

# The Transporter



CTAA - Urban Community Transportation System of the Year - 2013

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

## Elizabeth-Newark Airport Shuttle is Back in Service

Residents from the City of Elizabeth once again have free shuttle bus service available from their homes to early morning jobs at *Newark Liberty International Airport*. Supported by *NJ TRANSIT* and operated by *Meadowlink*, the service provides two shuttle buses every 30 minutes, from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m., seven days a week.

Passengers are picked up at their homes in Elizabeth and dropped off at the airport, ready for work. For the ride back to Elizabeth, the employees are picked up at the *NJ TRANSIT* bus stop near Terminal B.

Passengers are encouraged to make reservations at least 24 hours in advance. The service is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

The shuttle service has operated for several years but was discontinued on January 31st due to a lack of matching funds. Our thanks to *NJ TRANSIT* for making the much-needed funds available, allowing us to resume service on May 1st.

Union County Freeholder and *Meadowlink* Trustee Angel Estrada said the shuttles offer workers safe travel to and from their jobs. He was pleased with the resumption of service, which is used by over 50 Elizabeth residents to commute safely to the airport.

For additional information about the service, please contact:

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



23 entrants from six countries - Canada, Nigeria, Spain, Columbia, Costa Rica and the United States participated in the 10-K Race in Ridgewood. Pictured from left to right are Alinco Omojola, Nishan Patel, Chelsea Crytzer, Jim Cuevas, Matthew Tohon, and Elisabet Ruiz-Torres.

## Meadowlink Transports Wheelchair Athletes to the Start Line

RIDGEWOOD, NJ – For the last three years, *Meadowlink* has been providing transportation for participants in the *Kessler Foundation's* Wheelchair 10 K race, part of the annual Ridgewood Run.

On Memorial Day, May 26, crowds of families gathered for the Ridgewood Run – a 40-year-long Memorial Day tradition. The Run is a day of family-oriented outdoor activities sponsored and run by local foundations and businesses, centered around what has become one of the most prestigious 10 K runs in the Northeast.

While different races and runs continue throughout the day, the first at 8:15 a.m. is the Wheelchair 10 K race, sponsored by the *Kessler Rehabilitation Institute*. The Ridgewood Run draws wheelchair racers from around the world and coordinating transportation services for the international wheelchair athletes is a challenge.

Since 2011, *Meadowlink* has provided complimentary transportation for these athletes: from airport to hotel, from hotel to event and back again. These services benefit both the athletes and event coordinators.

“*Meadowlink's* long-standing sponsorship of the *Kessler Foundation* Wheelchair 10 K has enabled us to provide transportation to athletes from across the country and around the world,” said Angela Smith of the *Kessler Foundation*. “Your staff is wonderful to work with and ever so attentive to the accessibility needs of the racers. Simply put, they have become part of our extended race family.”

We are proud to support our wheelchair athletes.

For more information about the event, please contact:

Avnish Gupta (201) 939-4242  
agupta@ezride.org

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## Pump Up Your Tires and Fasten Your Helmets: It's Time for a Bike Rodeo!

The weather is finally warming up and our schools are closing for the summer. With the excitement of summer, children will be full of energy. So what better way to get kids active than to teach them how to bike! This summer Meadowlink's Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) is engaging the youth in our communities to bike the right way, the safe way and to have fun! Yes, it's a bike rodeo, not to be confused with an actual rodeo – substitute bull riding for bike riding.

### Free Helmets

Meadowlink provides free helmets and teaches kids how to fit their own. We want kids to be able to ride their bikes, be physically active and be safe while doing so. We teach kids how to control their bicycles and how to start, stop, scan and signal.

During these summer events our team of bicycle-safety-certified staff uses a course that replicates the flow of traffic and the interaction between the bikes and the road. The children participate in the famous "Snail Race," teaching them balance and control. The events are free to the communities and kids who attend them.

### Safe and Fun . . .

By the end of our bike rodeo, our goal is to have children not only comfortable on their bikes but know how their bikes work. Children will know how to be safe and have fun. The best kind of cyclist is an informed cyclist!

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) support Meadowlink's SRTS. Their funding enables us to help communities develop a culture and environment where walking and bicycling are appealing and part of daily life for New Jersey students. SRTS is a program that promotes safe walking and bicycling to and from school as well as encouraging children to exercise in daily life. We look to improve the health and well-being of our children and create livable, sustainable communities.

### Building Confidence

Meadowlink's SRTS team is currently conducting bike rodeos in five counties: Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Passaic and Union. In June, more than 60 kids participated in a bike rodeo hosted in Montclair.

"My son participated in the Montclair Bike Rodeo learn to ride session, said Allison Roberts, a Montclair parent.

At first it was difficult for him, but the next day he got back on and learned to ride! The foundation he got enabled him to accomplish the task quickly. For his big 10th birthday, he got a bike and has now been building up his confidence riding in the park. By the end of summer, I know he will be a strong biker! Thanks so much."

If you would like to schedule a bike rodeo in your community, please contact:

Meeta Patel (201) 939-4242  
mpatel@ezride.org

# Employers on the Move ...



## Monmouth University Offers Carpooling Services for Students

On April 23, *Monmouth University* in West Long Branch offered Carpooling as a Commute Option for students. Eleven students who registered drove alone and had lengthy commutes from different parts of New Jersey. The long commutes and tolls encouraged them to seek carpool partners who could share the commute and the costs. An additional 20 students who registered were active carpoolers who wanted to take advantage of our *Emergency Ride Home* program, which provides up to three free rides home in the case of an emergency.

Founded in 1933, the University has been steadfast in its ongoing transformation as a first-choice destination school by

progressively raising admission criteria for incoming students and enhancing the quality of its academic programs. With more than 6,500 students enrolled at its West Long Branch campus, there are still many students who may need carpooling assistance. For young college students, carpooling may play a significant role in decreasing the cost of their commute when they have many other financial concerns to worry about as they look to graduate and enter the world of employment.

To schedule a Commute Event at your facility in Monmouth County, please contact:

Melinda Dalton (732) 380-1299

[mdalton@ezride.org](mailto:mdalton@ezride.org)



## Becton Dickinson Promotes Carpooling on Earth Day

For several years, *Becton Dickinson* in Franklin Lakes, Bergen County, has encouraged employees to carpool. It has supported carpooling by partnering with *Meadowlink* and hosting transportation events. Additionally, the company celebrates Earth Day to demonstrate support for environmental protection and carpooling takes center stage. On Earth Day, 65 employees signed up to carpool with the hope of meeting other co-workers with whom they could share a ride. Among the 65 were current carpoolers seeking to have their carpools registered to be part of our *Emergency Ride Home* program, which guarantees participants up to three free ride homes per year per in case of emergencies.

Chelsea Wulff, Sustainability Project Associate/Coordinator, Office of Global Sustainability, was very pleased with the attendance at the event stating, "We had a great array of vendors, environmental organizations and entertainment and we appreciate their spending the day with us. Associates seemed actively engaged and enjoyed walking around the fair, speaking with all of them."

As another Earth Day passes, we hope the roots of Carpooling continue to grow stronger and awareness for protecting the environment occurs every day and not just on Earth Day.

To schedule Commute Fair/Event at your facility please contact:

Stephen Culpepper (201) 939-4242

[sculpepper@ezride.org](mailto:sculpepper@ezride.org)

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**IBEL RODRIGUEZ**

Ibel Rodriguez is one of our younger volunteer drivers for our senior transportation program. Ibel loves driving. Up to now, her career has been working indoors as a cosmetologist but she decided it was time for a change and driving gives her a feeling of freedom.

While she is considering her career options, Ibel is volunteering her time to help transport seniors as part of our *Community Cars* program.

Her career goals include working in the fashion industry. She is open to suggestions but loves sewing, a handy skill to have with two young sons, ages 5 years and six months. They keep her busy when she isn't volunteering to drive for us.

We would like to thank Ibel for her dedication and continued support in helping our seniors.

Love to Drive? Volunteer at EZ Ride. Contact:

Kinga Skora (201) 939-4242

[kskora@ezride.org](mailto:kskora@ezride.org)

Comments? Suggestions?

Feel free to forward  
your thoughts on  
improving the

**The Transporter**

to Kinga Skora at

(201) 939-4242

or e-mail:

bdainton@ezride.org



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Permit No. 1761

## Service Updates

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Brings the Team of 24 Volunteers Drivers, Who Provided 10,000 Rides

On May 8, *Meadowlink* hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at its Wood-Ridge Office, sponsored by *Personal Touch Caterers* of Hackensack and *Bratek* Polish Deli of Wallington.

Chairman Perry Frenzel, who is one of our longest serving board members, thanked the volunteers for their dedicated service.

The dinner is an important event because it gives us a chance to formally thank our volunteers for their generous donation of time and effort. The event also offers our volunteers an opportunity to come together, swap stories, provide important feedback, and bond as a team.

About 24 volunteer drivers serve over 500 seniors in our community and provide about 10,000 rides each year.

Volunteers help our seniors to attend medical appointments, shop for groceries

or visit family and friends. Stories are shared and after the first ride, the volunteers and the seniors cease to be strangers.

The program offers volunteers a proactive role in the community and helps those who are unable to drive either due to age and or disability.

Our volunteers can take advantage of our free defensive driving course, which can lower the cost of their personal auto insurance. Additionally, volunteers can get a free ride for every four hours of service. The volunteers have the option to bank their hours for a full calendar year or transfer their rides to others, such as family members or friends.

Applying for our volunteer program is easy. You can sign up on line at [ezride.org](http://ezride.org) or contact:

Kinga Skora (201) 939-4242

[kskora@ezride.org](mailto:kskora@ezride.org)

### Freebies galore...

#### Pedestrian Safety Education Giveaways

As part of its *Safe Routes to School* Program, *Meadowlink* is giving away free bookmarks, stickers and rubber bracelets with safety tips to reinforce the need for safety when walking to school.

All schools and municipalities that are interested in providing pedestrian safety education or are interested in hosting pedestrian safety oriented events can request free giveaways for students who participate in the events.

If you would like to request free giveaways, please contact:

Meeta Patel

(201) 939-4242

[mpatel@ezride.org](mailto:mpatel@ezride.org)