



THE FOWWOS NEWS



Newsletter of *FRIENDS OF WEST WINDSOR OPEN SPACE*

Vol. 3, No. 2 • SPRING-SUMMER 2002

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WEST WINDSOR'S LITTLE-KNOWN WATERWAYS

It's likely that few West Windsor residents would be able to take you to Bridegroom Run or Canoe Brook. But it's just as likely that many of these same residents cross these waterways many times each week without knowing it. Most of those little highway bridges that dot our landscape cross one of West Windsor's seven named waterways or the three others we share with neighboring towns. As can be seen on the map on page 2, these waterways provide essential drainage for West Windsor's relatively flat topography. You can't go more than a mile or two in any direction without crossing a brook, a creek, or a run.

Over half of West Windsor's borders are made up of shared waterways: the Millstone River forms our northeastern border with Plainsboro, the Delaware and Raritan Canal separates us from Princeton Township to the northwest, and the Assunpink Creek forms part of our southern border with Washington Township.

As anyone who has lived through a heavy storm such as Hurricane Floyd in 1999 can tell you, our waterways are sometimes inadequate to provide relief from local flooding in the lowest areas. This

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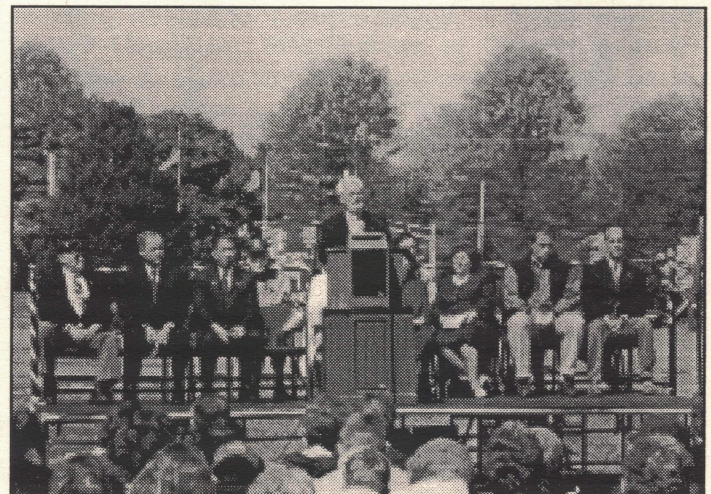
OPEN SPACE UTILIZATION TASK FORCE

As promised last fall, Mayor Hsueh has appointed the Open Space Utilization Task Force to explore how the township can best meet its recreation program needs through utilization of the open space acquired in recent years. The task force will report to the Mayor by early November on its findings. The report will cover present and

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SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL DEDICATED

Nearly 500 were in attendance as the September 11 Memorial at the Ron Rogers Arboretum was dedicated on April 27th. The solemn ceremony provided an opportunity for the township to pay its respects to those who lost their lives in the World Trade Center tragedy. Honored were township residents Michael J. Cunningham, Jeffrey M. Chairnoff, Edward R. Pykon, and John J. Ryan. Former residents Peter E. Mardikian, Patrick S. Murphy, and David S. Suarez, all of whom grew up here, were also recognized. Members of the families of all the victims spoke of their feelings on the occasion of the dedication.



Harley Pickens presides at the dedication ceremony.

The ceremony was conducted by FOWWOS director and Memorial Committee chair Harley Pickens. The program included the presentation to the township of three flag poles that now enhance the main corner of the arboretum at Clarksville Road and Route 571.

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Friends Of West Windsor Open Space

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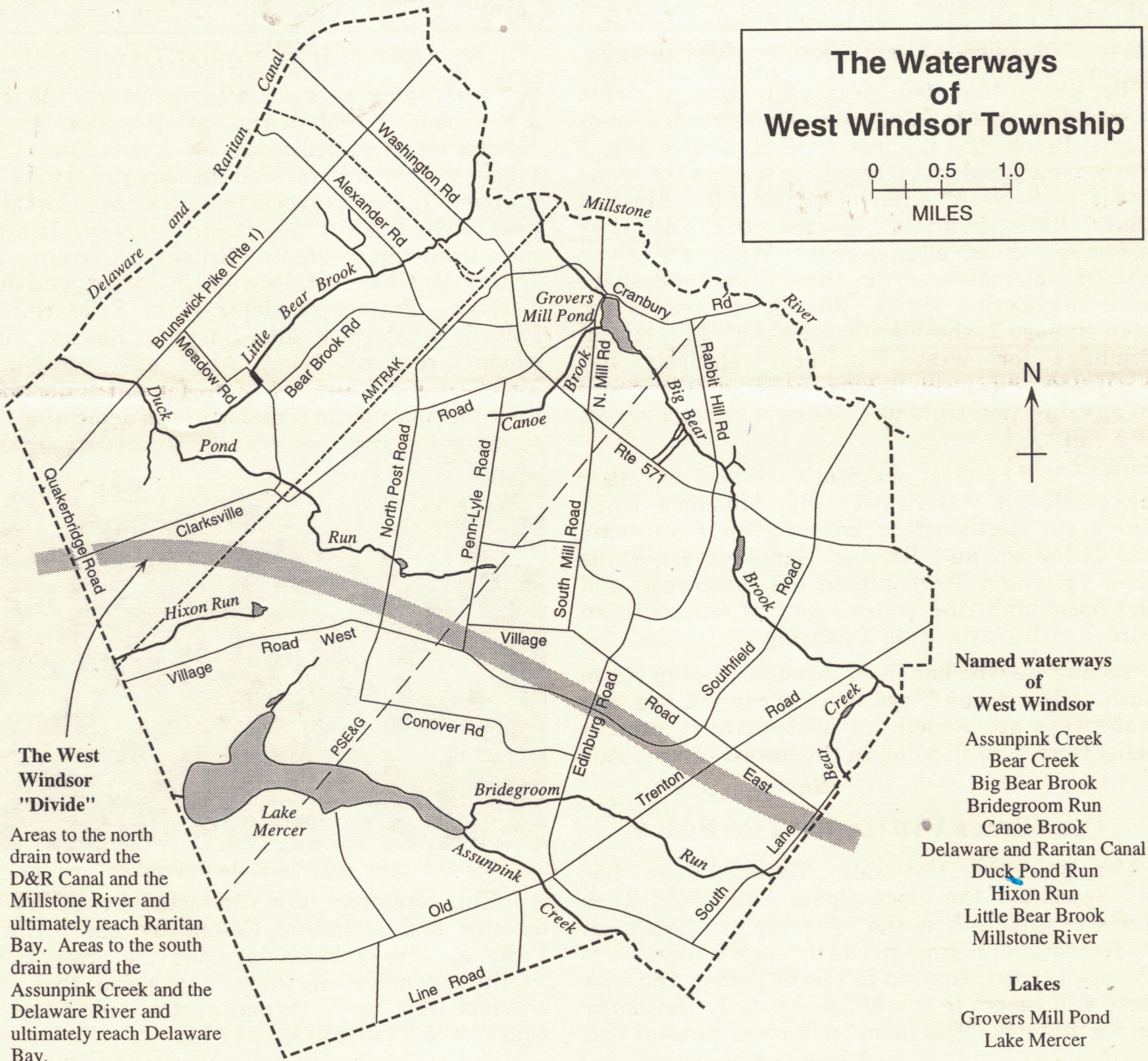
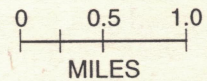
In Memoriam

Bernt Midland (1927-1998), Founder
 Gil Gilmore (1922-1998)
 Ron Rogers (1929-1999)

E-mail: ek61@juno.com or FOWWOS@yahoo.com
 Web site: www.princetonol.com/groups/fowwos/
 Meetings: First and third Tuesdays at
 Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The newsletter *The FOWWOS News* is produced three times a year by Dick Snedeker and Alison Miller, co-editors
 FOWWOS is a nonprofit organization incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

The Waterways of West Windsor Township



The West Windsor "Divide"

Areas to the north drain toward the D&R Canal and the Millstone River and ultimately reach Raritan Bay. Areas to the south drain toward the Assunpink Creek and the Delaware River and ultimately reach Delaware Bay.

Named waterways of West Windsor

- Assunpink Creek
- Bear Creek
- Big Bear Brook
- Bridegroom Run
- Canoe Brook
- Delaware and Raritan Canal
- Duck Pond Run
- Hixon Run
- Little Bear Brook
- Millstone River

Lakes

- Grovers Mill Pond
- Lake Mercer

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD**

Neighborhood associations are a great way to meet your neighbors, find out about what is going on in the community, and to help make your voice heard at Town Hall. I had the opportunity recently to speak before the Berrien City Neighborhood Association at the Princeton Junction firehouse.

Like those of other West Windsor communities, Berrien City residents value their open space and have been very supportive of FOWWOS from its inception. Susan Conlon was one of the founding FOWWOS directors and Elliot Kleiman has been our secretary for several years. Jennifer Crawford was instrumental in rallying support for the preservation of Crawford Woods on Alexander Road. The association also has a newsletter, The Berrien City News, and a web site: <http://community.nj.com/cc/berriencity>.

Among other things, the residents were interested in hearing about the current FOWWOS membership drive, whereby students can earn a \$230 gift certificate from Dick's Clothing and Sporting Goods toward the purchase of a bike. To qualify, a student must obtain \$500 in new membership dues or donations to FOWWOS. With school out for the summer, it's a good time for students, accompanied by an adult, to help FOWWOS and win a bike while they're at it. Three bikes have already been awarded. For more information check the FOWWOS web site at www.princetonol.com/groups/fowwos.

If you are interested in having me speak to your group or association call me at 799-4868. Mike Schuit. ☺

West Windsor's Waterways, cont.

is especially true of the Millstone River and its tributaries Big and Little Bear Brooks. When these streams flood some of our main roadways are impassable. This occurs for several reasons, including the increased runoff from developed or paved areas, the slow drainage of our flat terrain, and the backwater effects caused where waterways pass through the now inadequate openings under the AMTRAK line and the aqueduct where the D&R Canal crosses the Millstone River.

An interesting feature of our waterways is how their drainage areas are divided. As the map shows, West Windsor lies in a part of the state where some of its streams drain to the northeast and ultimately reach Raritan Bay, while others drain to the southwest, ultimately reaching Delaware Bay. It's not exactly continental, but to some it's known as the West Windsor "Divide." ☺

September 11 Dedication, cont.

The memorial was conceived last fall not long after the events of September 11. A special committee was formed and the concept took shape quickly through the cooperative efforts of many who participated. The idea for reflecting pools was proposed by FOWWOS director Helen Rancan and developed into a final design by township landscape architect Dan Dobromilsky.



The completed September 11 Memorial.

Construction of the memorial was made possible through the many generous contributions received from individuals and businesses. In particular, the following companies contributed substantial quantities of material and many hours of labor free of charge: Edgewood Properties, D.R. Horton, Inc./SGS Communities, Elizabethtown Water Company, Wildflowers of Princeton Junction, the K. Hovnanian Companies, Lipinski Landscapes, Marazzo Landscape, Princeton Air Conditioning, Hamilton Supply Company, The Green Scene, and Landscape Maintenance Services. ☺

A SPECIAL GIFT TO FOWWOS

FOWWOS members Nick and Denise Schiera have made a special donation to FOWWOS to celebrate the March 2 grand opening of their new business Great Clips for Hair, a franchise hair salon located in Nassau Park. They pledged to donate one dollar for each customer who visited on their opening day. All told FOWWOS has received \$177 from the Schieras. Their special gift is gratefully acknowledged. ☺

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS STILL DUE

All FOWWOS members who have not renewed their memberships for 2002 are urged to do so as soon as possible. FOWWOS depends on the active participation of its dues-paying members to continue its important work in helping to preserve West Windsor's open space. ☺

PROGRESS ON GROVERS MILL POND

The township has finally reached an agreement with the owners of the Grovers Mill building that will allow rehabilitation work on the Grovers Mill dam and pond to proceed. The project had been held up due to protracted negotiations over a construction and maintenance easement that would allow access to portions of the dam that also lie on property owned by the mill owners.

The Township Council has approved resolutions that allow the administration to execute the agreement and also to resume work with the consulting engineers Parsons Brinckerhoff, who had developed preliminary designs several years ago. It is anticipated that actual reconstruction of the dam will begin early next year. Work to restore the pond will follow some time later once detailed plans are developed and funding sources are in place. ☼

Open space utilization, cont.

future open space needs for both passive and active recreation. In addition to the question of utilization and development of open space for recreation will be the maintenance of these facilities so that the programs will have access to adequate playing fields at all times.

The task force is led by Peter Mavraganis, who represents the Environmental Commission. Two principal subcommittees for active and passive recreation are under the leadership of Carol Padd of the Soccer Association and Rhea Rogers of FOWWOS, respectively. Also on the task force are Township Councilwomen Jackie Alberts and Kristin Appelget, Recreation Commission Chair Newell Benedict, open space acquisition specialist Bill Benfer, and Elliot Kleiman, Andy Lupo, Michael O'Conne, and Tony Vela, who represent other sports programs. ☼

To join FOWWOS

Send name and address to:

FOWWOS
P.O. Box 73
West Windsor, NJ 08550

Enclose dues check made out to FOWWOS for one of the following memberships:

Regular (family)	\$25.00 per year
Silver	\$50.00 " "
Gold	\$75.00 " "

Membership dues and contributions are fully tax deductible.



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