



STREETWISE

Malden Square

Eclectic offerings worthy of any urban square and access to the Orange Line give this suburban post unique appeal.

- 1. TASTE OF ITALY** Get there early for dinner at Artichokes Ristorante Trattoria. This romantic Italian spot doesn't take reservations, but the huge portions of freshly made pasta are worth the wait. Who needs the North End? (2 Florence Street, 781-397-8338)
- 2. SPIDERMAN'S WEB** Not your ordinary comics shop, New England Comics offers tables and chairs for reading, plus snacks and drinks to enjoy while you linger over the latest issue of *X-Men*. In addition to stocking more than 200 titles and 15,000 back issues, the store offers a big selection of games. (95 Pleasant Street, 781-322-2404, www.newenglandcomics.com)
- 3. A SWEET TREAT** Stop by Jay's Ice Cream for a cone or a sundae piled high with your favorite toppings. Jay's serves Richardson's super premium ice cream, made fresh at a dairy farm in Middleton. (169 Centre Street, 781-397-6333)
- 4. BALL GAMES** Bring the kids to Ryan Family Amusements for candlepins and arcade games or, on Friday and Saturday, take a date to the same venue for an evening of "Mystic Bowling," where dance music, fog machines, and a light show might not help your score but could help you, ahem, score. (11 Charles Street, 781-324-7828, www.ryanfamily.com)
- 5. ICE TIME** Starting December 3, you can catch the Tufts University men's ice hockey home games at the Valley Forum II arena. For game information, call Tufts Athletics at 617-627-3232 or visit the Tufts website at ase.tufts.edu/athletics/. Come spring and summer, the rink is all yours to practice those triple toe loops. (50 Holden Street, 781-321-9554)

— Julia Tolliver Maranan

ON THE STREET

Canine Professor

In this world of monogrammed dog beds and gourmet dog treats, that there is a place called Canine University and that it is located in the same area as institutions like Harvard and MIT, should come as no surprise. In this Malden school, puppies and adult dogs learn to follow commands and overcome their aggressive or shy tendencies. The dog lover who heads this school, at 71 Clinton Street, is Malden-born Gerylyn Bielakiewicz, 36, author of *The Everything Dog Training and Tricks Book*. She founded the school with her husband, Paul, in 1992. "Owning a pet is joyful," says Bielakiewicz, who shares her home with three dogs. "And if it isn't, it's our job to help make it joyful." —J.T.M.



GERILYN BIELAKIEWICZ believes in teaching tricks.



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