

GHOST BIKE ON GRYMES HILL

Spectral tribute designed
to raise awareness

A special memorial ride is planned for Sunday in memory of bicyclists killed while riding

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

A lone bicycle, painted a spectral white, now sits at the intersection where a Wagner College nursing student lost his life to a hit-and-run driver last month.

The "Ghost Bike," as it's called, has been installed on Howard Avenue in Grymes Hill, where Ronald (RJ) Tillman was fatally struck on Feb. 12. Volunteers with the New York City Street Memorial Project put up the bike in advance of a memorial ride planned for this Sunday.

"We certainly hope that it will be noticed, and that people will take from it a message of awareness and respect," said Leah Todd, a volunteer and spokeswoman for the project.

A hit-and-run driver struck and killed Tillman, 29, at about 9:13 p.m. Feb. 12, on Howard Avenue between Highland and Grand avenues, as he was bicycling home from a night of studying at the library.

The driver, whose grille came off after the crash, remains at large. Police have been searching for a dark-colored, newer-model SUV or pickup truck, possibly a Dodge Durango.

On Sunday, the memorial's

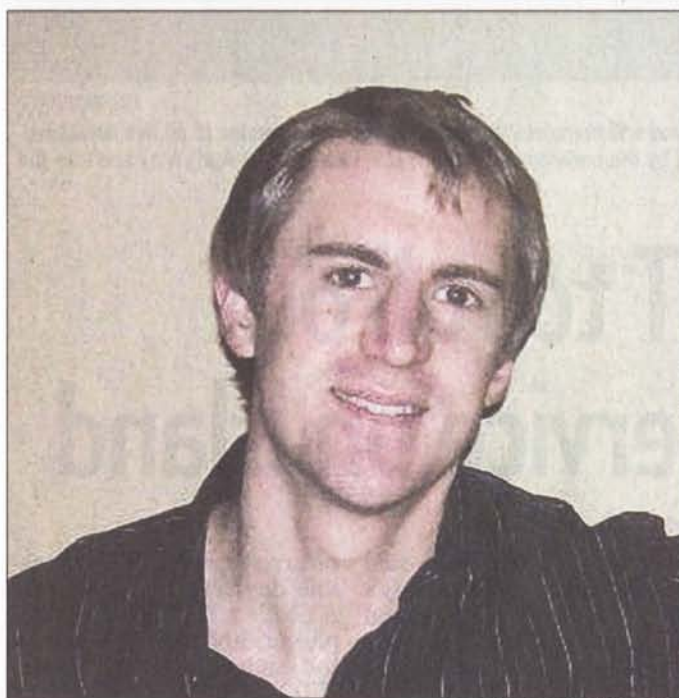


PHOTO COURTESY OF FAMILY PHOTO

Ronald (RJ) Tillman, a nursing student at Wagner College, was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver at about 9:13 p.m. Feb. 12, on Howard Avenue between Highland and Grand avenues.

participants will visit 16 ghost bikes across the five boroughs in a series of convergent rides, Ms. Todd said, to remember the 21 bicyclists who died in 2011, and Tillman, who was killed in 2012.

The Staten Island part of the ride starts with a noon meet-up at the Everything Goes Book Café at 208 Bay St., followed by a trip to Wagner College's Sutter Oval at 12:30 p.m. They'll visit the Ghost Bike at 12:45 p.m., on Howard between High-

land and Grand, then head to the Staten Island Ferry to catch the 2 p.m. boat.

At 3:10 p.m., they're slated to join members of the Bronx-Manhattan portion of the memorial ride at the corner of Chrystie and Delancey streets on the Lower East Side, where 52-year-old bicyclist Jeffrey Axelrod died in August.

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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Volunteers with the New York City Street Memorial Project erected the "Ghost Bike" in advance of a memorial ride planned for this Sunday.