanner Kirby**

**Dr. Katie Shreve**

**Dr. Candace Walk**

**Dr. Brianne Urfer**

**Dr. Luke Daniels**



**Thanks For Your Vote of Confidence!**

**2024 Best Veterinary Clinic &**

**Best Veterinarian Dr. Chad Ely!**



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

First Runner-Up: Pizza Man

**Best Catering****Winner:****Lickin' My Chicken &****Pullin' My Pork BBQ**

First Runner-Up: Deb's Catering

**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

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**Best Fast Food****Winner: Cruiser's  
Drive Thru**

First Runner-Up: Culver's

**Best Fine Dining****Winner: Firefly Grill**First Runner-Up: Fujiyama  
Japanese Steakhouse**Best Food Truck****Winner:****Lickin' My Chicken &  
Pullin' My Pork BBQ**First Runner-Up: La Terraza  
Express Taqueria**Best Hamburgers****Winner: Cruiser's  
Drive Thru**

First Runner-Up: Andrew's Eats

**Best Home Cooking****Winner: Kountry Kitchen**First Runner-Up:  
Niemerg's Steakhouse**Best Hot Dog****Winner: 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: Ginger Ale's**First Runner-Up:  
McAlister's Deli**Thank You for Voting us as  
The Best Outdoor Dining!****We Appreciate your Business & Support.****OPENING  
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**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: Classic Thai

**Best Mexican Food**

**Winner: Puerto Vallarta**

First Runner-Up: El Rancherito

**Best Milkshake**

**Winner: Homewood Grill**

First Runner-Up:  
Cruiser's Drive Thru

**Best Outdoor Dining**

**Winner: Pinky's**

First Runner-Up: Firefly Grill

**Best Pizza Carry Out Only**

**Winner: Pizza Man**

First Runner-Up:  
Joe's Pizza & Pasta

**Best Pizza Dine-In**

**Winner: Pizza Man**

First Runner-Up:  
Joe's Pizza & Pasta Effingham

**Best Salads / Salad Bar**

**Winner: Pizza Man**

First Runner-Up:  
Niemerg's Steakhouse

**Best Sandwiches**

**Winner: Gabby Goat**

First Runner-Up: Jersey Mike's

**Best Seafood**

**Winner:**

**Fujiyama Japanese Steakhouse**

First Runner-Up: Firefly Grill

**Best Sports Bar**

**Winner: Gabby Goat**

First Runner-Up: Gopher's Grill

**Best Steaks**

**Winner: Firefly Grill**

First Runner-Up: Gabby Goat

**Best Taco Place**

**Winner: Puerto Vallarta**

First Runner-Up:  
La Terraza Express Taqueria

**Best Truck Stop Restaurant**

**Winner: IHOP**

First Runner-Up:  
Chaser's Grill & Bar



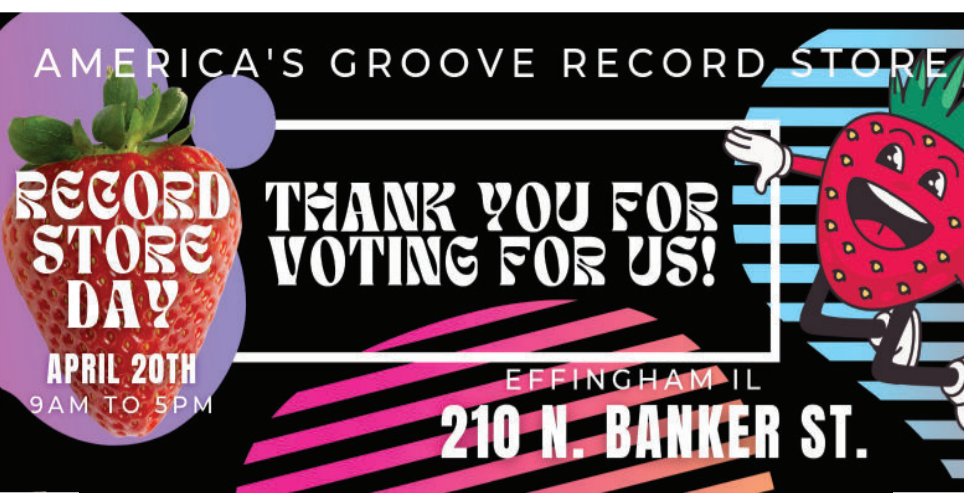
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**Patrick & Courtney Johnson**  
**Maddie Johnson**  
**Dave Storm**  
**Larry Ring**  
**Jennifer Swingler**

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### Best Wine List

#### Winner:

**Tuscan Hills Winery**

First Runner-Up:

Village Wine & Spirits

### Best Winery

#### Winner:

**Tuscan Hills Winery**

First Runner-Up: Barn & Bottle

### Best Assisted Living

#### Community

**Winner: Villas of Holly**

**Brook Effingham**

First Runner-Up:

Brookstone Estates

### Best Chiropractor

**Winner: Dr. Justin Pals**

First Runner-Up:

Dr. Samantha Morrison

### Best Dental Office

#### Winner:

**Effingham Dental Group**

First Runner-Up:

Dr. Ted Koester

Family Dentistry

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## HEALTHCARE

### Best Alzheimer Community

#### Winner:

**Willowbrook Memory Support Residences**

First Runner-Up:

StoneBridge Memory Care  
(formerly Lavender Ridge)

*katie jo's*

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### Best Dentist

**Winner: Dr. Ted Koester**

First Runner-Up: Dr. Joe Balda

### Best Doctor

**Winner:**

**Dr. Robert Frost –  
HSHS Medical Group**

First Runner-Up:

Dr. Amanda Bierman –  
Family Care Associates

### Best Eye Clinic

**Winner: Weber Optiks**

First Runner-Up:

Drs. Sehy & Jones Optometrists

### Best Hearing Aid Clinic

**Winner: Sarah Bush  
Lincoln ENT**

First Runner-Up:

Audibel Hearing Center

### Best Hearing Aid Specialist

**Winner:**

**Dr. Jaclyn Jansen –  
Sarah Bush Lincoln**

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



Tan Express in Effingham -  
Winner Best Tanning Salon

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Best Butcher Shop, Best Meat Dept.,  
1st Runner-Up Best Customer Service  
Grocery Store, and Best Deli  
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**Best Medical Clinic**  
**Winner:**  
**SBL Bonutti Clinic**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Family Care Associates

**Best Medical Spa**  
**Winner:**  
**Branches Massage & Spa**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Behold Aesthetics

**Best Nurse**  
**Winner: Candi Estes**  
**(Family Care Associates)**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Jaclyn Steppe Wohltman  
 (Sarah Bush Lincoln)

**Best Nursing Home**  
**Winner:**  
**Lutheran**  
**Care Center**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Lakeland  
 Rehabilitation & Health Care

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**Congratulations to all the winners and Runner-Ups of the 2024 People's Choice**



**Best Ophthalmologist****Winner:****Dr. John Kay –****Effingham Ophthalmology Associates**

First Runner-Up:

Dr. Joseph Spraul –

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 Pharmacy Technician****Winner:****Peyton Koester –****Walgreens Pharmacy**

First Runner-Up:

Abby Lueken –

Kirby Foods Health Mart Pharmacy

**Best Pharmacist****Winner:****Chip Andes –****Andes Health Mart Pharmacy**

First Runner-Up:

Duane Kremer – Kremer Pharmacy

**Best Pharmacy****Winner: Andes Pharmacy**

First Runner-Up:

Kremer Pharmacy

**Best Podiatrist****Winner:****Dr. John Killough**

First Runner-Up:

Dr. James Graham



T-A Nails and Spa - Best Nail Salon and Best Nail Tech - Jason Luong



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**DR. RUBEN BOYAJIAN**

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## Best Rehabilitation Services

**Winner:**

**HSHS St. Anthony's  
Physical Rehabilitation  
and Wellness**

**First Runner-Up:**

**Sarah Bush Lincoln PT**

## Best Surgeon

**Winner:**

**Dr. Ruben Boyajian –  
HSHS Medical Group**

**First Runner-Up:**

**Dr. Nash Naam –  
SBL Orthopedics**



*vayda jane*  
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The Emerald Room - Winner Best Hair Salon



Kirby Foods was voted Best Deli in the 2024 People's Choice contest. Pictured, left to right, are Assistant Deli Manager Brian Barnes, Catering Manager Alex Thoele and Deli Manager Kathy Witkowski.

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Tolliver & Co. Barbers -  
Winner Best Barber Shop &  
Best Barber, Tyson Tolliver

## 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:

Lustig Custom Cabinets

### Best Handyman Services

**Winner: The Handyman Can**

First Runner-Up:

Chris Hakman -

Chris Hakman Home Repair

### Best Home Builder

**Winner: Bloemer Construction**

First Runner-Up: Waldhoff Construction

### Best Home Improvement Store

**Winner: Menards**

First Runner-Up:

Effingham Builder's Supply

### Best Interior Decorators

**Winner: Wright At Home**

First Runner-Up:

Elizabeth Yager Designs & Cabinetry  
(formerly Kuche Cabinetry)

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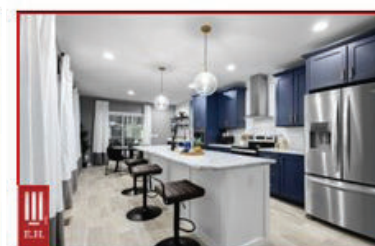
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**Best Interior Design  
Winner:**

**Elizabeth Yager Designs  
& Cabinetry  
(formerly Kuche  
Cabinetry)**

First Runner-Up:

Kelsey Johnson – Design No 7

**Best Lighting Store**

**Winner: Menards**

First Runner-Up:

Mette's

Distinctive Lighting

**Best Mobile / Modular  
Home Dealer**

**Winner:**

**Effingham Homes**

First Runner-Up:

Clayton Homes

**Best Pool & Spa Store  
Winner:**

**W.E.T. Pools & Spas**

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



**Voted #1 Liquor Store &  
#1 Beer Establishment!  
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**FIRST RUNNER-UP:**



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**Amanda  
Haynes**



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EFFINGHAM**



**Best Real Estate Agent**  
**Winner:**  
*Alex Steppe –*  
**Re/Max Key Advantage**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Mandy Vergara –  
 Whitten Real Estate Agency

**Best Barber Shop**  
**Winner:**  
**Tolliver & Co. Barbers**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Renegade Barber & Co.

**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

**Best Roofing Service**  
**Winner:**  
**Whitney Roofing Inc.**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 B-n-P Roofing  
 (Bierman and Pals)

**Best Barber**  
**Winner:**  
**Tyson Tolliver –**  
**Tolliver & Co. Barbers**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Kandice Houser –  
 Renegade Barber & Co.



Dieterich Bank was the winner for Best Mortgage Company in the 2024 People's Choice contest. Pictured is Joyce Hoene and Jayme Pals at the Dieterich Bank Effingham location.

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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 for People's Choice

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- Favorite Auto Dealer Service Department



**Ford F150**

The #1  
 Selling Vehicle  
 in  
 Effingham County



**Best Day Care****Winner:****Montessori Kids Universe  
Effingham****First Runner-Up:****Little Hearts  
(formerly Little Lambs)****Best Day Spa****Winner:****Branches Massage & Spa****First Runner-Up:****Behold Aesthetics &  
Wellness Center****Thank  
You!!!****Pawsleys**  
Dog Grooming

*Thank you to all of our clients,  
family & friends for voting for Pawsleys!  
We greatly appreciate you and can't  
wait to see what 2024 holds for us!*

*You can find us inside the Village Square Mall, 1910 South Banker St. Unit 53.  
You can also reach us on Facebook and Instagram or by phone 217-500-1795. Much love, Nicole*

**Thanks For Voting Us Best Landscaping Service!****Plus Runner Up Best Lawn & Garden Store!**

- Home Decor
- Wind Chimes
- Spring Wreaths
- Garden Flags
- House Plants
- Outdoor Mats
- Decorative Lanterns
- Cemetery Flowers
- Memory Stones
- Wet Steps
- Perennials & Annuals
- Shrubs & Trees
- Pottery

**Fresh Plants Are  
Arriving In April!****Heartland Landscaping, Inc.**

910 W. Evergreen Ave. | Effingham IL  
217-342-2579 | [www.heartlandlandscaping.com](http://www.heartlandlandscaping.com)  
Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Facebook**Thank You!  
Effingham Community,  
For Choosing Us!****Best Handyman Service****"Serving Effingham and Surrounding Counties  
Since 2002"****Doug Murrell, Owner****Call us for trim work, doors, windows, siding,  
cabinets and repairs and maintenance on  
commercial and residential buildings.****217-663-9054  
805 N. Third St., Effingham**



**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:**

**Sam Richardson  
– Al's Tire Mart**

First Runner-Up:  
Janene Swingler  
– HSHS Medical Group

**Best Funeral Home  
Winner:**

**Johnson Funeral Home**

First Runner-Up:  
Bauer Funeral Home

**Best Hair Stylist  
Winner:**

**Grace Lybarger  
(Plot Twist Salon & Spa)**

First Runner-Up:  
Lindsey Snell (Hair Xperts)

**Best Massage Therapist  
Winner:**

**Amanda Haynes  
(Effingham Massage Clinic)**

First Runner-Up:  
Ashley Swingler  
(Ashley Swingler's Massage)



Midtown Fuels was voted Best Convenience Store for the 2024 People's Choice contest. Pictured left to right are Lance Burch, Steven Fryer, Midtown Fuels Convenience Store Manager Linda Young and Chloe Haskett.

**Thank You For Nominating Lifeline**  
**Best Christian Book Store!**

**Lifeline**  
Christian Books & Gifts

Phone 217-342-3406  
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9-5:30  
Fri. & Sat. 9-6

Lincoln Land Bldg., 1901 S. 4th St., Effingham

Associate Member of logos book store association

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OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THE  
SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS!**



217-347-5223 jansensheating.com

**JANSEN'S**  
Heating & Air  
"Your Comfort Specialist"

**WE THANK YOU!!**

Voted People's Choice Favorites in 5 Categories For:

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

And Many Thanks For 1st Runner Up in these 4 Categories:

- PRODUCE & PRODUCE DEPT • GROCERY STORE • FLORIST
- PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ABBY LUEKEN



**100% Employee Owned**

We are proud to have grown along with Effingham ... we look forward to the challenge and excitement presented each and every day ... and to serving the best people in the world ... our customers!

**Kirby foods** Effingham  
100% Employee Owned

101 S. Merchant, Effingham (217) 347-7191



**Best Nail Salon****Winner:****T - A Nails & Spa**

First Runner-Up: Angel Nails

**Best Tanning Salon****Winner:****Tan Express**

First Runner-Up:

Planet Fitness

**Best Travel Agency****Winner:****Effingham Travel Agency**

First Runner-Up:

Travel Quarters

**Best Weight Loss Center****Winner:****Jeremy & Andrea****Zumbahlen****– The Zone 24 Hour Fitness Center**

First Runner-Up:

Amanda Settle – Nutrition Wise

**Best Photo Studio /****Photographer****Winner:****Alicia Schuette****Photography****& Conversions**

First Runner-Up:

Sara Moran Photography



Kirby Foods was the winner of Best Customer Service Grocery Store in the 2024 People's Choice contest. Pictured at left is Gina Westendorf and at right is Tress Funneman with Customer Service at Kirby Foods.

Thanks For Voting Us #1  
**BEST TANNING SALON!**

*We Love Our Customers  
Who Support Us!*



**TAN Express**

1909 S. Banker Street | Effingham | 217-342-0260



Thanks for Voting Us #1  
**Best Ice Tea & Tea Shop!**

**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 • Sparkling Water

**Additional Drinks**

Bubble Milk Tea\* **NEW FAVORITE** 4.50  
Cherry or Strawberry **NEW FAVORITE** 4.00  
Limeade\* (all available) 3.25  
Ginger Freeze 3.25  
Ginger Juice or Ginger Snap 5.20  
Butter Beer Cream **NEW FAVORITE** 3.50  
Frosted Lemonade **NEW FAVORITE** 4.50  
Frosted Blue Dew 4.50

**Drink Additions**  
Boba **NEW FAVORITE** 1.35  
Strawberry, Cherry, Peach, Kiwi, Mango, Blueberry, Rainbow, Honey, Yogurt, Caramel  
Sweet Cold Foam 1.50  
Shimmer 1.50

Sour Punch Straws .75  
Pop Rocks .85  
Energy Boost/Immunity Boost 1.25

Note: Prices Subject to Change



CHOOSE ANY FLAVOR SHOT COMBO  
TO MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

Flavor Shots  
\$.60 per flavor

Apple • Banana • Blackberry • Blue Raspberry • Browned Butter • Butterscotch • Caramel • Cheesecake • Cinnamon • Coconut • Cotton Candy • Cranberry • Creamsicle • Cup Cake • Fuzzy Navel • Grape • Grenadine • Hazelnut • Ice Cream • Kiwi • Lemon • Lime • Strawberry • Mango • Marshmallow • Orange • Orchid Vanilla • Peppermint • Peach • Pineapple • Pina Colada • Red Bull/Monster • Red Bull Freeze • Hot Cocoa • Bottled Gatorade • Juice Box • Chocolate Milk

**Coffees\***

Coffee\* 1.65/2.00  
Iced Coffee\* **NEW FAVORITE** 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  
Mocha Hot or Iced 3.75/5.05  
Cafe Au Lait 3.00/3.35

Belgian Chocolate • Cake Batter • Caramel • Cookies 'n Cream  
Cotton Candy • Java Chip • Mocha • Mint Chip • Raspberry • Strawberry • Vanilla Bean

**Frappes/Shakes\* 4.95**  
Strawberry • Peach • Pina Colada

**Smoothies\* 4.95**  
Strawberry • Peach • Pina Colada

**Protein Shakes\* 4.95**  
Arbonne Shake 5.25  
Both available in Chocolate or Vanilla  
\*Add Ins: Banana, Flax Seed, Greens, Fiber, Peanut Butter, Flavor Shots, Boba, Etc.

**Lunch & Dinner Cuisine**  
Pulled Pork Nachos **NEW FAVORITE** 8.60  
Loaded Nachos **NEW FAVORITE** 6.90  
Pulled Pork Sandwich 5.85  
Nachos w/cheese 3.50  
Pulled Pork Hotdog 5.95  
Hot Dog 3.50  
Soup of the Day 4.50/5.95  
Chili Cheese Dog 5.10

**Giant Soft Pretzels**  
Cheesecake Stuffed **NEW FAVORITE** 5.80  
Cinnamon & Sugar 4.80  
Plain 4.80  
Salted 4.80  
Everything Bagel 4.80  
Ranch 4.80  
Garlic & Herb 4.80

**Sweet & Savory Treats**  
Gourmet Cookies 2.85  
Digger Duffs Source: Kneads Bakery & Cafe  
Choc. Cakes/Donuts, Cakes & Cream, Cakes & Candy, Rainbow Muffins Source: Kneads Bakery & Cafe

**Sweet & Savory Treats**  
Gourmet Cookies 2.85  
Digger Duffs Source: Kneads Bakery & Cafe  
Choc. Cakes/Donuts, Cakes & Cream, Cakes & Candy, Rainbow Muffins Source: Kneads Bakery & Cafe

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Choc. Cakes/Donuts, Cakes & Cream, Cakes & Candy, Rainbow Muffins Source: Kneads Bakery & Cafe

*Put An Extra Sparkle In Your Smile*



Thank you for Naming Dr. Ted Koester  
As Your 2024 #1 People's Choice For  
**FAVORITE DENTIST**  
and First Runner-Up for  
**FAVORITE DENTAL OFFICE**

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

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE DENTIST WINNER AND  
FIRST RUNNER-UP PEOPLE'S CHOICE DENTAL OFFICE!**

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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## FINANCIAL / LEGAL / INSURANCE

### Best Accounting Firm Winner:

**Tucker Accounting**  
First Runner-Up:  
Goeckner Accounting

### Best Attorney Winner:

**Chris Koester –  
Taylor Law Office**  
First Runner-Up:  
Tracy Willenborg –  
Taylor Law Office

### Best Bank Teller Winner:

**Teresa Kreke –  
Dieterich Bank**  
First Runner-Up:  
Deb Repking –  
Washington Savings 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:

**Alec Ring –  
Ring Financial**  
First Runner-Up:  
Christo Schultz –  
Midland Bank



Pictured are Bakery Manager Tracy Althoff and Lisa Roberson in the Bakery at Kirby Foods. Kirby Foods was the winner for Best Donuts and Best Bakery in the 2024 People's Choice contest.



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Since 1929  
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*Celebrating our 7th year in business!*  
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*Your vote and support of my small business means a lot! – Sarah Raholl, Owner*



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*Download our app to shop from your own home!*  
*Pick up in store!*



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Check us out on Facebook or [www.thebeanstalkboutique.com](http://www.thebeanstalkboutique.com)



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CENTERS**

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Favorite Tree Service by EDN  
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**Mitch & Matt Pierce, Owners**

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### Best Insurance Agent

#### Winner:

**Brad Meinhart**  
(Donsbach Meinhart)

First Runner-Up:

Tim Weis (Weis Insurance)

### Best Insurance Provider

#### Winner: Weis Insurance

First Runner-Up:

Country Financial Companies

### Best Investment

#### Representative

#### Winner:

**Alec Ring – Ring Financial**

First Runner-Up:

Christo Schultz –

Midland Bank



### Best Mortgage Co.

#### Winner: Dieterich Bank

First Runner-Up:

Washington Savings Bank

### Best Title Co.

#### Winner:

**Allied Capital Title**

First Runner-Up:

Michael Imburgia PC



Teresa Kreke of Dieterich Bank, the winner for Best Bank Teller in the 2024 People's Choice contest.



Dieterich Bank was voted the winner for Best Banking Institution for the 2024 People's Choice contest. Pictured at the Effingham branch are front row, left to right: Jaden Brown, Jenny Krouse, Elizabeth Wiley, Teresa Kreke, Jayme Pals and Andrea Milam. Back row, left to right: Luke Hayes, Matt Dasenbrock, Jenna Probst, Gage Augenstein, Joyce Hoene, Steve Will and Landon Wolfe.

## People's Choice Winner



**#1 Best Auto Dealer  
Service Department**

~ and ~

**#1 Best New & Used Car Salesperson  
CODY FRAILEY**

**Voted People's Choice First Runner Up:**

- Best Car Rental
- Best New Car Dealer
- Best Used Car Dealer

**Dan Hecht**



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## TRANSPORTATION (PURCHASE/REPAIR/CARE)

### Best ATV Dealer

**Winner:**

**CW Motorsports**

First Runner-Up:

Owen Motor Sports

### Best Auto Glass Repair

**Winner:**

**Auto Glass Unlimited**

First Runner-Up:

Quality 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:

Al's Tire Mart & Electronics

### Best Boat Dealer

**Winner: Lake Sara Marina**

### Best Auto Dealer

**Service Dept.**

**Winner:**

**Dan Hecht**

**Chevrolet Toyota**

First Runner-Up:

Northside Ford

### 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

**THANK YOU  
FOR VOTING  
US AS**

**BEST BUILDING  
CONTRACTOR/  
REMODELER  
AND BEST  
HOME BUILDER**



**VOTED EFFINGHAM'S BEST COMPUTER STORE 3 YEARS IN A ROW!**  
**NEW LOCATION: 1906 SOUTH BANKER**

**Thank you for voting us  
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*At Effingham Travel, our goal is to help create  
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**(217) 342-3965**

107 North Keller Drive • Effingham, IL 62401



**Best Mechanic****Winner:**

**Rock Hartke**  
(**Rock's Advanced**  
**Auto Care**)

First Runner-Up:

Doug Koester (Goeckner Bros)

**Best Motorcycle Dealer****Winner:**

**Legacy Harley-Davidson**

First Runner-Up:

CW Motorsports

**Best Motorcycle /**  
**ATV Repair**

**Winner:**

**Legacy Harley-Davidson**

First Runner-Up:

CW Motorsports

**Best New Car Dealer****Winner: Northside Ford**

First Runner-Up:

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota

**Best New Car Salesperson****Winner:**

**Cody Frailey**  
(**Dan Hecht**  
**Chevrolet Toyota**)

First Runner-Up:

Blaine Poland

(Russ Braunecker Auto Group)

**Best Oil Change Place****Winner:**

**Al's Tire Mart & Electronics**

First Runner-Up:

Northside Ford

**THANK YOU!**

We would like to thank everyone for voting us

**2024 People's Choice**  
**Best Barber and Best Barbershop**



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For Voting

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**Roger's Home Appliance**

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Altamont, IL 62411  
618-483-5955

400 N Keller Dr  
Effingham, IL 62401  
217-342-3461



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

First Runner-Up:

TRS Radiator &  
Air Conditioning**Best Transmission Repair****Winner:****Rock's Advanced Auto Care**

First Runner-Up:

DHB Transmission

**Best Trucking Co.****Winner:****3 Sisters Logistics LLC**

First Runner-Up:

Hetzl's Overland Transport Inc

**Best Used Car Dealer****Winner:****Northside Ford**

First Runner-Up:

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota

**Best Tire Dealer****Winner:****Al's Tire Mart & Electronics**

First Runner-Up:

Effingham Tire and Auto



Wright's Furniture  
& Flooring



**THANK YOU**

Thank you for voting **Wright's Furniture & Flooring** as  
People's Choice among Effingham Daily News readers for:  
**Best Carpet Dealer | Best Furniture Store | Best Flooring Store**  
and **Wright at Home Interiors** for:  
**Best Interior Decorators**

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# THANK YOU for Voting WEIS INSURANCE



#1 Best Insurance Agency



First Runner-Up to Tim Weis for Best Insurance Agent



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EFFINGHAM  
weisinsurance.com  
217-342-9777



**Best Used Car Salesperson**  
**Winner:**  
**Cody Frailey (Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota)**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Kary Jansen  
 (Jansen Auto Sales)

**Best Wrecker Service**  
**Winner:**  
**Tri Power Towing & Recovery**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Heartland Towing & Recovery

## RETAIL STORES

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

**Best Appliance Dealer**  
**Winner:**  
**Roger's Home Appliances**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Probst Refrigeration & Heating



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for choosing us!

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• Best Women's Boutique/Specialty Store  
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**EFFINGHAM DAILY NEWS**  
**People's Choice**  
 2024

708 West Jefferson Ave.,  
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 TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL

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- Ants
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- Fleas
- Rodents



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- Established in Effingham Over 30 Years
- All Work Guaranteed
- Termites (Extended Guaranteed)



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 WORK AT A  
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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!

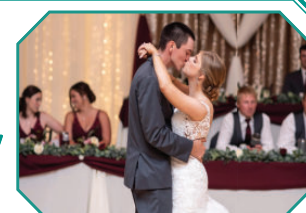


**Best Archery Shop****Winner:****Buckstop Archery**First Runner-Up:  
Smith Archery, LLC**Best Carpet Dealer****Winner:****Wright's Furniture  
& Flooring**First Runner-Up:  
Menards**Best Children's  
Clothing Store****Winner:****Beanstalk Boutique**First Runner-Up:  
Kohl's**Best Christian Book Store****Winner:****Lifeline Christian Books  
& Gifts**First Runner-Up:  
The Black Goat**Best Athletic Goods Store****Winner:****Hibbett Sports**First Runner-Up:  
Boots & Soles**Best CBD Dispensary****Winner:****RISE Effingham**First Runner-Up:  
Lucky Luciano's Smoke Shop**Best Bridal Store****Winner:****Vayda Jane Bridal**First Runner-Up:  
Wild Rose Formals**Best Cellular Phone Dealer****Winner:****Al's Tire Mart  
and Electronics - Verizon**First Runner-Up:  
AT&T**Best Butcher Shop****Winner:****Nuxoll Food Center**First Runner-Up:  
McMahon Meats**VOTED BEST  
WEDDING VENUE 2024***People's Choice in the Effingham Daily News!*

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FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***Scan to Order*DINE IN, CARRY OUT, & DELIVERY  
**ORDERJOES.COM****Open Tuesday-Sunday in Downtown Effingham  
& on Main Street in Altamont**



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(owner)

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**Best Computer Store**

**Winner:**

***Effingham Computer Sales and Service***

First Runner-Up:

Jansen Computer Sales & Repair

**Best Convenience Store**

**Winner:**

***Midtown Fuels (Kirby Foods)***

First Runner-Up:

QuikTrip

**Best Electronics Dealer**

**Winner:**

***Als Tire Mart & Electronics***

First Runner-Up:

Effingham Computer Sales and Service

**Best Farm Feed Store**

**Winner: *Rural King***

First Runner-Up:

The Equity

**Best Farm Supply Store**

**Winner:**

***Rural King***

First Runner-Up:

The Equity

**Best Florist**

**Winner:**

***Burkland's Florist & Gifts***

First Runner-Up:

Flowers by Kirby Foods

**Best Flooring Store**

**Winner:**

***Wright's Furniture & Flooring***

First Runner-Up: Menards

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**800.628.0434**

**Heavy Duty Recovery**  
**Axle Lifts - All Sizes**



**Best Furniture Store (New)****Winner:****Wright's Furniture  
& Flooring**

First Runner-Up (Tie):

W.S. Broom & Co Furniture  
& Niebrugge Furniture**Best Furniture Store (Used)****Winner:****It's Almost Home**

First Runner-Up:

Silk Purse

**Best Game Place****Winner:****Gopher's Grill**

First Runner-Up:

GameStop

**Best Garden Center****Winner:****Alwerdt's Gardens**

First Runner-Up:

Heartland Gardens

**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**

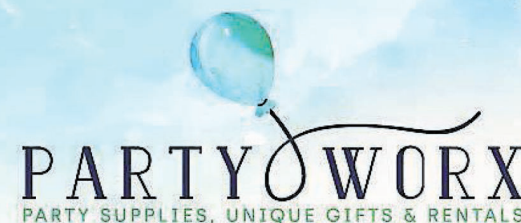
First Runner-Up:

Kirby Foods



The staff and volunteers  
of The Silk Purse - Best  
Resale Shop

**Thank you for voting us  
Best Party Supply Store and Best Party Rental Store**



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Mon - Fri - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sat - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Sunday - Closed

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Alex Steppe Best  
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Dr. John Killough, DPM**



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502 W. Virginia  
217-347-7218

**CHARLESTON**  
1301 Deerpath Road  
217-348-3339



**Best Gun Shop**

**Winner:**

**Accuracy Firearms**

First Runner-Up:

Locked and Loaded

**Best Hardware Store**

**Winner: Menards**

First Runner-Up:

Effingham Builder's Supply

**Best Hunting or Fishing  
Supplies Shop**

**Winner:**

**Accuracy Firearms**

First Runner-Up:

Rural King

**Best Jewelry Store**

**Winner: Weber's Jewelry**

First Runner-Up:

Kay Jewelers

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QR CODE**





# Congratulations People's Choice Winners & First Runners-Up

It's hard to believe we are about to close the first quarter of 2024 and even harder to believe we are announcing the annual winners of our 2024 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 2024!



## 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

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BEST CATERING  
BEST CHICKEN  
BEST FOOD TRUCK**



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**THANK YOU** to everyone who voted us:

Best Oil Change Place ■ Best Tire Dealer

Best Cellular Phone Dealer ■ Best Electronics Dealer

Best Front Desk Receptionist - Sam Richardson

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**Thank You for voting**  
**Dr. John Kay Best Ophthalmologist**  
**and Dr. Joseph Spraul Runner-Up.**

**We Appreciate Our Patients!**



Dr. John Kay



Dr. Joseph Spraul

**Effingham Ophthalmology**

903 Medical Park Drive • Effingham, Illinois 62401

(O) 217.347.2933 • (F) 217.347.2932



**Best Men's Clothing Store**  
**Winner:**  
**Weber's Clothing**  
 First Runner-Up: Kohl's

**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 Produce /  
 Produce Dept**  
**Winner:**  
**Aldi**  
 First Runner-Up:  
 Kirby Foods

**Best Party Supply Store**  
**Winner:**  
**Party Worx**  
 First Runner-Up: Hobby Lobby



JT's Tree & Crane Service - Winner Best Tree Service

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### Best Resale Shop

#### Winner:

**Silk Purse Thrift Store**

First Runner-Up:

Catholic Charities /

Second Hand Rose Resale

### Best Shoe Store

#### Winner:

**Boots & Soles**

First Runner-Up:

Famous Footwear

### Best Tea Shop

#### Winner:

**Ginger Ale's**

First Runner-Up:

Joe Sippers Café

### Best Vape / Tobacco Shop

#### Winner:

**Lucky Luciano's**

**Smoke Shop**

First Runner-Up:

The Stash Box

### Best Women's Boutique / Specialty Store

#### Winner:

**The Thomas Shop**

First Runner-Up:

Daisies & Denim Boutique

### Best Women's Clothing Store

#### Winner:

**The Thomas Shop**

First Runner-Up:

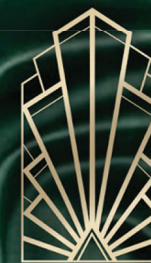
Glik's

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## For Voting Us BEST HAIR SALON!



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# THANK YOU!

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**Best Optometrist - Dr. Chris Weber**

**Runner Up - Best Optometrist -**

**Dr. Tony Weber**

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## HOME & BUSINESS SERVICES

### Best Auctioneer

#### Winner:

**Trent Schmid –  
Schmid Auction Service**  
First Runner-Up:  
Mark Schackmann –  
Schackmann Auction Service

### Best Commercial Design

#### Winner:

**Grunloh Construction**  
First Runner-Up:  
Elizabeth Yager Designs  
& Cabinetry  
(formerly Kuche Cabinetry)

### Best Concrete Company

#### Winner:

**J B Esker & Sons, Inc**  
First Runner-Up:  
MBI Concrete Construction

### Best Counter Tops

#### 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:  
Dittamore Implement

### Best Heating / Cooling Sales & Service

#### Winner:

**Jansen's Heating and Air**  
First Runner-Up:  
Merz Heating &  
Air Conditioning

### Best Landscaping Service

#### Winner:

**Heartland Landscaping**  
First Runner-Up:  
Wolke Nursery Landscaping

### Best Lawn Care Service

#### Winner:

**Kiefer Landscaping**  
First Runner-Up:  
Raddatz Lawn Care

### Best Locksmith

#### Winner:

**Barlow Lock and Security**

### Best Pest Control

#### Winner:

**ARAB Termite  
& Pest Control**  
First Runner-Up:  
Arrow Termite & Pest Control

### Best Plumbing Service

#### Winner:

**Drees Plumbing**  
First Runner-Up:  
Wente Plumbing &  
Fire Protection

*Thank You For  
Voting For Us!*

### First Runner Up

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Truck**
- ✓ **Best Taco  
Place**



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2018, 2020  
2021, 2022,  
2024



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■ CUTTING TORCH  
REPAIR

■ FUEL TANK REPAIR



**Best Security /  
Alarm Dealer****Winner:****Barlow Lock and Security**First Runner-Up:  
FieldWorx**Best Waste Disposal Service****Winner:****Sanitation Services Inc /  
Rubbish Gobbler**First Runner-Up:  
Sutter Disposal**EVERYTHING ELSE****Best Staffing Service****Winner:****Innovative Staff Solutions**First Runner-Up:  
StaffQuick**Best Art Studio****Winner: Stang Arts****Best Tree Service****Winner:****JT's Tree Service**First Runner-Up:  
Kreke's Tree Service**Best Cleaning Service****Winner:****Taylor Veach -  
Fresh Start Cleaning**First Runner-Up:  
Hakman's Cleaning Service

# THANK YOU! First Runner-Up

**Best Bank Teller - Deb Repking****Best Banking Institution****Best Mortgage Company**[www.washingtonsavings.net](http://www.washingtonsavings.net)Member  
**FDIC**

# OUR LOCAL

*Shops & Restaurants*

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 The image shows three circular insets: a swimming pool with a patio, a 'People's Choice' award from Effingham Daily News for 2024, and a Bullfrog spa. Below the insets is the phone number 888-377-3311 and the website www.wetpoolsandspas.net.
**THANKS FOR NAMING US  
PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST POOL & SPA STORE****301 E. Rickelman Ave., Effingham****217-347-3450**[www.wetpoolsandspas.net](http://www.wetpoolsandspas.net)Locally Owned  
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## 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 Event in

**Effingham County**

### Winner:

**Effingham County Fair**

First Runner-Up:

Teutopolis Cruise Night

## Best Hotel / Motel

**Winner: Holiday Inn**

First Runner-Up:

Hampton Inn & Suites

## Best Internet Provider

### Winner:

**Wabash Communications**

First Runner-Up:

American Fiber Network

## Best Party Rental

### Winner:

**Party Worx**

First Runner-Up:

Kink's Tents  
and Event Rentals LLC

## Best Entertainment Venue

### Winner:

**Effingham Performance  
Center**

First Runner-Up:

Tuscan Hills Winery



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**Chris A. Koester**

**1st Runner-Up**



**Tracy A. Willenborg**

**Thank you for choosing Taylor Law Offices,  
PC as 2024 People's Choice Best Attorney,  
Chris A. Koester; and 1st Runner-Up Best  
Attorney, Tracy A. Willenborg!**





**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:

Pawsleys Dog Grooming

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### Best Pet Store

#### Winner:

**Noah's Ark Pet Shoppe**

First Runner-Up: Rural King

### Best Taxidermist

#### Winner: Brad Hoene

First Runner-Up:

Brad Wendte  
(Wendte Taxidermy)

### Best Tumbling Instructor

#### Winner: Cayla Myers –

**Cayla's Power Tumbling,  
Cheer & Dance Center**

First Runner-Up:

Debbie Hardiek –  
Jansen's Preschool &  
Power Tumbling

### Best Tumbling Studio/Gym

#### Winner:

**Cayla's Power Tumbling,  
Cheer & Dance Center**

First Runner-Up:

Jansen's Preschool &  
Power Tumbling

### Best Veterinarian

#### Winner:

**Dr. Chad Ely –**

**Effingham**

### Veterinary Clinic

First Runner-Up:

Dr. Nanci Wood-Huels –  
Pet Wellness Center  
of Southern Illinois

### Best Veterinary Clinic

#### Winner:

**Effingham**

### Veterinary Clinic

First Runner-Up:

Pet Wellness Center  
of Southern Illinois

### Best Wedding Venue

#### Winner:

**Carriage House**

**Event Center**

First Runner-Up:

Teutopolis Banquet Hall

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