

The Transporter

Transport information for business executives, elected officials, and school administrators in New Jersey



Sponsor a Ride



Just in time for the holiday season, EZ Ride is giving thanks and asking others to join in and make a difference for senior citizens and the less fortunate. For every donation to help fund transportation, EZ Ride will provide a dollar for dollar match up to \$10,000 to cover transportation expenses for those who cannot afford it.

Even \$500 can make a huge difference – with EZ Ride's match, the total \$1,000 can cover about 50 trips. One of our senior members was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and was forced to cancel her membership with the Ryde4Life program. She can no longer afford such frequent transportation trips to see her oncologist or go for chemotherapy. Our "***Giving Thanks - Sponsor a Ride***" campaign will help people like her. It will also offer businesses a chance to make an end-of-the-year donation for their taxes.

Not everyone has access to affordable transportation. The EZ Ride Ryde4Life program provides Lyft and Uber rides to senior citizens and the less fortunate throughout New Jersey. Although some non-profits provide the rides for clients, others contact EZ Ride for assistance and need financial support to pay for a required ride to see a doctor, get to the pharmacy or go to the grocery store.

Join us in making a difference for people in our community.



Vanpool Program Helps Nuts.com Retain Employees with Specialized Skills



When Nuts.com, a premier purveyor of dried fruit and nuts in Cranford, acquired Kopper's Chocolate, a gourmet chocolate company, in 2016, it wanted to find a way to help 12 artisanal chocolate makers from the Bronx get to work.

"One of the perks for our employees is treating them like family," said Elia Chehady, Director of Quality and Food Safety at Nuts.com.

"These employees have a specific job and are delighted to keep working. They make

products that are coated in chocolate, which is a special process. They roll it around and drizzle chocolate on it in a special way and allow it to dry-it's kind of art."

The Nuts.com employees agreed to commute to the main factory in Cranford, and the company contacted EZ Ride to arrange two vanpools for their employees. The company pays for all costs related to the vanpool, including sanitizing and cleaning the vans during the pandemic. Our vanpool program helps businesses like Nuts.com retain their skilled employees by offering them a vanpool, the most cost-effective way for employees with a long commute. Rides can cost as little as \$6 a day.

"The vanpool has been a great program for us," he said. "Employee happiness and satisfaction-that are primary for us. We always make the family environment/culture a priority."

To find out how Vanpools can help your company transport valuable employees to and from work, please call (201) 939-4242 ext.131 or email kskora@ezride.org.

Vanpool Program

Liberty Middle School in West Orange Wins Golden Sneaker Award



October is Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Month, and EZ Ride hosted its annual Golden Sneaker Awards to raise awareness about walking and biking safely to school. Congratulations to all our winners!

Liberty Middle School in West Orange will be presented with the school Golden Sneaker

Award for having the most contest entries: 54. Zairre Martinez, a fifth-grade student at Washington Elementary School in Bergenfield, walked 36 miles to and from school in October to win the individual student Golden Sneaker Award. Benjamin Zengerle, a first-grade student at Tisdale Elementary School in Ramsey, won the best video award.

For more information on the Golden Sneaker Program, please contact Lisa Lee at (201) 939-4242 ext. 123 or llee@ezride.org.

First Avenue Elementary School in Newark Offers After School Bike Program



Every year, Essex County hosts its annual Cherry Blossom Festival with a Challenge Bike Race. First Avenue Elementary School has wanted to participate in the race for years, but they did not have the resources.

This past spring, the school formed an after-school bike club with the assistance of EZ Ride. Teacher LeVar Harris became the advisor for the club and reached out to Safe Kids and the Pedestrian Injury Prevention Partnership for help. Ms. Harris called EZ Ride to help connect the school with the Newark Community Cycling Center to obtain bikes, and the school formed a team with 12 students. EZ Ride then provided the team with free helmets, bike bells, reflective string bags, bike lights followed by a virtual Bike Safety Skills presentation and Safe Skills Training. The team is looking forward to participating in the Challenge Bike Race next spring.

If your school wants to form a bicycle team, don't hesitate to contact Lisa Lee at EZ Ride at (201) 939-4242 ext. 123.

Bike & Pedestrian Program

West Orange Recognized for Pop-Up Bike Lanes at 2021 Clean Streets Summit



The West Orange Pedestrian Safety Advisory Board received the 2021 SRTS Champion Award at the Complete Streets Summit and EZ Ride was recognized for our work on the 1.2-mile "Pop-Up" Bike Lane project around Redwood Elementary School. The bike lane along Woodland Avenue was set up Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2 and was so well-received by the community that the lane has become a permanent addition to the town!

The community's efforts to implement dedicated bike lanes in West Orange was recognized October 22 at the 2021 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit, sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and hosted by the Bike and Pedestrian Resource Center at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center.

Complete Streets, which encourages the development of walkable communities and includes bike lanes, can also improve community safety by reducing pedestrian crashes and increasing non-motorized transportation, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

If your community is interested in developing temporary or permanent bike lanes, please contact the Bike and Pedestrian Program team at (201) 939-4242 ext. 123 or llee@ezride.org.

Complete Streets Summit

The Transporter is a monthly newsletter about transportation information in our region and is prepared by Meadowlands Transportation Brokerage Corporation dba EZ Ride. For any comments, corrections or suggestions, please call 201-939-4242 Ext. 131 or email info@ezride.org.

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