



# Spring 2009 Newsletter

*building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community*

Founded as a 501(c)(3), private non-profit corporation in January 2006

## Presidents' Column

Spring brings many new beginnings. After three very rewarding years as WWBPA president, I will be trading roles with other officers and will be 2nd vice-president, while I welcome Chris Scherer, who has been our 1st vice president since we started, as our new president. (there are more changes; see p. 2). Our organization functions as a team and changing roles in our leadership is the best way to grow and sustain our organization.

I'd like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Advisory Board, and the membership for their strong support and enthusiasm in getting us to where we are now. I promise no less dedication to the organization than I had in my first three years. Chris is a natural choice to lead the WWBPA. He had our first great idea, to take a formally appointed township group and transform it into an independent non-profit organization. In addition, he has spearheaded our efforts to map safe bicycle and pedestrian routes and has led the effort to conduct detailed intersection inventories using cutting-edge methodology.

I'm excited about the new directions that Chris will take the organization and am looking forward to the advances that our dedicated and committed officers, board of trustees, and membership will continue to make in building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community.

~ Ken Carlson

## May is National Bike Month



The WWBPA encourages everyone to use a bicycle this month to get to work, school, shopping, or simply enjoy the experience! Once again, we are

tracking how many miles we, as a community, bike commute during the month. Please e-mail us your bike commuting mileage (as well as your commuting route and any commuting stories) every week during May and we will blog about our collective bike commuting efforts. Please visit us at the Princeton Junction train station on May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for a bike commuting event.

## Student Scholarships

The WWBPA will award scholarships to graduating West Windsor Township high school seniors. The deadline to apply is May 15. For details and application, go to [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org).

The WWBPA continues to grow stronger in so many ways, thanks in large part to Ken's diplomacy, leadership, patience and persistence.

Our membership is at an all-time high; we are on the verge of releasing a new design for our Web site; our trustees and advisors are (very) active; we have a voice in West Windsor, neighboring communities and beyond; our message is not only heard, but solicited by local townships, the County, various advisory committees and other bike/ped advocates; we continue to apply for and receive grant money. Now, more than ever, we have the capacity to achieve our vision of building a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly community.



We have a lot planned this year to achieve our vision. I encourage you to consider the many opportunities mentioned in our newsletter and Web site and let us know how you can help to further our shared cause. No contribution is too small. We thank you for your support...and the community thanks you too.

~ Chris Scherer

## Upcoming Events

Event	Date
<b>West Windsor Farmers' Market – WWBPA table</b>	<b>May 16, 30; June 13, 27; July 11, 25; Aug 8, 22; Sept 12, 26</b>
<b>WWBPA meetings Room A, WW Municipal Bldg</b>	<b>May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug 13, Sept 10, 7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Bike to Work Event PJ Train Station</b>	<b>May 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>National Bike to Work Day</b>	<b>May 15</b>
<b>Plainsboro Walkability Assessment Event</b>	<b>May 16, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b>
<b>BikeFest Community Park</b>	<b>May 23, 8 a.m.</b>
<b>Hightstown Walkability Assessment Event</b>	<b>May 28, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b>
<b>National Trails Day, Zaitz Preserve</b>	<b>June 6, 1 p.m.</b>
<b>Bicycle Education Course</b>	<b>June 7</b>
<b>Pedals for Progress Bike Drive</b>	<b>June 13</b>

Check [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org) for news and updates.

## Encouragement

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The WWBPA acknowledged local volunteers for their contributions. Maurice Hawk School Principal Denise Mengani and township resident Catherine Zandonella received awards for organizing and participating in the annual Walk to Hawk, as part of International Walk to School Day. The Meersma/Stratton family (Steve Meersma and Kathy Stratton and their children Brian and Kim) were recognized for organizing and leading an annual community bike ride; Newell Benedict received his award for achievements spanning many years supporting township activities through the Recreation Department, his leadership in the creation of the Community Park Pool, and as an organizer of the annual BikeFest, as well as a term as WWBPA trustee.

### New WWBPA Student Advisors Appointed

Appointed were Jason Chin, Caroline Kellner, Nishitha Kumar, and Emma Rosen. Kim Meersma was reappointed; trustees thanked graduating seniors Nick Wuensch and Ryan Sleeper for their work with the organization as student advisory board members.

### Officers Elected at the March Meeting

For one-year terms: Chris Scherer, president; Susan Conlon, 1st vice president; Ken Carlson, 2nd vice president; Silvia Ascarelli, secretary; and Barbara Carlson, treasurer.

### New WWBPA Trustee Elected

The membership elected Jerry Foster, to its board, and re-elected Alison Miller and Michael Ogg to new three-year terms. Silvia Ascarelli, Ken Carlson, Susan Conlon, Daryl McMillan, Chris Scherer, and Sandy Shapiro will continue their terms as trustees.

## TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT



**JERRY FOSTER** is the newest WWBPA trustee, elected at the February 2009 Annual Meeting. Jerry and his family have lived in the area since 1985, moving from Plainsboro to West Windsor Township in 1999. He and his wife Sharon Waters have two children: Matt, a freshman at the University of Miami, and Laura, who is finishing 8th grade at Grover Middle School. Jerry's professional expertise is in information technology, with a background in

application development and enterprise architecture. Jerry's past community service activities include the Plainsboro Rescue Squad and as Scoutmaster of Troop 168. Jerry currently advises Venture Crew 814, a coed scout group for ages 14-20. An avid outdoors-person, Jerry enjoys sailing, backpacking and bicycling. He is working on (over 800 miles so far) backpacking the Appalachian Trail, mostly on weekends, and this summer will bicycle 500 miles for the Anchor House Ride for Runaways.

## Events

### WEST WINDSOR COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET

The WWBPA will be out with our table to meet and talk about the organization and your ideas at this season's opening on **Saturday May 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We will continue to host the table through the season (see Events calendar on page 1).

### 5TH ANNUAL PEDALS FOR PROGRESS COLLECTION

Please donate your used bicycles at our annual bike drive, **Saturday June 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.** The WWBPA will donate the bikes to Pedals for Progress. P4P works with international partner agencies to distribute bikes at low cost to poor working adults. The bikes provide reliable transportation for the recipients, who use them for commuting to school and work, taking produce to market, or accessing health care and other services. P4P requests a \$10 donation per bicycle to help with shipping costs. The WWBPA seeks teen/adult volunteers to assist; please e-mail [wwbikeped@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikeped@gmail.com).

More details are on our Web site at [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org).



### BICYCLE

### TRAILS

The WWBPA and FOWWOS continue to cooperate on improvements at the Zaitz Woodland, the Millstone, and the Rogers Preserves. Volunteers worked on trail improvements at all three locations this year. At the Zaitz Preserve a new trail connects



to the soccer field, new trail signage is in place, and Eagle Scout Joe Francisco constructed wooden benches. Volunteers from the GREEN Community Problem Solving team at WW-P High School South helped with many trail improvements. Future work in the Zaitz Preserve will include installation of boardwalks over wet areas. Contact the WWBPA if you are interested in volunteering at [wwbikeped@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikeped@gmail.com).

## Education

The WWBPA is pleased to host a bicycle education course given by Bike New York on **Sunday June 7th** (place and time will be announced), available to members of the community. Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis with some preference given to educators who serve the community.

Educators prepare to teach preteens and teens how to drive their vehicles on the road as well as vehicular traffic rules, cyclists' responsibilities, proper bike and helmet fit, use of gears and brakes, biking skills, and basic repair and maintenance. For more information, go to [www.bikeny.org](http://www.bikeny.org) and [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org).

## Engineering

### BIKE/PED PROJECTS SLATED FOR 2009

UPDATE

#### **New Bike Lanes** on parts of the following:

Alexander Rd, Bennington Rd, Edinburg Rd, Lanwin Blvd, Rabbit Hill Rd, South Mill Rd, Village Rd West, and Woodmere Rd.

**New Sidewalks** in the vicinity of the Alexander Rd roundabout. The WWBPA is advocating for a continuous sidewalk along Rte 571, from Alexander to Wallace Rds.

**Crosswalk Improvements** expected this summer/fall as part of the new Township Crosswalk Improvement Program developed with the help of the WWBPA.

**Share the Road Signs** to be installed this summer/fall by the Township (following WWBPA recommendations) on roads heavily used by cyclists including South Rd, North and South Post Rds, and Conover Rd.

**Bike Racks at the Farmers' Market**, paid for by the WWBPA, will be installed by the Township this spring. The WWBPA is also working with NJTransit to install a number of bicycle racks at the **train station**.

**Bike Path and Bike Lanes on Meadow Road**, in conjunction with reconstruction of the road this spring/summer.

**Intersection Improvements to Cranbury-Wallace Roads and Route 571**, expected this spring/summer, though dependent on the development of the Rite Aid site.

**Crosswalk on Clarksville Road at Avalon Watch**, expected this spring. The County improvements will include a high visibility crosswalk, a pedestrian refuge island and a pedestrian activated beacon.

**Crosswalk Improvement, Slayback Drive and Route 571**, including resurfacing and striping a high visibility crosswalk for access to the Trolley Line Trail near DataRam this summer.

**Improved Crossing of the Trolley Line Trail at South Mill Road**, with a County-approved and installed mid-block crossing a high-visibility crosswalk. The Township will install a pedestrian-activated beacon.

**Bike Lanes and Sidewalks on Penn Lyle Road**, between Westwinds Dr and Village Rd, including sidewalks and bike lanes, expected this summer. The Township will construct sidewalks and bike lanes on Penn Lyle Rd towards Clarksville Rd in 2010.

**Bike Path on South Post Road**, along South Post Rd from Village Rd to Lake Mercer. The Township received a \$160,000 NJDOT Local Aid Grant for the path. Trustee Ken Carlson initiated the idea and encouraged the Township to apply for the grant.

**Bike Lanes on Mercer County Park Access Road**, to be paved, signed and striped as bike lanes by the County this summer.

#### **Road Improvements on Alexander Road S Curve:**

Unfortunately, engineering issues concerning storm water management has slowed this project, with construction not likely until 2010. Anticipated improvements include a sidewalk and bike lanes.

**For more details about all of these projects, please go to [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org).**

## Advocacy

### Traffic Calming on Bear Brook Road and the Alexander Road and Vaughn Drive Intersection



The WWBPA continues to advocate for traffic-calming on Bear Brook Road. In April we appeared at Council to reiterate a request made in

2008 to reduce the speed limit, improve the crosswalk (between Windsor Haven and the Estates at Princeton Junction) and to better enforce and improve signage for “no turn on red” to make the crossing of Alexander Road and Vaughn Drive safer for pedestrians.

#### **Bike/Ped Recommendations for Redevelopment Plan**

The WWBPA was actively involved in the Princeton Junction Redevelopment Area planning. The plan now includes bike lanes for every arterial and collector road, an expanded minimum sidewalk width, and improvements to the “town square” area for bicyclists and pedestrians, with a one-way circulation pattern around the square, as well as bike lanes between the sidewalk and parked cars. We hope these innovations, when built, will encourage bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities to enjoy the redevelopment area.

#### **Report Debris in Bike Lanes**

The WWBPA helped develop a township ordinance banning the placement of yard waste in bike lanes. The Township administration will educate residents about this ordinance after individual violations. To report yard waste in a bike lane, please call the Department of Public Works, 799-8370, noting the address of the house responsible for the yard waste, or e-mail the Director of Public Works, [adrummond@westwindsortwp.com](mailto:adrummond@westwindsortwp.com).

## Evaluation

#### **Walkability Assessments**

The WWBPA will conduct walkability assessments in **Plainsboro on May 16** and **Hightstown on May 28**.



Leading the efforts are Jenny Yu, co-president of the GREEN Community Problem Solving team, from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, for Plainsboro, and Downtown Hightstown, for Hightstown. Volunteers are needed to help with both projects.

The WWBPA received grants of \$1,200 and \$1,400 for the mapping project from The McGraw-Hill Companies as part of the company's sixth annual Global Volunteer Day, a community outreach initiative. This effort is made possible with the support of VERTICES' [www.bikenwalk.com](http://www.bikenwalk.com) program, and its president, Dr. Wansoo Im, an active member of WWBPA and West Windsor resident.

The groups will evaluate the walkability of hundreds of intersections and crossings in Hightstown and Plainsboro. Volunteers are needed to help on the day of the assessments and in follow-up evaluation of the data.

For more information and to sign up to volunteer go to [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org).

## Administrivia

### Contact Us

Address: PO Box 625  
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Web Site: [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org)

E-mail: [wwbikeped@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikeped@gmail.com)

Blog: <http://wwbpa.blogspot.com>

Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/wwbpa>

Facebook: Sign in at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
Search groups for WWBPA and join!

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Susan Conlon,  
*first vice president*  
Ken Carlson,  
*second vice president*  
Silvia Ascarelli, *secretary*  
Jerry Foster  
Daryl McMillan  
Alison Miller  
Michael Ogg  
Sandy Shapiro

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Caroline Kellner  
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### ADVISORY BOARD

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Joseph M. Pica, Jr.,  
*chief of police, West Windsor  
Township*  
Robert Kenny, Esq., *counsel*



## MEETINGS

## PLEASE JOIN US!

We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room A, West Windsor Municipal Building (Clarksville and North Post Roads). Upcoming: 5/14, 6/11, 7/9, 8/13, 9/10.

## Membership

### Become a Member/Renew Your Membership

WWBPA membership continues to grow, with now more than 350 members. If you are a member and have not renewed your membership yet in 2009, please consider renewing this spring. Membership dues make up nearly half our budget; the local support it represents gives us more clout with government officials. You can renew online at [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org) (click on Membership), or complete and mail the form below. Of course, it's tax-deductible.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tax-deductible membership dues are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Student     | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't have e-mail.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Adult       | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in volunteering.                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00 Family      | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a student interested in community service projects. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Supporter   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Benefactor |   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
# household members \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to WWBPA  
WWBPA, Inc. and return the PO Box 625  
completed form to: West Windsor, NJ 08550