





Best of 2024

Welcome to The Best of Central Michigan!

With the help of our readers, Central Michigan Life is pleased to announce the 24th annual Best of Central Michigan Readers' Choice Awards. On behalf of our staff and our local businesses, we would like to thank you for taking the time to submit ballots for your favorite people, places and things in the Mount Pleasant area. It's an honor to help you help us identify the best bites, sites and likes across Isabella County.

We hope you will use this special edition as a guide for future purchases, visits and memberships to these local businesses and organizations. By turning the pages today, you will learn about our readers' selections and what makes the winners stand out in our community.

Whether it is the best place to drink a beer or get your back cracked, CM Life has your favorites featured here. Congratulations to all the businesses selected as winners or runner ups. We are happy to have you in our community, providing our town with the amenities, goods and services one would expect to find in a much larger city!

Thank you again to our readers and community members who took the time to vote during December 2024!




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JOE BARBERI



Thank you for voting for us!



**#1 CHIROPRACTOR - DR.
TROY HENRIE**

Contact Us

Central Michigan Family Chiropractic Clinic

1112 East Broomfield Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

(989) 779-2225

Mention this ad to receive \$20 off a new patient visit!



BEST ASIAN RESTAURANT

Dragon Express

314 W. Broomfield (989) 779-2727

Experience an authentic Chinese meal at Dragon Express. From egg rolls to Kung Pao chicken, Dragon Express has a wide variety to choose from, each meal bursting with fresh ingredients. The friendly staff and flavorful food make the experience wonderful and comfortable.

BEST BAR

The Bird Bar and Grill

223 S. Main St. (989) 772-2493

Popular downtown watering hole, The Bird features a laid-back environment in which to play some pool and enjoy a round – or two – with friends.

BEST BREAKFAST PLACE

Omelettes and More

1705 S. Mission St. (989) 317-3387

With friendly staff, a variety of omelet choices, great coffee, and even dinner and dessert, Omelettes and More is a favorite among Mt. Pleasant citizens. Come down to this casual and cozy dine-in restaurant and experience a savory and satisfying meal, and did we mention their coffee?

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Ponder Coffee Co.

(989)-317-0808 Multiple locations in Mt. Pleasant

Locally owned fan favorite Ponder offers coffee and espresso, non-coffee drinks, breakfast and lunch. Four unique locations on campus and throughout the city keep readers fired up.

BEST FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

QDOBA Mexican Eats

1529 S. Mission St. (989) 772-2324

Using fresh and flavorful ingredients, QDOBA provides delicious, authentic Mexican cuisine. They emphasize environmental safety by using compostable bowls and fully recyclable cutlery for each meal. Experience a Chicken Queso Burrito/Bowl, 3 Street Style Chicken Tacos, or build your own meal at QDOBA.

BEST FOOD TRUCK

Nom Nom Ninja

(989) 506-5340

Mobile caterer Nom Nom Ninja has put a handheld spin on traditional steakhouse hibachi. The locally owned and operated mobile caterer is once again our readers' pick for best food truck.

BEST HAMBURGER

Freddie's Tavern

705 S. Adams St. (989) 773-2180

With burger options that range from jalapenos to mushrooms Freddie's Tavern is a fan favorite. Stop in for the food but stay for the atmosphere.

BEST HANGOVER FOOD

McDonald's

Multiple locations in Mt. Pleasant

Our readers turn to an American classic to relieve the ache. McDonald's is the go-to hangover cure, thanks to its low costs and 24-hour drive-through.

BEST LATE-NIGHT EATERY

Dog Central

111 E. Michigan St. (989) 317-3076

Things like applewood smoked bacon, mac 'n' cheese, shredded pickle, chili, crushed Fritos and peanut butter make Dog Central a fan favorite for fast food.

This ain't your grandpa's
AM radio ...

CENTRAL MICHIGAN **LIFE**
PODCASTS

- ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A CM-LIFER?
- BAKED CHIPS
- LEVEL UP CHIPS
- MAROON & BOLD
- PAST DEADLINE
- RAVING GEEKS
- ROADMAP TO CMU
- SEX IS CENTRAL
- SOUNDCHECK



BEST LOCAL BREWERY & WINERY

Mountain Town Brewing Company

3068 Jen's Way (989) 400-4666

Mountain Town Brewing Co. continues to grow its menu concept, wine inventory and beer recipes, as well as offer events to help patrons enjoy both their drinks and their visit.

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Los Aztecas

4445 E. Blue Grass Road (989) 775-8594

Repeat winner Los Aztecas is best known for its sizzling Jalisco Mexican cuisine, its cold, blended beverages and its warm, colorful atmosphere.

BEST PLACE FOR LUNCH

Max and Emily's

125 E. Broadway St. (989) 772-7460

Long-time local favorite Max and Emily's specializes in serving classic and custom sandwiches all made from locally sourced ingredients. Who knows, they may even name one after you.

BEST PIZZA PLACE

The Cabin

930 West Broomfield St. (989) 779-9167

A CMU tradition, The Cabin is this year's pick for the best place to get pizza. Try a custom-made pie or the infamous cabin sticks.

BEST RESTAURANT

Woodshop Social

2336 S. Mission St. (989) 966-3747

Try a delicious fried chicken sandwich or a Venison burger and experience a courteous staff at Woodshop Social. With delicious food, a variety of cocktails, and weekly events, this kitchen & bar is a great place to visit when partying with your friends and family!

BEST SANDWICH SHOP

Max and Emily's

125 E. Broadway St. (989) 772-7460

Long-time local favorite Max and Emily's specializes in serving classic and custom sandwiches all made from locally sourced ingredients. Who knows, they may even name one after you.

BEST SWEET TREAT PLACE

Doozie's Ice Cream Place

1310 E. Pickard St. (989) 772-2332

Doozie's, open from April to September, serves over 90 flavors of Arctic Swirl and 20 types of hand-dipped ice cream, as well as sundaes, milkshakes, malts, and floats!

BEST UNIQUE FOOD

Woodshop Social

2336 S. Mission St. (989) 966-3747

Woodshop Social is taking Mt. Pleasant by storm with its amazing food choices. Want to try some Tuna Deviled Eggs? How about a Wagyu Steak? Or a Caesar-ish Salad? Woodshop Social is known for its unique food options that you can enjoy on a late night out!

When it comes to college living...

We've always been b

Apartment, Town

- 1019 S. DOUGLAS
- 888 MISSION ST.
- EMERALD VILLAGE
- HICKORY LANE

- JAMESTOWN APTS
- PLEASANT ST. APTS.
- POLO VILLAGE
- SOUTHPOINT VILLAGE

1-6 BEDROOMS



PET-FRIENDLY

989.772.2222



CMUA

**BEST APARTMENT****Copper Beech****4750 E. Blue Grass Road (989) 779-8300**

In a student-oriented community just minutes from campus, Copper Beech offers single and multi-room townhomes and apartments. Amenities include in-unit laundry, walk-in closets, a pool and 24-hour gym access.

BEST ATTORNEY**Barberi Law Firm****2305 Hawthorne Drive, Suite C (989) 773-3423**

Barberi Law firm the Mount Pleasant area with numerous areas of practice, including criminal defense, personal injury, family law, estate planning, workers' compensation and more.

BEST GYM/HEALTH CLUB**Student Activity Center****(989) 774-3686**

From group classes to lap swimming, when it came to the best places to let off some steam, CMU's Student Activities Center (SAC) reigns supreme.

BEST AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR**Krapohl Ford****1415 E. Pickard (989) 546-3880**

Do you need a quick tire or oil change in your vehicle? Maybe you need your brakes or headlights repaired. Get quality and friendly service at Krapohl Ford! With reasonable prices and quality service, they can help pinpoint your car troubles and guide you in the process of getting it fixed.

BEST CHIROPRACTOR**Central Michigan Family Chiropractic Clinic****1112 E. Broomfield St. (989) 779-2225**

Central Michigan Family Chiropractic Clinic, ran by Dr. Troy Henrie and staff, uses the most current and effective methods for treatment to help patients on their pain relief journey.

BEST GOLF COURSE**Riverwood****1313 E. Broomfield Rd. (989) 772-5726**

Play a game of golf on an 18-hole course with beautiful scenery of trees and winding rivers. Choose whether you'll play 9 holes or 18 holes. The Front Nine (White Course) allows you to play 3191 yards and the Back Nine (Red Course) allows you to play 3355 yards. This spring, get a taste of golfing with your friends and family at Riverwood Resort.

BEST GROCERY STORE**Meijer****1015 E. Pickard St. (989) 772-4700**

Perennial favorite Meijer once again took the crown for the community's top grocer, although it features much more, including groceries, electronics, clothing and household essentials.

BEST UNIQUE BUSINESS**Karma Kat Cafe****612 E. Broadway (989) 773-2399**

Sip a hot cup of coffee while enjoying the company of cats in a casual environment. Karma Kat values the donations and volunteers of their customers, as this contributes to the rescue, treatment, and care of these adorable cats. Do you want to hear something even better? You can adopt a cat from Karma Kat Café by picking up a paper application during the Café's business hours!

BEST SALON/SPA**Gigi Nails****1222 S. Mission St. (989) 773-0677**

The stylists at Gigi Nails aspire to create a unique, comfortable, and fulfilling experience when you visit their salon. Experience pampering manicures and pedicures. And of course, enjoy the creativity of acrylic, sculpted nails with the color of your choice.

The Bees' Knees!

Townhomes and Houses

- UNION SQUARE
- WESTPOINT VILLAGE
- WASHINGTON VILLAGE
- YORKSHIRE COMMONS
- WEST CAMPUS VILLAGE
- PLUS, HOUSES NEAR CAMPUS!
- WESTERN ISLANDS

APTS.COM

FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP**FREE HIGH SPEED WIFI**



BEST JEWELRY STORE

S. Silverberg Finer Jewelers

1805 S. Mission St. (989) 773-9000

With a friendly staff, reasonable prices, and efficient service, S. Silverberg provides jewelry repair, engagement and wedding jewelry, large selections, and high-quality services. Look for diamond or gold jewelry for yourself or your significant other at a reasonable price at this quality jewelry store.

BEST NEW/USED CAR DEALER

Krapohl Ford & Lincoln

1415 E. Pickard St. (800) 772-5974

Krapohl Ford & Lincoln is the community's top spot for a new or used vehicle. It offers car, truck and RV sales and the Quick Lane Tire & Auto Center to keep clients safely on the road.

BEST TATTOO & BODY PIERCING BUSINESS

Evolved ArtForms

1222 S. Mission St., (989) 775-8288

For our self-expressing readers, the top place for a tattoo or body piercing is Evolved ArtForms. It offers affordable, walk-in services and appointments blocks from campus.

BEST VETERINARIAN

Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital

1611 S. Isabella Road (989) 773-7679

When a furry, feathered or scaled family member is in need of a doctor, our readers look to Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital. This clinic offers check-ups, medical and surgical care, six days per week.



BEST SELFIE SPOT

The Seal

Break out those cameras and head to Warriner Mall and its monolithic concrete seal for the best, reader-supported, selfie in town.

BEST CAMPUS DINING

Dine & Connect

(Emmons, Herrig, Saxe & Woldt Halls) 989) 775-7210

CMU's overwhelming pick for best campus dining went to Dine & Connect in East Community. Offerings include customized salads, sandwiches, global cuisine, burgers and fresh pizza.

BEST CMU PROFESSOR

Holly Hoffman

Human Development and Family Studies.

Prof. Holly Hoffman is once again the most popular academic on campus. Her study ranges from the development of humor in youngsters to teacher professional development.

BEST NON-GREEK RSO

Student Government Association

sga@cmich.edu (989) 774-7421

The Student Government Association of Central Michigan University aspires to promote a healthy and diverse learning community through advocacy of representation, collaboration, and leadership. Allowing others to voice their opinions, working together to address challenges, and leading by example are the core pillars of this student-run organization.

HS HIGH SOCIETY

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BEST CANNABIS BUSINESS

JARS Cannabis

1207 E. Pickard St. (989) 572-0400

JARS Cannabis is a medical and recreational dispensary that offers over 100 strains across a variety of products and price points.

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Applebee's Grill and Bar

4929 E. Pickard St. (989) 779-2766

Applebee's Grill and Bar remains Central Michigan's top happy hour destination. Whether you're relaxing after work or getting ready for the night, the drink specials heighten the experience.

BEST PLACE TO BUY VINYL

B's Music

613 N Mission St. (989) 773-0777

B's Music, an independently owned instrument and record store, offers new and used vinyl, effects pedals, books, instruments and comprehensive lesson programs.

BEST PLACE TO DANCE

Wayside/O'Kelly's

2000 S. Mission St (989) 772-2391

Wayside/O'Kelly's is once again our readers' pick for the best spot to boogie. This perennial favorite is one of the largest nightclubs in Central Michigan.

BEST PLACE FOR COCKTAILS & APPETIZERS

Woodshop Social

12336 S. Mission St. (989) 966-3747

Enjoy a nice cocktail at Woodshop Social, where weekly events allow you to enjoy your drinks at a discounted price. Appetizers such as chicken and chorizo nachos and Japanese fried chicken are half-off on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 pm to 11 pm when you need a late-night snack.

BEST PLACE TO KARAOKE

The Cabin

930 West Broomfield St. (989) 779-9167

A CMU tradition, The Cabin is this year's pick for the best place to get pizza. Try a custom-made pie or the infamous cabin sticks.

BEST PARTY STORE

K&S Party Store

4855 E. Blue Grass Rd. (989) 772-9000

Enjoy a wide selection of liquor and snacks, a friendly staff that welcomes you, and affordable prices. Along with hours going from 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM Monday through Saturday and 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM on Sunday, this is a great place to stop by when you need a selection of liquor to share with your friends on a Friday night.

BEST PLACE TO BUY VINTAGE/THRIFT SHOP

Goodwill Industries

4529 E. Blue Grass Road (989) 773-4884

Goodwill has you covered whether you're looking to shop, donate, or find a job.

BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

Soaring Eagle Casino Resort

Soaring Eagle Blvd. (888)-732-4537 6800

The Soaring Eagle Casino Resort is yet again Central Michigan's favorite place to hear live music. The resort attracts celebrated artists of all genres and generations, year-round.

BEST STUDENT MEDIA PODCAST

CM Life Crime Time

Moore Hall, CMU (989) 774-5433

"CM-Life Crime Time" delves into the intriguing stories and real-life riddles of genuine crime. Abby Zimmerman, the host, narrates the tension, intrigue, and insight into the criminal mentality.

THANK YOU!

For voting us
your favorites in
10 categories!



WAYSIDE NIGHTCLUB 

1st Place, Best Place to Dance
3rd Place, Best Bar
3rd Place, Best Place to Karaoke



1st Place, Best Place to Karaoke
1st Place, Best Pizza
2nd Place, Best Bar

2nd place, Best Local Brewery



2nd Place, Best Place to Karaoke
3rd Place, Best Place to Dance
3rd Place, Best Place to Hear Live Music



Thank You for Voting Us
Central Michigan's Best!

Voted Central Michigan's
Best Place to Hear Live Music
& Best Place to Dance!

Visit the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort box office, purchase two or more tickets (*prior to day of show) to any show with cash or credit and receive **\$20 in Premium Play** on the day of show.

Get your tickets at **Soaring Eagle Casino** or **Saganing Eagles Landing Casino Box Offices**, ETIX.COM or call 1.800.513.ETIX.

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