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## FOOD &amp; DRINK

# Best Hot Dog: Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs

BY KATY ST. CLAIR  
TIMES-HERALD

**C**ontrary to popular belief, not all hot dogs are created equal.

Anyone who has chomped a day-old one from a convenience store knows this first hand. America loves a good dog, and Vallejo is no different.

The best local businesses not only offer superior services, but they make an emotional connection with their customers. Nearly everyone in Vallejo has a Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs story. Maybe it's where they always went after a Vallejo Admirals game, or perhaps they had a first date there. But the eatery is a local mainstay with lines out the proverbial door.

The secret to their success is consistency. That same chili dog you remember after your Little League game tastes the same as it did 20 years ago. Their motto could be, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

In fact, Sac's has had the same menu since 1976. The hot dog buns are baked fresh in Oakland and the proprietors search out the freshest and best dogs available.

Maybe that's why Sac's has nearly double the amount of "fans" of other old school mainstays. Sac's Yelp reviews say it all.

Another reason for its popularity is that for \$6.95 customers can get a dog, chips, and a drink, tax included.

In addition to hot dogs they also serve ice cream floats, cups, and cones, and, after waiting in line in the sun, Icees are also available. It's also one of the only places you can get sauerkraut on your dog.

Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs is located at 2445 Springs Road and can be reached at 707-642-2442 or on their Facebook page.

Other winners in this category include Mare Island Brewing Company, which was voted Best Bar and Tavern as well as Best Brewery. They are located by the water at 289 Mare Island Way,



in Vallejo. They can be reached at 707-556-3000 or on their website, [mareislandbrewingco.com](http://mareislandbrewingco.com). Best Bakery went to newcomer One House Bakery in Benicia. They are located at 918 1st St. in Benicia and can be reached at 707-361-5919 or at [onehousebakery.com](http://onehousebakery.com). Best Fine Dining goes to Bella Siena in Benicia. They are located at 127 1st St. and can be reached at 707-805-0575 or on their website at [bellasienarestaurant.com](http://bellasienarestaurant.com). Finally, Best Island Restaurant goes to Got Plate Lunch in Benicia. They are located at 1034 1st St. and can be reached at 707-745-4751 or on their website, [gotplatelunch.com](http://gotplatelunch.com).





## FOOD & DRINK



### BAKERY

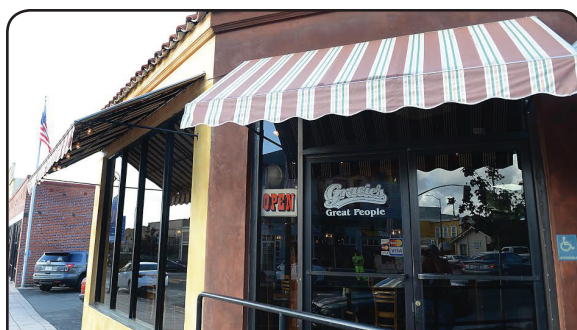
**WINNER**

#### One House Bakery

918 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 361-5919  
[www.onehousebakery.com/](http://www.onehousebakery.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Hummingbird Bakery and  
Dessert Bar  
Provisions by League of  
Chefs



### BARBECUE

**WINNER**

#### Gracie's Family BBQ

1801 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 552-2254  
[www.graciesbbq.com/](http://www.graciesbbq.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Got Plate Lunch  
Lucca Bar & Grill



### BARS AND TAVERNS

**WINNER**

#### Mare Island Brewing Co.

289 Mare Island Way,  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 556-3000  
[www.mareislandbrewingco.com/](http://www.mareislandbrewingco.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Rellik Tavern  
Bottom Of The Fifth  
Sports Bar and Grill



### BARTENDER (INCL. LOCATION)

**WINNER**

#### Tyler - Bruehol Brewing

4828 E 2nd St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 327-6768  
[www.brueholbrewing.com/](http://www.brueholbrewing.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Lynnette Brown,  
Gentleman Jim's  
Bailey at Mare Island  
Brewing Co.



### BREAKFAST

**WINNER**

#### Good Day Cafe

314 Georgia St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 557-4745  
[www.gooddaycafevallejo.com/](http://www.gooddaycafevallejo.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

One House Bakery  
The Joy of Eating




*Thank you for voting Tyler Best Bartender!*




4828 E 2nd St, Benicia  
(707) 327-6768  
[www.brueholbrewing.com](http://www.brueholbrewing.com)



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FOOD & DRINK



BREWERY

**WINNER**  
**Mare Island Brewing Co.**  
289 Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 556-3000  
[www.mareislandbrewingco.com/](http://www.mareislandbrewingco.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Bruehol Brewing  
Napa Smith Brewery



DELI

**WINNER**  
**Sprankle's Village Deli**  
155 Military E, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 297-6119  
[sprankles.org/](http://sprankles.org/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Picnicky's Sandwich Shop  
Provisions by League of Chefs



BURGER

**WINNER**  
**Bud's Giant Burgers**  
3849 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94589  
(707) 642-3252  
[www.budsburgersvallejo.com/](http://www.budsburgersvallejo.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Lucca Bar and Grill  
Mare Island Brewing Co.



DONUTS

**WINNER**  
**Royal Jelly Donut**  
732 Tuolumne St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 642-2682

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Daily Donuts  
Star Bread



CHINESE RESTAURANT

**WINNER**  
**China Wok**  
512 Sacramento St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 645-2008  
[www.facebook.com/chinawok1/](http://www.facebook.com/chinawok1/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Szechuan House Benicia  
J's Garden Restaurant



FILIPINO RESTAURANT

**WINNER**  
**Kehaulani's Cafe**  
38 Admiral Callaghan Ln, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 654-8220  
[www.kehaulaniscafe.com/](http://www.kehaulaniscafe.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Andrea Foods  
3 J's



COFFEE

**WINNER**  
**Moschetti Coffee**  
925 Main St., Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 731-0541  
[cafe.moschetti.com/](http://cafe.moschetti.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Farm & Flour  
Rrags Cafe



FINE DINING

**WINNER**  
**Bella Siena**  
127 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 805-0575  
[www.bellasienarestaurant.com/](http://www.bellasienarestaurant.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Zio Fraedo's of Vallejo  
Provisions by League of Chefs



## FOOD & DRINK



**HOT DOG**

**WINNER**

**Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs**

2445 Springs Rd,  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 642-2442  
[www.facebook.com/sacstastyhotdogs](http://www.facebook.com/sacstastyhotdogs)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Char's Hot Dogs  
COSTCO



**ITALIAN RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**

**Bella Siena**

127 1st St,  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 805-0575  
[www.bellasienarestaurant.com/](http://www.bellasienarestaurant.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Napolis Pizzeria and  
Italian Food  
Venticellos Ristorante



**ICE CREAM SHOP**

**WINNER**

**Double Rainbow Cafe**

560 1st St # A-105,  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-5000  
[www.beniciadoublerainbow.com/](http://www.beniciadoublerainbow.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Lileds  
Baskin Robbins



**JAPANESE/ SUSHI RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**

**Yo Sushi**

114 Robles Way, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 647-1100  
<http://order.getyosushi.com/>

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Kimono Japanese  
Restaurant  
Matsuri - Vallejo



**INDIAN RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**

**Aroma Indian Cuisine**

818 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-1870  
[www.aromabenicia.com/](http://www.aromabenicia.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Taj Grill  
Mirchi Indian Grill



**LUNCH**

**WINNER**

**Provisions  
by League of  
Chefs**

300 Virginia St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 641-1000  
[www.leagueofchefs.com/](http://www.leagueofchefs.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
One House Bakery  
Bella Siena



**ISLAND RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**

**Got Plate Lunch**

1034 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-4751  
[gotplatelunch9.wixsite.com/gotplatelunch](http://gotplatelunch9.wixsite.com/gotplatelunch)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Kehaulani's Cafe  
L&L Hawaiian BBQ



**MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**

**Tacos Jalisco**

3420 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 647-0554  
[http://tacosjaliscovallejo.com/\\_/Tacos\\_Jalisco.html](http://tacosjaliscovallejo.com/_/Tacos_Jalisco.html)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Sandoval's Mexican  
Restaurant  
El Tesoro Mazatlan



FOOD & DRINK



**PIZZA**

**WINNER**  
**Napoli's Vallejo**  
124 Tennessee St,  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 644-0981  
[www.napolipizzavallejo.com/](http://www.napolipizzavallejo.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Napoli Pizza Benicia  
Pizza Pirate



**SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**  
**Sailor Jack's**  
123 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 746-8500  
<http://www.sailor-jacks.com/>

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Bella Siena  
The Sardine Can



**RESTAURANT - AMERICAN CANYON**

**WINNER**  
**La Strada Cucina Italiana**  
6240 CA-29,  
American Canyon, CA 94503  
(707) 226-3027  
[www.lastradanapa.com/](http://www.lastradanapa.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Hwy-29 Cafe  
Mi Zacatecas



**SOUL FOOD**

**WINNER**  
**House of Soul**  
1526 Solano Ave,  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 644-3792  
<http://originalhouseofsoulfood.com/>

**RUNNERS-UP**  
The Workshop  
J J's Fish and Chicken



**RESTAURANT - BENICIA**

**WINNER**  
**Bella Siena**  
127 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 805-0575  
[www.bellasienarestaurant.com/](http://www.bellasienarestaurant.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
One House Bakery  
Lucca Bar and Grill



**THAI RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**  
**Pearl Thai Cuisine**  
870 Southampton Rd, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 747-9777  
[pearlthaicuisine.com/](http://pearlthaicuisine.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Mai Thai  
Maya Thai House



**RESTAURANT - VALLEJO**

**WINNER**  
**Provisions by League of Chefs**  
300 Virginia St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 641-1000  
[www.leagueofchefs.com/](http://www.leagueofchefs.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Zio Fraedo's of Vallejo  
Front Room at the Wharf



**VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT**

**WINNER**  
**Pho #1 Noodle House**  
3885 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 553-9859  
[www.pho1vallejo.com/](http://www.pho1vallejo.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Pho Vallejo  
LV Vietnamese Pho & Sandwiches



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## MEDICAL SERVICES

## Best Hospital: Kaiser Permanente Medical Center

BY KATY ST. CLAIR  
TIMES-HERALD

Whether you are going to Kaiser Medical Center for a routine check-up or for something more serious, Solano County residents know they are going to get top-notch treatment from highly specialized doctors and nurses.

Kaiser has been providing care in Solano and Napa counties for 75 years and has offices in Vallejo, Vacaville, Fairfield and Napa.

Services range from pediatrics to primary care to major medical sub-specialties.

"Thanks to our exceptional physicians, outstanding nurses, skilled medical assistants and other qualified staff, we are proud to provide high quality, affordable care to the members and patients we serve," said Nor Jemjemian, senior vice president and area manager for Kaiser Permanente Napa Solano.

Kaiser serves 300,000 people in the Solano County and Napa community.

While businesses have been adjusting to COVID-19, Kaiser has not only had to adapt best practices for safety but they have even had to treat patients who come down with the virus.

"As more has been learned about this virus, our policies and practices have evolved," Jemjemian said.

A cohort unit for COVID-19 isolation was created for safety of not only the team but also patients.

"Our decades of experience confronting highly-infectious diseases have prepared us for this moment and have guided us in a coordinated response to the pandemic, from efficient delivery of masks and gowns, to timely placement of ventilators, to early identification of units that exclusively provide care for COVID-19 patients, Jemjemian said, "These designated units give COVID-19 patients optimal access to physicians and staff who have the expertise and experience to provide first-class care, while other members and patients remain protected from exposure. At the same time, in many of our facilities, we have restructured care practices to ensure that we are prepared for any resurgence of COVID-19 in our communities."



In short, Kaiser medical centers might just be one of the safest places to be. Kaiser has also ramped up its tele-health services so that people can communicate with healthcare providers via computer instead of visiting the centers.

Jemjemian also stressed that Kaiser's emergency department is, as ever, ready to care for anyone who thinks they need medical attention.

"People who need emergency care should not avoid or delay it," Jemjemian said.

A unique thing Kaiser has done has been celebrating Veterans Day, where they honor vets that work in the medical centers. Since COVID-19, however, gatherings have been on hiatus.

Jemjemian is proud to say that staff and employees have donated to local food banks and other charities to help folks who might need a hand-up during the pandemic.

Jemjemian also is proud that Kaiser has, for the second year in a row, received the "highest overall quality health plans" bestowed by Covered California, the state's marketplace for the Affordable Care Act.

Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Vallejo is located at 975 Sereno Dr. Go to [kp.org](http://kp.org) for more information.

Other winners in this category include Hearing Services of Vallejo, Best Hearing Aid Provider. They are located at 480 Redwood St., #14, in Vallejo. They can be reached at 707-642-8862 or via their website at [hearingservicesca.com](http://hearingservicesca.com). Best Chiropractor and Best Acupuncture Clinic goes to Vallejo Chiropractic, 11 Tennessee St., Vallejo. They can be reached at 707-553-2225 or online at [vallejochiropractic.com](http://vallejochiropractic.com). Finally, Best Dentist goes to Artmond G. Louie, DDS Inc. He is located at 200 Fairgrounds Dr., in Vallejo. He can be reached at 707-552-8195 or online at [artmondlouiedds.com](http://artmondlouiedds.com).



## MEDICAL SERVICES



**ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC**

**WINNER**

**Kaiser Permanente  
Medical Center**

975 Sereno Dr, Vallejo, CA 94589-2441  
707-651-1000  
healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/  
northern-california/facilities/vallejo-  
medical-center-100316

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Pivot Acupuncture



**CHIROPRACTOR**

**WINNER**

**Vallejo  
Chiropractic**

11 Tennessee St, Vallejo, CA  
94590  
(707) 553-2225  
vallejochiropractic.com

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Kaufman Chiropractic  
Amso Healthy Chiroprac



**ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY**

**WINNER**

**Vallejo Hills  
Retirement  
Community**

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Benicia Angel's Home  
Brookdale North Bay



**DENTIST**

**WINNER**

**Artmond G.  
Louie, DDS Inc.**

200 Fairgrounds Dr, Vallejo, CA  
94589  
(707) 552-8195  
www.artmondlouiedds.com/

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Benicia Family Dentistry,  
Dr. Barry Parish  
Carquinez Dental Group



## HEARING SERVICES

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**Vallejo** • 480 Redwood St, Ste 14

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(707) 642-8862  
[www.hearingservicesca.com/](http://www.hearingservicesca.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Advanced Instruments  
Hearing Aid Services  
Costco Hearing Aid Center



HOSPITAL

**WINNER**  
**Kaiser Permanente Medical Center**  
975 Sereno Dr, Vallejo, CA 94589-2441  
707-651-1000  
[healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/northern-california/facilities/vallejo-medical-center-100316](http://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/northern-california/facilities/vallejo-medical-center-100316)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Sutter Solano Medical Center  
North Bay Medical Center



HOME HEALTH CARE

**WINNER**  
**Kaiser MyCare MyHome**  
975 Sereno Dr, Vallejo, CA 94589-2441  
707-651-1000  
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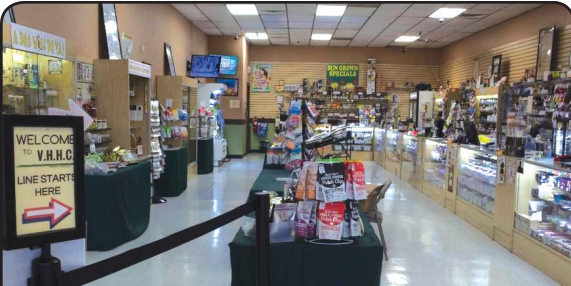
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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

# Best Tattoo Shop: Hot Ink

BY KATY ST. CLAIR  
TIMES-HERALD

When COVID-19 hit, tattoo parlors were among the first to have to close down, and Hot Ink in Vallejo was no different.

Owner Mario Cruz says that everything is great now, however, and the shop's schedule is booked solid. It's easy to see why -- they are a family and people who want to undertake the rather intimate ritual of getting a tattoo know that when they walk in, they will be treated with respect and a high level of artistry.

The shop recently underwent a total renovation from top to bottom, but maintains is ultra-clean and streamlined layout.

"If you'll notice, we don't have any pictures of tattoos up, or any books to leaf through," Cruz said.

A tattoo is a big investment -- actually, a permanent investment, and he believes that people should have an idea of what they want before they walk in the door. Even if someone has a concept, the artist are happy create a custom design.

"Then you know that no one else has the same one you do," he said.

Hot Ink has been in existence since 1999, but Cruz purchased it in 2007. He doesn't have employees — the other artists rent chairs, similar to a hair salon.

"We are a family, though," he said, pointing out that one artist in residence has been there since before he bought the shop.

Making the changes needed to deal with the virus has actually been fairly seamless, he said.

"We are already a highly regulated industry. We need to be aware of bloodborne pathogens already."

Everyone wears a mask and customers have to fill out a questionnaire stating that they are not feeling sick, nor have they been around anyone who has been sick.

So what are the current trends in tattoos? Cruz says they have definitely done their share of Baby Yodas, but floral designs remain a main-



stay, as well as mandala designs. When asked the strangest thing he has ever had to tattoo, he says something surprising:

What seems strange to you and I can have a lot of meaning for the person. For example, he did a tattoo of Baby Yoda holding a can of Truly hard seltzer, but it was in memory of someone who died.

What he is most proud of is the "vibe and atmosphere" his shop puts out — perhaps this is why they have won Best Tattoo Shop nine years in a row now. In addition to being a great artist, a tattooist has to foster a good environment, Hot Ink delivers. The shop is located at 818 Marin St. in Vallejo. They can be reached at 707-648-2070 or on their website, hotinktattoo.com.

Other winners in this category include Broadway Pet Hospital, Best Veterinary Service. They are located at 1000 Broadway, in Vallejo and can be reached at 707-642-0633 or at their



website, [broadwaypethospitalvallejo.com](http://broadwaypethospitalvallejo.com). Best Hauling Company goes to PJ's Landscaping and Hauling, 707-656-9208 or go to their Facebook page. Rocio Rivera has won Best Photographer. He can be reached at [rociorigivera.com](http://rociorigivera.com). Finally, Strong Sons Junk Removal is the runner-up for Best Hauling Company. They can be reached at 707-805-1777 or on their Facebook page.



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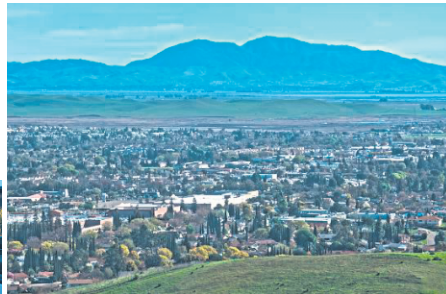
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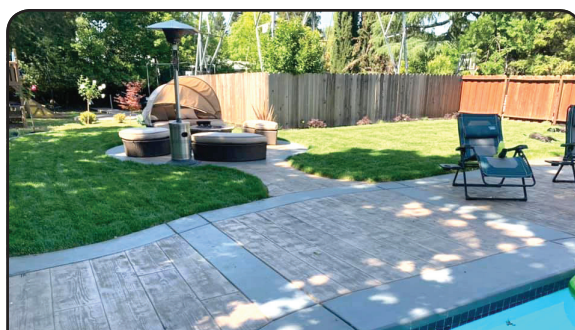
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Jose Ochoa**

526 Cypress Ave. Vallejo, CA 94590  
707-712-6079

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PJ's Landscaping - Phillip  
Samano



MORTGAGE COMPANY

WINNER  
**CrossCountry  
Mortgage  
Benicia**

177 Military E, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 361-5500  
http://www.caccmortgage.com/

RUNNERS-UP  
First American Title  
Travis Credit Union



LAW OFFICE

WINNER  
**Favaro Lavezzo Gill  
Caretti and Heppell-  
Attorneys**

300 Tuolumne St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 552-3630  
www.flgch.com/?utm\_source=  
google&utm\_medium=organic&utm\_  
campaign=gmb%20local&utm\_  
term=Vallejo&utm\_content=Homepage

RUNNERS-UP  
Law Offices of Maas &  
Russo  
McConnell Law Office



MOTORCYCLE REPAIR

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**NAIL SALON**

**WINNER**

**Gaia Nails**

834 Southampton Rd,  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 361-5261  
[gaia-nails.business.site/](http://gaia-nails.business.site/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Mystic Nails  
Benicia Spa and Tan



**PET GROOMING**

**WINNER**

**Featherer Pet Inc**

1202 E 5th St,  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-5016  
[www.feathererpet.com/](http://www.feathererpet.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Broadway Pet Hospital  
The Barking Lot



**NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE**

**WINNER**

**Dennis Kittelson Legal  
Mind Attorney Service  
& Mobile Notary**

36 Wilson Ave, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 655-5415  
[www.facebook.com/pages/category/Notary-Public/Legal-Mind-Attorney-Service-1490725331196276/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Notary-Public/Legal-Mind-Attorney-Service-1490725331196276/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

UPS Store Benicia  
UPS Store Vallejo



**PHOTOGRAPHER**

**WINNER**

**Rocio Rivera**

[www.rociorivera.com/](http://www.rociorivera.com/)

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Theresa Knight  
Photography  
Justin Laugen  
Photography



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& Coatings**

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TNT Painting  
Bill Aton Painting



**PLUMBING COMPANY**

**WINNER**

**Up2Code  
Plumbing Inc**

3710 Mallard Dr, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 751-1714  
<http://www.up2codeplumbing.com/>

**RUNNERS-UP**

Benicia Plumbing Inc  
ABC Plumbing



**PEST CONTROL**

**WINNER**

**Clarks Pest Control**

811 Eubanks Dr, Vacaville, CA 95688  
(707) 244-6000  
[www.clarkpest.com/locations/vacaville-ca?utm\\_source=GMB&utm\\_medium=vacaville&utm\\_campaign=Website](http://www.clarkpest.com/locations/vacaville-ca?utm_source=GMB&utm_medium=vacaville&utm_campaign=Website)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Farmer's Pest Control  
Fungus Fighters Termite  
and Construction Inc



**POOL AND SPA COMPANY**

**WINNER**

**North Bay  
Water Services**

4238 Lozano Ln, Fairfield, CA 94534  
(800) 448-0362  
[nbws.com/](http://nbws.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

S & C Pool Service  
Wetmore Swimming Pool Co



## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



### PRESCHOOL

#### WINNER

#### Mee Mee's Lil Grasshoppers

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Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 315-5869  
<http://meemeslilgrasshoppers.com/>

#### RUNNERS-UP

Happy Hearts Preschool  
Vallejo Parent Nursery  
School Preschool



### REAL ESTATE OFFICE - BENICIA

#### WINNER

#### Coldwell Banker Solano Pacific

900 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-6000  
[www.coldwellbanker.com/coldwell-banker-solano-pacific-3903c](http://www.coldwellbanker.com/coldwell-banker-solano-pacific-3903c)

#### RUNNERS-UP

Twin Oaks Real Estate  
Hamann Real Estate



### PRINTING COMPANY

#### WINNER

#### Minuteman Press

812 Tennessee St,  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 647-1000  
[www.vallejo.minutemanpress.com/](http://www.vallejo.minutemanpress.com/)

#### RUNNERS-UP

Solano Print Plus (Sir Speedy)  
Wheeler-Sonoma Printers



### REAL ESTATE OFFICE - VALLEJO

#### WINNER

#### Krystle Properties

2101 Tennessee St,  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 554-6696  
[www.krystleproperties.com/](http://www.krystleproperties.com/)

#### RUNNERS-UP

Mustico Realty  
Century 21 Schutjer Realty, Inc.



### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

#### WINNER

#### Krystle Properties

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(707) 554-6696  
[www.krystleproperties.com/](http://www.krystleproperties.com/)

#### RUNNERS-UP

Estey Real Estate  
Hamann Real Estate & Property Management

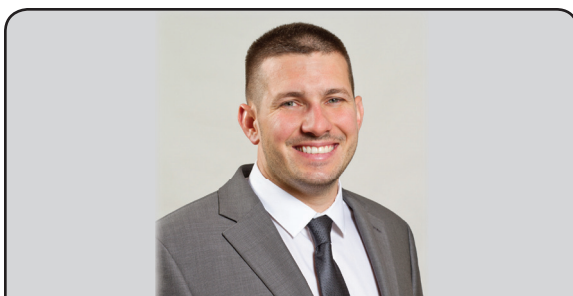


### ROOFING COMPANY

#### WINNER

#### Henry Roofing

Escalante Roofing  
Govea Roofing



### REAL ESTATE AGENT

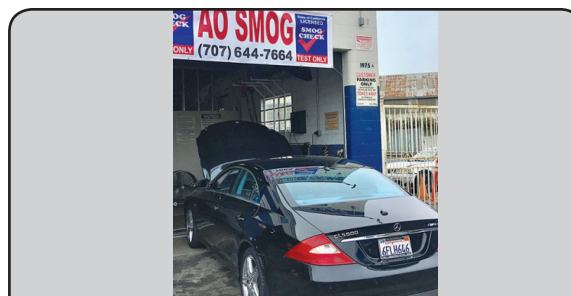
#### WINNER

#### Ryan DeAmaral, Twin Oaks Real Estate

231 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(510) 734-7400  
[ryandeamaral.com/about-me/](http://ryandeamaral.com/about-me/)

#### RUNNERS-UP

Jennifer Castaneda,  
Coldwell Banker  
Kelly Baldwin, Hamann Real Estate



### SMOG CHECK

#### WINNER

#### AO SMOG

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#### RUNNERS-UP

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**WINNER**  
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[www.securitypublicstorage.com/locations/vallejo?utm\\_source=GMBlisting&utm\\_medium=organic](http://www.securitypublicstorage.com/locations/vallejo?utm_source=GMBlisting&utm_medium=organic)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
Fleetview Self Storage  
Public Storage



**TAX SERVICE**

**WINNER**  
**Tax Ace**  
485 Redwood St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 557-5198  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
The Bookkeepers  
Anderson & Associates



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**WINNER**  
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2525 Springs Rd, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 554-1919  
[www.lalumieretanning.com/](http://www.lalumieretanning.com/)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
Benicia Spa And Tan  
Golden Reef



**TITLE COMPANY**

**WINNER**  
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120 Springstowne Center Suite B, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 552-2626  
[www.oldrepublictitle.com/california/solano/vallejo](http://www.oldrepublictitle.com/california/solano/vallejo)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
First American Title  
Fidelity National Title Company



**TATTOO PARLOR**

**WINNER**  
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(707) 648-2070  
<http://www.hotinktattoos.com/>  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
Allied Ink Vallejo  
Bombshell Hair And Ink



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**WINNER**  
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[calstate.aaa.com/?y\\_source=1\\_MTizMTUwNzgtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D](http://calstate.aaa.com/?y_source=1_MTizMTUwNzgtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
George's Tow and Repossessions Co  
Wiler's Towing Inc



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Law Office of Mark Boling



**TRAVEL AGENCY**

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[calstate.aaa.com/?y\\_source=1\\_MTizMTUwNzgtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D](http://calstate.aaa.com/?y_source=1_MTizMTUwNzgtNzE1LWxvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
AAA Travel-Rose Staadt  
Mad About Travel



## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



## VETERINARY SERVICE

## WINNER

**Broadway Pet Hospital**

1000 Broadway, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 642-0633  
[www.broadwaypethospitalvallejo.com/](http://www.broadwaypethospitalvallejo.com/)

## RUNNERS-UP

**Redwood Veterinary Hospital**  
**All Creatures Veterinary Hospital**



## WINDOW TREATMENT

## WINNER

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[www.vallejo tintshop.com/](http://www.vallejo tintshop.com/)

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## RETAIL &amp; SHOPPING

## Best Book Store: Alibi Bookshop, Vallejo

BY KATY ST. CLAIR  
TIMES-HERALD

**K**aren Finlay loves books. She and her husband Jon Burchard also just love Vallejo. They moved here a few years ago from Oakland and just fell in love with the community. But when she saw that the Vallejo Bookstore was up for sale, they jumped at the chance to create her dream job -- working for themselves, surrounded by books. Finlay has been in publishing for most of her professional life so it was a great fit.

And it shows -- the shop is charming, especially the children's section, which she carefully curates. But the best part of opening the store, she says, has been getting to know the community better.

People of all ages and interests come in and they have made a lot of friends who are dedicated to maintaining a good bookstore in Vallejo. Just don't mention the "A" word -- Amazon.

It's no secret that independent bookstores can struggle, but having one in a town that is so supportive of local business has been really important. People either come in and buy a pile of books or special order whatever they need. And Finlay loves to recommend books to people who might not know exactly what they want, something an algorithm can't offer.

"People are starting to figure out that Amazon isn't that good of a deal," she said. "They don't do anything for communities. ... People say, 'I want to support you, I want your doors open' so everyone has just been really supportive."

If ordering online is still the best way for customers, Karen and Jon have a collaboration with [bookshop.org/shop/alibibookshop](https://bookshop.org/shop/alibibookshop). Any book will come straight from the distributor and be delivered right to your door. You can also just email them and they will take care of everything.

This kind of service became a lifesaver in the last few months. Momentum for the store was just getting going when COVID-19 hit, but, as with most businesses, the couple decided to get creative.

They ramped up online ordering for customers and have been holding sidewalk sales



in front of the store. The shop's monthly Book Club would meet over Zoom, too. In fact, folks from outside of the area are even able to take part since it's online.

Finlay is also very wise to the ways of social media and keeps an active Facebook group. She also posts "Book Stories" about interactions she has had with customers that have found something magical to read in her shop... especially little kids.

Finlay is crazy about Nancy Drew, for example, and has loved introducing the detective to children. One child that came in loudly exclaimed, "This is the best place in the whole world!"

In addition to selling books and the book club, the shop has hosted author talks and even had go-go dancers once. Oh, and Santa Clause. The store has also recently stocked up on holiday gifts.

"We are encouraging people to shop early," she says. "We can't have a lot of people in the store at once, everyone has to be masked. So far everyone has been great about it."

Alibi Bookshop is located at 624 Marin St., in Vallejo. They can be reached at 707-563-5179 or at their website, [alibibookshop.com](https://alibibookshop.com).

Other winners in this category include Bookshop Benicia, runner up for Best Book Store. They are located at 636 1st St., in Benicia and can be reached at 707-747-5155 or at their website, [bookshopbenicia.indielite.org](https://bookshopbenicia.indielite.org). Best Flooring and Carpet Store went to West Coast Floor Company, 420 Virginia St. #1A, in Vallejo. Appointments can be made by calling 707-864-2199 or visit their website at [westcoastfloorco.com](https://westcoastfloorco.com). Another runner-up for Best Book Store is Zeppelin Comics, 929 1st St. in Benicia, 707-297-6126 or go to [zeppelincomics.com](https://zeppelincomics.com).



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CANNABIS STORE**

**WINNER**

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Holistic Health  
Center)**

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[www.vhhc420.org/](http://www.vhhc420.org/)

**RUNNERS-UP**

California Collective Care  
US Bloom



**APPLIANCE STORE**

**WINNER**

**Lowe's**

401 Columbus Pkwy,  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 563-3040  
[www.lowes.com/store/CA-Vallejo/1871](http://www.lowes.com/store/CA-Vallejo/1871)

**RUNNERS-UP**

Costco  
Pearsons



**ANTIQUE STORE**

**WINNER**

**Antiques on  
First**

919 1st St,  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 751-3727

**RUNNERS-UP**

Romancing the Home  
Spruce Vallejo



**AUTO SUPPLY STORE**

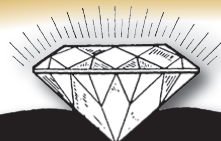
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**RUNNERS-UP**

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www.ulta.com/stores/vallejo-ca-1218

RUNNERS-UP

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Cosmo Prof



CLOTHING MENS

WINNER

**Victory Stores**

435 Virginia St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 642-0467

RUNNERS-UP

Kohl's  
A Man and His Hat



BOOK STORE

WINNER

**Alibi Bookshop**

624 Marin St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 563-5179  
alibibookshop.com/

RUNNERS-UP

Bookshop Benicia  
Zeppelin Comics



CLOTHING WOMENS

WINNER

**Collective Boutique**

935 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 742-4031  
www.calicollective.com/

RUNNERS-UP

Boutique Classique  
Pink Arrows Boutique



BUILDING SUPPLY/  
HARDWARE STORE

WINNER

**Pedrotti Ace Hardware - Benicia**

830 Southampton Rd, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-6887  
www.acehardware.com/store-details/06933

RUNNERS-UP

O'Connor Lumber & Ace Hardware  
Lowes



FLOORING AND CARPET STORE

WINNER

**West Coast Floor Company**

420 Virginia St #1A, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 864-2199  
www.westcoastfloorco.com/

RUNNERS-UP

Benicia Floor Company  
Floors on First



CABINET SHOP

WINNER

**Affordable Quality Cabinets**

4852 E 2nd St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-2100  
aqchome.com/

RUNNERS-UP

Benicia Home Improvement Center  
Benicia Cabinetry



FURNITURE STORE

WINNER

**Three Brothers Furniture**

3274 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 644-4168  
threebrothersfurniture.net/

RUNNERS-UP

Ironhorse Home Furnishings  
Pieced on Earth



## RETAIL AND SHOPPING



**GIFT SHOP**

**WINNER**

**Romancing the Home**

617 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 747-1717  
<http://www.benicia-rth.com/>

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Spruce Vallejo  
Collective



**JEWELRY STORE**

**WINNER**

**DeMares Jewelers**

3555 Sonoma Blvd #10, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 552-2000  
[www.demaresjewelers.com/](http://www.demaresjewelers.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Roberto's Fine Jewelry  
Collective



**LANDSCAPING SUPPLY STORE**

**WINNER**

**Mid City Nursery**

3635 Broadway, American Canyon, CA 94503  
(707) 642-4167  
<http://www.midcitynursery.com/>

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Pedrotti Ace Hardware - Benicia  
Crown Hill Stone Supply



**MOTORCYCLE DEALER**

**WINNER**

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[www.mach1motorsports.com/](http://www.mach1motorsports.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Ride-On Motorcycles  
Powersports of Vallejo



**NEW CAR DEALER**

**WINNER**

**Toyota Of Vallejo**

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[toyotavallejo.com](http://toyotavallejo.com)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Avery Greene Honda  
DGDG Team Superstores

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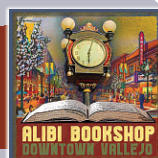
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## RETAIL AND SHOPPING



### PET STORE

#### WINNER Pet Food Express

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(707) 748-4477  
[www.petfood.express/](http://www.petfood.express/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Powell Bros. Pet Supply  
Haute Dog Barkery



### TIRE STORE

#### WINNER Big O Tires

415 Military E, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-0244  
[www.bigotires.com/store-locator](http://www.bigotires.com/store-locator)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Costco  
Les Schwab Tire Centers



### SHOE STORE

#### WINNER DSW

151 Plaza Dr, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 652-6001  
[stores.dsw.com/usa/ca/vallejo/dsw-designer-shoe-warehouse-gateway-plaza.html](http://stores.dsw.com/usa/ca/vallejo/dsw-designer-shoe-warehouse-gateway-plaza.html)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Collective  
Skechers



### USED CAR DEALER

#### WINNER Toyota of Vallejo

201 Auto Mall Pkwy, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 552-4545  
[toyotavallejo.com](http://toyotavallejo.com)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Avery Greene Honda  
Carmax



### SPORTING GOODS

#### WINNER Big 5 Sporting Goods

3485 Sonoma Blvd, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 553-8959  
[www.big5sportinggoods.com/store/](http://www.big5sportinggoods.com/store/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Star Sports  
Triple A's Sporting Goods



### THRIFT STORE

#### WINNER Eco Thrift

490 Redwood St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 557-0238  
<http://ecothrift.com/vallejo/>

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Happy Tails Thrift Store  
Rags to Riches

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## THINGS TO DO

## Best Martial Arts: Vallejos Taekwondo Academy

BY KATY ST. CLAIR  
TIMES-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Many people might be surprised to learn that Vallejos Taekwondo Academy is actually in Benicia -- that's because it is named for its proprietors, the Vallejos -- Debbie and her husband, who goes by Master Vallejos.

They have been running the Academy since 1882 and can honestly say that they have helped raise many children alongside their parents.

"We are an extended family. Everybody loves my husband, everybody! They love me too," Debbie said, laughing. "Sometimes the kids don't like me... I just say things how I want to say it. 'Johnny's not listening, Johnny is not doing his chores... I reinforce what the parents want."

Martial arts are a great way to build life skills such as discipline, focus, patience, and self-defense. But it was the Vallejos that had to really get disciplined after COVID-19 emerged and their academy was forced to close.

"Wow," she says, "that has been an experience of a lifetime. We had to become creative."

The Vallejos started a private Facebook group and students were given assignments over the net.

"The parents -- God love them all, had to record them doing their assignment via their phones and then upload it to the group," Debbie said.

In actuality, the parents and kids were excited to have some structure and interaction with others, albeit virtual, Debbie said.

"My husband would review all of them... give them their attendance on their card, and that went on until May. And then Clair, who is my left arm, she got us onto Zoom... and then we did that until on June 15 when we were allowed to open up again."

Not that it was smooth sailing being open again. Though the requirements were the wearing of masks and standing at least 6-feet apart from one another, Master Vallejo insisted on a 10-foot spread just to be extra safe.

They even had classes in the parking lot.

"It was a lot of work but the parents stuck with us for several reasons," Debbie said. "They are stuck at home doing Zoom for their school



work but with no socialization. They can't go to the park, they can't hug or see their friends, but here at their second home-away-from-home they were able to be outside, do what their passion was, and at least talk to people."

Most all of the businesses that were voted "Best" in the reader's poll have one thing in common — people see them as family.

Clair Zuasola and her children are all on track to get their black belts, but for them the school is much more than a place to get a workout.

"The school is just amazing," she said. "It's very family-oriented and disciplined. They teach all the kids everything that you need to know out in the world. They pretty much set the bar for how to protect yourself, your manners, and especially when it comes to home they instill the family values as well as what you need to do at home -- your chores, your homework, respect for elders and your parents. They are pretty much my second parents to my kids."

In addition to Taekwondo lessons, they offer boxing and grappling, among other classes. Vallejos Taekwondo Academy is located at 425 Military E in Benicia and can be reached at 707-746-1795 or via their website at vallejos-taekwondo.com



Runners up in this category include The Inn at Benicia Bay, an 1854 Victorian with seven cozy rooms. 145 East D St., Benicia 707-746-1055 (theinnatbeniciabay.com). The Empress Theatre is a great place to see live entertainment, talks, events, and movies. It is located at 330 Virginia St., in Vallejo and can be reached at 707-552-2400 or at empress-theatre.org. If you want to take in 18 holes, you can't go wrong with Blue Rock Springs Golf Course, 655 Columbus Pkwy, 707-643-8476, bluerockspringsgolf.com. Runner-up for Best Martial Arts is New Creation Wrestling and Jiu Jitsu in Benicia at 675 E H St., 707-816-8469, newcreationwrestlingandjiujitsu.com.



THINGS TO DO



ART GALLERY

**WINNER**  
**El Comalito Collective Cultural Center**  
302 Georgia St #5907, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 278-4002  
[www.elcomalitocollective.com/contact.html](http://www.elcomalitocollective.com/contact.html)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Plein Air Gallery  
The Little Art Shop



GOLF COURSE

**WINNER**  
**Blue Rock Springs Golf Course**  
655 Columbus Pkwy, Vallejo, CA 94591  
(707) 643-8477  
[www.bluerockspringsgolf.com/](http://www.bluerockspringsgolf.com/)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
Hiddenbrooke Golf Club  
Eagle Vines Golf Club



BED AND BREAKFAST

**WINNER**  
**The Inn At Benicia Bay**  
145 E D St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 746-1055  
[www.theinnatbeniciabay.com/](http://www.theinnatbeniciabay.com/)

**RUNNERS-UP**  
Shorelight Inn  
Jefferson Street Mansion  
Bed & Breakfast



HEALTH CLUB

**WINNER**  
**Training Loft 714**  
714 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 742-4043  
[www.beniciatraining.com/](http://www.beniciatraining.com/)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
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## THINGS TO DO



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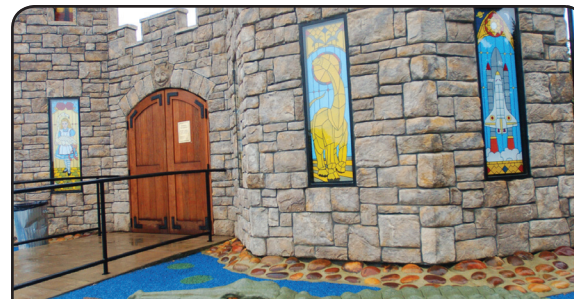
### WINNER

#### Union Hotel

401 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 746-0110  
[www.unionhotelbenicia.com/](http://www.unionhotelbenicia.com/)

### RUNNERS-UP

Courtyard By Marriott  
Inn at Benicia Bay



**PLACE FOR A CHILDREN'S PARTY**

### WINNER

#### Children's Wonderland

360 Glenn St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 980-8004  
[www.gvrd.org/gvrd-parks/childrens-wonderland/](http://www.gvrd.org/gvrd-parks/childrens-wonderland/)

### RUNNERS-UP

BrickSpace  
Pizza Pirate



**MARTIAL ARTS**

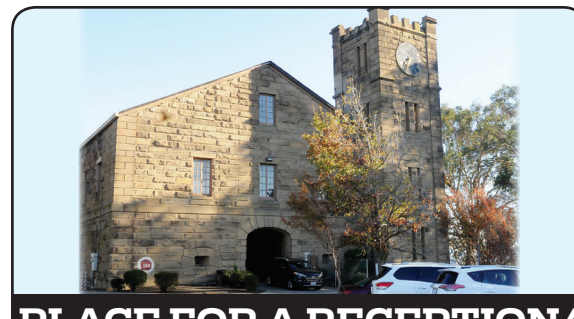
### WINNER

#### Vallejos Tae Kwon Do Academy

425 Military E, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 746-1795  
[www.vallejostaekwondo.com/](http://www.vallejostaekwondo.com/)

### RUNNERS-UP

New Creation Wrestling &  
Jiu Jitsu Academy  
Combat Fitness-  
Rapacon's Martial Arts



**PLACE FOR A RECEPTION/  
PRIVATE PARTY**

### WINNER

#### Benicia Clock Tower

1189 Washington St, Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 746-4285  
[www.ci.benicia.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=0F1F1E42-7C13-47B2-9CE8-9FD1737C1497&DE=6C6829DE-75FD-4DC4-94F5-66DD197B85B9](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=0F1F1E42-7C13-47B2-9CE8-9FD1737C1497&DE=6C6829DE-75FD-4DC4-94F5-66DD197B85B9)

### RUNNERS-UP

Vino Godfather  
Admiral's Mansions at  
Mare Island

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THINGS TO DO



**PLACE FOR A WEDDING**

**WINNER**  
**St. Peter's Chapel at Mare Island**  
1181 Walnut Ave, Vallejo, CA 94592  
(707) 557-4646  
<http://www.mareislandmuseum.org/venues/st-peters-chapel/>  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
**Admiral's Mansions at Mare Island**  
**Jefferson Street Mansion**



**PLACE FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**WINNER**  
**Empress Theatre**  
330 Virginia St, Vallejo, CA 94590  
(707) 552-2400  
[empresstheatre.org/](http://empresstheatre.org/)  
**RUNNERS-UP**  
**Lucca's Bar & Grill**  
**Bay Area Stage**

thank  
you!

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