

BRUCE DAVIE'S USELESS OBJECTS, ON PARK AVENUE Reprinted with permission of the Rochester Business Journal. o matter what kind of shopping you want to do, you can do it somewhere in the Rochester area at leading national retailers and unique local boutiques. Traditional, area and national favorites can be found in Eastview, Marketplace, Pittsford Plaza and Greece Ridge malls. Eastview Mall in Victor is the area's largest with over 180 merchants and 1.3 million feet of space. It's rated best in the area by TripAdvisor users.

Eastview general manager Mike Kaufman says the mall's customer base continues to expand as it adds tenants. More than a dozen stores have opened in the last two years, including some in Upstate NY for the first time, such as **Brooks Brothers, Vans** and **Von Maur**.

Shoppers looking for artistic items can watch artists create and sell their work at **Village Gate**, located on North Goodman Street near the city's biggest museums. Owner Gary Stern says he was convinced the concept of creative shops and products mixed with eclectic restaurants and entertainment would work in Rochester's art community after observing similar models in Boston, Baltimore Harbor and Minneapolis.

Rochester is a runner's mecca with a slew of big races for professional and competitive runners—and beautiful parks and trails where recreational runners enjoy the outdoors. Fleet Feet Sports owners Ellen Brenner and Dave Boutillier provide more than just the right running shoes and accessories. Their stores at the Culver Road Armory and in Greece are at the core of the running community, providing training opportunities, race organization and technology in addition to all the latest brands of footwear.

Shopping for furniture is fun for Bruce Davie, who owns Useless Objects—and for store patrons looking for the renewed popularity of midcentury design as well. Located in the popular and trendy Park Avenue district, Useless Objects has items representing two centuries of furniture.

There's nothing useless about it. Davie just likes quotes from Oscar Wilde and Stephen Fry about objects that make life worth living. "People like good quality stuff that stands the test of time," he says.

Also on Park Avenue: Krudco, a haven for skateboarders and for anyone who wants to look hip in the latest sweats, hats, athletic apparel and more. Baby boomers can get a shirt to pay homage to the iconic David Bowie here.

Over in the North Winton Village neighborhood, shoppers can find creative accessories at Fahsye. Owner Suthida Fon Sakulsurarat is a native of Thailand, where she travels to stock her store. She offers handcrafted fashion accessories for women and men, as well as jewelry, gemstones and fabric handbags at her boutique. You can top off an existing outfit here or create the one you want from scratch. "We offer things of good quality that are also affordable," says co-owner and husband Rich Tyson.

-Todd Etshman