



2013 Small Business Award Recipients

January.....	<u>Jillian's Italian Grill</u>
February.....	<u>Ineeda Cleaners</u>
March.....	<u>Pleasantview Home Improvement</u>
April.....	<u>Elliott Mortuary</u>
May.....	<u>Metropolitan Coffee</u>
June.....	<u>Westphal Jewelers</u>

Nominate A Small Business

The Chamber Small Business Committee is seeking Small Business Award nominations from Reno County small businesses.

If you know of a deserving small Chamber business, we encourage you to nominate them for this award. Requirements for consideration are Chamber membership, in business for at least three years, and employs 40 or fewer people. [CLICK HERE](#) to nominate a business today!

Small Business Award Winner

January 2013 Small Business Award Winner

In recognition of the significant contribution to economic growth that small business makes in Reno County, the Chamber and The Hutchinson News partner to offer the Reno County Small Business Award.

The January Small Business Award goes to Jillian's Italian Grill, located at 216 N Main Street in Hutchinson.

For owners Jill and Gary Brown, starting Jillian's Italian Grill was truly a family affair. The pair began the restaurant in 2009 as an opportunity to work together as a team, rather than keeping separate jobs. They gutted and remodeled their location, added a wine cellar, and of course, filled the cellar with 2000 bottles of wine!



To keep their restaurant filled with customers, Jillian's has had to think "outside of the box." They host special events and dinners during times when they are not open to the public. For Jillian's, giving their customers a great experience is key to their success. They spend extra time extensively training their staff and hire people who are passionate about what they do. The result is a warm, inviting atmosphere, where guests can have a great experience with good friends and great food.

Giving back to the community is also important to Jillian's. They have had the opportunity to sponsor several dinners for local charities, like TECH, and have participated in community events such as 3rd Thursdays, Shamwalk, and Taste-It, among others.

Congratulations, Jillian's Italian Grill!

We'd like to thank First National Bank of Hutchinson, the Hutchinson Credit Union, Eagle Communications, and KFSA Insurance for sponsoring this award, and the Hutchinson News for partnering with us to highlight that small businesses are a vital piece of Reno County's economic foundation.

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Small Business Award Winner

February 2013 Small Business Award Winner

In recognition of the significant contribution to economic growth that small business makes in Reno County, the Chamber and The Hutchinson News partner to offer the Reno County Small Business Award. During the February Membership Breakfast, the February Small Business Award was presented.

The February Small Business Award was presented to Ineeda Cleaners.

Chris and Rachel Nelson purchased Ineeda Cleaners in 2005. They have locations at 13th and Main and 525 E 30th. Since the Nelson's purchased the business, they have worked to see their business grow. They began working with businesses in surrounding communities to create drop off locations and now have routes that go to Wichita, Larned, Great Bend, Sterling, Lyons, and McPherson. Recently, they have purchased a commercial laundry in McPherson to diversify their services offered.

For Ineeda Cleaners, the most important aspect of their business is to have good relationships with both employees and customers. They strive to create a family atmosphere with their workers and have several long term staff. Many of the long term staff have developed close relationships with people in the community.

Community involvement is also very important to Chris and Rachel Nelson. Through Ineeda Cleaners, they provide the Coats for Kids program each year where gently used coats are donated from within the community, cleaned at their store, and distributed to children in need. Ineeda Cleaners is a member of the Chamber of Commerce where Rachel serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Chris will serve as Chairman of the TECH Foundation Board in 2014, and the two are involved in their church and volunteer at their children's schools.

Congratulations, Ineeda Cleaners!

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Small Business Award Winner

March 2013 Small Business Award Winner

In recognition of the significant contribution to economic growth that small business makes in Reno County, the Chamber and The Hutchinson News partner to offer the Reno County Small Business Award. During the March Membership Breakfast, the March Small Business Award was presented.

The March Small Business Award goes to Pleasantview Home Improvement, located at 6401 W Morgan Ave.

In 1956, Pleasantview Home Improvement had its beginnings in a vacant chicken house making Humphrey storm windows and doors. They had just 3 or 4 employees. After the community recognized the superior quality and customer service the team provided, the business quickly began to outgrow their space. In 1968, a new facility was built and the business moved to its current location, just 5 miles west of Hutchinson. The business expanded again in 1985 and then in 1995. Now, Pleasantview Home Improvement's products and services not only include storm windows and doors, but also seamless steel siding, vinyl siding, Provia windows and doors, seamless guttering, carports, canopies, and sun rooms. The company now employs a staff of 17.



For Pleasantview Home Improvement, installation and craftsmanship is the most crucial part of the business. They strive to give their customers more than they expect, and uphold a business culture of morals, ethics, and integrity. For the staff at Pleasantview Home Improvement, they consider it a privilege to work for their customers and they do everything they can to provide great customer care and excellent service and quality. Installers are trained and certified and there are several long-term employees.

Not only does Pleasantview Home Improvement take care of their customers, they also know the importance of giving back to the community. They sponsor a Walk Across Kansas team, support many schools, organizations, and community events such as Partridge Days and Abbyville Rodeo Days.

Congratulations, Pleasantview Home Improvement!

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Small Business Award Winner

April 2013 Small Business Award Winner

In recognition of the significant contribution to economic growth that small business makes in Reno County, the Chamber and The Hutchinson News partner to offer the Reno County Small Business Award. During the April Membership Breakfast, the April Small Business Award was presented.

The April Small Business Award goes to Elliott Mortuary, located at 1219 N Main St. in Hutchinson.

Elliott Mortuary is truly a family owned and operated business. Opening in 1931 by the current owner, Tom Elliott's grandfather's brother, the business has served the Hutchinson community for over 80 years. Throughout the years, Elliott Mortuary has seen numerous changes to the industry. In 2009, the business opened a crematory to accommodate the growing number of cremation requests. Today, cremation services are requested about 35% of the time, up from 2-3% 30 years ago.

Another aspect of the business that has changed over the years is the amount of personalization of services. Families are looking for more personalization in the forms of DVDs shown, PowerPoint slides, music choice, and other services. The 24 full and part-time staff at Elliott Mortuary make it their top priority to work with families to honor the ones they serve.

Elliott Mortuary supports numerous non-profit organizations in Reno County and is a proud member of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations, Elliott Mortuary!

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May 2013 Small Business Award Winner

In recognition of the significant contribution to economic growth that small business makes in Reno County, the Chamber and The Hutchinson News partner to offer the Reno County Small Business Award. During the May Membership Breakfast, the May Small Business Award was presented.

The May Small Business Award goes to Metropolitan Coffee, located at 1329 E. 17th Ave. in Hutchinson.

The word that best represents Metropolitan Coffee is SERVICE: Service to their employees, service to their customers, and service to the community. When Jim and Myra Kitson took ownership of Metropolitan Coffee in 2008 they kept the same employees and stayed at the same location on the corner of 17th and Lorraine, but the changes they made have grown the business and make an impact on our community. Over the years, Jim and Myra have expanded drink and pastry options, added airpot and pastry deliveries, scheduled weekly music and monthly artists and, on the 4th Sunday evening of every month, offer swing dance lessons. They say they are a coffee shop, but their primary product is how they make people feel when they come into the shop. Jim, Myra, and their staff or baristas have created an environment where every person who walks through their doors can feel comfortable, safe, accepted and important. For the team at Metropolitan Coffee, it's all about building relationships.

Metropolitan Coffee is involved in numerous service and charitable organizations. Some of the causes they have recently supported include mission trips to Haiti, Fiji, India, China, and in the US; New Beginnings, United Way, Kiwanis Club of Downtown Hutchinson, Hutch High after-prom, the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, and Reno County Communities that Care.

During the interview process for this award, we received a quote from the owners, regarding their success matrix: "Our success as a company is not gauged by how much money we make, but rather by our ability to give back to the local, national, and international community, and to give our customers a safe place they can come, where they can build meaningful relationships and create happy memories. Of course, we can't achieve this primary goal without being profitable, so we are constantly innovating for growth while concurrently being prudent on our purchase decisions."

Congratulations, Metropolitan Coffee!

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June 2013 Small Business Award Winner

In recognition of the significant contribution to economic growth that small business makes in Reno County, the Chamber and The Hutchinson News partner to offer the Reno County Small Business Award. During the June Membership Luncheon, the June Small Business Award was presented.

The June Small Business Award goes to Westphal Jewelers, located at 127 N. Main St. in Hutchinson.

Richard Westphal has been a proud member of the community for over 36 years. He opened his doors in 1977 and has built a strong reputation through excellent craftsmanship, quality, style, personal service and honesty.

Mr. Westphal has won more than 45 state and national awards for jewelry design excellence. He is the former President of The Kansas Jewelers Association, a member of The Independent Jewelers Association, Jewelers of America, and the American Gem Society. He has been on the board of The Mental Health Association, The Hutchinson Symphony, The Rotary Club, The Downtown Hutchinson Revitalization Partnership, The Hutchinson Town Club, Hospice of Reno County, and The Wichita Grand Opera. He is involved with The March of Dimes, TECH, The Reno County Cancer Council, Hospice of Reno County, and Reno County Middle School Art Program.

Through building personal relationships with his customers and his community, Mr. Westphal has become not only an incredible business man, but a generally helpful and caring part of our community.

R. Westphal Jewelers is a third generation family business and Richard is so proud to have both of his daughters Katie and Julie working with him. His eldest daughter Katie has been working alongside him since 1998 and Julie joined the business in 2011. Recently Richard, Katie and Julie collaborated on a custom design and won 1st place in a Design Competition for the Independent Jewelers Organization in Tampa Florida. Along with his family he has a small group of very loyal and experienced employees who attend educational classes and seminars to ensure they are always progressing and learning. His family and employees pride themselves in helping make Westphal Jewelers a great part of Hutchinson.

Mr. Westphal treats everyone equally and provides a great amount of care and knowledge to his family, his employees, his friends, and customers. He continues to push his creativity and pass his valuable knowledge to his daughters. Mr. Westphal will tell you, the best part of his job, is you.

Congratulations, Westphal Jewelers!

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