

# The Transporter

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*Transportation Information for Business Executives & Elected Officials in Northern New Jersey*

## Vermella Lyndhurst Shuttle Welcomed By Residents

Residents of the luxury community, *Vermella Lyndhurst*, located at 340 Orient Way in Lyndhurst, have enthusiastically welcomed the shuttle that links the residential complex to both the Rutherford and the Kingsland train station in Lyndhurst. With this route, residents can also access *NJ TRANSIT'S* #190 high-frequency bus service to New York City, which operates approximately every three minutes from the Rutherford train station.

Currently, the residential complex is not served by *NJ TRANSIT* so the shuttle provides a vital link to public transportation in the area. Service is provided using one minibus that operates on weekdays during peak commute hours in the morning between 5:30 am to 9 am, and in the evening from 4 pm to 8 pm. The shuttle service could attract new tenants to the complex who either don't drive, or don't own a car, but have a need for public transportation to get to work and back.

"The *Vermella Lyndhurst* team strives to provide our residents with services and amenities that make their lives easier and more enjoyable," said Ryan Fontaine, Director of Operations for the community. "Residents were looking for a faster way to get to local transportation, and we were happy to partner with *EZ Ride* to deliver this option."

Funding for the service was made possible by a federal *Job Access & Reverse Commute (JARC)* grant provided by the *North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)* and private sector contributions that included *Russo Development*, the owner of *Vermella Lyndhurst*. The program is administered by *NJ TRANSIT*. For more information, please contact:

Kinga Skora  
(201) 939-4242  
kskora@ezride.org



*Meadowlink Chairman, Perry Frenzel and Jeffrey Fuller, Property Manager of the Meadows Office Complex at the inauguration of the Route 3 Shuttle.*

## Route 3 Shuttle To Secaucus Junction Launched To Serve Meadows Office Complex

On November 18, *Meadowlink* launched the Route 3 Shuttle from the Meadows Office Complex in Rutherford to the Secaucus Junction Train Station in Secaucus. Two mini-buses will be used to provide the service 5 days a week from 6 am – 10 am and from 4 pm – 8 pm. Service to and from Secaucus Junction will be available every 30-minutes.

Funding for the service was made possible by a federal *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)* grant provided by the *North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)* and private sector contributions from the *Meadows Office LLC*. The *CMAQ* program supports two important goals of the *United States Department*

*of Transportation*, improving air quality and relieving congestion. "We are excited to provide this new shuttle service connection for our tenants. The shuttle service to the Secaucus Junction Train Station will benefit many who come to work at our buildings in Rutherford. Our tenants will be able to take advantage of all the train services at Secaucus Junction and have easy access to the office without having to worry about parking and traffic." said Jeffrey Fuller, Property Manager of the *Meadows Office Complex*.

If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact:

Kinga Skora  
(201) 939-4242  
kskora@ezride.org

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## Monthly Federal Commuter Maximum Pretax Set Aside For Transit/ Vanpool Users To Drop By 47% From \$245 To \$130 In 2014

Commuting to work can be expensive both in terms of time and money. While the government can't do much about the time factor, a federal tax break helps defray the cost. If an employer chooses to offer the benefit to their employees, a commuter could set aside up to \$245 a month before taxes to pay for parking, rail, bus, subway or vanpooling.

The benefit provides an incentive for commuters to use public transportation, which helps not only to reduce traffic congestion, but also to improve air quality, save energy and decrease our reliance on foreign fuel imports.

Unfortunately, while the tax break that affects parking is permanent, the one

affecting public transit and vanpooling is not. Unless Congress acts, the maximum pretax set aside for transit/ vanpooling will drop after December 31, 2013, to \$130 a month.

For people who use public transit or vanpool to work, that would add hundreds of dollars a year in increased income tax liability to their commuting costs. Additionally, employers in the plan would have to pay payroll taxes on money that is currently tax deferred.

For comments or for more information, please contact:

Krishna Murthy  
(201) 939-4242  
kmurthy@ezride.org

## \$325 Vanpool Incentive Offered During Pulaski Skyway Reconstruction

At an estimated cost of \$1 billion and a repair timeline of two years, the impact of the Pulaski Skyway closure is expected to have a major impact on the 67,000 vehicles that use the roadway daily.

To encourage vanpooling, vanpoolers who currently receive \$175 a month in incentives, will now receive \$325 a month representing a raise of \$150 to offset costs and to encourage commuters to travel together. Passenger vans can carry between 7 and 15 passengers and offer a viable option for commuters for the duration of the project.

Beginning early next year, the two northbound lanes of the skyway will be closed while reconstruction of the 80-year-old bridge begins.

As traffic engineers examined any and all options to help alleviate travel congestion, the conclusion they reached was there was no easy way to detour the traffic volume. Commuters can expect delays and congestion to continue for the duration of the project. For more information please contact:

Ellie Ferrer  
(973) 961-6941  
eferrer@ezride.org

*The Transporter* is a bi-monthly newsletter about transportation information in our region and is published by Meadowlands Transportation Brokerage Corporation d/b/a Meadowlink. Please call Brenda Dainton at (201) 939-4242 with comments, corrections or suggestions.

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# ● Employers on the Move ...



## For Jersey College Nursing Students Carpooling Is Just What The Doctor Ordered

Meadowlink staff visited Jersey College from November 11 to November 14 to help students with their carpooling efforts. Over 70 Students signed up for the program.

Jersey College specializes in nursing and has five campuses, two in New Jersey and three in Florida. The Teterboro campus is new and recently relocated from Hackensack. The Campus supports about 500 students and some of the students commute from the outer boroughs of New York like Queens and the Bronx. Given the lengthy commutes, carpooling was one option to save on gas, tolls, and wear and tear on their cars.

The Campus Coordinator of the Teterboro campus, Grace Pardo who organized the event said: "We have a very diverse student body, both culturally and financially. The programs we offer are fast-paced and can be grueling at times. We are pleased with Meadowlink's carpooling service as it could help our students to focus on their studies and not worry about how they are going to get to school."

For more information please contact:

Stephen Culpepper  
(201) 939-4242  
sculpepper@ezride.org



## 96 Bergen Logistics Employees Sign Up To Carpool

Bergen Logistics provides apparel fulfillment services and has two facilities located on Westside Avenue in North Bergen.

In October, Meadowlink staff visited Bergen Logistics, to host a transportation fair for their employees and 62 new carpoolers joined our program. An additional 34 employees who drive alone and are seeking carpool partners also signed up. To date, a total of 278 employees from the company participate in our carpool program making Bergen Logistics

one of our larger carpool partners.

In addition to lowering fuel costs and reducing congestion in the parking lot, all carpoolers can take advantage of our Emergency Ride Home program, which guarantees a ride home in case of an emergency up to 3 times per year.

For more information please contact:

Stephen Culpepper  
(201) 939-4242  
sculpepper@ezride.org

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Ralph Valente from North Arlington, one of our veteran volunteer drivers, has been with us since 2008 when we launched our senior transportation program.

Married with two grown-up daughters, Ralph not only volunteers at *EZ Ride* but also continues to work at a West Orange Distribution company that he has served for the last 32 years.

When Ralph is not working or driving for *EZ Ride*, you can find him following his grandchildren's various sporting events. A hobby that takes up most of his spare time and one he loves the most.

When he's not following his grandchildren's games, Ralph and his wife like to try out new restaurants. He is good at multi-tasking and successfully juggles his work and hobbies and has even managed to organize a riverboat cruise in Europe next year for himself and his wife.

We at *EZ-Ride* appreciate Ralph's dedication and would like to thank him for his time.

If you want to volunteer please contact:

Kinga Skora  
(201) 939-4242  
kskora@ezride.org

Comments? Suggestions?

Feel free to forward  
your thoughts on  
improving the

**The Transporter**

to Brenda Dainton at

(201) 939-4242

or e-mail:

bdainton@ezride.org



*Meadowlink*

144 Park Place East

Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

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## Service Updates

### EZ Ride Shuttle Routes Are Assigned Numbers For Easy Identification

Effective immediately, all our EZ Ride shuttles will display not only their destination in words, but also in numbers.

Our shuttles transport about 1,600 riders daily. At Secaucus Junction alone, we use 10 mini-buses to serve four different routes during peak commute hours. All the buses operate from the same bus stop at Secaucus Junction and numbering our shuttle routes makes it easier for riders to identify the bus that they need to board.

As all our shuttle services either start or end at a NJ TRANSIT bus or train hub, the numbering of the shuttles was coordinated with NJ TRANSIT to avoid confusion. Additionally, EZ Ride shuttle information will now be displayed on all connecting NJ TRANSIT bus and train schedules to facilitate easy transfers. The current shuttle route numbers are listed below:

#### **Bergen County**

503 – Route 3 Shuttle

522 – Carlstadt/Moonachie Shuttle

559 – Lyndhurst Shuttle

578 – Rutherford Shuttle

#### **Essex County Night Owl Services**

636 – East Orange Shuttle

647 – Irvington Shuttle

691/692/693/694 – Newark Shuttle

#### **Hudson County**

227 – North Bergen Shuttle

232 – Kearny Shuttle

268 – Harmon Cove Shuttle

273 – Harmon Meadow Shuttle

273X – Harmon Meadow Express

#### **Monmouth County**

301 – Long Branch Shuttle

#### **Passaic County**

827 – Wayne-Fairfield

West Caldwell Shuttle

#### **Union County**

451/452 – Elizabeth-Newark

Airport Shuttle

To get updates on shuttle services, please follow us on Twitter@myezride

For more information please contact:

Cesar Gomez

(201) 939-4242

cgomez@ezride.org

## Freebies galore...

### Free Helmets

As part of its Safe Routes to School Program, Meadowlink is giving away free helmets to Safe Routes to School program participants as a way to reinforce the need for safety when riding a bicycle.

All schools/Municipalities that host bike rodeos and other related events can request free helmets for students who participate in their events.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to request free helmets, please contact:

Christopher Rodriguez  
crodriguez@ezride.org

(201) 939-4242