

PASSENGERS' COMMENTS

"The driver was very courteous and nice. We will continue to use Neighbor Ride."

"The gentleman who drove me was very considerate and nice." MO

"Neighbor Ride, thank you. I also thank the volunteer drivers."

"First time user. Very impressed. This can be a business model for other suburban communities! Very much needed services."

"I am 88 and live alone so it is very comforting to know I can get a dependable ride when necessary. Thank you." DO

"I have discovered a great aid in helping me get around in the future." EG

"Excellent service. Useful for seniors." RS

The Good Neighbor Fund

Even with Neighbor Ride's reasonable fares, not all the seniors in the county have the ability to pay for much needed transportation.

Neighbor Ride's Good Neighbor Fund was created in 2005. It is used to provide no-cost transportation to all registered income eligible seniors. It is primarily supported through grants from Horizon Foundation, Maryland Transit Administration and The United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) and receives enough each year to provide all the rides for the eligible passengers.



Brad Closs, Officer Besseck, Bob Martin

Income eligibility is determined by the Howard County Office on Aging through Maryland Access Point (MAP). MAP applies the same household income criteria that are used to provide no-cost transportation on the county bus system. The number of passengers registered for the Good Neighbor Fund has grown from 11 in FY08 to 56 currently.

For the last two years, we have been the recipient of a grant dedicated to the Good Neighbor Fund from The United Way - County Impact Grants. These grants are focused on each county in the UWCM area. Decisions for Howard County are made by county residents who volunteer to serve on a committee and review the grants.

For this year, Officer Daniel Besseck of the Howard County Police and a volunteer on the committee attended the March Neighbor Ride Board meeting to present a check for \$1000. We very much appreciate UWCM's support of the Good Neighbor Fund that helps ensure we can continue this worthwhile program.

Top Five Ride Coordinator Requests for Drivers

- 1- Having all drivers respond to all ride requests promptly (yes or no)
- 2- Having drivers sign their full name to rides accepted from the All Calls and clearly identify which ride
- 3- Have drivers always notify information@neighborride.org when they are on vacation or are otherwise unavailable to take rides
- 4- Having a "last resort" list of drivers for rides to be canceled because a driver cannot be found
- 5- Having drivers consider taking an extra ride (above commitment) to meet the ride request demand

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

763 = Number trips

220 = Ride Coordinator hours

55 = Vol office hrs

5 = Canceled rides; no driver

14 = New registrants

Orientation dates:

May 14, 10 am

May 19, 6 pm

June 4, 10 am

June 16, 6 pm

Welcome Our New Volunteers

Lane Cobb

Allison Korn

Ed Spiegel

Grace Zhang

NEIGHBOR RIDE

8950 Route 108

Suite 115

Columbia, MD 21045

410-884-RIDE (7433)

Coordinator's Corner.....

Here's another date to save....August 22, 2010 for our annual volunteer picnic. Our event is open to active Neighbor Ride volunteers and their families. Enjoy a catered menu at no cost to you. I would like to have a committee to share in the planning. If you are able to donate a couple of hours to this, please call or send me an email. We want to make this a fun event for each of you who give so much to Neighbor Ride. According to the survey 85 volunteers completed after the Annual Training, 75% of those responding look forward to continuing this picnic tradition.

On April 27 we held the annual Ride Coordinator meeting. Although not all of the current Ride Coordinators could attend, we had a solid discussion of our daily office functions. As always there were excellent suggestions along with clarification of existing office processes. Our goal is to depend more on our technology to assign rides; we will form a work group of volunteers to guide this operation. If you are interested in working on this project, please let me know by email; volunteer@neighborride.org

Just a few weeks ago, our landscape was buried under deep snow. Now as I look out this office window, trees have leafed out, the grass is green, and the plants around the building entrances are in bloom. It's a lovely time of year to enjoy. I know our seniors are happy to be out once again, thanks to your donation of time to drive them to their destinations.

Happy May!

Rosemary

TOO FUN TO MISS!

Upcoming Neighbor Ride Events

Wednesday, May 26th - **Destination Maple Lawn**: Enjoy a day of fun for Neighbor Ride supporters. The day will feature a day-long fundraiser at Looney's Pub, along with special offers from Maple Lawn merchants including IM Wines, The Pearl Spa, LAX World Sporting Goods, Hyatt and Co. and others. See the flyer for more details.

Friday, June 4th - **Here's to the Good Life!**: The Good Life Market in Ellicott City (www.thegoodlifemarket.us) will host a unique social event/fundraiser for Neighbor Ride from 6 to 9 p.m.. Attendees are invited to enjoy wine and light fare while browsing through the shop's delightful selection of items for their homes and gardens. Guests making a \$10 donation to Neighbor Ride at the door will also enjoy a 20% discount on their purchases. Many thanks to The Wine Seller and Decanter Fine Wines for the generous donation of wine for our guests to enjoy.

Sunday, June 20th - Tri-Atholton Kids Triathlon: Neighbor Ride will partner with the Atholton Swim Club to support this year's Triathlon for children ages 5-17 years old. **Volunteers are needed** from 8 am - 11 am to act as course marshals on the run and bike routes, be official timers at the finish line, cheer on the race participants (lawn chair sitters welcome) and hand out food/drinks at the refreshment table for participants. All volunteers are invited to stay and swim at the Atholton Swim Club following the race. The triathlon will be both a fundraiser for Neighbor Ride and wonderful intergenerational event. Go to www.atholtonswimclub.com for event details. **To volunteer, contact Colleen at** community@neighborride.org.