

## TRAGEDY REMINDS US OF THE NEED FOR BETTER BICYCLE SAFETY

Recently a bike rider, Kevin Flynn, was killed on Three Oaks Road. The Friends of Harbor Country Trails (FoHCT) would like to express our sympathy to his family. This tragedy highlights the need to constantly remind ourselves of all the factors that affect our safety when riding our bikes through the roads of Harbor Country.

Our organization, FoHCT, along with the strong support of The Pokagon Fund, has been working hard to make biking safer in our area. A few examples include the bike lanes on Wilson, Jefferson, Townline and Maudlin roads. In addition, we have installed trail signs which suggest roads that have less car traffic, and maps which cover these routes and are available on our web site, [harborcountrytrails.org](http://harborcountrytrails.org).

We are also working with New Buffalo Township, Chikaming Township, The Pokagon Fund, The Berrien County Road Commission and MDOT to install bike paths/lanes/crossings along Route 12 from Grand Beach Road to Wilson Road and along the Red Arrow Highway from Lakeshore Road to Youngren Road. In addition, we are planning to install a safer crossing of The Red Arrow Highway at Warren Woods Road.

Following, is a list of suggestions that are aimed at improving the safety of bike riders:

1. Avoid heavily traveled roads, especially The Red Arrow Highway, Three Oaks Road, Warren Woods Road and Route 12. Use alternative routes with less and slower traffic. These routes can be found on FoHCT maps/ web site.
2. Pay attention to what you are wearing. Wear brightly colored, white or even reflective wear so that you have a better chance of being seen. Do not wear plain, dark colors.
3. Wear a helmet. You'd be surprised at the number of bikers who ride busy roadways without a helmet.
4. Be especially careful when you're riding early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the sun is low in the sky and vision is severely compromised.
5. "Share the Road" signs apply to bike riders as well as to motorists. If you're riding your bike with others, ride single file and always bike ride on the right side of the road.
6. Ride defensively. At intersections, assume a driver doesn't see you.
7. Traffic signs apply to bike riders also. So when there is a stop sign, please stop, and please don't see if you can beat the traffic.

We hope these safety tips help all bikers enjoy the wonderful roads and trails of Harbor Country.

THE FRIENDS OF HARBOR COUNTRY TRAIL