



BIKE MARYLAND

For Immediate Release

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On August 24, 2010, Arthur "John" Martin lost his life in a tragic bicycle-related crash at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Shepherd's Mill Road in Union Bridge, Maryland. John was a retired Baltimore County police officer and detective who not only biked for his own enjoyment, but also promoted bicycle safety to Baltimore County youth. Since then, his wife Rosemarie Martin has struggled to have the road improved for bicycle access so that no one else would be injured at this location.

Rosemarie Martin has encouraged both Carroll County and Maryland State Highway Administration to restore the shoulder on this designated bicycle route. Negotiations for the road improvements are ongoing, with a pending trial date the week of September 21, 2015. In the meantime, Rosemarie and her family are placing a marker to remind others of John.

To remember John on the fifth anniversary of his passing, the Martin Family will place a ghost bike at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Shepherd's Mill Road on Monday, August 24th at 6 pm. Ghost bikes are placed worldwide where people riding bikes have lost their lives. The ghost bikes act as a safety reminder to all road users to be mindful to bicycle traffic, which is vulnerable to inattentiveness and mistakes by those in cars and trucks.

Bicycling has increased in popularity in the past decade as a reliable form of transportation and exercise. Whether for recreation or necessary travel, people riding bikes contribute to decreased traffic congestion and environmental pollution but are more vulnerable to road conditions which have focused on automobile access over the past century. Bike Maryland reminds all road users to be careful and courteous.

For questions or more information, please contact Rosemarie Martin at 410-785-0333 extension 402 and Emily Ranson at 443-562-2832.

Bike Maryland and the Martin Family wish to thank Barry Simms of WBAL for this assistance in bringing attention to these needed road improvements.