

MORE DINING AND SHOPPING NEWS!

*
**CHECK OUT
OUR NEW
LOOK!**

AUGUST 2007

Chicago

**LUPE FIASCO:
WORLD'S
HIPPEST
NERD**

2007

BEST of CHICAGO

MORE THAN **130**
WINNERS

**EVANSTON'S
'LOST' BOY:
A HOLLY-
WOOD
TALE**

WHERE TO EAT

WHERE TO SHOP

WHERE TO PLAY

**THE 22-ACRE
VACANCY
COMING TO
LINCOLN
PARK**

#BXBJKLZ *****CAR-RT LOT**C-014
#LVY00110094 3#390904 36

SARAH LEVY
11 E OAK ST
CHICAGO

SEP 08 028471
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IL 60611-1205

THE LOCAL OPTION

NEIGHBORHOOD	WINE STORE	SHOE REPAIR	HAND CAR WASH	BIKE SHOP
 <p>ANDERSONVILLE EDGE-WATER</p>	<p>ANDERSONVILLE WINE & SPIRITS 5201 N. Clark St.; 773-769-0858</p> <p>Best-kept secret of the neighborhood's wine buffs who treasure hunt among the store's big selection.</p>	<p>MASTER'S SHOE REPAIR 1479 W. Balmoral Ave.; 773-769-5150</p> <p>Grouchy service, but Master's can repair practically anything from shoes to ancient baseball gloves.</p>	<p>SNAPPY 5961 N. Ridge Blvd.; 773-262-1194</p> <p>Great work at the finish line, where water droplets are blown out of crevices and mopped up for a truly spotless clean.</p>	<p>JOHNNY SPROCKETS 1052 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.; 773-293-1697</p> <p>Lakefront location makes it convenient for test riding, and bike commuters depend on the repair department.</p>
 <p>LAKE VIEW</p>	<p>QUE SYRAH FINE WINES 3726 N. Southport Ave.; 773-871-8888</p> <p>Enthusiastic, wonky staff without the snobbery. Great matchmaking chops and lots of bottles under \$12.</p>	<p>BROADWAY SHOE REPAIR 3171 N. Broadway; 773-472-8800</p> <p>Dan Kanellos, and his expert staff of three, attract a devoted Manolo-wearing clientele. But they'll fix anything—for a good price.</p>	<p>QUIROGA'S PLUS CAR WASH 3448 N. Southport Ave.; 773-477-2286</p> <p>Convenient location in the heart of the Southport shopping district. No-nonsense job for \$12.</p>	<p>JOHNNY SPROCKETS 3001 N. Broadway; 773-244-1079</p> <p>Good all-around winner: friendly help, a generous post-purchase service policy, and sale-heating everyday prices.</p>
 <p>LINCOLN PARK</p>	<p>SAM'S WINES & SPIRITS 1720 N. Marcey St.; 312-664-4394</p> <p>Unrivaled selection in every category from high to low. A wine collector's nirvana.</p>	<p>GUS'S SHOE REPAIR 2361 N. Clark St.; 773-525-0133</p> <p>No-fuss service at this high-volume shop that wins for lower prices on its quality repairs.</p>	<p>SIMON'S SHINE SHOP 1439 W. Shakespeare Ave.; 773-348-2000</p> <p>A premium \$30 wash that's still cheaper than White Glove next door—with better service and a plush waiting room.</p>	<p>PERFORMANCE BIKE SHOP 2720 N. Halsted St.; 773-248-0107</p> <p>The default choice in a neighborhood rife with overpriced bike stores. Large selection, good sales.</p>
 <p>GOLD COAST RIVER NORTH</p>	<p>WHOLE FOODS 30 W. Huron St.; 312-932-9600</p> <p>Neighborhood resident and top sommelier Belinda Chang's pick for its terrific selection of bottles from Spain and organic vino.</p>	<p>SANDBURG SHOE REPAIR & LEATHER CRAFTERS 115 W. North Ave.; 312-266-8966</p> <p>You get the wisdom of three generations of cobblers at this high-end shop.</p>	<p>GOLD COAST HAND CAR WASH & DETAILING 875 N. Orleans St.; 312-988-9524</p> <p>Where the area's luxury car owners go for premium service—at premium prices. Free espresso.</p>	<p>YOJIMBO'S GARAGE 1310 N. Clybourn Ave.; 312-587-0878</p> <p>The destination for bike messengers and fixed-gear racers, who rely on genius mechanic and owner Marcus Moore. Sells bikes, too.</p>
 <p>WEST TOWN WEST LOOP</p>	<p>JUICY WINE CO. 694 N. Milwaukee Ave.; 312-492-6620</p> <p>Serious yet casual wine store and bar, with modest bottle markups—a perfect match for its hipster clientele.</p>	<p>CHICAGO SHOE SHOP 1903 W. Chicago Ave.; 312-633-9101</p> <p>This one-woman operation won't perform miracles, but does basic repairs with motherly attention to detail.</p>	<p>BERT'S CAR WASH 1231 W. Grand Ave.; 312-942-1550</p> <p>Uses a soft-cloth drive-through machine for the soaping stage, but provides full-service finishing at a nice price—\$8.50.</p>	<p>UPGRADE CYCLE WORKS 1130 W. Chicago Ave.; 312-226-8650</p> <p>A sizable collection of high-quality new bikes and gear in a part of town that is otherwise devoid of choices. Not cheap.</p>
 <p>OAK PARK FOREST PARK</p>	<p>HOUSE RED 7403 W. Madison St., Forest Park; 708-771-7733</p> <p>Weekly winetastings and a friendly, informed staff. A color coding system makes navigating a snap.</p>	<p>TONY'S SHOE CLINIC 115 N. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park; 708-383-2781</p> <p>Area repairers often relinquish customers to shoe ER doctor Tony Muñoz, who can revive even the most hopeless cases.</p>	<p>LORO AUTO WORKS 1029 South Blvd., Oak Park; 708-524-2950</p> <p>The premium wash for \$22, which includes floor mat shampoo and tire shine, is one of the best deals around.</p>	<p>OAK PARK CYCLERY 1113 Chicago Ave., Oak Park; 708-524-2453</p> <p>Full-service store that specializes in folding bikes and sells popular brands like Trek. Expert repair center.</p>
 <p>HINSDALE</p>	<p>A TASTE OF VINO 24 W. Chicago Ave.; 630-325-8466</p> <p>Enthusiastic owners with an approachable retail aesthetic: the \$20-and-under wines are stacked on the floor.</p>	<p>HINSDALE SHOE SERVICES 18 W. Hinsdale Ave.; 630-323-0358</p> <p>Eugene Portnoy will mend shoes, belts, purses, "and sometimes furniture if you ask and I can do it."</p>	<p>FULLER'S CARWASH 102 W. Chicago Ave.; 630-325-0088</p> <p>Part of a suburban chain, but this is the location to spot Ferraris and Bentleys, usually on Saturday mornings.</p>	<p>HARTLEY'S CYCLE 24 W. Hinsdale Ave.; 630-323-7156</p> <p>Around since 1954, this gathering place for local leisure cyclists is also the spot for baby joggers and toddler trailers.</p>



PHOTOGRAPHY: (FROM TOP) DAVID MORGAN, PETER RUANE, ANNA BRY, UKHANOVA. ALL: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

EVERY DECENT PLACE TO LIVE NEEDS A GOOD COFFEE SHOP, GYM, AND PLACE TO GET SUSHI IN A PINCH. WE FOUND THE BEST PROVIDERS IN NINE ESSENTIAL CATEGORIES—FROM BIKE SHOPS TO BEEF JOINTS—FOR FIVE CITY NEIGHBORHOODS AND TWO BUFFED-OUT SUBURBS.

BEEF JOINT	SUSHI	COFFEE SHOP	WORKOUT PLACE	BAKERY
<p>PATIO BEEF 6022 N. Broadway; 773-764-8500</p> <p>Reliably tasty renditions of all the standards and an invitingly ungreasy seating area with indoor patio umbrellas.</p>	<p>TANOSHII 5547 N. Clark St.; 773-878-6886</p> <p>The throng has finally died down a bit at this BYOB where Sushi Mike cranks out creative maki for a rapt audience.</p>	<p>METROPOLIS 1039 W. Granville Ave.; 773-764-0400</p> <p>The city's best latte, plus three rooms of seating, geeky baristas, free Wi-Fi, and a serious, laptop-y clientele.</p>	<p>CHEETAH GYM 5838 N. Broadway; 773-728-6600</p> <p>Smaller than the scensier Andersonville location, but preferable for its relative calm and adjacent parking lot.</p>	<p>PASTICCERIA NATALINA 5406 N. Clark St.; 773-989-0662</p> <p>For years, Swedish Bakery was the only one worth mentioning. Not anymore. Also, our pick for best new bakery citywide.</p>
<p>BYRON'S HOT DOGS 1017 W. Irving Park Rd.; 773-281-7474</p> <p>The peppery beef marinates for six hours at Byron's Lawrence location before it's served here. Parking.</p>	<p>WAKAMONO SUSHI BAR 3317 N. Broadway; 773-296-6800</p> <p>"Jet-fresh" sushi? The owners boast that nothing is ever frozen; the Wakamono Roll is the finest example.</p>	<p>FIXX 3053 N. Sheffield Ave.; 773-248-0841</p> <p>A commuter pitstop in the mornings, and an evening hangout for the book readings and music nights. Great mocha.</p>	<p>FITNESS FORMULA CLUB 3228 N. Halsted St.; 773-755-3232</p> <p>This spotless gym recently updated all of its machines and there's never a wait—even during rush hour.</p>	<p>BITTERSWEET 1114 W. Belmont Ave.; 773-929-1100</p> <p>Makes pristinely edged special-occasion buttercream layer cakes that are expensive, dense, and worth every penny.</p>
<p>WHAT'S THE BEEF 1863 N. Clybourn Ave.; 773-477-7200</p> <p>Demon Dogs is gone, but partisans of What's the Beef's tender, juicy signature sandwich couldn't care less.</p>	<p>TORO SUSHI 2546 N. Clark St.; 773-348-4877</p> <p>In a sea of choices, Toro Sushi gets the nod for extreme freshness. Also, our pick for best cheap sushi.</p>	<p>BOURGEOIS PIG 738 W. Fullerton Ave.; 773-883-5282</p> <p>A hangout for cramming students and locals seeking a charming vibe. Lovably fussy baristas.</p>	<p>RAY MEYER FITNESS RECREATION CENTER 2235 N. Sheffield Ave.; 773-325-4555</p> <p>Vast real estate including a pool. Memberships available to non-DePaulites.</p>	<p>VANILLE PATISSERIE 2229 N. Clybourn Ave.; 773-868-4574</p> <p>Known for miniature mousse cakes, Vanille's calling card is its true Parisian croissant—the city's best.</p>
<p>MR. BEEF 666 N. Orleans St.; 312-337-8500</p> <p>A Chicago institution and, loyalists argue, the city's finest version.</p>	<p>KAMEHACHI 240 E. Ontario St.; 312-587-0600</p> <p>A gracious Japanese vibe in a luxuriously uncramped environment that is serenely untrendy. Outstanding tempura.</p>	<p>THE 3RD COAST 1260 N. Dearborn St.; 312-649-0730</p> <p>Starbucks reigns, except at this Old World holdout serving a bottomless cup and well-wrought sandwiches.</p>	<p>EAST BANK CLUB 500 N. Kingsbury St.; 312-527-5801</p> <p>Somewhat stuck in an early-nineties time warp, East Bank is the neighborhood's biggest—and still the best.</p>	<p>SARAH'S PASTRIES & CANDIES 70 E. Oak St.; 312-664-6223</p> <p>We love Sarah Levy's unique chocolate creations; her homey baked goods follow close behind.</p>
<p>BOSTON'S ITALIAN BEEF 2932 W. Chicago Ave.; 773-486-9536</p> <p>It's actually in Humboldt Park but worth the drive. One of Chicago's few remaining old-timey beef stands.</p>	<p>BUTTERFLY 1156 W. Grand Ave.; 312-563-5555</p> <p>Even for the fussy diner, Butterfly delivers—great Thai food, competent sushi, and a cheap bill. BYOB.</p>	<p>SIP 1223 W. Grand Ave.; 312-563-1123</p> <p>Expanded two years ago, this once-tiny spot offers quirky specialty drinks, a big magazine rack, and sunny outdoor seating.</p>	<p>MOKSHA YOGA CENTER 700 N. Carpenter St.; 312-942-9642</p> <p>Fans come back for the good instructors, the long list of classes, and the space's vintage interior.</p>	<p>D'AMATO'S 1124 W. Grand Ave.; 312-733-5456</p> <p>A deservedly beloved destination for its Italian American baked goods including baseball-size arancini and pan pizza.</p>
<p>JOHNNIE'S BEEF 7500 W. North Ave., Elmwood Park; 708-452-6000</p> <p>It can't really recommend anything else when Johnnie's justifiably legendary sandwich is nearby in Elmwood Park.</p>	<p>SAGANO 731 Lake St., Oak Park; 708-383-2766</p> <p>Offers fresh standards plus some snazzy signature eye-catchers like the Fire Dragon maki (spicy tuna, avocado, and unagi).</p>	<p>BLUE MAX COFFEE ROASTERS & CAFÉ 26 Lathrop Ave., Forest Park; 708-366-9224</p> <p>Roasts its own organic, fair trade coffee and makes an awesome raspberry scone.</p>	<p>FITNESS FORMULA CLUB 1114 Lake St., Oak Park; 708-383-1114</p> <p>Oak Park's shiny new 24-hour fitness emporium, with an indoor pool, rock climbing wall, outdoor deck, and yoga classes.</p>	<p>OAK PARK BAKERY 904 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park; 708-383-1712</p> <p>Buttery coffeecakes and delicate kolacky pastries are the claim to fame of this 100-year-old institution. Also try the éclairs.</p>
<p>ITALIAN BEEF 1 S. LaGrange Rd.; 708-354-2333</p> <p>It's so close to the city, so it's in Countryside. Come on—who eats Italian beef in Hinsdale?</p>	<p>WILD OATS NATURAL MARKETPLACE 500 E. Ogden Ave.; 630-986-8500</p> <p>Perhaps only for the lunch-rushed. Try Sushi House (830 E. Ogden Ave.; 630-920-8948) in Westmont.</p>	<p>STARBUCKS 33 S. Washington St.; 630-655-9923</p> <p>Constantly busy to the point of self-parody. Saturday mornings, it's the epicenter of the town.</p>	<p>SALT CREEK BICYCLE TRAIL This mostly flat 6 1/2-mile-trail in the Cook County Forest Preserves starts from a park road off Ogden Avenue just east of I-294 and ends at the Brookfield Zoo. A stunning escape.</p>	<p>TONI MARIE'S SWEETS & SAVORIES 51 S. Washington St.; 630-789-2020</p> <p>Breakfast, lunch, and ravishing desserts.</p>

