

In Memoriam: Kent E. Hansen

Dear Friends of EZ Ride,

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our dear Trustee, **Kent E. Hansen**.

Kent joined the EZ Ride Board in 2017 and, from the very beginning, brought unwavering dedication to our mission along with his deep legal expertise. As a representative of Pro Bono Partnership, he connected us with volunteer attorneys from leading law firms, guiding us through more than 20 matters over the years. His contributions ranged from complex transactions such as asset transfers, real estate purchases, and trademark registration and enforcement, to contract reviews, sales tax audits, property tax exemptions, and 403(b) plan guidance. He also provided invaluable advice on employment law matters, including compliance with the WARN Act.



Working with Kent was a privilege. His support extended far beyond legal counsel—it brought us peace of mind, knowing that our small nonprofit could count on reliable, expert legal guidance when we needed it most. His generosity and commitment have left a lasting imprint on EZ Ride and laid the foundation for our continued success. Kent's professional career was equally distinguished. He served for 23 years as General Counsel and Secretary of Fedders Corporation, and later as a consultant, corporate secretary, and counsel. He began volunteering with Pro Bono Partnership in 2011 and joined its staff in 2013. His dedication to service extended well beyond his professional life—he also served for many years on the Jefferson Township Board of Education.

Most important to Kent was his family. He was a devoted husband, father, stepfather, and proud grandfather. His kindness, wisdom, and generosity touched everyone who knew him.

In recognition of his extraordinary impact, EZ Ride will honor his legacy through the **Kent E. Hansen Friends of EZ Ride Award**, presented annually to an individual who embodies his spirit of empowering nonprofits with kindness, integrity, and compassion.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Kent's family and loved ones during this difficult time. We are deeply grateful for his friendship, guidance, and the example he set for us all.

With sympathy,



Krishna Murthy
President & CEO | EZ Ride

**Celebrating Excellence:
EZ Ride's 2025 Annual Recognition Event**

**2025 Annual
Recognition Event**



Champions for Change

**Thursday
Sept. 25, 2025
11:30 AM**

EZ Ride invites you to our [Annual Recognition Event](#) on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, NJ. This special occasion honors schools, municipalities and businesses that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing mobility, safety and sustainability in our communities.

This year, we are proud to recognize outstanding organizations in the following categories:

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Awards
- Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL) Awards

A complete list of all Safe Routes to School Awards is available online at saferoutenj.org. In addition to organizational awards, we will also present individual honors:

- **Champion of Change Award**
- **Kent E. Hansen Friends of EZ Ride Award**

The event will begin with a buffet lunch, providing an opportunity for networking and a video tribute to this year's awardees. Afterwards, attendees will enjoy presentations from three featured speakers sharing impactful programs in their communities:

- **EZ Ryde4Life Program** – Presented by Judy Hurley, Township of Montclair
- **EV Program** – Presented by Shelley Brindle, Mayor of Westfield
- **Bike-Ped Program** – Presented by Martin Ceperley, SOMa Bike Bus

Join us in celebrating the outstanding achievements and dedication of our partners. Please note that seating is limited to two attendees per organization. Register by September 10 to secure your spot.

REGISTER NOW!



From Fuel Tanks to Charging Stations: A Local Company's EV Success Story



In the 1950s, Eric Weis launched a dry cleaning business in Ramsey, starting with a small fleet of delivery vehicles bringing freshly cleaned clothes to customers. Over the years, Eric diversified into car leasing, real estate, and electronics—always focused on providing quality service to the community.

During the 1973 fuel crisis, Eric installed two large gasoline and diesel tanks to support his business and help employees and clients. Unfortunately, both tanks eventually developed leaks, resulting in a costly \$25,000 environmental cleanup bill.

Determined to reduce fuel expenses and environmental risks, the company shifted its delivery fleet first to hybrid vehicles and then, over time, to a fully electric fleet. In 2017, J&S Realty installed Level 2 EV charging stations on-site to power their growing electric fleet. To further support clean transportation, in 2018 the company secured an NJDEP grant and added three dual-port Level 2 chargers in their parking lot, allowing both employees and customers to charge their vehicles. The popularity of these chargers soared—usage grew from one session every two weeks to an average of two sessions per day on each charger. In 2019, the company opened their chargers to all Ramsey residents and the public after business hours, strengthening community ties and encouraging broader EV adoption.

In recognition of their leadership, J&S Realty received the Gold-level Electric Vehicle Adoption Leadership (EVAL) award in 2024 for providing workplace and public charging and promoting electric vehicle use.

“Going electric has been a boon for our business. We’ve significantly reduced our fuel and maintenance costs, and our EV chargers have brought in new customers, as residents come to charge their vehicles and value our commitment to sustainable transportation. I

encourage all local businesses to consider adding electric vehicles to their fleets,” says Eric Weis of J&S Realty.

For assistance with EV grants, fleet electrification strategies, or product recommendations, contact us at ev@ezride.org or call 201-939-4242, option 6. Our staff can help with technical resources and guide your business toward national EVAL certification, helping you stand out as an EV leader.



Lisa Lee
Director, Sustainability Programs | EZ Ride

Congratulations, Passaic! A Milestone for Biking and Community Health



Cycling promotes physical activity, improves air quality, reduces traffic congestion, and reduces the need for parking. Bikeshare programs help more people experience these benefits.

EZ Ride congratulates the City of Passaic on the successful launch of its new bikeshare program. With no cost to users—all that’s needed is a smartphone, a credit card, and to be over 18—it’s now easier than ever for residents to get around by bike.

Passaic’s bikeshare program is part of the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign and a key step toward the City’s Bicycle Master Plan. *“The goal is to add dedicated bike lanes with bicycle boulevards, buffered bike lanes, and two-way cycle tracks, providing safe access to stores, transportation hubs, and parks,”* said Mayor Hector C. Lora. *“EZ Ride is currently one of the many partners assisting and providing guidance with this Plan.”*

Last year, EZ Ride partnered with Passaic High School students and residents to install curb extensions at Monroe Street & Columbia Avenue to improve safety for people walking and biking. This year, with a \$9,000 mini-grant from People for Bikes, we are encouraging residents to use bikeshare for commuting and recreation.

In partnership with the Urban Enterprise Zone, we are offering free bike safety classes at all five bikeshare docks. Participants learn state laws, hand signals, helmet fitting, and safe group riding. Each class ends with a fun neighborhood ride and includes a free helmet and reflective vest. So far, we’ve hosted seven classes and reached 31 residents.

We applaud Passaic's commitment to active transportation. If you're interested in launching a bikeshare program in your city and need help with funding or implementation, contact EZ Ride via email bikeped@ezride.org or call (201) 939-4242, option 3.

Let's keep rolling toward safer, healthier communities!



Michael Johnson
Manager, Bike & Pedestrian Program | EZ Ride

Essex County DFAB Partners with EZ Ride to Launch Pilot Transportation Program



The Essex County Division of Family Assistance & Benefits (DFAB) provides critical support to families and individuals facing financial, medical, and housing challenges.

Through programs such as Work First New Jersey Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Work First New Jersey General Assistance (GA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and New Jersey FamilyCare (NJFC), DFAB connects residents with resources designed to promote stability, independence, and self-sufficiency.

DFAB has partnered with EZ Ride to launch a pilot transportation program using the EZ Ryde4Life service, which provides our Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) clients rides using transportation providers like Lyft and Uber. WFNJ clients that meet special eligibility criteria will be able to get safe and reliable rides through EZ Ride for immediate needs services.

“Transportation can be a major hurdle for our WFNJ clients,” said Uchenna Duru, Fiscal Analyst at DFAB. “The EZ Ryde4Life program helps bridge that gap by providing dependable rides for emergency assistance services determined by Essex County Division of Family Assistance & Benefits. The flexibility in scheduling and the detailed monthly reporting from EZ Ride will help us administer the program efficiently. We look forward to this partnership.”

EZ Ride shares that commitment. *“At EZ Ride, we believe transportation is essential to*

quality of life,” said Krishna Murthy, CEO of EZ Ride. “We are pleased to work with Essex County DFAB to provide safe, affordable, and reliable rides for those who need them most.”

This initial pilot will allow DFAB and EZ Ride to evaluate the program’s impact and explore ways to expand transportation access for more Essex County residents in need.

Interested in creating a similar transportation program for your community?

Contact Kinga Skora at kskora@ezride.org or call 201-939-4242 ext. 131 for details.



Kinga Skora
Deputy Director, Marketing & Sales | EZ Ride

News From Our Partners




Department of Environmental Protection



DC Fast Charger Solicitation 2025

Due – October 25, 2025



Department of Environmental Protection



ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS GRANT PROGRAM

Applications Due – September 26, 2025

About EZ Ride



At EZ Ride we believe that a safe, affordable & reliable transportation system is vital to maintaining our quality of life and promoting the economic growth of the region. Transportation is a daily concern for commuters who cannot afford to drive to work, for older adults who do not drive a car, and for businesses whose employees and customers may not have easy access to public transportation.

For over 40 years, we have helped people overcome transportation barriers by partnering with businesses and governments to implement transportation programs and services like carpools, vanpools, shuttles, biking & walking programs and even transportation with companies like Lyft and Uber.

EZ Ride is a non-profit organization and in 2013, we were recognized for excellence in serving the needs of the community and named the *Urban Community Transportation System of the Year* by the Community Transportation Association of America.

Whatever your mobility needs, EZ Ride is here to help

Download Our Capabilities

(201) 939-4242 | info@ezride.org | www.ezride.org



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