



West on North (2509 W. North Ave.), a new Humboldt Park bar and eatery, opened Monday.

A serious sugar fix



8 new spots to chill out and indulge your sweet tooth

By Erin Brereton

From house-made ice cream cookie sandwiches to frozen custard that comes with a cupcake mixed in (genius!), these sugary selections from recently opened sweets shops are worth the splurge.

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Lemon Drop cupcake at Skinny Piggy. LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS

Crazy Cake concrete

Lickity Split

6056 N. Broadway 773-274-0830

Frozen custard is made with less air than ice cream, so it's denser—which is why owner Ken Anderson says you can flip any of his mixed treats, called concretes, upside down without the spoon falling out. Sold in regular (\$4.75) and large (\$5.65) sizes, the Crazy Cake concrete (above) is made with chocolate or vanilla frozen custard (fruity summer flavors such as watermelon are coming soon) blended with a chocolate or red velvet cupcake from Phoebe's Cupcakes in Lakeview.

Ice cream cookie sandwich

Hilary's Cookies

4917 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-285-5055

Lincoln Square-based cookie maker Hilary Black's ice cream sandwich selections include the Banana Split (\$4.50)—two house-made vanilla bean cookies, vanilla ice cream, bananas, caramel, chopped peanuts and a dark chocolate ganache—and the Peach Cobbler, peach oatmeal cookies with vanilla ice cream and fresh peach compote (\$4.50). Hungry for a really sizable sammy? Bit into the Big MoFo (right), weighing in at a full pound (\$6.50).



Passion fruit-mango caramels

Amy's Candy Bar

4704 N. Damen Ave. 773-942-6386

Owner Amy Hansen uses pureed passion fruit and mango to make these hand-cut caramel candies. Sold for 50 cents apiece or in a 7-ounce tube for \$8, the caramels are made using a modified recipe from Hansen's days at Chicago's French Pastry School. "The passion fruit is very flavorful," she said. "The flavor explodes when you bite into it."

Lemon Drop cupcake

Skinny Piggy

1214 W. Taylor St. 312-496-3366

These lemon cupcakes (topped with buttercream frosting and candied lemon zest) are sold in two sizes: a 2-ounce "skinny" (\$2.75) and a 4-ounce "piggy" portion (\$3.50). The flavor's proved so popular this summer that the University Village bakery had to begin producing bigger batches. "Some days, we've made double the [usual] amount," co-owner Monica Rodriguez said.

Salted caramel frozen yogurt

Pinkberry

635 N. State St. 312-475-0641

The salted caramel fro-yo—served with crispy crepe pieces, a caramel drizzle and sprinkle of sea salt—proved so popular that roughly a week and a half after its debut, the Chicago Pinkberry sold out of it. The eatery received a new shipment of salted caramel (sold in 5-, 8- and 13-ounce servings, \$3.75-\$6.75) last week, so get it before it's gone.



The Purple Cow float

The Purple Cow Ice Cream Cafe

838 W. Montrose Ave.
773-878-1430

Made with grape soda and premium high-butterfat vanilla ice cream (\$3 for a 16-ounce regular; \$3.50 for a 20-ounce large), the Purple Cow isn't the only float on the menu—but it's the only one that shares this Uptown ice cream parlor's name. According to owner Mark Cohen, the eatery's name came first. "Purple cow is an old-fashioned name for a dairy bar where people get ice cream," Cohen said. "Many ice cream places have a drink called that."



Cinnamon roll

Delish Diner & Bakery

2018 W. Division St. 773-276-5200

This Wicker Park eatery's addictive cinnamon rolls topped with fondant icing glaze started out as a freebie given to customers waiting for their order. Delish now serves a single one for \$1.85; if you'd like to take some cinnamon rolls to go, packs of a dozen are \$18. "People in the area take them to work," co-owner Felipe Caro said. "They're replacing the doughnut around here!"



Gummy flowers

Confection Connection 316 S. Dearborn St. 312-662-1400

Owner Gail Goodman sells chocolate-covered potato chips, pretzels and other coated candies. But the summer heat makes it tough to travel far with those treats. Enter: The almighty gummy bear—along with gummy fish, gummy butterflies and gummy flowers. The quarter-sized gummy flowers come in different varieties: Tiny tulips, sunflowers and other blossom bites for \$8.95 a pound.

