

PASSENGER

COMMENTS

“You are professional and very good.”

“You provide a wonderful service and it is much appreciated. Thank you.”

“I’m very happy to know this service is available.”

“I know we can go out and enjoy the ride.”

“I thank you for allowing me to keep my appointments.”

“Thanks again for the great service.”

“I am deeply grateful for the volunteer’s efforts to get me to Johns Hopkins on a blustery snowy day and getting me home safely.” (a donation to Neighbor Ride was included)

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

One of the first duties I’ve worked on here at Neighbor Ride has been looking for larger space. After 8 months of searching – including a few dead ends that forced us to restart our search – we are pleased to let you know that we have signed a lease for a new office.

The new office will be just ½ mile down Route 108 in Parkridge Plaza. The best part about the new office is the additional office space for the Ride Coordinators. This will make it easier to carry on multiple conversations since, in our current office the Ride Coordinators are just inches from each other.

The new office is already being built-out to our specifications with completion expected in late February. We plan to move sometime during March and we’ll let you know as we’ll need all the help we can get to pack, move, and unpack.

Later in the spring, we’ll have an open house and all will be welcome to drop by. The address is: 8950 Route 108, Suite 115, Columbia, MD 21045. Our telephone number will remain the same.

-Brad

Important Volunteer Training Dates

March 3 East Columbia Library 6PM-8PM

March 7 East Columbia Library 10AM-12PM

Safe Driving Practice

Howard County Police Department Traffic Control Division

Safe Passenger Transport

Central Maryland Rehabilitation Physical Therapist

Neighbor Ride Volunteer Focus Group

Please mark your calendar for one of these dates

Our Mission

Neighbor Ride will decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents by providing a reasonably priced, reliable, supplemental transportation service which utilizes community volunteers and resources.

January Stats

Our volunteer Drivers accommodated **206 rides**, driving **4,807 miles**, while contributing **374 hours** of their time.

Our dedicated volunteer Ride Coordinators logged **268 hours**.

January completion rate **98.7%**!

Training dates:
February 8, 12 PM
February 13, 7 PM

NEIGHBOR RIDE
8808 Centre Park D.
#108
Columbia, MD 21045
410-884-RIDE (7433)

Brad Closs, Executive Director
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**Rosemary Noble
Volunteer Coordinator**
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Visit us on the web at:
<http://www.neighborride.org>

Coordinator's Corner...

Neighbor Ride volunteers have crossed the continental United States more than 55 times since the first ride was given to a Howard County senior in November 2004. With the exception of two part-time staff, Neighbor Ride is an all volunteer agency making a difference in the lives of Howard County seniors.

Over 150 Neighbor Ride volunteers serve as drivers, ride coordinators, and office administrators. Additionally our volunteers provide services for: information technology, staffing outreach events to market Neighbor Ride, provide data entry, and various efforts to support Neighbor Ride's mission. Many benefits result from the volunteers commitment: seniors are no longer isolated from community events when driving ends, volunteers find satisfaction in helping this vulnerable population, Howard County roads are safer with this supplemental transportation (seniors should not feel they need to continue driving when skills are absent), and many families of seniors no longer need to miss work to drive their senior member to appointments, the grocery store, shopping, exercise, therapy, etc.

Here are the numbers since Neighbor Ride's first trip through December 31, 2007: 6, 053 completed trips, over 122,826 volunteer miles driven, over 10,627 volunteer hours driving seniors, over 4,609 volunteer hours coordinating rides. Volunteers must be over 21. We have retirees, young mothers with children, as well as those still employed. Each volunteer has successfully completed a criminal background investigation and Maryland Driving Record check and has been personally recommended as being responsible, reliable, and interested in the welfare of Howard County seniors. Our senior passengers comment about the difference Neighbor Ride makes in their lives and how special our volunteers are. "The courtesy and service of Neighbor Ride cannot be surpassed" is a comment from a November passenger. These fine volunteers should be considered and chosen for the Howard County Group Volunteer of the Year award. (This nomination was submitted January 24 with appreciation for your services to Neighbor Ride and our seniors).

Rosemary

Neighbor Ride's newest volunteers:



**Mary Bray, Brenda Bush, Janet Duncan,
Lori Kassoff, Mary O'Dea, Bill Smetak,
Stan Stanford**

The office will be closed for **President's Day on February 18, 2008**