FREE October 28-November 4, 2021 • Vol. 47, No. 14

Illinois Times

# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

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# ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN HISTORIC SITE

**Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site**
15588 History Lane, Petersburg, 632-4000

*Finalists: Lincoln Home National Historic Site, The Lincoln Tomb, Old State Capitol*

## TOURIST SPOT IN SPRINGFIELD NOT RELATED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**Dana-Thomas House**
301 E. Lawrence Ave., 782-6776

*Finalists: Cozy Dog Drive In, Illinois State Fair, Washington Park, Illinois State Museum*

## MUSEUM

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**
212 N. Sixth St., 558-8844

*Finalists: Illinois State Museum, Kidzeum, Springfield Art Association Edwards Place, Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum*

## RADIO PERSONALITY OR TEAM

**Dave & Dina - 101.9 The Wolf**

*Finalists: Jim Leach - WMAY, DJ Blake - WDBR, Sam Madonia - Sports Radio 1450, Lynch - WYMG*

## DRIVE-TIME RADIO SHOW

**NPR All Things Considered - WUIS**

*Finalists: Dave & Dina - 101.9 The Wolf, WDBR Morning Show with DJ Blake, Jim Leach - WMAY, Josh Roberts, The Ride Home - 104.5 WFMB*

## VIRTUAL/ONLINE THEATER PERFORMANCE - FEMALE LEAD

**Mary Kate Smith - Songs for a New World**

*Finalists: Betsy Buttell - Spirit of Lincoln, Campbell Coker, Tiffany Reich, Betsy Buttell - Music Revue*

Every year, we ask our opinionated readers to tell us about their favorite people, places and things in the Springfield area. Over the decades we've been doing this, we've continued to tweak both the process and the results issue to try to keep things fresh and interesting, and of course, the votes tend to reflect current trends. Last year, all 10 of the most popular categories were food-related. This time around, people seemed to be broadening their horizons a bit more, with museum and Abraham Lincoln historic site cracking the top 10 alongside repeat favorites like donut shop, bakery and horseshoe. And in a nod to the pandemic, place to see a play or musical outdoor and outdoor dining were also popular categories. We also tweaked our theater categories to recognize virtual performances and added a podcast category due to popular demand. Wondering how all this works? Here are the answers to the most common questions we hear:

**Q. Are the results real? Don't you just pick your advertisers to win?**
A. The Best of Springfield results are based on what our readers chose as the best, which is not always the same as what our staff would prefer. Just ask the advertising department, there are many winners who have never spent a dime with us and others who frequently advertise but failed to win their category. While advertising helps remind people to vote for you, it certainly doesn't guarantee the outcome.

**Q. Why did national companies or chain stores win some of the categories? If you're a locally owned business, shouldn't you support other locally owned businesses?**
A. See previous answer. We encourage our readers to vote (and shop) local, but ultimately, we don't control the votes.

**Q. Why wasn't _____ category included?**
A. There are already more than 200 categories, so from a logistical perspective we have to consider the attention span of both the voters and readers. However, we do add and subtract categories based on reader interest and current events (we brought back the comedian category this year in response to reader requests and added several categories specific to the pandemic). Keep in mind that there needs to be at least four or five contenders in a category to make it competitive, so if you're asking for "Best battery store," "Best place to buy a musical instrument," or "Best auctioneer" (all actual requests we've had), we're taking that into consideration. If you think of a great category we've missed, email our associate publisher, James Bengfort, at jbengfort@illinoistimes.com.

**Q. Why wasn't _____ one of the options when I voted?**
A. We hold an initial nomination round beginning in mid-August. The top five vote-getters in each category move on to the final voting. So if you want to lobby for a particular person or business to win, the time to start is in the nomination round.

**Q. Why don't all of the winners have a write up this year?**
A. We used to publish a short blurb on each of the top picks. However, we do have many repeat winners, and it can be hard to find something different to say each year. Starting last year, we switched to a format with longer (but fewer) profiles. We now try to highlight new winners and categories to make it more interesting and informative for the reader.

We welcome comments on this, or anything else in our publication, which can be sent to letters@illinoistimes.com. – *Michelle Ownbey, publisher*

## CATEGORIES WITH THE MOST VOTES:

1. Donut Shop
2. Museum
3. Credit union
4. Place to see a play or musical outdoor
5. Bakery
6. Horseshoe
7. Bank
8. Beer garden
9. Abraham Lincoln historic site
10. Outdoor dining

## VOTES PER GROUP:

**24% increase in the number of people that registered and voted. 273,880 votes cast in total.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 13.84% | Arts, Culture & Entertainment |
| 5.36% | Civic & Community |
| 6.73% | Drink |
| 12.85% | Food |
| 9.66% | Goods & Services |
| 9.66% | Health & Wellness |
| 4.46% | Home & Garden |
| 4.12% | Kids Stuff |
| 5.05% | Music |
| 7.28% | Retail |
| 1.30% | Cannabis |

## VIRTUAL/ONLINE THEATER PERFORMANCE - MALE LEAD

**Keith Bradbury - Spirit of Lincoln**

*Finalists: Damien Kaplan - Songs for a New World, Randy Dunham - Ghostlight Series, Rick Dunham, Tony Young - Spirit of Lincoln*

## DIRECTOR OF LOCAL THEATER

**Gus Gordon - Hoogland Center for the Arts**
420 S. Sixth St., 523-2787

*Finalists: Scott Richardson - The Legacy Theatre, Cynthia Higginson, Craig Williams, Jr., Gil Opferman*

## PLACE TO SEE A PLAY OR MUSICAL INDOORS

**Hoogland Center for the Arts**
420 S. Sixth St., 523-2787

*Finalists: UIS Performing Arts Center, The Legacy Theatre, Springfield Theatre Centre, Springfield High School auditorium*

## PLACE TO SEE A PLAY OR MUSICAL OUTDOORS

**The Muni**
815 E. Lake Shore Drive, 793-6864

*Finalists: Theatre in the Park, Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site*

## ART STUDIO/GALLERY

**Springfield Art Association**
700 N. Fourth St., 523-2631

*Finalists: The Pharmacy Gallery & Art Space, Whimsy Tea Company, SAA Collective, DIM Art House*

## VISUAL ARTIST

**Felicia Olin**

*Finalists: Alexandra Rossi, Jeff Williams, Bri Skeels, Monica Suzanne Hohimer, Devin Larson*

## PUBLIC ART/MURAL (INTERSECTIONS)

**Grab-A-Java, Inc.**
1702 S. Sixth St., 523-5282
3115 Hedley Road, 698-9773

*Finalists: Penny Lane Gifts, Abraham Lincoln on The Alamo, Clay's Popeye's BBQ, Monster Pawn*

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## PLACE TO BUY LOCAL ART

**Edwards Place Fine Art Fair - Springfield Art Association**
700 N. Fourth St., 523-2631

*Finalists: Studio on 6th, Wild Rose, Whimsy Tea Company, DIM Art House*

## FREE ENTERTAINMENT

**Curve Inn**
3219 S. Sixth St., 529-5806

*Finalists: Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series, Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, International Carillon Festival - Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon, 217 Burlesque & Curiosities*

## FESTIVAL/EVENT (NON-MUSIC) YOU MISSED THE MOST

**Old Capitol Art Fair**

*Finalists: Memorial's Festival of Trees, Illinois State Fair, Phoenix Center PrideFest, Route 66 Mother Road Festival*

## LOCAL COMEDIAN

**Blake Stevens**

*Finalists: Johnny Molson, Jeremy Nunes, Jeff Tolbert, Larry Smith*

## CHARITY EVENT

**Memorial's Festival of Trees**

*Finalists: Fat Ass 5K & Street Party for Charity, Girls on the Run 5K, Legacy of Giving Music Festival, Phoenix Center's Fall GAYla*

## PLACE TO GO DOWNTOWN

**Old Capitol Farmers Market**

*Finalists: Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, The Feed Store, Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, Dumb Records*

## LOCAL LIVING AUTHOR

**Shatriya Smith**

*Finalists: Taylor Pensoneau, Tara McAndrew, Eric Woods, Jeremy Nunes*

## LOCAL PODCAST

**Ray Lytle's Morning Disaster**

*Finalists: I Think You're Gonna Like This, Night Terrors Radio, Intentional Dangerfield podcast*

Photo by Rachel Otwell

## LOCAL LIVING AUTHOR

# Shatriya Smith

Shatriya Smith wants to be the capital city's first poet laureate – an honor that doesn't, but should, exist – and should first be bestowed on Smith, partially for her being creative and visionary enough for the idea in the first place. In addition to her writing, Smith is a fierce community organizer who likely has as many connections as any public official in Springfield. Currently she is helping lead the Marcus Garvey-Harriet Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center, a nonprofit with a focus on empowering impoverished and disadvantaged kids through arts education.

Even through the pandemic, she has kept busy, helping organize music lessons for kids who wouldn't have access to them otherwise, for instance. She has recited her poetry at multiple rallies during the recent Black Lives Matter movement uprising, as she has for numerous years prior for other human rights causes. Smith is open about overcoming dyslexia in order to work with words and make them mean something that moves many.

Smith lives on the east side of Springfield, in a home that once belonged to her late grandmother, who was also heavily involved in the community. Smith credits her grandmother with urging her to share her feelings, something that otherwise was not encouraged during her childhood. "My grandma broke that curse for me. So I'm free because I am able to be descriptive about my feelings, and share this understanding of where I'm coming from," Smith told *Illinois Times* in an interview earlier this year.

Springfield is lucky to have Smith as someone communicating across many divides that have historically segregated the capital city. Her genuine commitment and embodiment of a progressive, welcoming spirit is an asset to Springfield and her star only continues to rise.

## LOCAL SPORTS TEAM (TEAM AND SPORT)

**Springfield Sliders - baseball**
1415 North Grand Ave. East, 679-3511

*Finalists: Rochester High School football, Springfield Jr. Blues, Sacred Heart Griffin football, Springfield High School baseball*

# CIVIC & COMMUNITY

## NONPROFIT

**Animal Protective League**
1001 Taintor Road, 544-7387

*Finalists: Phoenix Center, Wooden It Be Lovely, Community Child Care Connection, Helping the Homeless*

## NONPROFIT ASSISTING DURING THE PANDEMIC

**Springfield Families Helping Families Facebook page**

*Finalists: Helping Hands of Springfield, Helping the Homeless in Springfield, IL, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Community Child Care Connection*

## PLACE TO VOLUNTEER

**Animal Protective League**
1001 Taintor Road, 544-7387

*Finalists: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois, Memorial's Festival of Trees, PAWS, The Muni*

## UNSUNG HERO

**Teachers**

*Finalists: Medical professionals, Mark Forinash - Cafe Moxo, Julie Benson - Helping the Homeless in Springfield, IL, 2C ICU Staff Springfield Memorial Hospital*

## UP-AND-COMING LEADER

**Kristin DiCenso**

*Finalists: Sunshine Clemons, Erica Romines, John Keating, Rachel King*

## CITY OFFICIAL

**Kristin DiCenso**

*Finalists: Mayor Jim Langfelder, Misty Buscher, Erin Conley, Shawn Gregory*

BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021 Illinois Times

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## COUNTY OFFICIAL
**Sheriff Jack Campbell**

*Finalists: Don Gray, Josh Langfelder, Tony DelGiorno, Andy Goleman*

## USE OF PUBLIC MONEY
**Schools**

*Finalists: Salvation Army Warming Center all year, road repairs, year-round branch and leaf pickup, Lincoln Library (Springfield's public library)*

## BUSINESS GIVING BACK DURING THE PANDEMIC
**Cafe Moxo**
411 E. Adams St., 788-8084

*Finalists: Willow and Birch Salon, Aztca Mexican Grill, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Chadito's Mexican American Grill*

## APARTMENT COMMUNITY
**Lake Pointe Apartments**
1600 Toronto Road, 529-2900

*Finalists: Lincoln Square Apartments, The Villas Downtown, Prairie Vista Apartments, Monroe Garden Apartments*

## CLERGYPERSON
**Fr. Jeff Grant - Blessed Sacrament Parish**
1725 S. Walnut St., 528-7521

*Finalists: Eddie Lowen - Westside Christian Church, Rev. Susan Phillips - First Presbyterian Church, Martin Woulfe - Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation, Jeff Nelsen - Cherry Hills Church*

# DRINK

## BARTENDER
**Darcy at Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery**
500 S. Sixth St., 670-0627

*Finalists: Pat McPartland at WLD and Clique, Seth Propst - Springfield Beer Company, Lori Phillips - Chesapeake Seafood House, Ruthy Lovelette - The Winner's Circle*

## SPECIALTY COCKTAIL
**Casa Real Margarita Flight at Casa Real**
3100 W. White Oaks Drive, 303-5323

*Finalists: Bloody Mary - Boone's, Spicy Raspberry Margarita - Roots Latin Grill, Bloody Mary Bar - Brewski's Pub, Suicide Shot - Clique*

## LOCAL PODCAST
# Ray Lytle's Morning Disaster

Long a staple on the Springfield-area radio scene, Ray Lytle moved into the internet radio world more than five years ago and brought his popular Morning Disaster program along for the wild ride. Basically, the podcast our readers voted to be the best is a variation of the irreverent talk show that Ray "the Master of Disaster" is known for and successfully produced live on air for decades.

Recorded for posterity and available at www.morningdisaster.net, you can listen to the very first podcast from May 18, 2015, when, according to information on the link, "after 10 long years, a sound from the past returns to the internet" all the way up to, well, whatever Ray and his cast of characters are talking about today.

Some of the crew Ray had on the popular WQLZ show that started all this wonderfully nutty behavior crop up now and again, plus there's a never-ending revolving cast of interviewees, crazy call-ins and much more, including silly stories about the late Jim the Photographer and whatever pops into the funny, fertile and seriously comedic, irreverent mind of Ray Lytle. Show participants listed on his website currently include Sh*t Stain Steve, Niki (she's been a Disaster worker since the 90s), F'ing Jason and Shawn Balint, plus Fat Nick and Fit Nick, who are two different Nicks that Ray brings on the show.

The strength of this unscripted, unpredictable and sometimes unbelievable online-radio-show-turned podcast rests on the perky and quirky personality of Ray as he tries to help us make sense of this wild and wooly world in which we live while interacting with these fellow disaster-makers. Our readers agree enough with that to say this is the best we have, and we're all good with that, too.

## WINE BAR
**Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant**
2501 Wabash Ave., 321-9100

*Finalists: 3Sixteen Wine Bar, It's All About Wine, Curate, The Corkscrew*

## WINERY
**Danenberger Family Vineyards**
12341 Irish Road, New Berlin, 488-6321

*Finalists: Hill Prairie Winery, West of Wise Winery, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Walnut Street Winery*

## NEW BAR
**1st & 3rd Boutique and Wine Bar,**
105 S. Seventh St., Petersburg

*Finalists: Brewski's Pub, Clique, Whiskey Jack's, The Winner's Circle*

## HAPPY HOUR
**Boone's**
301 W. Edwards St., 679-3752

*Finalists: JP Kelly's Pub, Webbles Bar & Grill, Bella Milano, Brewski's Pub*

## MARGARITAS
**Xochimilco**
2941 W. Iles Ave., 546-3116

*Finalists: Aztca Mexican Grill, Casa Real, Blue Margarita Mexican Bar & Grill, La Fiesta*

## BEER GARDEN
**Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery**
500 S. Sixth St., 670-0627

*Finalists: Curve Inn, Locals Bar - Pawnee, Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, Boone's*

## CRAFT BREWERY
**Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery**
500 S. Sixth St., 670-0627

*Finalists: Hand of Fate Brewing Company, Springfield Beer Company, Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, Engrained Brewery & Restaurant*

## BEER SELECTION (ON TAP)
**Buzz Bomb Brewing Company**
406 E. Adams St.

*Finalists: Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Finley's Tap House, Springfield Beer Company, Sky Lounge*

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# Congratulations

to all the winners and finalists in this year's Best of Springfield contest.

We appreciate all you do to serve our community and keep us safe during these challenging times.

Memorial Health

# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

## OVERALL BAR
**Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum**
600 Toronto Road, 679-7323

*Finalists: Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Curve Inn, Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, Springfield Beer Company, Clique*

## COFFEEHOUSE
**Grab-A-Java, Inc.**
1702 S. Sixth St., 523-5282
3115 Hedley Road, 698-9773

*Finalists: Wm. Van's Coffee House, Scoop Du Jour, Custom Cup, Grateful Coffee Co.*

## JUICE OR SMOOTHIE BAR
**Smoothie King**
605 W. Jefferson Street, 670-1962
4319 Yucan Drive, 679-4590

*Finalists: Grab-A-Java, Inc., Sabores, Grateful* Coffee Co., Harvest Market Coffee Shop

# FOOD

## BAKERY
**Incredibly Delicious**
925 S. Seventh St., 528-8548

*Finalists: Nothing Bundt Cakes, Three Twigs Bakery, SmallCakes Cupcakery and Creamery, Cakes by Ashley*

## BREAKFAST
**Charlie Parker's Diner**
700 W. North St., 241-2104

*Finalists: Le Peep, Biscuits + Brunch, Ritz's Lil Fryer, Brunchfield Cafe*

## BRUNCH
**Biscuits + Brunch**
2661 Chatham Road, 670-1501

*Finalists: Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Le Peep, Boone's, Brunchfield Cafe*

## CHEF
**Aurora Coffey - Luminary Kitchen & Provisions**
3121 Hedley Road, 679-1819

*Finalists: Keith Loukinen - Loukinens' on 4th, Michael Higgins - Maldaner's Restaurant & Catering, Joseph at Joseph's Fine Cuisine, Howard Seidel - Brunchfield Cafe*

Photo courtesy MK Smith

## VIRTUAL/ONLINE THEATER PERFORMANCE - FEMALE LEAD

# Mary Kate Smith

## *Songs for a New World*

Within the strange, pandemic world of 2020, theater shows were not able to be safely presented and venues struggled to come up with ways to produce performances for audiences. At the Hoogland Center for the Arts, videotaped performances were made available online and *Songs for a New World* by Jason Robert Brown aired in October 2020.

With only four actors in the show, and little interaction necessary or desired, the piece seemed to be just right for such a taped online performance. Mary Kate Smith did such an extraordinary job in portraying her character that readers decided she was the best female online performance this year. The seasoned and well-respected actor was joined by Damien Kaplan, Justin Branker-Carter and Jasmine French, with Craig Williams II directing, along with Cory Brown leading the orchestra and playing piano to make this extra-special play shine as incredibly as it did even without the normalcy of a live, intimate setting.

Smith is no stranger to the local theater scene, known for her spectacular lead spot in *Bright Star* at the Legacy Theatre back in 2019 as well as many other popular performances, including doing her winning role in *Songs for a New World* years ago for another local theater production.

Perhaps the way the songs seemed to fit into the pandemic world as we knew it in October 2020 and redefined the many uncertainties we faced at that peculiar time helped to define Smith's part and allow her talents to soar for this version that seemed on topic. As some say, extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and she stepped up to the stage and delivered an extraordinary performance even without a live audience to inspire the production, and for that we say, bravo and well done.

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## LATE-NIGHT EATS

**The Dublin Pub**
1975 Wabash Ave., 793-6871

*Finalists: Gabatoni's Restaurant, Star 66 Cafe, Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill*

## NEW RESTAURANT

**Mission BBQ**
2401 Wabash Ave., 275-5610

*Finalists: Curate, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Sweet Basil Cafe, Brunchfield Cafe*

## OUTDOOR DINING

**Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery**
500 S. Sixth St., 670-0627

*Finalists: Home Plate Bar & Grill, Incredibly Delicious, Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, Curate*

## PLACE FOR DATE NIGHT

**Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant**
2501 Wabash Ave., 321-9100

*Finalists: Bella Milano, Loukinens' on 4th, Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Joseph's Fine Cuisine*

## SERVER AND LOCATION

**Samantha Judd - Aztca Mexican Grill**
2753 Chatham Road, 546-6906

*Finalists: Gina - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, Shawna Stevenson - Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill, Ella Kovalichuk at Brunchfield Cafe, Nichole Palsen - Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, Morgan - Papa Murphy's Pizza*

## TAKE OUT

**Magic Kitchen**
115 N. Lewis St., 525-6975
4112 N. Peoria Road, 525-2230

*Finalists: D'Arcy's Pint, Mekong Cafe, Cafe Moxo, Bella Milano*

## FOOD DELIVERY

**Head West Sub Stop**
1124 W. Jefferson St., 793-9101
3311 Robbins Road, 726-9202
2432 Denver Dr., 744-7990
1281 Toronto Road, 585-7990
530 E. Capitol Ave., 789-9101
3325 S. Sixth St., 679-2477
450 State St., Rochester, 498-1182
401 S. Main St., Jacksonville, 271-1614
136 S. Oakland Ave., Decatur, 791-6623

*Finalists: Antonio's Pizza, Gabatoni's Restaurant, Cafe Moxo, Jimmy John's*

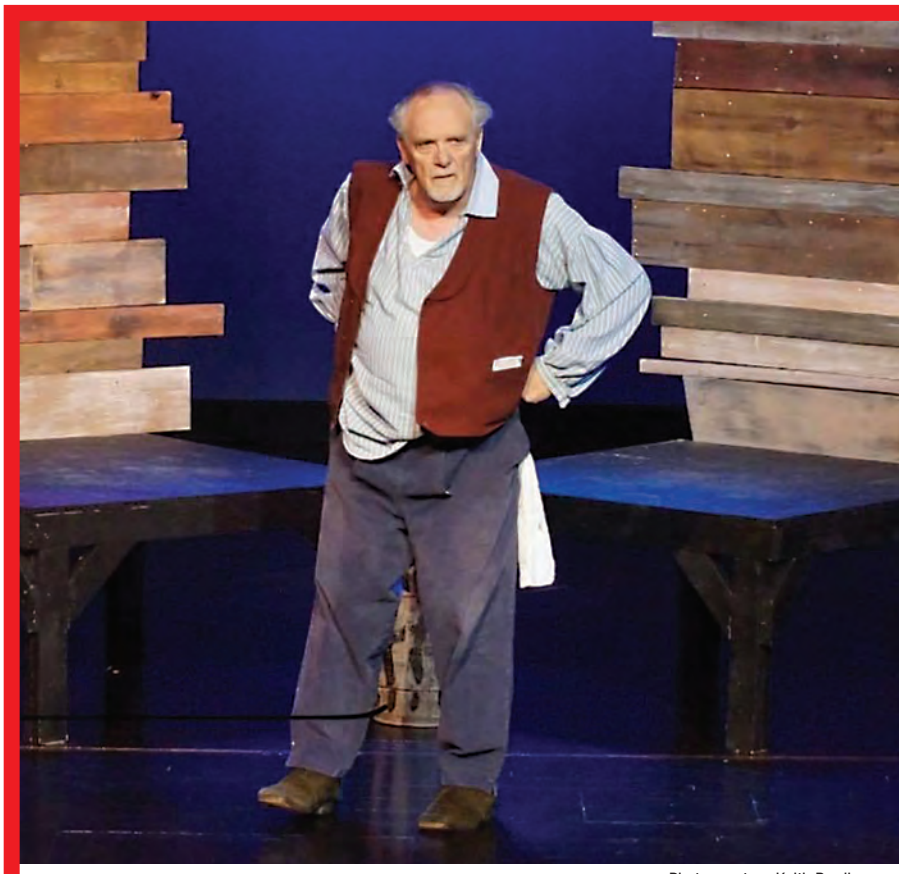

Photo courtesy Keith Bradbury

## VIRTUAL/ONLINE THEATER PERFORMANCE - MALE LEAD

# Keith Bradbury

### *Spirit of Lincoln*

The name Ken Bradbury is synonymous with local, original theater. This script by the late Jacksonville-based playwright introduced us to people who lived in the area during Lincoln's lifetime to express how the spirit of the Great Emancipator, beyond the scope of his political and presidential experience, touched their lives. The portrayals, done in Ken's inimitable style, were taken from local legends, stories and tales (the music was by Roger Wainwright, Bradbury's longtime musical collaborator) and written as imagined by Bradbury.

This online version, directed by Hope Cherry at the Springfield Theatre Centre back in November 2020, gave Keith Bradbury, Ken's brother, the opportunity to play the part of William Berry, Lincoln's business partner for the store in New Salem. The playwright himself portrayed Berry in the only other previous production, done in 2009. Keith felt the responsibility of reprising the role created and performed by his late brother, and was "deeply touched" by such an opportunity.

It seems the online audience was touched as well by the connection and rendering enough to vote Keith as the best male performance this year during such a strange time for theater workings. Videotaped by the STC, then broadcast on streaming platforms, the play, according to Cherry, also helped to promote the legacy of Ken's voluminous work, something both she and brother Keith are keen to do. And by winning this category, they've certainly and successfully helped to keep the name of Ken Bradbury out among the theater-going public, and much of that credit goes to this fine and heartfelt performance by Keith Bradbury.

## FINE DINING

**VELE**
3241 W. Iles Ave., 210-2177

*Finalists: Loukinens' on 4th, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Chesapeake Seafood House, Bella Milano*

## FOOD TRUCK

**The Taco Joint**
230½ South Grand Ave. East, 331-3536

*Finalists: Aztca Mexican Grill, Vose Concessions event food trailer Korndogs, Cooper's StrEATside Bistro, Gilly's Championship BBQ & Catering*

## DRIVE THRU

**Chick-fil-A**
2431 Wabash Ave., 546-2000

*Finalists: Grab-A-Java, Inc., Taco Gringo, Portillo's, Gabatoni's Restaurant, Abelardo's*

## OVERALL RESTAURANT

**D'Arcy's Pint**
661 W. Stanford Ave., 492-8800

*Finalists: Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Loukinens' on 4th*

## BURRITO

**Aztca Mexican Grill**
2753 Chatham Road, 546-6906

*Finalists: Xochimilco, Taco Gringo, La Fiesta, The Taco Joint*

## TACOS

**Tacology 201**
3266 W. Iles Ave., 679-6448

*Finalists: Xochimilco, Aztca Mexican Grill, Taco Gringo, The Taco Joint*

## MEXICAN RESTAURANT

**Xochimilco**
2941 W. Iles Ave., 546-3116

*Finalists: Aztca Mexican Grill, Moroleon Tropical, Casa Real, La Fiesta, Blue Margarita Mexican Bar & Grill*

## BBQ

**Mission BBQ**
2401 Wabash Ave., 275-5610

*Finalists: Li'l Willy's BBQ, Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill, Hickory River, Gilly's Championship BBQ & Catering*

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*Finalists: Burger Bar and Back Door Lounge, Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, Five Guys, Home Plate Bar & Grill*

## CAJUN SEAFOOD

**Anchors Away**
518 E. Capitol Ave., 679-0166

*Finalists: Brunchfield Cafe, Ocean Crab House, Yummy Crab, Million's Crab*

## CATERER

**Cured Catering**
8788 Mechanicsburg Road, Dawson, 494-2425

*Finalists: Nelson's Catering of Central Illinois, Poe's Catering on the Hill Reception Center, Turasky's Catering, Hamilton's Catering*

## CHILI

**The Chili Parlor**
820 S. Ninth St., 523-4989

*Finalists: Dew Chilli, D'Arcy's Pint, The Dublin Pub, Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum*

## CHINESE

**Little Saigon**
1531 Wabash Ave., 726-9633

*Finalists: China Star, Mimosa Vietnamese and Thai Restaurant, Mekong Cafe, Sunny China*

## DINER

**Charlie Parker's Diner**
700 W. North St., 241-2104

*Finalists: Sunrise Cafe, Star 66 Cafe, Ritz's Lil Fryer, Chatham Café, Lulu's Diner*

## DONUT SHOP

**Mel-O-Cream Donuts**
217 E. Laurel St., 544-4644
1953 W. Monroe St., 546-4651
525 North Grand Ave. East, 528-2303
3010 S. Sixth St., 529-7708

*Finalists: Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Scoop Du Jour, Three Twigs Bakery, Dunkin'*

## FRIED FISH

**Carter's Fish Market**
1900 South Grand Ave. East., 525-2571

*Finalists: MJ's Fish & Chicken Express, Chesapeake Seafood House, Firefighters Lake Club, Track Shack*

Photo courtesy Ascend Horizon Drive

## DISPENSARY, BIGGEST SELECTION, BARGAINS, BUDTENDERS - CASEY COOK

# Ascend

With cannabis now legalized in Illinois for adult use, Springfield residents have a number of dispensaries to choose from. Ascend's Horizon Drive location has stood out from others for *Illinois Times* voters in a market that's both very new and already robust.

"We are very invested in Springfield's community of patients and consumers, and we're thrilled to see the positive impact we've had over this past year since we opened our first Springfield location," said Chris Melillo, Ascend's chief revenue officer. "We are especially proud of our robust selection of brands curated to appeal to a spectrum of patient and consumer preferences."

Melillo said Ascend's partnership with its West Coast brands have given Ascend's Horizon Drive location and Springfield-area consumers access to some of the nation's most popular products. He said the dispensary will be looking to expand its Ozone brand cannabis offerings in particular in the near future.

"It is a privilege to operate in such a dynamic and promising market and to see how our neighbors in Springfield share our sentiment," Melillo said.

With well-appointed facilities, friendly staff, a good selection of products for those purchasing cannabis recreationally and a convenient location near other east side retailers, it's no surprise Ascend's Horizon Drive location was recognized by our readers.

## FRIED CHICKEN

**MJ's Fish & Chicken Express**
716 E. Enos Ave., 572-0257

*Finalists: Old Luxemberg Inn, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Track Shack, Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum*

## GLUTEN-FREE MENU

**Cafe Moxo**
411 E. Adams St., 788-8084

*Finalists: Three Twigs Bakery, Tacology 201, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Roots Latin Grill*

## GYRO

**Gyro Stop**
2907 S. MacArthur Blvd., 698-6463
2345 W. Monroe St., 546-3442

*Finalists: Yannis Gyros, Dolphin Chicken, Fish and Grill, Mr. Gyro*

## HORSESHOE

**D'Arcy's Pint**
661 W. Stanford Ave., 492-8800

*Finalists: The Dublin Pub, Westwoods Lodge, Pub and Grill, Obed and Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery, The Corner Pub and Grill*

## ICE CREAM OR FROYO

**Scoop Du Jour**
95 W. Plummer Blvd., Chatham, 697-8327

*Finalists: The Salted Lemon Market + Creamery, Baskin-Robbins, Krekel's Custard & Hamburgers, Cold Stone Creamery*

## INDIAN

**Gateway to India**
3115 Chatham Road, 726-6890

*Finalists: Flavor of India, Taste of India*

## ITALIAN

**Bella Milano**
4525 Wabash Ave., 547-0011

*Finalists: Saputo's, La Piazza Cucina Italiana, Gabatoni's Restaurant, Papa Frank's, The Pasta House*

## JAPANESE

**Osaka Japanese Restaurant**
1665 Wabash Ave., 726-8037

Finalists: Happy Sushi, Mimosa Vietnamese and Thai Restaurant, Kiku, Hibachi Madness

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## FARM-TO-TABLE RESTAURANT

**Luminary Kitchen & Provisions**
3121 Hedley Road, 679-1819

*Finalists: The Feed Store, Maldaner's Restaurant & Catering, VELE, The Barn*

## PIZZA

**Gabatoni's Restaurant**
300 E. Laurel St., 528-9629

*Finalists: Antonio's Pizza, Di Carlo's, Nancy's Pizza, La Piazza Cucina Italiana, Rosati's Pizza*

## RESTAURANT FOR DESSERT

**Pease's at BUNN Gourmet**
2941 Plaza Drive, 793-1840

*Finalists: Incredibly Delicious, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Joseph's Fine Cuisine*

## SEAFOOD

**Chesapeake Seafood House**
3045 E. Clear Lake Ave., 522-5220

*Finalists: Carter's Fish Market, Anchors Away, VELE, Loukinens' on 4th*

## SOUL FOOD

**MJ's Fish & Chicken Express**
716 E. Enos Ave., 572-0257

*Finalists: Boyd's New Generation Restaurant and Catering, Clay's Popeye's BBQ, Jerk Shop Go, Anchors Away*

## SPORTS BAR AND GRILL

**Home Plate Bar & Grill**
2571 Koke Mill Road, 679-3313

*Finalists: The Corner Pub and Grill, Brickhouse Grill & Pub, Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, The Creek Pub & Grill*

## STEAKHOUSE

**Texas Roadhouse**
2540 W. Iles Ave., 698-5700

*Finalists: Old Luxemberg Inn, Alexander's Steakhouse, LongHorn Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse*

Photo by Scott Reeder

## CLERGYPERSON

# Fr. Jeff Grant

### Blessed Sacrament Parish

Jeff Grant is just an Illinois farm boy who finds himself shepherding a different kind of flock. The pastor of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is known for his stirring homilies and pastoral demeanor. But mostly he's known for his gentleness.

"Every day when Blessed Sacrament school lets out, he stands at the door and waves and speaks to the students as they leave the building," principal Nicole Kuhlman said.

The Highland, Illinois, native has been a priest for 39 years, the last 10 of which have been as pastor of Blessed Sacrament.

"I knew I wanted a career where I could serve people, and the advantage of being a priest is that you can serve the spiritual lives of people," Grant said. "It's not easy, but it's certainly a rewarding life."

Blessed Sacrament is one of the largest parishes in the Springfield area, serving 1,400 to 1,500 families. Before the pandemic, average weekend Mass attendance was about 1,200 people.

"Father Jeff is the most caring and compassionate person I have ever met," said parishioner Scott Reimers of Springfield. "He really serves the souls of his congregation. He gets calls day and night from people needing him to come to the hospital to serve a sick person. He is a humble man."

Five years ago, Grant worked for six months as a missionary to Kenya where he volunteered as a parish priest at the Kakuma Refugee Camp, located approximately 600 miles north of Nairobi.

He said he found that experience to be fulfilling, much like his work in Springfield.

"I would do the sacraments there just as I do within the walls of Blessed Sacrament," he said. "I usually traveled with an interpreter. Of course, when I heard confessions, an interpreter couldn't be present. Sometimes their English would be broken, and I'd have trouble understanding them. But I take the view, God understands them."

Reimers added, "Every action, every explanation, every decision from Father Jeff comes first from compassion. He leads both our parish and our school so well because of his consideration and understanding of everyone. He truly lives the calling of serving others and helps each of us to be a better person just by his example."

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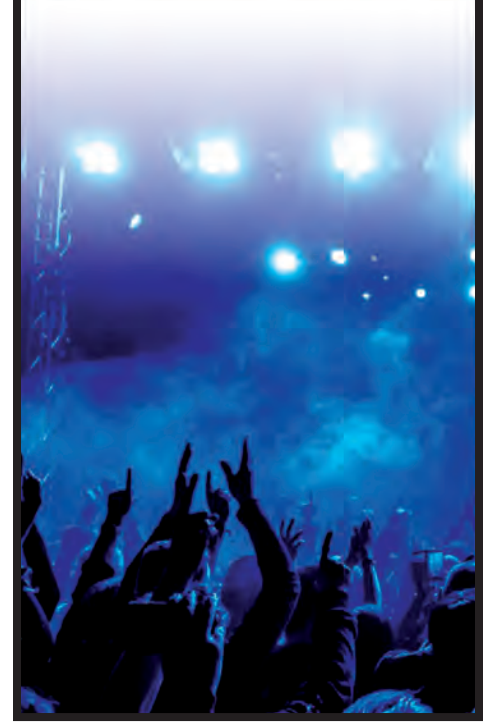

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3325 S. Sixth St., 679-2477
450 State St., Rochester, 498-1182
401 S. Main St., Jacksonville, 271-1614
136 S. Oakland Ave., Decatur, 791-6623

*Finalists: Monty's Submarines, Cafe Moxo, Jimmy John's, Toasty Subs*

## SUSHI

**Happy Sushi**
846 South Grand Ave. East, 528-9799

*Finalists: Mimosa Vietnamese and Thai Restaurant, Osaka Japanese Restaurant, Pao, Kiku*

## THAI

**Magic Kitchen**
115 N. Lewis St., 525-6975
4112 N. Peoria Road, 525-2230

*Finalists: Little Saigon, Mekong Cafe, Mimosa Vietnamese and Thai Restaurant, Thai Basil*

## VEGETARIAN-FRIENDLY

**CoreLife Eatery**
2580 Wabash Ave., 311-7038

*Finalists: Gateway to India, Finley's Tap House, Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Roots Latin Grill*

## WEDDING CAKES

**Incredibly Delicious**
925 S. Seventh St., 528-8548

*Finalists: Three Twigs Bakery, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Cakes By Ashley, SmallCakes Cupcakery and Creamery*

## WINGS

**Westwoods Lodge, Pub and Grill**
2406 W. Jefferson St., 698-9256

*Finalists: Coz's Pizza and Pub, Buffalo Wild Wings, Wing Stop, Wings Etc.*

Photo courtesy of *The Petersburg Observer*

## NEW BAR (OPENED AFTER 8/1/20)

# 1st & 3rd Boutique and Wine Bar, Petersburg

The verdict is in, and folks decided the best new bar is more than just a bar. The business, located in a cool old building on the west side of the square in Petersburg, features a boutique with clothes, gifts and assorted goodies downstairs, plus wine, entertainment and a stylish space upstairs.

Started by two sisters who were both educators and looking for a change, Liz Carter and Maggie Adkins turned a far-fetched, dreamy idea into a rocking, relevant reality in the space of several months. The intriguing name came from their order in a family of four sisters (you can ask them who is first and who is third) and it was in the fall of 2020, while dealing with the frustrations of teaching remotely, they decided to seriously look at opening a place together.

When the building they both knew and admired as residents of Petersburg came up for sale, they purchased it and began the adventure. The official opening happened on June 5, 2021, after spending months teaching while working on the building nights and weekends. The upstairs area was originally intended to host private parties and events, but with the popularity of the wine bar, the room is now fully dedicated to being open to their enthusiastic and ardent patrons.

Their always-popular charcuterie board is available in different options, including the recently introduced to-go box, and there are the unusual and the usual varieties of wine for your drinking pleasure, plus regular live music to entertain the happy, new-bar-going crowd.

With all the excitement of other places opening on the Petersburg square in the coming months, the sisters are perhaps poised to expand beyond the new bar category next year. As more and more folks make the 'burg on the Sangamon River a destination, the little wine bar (and boutique) that could may be a future, as well as a current, Best of Springfield winner.

# GOODS AND SERVICES

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3055 Professional Drive, 529-3000
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700 Stevenson Drive. 529-3000
617 Bruns Lane, 787-3001
120 Chatham Road, 787-1651
2120 Peoria Road, 54-0139
3200 W. Iles Ave., 787-1651

*Finalists: Bank of Springfield, Marine Bank, INB, Hickory Point Bank*

## CREDIT UNION

**Heartland Credit Union**
720 S. Grand Ave., 726-8877
2213 W. White Oaks Drive
610 E. St. Joseph St.
701 N. First St.
2717 E. Sangamon Ave.

*Finalists: CEFCU, Illinois Educators Credit Union, Illinois State Police Credit Union, Credit Union 1, Land of Lincoln Credit Union*

## FINANCIAL ADVISER & NAME OF INSTITUTION

**Tate Hartman - Heartland Credit Union**
720 S. Grand Ave., 726-8877
2213 W. White Oaks Drive
610 E. St. Joseph St.
701 N. First St.
2717 E. Sangamon Ave.

*Finalists: Tate Jones - UCB Financial Services, Chris Parks - INB Wealth, Scott Norris - Troxell Financial, Jared Canterbury - Merrill Lynch, Ryan Kaiser - Prudential Financial Planning Services*

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617 Bruns Lane, 787-3001
120 Chatham Road, 787-1651
2120 Peoria Road, 54-0139
3200 W. Iles Ave., 787-1651

*Finalists: Bank of Springfield, Heartland Credit Union, CEFCU, INB, Marine Bank*

## REAL ESTATE AGENCY

**The Real Estate Group**
3701 Wabash Ave., 787-7000

*Finalists: Re/MAX Professionals, Keller Williams Capital, Campo Realty, Welcome Home Realty*

## REAL ESTATE TEAM

**The Killebrew Team at The Real Estate Group**
3701 Wabash Ave., 787-7000

*Finalists: Kathy Garst Sales Team at The Real Estate Group, The Winchester Sales Team, Jane Hay Sales and Staging Team at the Real Estate Group, Deb Sarsany Team, The Real Estate Group*

## REALTOR AND NAME OF AGENCY

**Kathy Garst - The Real Estate Group**
3701 Wabash Ave., 787-7000

*Finalists: Adam Bugos -The Real Estate Group, Emily Walker - Campo Realty, Taylor Pierceall - Keller Williams Capital, Jordynn McDermand - Keller Williams Capital*

## INSURANCE AGENCY AND AGENT (NATIONAL)

**Mark Cortesi - State Farm Insurance**
924 Clock Tower Drive

*Finalists: Jake Surratt - Country Financial, Kate Birnbuam - Heartland Credit Union, Kaylie Snyder - State Farm Insurance*

## INSURANCE AGENCY AND AGENT (INDEPENDENT)

**Missy Haley - UCB Financial Services**
854-4387

*Finalists: Mark Bailey - Bailey Family Insurance, Katie Hageman - Hageman Family Insurance Agency, LLC, Chase Gruening - Gruening Health & Wealth, John Merritt - Denton-Merritt-Dycus Insurance*

Photo by David Hine

## CHINESE

# Little Saigon

Springfield loves its Asian foods, and this year our readers have decided that Little Saigon tops the charts in this category. While it was recognized in the category for best Chinese food, Little Saigon serves up primarily Thai and Vietnamese cuisine in an atmosphere that gives a nod to its Southeast Asian heritage.

We think our readers are drawn to Little Saigon for things like its Pho soups that can warm even the coldest soul. The aromatic and deeply flavored broth is the perfect vehicle for thinly sliced beef, onions, noodles, and cilantro. Or its papaya salad that packs a deceptive amount of heat that's balanced by just the right amount of sweetness. Diners also seem drawn to Little Saigon's large variety of fruit freezes – nice when you want to cool off from some of their spicier entrees. A variety of beers are also available to serve the same purpose, including some authentic Thai and Vietnamese beers that hit the right spot.

But Little Saigon isn't all about spice. There are plenty of traditional Asian dishes that offer just as much flavor but without the heat, like noodle salads topped with meat or egg and served with vegetables with a tangy and sweet dressing. Service is always extremely friendly, and the space is kept clean.

Lastly, our readers liked that Little Saigon not only has the kind of food that handles takeout well (important in these days of COVID), but that the staff goes out of the way to package it up so that nothing spills. Small touches like this garnered Little Saigon the win this year.

# The Animal Protective League's Upcoming Events

ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE'S

## Harry Potter TRIVIA NIGHT

**Friday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.**
*(Doors open at 6:00)*
Columbian Grand Hall, 2200 South Meadowbrook Rd.

**Costumes Encouraged!**
**Not a Harry Potter fan? That's ok, it's general interest trivia except for one magical Harry Potter round with special prizes!**

- Cash Prizes! (TBD based upon reservations)
- Raffle Prizes & Silent Auction!

**$150 per table**
(If paid in advance by November 5th)
**or $20 per person at the door**
(Tables 8-10 people — Max of 10)

Store-bought food welcome.
Please purchase drinks.

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE**

**Donate cat food (we'll accept dog food too) and receive up to 20 free raffle tickets!** Dry cat food and canned paté cat food are especially needed.

**For more information go to www.apl-shelter.org or to reserve your table email trivia@apl-shelter.org or call Deana at (217) 361-6212!**

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ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

### November 12—Harry Potter Fall Trivia Night

Get your group together for a fun night of trivia, including a special Harry Potter themed round with special prizes! Join us at the Columbian Grand Hall at 2200 South Meadowbrook Rd. $150 per table (max 10 people) or $20 per person. Doors open at 6 pm and trivia begins at 7 pm. Bring dog or cat food to donate and receive up to 20 free raffle tickets. Dry cat food and canned cat food are especially needed. Costumes are encouraged!

### Now through November 12—Wreath Orders

Order fresh, hand-made Christmas wreaths, door arches and swags now through November 12th. They are made using balsam fir and white pine and accented with red velvet bows and pinecones!

### November Adoption Events

Every Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm & Sunday, 12 - 4 pm at PetSmart
Nov 13 & 14, PetSmart National Adoption, 11 am - 3pm
Nov 26, PetSmart, 3183 S. Veterans Pkwy, 11 am - 3 pm

***For more information, visit our website at www.apl-shelter.org or call 217-544-7387.***

ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

LOVE, Tito's

## Adoption Corner

Bowser is a little over 2-years-old and is jubilant and bouncy when he sees people or treats that he likes. Bowser does a happy dance whenever it's walk time!

Lilianne is 6-year-old sweet and cuddly girl who has been overlooked because she loves to hide under or inside things, especially warm blankets!

Ruby, a 2-year-old border collie mix, is an athletic dog with beautiful (and fast) long legs! Ruby would do best in a home that will exercise her mentally and physically!

Yelnats is a 2-year-old brown tabby and white feline. He is an expressive and talkative cat that really appreciates attention and treats!


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## PET BOARDING

**Kinner Kennels**
2315 Parkes Kinner Road, Pleasant Plains, 626-1000

*Finalists: Laketown Animal Hospital, Sangamon Avenue Veterinary Clinic & The Howliday Inn and Suites, KEEN on Pet Care, Tail Command*

## PET GROOMING

**Paws n' Claws Grooming, Inc.**
421 Bruns Lane, 725-1754

*Finalists: Pup.E.tails, Ashley's at Home Grooming, Suds N' Pups Pet Grooming & Doggie Daycare, Barker's Paradise*

## LAWYER AND FIRM NAME

**Greg Sgro with Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr & Rabin, LLP**
1119 S. Sixth St., 789-1200

*Finalists: W. Scott Hanken, Patrick Sheehan, Tony DelGiorno - DelGiorno Law Office, Abby Sgro - HeplerBroom, LLC*

## HAIR STYLIST

**Tristyn Underwood - The Hair Room**
1201 S. Veterans Parkway, 341-4586

*Finalists: Whitney Kotowski - Mane Moxie Studio, Natalie Grider - Appearances Salon & Retreat, Amberlyn Ray - Sapphire Studio 217, Aly Shimkus - Lush Hair*

## HAIR SALON

**Appearances Salon & Retreat**
3240 Pleasant Run, 546-3777

*Finalists: Willow & Birch, Mane Moxie Studio, BJ Grand Salon and Spa, Clark & Co. Beauty Lab, The Hair Studio*

## BARBER

**Cody Ownbey - The Men's Room**
2920 Chatham Road, 787-5282

*Finalists: Logan Baptiste- Hair of the Dog Bar/bershop, Myles Alexander - Appearances Salon & Retreat, Andrew Sforza - The Barbershop, Donnie Ray - The Global Grooming Lounge*

## BARBER SHOP

**The Men's Room**
2920 Chatham Road, 787-5282

*Finalists: Hair the dog Bar/bershop, Beggs Barbershop, The Barbershop, The Global Grooming Lounge*

Photo by Natalie Bernal

## CHEF AND FARM-TO-TABLE RESTAURANT

# Aurora Coffey

## Luminary Kitchen & Provisions

Aurora Coffey was much of the visionary genius behind the former American Harvest Eatery, as she is now for Luminary Kitchen & Provisions in Springfield. "She really is the driving creative and organizational force behind the business," says Jordan Coffey, her husband and business partner.

The two met in a kitchen, working for August Mrozowski and his wife, Sharon Ehrat, both of whom owned and operated Augie's Front Burner, the downtown restaurant that closed last year. Mrozowski may technically be retired, but he continues to provide support to the Coffeys. Mrozowski says in addition to Aurora's talent in the kitchen, she has a keen sense of marketing. "She's an amazing writer," adds Ehrat. "She's a very giving person, also."

Aurora studied at Robert Morris Culinary Institute in Chicago and learned from some of the best in the contemporary culinary world, including Chef Rick Bayless, host of a PBS program about Mexican cuisine. Aurora also spent more than a year working in the kitchen of the House of Blues in Chicago.

Part of what Mrozowski and Ehrat helped pass down to the Coffeys was a passion for farm-to-table fare. In addition to locally sourced products being fresher and of higher quality, "You're supporting the community as a whole," says Mrozowski of buying from local vendors and farmers.

"She's very well-versed and knowledgeable in seasonal ingredients," says Jordan about Aurora. Aurora is the one who develops and conceptualizes the ever-changing menus based on the seasons, a practice that American Harvest was known for and which Luminary carries on.

Jordan speculates that what Aurora is most proud of to date, professionally, is the opening of Luminary over the past year, which seems like a herculean feat given the crisis facing the food and service industries.

The Coffeys are down-to-earth folks who will tell it to you straight. They have big hearts to match their big personalities. Earlier this year they held a mental health fair, inviting everyone in the service industry. They announced Luminary will be closed during the week of Oct. 26-Nov. 2 this year, so that their hard-working staff can have a rest. And they have recently donated meals to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois.

In a broader sense, all of their hard work is motivated by their two young sons. Jordan says Aurora has especially worked hard to "establish a successful business that can sustain our lives at home."

## EVENT PLANNER

**Pole Barn Chic Events**
685-7389

*Finalists: Designed with Detail, 5Flavors Catering, Khloeskreations, Kavida Jones*

## EVENT RENTAL COMPANY

**Noonan True Value Rental & Party Plus**
3031 S. Koke Mill Road, 546-7368

*Finalists: Rustic Love Rentals, Signature Event Rental, Pole Barn Chic Events, Springfield Photo Booth Rental*

## FLOWER SHOP

**Fifth Street Flower Shop**
739 S. Fifth St., 522-3334

*Finalists: Flowers by Mary Lou, True Colors Floral, Petals & Co., Trendsetter Floral*

## PHOTOGRAPHER

**Tara Long Photography**
494-0405

*Finalists: Hannah Wilson Photography, Zach Adams - 1221 Photography, Tanya Beatty Photography, Anna Pauly - Rèvèlè Boudoir Photography, Brit Pics Photography*

## FUNERAL HOME

**Butler Funeral Homes and Cremation Tribute Center**
900 S. Sixth St., 544-4646

*Finalists: Staab Funeral Homes, Bramley Funeral Home, Vancil-Murphy Funeral Home, Ellinger-Kunz & Park Funeral Home*

## VETERINARIAN

**Laketown Animal Hospital**
1115 Adlai Stevenson Drive, 529-4211

*Finalists: Brewer Animal Hospital, Myers Animal Clinic, Grace Veterinary Clinic, West Lake Animal Hospital*

## TATTOO SHOP

**New Age Tattoos and Body Piercing**
1305 Wabash Ave., Suite H, 546-5006

*Finalists: Cloud N9ne Tattoo Studio, Redbird Electric Tattooing, Good Heart Tattoo, Poke and a Rub art studio*

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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

## WEDDING VENUE
**Erin's Pavilion at Southwind Park**
4965 S. Second St., 585-2941

*Finalists: Inn at 835, Long Bridge Golf Course, The Homestead, Prairie View Reception Center*

## AUTO SERVICE
**Wilkerson's Service Center**
2840 Stevenson Drive, 529-0292

*Finalists: Floyd Imports, Inc., Vern's Auto Repair, Lauterbach Tire & Auto Service, CheckPoint Tire & Service*

## CAR DETAILING
**Precision Auto Detailing**
230 South Grand Ave. East, 416-0857

*Finalists: Recon Techs Springfield, Chatham Collision, Danno's Auto Detailing, B.J. Clark - Springfield's Finest Mobile Detailing*

## CAR WASH - AUTOMATIC
**Rainstorm Car Wash**
3101 Hedley Road, 670-1642
321 Cranmer Drive, 679-8243
2905 Adlai Stevenson Drive, 670-2957

*Finalists: Club Car Wash, Car Wash City, On Track Car Wash, Haymakers/West Jefferson*

## COLLISION CENTER
**Caliber Collision (formerly Zara's Collision Center)**
3117 Wide Track Drive, 522-7768

*Finalists: Chatham Collision, Phoenix Collision and Automotive Refinishing, Inc., Springfield Collision Center, Bill Mathews Auto Body*

## DRY CLEANER
**Starcrest Cleaners**
2025 S. MacArthur Blvd., 679-0339
2701 W. White Oaks Drive, 726-6564
4349 Conestoga Drive, 787-5580

*Finalists: Peerless Cleaners, Davis Dry Cleaners, Capital City Cleaners, All In One Laundry Center & Services*

## NAIL SALON
**SOAK Nails Massage Spa**
2963 Lindbergh Blvd., 546-3821

*Finalists: Amanda Loves Nails, BJ Grand Salon and Spa, Luxe Nail Bar, Polish Nail Spa*

Photo courtesy The Chili Parlor

## CHILI
# The Chili Parlor

Springfield is a chili town – there's no doubt about it. There are even fights over whether it's spelled with one or two "l"s. And Springfield's favorite kind of chili is tavern chili, with the Chili Parlor bringing home the win this year. It's a Springfield institution that's been around for more than 50 years, which is a great track record.

The Parlor has even been featured in *Bon Appetite* and on national TV, particularly for its firebrand chili. Eat a bowl and you get your name featured on the restaurant's walls. Eat five or six and you're likely the star of that show, although we know of one local, who prefers to remain anonymous, who beat that record! Spice levels are almost infinitely customizable, thanks to the Parlor's unique meat blends. All chili comes with copious amounts of crackers (to help soak up some of that yummy oil) and each table has a bottle of vinegar. The combination of the two helps make the firebrand's heat manageable.

But diners also come to the Parlor for camaraderie – you're almost guaranteed to know some of your fellow diners. Owners and staff are also incredibly friendly. And don't forget about their dogs (plain or with chili) and tamales. Finally, we like the fact that no matter how old-school the Parlor is, it has come up to date with the times and now takes credit cards instead of just cash.

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## MOVING COMPANY

**Two Men and a Truck**
210 North Grand Ave. West, 331-6076

*Finalists: Moscardelli Moving & Storage, Inc., Underfanger Moving & Storage (Mayflower), Springfield Van and Storage Co./Bekins Van Lines,*

## STORAGE FACILITY

**Stuff-It Storage**
4000 N. Peoria Road, 544-7867

*Finalists: The Storage Box - Sangamon Avenue, A1 U Store It Yourself Service Storage, Springfield Van and Storage Co./Bekins Van Lines, Best Self Storage*

## TIRE SHOP

**Discount Tire**
2871 S. Veterans Parkway, 546-3130

*Finalists: Brahler Tire & Auto Center, Lauterbach Tire & Auto Service, CheckPoint Tire & Service, A Cheap Tire & Auto Repair*

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## NURSE

**Megan Kane - HSHS St. John's Hospital**

*Finalists: Libby Lewis Tolley - HSHS St. John's Hospital, Elizabeth Yarnell - Springfield Memorial Hospital, Mary Ely - HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine Rochester, Jessica Akers Lee - Springfield Clinic*

## DOCTOR

**Dr. Erin Stone - Springfield Clinic**

*Finalists: Dr. Cara Vasconcelles - Memorial Care - Koke Mill, Dr. Lorie Bleyer - Memorial Care - Koke Mill, Tana Frisina, D.C. - Frisina Family Wellness, Christine Schriber-Ventress - Chatham Family Practice*

## MEDICAL FACILITY

**Springfield Clinic**

*Finalists: Springfield Memorial Hospital, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Memorial Care - Koke Mill, Frisina Family Wellness*

Credit: facebook.com/Vele.Restaurant

## FINE DINING

# VELE

VELE definitely comes to mind when thinking about fine dining in Springfield, which is why our readers voted it as the city's best fine dining establishment. VELE's décor creates an upscale ambiance that pairs well with its carefully crafted menu.

The menu is about modern coastal Italian food with a focus on small plates meant to be shared among diners. If you are undecided on which small plates to try you can't go wrong with the spicy calamari or filet bites. The chef is well-versed in perfectly pairing flavors together to create an upscale experience. The menu is tight and focused with each dish packing flavor, but not overwhelmingly so. There is also a strong wine and cocktail list.

Along with the small plates, VELE also has a handful of pastas, seafood, steak and lamb. If you are looking for something a little lighter to start out your meal, the grilled Caesar salad is always a hit. For those who aren't afraid of little spice, check out the spicy seafood spaghetti made with hand-rolled squid ink spaghetti for the entrée. You can't go wrong with the filet or lamb lollipops, either.

Have no doubt, if you come to VELE, you will have a fine dining experience. There's not a bad dish in the house.

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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

## DIETITIAN

**Erin Zepp - Memorial Wellness Center**

*Finalists: Amanda Figge - Springfield Clinic, Donna Chestnut - HSHS St. John's Hospital, Lauren Parish - FitClub, Amy Sheehan - DaVita*

## INDEPENDENT-LIVING COMMUNITY

**Concordia Village**
4101 W. Iles Ave., 793-9429

*Finalists: Lewis Memorial Christian Village, Brenden Gardens, Hickory Glen, Fair Hills Residence*

## ASSISTED-LIVING COMMUNITY

**Concordia Village**
4101 W. Iles Ave., 793-9429

*Finalists: The Villas Senior Care Community, Lewis Memorial Christian Village, Bridge Care Suites, Springfield Supportive Living*

## WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE CENTER

**Springfield Clinic**

*Finalists: HSHS St. John's Hospital, Planned Parenthood, Memorial Medical Center Women's Healthcare, SIU Women and Children's Clinic*

## DENTIST

**Prairie Dental Group**
2900 Greenbriar Dr, 546-0412

*Finalists: Baines Dental Wellness, Renken Dentistry, Dental Group of Springfield, Springfield Dental Care, Magna Dental*

## GYM OR FITNESS CENTER

**FitClub**
FitClub West 2811 W. Lawrence Ave., 787-1111
FitClub South 3631 S. Sixth St., 787-8348
FitClub North 2701 E. Sangamon Ave., 788-8250

*Finalists: YMCA, Ahh Yoga, Orangetheory Fitness, Rail Splitter Fit Co., Vivacious Wellness Personal Coaching*

## MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO (ADULT)

**John Geyston's Martial Arts Academy**
1929 W. Iles Ave., 546-6762

*Finalists: Gracie Humaita, Springfield Karate and Fitness, Shudo Kan Karate Club, Sangamon Aikikai, Kaizen Shotokan Karate Club*

Photo courtesy The Taco Joint

## FOOD TRUCK

# The Taco Joint

For a lot of places, a taco is a side dish or a supporting player, something to be added on to a larger meal. In addition to its burritos, quesadillas and other creations, The Taco Joint treats its tacos like the main event, based on the level of attention to detail. It has the vibe of your favorite Mexican restaurant or food truck in any major city you've visited.

Chef Manny Jerez said authenticity in its dishes is an important selling point for The Taco Joint.

"We try to offer customers real Mexican flavors. The way we make the items, the way we cook, we try to stay close to the way they make it in Mexico," Jerez said.

While the food is great, The Taco Joint is also a quick, easy, attractively priced place to grab lunch while buying local and feeling satisfied. With a convenient location at Second Street and South Grand Avenue for those looking to make a quick stop for lunch, speedy walk-up service and comfortable outdoor spots to sit and dig in, it's easy to see why the place is a popular spot during the lunch rush for nearby employees and commuters alike.

Jerez personally recommends the tacos de birria, The Taco Joint's flavorful take on tacos with Jalisco-style beef stew as the starting point.

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**Caitlin McCarthy - FitClub**
FitClub West 2811 W. Lawrence Ave., 787-1111
FitClub South 3631 S. Sixth St., 787-8348
FitClub North 2701 E. Sangamon Ave., 788-8250

*Finalists: Richard England - Orangetheory Fitness, Jordan Vaniter - FitClub, Bo Bennett, YMCA, Lacey Willfong - YMCA*

## WEIGHT-LOSS CLINIC

**Memorial Wellness Center**

*Finalists: HSHS Medical Group, Dr. Mark Hale - Springfield Accident & Pain Center, SIU Weight Loss/Management, Springfield Weight Loss Center*

## HOLISTIC-HEALTH CENTER

**Pure Synergy**
2201 W. White Oaks Drive, 679-3156

*Finalists: Frisina Family Wellness, Reid Family Wellness, Revive Wellness & Massage Spa, Unique Enchantments*

## YOGA STUDIO

**Ahh Yoga**
2101 W. White Oaks Drive, 725-2373

*Finalists: FitClub, Flow Midwest Yoga & Meditation, Half Moon Yoga Fit, Trailhead Center for Yoga and Ayurveda*

## PILATES STUDIO

**Pilates Studio of Springfield**
1305 Wabash Ave., 793-0700

*Finalists: FitClub, Ananda Body LLC Pilates Studio, Yokore Yoga & Wellness*

## MINOR EMERGENCY CLINIC

**Memorial Care**

*Finalists: Springfield Clinic Urgent Care, HSHS Medical Group Priority Care*

## ORTHOPEDIC CARE

**Orthopedic Center of Illinois**
1301 S. Koke Mill, 547-9100

*Finalists: Springfield Clinic Orthopedics, HSHS St. John's Hospital, Philip Siebert, DPM*

Photos by Dave Turner

## INDIAN

# Gateway to India

Springfield has a surprising amount of ethnic food options, and that's a great thing. For Indian food, the vote is in – head on over to Gateway to India. While it might be short on ambiance – who cares, you go there for the food. Any place that serves such delicious piping hot and fresh naan bread is well worth the visit.

Visitors can order off the menu or try the very popular lunch buffet, something our readers missed during the darkest days of COVID. If you have never tried Indian food, the buffet is a great way to get a taste of many different Indian items, but be sure to come hungry because there's a lot to try.

There's so much more than curry here – there are wonderful combinations of savory and sweet, and some earthy intensity thanks to all sorts of spices and aromatics. Not sure what to try? Don't worry, the staff seems to have an instinct for newbies and are glad to help the uninitiated take a culinary tour of the subcontinent. Do yourself a favor and try one of the goat or lamb dishes, and make sure to try a paneer dish (freshly made cheese). Not quite that adventurous? There's always tandoori chicken or biryani (rice with spices and richly flavored with saffron). And don't worry about heat – Gateway can accommodate just about every palate.

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Description: NPR Illinois delivers in-depth multimedia news reports, expert analysis on statewide issues, plus informative engagement events—all upholding the philosophy and integrity of local journalism. The organization has begun an exciting new era and seeks a talented and energetic team member for transformational new enterprises that will ensure an engaged donor base and fiscal stability. Located in the capital of Illinois, the station is run by a small but dedicated staff, and love for the station's mission and programming is critical to anyone's success in this position. We highly recommend that you review our website and spend a few days listening to the station before applying.

Summary: Working in the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) Division of Advancement under the supervision of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Development and working closely with the NPR Illinois General Manager, the Director of Development-NPR Illinois is primarily responsible for finding and acquiring sources of contributed revenue from individual donors. The successful candidate will plan strategies and actively seek major and annual gifts for the benefit of NPR Illinois at UIS. The position is responsible for managing the overall fundraising program of NPR Illinois. The position's emphasis is on identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of major gift donors and prospects. The individual is expected to develop and manage a portfolio of approximately 100 major gift prospects and have 12 or more face-to-face donor visits per month. This position is responsible for planning and implementing annual giving solicitations, including on-air drives, mass communications, and crowdfunding.

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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

## MEDICAL SPA (BOTOX, FILLER, ETC.)

**Springfield Clinic Medical Spa at The Center for Plastic Surgery**
2901 Greenbriar, 528-7541

*Finalists: Thrive Wellness Therapy, Eye Candy Salon & Spa, Meraki Salon & Spa, Luxury Psychiatry and Medical Spa, Timeless Beauty MedSpa*

## SPA (NO INJECTIONS USED)

**Willow & Birch Salon**
521 E. Washington St., 726-7050

*Finalists: BJ Grand Salon and Spa, Inner Health Spa, Revive Wellness & Massage Spa, Massage Envy, Mane Moxie Studio*

## ESTHETICIAN

**Stevie Lievens - Willow & Birch**
521 E. Washington St., 726-7050

*Finalists: Holly Walls- Holly Rose Skincare, Tammy Burris Brow and Skin Studio, Jade Hart - Jade Esthetics, Bekah Huston Skincare*

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

**Memorial Home Services**
644 N. Second St., 788-4663

*Finalists: Vono Medical Supplies, American Medical Supply, Springfield Clinic*

## COSMETIC SURGEON

**Dr. Nicole Sommer- SIU Medicine Cosmetic Clinic**
2201 W. White Oaks Drive, 545-8000

*Finalists: Dr. Nada Berry - SIU Medicine Cosmetic Clinic, Dr. Joel Wietfeldt - Springfield Clinic Center for Plastic Surgery, Dr. Robert Russell - Heartland Plastic Surgery Center, Dr. Raj Sinha - Springfield Clinic Center for Plastic Surgery*

## CHIROPRACTOR

**Dr. Tana Frisina - Frisina Family Wellness**
1533 S. MacArthur Blvd., 787-4345

*Finalists: Sammy Waggener – Waggener Chiropractic and Wellness Center, Dr. Shay Reid-Reid Family Wellness, Dr. John Curry – Curry Chiropractic, Bill Richie – Westside Pain Clinic*

## HEARING-AID CLINIC

**SIU Audiology**
720 N. Bond St., 545-8000

*Finalists: Springfield Clinic, Kerr Hearing Aid Center, Inc., Heartland Hearing, Inc., Hear Well Hearing Care Centre*

## NEW RESTAURANT (OPENED AFTER 8/1/20)

# Mission BBQ

Mission BBQ is new to the Springfield scene, but it is certainly no stranger to serving up top-notch barbecue and all the fixings. Mission BBQ is a chain that was formed about 10 years ago by two friends who believed there is "nothing more American than BBQ. And nobody more American than the brave men and women who have sworn to protect and serve our communities and our country." One of the unique things about Mission BBQ is that every day at noon the national anthem is played, the flag is displayed on all screens and diners are asked to stand.

Mission BBQ's menu is typical of a barbecue joint. The meats are always tender, with the perfect amount of smoke. Whether you choose the brisket (which comes moist or lean), the pulled pork or the chicken, you won't go wrong. We've heard very few complaints. If you haven't tried the smoked sausage yet, it's a must.

Don't forget some sides to perfectly compliment all this delicious barbecue. Mission BBQ has a star lineup of side dishes – including green beans with (yum) bacon, fresh cut and never frozen fries, and Maggie's mac-n-cheese. Seasonal sides and sweets are available as well.

For those looking for something a little outside the box, Mission BBQ also offers salmon and smoked meatloaf along with entrée salads. While Mission BBQ is only counter service, there are plenty of staff circulating, clearing tables and checking on all patrons. It's a nice touch, and is just one of the reasons it was voted best new restaurant.

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## LASIK SERVICES
**Prairie Eye and LASIK Center**
2020 W. Iles Ave., 698-3030

*Finalists: Vision Care Associates, Springfield Clinic Eye Institute, Gailey Eye Clinic*

## PHYSICAL THERAPY
**PhysioTherapy Professionals**
2201 W. White Oaks Drive, 546-3301

*Finalists: Springfield Clinic Rehabilitation Services, HSHS St. John's Therapy Care, Memorial Home Health, Midwest Rehab*

## HOME CARE
**Memorial Home Services**

*Finalists: HSHS Home Care Illinois, SYNERGY HomeCare, Visiting Angels, Help at Home*

## MASSAGE THERAPIST
**Molly Crow Group - Pure Synergy**
2201 W. White Oaks Drive, 679-3156

*Finalists: Danielle Bright- BJ Grand Salon and Spa, Priscilla at BJ Grand West, Amanda Rollins - Jennerations Salon and Spa, Chiffonia White - Revive Wellness & Massage Spa*

## HEALTH FOOD GROCERY STORE
**Food Fantasies**
1512 Wabash Ave., 793-8009

*Finalists: Harvest Market, Hy-Vee, Supplement Superstores*

## GOLF COURSE
**Long Bridge Golf Course**
1055 W. Camp Sangamo Road, 744-8311

*Finalists: The Rail Golf Course, Edgewood Golf Course, Illini Golf Course, Piper Glen Golf course*

# HOME AND GARDEN

## AC/HEATING COMPANY
**Henson Robinson Co.**
3550 Great Northern Ave., 544-8451

*Finalists: Rich Gatschenberger Heating & Cooling; Mike Williams Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning; Tiger Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning Services & Electric Services; Klughart Mechanical & General Contractors*

Photo by Paige Bruce

## FOOD SERVER
# Samantha Judd

## BURRITO
# Aztca Maxican Grill

In this crazy new world we're living in, we've all heard stories about how hard it is to find staff that will show up, let alone good staff who are invested in their jobs and who care about their customers. So when our readers vote someone as Springfield's best server, that really means something.

This year's recipient is Samantha Judd from Aztca Mexican Grill. Samantha, who's been there for five years, is described as outgoing, passionate and as someone who goes above and beyond for her diners. But there's a lot more than most diners see – Samantha's an active member of our community.

Beyond the restaurant, Samantha works two other jobs while also raising her two children with her husband and coaching one of her children's football teams. One reader commented that she wasn't sure when Samantha had time to sleep.

We asked the owner why he thought Samantha was voted as the best server, and he immediately responded that she makes her guests feel welcomed, valued and important. And, it doesn't hurt that she keeps customers' tables filled with some of Springfield's best salsa (pro tip – ask for the hot salsa as well) and tortilla chips. Also, ask her about what margarita to get – she won't steer you wrong. The recognition for Samantha is well-deserved.

## AIR DUCT CLEANING
**Duct Dusters LLC**
553-0272

*Finalists: Peerless Cleaners, Nyilas Cleaning Service, Tiger Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning Services & Electric Services, Filter Free Services*

## GARDEN CENTER
**Pleasant Nursery, Inc.**
4234 Wabash Ave., 522-2222

*Finalists: Green View Garden Center, Apple Barn, Ace Hardware on Wabash, Lowe's Home Improvement*

## LANDSCAPE COMPANY
**Knob Hill Landscape Company**
661 W. Camp Sangamo Road, 314-9435

*Finalists: Scooter's Lawn Care, Designer Landscapes, The Green View Company, Buckley's Prairie Landscaping*

## LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
**Designer Landscapes**
4110 Morrisonville Ave., Farmersville, 227-3256

*Finalists: The Green View Company, Tripp Landscaping, Scooter's Lawn Care, Butch's Lawncare and Landscaping*

## LAWN MOWER SALES & SERVICE
**Sloan Implement**
1600 N. Springfield St., Virden, 965-3333

*Finalists: Kunz Mower Service, Illinois Power Equipment, Ace of Blades, Central Rentals*

## LAWN CARE
**Scooter's Lawn Care**
3802 N. Dirksen Parkway, 473-1472

*Finalists: T&J Lawn Care and Home Services, Green View, Ace of Blades, Butch's Lawn Care and Landscaping, Ladage's Luxurious Lawns*

## LANDSCAPE SUPPLY
**Artisan Stone Products**
2475 Peerless Mine Road, 697-8433

*Finalists: Menards, The Green View Company, Lowe's Home Improvement, Bedrock*

Pole Barn Chic

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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

## NURSERY

**The Green View Company**
3000 W. Jefferson St., 787-4700

*Finalists: Pleasant Nursery, Inc., Seaney Farms, Hilltop Nursery & Landscape Co., New City Greenhouse*

## ELECTRIC COMPANY

**Ruby Electric**
341 Meadowbrook Road, 787-4949

*Finalists: B&B Electric, Speeks Electric, D&D Electric of Central Illinois, R Watts Electric, Inc., Klughart Mechanical & General Contractors*

## HOME BUILDER

**Buraski Builders**
3757 S. Sixth St., 529-5172

*Finalists: Zinn Construction, Creasey Construction, Giacomini & Churchill Construction, Brooklynn Homes, Brent Construction*

## PEST CONTROL COMPANY

**Sonny Adams Pest Control**
1550 Knight's Recreation Drive, 544-2122

*Finalists: Bacon's Termite & Pest Control, Sentinel Pest Control, Terminix, Fidelis Pest Solutions*

## PLUMBING COMPANY

**Henson Robinson Co.**
3550 Great Northern, 544-8451

*Finalists: Easterday Plumbing, Mike Williams Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Allied Plumbing, Tiger Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning Services & Electric Services*

## ROOFING COMPANY

**Sutton's**
1926 N. Peoria Road, 528-3911

*Finalists: Gabe's Home Improvement, Seth Molen Construction, Blackhawk Roofing, Henson Robinson Co., Bobby Shaw Building and Remodeling*

## WINDOW AND SIDING COMPANY

**Sutton's**
1926 N. Peoria Road, 528-3911

*Finalists: Gabe's Home Improvement, Barnett Windows and Siding, Feldco, Bobby Shaw Building and Remodeling*

Photo courtesy Precision Auto Detailing

## CAR DETAILING

# Precision Auto Detailing

Owner Trevor Miller was previously a barber for 17 years. With a history of entrepreneurship in the family, Miller decided to open his own business in 2013. It was a blend of his interests – cutting hair and detailing automobiles. Both sides of his business were successful, but as his employed barbers began to branch out on their own, Miller decided to focus full-time on cars.

In addition to detailing, Precision Auto also provides window tinting, bed liners, truck and car accessories (including audio installation), undercoating, painting, auto body repair and full restorations from the ground up. With a crew of nine full-time employees, Miller says his niche is providing custom work. "We all love what we do," he said.

Miller considers himself a good resource when people are feeling out a problem. If they can't do it there, he will refer them to someone who can. "I spread the wealth," notes Miller. But with providing custom work, there is a lot the shop can do. Miller gave an example of his shop's painter doing a custom helmet for a new goalie for the Springfield Junior Blues. Come to them with a project, and they will do their best to supply a solution.

Miller attributes his success to using only high-quality products in his shop, as well as his exceptional customer service. "Everything we use are normally top-of-the-line products," says Miller. "We stay up on the times and what products are the best. I think that keeps us up there. Also, the way we do things. We love cars. We love what we're doing."

# TOP LAWYERS
## SPRINGFIELD AREA
### BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS

**These LEADING LAWYERS have been recommended by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Matthew J. Cate | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Comm Lit; Creditor's Rights; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Residential |
| Randy S. Paswater | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Creditor Rights/Commercial Collection; Elder; Family |
| Bernard G. Segatto III | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; Real Estate: Comm |
| Randall W. Segatto | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Close/Private Held; Elder; Real Estate: Comm |
| R. Kurt Wilke | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Civil Appellate; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm |
| Barry Hines | Barry Hines — Attorney at Law | 217.698.8444 | AG; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Michael Glenn Barton | Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC | 217.793.9300 | AG; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Indiv; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Mark S. Cochran | Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC | 217.793.9300 | AG; Environmental; Public Utilities; Real Estate: Comm |
| Andrew G. White | Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC | 217.793.9300 | Agriculture; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Claire A. Manning | Brown Hay & Stephens LLP | 217.544.8491 | Employment: Mgmt; Environmental; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |
| Amy K. Schmidt | Brown Hay & Stephens LLP | 217.544.8491 | Family |
| Robert A. Stuart Jr. | Brown Hay & Stephens LLP | 217.544.8491 | Association & Non-Profit; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Joseph N. Rupcich | Cassiday Schade LLP | 217.993.5644 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General |
| Alan J. Jedlicka | Delano Law Offices LLC | 217.544.2703 | Close/Private Held; Emp Benefits; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Land Use; Tax: Business |
| Sarah Delano Pavlik | Delano Law Offices LLC | 217.544.2703 | Trust/Will/Estate |
| Thomas Chester Pavlik Jr. | Delano Law Offices LLC | 217.544.2703 | Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Creditor's Rights; Real Estate: Comm |
| Carl R. Draper | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee; False Claims Act/Whistle Blow |
| Howard W. Feldman | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Construction; Family; ADR: Family |
| Kelli Ellen Gordon | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Family |
| Roger L. Rutherford | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Stuart H. Shiffman | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Civil Appellate; Criminal Appellate; Crim Defense: Felon/Misd |
| Stanley N. Wasser | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Construction |
| James R. Enlow | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel | 217.522.9010 | Bankruptcy: Individual; Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning |
| Gordon W. Gates | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel | 217.522.9010 | Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Comm |
| Todd M. Goebel | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel | 217.522.9010 | Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies & Misd |
| Frederick J. Schlosser | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel | 217.522.9010 | Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felonies & Misd |
| Bradley B. Wilson | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel | 217.522.9010 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee |
| D. Peter Wise | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel | 217.522.9010 | Criminal Defense: DUI; Crim Defense: Felon/Misd; Criminal Defense: White Collar |
| Herman G. Bodewes | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Creighton R. Castle | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate |
| John M. Gabala Jr. | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Civil Appellate; Comm Lit; Copyright/Trademark; PI Def: General |
| David A. Herman | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Comm Lit; Election/Political/Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Trust/Will/Estate |
| R. Mark Mifflin | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |
| Christopher E. Sherer | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Civ Appell; Elect/Political/Campaign; Family; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Matthew R. Trapp | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Civil Appellate; Comm Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |
| Thomas G. Hamill | Harrison & Held LLP | 217.546.6940 | Trust/Will/Estate |
| Adrian E. Harless | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | Health; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General |
| Michael T. Kokal | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | Comm Lit; Copyright & Trademark; Patent |
| John O. Langfelder | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | PI Defense: General; Toxic Torts Defense; Workers' Comp Defense |
| Deanna Seward Mool | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Health |
| Theresa M. Powell | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | Employment: Mgmt; Med-Mal Defense; Prof'l Malpractice Defense |
| Gary S. Schwab | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Defense |
| Daniel R. Simmons | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | PI Defense: General; Workers' Compensation Defense |
| Larry A. Apfelbaum | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation |
| Todd A. Bresney | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Personal Injury: General |
| Charles N. Edmiston II | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation |
| William J. Harrington | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Personal Injury: General |
| Kathy A. Olivero | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation |
| John J. Waldman | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation |
| Stephen Scott Morrill | Morrill & Fiedler LLC | 217.789.5411 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| James E. Neville | Neville Richards & Wuller LLC | 618.277.0900 | Med-Mal Def; PI Def: General; Products Liab Def; Transportation Def; Tox Tort Def |
| Timothy S. Richards | Neville Richards & Wuller LLC | 618.277.0900 | Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Product Liability Def; Toxic Torts Def |
| Cheryl S. Neal | PNC Wealth Mgmt/Estate Settlement | 217.753.7130 | Trust/Will/Estate |
| James A. Borland | Quinn Johnston | 217.753.1133 | PI Defense: General; Products Liability Defense |
| Matthew J. Maddox | Quinn Johnston | 217.753.1133 | Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Defense |
| Betsy A. Wirth | Quinn Johnston | 217.753.1133 | Family; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General |
| David R. Reid | Reid Law Office LLC | 217.546.1001 | Close/Private Held; Tax: Business; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Gregory A. Scott | Scott & Scott PC | 217.753.8200 | Adoption/Reproductive Tech; Family Appellate; Family; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Jared M. Scott | Scott & Scott PC | 217.753.8200 | Family; Personal Injury: General |
| R. Stephen Scott | Scott & Scott PC | 217.753.8200 | Bankrupt/WO: Comm; Close/Private Held; Tax: Business; Tax: Indiv; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Michael M. Durr | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP | 217.789.1200 | Real Estate: Assoc/Condo; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Residential |
| Gregory P. Sgro | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP | 217.789.1200 | Land Use/Zoning/Condemnation; Real Estate: Comm; Workers' Compensation |
| Timothy M. Shay | Shay and Associates | 217.523.5900 | Personal Injury: General; PI: Professional Malpractice; Workers' Compensation |
| Michelle L. Blackburn | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Family; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Michael C. Connelly | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; Real Estate: Tax; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate |
| E. Zachary Dinardo | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Closely & Privately Held Business; Health |
| James G. Fahey | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Civil Appellate; Employment: Mgmt; PI Defense: General |
| C. Clark Germann | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Close/Private Held; Mineral/Nat Resource; Real Estate: Comm |
| Stephen F. Hedinger | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Animal; Environmental; Mineral/Natural Resource |
| Michael G. Horstman Jr. | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Indiv; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Brian D. Jones | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Banking; Close/Private Held; Employee Benefits; Real Estate: Comm |
| John A. Kauerauf | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Closely & Privately Held Business; Employment: Mgmt |
| Kirk W. Laudeman | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Def; Transportation Def |
| James M. Morphew | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Election, Political & Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |
| Lisa A. Petrilli | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Comm Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Land Use/Zoning; Real Estate: Comm |
| David A. Rolf | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | AG; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; PI Defense: General; Real Estate: Comm |
| Peggy J. Ryan | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Family |
| John R. Simpson | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Stephen A. Tagge | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Banking; Close/Private Held; ADR: Comm Lit; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Business |

**These EMERGING LAWYERS have been identified by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brittany Kink Toigo | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Family |
| Ashley D. Davis | FeldmanWasser | 217.544.3403 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Family |
| Samantha A. Bobor | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Employment: Mgmt; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Labor: Mgmt; School |
| Jason E. Brokaw | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC | 217.525.1571 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |
| J. Tyler Robinson | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC | 217.522.8822 | False Claims Act/Whistle Blower; Health; Med-Mal Defense |
| Gina Couri-Cyphers | Kanoski Bresney | 217.523.7742 | Personal Injury: General |
| Pamela E. Hart | Scott & Scott PC | 217.753.8200 | Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Elder; Family; RE: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Benjamin M. Sgro | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP | 217.789.1200 | Personal Injury: General; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Residential; Workers' Comp |
| Gregory E. Moredock | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Commercial Litigation; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin |
| Joshua J. Watson | Sorling Northrup | 217.544.1144 | Family |
| Matthew A. Brewer | Stephen P. Kelly, Attorney at Law | 217.544.8000 | Workers' Compensation |


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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

Photo courtesy Pole Barn Chick Events, LLC

## EVENT PLANNER

# Pole Barn Chic Events, LLC

"What Springfield really needs is a good party!"

Audrey Kondelis' exuberance and excitement is evident upon meeting her. She is full of ideas to make parties as vibrant and fun as possible. "Pole Barn Chic is a one-stop shop," notes Kondelis, who can take care of all party details with her in-house staff, including flowers, balloon structures and other decorations, caterers, bartenders, photographers and a DJ.

"I just want to make people happy, make them smile and laugh," says Kondelis, on her business goals. "Being able to do that for people means a lot to me. I know how important it is to be happy, and remain happy."

From her start in March 2020 with a Mardi Gras-themed birthday party, including a Grammy-nominated Zydeco band from New Orleans, Kondelis has orchestrated a variety of parties to liven up Springfield, from small, intimate events to grand occasions.

Kondelis is in the process of building her own venue, with permits awaiting signatures before breaking ground, hopefully in the near future. Her 12,000-square-foot venue will be a pole barn on the outside with chic design on the inside, to reflect her company name.

Set on eight acres on South Sixth Street off Toronto Road, the building is scheduled for completion in the first half of 2022. Bookings for summer 2022 events will begin as soon as ground is broken for construction. The building will include seating for 500 people, a dance floor and smaller rooms for more intimate parties.

"We have so much fun coming to this town," says Kondelis.

## POOL & SPA SUPPLIES

**M & M Pools/Spas**
1202 W. Jefferson St., 787-1468

*Finalists: The Pool Center, Illini Pools, Southern Ledge Pools & Patios, Aqualand Pool & Patio*

## POOL BUILDER

**M & M Pools/Spas**
1202 W. Jefferson St., 787-1468

*Finalists: Lambert Custom Pools, Knob Hill Landscape Company, Southern Ledge Pools & Patios, Springfield Fiberglass Pools and Spas*

## PAINT STORE

**Don Smith Paint Co.**
1724 S. MacArthur Blvd., 522-9919

*Finalists: Sherwin Williams, Dellert's Paint Company, Menards, Lowe's Home Improvement*

## PAINTER

**Dan Deweese Painting and Wood Finishing**
4745 Industrial Ave., 638-3143

*Finalists: Category 5 Painting, ProFinish Painting & More, Cinric Painting, Bobby Shaw Building and Remodeling*

## HOME REMODELING COMPANY

**Buraski Builders**
3757 S. Sixth St., 529-5172

*Finalists: Sutton's, Dirty Construction & Remodeling, Bobby Shaw Building and Remodeling, Gene Caudle Handyman Service*

## KITCHEN DESIGN

**DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen**
3730 Wabash Ave., 529-9300

*Finalists: Paula Ryan Design, Michael von Behren Builder, Inc., Arizona Tile, Bobby Shaw Building and Remodeling, Sutton's*

## HOME FURNISHINGS

**Hendricks Home Furnishings**
217 N. Springfield St., Virden, 965-3337

*Finalists: Magnolia Lane, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, La-Z-Boy Furniture, Carpet Weavers, Consign & Design*

## CARPET & FLOORING

**Staff Carpet**
304 W. Browning Road, 528-4879

*Finalists: Carpet Weavers, Arizona Tile, Hendricks Home Furnishings, Champ's Floor Covering*

## FLOWER SHOP

# Fifth Street Flower Shop

Fifth Street Flower Shop has been around for a while – since 1931, to be exact, when Truman Cole purchased Cole Flower Shop from his father and renamed it Fifth Street Flower Shop. Though its location moved several times throughout the decades, it moved back to Fifth Street and into its current location at 739 S. Fifth in 1991.

Eight years ago, Sara and Doug Camp purchased the flower shop from longtime owners Patrick and Robyn O'Connor. Manager Nicki Shaub has been with the new owners all the way.

Shaub says the COVID-19 pandemic closed their shop for about six months, as the floral industry was hit very hard. Entire fields of flowers were discarded, as big weddings were postponed or transitioned into informal affairs. The industry continues to struggle to find equilibrium. Fifth Street Flower Shop has temporarily discontinued providing flowers for weddings due to shortages and has focused on other special occasions.

Shaub says the three full-time employees of the shop have aimed to stay positive throughout the disruptions wreaked by the pandemic. "If it weren't for our customers coming together, it would be a hard struggle for us," says Shaub.

Not only are there a lot of emotions in dealing with the disruptions in the floral industry from the pandemic, but Shaub notes they relate to the emotions of their customers. "What we try to do is to help the other person who is struggling or having an awesome experience. We go through every emotion they do." Sometimes it means providing a literal shoulder to cry on. "We're a part of everybody's family," notes Shaub.

Shaub says it is an amazing experience to repeatedly be recognized as the Best of Springfield. "We feel the love and truly appreciate it. It helps us get through our everyday life at the store." She notes that their high standards of quality for the fresh flowers and plants they sell, as well as their exceptional and personal customer service, are the keys to their success.

## RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICE

**Maids R Us, Inc.**
757-8872

*Finalists: Cardinal Cleaning, Lady Made Cleaning, LLC, Golden Rule Cleaning, Inc., Blue Ribbon Cleaning*

## PAVING/DRIVEWAYS

**Ron Furman & Sons Paving**
3600 N. Dirksen Parkway, 528-9407

*Finalists: Illinois Paving, Concrete Impressions, MDS Custom Concrete, Meyers J. Mize Co.*

## PLACE TO BUY A MATTRESS

**Just Beds**
3120 Montvale Drive, 698-6179

*Finalists: Verlo, Hendricks Home Furnishings, Denver Mattress, Sleep Number*

## HARDWARE STORE

**Ace Hardware on Wabash**
1600 Wabash Ave., 787-5100

*Finalists: Menards, Noonan True Value, Lowe's Home Improvement, True Value - Stevenson Drive*

## FURNITURE STORE

**Hendricks Home Furnishings**
217 N. Springfield St., Virden, 965-3337

*Finalists: Ashley Homestore, La-Z-Boy Furniture, Springfield BoxDrop Mattress & Furniture Direct, Consign & Design*

# KIDS' STUFF

## CHILDREN'S SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

**Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery**
1011 N. Seventh St., 525-6800

*Finalists: Compass for Kids, Children's Miracle Network, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Girls on the Run of Central Illinois*

## PEDIATRICS CENTER

**HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital**
415 N. Ninth St., 757-6394

*Finalists: Memorial Care - Koke Mill, Springfield Clinic Pediatric and Adolescent Center, SIU Center for Family Medicine, Frisina Family Wellness*

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## ORTHODONTICS

**Dr. William Groesch - Groesch, Longos & Middleton Orthodontics**
2534 Farragut Drive, 546-4674

*Finalists: Dr. Jason Aleman - Tuthmvr Orthodontics, Dr. Thomas Longos - Groesch, Longos & Middleton Orthodontics, Dr. John Middleton - Jacobs & Middleton Family Dentistry, Sugar Creek Orthodontics*

## PRIVATE SCHOOL

**Little Flower Catholic School**
900 Adlai Stevenson Drive, 529-4511

*Finalists: Sacred Heart-Griffin, Montessori Children's House, Springfield Christian School, Christ the King School*

## PUBLIC SCHOOL (9-12)

**Springfield High School**
101 S. Lewis St., 525-3100

*Finalists: Rochester High School, Southeast High School, Glenwood High School, Ball Chatham*

## PUBLIC SCHOOL (K-8)

**Rochester CUSD 3A Schools**
4 Rocket Drive, 498-6210

*Finalists: Ball Chatham School District, Sherman Elementary, Franklin Middle School, Iles Elementary School*

## TUTORING OR LEARNING CENTER

**Sylvan Learning**
2747 S. Sixth St., 280-8963

*Finalists: Children's Dyslexia Center, Kumon Math and Reading Center of Springfield*

## DAY CARE CENTER

**Silverleaf Children's Academy**
3220 Pleasant Run, 679-2029
2715 S. Fourth St.
100 S. Cardinal Hill, Rochester

*Finalists: My Friends Discovery Center, Calvary Christian Preschool & Daycare, Lake Shore Learning Center, Kimmy Kare's Daycare*

## SUMMER CAMP

**Springfield Art Association art camp**
700 N. Fourth St., 523-2631

*Finalists: Lake Springfield Christian Assembly, Compass for Kids, YMCA gymnastics camp, Lake Springfield Baptist Camp*

Photo courtesy of Greg Sgro

## LAWYER

# Greg Sgro

### with Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr & Rabin, LLP

Those who know him best might say that Gregory Sgro puts the "Greg" in gregarious. The longtime Springfield attorney is known for his social nature, humor and wit. He's also exceedingly trustworthy, says Donald Hanrahan, who works with Sgro at the law firm of Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin and Bruce, LLP.

"He's honest and he's expeditious. When he tells you he's going to do something, he does it, and he does it when he tells you he's going to do it," says Hanrahan. "The depth of his experience and his knowledge of key actors in Springfield – I don't think there's an attorney in town that's better at it."

Hanrahan says part of Sgro's knowledge of the city stems from his father, Sam Sgro, who owned the St. Nicholas Hotel, where many Illinois politicians historically held residence for their wheelings and dealings in Springfield. Sam Sgro was also a real estate developer, a legacy that his son carries on.

Sgro, who has 35 years of experience in law, specializes in real estate development and civil litigation, as well as estates and wills. "His depth of knowledge in real estate comes from the fact that he's in it himself," says Hanrahan. A 2014 article profiling Sgro in *Leading Lawyers* magazine said he had developed 500 acres of real estate, including subdivisions, with more projects in the pipeline.

Sgro has three adult children, one of whom is an associate with the law firm. "His commitment to the law and to his real estate business has never interfered with the primary goal in his life, which is to raise those kids, and he did a great job," says Hanrahan.

## SWIM LESSONS

**YMCA**
601 N. Fourth St., 544-9846
4550 W. Iles Ave., 679-1625

*Finalists: Academy Bullets Swim Club, Nelson Center - Lincoln Park, Bearsharktopus Aquatics, Colony West Swim Club*

## DANCE STUDIO

**Above & Beyond Dance Company**
207 S. Walnut St., Rochester, 414-4808

*Finalists: Kinner & Co. Dance Studio, Studio M Dance Centre, Dance Arts Studio, Inc., Springfield Dance, Tracey and Heather's Dance Synergy*

## MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO (KIDS')

**John Geyston's Martial Arts Academy**
1929 W. Iles Ave., 546-6762

*Finalists: Gracie Humaita, Progressive Kenpo Karate, Cardio Kickboxing and Krav Maga, Shudo Kan Karate Club, Kaizen Shotokan Karate Club*

## GYMNASTICS

**Springfield Gymnastics Center**
3040 Hamlin Parkway, Suite B, 787-4386

*Finalists: YMCA gymnastics camp, L & M Gymnastics, Outlaw Athletics, The CoMplex by Studio M Dance Center,*

## CAMP FOR KIDS

**Girl Scouts of Central Illinois Camp Widjiwagan**

*Finalists: Lake Springfield Christian Assembly (LSCA camp), YMCA gymnastics camp, Boys & Girls Club, Lake Springfield Baptist Camp,*

## KIDS' ART CLASSES

**Springfield Art Association**
700 N. Fourth St., 523-2631

*Finalists: China Towne Ceramic & Fired Art Studio, Kids' comic drawing classes at SAA, Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts & Research Center*

## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING STORE

**Once Upon a Child**
4225 Wabash Ave., 679-7134

*Finalists: Carter's, Just Kids, Little Liars Clothing, Johnny & June,*

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## KID-FRIENDLY PLACE
**Kidzeum**
412 E. Adams St., 679-2123

*Finalists: Ergadoozy, Washington Park, Knight's Action Park, Nelson Center - Lincoln Park*

## FAMILY FUN SPOT
**Knight's Action Park**
1700 Knight's Recreation Drive, 546-8881

*Finalists: Washington Park, SCHEELS, Kidzeum, BounceTag*

## KIDS EAT FREE
**The Dublin Pub**
1975 Wabash Ave., 793-6871

*Finalists: Home Plate Bar & Grill, MCL Cafeteria*

## KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
**Cafe Moxo**
411 E. Adams St., 788-8084

*Finalists: The Creek Pub & Grill, iHOP, Home Plate Bar & Grill, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers*

## KIDS EVENT
**Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular - Thomas Rees Memorial Carillon**
1740 W. Fayette Ave., 546-3853

*Finalists: Illinois State Fair, SCHEELS Safe Family Saturday, Little Flower Parish Heritage Days, Springfield Jaycees Christmas Parade*

# MUSIC

## BASS PLAYER
**Jeff Cunningham**

*Finalists: Ty Ellis, Eric Tinsley, Bruce Williams, Nick Beal*

## DRUMMER
**Eric Austin**

*Finalists: Kevin Klickna, Josh Szerletich, Michael LaFrance, John Peters*

## GUITARIST
**Jeff Wheaton**

*Finalists: Cooper Marx, Jack Stege, Richard Stone, Brad Blankenship*

Photo courtesy Two Men and a Truck

## MOVING COMPANY
# Two Men and a Truck

In the 1980s when brothers Brig Sorber and Jon Sorber needed to make some money after school, they asked their mom, Mary Ellen Sheets, to create a logo – two stick people in a truck – and to put an ad in the local Lansing, Michigan, weekly newspaper. The brothers used an old truck to move families in the local area and when they left for college, the phone kept ringing. Mom continued answering the calls until she realized she had an empire on her hands. Well, maybe not an empire, but a business that would grow to be a national franchise, aptly named Two Men and a Truck.

The mission of Two Men and a Truck is to continuously strive to exceed customers' expectations in value and a high standard of satisfaction. Community service is also an integral part of its business plan. The fastest-growing franchised moving company has donated thousands of service hours in communities across the nation and in 2019 alone, the franchises donated more than $3 million worth of moving services to people and organizations in need. This spirit was a big influence in developing the tagline, "Movers Who Care."

Dan and Renee Shunk own the Two Men and a Truck franchise for central Illinois and opened their first location in Champaign, followed by one in Bloomington and then Springfield in 2014. The Shunks purchased the former Chase branch on North Grand Avenue in 2019 and Two Men and a Truck relocated to the larger space.

At the time, business development manager Travis Blaney said, "I love how Springfield has welcomed us and allowed us to do our thing. It's a great location. We're looking forward to being here for a long time."

## HORN PLAYER
**Dave Littrell**

*Finalists: Frank Parker, Dennis Jones, Kerri Donovan, Brian Moore*

## KEYBOARDIST
**Roger Wainwright**
*Finalists: Ashley Staley, Stan Rapp, David Coonrod, Ezra Casey*

## MUSIC FESTIVAL
**Old Capitol Blues & BBQ**

*Finalists: Downhome Music Festival, Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series, Legacy of Giving Music Festival*

## LIVE MUSIC VENUE - SMALL
**Curve Inn**
3219 S. Sixth St., 529-5806

*Finalists: Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, Crows Mill Pub, Weebles Bar & Grill, Dumb Records, Burger Bar and Back Door Lounge*

## LIVE MUSIC VENUE - LARGE
**Danenberger Family Vineyards**
12341 Irish Road, New Berlin, 488-6321

*Finalists: UIS Performing Arts Center, Sherman Village Park Amphitheater, Illinois State Fair grandstand, Boondocks Pub*

## WEDDING DJ
**Troy Armstrong**

*Finalists: Aaron "Uncanny" Phillips, Cory Brown, Chad Burton*

## DJ
**DJ Mike - Curve Inn**
3219 S. Sixth St., 529-5806

*Finalists: Dave Isaacs - Third Base and Curve Inn, Blee - Crows Mill, Yatti DNY - WetBar*

## SONGWRITER
**Gracia Harrison**

*Finalists: Avery Kern, Ella Gibson, Cody Lee Moomey, Keagan Cross*

## VOCALIST FEMALE
**Ashley Staley**

*Finalists: Gracia Harrison, Avery Kern, Brandy Kristin, Ella Gibson*

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## VOCALIST MALE
**Kid Ziggy**

*Finalists: Jason Mckenzie, Billy Szerletich, Keagan Cross, Cody Lee Moomey*

## PLACE TO DANCE
**Curve Inn**
3219 S. Sixth St., 529-5806

*Finalists: Danenberger Family Vineyards, Weebles Bar & Grill, Crows Mill Pub, Clique*

## PLACE FOR KARAOKE
**Curve Inn**
3219 S. Sixth St., 529-5806

*Finalists: The Blue Grouch Pub, The Alibi, Burger Bar and Back Door Lounge, Webbles Bar & Grill*

## OPEN MIC
**Curve Inn**
3219 S. Sixth St., 529-5806

*Finalists: Jess Cloyd at Buzz Bomb Brewing Company, The Blue Grouch Pub, Kortney and Sam, Trails End Saloon*

## ORIGINAL MUSIC BAND
**Unchained**

*Finalists: Lick Creek, Wolf Crick Boys, The Lovelorn, Enamel*

## COVER MUSIC BAND
**Captain Geech and Shrimp Shack Shooters**

*Finalists: Deja Voodoo, Unchained, Sleeping Dogzz, LiveWire*

## OVERALL BAND
**Captain Geech and Shrimp Shack Shooters**

*Finalists: Unchained, Lick Creek, Deja Voodoo, Off the Wall*

## CHORAL GROUP
**Rochester Madrigals**

*Finalists: Titan Fever-Glenwood High School, Springfield Choral Society, Williamsville High School Madrigals, SHG Encore*

## STORAGE FACILITY

# Stuff-It Storage

Harvey Horton spent a few years carefully researching the storage industry and coming up with a detailed business plan. He opened Stuff-It Storage in March 2020, and immediately went into adaptation mode as the COVID-19 pandemic altered our world significantly.

"You adapt and overcome," says Horton, with the pandemic changing the way he expected his business to grow. "The mobility factor especially was much more advantageous for me last year because people were remodeling, getting new flooring, any number of reasons needed to clear out rooms."

Much of Horton's success was his focus on studying the unaddressed but recurring problems of the storage industry. "What I did was started attacking the industry. What I focused on is what isn't working," notes Horton. "I wanted to create a solution for those problems."

It soon became apparent that steel shipping containers were the solution for the most common problems: dust, pests, moisture damage, fire risk and theft. Known as asset relocation containers, or ARCs, these air-tight steel containers at Stuff-It-Storage have been fitted with thick steel lock boxes to prevent theft.

One other common problem is a lack of time to visit a storage unit, or no way to get belongings to or from the location. Stuff-It Storage's valet service tackles this problem head-on, with an ARC delivered to a customer's home and picked up when filled.

Horton also offers custom totes with an identifying bar code that are photographed so that individual totes can be requested for delivery at any time. "When you want particular bins back, we'll bring them to you. This is especially helpful for things like Christmas decorations," says Horton.

To reduce the cost of long-term storage, Horton offers ARCs for purchase, with a minimal lot fee rental. Some clients have purchased ARCs for investments, as Horton also rents ARCs to his customers.

Horton's customer service is another key to his recognition as the Best of Springfield. "When I'm dealing with customers, it may not necessarily be the high point of their year. There's been a catastrophe, or maybe a problem in the house or their business that needs to be fixed. I'm here to serve the customer, whatever they need. If it's within my realm to accomplish or provide it, I will do that."

# RETAIL

## PET RETAIL STORE
**Wild Birds Unlimited**
1930 S. MacArthur Blvd., 789-6468

*Finalists: PetSmart, Pet Supplies Plus, Tails To Remember Pet Services, Farm and Home Supply*

## CLOTHING STORE - MEN
**Jim Herron Ltd.**
2935 Plaza Drive, 753-8036

*Finalists: SCHEELS, Men's Wearhouse, Reverie Apparel, H&M*

## CLOTHING STORE - USED
**Clothes Mentor**
2329 W. Monroe, 698-8485

*Finalists: Springfield Vintage, Goodwill, Second Time Around, Just Kids,*

## CLOTHING STORE - WOMEN
**Gypsy Soul**
3450 Liberty Drive, 679-0174

*Finalists: District 23, Eye Candy Boutique, Willow and Birch Salon, Bella Boutique*

## PRODUCE SELECTION
**Old Capitol Farmers Market**

*Finalists: Hy-Vee, Meijer, Harvest Market, Aldi*

## SEAFOOD SELECTION
**Robert's Seafood Market**
1615 W. Jefferson St., 546-3089

*Finalists: Carter's Fish Market, Hy-Vee, Harvest Market, Schnucks*

## MEAT SELECTION
**Humphrey's Market**
1821 S. 15th St., 544-7445

*Finalists: Magro's Meat & Produce, Country Market, Turasky Meats, Hy-Vee, Schnucks*

## GROCERY STORE
**Hy-Vee**
2115 S. MacArthur Blvd., 726-1001

*Finalists: Aldi, Meijer, Schnucks, Harvest Market, County Market*

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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

## ANTIQUE OR VINTAGE STORE

**Dear Yesteryear**
421 W. Springfield Road, Taylorville, 777-9778

*Finalists: Springfield Vintage, Recycled Records, Tammi's Treasures Antiques & More, Dumb Records, The Elf Shelf Books & Music*

## AUTO DEALER - NEW

**Isringhausen Imports**
229 E. Jefferson St., 877-364-6099

*Finalists: Landmark Automotive, Green Hyundai, Green Toyota, Freedom Chevrolet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram*

## AUTO DEALER - USED

**Green Certified West**
2541 W. Iles Ave., 241-7888

*Finalists: Robert's Automotive, Landmark Automotive, Smokey Jennings, Freedom Chevrolet Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram*

## MOTORCYCLE DEALER

**Hall's Harley-Davidson, Inc.**
2301 N. Dirksen Parkway, 528-8356

*Finalists: Capital City Motorsports, World of Powersports - Springfield, Coziahr Harley-Davidson*

## AUTO SALESPERSON

**Brian Wilbern - Robert's Automotive**

*Finalists: Jeremy Lookis - Landmark Ford, Devin Fuchs - Green Subaru, Devin Norris - Green Kia, Keith Redd - Jackson Ford*

## BICYCLE SHOP

**Ace Bike Shop**
2500 S. MacArthur Blvd., 523-0188

*Finalists: BikeTek, R & M Cyclery, SCHEELS, Springfield Bicycle Doctor*

## BOOKSTORE - USED

**Prairie Archives**
522 E. Adams St., 522-9742

*Finalists: The Book Rack, Elf Shelf Books & Music, The Sly Fox, Books on the Square*

## MUSIC STORE OR SHOP

**Recycled Records**
625 E. Adams St., 522-5122

*Finalists: Dumb Records, The Music Shoppe, Elf Shelf Books & Music, House of Music*

## DIETITIAN

# Erin Zepp

### Memorial Wellness Center

Photo by Scott Reeder

Before becoming a dietician, Erin Zepp had 110 pounds of inspiration.

"When I was in high school, my mom lost 110 pounds, and so that put our whole family on a healthy living trajectory that I always participated in and thought was really neat and cool," she said. "But back then, I didn't understand that it could be a job."

She entered University of Illinois as a Spanish major but her second semester she took a nutrition class that resulted in her pursuing a different career.

"It was taught by a dietician named Rebecca Roach. She changed my life. Within the first week of class, I stayed after and I walked up to her. I was like, 'I need to know more about being a dietician.'"

In the years since, she has helped thousands of people either lose weight or adjust their diet to accommodate a medical condition. Currently, she works for Fresenius Kidney Care, guiding patients on dialysis to eat in a healthy manner.

"It is a different kind of dietician work than I've ever done before," she said. "My dialysis patients have labs drawn and based on that, we will talk about how we can adjust – either their medications or their food choices."

"If your kidneys don't work, you have the potential to build up potassium and phosphorus in your blood. Too much phosphorus makes your bones brittle, and too much potassium stops your heart. Communication with people about what they're doing between their dialysis treatments is important. We need to help keep their labs in the right space so that they can have the best quality of life possible."

Before working with dialysis patients, Zepp worked for eight years at what is now known as Memorial Wellness Center, helping folks learn healthy eating habits and develop strategies to lose weight. During that time, she helped more than 1,000 people.

"I love walking with somebody who's had bariatric surgery, or is planning on having bariatric surgery, through that whole process. It is truly life-changing. I love watching and helping someone make a huge medical step and then navigating everything that happens afterwards. I just love watching what amazing things they do."

But not all of her patients have had surgery or are considering it. For example, some have just taken nutrition and wellness classes she has led.

Tene Haile of Springfield is one of them. She was in an online support group that Zepp taught.

"Erin is so encouraging and upbeat," she said. "The biggest thing she taught me is to not believe the lies we tell ourselves. Sometimes when you gain weight, you just want to give up and eat anything. But Erin is like, 'No, we do this one day at a time. Each day is a chance to start all over.'"

Zepp has high expectations for her patients, said Tiffany Turner, lead nurse practitioner and bariatrics service manager at Memorial Wellness Center.

"She's strict. She holds people accountable. Our service line is for adults. So, she treats people as adults. She expects people to be accountable for their actions. I think she just does a great job. She approaches it like this: 'I'm here to help you gain this knowledge, but I need you to do it.'"

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## BRIDAL - FORMAL WEAR

**GOWNS Bridal and Formal Boutique**
2757 S. Sixth St., 670-0132

*Finalists: David's Bridal, Girls in White Satin Bridal and Formal Wear, Simply Elegant by Cheri, LA Formals & Bridal*

## CONSIGNMENT AND RESALE STORE

**Habitat for Humanity Restore**
2744 S. Sixth St., 523-2710

*Finalists: Second Time Around, Remarkable Resale, Just Kids, Sweet Pea Consignment, Hope Thrift Center*

## CONVENIENCE STORE

**Casey's General Store**
721 W. Stanford Ave., 528-8594
1133 W. Jefferson St., 546-2721
3001 E. Clear Lake Ave., 788-5825
3001 Ridge Ave., 522-5829
3961 N. Peoria Road, 525-8670

*Finalists: Qik-N-EZ, Hilltop Convenience, Thorntons - Sixth Street, Jamal's Grocery*

## GIFT STORE

**The Cardologist**
229 S. Sixth St., 525-4121

*Finalists: Penny Lane, Bewitching Botanicals, Kennedy Sue Gift & Home, Once in a Blue Moon*

## JEWELRY STORE

**Giganti and Giganti Fine Jewelry**
3325 Robbins Road, 793-3300

*Finalists: JoJo Jewelry, Denney Jewelers, A.B. Lauer, Helzberg Diamonds, Rogers and Hollands Jewelers*

## NATURAL FOOD OR SUPPLEMENT STORE

**Food Fantasies**
1512 Wabash Ave., 793-8009

*Finalists: GNC, Supplement Superstores*

## NEW BUSINESS DOWNTOWN

**Whimsy Tea Company**
316 E. Adams St., 331-6920

*Finalists: Piper + Arrows Boutique, Creative Reuse Marketplace, SAA Collective*

Photo courtesy John Geyston

## MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO (ADULT AND KIDS)

# John Geyston's Martial Arts Academy

Empowering children and adults to reach their full potential through quality martial arts has been the main mission of John Geyston's Martial Arts Academy since 1982. The studio offers programs in mixed martial arts, Muay Thai kickboxing, Brazilian jiu jitsu, fitness kickboxing, karate and self-defense classes for children, teens and adults.

John Geyston, owner and chief master instructor, understands the challenges of raising kids and encourages parents to enroll kids in martial arts classes, especially those that are having difficulties with learning and behavior. Geyston's programs teach self-discipline, hard work, confidence, respect and humility while promoting health and fitness. He believes the power of martial arts can transform behavior without medication.

Geyston's vision is to build a community by helping people get in shape while learning life skills and embodying the character of a true martial artist. He teaches the importance of upholding the values of courtesy, patience, respect, self-control and integrity.

Programs are offered at two locations: 1929 W. Iles, Springfield and 304 South Walnut, Rochester. John Geyston's Martial Arts Academy offers after-school programs, summer camps and martial arts-themed birthday parties.

## COSMETIC SURGEON

# Dr. Nicole Sommer

### Southern Illinois University Cosmetic Clinic

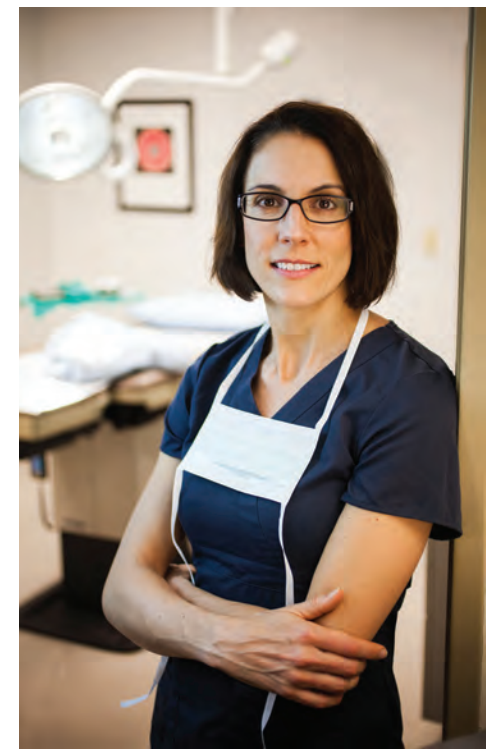

Photo courtesy Dr. Nicole Sommer

For over 25 years, Dr. Nicole Sommer has been performing surgeries that make patients' lives better. Sommer is a cosmetic, plastic and reconstructive surgery specialist at Southern Illinois University (SIU) Cosmetic Clinic located in the Institute for Plastic Surgery. She is also affiliated with HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield Memorial Hospital and Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Sommer wears many hats in her professional life. In addition to her plastic surgery practice, she serves as a professor for the Department of Surgery, director of the SIU Cosmetic Clinic and director of the Plastic Surgery Residency Program.

Her research interests include breast augmentation, reduction, reconstruction, revision surgery and male breast reduction. Sommer also performs nonsurgical and surgical cosmetic treatment for the face and body, along with migraine surgery. Sommer is a graduate of SIU School of Medicine where she completed a residency in both general surgery and plastic surgery.

"After finishing my residency in plastic surgery, I was most passionate about helping patients interested in cosmetic and breast surgery," shared Sommer. "I chose to pursue specialized training and experience in breast and cosmetic surgery, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Institute for Aesthetic and Reconstructive Surgery. I wanted to bring this higher level of expertise in cosmetic and breast surgery back to the Springfield community."

**ONLINE CALENDAR SUBMISSION**

**Friday by 5pm for the following Thursday issue**

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**Nothing Bundt Cakes**
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*Finalists: Luminary Kitchen & Provisions, Grateful Coffee Co., Sweet Basil Cafe, Brunchfield Cafe*

## OPTICAL SHOP

**Vision Care Associates**
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2741 Prairie Crossing Drive, 272-7393

*Finalists: Prairie Eye and LASIK Center, Henderson Eye Center, Eyemart Express, Bergh White Opticians*

## PAWN SHOP

**Monster Pawn**
2324 S. MacArthur Blvd., 744-7296

*Finalists: Stevenson Drive Pawn Shop, Pawn King, The Piggy Bank*

## PLACE TO FEED THE SLOTS

**Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum**
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## RETAIL SHOP

**Bewitching Botanicals**
415 W. Madison St., Auburn, 705-4578

*Finalists: Eye Candy Boutique, Farmhouse Signs & Co, Kennedy Sue Gift & Home, Willow & Birch Salon, Whimsy Tea Company*

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## VAPE SHOP

**Upper Limits**
1205 S. Second St., Suite B, 679-4315

*Finalists: Tribble Vapors, Discount Tobacco, DTI's Ecig City*

## PRIVATE SCHOOL

# Little Flower Catholic School

Photo by Scott Reeder

At a time when many private and religious schools are struggling, Little Flower Catholic School is growing. So, what is their secret?

"We have a great pastor in Al (Kemme.) He's in is his sixth year and he has done a great job at just setting the tone," principal Bill Moredock said. "And the faculty is unbelievable. They're here because they believe in our mission. They love the children. They love education. They're passionate about teaching. They make a difference. I've got a lot of experienced teachers who have been here more than 20 years."

The school at 900 Stevenson Dr. in Springfield draws students from communities as distant as Virden, Girard and Rochester. It also serves families from all parts of Springfield.

"We are a south side school that really isn't in a neighborhood. So, we really have to market ourselves in the community to let people know we're here," Moredock said. "We're a very diverse school. You've got kids of all academic abilities, of all colors, of all races and ethnicities."

Each family at the school is expected to volunteer. They may serve in a variety of capacities ranging from painting rooms and monitoring kids on the playground to driving youngsters on field trips.

While Springfield public schools were practicing remote learning during the last school year, Little Flower continued in-person classes.

"This really benefitted us. Parents who hadn't considered a school like Little Flower before came and enrolled their children because they wanted them in a classroom setting," Moredock said. "And the great part is that most of those new students who enrolled last year have returned this year."

Little Flower parent Joe Kulek said it's the sense of community that attracts families.

"We made a point of getting involved in the parish and the school. It was important to us," he said of he and his wife, Maggie. "And the more you become involved, the more you want to stay. This is our community."

The Kuleks live on Springfield's west side but chose to send their three daughters to Little Flower.

"We decided it was worth the extra gas money for them to attend Little Flower. Academically, it is excellent, and they have some good, experienced teachers there," he said.

But what do the students think of the school?

Well, here is how 10-year-old Jersee Jackson described Little Flower:

"Little Flower is a very good school. The people here are very nice; same with the teachers and, Doc, the principal. If there's a problem with bullying, it's very rare here. Everyone is very nice. And here we are taught actions speak louder than words."

Her 10-year-old classmate, Liam Harris, added, "Well, the teachers are nice and we get good lunches. I would say everybody in the school is nice. You make a lot of friends. And you get recess for about 25 minutes. And then we get to do fun things like last year, somebody actually brought pumpkins to the school. And we got to carve them and did a contest. And sometimes when we're good, we get extra recesses."

## CBD STORE

**CBD Botanicals**
2538 S. Koke Mill Road, 588-8161

*Finalists: Food Fantasies, Simply CBD, Upper Limits, Unique Enhancements*

## LIQUOR STORE

**Binny's Beverage Depot**
2490 Wabash Ave., 787-3401

*Finalists: Friar Tuck Beverage, Riverton Party Store, It's All About Wine, 709 Package Liquors*

## WINE STORE

**The Corkscrew**
2613 Chatham Road, 698-1112

*Finalists: Binny's Beverage Depot, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, It's All About Wine, Hy-Vee*

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## BARGAINS

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3201 Horizon Drive, 718-6355

*Finalists: Maribis, CBD Botanicals, Simply CBD, Prairie State Hemp*

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*Finalists: CBD Botanicals, Maribis, Simply CBD, Prairie State Hemp*

## BUDTENDER

**Casey Cook - Ascend Horizon Drive**
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*Finalists: Brittany Jacobs - Maribis (Grandview), Alijha Lyons - Ascend (Horizon Drive), Eric Tav - Ascend (Adams Street), James Golterman - Ascend (Horizon Drive)*

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# BEST OF SPRINGFIELD 2021

Photo courtesy Unchained

## ORIGINAL MUSIC BAND

# Unchained

2021 became a turning point for these six cool cats from Rochester, and they've got their act together in becoming solidly what they say they are on the group's Facebook page – a "high energy rock-n-roll band." Bandmates and best pals, Matthew Runions (drums), Ty Ellis (bass), Cooper Marx (guitar), Logan McKneelan (guitar), Dave Allen (vocals) and Logan McCafferty (vocals), knew each other through the Rochester High School music department and came together with a common cause of playing music they all enjoyed.

Runions started the band in 2018 after his dad suggested the idea, and the drummer kept running with it until this lineup clicked and clattered into a fiery live group that's been stable over the last two years. The term "rap rock" is their associated genre, but they also cover 90s rock, classic rock, punk, ska, reggae and other types of popular music to win the crowd over with enthusiastic performances at local venues. Or if you want to take them at their word, they proudly and succinctly state on their band website, "We play great music. You should check out a show."

A good percentage of their music is still covers, which is not unusual when doing a three-hour club show, but the originals are creeping in at a good pace, and that is what our readers seemed to feel was the strong suit for this unshackled sextet. The catchy title of "Psychedelic Picnic" is already chosen for an upcoming spring 2022 release with the recording process in the works. Using the CD as a springboard and calling card, the group intends to work toward playing festivals next summer that encourage and promote original music.

Hey, even the Beatles were known for current covers before conquering the world with their own music, so by those standards, Unchained is on the right track to hit the "toppermost of the poppermost," and we support and congratulate them for that direction.

## DISPENSARY

**Ascend**
628 E. Adams St., 679-3283
3201 Horizon Drive, 718-6355

*Finalists: Maribis, Prairie State Hemp*

## EDIBLE

**Mindy's Edibles**

*Finalists: Wana Gummies, Incredibles Chocolate Bar, Phytochew Gummies - Simply CBD, Prairie State Hemp Delta-8 Gummies*

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Photo courtesy Gracia Harrison

SONGWRITER

# Gracia Harrison

Known for her spectacular singing voice that landed her a spot on the national TV show, "The Voice," Gracia Harrison is now firmly entrenched into the world of country-pop songwriting as well. After garnering a great deal of attention from "The Voice" appearance, (she was the first, and only person to date who yodeled her way onto the show), the central Illinois native worked with some Nashville cats to produce singles and videos and went the usual route of picking songs written by Music City pros.

But now her most recent cut, "hey," released in May 2021, came from her pen and mind only, and demonstrates she picked up a thing or two from hanging around the big-time songsters. As Harrison approaches nearly 10,000 followers on her Facebook musician page and with over 2,000 likes on her new "hey" single video on YouTube, she is beginning the transition to a one-name artist, to be known simply as Gracia (it's pronounced "Graysha," as she explains on her LifeofGracia Twitter feed).

There's some movement with the single to back up the songwriting prowess as she's now played on the ACM New Music Friday Night playlist, got a good mention on the music industry website The Country Note and has been added to many well-represented Spotify playlists. She was also a finalist in our BoS female vocalist category this year.

Upcoming plans for Gracia include releasing more songs in the next few months, booking a tour of the Midwest to support the rising music and dropping a CD of new tunes in early 2022 to continue the progression from heartfelt country music singing yodeler to full-time, country pop songstress.

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## VOCALIST FEMALE

# Ashley Staley

Ashley Staley, half of the popular music duo JackAsh (guitarist and singer Jack Stege is the other member), is the best female singer in town according to our intrepid readers. She takes her singing seriously and has for a long time.

Influenced by the band Heart when starting out, she now respects and listens to Lady Gaga, among other pop female singers currently out there pushing the pipes. She accompanies herself on the keyboards in the duo, but mainly concentrates on the singing and, oh brother, can she put it out there.

Photo courtesy Ashley Staley

As a founding member of the local band Off the Wall, she once asked Jack, the band's lead guitarist, if he'd be interested in an acoustic-based duo, and that's how JackAsh came about. Ashley now makes this combo her only singing outlet and very much likes having the ability to choose material fitting to her incredible voice. It also allows her to perform in a more intimate atmosphere where the songs are forefront and the audience interaction is more of a personal conversation than a crowded concert.

As might be expected, the duo does play smaller clubs, but they can also do our larger beer garden areas, because when Ashley sings the world takes notice, as her melodious and mellifluous voice makes any size room seem close, comfortable and inviting, filled with the sweet sounds of her soothing singing.

## VOCALIST MALE

# Kid Ziggy

A true sign the hip hop, rap and pop movement in central Illinois is not only alive and well, but finally getting the attention it deserves, Kid Ziggy (otherwise known as Zachary T. Geller) claimed honors as our best male vocalist this year. Now approaching 6,000 monthly listeners on Spotify for several singles and plays from his album "Brainstorming," he also has nearly 5,500 views posted on his latest YouTube video and single, "Bad Influence" (filmed by Visual Paradise), and over 1,300 followers on his Facebook musician page.

Photo courtesy Kid Ziggy

In online numbers – and that's what counts these days – Kid is killing it while carving a path into the world of music-making. Not only does he write and perform original material, he posts regularly on social media sites such as Facebook and TikTok, singing songs by popular artists such as Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars and Sam Smith, clearly showing he has the pipes to do whatever he chooses when it comes to laying down the tunes. He's also collaborated with Papa Luke, RJC, Danny J and THEDAMNCLAMMAN in an independent record label based in Springfield called ZiPPiR Collective, who as a group have released two EPs, produced several live shows and developed into a driving force in the music community.

Born and raised in Taylorville, Kid Ziggy makes no bones about wanting to get to the top of the music industry heap and keeps up every day with the work necessary to achieve such a goal. Besides producing and posting songs on his media sites and generally doing what it takes to make some noise on the internet to gain recognition beyond our community, he also performs live at local venues, taking it to the streets for the folks around here.

He's got the drive, the look, the music, and according to our readers and thousands of social media followers, the voice to carry on to be the best. And you better know that when Kid Ziggy gets going, he's going to get real gone.

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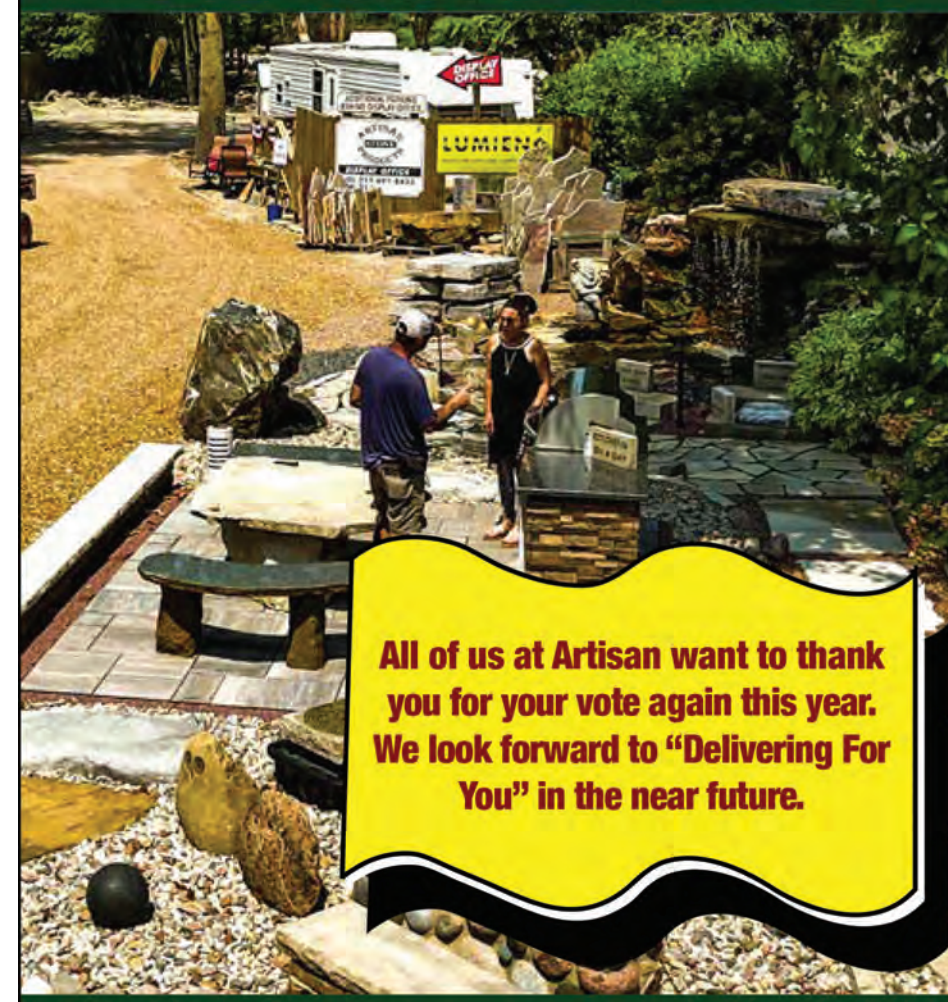


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Credit: facebook.com/dearyesteryear

## ANTIQUE OR VINTAGE STORE

# Dear Yesteryear

What's old is new again, and you can find the best of both of these worlds (and so much more) at Dear Yesteryear, a vintage and furniture store located in Taylorville. Owners Lee and Dyanne Skinner have poured their hearts and souls into curating the very best shopping experience, and after taking one step inside the doors, it's easy to see why it won this year's award for best retail store.

Chock-full of delightful treasures that you would be hard-pressed to find anywhere else, Dear Yesteryear is the perfect place to while away an afternoon hunting for unique home decor, one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry or do-it-yourself supplies to transform a precious family heirloom into something truly modern and special.

Feeling left out because you've heard so many amazing things about Dear Yesteryear, but aren't local? Or perhaps there's something that's caught your eye and you want to buy it for that special someone who lives out of town? Never fear, because Dear Yesteryear offers easy online shopping, purchasing and shipping options. But for those who reside nearby, hurry out and start shopping at the sweetest vintage and antique store the area has to offer and see why Dear Yesteryear's tagline is "worth the drive."

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## AUTO SALESPERSON

# Brian Wilbern

## Robert's Automotive

Photo courtesy Brian Wilbern

Robert's Automotive is a family affair. Brian Wilbern works alongside his brothers, Rob and Mike, as well as his father, Bob, whose formal moniker begets the name of the business.

Originally from Petersburg, but now living in Springfield, Brian began working at the dealership about 12 years ago. He attributes his success with customers to not being your typical, high-pressure used car salesman. "We're very easygoing here. It's a unique approach."

When Brian sells a car, he is with the customer at each step of the way. "I help with every aspect of sales process. I'm the one face you see the whole time," he said, whether it's filling out paperwork, applying for financing or even programming phones to sync with your new car.

A global computer chip shortage has drastically decreased the number of new cars available for consumers. In turn, this has impacted the used car market, as demand for new and pre-owned cars has not lessened. Brian says that right now, they are selling a lot of cars on consignment, with former customers calling to ask Brian if he can sell the cars they previously purchased from him.

With the chip shortage ongoing for the foreseeable future, Brian is glad his loyal customers are helping him increase inventory. "It's a cool way to get vehicles, without having access to buying vehicles."

Credit: facebook.com/HallsHD

## MOTORCYCLE DEALER

# Hall's Harley-Davidson, Inc.

If you ride a motorcycle, you ride for a reason. If you ride a Harley-Davidson, you ride with a passion, a purpose and a dedication to a community. Since 1962, the love of cycles has grown from a Schwinn bicycle and motorcycle shop into what is now Hall's Harley-Davidson. The locally owned store is a two-story, 43,000-square-foot complex with a complete showroom, service department and line of Motorclothes clothing. Hall's is perfectly located off the interstate on the northeast side of Springfield so that riders from Lincoln, Decatur, Jacksonville, Springfield, Litchfield, Taylorville, Quincy and Bloomington can be served.

Come to Hall's Harley-Davidson to browse the showroom, take a test drive or get a quote on the perfect bike for you. If you are stuck at home, you can still browse social media where you can find plenty of options to shop and participate in benefits and other specials going on in the store.

Hall's Harley-Davidson is proudly committed to its community and recognizes that success is due to the support of its customers from across central Illinois. The store holds various events to bring together riders and even non-riders, including hosting the Summer Thunder Tour that offers the ultimate in raffle prizes – a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

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Photo by Ed Clark Photography

## NEW BUSINESS NOT DOWNTOWN (OPENED AFTER 8/1/20)

# Nothing Bundt Cakes

With a laser-focused confectionery niche and a top-notch pun name, Nothing Bundt Cakes is the result of married co-owners Kristen and Theo Spilman's combined 40 years of culinary and hospitality experience.

"I feel like the community has received us quite well, and we fill a gap in the sense that you can get a cake that's an elevated product, but at a price point that isn't a wedding cake or an extremely artistic type of styling," Theo Spilman said.

The business came into being after the couple returned to Springfield after working in the hospitality industry in Europe for a number of years together. When family needs brought them back to the United States, Spilman said they formulated plans to open Nothing Bundt Cakes.

The bakery's specialty, besides bundt cakes of various sizes and flavors, is their method of baking cakes fresh all day long. It allows for a quick turnaround time, whether customers are just looking for a treat or are in sudden, desperate need of dessert for an occasion, Spilman said.

"We can have somebody come in literally last minute for whatever disaster or save-the-date moment, and we can take care of them in very short order," he said. "We've saved the day on last-minute weddings and helped husbands who have forgotten anniversaries or Valentine's Day."

Cakes are available in four sizes and a variety of flavors and options, but for his own part, Spilman said his favorite is still the red velvet bundt cakes.

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Photo courtesy David Anderson

## WINE STORE

# The Corkscrew

Plenty of stores can sell you a great bottle of wine, but only a handful do it with the type of dedication that you'll find at The Corkscrew. Whether you are new to the world of wine or a self-proclaimed sommelier, The Corkscrew has a broad variety of spirits, making the chances of finding the perfect bottle of wine extraordinarily good.

For many people, buying wine can feel a little bit intimidating, but the amazing employees at The Corkscrew have a special way of making shopping for wine fun. They are incredibly knowledgeable, friendly and 100% unpretentious. They have a gift for remembering your face, and oftentimes they also remember what type of wine you bought the last time you were in the store.

Whether you're looking for a bottle of bubbly for a special celebration, a full-bodied wine to stand up to your holiday meal or an affordably priced bottle of rosé to sip on the front porch with friends, The Corkscrew is certain to have it.

Last fall, owners David and Danielle Anderson relocated the store to a different suite in the same shopping center. The move allowed The Corkscrew to reconfigure the layout and add additional seating, which David Anderson said customers have appreciated.

Like a fine wine, The Corkscrew is getting better with age, making it no surprise that this quaint, local store is our very favorite place to shop for wine.

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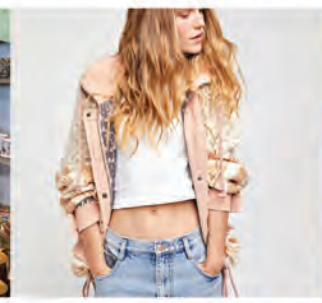

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The Salted Lemon market & creamery

Photo courtesy of Jessica Lance

RETAIL SHOP

# Bewitching Botanicals

Jessica Lance opened Bewitching Botanicals in Auburn right before the pandemic took hold. She had started selling her wares at vendor fairs a couple of months before she opened up the brick-and-mortar location in mid-December of 2019. "After such a tumultuous time the past two years, going through a global pandemic together, we're trying to put a little pizzazz back in everyone's lives," says Lance.

Lance helps decorate for events and hosts them at the shop, which is a historical building that used to house a grocery and hardware store. An Auburn native, Lance lives with her husband and five children just a couple of blocks away from the store on the town square. "I love the small-town charm. I really enjoy getting to know my clientele and my neighbors," she says.

Bewitching Botanicals sells a variety of skin-care products that Lance makes herself. "All of my products are made with USDA-certified organic ingredients. I don't use any artificial components." The products include bath bombs, body scrubs and lotions. Lance also carries items from other small businesses that you won't find in big-box stores, from children's toys, to cleaning products to clothing for a variety of ages.

Lance has a robust website for her business, which has a staff of five employees. Because of the pandemic, she initially had to change her focus. "I had to completely shift my entire business model from in-store to 100% e-commerce," she said. Now, the shop continues to sell goods online while also welcoming customers to come check out the items for themselves.

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Photo by Patrick Russell Creative

## NEW BUSINESS DOWNTOWN (OPENED AFTER 8/1/20)

# Whimsy Tea Company

Whimsy Tea began out of frustration. Owner Gordon Davis explained that one of his family's regular outings was to Teavana, formerly housed in White Oaks Mall. Then the company was purchased by Starbucks, which closed the local outlet, despite initial promises to the contrary.

After the disappointment, Davis and his family decided not to let Starbucks dictate their family's access to quality teas, and they began to source their own. The business, created and staffed by Davis, his wife, Laura, and daughter Amberly, with assistance from their younger children as well, began as a stand at the Old Capitol Farmers Market.

Though incremental progress was always the foundation of their business plan, within a month Whimsy Tea was available at Bunn Gourmet, and now the company's teas are available at more than a dozen locations. "We're trying to be everywhere we possibly can," notes Davis.

A push last summer by Downtown Springfield, Inc. to fill first-floor retail spaces gave the Davis family an opportunity they could not resist: a short-term lease. "We were able to try it out and see if it would work," states Davis. "It did well."

When that lease expired, Whimsy Tea moved into a larger space on the other side of Adams and Fourth streets, still right in the thick of the Adams Family business district. "This street is booming. If someone is getting into pursuing their passion, Adams Street is where to do it," says Davis. "We cultivate the unique – that's the great thing about downtown. It's where people go to build their own thing."

In addition to their fine tea selection and personalized guest experience, Whimsy Tea also hosts open mic nights featuring music, poetry, comedy – whatever talent someone wants to showcase.

Whimsy Tea has also become an art venue. "We partner with local artists and they do label art for us. We can offer our artists wall space for free, and if they choose to sell their art, we don't take a cut. They don't have to pay rent for art space. We have 23 artists, and probably 130 pieces," says Davis.

As for future plans, Davis says, "We always wanted to eventually have a tea house. We're not there yet, but we're getting there. Incremental progress."

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Introductions

Rep. Sonya Harper

County Clerk Don Gray

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- GoFundMe page: Help Move the Historic Leland Farm Summer Kitchen at https://gofund.me/a3d5bc86

For more information, contact Lisa or Theresa through our FaceBook page: Save the Old Leland Farm Summer Kitchen@Lelandfarmhouse
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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Real Estate Foreclosure

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
ASHLEY NICHOLE HILL A/K/A ASHLEY N HILL A/K/A ASHLEY HILL,
DEFENDANTS.
NO. 19 CH 00115
524 SALOME AVENUE SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702
JUDGE
PRESIDING JUDGE
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on December 4, 2019, Sheriff of Sangamon County will on 11/23/2021, in the boardroom of the Sangamon County Bldg., 200 S. 9th St., Springfield, IL 62701, at 09:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Sangamon, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
TAX NO. 14-28.0-327-003
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 524 Salome Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702
Description of Improvements: Gray vinyl siding, two story single family home, no garage
The Judgment amount was $60,434.18.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours.
NO REFUNDS.
The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com.
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 20-04826IL
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
I3177988

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
Michael M. Walden, Sr., AKA Michael Walden, Sr.
Defendants.
Case No. 2020CH000009
3073 Louise Lane, Springfield, IL 62702
Judge Adam Giganti
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on June 2, 2021, Jack Campbell will on December 7, 2021, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Second Floor, Springfield, IL 62703, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
Commonly known as 3073 Louise Lane, Springfield, IL 62702
Parcel Number(s): 14-25.0-127-041
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.
Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 20-011766.
Edward R. Peterka
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One East Wacker, Suite 1250
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: 312-651-6700
Fax: 614-220-5613
Attorney. No.: 6220416
Email: StateEFiling@manleydeas.com

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COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
PATRICK R. NUDO,
DECEASED
No. 2021 P 570
CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Patrick R. Nudo. Notice is given to all creditors that Letters Testamentary were issued on October 7, 2021, to Richard Poynter, 3286 Hilltop Road, Springfield, Illinois 62712, and Kevin N. McDermott, 109 South 7th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 as Co-Executors of the Estate.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, or with the Co-Executors, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 7th day of October, 2021.
Kevin N. McDermott
Attorney for the Estate of Patrick R. Nudo
109 South Seventh Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-4070
Ill. Reg. No. 6196497
Kevin@KevinNMcDermott.com

---

COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
ROBERT S. RAMSEY,
DECEASED
No. 2021 P 562
CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Robert S. Ramsey. Letters of Office were issued on October 7, 2021, to Jacquelyn L. Ramsey, c/o Kevin N. McDermott, 109 South 7th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, or with the Executor, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 7th day of October, 2021.
Kevin N. McDermott
Attorney for the Estate of Robert S. Ramsey
109 South Seventh Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-4070
Ill. Reg. No. 6196497
Kevin@KevinNMcDermott.com

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COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
ROBERT M. BEAM, JR.,
DECEASED
No. 2021 P 556
CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Robert M. Beam, Jr. Notice is given to all creditors that Letters of Administration were issued on October 4, 2021, to Kevin N. McDermott, 109 South 7th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 as Administrator of the Estate.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704, or with the Adminstrator, or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice, and any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 14th day of October, 2021.
Kevin N. McDermott
Attorney for the Estate of Robert M. Beam, Jr.
109 South Seventh Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 753-4070
Ill. Reg. No. 6196497
Kevin@KevinNMcDermott.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
MARY JANE WRIGHT
Deceased
Case No.2021-P-292
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of MARY JANE WRIGHT, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on April 25, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on the 25th day of May, A.D., 2021, to CYNTHIA A. CLEAVER, of 536 W. Carpenter Street, Springfield, IL 62703, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 27th day of May, A.D., 2021.
ESTATE OF MARY JANE WRIGHT,
Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of its Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200 peh@scottn-scottlaw.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
RONALD A. PRIDDY,
Deceased.
Case No. 2021-P-272
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of RONALD A. PRIDDY, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on April 20, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on the 17th day of May, A.D., 2021, to KAITLYN R. KELLEY, 2277 E. Grandview, Springfield, IL 62711, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 17th day of May, A.D., 2021.
ESTATE OF RONALD A. PRIDDY,
Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
Pamela E. Hart, one of its Attorneys.
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217)753-8200 peh@scottn-scottlaw.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
THOMAS P. LAKE,
Deceased.
Case No. 2021-P-560
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of THOMAS P. LAKE of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on May 3, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on the 6th day of October, A.D., 2021, to PAUL T. LAKE, 419 Spring Ridge, Rochester, Illinois, 62563, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 6th day of October, A.D., 2021.
Estate of THOMAS P. LAKE, Deceased,
PREPARED BY:
BY /s/ R. Stephen Scott
R. Stephen Scott (02533391)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., its Attorneys
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-8200
Email: rss@scottnscottlaw.com

---

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
JOAN BEVERLY OLINGER,
Deceased.
Case No. 2021-P-579
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of JOAN BEVERLY OLINGER, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, on October 4, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on the 13th day of October, A.D., 2021, to PAUL L. CLITES, 1720 Upland Lakes, Houston, Texas, 77043, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C., 611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701.
Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the Attorney at the above addresses within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed.
DATED this 13th day of October, A.D., 2021.
Respectfully submitted,
ESTATE OF JOAN BEVERLY OLINGER,
Deceased,
BY: /s/Pamela E. Hart
PAMELA E. HART,
PREPARED BY:
Pamela E. Hart (6299974)
SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
611 East Monroe Street, Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-8200 peh@scottn-scottlaw.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of:
Lawrence D. Houser,
Deceased.
No. 2021-P-574
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE
Notice is given of the death of Lawrence D. Houser, of Springfield, Illinois. Letters Testamentary were issued on October 14, 2021, to Christa H. Houser, 10998 Constant Cemetery Rd., Buffalo, Illinois 62515 as Administrator, whose attorney of record is DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC, One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.
Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs of Lawrence D. Houser of the entry of the Order as set forth above and of the entry of an Order declaring Christa H. Houser, Rodney A Houser, Douglas D. Houser, and Brian E. Houser as the only heirs of Lawrence D. Houser.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act, 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months of the first day that this Notice is published, and any claim not so filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sarah Delano Pavlik – 6269250
Alan J. Jedlicka – 6291659
DELANO LAW OFFICES, LLC
Attorneys for Administrator
One Southeast Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: 217-544-2703
Fax: 217-544-4664

Email: sdpavlik@delanolaw.com
ajedlicka@delanolaw.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the estate of:
Aaron J. Painter, Deceased
Case No. 2021-P-522
Claim Notice
Notice is given of the death of Aaron J. Painter. Letters of Administration were issued to Sandra L. Painter, 3017 Louise Lane, Springfield, Ill. 62702 as Administrator. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62702, with the Executor, on or before, April 28, 2022. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor within 10 days after it has been filed.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE ESTATE OF:
RICHARD D. OLSON,
Deceased.
Case No.: 2021-P-558
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF WILL AND CLAIMS
Notice is hereby given of the death of Richard D. Olson, Letters of Office were issued on October 5, 2021. The name and address of the Executor is Kelly Moore. His address is 1257 N. Second Street, Riverton, Illinois, 62561. James Ackerman is counsel for the Executor. His address is Ackerman Law Office, P.C., 2601 South Fifth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of this Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 5, 2022. Any claim not filed on or before May 5, 2022, is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Dated this 5th day of October, 2021.
KELLY MOORE, Executor
By: /s/ James W. Ackerman
James W. Ackerman, Executor's Attorney
PREPARED BY:
James W. Ackerman 06192795
ACKERMAN LAW OFFICE
2601 South Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1977
jim@ackermanlawoffices.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
FRANK W. SHERMAN, Deceased.
IN PROBATE
NO. 2021-P-535
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of FRANK W. SHERMAN, deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on September 30, 2021, to Joan F. Sherman, Executor, whose attorney is Dwight O'Keefe, Brown, Hay & Stephens, 1000 US Bank Building, P.O. Box 2459, Springfield, IL 62705.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 15, 2022, or three months from the date the representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred.
Dated this 30th day of September, 2021.
Dwight O'Keefe, of Counsel
Brown, Hay & Stephens
1000 US Bank Building
P.O. Box 2459
Springfield, IL 62701
217-544-8491

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of
DAVID L. STRATTON, Deceased
No. 2021-P-567
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION – CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of David L. Stratton, of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on October 19, 2021, to Marcia L. Stratton, 7407 Country Lake Drive, Springfield, Illinois, 62711, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C., 232 West State Street, P.O. Box 550, Jacksonville, Illinois, 62651.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk of the court.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois, 62701, or with the representative, or both, within six months from October 28, 2021, being the date of the first publication of this Notice. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.
Dated this 21st day of October, 2021.
Marcia L. Stratton, Independent Administrator,
By: RAMMELKAMP BRADNEY, P.C., her attorneys,
By: Jerry S. Bauer, Attorney
Attorneys for Administrator:
RAMMELKAMP BRADNEY, P.C.
Jerry S. Bauer, Counsel (#6308557)
232 West State Street, P.O. Box 550
Jacksonville, Illinois, 62651
Telephone: (217) 245-6177

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
GARY LEE BRITZ, Deceased
NO. 2021-P-575
DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to claimants of the Estate of Gary Lee Britz, Deceased.
Letters of Office were issued on October 14, 2021, to Jessayca Hardy,18903 Athens Blacktop, Petersburg, IL 62675, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Gregory P. Sgro, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr & Rabin, LLP, 1119 S. Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62703. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, or with the Representative, or both, on or before the 25th day of April, 2022, or three months from the date the Representative mailed or delivered a Notice to Creditor, whichever is later. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
Dated this 14th day of October, 2021.
Gregory P. Sgro
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr & Rabin, LLP
1119 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 789-1200

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Adrian Brown, Petitioner
And
Jamie Grant, Respondent
Case No. 2021-D-425
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Jamie Grant, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the
14th day of November, 2021, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Paul Palazzolo
Circuit Clerk

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Re: the marriage of
Kevin Green, Petitioner
And
Victoria Green, Respondent
Case No. 2021-D-454
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Notice is given you Victoria Green, Respondent herein, that this cause has been commenced against you in this court asking for a dissolution of marriage and other relief.
Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, in Springfield, Illinois on or before the
28th day of November, 2021, a judgment of dissolution of marriage and other relief may be granted as prayed for in the Petition.
Paul Palazzolo
Circuit Clerk

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Noah Andrew Brusky
For change of name to
Evelyn Noel Brusky
Case No.: 21-MR-1284
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Nov. 23, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Noah Andrew Brusky to Evelyn Noel Brusky pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Oct. 14, 2021

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the Petition of
Henry Thomas Rister
For change of name to
Henry Thomas Eyre
Case No.: 21-MR-1190
PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that on Dec. 7, 2021 I will petition in said Court praying for the change of name from Henry Thomas Rister to Henry Thomas Eyre pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
Dated: Oct. 14, 2021

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PRAIRIE STATE BANK & TRUST, an Illinois banking corporation,
Plaintiff,
v.
KEVIN WICKER, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
No.: 2021CH000095
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE
Notice is given to defendants, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, of the following described real estate, that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action is now pending, and the day on or after which a default may be entered against said defendants is NOVEMBER 22, 2021.
The Plaintiff has certified that the above entitled mortgage foreclosure action was filed on September 23, 2021, and is now pending.
(i) The names of all plaintiffs and the case number are identified above.
(ii) The court in which said action was brought is identified above.
(iii) The name of the title holder of record is:
Kevin Wicker.
(iv) A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
Lots 11 and 14 in Block 3 in the Village of Illiopolis.
Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
Tax Identification Numbers: 18-07-255-007 and
18-07-255-006
(v) A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows:
418 North Fourth Street, Illiopolis, Illinois 62539
(vi) An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
(A) Nature of instrument: Mortgage.
(B) Date of mortgage: December 10, 2018.
(C) Name of mortgagor: Kevin Wicker.
(D) Name of mortgagee: Prairie State Bank & Trust.
(E) Date and place of recording: January 8, 2019 in the Recorder's Office of Sangamon County, Sangamon County, Illinois.
(F) Identification of recording: Document Number 2019R00452.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Samuel J. Witsman (ARDC #6193744)
Hart, Southworth & Witsman
Suite 501, One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 753-0055
switsman@hswnet.com
8051-918661

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Capitol Storage LLC
818 S Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62707
(217)522-0300
818 S Dirksen
Tracy Cisero Unit #05-196
Sharon Malone Unit#05-211
Jameisha Cole Unit #05-092
909 N Taintor Rd
Michael Mosely Unit # 04-II4
Lasanya Shivers unit # 04-HH16
2420 N Peoria Rd
Cedric Pates Unit #08-01
Beth Sanders Unit #08-04
3012 Great Northern Drive
Unknown Occupant 06-546
To pay past due rent and fees call 217-522-0300. Private sale will be held November 13, 2021 A.M at Capitol Storage LLC. 818 S Dirksen Parkway. Springfield, IL 62703

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CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT SPRINGFIELD, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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**Village of Jerome, Springfield, Illinois**
**Annual Treasurer's Report (5/1/2020-4/30/2021)**

**General Revenue Summary Corporate:** State Income Tax $179,485; Utility Tax: $38,035; Property Tax: $22,677.39; Court Fines: $7,584.47; Liquor License $13,845; State Sales: $238,175.35; Use Tax: $57,141; Non-Home Rule Tax: $195,467.06; Personal Property Replacement Tax: $3,124; Excise Tax: $38,035; Franchise Fees: $27,864; Animal Control Fees: $295.75; Video Gaming Tax: $103,908; Video Gaming License Fees: $1,350; Cannabis Tax: $271.00; Misc. Income: $27,717; Civic Center Rental Fee: $5,585; Interest Income: $6,236.

**Water:** Deposits: $468,318; Interest Income: $3,798.54.
**MFT:** Motor Fuel Tax: $59,863; Interest Income: $370.08
**Vehicle Fund:** Deposits: $600.00; Interest: $.74
**Road and Bridge:** $17,964.03
**DUI: Fines:** $147.00; Interest Income: $1.81

**Compensation Summary:** Compensation for Personal Services were paid to the following individuals in the following categories: **$0-$24,999.99**: Diane Ahern, Johnathon Albright, Trent Bree, Elizabeth Buttell, Lisa Cave, Kathy DeHart, Debra L. Denk, Derek Hull, Leigh A. Irons, Ralph Irons, Dale E. Lael, Tricia Langen, Michael P. Lopez, Cortez Luttrell, Thomas Maybury, James Montgomery, Phillip Raftis, Corey Reynolds, Steve J. Roth, William Schlich, Jr., William Schlich Christina Smith, and Linda Wheeland; **$25,000-$49,999.99**: Brian Brewer and Dave Wilken; **$50,000-$74,999**: Mark Estill. Total Compensation: $251,969.58.

**Expenditure Summary – General Fund:** Ameren Illinois: $2,566.00; Cargill: $3,197.06; Comcast: $7,256.77; City, Water, Light & Power: $12,701.35; Cummings Engineering: $39,935.94; Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes: $66,482.00; IMRF: $65,257.98; Illinois Risk Management: $36,035.99; Interstate Hydraulics, Inc.: $6,475.00; Kerber, Eck and Braeckel: $7,600.00; Local Government Health Plan: $49,700.00; Menards: $4,155.13; Motorola $2,664.00; Pehlman & Dold: $4,605.00; Sangamon County ETSD: $4,800.00; Throop & Son Tree Service: $2,725.00; Toyota Financial Services: $11,925.66; WEX Bank: $10,671.57.

**Expenditure Summary – Water:** Badger Meter: $6,989.17; Central Trust Bank: $42,950.12; City, Water Light & Power: $155,607.07; CWLP Risk Management: $16,717.52; Illinois Risk Management: $17,518.03; Kerber, Eck & Braeckel: $7,600.00; Midwest Meter: $3,375.51; Pehlman & Dold: $4,605.00; Springfield Metro Sanitary District: $255,863.03; USPS: $2,605.00.

**Expenditure Summary – Road and Bridge:** Bank of West: $17,852.32

**Expenditure Summary – MFT:** Kuhn & Trello: $26,238.50; Perry Broughton: $89,238.50.

**Expenditure Summary – Non-Home Rule:** Truman Flatt: $185,962.96.

**Summary of Statement of Operations**

| | General Fund | Water Fund | Motor Fuel Tax Fund | DUI Fund | Vehicle Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Beg. Balance** | $597,731.00 | $522,452.00 | $32,089.00 | $1,333.62 | $761.41 |
| **Revenues** | $946,428.00 | $501,845.00 | $60,233.00 | $147.00 | $600.00 |
| **Expenditure** | $867,705.00 | $544,461.00 | $89,239.00 | $1380.00 | $1,243.07 |
| **Ending Fund Balance** | $682,579.00 | $479,873.00 | $3,083.00 | $100.62 | $118.34 |

Subscribed and sworn to me this 22h day of October, 2021.

Steve J. Roth, Village Treasurer

I, Lisa Cave, Village of Jerome Clerk, Sangamon County, Illinois do hereby certify this report was filed with me on October 22, 2021 and is true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report of fiscal year ended April 30, 2021.

Lisa Cave, Village Clerk

IN THE MATTER OF Liam Collins & Landyn Matherly
No. 2021-P-547
To: Patrick Collins, Calvin Harris, Arianna Matherly at addresses unknown and All Persons Having A Right To Notice:
Please be notified that Rebecca Collins has filed a Petition for Guardianship of the Estate and Person of Liam Collins & Landyn Matherly, minor children. You are required to answer said Petition BY December 13, 2021 or be defaulted by the Court thereafter.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
R & R CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC, MIDTAX, INC., CHARLES BELLEMEY, TERRY A. BRUNNER, CHELSEY RENNE LYNN BRUNNER, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendant.
Case No. 21-MR-1327
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO, R & R Capital Holdings LLC, Charles Bellemey, Terry A. Brunner, Chelsey Renne Lynn Brunner, Unknown Owners and Non-record Claimants, that a complaint has been filed in the above named court on October 14, 2021 for demolition of the structure or structures located on the real estate commonly known as 213 Eastman Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, and legally described as:
The West 40 feet of the East 215 feet of Lot 1 of Reuben Keazer's Subdivision of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of Reuben Keazer's Subdivision of the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, in Township 16 North, Range 5 West of the Third Pricipal Meridan. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
(Permanent Parcel No. 14-22.0-301-030); and for other relief.
UNLESS R & R Capital Holdings LLC, Charles Bellemey, Terry A. Brunner, Chelsey Renne Lynn Brunner, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants FILE an answer or otherwise file an appearance in this case in the office of the clerk of this court, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before November 29, 2021, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY FOR THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE COMPLAINT.
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of Court
James K. Zerkle
Corporation Counsel
Kateah McMasters ARDC #6309668
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff
800 E. Monroe, Room 327
Springfield, IL 62701-1653
(217) 789-2375
kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
DONALD B. HAMBLIN A/K/A DONALD E. HAMBLIN, SANGAMON COUNTY, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 21-MR-1326
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to Donald B. Hamblin a/k/a Donald E. Hamblin, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the above-named Court on October 14, 2021, and is now pending.
The common address of the structure which is subject to demolition is 1505 E. Miller Street, Springfield, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:
Lot 1 in Block 21 of Springfield Savings Bank Addtion. Situated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
PIN: 14-26.0-301-010.
The name of the title holder of record of said real estate is Donald B. Hamblin a/k/a Donald E. Hamblin.
NOW THEREFORE, unless Donald B. Hamblin a/k/a Donald E. Hamblin, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file an answer to the Complaint for Demolition in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before November 29, 2021, a default judgment may be entered at any time after that day and an Order for Demolition may be entered in accordance with the relief requested in the Complaint for Demolition.
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County
Prepared by:
James K. Zerkle, Corporation Counsel
Kateah McMasters, ARDC #6309668
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff
800 E. Monroe, Room 327
Springfield, IL 62701-1653
(217) 789-2375
kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CORA JEANETTE CARTER AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAMUEL J. CARTER, CHARLES BELLEMEY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
Case No. 21-MR-1325
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to Cora Jeanette Carter as Administrator of the Estate of Samuel J. Carter, Charles Bellemey, Illinois Department of Revenue, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the above-named Court on October 14, 2021, and is now pending.
The common address of the structure which is subject to demolition is 1220 Phillips Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:
The East 38 feet of the West 76 feet of Lot 1 and Lot 2 in Block 7 of Furniture FactoryPark. Siuated in Sangamon County, Illinois.
PIN: 14-27.0-279-004.
The name of the title holder of record of said real estate is: Cora Jeanette Carter as Administrator of the Estate of Samuel J. Carter.
NOW THEREFORE, unless Cora Jeanette Carter as Administrator of the Estate of Samuel J. Carter, Charles Bellemey, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file an answer to the Complaint for Demolition in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before November 29, 2021, a default judgment may be entered at any time after that day and an Order for Demolition may be entered in accordance with the relief requested in the Complaint for Demolition.
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County
Prepared by:
James K. Zerkle
Corporation Counsel
Kateah McMasters, ARDC #6309668
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff
800 E. Monroe, Room 327
Springfield, IL 62701-1653
(217) 789-2375
kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
DARLA J. WILSON, GUARDIAN TAX IL, LLC, SANGAMON COUNTY AS TRUSTEE FOR TAXING DISTRICTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
No. 21-MR-1348
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to Darla J. Wilson, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the above-named Court on October 20, 2021, and is now pending.
The common address of the structure which is subject to demolition is 2801 Old Rochester Road, Springfield, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:
LOT 23 OF WANLESS' PLACE. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY.
PIN: 22-02-229-001.
The names of the title holders of record of said real estate are: George L. Wilson and Darla J. Wilson.
NOW THEREFORE, unless Darla J. Wilson, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file an answer to the Complaint for Demolition in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before November 29, 2021, a default judgment may be entered at any time after that day and an Order for Demolition may be entered in accordance with the relief requested in the Complaint for Demolition.
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County
James K. Zerkle, Corporation Counsel
Kevin Barnai, ARDC #6329422
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Room 327, Municipal Center East
800 East Monroe Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701
Telephone: (217) 789-2375
Kevin.Barnai@springfield.il.us

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
VERADENE GARRETT, NORTH AMERICAN MORTGAGE COMPANY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
No. 21-MR-1349
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to Veradene Garrett, North American Mortgage Company, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the above-named Court on October 20, 2021, and is now pending.
The common address of the structure which is subject to demolition is 1532 E. Miller Street, Springfield, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:
LOT 19 IN BLOCK 16 IN SPRINGFIELD SAVINGS BANK ADDITION. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
PIN: 14-26.0-304-010.
The name of the title holder of record of said real estate is: Veradene Garrett.
NOW THEREFORE, unless Veradene Garrett, North American Mortgage Company, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file an answer to the Complaint for Demolition in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before November 29, 2021, a default judgment may be entered at any time after that day and an Order for Demolition may be entered in accordance with the relief requested in the Complaint for Demolition.
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County
Prepared by:
James K. Zerkle
Corporation Counsel
Kateah McMasters, ARDC #6309668
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff
800 E. Monroe, Room 327
Springfield, IL 62701-1653
(217) 789-2375
kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
SANGAMON COUNTY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, a Municipal Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
NANCY ANN VISNESKY, ANTHONY M. VISNESKY, JR., SANGAMON COUNTY AS TRUSTEE FOR TAXING DISTRICTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.
No. 21-MR-1350
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION
The requisite Affidavit for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to Nancy Ann Visnesky, Anthony M. Visnesky, Jr., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants that a Complaint for Demolition was filed in the above-named Court on October 20, 2021, and is now pending.
The common address of the structure which is subject to demolition is 1430 E. Carpenter Street, Springfield, Illinois, and said real estate is legally described as:
LOT 2 IN BLOCK 1 OF LATHAM AND SOUTHER'S ADDITION. SITUATED IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
PIN: 14-27.0-432-010.
The names of the title holders of record of said real estate are: Nancy Ann Visnesky and Anthony M. Visnesky, Jr.
NOW THEREFORE, unless Nancy Ann Visnesky, Anthony M. Visnesky, Jr., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file an answer to the Complaint for Demolition in this cause or otherwise file an appearance therein in the office of the Sangamon County Circuit Clerk, Room 405 Sangamon County Building, 200 South Ninth Street, Springfield, IL 62701, on or before November 29, 2021, a default judgment may be entered at any time after that day and an Order for Demolition may be entered in accordance with the relief requested in the Complaint for Demolition.
/s/ Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois, Sangamon County
Prepared by:
James K. Zerkle
Corporation Counsel
Kateah McMasters, ARDC #6309668
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Attorneys for Plaintiff
800 E. Monroe, Room 327
Springfield, IL 62701-1653
(217) 789-2375
kateah.mcmasters@springfield.il.us

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LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS / RFP #2022-01
VENDING MACHINE SERVICES
The Springfield Mass Transit District d.b.a Sangamon Mass Transit District (SMTD) is seeking proposals from a qualified, responsive, and responsible vendor for the supply of VENDING MACHINES. The scope of work and specifications is outlined in the bid documents.
Proposals will be received in SMTD Administration Office at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703-2497 in SEALED envelopes marked "RFP #2022-01, Attn. Michelle Alexander," NO LATER THAN 2:00 PM CENTRAL TIME December 1, 2021. The RFP documents may be obtained from the office of SMTD, 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62703-2497 or by downloading the RFP from SMTD's website (www.smtd.org), or by emailing purchasing@smtd.org to request a copy.
Any contract resulting from this RFP shall be conditioned upon compliance with all provisions of the RFP documents. Additionally, any contract resulting from this proposal is subject to financial assistance contracts between and/or among SMTD, the United States Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation. Acceptance of any proposal may be subject to concurrence by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The right is reserved to accept any proposal or any part or parts of any and all proposals. Acceptance of any proposal may be subject to concurrence by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation.
Furthermore, SMTD, the United States Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Transportation reserve the right to reject or cancel any or all propos-


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als and to waive irregularities therein, and all submitting proposers must agree that such rejection or cancellation shall be without liability on the part of SMTD for any penalty brought by a Proposer because of such rejection or cancelation, nor shall the submitting Proposer seek any recourse of any kind against SMTD because of such rejection or cancellation, and the filing of any proposal in response to this solicitation shall constitute an agreement of the submitting proposer to these conditions.

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NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Sale to enforce Self-Storage lien in default of payment of rent will be held at 10:00 AM . Saturday NOVEMBER 13, 2021 at, Safe-T-Storage, 3825 N. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL. Tenants must pay in full by this date.
Unit 138 Robert Benton Sherman IL 62684
Unit 66 Larry Laurent Springfield IL 62704
Unit 70Jimmy Durham/Rachel Lovelace Springfield IL 62702
Social distancing and masks are required.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY
Brittany Davidson, Petitioner
vs.
Justin Mattes, Respondent
Case No: 2021-OP-1475
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
Justin Mattes, this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for an Order of Protection. Unless you file your Answer or otherwise file your Appearance in this cause in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Sangamon County, Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth St., Room 405, Springfield, Illinois, on or before November 18, 2021, a judgment or decree by default may be taken against you for the relief asked in the complaint.
Paul Palazzolo
Clerk of the Court
Date: Oct. 14, 2021

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ADOPTION NOTICE – STATE OF ILLINOIS, County of Sangamon, Seventh Judicial Circuit Court of Sangamon County. In the matter of the Petition for the Adoption of Athena Grace Cornell, a female child. No. 2021-AD-56 To: Isaiah Jessie David Walker: Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Illinois, for the adoption of a minor child named Athena Grace Cornell. Now, therefore, unless you Isaiah Jessie David Walker, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Room 405, in the City of Springfield, Illinois, on or before December 3, 2021, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAO/ gethelp.asp
/s/Paul Palazzolo, Sangamon County Circuit Clerk
Dan E. Way, Attorney for Petitioners
1100 S. Fifth St., Springfield, IL 62703

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Casey Rentals
And/or
Casey Development Group
Storages
2700A Old Rochester Road
Springfield, Ill. 62703
Hereby gives Public Notice
That the contents of the following units
Will be disposed of on:
November 5, 2021
Due to default of storage payments
Carl Madison Unit A 11

---

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY - SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
Michael M. Walden, Sr., AKA Michael Walden, Sr.
Defendants.
Case No. 2020CH000009
3073 Louise Lane, Springfield, IL 62702
Judge Adam Giganti
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on June 2, 2021, Jack Campbell will on December 7, 2021, at the hour of 9:00AM at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, Sangamon County Courthouse, 200 South 9th Street, Second Floor, Springfield, IL 62703, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
Lot 20 of Charles S. Wanless Louise Lane Subdivision.
Except any interest in the coal, oil, gas and other minerals underlying the land which have been heretofore conveyed or reserved in prior conveyances and all rights and easements in favor of the estate of said coal, oil, gas and other minerals, if any.
All situated in the County of Sangamon County, State of Illinois.
Commonly known as 3073 Louise Lane, Springfield, IL 62702
Parcel Number(s): 14-25.0-127-041
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.
Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 20-011766.
Edward R. Peterka
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
One East Wacker, Suite 1250
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: 312-651-6700
Fax: 614-220-5613
Attorney. No.: 6220416
Email: StateEFiling@manleydeas.com
8051-918872

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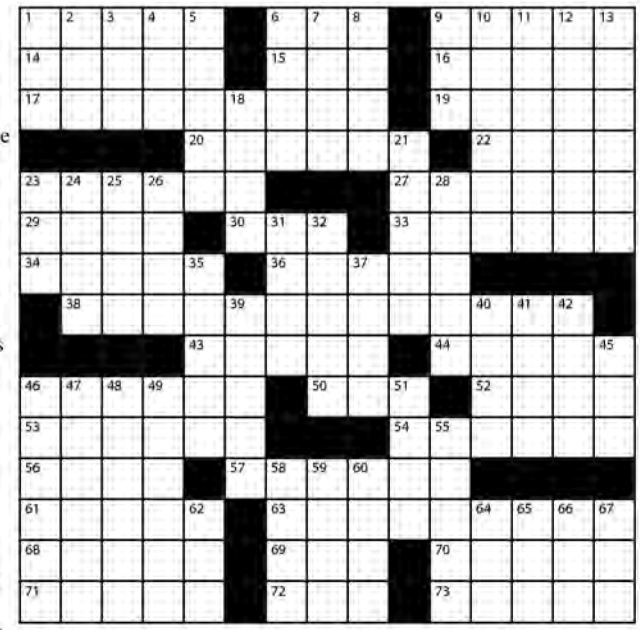
# Triathlon

Edited by J. Reynolds - **No. 711**



**Across**

**1.** "I'm ___ and didn't know it"
**6.** Baseball's Mel
**9.** Bat's homes
**14.** Alfalfa's sweetie
**15.** Airline's home base
**16.** Like helium
**17.** Beachwear
**19.** Wish granter
**20.** Minstrel show group
**22.** Cheese nibblers
**23.** Ashe Stadium event
**27.** Grand
**29.** Specify
**30.** Dine
**33.** Break
**34.** Hall-of-Famer Rod
**36.** Lustrous fabric
**38.** City couriers
**43.** Bob Marley fan
**44.** Corrode
**46.** Marching together
**50.** ___ welder
**52.** Bit of filming
**53.** Kind of network
**54.** Breakfast choice
**56.** Marching band member
**57.** Yoga instruction
**61.** Storage area
**63.** Hit the beach
**68.** Quartet member
**69.** "Give it ___!"
**70.** More reliable
**71.** Rendezvous
**72.** Asian capital
**73.** Workout spots, for some

**Down**

**1.** Pop-ups, e.g.
**2.** Kit mitt
**3.** "... ___ quit!"
**4.** Freddy Krueger's street
**5.** Spoonful, say
**6.** Home to Columbus
**7.** Dancer's dress
**8.** Cook's meas.
**9.** Smoke
**10.** Weak
**11.** City with canals
**12.** Writer Jong et al.
**13.** Braces (oneself)
**18.** Coffee dispensers
**21.** Bone-chilling
**23.** Chapel Hill sch.
**24.** Volvo rival
**25.** Katz of "Dallas"
**26.** Sneak ___
**28.** Pasta choice
**31.** Brings into play
**32.** Ziti, e.g.
**35.** "If I ___ rich man..."
**37.** Autocrat until 1917
**39.** Sugar ___
**40.** Golden ___
**41.** Abbr. at the end of a list
**42.** Autumn tool
**45.** ___ Offensive
**46.** All together
**47.** Fix
**48.** Slightly
**49.** Is behind
**51.** RC, e.g.
**55.** Not well-groomed
**58.** Like Superman's vision
**59.** Enormous
**60.** Soon, to a bard
**62.** Bunk
**64.** Play a kazoo
**65.** Tolkien beast
**66.** Stephen of "Michael Collins"
**67.** Triage sites, briefly

## Puzzle answers from this week will appear here next week

Crossword answers from #710

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 |

Sudoku answers from #710

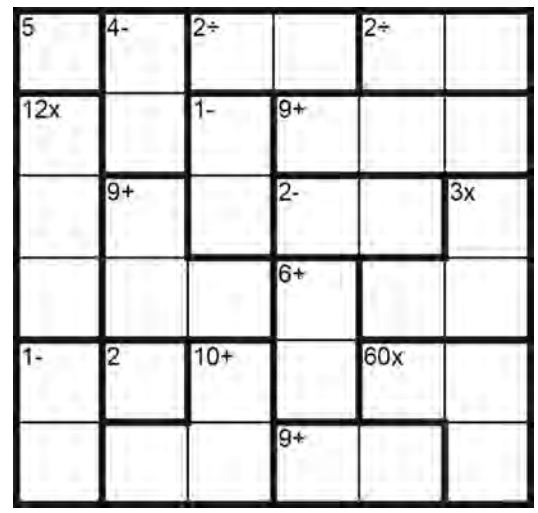
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 |

JoshJosh answers from #710

# JoshJosh

by J. Reynolds - **No. 711**

Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a digit in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined box will produce the target number shown, by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division, as indicated in the box. A 6x6 grid will use 1-6.




Difficulty medium

# Sudoku

**No. 711**

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 8 | | | | | | | 9 | 6 |
| | 4 | | | | 5 | | | 7 |
| 9 | | 2 | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | | 3 | 6 | | | |
| | | 3 | 7 | | 9 | | | 2 |
| | | | | 6 | 2 | 4 | | |
| | 7 | | 4 | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | 8 | | 2 | | 9 |

Difficulty hard

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