



# West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance

Issue No. 1

September 2006

Welcome to the first newsletter of the West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WWBPA). The WWBPA is a private, not-for-profit, charitable organization whose mission is to promote bicycling and walking in West Windsor Township and neighboring communities, emphasizing access, education, mobility, and safety. Our specific goals and objectives are listed on our Web site. Many readers of this newsletter are members of the organization. We thank you for your support. If you are not a member, and wish to become one, please see the membership page at the end of this newsletter. Membership is open to all area residents- we have a number of members who live outside of West Windsor. There are many ways to get involved to help us make West Windsor a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community. Please come to our monthly meetings (there is so much to be done) and/or visit our Web site to find out about volunteer opportunities for both adults and children.

## WWBPA FAST FACTS:

Founded and incorporated as a private non-profit: January 2006  
 Granting of 501(c)3 charitable status: May 2006 (retroactive to January 24, 2006)  
 Current number of members: 87  
 Web Site: <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/wwbpa/>  
 Blog: <http://wwbpa.blogspot.com/>  
 E-mail: [WWBPA@hotmail.com](mailto:WWBPA@hotmail.com)  
 Yahoo! Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WWBikePed>  
 Address: P.O. Box 625, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550  
 Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, West Windsor Municipal Bldg (Clarksville and N. Post Road)  
 Next Meetings: Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### West Windsor Walks:

The WWBPA is conducting a series of educational walks to focus on needed bicycle and pedestrian improvements in town. The first walk is the Alexander Road S curve near the D&R Canal. Our goal is to examine the current conditions of this dangerous stretch of road and discuss potential improvements to make this road safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. **The walk is scheduled for Tuesday Sept. 5, at 6:00 PM.** Anyone interested in participating is invited to meet at the Turning Basin Park next to the Delaware & Raritan Canal in Princeton on Alexander Road. The 2nd walk will be on Tuesday, October 10th, at 8AM and will be a walk to the train station from the Sherbrooke community. We will meet on Sherbrooke Drive across from the Acme.



### Walk to Hawk:

In celebration of **International Walk to School Day on October 4th**, the WWBPA, in partnership with the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association (GMTMA) is sponsoring an educational walk at Maurice Hawk Elementary School. During the day, at an assembly, members of the WWBPA and the GMTMA will teach the students about pedestrian safety and what makes a walking route safe. Following this session, teachers will lead children on walks of local streets during which the students will grade the walkability and safety of various routes to the school. In future years, we hope to expand this program to include other schools in the district.



## NEW BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS IN TOWN

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### **PSE&G Trail:**

Work is starting on the West Windsor PSE&G Trail, located along the PSE&G power lines right-of-way and which will connect Community Park to Mercer County Park. This trail will be a significant amenity for people seeking to walk or bicycle on a safe recreational trail. Numerous individuals, including the Mayor, local residents, and members of the former Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, advocated for this trail. Funding for the trail came from federal grants for which West Windsor Township had applied.

### **Southfield Road Bikelanes:**

Work is beginning on the construction of bike lanes along the entire length of Southfield Road. These bike lanes will connect to existing bike lanes on New Village Road and Norstrand Road in Plainsboro and will have a significant impact for residents who seek a safe route to bicycle in town. This work is funded in large part by a NJ Department of Transportation grant written by Don Smart and Ken Carlson when they were members of the now-disbanded Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, with assistance from West Windsor Township Engineer Jim Parvesse.

### **Trail Improvements to the Rogers and Millstone Preserve:**

Improvements have been made to the recreational trails within both the Rogers Preserve and the Millstone Preserve. See article below.

## TRUSTEE'S COLUMN

*Origins by Ken Carlson*

The idea for a private, non-profit, charitable organization focused on improving conditions for cyclists and pedestrians in our town originated during a meeting of the Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force in 2005. Task Force member Chris Scherer suggested the idea, and progress in starting such an organization accelerated when it became clear that the Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force was going to be disbanded (following the adoption of the Bicycle and Pedestrian component of the Township's Master Plan). Members of the Mayor's Task Force felt that, although they had made significant progress on bicycle/pedestrian mobility and safety in town, there was still much to be done to make West Windsor bicycle and pedestrian friendly. There was also a strong desire to bring in an education component to this new effort. A series of early

### **Some of the Bike-Ped Projects We're Currently Advocating for:**

- Construction of sidewalk and bike lanes on the Alexander Road S curve (near D&R Canal)
- Safer walking routes (i.e., construction of additional sidewalks) to the Princeton Junction train station
- Reduction of travel lanes on Canal Pointe Blvd from two lanes in each direction to one in each direction with a center turning lane and bicycle lanes
- Dedicated bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Route 1 with connecting path from Princeton Junction Train Station to D&R Canal
- Share the Road signs on heavily traveled bicycle routes (e.g., Cranbury Rd)
- Safe Pedestrian Crossing of Clarksville Road at the Village Shoppes and Avalon Watch
- Safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings over the NE Corridor rail lines at Clarksville and Washington Roads

In January 2006, the Board of Trustees was elected (most of the nine Trustees were former members of the Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force), and officers of the Board of Trustees were selected. The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance (WWBPA) was incorporated as a private, not-for-profit organization on January 24, 2006 and applied for and was granted charitable 501(c)(3) status on May 25 (with exemption extending back to the incorporation date).

In this first year, the Alliance has focused on obtaining initial funding (we received a generous \$500 grant from the McGraw-Hill Companies in February), increasing our membership base (we currently have 87 members), and on holding a series of community and educational events to raise awareness of bicycle and pedestrian issues. We look forward to working with our

meetings were held to select the name of the new organization, to write draft-by-laws and to draft initial mission, goals, and objectives.

## PEDALS FOR PROGRESS

*By Ken Carlson and Susan Conlon*

We would like to thank everyone for donating to the Pedals for Progress Bike Drive sponsored by the Alliance at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market at the Princeton Junction Train Station Saturday morning June 17. We collected 105 bicycles (and one portable sewing machine) along with \$1,082 to fund shipment to their destination in Guatemala.

Every year, affluent Americans buy 22 million new bicycles and discard millions of old ones, abandoning many more unused in basements, sheds, and garages; most end up in our already overburdened landfills. Meanwhile, less-fortunate people overseas need cheap, non-polluting transportation to access health care, jobs markets, and schools.

[Pedals for Progress](#), a New Jersey-based nonprofit organization, works to foster environmentally sound transportation policies that encourage a widespread use of bicycles worldwide along with raising the North American public's awareness of, and providing a channel for responding to, the transportation needs of the poor in developing countries. To date, Pedals for Progress has received, processed, and donated close to 99,000 bicycles, 500 used sewing machines, and \$8 million in new spare parts to partner charities in 28 countries.

We would also like to thank our volunteers for donating their time and for their hard work in collecting, preparing, and loading the bikes for shipment: students Mira Bhatia, Sabina Carlson, Mary Conlon, Libby Engel, Gretchen Kieling, Haena Lee, Liz Perez, Roman Soiko, and Nick Wuensch; and adults: Samita Bhatia, Meg and

members and with all residents to make West Windsor a bicycle and pedestrian community.



Giuliano Chicco, Steve Decter, Dan Gerstenhaber, Daryl McMillan, Alison Miller, Chris Scherer, and P4P founder Dave Schweidenback.

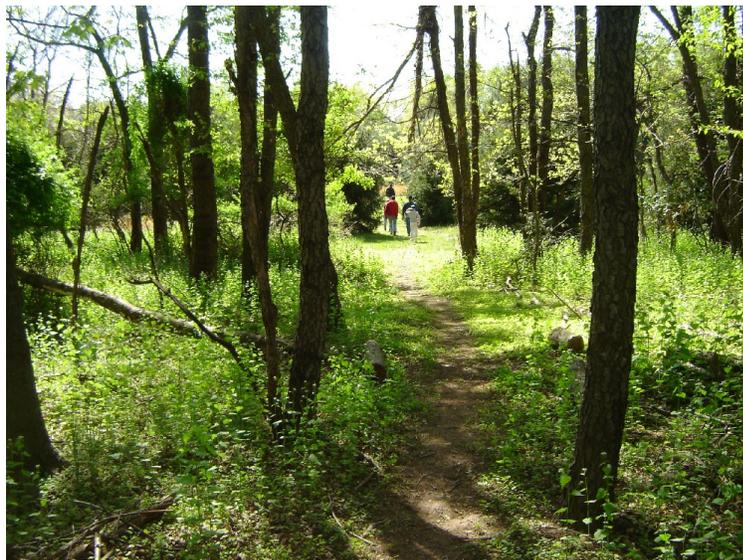
We are also grateful to the [West Windsor Community Farmers' Market](#) board members Mireille Delman and Beth Feehan for supporting Pedals for Progress' mission by hosting the drive at the market again this year and for their cooperation in providing us with such an ideal space to sponsor this event for the community.

If anyone wants to donate a bicycle but was not able to do so that day, please visit the Pedals for Progress Web site at [www.p4p.org](http://www.p4p.org) to locate upcoming collection sites and dates around the state, or we will be happy to accept it when we organize and sponsor a collection again next year.

## TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The WWBPA has been working in cooperation with [Friends of West Windsor Open Space](#) (FOWWOS) to make improvements to the trails at both the Millstone River Preserve and the Rogers Preserve. The Millstone River Preserve is located off Millstone Road (the Millstone River is the West Windsor - Plainsboro border) and the Rogers preserve is located off Clarksville Road across from Grover's Mill Pond. Ken Carlson, an officer in both WWBPA and FOWWOS, helped lead volunteers in the spring and early summer to clear a new lower trail in the Millstone River Preserve and to build a series of boardwalks over wet areas on this trail. The volunteers, adults and children, were members of the WWBPA and/or FOWWOS. Ken also led a similar group of volunteers on April 29th to clear several new trails in the Rogers Preserve (a photo essay is available on the [WWBPA web site](#)).

Ken, working closely with Roger Alig, WWBPA and FOWWOS member, used funds available from a DEP grant and a generous gift from FOWWOS member Mary Weaver, to have signs made and installed, marking the preserves and the trails. On June 3rd, the WWBPA and FOWWOS celebrated National Trails Day with a walk of both the Millstone River and Rogers preserve trails.



Ian Clarke, an Eagle Scout, has just finished an Eagle project where he constructed and installed four natural wooden benches on the Millstone Trail. Future improvements to the trails will be the installation of kiosks and additional benches by Eagle Scouts. If you are interested in helping to maintain these trails and in building future trails, please send an e-mail to Ken at [WWBPA@hotmail.com](mailto:WWBPA@hotmail.com).

## BRIEF NOTES - *GETTING CONNECTED*

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**Our Blog:** Susan Conlon started a blog to invite people to make comments or post new topics on improving bike and pedestrian access, mobility, and safety. People are welcome to share photos, stories, and ideas for improvements on biking and walking around West Windsor and our neighboring communities. It's easy: go to <http://wwbpa.blogspot.com/> to read. To add comments or posts, click on "Blog This!" at the top of the page, register, and post!

**Our Web site:** [www.princetononline.org/wwbpa](http://www.princetononline.org/wwbpa)  
Our Web site includes information on our organization, its goals, and achievements. The site has announcements of our monthly meetings (second Thursday of each month) and meeting agendas and minutes. Upcoming events are listed, as well as photos from previous events. It also has membership information and how you can get involved. Special thanks to two of our Advisory Board members: Barry Keppard, transportation planner for the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association, for submitting links for our Resources page, many of which appear in the

category "Weekly Walkabout"; and Giuliano Chicco, our wonderful Web master.

We also have a resources page, which leads to links with other organizations that share our goals. Here are two links from our Resources page:

- The Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign, [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org/](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org/), is an awards program that recognizes municipalities that actively support bicycling. A Bicycle-Friendly Community provides safe accommodation for cycling and encourages its residents to bike for transportation and recreation.
- How walkable is our community? The Walkability Checklist, available at [www.walkinginfo.org/](http://www.walkinginfo.org/), can help you find the answer. Inside you'll find insightful questions, allowing you to evaluate a neighborhood's walkability. In addition to the questions, the Checklist provides both immediate answers and long-term solution to our neighborhoods' potential problems.

## TO JOIN THE WWBPA

Tax-deductible membership dues are:

- Student \$15.00
- Adult \$25.00
- Supporter \$50.00
- Benefactor \$100.00

Please make checks payable to WWBPA, Inc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(I don't have e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering \_\_\_\_\_

I am a student and interested in community service projects

\_\_\_\_\_

## Board of Trustees

Ken Carlson - *President*

Chris Scherer - *First Vice President*

Susan Conlon - *Second Vice President*

Meg Chicco - *Secretary*

Sandy Shapiro - *Treasurer*

Bruce Ellsworth

Janet Greenman

Daryl McMillan

Alison Miller

## Advisory Board

Dan Gerstenhaber, *Chairman,*

*West Windsor Bike Fest*

Alan Hershey, *Chairman, NJ Trails Association*

Barry Keppard, *Transportation Planner,*

*Greater Mercer TMA*

Giuliano Chicco, *Web Consultant*

Robert Kenny, Esq. *Counsel*