



# 2024 VERNON COUNTY AWARDS


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*The Vernon County Awards celebrate exceptional individuals, businesses, non-profits, and organizations that make our community vibrant. This year we are presenting ten awards for outstanding achievements across various sectors, with one winner per category, plus a People's Choice award selected from the pool of nominations. Nominations are open to everyone—see our website FAQ for details and more information on the selection process. Please contact Larkin Breckel at [larkin.breckel@vernoncounty.org](mailto:larkin.breckel@vernoncounty.org) or (608) 637-5334 with any questions.*

**Small Business of the Year Award:** This award recognizes a small business (19 or fewer employees) that had a successful year, invested in the community, has a positive culture, has unique and innovative approaches, and/ or has overcome a significant business challenge.

**Large Business of the Year Award:** This award recognizes a large business (over 20 employees) that had a successful year, invested in the community, has a positive culture, has unique and innovative approaches, and/ or has overcome a significant business challenge.

**Emerging Entrepreneurship Excellence Award:** This award recognizes a company or individual that is under two years in business and has demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial spirit, leadership, perseverance, innovation, and determination, contributing significantly to economic development. This award is open to emerging businesses and entrepreneurs of all sizes and stages, including those without a brick-and-mortar location.



**Community Impact Award:** This award recognizes an individual who has made exceptional contributions to community development or economic growth through innovative efforts and community engagement. Nominees for this category can be outstanding volunteers, leaders, public servants, employees, educators, healthcare professionals, or any other individuals who have had a meaningful impact on their community.

**Non-Profit Excellence Award:** This award recognizes a non-profit organization that demonstrates strong leadership, innovation, public cooperation, and shows community impact by demonstrating positive change because of the organization's work.

**Event of the Year Award:** This award recognizes an event put on by a for-profit or not-for-profit organization that has made a significant impact on community and economic development. Whether enhancing quality of life for residents or boosting local tourism and encouraging overnight stays, the event should demonstrate substantial contributions to making the area a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

**Youth Leadership Award:** This award recognizes young leaders or youth-led initiatives that have positively impacted community or economic development.

**Partnership for Progress:** This award celebrates exceptional collaborations between public, private, and/or non-profit sectors that have led to meaningful community or economic development. Nominate projects that showcase effective teamwork across different sectors, such as a public-private partnership creating a new community park, a joint initiative between businesses and local non-profits to revitalize a neighborhood, or a collaborative effort to develop a workforce training program.

**Heritage Preservation and Cultural Development Award:** This award recognizes efforts to preserve local heritage or promote cultural activities that contribute to community development. Eligible efforts include festivals, programming, tours, preservation projects and more.

**Resilience Award:** This award recognizes an individual, business, or organization that has demonstrated exceptional resilience in overcoming significant challenges or adversity.

