

# BEST <sup>OF</sup> THE CITIES

33 Pages of Sweet Picks!

~ NAMED ~  
**MAGAZINE**  
of the  
**YEAR**  
—MINNESOTA  
MAGAZINE & PUBLISHING  
ASSOCIATION

# Minnesota

Monthly®



**BESTO**  
THE TWIN CITIES  
Minnesota Monthly

\* What's the Twin Cities' best candy store? Where can you get the best cupcake? Answers start on p.52.

**262**  
**WINNERS**

IN FUN, FOOD,  
DRINK, SHOPPING,  
BEAUTY & MORE!

MNMO.COM

\$4.99 | NOV 2011



grouping of beautiful clothes. It's this "average-ness" that makes it the best, because Alden specializes in clothing sizes 14 to 24. No out-of-proportion patterns or ill-cut armholes. No frumpy floor-length sparkle tents or godawful muumuus. No, this is actual fashion. Alden specifically seeks out both work and party clothing from designers that make plus-size clothing with plus-size-specific cuts. All that attention to detail and fit means you walk out looking your absolute best, and confidence looks great on everyone.

➔ 794 Grand Ave., St. Paul, 651-330-2605, [bombshell-boutique.com](http://bombshell-boutique.com)

## ECO BEAUTY NATURE OF BEAUTY

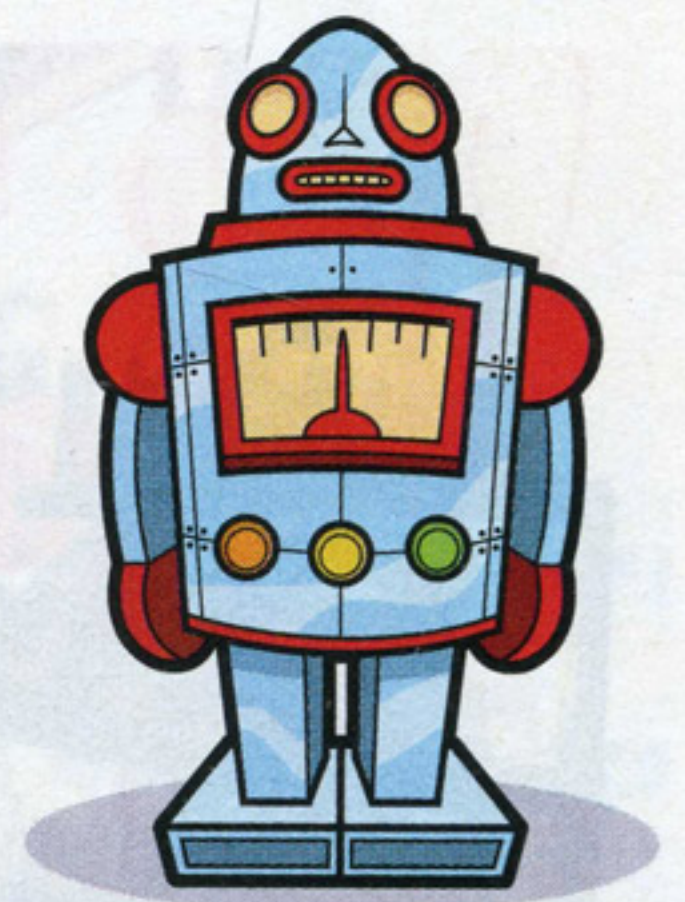
Terri Bly up and moved her eco-friendly beauty store to Mendota Heights recently, and boy, are we the better for it. For starters, she's got more space to showcase the largest collection of the safest, greenest beauty brands in all of North America. Not only is her shop the first to offer the coveted Naturopathica and Dr. Alkaitis products, but she also stocks a wide range of color cosmetics. And then there's the spa—the first and only in Minnesota to be connected to the Green Spa Network—offering biodynamic-ingredient facials and all-natural peels. Most important, Bly teaches us that we don't have to sacrifice safety for glamour, because beauty and intelligence aren't mutually exclusive. Really, they go hand in hand.

➔ 750 Main St., Suite 109, Mendota Heights, 651-222-3127, [natureofbeauty.com](http://natureofbeauty.com)



## VINTAGE AND COLLECTIBLE TOYS MAIN STREET TOYS

Maybe you've got a bad case of nostalgia. Maybe you're a collector of interesting-looking stuff. Or maybe you're young at heart. In any case, Joe Morabito of Main Street Toys understands the preoccupation. Looking for 1950s ray guns? He's



got 'em. Or how about a vintage Japanese space robot? Covered. A 1965 Marx Hi-Bouncer Super Ball still in the packaging? No sweat. How about a 1984 Indiana Jones pencil set? Yep. This is what fun used to feel like, and you can still get a piece of it here.

➔ [mainstreettoys.com](http://mainstreettoys.com)

## BEST VINTAGE SHOP



◀ **FOR REAL DANISH TEAK**  
**Danish Teak Classics**  
1500 Jackson St. NE, Suite 277, Mpls., 612-362-7870, [danishteakclassics.com](http://danishteakclassics.com)

**FOR CLOTHING**  
**Blacklist Vintage**  
25 E. 26th St., Mpls., 612-872-8552, [blacklistvintage.com](http://blacklistvintage.com)

**FOR DRESSES**  
**Lula**  
1587 Selby Ave., St. Paul, 651-644-4110

**FOR ACCESSORIES**  
**Rewind**  
Two metro locations: 2829 Johnson St. NE, Mpls., 612-788-9870; 4806 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls., 612-824-1350; [rewindminneapolis.com](http://rewindminneapolis.com)

**FOR HOUSEWARES**  
**Classic Retro @ Pete's**  
2145 W. University Ave., St. Paul, 651-224-5235

**FOR LIFESTYLE**  
**Succotash**  
781 Raymond Ave., St. Paul, 651-603-8787

## ATHLETIC GEAR LULULEMON

Lululemon Athletica went from being a select store in the Twin Cities to a growing legion of happy, peppy, brightly colored workout outposts, the latest of which is slated to open right about...now, on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. A host of quickly rotating merchandise that uses top-notch wicking technology and actually useful technical features, like secret compartments for keys and hand-warming sleeves, keeps true fitness aficionados happy, but