Our newest trustee, Silvia Ascarelli, moved to West Windsor three years ago from London. After participating in a WWBPA walk around Grovers Mill Pond, she volunteered to help at the Estates at Princeton Junction, proceeded along Bear Brook Road through the Windsor Haven community and will end at the intersection of Bear Brook and Alexander Roads.

Elected officials and local residents will join us as we observe existing conditions, talk to local residents who commute on foot or on bicycle from the train station and brainstorm about potential improvements. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the intersection of Bear Brook Road and Twin Hoprth Way (the closest street in the Estates to Windsor Haven). Please park on Devonshire Drive (just off Twin Hoprth Way).

**BLACK/ROCK GRANT**

As part of its efforts to support local charities, BlackRock—a NY-based money manager with a large office in Plainsboro—awarded the WWBPA $500 for safety programs and signs.

**Upcoming Events**

**Event** | **Date** | **Date**
--- | --- | ---
Bikeability/Walkability Map Demo | May 8 | see article in Advocacy
Be Green & Be Seen | May 10 | 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
West Windsor Farmers’ Market *every other Saturday through fall* | May 17, 31* | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
West Windsor Walks Bear Brook Rd. at Alexander Rd. | May 13 | see article in Advocacy
Bike-to-Work Event Princeton Junction Train Station | May 19 | see article in Encouragement
Global Volunteer Day McGraw-Hill in East Windsor | May 22 | see article in Advocacy
BikeFest Community Park | June 7 | 7:30 a.m. – afternoon
National Trails Day Bear Brook Rd. at Alexander Rd. | June 8 | see article in Advocacy
Bicycle Safety Session Twin Rivers Branch Mercer County Library | June 10 | 7 – 8 p.m.
Pedals for Progress Bike Drive West Windsor Farmers’ Market | June 14 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**BikeRACKS**

A team of volunteers set out to assess the adequacy, availability and use of bike racks at the Princeton Junction train station and West Windsor Municipal Complex. The team found:

- Inappropriate installation of bike racks at the Municipal Complex, making each rack usable for only one bike.
- Insufficient bike racks at the train station, resulting in bikes being locked to various objects.

The team also: 1) proposed better placement of the racks at the Municipal Complex and presented the proposal to the township administration, which reinstilled the racks as suggested, and 2) outlined a plan for adding more bike racks at the train station, which it presented to the West Windsor Parking Authority and will present to New Jersey Transit, on whose property the new racks would be installed.

**OTHER BIKE/PEDESTrian IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP**

The township received a $200,000 Safe Routes to Transit grant. Together with proposed capital budget funds, this will allow construction of sidewalks on North Post Road from the new Alexander Road bridge to the library, and on Alexander Road from the bridge to Vaughn Drive, and between Berrien Avenue and Wallace Road.

The NUDOT awarded West Windsor a $200,000 grant, which, together with capital budget funds, will permit road widening, bike lanes and sidewalks on Penn Lyle Road between Westwinds Drive and New Village Road. This year, the township will begin to reconstruct Meadow Road between the Presbyterian Church and Route One. Improvements will include roadway reconstruction, bike lanes and a macadam recreational path alongside the roadway.

**Advocacy**

**WEST WINDSOR WALKS**

**BEAR BROOK ROAD AT ALexANDER ROAD**

The first “West Windsor Walks” event of this year will take place on Tuesday May 13th during the evening rush hour to point out the difficult conditions that pedestrians and cyclists encounter along Bear Brook Road and at the crossing of Alexander Road at Bear Brook Road/Vaughn Drive. The walk will begin at the Estates at Princeton Junction, proceed along Bear Brook Road through the Windsor Haven community and will end at the intersection of Bear Brook and Alexander Roads.

Elected officials and local residents will join us as we observe existing conditions, talk to local residents who commute on foot or on bicycle from the train station and brainstorm about potential improvements. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the intersection of Bear Brook Road and Twin Hoprth Way (the closest street in the Estates to Windsor Haven). Please park on Devonshire Drive (just off Twin Hoprth Way).

**BikeFest**

Streetscaping at the intersection of Bear Brook Road and Twin Hoprth Way (the closest street in the Estates to Windsor Haven). Please park on Devonshire Drive (just off Twin Hoprth Way).
Advocacy (continued)

McGraw-Hill Global Volunteer Day
May 22

We are partnering with The McGraw-Hill Companies, which is sponsoring its fifth annual Global Volunteer Day project to promote Safe Routes to School, Transit and Work.

Volunteers will document infrastructure gaps in our community and log details to our Bikeability and Walkability maps. We will use this inventory to set priorities for improvements and identify safe routes to be used in various programs to promote bicycling and walking. This event will serve as a model for neighboring communities interested in similar programs with Safe Routes to School.

When: Thursday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: McGraw-Hill South Building employee parking lot 148 Princeton-Hightstown Road, East Windsor

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS
Rte. 571 at Slaback Drive/Benji Midland Blvd.
We made a series of recommendations to both the county and the township for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the intersection of Route 571 and Slaback Drive/Benji Midland Blvd. The improvements were initiated by two events: 1) the WWBPA learned that the county was conducting a re-stripping program of county roads, and 2) residents who are using the Trolley Line Trail or accessing the community park are negotiating this intersection without the benefit of a crosswalk.

We shared our recommendations with the township and county administrations and township council, including: 1) in the short-term, installing a crosswalk across Route 571, Walk/Don’t Walk indicators at the west side of the intersection and a crosswalk across Slaback Drive to Benji Midland Blvd., installing a crosswalk across the east side of the intersection, with a connection to a proposed sidewalk along Benji Midland Blvd. allowing safe bike/ped access to the community pool, dog park and skate park. The county installed Walk/Don’t Walk indicators on April 11, and we will paint a crosswalk across Route 571 by the end of April.

UPDATES
Township officials appear hopeful that a traffic study underway will support the need to put Canal Pointe Boulevard on a "road diet" (to reduce travel lanes from two to one in each direction, with a middle turning lane and bicycle lanes) by 2010. This year's capital budget proposal includes funding for a study to analyze traffic signals at the intersection of Canal Pointe Boulevard with Meadow Road and Carnegie Center Boulevard.

The township plans to make bike/ped improvements to the notorious Alexander Road "S" curve (near the D&R Canal) this year, including bike lanes on both side of the road from Canal Pointe Boulevard to the D&R Canal, and a macadam sidewalk on the Oball's side. This was the site of our first West Windsor Bikeability and Walkability Maps.

SHARE THE ROAD WITH BICYCLISTS

same roads – same rules

Bicyclists

- Obey the Law, Signs and Signals
  - Bicyclists have all the rights and duties of motorists.
  - Use of signals is required before turning or changing lanes.
  - Obey all traffic control devices.
- Always Wear a Properly Fitted Helmet
  - Wearing a helmet is the law under age 17.
  - Teach by example: don't ride without your helmet at any age.
- Never Ride Against Traffic
  - Always ride with traffic.
  - Ride as near to the right as practicable.
  - Move to the left, turn left, avoid road hazards, pass slower vehicles and when traveling at the same speed as traffic.
- Be Predictable
  - Ride at least three feet from car doors or the curb.
  - Be straight ahead and anticipate hazards.
  - Use hand signals before turning or changing lanes.
  - Scan the road ahead, especially at crosswalks, intersections, driveways and parking spaces.
  - Take the lane if conditions make passing unsafe.
  - Stay off sidewalks (walk your bike if necessary).
- Be Visible
  - Wear white front light and red rear light in low light.
  - Wear brightly colored clothes.
  - Use lights and reflective tape/clothing anytime.
  - Make eye contact with drivers, but expect them not to see you.
- Drive Carefully
  - Reduce speed when approaching bicyclists.
  - Anticipate hazards bicyclists face and allow for them.
  - Don't tailgate, especially in slick conditions (bikes stop fast).
- Yield to Bicyclists
  - Bicycles are considered vehicles. Give bicyclists the appropriate right of way to bicyclists (e.g., when turning left, yield to bicycling traffic).
- Allow Extra Time for Bicyclists to Traverse Intersections.
- Be Considerate
  - Scan the road for bicyclists in traffic and at intersections.
  - Don't honk your horn in closer proximity to bicyclists (it startles them and may cause an accident).
  - Look before opening your car door.
- Pass with Care
  - When passing, leave four feet of space between you and a bicyclist as they need space to avoid hazards.
  - Wait for safe road and traffic conditions before you pass (bicyclists may take the lane if conditions are unsafe).
  - Do not pass a bicyclist if you intend to turn immediately.

Motorists

- Be Visible
  - Children are often unpredictable and are harder to see because of their size.
  - Expect the unexpected and slow down. Don't expect children to know traffic laws.

Bikeability and Walkability Maps

Now Online!

We recently added Bikeability and Walkability maps to allow the public to participate in identifying existing bike/ped infrastructure and needed improvements in our community. We will use this information to set priorities and advocate for improvements.

JOIN US FOR A DEMO:
We will demo our Bikeability and Walkability maps before our next monthly meeting on May 8 from 7 to 7:30 p.m. (West Windsor Municipal Bldg, Rm A).

WHEN YOU REPORT INCIDENTS OR INCIDENTS REPORTED TO YOU

If you observe an incident of roadway behavior of people who use the roads...yes, bicyclists, pedestrians and, most importantly, motorists. Even the most bicycle and pedestrian-friendly network of roads, trails and sidewalks is useless if our community does not use it properly.

We MUST ADDRESS EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT. We've all witnessed some form of irresponsible behavior by motorists.

Now is your time to speak out. If you have had a near-miss incident, or other dangerous interaction with a vehicle while walking or riding your bike in or around West Windsor, please share your story by emailing us at wwbiped@gmail.com.

In your comment, please include: 1) the date and time of the incident, 2) the nearest cross streets of your incident, 3) a short description of what happened (pictures are helpful, if available) and 4) where you live.

When we compile the results, we will draft a letter with all your comments attached and send it to the appropriate authorities. We will also document these incidents on our Bikeability and Walkability maps. If you're interested in helping further with this effort, please email wwbiped@gmail.com.

WANTED: Volunteer Tax Accountant

We're looking for a tax accountant familiar with nonprofit to volunteer his/her time to prepare periodic filings.

WANTED: Used Bicycle Donations

Bring your bike(s) and $10 per bike to our Pedals for Progress bike donation collection on June 14 (9 a.m. – noon) at the Farmers' Market. On average it costs $28 per bike to fix it and get it to new home. Pedals for Progress deliver the bicycles to the developing world. Visit their West Windsor website at www.pdp.org.
Advocacy (continued)

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When: Thursday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

### Rte. 571 at Slayback Drive/Bernt Midland Blvd.

We made a series of recommendations to both the township and the county for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the intersection of Route 571 and Slayback Drive/Bernt Midland Blvd. The improvements were initiated by two events: 1) the WWBPA learned that the county was conducting a re-stripping program of county roads, and 2) residents who are using the Trolley Line Trail or accessing the community park are negotiating this intersection without the benefit of a crosswalk.

We shared our recommendations with the township and county administrations and township council, including: 1) in the short-term, installing a crosswalk across Route 571, Walk/Don’t Walk indicators at the west side of the intersection and a crosswalk across Slayback Drive at Bernt Midland Blvd.; 2) in the long-term, installing a crosswalk across the east side of the intersection, with a connection to a proposed sidewalk along Bernt Midland Blvd. allowing safe bicycle access to the community pool, dog park and skate park. The county installed Walk/Don’t Walk indicators on April 11, and will paint a crosswalk across Route 571 by the end of April.

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### UPSDATES (continued)

Walk in the fall of 2006 and we have continually lobbied for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in this location.

The county will install a pedestrian refuge island, a clearly marked crosswalk and a pedestrian-activated signal on Canal Road at Avalon Watch and the Village Shoppes by spring. The township has already installed street lighting. All of these improvements came from our recommendations!

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### Encouragement

**Bike-to-Work Events**

**May 16 and 19**

May is National Bike Month. We are co-sponsoring a Bike-to-Work Day with the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association (GMMTA). Both organizations will have information tables at the east and west sides of the Princeton Junction Transit Station on Monday, May 19th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We will provide information about safe bicycling and walking. The GMMTA is also hosting a Bike-to-Work Day on Friday, May 16th in the parking lot next to Kopp’s Cycle in Princeton from 6:30 to 8 a.m. We will also track bike-commuting miles by members of our community during the month. Please e-mail us with your weekly mileage for May (and any interesting bike-commuting stories) and we will post the results on our blog.

For other ideas about how to celebrate National Bike Month, please see this list from the League of American Cyclists: [www.bikelanes.org/program/activity/90_things_for_bike_month.pdf](http://www.bikelanes.org/program/activity/90_things_for_bike_month.pdf)

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### CYCLING FOR A CAUSE: ANCHOR HOUSE

**July 12 – 19**

Twelve West Windsor residents (six of them WWBPA members, including three trustees) will be joining 200 other cyclists in the 30th Anniversary Anchor House Ride for Runaways. This seven-day, 500-mile ride is an important fund-raiser for Anchor House, a multi-service agency for runaway, homeless, abused, and at-risk youth and their families. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please e-mail us.

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### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

**Thanks!**

At our Annual Meeting, we bikeability and walkability volunteers for their contributions to community service with the WWBPA:

- Ben Tufford (left with Chris Scherer), for his important early contributions in developing the first bicycle/pedestrian map of West Windsor Township, created by the WWBPA in 2007.
- Giuliano Chiccio (center with Susan Conlon), for his work in designing and managing our Web site ([www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org)).
- Roger Alig (right with Ken Carlison), for his participation in building recreational trails in the township.

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### Bikeability and Walkability Maps

**NOW ONLINE!**

We recently added Bikeability and Walkability maps to allow the public to participate in identifying existing bike/pedestrian infrastructure and needed improvements in our community. We will use this information to set priorities and advocate for improvements.

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### JOIN US FOR A DEMO:

We will demo our Bikeability and Walkability maps before our next monthly meeting on May 8 from 7:30 to 7:45 p.m. (West Windsor Municipal Bldg. Rm A).

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### SHARE THE ROAD WITH BICYCLISTS

- **same roads – same rules**
- **same roads – same rules**

**Bicyclists**

- **Obey the Law, Signs and Signals**
  - Bicyclists have all the rights and duties of motorists. Use the right lane and yield at intersections before turning or changing lanes.
  - Obey all traffic control devices.
- **Always Wear a Properly Fitted Helmet**
  - Wearing a helmet is the law under age 17.
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- **Never Ride Against Traffic**
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  - Move left to turn left, avoid road hazards, pass slower vehicles and when traveling at the same speed as traffic.
- **Be Predictable**
  - Ride at least three feet from car doors or the curb. Ride a straight line and anticipate hazards.
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- **Be Visible**
  - Wear bright white light and red rear light in low light.
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  - Use reflective or light-reflective tape/clothing anytime.
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**Motors**

- **Drive Cautiously**
  - Reduce speed when approaching bicyclists.
  - Anticipate hazards bicyclists face and allow for extra space.
  - Don’t tailgate, especially in slick conditions (bike stops fast).
- **Yield to Bicyclists**
  - Bicycles are considered vehicles. Give bicyclists the appropriate right of way to bicyclists (e.g., when turning left, yield to bicycling traffic). Allow extra travel time for bicyclists to traverse intersections.
- **Be Considerate**
  - Scan the road for bicyclists in traffic and at intersections.
  - Don’t honk your horn in close proximity to bicyclists (it startles them and may cause an accident).
  - Use the bike lane before opening your car door.
- **Pass with Care**
  - When passing, leave four feet of space to allow the bicyclist to pass in a safe area.
- **Watch for Children**
  - Children on bicycles are often unpredictable and are harder to see because of their size.
  - Expect the unexpected and slow down. Don’t expect children to know traffic laws.

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### Education Scholarship

We are offering up to $1000 in scholarship awards to West Windsor-Plainsboro High School seniors.

Applicants should submit a brief essay (not more than 250 words) describing activities that they have undertaken or new ideas for improved bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety in our community. Please read and complete all instructions (available at [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org)) and return the application with “STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP” in the subject line to: [wwbikes@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikes@gmail.com). The deadline is May 30, 2008.

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### Enforcement

**WANTED: YOUR CLOSE CALLS**

As cyclists and pedestrians, we risk our lives every day. Many of us have near-miss altercations that left us rattled, angry, and feeling vulnerable. Some of us have suffered physical harm and incurred medical expenses because of hurried drivers. Typically, the only people who ever hear about these incidents are our friends, families and cycling buddies.

When these incidents go unreported, the media, the police and our elected officials are unaware of the extent of the problem. This needs to change.

Although we’ve made much progress towards influencing local authorities to address gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, we still have much work to do to address the behavior of people who use the roads...yes, bicyclists, pedestrians and, most importantly, motorists. Even the most bicycle and pedestrian-friendly network of roads, trails and sidewalks is useless if our community does not use them properly.

We MUST address EDUCATION and ENFORCEMENT. We’ve all witnessed some form of irresponsible behavior by motorists.

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**Advisory Board**

Guiliano Chico, Web consultant
Dan Gerstenhaber, chairman, West Windsor Township
Alan Hershey, chairman, NJ Trails Association
Barry Keppard, transportation planner
Joseph M. Pica, Jr., Chief of Police, West Windsor Township

**Student Advisors**

Kim Meersma, BikeFest transportation planner
Nick Wuensch, chairman, NJ Trails Association

**West Windsor Walks**

**Bear Brook Road at Alexander Road**

May 13

The first “West Windsor Walks” event of this year will take place on Tuesday May 13th during the evening rush hour to point out the difficult conditions that pedestrians and cyclists encounter along Bear Brook Road and at the crossing of Alexander Road at Bear Brook Road/Vaughn Drive. The walk will begin at the Estates at Princeton Junction, proceed along Bear Brook Road through the Windsor Haven community and will end at the intersection of Bear Brook and Alexander Roads.

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**BlackRock Grant**

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**Contact Us**

Address: PO Box 625
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Web Site: www.wwbpa.org
E-mail: wwbikeped@gmail.com
Blog: http://wwbpa.blogspot.com
Google Group: groups.google.com/group/wwbpa