

# FRIED WHOLE BELLY CLAMS

at New England Seafood Company Fish Market

WORTH A TRIP

By Michael Nagrant

FOR REDEYE

"Our friends in Boston laugh that we have to say 'whole belly' clams. In the Northeast, that's a given," said Jeff Mazza, who with his brother Bob owns Lakeview's New England Seafood Company Fish Market (3341 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-871-3474).

Ironically, Mazza can thank a fellow Bay Stater for the fact that Midwesterners need to be told the Mazzas are keeping it real.

A clam has a hard bland appendage known as a foot that it uses for digging; the chewier, more flavorful part is known as the belly, which includes the siphons, stomach and gills. Clam digger Thomas Soffron of Ipswich, Mass., didn't like the squishy belly,

so he cut them off and sold slices of the bland foot to the Howard Johnson hotel chain, which introduced fried clam strips to many landlocked Americans.

Unfortunately, the belly holds the flavor. Thankfully, the Mazzas are avenging Soffron's mistake quite nicely. Mazza said, "My great grandfather left a beach house on Salisbury Beach [in Massachusetts]. Every summer we'd eat lobster rolls and juicy fried whole clams sitting on a deck overlooking the ocean. Our clams are about one thing: missing home."

Bob captures that taste of their childhood by dredging fresh whole Ipswich clams in a batter of corn flour and cornmeal seasoned with a dash of Old Bay and fries them to order. The result is a crisp, airy exterior and



LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

slightly chewy interior (\$21.75 includes three quarters of a pound of clams, fries and cole slaw. A smaller 6- to 7-ounce portion of clams only costs \$12.95).

The belly lends a slight foie gras-like funk and the clams drip with juice. After popping a whole order, you might see Bob Mazza's

work as some kind of culinary wizardry. Jeff sees it another way: "He's not one of those culinary school geniuses. This isn't rocket science, just good food from the heart."

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE. REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEATERINK

MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY		Handicapped Access ♦ Digital Sound ♦ Dolby Stereo ★ No Passes ♣ Hearing - Impaired		
		L - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13		
<p><b>600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)</b> 600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 888-AMC-4FUN Show times change daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pacific Rim 3D (PG-13) 4:20</li> <li>■ Pacific Rim (PG-13) D 1:20, 7:20, 9:00</li> <li>■ Now You See Me (PG-13) D 4:10, 9:50</li> <li>■ Red 2 (PG-13) D 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35</li> <li>■ Crown Ups 2 (PG-13) D 1:10, 3:45, 6:30, 10:15</li> <li>■ The Wolverine (PG-13) * D 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00</li> <li>■ This Is the End (R) D 12:50, 3:30, 9:40</li> <li>■ White House Down (PG-13) D 12:55, 6:50</li> <li>■ The Heat (R) D 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25</li> <li>■ The Conjuring (R) D 2:25, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40</li> <li>■ The Wolverine 3D (PG-13) * 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30</li> </ul>	<p><b>FORD CITY 14 (AMC)</b> S. Cicero at 78th, Chicago 888-AMC-4FUN Show times change daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) * D 10:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) * D 1:40, 6:55</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) * 11:00, 4:20, 9:30</li> </ul>	<p><b>RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)</b> 322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago 888-AMC-4FUN Show times change daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) D 10:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) D 8:00, 9:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) 7:00, 10:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)</b> 1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1641</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:20, 6:30</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) * (Closed caption) 3:50, 9:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION</b> Clark &amp; Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago (312) 564-2104 VIP Premium 21+</p>
<p><b>LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)</b> 2828 North Clark St., Chicago (773) 509-4949</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Blackfish (PG-13) D 2:00, 4:15, 7:30, 9:45</li> <li>■ Still Mine (PG-13) D 1:50, 4:35, 7:10, 10:05</li> <li>■ Fruitvale Station (R) D (Closed caption) 1:40, 2:30, 4:05, 5:00, 8:00, 9:40</li> <li>■ 20 Feet From Stardom (PG-13) D 1:30, 4:40, 7:05, 9:50</li> <li>■ The Way Way Back (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 1:35, 4:10, 7:40, 10:10</li> <li>■ Tim &amp; Eric Excellent (R) D 1:45, 4:00, 7:20, 9:30</li> </ul>	<p><b>GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER</b> 164 State Street (312) 846-2900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In the House (R) 6:00</li> <li>■ Gone With the Wind (G) 6:15</li> <li>■ Renair (R) 8:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>LOGAN THEATRE</b> 2846 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628</p>	<p><b>SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)</b> E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1646</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) D 10:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) * D 10:00, 12:35, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) * 10:55, 1:30, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15</li> </ul>	<p><b>OAK PARK</b> <b>LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)</b> 1022 Lake Street, Oak Park (630) 444-FILM #660</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Despicable Me 2 (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00</li> <li>■ Pacific Rim (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:00</li> <li>■ Turbo (PG) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) (Closed caption) 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20</li> <li>■ Red 2 (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45</li> <li>■ Escape From Planet Earth (PG) 10:00</li> <li>■ The Wolverine (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 7:15</li> <li>■ The Heat (R) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30</li> <li>■ Turbo 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 3:20</li> <li>■ The Wolverine 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 4:30, 10:00</li> <li>■ The Way Way Back (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00</li> </ul>
<p><b>CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)</b> 2600 N. Western Ave. (800) 326-3264 #1642</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Wolverine 3D (PG-13) * ✓ (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:00, 10:00</li> <li>■ The Wolverine (PG-13) * ✓ (Closed caption) 4:00, 7:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) * (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00</li> <li>■ The Wolverine 3D (PG-13) * (Closed caption) 2:00, 11:00</li> <li>■ The Wolverine (PG-13) * (Closed caption) 10:30, 15:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30</li> <li>■ The Conjuring (R) (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 9:50, 10:50</li> <li>■ R.I.P.D. (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:45</li> <li>■ Red 2 (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45</li> <li>■ Turbo (PG) (Closed caption) 10:10, 12:55, 3:40, 5:30, 8:15</li> <li>■ Pacific Rim 3D (PG-13) * (Closed caption) 10:55</li> <li>■ Pacific Rim (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:55, 1:55, 4:55, 7:55</li> <li>■ Crown Ups 2 (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10</li> <li>■ Despicable Me 2 (PG) (Closed caption) 10:05, 1:05, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35</li> <li>■ World War Z (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25</li> <li>■ Monsters University (G) (Closed caption) 10:15, 12:55, 3:35, 6:25</li> <li>■ This Is the End (R) (Closed caption) 11:15</li> <li>■ Big Miracle (PG) * (Closed caption) 10:00</li> <li>■ Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (PG) * (Closed caption) 10:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>MUSIC BOX</b> 3733 N. Southport, Chicago (773) 871-6604</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Only God Forgives (R) 5:45, 7:45, 9:45</li> <li>■ Carré Blanc (NR) 5:15</li> <li>■ Un file (NR) 7:00</li> <li>■ You Will Be My Son (PG-13) 9:15</li> </ul>	<p><b>SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)</b> 7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) D 10:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) * D 7:00, 8:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)</b> 4770 W. Cermak, Cicero (800) 326-3264 #1644</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Oz the Great and Powerful (PG) D 10:00</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) D 6:45</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 3D (PG) 7:30</li> </ul>	<p><b>EVANSTON</b> <b>CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)</b> 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston (847) 492-0123</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rio (G) D 10:00</li> <li>■ American Graffiti (PG) D 2:00, 7:00</li> </ul>
<p><b>DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)</b> 4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago (773) 784-8853</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Wolverine (PG-13) * 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15</li> <li>■ The Way Way Back (PG-13) * 1:30, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00</li> <li>■ Red 2 (PG-13) * 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10</li> <li>■ The Smurfs 2 (PG) * 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10</li> <li>■ Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (PG) 10:00</li> </ul>	<p><b>THE PATIO THEATRE</b> 6008 W. Irving Park Road (773) 685-4291</p>			