

Cranberry today

FALL 2012

Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion Study Begun

It may not make for proper dinner table conversation, but there's been a lot of media attention lately directed to sewage in Allegheny County – raw sewage.

Here's why: municipal treatment facilities there, particularly including the huge ALCOSAN plant on the Ohio River, have had chronic problems with untreated sewage flowing into the river as a result of rain storms. That's nothing new. What's different is that the problem has now prompted federal and state agencies to demand repairs costing as much as \$3.6 billion. That could triple residents' bills for sewer service. And that's big news.

Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has made a priority of including responsible collection, transmission and treatment of waste water as a fundamental element of community growth.

Those same clean water regulations apply throughout Pennsylvania, including Cranberry and Butler County,

although the architecture and condition of the Township's sewer system are fundamentally different. But the environmental concern is the same. So for years, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has made a priority of including responsible collection, transmission and treatment of waste water as an essential element of its planning for community growth.

That includes an aggressive program to identify and remove stormwater from the sanitary sewer system. It includes a pretreatment program that obliges businesses to remove hard-to-treat material from their waste stream before it reaches the plant. It includes frequent inspection, repair and relining of sewer pipes. And it includes careful monitoring of sewage flow and population growth to anticipate the point at which planning for upgrades to the plant will be required.

That point has now been reached. Accordingly, at their August meeting, the Board adopted a Resolution that initiated a planning, design, and permitting process which could lead to expanding the Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant's capacity. That process is expected to take several years to complete. However, any expansion it



Flushing out future needs. What will Cranberry's wastewater treatment capacity requirements be when the Township becomes fully built-out? A new study will examine the community's needs for 2030 and beyond.

leads to wouldn't have to be in place until 2017, which is consistent with the normal five-year timeline for projects of that type.

"Our charge is always to stay ahead of the game," explained Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee, who will be overseeing the planning effort. "It's about using the planning tools we have to make sure the plant's ready to grow with the community." ~

A Publication of

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CRANBERRY
TOWNSHIP

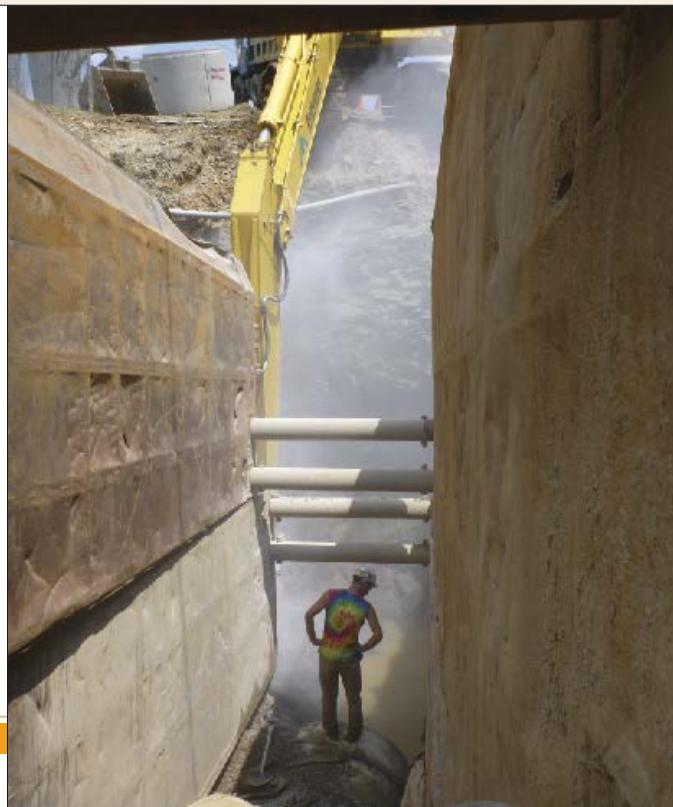
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We're Pumped Up! Cranberry's fresh water supply has a brand new gateway into the Township. It's the newly constructed \$2.8 million pump house on Pennwood Place in Thorn Hill Industrial Park, and it has enough pumping capacity to meet Cranberry's projected water needs through 2030 and beyond, when the Township's population is anticipated to level out at around 50,000. The new facility, which replaces a smaller pumping station nearby, is outfitted with high-efficiency pumps and variable speed motor drives. It will be able to deliver as much as 4.4 million gallons a day to Cranberry's water system from the West View Water Authority's treatment plant on Neville Island.

Interceptor One

Water flows north in Cranberry, so the Township's gravity-fed sanitary sewer system ends up in the northern part of the community, at the sewage treatment plant on Powell Road, by the Turnpike. The neighborhood collector pipes which carry that wastewater, drain into larger trunk lines, called Interceptors. And Cranberry's 16 local interceptors, in turn, feed into Interceptor One, which delivers all of it to the treatment plant. Work on installing a new and larger Interceptor One is currently underway. Excavation began at the plant in July and will eventually work its way south to the Allegheny County line. Greenland Construction, a family-owned business, is building the pipeline and adhering to its 18-month construction timetable, despite the sudden loss of a family member, attributed to natural causes, on the Cranberry job site in August.



The Virtual Auction: Bringing That Cyber-Gavel Down

Not everyone is in the market for a second-hand police cruiser, dump truck, or hot dog grill. But lots of local governments, taxi operators and building contractors are. So when Cranberry retires its older vehicles and surplus equipment, it wants to make it as easy as possible for other people to buy them.

Until two years ago, that was accomplished by advertising an auction in the local newspapers and hiring an auctioneer to preside over the sale. Prospective buyers from all around the region would flock to the Public Works building yard where the items were on display. Each bidder was issued a number, and the auctioneer would methodically go from item to item, seeking bids from anyone interested. A fee of 10 percent would then be tacked onto the successful buyer's bid to cover the auctioneer's expenses, and all moneys owed would be collected on the spot.

Most of the merchandise actually sold, although some for very modest prices. But the amount of upfront administrative work required of Public Works employees was significant, and advance approval by the Board of

Supervisors was always required. Not only that, in order to maximize attendance, the auctions were often scheduled at times outside of normal work hours, which would frequently result in overtime pay.

So, several years ago, the Township tried a different approach to disposing of its older vehicles, equipment, and surplus materials: an online auction, in this case, one run by Municibid, a

Buyers from anywhere in the world – including private individuals – are welcome to bid on and buy that merchandise.

web-based company started in 2006 to improve the returns which local government agencies in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Maine received for selling their excess items. However buyers from anywhere in the world – including private individuals – are welcome to bid on and buy that merchandise.

Anyone familiar with eBay would recognize the formula. A photo of the

item at auction is displayed and a detailed description is provided, including its location. The highest current bid and closing time of the auction are shown. Bid increments are identified along with conditions of sale and answers to questions posed by prospective bidders.

"Everything we've tried to sell has sold," Public Works Director Jason Dailey reflected. "Vehicles are obviously our bigger ticket items. But everything from \$25 signal heads to a kitchen grill to printers and computers has gone. So we've been pretty successful."

And it's not just sales to local buyers. "One of the last police cars that we sold actually went to New Jersey," he said. "Surprisingly, it's dealers who find these vehicles because they know they have a second life after we've used them. We're not always sure what they do with them. But they generally come in with their dealer credentials to purchase those vehicles.

"Another advantage is that you don't have a lot of haggling. The reserve price is what it is. If they bid too low, it shows them that the reserve has not been met. We do our research ahead of time; we know what these used vehicles are worth on the market, and we know what we want to get for them."

"We don't have specific dates when we run auctions, but we have done them fairly regularly in the fall because that's usually when any new vehicles we bought have arrived, and we're ready to dispose of the old ones. So usually, by the end of September or early October, we're ready to have an auction."

Winning bidders then add 8 percent to the purchase price for the auction site's fee.

To see what Cranberry and other local governments are selling, or to register as a potential bidder, go to www.municibid.com. ~

The screenshot shows the Municibid website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Browse, My Account, Sell, Surplus Stores, Help, News, and Newsletter. Below the navigation is a search bar with options to search by title, description, or location, and a 'SEARCH BY STATE' dropdown with a map of the United States. The main content area is titled 'Featured Government Auctions' and displays three auction items:

- 1970 Ford F-800 Sander**: Current bid: \$1,350.00, Ends 7/24/13, 22 hours.
- 2008 Ford Crown Victoria**: Current bid: \$1,200.00, Ends 7/25/13, 23 hours.
- 1997 Ford F250**: Current bid: \$2,800.00, Ends 7/26/13, 22 hours.

Below these, there are more auction categories and items, such as 'Auction Categories' (Automotive (60), Boats (11), Computer & IT (9), Electronics (6), Heavy Equipment & Supplies (2), Furniture & Décor (2), and more), and a 'Surplus Stores' section.

Now Hear This: Cranberry Has Its Own Radio Station

More and more people are listening to the radio these days, according to Arbitron. But it's not necessarily your grandfather's kind of radio – the type started nearly a century ago by KDKA. Now, in addition to traditional AM and FM radio broadcasts, listeners are tuning to satellite radio in their cars, HD radio in their homes, podcasts in their pockets, and internet radio just about everywhere.

In fact, there are more than 18,000 internet radio stations now online, and most are available to listeners worldwide. More stations are joining in daily as traditional broadcasters add audio streaming to their websites, and organizations of other sorts – churches, hotels, theme parks, airports, chain stores and so on – create their own combined music-information webcasts.

So, starting this past July during Community Days, Cranberry Township began offering a hyper-localized service, Cranberry Community Radio, or CCR. It is the first municipality known to have added internet radio to its mix of information resources, and a six-month pilot test of the system is now underway to see if it can generate enough interest among listeners, as well as potential advertisers, to become a self-sufficient information and entertainment service by next year.

To listen, simply go to the home page of the Cranberry Township website, www.cranberrytownship.org, and click on either of the two links posted on its left side. A new screen will open which includes a few simple controls, and

following a short pause, the audio portion will begin. Or you can go directly to the broadcast at www.cranberryradio.com. The service is in operation 24/7, but the energy level of the music played at night is deliberately scaled back from its more up-tempo daytime selections.

Cranberry resident and broadcast radio veteran Keith Stover was an early proponent of the idea. He had previously implemented a dedicated internet radio service for Dutile Methodist Church, where he is also a member. His company, Shout Mountain, provides the back office technology and music streamed over both the church and Township stations, as well as the news announcements and informational messages placed between songs in CCR's adult contemporary repertoire – a music catalog which has been artfully scrubbed of potentially offensive lyrics.

But listening to the station doesn't require its audience to be tethered to their desktop computers. It is also available on cell phones, through tablets, on tabletop internet radios, and in cars outfitted to connect their sound systems with personal mobile devices. Nor does listening have to be a solitary experience.

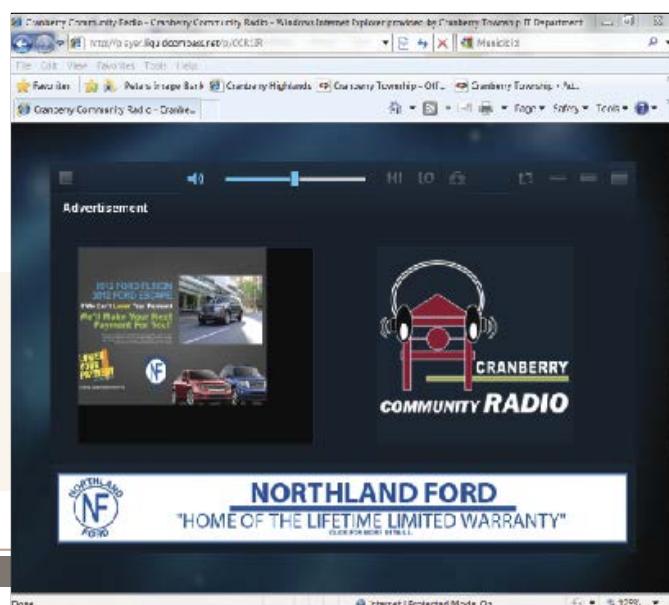
Visitors to the Cranberry Waterpark this summer were astonished to hear a commercial-quality radio service over the facility's sound system punctuated with professionally recorded announcements about the Cranberry Public Library, Cranberry Highlands, recycling events and similar highly localized messages, including some from its initial commercial sponsor, Northland Ford. And customers of the dealership were equally surprised to hear it over the auto store's music system.

But will it last? If, after the six-month pilot run evaluation, the decision is made to continue CCR, Stover sees more features being added to the service. One possibility involves creating original programming, perhaps targeted to specific segments of the Township's population. Another is integrating the radio service more closely with a mobile phone application which could enable local shoppers – as well as local shop owners – to connect more easily.

Still, with the current surge of new media, it is far from clear where any single service will end up, even just a few years into the future. But if CCR proves to be a success, it will provide

residents with useful community information, offer a new outlet for local business advertising, and engender a closer sense of belonging to its listeners – all without costing them a dime. ~

Cranberry Township is the first municipality known to have added internet radio to its mix of information resources.



Cranberry's Customer Service Department: Manning The Front Lines

Question: "Who's the Commissioner?"

Answer: the Chairman of our Board of Supervisors is... "No, who's the Commissioner of the NFL?"

Question: "I'm travelling to Cranberry Township and leaving the Century III Mall parking lot; do I turn right or left?"

Question: "What's the water quality of the stream near the Turnpike? I want to let my dog wade in it."

"We really do try to answer people's questions," Nancy Sikora, Supervisor of Cranberry's Customer Service department explained. But there are some questions they just don't have a good answer for.

"We always get unusual stuff," Sikora admitted, "like what do I do about a raccoon in my back yard who's staring at me? Where do I get the paperwork for a driver's license? I'm getting married; where do I go? Where do I vote? Where can I buy a dog license?" But the most frequent questions involve trash issues, building permits and inspections, and concerns over sewer and water payments – issues that everyone on staff is well prepared to handle.

Still, with the growth of municipal services, Cranberry's Customer Service department has emerged as the focus for all sorts of inquiries concerning all types of government functions – many of which actually belong to state or county agencies.

Yet even today, where posted customer ratings have become all the rage, very few public agencies actually operate customer service departments. In fact, the very notion that governments have "customers" at all – a term traditionally reserved for business patrons – is alien



to most units of government. As a result, most public agencies tend to staff their offices with a receptionist out in front, whose main job is to screen visitors and steer them to other staff departments. Cranberry is different.

The Customer Service counter in Cranberry's Municipal Center is staffed every business day from 7:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the evening. That counter is the first thing visitors see when they enter the administrative office. All six of its customer service representatives, or CSRs, as they're known, are expected to handle any issue thrown their way, although anyone is welcome to drop by and chat with the people who work there, even during lunch hour. In fact, many of the people who stop by just come over to say hello.

What most visitors don't see when they call or drop by is the administrative infrastructure the CSRs use to handle the issues people bring in. Should it be entered into the Township's network as a service request? As a work order? As an informational query? As an inside or outside referral? And which area of the Township organization is best equipped to resolve their issue? But for someone

For someone whose problem requires quick attention, what really counts is the results, and Cranberry's CSRs are very results-oriented.

whose problem requires quick attention, that doesn't matter; what really counts is the results, and Cranberry's CSRs are very results-oriented.

Even though Customer Service maintains a 9½ hour work day, getting there isn't always convenient for some residents, and the department is aware of that. "In the future, I see extended hours with more services becoming available 24/7," Sikora observed. "I see us taking advantage of more features on the website – almost like a 3-1-1 system where you can submit a request online and we'll forward it on. Or processing utility bills online. Or issuing building permits online. Also, live chat – it's just another avenue for talking with people over the phone and through the computer." ~

Taking The Tradition Out Of Traditional Neighborhood Development

Seven years ago, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors adopted the Township's first Traditional Neighborhood Development Zoning ordinance, or TND. Its timing was largely to accommodate the development of Park Place, a huge

associated with 19th century small towns and big city neighborhoods. Increased density is always a plus for developers.

But the resulting building configurations had another important quality: that

unlike previous zoning requirements, the TND permitting process focused on the form that a proposed new construction project would take, rather than on the uses its tenants planned to make of it. What it meant was that in the future, as the community's life-work patterns evolved, the Township's appearance would remain largely unchanged.

Since the 2005 adoption of Cranberry's first TND ordinance, its provisions have been refined and extended to other areas of

the Township, enabling types of both new and infill development to happen which would have been illegal under the previous code. The most recent fine-tuning of the ordinance took place just this past summer. And it included renaming the zoning regulations from TNDs to CCDs – Community Character Districts.

"There are good ways to do density and not-so-good ways to do density," Chief Strategy Officer John Trant, Jr. explained, referencing the Township's 2009 comprehensive plan. "The Cranberry Plan focused on higher

density, mixed use, pedestrian oriented development. The TNDs were our means to that end. CCD is a re-characterizing of that zoning tool; it's fundamentally the same.

"But the term 'traditional,' in Cranberry, suggests that we're trying to rebuild the past. We're not. We're trying to build on the past and introduce higher density, mixed use, pedestrian oriented development for reasons that range from quality of life to the fiscal health of the Township. There's not a whole lot traditional about that; it's more about looking forward into the future."

However, the Township's interest in extending its TND/CCD ordinances community-wide are more than simply philosophical. "We know that market trends show an exponential increase in demand for housing stock centered around mixed use development – neighborhoods that are pedestrian-oriented with apartments, townhouses, and a mix of dwelling types," Trant said. "It's both a mix of different housing types, and mixing residential with non-residential uses in the same area."

"Our goal is for the TND/CCD ordinance to become either the primary or an overlay zoning ordinance for the entire township," he said. "The Cranberry Plan makes a compelling case for any future development to be mixed use, pedestrian-oriented, higher density development. So that's the direction that we're heading."

"Single-family subdivisions can still be built, but we're not incentivizing them with our ordinances like we did in the '80s and '90s. We're incentivizing more mixed housing stock – higher density and the ability for developers to increase their revenues by increasing the number of units on a site." ~



"We're trying to build on the past and introduce higher density, mixed use, pedestrian oriented development. There's not a whole lot traditional about that; it's more about looking forward."

project adjacent to Graham Park which visualized building approximately 800 living units, and whose design represented a sharp break from the large-lot, single family home, planned residential developments which had been the standard pattern for neighborhood construction in Cranberry over the previous 30 years.

For example, the new ordinance provided for smaller lots, shorter setbacks, on-street parking, a mix of housing types, commingling commercial with residential uses, alley ways, street grids, and other features normally

Renovation Blitz Helps Ease Healing Veteran's Return

It may not have been an Extreme Makeover – after all, no walls were torn down and no rooms added – but the surprise renovations donated to upgrade the Cranberry home of Marine Staff Sergeant Joshua Caskey and his family during five days of intensive work, were both extensive and dramatic.

Back in March, the 12-year Marine veteran had accepted medical retirement from the service as a result of injuries suffered during his second tour in Iraq. He, his wife Kelly, and their four young children returned to southwestern Pennsylvania, the couple's childhood home, and bought a 1979 house in the Township's Creekwood neighborhood.

It was in fairly good shape for a home of its age, but it required some TLC, particularly in light of Sgt. Caskey's injuries. For example, the home's front entry had subsided, the front railing into the house was loose, some of the flooring was unstable, grab bars would be needed for better balance, and so on. It was the perfect project for the Remodelers Council – a division of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh. Jim Eichenlaub is BAMP's Executive Director, Todd Klippa chairs the Remodelers Council.

"Our national organization had teamed up with the NFL Players Association, encouraging the local chapters of both groups to work collaboratively to do projects for either veterans or folks in need," Eichenlaub explained. "So we said we'd like to do a project. We

identified a couple of folks through a veterans support organization, visited with the Caskeys, and looked at what they said they needed. They gave us a pretty short list of things. Meantime, Todd and I were thinking while those were nice things to do, we'd almost certainly go beyond them. But we didn't tell them that."

As soon as the two men went back to the Council to explain what they had in mind, the project began snowballing. Offers of help and donations began pouring in. "Our organization includes 600 companies, a number of which are suppliers. I had six or seven companies that would have supplied kitchens or baths," Eichenlaub said. "But I didn't have enough kitchens and baths to go around. So we started splitting it up and saying 'okay, if you'll supply the vanity upstairs, someone else will supply the one downstairs.' So we spread it out as best we could to involve as many people as possible.

"We ended up with over 100 companies, and we still have members who say they want to make a donation. If it doesn't go to this project, we know it'll go to the next one because we want to continue this as an ongoing operation. Whether it's with the football players or not, our association will continue to provide support to the counties our membership serves."

To preserve the sense of surprise, 84 Lumber, the owners of Nemacolin Woodlands, offered the family a

week-long vacation at its Laurel Highlands resort just before the remodeling work began. Their neighbors were quietly recruited to help in what was to become a whirlwind of activity which soon touched every facet of the home's interior and exterior.

"The Township administration was overwhelmingly cooperative, and the neighbors jumped in 110 percent. It just took on a life of its own."

"The Township administration was overwhelmingly cooperative," Eichenlaub said. "And the neighbors jumped in 110 percent. A couple of them actually took vacation to be there. And when the residents got notified, it started another round of support and people asking: what can I do? Word got out to the Caskey's church, and that led to more people. And Josh's affiliation with the military organizations – they jumped in and said what can we do? It just took on a life of its own."

The family's return to their home on August 24 was huge. TV stations, a Marine Color Guard, a police and fire company escort, builders, neighbors, and well-wishers of all sorts were on hand to greet the family and witness their surprise. People became teary-eyed. "It was a tremendous outpouring of support," Eichenlaub reflected. "It renews a person's faith in our communities and what our country's all about." ~

Welcome home. Local media, neighbors, Marines and veterans gathered to witness the surprise renovations awaiting Staff Sgt. Joshua Caskey, wearing sunglasses, his wife and their four young children on their return from a retreat in August. More than 100 contractors, suppliers and donors contributed to improving the family's Creekwood home.



Graham Park Fishing Lake Is About To Open

The detention pond which was excavated to handle stormwater runoff when Graham Park was built in 2008, has grown to become a small lake and is about to take on additional responsibilities. Starting this month – perhaps as early as the October 7 dedication of the park's new Scout Centennial Plaza situated by water's edge – the pond, now deepened, reconstructed and sculpted into a one-acre lake by the Township Public Works department, will open for public fishing.

But it's strictly recreational – catch and release only, where any fish caught have to be immediately returned to the water. No trophy fishing or food fishing will be allowed.

"What I'm excited about is that in Cranberry Township, we really don't have a body of water where kids have been able to fish," Township Engineer Jason Kratsas explained. "I have two young kids myself, and I'm always looking for opportunities where they can catch fish. We're looking to create an experience here where we have the right species of fish in an area designed so that kids can catch fish – and a lot of them."

We're looking to create an experience here where kids can catch fish – and a lot of them."

More than a year ago, about 30 bass and several hundred bluegill were quietly transported from Hereford Manor Lakes – which is currently undergoing reconstruction – to stock the Cranberry fishing lake. And minnows were added to provide food for the larger fish. But the lake has remained closed to any sort of fishing to allow its transplanted fish population enough

time to become acclimated, to breed, and to create a stable ecosystem.

To help, a variety of structures – cement pipes, stones, and rubble – were placed in the bottom of the pond to provide hiding places and breeding spots, particularly for the smaller fish. Aerators were installed to keep the water fresh and in circulation. And so far, at least, it seems to be working; no sightings of lost fish have been reported by any of the Public Works personnel who tend to the pond.

As a private body of water, as distinct from a state-managed fishing pond, different conditions apply to its recreational use. For example, no license is required, and there is no defined fishing season.

However the Township itself has adopted a series of rules to promote safe and enjoyable use of the lake. For example, no boating, swimming, or wading will be allowed in the lake. Fishing is only allowed during daylight hours. No individual can have more than two fishing lines in the water at one time. No archery fishing or any other type of fishing that would harm or kill the fish is permitted. No live bait other than earthworms will be allowed.

Barb-less hooks or hooks that have had their barbs blunted are strongly recommended. And if there are any geese in the area, feeding them will be prohibited.

Although the lake will become an important recreational asset for Township residents and visitors, its initial role as a flood control device will remain intact. "This water does not



Guidelines for Fishing in Graham Park

- Catch-and-release only
- No fishing license required
- Open all year
- Daylight fishing only
- Fishing permitted from every side
- Boating prohibited
- No swimming or wading
- Maximum of two lines per person
- No spear or archery fishing
- No live bait except earthworms
- No bird feeding allowed
- Barbless hooks recommended

come from Brush Creek," Kratsas pointed out. "This water is primarily the stormwater runoff from Graham Park. The detention facility is still there; it's the top layer of water. We just dug down below that – as much as ten feet in some areas. So as we get storms and rain, that water's draining into the lake and recharging it.

"It works like a wet retention facility; it has a normal pool elevation, but a portion of it is there for stormwater control. There's a good foot and a half or two feet above the normal pool elevation to help hold back water when there is a storm. So while it's going to be a great fishing site, it's still maintaining its stormwater detention properties." ~



Scout Plaza About To Open.

Cranberry's new Scout Centennial Plaza in Graham Park is about to open. A ribbon cutting has been scheduled for 11:00 AM on Sunday, October 7, to dedicate a monument and flagstone deck that mark the hundredth anniversary of the Scout movement in America. The project, with sponsorship from the Cranberry Township Community Chest and hundreds of individual donors, sits at the edge of a one-acre fishing lake alongside Brush Creek near the park's baseball campus. A three-sided monument at the center of the Plaza depicts the life cycle of scouting in America.

Knit One, Pearl Ten. As the poet said, you may never see a poem as lovely as a tree, including ones that in summer wear nests of robins in their hair. But if you go to certain parts of Holland, South Africa, Portugal, Illinois, Honolulu, or Cleveland, you just might see a few trees with something even more exotic in their hair – crocheted tree cozies. The novel artworks that result from the hobby – sometimes known as Yarn Bombing – have produced unexpected and strikingly beautiful patterns in yards, parks and arboretums all over the world. And Cranberry Township may be next. CTCC is sponsoring its own crocheting project to envelop a select group of park trees in fabric by next spring. Crochet enthusiasts and quilters are welcome to participate, and CTCC will provide all the materials. For details, contact Bruce Mazzoni at bruce.mazzoni@cranberrytownship.org.



Project Pumpkin. What would Hamlet, Sherlock Holmes, Huckleberry Finn, or Count Dracula look like incarnated as jack-o'-lanterns? If you enter the Cranberry Public Library's Third Annual "Project Pumpkin: A Pumpkin Decorating Contest with Character," the answer will be up to you. On October 18 and 19, the Library will be accepting pumpkins carved and accessorized as favorite literary characters from readers of all ages. Library patrons can vote to select the winning entry between October 20 and 25.



Neighborhood Summit.

About two-thirds of Cranberry's neighborhoods have homeowners associations, or HOAs. They are permanent legal bodies, created when the developments were first approved, to maintain the common areas within those plans. They also have authority to regulate many of the details affecting the property of their residents. More than ten years ago, Cranberry began to convene quarterly meetings of officers from Township HOAs so they could discuss their concerns. That pattern continues, and the HOA Forum has now emerged as an important venue for HOA board members to share approaches and solutions to the problems their neighborhoods have in common. Cranberry's website has posted information on their meeting schedules, agendas, and shared resources. Go to cranberrytownship.org/HOA for details.



Pruning Street Trees.

If there are trees on your property along the edge of the road, it's your job, as a homeowner, to keep them pruned back so that they don't interfere with pedestrians on the sidewalk, or motor vehicles on the street. But keeping branches trimmed back to 14 feet above street level in order to avoid encroaching on motorized traffic can be difficult, and potentially dangerous, for residents to accomplish. So Cranberry Township's Board of Supervisors is considering a plan to contract with professional arborists to keep the street side of trees in the Township out of traffic, and to do so without damaging the trees themselves. The other side of the tree, which should provide at least 9 feet of clearance above sidewalks, would remain the homeowner's responsibility. If approved, the contracted pruning arrangement could go into effect as early as this month.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCT

Registration may be required for some programs. For more information, call:

- ↳ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100
- ★ Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806
- † Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129

- ◆ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480
- ✓ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372
- ‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

MON 1	Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm First Editions Book Club ↲ Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 2	4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 3	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Chapter Book Club ↲ Grades 1-3, Library, 7pm	THURS 4	Discussion Group Library, 10am 4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm
FRI 5	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 6	Computer Class ↲ Internet I, Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr, Community Park, 10am-1pm SAT/ACT Class Library, 1-3pm	SUN 7	Scouting Plaza/ Fishing Lake Dedication Graham Park, 11am	MON 8	COLUMBUS DAY Twp Offices open, Library closed Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm
WED 10	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Chapter Book Club ↲ Grades 1-3, Library, 7pm	THURS 11	4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 12	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 13	Computer Class ↲ Internet II, Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr, Community Park, 10am-1pm Learn CPR ◆ Cranberry EMS, 9am-12pm
MON 15	ADHD Seminar Library, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 16	4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 17	Books & Bagels Book Club ↲ Library, 10am UPMC Wellness Series: Back Pain , Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Chapter Book Club ↲ Grades 1-3, Library, 7pm	THURS 18	4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Pumpkin Decorating Contest entries accepted Library Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm
FRI 19	Pumpkin Decorating Contest entries accepted Library Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 20	Computer Class ↲ Intro to Online Databases, Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr, Community Park, 10am-1pm Sheriff's Office – Gun Licensing Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 9am-2pm	SUN 21	Fall Hayride ✓ Cranberry Highlands, 2-5:30pm	MON 22	Genealogy 101 Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm
WED 24	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Chapter Book Club ↲ Grades 1-3, Library, 7pm	THURS 25	4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 26	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm Not Just Ballroom Dance East Coast Swing, Gym, 7-11pm Friends of Library Book Sale	SAT 27	Fishing Derby Graham Park, 8-10am Computer Class ↲ Social Media, Library, 9am
SAT 27	Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr, Community Park, 10am-1pm Spookapalooza † Lions Shelter, Community Park, 12-2pm Friends of Library Book Sale	SUN 28	MON 29	MON 29	Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30s Book Club Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 30	Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot for general election 4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↲ Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm
WED 31	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Halloween Trick or Treat in Cranberry Twp, 6-8pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm						

NOV

Registration may be required for some programs. For more information, call:

↳ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

↳ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

★ Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

✓ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

† Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129

‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

THURS 1	Discussion Group Library, 10am 4 & 5 Year Old Storytime ↗ Library, 11am or 1pm Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 2	SAT 3	Stories, Fun and Visit with Olivia ↗ Library, 8:30am, 10am, 11:30am Computer Class ↗ Security, Library, 9am Farkleberry Craft Show Municipal Ctr, 9am-3:30pm	SUN 4	Daylight Savings ends		
MON 5	First Editions Book Club ↗ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 6	Election Day	WED 7	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 8	Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 9
SAT 10	Computer Class ↗ MS Word I, Library, 9am	SUN 11	VETERAN'S DAY Library closed	MON 12	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 13	Apple Tasting Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	SUN 18
WED 14	UPMC Wellness Series: Diabetes, Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 15	Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 16	Santa's First Stop and Cranberry Tree Gallery Santa arrives via fire truck, Municipal Ctr, 7pm	SAT 17	Computer Class ↗ MS Word II, Library, 9am	SUN 19
MON 19	Zoning Hearing Board Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 20	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 21	Books & Bagels Book Club ↗ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 22	THANKSGIVING Municipal Ctr, Library, Twp Offices closed; no waste collection	SUN 25
FRI 23	Waste Collection - 1 day delay Municipal Ctr, Library, and Administrative Offices closed	SAT 24	SUN 25	MON 26	20 & 30s Book Club Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 27	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	
WED 28	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 29	Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 30	Last day to pay school tax at face value			

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DEC

Registration may be required for some programs. For more information, call:

↳ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

★ Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

† Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129

✿ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

✓ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

SAT 1	Computer Class ↳ <i>Excel I</i> , Library, 9am	SUN 2	MON 3	Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm Savvy Social Security Library, 7pm First Editions Book Club ↳ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 4	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 5	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm
THURS 6	Discussion Group Library, 10am Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 7	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Not Just Ballroom Dance <i>Nightclub 2</i> Step, Gym, 7-11pm	SAT 8	Computer Class ↳ <i>Excel II</i> , Library, 9am Hanukkah begins at sundown	SUN 9		
MON 10	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 11	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 12	Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 13	Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 14
SAT 15	SUN 16	Brunch with Santa ✓ Cranberry Highlands, 10-11:30am, 12:30-2pm	MON 17	Zoning Hearing Board Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 18	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 19	Books & Bagels Book Club ↳ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm
THURS 20	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 21	Winter Begins	SAT 22	SUN 23	MON 24	CHRISTMAS EVE	TUES 25
WED 26	KWANZAA BEGINS Waste Collection – 1 day delay thru 12-29 Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 27	Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 28	SAT 29	SUN 30	CHRISTMAS DAY	Municipal Ctr, Library, Twp Offices closed; no waste collection
MON 31							MON 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE Last day to pay current school/ local Taxes



Thorn Hill Industrial Park: From Workhouse To Workplace

Ask any lifelong resident of a certain age, and they'll tell you about Thorn Hill. It was a reform school – a correctional institution for boys under 16 sentenced by Juvenile Court to be straightened out and trained in useful skills. It was what boys in the Pittsburgh area were warned would be their fate unless they stopped doing whatever it was they were doing.

That was then. Today, you're more likely to hope that your child actually ends up in Thorn Hill which, for the past 30 years, has been the site of the largest industrial park in western Pennsylvania and currently home to more than 70 businesses representing a wide variety of industries.

RIDC's focus is on accommodating businesses that advance the region's export economy.



Industrial strength. At nearly 1,000 acres, Thorn Hill Industrial Park is the largest in western Pennsylvania and home to more than 70 companies. RIDC Vice President Tim White explains the nonprofit development agency's mission in its eleven-county region.

Back in the 1950s, the nearly thousand acre Thorn Hill site, which straddles the Marshall-Cranberry line, was conceived as a response by Pittsburgh's corporate leaders to a growing difficulty that threatened the region's economy. Here was the problem, according to RIDC Vice President Timothy White: "When the Regional Industrial Development Corporation was formed in the 1950s, there was a boom in light industry –

including things like consumer goods fabrication, business product assembly, and research – happening all over the country. At the time, Pittsburgh was a heavy industrial city with very little light industry. But all the usable sites along the rivers had been taken by heavy industry – steel, glass, chemicals, and power plants for example. We were at a regional disadvantage because there was very little flat, buildable land.

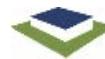
"One of the main reasons RIDC was formed was to make more pad-ready sites for light industrial companies to expand and thrive in Western PA. So all the big corporations pitched in to seed-fund RIDC and to engineer deals

for the first three industrial parks – O'Hara Township, Thorn Hill, and RIDC West in the airport area. Then, as new highways opened up, they became extremely successful."

Unlike many other business parks in the region which mainly offer Class A office space, RIDC's focus is on accommodating light manufacturing, distribution, R&D, and assembly-type operations – businesses that advance the region's export

economy, White pointed out. And it appears to be working. "We're doing pretty well compared to other regions," he said. "The recession did hit us, but comparatively speaking, we're doing better. We're seeing a lot of growth in Cranberry and the surrounding areas."

Like Thorn Hill, whose reform school campus was mostly open farm land before it became an industrial park,



RIDC
Regional Industrial Development Corporation

RIDC's O'Hara and airport area sites also began as undeveloped green fields away from the city. But in the 1980s and with the region's primary steel industry collapsing, RIDC made a strategic switch: they began redeveloping brownfields – sites formerly occupied by mills and factories of the now-dying heavy industries.

As a privately-funded nonprofit organization with leaders from the region's top corporate, government, academic and professional institutions on its board, RIDC has been able to form partnerships and take on projects that wouldn't make financial sense for private developers. "Our goal is to create jobs and keep taxpayers in Pennsylvania," White said. "We try to find ways to put the pieces together to make development happen at these sites."

Today, RIDC's footprint extends to eleven counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania and includes such diverse projects as re-booting the former Tech 21 project in Marshall, taking down the former VW-Sony plant in Westmoreland, creating Pullman Center Business Park in Butler, financing six new buildings on CMU's campus, widening Warrendale-Bayne Road, and redeveloping the massive four million square foot site of the old Westinghouse Electric plant in Turtle Creek. There are even four empty parcels still available in Cranberry, along Thorn Hill Drive Extension.

"You have to work with the local leadership," White explained, "The agendas and level at which leaders want to be engaged varies by municipality and county. But Cranberry's been very supportive. They're progressive, they're forward-thinking in their development activities. We don't have any issues with Cranberry Township." ~

Tollgrade Communications Squeezes New Efficiency From Older Utility Lines

In most places, when you lose electric power, the only way the utility learns about it is if you call in to report it. That's a relic of the way the power grid was built in the late 1800's and early decades of the 20th century – a one-way delivery system flowing down from large power plants to the consumer. But today's soaring demand for electricity leads to equipment breakdowns on that outdated grid, causing power outages. Repairs are often slow, resulting in angry customers and lost sales for the power companies. Yet many of those outages could be prevented.

To achieve that, electric companies are now transitioning the nation's power delivery network into a two-way smart grid system. Its goal is to accommodate electricity customers more efficiently while helping to prevent outages from happening. It enables the utility to respond more quickly when outages do occur. But it is a huge and expensive undertaking. Monitoring and controlling the grid involves deploying a whole battery of devices to send detailed information about grid conditions back to the power company in real-time, enabling them to evaluate system performance and optimize it.

Tollgrade Communications, which moved last year from Cheswick into Cranberry Business Park, is one of the leading manufacturers of products and software designed to collect, analyze and communicate exactly this sort of instantaneous information. Its current and prospective customers are the operators of power grids in Europe, South America, the U.S. and Canada. And that's only part of their \$50-plus million a year business.

The other part involves monitoring the performance of telephone and



broadband access to help their users maintain high-quality, dependable service. In fact the company's name, Tollgrade, comes from the old telephone industry jargon which recognized that not all phone lines were satisfactory for toll calls. The highest quality lines were identified as toll-grade. And today, its namesake company tests more than 250 million phone lines worldwide, nonstop.

Much of the technology which Tollgrade uses to collect and analyze network information is proprietary. The company maintains a wall of patents to protect the ways it senses, aggregates, and interprets critical performance data. A lot of that research and development takes place in Cranberry, where 55 of its 120 employees report to work.

Tollgrade's Lighthouse brand utility monitoring products consist of sensors clamped to medium voltage power lines which monitor and communicate information, 24/7, along with software to analyze the data. That information enables utility companies to track and diagnose their grid conditions, pinpoint outage problems, and fix them more quickly.

*That information
enables utility
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fix them more quickly.*

Until last year, private investors could buy shares of Tollgrade on the NASDAQ stock exchange. But a San Francisco



Testing, testing. Tollgrade Communications CEO Edward H. Kennedy, in the R&D area of his company's Cranberry Business Park headquarters building, explains how Tollgrade's monitoring and data collection devices continuously test line characteristics on both electrical grids and communication networks worldwide.

investors group saw the company's business offering as a strategic fit, and in May of 2011, Golden Gate Capital acquired all of Tollgrade's outstanding shares – bringing new business savvy, new capital, and new development opportunities to the 25-year old company. It also validated the company's move, a few months earlier, into its new Cranberry Township headquarters.

"Cranberry is an up and coming, thriving area," Tollgrade CEO Edward H. Kennedy explained. "It's a good family area where people want to live. But it is also an educated area with a strong high-tech atmosphere and a solid technical talent pool to draw from. Cranberry is a great place to run a business from; plus our landlord, Dick Donley, is a very progressive thinker who runs this high tech facility in a very efficient manner."

"We're very happy here. The employees really appreciate the new office facilities and the Cranberry area. When we have visitors come in, there's an infrastructure to support business – a lot of different hotels, restaurants and shopping. It's a nice area; people enjoy coming here." ~

Although widely known for its quality retail businesses, Cranberry is also becoming an important high technology center. CranberryToday's profiles of different local technology companies offer a glimpse into the Township's emerging knowledge-based economy.



Investing In Public Safety

by **John Skorupan, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors**

You can't always tell how good a community's first responders are simply by looking around you. That's because a lot of their success is measured by the things that don't happen rather than by those which do. I'm thinking of buildings that don't catch fire and stores that don't get robbed and traffic accidents that don't occur.

But all of those non-events, and a whole lot more, aren't just luck or coincidence; they're the result of good planning, good building codes, good fire prevention education, good traffic engineering, superior technology, great enforcement efforts, and high levels of citizen involvement.

Once a community develops a reputation as a secure place to live, work and play, it can get caught in a virtuous cycle by attracting new residents and businesses – people who value those qualities – to settle in the community. And that, in turn, perpetuates the sense of well-being which brought them there in the first place. That's pretty much what's been happening here in Cranberry.

Cranberry residents have high expectations of their community in just about every respect: they want great parks, smooth traffic, excellent shopping, good job opportunities, affordable housing, and a whole lot more. But most of all, they want to be safe. No community can achieve greatness if its residents don't feel safe on its streets, around its shops, or in their homes. And our Board is acutely aware of that. So we've done our best to create a system of

public safety as good as the community it serves.

That system includes three primary services – police, fire, and EMS – each of which has its own distinctive history, governance, and financial life. The police, for example, are full-time Township employees. The Fire Company is strictly volunteers. The EMS is a non-profit business which pays its expenses through subscriptions, insurance, user fees, and donations. But all three services have strong ties to Cranberry's Director of Public Safety, who coordinates their responses as well as the Township's support for their work.

In just a few weeks, another element of that support will come on line; it's the new Public Safety Training Facility, which will be located next to several other emergency service training structures – the fire training tower, the vehicle burn

pads, and the practice range. Like those other resources, this one is being created to continue building the proficiency of our first responders without requiring them to spend time traveling away from their base or their families in order to receive that instruction.

Our decision to build the training facility, as well as choosing to make a number of other infrastructure improvements in the Township, such as expanding our water and sewer capacity, are all driven by our long-range plan which sees Cranberry growing into a community of 50,000 by 2030. So we're not only spending to satisfy current needs, we're investing in the future of a community that just keeps getting better and better.

One consequence of that investment is that our public safety services are not the cheapest in the region. We only hire full-time, professional police officers, we provide our first responders with excellent facilities, we support their training, and we provide the equipment they need to become the most effective professionals they can be. And we think our residents appreciate that priority.

But we also provide police coverage for the Borough of Seven Fields, and the cost for that level of service has been shared by their residents. Recently, however, they told us they may not renew our agreement, which provides an early out at the end of 2014. We do understand that they would like to

reduce their public safety expenses. But whatever the outcome of that discussion, the priority Cranberry places on employing and supporting our highly trained emergency service providers, both paid and volunteer, is as strong as ever, and that conviction will not change. ~

The new Public Safety Training Facility is being created to continue building the proficiency of our first responders without requiring them to spend time traveling away from their base or their families.



You can reach **John Skorupan** by email at john.skorupan@cranberrytownship.org

9/11 Memorial Dedicated

A monument memorializing the losses suffered by first responders at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 was dedicated in front of Cranberry's Park Fire Station on the eleventh anniversary of the attack which claimed nearly 3,000 lives. The attacks on the iconic twin towers took the lives of 340 firefighters, 60 police officers, ten emergency medical technicians and a chaplain in addition to hundreds of airline passengers and thousands of civilian casualties on the ground. The centerpiece of the fire station memorial is a twisted, 836-pound steel beam recovered from the WTC site.



Fire Prevention/Fire Safety

October 7-14 is National Fire Safety week in the United States. Its timing marks the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 which lasted for days, destroying 3.3 square miles of urban structures and claiming hundreds of lives. But structure fires remain a danger; in 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires which caused 13,350 injuries, 2,640 deaths, and \$6.9 billion in property damage. To reduce the risk of personal injury from a home fire, the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company urges residents to make an escape plan for their family, install smoke alarms on each level, and change their batteries twice a year. Professional home furnace checks are also strongly recommended, as is adherence to the Township's long-standing ban on leaf burning. Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths. Unattended cooking accidents have been the largest source of home fire injuries since 1990. Clogged fireplace chimneys and space heater accidents are second.

They were great.

"Last summer, I was doing some laundry at my in-laws' patio home. I turned on their TV to keep my kids busy. As soon as I pushed the switch, there was a loud popping sound, and smoke began rolling out of the back of the set. It was a big old TV in the middle of a three-unit entertainment system that was all hooked together. I couldn't get it out, so I called 911."

"They were there in less than ten minutes. The chief had received the call on his way home from work. He got a couple of the firemen to come in and help him move the unit and unplug the TV. They helped me empty the whole entertainment center so we could move it. And then they used a device that checks the walls for heat to make sure the fire hadn't gone into the electrical lines. That was my biggest concern because it's a patio home that's connected to two or three other homes."

"It turned out to be just the TV. And they advised me about having too much wiring for that area. They were really helpful, very personable. I thought they were great."

Every year, the men and women of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company answer over 600 calls, from reassuring residents that their homes are safe to taking decisive action in life-threatening conditions. They do it all without hesitation, without complaint, and without pay. And they do it with the thanks of a grateful community.

If you'd like to part of something truly special, the members of Cranberry's Fire Company invite you to join them.



Jodi Gianfrancesco,
Cranberry Township
Resident



The Cranberry Township
Volunteer Fire Company



Firefighter Profile:

After Hitting The Beaches, Marine John Renyck Hits The Books

For a guy who never cared much about school as a student in Seneca Valley during the '90s, John Renyck has spent an awful lot of time in the classroom lately.

Shortly after joining the Marine Corps, where he served from 2005 to 2009, Renyck had to spend several months in a class at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, learning to operate different types of heavy machinery. Every time a new piece of equipment came on base, it was back to school, then onto the next assignment, which included stints in Japan, Korea, California, and several provinces of Afghanistan building bases, moving containers, loading convoys, and providing convoy security.

Renyck's family had moved to Cranberry in 1990, when he was just nine years old, so after his military service was complete, he returned to Cranberry – only this time with his beautiful Japanese bride and their two young children. But after six months of pounding the pavement following his discharge – at a time when the economy had hit rock bottom and no one needed heavy equipment operators – he finally contacted the machine operators union to see what they could do to help.

"The union said I had to go to operating school to learn how to do the job I'd already been doing for four years," he recalled. "So at that point I decided I would go back to school, but that I'd be doing it at a regular college."

As he was waiting for classes to start, Renyck decided to rekindle his interest in firefighting which had ignited way back in high school. "I was looking for a job, and had all this free time. I'd

drive by the fire station every day, and I thought: maybe I'll try the fire company again. So in 2010, I put my application in."

But the schedule for Essentials of Firefighting – a required class for new volunteers – arrived at a difficult time. "By then, I was going to college full-time, along with taking Essentials. I was taking something like 22 or 23 credits of classes, and lost 20 pounds. I call it '23-Credit Diet' because I didn't have time to eat." But his dual track of academic learning and technical training continued. And earlier this year, following even more hands-on classes, he received his Firefighter I certification. "I'm just a firefighter," he shrugged. "I cut cars apart and put fires out."

Still, even though Renyck holds a commercial driver's license and has years of experience behind the wheel of big machines, he has had to rely on other fire company members to drive the unit's engines. "I have a CDL, but Company policy is that you take the state-mandated emergency vehicle course and then have 25 hours driving time with a certified driver from our company before going out on the road yourself. So I'm trying to take that drivers course, but it isn't offered very often.

"I've got a wife and kids now, and all of a sudden it matters if you have an education. When I got out of high school, I thought I'd never use any of that again. Now, years down the road, I can see how wrong I was."

"So I've been working my way towards a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, using the GI Bill to pay for it," he said. "I'm at CCAC right now. I'm hoping to



"Coming out of the Marine Corps, you're leaving a system where everyone cares. It's the same with the fire company. People care, and it gives you the sense of purpose you lost coming out of the military."

transfer into either Pitt or Point Park, hopefully in the spring semester."

But for Renyck, service with the fire company fills a different and equally important function. "Coming out of the Marine Corps, you're leaving a system where everyone cares. There's a lot of camaraderie. People are concerned if you're doing all right or if you need help with this or that."

"It's the same with the fire company. People care, and it gives you the sense of purpose you lost coming out of the military. That's because in the military, there's big sense of mission; you're there doing a job. You're doing it for your country. People depend on you. And when you come out, that kind of gets lost. So the fire company helps to fill that need." Sometimes even in the classroom. ~

Cranberry welcomes new Fire Company volunteers throughout the year. To learn more, call 724-776-1196.



EMS Seeks New Opportunities In Shifting Medical Landscape

The 2,600 pages of 2010's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, often referred to as Obamacare, scarcely mention EMS. But the fortunes of America's 13,000-plus ambulance services will be directly affected by changes in healthcare delivery as the Act's provisions come into force.

For the Cranberry Township EMS, which has seen the demand for its services grow while its reimbursements for medical transport decline, the change presents a potentially huge opportunity to expand both its menu of services and its revenue base in a radically altered healthcare environment.

"The Big Thing right now, with the implementation of healthcare, is that hospitals won't be paid for re-admissions," Cranberry EMS Executive Director Jeff Kelly explained. "So, let's say you go to the hospital for a diabetic complication today, and you're readmitted for the same kind of problem some time in the next 30 days, the hospital stands not to get any kind of reimbursement."

For a full-service hospital, with huge overhead operating costs, that can be devastating. So a major thrust of the new legislation – with strong support from health insurance carriers – is to discourage the use of hospital emergency rooms as a source of primary care, and to redirect those patients to more cost-effective service providers, like Urgicare centers. But there are other options as well.

"EMS services are recognizing that if we can go out and do some of these services in the home or whatever environment these folks are in, to keep them out of the hospital and provide them a better quality of health care or

quality of life, that could become very important," Kelly said. "So a lot of what came with the passing of the health care bill was a change from just going to the hospital, to doing prevention, wellness, health screenings, and things like that."

Transitioning EMS from being primarily



"If we can go out and do some of these services in the home, to keep them out of the hospital, that could become very important."

a medical transport service into a source for what is now being called community paramedicine, will be complicated, Kelly recognizes. For example, it involves identifying very specific community needs – asthma, diabetes, obesity or whatever – and offering services that benefit those population segments. It means finding the funds to train the unit's EMTs and paramedics to provide those services.

It means working out new partnerships with current health service providers. And it means establishing reliable revenue streams for delivering those services.

"It could take anywhere from one to three years to get a really solid footprint on what we're doing," Kelly noted.

"This is a whole new concept. Instead of having down time where our people sit around and wait for a call, we might schedule, say, an 8:30 appointment with Mrs. Smith, and then a 10:45 with Mr. Jones. So we can use these additional services to bridge a gap for downtime for our crews."

"In any case, we are going to be changing our focus," Kelly affirmed. "EMS in general – not just in Cranberry Township – is changing. It is no longer about the 'you call, we haul' mentality, which has been around since the inception of EMS. It's different now. And it will continue being different. There will be expanded services, and there will be opportunities to do different things, both as a provider of pre-hospital emergency treatment and a supplier of scheduled health care in the field." ~

A Child's Car Seat Is Not A Throne

Car crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, are the number one killer of children between 1 and 12 years old in the United States. The agency strongly advises that putting children in the right car seat, at the right time, and using it the right way, is the most effective method for protecting them. And, over the past several decades, doing so has grown to become a solemn obligation of parents, grandparents, caregivers and anyone else transporting young children.

But it's easier said than done. For example, the type of seat that's right for a child will change repeatedly as the child grows from infancy through adolescence. Within each major category – rear-facing seats, forward-facing seats, booster seats, and seat belt harnesses – there is a huge assortment of makes and models. On top of that, there is a dizzying variety of vehicle makes and types with which those seats need to interface. And that interface is somewhat different – and sometimes impossible – depending on the combination.

So, with options proliferating in every category, what's a parent to do? In Cranberry, one place to start is by touching base with the Township's Police and EMS. For some years, Cranberry's police department has offered complementary child safety seat instruction on the first Monday of each month. They still do, using two fully certified on-duty police officers.

But this past summer, five members of the Cranberry Township EMS completed a nationally standardized four-day Child Passenger Safety Course and began offering additional sessions to residents on how to secure the proper fit and attachment of child restraints in family vehicles. However, in the case of EMS, that help is available every Tuesday and Thursday at the ambulance company's base station on Thomson Park Drive – also free of charge, although donations are always welcome.

The recent certification of the EMS employees – and the possible addition of several more over the coming year – are part of a plan to augment the unit's established medical transportation service with other community health, safety and wellness services. In the case of safety seats, it positions the EMS to become recognized as a Regional Car Seat Fitting Station, eligible to receive grants which, among other things, would allow them to replace damaged car seats.

“Every car seat on the market is crash tested to the same government regulations.”

“Every car seat on the market is crash tested to the same government regulations,” Kelly pointed out. “If people want to spend \$400 on that perfect seat that matches the interior of their car when they could have spent a third as much



and gotten just as good a seat, that goes through the same rigorous testing procedures but allows them to keep a little more money in their pocket, that's fine. But it really isn't a better seat.

“If you pay that extra money, there might be some added gadgets and gizmos and things that go along with the seat that you may or may not use. However the take-home message is this: you do not need to spend \$400 because you think you're getting a safer seat than if you were spending \$80, because they're crash-tested the same. If a seat fails the test, it can't be sold.

“However, anything you buy which does not come in the box with that seat, isn't crash tested. So those little mirrors that everybody wants to install to look at their babies, the sun shades that go along the windows – any of the things that toy stores sell to make you feel more warm and fuzzy about your child being in the back seat – they're not crash tested. In the event of a collision, those things can become projectiles and strike your child. So we tell people that everything that comes enclosed with the car seat has already been crash tested, government approved, and deemed safe for a child in the seat. Anything else you buy, is not.” ~

Heights Drive Extended. The long-planned extension of Heights Drive out to Rt. 19 is now a reality. Its construction, which benefitted from favorable summer weather, enabled the roadway, four traffic-calming planter islands, and associated landscape improvements along the new 2,700 stretch of two-lane pavement, to be completed and opened on schedule. As a Township-owned collector road, as distinct from a residential road, Heights Drive includes no curb cuts for either home or business driveways. It carries a posted speed of 25 miles an hour and will significantly decrease the time required for emergency vehicles to respond to calls from residents living in the Cranberry Heights plan of homes. The \$1.5 million project was financed out of Transportation Impact Fees collected over the years in association with local development projects.



Cranberry Cyclists Get Street Smarts

Just as Pittsburgh was preparing to host BikeFest, a 15-day gathering of cyclists to celebrate life on two wheels, a pair of back-to-back accidents involving bicycles and motor vehicles resulted in the deaths of two adult bike riders, both along stretches of Penn Avenue. Although Pittsburgh had been recognized as a bicycle-friendly city as recently as 2010, the pair of fatalities drove home the realization that the challenges of safely mixing bicycles with motor vehicles along city streets are huge.

Finding ways to safely accommodate the two forms of travel and minimize those risks on suburban roads has been a

The Township's Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections Plan would link together key sites in the Township, as well as providing pathways for safe recreational bike riding.

priority for Cranberry as well. The Township's Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections Plan – which Cranberry's Board of Supervisors adopted in December of 2010 – visualized a cohesive network of well-marked bikeways, primarily along existing local roads. It had been a top recommendation of Cranberry's 2009 comprehensive plan, and its routes would link together key sites in the Township, as well as providing pathways for safe recreational bike riding.

Starting this past August, evidence of that plan began to appear along selected routes in Cranberry. Share-the-Road signs and pavement markings have been put in place as part of the Township's new CycleCT program – an initiative which includes web-based information resources as well as other bicycle-related efforts in Cranberry. Among the program's goals are promoting bicycle and pedestrian mobility, improving safety, and increasing access to sites in and around the Township including workplaces, stores, schools and parks.

The first segment of Cranberry's designated bike route network is now in place. It begins at the northern end of Graham Park and continues south along Graham Park Drive through BelleVue Park, down Haine School Road, across Freedom Road to LaPorte Road, then onto Greenwood Drive and Rolling Road, before finally terminating on Thorn Hill Road at the border with neighboring Marshall Township. The total length of the segment is approximately 3.5 miles. Other segments will follow.

Safe bicycling, however, requires bike riders, as well as motorists, to know and respect the signs, signals, and rules of the road they share. "Bicycles are considered vehicles in Pennsylvania; they have to do what motorists do; they're required to obey the traffic laws," Cranberry Police Lt. Kevin Meyers explained. "DUI laws apply to bicyclists, not just to motor vehicle operators. Even though no license is required, Pennsylvania's vehicle code still applies.



And if it involves someone under age 16, their parents can be cited for bicycle violations."

That's not all. While pedestrians should walk against traffic on roads without sidewalks, bicycles need to be going in the same direction as the flow of traffic. However bicycling on sidewalks is prohibited in Cranberry; sidewalks are for pedestrians. Helmet laws apply to bike riders 12 and under. And a recent change in state law requires motor vehicles to provide at least four feet of clearance when passing bicycles. A 44-page Bicycle Driver's Manual, published by PennDOT and posted online, provides additional tips, rules, and precautions.

Last month, in an effort to increase the proficiency of public safety professionals with the concerns involved in teaching bicycle safety, a group of area police officers, EMS paramedics, elementary school teachers and other community leaders involved in youth activity instruction, completed a train-the-trainer course hosted by Cranberry and offered under Pennsylvania's Safe Routes to School program. Among its topics: bicycle inspection, helmet fit, fundamentals of handling, hazard avoidance, signaling, turning and yielding.

Their ultimate objective, as the PennDOT manual puts it, is to cultivate streetwise cyclists by fostering an attitude of security and confidence when riding a bike in the company of cars. ~

Road Closed Means Closed Road. It seems as though lot of drivers in Pennsylvania interpret safety warning signs along roadways as suggestions which they are free to ignore. So, for example, where flooding or other hazardous conditions have resulted in "Road Closed" signs being posted, some motorists – particularly if they're driving trucks or SUVs – simply wind around them. That annoys PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch. It also puts motorists and emergency responders at risk of serious injury. So on July 5, Gov. Corbett signed a law that puts teeth into warning signs. Now, anyone who drives around or through traffic control devices which have been used to close a road as a result of hazardous conditions, will be fined up to \$250, have two points added to their driving record and, if emergency responders need to be called to get you out of trouble, the fine is doubled and you'll also be responsible for repaying the cost of staging that response.



Teaming up to “Give Pack”

by Mary C. Vandergrift,
Assistant to the Superintendent/
Communications,
Seneca Valley School District

Victory Family Church members and volunteers hand out back packs for the “Give Pack” Program.



The back-to-school budgets for hundreds of Seneca Valley families were eased a bit this school year, thanks to the “Give Pack” program at Victory Family Church in Cranberry Township. Victory volunteers spent three days in late August handing out more than seven hundred backpacks filled with folders, notebooks and other school supplies. Some included graphing calculators for some of the secondary students.

For two Seneca Valley mothers, accepting this kind of help is not easy, but it's necessary... at least right now.

“My 3-year-old son has cancer,” one mother at the event said. “My husband works a full-time job, I have two other children, and I spend a lot of time in the hospital. We just can't make ends meet.”

Medical bills are why another mother said she could not turn down a free backpack full of school supplies for her three children. And she wanted volunteers and the community to know that it's no small gift.

“My husband works full-time, and I'm starting a new job, so our kids can't understand why we don't have the money to for new things for the school year,” she said. “But now that we don't have to go out and buy new backpacks and supplies, we can get the kids new tennis shoes... or maybe even a new outfit.”

Being able to afford new shoes and clothes, thanks to the Give Pack program, was a big deal to both moms.

“My children are going to walk to school in their new clothes on that first day of school, and they're going to feel special,” one of the moms said. “They're going to have to go back to the old clothes the next day, but for that one day, they won't feel poor. They will feel like all the other kids around them. And that is a very special gift.”

For families who could not attend one of the Give Pack programs, Victory delivered the backpacks to the Central Offices at Seneca Valley, where they were given to principals and teachers to hand out to students in need.

It can be tricky for public schools to work with organizations like Victory Family Church, as there is a fine line between church and state—even when it comes to programs like this.

“We're being careful not to talk about religion,” one Victory volunteer said. “In fact, we're not even saying, 'God bless you.' But I believe our actions speak louder than our words could.”

And Dr. Tracy Vitale, Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools, said with these tough financial times, the District simply could not turn down the support.

“It is through community organizations and outreach programs like this that we are able to accomplish so much more for our students and families.”

And for two of the many parents who took part in the Give Pack program...

“People don't realize what the face of the 'less fortunate' is,” one said. “My family contributes to this community. We work, we volunteer. But at the end of the day, we just fall short. But our community is lifting us up with programs like this, and this is a happy face today. We are so grateful.”

“My children see us worrying about our sick son and about our bills all the time,” the other mom said. “Today, they got to pick out a new backpack and feel pretty normal. I can't say thank you enough, because that makes me feel good, too.”





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Curbside TV Collection To End. Here's another good reason to get your flat screen TV set now: starting January 24, 2013, the EPA is banning the disposal of old TVs, computers, monitors and printers as part of normal trash collection – even if they carry a Collection Connection disposal tag. Waste haulers will be prohibited from picking them up for landfill disposal. Instead, the makers of these electronic devices will be required to establish ongoing recycling programs at no cost to consumers. Retail stores which sell them will be required to notify customers about how and where they can be recycled. Some stores, like Best Buy, already have free recycling programs in place. And community recycling programs will continue, but rules regarding TV disposal vary.