

Master Class

Making your Best Of a Year-Round Revenue and Audience Generating Machine





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Welcome



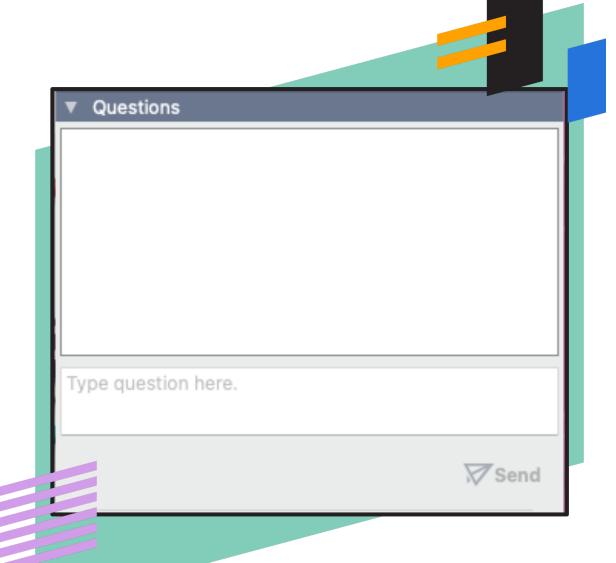
Julie Foley
Senior Customer Success Manager
jfoley@uplandsoftware.com



Matt Hummert
Customer Success Manager
mhummert@uplandsoftware.com

Do you have questions?

Ask in the GoToWebinar Panel during the webinar, and we will answer them at the end!

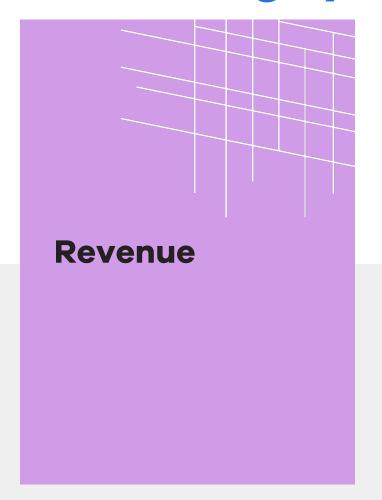






Level Set

Three Things you are Focused On









Best Of is the top **REVENUE**initiative of the year!



Best Of is the top **AUDIENCE**initiative of the year!



Best Of is the top FIRST-PARTY DATA initiative of the year!



2022 People's Choice of SWLA

American Press | Lake Charles, LA

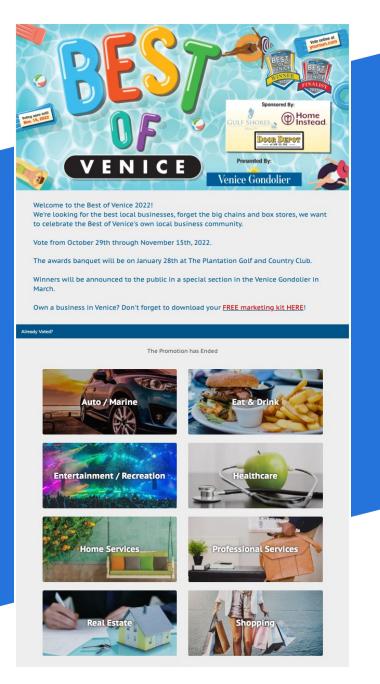
- 98% YOY revenue growth
- 2021 \$70,661
- 2022 **\$140,076**
- 124% YOY user growth
- 57% YOY vote growth



Best of Sun Coast

Sun Coast Media Group | Port Charlotte, FL

- 18% YOY revenue growth
- 15% YOY email database growth
- 2022 **\$460K**
 - Digital only, doesn't include ticket sales revenue







A-List

St. Louis Magazine | St. Louis, MO

- 86% YOY revenue growth
- 53% YOY user growth
- 2022 **\$225,682**



U

67%

YOY revenue growth from our top partners!



BUT...users are only engaging with your Best Of 2 months out of the year...



Best of should be a Year-Round Celebration



How

8 ways to celebrate winners year-round



Utilize the Winner's Directory

It's time to think beyond your print special section



Not just for paper anymore

Publish your winner's digitally





Support Local Businesses With Your Nominations

The votes are counted! Here is a complete list of winners for 2022 Best of Oxford.

Winners list is also in OXFORD MAGAZINE JUL/AUG 2022 edition

If you have any questions about Best of Oxford, email info@oxfordeagle.com

Food And Dining



♠ All Categories

▼ Food And Dining

Best Asian Restaurant

Best Sushi

Best Bar

Best Barbeaue

Best Bakery

Best Breakfast Best Brunch

Best Casual Dining

Best Place To Grab Dessert

Best Catfish

Best Po Boy

Best Fried Chicken

Best Catering

Best Coffee

Best Cookie

Best Fine Dining

Best Local Burger Best Ice Cream

Best Happy Hour

Best International

Best Barbeque



Visit our website



WINNER

Moe's Original BBQ - Oxford

Ole Miss grad and Oxford native John Allgood joined forces with Michael Roos and Maggie Meyer who moved from Colorado to own and operate the Oxford Moe's Original BBQ. After Allgood showed the Colo...Read more



311 S Lamar Blvd, Oxford, MS 38655, United St...



Not just for paper anymore

- "Thank You" ads on your digital winner's directory year-round
- Use winner's directory as a landing page to drive traffic to your winner's





Welcome to #BestOfSumter 2023!

Voting for the Best of Sumter is now closed.

Winners of BEST OF SUMTER 2023 are posted below.

There is no purchase necessary to vote or win.

View the <u>BEST OF SUMTER 2023 magazine</u> and see <u>photos</u> from the Best of Sumter 2023: Red Carpet Event.







Sell digital!

Unlimited digital inventory





Don't forget about those enhanced listings that highlight your winners with:

- Large photo or video
- Winner icon
- Description, location, map
- Website, social links

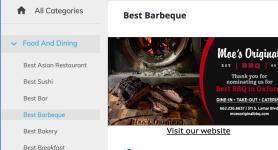


The votes are counted! Here is a complete list of winners for 2022 Best of Oxford.

Winners list is also in OXFORD MAGAZINE JUL/AUG 2022 edition

If you have any questions about Best of Oxford, email info@oxfordeagle.com

Food And Dining



Best Brunch

Best Catering Best Coffee

Best Cookie

Best Fine Dining

Best Local Burger

Best Ice Cream

Best Happy Hour

Best International

Best Casual Dinina Best Place To Grab Dessert Best Catfish Best Po Boy Best Fried Chicken



WINNER

Moe's Original BBQ - Oxford

Ole Miss grad and Oxford native John Allgood joined forces with Michael Roos and Maggie Meyer who moved from Colorado to own and operate the Oxford Moe's Original BBO. After Allgood showed the Colo...Read more

311 S Lamar Blvd, Oxford, MS 38655, United St...







Create video content to celebrate winners



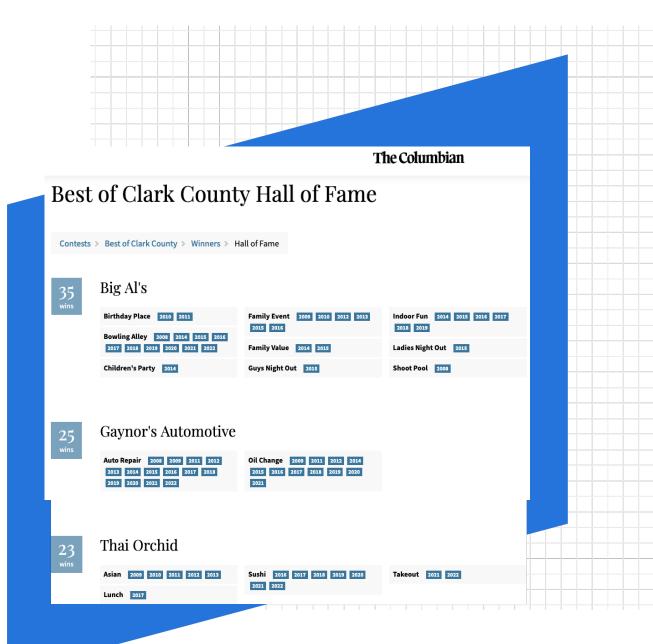
VOTE 4 THE BEST

Just Baked Cupcakes wins Vote 4 The Best

Published: August 8, 2022 at 10:46 AM Tags: Vote 4 The Best

Winners

Hall of Fame – Celebrate your milestone winners





Create Compelling Branding



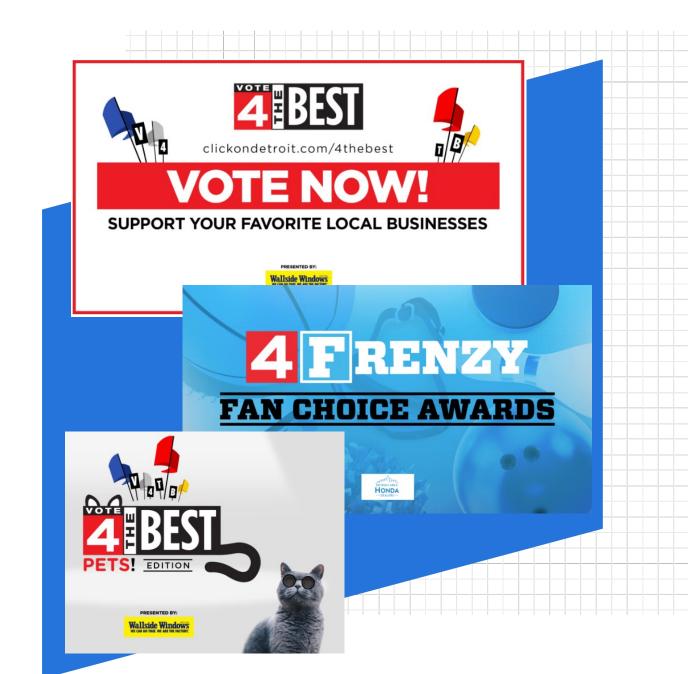


Your Logo is key to establishing your **BRAND** within your market



Use your best of name and logo when expanding your ballot strategy

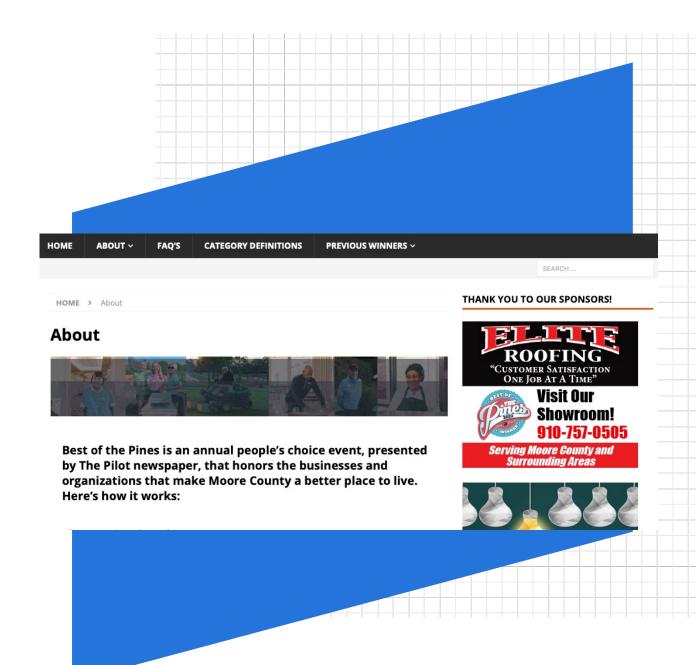
- Vote 4 the Best
- 4Frenzy: Fan Choice Awards
- Vote 4 the Best: Pets Edition



Make sure your marketing materials include your vanity URL, QR code and your hashtag to encourage social sharing



- Create a mission statement defining your program and its goals
- Publish the mission statement on your Ballot site





"It's important that we include a mission statement so that we define what Best of the Pines stands for in our community. It allows our sales team to better overcome objections and allows our business owners and voters to understand what we hope to accomplish"

- Samantha Cunningham,

Marketing Consultant, The Pilot

Create unique categories that set your program apart from in your market

- Regional Food
- Local Attractions and Events
- Your unique voice: Best Bar Bathroom or Best Place to take your kids when its raining

- > Music + Nightlife
- > Food + Drink
- > Business + Services
- → People + Places

Best Bar Bathroom

Best Bike Trail

Best Birthday Spot for Adults

Best Birthday Spot for Kids

Best Blog

Best Busker

Best City Pool

Best Dressed

Best Event Planner

Best Hair

Best Hangout for Teens

Best Instagram Account

Best Bar Bathroom

Featured Entrants



Coughlin's Law Kitchen and Ale House

Sinks and urinals made from kegs! So cool

10

10 Virginia Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15211, USA

NOMINATE



Always be hyping your Best of Program



Vote

October 19 - November 16

bestofbaldwin

Wednesday, October 26, 2022



Hello, Baldwin County.

Voting is still going strong in <u>Best of Baldwin 2023</u>, which means our website at <u>GulfCoastMedia.com</u> is receiving record amounts of traffic. More than 150,000 votes have already been cast. It's an exciting time for us.

Last week, I traveled to New Orleans for an America's Newspapers Senior Leadership Conference. With more than 2,000 local newspapers having

closed in last 15 years across the U.S., it's obviously a challenging time for the newspaper industry.



Hello, Baldwin County.

You might have received an email from me this morning about the start of Best of Baldwin's final voting round.

Ready for an update? As I write this at 4:48 p.m., 36,290 votes have already been cast. 🍣

I think it's safe to say that this will be the largest voting contest in the history of Baldwin County. Everyone can vote once daily.

Winners will be celebrated at the Red Carpet Event on February 2, 2023. It's going to be a big time.

Now on to the news from our talented local news team.

Communicate with business owners, advertisers and your audience



The nomination round begins on January 5! Here's how you can be top-of-mind when readers are filling out the ballot

St. Louis Magazine's annual A-List Readers' Choice Poll is one month away! Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity to help make sure your business is the go-to spot for St. Louisans all year.

Only the top five nominees in each category will advance to the voting round, so you need to make the most of the nomination round to claim or defend your title!

Get in front of our readers with an A-List nomination round package. These packages include benefits that are exclusive to A-List advertisers helping their business to be top-of-mind when readers are filling out the ballot, helping them get closer to the voting round. Click the buttons below to learn more.

View A-List media kit

Watch informational A-List video

Ready to book? Submit your order now



The nomination round is two weeks away!

St. Louis Magazine's annual A-List Readers' Choice Poll begins on
January 5! Only the top five nominees in each category will advance to
the voting round, so you'll want to earn as many nominations as you can.
Last year, 61,400+ passionate people participated in the ballot. Ensure
your business is top-of-mind when readers are filling out the ballot with
an A-List nomination round package. Click the buttons below to learn
more. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity to help make sure
your business is the go-to spot for St. Louisans all year!

View A-List media kit

Watch informational A-List video

Ready to book? Submit your order now

For additional details or questions, please email lleppert@stlmag.com.

Articles, videos, event photos winner announcement in your print/on air, digital

Vote 4 The Best: Top 10 breakfast spots in Metro Detroit



Metro Detroit!

Here's a look at the winning list of the best pl

Hello from editor John Nagy. In case you've missed the ads or the social The 2022 Vote 4 The Best winners voted b media posts or the various emails going out from local businesses, The Pilo annual Best of the Pines nominating process is underway.

> Through June 26, you can go to bestofthepines.com to examine the categories and submit your favorites to be nominated. There are eight main categories - Food and Drink; Shopping; Family; Arts and Community; Hon and Home Services; Business and Professional Services; Health and Wellne and Pets - and then each has sub-categories.

> It's a lot to go through and you don't have to do it in one sitting; do some ar then come back later. We ask that you cast nominations in at least 10 categories. Voting on successful nominees will occur next month.

> The Pilot is proud to produce this annual event and we look forward to your participation.

Promote your Program

Articles, videos, event photos winner announcement in your print/on air, digital



Promote your Program

Articles, videos, event photos winner announcement in your print/on air, digital

Gulf Coast Media celebrates Best of Baldwin winners



The Elberta High School cheerleaders celebrate winning.

MICAH GREEN / GULF COAST MEDIA















Posted Tuesday February 15, 2022 1:08 p

By Melanie LeCroy Lifestyle Editor melanie@gulfcoastmedia.com

Gulf Coast Media rolled out the red carpets for its 2022 Best of Baldwin winners Feb. 10 at the Orange Beach Event Center. More than 400 winners and friends filled the venue for the inaugural red carpet celebration gala to close out this year's readers choice contest.

Guests arrived by car, limo and even party bus ready to celebrate their victory in the third-annual Best of Baldwin competition. The red carpet was filled with an array of fine fashion from jeans and cowboy hats to ball gowns and sequins.

The evening started with a delicious dinner of shrimp and grits, beef medallions with gravy and tiramisu. The catering was provided by a Best of Baldwin winner in multiple categories, Wolf Bay Lodge. Gulf Coast Media's new publisher, Vince Johnson, and executive editor, Kayla Green, led the evening's program. Every winner was announced and presented with a framed award and window cling.

The consensus from the guests as they departed the Orange Beach Event Center was the evening was a success, and they are looking forward to next year. Guests were presented with the 2022 Best of Baldwin

Promote your Program

Fun, quirky take on Best of categories that weren't on the ballot, but are engaging for your audience!

- Best place to avoid your spouse
- Best cult following
- Best neighborhood to over-ask



Well, Look What Time It Is.

You've seen the Best of the Pines (and if you haven't, you can here).

Now, peep our annual picks for six categories that didn't make the cut. As usual, you didn't ask, but we delivered anyway.

6. Best Spot to Test Your Patience



The Traffic Circle. Because that sign is a yield, not a stop. If you're so inclined, you can also get a good finger exercise.

· Honorable mention: The school pickup line.

FORWARD TO SOMEONE WHO LOVES CONTESTS



Event celebrating The Best of Food & Dining winners



Celebrating the winners and readers who make this annual poll possible.

PRODUCED BY



Best Of The Pines

The Pilot | Southern Pines, NC

Year-Round Winner Ad Program

- Runs after the winner's event and special section is published
- Runs continuously for 6 months leading up to the next year's Best Of
- \$34K Additional Revenue after Best of is over!



Because you won FIRST PLACE, let's shout it from the mountaintops all year long with this **Simply The Best** special advertising package that includes PineStraw & The Pilot at one low monthly rate!

Your ad will run in The Pilot newspaper on the first Sunday of every month and every issue of PineStraw magazine November 2022 - July 2023.*

*February PineStraw, we will print a special section just for 1st place winners with half page ads to tell our readers why you were voted <u>the best!</u>

- 2x4" ad in The Pilot once a month
- 1/8 page ad in PineStraw every month
- 1/2 page ad in PineStraw in February \$200/mo with signed contract
- 2x2" ad in The Pilot once a month
- 1/8 page ad in PineStraw every month
- 1/2 page ad in PineStraw in February \$170/mo with signed contract
- * 1/2 page ad in PineStraw magazine's "Simply the Best" special feature in February: \$575 a la carte





DEADLINE TO RESERVE SPACE: MONDAY, OCT. 3

These are simply "pick-up ads" that your team has already created!



Create Content Year-Round

Articles, video, listicles, event photos

Vote 4 The Best: Top 10 burger spots in Metro Detroit







CUPCAKES

Just Baked Cupcakes - Multiple Locations

Red Velvet Cakes and Pastries - Clinton Twp

M Street Baking Company - Howell

Pink Elephant Cupcakes - St. Clair Shores

Lick'em Up Ice Cream - Harrison Twp



Just Baked Cupcakes wins Vote 4 The Best

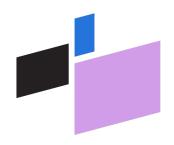
Published: August 8, 2022 at 10:46 AM Tags: Vote 4 The Best

"National days/week/month"

- Donut Day
- Pizza Week
- Dinning out



National Days/Weeks/Months



Food

- Burger
- Tacos
- Pizza
- BBQ
- Donut
- Ice Cream

Drinks

- Beer
- Margarita
- Custom Brackets
- Wine

Pets

- Dogs
- Cats
- Fishing
- Wildlife

Health/Healthcare

- Breast Cancer
- Nurses
- Doctors
- Cancer Survivor
- Spa services



National Day 365 https://nationalday365.com/

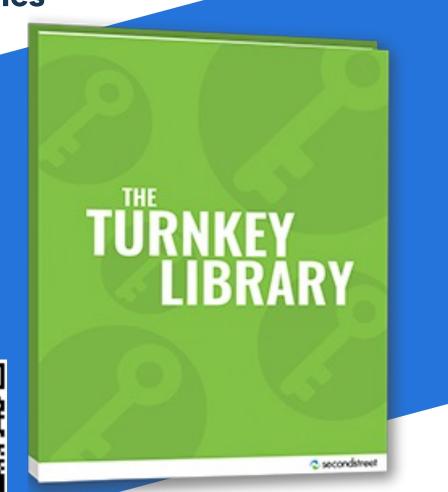


Use Turnkeys to Showcase Nominees

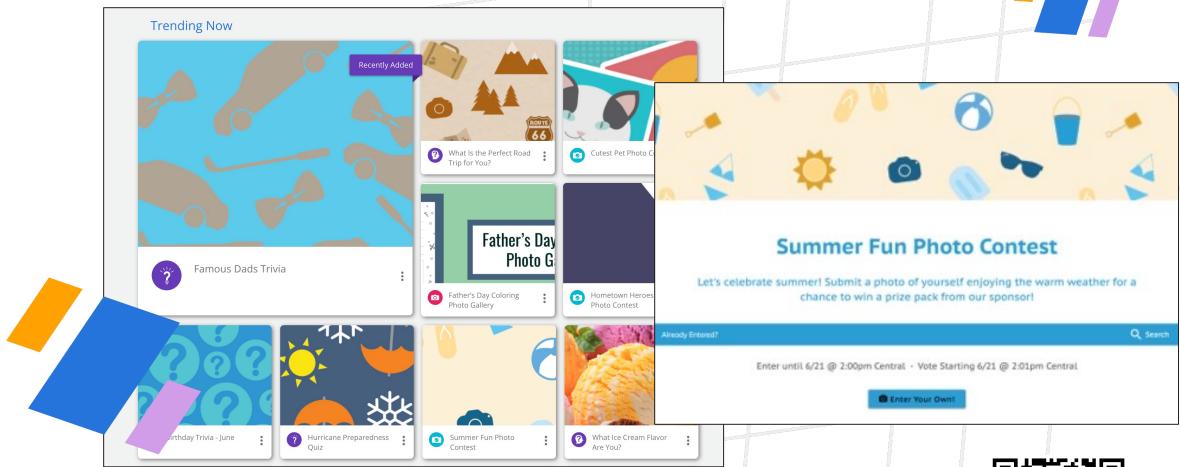
Turnkeys

Use these to showcase popular categories

- Favorite Beer Poll
- Margarita Quiz
- Craft Beer Quiz
- Ice Cream Quiz
- Burger Bracket
- Taco Bracket
- Pizza Bracket
- Top Doctor Ballot
- Dental Hygiene Pro Quiz
- Breast Cancer Awareness Quiz



Turnkeys





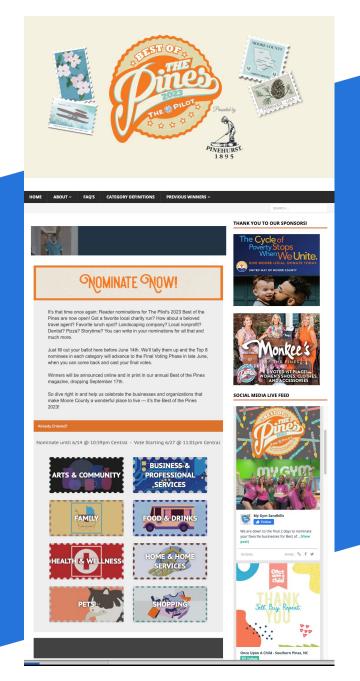
Check Them Out!





Create a Ballot Microsite

Use it to promote your Best of year-round!



List all previous year's winners



A-List winners will be announced in mid-June!

St. Louis Magazine sends our appreciation to all who supported local businesses by participating in the 2023 A-List Readers' Choice Awards. Cheers to another year of celebrating the region's finest! Winners will be revealed online in June and in the July issue. We look forward to recognizing the people, places, and businesses that make St. Louis so special. Were you an A-List 2023 finalist and wondering where you stand in your category? If you're a business owner or manager, please fill out this form and we'll let you know if you're a winner or a runner-up.

Have a question? Check out our FAQs.

PREVIOUS A-LIST WINNERS







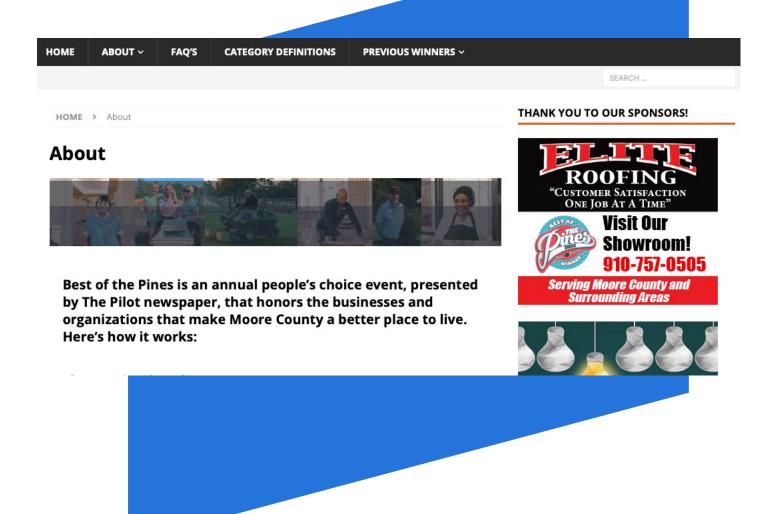
2020 Winners



2019 Winners

What to include:

- Mission Statement
- FAQs
- Business Inquiry for Advertising
- Nomination Tool Kit



Nomination Toolkit

2023 Nomination Toolkit



Who Needs Attention? You Do!

Best of the Pines success starts with Round 1: Nominations, Let's do this.

5 WAYS TO GET NOMINATIONS

- 1. Ask for them: We've created "Nominate Us" ads that you can use on your website (below). Be sure to place one in a prominent position so your customers see it, and then link back to https://bestofthepines.com/ so they can easily access the ${}^{l}\mathbf{A}\text{-List Marketing Tips}$
- 2. Send reminders: Post https://bestofthepines

The A-List 2023 voting round is March 13-April 10! Utilize these social media, email, and followers to nominate in-person marketing tips to promote your business.

BY SLM STAFF MARCH 7, 2023 1:29 PM

3. Repeat: Send emails to

May 24: Nominat



A-List voting graphics

Tip 1: Download our complementary A-List graphics

Addressing the Haters!

- Invaluable resource for sellers to help overcome objections
- Adds more legitimacy to your Best of program



HOME > Addressing (False) Criticism of Best of the Pines

Addressing (False) Criticism of Best of the Pines



Every year we get a ton of feedback during our Best of the Pines program, and occasionally we hear some negative things going around! Many of the criticisms we hear are a result of a simple misunderstanding, so we decided to address these openly.

We at The Pilot work very hard to preserve the integrity of Best of the Pines. We live here, too, we're very invested in our local businesses and it's important to us that we get it right. For the last few years, we've hired an outside company, Second Street, to help ensure accurate voting results. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We are more than happy to meet with you and address them as time allows (keep in mind, Best of the Pines is our busiest season, so we can't always meet immediately). But now, let's deal with some of the comments we've heard.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!





FAQs

- Dates
- How to nominate
- Rules

HOME > ABOUT > FAQ's about Best of the Pines 2023

FAQ's about Best of the Pines 2023



Every year we have a lot of questions regarding our competition. Here are answers to some of the most common ones:

When is it? Nominations begin May 24, 2023 and end June 14, 2023. Voting begins June 28, 2023 and ends July 23, 2023.

How are businesses nominated? Nominations are collected through a write-in phase. From May 24 – June 14, readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite local businesses and organizations. If you do not see your business name in a category on the ballot, that means you have not been nominated yet. Ask your customers to write in your business name in the appropriate categories, and your business name will appear shortly. **Please note there is some lag time.**

Do I have to advertise in the magazine to be nominated/win? No. No purchase is required to participate in the competition or to win the competition. We are not shy in telling you that advertising in our magazine helps because it is the best way to remind the voters about your business and what category you'd like to be considered for – much like political candidates advertise to get their name out to the public.

Also, we would not be able to do this competition every year without our advertisers. It costs a lot of time and money to do a competition like this and selling advertisements helps compensate us for the costs.

What are the rules? Voting is limited to one account, per person, per category. If votes cast do not follow the guidelines, they may be deemed invalid and may result in the disqualification of votes by that device or email address. The purchase of advertising in The Pilot products does not affect the out of the Best of the Pines results. Votes are counted and audited by an independent third party.

Why don't you have a category for ______? We get this question a lot. As much as we'd like to have a category so every single business in Moore County could participate, we simply don't have the manpower to do it. We try to keep the category count below 200 in order to make it manageable.

We selected categories based on what categories were popular last year. We also did a

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



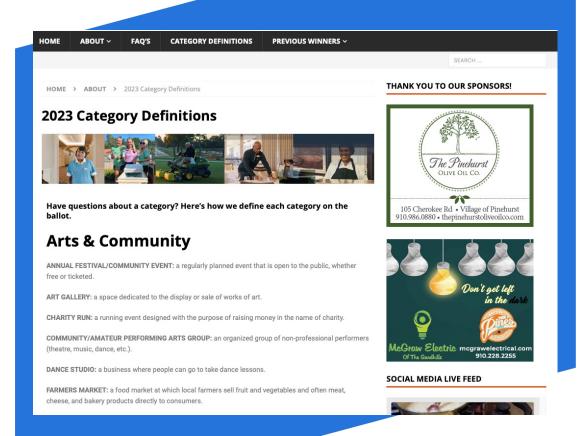


SOCIAL MEDIA LIVE FEED



Category Definitions

- Define each category and how you qualify to win
- Ex: Locally Made Product: Any product made within Moore County by a local business; may include individually packaged food or drinks (not the brand itself, but the actual product).





Have an inbound marketing strategy

This just means email your local business owners

Pre-sales and pre-nomination campaign

 Send one month in advance of nomination round





Are you ready to claim your title in *St. Louis Magazine*'s 2023 A-List Awards?

Starting January 5, readers will once again nominate their favorite local businesses across nearly 200 categories in *St. Louis Magazine*'s annual A-List Reader's Choice Poll.

The A-List is a tribute to the region's best—from dining to culture, shopping to sports, wellness to real estate, and beyond. To help celebrate the top of the town, we ask our readers, "Who tops your list?"

As a local business, you'll want to earn lots of nominations in the A-List nomination round. Only the top five nominees in each category will advance to the voting round, where readers will vote for their favorites. The A-List winners and top two finalists in each category will be revealed in the July issue of St. Louis Magazine and online.

DEFEND your title if you were an A-List winner in 2022, or CLAIM your title if you're striving to be honored in 2023!

Click the button below to learn how you can campaign for A-List in 2023.

View A-List advertising opportunities

Ready to book? Submit your order now

How do you curate a list of business owners to send Best Of Information to?

 Remember that social media graphics kit we mentioned? Put it behind a form – collect business leads every year!



Were you an A-List 2023 finalist? That's an amazing achievement. Congratulations! Now that voting has ended, you're probably wondering where you stand in your category. If you're a business owner or manager, please fill out this form and we'll let you know if you're a winner or a runner-up. Winners will be appounced to the public in June.

-low are you involved in this business? *
Please Select \$
What is your company's website?
What is your company name? •
Category / Industry *
Home Builders
Email *
Please complete this required field.
First name *
Please complete this required field.
Last name *
Please complete this required field.
Phone number •
Yes, sign me up to receive occasional emails with important A-List information for business owners.

Submi

Informational Video in the Media Kit

- Outlines the program
- Defines Value Proposition
- Showcases the advertising opportunities
- Covers what advertisers need to know



Email announcing the pre-order of the Winner's Magazine

- Business owner edition
- Reader/consumer edition



Informational Email for businesses





Congrats to all the winners! Search our winners portal here.

Winners who didn't make the event can pick up their *free* window cling and framed certificate at our office, 901 N. McKenzie St. in Foley.

While you're there, pick up a copy of the **Best of Baldwin 2023 magazine**, which has a complete list of all the winners.

Photos from the event are on Facebook and Instagram.

Official winner photos can be found here!





Create a Winner Spotlight

Winner Spotlight

Winner Spotlight Wednesday

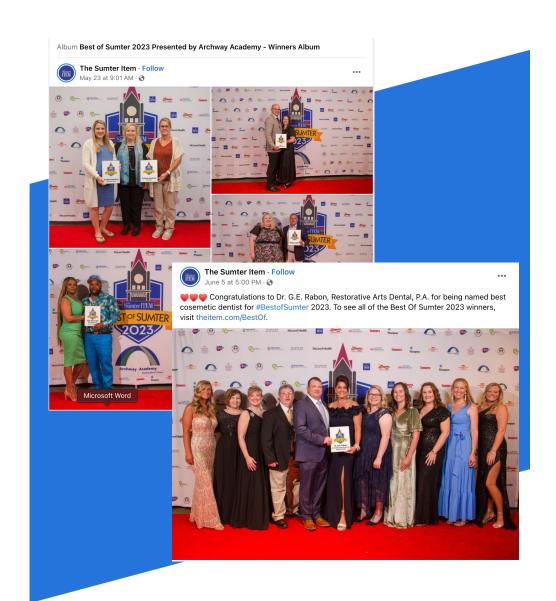
- Highlight one winner each week on your social feeds and website
- Use a photo or video captured at the Winner's Event of business owners holding their certificate
- Drive people back to your Best of landing page where they can see all winners/dates/FAQs



Winner Spotlight

Social media

- When voting period goes live, tag the top 5 in a social media post
- When the winners are announced, tag businesses in your event photo gallery
- Engaging and highly shareable!





Takeaways



Best of IS or SHOULD be your Biggest Initiative of the Year



Best of Winners Should be Celebrated Year-Round



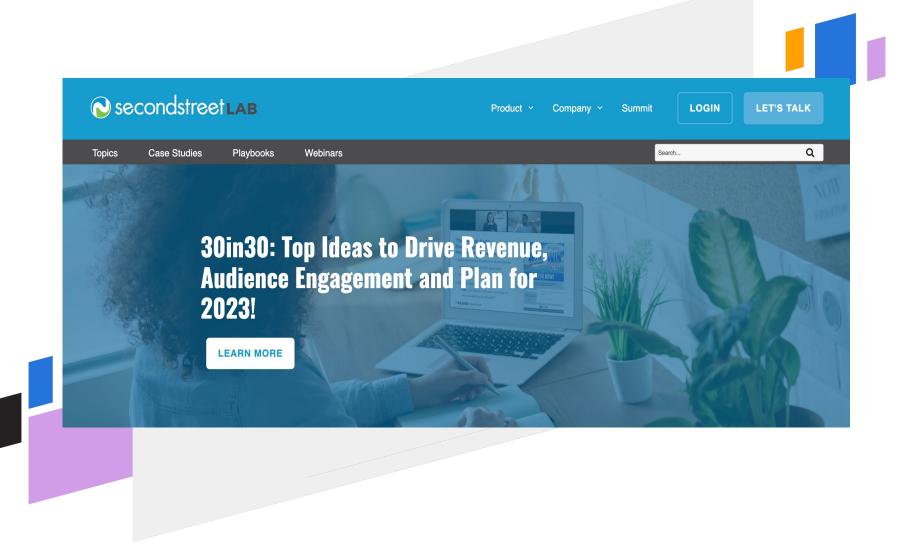
Your Brand is Synonymous with the BEST of your community



Q&A

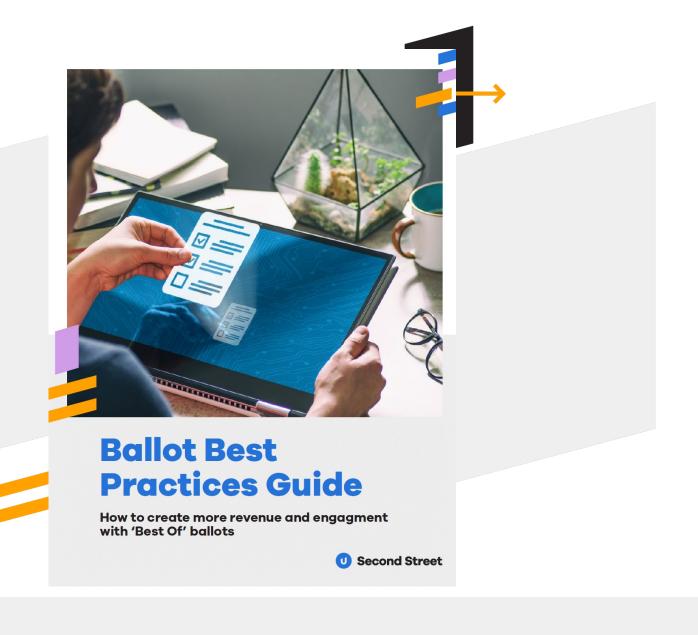


Resources



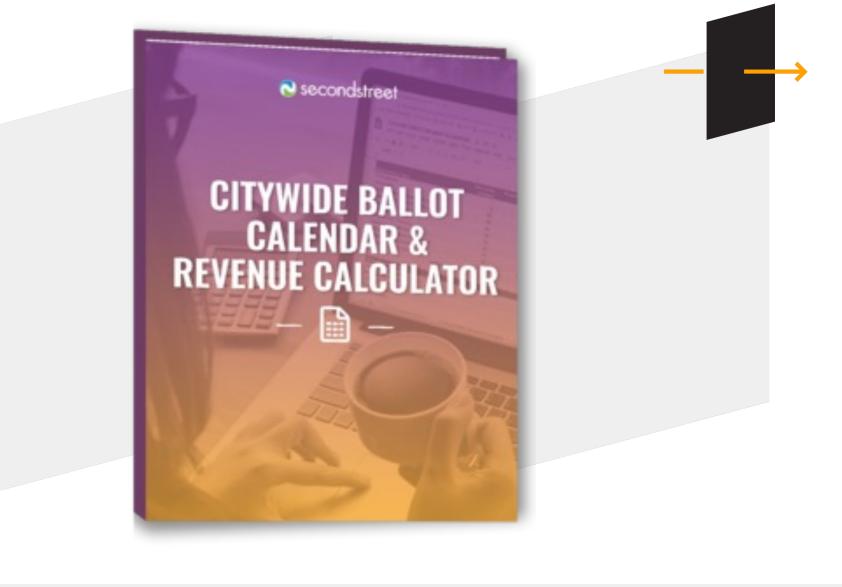






















Thank You!



Julie Foley
Senior Customer Success Manager
jfoley@uplandsoftware.com



Matt Hummert
Customer Success Manager
mhummert@uplandsoftware.com