

The Good Neighbor Fund Is Growing!

Neighbor Ride is expanding eligibility for the Good Neighbor Fund in response to the high cost of living in Howard County. This means more clients may now qualify for fully subsidized (no-cost) rides — making it easier to stay connected and get where they need to go.

To be considered for enrollment, clients should complete a form about their income that is available on the website or by calling the office at (410) 884-7433. The new eligibility guidelines go into effect July 1, 2026. Please call if you have any questions!



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SUMMER 2026 In This Issue:

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'The Rider' is Neighbor Ride's quarterly newsletter, dedicated to the incredible older adults we serve. We want your feedback! Let us know what you would like to see in future issues by emailing community@neighborride.org.



Holiday Schedule (Office Closed)



Labor Day

Monday, September 7th



Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27th



Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th



New Year's Day

Friday, January 1st

Ride Rates

Fees are determined by the one-way distance, per Google Maps, between the pick-up location and destination. **If you are a Veteran or your income is limited, you may be eligible for subsidized rides. Please call our office at 410-884-RIDE for more information or to request an application.**



Under 1 mile	\$10.00
1-4.99 miles	\$12.00
5-9.99 miles	\$18.00
10-14.99 miles	\$24.00
15-19.99 miles	\$30.00
20-35 miles	\$36.00

Day Requested *First Available*

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Sunday or Monday</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>

Requesting Rides

Please allow three (3) full business days when you schedule a ride. **Call 410-884-RIDE or visit our website and click on "Request a Ride."**

Office Phone Hours:

Monday-Friday **9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
Saturday **10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



Exploring Green or Natural Burial Options

What is green or natural burial?

Green burial is a more natural, environmentally conscious approach to death care. It prioritizes placing the body directly in the earth, forgoing formaldehyde-based embalming, and using biodegradable materials. Green burial is not a new method. It is a return to how humans have buried their dead for generations, and how many cultures bury their dead today. It is a time-honored tradition that provides a modern solution for those seeking a simpler, earth-friendly end.

Why choose a green or natural burial?

People have different reasons for choosing green burials. Many prefer a more natural burial to return to the earth. As mentioned, it helps reduce the carbon footprint, avoids chemicals such as formaldehyde, uses fewer resources, and may be less expensive than other burial options.

Where to start?

For many people, navigating what to do when someone dies is unfamiliar territory — and when green burial is chosen, it can feel even more uncertain. Green burial practices vary at each cemetery, and every funeral is unique. Most green burials avoid traditional embalming methods, metal or hardwood caskets, concrete burial vaults, and excessive landscaping or monument construction. Instead, the body is typically buried in a biodegradable shroud, a wicker or bamboo coffin, a pine box, or another natural container. Without embalming, refrigeration of the remains or the use of dry ice can be used for short-term storage. Some cemeteries allow an alternative to formaldehyde as an embalming fluid, making a short-term viewing possible. Burial is at a shallow depth that supports natural decomposition and in a cemetery designated to preserve a natural habitat. The goal is to reduce pollution, carbon emissions, and resources usually associated with conventional burial or cremation.

Where can I locate a green cemetery near me?

There are two green cemeteries near Howard County, Maryland: Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery at 2406 Ridge Road, Windsor Mill, MD, and Reflection Park at 16621 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. It is recommended to research cemeteries' online websites for basic information, and it is also helpful to visit. Both are multi-faith natural cemeteries for full-body burials as well as cremated remains.

Should I make arrangements in advance?

It is highly recommended to make choices prior to death and document them in writing, letting family and/or friends know your preferences. Prepayment is an option but not required when preplanning. Preplanning should give you peace of mind and is very helpful for those left to make funeral arrangements. Any funeral home or cemetery can assist you now or in the future with the choices you need to make.

Article submitted by Sherri Collins-Witzke, President, Harry H. Witzke's Family Funeral Home in Ellicott City, Maryland. www.harrywitzkefuneralhome.com

(AI was used in compiling this information as well as details from the Green Burial Council)

Volunteer Notes: Welcome to the Hall of Fame!

Volunteer Program Sponsored by


Neighbor Ride is happy to announce the names of our 2026 Hall of Fame honorees. These volunteers have demonstrated unwavering commitment and service, and are a testament to the power of the simple act of neighbors helping neighbors.

Please congratulate them if you are lucky enough to have them as a volunteer driver!

Fred Bondroff
Stephanie Carpentier
Carole Graves
Deborah Hasan
Hattie Katkow
Debbie Jaskulek
Sally Parker
Paula Schultz
Tom Sleight
Jean Weinstein



Above, l to r: Fred Bondroff, Paula Schultz, Debbie Jaskulek, Sally Parker, Deborah Hasan, Hattie Katkow, Tom Sleight

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