

READER'S CHOICE

Best Dentist — Dr. Robert Green, 133 W. Hull Dr. 740-363-3871

If you've lived in the area for the last nearly half century, and you've needed dental work done, there's a tremendous chance someone named Green put a smile back on your face.

More specifically, the Green taking care of Delaware County for the last 19 years is Robert Green, DDS, this year's choice as the "Best Dentist" by the readers of the *Gazette*.

Green has carried on the family practice from his father, David, who practiced for nearly 40 years in town. The two practiced together for 10 years.

"We've been around for a while," Green said with a laugh.

So what keeps patients coming back?

"When I think about this, for one thing, people know that we really try to pay particular attention to each individual patient," Green said. "At the same time, we try to give options that are valued, options that fit into their lifestyle."

Green said he values being a long-standing part of the community.

"Living in Delaware so long you become part of community fabric," he said. "When people think about Delaware and dentistry, they think of us."

Runner-up — Dr. Leidtke

Best Downtown Business — Beehive Books, 25 N. Sandusky St., 740-363-2337, beehiveat25.com

Whether looking for a book, gift or cup of coffee, Beehive Books, co-owned by Linda Diamond and Mel Corroto, has all of these and more.

The 25 N. Sandusky St. business, open more than a year ago, is a place for patrons to relax, read, drink coffee, sit in comfortable chairs listening to music to get away from the world if they want, Diamond said.

"We try to make this a community gathering place," Diamond said.

To fight the ailing economy, Diamond said the business remembers returning customer's names and provides a variety of different programs for them. The bookstore offered a presidents and poetry program where community members presented information on presidents and read poetry every day at noon during February and April.

Runner-up — Nectar



Best Employment Agency — Adecco, 45 E Winter St, 740-369-4461

Adecco is the world's largest provider of HR solutions. With over 31,000 employees and 6,600 offices around the world, one of which is right here in Delaware County, Adecco offers services — ranging from temporary staffing to permanent placement — connecting more than 500,000 colleagues with over 145,000 clients every day.

Runner-up — Manpower

Best Eye Doctor — Dr. David A Niederkoehr, 25

Northwood Dr., 740-369-5229

Optometrist Dr. David Niederkoehr, an Ohio State graduate, came to Delaware in 1976 and started his business. Niederkoehr offers a full eye exam diagnosis, treatment of ocular diseases, contact lens evaluation and fitting and pediatric eye care.

Niederkoehr tries to educate and take interest in every patient, he said.

"I try to treat people like I would want to be treated," Niederkoehr said.

With the recession, Niederkoehr said he offers discounts as necessary and keeps prices as modest as possible. Niederkoehr is located on 25 Northwood Drive, Delaware. His office phone number is 740-369-7701.

Runner-up — Dr. Bennett

Best Florist — Robinson's Flower Shop, 60 Lake St, 740-363-4768, flowershop.net

Robinson's Flower Shop started as a family business — and continues to be today. Don and Shirley Robinson started the business here in Delaware almost 30 years ago and now daughter Dodie, a designer with the shop, helps them continue to popular shop, named this year as the Best Florist by readers of the *Gazette*.

Shirley Robinson said being a florist can be stressful, but they always put top effort into meeting their customers needs.

"Well, we try hard," Shirley said. "If we make a mistake we do try to move forward and fix it. It is hard work; people think it's a fun job, but it's work just like any other."

Funeral arrangements and holidays make up a large chunk of their business, said Shirley, which means many times the best thing the florist can do is make the day go a little easier.

"We're here for people anytime they need us."

For more information about the shop, visit robinsonsfloreshop.net. Robinson's is located at 60 Lake St. and can be reached at 740-363-4768.

Runner-up — Buehler's

Best Funeral Home — Rodman Neeper, 1510 W. William St., 740-362-1611, rodmanneeper.com

For more than 100 years, Rodman Neeper Funeral Home, 1510 W. William St., has offered a full array of services to meet people's end-of-life needs. Formerly Bennett Brown Funeral Home, the business' new facility, which opened in 2006, allows it to improve the experience for families. It offers the only on-site crematory in the City of Delaware, owns Delaware Monument Company, has an on-site floral arranger, all in a single-floor building with a chapel that can seat up to 370 people or be divided into three viewing rooms. Another aspect of the business is the Rodman Neeper Community Room, which serves as a banquet facility that can handle almost any private or public function.

Mike Neeper, who co-owns the business with George Rodman, said "the care, understanding and professionalism we offer to each and every family," is what makes the funeral home popular with Delawareans.

While many people think funeral homes are recession-proof, the poor economy affects what services are used. Having a wide array of amenities helps the funeral home stay competitive. "We

have funeral packages to meet all budgets," Rodman said.

Runner-up — Robinson Funeral Home

Best Furniture Shop — Big Lots, 2081 U.S. 23N, Delaware, 740-363-3818, biglots.com

Offering quality products at low prices has helped Big Lots, 2081 U.S. 23N., Delaware, earn the best furniture store among *Gazette* readers. The store, which has been in Delaware for seven years, offers living room, dining room and bedroom furniture at "close-out prices," said manager Sheila Makant. The store also provides a friendly atmosphere in which to shop for just about everything that can be purchased. The store's philosophy of selling name brand products at low prices has helped it during the recent tough economic period, Makant said.

Runner-up — Sunbury Furniture

Best Golf Course — Oakhaven, 2871 U.S. 23N, Delaware, 1-888-504-6281, oakhaven.com

After finishing as runner-up in 2008, Oakhaven Golf Course, 2871 U.S. 23N, Delaware, has been selected as the best golf course in the county this year. Steve Spence, operating owner, said the course was purchased in 1996, when it was a nine-hole course, and the back nine was built in 1997. In addition to a full-golf course, Oakhaven boasts one of the best short-game and practice facilities in the state, in addition to the top quality course. That's because the course is home to the Ohio Wesleyan University Battlin' Bishops' golf team, a perennial NCAA Division III title contender. "Wesleyan chose us as their home course, so we keep it in good shape." The well maintained course translates into a good value for golfers. Spence said that helps attract them to Oakhaven, even though leisure activities like golf tend to get cut back during tough economic times. He noted many golfers who would normally go to a country club are coming to his course because of the value. In addition to golf, Oakhaven also has a full-service 250-seat banquet facility that can handle events from business meetings to weddings to corporate functions.

Runner-up — Hidden Valley

Best Grocery, Best Buffet — Buehler's, 800 W. Central Ave., 740-363-1933, buehlers.com

Buehler's is devoted to offering an exceptional shopping experience, a business located in Delaware since 1969.

The grocery store offers a variety of departments, including produce, meat/seafood, market deli, bakery, beer/wine, video, floral, pets, pharmacy and a restaurant. The restaurant, also offers a salad bar buffet with salad greens, toppings, dressings, soups, vegetables, fruits, breads and prepared salads.

The store is connected to Ace Hardware which offers paint, cleaning supplies, hand and power tools, electrical, plumbing, hardware, automotive, lawn and garden, housewares and gifts.

The business offers a shopping list of items at reduced prices to not-for-profit groups, has a community room for bridal and baby showers, children's birthday parties, scout programs and not-for-profit meetings and can provide food and beverages, supplies, clean up and room set up.

Runner-up — Kroger, En Super Buffet

Customer Appreciation Celebration!

June 5th 10am-4pm

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HOT DOGS, BURGERS, RAFFLES, PRIZES, BALLOONS

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 (Across from Grady Hospital, Behind McDonalds)