



2008 Annual Report

Our mission is to promote bicycling and walking in West Windsor Township and neighboring communities, emphasizing access, education, mobility, and safety.

President's Message

Dear WWBPA members and friends,

Looking back on 2008, I see an eventful and event-full year for the WWBPA. We made progress on so many fronts: We continued our education efforts to teach bicycle and pedestrian safety; advocated for infrastructure improvements at the township, county and state level; and saw the fruits of our efforts in the installation of new sidewalks, crosswalks, "Share the Road" signs, and trails. In addition to these initiatives and many events we organized throughout the year, I'd like to highlight the development of our intersection inventory, our Walkability map and the expanding awareness about the efforts of the WWBPA.

I'm proud to say the WWBPA's reputation is expanding. The WWBPA is the focus of an extensive article in *NJ Walks and Bikes* published by the NJ Department of Transportation (<http://tinyurl.com/7xrah3>).

This fall, Rutgers University invited us to serve on a Walkability panel at a bicycle and pedestrian conference. Montclair and Morristown residents have invited us to speak on how to form a bicycle and pedestrian alliance.



We continued our efforts to develop safe pedestrian routes by conducting a comprehensive inventory of 193 intersections in West Windsor. From this effort came two important outcomes. The first was a priority ranking of all the intersections based on needed improvements and pedestrian volume. This was shared with West Windsor Township, which used it to establish a new program for funding intersection improvements. The second was the development of an interactive online Walkability map (see Evaluation article on page 2). We believe this map will transform the way residents examine safe walking routes and will lead to further pedestrian improvements.

We have accomplished so much this year through the hard work of many individuals. I'd like to thank our trustees, advisors, student advisors, and the many township, county and state officials with whom we have worked this year. And most importantly, I'd like to thank our members—your support allows us to translate the talk into the walk.

~ Ken Carlson

Accomplishments in 2008

- Recommended improvements to the intersection of Vaughn Drive, Alexander Road and Bear Brook Road following a "West Windsor Walk" in May.
- Evaluated 193 intersections in West Windsor Township for pedestrian safety and accessibility. Recommended improvements to the worst/most heavily trafficked intersections, most notably Cranbury/Wallace/Princeton-Hightstown roads. The result was an online "Walkability" map that incorporates all that information (see it at maps.gismap.us/wwbpa). This unprecedented interactive map allows pedestrians to identify safe routes and identifies and prioritizes needed infrastructure improvements.
- Worked with Friends of West Windsor Open Space to develop a network of trails in the 150-acre Zaitz Preserve off Southfield Road. Held multiple trail-building events and also multiple trail-maintenance events in the Millstone and Rogers preserves, all with the help of many volunteers.
- Worked with community volunteers and staff at Maurice Hawk Elementary School to organize the third annual "Walk to Hawk," in which more than 130 students, parents and teachers walked from the Municipal Complex to Hawk as part of International Walk to School Day on Oct. 8. We want to expand this to other schools; please talk to your children's principals.
- Conducted bicycle safety talks at Maurice Hawk as part of the school's literacy night, at BikeFest in June and at the Twin Rivers Library in June.
- Developed with township officials an ordinance that bans debris, including yard waste, from bike lanes for safety reasons.
- Funded the installation of "Share the Road" signs along Cranbury Road. We have recommended the placement of additional signs throughout the township to both Mercer County and West Windsor Township.
- Participated in the Mercer County Bike/Ped Task Force and made various presentations advocating bike/ped improvements and spread the word at a number of area events, including "Be Green, Be Seen" in Princeton, National Night Out in Hightstown and the Greening West Windsor (GroWW) environmental fair.



ANNUAL MEETING
7:30 pm Thursday Feb. 12
West Windsor Municipal Building
PLEASE JOIN US

Evaluation

New Walkability Map

To develop the new version of our online Walkability map, a team of 30 volunteers assessed 193 intersections in West Windsor and added critical crosswalk detail. These volunteers, taking part in The McGraw-Hill Companies Fifth Annual Global Volunteer Day, answered 19 questions (missing crosswalks, curb cuts, walk signals, etc.) for each crossing and took photos as backup. The result: an unprecedented interactive map that identifies safe routes and prioritizes needed infrastructure improvements.

After plotting the latitude and longitude of each crossing, we assigned a Walkability score to each intersection, based on the needed improvements and a proximity weighting relative to pedestrian ‘generators’ (such as parks, schools and the train station).



Using these scores, we prioritized needed improvements. All this information is available in the online map, which Dr. Wansoo Im, a West Windsor resident, helped to develop. His firm, Vertices LLC, is a geospatial information

services company that provides innovative and interactive map-based solutions. You can see the map at maps.gismap.us/wwbpa/.

We have presented our findings of 20 intersections most in need of improvement to the township. We hope to conduct a similar event in a neighboring community in 2009, and we have applied for a grant to fund the development of a more automated approach that could be used by any community.



The “Hawk” joins kids for International Walk to School Day



You're never too young to have fun on your bike

West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance: Safe Routes Inventory
Promoting bicycling and walking in West Windsor Township

Search Information
Cranbury Rd & Princeton Hightstown Rd (b)

Speed Limit: 0
Score: 1053
Priority: 1

- Crosswalk Missing?: Y
- Crosswalk Faded or Low Visibility?: N/A
- Crosswalk Road Surface Damaged?: N/A
- Curb Cut Missing?: N
- Curb Cut Slope Dysfunctional?: N
- Curb Cut Detectable Warning Missing?: Y
- Curb Cut NOT Flush?: N
- Sidewalk Blocked?: N
- Sidewalk Missing?: N
- Sidewalk Narrow (<3 ft)?: N
- Sidewalk Surface Damaged?: N
- Walk Signal Missing?: Y
- Walk Signal Non-Functional?: N/A
- Walk Signal Inaccessible or Obstructed?: N/A
- Walk Signal Length (in seconds)?: 0
- Pedestrian Sign Missing?: N/A
- Pedestrian Sign Obstructed?: N/A
- Traffic Light?: Y

Layers

- Inventory Locations
- Parcel
- Hiking Trails
- Off-Road Multi-use Trails
- Paved Multi-use Trails
- Pedestrian Walkway
- No Sidewalk
- Sidewalk One Side Only
- Sidewalk Both Sides

An example of the Walkability map shows the least walkable intersection in West Windsor: Cranbury/Wallace and Princeton-Hightstown Roads



The WWBPA was glad to receive a proclamation from the Mayor and Township Council recognizing our bicycle and pedestrian advocacy work

Community Events

National Bike Month

Our members reported riding 1,414 miles to work in May, saving many gallons of gas and avoiding putting 1,100 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere. We saw many new faces commuting by bike over the summer. We spent one evening at the Princeton Junction train station talking to commuters about ways to ride to the station.

Pedals for Progress Bike Drive

At our fourth annual Pedals for Progress Bike Drive in June, we collected 71 bicycles and one sewing machine. Pedals for Progress and its partner agencies distribute the bikes collected at its drives at low cost to poor working adults throughout the world. These bicycles 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. *Save the date and your used bicycles: our fifth annual Pedals for Progress Bike Drive will be June 13, 2009 from 9 a.m. to noon, once again at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market.*

Community Bike Ride

In September, we organized our second annual community bike ride, going from Community Park to McCaffrey's in the Southfield Shopping Center. McCaffrey's generously provided refreshments. About 85 adults and children participated in this fun event that combined biking on the Trolley Line Trail with education about the importance of wearing bicycle helmets.

Community Service Opportunities

Second Annual WWBPA Scholarship

The WWBPA awarded scholarships of \$500 per student to graduating seniors Adam Schuit (WW-P High School North) and Annemarie Strange (WW-P High School South) for their commitment to the community and efforts to help make it more bike/ped friendly. *Information about and applications for the 2009 scholarships are on the WWBPA Web site at wwbpa.org.*

WWBPA Community Service Award

At our annual meeting in February, the WWBPA inaugurated Community Service Awards and recognized Roger Alig, Giuliano Chicco and Ben Tufford for their contributions to the WWBPA and the greater community. *The second annual awards will be presented at the WWBPA annual meeting on Feb. 12, 2009.*

The Student Advisory Board Going Strong

Nick Wuensch, a senior at WW-PHS South and WWBPA volunteer, came on board in 2007 and continues to help at WWBPA events, including our education table and the Pedals for Progress Bike Drive at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market. He was joined in early 2008 by Ryan Sleeper, a senior at WW-PHS North and an active trail volunteer. Kim Meersma, a sophomore at WW-PHS South, continues to serve on the board and was instrumental in organizing the Community Bike Ride in September with her family. *The WWBPA is seeking interested students for appointment to the board for 2009; details and applications are available on the WWBPA Web site at wwbpa.org. Application deadline is Jan. 15.*



Happy New Year, users of the Millstone Preserve trails, from your WWBPA maintenance crew

Monthly Meetings

Second Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm, Room A, West Windsor Municipal Building, North Post and Clarksville Roads. Our next meetings are Feb 12 and March 12.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 PM, Municipal Building

Members of the WWBPA who are in attendance will vote for trustees. We have one opening, as Newell Benedict is stepping down after serving for three years. Thanks for all your work, Newell! Members interested in serving as trustees should submit resumes to wwbikeped@gmail.com by Jan. 29.

Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. As always, all meetings are open to the general public.

CONTACT THE WWBPA:

PO Box 625
West Windsor, NJ 08550
wwbpa.org
wwbikeped@gmail.com

Blog:

wwbpa.blogspot.com

Google Group:

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

Board of Trustees

Ken Carlson, *president*
Chris Scherer, *first vice president*
Susan Conlon, *second vice president*
Silvia Ascarelli, *secretary*
Sandy Shapiro, *treasurer*
Newell Benedict
Daryl McMillan
Alison Miller
Michael Ogg

Student Advisors

Kim Meersma
Ryan Sleeper
Nick Wuensch

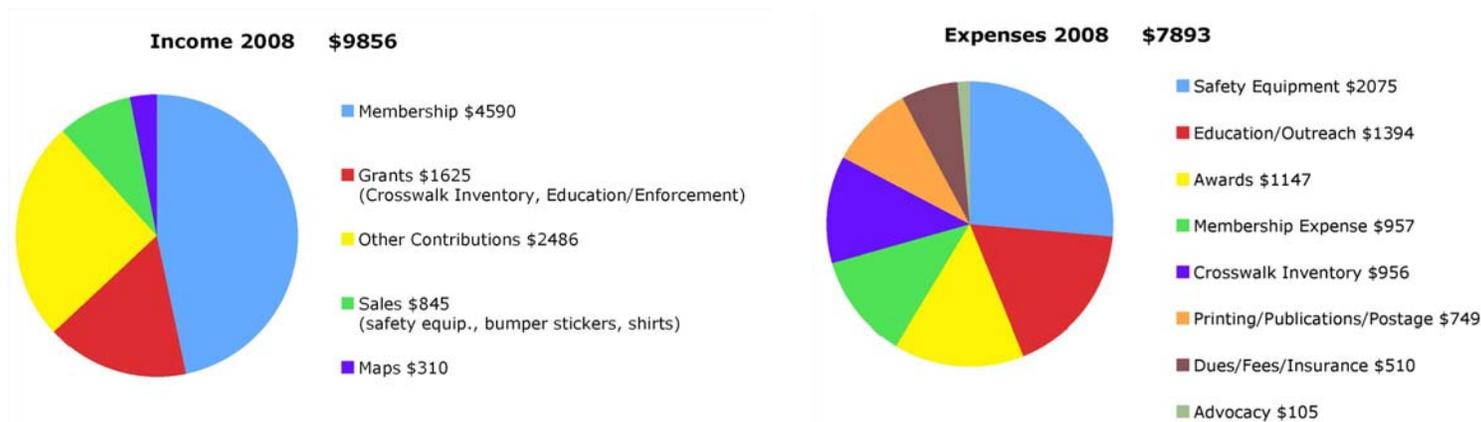
Advisory Board

Giuliano Chicco, *Web consultant*
Dan Gerstenhaber, *chairman, West Windsor BikeFest*
Alan Hershey, *chairman, NJ Trails Association*
Barry Keppard, *transportation planner*
Joseph M. Pica, Jr., *chief of police, West Windsor Township*
Robert Kenny, Esq., *counsel*

2008 Financial Summary

The bulk of WWBPA income came from membership dues and contributions. Membership surpassed its 2008 goal, growing to 327 members by the end of the year.

The McGraw-Hill Companies awarded the WWBPA a grant of \$1,125 to conduct our survey of West Windsor intersections. WWBPA First Vice President Chris Scherer led 30 McGraw-Hill and WWBPA volunteers in this effort, explained on page 2. A separate 500 grant from The McGraw-Hill Companies was for education and enforcement initiatives. Plainsboro money-manager BlackRock donated \$500 for signs and safety equipment at the recommendation of a member, and Dow Jones made a \$500 contribution through its Volunteer Support Program.



By December 2008, the WWBPA had 327 members.



Become a member! Go to wwbpa.org and click on Membership or complete the form below.

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

ST

Zip

Phone

E-mail

Please make checks payable to WWBPA, Inc. and return the completed membership form to:

WWBPA
P.O. Box 625
West Windsor, NJ 08550