



Life & Style / Travel / Bicentennial Bucket List

Food: 20 things every Illinoisan should eat at least once



3 Paczki
 (The Courier-News)

[Herb's Bakery](#)

1020 Larkin Ave., Elgin

Fat Tuesday is like Black Friday at this family-run bakery, where the line snakes out the door for its once-a-year supply of these traditional Polish, pre-Lenten treats. Raspberry, apricot and custard are a few of the fillings surrounded by a pillow of doughy goodness. Call 847-741-0249 to order ahead for this year's batch, available one day only: Feb. 13.

SAVE THE DATE
 Alden Gardens of Waterford's
Halloween Boos and CHILI COOK OFF
 Pre-register for our Chili Cook-Off
 Held on Tuesday, October 30 • 4-6 pm

Vote for the Best Chili

ALDENgardens of Waterford

All Participants must bring your pre-cooked chili dish OR taste test the chili and enjoy a bowl of your favorite for \$5 and will be entered to win a 50" Flat Screen TV

RSVP BY October 22nd

[Click Here to Register!](#)

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Pick 20 things every Illinoisan should eat at least once in a lifetime.

This culinary challenge had us thinking that maybe we'd bitten off more than we could chew. From Chicago's world-famous food scene, to the state's rich agricultural DNA and a bounty of regional specialties, it was almost impossible to narrow our choices down to just 20. But that's what we had to do for the latest installment of our bicentennial bucket list, an evolving roster of 200 things to do, see, eat or drink in celebration of Illinois' two centuries of statehood this year.

So dig in to our 20 picks — sweet and savory — from around the state. If there's something you think should have made the list but didn't, let us know at travel@chicagotribune.com.

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(Lori Rackl, Nick Kindelsperger, Bill Daley, Louisa Chu)