



PHOTOGRAPHY BY J.GEIL

Mark David Roberts cut the ribbon to Lake Forest's newest addition, Mark David Designs, on Deerpath on Nov. 2.

"We are honored to make our debut in such a beautiful community," says Roberts, who has over 16 years of experience in interior design.

The grand opening of the interior design and home furnishings retailer was celebrated in the theme of the store: timeless elegance. Guests streamed in, joining Roberts in a Champagne toast, munching on hors d'oeuvres from Market House on the Square and delighting in the sounds of live music.

The event was an opportunity for Roberts to give back to a place dear to him and his family, the Gorton Community Center, to which he donated 15% of the event sales. Gorton is a privately funded center that hosts educational, social

and cultural services and events for Lake Forest and surrounding areas and the place where Roberts' son attends Bubbles Academy.

"Mark Roberts has brought his fresh, appealing design to town, and with it a strong sense of community and giving back," said Gorton's executive director, Brenda Dick. "Gorton exists because of generous people like Mark, so we're very appreciative of him."

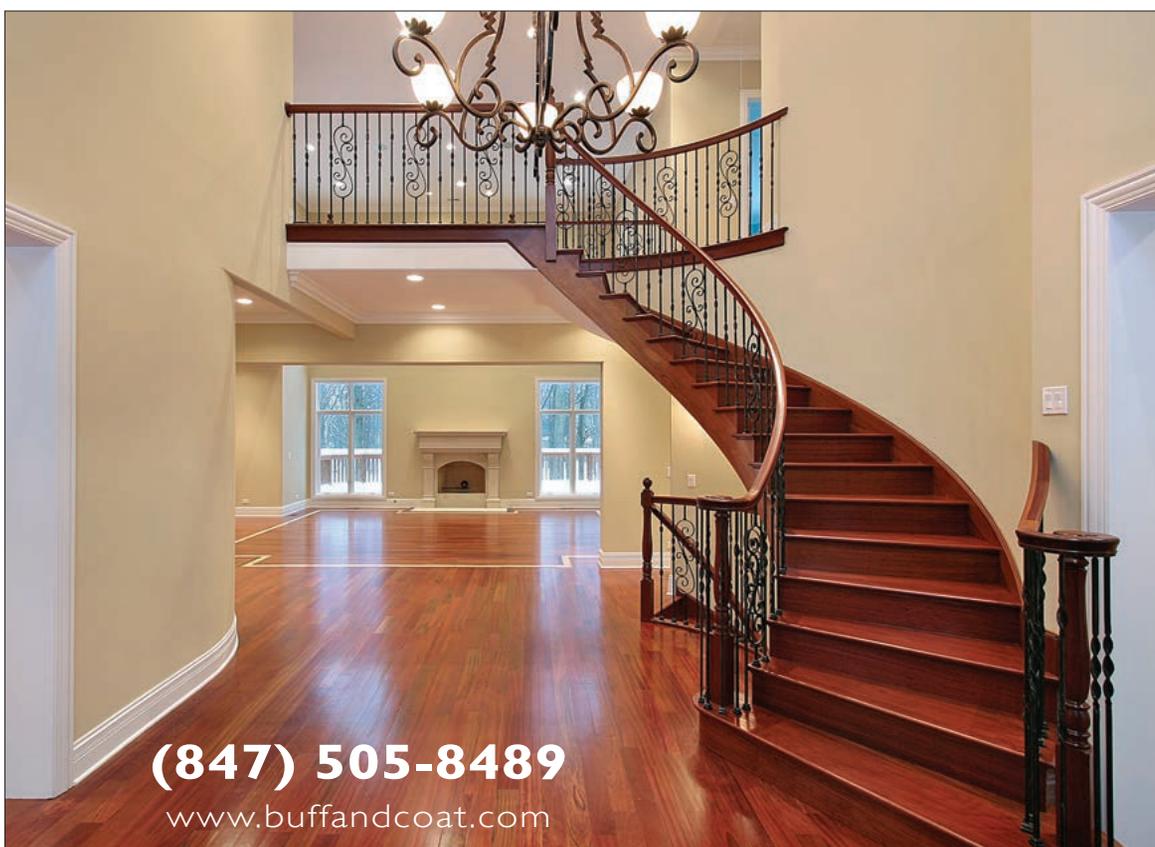
Behind the white-bordered glass doors, Roberts reveals a two-story showroom of classic home displays, signature furnishings and gift items. The space is filled with sofas, embroidered throw pillows, and home treasures. Accessories range from scented oils to flower arrangements. Getting in the spirit of the holidays, Roberts features Christmas décor, complete with ornamented trees.

"There's a lot of fun Christmas stuff this year, including custom wreaths and garlands for the mantle," said Roberts.

He features made-in-the-U.S. product lines, many of which are distinguished or celebrity driven. A few of his favorites are Thorson Hosier picture frames, which he calls "little pieces of art," and Rosy Rings candles, where no two are alike due to an intensive, handmade process.

Roberts, who grew up in Springfield, developed his interior design career in Washington, D.C., where he opened and operated a business for seven years. Working with homes in the Old Town area, he familiarized himself with exclusive styles. Taking his experience back to Illinois, Roberts helped launch Room by Room in Westmont. ■

For more information on Mark David Designs, visit www.MarkDavidDesigns.com.



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