

PASSENGERS' COMMENTS

"This system has worked very well for me... Every driver I've had has been very nice and pleasant." JD

"Neighbor ride is very helpful to me!" YV

"You made a difference in enabling me to get to my medical appointments. The driver was very kind and helpful." (Unsigned)

"Neighbor Ride is a big relief since I live alone and do not drive and dislike bothering my good neighbors." (Unsigned)

"They (Ride Coordinators) do a wonderful job. I think you and God for Neighbor Ride every day. We all are so lucky to have you." CP

"I couldn't have done my physical therapy without the help of this service. It's a god-send." PA

"Your service has made a significant difference in my life and I'm very appreciative." BP



From the Director.....

We recently received notification from Howard County Citizen Services that we once again have been budgeted by County Executive Ken Ulman to receive a Community Services Partnership Grant in FY10. Especially significant is that the amount will be the same as in FY09. This grant is essential to our operations and is much appreciated. This week I had the opportunity to testify to the County Council in support of the CSP budget.

I let the Council know some of our many accomplishments over the past four and 1/2 years: over 800 passengers registered, over 23,000 rides provided, and – in FY09 through a partnership with the United Way and the Office on Aging – tripling the number of passengers served by the Good Neighbor Fund. Also, I pointed out that we are a cost efficient model of supplemental transportation with 3 part-time staff supporting the efforts of 190+ generous and dedicated volunteers keeping seniors connected to the community. In addition, I emphasized that we are one of many organizations in the county dependent on the CSP budget and in this time of economic downturn and pressure on the county's finances and that we very much appreciate both County Executive Ulman's and the Council's past and continuing support.

By far the most important contribution to our success is your commitment to our passengers. It's always gratifying to let the Council know of all that you have done to make Neighbor Ride what it is. Thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do.

-Brad

Neighbor Ride is Expanding !!

Starting June 1, 2009 passengers are eligible to receive 12 rides each month. Notice of this change will be sent to all current passengers in The Ride, the quarterly passenger newsletter. Many thanks to each of you, our volunteer corps, for making this happen.

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.

April Stats

8= Rides cancelled,
no driver found

483= Number
trips

386= Driver hours

183= Ride Coordinator
hours

Orientation dates:

May 5, 10 am
May 13, 6 pm

NEIGHBOR RIDE

8950 Route 108
Suite 115
Columbia, MD 21045
410-884-RIDE (7433)

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Visit us on the web at:
<http://www.neighborride.org>

Coordinator's Corner...

Welcome to May....one of the best months in this area to enjoy the outdoors with spectacular scenery. Neighbor Ride will have several marketing opportunities to recruit both passengers and volunteers this month. Meanwhile, the database revisions continue and enhance our driver/passenger match while eliminating much of the previously manual process. The Ride Coordinators have been excited about this process and have offered valuable input. As a driver you may not be aware of these changes, except for improved accuracy of offers fitting your schedule. It is very important for you to notify Neighbor Ride (information@neighborride.org) when your schedule changes, so the database can be updated. Only current data will make this process work.

Please mark your calendars now for the Annual Volunteer Family Picnic June 8, 2009 at Centennial Park from 3-6pm. Offers to work on this event are accepted! Just let me know by phone or email and we can plan this together.

Our emergency phone enables staff to contact a driver or passenger if a ride is cancelled. We make an effort not to have a volunteer driver go to the passenger's home when the ride has been canceled. Drivers who suddenly need to cancel an assigned ride after 2pm or on a weekend need to call the office number and leave a message at the emergency prompt. The message is immediately sent to the staff person "on call" so we can attempt to solve the problem. When there is no time to find a replacement driver, the ride is canceled and the driver should notify the passenger. If time permits a replacement driver will be assigned.

Thanks to each of you who promote volunteering with Neighbor Ride in the community. The flexibility and contacts with our interesting seniors make this an attractive volunteer opportunity. Keep up the good ambassadorship!

-Rosemary

Night Out at Mimi's Cafe

Enjoy a delicious night out at Mimi's Cafe in Elkridge on Monday, May 19th while earning funds to support our service. Mimi's has agreed to donate 15% of sales between 4 and 10 p.m to Neighbor Ride. Needless, to say, the more the merrier; so please consider encouraging your friends, family members and colleagues to join us.

Mimi's Cafe is located at 8250 Gateway Overlook Drive in Elkridge, near the intersections of Routes 175 and 108. Please be sure to present the attached flier to ensure that proper credit is awarded.

Happenings.....

Trotter Road water and sewer main construction is to begin Monday, May 4; Trotter Road through traffic will be diverted, call 410-313-3637 for details.

Elder care resources are available at www.benefitscheckup.org or try www.caregiver.org, the Family Caregiver Alliance Resource Center site for information for care giving resources, fact sheets, online support groups and care planning consultation.

WELCOME TO NEIGHBOR RIDE.....

Beth Simmons

