





~ Carl Saenger ~ Karen Kelty Sandra Cope ~ Iara Aberne ~ Albert Minasiar.



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he Best Of Readers' Choice Poll has published the community's thoughts on the best our city has to offer for more than 25 years and this year marks the debut of the Best Of Hall of Fame, which honors the men, women, businesses and organizations that not only have a long history of excellence in their respective fields but give back to the community as well. While there is a long list of eligible entries, the following are the finalists for the inaugural Hall of Fame class. For more details and to see who is inducted, keep an eve out for the upcoming Best Of Winners Circle publication.

• **Dewar's** – A Bakersfield institution since 1909, Dewar's is a community favorite – wellknown locally and beyond for its fine candies and ice cream.

• **Urner's** – Celebrating 100 years earlier this year, Urner's has been a local staple for furniture, appliances, electronics and more.

• Jim Burke Ford – Jim Burke Ford began in 1964 and today is one of the biggest Ford dealerships in the nation.

• **Dignity Health** – In 1910, William Howell Sr. and other community leaders saw a need for a private hospital in Bakersfield. Bakersfield now has three Dignity Health hospitals in Mercy Hospital Downtown, Mercy Hospital Southwest and Memorial Hospital. • Log Cabin Florist – Bakersfield's oldest flower shop was established in 1938 and has been voted Best Florist since the inception of the Best Of Readers' Choice Poll – a testament to its track record for providing outstanding customer service and superior products.

• Chain Cohn Stiles – For 85 years, Chain Cohn Stiles has represented clients from the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the state in personal injury and workers' compensation claims.

• Guarantee Shoe Center – Guarantee Shoe Center has been a family affair since its start in 1953 on the corner of 21st Street and Chester Avenue.

• Luigi's – Opening in 1910, Luigi's is one of Bakersfield's oldest continuously family operated businesses – the product of Italian immigrants coming together.

• Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center – In 1984, Dr. Ravi Patel opened a 1,200-square-foot cancer clinic, bringing his vision of providing cancer patients with specialized medical and emotional care to Bakersfield.

• Kern Schools Federal Credit Union – "People helping people" is the philosophy behind Kern Schools Federal Credit Union and the financial institution has served the needs of Kern County since 1938.