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Staff faves: Neighborhood bars

OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST BARS TO TRY WHEN YOU STICK CLOSE TO HOME



Flat Iron *Bucktown/Wicker Park*
1565 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-365-9000

Sure, the darkened bar just a few steps off the six corners in Wicker Park gets jam-packed after 2 a.m. on the weekends, when every other watering hole in the vicinity closes down. But it's tough to pass up the \$5 whiskey and PBR special during the week, when the crowd is much more tame. —JESSICA GALLIART

BARRY BRECHISEN PHOTO FOR METROMIX

Simone's Bar *Pilsen, 960 W. 18th St. 312-666-8601*

We love how this bar breaks the mold with its arcade-meets-science lab decor. Fun, seasonal changing cocktails, eclectic DJ sets and reliable burgers keep us coming back. —LISA ARNETT

O'Donovan's *North Center, 2100 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-478-2100*

O'Donovan's has daily food deals, enough TVs but not so many that only sports fanatics feel welcome, a magician on weekend nights (seriously!) and a sufficient beer list. —DANA KAVAN

Maria's Packaged Goods & Community Bar
Bridgeport, 960 W. 31st St. 773-890-0588

The best thing to have behind your trusty neighborhood liquor store is a trusty neighborhood bar. We love how the crowd is a mix of older career drunks and younger neighborhoodies. —L.A.

Cleo's on Armitage *Bucktown/Wicker Park, 2048 W. Armitage Ave. 773-227-6700*

An ongoing search for Chicago's version of McClaren's on "How I Met Your Mother" hasn't crowned a champion, but this laid-back hang is toward the top of the list. —MATT PAIS

JOIN THE RANDOMNESS!

What are you loving this week? Log onto metromix.com to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

WEDNESDAY BEER BOTTLE DEALS

BLACK DUCK TAV-ERN AND GRILLE \$3 select domestic bottles; 1800 N. Halsted St. 312-664-1801.	FAITH & WHISKEY \$6 select 40-ounce beer bottles; 1365 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-248-9119.	HIGH DIVE \$2.50 Bud family bottles; 1938 W. Chicago Ave. 773-235-3483.	OLD TOWN PUB \$3.50 Bud Light bottles; 1339 N. Wells St. 312-266-6789.
BRENDAN'S PUB \$3.50 Corona and Heineken bottles; 3169 N. Broadway Ave. 773-929-2929.	FLO \$2.50 Miller High Life bottles; 1434 W. Chicago Ave. 312-243-0477.	KINCADE'S \$1 domestic bottles; 950 W. Armitage Ave. 773-348-0010.	POITIN STIL \$2 domestic bottles; 1502 W. Jarvis Ave. 773-338-3285.
CHIEF O'NEILL'S PUB \$3 Moosehead Lager bottles; 3471 N. Elston Ave. 773-473-5263.	GANNON'S PUB \$3 all bottles; 4264 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-1007.	LOCKDOWN BAR & GRILL \$2.50 domestic bottles; 1024 N. Western Ave. 773-451-5625.	SUBTERRANEAN \$2.50 domestics bottles, \$3.50 imports bottles; 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.
THE COACH HOUSE \$2 domestic bottles; 950 W. Wolfram St. 773-665-5660.	HALSTED HARP \$3 all bottles; 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.	MURPHY'S BLEACHERS \$4 German drafts bottles; 3655 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-5356.	VAUGHAN'S PUB \$2.50 Miller Lite and Coors Light bottles; 2917 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-8188.