



Reader RAVES

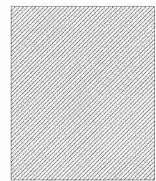
Winter/Spring 2014

readerraves.com

WINNERS



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Reader Raves share Pioneer Valley's best

The results for Reader Raves winter-spring 2014 are in!

Thousands upon thousands of Raves have been carefully tabulated and neatly organized on enough spreadsheets to make an accountant giddy - 14,154 Raves to be exact, across 75 different categories under the titles of News & Business, Lifestyle & Entertainment and Sports.

Nice work, Ravers - that's more than 2,600 over last year for a 23 percent increase on the enthusiasm scale.

Enthusiasm. That's what it is all about, isn't it? Local folks like you, who are enthusiastic about an experience they had with a person, place or thing that inspires



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them to share their opinion at MassLive.com/Reader-Raves.

But has Reader Raves gone to the dogs? One might argue this

case since the top Rave-getter across all categories is Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society for Best Non-profit Organization. Let's not leave out the cats, since a friendly feline adorns the

home page of Dakin's website.

Other categories that were so hot the Polar Vortex's icy blast couldn't stop them were Best Private School, Best Assisted Living Community, Best College or University and Best Supermarket, won by Cathedral High School, Landmark at Monastery Heights, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Big Y World Class Market, respectively.

Congratulations to all of these organizations and their employees for earning the badge of "best" in their Reader Raves category.

If you didn't vote in this round of Reader Raves, that's OK. But don't let it happen again!

Giving sincere recognition to those who deserve it most is at stake, so stay tuned for the announcement to cast your vote in your favorite summer-fall 2014 Reader Raves categories.

You might also consider supporting one of the current category winners above or the other 70 listed within this section by attending the Reader Raves celebration dinner taking place on Jan. 28 at the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House at 6 p.m.

In short, it's a blast! Celebration attendees leave the event feeling good from an evening packed with friendly

camaraderie, a delicious meal and entertainment.

Tickets are \$48 with tables of up to 10 available. But hurry. We need to hear from you by Jan. 22 to establish your reservation. Call or email Sheila Gilligan at (413) 788-1106 or sgilligan@repub.com

As always, I welcome your thoughts or ideas on how you think we can improve Reader Raves. Just give me a shout at (413) 788-1108 or send a quick email to mfrench@repub.com

Yours in (enthusiastic) raving,

Mark A. French
Advertising Director



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WINNERS

News/Business

News/Business	Winner
Best City or Town Local Official	Michael Clark, Longmeadow School Committee Chair
Best Appliance Store	Manny's TV and Appliances
Best General Contractor	Keith G. Roy Construction Inc
Friendliest Cop	Officer Jose Feliciano
Best Dry Cleaner	Belmont Cleaners
Best Tanning	Luminous Glow
Best Snowplow Operator	Randy Zymroz
Best Store for Home Cooks	Different Drummer
Best Car Wash	<u>E.L. Roberts</u>
Best Chamber	Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield
Best Trade School	Putnam Vocational High School
Best Full Service Gas Station	Felix's
Best Electrician	Goodless Electric Co.
Best Plumber	Skibel Plumbing
Best Home Heating Oil Dealer	Central Oil, Chicopee
Best Non-profit Organization	Dakin Humane Society, Springfield
Best Accountant	Meyers Brothers Kalicka P.C.
Best Used Car Dealer	Sarat Ford
Best Funeral Home	Barry Farrell Funeral Home, Holyoke
Best Specialty Foods Store	Pop's Biscotti & Chocolate, Wilbraham
Best Craft Supplies	Michael's
Best Lawyer	Michele Rooke, Springfield
Best Pediatrician	Lief Nordstrom & Associates
Best Collision Repair	JL Massa Collision, Ludlow
Best Mortgage Lender	People's Bank
Best Private School	Cathedral High School
Best Tire Dealer	Town Fair Tire
Best Bargain Store	Ocean State Job Lot
Best Teacher	Mr. Jeremiah Begley, Cathedral High School
Best College or University	UMASS Amherst
Best Supermarket	Big Y World Class Supermarkets