



Fall 2007 Newsletter

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

Would you like to walk or bicycle safely to the train station, to local schools, or to your place of work? Are you interested in hiking on trails through beautifully preserved forests in town? Would you like to help others learn about bicycle and pedestrian safety?

UPCOMING EVENTS

West Windsor Trails Day Saturday, September 15

Meet at the Millstone River Trail parking lot on Millstone Road at 1 PM. We will lead a walk along three linked, beautiful, recreational trails in the Millstone River Preserve East and West as well as the Rogers Preserve. The walk is approximately three miles and will take approximately 1 ½ hours.



Rain date: Sunday, September 16th at 1 PM.

Family Bicycle Ride—WW Community Park to Emack and Bolio's Ice Cream Shop Saturday, September 29



Join us at 2 PM for a bicycle ride along the Trolley Line Trail (along the PSE&G right-of-way) with the destination, the Emack and Bolio's Ice Cream Shop in the Southfield Shopping Center (McCaffrey's). We will ride along the Trolley Line Trail and local residential streets to highlight the new bicycle connectivity between Community Park and the Southfield Shopping Center.

The route is 4 miles each way on flat terrain; riders of all ages who can complete the course are welcome. Emack and Bolio's will contribute a percentage of their profits for the day to the WWBPA (even from those who do not ride). Meet at 2 PM in West Windsor Community Park in front of Waterworks.

Rain date: Sunday, September 30th at 2 PM.

*For complete details on all our events, visit our website,
www.princetononline.org/wwbpa*

ADVOCACY

Avalon Watch / Clarksville Road Crossing

Mercer County officials are moving forward with plans to improve the pedestrian crossing at the Avalon Watch apartment complex on Clarksville Road. Improvements will include a pedestrian refuge island, a clearly marked crosswalk, and a pedestrian-activated signal. These improvements were the result of an advocacy effort by the WWBPA in late 2006. The county is securing funding, and it is hoped that the project will go to bid this fall. Construction is expected to take no more than a month.

Alexander Road "S" Curve

West Windsor Walks

WWBPA Fast Facts:

Founded and incorporated as private non-profit, January 2006

Current membership: 212

Web Site: www.princetononline.org/wwbpa

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

E-mail: wwbikeped@gmail.com

Address: P.O. Box 625, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.,

West Windsor Municipal Building (Clarksville and N. Post Rd)

Tuesday, October 9

WWBPA's next educational walk at 5:30 PM will point out the dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists at the intersection of Princeton-Hightstown Road/Cranbury-Wallace Road in Princeton Junction. Please meet at the clock tower in front of the PNC Bank.

Rain date: Wednesday, October 10th at 5:30 PM.

iwalktoschool.org

October is International Walk to School Month, an annual event to raise worldwide awareness of walking issues.

Walks promote:

- Physical activity;
- Teaching safe walking skills to children;
- Awareness of how walkable a community is and where improvements can be made;
- Concern for the environment;
- Reducing traffic congestion, pollution and speed near schools;
- Taking back neighborhoods for people on foot;
- Sharing time with community leaders, parents and children.

For more information, go to www.walktoschool-usa.org

Plans for improvements (as advocated by the WWBPA) are underway for Alexander Road through the "S" curve between Canal Point Boulevard and the D&R Canal. Improved drainage, striping, signage, and pedestrian facilities are being funded through the township capital improvements budget. Conceptual design plans and alternatives are scheduled to be completed by this fall and presented to the township council and the public. Final design and bid documents are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007 with construction in the spring of 2008.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR MEETINGS: Members are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. Our meetings are lively and interesting and are where much of our strategizing occurs. **NEXT MEETINGS:** September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13

Canal Pointe Boulevard

Our advocacy walk in April 2007 of Canal Pointe Boulevard helped raise awareness of the dangerous conditions for cyclists and pedestrians along the length of the road. Township officials agree with our recommendation to put Canal Pointe Boulevard on a road diet, reducing the travel lanes from two in each direction to one in each direction, with a middle turning lane and bike lanes. Between 2007 and 2010, West Windsor Township intends to spend \$1 million dollars on improvements to Canal Pointe Boulevard. Step one is a \$75,000 traffic study and immediate fixes, such as adding curb cuts to the one existing crosswalk at Heritage Drive, and the creation of formalized NJ Transit bus stops at Heritage Drive and Carillon Boulevard. Longer term improvements will include installation of traffic lights at Meadow Road and Carillon Boulevard.

Grovers Mill Walk

During the May 10th evening rush hour, thirty-three West Windsor residents, including several members of the township council and the planning board, took part in a walk of Cranbury and Clarksville Roads in the vicinity of Grovers Mill Pond. Organized by the WWBPA, this was part of a series of public outreach walks, "West Windsor Walks," to examine conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists on township roads, to raise awareness, and to brainstorm for ideas for improvements. The group examined and discussed the serious flaws regarding access, mobility and safety for pedestrians and cyclists on these two roads and considered possible immediate short-term steps as well as potential larger-scale projects. The WWBPA will meet with officials from Mercer County and West Windsor Township in mid-September to follow up on comments and questions raised during the walk, and a set of suggestions will be presented to the community and then to the West Windsor Township Administration and Township Council. More information will be posted on the WWBPA Web site.

Trails Update

During the spring and summer, the WWBPA hosted several trail building days. More than 50 volunteers worked to improve the recreational trails on the Millstone and Rogers



Preserves (for the location of these trails, see the WWBPA Bike/Pedestrian Map). Girl Scout Troop 600 adopted the Rogers Preserve trails and blazed new trails and cleared existing trails with the help of WWBPA and FOWWOS trustees and members. Members of the WW-P High School North cross-country running team helped other volunteers make improvements (e.g., new trail signs and a wood chipped entrance path) to the newest trails on the Millstone Preserve West located off Joanne Street. Eagle Scout Ryan Shreves constructed a kiosk, now containing a map of all local trails, for the Millstone Preserve trailhead. Come explore these beautiful trails and look for e-mails announcing trail building days in the fall.

Trolley Line Trail

Two segments of the Trolley Line Trail are now complete—they are fully paved, brush is trimmed, and signage has been added to warn motorists where the trail crosses a road and to tell the public that no motorized traffic is allowed. Usage by bicyclists and pedestrians is high. However, the job is not finished.



One segment, opened this summer, runs from Rabbit Hill Road across Big Bear Brook and joins up with the path system in Community Park, making the park accessible to non-motorists from north of Princeton-Hightstown Road. The older segment, with full signage added this summer, runs from South Mill Road to Penn Lyle Road.

The WWBPA has been working closely with the township to urge completion of the trail, to add shoulder/bicycle striping and sidewalks on connecting roadways, and to ensure safe pedestrian crossings where the trail intersects with roadways. The WWBPA is also advocating for extending the trail to Mercer County Park and to Plainsboro.

Township/County/State/Regional Coordination

Mercer County has formalized a county-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, with representatives from all of the towns within the county. Ken Carlson and Chris Scherer were active members of the grassroots organization that preceded the task force, and are now members of the county task force. Please contact Ken or Chris (wwbikeped@gmail.com) with any countywide bicycle and pedestrian issues you may have. We will keep you up to date about the activities of this group.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects in Town

The WWBPA has advocated for increased bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in town and has provided detailed priorities for specific projects to the township. The WWBPA successfully advocated for increased expenditure for bicycle/pedestrian projects in the 2007-2012 township capital budgets. The township has made progress on several projects this year and will initiate new projects in 2008 (all found on the WWBPA list of priority bike/ped projects).

Bikelanes: Rabbit Hill Road, Lanwyn Boulevard, Woodmere Way, Bennington Drive, South Mill Road, Village Road West (between Post Road and Windsor Ponds). These projects should be completed in Spring 2008. In addition, the township will construct bikelanes on Edinburg Road (between Mercer County Park and Village Road). Penn Lyle Road will be reconstructed between Westwinds Drive and Village Road West and will include bikelanes.

Sidewalks: North Post Road from the Mercer County Library to the existing sidewalk near the Alexander Road bridge and along Alexander Road from the new bridge to Vaughn Drive and from the new bridge to Berrien Avenue.

Ongoing 2007 Projects

Southfield Road bikelanes are nearly complete. One section, between West Kincaid Drive and the bridge over the Millstone River remains to be striped. Millstone Road is being re-constructed over the next few months and will include 4 foot shoulders that will be bike-compatible.

Please visit our blog, <http://wwbpa.blogspot.com>, to read about or respond to bike-ped events or issues in town.

EDUCATION and OUTREACH

Hispanic Outreach Program

After much anticipation and preparation, we held the first two sessions of our Hispanic Outreach Program, aimed at providing bicycle education and awareness to the local Hispanic population. The first was Sunday, July 22 at the St. Anthony of Padua Church in Hightstown. The second was at the Hightstown Memorial Branch of Mercer County Library on Monday, July 23.



Dr. David Abalos helped coordinate both sessions with the help of Linda Cholewiak, branch manager at the library, and Victor Fernandez, who also works at the library. The sessions were well attended, with nearly 15 people at the church and 20 children (including a few parents) at the library.

The children asked lots of good questions. We discussed the importance of wearing helmets and ensuring they are worn properly and even had a test, "proper helmet fit," which they passed with flying colors. They even got to practice before class let out. After each session, participants browsed through and helped themselves to a variety of materials including:

- WWBPA's recently released bilingual bicycle/pedestrian map of West Windsor
- Bilingual brochures and flyers from the US Department of Transportation about bicycle and pedestrian safety
- *Bicycle Safer Journey*, an interactive CD that offers a virtual journey designed to increase awareness of bicycle safety
- Safety equipment, including helmets, front and rear lights, reflective ankle bands and reflective tape

Each attendee received a copy of our map and we gave away approximately 30 helmets, several lights and ankle bands. Dr. Abalos donated toddler helmets, some of which we gave away at the session. Linda donated \$50 on behalf of the library to offset the cost of the helmets given by the WWBPA.

A few of the students were spotted with helmets on at the computer terminals in the library. We're thrilled they're wearing them!



Online Bicycle and Pedestrian Maps

We are proud to announce an online version of our recently released bicycle and pedestrian map. Member Dr. Wansoo Im, an expert in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), volunteered to set up the maps on Mappler, www.mappler.com, an interactive mapping application encouraging Public Participation GIS (PPGIS). Mappler is hosted by Vertices, LLC, which generously offered to host the online maps.

The Web-based program allows the public to participate in further development of the map. WWBPA members and community members will have the opportunity to find locations on the map, plot the point and share comments, pictures and even videos about the location. The interactive mapping technology has many practical applications to further our mission. For example, users will have the ability to do the following:

- Highlight areas of concern (e.g., intersections requiring improvements to crosswalks, lighting or signs; gaps in sidewalks; dangerous road conditions; etc.)
- Identify bike/ped improvements to local infrastructure (e.g., bike lanes, sidewalks and trails)
- Note points of interest such as historical sites, natural features, restaurants, etc.

We will update the WWBPA Web site to provide links to the maps, which can be viewed at:

Bicycle: www.mappler.com/WWBPABike

Pedestrian: www.mappler.com/WWBPAPed

The hard copy bilingual bicycle/pedestrian map is available at the Farmers' Market. It is free to members and available to the public with a \$5 donation.

Pedals for Progress

We had blue skies and perfect weather on Saturday, June 16 for our third bicycle drive for Pedals for Progress. In 3 hours we collected 73 bicycles and more than \$800 at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market. We received bikes in all shapes and sizes, and they were shipped to a "second life" in Jamaica, where P4P partner agencies will distribute the 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. WWBPA is grateful to our 21 volunteers, including WWBPA trustees and members, our student advisory board members and other youth volunteers from our community. Thanks to the WW Farmers' Market board for working with us and providing a convenient space for us and hosting the drive. And thanks to everyone who donated bicycles and a cash donation (towards shipment cost) to help this worthy cause.

Please recycle this newsletter—share it with friends and neighbors and encourage them to join the WWBPA!

MEMBERSHIP

The WWBPA membership has surpassed our 2007 goal. We now have 212 members, many offering to volunteer. We hope they'll participate in upcoming projects. Let's keep the membership growing! Encourage your friends and neighbors to complete and send in the attached the membership form.

Board Changes

Meg Chicco has stepped down as WWBPA secretary. We heartily thank her for her time and dedication. Meg will remain a member of the WWBPA Board of Trustees through the end of the year. If you are interested in volunteering as secretary, please contact Ken Carlson, wwbikeped@gmail.com.

Many thanks to Lauren Mandel, Student Advisor, who has resigned to attend the creative writing boarding school program at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. Lauren continues her interest in the WWBPA and plans to create a video about volunteer opportunities in the West Windsor area, with one focus on the people and projects of the WWBPA.

Newly appointed Student Advisor Nick Wuensch (right, with WWBPA President Ken Carlson and interested new residents) has volunteered at the past two Pedals for Progress events and at the WWBPA Farmers' Market table. An avid cyclist, Nick is a junior at WW-PHS South.



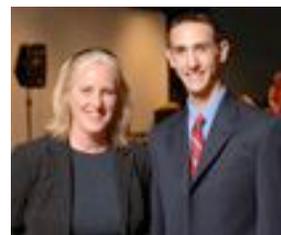
Volunteer Opportunities

by Nick Wuensch, Student Advisor

Volunteerism is a way for anyone to easily give back to their community. What might take years for the government to plan, approve, and construct, could take days to accomplish with the teamwork of dedicated citizens. As a volunteer for the WWBPA, I have found that the hard work of the group does not go unnoticed by the community. Hiking trails, Walk to School Day, Pedals for Progress, and outreach to Hispanic communities are some of the ways we help the community be safer and more enjoyable. Imagining a West Windsor without the improvements of volunteers is similar to biking without a helmet; it is possible, but very dangerous.

Student Opportunities

The WWBPA congratulates West Windsor resident Michael Perl, recipient of our first student scholarship. Susan Conlon, WWBPA trustee and second vice-president, presented the award to Michael on behalf of the WWBPA at Awards Night at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South in June, and a check towards his college education in the amount of \$100. Michael graduated from WW-PHS South and is starting his freshmen year at Princeton University this fall. Congratulations, Michael! WW-P High School seniors are eligible to apply for 2008 scholarships and information will be posted on the WWBPA Web site.



This October, the WWBPA will post and begin accepting applications for Student Advisory Board members to the WWBPA. Our student advisors attend and participate in board meetings, and help with events and outreach efforts. Please go to our Web site for an application and complete details.

JOIN THE WWBPA

- Student \$15
- Adult \$25
- Family \$40
- Supporter \$50
- Benefactor \$100

Please make checks payable to WWBPA, Inc. and mail to WWBPA, Inc.
P.O. Box 625
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ I am interested in volunteering.

_____ I am a student interested in community service projects.

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