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Around Town

Pedal power

Local businesses find two wheels are better than four. By Kate Silver.
Illustration by Peter and Maria Hoey.

The city in pictures

Photo gallery



► "Science Storms" at Museum of Science and Industry

Street life

Public eye



People on the street
Chicago stories from the sidewalk

More interviews

TOC Poll

We want to know what you think. Click here to answer this week's poll question.



Kick-ass summer

Summer festivals and more



- 15 perfect weekends
- Best weekdays to ditch work
- Farmers' market guide
- Outdoor dining guide

167 can't-miss fests

TOC Student Guide

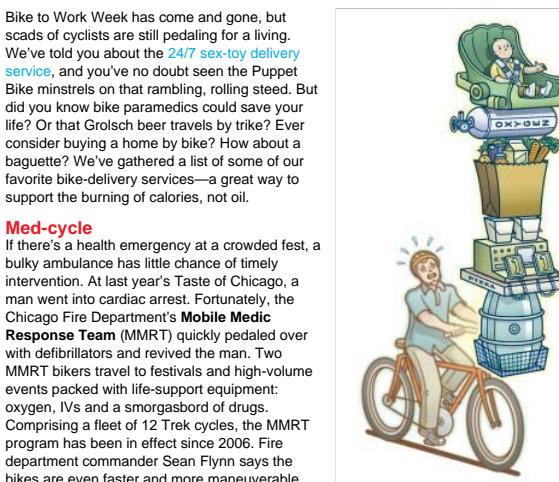
Essential advice for our scholastically minded citizens.

FREE Stuff

Win prizes and get discounts, event invites and more.

TOC Staff

Who does what and why.



Med-cycle

If there's a health emergency at a crowded fest, a bulky ambulance has little chance of timely intervention. At last year's Taste of Chicago, a man went into cardiac arrest. Fortunately, the Chicago Fire Department's **Mobile Medic Response Team** (MMRT) quickly pedaled over with defibrillators and revived the man. Two MMRT bikers travel to festivals and high-volume events packed with life-support equipment: oxygen, IVs and a smorgasbord of drugs. Comprising a fleet of 12 Trek cycles, the MMRT program has been in effect since 2006. Fire department commander Sean Flynn says the bikes are even faster and more maneuverable than the department's Segways.

Keg-cycle

Dutch beer, Dutch bike—**Grolsch** may be onto something, if only clever marketing. In 2009, the beer company ordered a three-wheeled *bakfiets* (that's Dutch for box bike, which sports a cargo carrier) from Old Town's **De Fietsfabriek-USA** (1311 N Wells St, 312-643-1670) to transport beer to art openings and exhibits. The company fills the wooden box at the front of the trike with suds. It can hold up to 260 pounds and carry a keg, but it's most often filled with flip-top bottles a rep hands out for free. "It stops traffic—in a positive regard," says Jon Lind, owner of De Fietsfabriek. "It's not this gas-guzzling Hummer that has graphics all around it."

Bread-cycle

Carophiles, meet **Breadfix**. It's a program offered by Logan Square's **Cook Au Vin** (2256 N Elston Ave, 773-489-3141) that delivers fresh bread (baguettes, ciabatta, croissants and more) to your home daily (or every other day or weekly) by bike. "We make the bread at 2 or 3pm and we deliver at 5pm, so you have two-hour-old bread," owner Vincent Colombe says. The service (\$40–\$70 per month, depending on delivery frequency) soon will branch out of the Logan Square area, leaving a trail of crumbs to Bucktown and Lincoln Park.

Kid-cycle

Think of Elise Doody-Jones as the bike stork. The owner of Logan Square day-care center **Doodlebug Junction** (2854 W Lyndale St, 773-213-2360), she uses a Dutch cargo bike to shuttle several kids to play in area parks and to the lake to feed the ducks. The cycle is her ticket to remaining minivan free yet still highly mobile, all while keeping the kids (ages 2 to 6) safe. "It's a lot faster," she says, "than getting everybody into the car and getting everybody all buckled in."

Home-cycle

Lee Diamond of **Big Shoulders Realty** (4750–52 N Milwaukee Ave, 773-481-0244) shows homes by bike. Don't have a two-wheeler? Choose from the 39-year-old's collection of more than 20—all named for historical Chicago figures like H.H. Holmes and Studs. "It's the most fun way you'll ever look through a home, the most complete way you'll ever understand a neighborhood before you move in," says Diamond, who also leads bike tours throughout the city. "You see everything."

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Time Out Chicago / Issue 278 : Jun 24–30, 2010

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167 festivals!
Chicago's most comprehensive guide to street parties, cold beer, greasy food, music and more.

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10:40am

Downtown Sound present their most challenging and rewarding show thus far.

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Sexy Chicago



Naked Girls Reading



Chippendales



Lingerie Football League

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10 best tours!

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