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**THE BARRE-MONTPELIER
TIMES ARGUS**



**2026 READERS' CHOICE
AWARD**

Winner & Runner Up Results

FREE



WWW.TIMESARGUS.COM/BOB2026

A woman with long brown hair and sunglasses on her head is smiling and holding a young child with curly blonde hair. The child is sitting on a wooden swing with blue rope, holding onto the rope. They are outdoors in a lush green forest. The background is filled with trees and foliage.

**Thank you for the
votes, vibes, and visits!**

The logo for the Montshire Museum of Science, featuring a stylized mountain shape composed of red, green, and teal triangles.

**MONTSHIRE
MUSEUM OF
SCIENCE**

Explore the Healing Forest and much more!

Welcome to The Barre-Montpelier Times Argus Best of the Best Readers' Choice Awards special section — where you can find out the people, businesses and places that make Washington County and Vermont a great place to live. A big thank you goes out to the readers — once again you took the time and care to help us out, and we appreciate it and we heard you loud and clear. There were some upsets, and some mainstays kept their position at the top of the heap, but all in all these awards are really about what's great in the area.

These awards are a chance for people to find out what they might not have known, or might have had in front of them all along without really appreciating. Many of the award winners are local icons or long-time favorites, but some of them might not have had as much time in the public eye. We hope you find out for yourselves what makes these businesses and people special enough to be the Best.

So hang on to this guide, and when you're wondering where to get the best help on buying a car, where to grab a bite to eat, who to get help when looking for a service professional or what's the best place to shop local, glance through and see the advice of thousands who know what's truly best about the region.



322 N. Main St., Suite 4, Barre, VT | www.timesargus.com | 800-498-4296

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ENTERTAINMENT



Bar or Pub

WINNER
Mulligan's Irish Pub
RUNNER UP
Gusto's

Bartender

WINNER
Diane Hood (The Meltdown)
RUNNER UP
Alex Buck (Gusto's)

Live Music Venue

WINNER
Barre Opera House
RUNNER UP
The Den

Local Musician(s)

WINNER
Native Tongue
RUNNER UP
TJ Powers

Performing Arts Venue

WINNER
Barre Opera House
RUNNER UP
Lost Nation Theater

Place to Entertain Your Family

WINNER
Kitty Korner Cafe
RUNNER UP
Twin City Family Fun Center



THANK YOU
Central Vermont
for Choosing us
as Your Favorite
THEATER GROUP

MONTPELIER CITY HALL ★ 229-0492
LOSTNATIONTHEATER.ORG



ARTS

Arts Exhibition Venue / Festival

WINNER
Vermont Historical Society Museum
RUNNER UP
Studio Place Arts

Arts School

WINNER
Studio Place Arts
RUNNER UP
T. W. Wood Children and Adult Arts Programs

Dance School

WINNER
Joni's School of Dance
RUNNER UP
Shooting Star Dance Studio

Gallery

WINNER
Studio Place Arts
RUNNER UP
T. W. Wood Gallery

Museum

WINNER
Montshire Museum of Science
RUNNER UP
Shelburne Museum

Music Festival

WINNER
Do Good Festival
RUNNER UP
Barre Heritage Festival



Theater Group

WINNER
Lost Nation Theater
RUNNER UP
Valley Players Theater



Congratulations to our sweepstake winners



\$250 Cash

Tracie Lewis

\$50 Gift Certificate to Hunger Mountain Coop

Rebecca Hebert

\$25 Gift Certificate to Capitol Grounds

Maryjo Lamell

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FOOD

Asian Food

WINNER
Asian Gourmet
RUNNER UP
China Town Restaurant

Bakery

WINNER
Red Hen Baking
RUNNER UP
Wayside Restaurant, Bakery & Creamery

Beverage Distributor

WINNER
Calmont Beverage
RUNNER UP
Farrell Distributing

Beverage Store

WINNER
Beverage Baron
RUNNER UP
Yankee Wine & Spirits

Breakfast

WINNER
Wayside Restaurant
RUNNER UP
Kitty Korner Cafe

Burger

WINNER
Buddy's Famous
RUNNER UP
Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen

Caterer

WINNER
Locarno's to Go
RUNNER UP
Taste of VT

Chinese Food

WINNER
Asian Gourmet
RUNNER UP
China Moon Buffet

Coffee Shop

WINNER
Espresso Bueno
RUNNER UP
Kitty Korner Cafe

Convenience Store / Market

WINNER
Pump & Pantry
RUNNER UP
Quality Market

Creemee Stand

WINNER
Legendaury Maple & Ice Cream
RUNNER UP
Bragg Farm

Dinner

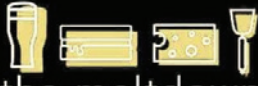
WINNER
Sarducci's
RUNNER UP
The Meltdown Grilled Cheese and Tap Room



**Thank you for voting
us Best Sandwich!
Chin chin!**

& Best Bartender - Diane Hood!!

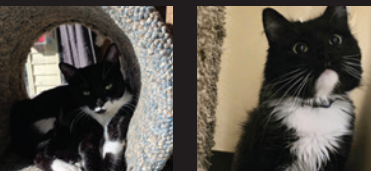
RUNNER UP for Best Lunch,
Best Dinner and Best French Fries!



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the meltdown





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and Runner-Up
Best Pharmacy**
in the The Barre-Montpelier
Times Argus Best of
the Best 2026 Readers'
Choice Awards.

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FOOD

French Fries

WINNER
Al's French Fries
RUNNER UP
The Meltdown

Hot Dog or Snack Stand

WINNER
Als' French Fries
RUNNER UP
Rocket J's Snack Bar

Indian Food

WINNER
**Namaste Indian Ne-
pali Restaurant**
RUNNER UP
Ksherpa Dinner House

Italian Food

WINNER
Sarducci's
RUNNER UP
Campo Di Vino

Lunch

WINNER
Wayside Restaurant
RUNNER UP
**The Meltdown Grilled
Cheese and Tap Room**

Mexican Food

WINNER
Casa Azteca
RUNNER UP
Julio's Cantina



Pizza

WINNER
Positive Pie
RUNNER UP
Pearl Street Pizza

Place to eat out with your family

WINNER
Wayside Restaurant
RUNNER UP
Sarducci's

Restaurant

WINNER
Sarducci's
RUNNER UP
Wayside Restaurant

Sandwich

WINNER
**The Meltdown Grilled
Cheese and Tap Room**

Steak

WINNER
Texas Roadhouse
RUNNER UP
J Morgan's Steakhouse

Super Market

WINNER
Hannaford
RUNNER UP

Shaws

Vermont Brewery/Distillery
WINNER
Barr Hill by Caledonia Spirits
RUNNER UP
Good Measure Brewery

RUNNER UP
Morse Block Deli & Taps

Seafood

WINNER
Tozier's Restaurant
RUNNER UP
Sarducci's



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LOCAL SHOPPING

Antique Shop

WINNER
Last Time Around Antiques

RUNNER UP
Grakles

Apple Orchard

WINNER
Burt's Apple Orchard

RUNNER UP
Peck Farm Orchard

Appliance Store

WINNER
Nelson Ace Hardware

RUNNER UP
Tatro's Appliance

Book Store

WINNER
Bear Pond Books

RUNNER UP
Next Chapter Bookstore

Carpet / Flooring Store

WINNER
Barre Tile

RUNNER UP
Country Floors

Clothing Store

WINNER
Lenny's Shoe & Apparel

RUNNER UP
Amy's Armoire

Clothing Store - Kids

WINNER
Amy's Armoire

RUNNER UP
Kohls

Dispensary

WINNER
Capital Cannabis
RUNNER UP
Gram Central Dispensary

Electronics/Computer Store

WINNER
Computer Barn
RUNNER UP
Ormsby's Computer Store

Event & Party Supply Store

WINNER
Forget-Me-Not Flowers and Gifts

RUNNER UP - TIE
Emslie the Florist & Gifts

RUNNER UP - TIE
Hobby Lobby

Farmstand

WINNER
Paquet Farm

RUNNER UP
Dog River Farm

Florist

WINNER
Forget Me Not Flowers and Gifts

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LOCAL SHOPPING

RUNNER UP
Emslie The Florist And Gifts
Furniture Store

WINNER
Mattress Land

RUNNER UP
Novello Home Furnishings
Garden Center

WINNER
Montpelier Agway

RUNNER UP
Guy's Farm and Yard
Greenhouse/Nursery

WINNER
Weezie's Greenhouse

RUNNER UP
Agway

Gun Shop

WINNER
R&L Archery
RUNNER UP
Parro's Gun Shop
Hardware Store

WINNER
Nelson Ace Hardware
RUNNER UP
Aubuchon Hardware (Barre)

Hobby Shop

WINNER
Hobby Lobby

RUNNER UP
The Drawing Board
Jeweler

WINNER
Richard J Wobby Jewelers

RUNNER UP
Katie's Jewels
Mattress Store

WINNER
Mattress Land

RUNNER UP
Novello Furniture

Monuments

WINNER
Rock of Ages
RUNNER UP
Gherardi & Buttura Granite Artisans

Music Shop

WINNER
Exile on Main Street
RUNNER UP
Buch Spieler Records

Outdoors / Sporting Goods Store

WINNER
Lenny's Shoe & Apparel
RUNNER UP
R & L Archery

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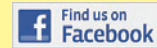
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Pet Supply Store

WINNER
Tractor Supply Co.
RUNNER UP
One Stop Country Pet Supply

Place to buy a cell phone

WINNER
Verizon Authorized Retailer - Cellular Sales
RUNNER UP
AT&T Store

Real Wood Furniture

WINNER
Last Time Around Antiques
RUNNER UP
Weathered Barn & Co.



Shoe Store

WINNER
Lenny's Shoe & Apparel
RUNNER UP
Roam Vermont

Ski Shop

WINNER
Onion River Outdoors
RUNNER UP
Slope style Ski & Ride

Thrift Store

WINNER
Amy's Armoire
RUNNER UP
ReSOURCE Barre

Toy Store

WINNER
Woodbury Mountain Toys
RUNNER UP
Next Chapter Bookstore

VT Gift Shop

WINNER
Forget-Me-Not Flowers and Gifts
RUNNER UP
Bragg Farm Sugar House & Gift
RUNNER UP
Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks



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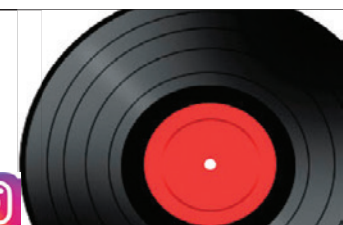
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EXILE

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SERVICES

Accountancy

WINNER
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RUNNER UP
Nicole Sancibrian

Appliance Repair

WINNER
Tatro's Appliance

Bank

WINNER
Northfield Savings Bank

RUNNER UP
**Community National
Bank (Barre, Derby)**

Banquet Facility

WINNER
Elk's Lodge Barre

RUNNER UP
Canadian Club

Beauty Services

WINNER
Studio K Styles

RUNNER UP
Wild Child's Beauty Co.

Commercial Painting Services

WINNER
Louis Marineau & Sons

RUNNER UP
Greg's Painting and Staining

Credit Union

WINNER
**North Country Federal
Credit Union**

RUNNER UP
East Rise Credit Union



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the Best Plumber!
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customers and our
J.A. Gould Team for
all their hard work!
We appreciate
everyone!*



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To our customers, friends, and community
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SERVICES

Customer Service

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RUNNER UP

Forget-Me-Not Flowers & Gifts

Dog Trainer

WINNER

Mandy Umbergio (Proper Pups)

RUNNER UP

Janine Mannimen Green

Mtn Dog Camp

Electrician

WINNER

Benoit Electric

RUNNER UP

Felch Electric

Exterminator/Pest Control

WINNER

Central Vermont Pest Control

RUNNER UP

**Marcus Brown, The
Eliminator Pest Control**

Financial Advisor

WINNER

Alex Johns - Wells Fargo FiNet

RUNNER UP

Ed Rousse - National Life

Fuel Dealer

WINNER

White's Heating Inc

RUNNER UP

Gillespie Fuels & Propane

Funeral Home

WINNER

Hooker & Whitcomb

Funeral Home

RUNNER UP

Pruneau-Polli Funeral Home



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SERVICES

General Contractor

WINNER
Lajeunesse Construction

RUNNER UP
EF Wall & Associates, Inc.

Graphics Shop / Printer

WINNER
Yipes! of Central Vermont

RUNNER UP
Granite City Graphics

Hair Care (Barbershop)

WINNER
Elm Street Chop Shop

RUNNER UP
Off-the-Top Unisex Styling Shop

Hair Care (Salon)

WINNER
Studio K Styles

RUNNER UP
Posh Salon & Spa

Heating / AC Contractor

WINNER
White's Heating

RUNNER UP
J A Gould Plumbing & Heating

Home Inspector

WINNER
Ed Benoit

RUNNER UP
UP 2 Code Plumbing & Heating

Insurance Agency

WINNER
Bob Bartlett State Farm Insurance Agency (Barre)

RUNNER UP
Vermont Mutual

Insurance Agent

WINNER
Bob Bartlett State Farm Insurance Agency (Barre)

RUNNER UP
Tim Ayers (Noyle Johnson)

Kitchen & Bath

WINNER
Nelson Ace Hardware

RUNNER UP
F.W. Webb

Landscaper

WINNER
K. Bellavance Land Works & Hauling

RUNNER UP
TLC Gardening LLC

Law Firm

WINNER
Valsangiacomo & Pelkey

RUNNER UP
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SERVICES

Nail Salon

WINNER
Posh Salon & Spa
RUNNER UP
Fringe Salon (Becky Lafountain)
RUNNER UP
Paris Nails

Paint Store

WINNER
Nelson Ace Hardware
RUNNER UP
Sherwin-Williams Paint Store

Pet Groomer

WINNER
Krista McNamara (Un-Fur-Gettable Pet Grooming)
RUNNER UP
802 Paws Dog Grooming & Spa

Photographer

WINNER
Jess VanOrman
RUNNER UP
Sean Hood Photography

Place to Work

WINNER
Nelson Ace Hardware
RUNNER UP
State of Vermont

Plumber

WINNER
**J A Gould Plumbing
& Heating Inc**
RUNNER UP
Gillespies

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SERVICES

Propane Refill Station

WINNER
Mattress land

RUNNER UP
Montpelier Agway

Rare Coin Dealer and Appraiser

WINNER
Gold Silver Antique & Pawn

RUNNER UP
International Coin and Currency

Real Estate Agency

WINNER
Green Light Real Estate

RUNNER UP
Heney Realtors

Realtor

WINNER
Kate Root (Green Light Real Estate)

RUNNER UP
Michelle Hebert (KW Real Realty)

Roofer

WINNER
Burrell Roofing

RUNNER UP
Til' Dark Roofing

Screen Printer / Embroidery

WINNER
Yipes! Of Central Vermont

RUNNER UP
Granite City Graphics

Small Engine Repair Shop

WINNER
Guy's Repair Shop

RUNNER UP
Yipes! Of Central Vermont

Spa

WINNER
Green Mountain Day Spa

RUNNER UP
Posh Salon & Spa

Stove Dealer

WINNER
Stove Works

RUNNER UP
Chimney Sweep II

Tanning Salon

WINNER
Family Hairloom Tanning

RUNNER UP
Posh Salon & Spa

Tattoo Parlor

WINNER
Bury The Needle Tattoo

RUNNER UP
Marigold Adornment

Waste Removal

WINNER
Casella Waste Management

RUNNER UP
Tiny's Trash and Hauling Services

Window & Glass Repair & Replacement

WINNER
Portland Glass (Barre)

RUNNER UP
Safelite AutoGlass

Women-Owned Business

WINNER
Emslie the Florist & Gifts

RUNNER UP
Forget-Me-Not Flowers and Gifts



THANK YOU

for voting us **BEST GENERAL CONTRACTOR** in Central Vermont

Serving our community since 1962.

THE BARRE-MONTPELIER
TIMES ARGUS
**BEST
OF THE
BEST**
2026 READERS' CHOICE
AWARD

 **LAJEUNESSE**
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Thank you for voting Onion River Animal Hospital as the Best of the Best Veterinarian in Central Vermont!

For over 40 years, we have been dedicated to providing top-notch care for your beloved pets. Our team of skilled veterinary technicians and doctors is committed to offering a full range of high-quality veterinary services to ensure your pets live healthy and happy lives

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Karen Bradley, DVM
Alison Cornwall, DVM
Kelly Crawford, DVM
Ann Culp, VMD
Zoe Feehan, DVM
Hannah Flynn, VMD
Ed Horowitz, DVM
Kristi Magida, DVM
Lauren Quinn, DVM
Briana Wilkinson, BVMS

• **Monday-Friday: 8am-8pm**
• **Saturday: 8am-4pm**
• **Sunday: Closed**



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Phone: 802-223-7765
onionriveranimalhospital.com



HEALTH & WELLNESS



Chiropractor

WINNER
Dr. Curtis M. Healey, DC
RUNNER UP
Dr. Daniel Woodcock, DC

Dentist

WINNER
Kwasnik Family Dental
RUNNER UP
Dr. William L. Koch, DDS

Doctor

WINNER
Dr. Julie Vogel, MD, Gynecologist and Obstetrician
RUNNER UP
Dr. David J. Ospina, MD (CVMC)

Eye Doctor

WINNER
Optical Expressions (Dr. Mark Liepert)
RUNNER UP
Shippee Family Eye Care

Holistic Healer

WINNER
Breath & Bone Reiki, Massage
RUNNER UP
AroMed Essentials

Home Care

WINNER
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice
RUNNER UP
Tender Loving Homecare



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Orthopedics and Sports Medicine (CVMC)
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Choice Physical Therapy

Physician’s Assistant

WINNER
Pam Byrd (CVMC Express Care)
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Helen Hollenbach, PA-C, MS (CVMC)

Rehabilitation Facility

WINNER
Mayo Healthcare
RUNNER UP
Woodridge Rehabilitation Nursing Home

Senior Living Center

WINNER
Mayo Healthcare
RUNNER UP
Woodridge Rehabilitation & Nursing

Veterinary Office

WINNER
Onion River Animal Hospital
RUNNER UP
Montpelier Veterinary Hospital

Yoga Studio

WINNER
Rooted Yoga

STAYCATION



Bed & Breakfast

WINNER
Reynold’s House Bed & Breakfast
RUNNER UP
Maplecroft Bed & Breakfast

Dream Wedding Location

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Spruce View Event Barn

RUNNER UP
The Inn at Round Barn Farm

Golf Course

WINNER
Country Club of Barre
RUNNER UP
Woodbury Golf Course

Gym or Fitness Center

WINNER
Green Mountain Fitness
RUNNER UP
Planet Fitness

Hotel

WINNER
Von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort
RUNNER UP
Reynold’s House Bed & Breakfast

Pet Boarding

WINNER
Four Paws Inn
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RUNNER UP
Laquerres Marine & Sports Center

Auto Body Shop

WINNER
Stone's Service Station Inc

RUNNER UP
Cody Chevrolet

Auto Parts Store

WINNER
O'Reilly Auto Parts

RUNNER UP
Napa Auto Parts (Sanel Auto Parts)

Auto Repair Shop

WINNER
Stone's Service Station

RUNNER UP
Bigras Auto & Tire

Auto Salesperson

WINNER
Jay Laquerre (Cody Chevrolet)

RUNNER UP
Jesse Bennett (802 Honda)

Bike Shop

WINNER
Vermont Bicycle Shop

RUNNER UP
Onion River Outdoors

Boat Dealer

WINNER
Gilles Sales & Services

RUNNER UP
Laquerres Marine & Sports Center

Car Wash

WINNER
VT LazerWash

RUNNER UP
Rub-A-Dub Car Wash

Hauling/Transportation

WINNER
Bellavance Trucking

RUNNER UP
Tiny's Trash Services and Hauling

Lawn Mower Dealer

WINNER
Guy's Repair Shop

Mechanic

WINNER
Stone's Service Station

RUNNER UP
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New Car Dealer

WINNER
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