

200,000 Votes In Region's Original Readers' Poll

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic earlier this year, the region's original annual "Best of Monadnock/Readers' Choice Awards," publication has been delayed.

Until now.

"We know our readers, local business people, and non-profit organizations have had a lot on their minds," said Mitchell G. Shakour, publisher of *The Monadnock Shopper News*. "But we also recognize that some normalcy is needed, so we have decided to move forward with this publication."

Shakour said that with everything happening, the time seemed right to announce the winners. "Everybody needed some positive news," he said.

Some new faces as well as some old favorites are featured in this year's "Readers' Choice Awards," where our readers vote for their "best of" in the Monadnock Region.

For 15 years, *The Monadnock Shopper News* has been collecting readers' input on the best of the best in the area. It's always exciting when the poll results come back with new names, and we're always pleased to see familiar favorites continuing to be in the forefront of

customers' minds. Additionally, you'll find a few new categories in the mix for the first time this year.

All local businesses and people were eligible to win, and voters could write in any business or individual they wished. Many small, locally owned businesses fared very well. This is not surprising: folks from the area are deeply loyal to local businesses. These winners – these locals – have won the hearts of the Monadnock Region.

All valid online ballots were entered into a drawing for restaurant gift certificates. The winners are Christine Beauregard, Lana Adamson, Aaron Abitz, Steve Brake, and Mary Brown.

This magazine contains the complete listing of everyone who won "medals." There were no tie-breakers, so some categories have multiple winners. Congratulations to all of our winners, and thanks to the readers who helped in making this poll successful year after year.

"We can't thank our loyal readers enough for participating in this contest, a fun way to recognize members of our community," said Shakour.

On The Cover

This year, Keene's Robin Hood Park took the Gold Medal for best public space. It features a playground, pool, fishing pond, amphitheater, and extensive forest. In the photos, Lili Shakour

and Ross Warner enjoy some time with their dogs Freya and Blue. Zubin Schlegelmilch, age 3, enjoys the playground.

(MSN photos by Gabriel Shakour)

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