

READERS' CHOICE

The friendly staff and sense of community foster a family atmosphere, he added.

"I'd definitely have to say breakfast is our staple," Kerr said, adding customers come in for breakfast and then see other items and then come back for those — such as the ribs they offer during the summer months.

While Kerr has been at the location for two years, the popular eatery has been there for 23. Plans are now in the works for a remodel, though a timetable has yet to be set.

Kerr said he wants to thank the community for voting Bob Evans Best Breakfast. "Keep coming back and keep us part of your family," he said.

Runner-up — West End Grill

BEST BUFFET: Buehler's Food Markets

800 W. Central Ave.
740-363-6667
buehlers.com

George Wisener, manager of the popular store, said he was surprised at the honor of being named Best Buffet in the community. Buehler's, in its second location, first came to Delaware in 1969, more than 40 years ago. A place where it can be hard to get out without running into someone you know, the buffet uses all the freshest items on its line where foods are changed in and out for variety, but favorites are maintained.



Buffet items can also be taken out with carry-out cartons sold by the pound. With a full menu to complement the buffet and a free community room that houses 49, The Mill is easily one of the most popular places in town.

Buehler's also took two other categories in this year's readers' choice selection. The store placed second for grocer and third for florist.

Wisener was pleased with the honors.

"We have been here for more than 40 years, and will be here another 40. This really has been a good town to be in," he said.

Runner-up — Tian Fu

BEST CARPET CLEANING SERVICE: Dry Step Carpet Care

2201 Dixon St.
740-816-4222
drystepcarpetcare.com

The listed phone number for Dry Step Carpet takes you to owner Laurie Mooney's cell phone. Dry Step is run out of Mooney's west side Delaware home. When you call to make a cleaning appointment, Mooney herself shows up.

Get the theme? How's that for personal, hands-on service?

"I think we really take the time to make sure we always do our best," Mooney said. "We always put forth 100 percent effort to make sure the job is done right."

Dry Step has been in business for 11 years, and has been operating in Delaware for six. Husband Jim is also heavily involved with the business.

Runner-up — Delaware Flooring

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT: Canton Chinese Restaurant

191 S. Sandusky St.
740-363-5034

Voted best by readers before, the Canton Chinese Restaurant

will hold a special celebration in September for its 20th anniversary, assistant manager Vi Truong said.

The restaurant is family owned and operated and offers both dining room and carry-out services. Alcohol is also featured. While most customers come from the Delaware area, Truong said they get numerous people that travel from Sunbury, Powell and Columbus for the home-cooked cuisine. Among favorites, Truong said, is General Tso's chicken and their fried rice.



The restaurant serves both lunch and dinner and is open Mondays through Saturdays.

Runner-up — Shanghai

BEST CHIROPRACTOR: Leaf Chiropractic

1012 Ohio 521

740-363-9705

leafchiropractic.com

Leaf Chiropractic is not just a place to get adjusted when your back hurts, but rather takes a holistic approach to chiropractic medicine, said wellness coordinator Rachel Andrews.

"We try to let people know that there's an important component to making sure you have your regular checkup," she said.

Leaf is not only a chiropractic center, but also offers massage therapy, exercise rehabilitation, clinical nutrition and lifestyle wellness and weight management services.

Leaf, owned by Dr. Brian Leaf, has been in its current location since June 2008. Prior to that, Dr. Leaf had a downtown location.

Andrews said Leaf Chiropractic appreciates the distinction of being selected as the best by the *Gazette* readership.

"We've tried to make a difference in the community, so hopefully that's what we're doing," she said.

Runner-Up — Mungovan Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center

BEST COFFEE: Tim Horton's

various locations

timhortons.com

There's nothing like a good cup of coffee to get the day underway. For Delaware resident's the most popular place to get the coffee is the Tim Hortons on West William Street, based on votes from this year's Reader's Choice awards.

The doughnut shop's coffee is so popular, in fact, that many customers purchase the canned coffee to take home, management said.

They also attribute the popularity of the restaurant to the atmosphere.

To keep Delaware's coffee drinkers happy, Tim Horton's uses a timer to help get every drive-through customer out in 25 seconds between 6 to 10 a.m. weekdays.

The drive-through for the local restaurant is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, closing only for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Dining room hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cold Stone Creamery items can be purchased either inside or in the drive-through.

Runner-up — The Mean Bean

BEST DATE PLACE: Strand Theatre

28 E. Winter St.

740-363-4914

thestrandtheatre.net

A trip to Historic Downtown Delaware is not complete without a visit to the Strand Theatre. The Strand has all the characteristics of a quintessential date place: romantic ambiance of a historical theatre, current cinematic features and cheap eats.

Whether it follows an afternoon of browsing at the antique shops or precedes a dinner at one of the downtown eateries, a movie at the Strand shows why it is a Delaware gem. Chief Operating Officer Kara McVay works hard to keep it that way.

Runner-up — Rop Bros.



BEST DAYCARE: Liberty Community Children's Center

207 London Road

740-369-3876

delawarelcc.org

Liberty Community Children's Center has been taking care of other people's children like it's own for many years. Its origins can be traced back as far as 1926 to the building at 235 S. Liberty St., which housed the congregation of the Faith Chapel Methodist Church.

The center has moved and expanded since and *Gazette* readers have chosen the daycare as the best around this year.

Open five days a week, the center offers licensed child care for children six weeks to five years old. Tim Adams, center executive director, said high-quality teachers, low teacher-child ratios and a safe, fun and secure facility make the daycare a favorite among parents and kids.

"The atmosphere is very family friendly," he said. "It's a small enough center that people know you by name, they know your children by name and want to seem them succeed."

Adams said most of the center's teachers have degrees from four-year colleges.

Runner-up — Delaware Grace Brethren

BEST DENTIST: Dr. Robert Green

133 W. Hull Drive

740-363-3871

If you've lived in the Delaware area during the last half century, there's a good chance someone with the last name Green took care of your teeth and put a smile on your face.

Dr. Robert Green has been selected by *Gazette* readers as the best dentist the past two years.

Green carries on the family practice from his father, Daniel, who worked as a dentist for nearly 40 years in Delaware. The two practiced together 10 years.

"We've always tried to make our patients feel comfortable and happy," Green said.

Even though the practice has been around for many years, he said the business is always investing in new technology to improve its care.

"We are always reinvesting in our practice," Green said. "From digital x-rays to laser surgery, we're trying to keep up with modern times and bring about new conveniences."

Runner-up — Dr. Campbell

BEST DEPARTMENT STORE: Kohl's

various locations

thank you

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- 2nd place grocery
- 3rd place florist

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www.buehlers.com

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