

**Best of  
Central  
Michigan  
25**

# BEST of 2025

## WELCOME TO THE BEST OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN!

With the help of our readers, *Central Michigan Life*, is pleased to announce the 25th 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 have 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 2025!**

# CHINA MASTER

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★ WINNER OF BEST CHINESE FOOD 2025 ★



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## BEST ATTORNEY BARBERI LAW

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Central Michigan Life as their  
favorite attorney  
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JB

“Thank you for voting us #1 for yet another year! On behalf of my great legal team of caring individuals who do take every case personally. I thank you for your vote of confidence.”

-Joe Barberi

# FOOD AND DINING

## BEST FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

### Dog Central

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

From signature to classic dogs, Dog Central has a hot dog meal for everyone. Made from hardwood-smoked pork provided by Dearborn Sausage, the dogs at Dog Central are known throughout Mount Pleasant. Like a competition? Dog Central has multiple food challenges, such as the DC challenge, where one must finish three footlong dogs, fries, a stack of onion rings and a 20-oz drink. Eat at Dog Central today.

## BEST SWEET TREATS

### 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 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 Mount 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 ASIAN RESTAURANT

### Great Wall Buffet

1025 S. Mission St. (989) 775-8039

Fresh, hot Asian cuisine waits for you at Great Wall Buffet, with customer favorites such as Coconut Chicken, Crab Rangoon and Chicken/Pork Lo Mein. Other services include take-out, vegetarian options and private parking. Looking for a venue for the next social gathering? Great Wall Buffet is an optimal place for big groups.

## BEST FOOD TRUCK

### Bubba Q

1511 Manor Lane (989) 506 - 4688

Also known as Twin Turbo BBQ, Bubba Q offers savory barbecue, from walking tacos to pulled pork sandwiches. This mobile caterer is a favorite among the Mount Pleasant community and is perfect for community events. Bubba Q has multiple trucks and multiple locations. Maybe you will spot them at the next football game!

## 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 COFFEE SHOP

### Ponder Coffee

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

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

## BEST HAMBURGERS

### Freddie's Tavern

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

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

## 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.

# MISSION STREET TATTOO

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# FOOD AND DINING

## 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 PIZZA PLACE

### Pisanello's

110 N. Main Street (989) 773-9906

Pisanello's has a large menu, from family-sized pizza meals to small single pizzas. They also sell subs, pasta and salads. Pisanello's has something for everyone and is perfect for a family meal or a dinner with friends. Enjoy savory, delicious pizza with a variety of toppings and sizes at Pisanello's today.

## BEST RESTAURANT

### Texas Roadhouse

2177 S. Mission St. (989) 775-7427

Texas Roadhouse offers a wide range of made-from-scratch dishes. Whether it's their Hand-Cut Steaks or their Fresh Baked Bread, you'll find a hearty meal at Texas Roadhouse. With an engaging and friendly staff, delicious food and a lively Texas atmosphere, this restaurant is a town favorite.

## 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 STEAK PLACE

### Texas Roadhouse

2177 S. Mission St. (989) 775-7427

Texas Roadhouse is recognized once more by the people of Mt. Pleasant. Enjoy a nice, savory, juicy steak at Texas Roadhouse for dinner tonight. Try their Hand-Cut Sirloin or their Bone-In Ribeye, or any other of the steaks from their menu. You'll have a variety to choose from for that hearty steak dinner.

## 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 UNIQUE FOOD

### Twisted Fork

1418 S Mission St. (989) 317-0367

Have you ever tried a Kimchi Burger? Or a Big "Daddy" Mac burrito? Twisted Fork has been recognized for the unique foods on its menu. They put their own unique twists on dishes from around the world. Twisted Fork is a great place to try new foods with your family and friends.

## 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.

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# SERVICES

## BEST APARTMENT

### United Apartments

4175 E. Bluegrass Rd. (989) 772-2222

Whether you're looking for houses or apartments, United Apartments has multiple locations, which means a wider range of choices for students looking for off-campus housing. Different amenities across locations include shuttle services to campus, pet-friendly policies, laundry centers and free wireless internet.

## BEST AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR

### Dagwood's

1001 N Fancher St. (989) 772-9500

Finding a reliable auto care center is important, as you are entrusting your personal transportation to someone else. Dagwoods Auto Repair takes these concerns seriously and provides a wide range of services, such as tire repair, routine maintenance and emergency repairs. With a high regard for transparency and customer care, Dagwoods is the place to get reliable and extensive service.

## BEST ATTORNEY

### Barberi Law Firm

2305 Hawthorne Drive, Suite C (989) 773-3423

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

## BEST GOLF COURSE

### Buck's Run Golf

1559 S. Chippewa Rd. (989)773-6830

From a starter hole with enough space for beginners, to a hole that is protected by grass and sand for those who want a challenge, Buck's Run Golf Course is a place to test your accuracy. There is something for everyone at the golf course, from 9-hole rounds, 18-hole rounds, and even Junior rounds for those 15 years and under. Play a game of family golf or compete with your friends at Buck's Run Golf Course.

## 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 VETERINARIAN

### Pol Veterinary Services

3959 W. Jordan Rd., Weidman, MI (989)644-5044

Prioritizing the health of our furry friends, Pol Veterinarian Services is the place to go when your pet needs a checkup. With 24-hour online veterinarian access, wholesome and nutritious products to feed your pets and experience with both pets and farm animals, this is the place to keep your pets healthy.

## BEST GYM/HEALTH CLUB

### Planet Fitness

2135 S Mission St. (989) 317-3615

With a variety of user-friendly machines, specialized trainers to guide you and 24/7 hours, Planet Fitness places an emphasis on support. Planet Fitness has something for everyone, from treadmills and ellipticals to personal workout spaces and muscle-building stations. Its memberships are affordable, and its environment is clean and friendly. Start your fitness journey with Planet Fitness.

## 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 JEWELRY STORE

### Ace of Diamonds

406 S. Mission St. (989)779-9919

Ace of Diamonds sells a variety of unique jewelry at an affordable price. You can purchase custom-made jewelry, engagement rings or wedding bands, pearls, diamonds and themed jewelry. It provides jewelry repair services and engraving services. You can trade in old jewelry for cash as well. Choose your jewelry service today at Ace of Diamonds.

## BEST CHIROPRACTOR

### Mt. Pleasant Chiropractic

405 S Mission St. (989)773-2000

Health starts with physical wellness, and that's where Mt. Pleasant Chiropractic & Massage comes in. With a wellness program tailored to your needs, you will receive chiropractic care to make the right adjustments your body needs.

## BEST SALON/SPA

### Salon Blu

121 University Ave. (989)772-8898

If you want a small touch-up or a full-blown makeover, Salon Blu is the place for you. Its services include haircuts, hair coloring, pedicures and manicures. Along with these many services, it, also does haircuts for men and kids. Set up a spa day with your friends or treat yourself after a busy week with Salon Blu.

## BEST TATTOO/PIERCING

### Mission Street Tattoo

126 S Main St. (989) 317-0601

Mission Street Tattoo is known for having the widest range of "Get What You Get" tattoo machines. From themed designs such as Barbie and Anime to mini, simple designs such as CMU tattoos, you have multiple options to help you express yourself. Walk in or schedule an appointment on their website and get a tattoo done from one of its talented artists.

## BEST UNIQUE BUSINESS

### Karma Kat Café

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 its 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 its business hours!



# ENTERTAINMENT AND NIGHTLIFE

## 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 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 notorious cabin sticks.

## 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. Makayla Herrick, the host, narrates the tension, intrigue and insight into the criminal mentality.

## BEST VINTAGE/THRIFT/ANTIQUESHOP

### 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 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 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 PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

### Soaring Eagle Casino Resort

Soaring Eagle Blvd. (989) 775-5777

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 PARTY STORE

### Old Mission Party Store

5030 S. Mission Rd. (989) 773-3001

For your next party with friends, stop by the Old Mission Party Store. Out of everything, customers are very pleased with the wide selection of liquor, beer and wine available. It is also complimented for its friendly and knowledgeable staff. Enjoy its selection and friendliness today.

## BEST PLACE FOR COCKTAILS & APPETIZERS

### Applebee's Grill and Bar

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

From classic mozzarella sticks to chicken quesadillas and all the way to its classic combo, Applebee's has been recognized for its delicious appetizers. It even has a new appetizer, the Ultimate Trio. You choose three appetizers and three dipping sauces. Get your fill of appetizers at Applebee's.

# THANK YOU!

For voting us  
your favorites in  
9 categories!



1st Place, Best Place to Dance  
2nd Place, Best Bar



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

WAYSIDE  
NIGHT CLUB



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

3rd place, Best Place to Karaoke  
2nd place, Best Local Brewery





# THANK YOU FOR VOTING **UNITED APARTMENTS**

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