



Fall 2008 Newsletter

Building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community.

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

Advocacy

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

PUT DOWN THE CAR KEYS

Gas prices are rising, the ozone layer is thinning, waist lines are increasing. What can you do? Put down the car keys, and walk or bike to your next destination. Did you know that 25% of all car trips are made within a mile of home and 40% are made within two miles? The next time you need milk or stamps, consider biking or walking to your destination. Instead of driving to the train station, bike or walk. You'll get some exercise and feel better about what you're not putting into the air- for every gallon of gas burned, 20 pounds of CO₂ are emitted into the air.



This year has seen a large increase in the number of bike commuters. During National Bike-to-Work Month, we heard from eleven community members who bike commuted a total of 1414 miles in May. That's a savings of 57 gallons of gas, and 1140 fewer pounds of CO₂ emissions. The average person loses 13 pounds the first year of commuting by bike.

Check out our online [Bikeability](#) and [Walkability](#) maps to find a safe route (see 'Maps' on our Web site). Please support us as we continue our campaign to educate motorists, cyclists and pedestrians about sharing the road, respecting the law and adhering to speed limits, especially in our residential neighborhoods. And please do your part: put down the car keys and lace up those shoes, or take that bike out of the garage!

~ Ken Carlson

WALK! RIDE!

Education

AWARENESS

We continue our bicycle and pedestrian education effort throughout our community. As in previous years, we staff a bike/ped education table at the West Windsor Farmers' Market. We find it an excellent opportunity to discuss mobility and safety concerns with our members and local residents. We also use the opportunity to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety and awareness, from discussions of safe routes to fitting bicycle helmets. We also staffed a bike/ped education table and conducted a Bike Safety Rodeo at the West Windsor BikeFest in June.

We reach out to local communities, where we provide information about bicycle and pedestrian safety and distribute helmets, lights, and reflective ankle bands and vests. Recent events included:

- Be Green and Be Seen event in Princeton (May)
- Bike-to-Work at the Princeton Junction Train Station (May)
- Community Outreach session to the local Spanish-speaking population at the Twin Rivers Branch of the Mercer County Library, where WWBPA Secretary Silvia Ascarelli tutors through Literacy Volunteers of Mercer County
- National Night Out Against Crime in Hightstown (August)

We also held education events in our schools. 1st vice president Chris Scherer had a rapt audience for his talk about bicycle safety at Maurice Hawk Elementary School's Literacy Festival held on April 30 and May 1. At the event, children and their parents learned about the importance of wearing a helmet, following the rules of the road, and how to ride safely at night. The children enjoyed trying on helmets and taking a spin on the stationary bike. More than one parent came up to Chris after the talk to ask about buying a helmet. A special thanks to Principal Denise Mengani and Asst. Principal Patricia Buell for inviting the WWBPA. Thanks also to teacher Linda Bugher for organizing the event.

At the June 23 West Windsor Township Council meeting, the WWBPA was honored with a proclamation from the Township Council and Mayor expressing "their profound appreciation to all of the volunteers for their dedication and commitment in improving bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety in our community." To see a copy of the Proclamation, please visit our Web site.



Upcoming Events

Event	Date
West Windsor Farmers' Market	Sept 6, 20; Oct 4, 20
Bike Ride Community Park to McCaffrey's *Rain date: Sept. 28	Sept 21* 2 p.m.
Trail Day Zaitz Preserve Trail *Rain date: Oct 12	Oct 5* 1 p.m.
3rd Annual Walk to Hawk International Walk to School Day Meet at WW Municipal Center	Oct 8 time TBA
Bike/Ped Awareness North v. South Football game High School South	Oct 18 1 p.m.
West Windsor Walks Walk the Trolley Line Trail Start at WaterWorks parking lot	Oct 25 2 p.m.

UPDATE



Encouragement

VOLUNTEERING

GIVE YOUR TIME!

Just a couple hours of your time every year will help make our community bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Consider helping us in any of these areas:

- Safe Routes to School and Bicycle Safety for Children: We have done programs at Maurice Hawk and would like to do more at other area schools. Ask your child's principal for a bicycle safety program and to encourage Safe Routes to School. Consider helping at the event, too.
- Trail Maintenance: We maintain trails at Millstone, Rogers and Zaitz Preserves. Send us an email if you're interested in trail building. All ages welcome!
- Farmers' Market: Spend a few hours learning and answering questions on select Saturdays through its season.
- Ride Smart Ride Safe: This program extends beyond West Windsor. We need speakers of other languages, particularly Spanish and Mandarin.
- Woodworkers: We are seeking permission to install wooden informational kiosks near the train station, and need help with construction and installation.



3RD ANNUAL PEDALS FOR PROGRESS BICYCLE COLLECTION

UPDATE



The WWBPA collected used bicycles to support Pedals for Progress on Saturday, June 14 at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market. We collected 71 bicycles and one sewing machine. Pedals for Progress transports the collected items overseas, where

they are put to use by people who need them. Thanks to WWBPA student advisors, trustees and volunteers for helping a good cause. More information about Pedals for Progress is available on its Web site, www.p4p.org.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

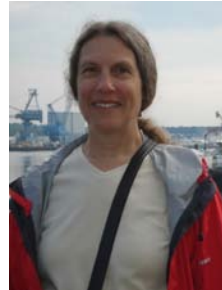
UPDATE

This June the WWBPA awarded two scholarships of \$500 per student to graduating seniors Adam Schuit (WW-P High School North) and Annemarie Strange (WW-P High School South) recognizing their commitment and efforts to help make the community more bike/ped friendly. We congratulate them and wish them success in college; Adam is off to Cornell University and Annemarie, to Gettysburg College. We also thank Annemarie for her service to the WWBPA and community as a member of our board as a student advisor.



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

SANDY SHAPIRO



Sandra Shapiro is a founding member of the WWBPA, serving as treasurer since its inception in 2006. Sandy has lived in Princeton Junction for nearly 30 years. She is married and has three grown children, a 1-year old grandson, and a standard poodle with which she takes frequent walks!

Sandy works part-time in her husband's office and also at Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic-New Jersey Unit, where she has volunteered for more than 15 years as its Web designer and as a reader of general science texts for students in elementary school through college. She has also been active in the League of Women Voters of the Princeton Area. Sandy was an editor and photographer for the 1994 edition of the League's publication, *West Windsor: Know Your Township*. She continues to publish and exhibit photographs, poetry, and abstract watercolors.

An avid cyclist and walker, Sandy is inspired by bike/ped innovations as she travels.

Evaluation

WEST WINDSOR WALKS

UPDATE

BEAR BROOK RD AT ALEXANDER RD

During evening rush hour on May 13, 30 local residents, as well as trustees and members of the WWBPA, Township Council members and the Mayor, gathered to examine pedestrian and bicycle conditions in the Bear Brook Road area. Requested by Windsor Haven board member and WWBPA member Dan Damon, the walk targeted the dangerous conditions that residents face when walking or cycling to the train station.

We compiled recommendations (available on our Web site), shared them with the Township administration, and have presented them to the Township Council. The Township will make some improvements to the Bear Brook/Alexander Roads intersection in the fall, and we hope our other recommendations, including traffic calming on Bear Brook Road and putting Alexander Road on a road diet (i.e., reducing the road from two to one travel lane in each direction plus bike lanes), will soon follow.



Engineering

BIKE/PED IMPROVEMENTS

UPDATE

Capital-to-Coast Trail: On August 20, West Windsor opened a 2.5 mile multi-use trail, part of the Capital-to-Coast Trail, a 53-mile east-west trail that will eventually connect Manasquan Beach to the Delaware River in Trenton. The West Windsor segment is on Mercer County-owned land including the Mercer County VoTec campus off Old Trenton Road.

Trolley Line Trail: We worked with the Township and County to ensure safe connectivity from a new segment to existing portions of the Trolley Line Trail. Located along the perimeter of the Windsor Business Park (Dataram), the addition will allow cyclists and pedestrians to proceed safely from Slayback Drive and Route 571 to South Mill Road. The County is following our recommendations (see our Web site) to provide a safe crossing of Route 571 at the intersection with Slayback Drive and has installed Walk/Don't Walk indicators and will soon install a high-visibility crosswalk. We worked with the Township to ask the Windsor Business Park to provide a curb cut and connecting sidewalk to the crosswalk. We hope to extend the trail to Mercer County Park and Plainsboro.

Clarksville Road at Avalon Watch: The County and the State have approved pedestrian improvements, including a high visibility crosswalk, a pedestrian refuge island, and pedestrian signage. Project completion is due this fall. These improvements were part of recommendations from 'West Windsor Walks' in 2006.

Alexander Road "S" Curve: Bike/ped improvements, including bike lanes and sidewalks, to the curve near the D&R Canal will be in place by the fall. These improvements were part of recommendations from 'West Windsor Walks' in 2006.

Mercer County Park: This fall, the County will pave the shoulders of the main access road through the park, a tremendous improvement for cyclists and runners.

Cranbury/Wallace Road and Route 571: Improvements to this intersection, including high visibility crosswalks, signage, and pedestrian-activated signals, have been slowed by rights-of-way and other jurisdictional issues. The improvements, a direct result of WWBPA recommendations following a 2007 educational walk, should be completed this fall.

Washington Road Bridge over the NE Corridor Train Tracks: Following WWBPA recommendations and with support from the Township and the State, this fall NJ DOT will construct sidewalks between the guardrails on the south side (train station side) of the bridge. The sidewalk will connect to pedestrian improvements at the Cranbury-Wallace Road and Route 571 intersection and to a crosswalk on Station Drive.

Watch for highlights of additional bicycle and pedestrian improvements in 2009 in future newsletters. Feel free to contact us for more information.

SHARE THE ROAD SIGNS

UPDATE

The WWBPA is working with Township and County officials to install 'Share the Road' signs on key roads, beginning with Cranbury Neck Road, and to add more signs to the Trolley Line Trail. They should be visible soon. Contact the WWBPA with suggestions for other locations where signs are needed.

Events

BIKE RIDE

SEPT 21

COMMUNITY PARK TO McCAFFREY'S (RAIN DATE: SEPT 28)

Bike with us to the McCaffrey's Market in the Southfield Shopping Center. All ages are welcome to participate.

The ride is free, but helmets are required and will be available for purchase at the start of the ride. Travel along the paved Trolley Line Trail and through residential neighborhoods on this fun, easy seven-mile roundtrip ride. Enjoy a cool drink and light refreshments at McCaffrey's (compliments of McCaffrey's and the WWBPA) before heading back to Community Park. See our Web site for more info.

When: Sunday, September 21 at 2 p.m.

Where: WaterWorks parking lot in the WW Community Park

TRAIL DAY

OCT 5

ZAITZ PRESERVE TRAIL

We celebrated National Trails Day on June 8 by sponsoring a walk with Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS) in the newly opened trails of the Zaitz Woods Preserve. These trails take visitors to the 156-acre park through a mixture of upland and



wetland forest – a rarity in Mercer county. Undeterred by the 97-degree heat, 25 local residents participated. Once inside the woods, the temperature dropped by 10 degrees, making a pleasant walk. On July 4, 13 trail-blazing patriots laid a wood-chip path from the parking lot along the perimeter of the corn field to the trailhead, cleared the trails in the forest and removed a deer stand.

Join us to walk the trails and make more trail improvements.

When: Sunday, October 5 at 1 p.m. (rain date Oct 12)

Where: Zaitz Preserve parking lot on Southfield Road

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

OCT 8

3RD ANNUAL WALK TO HAWK

To mark International Walk to School Day and to promote Safe Routes to School, the WWBPA and Maurice Hawk School will hold the 3rd Annual "Walk to Hawk." Last year, more than 100 students, parents and teachers walked from the municipal complex to the school. See our Web site for more details. We hope to conduct similar events at other local schools. Contact the principal at your child's school to show your interest.

ANCHOR HOUSE RIDE

UPDATE

During the week of July 12, 13 West Windsor (including WWBPA Trustees Newell Benedict, Ken Carlson, and Daryl McMillan) joined 180 other cyclists in the 30th Anniversary Anchor House Ride for the Runaways (www.anchorhouse.org). The seven-day, 500-mile bike ride from Rutland Vermont to Quakerbridge Road was an incredible experience for all riders and an important fundraiser for Anchor House. Over \$450,000 was raised for this multi-service agency for runaway, homeless and abused youth. Thanks to everyone who sponsored riders for this event.

Administrivia

Contact Us

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Web Site: www.wwbpa.org
E-mail: wwbikeped@gmail.com
Blog: <http://wwbpa.blogspot.com>
Google Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/wwbpa>
Facebook: Sign in at www.facebook.com
Search groups for WWBPA and join!

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Chris Scherer, *first vice president*
Susan Conlon, *second vice president*
Silvia Ascarelli, *secretary*
Sandy Shapiro, *treasurer*
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Daryl McMillan
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Barry Keppard, *transportation planner*
Joseph M. Pica, Jr., *chief of police, West Windsor Township*

STUDENT ADVISORS

Kim Meersma
Ryan Sleeper
Nick Wuensch

MEETINGS

We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room A of the West Windsor Municipal Building (Clarksville and North Post Roads). Upcoming: 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Membership

BECOME A MEMBER (OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP)

Our 2008 goal of 300 members is within reach. We now have 279 members! Please be sure to renew your membership. Our membership form is available on our Web site or 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
WWBPA, Inc. and return the PO Box 625
completed membership form to: West Windsor, NJ 08550