

ACEWeekly Welcome to the "I myself am finding the whole thing rather intoxicat-

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> EDITRIX Rhonda Reeve

ART DIRECTOR Clif Dicken

PRODUCTION MANAGER Cailvn Husto

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS (ONLINE + PRINT) Kevin Faris, Keegan Frank, Rob Morris, Megan Neff Dave Overton, Kakie Urch, Todd Wright, Andrew Wyllie

> WEBMASTER Matt Sparks

DISPLAY ADVERTISING 859.225.4889, ext. 235 ads@aceweekly.com **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING** 859.225.4889, ext. 237

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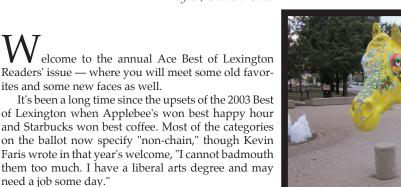
ing. Our little town the site of an international sports event like this. You have no idea how much wrangling it took to get them here. I lobbied the coordinators for weeks. It was a lot of ouzo and karaoke."

ites and some new faces as well.

need a job some day.'

arts & entertainment

– Taylor, Gilmore Girls



There might be an endless war going on out there between McDonald's and Wendy's, or Pizza Hut vs Dominos, we'll just trust the marketplace to sort that out on its own.

Some "classic" categories are retired this year to make room for new ones to rotate in - best veterinarian and best mechanic always generate a frenzy of votes, for example - but Chevy Chase Small Animal and Lowell's (respectively) have won so often that it was time to let the readers vote for something new, like a horse, or a cupcake. Or Coach Cal for best...taqueria? OK. That category is retired too. (Though he still swept a few others.)

By the time you read this, The World Equestrian Games will be just one week away. Best Horsemania Horse was the first category in this year's ballot — a category more heavily contested than almost any other. The winner in the print ballot was Henry, by artist Mary Wathen, a tribute to the late artist Henry Faulkner. Fierce contenders were Brian Endicott's horse, "Bourbon Barrel" along with "Running Around in Circles" by Blake Eames. Also popular with the Ace Readers was Duane Keaton's "Digital Horse" at Main and Mill.

This was the first year Ace Readers got to vote in a category by checking in on Foursquare, and the winning entry there with the most check-ins was Chris Huestis's Silver Rose.

(Expect to see a lot of Ace on FourSquare as we tag this year's winners.)

Because of the Games, Ace will extend Best of Lex this year to an entire month of celebrating two decades of the Best of Lexington with a series of 17 Daily Blogs (at www.aceweekly.blogspot.com), kicking off on September 24.

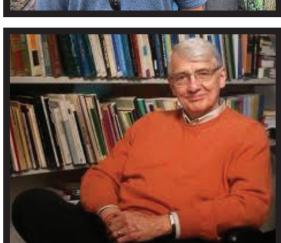
In these blogs, we'll highlight some of this year's winners, past year's winners, and general favorites of the Ace Readers. One day might be a profile of the late artist Henry Faulkner, another might highlight some of the chefs who are participating in the James Beard Celebrity Chef series as part of WEG.

We are enjoying introducing Lexington to natives and visitors alike as we notice the blog traffic increasing every day from Germany to Australia.

For now, enjoy this very special Best of Lex edition. We hope to see you Friday at the Celebration, and online, everyday (via twitter, facebook, and the Ace Daily Blog).

The annual Best of Lex Celebration will be at the newly renovated Barrel House in the Distillery District from 5 pm to 7 pm on Friday, September 17 – kicking off Gallery Hop just a few doors down from this year's winner for Best Live Music: Buster's.







Best Horsemania Horse

HENRY, A Tribute To Henry Faulkner. Artist Mary Wathen. Sponsor Hilliard Lyons. Triangle Park.

Runners Up: Bourbon Barrel by Brian Endicott Running Around in Circles by Blake Eames

Best Horsemania Horse on Foursquare: Silver Rose

Best visual art exhibit in last year

PASSING, Lexington Art League

Runner Up: Bob Morgan at Institute 193; Nude 2010

Best local visual artist

JOHN LACKEY

RUNNERS UP: Phillip March Jones, Arturo Sandoval

Best Lexington author

GURNEY NORMAN

Runners Up: Ed McClanahan; Kim Edwards

Best live music venue

BUSTERS

Runners Up: Al's Bar, Cosmic Charlie's

Best local theater production

RENT

Runners Up: Sisters Provocateur; "No Exit" Balagula Honorable Mention: "LFUCG meetings"

eat & drink







Best Chef

JONATHAN LUNDY

Runners Up: Ouita Michel; Jeremy Ashby

Best restaurant for Eating Locally

HOLLY HILL INN

Runners Up: Jonathan, Alfalfa

Best Cup of Coffee (non-chain)

THIRD STREET

Runner Up: CoffeeTimes

Best \$10 buck lunch (non-chain)

HANNA'S ON LIME

Runners Up: Sidebar, Stella's

Best Specialty/Gourmet Store

FRESH MARKET

RUNNERS UP: Wine + Market, Oliva Bella

Best new restaurant (opened in last year)

THE GREY GOOSE

Runner Up: Six Friends Cafe

Best dinner \$100 bucks+

AZUR

Runners Up: Jonathan, Metropol

Best burger (non-chain)

SAWYERS

Runner Up: the Stella Burger; the Buddy Burger



Best VETERAN local restaurant

COLUMBIA'S

Runners Up: Merrick Inn, Ramsey's

Best romantic restaurant

a la lucie

Runners Up: Dudley's, The Dish

Best beer selection on tap (non-chain)

THE BEER TRAPPE

Runners Up: Chase Tap Room, The Pub

Best Happy Hour (non-chain)

CHEAPSIDE

Runner Up: Pazzo's Pint Night

Best Cupcake

GIGI'S

RUNNERS UP: babycakes; Belle's





local color: people & places



Coach Cal Runners Up: Ashley Judd; Pearse Lyons

Best grassroots organization

Progress Lex Runners Up: March Madness Marching Band; Moveable Feast

Best local activist/hellraiser

Jim Embry Runners Up: Graham Pohl; Ben Self

Best old building rehab

PROGRESS

Voce Salon (on Clay) Runners Up: Dudley's on Short; Grey Goose

Best use for Centrepointe block

A Grocery Store Runners Up: Amphitheatre, Farmers' Market



Best thing to happen to downtown this year

Farmers Market Pavilion Runners Up: finishing Streetscapes; Newtown Pike extension; Bike Lexington

Best thing to happen to suburbs this year

Beaumont Amphitheatre (Moon-Dance) [[[photo]]]] Runners Up: Legacy Trail; Apple Store

Best charity event/fundraiser in last year

H'Artful of Fun Runners Up: Spirit of Giving at Buster's; Woodford Humane's FreedomFest

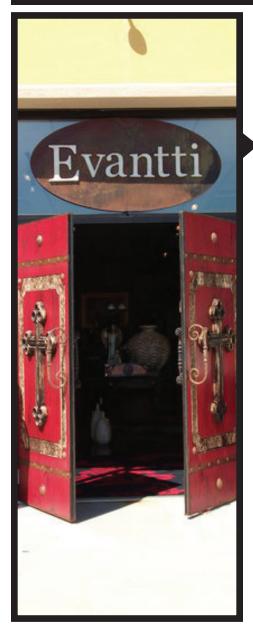
Best political grudge to settle in a cage match (loser leaves town)

Mayor Jim Newberry vs. Vice Mayor Jim Gray Runners Up: Joe Sonka vs Doug Martin; O'Neill vs True PVA



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the goods



Best bicycle shop

PEDAL POWER Runners Up: Pedal the Planet; Schellers

Best Antiques SCOUT Runners Up: Belle Maison; Greentree

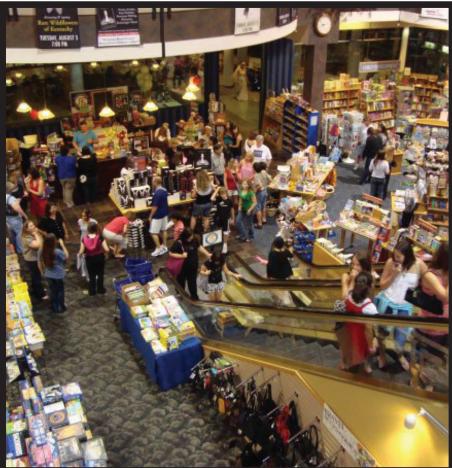
Best contemporary furniture **EVANTTI** Runner Up: Christopher Michael; Lexington Furniture

Best \$10 buck gifts THIRD STREET Runners Up: Sqecial Media; Two Chicks

Best bookstore JOSEPH BETH Runners Up: Morris Book Shop, Half Price Books

Best New Store House Runner Up: The Apple Store





services & professionals

Best Fear-Free dentist

DR. FRED SCHROEDER Runner Up: Dr. Gina Higgins

ANITA BRITTON Runner Up: Julie Butcher

Best florist

BEST OF FLOWERS Runner Up: Stephen Hein

Best landscaper

HENKEL DENMARK Runner Up: Stephen Hillenmeyer

Best lawyer

Best realtor

WHITNEY PANNELL Runner Up: Rick Queen



media/social media/new media





Next group Most Likely to be Investigated by HL

"Coal" Runner Up: University of Kentucky; Water Company

Best Lex Twitter

@UKCOACHCALIPARI Runners Up: @WhitneyPannell

Best Lex Facebook Page

CRICKET PRESS Runners Up: Lexington Legends; Sidebar's "Girl Page" Best Mayor...on foursquare

WYN MORRIS Runners Up: AsianSteev, Heather Auman

Best local blog (non corporate)

BAREFOOT AND PROGRESSIVE Runners Up: Kentucky Sports Radio; You Ain't No Picasso; CanonChef

Best TV weather guy

TG SHUCK Runner Up: Bill Meck

Best TV weather gal

MARY WASSON Runner Up: Kristie Kubovik

Best TV anchor guy

KEVIN CHRISTOPHER Runners Up: Sam Dick; Marvin Bartlett

Best TV anchor gal

KRISTEN PFLUM Runners Up: Nancy Cox; Jennifer Nime Palumbo

Best DJ

MICK JEFFRIES (WRFL) Runner Up: Twitch

Best local radio show

THE LEACH REPORT Runners Up: Trivial Thursdays; Curtains at 8

Best Lex netroots movement in last year

"ART PARKING METERS" (Change for Art) Runner Up: Bury the PowerLines



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