



# Fall 2009 Newsletter

*building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community*

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

## President's Column



As always, the WWBPA is on the move! The 5 E's are Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering and Evaluation. We're addressing all of these areas to make our community more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. We have a great team: four dedicated officers, eight hard-working trustees, eight trusted advisors, five ambitious student advisors, more than 380 supportive members and countless volunteers. We also support and have the support of the Mercer County Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, the New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Council (NJBPAC), and neighboring communities.

We have had one recent significant change: our former president, trustee and founding member, Ken Carlson, moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts for an amazing job opportunity. We already miss Ken deeply, but he will continue as an advisory board member and a great friend. He is a natural leader and exemplifies what it means to give selflessly for the good of others. We look forward to your participation in our changing and growing organization.

~ Chris Scherer

## What's New

### KEN CARLSON TO BE HONORED **SEPTEMBER 14**

At its September 14th meeting, Township Council will present Ken Carlson with a proclamation for the volunteer work he has done in the township. Please come to honor Ken!

### NEW WEB DESIGN

WWBPA has rolled a new design for its Web site. The site is more graphical, highlights news and events, and has a built-in blog for discussion. Silvia Ascarelli, Susan Conlon Jerry Foster, and Sandy Shapiro worked with designer Nathan Swartz to create the new look and to update the site's structure and content. Many thanks to Giuliano Chicco for his work on the Web site over the past three years. Check out the new design at [wwbpa.org](http://wwbpa.org).

## Does your child wear a helmet when bicycling?

The law in New Jersey requires all children under 17 to wear helmets when bicycling. Is the law enough?



Consider this:

- About half of the 500,000 bicycle-related emergency room-treated injuries in 2007 involved children under the age of 16.  
*US Consumer Product Safety Commission*
- The use of bicycle helmets reduced the risk for bicycle-related head injury by 74%-85%.  
*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Non-helmeted riders are 14 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than helmeted riders. Head injuries account for more than 60 percent of bicycle-related deaths, more than two-thirds of bicycle-related hospital admissions and about one-third of hospital emergency room visits for bicycling injuries.  
*Safe Kids*
- Most car/bike collisions involving child cyclists are caused by the child.  
*League of American Bicyclists*

**Do you wear a helmet?** If you don't, who will protect your family if you crash? **Wear a helmet. If you do, they will.**

## WWBPA SUPPORTS BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

### BIKE EXCHANGE

The WWBPA is a new supporter of the Boys & Girls Club Bike Exchange, a local not-for-profit organization founded this year to help lower-income families acquire bicycles and to provide financial support to the after-school and summer programs for the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County. Bike Exchange seeks donations of used bicycles, connections with organizations that would like to host bike drives, and volunteers to help at their shop located in the Capitol Plaza Shopping Center in Ewing, NJ. For more information, please go to [bikeexchangenj.org](http://bikeexchangenj.org).

## Upcoming Events

|   |  |
|---|--|
| West Windsor Community Farmers' Market, WWBPA table | September 12, 26,<br>October 10, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.                     |
| WWBPA meetings<br>Room A, WW Municipal Building     | September 10, October 8,<br>November 12, December 10,<br>7:30 p.m. |
| West Windsor Council,<br>Ken Carlson to be honored  | September 14, 7 p.m.   |
| Fall Community Bike Ride<br><b>Rain Date:</b>       | September 26, 2 p.m.<br>September 27, 1 p.m.                       |
| GroWW   | October 3, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.   |
| Walk to Hawk  | October 7, 8 a.m.  |
| Bike Safety Training                                | October 8, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.   |
| Hightstown Harvest Fair<br><b>Rain Date:</b>        | October 10, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.<br>October 11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.           |

## Encouragement

### VOLUNTEER

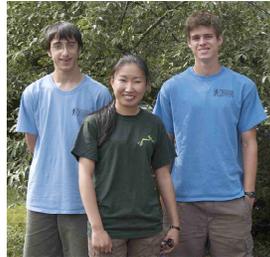
As an all-volunteer organization, the WWBPA relies on people like you to help reach our goal of building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. Just a couple hours of your time per year goes a long way, from building trails and helping with our Community Bike Ride to talking to your children's principals about more bicycle safety programs in the schools. For a list of other ways you can help, please see [www.wwbpa.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.wwbpa.org/get-involved/volunteer).

### NEW TRUSTEE OPENING

Ken Carlson's relocation to Cambridge, Massachusetts opens the opportunity for a new trustee. The WWBPA seeks someone dedicated to supporting its mission of building a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. Those interested should e-mail [wwbikeped@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikeped@gmail.com).

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to our 2009 scholarship recipients:  
Nick Wuensch, WPHS South  
Jenny Yu, WPHS South  
Ryan Sleeper, WPHS North



### TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### SUSAN CONLON



Susan is a founding trustee of the WWBPA and has served as vice-president since its inception. She edits newsletters, coordinates publicity, helped develop the new Web site, and launched programs West Windsor Walks and bicycle collections for Pedals for Progress. Susan is also a new board member of the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market.

Susan has lived in West Windsor Township since 1993 with her husband, Joe, who is the station manager for NJN in Newark, and their three children, who all graduated from WW-P High School South; Nick is in his first year at Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School, Erin is a senior at Stanford University, and Mary is in her second year at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Susan is a librarian at the Princeton Public Library and organizes services for teens and library film programs; she is the coordinator for the Princeton Environmental Film Festival. Susan loves the Jersey shore and traveling with her family, including visits to many national parks in the U.S., and a recent trip to France. She spends time at home watching films and reading, taking walks with friends, and enjoying the township's "Canine Commons" park with her dog Sadie.

## Evaluation

### WALKABILITY ASSESSMENTS

#### UPDATE

Walkability assessments in Hightstown and Plainsboro continue.

May 16: Jenny Yu and 40 volunteers, mostly from High Schools North and South, evaluated over 140 intersections, 450 crossings and many sidewalks in Plainsboro.

May 28: 20 volunteers, supported by the Hightstown Parks and Recreation Department, Mayor Bob Patten, and [www.DowntownHightstown.org](http://www.DowntownHightstown.org), evaluated over 120 intersections, 360 crossings and a majority of sidewalks in Hightstown.

Volunteers are entering data and hundreds of photos, each of which represents a needed improvement, to create an online walkability map of pedestrian-friendly routes and gaps in infrastructure as well as a list of needed improvements. The goal is to encourage people to walk more and advocate for a more walkable community.

## Advocacy and Engineering

### CLARKSVILLE ROAD CROSSWALK

After three years of advocacy by the WWBPA, a new crossing has been built between the Avalon Watch apartments and the Village Shops on Clarksville Road. The project, funded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and Mercer County, should make it safer for bus riders and shoppers to cross the road. It includes a pedestrian refuge island in the middle of the road, an in-pavement lighting system, flashing signs, and left-turn lanes. A project diagram is at [www.westwindsornj.org/clarksville\\_crosswalk.html](http://www.westwindsornj.org/clarksville_crosswalk.html).



### CLARKSVILLE ROAD BRIDGE

The WWBPA encourages Amtrak to begin planning improvements for the bridge over the Northeast Corridor Rail Line on Clarksville Road, particularly with the construction of the Jewish Community Center, the development of West Windsor Gardens (a 350-unit apartment complex), and improvements to Meadow Road.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), in its 2007 study "Taming Traffic," warned of the dangerous conditions on the bridge. And the 2008 West Windsor Master Plan Reexamination Report noted, "A pedestrian bridge should be installed on Clarksville Road Bridge over the railroad."

The bridge is on a key route that includes two schools and one of the township's busiest roads, linking the Princeton Junction train station to Quaker Bridge Mall.

### THE WWBPA CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR

- Improvements to the S-curve on Alexander Road,
  - Safer crossings and traffic calming on Canal Pointe Boulevard,
  - Bike lanes on Washington Road,
  - Safe Routes to Schools funding,
- as well as many more projects around the township.

WWBPA trustees meet quarterly with Township officials, with a meeting scheduled for mid-September. Updates for Engineering and Advocacy will be posted on our Web site, [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org).

### BIKE RACKS

The WWBPA is working with New Jersey Transit and others to add more bicycle racks and lockers at the Princeton Junction train station. NJT will contribute racks and lockers, but the rest of the cost will be borne by the WWBPA and partners. The WWBPA currently is collecting bids from contractors. Anyone interested in submitting a bid should e-mail [wwbikeped@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikeped@gmail.com) for details.

Together with BikeFest, the WWBPA paid for bicycle racks in the Vaughn Drive parking lot that are heavily used during the Farmers' Market and for several dozen Share the Road signs. Thanks to West Windsor and Mercer County public works departments for handling the installation.

### SUSTAINABILITY

WWBPA trustees sent recommended changes to the draft Sustainability Element of West Windsor Township's Master Plan (see [www.westwindsornj.org](http://www.westwindsornj.org)) and are meeting with Township Sustainability Subcommittee members individually. The draft employed a comprehensive framework of goals, targets, and actions, encompassing Land Use, Circulation, Society, Natural Resources, and Government. The WWBPA recommendations (see [www.wwbpa.org/action/policy-recommendations](http://www.wwbpa.org/action/policy-recommendations)) concentrated on the Circulation section and suggested more specific goals and targets, as well as increasing our participation in achieving those goals which are important to our mission.

## Events

### COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

SEPTEMBER 26

The WWBPA's third annual family-friendly Community Bike Ride takes place on Saturday, September 26, at 2 p.m.. This year, riders will follow a route from outside WaterWorks in Community Park to Grover Middle School (for refreshments) and back. Total distance is less than eight miles. Riders will pedal along Slayback Drive, Edinburg Road and Village Road East. Roads will not be closed to traffic. Depending on age and ability, riders can either use the street or the sidewalk. Riders are responsible for their own safety and the WWBPA is not liable for any injuries.

The ride is free, and there are no advance sign-ups. All children under age 13 must be accompanied by a parent or other adult. All minors must have signed permission forms, available on our Web site or at the start of the event. Helmets are required for all riders. Come early for pre-ride safety checks and tips!

### GROWW

OCTOBER 3

The WWBPA will have an information booth and will conduct a bike rodeo at the Greening of West Windsor Environmental Festival (GroWW) on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Municipal organizations and vendors that champion environmentally-friendly products and activities will participate. The bike rodeo is designed to teach young riders how to ride safely. Children should bring their. For more information, go to [www.greeningwestwindsor.com](http://www.greeningwestwindsor.com).

### WALK TO HAWK

OCTOBER 7

For the fourth year in a row, students and parents will walk, with trustees and members of the WWBPA as well as school staff, from the Municipal Center to Maurice Hawk Elementary School on International Walk to School Day. New this year is a Walking School Bus (a group of children walking from home to school with one or more adults), currently planned from the neighborhood near North Mill Road, but we look forward to more adult volunteers leading children from other neighborhoods.



Walk to Hawk is a great opportunity for children and adults to learn more about pedestrian safety and take that first step towards walking to school on a regular basis.

For more information, visit our Web site [www.wwbpa.org](http://www.wwbpa.org). If you are interested in leading a walking school bus, please e-mail us at [wwbikeped@gmail.com](mailto:wwbikeped@gmail.com).

### TRAILS



Many thanks to the members of Girl Scout Troop 70619 and leaders Pat Hoge and Teresa Adair for the new trail, through what was a cornfield, connecting to the Zaitz trailhead, and for the native shrubs near the kiosk and the parking lot. The Junior Scouts logged a combined total of 150 hours of work on this project.

The WWBPA and FOWWOS continue to develop and maintain trails in preserved open space. However, the organizations will reduce the amount of fall and winter leaf-clearing on established trails. If trails are overly raked, they become dirt trails and are prone to become muddy and erode. Millstone West and the spur in Rogers Preserve to Cranbury Road will still be raked. Volunteers are needed to help keep the trails free of knotweed and other invasive plants.

### BIKEFEST



Bicyclists of all ages and abilities attended the sixth annual West Windsor BikeFest on Saturday, May 24, of Memorial Day weekend. A bike rodeo

helped to educate young riders about the rules of the road and safe riding practices. BikeFest focuses on bringing awareness of safe cycling and enables families to experience bicycling at various skill levels. Participants discover that West Windsor has many roads that will accommodate cyclists.

BikeFest is run by a small committee led by Dan Gerstenhaber and supported by Ken Jacobs of the West Windsor Division of Recreation and Parks. Local businesses support the event and many volunteers support registration, rest stops, sweeping, and feeding the event participants. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information go to [www.whirrofhewheels.com](http://www.whirrofhewheels.com).

### FUNDING FROM BIKEFEST

The BikeFest committee focuses on safe cycling in West Windsor; funds raised by the event support community bicycling improvements. Along with installation of bike racks in the township, the BikeFest committee has helped fund some of the WWBPA initiatives: Share the Road signs and printing the WWBPA map.

The WWBPA thanks the BikeFest committee for its continued support for safer cycling in West Windsor.

## Education

### BIKE SAFETY TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS

October 8

The WWBPA has made significant progress in developing a bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum for students and adults. We held a bike safety event at Millstone River School on June 5, a train-the-trainer program given by Bike New York on June 7, and will host a Bike Safety Training session on October 8.



On June 5, the WWBPA, aided by students from Millstone School and WW-P High School South, talked about bicycle safety to more than 300 fourth and fifth graders at Millstone's student environmental fair. Students showed they know the difference between well-fitted and poorly-fitted helmets, practiced hand signals to show a rider's intent, and learned about the best ways to be visible at dusk and at night. Dozens of students signed a petition asking Plainsboro officials to develop safe routes for them to bike to school.

On October 8, Bike New York, Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association (GMTMA) and NJ Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NJAPERD) are sponsoring a Bike Safety Training targeted towards PE teachers in Mercer County. Participants will learn how to "implement a multi-session bicycle skills program (Bike Driver's Ed) for pre-teen and teen cyclists for use in PE classes, after-school programs, or summer camps."

For more information and to register, go to [www.wwbpa.org/events](http://www.wwbpa.org/events).

## 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)  
Google Group: [www.groups.google.com/group/wwbpa](http://www.groups.google.com/group/wwbpa)  
Facebook: Sign in at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
Search groups for West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance; then join!

Twitter [www.twitter.com/wwbikeped](http://www.twitter.com/wwbikeped)

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Susan Conlon, *vice president*  
Silvia Ascarelli, *secretary*  
Jerry Foster  
Daryl McMillan  
Alison Miller  
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Nishitha Kumar  
Kim Meersma  
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#### WWBPA FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

Editing: Silvia Ascarelli, Susan Conlon, and Sandy Shapiro  
Layout: Sandy Shapiro  
Writing: Silvia Ascarelli, Susan Conlon, Jerry Foster,  
Daryl McMillan, Chris Scherer, and Sandy Shapiro

## MEETINGS

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: 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, and 12/10.

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

## Membership

### Become a Member/Renew Your Membership

WWBPA membership continues to grow, with now more than 380 members. If you are a member and have not renewed your membership yet in 2009, please consider renewing now. 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 Join), 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  | I prefer to receive the WWBPA Newsletter via <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail <input type="checkbox"/> USPS (printed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 | Benefactor |  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
# household members \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to \_\_\_\_\_  
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