



Discover

THE NORTHWEST SIDE



Weston's Coffee & Tap Co.



Weston's Coffee & Tap Co.



haywoodmade



Community Tavern



Welcome

Chicago's Northwest Corridor is known for its neighborhoods of single-family bungalows, but think about the people who own those homes. They also own the unique shops, cultural landmarks and authentic dining gems where Northwest Siders dine, shop and play. Rich in history, dating back to the routes that became Milwaukee Avenue and then the Kennedy and Edens expressways, the places in these pages are full of people who celebrate old-world quality as well as people who enjoy pushing new boundaries. Sometimes, they're the same people! The beautiful parks, award-winning theatre, easy shopping and vintage movie palaces are all here for year-round enjoyment. Highlighting the summer are great neighborhood festivals like the Taste of Polonia, Jeff Park Arts & Music Festival and Irish American Heritage Fest. Whether you are visiting Chicago or call it home, turn these pages to learn more about why families and residents know the Northwest Corridor hosts Chicago's best.

The Northwest Side Business Collective is a coalition of local chambers of commerce and business associations united in helping each other recover from the Covid pandemic. We share resources, knowledge and energy to not only recover but also to help the Northwest Side thrive.



Eris Brewery



Community Tavern



Moonflower



Community Tavern



Pasta D'Arte



NOTABLES

Community Tavern

4038 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-283-6080

Community Tavern is where food goes to be elevated to transcendent flavors. Not only is the food exquisite, but the eatery's opening in 2016 was heralded by Architectural Digest for its decor. Still, Community keeps a \$5 burger special on the menu. Husband-and-wife owners Joey and Brenna Beato anchor this stretch of Milwaukee Avenue with dishes that combine seasonal, locally sourced ingredients with pan-Asian influences. The bar elevates cocktails to match the food.

Gale Street Inn

4914 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-725-1300

Located in downtown Jefferson Park, Gale Street has been the "inn place" since 1963. Their famous ribs, daily-made soups and fresh fish thrill the taste buds of locals and out-of-towners alike. Gale Street is pure Chicago as is owner George Karzas, who is often there to personally guarantee quality and to make diners feel welcome. Gale Street's well-stocked bar is great for enjoying an adult beverage, listening to jazz and hearing Chicago stories.

Pasta D'Arte

6311 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-763-1181

Step into old world Italy at Pasta D'Arte, Gladstone Park's very own trattoria, where intimate conversation and simple, elegant cuisine converge. Savor every bite from scallopine to braciola, from steak to their signature calamari. Chef Mark Giannini, who is also the owner, specializes in authentic delectable sauce, raw creativity and, of course, the art of pasta. Whether you're in the mood for a cocktail or wine, their full bar or 300-bottle wine rack will have you covered.

Moonflower

4359 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-647-1942

The area's newest bar, Moonflower, arranges its cocktails front and center, but the food selection and beer menu are wonderful accents to the bouquet. Try cocktails with curious ingredients such as raspberry-goldsaft syrup, jalapeño-infused tequila and Korean soda. Enjoy the soups, salads, sandwiches and shareables menu in an environment decorated with plants from a local plant shop. *(And they're available for purchase!)*

Gale Street Inn



Las Tablas



More NOTABLES

Mom's Old Recipe Mexican Restaurant

5760 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-467-1009

Taste the family tradition at Mom's Old Recipe, where delicious Mexican cooking is homemade by sisters who learned to cook generations-old recipes at their mother's feet. Named one of the "Best Mexican Restaurants in Chicago" by Chicago Magazine, their south-of-the-border favorites include a burrito grande and enchiladas de mole. Don't forget their signature margarita.

Shokran Authentic Moroccan Cuisine

4027 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-427-9130

Just steps from the Irving Park Blue Line stop, chef and owner Khalid Kamal presents authentic Moroccan cuisine and a unique culinary experience. With abundant and diversely fragrant Tagines, rich stews in traditional Berber clay pots, fluffy couscous plates, distinctive appetizers, salads and grilled meats, Shokran is a feast for your senses. BYOB.

La Peña

4212 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-545-7022

For 20 years, the Castillo family has been recreating the taste of Ecuador in Chicago! Recommended dishes include ceviche, pincho de pollo with chimichurri, and hurrascao, a platter of thinly sliced grilled steak, fried egg, avocado and rice. And after a fine meal, stay for the energetic live music.

Tatas Tacos

4929 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-685-6002

5700 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-672-6783

Two delicious locations! You can get traditional tacos here (steak, shrimp, al pastor) but let your eyes wander down to the Frida, the Tijuana Birria and the Kraken. That's where the real fun begins at Tatas. Both locations feature outdoor seating, and the 5700 W. Irving Park location has rooftop dining that will make you feel like you're on vacation, especially with a Tatas margarita in your hand.

Legno

4250 N. Central Ave. 773-736-2354

This Italian gastropub offers new takes on traditional recipes served in a modern yet cozy atmosphere. The Legno burger features Calabrese aioli. The Legno Mac and Cheese is flavored with a four-cheese blend. The drinks menu delights with a full range of cocktails, wine and beer. Outdoor seating is an added bonus during warmer months.

Las Tablas

4920 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-202-0999

Chicago's first Colombian steakhouse, Las Tablas features South American cocktails, tapas-style appetizers, paella, homemade desserts, and dishes from Havana, Rio, Barcelona and beyond. Choose from a mix of modern, bold and seductive flavors from the whole Latin world. The Six Corners Las Tablas location has been entertaining adventurous spirits since 1999 not just with food but also with live music late into the night.



Legno



Shokran Authentic



Mom's Old Recipe Mexican Restaurant



Tatas Tacos



Smoque BBQ

Top BYOB

Hot Woks Cool
Sushi

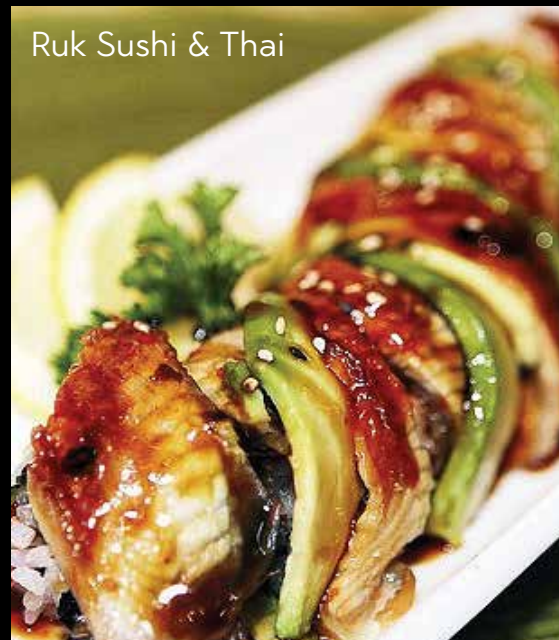


Cafe Marbella



Mother Clucker's
Kitchen

Ruk Sushi & Thai



Smoque BBQ

3800 N. Pulaski Rd. 773-545-7427

A favorite of locals and tourists alike, Smoque brings real hardwood smoked brisket, ribs, pulled pork, chicken and homemade sides to Old Irving Park. This ultra-casual BYOB eatery – started by five friends who love BBQ – has been featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives, and has earned the Michelin Guide's coveted Bib Gourmand award along with plaudits from the Chicago Reader, Zagat and The New York Times Gourmand award for consecutive years.

Ruk Sushi & Thai

4431 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-286-1900

Come experience the flavors of Japanese and Thai cuisine offered at this Jefferson Park area lunch and dinner spot. Neighborhood favorites include, succulent sushi and maki (both traditional and contemporary), as well as zesty Thai specialties like Pad Thai and a variety of flavorful noodles and curry dishes. If you don't BYOB, you can choose from teas and Thai coffee selections.

Mother Clucker's Kitchen

5200 N. Elston Ave. 773-685-4630

At this family-owned broaster, you'll learn how good fried chicken can be when it's not served through a drive-up window. With a touch of Cajun style, Mother Clucker's also serves Po' Boys, hush puppies and crab cakes. The simply decorated and cozy dining room with no TVs keeps the focus on the food and conversation. Situated at the tip of Elston and Foster avenues makes public transit easy as does the parking lot for the auto-inclined.

Pho #1 Vietnamese Cuisine

5914 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-657-3747

Fresh bok choy, large portions and authentic pho are the specialties at this Jefferson Park gem open since 2014. Of course pho is #1 here, but diners also enjoy the rice noodle dishes, the egg stir fry and the spring rolls. If fresh sugar cane juice or Vietnamese coffee is not your thing, grab some peanut-butter-flavored Dark Adaptation from nearby Printers Row Brewing to wash down a dessert of banana fritters.

Frank's Chicago Shrimp

5052 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-286-2533

This casual counter-service joint is the place to go for a quick, delicious bite of seafood. From shrimp to catfish to even frog legs, Frank's serves generous portions with sides of more deep-fried goodness. Try the Chicago-style shrimp for a little more flavor in the breading.

Hot Woks Cool Sushi

3930 N. Pulaski Rd. 773-282-1818

Tucked away near the Kennedy Expressway, this Asian-fusion hot spot looks unassuming, but you'll be wowed when your plate of expertly made sushi arrives. Whether you like your sushi served in the sashimi style, maki or Hawaiian poke bowls, Hot Woks Cool Sushi will not disappoint. Be sure to save room for Mochi Ice Cream or Mango Pudding!

Cafe Marbella

5527 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-853-0128

Gladstone Park's delightful tapas restaurant charms the Northwest Side with its blissful European ambiance. Cafe Marbella's attentive waitstaff welcomes adventurous newcomers and seasoned guests alike for intimate conversation or group accommodations. Chef Virgilio will dazzle your taste buds with his masterful Gambas al Ajillo, Gazpacho Andaluz, Tortilla Espanola and other favorites. Don't forget to bring a bottle of wine!

Hands On Sushi

5056 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-205-8335

7117 W. Addison St. 773-777-1000

With names like Machu Pichu Maki, Golden Gate Maki and Blackhawk Maki, Hands On lives up to its claim to serve a "contemporary style of Thai and sushi." The style is modern but the taste has that timeless quality of just making your mouth and stomach happy. The modern-meets-classic ambiance also comes through in the orange on black dining room. Don't leave without trying the traditional Thai Taro Custard or the more contemporary Double Chocolate Cheesecake.



Foundation Tavern & Grille

5007 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-282-8654

The family-owned Foundation opened in the renovated space occupied for 20 years by the live-music venue Nite Cap. The family kept the live music and added retro-cool decor as well as an American cuisine menu with gourmet flair. Whether it's Sunday brunch, outdoor dining or enjoying a live band, Foundation will make you happy you came to a neighborhood place.

The Booze Hound

3734 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-736-1010

A solitary brick building next to the Grayland Metra station on Milwaukee Avenue, the Booze Hound welcomes drinkers and dogs to its unassuming establishment. This dog-friendly tavern offers a wide selection of domestic and craft brews for people and offers a bowl of "Lake Michigan on the rocks" for four-legged guests. No food menu but you can order in.

Sutherland's Food & Spirits

5353 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-930-4790

This casual eatery is named after one of the founding fathers of Portage Park, E.B. Sutherland, who in 1841, established the first tavern along the Northwest Plank Road, which is today's Milwaukee Avenue. Sutherland's offers a wide-ranging menu including wings, hummus, burgers and salad wraps in an atmosphere that is OK for kids.

The Garage

6154 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-647-1386

On nicer days, The Garage throws open its overhead door, and everyday, offers mouthwatering sandwiches, an impressive beer selection, and a kitchen that stays open late. Saunter in anytime to catch a game on the big screen, challenge your friends to darts, or enjoy Gladstone Park from the neighborhood's only rooftop deck.

Rabbits Bar

4945 W. Foster Ave. 773-736-5766

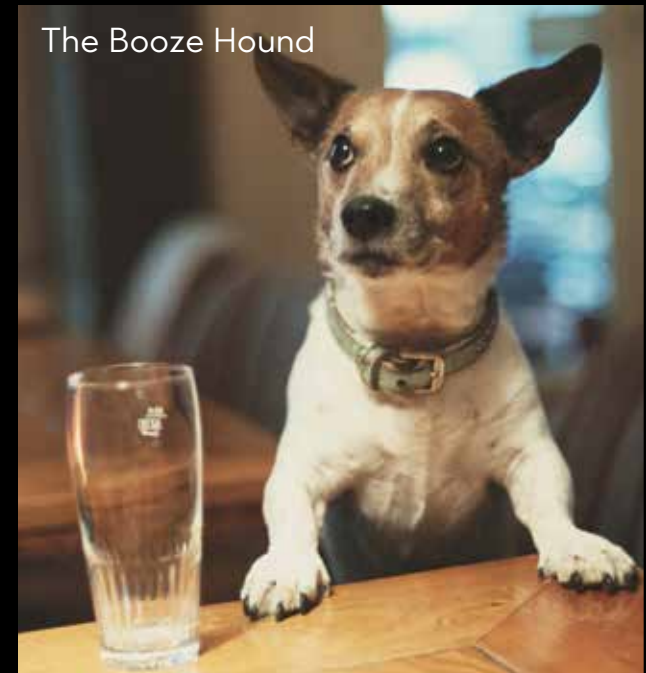
Get back to basics at Rabbits: neighborhood conversation, friendly atmosphere, amazing pub food – including 1/2-lb. burgers – and 50+ beers to suit everyone's tastes. Stop in after work, and after saying "Hi" to owners Mary and Joe, enjoy top-notch bar food, daily specials, and weekly trivia. It's truly the place where neighbors meet.

Easy Street Pizza & Beer Garden

3750 N. Central Ave. 773-993-0464

Whether you order the cheesy pub-style or the sauce-topped deep dish style, your taste buds will be on Easy Street headed to Thrillsville. And the experience only gets better when you can enjoy a pizza or one of their old-school diner burgers in the backyard beer garden. And if you want to try a non-traditional pizza, check out the East Street specialty pizzas such as the Mac-N-Cheese and the Hot Hawaiian.

Watering Holes



Windsor Tap

4530 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-736-3400

This cozy Jefferson Park spot features a dark wood interior, friendly staff and a tasty menu that includes all your pub food favorites. Locals rave about the pizza. The former three-season beer garden is now fully enclosed and very comfortable year round with a fireplace. You can still get that outdoor feel from the shaded parkway seating during warmer months.

Rex Tavern

4933 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-202-9444

Rex Tavern welcomes friendly dogs and travelers alike into the heart of Jefferson Park mere steps from the transit center. Known for their wide selection of craft beer and their well-crafted cocktails, this comfortable, easily accessible bar emphasizes its dog-friendliness with the motto: Come. Sit. Drink. There's no food menu but steps away are Gorilla Sushi and Gale Street Inn.

Vaughan's Pub & Grill

5485 N. Northwest Hwy. 773-631-9206

Slide into one of Vaughn's cozy booths and while away an evening with friends over Irish fare washed down with a pint of Guinness or a Smithwick's. Vaughn's unique offerings include Curry Fries and an All Day Irish Breakfast, but you can't go wrong with the more traditional Fish & Chips or Shepherd's Pie. This kid-friendly family-owned institution will leave you feeling lucky as a leprechaun that you tried it out.

Babe's on Milwaukee

4416 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-545-3137

A classic neighborhood bar, Babe's is a place where you can walk in a stranger, but by the end of the night, the bartenders are sassing you like a regular. The old pictures on the walls let you know Babe's has seen several parties and maybe a few brawls. You won't see all that valuable history on your bar tab though. In fact, another nice feature of Babe's is that it's easy on the wallet. Head out the back to the beer garden to enjoy your beer in the sunshine.

Galvin's Public House

5901 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-205-0570

Huffington Post didn't rate Galvin's as the "2nd Most Authentic Irish Pub in the Country" for nothing. Stroll inside this Jefferson Park spot with an inn-like feel to cozy up beside their stone hearth with a pint. Enjoy classic Irish fare such as their delectable shepherd's pie, fish and chips (*with malt vinegar of course*), or bangers and mash. Plentiful outdoor seating in the back, weather permitting.

Fifth Province Pub

4626 N. Knox Ave. 773-282-7035

The Fifth Province Pub provides a taste of Irish food, drink and culture tucked within the walls of the Irish American Heritage Center. The tradesworkers crafted Fifth Province to remind them of pubs from the Old Sod. The pub, which is open only from 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, serves excellent burgers, fish & chips and shepherd's pie. And if the live music doesn't get your toes tapping, the 30 Irish whiskeys on the menu sure will.

Dunning Pour House

7718 W. Addison St. 773-309-8135

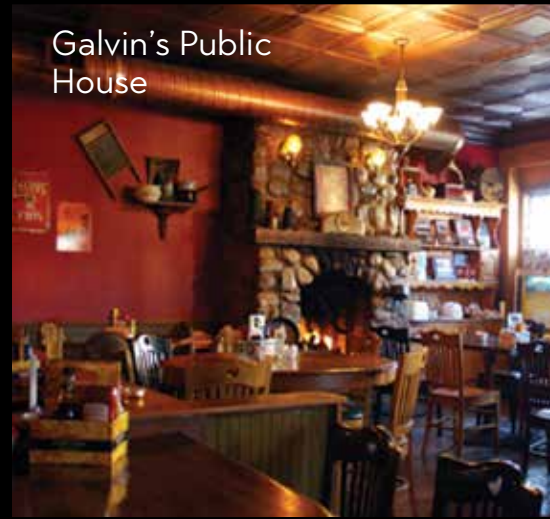
This neighborhood bar on the outskirts of Chicago surprises with a can't-miss food menu. Belly up to the bar for a Bloody Mary with a High Life back or order the Chicago Handshake – a shot of Malort's with an Old Style chaser. Then fill your belly with a Shrimp Poor Boy, Street Tacos or Chicken Wings that will make you forget all other chicken wings. Live music is featured some nights, or enjoy the televised sports.

Gracie O'Malley's

4058 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-930-3307

With its large wrap-around bar being conducive to socializing, one could easily while away an afternoon and evening at Gracie O'Malley's – not that there's anything wrong with that. When it's time to switch from liquids to food, check out the Spicy Pimento Dip or the ½-pound Gracie O burger. Plenty of TVs for sports enthusiasts, and in nice weather, outdoor seating will also make you want stay a while.

Galvin's Public House



Fifth Province Pub



Three Counties Pub

5856 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-631-3351

From the dark wood on the walls to the brogues on patrons' lips, this Gladstone Park pub exudes Irish charm. The Guinness pours slowly but the Irish humor and tales come quickly. All sorts of Irish sports play on the TVs, and not just soccer but also Irish football and hurling as well.

MCM Pub & Grill

3906 N. Cicero Ave. 773-736-2644

This casual pub serves up meaty burgers and classic bar food alongside cold beers, and then morphs into a party pub after dinner. The front bar –with windows that open in good weather – is perfect for hanging out and watching a game on the numerous screens. Later on, the back bar gets hopping with dance music or karaoke depending on the night.



Rep Chi



HIDDEN

gems

Rep Chi

4425 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-696-1992

Eco-friendly indie shop meets artisan paradise! This store wears its Chicago pride on its sleeve, its T-shirts, its glassware and basically any printable surface. You'll find one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone from your boss to your kid to your new neighbor. They also offer full-range printing services and an extensive selection of handmade local art that you'd only expect to find at Chicago's hippest street festivals.

Superdawg

6363 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-763-0660

The iconic Mr. and Mrs. Superdawg hot dog figures on the roof signal to everyone, "You've found the right place." And the quality beef hotdog topped with bright green relish signals, "You've found the right hot dawg!" Superdawg's drive-up carhop service takes you back to the simple times when a hot dog and fries in your car with your favorite song on the radio was all it took to be happy.

Amitabul

6207 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-774-0276

Known for their full-favored dishes, Korean cuisine, and joyful atmosphere, Amitabul's meat-free menu is sure to satisfy any herbivore's hunger. Warm your hands and ward off illness with their famous Dr. K's Cure All Noodle Soup, and don't forget to try their Jade Maki or the spicy Yin and Yan. Amitabul makes eating vegan simple...and delicious.

Junebug Cafe

4944 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-853-0911

With a menu highlighted by beignets, meat pies and gumbo, Junebug Cafe is the next best thing to dining in New Orleans. The owners draw from their family's French Creole heritage and "Granny's" recipes to serve up mouth-watering delights. Wash that powered-sugar-coated beignet down with Dark Matter coffee, and you'll be letting the good times roll.

Fantasy Costume

4065 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-777-0222

The #1 costume store in Chicago — one city block long and over one million items in stock! Halloween is just the beginning, with historic, classic, Mardi Gras and fantasy costumes rounding out their collection. Theatrical makeup and a room full of wigs will finish the look you desire. Rentals are available for parties or productions.

Delightful Pastries

5927 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-545-7215

This bakery has been prepping sweet treats made with local, all-natural ingredients since 1998. European pastries are the focus, including tortes, paczki (Polish doughnuts), marzipan beignets, Viennese almond crescents and Linzer cookies. Savory options include lamb pie and the ever-popular pierogi.

haywoodmade

4942 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-380-9311

When you're looking for just the right touch for your home decor, haywoodmade is the place to be. Owner Kelsey Haywood grew up around nature and watched her father use his hands to create. Now she looks for that same elegant handmade aesthetic in all the rugs, glassware, scented candles and many other curated items in her shop.

Col-lec-tiv

5743 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-236-7643

This cozy store is packed with a collection of locally made crafts, art, cards and jewelry. Some items are adorned with Northwest Side neighborhood names and landmarks. Others have original designs that will give an artistic touch to your home decor and gift giving. Handcrafted jewelry and candles are also featured.

Local Goods Chicago

5354 W. Devon Ave. 708-669-7520

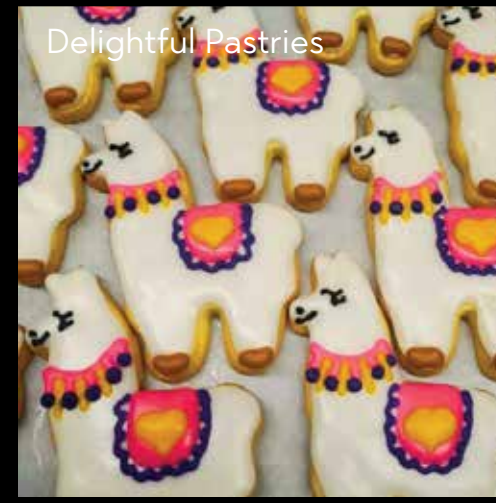
You won't want to miss Local Goods Chicago, Edgebrook's destination gift shop for locally made gifts and food. The shop pulls in talent from over 100 artisans across Chicago, including art from Pilsen, coffee from Bridgeport, ceramics from Ravenswood, jewelry from Lincoln Square, chocolates from Logan Square, and so much more.

Smakosz Restaurant

5619 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-205-1771

Step inside and enjoy the homey, cozy ambiance while you indulge in generous portions of goulash, pierogis, potato pancakes and other traditional fare. You can taste it in the food, but you can also tell by the sounds of Polish spoken at other tables that Smakosz is the real Polish deal.

Delightful Pastries



Col-lec-tiv



Superdawg



Fearless Cooking



Local favorites

Weston's Coffee & Tap Co.



Salud Kitchen



Distinct Bath & Body



Weston's Coffee & Tap Co.

4872 N. Milwaukee Ave. 708-669-7625

Just steps from the Jefferson Park Transit Center, grab a sandwich and coffee from Weston's on the way to work then grab a beer or glass of wine on the way home. What could be better? The fact that the alley next to Weston's has been converted into a public space for outdoor dining and entertainment. Menu specialties include Prosciutto Toast, Avocado Burrito and any made-to-order panini.

Fearless Cooking

4410 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-647-1165

Fearless Cooking owner Catherine employs her humor and culinary knowledge to demystify cooking for adults as well as children. Enroll in a class or gather your friends for a private party to learn kitchen skills such as proper knife handling or wine tasting. While you're there, don't blanch at stepping up your kitchen game by purchasing gadgets, quality cookware or edgy hand towels among many items.

Distinct Bath & Body

4046 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-930-4420

This shop is the bomb – bath bomb, that is. Distinct Bath & Body is not just a soap shop, but they make all the soaps on site in small batches. For the body, Distinct also carries beard grooming supplies, face care and candles. And if you really want to work your soap knowledge into a lather, take one of the soap-making classes taught by Sam, the owner.

North Branch Fried Chicken

5481 N. Northwest Hwy. 773-853-0360

When a restaurant opens during a pandemic, they must be confident. North Branch's confidence is justified by their huge flaky and crisp chicken sandwich, their buffalo chicken wrap and their cheesy potatoes – just to name a few reasons. The friendly staff will be happy to explain the characteristics of their sauces. The dine-in experience is downhome and especially airy when they open the overhead garage door on nice days.

Tone Deaf Records

4356 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-372-6643

On the Northwest Side, Tone Deaf is the place to go for vinyl collecting. In addition to new vinyl, they also carry reasonably priced used vinyl, including thousands in discount bins for those who enjoy the hunt. Tony, the friendly owner, will help with your search or place an order for you. Tone Deaf even holds in-store shows. Check social media for dates.

Earl's BBQ

4835 N. Austin Ave. 773-628-7870

Will your mouth water more from brisket or donuts? Does it matter? Earl's smokes their meat on-site daily and serves it up in a roadhouse-style dining room. A drive-up window is also available. In addition to brisket, check out the rib tips, wings and polish sausage. The sugar-cinnamon donuts, by the way, are made-to-order and served warm.

Salud Kitchen

5044 W. Montrose Ave. 847-268-4158

A lively addition to the Montrose/Milwaukee district, Salud spices up the usual taco menu with Elote Mac-n-Cheese and Ramen Birria. That last one is so spicy, have horchata ready to cool your tongue. As you ponder adding loaded Asada Fries to your order, admire the larger-than-life painting of a traditional Mexican dancer in a vivid blue dress that morphs into wings.

El Asadero Colombiano

4800 N. Central Ave. 847-268-4158

The enormous roaster loaded with dozens of skewered whole chickens is a sight to behold as are the entree platters filled with rice, beans, plantains and your choice of meat flavored with Colombian spices. Arepa, yuca and golden potatoes also pair well with the meats, which include rabbit, at this family-owned full-service BYOB open since 2019.

Province Pizza

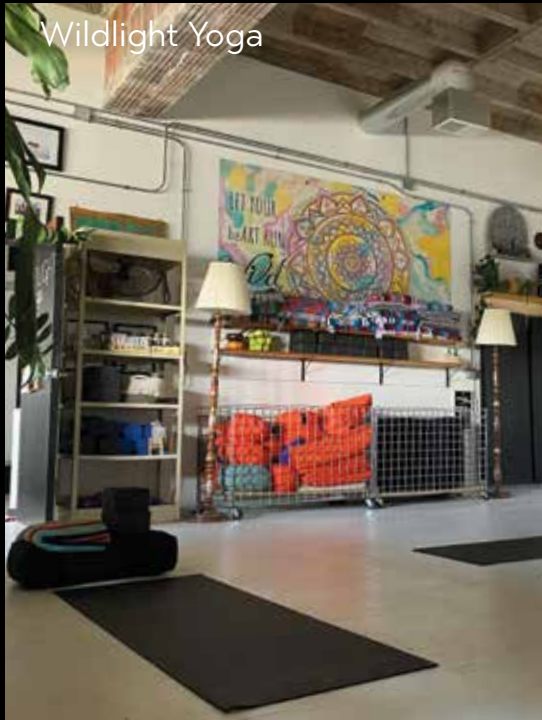


more favorites

Hot Dog Box



Wildlight Yoga



Howling Pages



Family Hagen's Fish Market



Hot Dog Box

4020 N. Milwaukee Ave. 708-730-4379

Father-and-daughter team Bobby and Brooklyn elevate hot dogs to the next level with four styles of hot dog made with filet mignon and another made with cajun salmon all served on a pretzel bun. Vegan options are available. In another twist on hot-dog tradition, the sides are Macpretzels or popcorn – dill, red-salt or BBQ flavor. Would anyone dare put ketchup on a filet-mignon?

Province Pizza

4024 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-786-9090

Province Pizza serves up a lighter style pizza that's a refreshing variation on Chicago's cheese-heavy classics. Check out the Margherita or the prosciutto and fig-topped pizza cooked in their wood-fired stove. Province is a sports bar too with plenty of big screens to watch the big games.

Howling Pages

4354 N. Milwaukee Ave.

A lifelong comic book fan, Portage Park resident Alain Park wants to share his passion with his neighbors. With other shops already covering DC and Marvel, Howling Pages features graphic novels, indie comics and printed art. Check their website and social media for in-store events for kids, classes and make-your-own-comics sessions.

Ix-chel Chicago

4968 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-709-8790

NW Siders flock to Ix-chel for classic gelato flavors such as Hazelnut and Limoncello and get wowed by Mayan Chocolate, Gumball and Key Lime Pie. Try the gelato in traditional cups or in popsicle form. Ix-Chel shuts down for the winter, so locals buy pints to ration until spring. Enjoy the cool treats in the outdoor seating area.

Hagen's Fish Market

5635 W. Montrose Ave. 773-283-1944

Hagen's has been smoking and selling fish on the Northwest Side since before most of the homes surrounding the shop were built. This third-generation family business offers top-quality cuts to cook at home and deep-fried fish made-to-order. While you wait, check out the shelves for seafood recipes as well as the ingredients to make them.

Maximum Distractions

4405 N. Milwaukee Ave. 708-320-2535

Head over to Maximum Distractions to spend an hour or two browsing the seemingly endless comics or ask Grant for a few recommendations. He knows his comics. While you're looking for comics, you might get distracted by the wall full of tabletop games. And for another distraction, ask about the weekly gaming events.

Wildlight Yoga

4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-729-6063

The Wildlight mission is to "guide free spirits toward safety in their bodies and ease in their minds to confidently explore lives of abundance, freedom and adventure." That might seem like a tall order for downward dog and chair pose, but once you enter the welcoming Wildlight space and learn from the supportive staff, you'll begin to understand the journey.

Yellow Rose Cafe

5640 N. Elston Ave. 773-631-2297

Yellow Rose Cafe is a classic greasy spoon diner but with less grease and more friendliness than maybe was the norm when more factories lined Elson Avenue. Thankfully, the prices haven't gone up much since then. From pancakes to club sandwiches to meatloaf, you'll find something very affordable to stick to your ribs. Sitting at the counter, you can join in on the conversation between the staff and the regulars. Or slide into a booth for a quieter meal.



SUMMER

Fests & Concerts

Throwback Music Fest

www.throwbackmusicfest.com

Step back a few musical decades as you enter Throwback Music Fest at the intersection of Milwaukee and Elston in Gladstone Park. This late-August event features cover bands and musical homages from the 1950s through the 1990s. For younger attendees born this century, check out the kids area and the pet parade. There's plenty of food and drink for the older crowd.



6 Corners Candlelight Concerts

www.sixcorners.com

Like random acts of kindness, the Six Corners Association's Candlelight Concert Series is an occasional event that will leave with you a smile. The concerts are usually held in the evening (hence the candlelight) in partnership with local businesses. Check the Six Corners Association's website and social media for announcements.



Old Irving Park Beer & BBQ Challenge

www.beerbbqchallenge.com

This annual fundraiser for St. Viator Elementary School matches local brewers with amateur local pitmasters and challenges them to deliver the best beer and BBQ pairing. The best part for fest-goers is they get to sample the food and vote in the People's Choice category. Champions are also named by expert judges at this event held the first weekend in August.



Jeff Park Arts & Music Fest

Jefferson Memorial Park, 4822 N. Long Ave.
www.chicagoevents.com/events/jeff-fest/

This festival occupies one of the city's premiere regional parks. The historic Jefferson Memorial Park rocks with a wide range of food trucks, a farmers' market, and local artisans. Families and fest-goers can push their strollers on wide sidewalks or spread a blanket on the lawn to listen to live music on two stages. Kids' area games, pop-up performances and running into neighbors conjure the magic of summertime.



Irish American Heritage Festival

Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Ave.
773-282-7035 www.irish-american.org

Honoring Irish culture with three days of music, dance and family fun, this fest spreads across five indoor and outdoor stages at the Irish American Heritage Center in July. Enjoy authentic Irish and Irish-American food, handmade wares from local artists, engaging activities and entertainment for the whole family.



Taste of Polonia

Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave.
www.TopChicago.org

Celebrating a rich history of Polish culture in Chicago, Taste of Polonia is the largest Polish festival in the country. Thousands gather in and around the Copernicus Center every Labor Day weekend for live entertainment, non-stop music across five stages, cold imports, and authentic Polish food. Children enjoy the annual carnival and their very own game area. Na zdrowie!



The Gift Theatre Company



National Veterans Art Museum

4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-326-0270

NVAM is dedicated to inspiring greater understanding of war's real impact through the collection, preservation and exhibition of art created by veterans' explorations of combat's emotional legacy. Exhibits change throughout the year often in conjunction with Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. One visit might feature selections by female veteran artists while another visit might feature "The Things They Carried" project, which centers around Vietnam soldiers personal items and experiences. No matter what's on display, a visit to NVAM will be a moving experience.

Artorium

5719 N. Milwaukee Ave. 847-909-8684

If you are looking for art lessons for yourself or your children, this is the place to go! The founder, Master Sculptor Stefan Niedorezo, passed away in 2019, but his spirit lives on in this family-run studio where one can study drawing, painting, sculpting, weaving and computer design, all in one beautiful, comfortable space. Open to ages 5 and up.

Chicago Sip & Paint

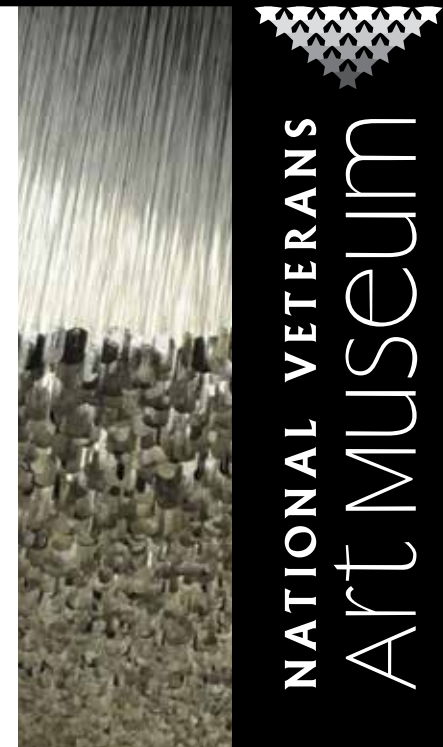
4412 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-562-9500

Ever wondered if you're the next Kahlo or Banksy? Paint & Sip offers a fun way to find out. Owner Lily will walk you through re-creating a painting of your choice while you sip on the drink of your choice. The canvases, paints and brushes are provided. You bring the drinks and your imagination. Great spot for catered private parties.

ABC Dance Academy

4444 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-777-8484

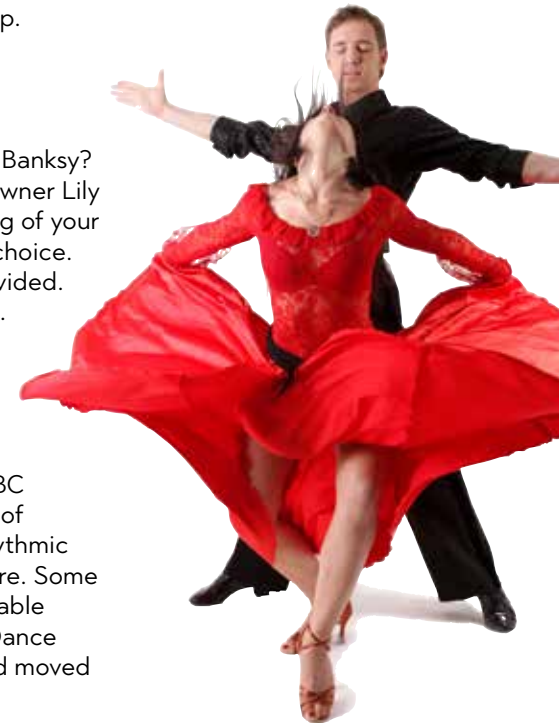
A joyous place to learn to enjoy dance, ABC Dance fills its studios with the happy feet of children trying out hip-hop, ballet, tap, rhythmic gymnastics, ballroom, salsa and much more. Some adult classes and private lessons are available along with zumba exercise classes. ABC Dance opened in 2007 at a different location and moved to this Portage Park location to expand.



Filament Theatre



Chicago Sip & Paint



The Gift Theatre Company

www.thegifttheatre.org 773-283 7071

Founded by Jeff Park native Michael Patrick Thornton (ABC's "Private Practice"), The Gift has pioneered theatre on the Northwest Side for two decades. Known for daringly emotional performances, they are one of Chicago's most respected ensembles. The Gift ensemble cast will stage plays throughout the Chicago area until work is complete on their new, larger home in Jefferson Park.



Filament Theatre

4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-270-1660

This Six Corner's creative force leads audiences through lovingly crafted performances with an emphasis on children's theater. From their cardboard box playground to their unique interpretation of fairy tales, Filament's soaring vision activates the imaginations of young and old alike!



Triple R Gallery

5031 W. Montrose Ave. 773-960-1998

The three R's at this gallery stand for restoring the idea of art, repurposed items and reimagining art. The fourth R, owner Riah Dunton, opened a relaxed, welcoming gallery in 2021 to fulfill her dream of re-introducing original art to people's lives. Stop in to take in art in many styles and forms, including painting, sculptures and purses. With an emphasis on local artists, Triple R holds an artist reception (another R word!) on the first Friday of the month.



Facility: Nick Cave's Studio

3616 N. Milwaukee Ave. www.facilitychicago.org

"Facility" is the name of world-renowned sculptor Nick Cave's studio that he located in Old Irving Park in 2018. In addition to being Cave's residence, the space serves as a creative hub for other artists, artisans, designers and architects. Cave is most famous for his Soundsuits, which are textile-based sculptures that can be displayed and worn. The first-floor windows are often used for art displays involving the community.



Public Art and Murals

www.artsalivechicago.org

The Northwest Corridor leads the way in public murals, boasting local artists who showcase their talents on the streets. More than 40 murals by local and national artists dot our neighborhoods, with more in the making. The murals celebrate everything from First Responders to nature to sundaes. Hop on a bike and create your own mural tour.



The Copernicus Center



CULTURE

The Copernicus Center

5216 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-777-8898

This lavish 1,850-seat theater is built in the old tradition of golden porticoes and stars on the ceiling. The center serves the metropolitan Chicago area as a major civic, cultural, educational and entertainment resource for the Polish community as well as general audiences.

The Patio Theater

6008 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-685-4291

The Patio Theater is a movie palace of the bygone era, lovingly restored in the grand tradition, with one giant screen under a simulated blue sky, flickering stars and moving clouds. Come and see movies at discounted prices or catch a live music show!

Portage Theater

4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-736-4050

This classic landmarked building, with its elaborate terra cotta arch, should be the star of the many movies it has shown through the years. The 1,200-seat auditorium was beautifully restored by new owners in the 2000s and has been used as a vintage movie-theater set. Come by to admire the art deco facade. Hopes are high that the theater will reopen soon.



Eric Craig Photography©

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox Ave. 773-282-7035

Just off the Eden's expressway, the IAHC celebrates Irish culture on the Northwest Side. The halls and stairwells are lovingly decorated with intricate Celtic and original designs connecting libraries, galleries, banquet rooms, a gift shop and Fifth Province Pub. The IAHC hosts nearly a dozen festivals and events throughout the year.



2112 Inc.

4245 N. Knox Ave. 312-300-7996

This business – hidden down an industrial corridor south of Montrose Avenue – is a treasure of co-working and shared space located inside Fort Knox Studios. Beyond the physical space, 2112 offers the chance to connect with a world-class mentor, attend a presentation at 2112's Center for Creative Entrepreneurship and maybe even bump into a popular musician recording in the Fort Knox Studios.

Ed Paschke Center

5415 W. Higgins Ave. 312-533-4911

Visual artist Ed Paschke grew up on the Northwest Side, so it was fitting that a museum showcasing his work would be located here. The museum features a rotating display of Paschke originals in all their startling, vibrant neon colors. Paschke's style is explained in a 30-minute documentary and you can explore a recreation of his Rogers Park studio. Classes and lectures are also offered.



Eris Brewery & Cider House



Lake Effect
Brewing Co.



Printer's Row Brewing



Lake Effect Brewing Co.

4727 W. Montrose Ave. (brewery and package goods) 312-919-4473
4841 N. Lipps Ave. (tasting room)

Lake Effect specializes in high-quality crafted ales in small batches. Making the trek down the narrow alley to their bottle shop is well worth it for the beer selection, especially if you get to talk to owner Clint about his barrel-aged brews. For the full Lake Effect, head to the nearby tasting room (open in 2022) to enjoy their beer and a nosh in a former firehouse built in 1906.

Old Irving Brewery

4419 W. Montrose Ave. 773-916-6421

With a nice view of the OIB vats, tip back a beer and share some eats with friends at a bar that USA Today named one of the top ten brewpubs in America. Brewing original recipes such as Beezer, Rat Pack and Krampus Cookies since 2016, OIB also has a menu several notches higher than bar food. Forget the Bloody Mary for brunch, try one of OIB's citrus beers. You can even bring the youngsters to this kid-friendly beer hall.

Printer's Row Brewing

4801 N. Austin Ave. 773-657-3224

PRB started in the South Loop and has landed solidly here as the newest NW Side brewery. The brews range from the heavier Cannonball Porter and Out of Sorts brown ale to the lighter 81 West and citrus-y Party Parrot. There's a cozy indoor seating area with a small menu as well as a few outdoor tables. On special occasions, PRB closes the adjacent side street for a mini-fest with a neighborhood block party feel.

Eris Brewery & Cider House

4240 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-943-6200

From the comfortable foyer to the vegan/gluten-free friendly menu to the Eris silhouette topping the building, the creativity and welcoming spirit of Eris owners Michelle Folk and Katy Pizza are everywhere. The brewery, which was carved out of an old Masonic Lodge with Herculean effort by Folk and Pizza, features award-winning ciders, of course, but the menu - including Creamy Curry Fries, Pork Belly Gyros and Salmon with Quinoa does not settle for second place to the beer. Heated outdoor seating available. Kid friendly.



Lake Effect
Brewing Co.



Old Irving Brewery



Perks

Perkolator

6032 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-853-2261

The aroma of locally roasted beans and handmade pastries beckons passersby inward from Portage Park's bustling Irving Park Rd. Sink into the warm, intoxicating atmosphere where your daily cuppa steams in hand-tossed mugs. It's easy to get lost in this down-to-earth cafe when neighborhood art and live music converge.

Portage Grounds

5501 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-627-1549

Stroll into this Portage Park coffee house for direct trade, locally roasted coffee, locally baked pastries, and a variety of teas. For almost a decade, Portage Grounds has been a family-owned community space where neighbors work, relax, and socialize. Gather 'round their cozy fireplace or kick back on the spacious outdoor patio. The modern and welcoming space offers free wi-fi and a multipurpose conference room.

Veloria Coffee

3936 N. Cicero Ave. www.veloriacoffee.com

Husband-and-wife team, Ron and Vilma, import coffees from around the world then roast them to produce unique flavors and experiences. The shop is truly a family affair with the name "Veloria" coming from Vilma's middle name, which is her mother's first name.

T.O.C. Coffee Roaster

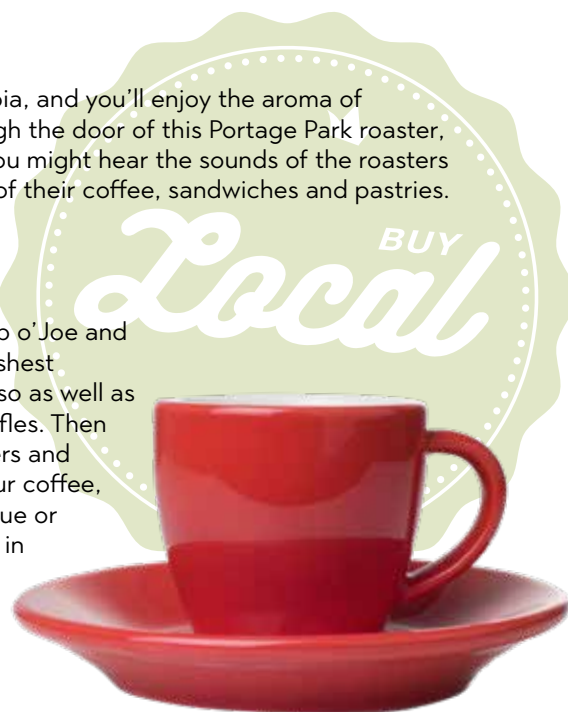
4801 W. Montrose Ave. 773-709-7040

The name is short for Taste of Colombia, and you'll enjoy the aroma of Columbia before you even walk through the door of this Portage Park roaster, which opened in 2013. Once inside, you might hear the sounds of the roasters then you're ready to enjoy the tastes of their coffee, sandwiches and pastries.

City Newsstand & Cafe

4018 N. Cicero Ave. 773-545-7377

Is there anything better than a hot cup o' Joe and a good read? Come relax with the freshest Uncommon Grounds coffee or espresso as well as delicious homemade cookies and truffles. Then choose from a multitude of newspapers and 5,000 magazines. While you enjoy your coffee, you can people-watch on Cicero Avenue or perhaps enjoy acoustic performances in the café. Open seven days a week 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.



Perkolator



Veloria Coffee



Perkolator



Portage Grounds



T.O.C. Coffee Roaster



Chicago Taco Authority



more favorites

Brg belly

5739 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-283-7880

These burgers seem gourmet but the atmosphere is so casual that the label doesn't fit. Anyway, once you get your house-ground chuck, smoked pork belly, homemade buns and daily hand-cut fries, the debate won't matter. Wash the meal down with a craft beer or a hand-spun shake that comes in boozy and non-boozy flavors. Their signature butter cookie drizzled with chocolate and crushed pecans is so good that you need to get it to go if your belly is full of "brgr".

The Alps

3637 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-267-5112

Look for a classic, affordable menu of breakfast and lunch favorites such as pancakes, waffles, crepes, blintzes, omelets, skilletts, burgers, hot and cold sandwiches, and homemade soups.

Chicago Taco Authority

4219 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-282-8226

Adorned with logos, artifacts and public-transit related art, Chicago Taco Authority – located just off the Blue Line – really delivers. Traditional tacos are available as well as such gourmet offerings as Chicken Tinga and Tropical Shrimp. Not in a taco mood? You're next stop on the menu should be the pozole or burritos. Or just take an express to the desserts of chocolate-dipped churros and house-made flan.

Bistro 6050

6050 W. Irving Park Rd. 312-883-6050

At this Portage Park bistro, empanada pockets are filled with creative fillings from the gourmet minds of owners, Chris and Roselle. A little French influence here. A little Peruvian or Asian influence there. The international flavors unite in a single language, saying: Delicious. Beyond the empanadas, there's soups, burgers and crepes. The bubble tea is a dessert in itself or try a proper dessert with house-made ice cream flavors such as roasted pistachio, passion fruit or Oh My Chocolate made with a Belgium import. These gourmet minds are pretty busy!