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BEST OF THE BEST

YOUR VOTES DETERMINE THE
TOP WHO, WHAT AND WHERE
IN MAPLE GROVE

IT'S NO LONGER A QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO IN MAPLE GROVE. With the recent boom in restaurants and other new businesses, the question now is "where's the best place to do it?" But Maple Grove wasn't built in a day; our city can go the distance. So in the spirit of a little friendly competition, we asked the community who should bring home the gold medal in 25 different categories. In many categories, the race was neck and neck, but only one could cross the finish line first. We proudly present them now to you.



Turn to page 23 to see why Elm Creek Park Reserve was voted Best Place to Hike *and* Bike.



BEST LANDSCAPER

When it comes to maintaining a yard, appearance is everything. The fifth-generation family business Lynde Greenhouse & Nursery ran away with the gold by decorating Maple Grove with the most visibly appealing landscapes. *Lynde Greenhouse & Nursery, 9293 Pineview Lane, 763.420.4400 Silver: Fair's Nursery*

BEST BURGER

For the second straight year, Champps Americana grabbed the gold medal for making the best burgers. You can't beat the classic menu of mouth-watering selections like the Pepperjack Bacon Stack Burger and the Patty Melt on Russian rye. *Champps, 13521 80th Circle N., 763.494.4515 Silver: Granite City Food & Brewery Bronze: 3 Squares Restaurant*

BEST BRUNCH

When it comes to mixing breakfast and lunch, **Granite City Food & Brewery** took home MVB (Most Valuable Brunch) honors. On Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., you can take a tour through a loaded

buffet line. *Granite City, 11909 Main Street, 763.416.0010 Silver: Rush Creek Golf & Country Club Bronze: Champps*

BEST NIGHT OUT

In a category geared towards adult fun, it became clear that nobody is too old for video games when you selected **Dave & Buster's** as the gold medal-winner here. Happy hour specials, fantastic food and games proved to be the best combo for a night on the town. *Dave & Buster's, 11780 Fountains Way, 763.493.9815 Silver: The Lookout Bar & Grill Bronze: Houlihan's*

BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

There's no place like home, or in this case,

A Place Called Home. Voters said this store was the best place to shop when decorating their home's interior with tableware, candles or other home accents. *A Place Called Home, 7889 Main St., 763.773.4663 Silver: Ethan Allen*

BEST NEW SHOP

With a flurry of new stores constantly popping up all over town, you said **Clothes Mentor**, which opened last February, was the most popular. This resale store buys and sells "gently used" apparel, especially for women. *Clothes Mentor, 13641 Grove Drive, 763.494.4584 Silver: Edelweiss Baby Bronze: Willow Salon*

BEST HAIR SALON

MarcDaniel Salon's mission is to "bring out the beauty that makes you amazing." For all the votes this salon earned, Maple Grove must be full of amazing looking people, topped off with some well-crafted hair styles. *MarcDaniel Salon, 7884 Main St., 763.416.0027 Silver: Salon Sartor Bronze: Willow Salon*

BEST MANI/PEDI

Not only is **MarcDaniel Salon** the spot to go to for top hair styles, but while you're there, you might as well get your nails done. *MarcDaniel Salon, 7884 Main St., 763.416.0027 Silver: Salon Sartor Bronze: Karmen Bonhorst of Simonson's*

BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST

If you're looking for deep relaxation, there are no better hands to be in than those of **Jamie Lawless.** Lawless, who specializes in Swedish, deep tissue, sports, hot stone and pregnancy massages, has owned her own practice for more than six years. *Jamie Lawless CMT, North Maple Grove Chiropractic, 9505 Black Oak Lane N., 763.463.9444 Silver: Jenny Baker of Simonson's Bronze: Massage Envy*

BEST VET

Pets are part of the family in Maple Grove, so keeping them healthy is an important priority. The voters' trust lies heavily in favor of **Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove.** *Animal Wellness Center of Maple Grove, 7000 E. Fish Lake Road, 763.420.7958 Silver: Veterinary Center on Main Bronze: Banfield Pet Hospital*

BEST PLACE TO WALK THE DOG

Elm Creek Park Reserve is officially the "dog heaven" of Maple Grove. The major



Owner Maria Donato pulls together a quick Donato's Floral bouquet.

BEST FLORAL

The best flowers in Maple Grove can be found on Main Street at **Donato's Floral**, which offers a variety of plants and bouquets to match all seasons and occasions. Donato's, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, is winning this category for the second consecutive time. *Donato's Floral, 7788 Main St. N., 763.416.0488*
Silver: Maple Grove Floral **Bronze:** Bachman's

BEST COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

There's no bigger community festival in Maple Grove than **Maple Grove Days**, which annually hosts more than 30,000 visitors. See for yourself July 9-12 why this event is worthy of gold. *Maple Grove Days*, maplegrovedays.com
Silver: Arbor Lakes Summer Faire **Bronze:** Arbor Lakes Autumn Art Fair

TICKETS
TICKETS
TICKETS
TICKETS
TICKETS
5 TICKETS

Beginner

draw is an off-leash pet exercise area that allows dogs room to explore. *Elm Creek Park Reserve, 12400 James Dean Parkway, 763.694.7894* **Silver:** Weaver Lake Park **Bronze:** Fish Lake Park

BEST PET GROOMING

Pets go into **Petco** looking shaggy and come out looking like they won Best in Show. The friendly and effective service is what earned this pet shop the gold medal. *Petco, 8010 Wedgewood Lane N., 763.420.5230* **Silver:** PetSmart **Bronze:** Shaggy Dog Grooming

BEST PLACE TO MEET SINGLES

Forget online dating services, just put your best foot forward and head to **Champps** to meet other singles. Who knew this popular local restaurant also serves as a flirting hub? Apparently the experienced voters did. *Champps, 13521 80th Circle N., 763.494.4515* **Silver:** The Lookout **Bronze:** J. Cousineau's Dram & Alehouse

BEST PLACE TO WORK OUT

Making exercise fun is a tough task, but **Life Time Fitness** pulls it off. Drop the kids off at the Child Center, head to Pilates class, cool off in the pool, relax at LifeSpa and refuel at LifeCafe. *Life Time Fitness, 12601 82nd Ave. N., 763.420.8282* **Silver:** Snap Fitness **Bronze:** Anytime Fitness

BEST KIDS BIRTHDAY PARTY SPOT

Birthday boys and girls get the star treatment at **Chuck E. Cheese's**, including a birthday star medallion, a foil balloon bouquet centerpiece with a mini lunch box and 100 tickets to spend on prizes. *Chuck E. Cheese's, 12945 Elm Creek Blvd. N., 763.494.5520* **Silver:** Maple Grove Community Center's Maple Maze **Bronze:** Dave & Buster's

BEST PLACE TO MEET OTHER MOMS AND DADS

Voters agreed that the best place for parents to meet is the **Maple Grove Community Center**, a place where they



Troy, Jennifer, Kyla and Elsy Nygaard enjoy the family-friendly atmosphere at Elm Creek

BEST PLACE TO BIKE & HIKE

The 20 miles of hilly terrain and paved trails with high scenic value earned Elm Creek Park Reserve the gold medal in this category. *Elm Creek Park Reserve, 12400 James Dean Parkway, 763.694.7894* **Silver:** Rice Lake **Bronze:** Weaver Lake

can let their kids run wild in the Maple Maze, while they chat away. *Maple Grove Community Center, 12951 Weaver Lake Road, 763.494.6000* **Silver:** Early Childhood Family Education **Bronze:** Life Time Fitness

BEST SUMMER CAMP

There's no better planned summer getaway for kids than **Lord of Life Lutheran Church Summer Camp**. Elementary school kids, grades 1-5, go to the Shores of St. Andrew in New London, while junior high kids head to Luther Park in Danbury, Wis. Both sites offer a mix of energizing outdoor fun and quiet seclusion near the water. *Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 18500 County Road 101, 763.420.5015* **Silver:** Advent Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

Video games, simulator rides and pizza; what more could a kid want? Nothing, according to voters, who handed **Chuck E.**

Cheese's the gold medal. *Chuck E. Cheese's, 12945 Elm Creek Blvd. N., 763.494.5520* **Silver:** Dave & Buster's **Bronze:** Boston's

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD

It's young, but already wildly popular. The first occupancies at **The Bridges at Arbor Lakes** took place in 2004, but now the development, located northeast of Shoppes at Arbor Lakes, has bloomed into its own community. **Silver:** Rice Lake Farms **Bronze:** Gleason Farms

BEST OUTDOOR DINING THAT NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT

The best kept secret in outdoor dining isn't a secret anymore. Just follow your nose and ears to **3 Squares Restaurant's** patio, which seats 68 people along Arbor Lakes Parkway, and you'll find acoustic musician Jambo Joe Bones on the third Thursday of every month. *3 Squares Restaurant, 12690 Arbor Lakes Parkway, 763.425.3330* **Silver:** The Lookout **Bronze:** Claddagh Irish Pub //

BEST REMODELER

People in Maple Grove love their homes, but when it comes to making some changes, you said **Hunerberg Construction** was the way to go. The company has a background of more than 1,000 diverse projects and 25 years of experience in residential construction, and also has specialized in water intrusion for the past five years. *Hunerberg Construction Co., 11102 86th Ave. N., 763.463.5040*