

The Best of the Berkshires 2021

A special publication of The Berkshire Eagle Saturday, October 30, 2021



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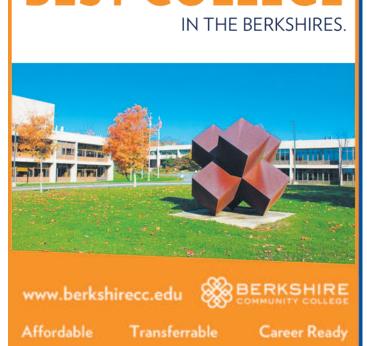
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Learn more about this year's Best of the Berkshires winners at bestofberk.berkshireeagle.com







Small businesses make

By Allen Harris

The Eagle's "Best of the Berkshires" (BoB) is a Who's Who list of the community. company, Berkshire Money Management (BMM). was fortunate enough to secure a place on the list for the second year in a row. (A big thank you to those who voted for us.) However, I don't think that people necessarily voted for BMM because of our proficiency in investment selection, tax mitigation, reducing tuition payments, nor anything else that our clients pay us for.

That math doesn't add up – we're a small business with relatively few clients. Presumably, larger and older wealth management firms in the area have more clients than BMM. Clearly, those firms' clients believe their advisor is "the best," which is why they work together. BMM doesn't have enough clients to surpass other financial advisors' votes, assuming all clients voted for their advisor.

I hypothesize that many BoB votes for BMM and some for other small businesses were not made because of first-hand comparisons. Some of the voters defined "best" not by skill but by impact. And that's why the Berkshires are the best.

The people of the Berkshires are a community that wants to make an impact on the world. They support likeminded businesses that want to do good in the world. I'm sure many voters had positive traditional experiences

with this year's list of BoBs. By "traditional," I mean an exchange of goods or services for remuneration.

Enough positive traditional experiences form a strong enough opinion of a company to earn them a BoB vote. That's true even when there may not have been an objective comparison. I once gave my mother a "World's Best Mom" coffee mug. While I strongly feel that's true, I didn't set up a metric system to compare my mom to other moms. I just knew she was the best. She takes care of me and does things that make me happy.

It isn't a giant leap that some of the BoB voters made their selections because they appreciated the company's community impact. These are the businesses that take care of their employees and those in need, and other things which make the voter happy. The Berkshires are filled with companies like this, both on and off the BoB list.

Bloom Brothers have been unwavering with its community donations. The owner Casablanca dedicates time and expertise with Construct, Inc. to house people. Holiday Brook Farm has been the voice of suppressed voters. Flynn's Pharmacy extends its service beyond larger businesses to make health care more accessible. Berkshire Mountain Bakery donates bread to non-profits to help the hungry. There was zero hesitation from Wohrle's Cash & Carry when I called them to help get \$25,000 worth of food to the Thanksgiving Angels to feed the needy.





the Berkshires the Best

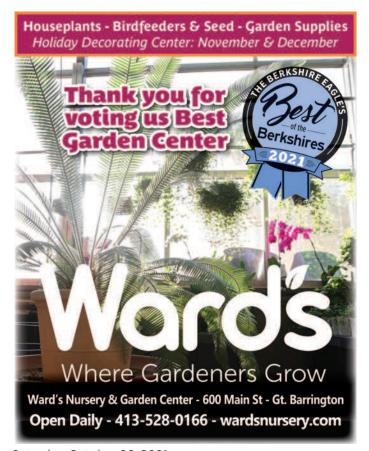
These businesses and others in Berkshire County excel at what they do. They are also respected and admired because of their community impact. This community is comprised of too many small businesses to all be on the BoB list. While I'm a massive advocate for our local small businesses, I admit that I haven't used or visited all of them yet. The ones I support the most, and the ones I voted for, aren't just great at their craft. They're great at giving back. No. They're the "best" at it.

Congratulations to all the businesses which made it onto the 2021 Best of the Berkshires list. I am confident they appreciate those who voted for them. For 2022, let's celebrate those who practice people over profits not just for



BEN GARVER -THE BERKSHIRE **EAGLE**

A woman carries a box of food through the rain to a car outside the South Congregational **Church in Pitts**field during the annual Thanksgiving Angels food distribution in Pittsfield. For 2020's event. volunteers and local businesses partnered to provide about 1500 families with a prepackaged holiday dinner.





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Allen Harris, owner of Berkshire Money Management in Dalton, delivers 1000 masks and 500 gloves to Williamstown Commons to help them maintain vital supplies during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Harris mobilized his team at BMM to find resources to aid the community during the crisis.

"These are the businesses that take care of their employees and those in need, and other things which make the voter happy. The Berkshires are filled with companies like this, both on and off the BoB list."

voting for them but by giving them our business. They give so much to us - they make the Berkshires the best. Let's give back to them.

Disclosures: Allen Harris, author of Build It, Sell It, Profit – Taking Care of Business Today to Get Top Dollar When You Retire, is a Certified Value Growth & Exit Planning Advisor for business owners. He is the owner of Berkshire Money Management (BMM) in Dalton, MA. Allen's forecasts and opinions are purely his own. None of the information presented here should be construed as an endorsement of BMM or a solicitation to become a client of BMM. "Best of Berk-

shires" survey is based solely on the number of votes received by the listed entity. The survey does not offer voters specific criteria or factors that define "best." The judgment factors used by voters are not known to the survey sponsor or BMM. Appearance on the "Best of Berkshire" list should not be construed as an endorsement of BMM's investment skill or acumen or an endorsement by any regulatory or government body. BMM promotes the survey in its marketing materials and makes active efforts to encourage voting. Direct inquiries to Allen at AHarris@BerkshireMM.com. BMM does not endorse the services of any companies described. All information is exclusively provided for illustrative purposes.

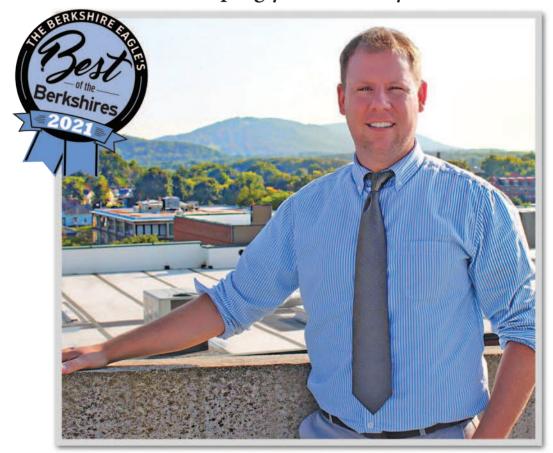






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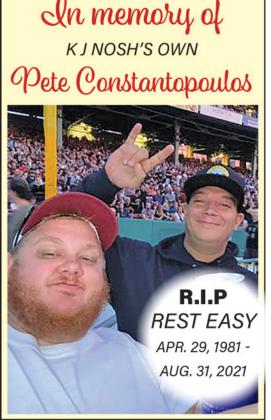
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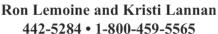
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Section 1980



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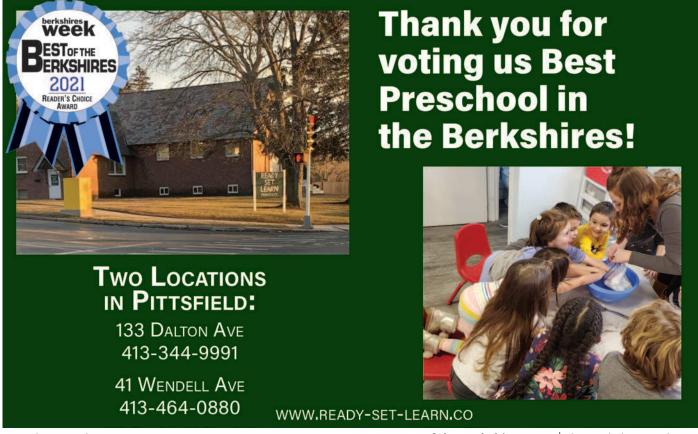
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99 North St. 413-445-3544

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STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

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41 Wendall Ave., Pittsfield 413-464-0880

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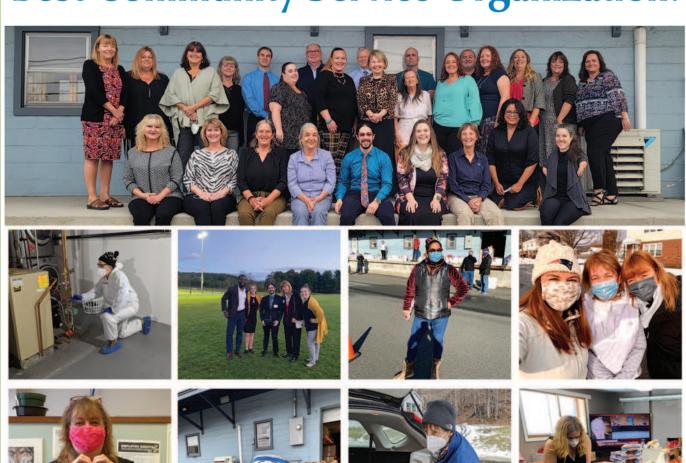
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STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Owner Judie Culver rings up a customer at The Purple Plume in Lenox.



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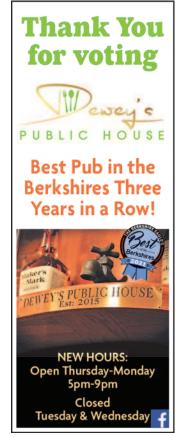
547 North St. 413-443-5611

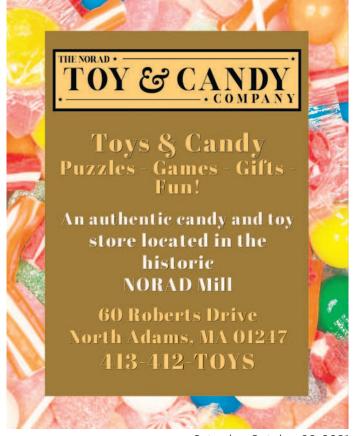
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600 Main St., Great Barrington 413-528-0166 wardsnursery.com













BEN GARVER — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Tom Levin, the owner of Tom's Toys in Great Barrington, stocks shelves in his store.

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BEN GARVER — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Owner Matthew Tannenbaum shows a
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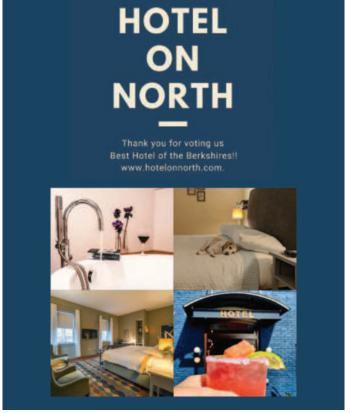
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Saturday, October 30, 2021

Best of the Berkshires 2021 | The Berkshire Eagle • 51

AUTOMOTIVE



STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Paul Carmon picks out a selection of backpacks for a mini van full of grateful kids at Haddad Toyota in Pittsfield on September 2, 2020. Haddad Dealerships, along with The Berkshire Eagle, gave away backpacks filled with school supplies to those preparing to return to school.

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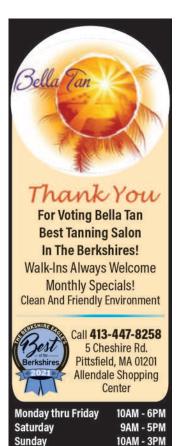
facebook.com/maces.marine

BEST ATV/MOTORCYCLE North's Services

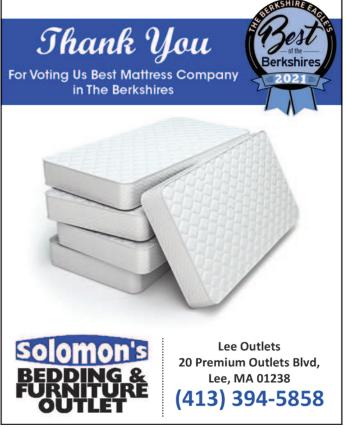
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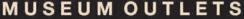
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BEN GARVER — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Melissa Creamer and her son Timothy, age 8, explore the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield during their family vacation.





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Berkshire Community College

Professor of Music, Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair



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413-676-2007 radiance-yoga.com

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395 North St., Pittsfield 413-443-5392 terpsichoredancecenter.com

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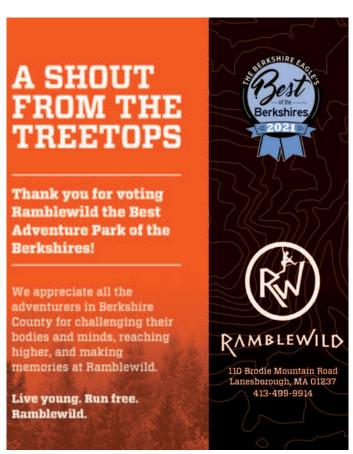
Pittsfield

502C East St. 413-445-8888

berkshirebikeandboard.com

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STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Veteran Steve "Paycheck" Pechacek is assisted down the mountain on an adaptive dual-ski by his coach, Renee South, during the STRIDE Wounded Warriors annual Snowfest at Jiminy Peak in Hancock, March 6, 2021.

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STEPHANIE ZOLLSHAN — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Volunteers Myron Proper and Lisa Healey deliver a box and bag of groceries, filled with fruit, vegetables and meat, to a waiting car as part of a weekly food program at Berkshire Community Action Council in Pittsfield, that provides weekly groceries to families who have been hit hard by the pandemic.

BEST POLITICIAN Adam Hinds

Massachusetts State Senator, Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties 413-344-4561

senadamhinds.org

BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION Berkshire Community Action Council

1531 East St., Pittsfield 413-445-4503 bcacinc.org

BEST TEACHER Laura Webster

Kindergarten, Egremont Elementary School, Egremont







COMMUNITY LIFE

BEST PROFESSOR Dr. Ellen Shanahan

Professor of Music, Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair, Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield

BEST SCHOOL SPORTS COACH Gary Campbell

Boys' Football, Wahconah Regional High School, Dalton

BEST AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM Berkshire Music School

30 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield 413-442-1411

berkshiremusicschool.org

BEST SENIOR SERVICES ORGANIZATION Elder Services of Berkshire County

877 South St., Ste. 4E, Pittsfield 413-499-0524 esbci.org

BEST ANIMAL SHELTER Berkshire Humane Society

214 Barker Road, Pittsfield 413-447-7878

Purradise Feline Boarding & Adoption Center

301 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington 413-717-4244

berkshirehumane.org

BEST PLACE TO WORK Lee Bank

See Best Bank

BEST RESTAURANT TAKEOUT

Chee's Chinese Cuisine

13 Columbia St., Adams 413-743-7270

cheeschinesecuisine.com

BEST CURBSIDE SHOPPING SERVICE

Canna Provisions

See Best Edibles

EXPERIENCE Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College

1350 West St., Pittsfield 413-236-2190 berkshireolli.org



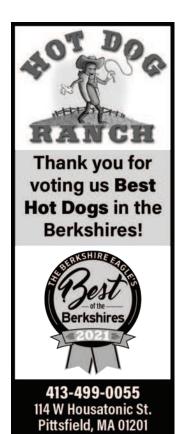
Learn more about this year's Best of the Berkshires winners at bestofberk. berkshireeagle.com



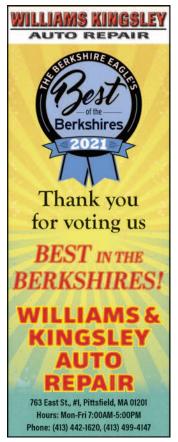
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