

# Cranberrytoday

SPRING 2013

## Fugitives Wanted: Tips Gratefully Accepted

Have you seen them?

Arrest warrants issued by District Justices are outstanding on more than 40 individuals for crimes committed in Cranberry Township. They range from writing bad checks and shoplifting to



criminal assault. But all of them are currently at large – people who have eluded capture

by local police and are likely to extend their patterns of crime until they've been apprehended.

So in February, Cranberry police began plastering the fugitives' names, faces, ages, criminal charges, and last known addresses on the Township's website at [cranberrytownship.org/wanted](http://cranberrytownship.org/wanted).

None of the warrants are for residents of Cranberry Township, but most come from nearby communities, and their identities are available to anyone, anywhere, simply by doing an online search.

Cranberry police hope that people who recognize a fugitive will either call 9-1-1 or their local police department

with tips concerning the person's whereabouts. Callers do not have to identify themselves, nor will they be subpoenaed as witnesses in court: cases against the accused have already been compiled.

No rewards are currently posted for the people being sought on Cranberry's Ten Most Wanted list. If you have information about any of their whereabouts, don't approach or attempt to apprehend them – just provide police with any information they can use, either by calling 9-1-1 or by email at: [tips@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:tips@cranberrytownship.org), and let them do the rest. ~

**On the lam.** If you've seen any of these people, they're all wanted for crimes committed in Cranberry. Check out the Township's website for their names, photos, crimes and last known mailing addresses. Then call 9-1-1 with any tips that can help police apprehend them.

## What Should I Do With My Local Earned Income Tax Return?

Pennsylvania's procedure for collecting certain local taxes changed last year. Employers are now required to withhold earned income tax from

all their employees. Berkheimer Tax Administrators – Cranberry's income tax collector – now collects the tax from those employers rather than from employees. However, residents must continue filing their final individual tax returns with Berkheimer – either electronically or by mail. Return forms

are available online at [www.hab-inc.com](http://www.hab-inc.com). Questions about your earned income tax, as well as your \$10 Seneca Valley Occupation Tax and \$52 Local Services Tax, should be directed to Berkheimer's Butler County office at 724-282-0377.

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A Publication of

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## Should You Drive Yourself To The Hospital?

Picture this: You can tell something's not right, but you're not sure what it is. Telltale signs might include sudden back pain, chest pain, numbness, dizziness, headache, breathing problems, or other uncomfortable symptoms. So should you call 9-1-1 and have them send an ambulance? Or should you jump in the car and make a run for Passavant Cranberry?

It's a judgment call people here need to make every day. And it can have serious consequences.

Jeff Kelly is Executive Director of the Cranberry Township EMS, and to anyone experiencing acute medical symptoms, he makes a strong case for calling 9-1-1. He offers three major reasons:

One is that if you faint, have a seizure, or in some other way become incapacitated while behind the wheel, you would not only fail to reach the hospital, you could have a serious accident.

Second, the ambulance is staffed with medical technicians who can begin life-saving intervention – intravenous hydration, bandaging, splinting, anti-nausea medication, and so on – even before you get to the hospital.

And third, you may end up at the wrong place; not every hospital is set up to care for every medical problem.

### Oops, wrong hospital

"UPMC Passavant Cranberry is an excellent facility. They do a lot of really good outpatient services, and they have an emergency room just like any other hospital," Kelly pointed out. "However, they don't have a lot of the specialty services you normally see in an acute care setting. People who show up there with chest pain might need emergency heart catheterization, but they can't

perform it at that hospital. They have to send those patients to Passavant Main.

"If you opt to drive yourself, you could end up at the wrong hospital and then



*Any couple 62 or older can subscribe to the Cranberry EMS Ambulance Service for just \$40 a year. Call 724-776-4380.*

lose more time being transported somewhere else," he explained. "Our suggestion has always been that if you believe you're having any kind of medical emergency, dial 9-1-1 and allow us to come to your house. We do a thorough medical assessment, and then offer treatment and transport recommendations to you, which may or may not include Passavant Cranberry.

"Of course we do take a lot of people to Passavant Cranberry. But through our medical assessment on the scene, we can make an informed decision about which hospital is most appropriate for your condition.

"However, just because we come out doesn't mean you have to go with us. We're not allowed to forcibly take anybody against their will; that's kidnapping in the state of Pennsylvania. We won't drag you kicking

and screaming to our ambulance; that doesn't happen.

### Covered by insurance

"We transport people to the hospital, that's what we do for a living. If you have insurance, your insurance company is going to get the bill; that's why you have insurance. We sometimes encounter people who are apprehensive about coming with us because they're worried about the finances. But we do everything in our power to assure them that this is the safest mode of transportation and earliest intervention for whatever their medical emergency happens to be, before they get to the Emergency Department.

"We don't show up asking for your credit card or checking to see if you have insurance or a subscription before we decide whether to take you. That's not how we operate; that's not how most EMS services operate. However, Cranberry's EMS doesn't receive any tax funding other than a fuel stipend. We operate solely on third-party billing, where we take you to the hospital, bill your insurance company, and expect to get reimbursed. If you're not a subscriber and don't have insurance, we're going to bill you. But we will work with you to make those payments – a couple dollars a month or whatever it might be – so that the claim can be paid off." ~



# Got A Problem? Who You Gonna Call? Try 2-1-1

It's already active in 85 percent of the country – in some cases for more than 20 years. But in case you missed it, dialing 2-1-1 in states where it's available will connect you with people who can put you in touch with community resources and nonprofit human service organizations equipped to deal with non-emergency issues like threats of foreclosure, utility shut-offs, disaster recovery, or help in caring for family members with chronic illness. And it's free.

Now, finally, that same referral service is available to residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania as well, and operators are standing by. It's confidential, it's not recorded, you don't have to leave your name, and you're not obliged to follow up with any of the referrals you are given.

But, unlike 9-1-1, the 2-1-1 service is not taxpayer financed. Instead, it was launched with startup funding from the

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United Ways of Westmoreland, Butler, and Allegheny Counties. Armstrong, Fayette, Indiana, Mercer and Washington County United Ways joined in a bit later. And plans are in place for it to become fully operational throughout the entire 11-county Southwestern Pennsylvania region by the end of next year, at which time it is expected to handle an estimated 450,000 calls annually.

Eventually, according to United Way of Butler County Executive Director Leslie Osche, the program's organizers hope to

secure ongoing financial support from the PUC-mandated 'Universal Service' customer assistance programs run by gas and electric utility companies in the area. But already, 2-1-1 is proving its value to both human service organizations and individuals requesting assistance with needs such as feeding a family, completing tax returns, locating a summer camp, or finding a job.

## More help, faster

A recent study in Westmoreland County, for example, found that prior to 2-1-1, callers needed to make an average of 4 to 7 calls before connecting with the right service organizations. With 2-1-1, the number of misdirected calls, and need to repeat the same story, fell sharply, while the timeliness of agency response to caller needs improved. And a federal grant program to help families in northwestern Butler County avoid foreclosure, which is administered by the state's housing finance agency, contracted with 2-1-1 to promote its program, and is already credited with saving nearly 500 homes.

Today, more than 450 health and human services in Pennsylvania have their own telephone 'hotlines.' Many have tried to create memorable phonewords – alphanumeric equivalents of their telephone number that form a word, acronym, or abbreviation. But the sheer volume of agencies out there has become overwhelming. However 2-1-1, which uses the familiar N11 shorthand dialing code, takes callers directly to trained professionals who can tap into a database of more than 50 agencies in Butler County – and many hundreds of others statewide – along with details about the services they provide and how to reach them.

A low-profile launch of 2-1-1 in Allegheny County actually took place in late 2011, so that its initial system bugs could be identified. Today, 2-1-1 service in



Southwestern Pennsylvania remains a work in progress. Memoranda of understanding are still being crafted between different nonprofits, districts, public agencies, and professional associations. The database of human service organizations continues to expand. And the protocols for escalating urgent 2-1-1 calls to 9-1-1 are still being worked through.

At the same time, however, by collecting data about problems which had previously gone unreported, 2-1-1 carries the potential for exposing serious gaps in the region's network of legal alternatives and human service offerings, according to Cranberry Public Safety Director Jeff Schueler. As a result, the system could eventually become a catalyst for new legislation at every level of government.

For now, however, the service is available here and ready to help Cranberry residents navigate the often confusing assortment of human services currently out there – and it works from any private phone. ~

## America's N11 Codes

*A special series of abbreviated phone numbers is available in most of the U.S.*

*9-1-1 and 4-1-1 work from nearly every telephone. Human service referrals in Southwestern Pennsylvania are now available through 2-1-1 with support from United Way. The N11 code system typically includes:*

*2-1-1: Community services*

*3-1-1: Municipal government services*

*4-1-1: Telephone directory assistance*

*5-1-1: Traffic information*

*6-1-1: Telephone customer service*

*7-1-1: TDD relay for the deaf*

*8-1-1: Underground utility location*

*9-1-1: Emergency services*

# Improving On Nature: Cranberry's Kinder, Gentler Stormwater Management Program

Stormwater cascades down from higher elevations. So do stormwater regulations.

In the early '70s, a flood of public concern about air and water pollution led to formation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Its overflow poured onto the states, where it gave rise to Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection. That, in turn, spilled over onto Butler County's 2011 stormwater management plan. And implementation of the County plan's eventually trickled down onto Cranberry Township.

Rain, of course, is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Rainwater has percolated into soil and run off into streams since the beginning of time. But just because something is natural doesn't mean it's harmless; Mother Nature can be ruthless. Surging stormwater,

quite detailed, its goals are fairly straightforward: decrease flood damage, expand recreational opportunities, enhance fishing, improve well water, upgrade public health, and create a more attractive appearance.

One of the primary instruments for achieving those goals stems from the Township's ability to issue permits for new construction based on plans which include, to the greatest extent practical, best practices for managing stormwater. That authority, in turn, derives from Cranberry's compliance with federal legislation detailing those practices, which carries the unwieldy name of "Federal national Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II, Stormwater Discharges From Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems General Permit" – or MS4, for short. Cranberry is one of only three Butler County communities obliged to follow its requirements.

## Exercise control

Staff engineer Tim Schutzman is the Township's point man in the implementation of MS4. "When developers submit plans, I review them to make sure they meet the stormwater code requirements," Schutzman explained. "That includes the release rate of water from the site, the control of water volume from the site, whether they provide for groundwater absorption on their site, and water quality controls from various pollutants on their site. We control for thermal issues, sediment, pollutants, and nutrients – they're all factors in stormwater quality coming off a site."

It's a big task, and some of its provisions – particularly as they relate



**Downstream danger.** Stormwater management has consequences. So does the lack of it. After a heavy rainstorm, this home in Shaler has to deal with those consequences.

to smaller projects, such as single-family homes built outside of any subdivision – are new ones. However, unlike some other communities in the region, Cranberry has had a history of taking stormwater seriously. It has mapped its watersheds and tracked its stormwater outflows in exquisite detail. And it enacted local stormwater controls more than 20 years ago. But it didn't stop there.

"The Township created a stormwater control model back in 1996 which went well beyond what was required," Schutzman said. "People often worry that new development will cause unusual water flows or flooding to their property. We want to assure them that we've already looked at improving how stormwater is being controlled on new development sites to minimize its impact on adjacent property owners."

Managing stormwater effectively is more than just an engineering issue, however; it's also an educational one – raising public awareness about why people should even bother caring about their community's rainwater drainage system. Most residents take it for granted, and the better a system works, the less they notice it. Cranberry's is working just fine. So raising its public profile without needlessly raising alarm, is presenting local officials with an intriguing communication challenge. ~

*Just because something is natural doesn't mean it's harmless.*

for example, leads to floods which can sweep away everything in their path. And today, with America's largely urbanized population, intensive development along flood plains, sprawling swaths of pavement, and extensive use of hazardous chemicals, the potential harm from uncontrolled stormwater is greater than ever. So regulations have been enacted to minimize the damage – regardless of whether it originated from natural or human activity.

As a result, Cranberry is now working diligently to administer the County's stormwater plan provisions within its own municipal boundaries. Even though the plan's technical requirements are



## Signs And Speed Limits

by **Dave Root, Cranberry Township Supervisor**

Everyone gets frustrated in traffic. That was readily apparent when

I rode along recently with a Cranberry Township Police officer during a late afternoon rush hour. I observed the officer conduct traffic stops, investigate a reported road rage incident, and respond to an accident. At one point we were next to a car with a young person doing something with their cell phone and not looking around.

According to the federal government, 80% of all driving accidents involve some sort of distraction including things like cell phones, reading, eating, or just looking at something in or outside the vehicle. The accident we responded to was supposedly due to a driver "not noticing" a light had turned red, so they ran through it.

First, let me say how impressed I am with the professionalism I observed when the officer dealt with upset drivers (no one is happy getting a citation; some actually admit to their violations). The majority of the violations observed were illegal turns from right in/right out only entrances, against red lights, or from the wrong lane, and I only saw a small fraction of these violations.

*There are no perfect solutions, but I believe that our Township staff works hard to make our roads as safe as possible.*

The ride-along, combined with routinely hearing from residents about our roads, made me want to look into how the

Township determines where to put stop signs, restrict entrances, and set speed limits. There are no perfect solutions, but I believe that our Township staff works hard to make our roads as safe as possible. Also, please realize that many of our main roads are owned by the state, not the Township. So our input about them is limited.

**Speed limits.** These are based on various criteria set by PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. They include:

- **Road history, tradition.** Many of our Township roads have been here for long time, and their speed limits haven't changed, even though the road may have improved. Resident input is key in this. Limits do change with when the actual speed on the road is observed and a concept of the "85th percentile" is used. Simply put, that's the speed which 85 percent of the drivers on the road actually use. The number of accidents is also considered.
- **Road design.** Roads must be designed for higher speeds. If a road has a 5% percent grade or more, the speed limit must be 25 mph or less. The number of pedestrians using the road and whether there are sidewalks, are also considered.
- **Road category.** Simply put, if it's a residential road, the speed limit is lower, usually 25 mph.

**Stop signs and signals.** The most interesting thing I learned about stop signs is that by law they can't be used for speed control. Other measures such as islands or roundabouts are used instead. An "engineering study" must be conducted to determine if a multi-way stop sign is needed. Criteria used include:

- Number of accidents in a year at the intersection (5 or more).
- Main road volume: a minimum of 300 vehicles per hour for 8 hours.
- Combined vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle volume entering the intersection from side streets. (minimum of 200 units per hour for 8 hours).
- Higher speed limits on the main street changes the minimums above.

**Right in, right out entrances.** These are based on the volume of traffic and "sight distance." If the speed limit on the road, combined with the distance to see the entrance, won't allow a car to safely enter/exit by turning across traffic, then these must be used. Part of this decision is also that without a dedicated turn lane, making such turns causes large backups.

Again, there are no perfect solutions, and sometimes PennDOT regulations don't cover every situation, but our Township staff works hard to make the roads as safe as we can. As always, your input is welcome. ~



## Meet The World's Largest Maker Of Nuclear Products

Can you name the biggest maker of nuclear power products in Cranberry?

If you said Westinghouse, guess again. It's actually Areva, a \$9 billion company, with U.S. headquarters in Charlotte, N.C., which provides end-to-end materials, equipment and services to nuclear power plants all over the world. And for the past ten years, a piece of it has taken up residence in Cranberry Business Park, where it reaches out to serve a cluster of nuclear plants in the U.S. and Canada with electrical equipment and related services.

Although Areva's worldwide operations employ more than 47,000, even in the United States, which represents only a fraction of its business portfolio, the company employs 5,000. Their specialties range all the way from mining and enriching uranium, to building and servicing power plants, and finally to dismantling old plants and recycling spent fuel rods. But while its capabilities cover the full spectrum, most of its business in the U.S. at this time involves servicing the 104 nuclear power plants already in operation – plants which currently supply 20 percent of the nation's electric power.

William Duffett, an electrical engineer, directs the Cranberry operation, where anywhere from 60 to 80 of the company's employees hang their hats when they're not out servicing a customer's site.



Although widely known for its retail businesses, Cranberry is also becoming an important high technology center. Each issue of CranberryToday features the profile of a different local technology company and offers a glimpse into the Township's emerging knowledge-based economy.

"The team is responsible for anything that goes on electrically inside a plant," Duffett explains. "This organization exists to supply electrical equipment to

*This organization exists to supply electrical equipment to nuclear plants. Obsolescence is a huge opportunity."*

nuclear plants. And the reason nuclear plants need the equipment is that most of them were built in the '70s and '80s. So obsolescence is a huge opportunity for us. They're trying to get more power from the physical equipment in the plants, and technology changes a lot in 40 or 50 years."

Some of the items the company installs at customer sites are actually very small – electrical relays, starters, and so forth. But some of them, like variable frequency drives which control the motors driving huge pumps, can be the size of a railroad car.

### Anything electric

"Anything electric that needs to be replaced from an obsolescence standpoint, or is being changed out to increase productivity or efficiency in the plant – that's what we do," he said.

But nuclear power is a peculiar business. While it is clean, stable, and generally quite safe, insulating power plants against real or potential threats – terrorist attacks, cyber attacks, and seismic events,

for example – all have a powerful influence on the industry and what it demands from its suppliers, including Areva. "We're all about safety and quality, because it's our business," he pointed out. "We design, build and service nuclear plants with the goal of making them the safest and most efficient form of energy in the world today."

While most of what the company installs at customer plants involves big, engineered-to-order items, much of it is actually manufactured by a network of independent suppliers – many of which are also based in southwestern Pennsylvania. In fact, before coming over to Areva, Duffett himself had worked for a division of Eaton located in Thorn Hill Park – a business unit subsequently acquired by predecessor of Areva.

Their company's acquisition meant the former Eaton employees got to keep essentially the same commute as before. That's more than just a casual convenience. Recruiting and retaining qualified personnel confers an important competitive advantage on technology companies, and the talent pool residing in the greater Pittsburgh area was one of Areva's top reasons for selecting Cranberry as its home.

"Cranberry's a very new area, the infrastructure is very attractive for us, there are lots of things to do," he reflected. "And we're a very internationally engaged organization. Our international suppliers and stakeholders like coming to Pittsburgh and Cranberry. It's very convenient. It's very accessible, and it's very well located for most of our suppliers." ~

**Cranberry's nuclear family.** William Duffett, who heads the electrical systems operation of Areva in Cranberry, services scores of utility customers in the US. Areva is the world's largest supplier of fuel, equipment and services to the 500 nuclear powered electric generating plants which are either currently in operation or under construction around the globe.

# Thomson Business Park: Keeping Ahead Of The Curve

Alfred E. Thomson, III was a visionary. As a developer of both commercial and residential properties, he didn't select sites for his building projects based on where the market happened to be at the time. Instead, he chose them because of where the market appeared to be going.

Back in the early '70s, he built his company's current office, Arcadia Center, on a previously wooded stretch of McKnight Road in McCandless. From that vantage point, along with his son Alfred E. Thomson IV, he watched as traffic raced north from Ross Township on to Wexford. And later, they watched as traffic tried ferreting out shortcuts to Cranberry.

"My dad started out as a builder in the North Hills, and just saw the growth heading north," the younger Thomson recalls. "Back in the '80s he developed a lot in Franklin Park, which was a growing community at the time. Once he conquered that, he moved on to Cranberry Township. And he did some development in Jackson Township. So he'd go where the growth was."

## Go north, young man

"But he'd always do things way ahead of when they actually worked," Thomson noted. "That was inventive, but it was also a bit of a curse because it was

hard to educate people in Pittsburgh that Cranberry was going to be the next hot place, or that people would want to live in Jackson Township. He was always ahead of the curve, which meant people had to catch up to him. So sometimes it would take longer to get projects done."

By 1989, Thomson had acquired a sizeable piece of undeveloped land on Rochester Road in Cranberry, just west of St. Ferdinand's church, and built the first of what would eventually become the four-building Thomson Business Park complex. Over time, as business tenants seeking space for assembly, warehousing, and light manufacturing filled the building's 3,100 square foot units, another building would go up. The final building, completed just a year before the senior Thomson's death in 1995, brought the business park's total space to more than 200,000 square feet.

Today, among its eclectic assortment 40 tenants which include a church, a gymnastics school, an electric scooter builder, an internet pet supply company, a coffee roaster, a microscope maker, and more, Thomson Business Park has an astonishing 98 percent occupancy rate with three-year leases on spaces ranging from a single 3,100 square foot bay to as many as six bays side-by-side, all with 20-foot high ceilings.

*It was hard to educate people in Pittsburgh that Cranberry was going to be the next hot place, so sometimes it would take longer to get projects done."*

## A diversified portfolio

Other Thomson Properties projects over the years

have included a self-storage business, office buildings, an apartment complex, and various other developments in Mt. Lebanon and the airport area, as well as a modular housing plan in Zelienople. But at least for now, Cranberry's Thomson Business Park remains the only flex space property in the company's portfolio.

"It's been very nice," Thomson reflected. "It's fairly low-maintenance because once tenants get in, they seem to stay a long time; we don't have a lot of turnover. Everyone's pretty quiet; they don't make too many demands on us, unlike the other things we have, such as self-storage that leases from month-to-month, or apartments which rent year-to-year. So it's a whole different animal."

The company's experience working with Cranberry's municipal government has also been favorable. "We've had an excellent relationship with Cranberry," he acknowledged. "The permitting process is fine; they know our history and the way our buildings are built. The only change has been that back when we developed the buildings, some of them weren't fully ADA accessible, so with the new rules, we've had to retrofit to meet those regulations. But there haven't really been any struggles getting new tenants or dealing with new codes."

"Right now, we're just managing what we've built and making improvements to keep up with today's market. And we're looking for future opportunities, whether they're commercial or residential." ~

**Not much room at the inn.** The tagline on Thomson Properties' brochure is "We've got room." But at its namesake business park in Cranberry, room is scarce. With an occupancy rate of 98 percent and low tenant turnover, Thomson Business Park has been home to 40 tenants representing a wide range of industries for more than 20 years. Park owner Alfred Thomson IV, shown here, has built on the legacy begun by his father, developer Alfred Thomson III.





## Firefighter Profile: The Winters' Worldwide Brotherhood

Gene Winters' cold weather

jacket is emblazoned with the name 'Coeymans Fire Company.' Over his 52 years as a firefighter Winters, a retired Texaco executive, has belonged to four different fire companies, following career moves to various parts of the country as head of his company's Lubricating Oil Division.

Coeymans – pronounced QUEE-mans – is a suburb of Albany, New York, where his fire service began, as both his father's and brother's had before him. In 1977, a corporate transfer to New Jersey brought the family to the Camden area, in a community served by the Chews Landing Fire Department which, at the time, was an all-volunteer company.

"When I was transferred to New Jersey, I didn't know anybody," Winters admitted. "And the best place to meet somebody is at a fire station. Every day, on my way home from work, I'd pass the fire station. It's a big family. So one day I knocked on the door and they let me in. I said 'I'm here to volunteer.' And they said 'come on in.' It was like I'd been there for years."

### On the move

Then, in the early '80s, Winters was tapped again – this time for a transfer to Coraopolis. But just as he and his wife Janice were about to leave for Pittsburgh on a house hunting trip, disaster struck. A candle left on the kitchen counter had ignited a curtain, and just as the couple returned from an evening on the town, black smoke came billowing out the front door. Janice ran across the street to call for help. That's when Winters' brotherhood of

firefighters kicked into high gear.

"When the call came in, there were guys at the fire station. And when it said '208 Hobart Drive,' where we lived, they said 'Oh my God! That's Gene's house!' Guys in a different fire station on the other side of town heard the dispatcher and said 'That's Gene's house!' But they came anyway, even though they hadn't even been called. And as I was watching them put out the fire, I turned around. It looked like a parade out there with so many trucks. They had come because everybody knows everybody – it's a big brotherhood. They came on their own, and they brought their trucks."

### Successive generations

Several years later, after the family had finally settled in Cranberry, Gene's son Todd also came down with the fire bug. "I'd been around it since I was in diapers. I just wanted to get into it and to follow his footsteps toward firefighting," Todd said, with a nod toward his dad. "I joined as a junior member, when I was 15, and I went up through the ranks."

In fact, for a brief period when Gene served as Chief, Todd became his Assistant Chief, having already earned the ranks of Lieutenant and then Captain in the Fire Brigade – the organization's first response firefighting unit. Today, though, he serves on the Company side – the business and administrative arm of CTVFC – after returning in 2009 from a three-year hiatus following 21 years of service and



**All in the family.** Three generations of Gene Winters' family are currently members of Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company. They include, left to right, Todd Winters, Niko Gratteri, and Gene Winters. Gene's father, also a firefighter, had served with a volunteer fire company in upstate New York.

a Life Member designation. And his mom has remained a pillar of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Ten years ago, Todd married Karen, whose son, Niko Gratteri, had also inherited the fire gene – although in his case, it came from both sides of the family. But it was a visit to his step-grandfather's home, where he first saw Gene's massive collection of model fire trucks, which really ignited the flame. This January, after getting a jump on his Firefighter I designation through an arrangement between his high school and the Ambridge Fire Company, Niko – now 18 – was voted full membership in Cranberry's Fire Company. But the CTVFC is just one part of a much larger family.

"The first time I went to Punta Cana, in the Caribbean, we had time to kill before going to the resort, so I went over to the airport's fire station," Gene recalled. "I said 'I'm a volunteer from the U.S.' And we sat down and had a conversation. In Jamaica, same thing. It's just a brotherhood all over the world. You're welcome, no matter where you go. That's how I got this jacket from Coeymans. Even though I'm gone – and I've been gone a long time – they never forget. They gave me the jacket." ~

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



## Do something real.

If you find staring at a computer screen all day unfulfilling, you may be on to something. Saving people's lives and protecting property from disaster is real work. It's fundamental to community success. And it can be more satisfying than anything you've ever done.

But it's also something you can work around your day job. Today's Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company includes local residents of all sorts. What they share is the desire for an authentic and valuable community experience.

They come from all kinds of backgrounds and with all types of skills. If they want to learn new ones, we see to it they get the training. They can then get to put those skills to work where it really counts.

To find out how to step away from your desk and do something real, drop by either station, any time. Stop in for a meeting. Kick our tires. Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company would love to meet you.



The Cranberry Township  
Volunteer Fire Company

1629 Haine School Road and 20727 Route 19

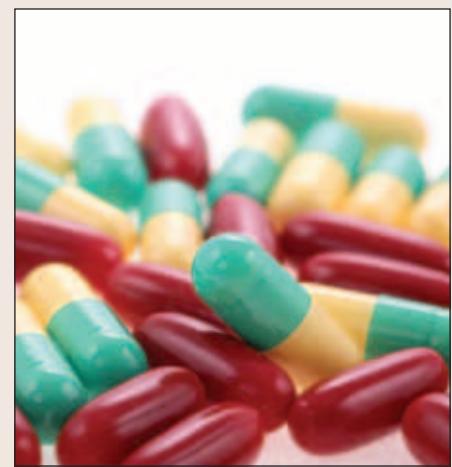
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

724-776-1196

[www.cvtfc21.com](http://www.cvtfc21.com)

## Round Up Your Old Prescription Drugs

Cranberry Township will again be taking in unwanted medicine for disposal at the Municipal Center rear parking lot on Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. It's part of national Drug Take-Back Day – a free, popular drive-thru, drop-off collection program, which was initiated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration several years ago. Its goals include safely disposing of expired pharmaceuticals, removing them from the sanitary sewer system and ultimately out of drinking water, and keeping them from falling into the wrong hands, leading to serious addiction, legal and social problems. All forms of medication, including tablets, capsules, pills, liquids and ointments, whether purchased by prescription or over-the-counter, will be accepted. However sharpies and syringes cannot be accepted due to the potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens. ~





## The Coffee's On Us

Cranberry's popular Community Coffee series continues in 2013 with plenty of hot java and informal conversation with Cranberry Township Manager Jerry Andree. This casual series of community-based conversations, held monthly at different sites throughout the Township, provides local residents with an opportunity to hear first-hand what Cranberry's municipal government is thinking about doing, what it's working on now, what it has recently completed, and to pose their own questions to the Manager.

Venues for the Coffee series in the past have included residential neighborhoods, business locations, and Township facilities. There is no charge to attend any of the events, and no reservations are required, although RSVPs for planning purposes to 724-776-4806, will be appreciated. The schedule for this season's get-togethers includes:

**Wednesday, April 10**, 10:00 AM  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day  
Saints, 2771 Rochester Rd.

**Wednesday, May 15**, 10:00 AM  
Public Works/Traffic Operations Center

**Thursday, June 13**, 5:30 PM  
Community Park/Jaycees Shelter,  
followed by a 7:00 concert in the  
Amphitheater featuring "Street Level"

**Tuesday, July 23**, 10:00 AM  
BC3 at Cranberry, 250 Executive Dr.  
(next to the Post Office)

**Friday, August 2**, 12 Noon  
Friday Lunchtime Concert in the Gazebo,  
followed by 1:00 iced tea and cook-  
ies with the Manager in the Sample  
Schoolhouse (on the Municipal Center  
front lawn)

**Thursday, September 12**, 10:00 AM  
Brush Creek Treatment Plant, 2306  
Powell Rd. (near the corner of Powell  
Road and Glen Eden)

## The Fine Art Of Recycling

Associated Artists of Butler County, together with CTCC Community Days and UPMC Passavant, are sponsoring the 2013 Art of Recycling Show, featuring artwork constructed of recyclable materials. The show will be held at the Cranberry Municipal Center from April 19 through May 11. A "Meet the Artists" opening night reception will take place Friday, April 19 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. More than \$1,700 in prize money is being offered by the sponsors and most of the work displayed will be available for purchase. Anyone is eligible to submit artwork, but those which appear in the show will be selected by a jury of artists. For details on dates, categories and artwork details, go to [www.ctcchest.org](http://www.ctcchest.org). ~



## Business Privilege/Mercantile Taxes Are Getting Serious

If you own or manage a business in Cranberry, you are required to register and pay a tax on its gross receipts. If you don't know whether the registration requirement applies to your business, or whether you are reporting the proper amounts, contact Jeana Lichina, the Township's in-house Tax Administrator, at 724-776-4806 ext. 1165. Cranberry plans to enhance its compliance enforcement efforts in 2013 to include additional outreach and field audits. ~



## It's A Deal! Cranberry EMS Inks Township Lease Agreement

After more than twenty years confined to cramped quarters on Thomson Park Drive, Cranberry EMS is pumped up for its move into a new and larger home for its 24/7 operations. On February 7, Don Scalza, Chairman of the Cranberry Township EMS Board of Directors, joined Chairman Bruce Mazzoni and the Township's Board Supervisors, along with local Public Safety leaders, to initial a five-year lease agreement on a new building which will be built adjacent to the Fire Company's Park Station before the end of this year. ~

# SV's Preschool Program: A Building Block to Future Academic Success

By Mary Costello Vandergrift, assistant to the superintendent and communications department



It's time for many parents to start thinking about putting their child in school for the first time, as all four elementary schools in the Seneca Valley School District recently held kindergarten registration for the 2013-14 school year. However, some parents are getting a jumpstart on their child's Seneca Valley education by taking advantage of the district's preschool program.

This year, 30 children are enrolled in one of the daily, two-hour classes at the senior high school. It's a chance for the preschoolers to make the transition from home or daycare to a more structured classroom experience. Their teachers are high school juniors and seniors enrolled in Mrs. Susan Harmon's child development class.

"In kindergarten, children are in a group setting where the whole class reads at the same time and plays at the same time," explains Mrs. Harmon. "As you can imagine, it takes a child some time to get used to this environment. And they have to get used to things you might not think about. For example, a child is often the center of attention and receives nearly constant eye contact from a parent. Now the child needs to think about identity in a different way. He or she isn't the center of attention anymore."

## A new way of learning

Mrs. Harmon says preschool introduces this new way of learning and interacting. So, when kindergarten begins, children can spend time grasping new concepts and skills instead of learning how to learn.

"Studies show the more prepared a child is for kindergarten, the better chance he or she will have at future academic success," she says.

In a way, the same goes for the high school students who teach the little ones. Many are interested in careers in education, medicine, psychology and science. The child development class gives them a sense of what they'll expect in the real world.

"This class will give me an advantage because it's so hands-on," says junior Madison Huhn, who is hoping to become an elementary teacher one day. "We create lesson plans and

spend a lot of one-on-one time with each child. I know I'll feel a lot more confident that I'm making the right career choice when I go to college."

The preschool classroom is warm and inviting, but the high school teachers also spend time with the children reading books in the school library, visiting the science room to learn about animals, and singing in the chorus room.

Parents are continually updated on their child's progress with a weekly, email newsletter, access to the preschool website and three open houses each year.

There are two preschool classes each day (8:30 – 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.), five days a week for nine months at a cost of \$180 for the entire school year. Enrollment is open to residents in the Seneca Valley School District. For more information on the program, contact Mrs. Harmon at [harmonms@svsd.net](mailto:harmonms@svsd.net).



***Their teachers are high school juniors and seniors enrolled in child development class.***

# Darn It; A Tall Yarn, Made-To-Order For Community Park

Janet Schaffer is not a bomb thrower, nor is she known for generating graffiti. In fact, the longtime Cranberry resident is a pillar of her church knitting circle at St. Ferdinand's, crocheting tiny items for newborns in the parish's "God's Precious Preemies" program. But not long ago, something changed.

Last fall, Janet was introduced to yarn bombing – a novel form of graffiti which involves wrapping items in public places with creations made of crocheted yarn, frequently using the scraps left over from more conventional knitting projects. The results are often visually striking. And, unless permission has been granted by local authorities or the owners of yarn bombed items, they are also illegal.

*Half the members of her church's 50-member knitting program, have been given encouragement – to yarn bomb a handful of trees around the Amphitheatre in Community Park.*

But Janet, along with almost half the members of her church's 50-member knitting program, have been granted permission – in fact, given specific encouragement – to yarn bomb a handful of trees around the Amphitheatre in Community Park in time for this year's Community Days. And she is eager to begin.

"We've got four trees we're going to do," she explained. "We're going to do a red, white and blue tree because it will be

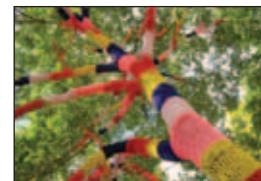
around the 4th of July. We're going to do a black and gold Steeler tree, a baby tree with pastel color blocks, and we're going to do a rainbow tree with stripes of vibrant colors."

## Custom-tailored

But for Janet, an admitted perfectionist, throwing just any old piece of crochet work around a tree isn't good enough. "We're not just splish-splashing something together," she pointed out. "We're planning it. I need it to be right, so we took measurements of the trees. The trunk of the tree I'm doing is nine feet high.

"I measured the circumference, so many feet up. Then I came home and decided what kind of square to use and how to make the colors. Then I assigned so many women to do so many blocks the way I designed them. Then we're going to start sewing them together in strips. Finally, when the weather's good, we'll go over to the tree and start sewing those strips together.

"We're going to whip-stitch the knitting in place on the trees ourselves," Janet observed. "And we're hoping to get a bucket truck because we'd like to do



some limbs, too."

But her ambitions don't stop there. "I also asked if we could do that Cyclone fence where the tennis courts are," she said. "I'd like to do some flowers and stems and leaves and maybe some little bugs which will all be crocheted or knitted. And we're going to make a garden of flowers with little things flying around them on the Cyclone fence."

However, being a member of St. Kilian's knitting circle is not a prerequisite for being part of the project. Participation in Cranberry's yarn bombing program, formally known as "Art in the Park," is open to anyone, according to Community Days organizer Bruce Mazzoni. In fact, several other groups of knitting enthusiasts, including the Butler County Spinners and Weavers Guild, are also planning to dress up trees in the park, and CTCC will furnish the yarn for all of them. But unlike the anonymous work of urban graffiti artists, every tree in Cranberry's yarn bombing project will carry a sign identifying and thanking the source of its elegant needlework. ~



**Keep them in stitches.** Janet Shaffer, who leads a St. Ferdinand's knitting program for premature babies, puts the final touches on a more ambitious project – a Steelers-themed yarn bomb for display on a tree in Community Park this summer. Yarn bombing began in Europe eight or nine years ago, but the practice quickly spread.

Hear ye, hear ye:  
**Kids Castle**  
**is Coming to Cranberry**



*Late Summer, 2013  
(with your support)*

**Leave your Legacy Now!**



**2013 COMMUNITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR**



# Once upon a time... The K

Kids Castle is the CTCC community project of the year for 2013. The need to replace Cranberry's aging Playtime Palace playground had become apparent some time ago. But in 2011, when the Cranberry CUP announced its support for the project with a commitment of \$175,000, the idea began gathering momentum. In fact, the initials of Cranberry Uniting Playground – the official subtitle for Kids Castle – acknowledges that organization's critical support.

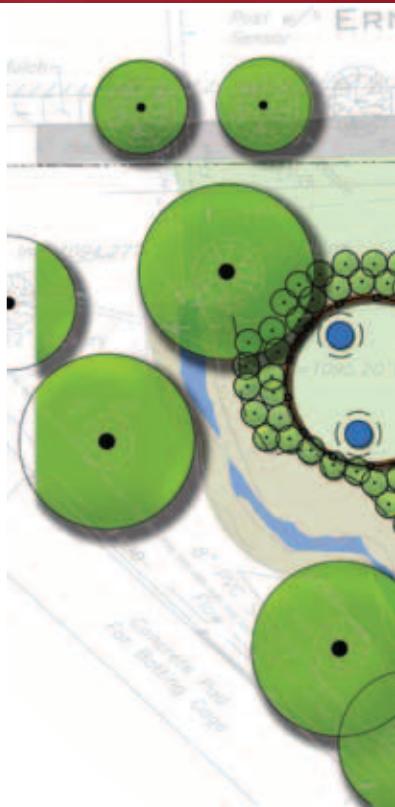
## The Townsfolk Gather

A Playground Committee of local citizens was formed last summer. Its task was to create a consensus about the recreational needs of our growing community and to establish fundamental requirements for the new playground. Their recommendations included a much bigger, more varied playground, one with features appropriate for children of different ages, one nearer to parking, and one with child-friendly restrooms which would not require crossing a road to reach them.

Their ideas for the playground, which were rendered into an initial design by Pashek Associates, would have cost over \$700,000 if supplied and installed by professionals. However, if the playground's construction used the community-build approach which had been employed to create Playtime Palace in 1991, the cost would be far less.

## The Castle Grounds

The final design for Kids Castle, which will be located just to the northwest of the Playtime Palace site, envisions three themed play areas corresponding to the Cranberry of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, as well as common areas, a small circular stage, walkways, open areas, and trees.



# Kids Castle story.



Visitors will enter the playground beneath an archway which echoes the old Playtime Palace clock tower design. They will then approach a circular brick stage surrounded by terraced steps. From there, they can branch off into any of the three thematic play areas.

Landscaping, which includes picnic tables, benches, play lawns and decorative pathways, connect the various play areas on a plot three times larger than the former Playtime Palace site. It will be fully handicap accessible, and designed in to meet current standards for playground safety with the needs of children ages two through twelve foremost in mind.

**Contribute to this Landmark Playground.  
Leave your Legacy Now!**

## LEGEND

Existing	Proposed
Plantings	
Playground Structures	
Picnic Table	
Fence	
Barrier (with Perimeter Hedge)	
Boulder (Large, Medium, Small)	
Bench	
Trash/Recycling Containers	
Stepping Stone Paths	
Concrete Walk	
Brick on Concrete Walk	
Exposed Aggregate Concrete Walk	
Concrete Edger	
Synthetic (Rubberized - Poured In Place) Protective Play Surface	
Organic Protective Play Surface	
Synthetic Turf Protective Play Surface	
Concrete Seat Wall	

*Using a community-build approach, the cost for Kids Castle was reduced from \$700,000 to \$495,000. Almost half of that has already been committed, but \$240,000 remains to be raised.*

*Your help is needed, right now, to bring this great playground to life.*

# We're building a castle – join in

Kids Castle – the replacement playground for Cranberry Community Park's 22-year old Playtime Palace – is a true community project. Its design was created by local citizens and students. Its labor is being provided by local residents. Most of its materials have been donated by local businesses. Its play area themes were designed to reflect local history. And its funding comes mainly from local charities, families and individuals who recognize the value that a first-rate playground brings to their community – to your community.

It's not too late for you to get involved. In fact, your help is badly needed – right now – in building Cranberry's Kids Castle. There are lots of ways in which you can contribute to this landmark project and leave your mark for generations to come. For example:

- On five successive days in June, hundreds of local residents, both skilled and unskilled, will assemble in shifts at the new playground's site as part of a community-build effort. Under the direction of construction professionals, residents will assemble the components for one of the playground's three themed play areas.
- Employees of local businesses are forming teams and task forces to take on various pieces of the project. For example, Westinghouse employees will work to disassemble the old Playtime Palace and repurpose its salvaged materials for use in the new playground.
- Become a neighborhood ambassador for the playground. The project is seeking more than 100 individuals to become advocates for the project within their own neighborhoods, churches, clubs, and places of employment. No meetings, no hard selling, little time required.
- Run or walk in a 5k fundraiser for Kids Castle. Your \$25 contribution to enter this will help the project and be recognized in the dedication booklet created for the event. The April 20 race will be held immediately before the playground's official groundbreaking, which will also mark the final weekend for Playtime Palace.
- Become a contributor. Gifts are welcome at any level. All donations of \$25 or more will be recognized in the playground's dedication program. Permanent recognition items – pavers, plaques, stepping stones, trees and more – are available for donations starting at \$150.
- Become a major donor. Playground equipment sponsorships are available beginning at \$20,000. A time capsule, picnic tables and park benches are also available – including a permanent bronze marker – for gifts starting at \$5,000.

**It's not too late  
for you to  
GET INVOLVED**

...  
your help is badly needed  
– right now – in building  
Cranberry's Kids Castle.

## In search of volunteers for:

- Ambassadors in their home neighborhoods
- Johnston Schoohouse brick cleaners
- 5k runners and walkers
- Playtime palace disassembly crew
- Playground build labor
- Landscaping and fence builders
- Hospitality/refreshment service
- Construction management

## Seeking in-kind support for:

- Large boulders
- Trex wood and other building supplies
- Fencing material
- Concrete
- Landscaping supplies
- Loan of tools
- Food/drink for laborers

# Kids Castle CRANBERRY UNITING PLAYGROUND (CUP) Do

## 2013 Community Project of the Year

Cranberry CUP – the major sponsor for Kids Castle Playground – is challenging all Township neighborhoods to get involved. Please consider donating and becoming an Ambassador.

### The Best Recognition will be for our Playground Ambassador

**Get involved in helping us raise awareness by becoming a Playground Ambassador.**

A Playground Ambassador will be recognized for all the donations they helped to collect and for their neighborhood tally. We are looking for one or two Ambassadors for each neighborhood. Please get involved. See back for more details.

### Help us build a new playground

Playtime Palace was landmark project. More than 800 residents were involved in donating time and money to build it in 1991. Since then, tens of thousands of kids played on it. It served us well. **But now we need your help in building a new playground.**



**Equipment Sponsor – \$20,000 to \$50,000 ‡**  
Plaque on/near the equipment



**Time Capsule – \$25,000 ‡ Only one available**  
Plaque at the Time Capsule  
• Your own message for the future.  
• Inside Cover of the dedication program.



**Picnic Table – \$10,000 ‡**  
8" x 10" bronze plaque will be placed on the table top.



**Bench – \$5,000 ‡ Limited availability**  
These elegant benches seen and enjoyed by many includes a 6" x 8" bronze marker.



**Tree Plaque – \$2,500 ‡ Limited availability**  
Striking 5" x 7" black marble tile which includes your corporate logo or personal photograph. Located at the foot of a tree in the playground area.



**Stepping Stone – \$1,000 ‡ Limited availability**  
Customize your stepping stone any way you want. Also includes a separate 8" x 8" paver for the sidewalk

## Kids Castle Donor Recognition Order Form

Please complete this form, detach and return with your donation. Thank you for your support.

INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY DONOR CONTACT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Please provide your inscription for the chosen paver or plaque along with a logo, if any, on a separate sheet and attach to this form. Please provide electronic files for any logos.

Make check payable to: CTCC-Kids Castle Playground

Mail to: CTCC, 2525 Rochester Road, Suite 450, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Questions: [brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net](mailto:brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net) or 724-776-4806 ext. 1103

# Donor Recognition

## 16" x 16" paver – \$1,000 ‡

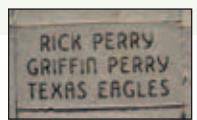
(Consists of four 8" x 8" clay pavers)

- Up to 12 lines, 28 letters per line
- Logos with camera-ready art add \$85
- Located in the entrance of the park



## 8" x 8" paver – \$500 ‡

- Up to 6 lines, 14 letters per line
- Logos with camera-ready art add \$50
- Located at the entrance to the park

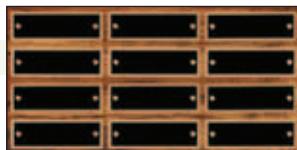


## 4" x 8" paver – \$250\*

- Up to 3 lines, 14 letters per line
- All pavers located at the entrance to the park, right after the PFC pavers

## 1" x 3" plaque – \$150+

- Up to 3 lines, 25 letters/spaces /line.
- All plaques will be displayed in the playground area together. Exact colors will be determined by the committee.



## Listings in Dedication Program+ Be a part of history.

Create your own keepsake in the dedication program and Thank-you ad.

**GOLD** – \$100    **SILVER** – \$50    **BRONZE** – \$25

+ Your name in the CTCC Annual Report and dedication program and on a full page "thank you" ad after dedication

\* All of the recognition in the above (+) category plus your one-page, two-sided letter in the time capsule to be opened in 2038

‡ All of the recognition in the above (+ and \*) categories, plus recognized in the Sunday Cranberry Eagle sports page

Donations must be received by May 12, 2013

## The Ten Family, Ten Thousand Dollar

# CHALLENGE

The mortgage is paid off, and so is college for the kids. How much do you really need for retirement?

Many Cranberry families have made names for themselves by becoming community leaders and making Cranberry a better place to live.

There are roads, parks, and buildings named for them.

We want to challenge today's community leaders – ten families – to donate \$10,000 or more to the Kids Castle Playground. In addition to the recognition levels which are standard for donors of that amount, we hope to cast a bronze plaque titled "Playground Community Leaders" listing the ten families who contributed \$10,000 or more. This plaque will be prominently displayed on the playground's pathway in gratitude to your family for helping create a Cranberry landmark. Multi-year payments are possible.

Are you up to the challenge?

SUPPORT LEVEL	ADD FOR LOGO	TOTAL
Bronze Support	\$25	N/A
Silver Support	\$50	N/A
Gold Support	\$100	N/A
1" x 3" Plaque	\$150	N/A
4" x 8" Paver	\$250	N/A
8" x 8" Paver	\$500	\$50
16" x 16" Paver	\$1,000	\$85
Stepping stone	\$1,000	N/A
Tree plaque	\$2,500	Included
Bench and plaque	\$5,000	Included
Picnic table and plaque	\$10,000	Included
Time capsule	\$25,000	Included
Equipment sponsor	\$20-50,000	Included

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# APR

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

<b>MON 1</b>	Yard Waste Collection Starts <b>Planning Advisory Commission</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm  <b>First Editions Book Discussion</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm	<b>TUES 2</b>	4 & 5 Yr. Old Storytimes Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm	<b>WED 3</b>	<b>Toddler Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>Grades 1-3 Chapter Book Club</b> ↲ Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 4</b>	<b>Discussion Group</b> Library, 10am  <b>Infant Storytime</b> Library, 10:45am  <b>Teen Art Club</b> Library, 4pm  <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm  <b>Family Pajama Storytime</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm
<b>FRI 5</b>	<b>SAT 6</b> Computer Class Word I ↲ Library, 9am  <b>Spring Fishing Event</b> Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex, 8-10am  <b>Get Organized Seminar</b> Library, 1pm  <b>Teen Las Vegas Night</b> Library, 7pm	<b>SUN 7</b>	<b>Mantra Meditation</b> Library, 2-3:30pm	<b>MON 8</b>	<b>Teen Advisory Board (TAB)</b> Library, 4-5pm  <b>Tutoring, Grades 1-6</b> Library, 5-6pm  <b>Knit &amp; Chat</b> Library, 7-8pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm	<b>TUES 9</b>	<b>4 &amp; 5 Yr. Old Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Toilet Training Class Q&amp;A</b> Library, 7-8pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm
<b>WED 10</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversation w/ Twp Mgr</b> Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, 10am  <b>Toddler Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>Grades 1-3 Chapter Book Club</b> ↲ Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 11</b>	<b>Infant Storytime</b> Library, 10:45am  <b>Family Pajama Storytime</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm	<b>FRI 12</b>	<b>SAT 13</b> Computer Class Word II ↲ Library, 9am  <b>Household Hazardous Waste Collection</b> by Appt, ECS&R	<b>SUN 14</b>	<b>MON 15</b> <b>Tax Day Teen Mosaic Craft</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Zoning Hearing Board Mtg</b> (if necessary) Council Chambers, 7:30pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm
<b>TUES 16</b>	<b>4 &amp; 5 Yr. Old Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm	<b>WED 17</b>	<b>Books &amp; Bagels Book Group</b> Library, 10am  <b>UPMC Wellness Series Finding Your GPS</b> Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm  <b>Toddler Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>Grades 1-3 Chapter Book Club</b> ↲ Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 18</b>	<b>Infant Storytime</b> Library, 10:45am  <b>Family Pajama Storytime</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm	<b>FRI 19</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr thru May 11  <b>Meet the Artists Night – Art of Recycling</b> Municipal Ctr, 7-9pm
<b>SAT 20</b>	<b>Kids Castle 5k &amp; 1 Mile Fun Run</b> Community Park, 8am  <b>Computer Class Excel I</b> ↲ Library, 9am  <b>Free Electronics Recycling</b> Public Works, 10am- 2pm	<b>SUN 21</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Mantra Meditation</b> Library, 2-3:30pm	<b>MON 22</b>	<b>EARTH DAY</b>  <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Teen Advisory Board (TAB)</b> Library, 4-5pm  <b>Tutoring, Grades 1-6</b> Library, 5-6pm  <b>Alaskan Cruise Planning</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm	<b>TUES 23</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>4 &amp; 5 Yr. Old Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm
<b>WED 24</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Toddler Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>Grades 1-3 Chapter Book Club</b> ↲ Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 25</b>		<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Infant Storytime</b> Library, 10:45am  <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm  <b>Family Pajama Storytime</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm	<b>FRI 26</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr	
<b>SAT 27</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Computer Class Excel II</b> ↲ Library, 9am  <b>Take-Back Drug Day</b> Municipal Ctr parking lot, 10am- 2pm  <b>Financial Aid/Scholarships Workshop</b> Library, 12:30pm	<b>SUN 28</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr	<b>MON 29</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Planning Advisory Commission</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm  <b>20's &amp; 30's Book Group</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm	<b>TUES 30</b>	<b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>4 &amp; 5 Yr. Old Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am & 1pm  <b>Money Matters</b> Marriott, 6-9pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# MAY

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- ↳ 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

<p><b>WED 1</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Toddler Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am &amp; 1pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm</p>	<p><b>THURS 2</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Discussion Group</b> Library, 10am-12pm  <b>Infant Storytime</b> Library, 10:45am  <b>Teen Art Club</b> Library, 4pm  <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>FRI 3</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr</p>		
<p><b>SAT 4</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Household Hazardous Waste Collection</b> by Appt, ECS&amp;R</p>	<p><b>SUN 5</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr</p>	<p><b>MON 6</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Teen Advisory Board (TAB)</b> Library, 4-5pm  <b>Tutoring, Grades 1-6</b> Library, 5-6pm  <b>Planning Advisory Commission</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>TUES 7</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>4 &amp; 5 Yr. Old Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am &amp; 1pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	
<p><b>WED 8</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Toddler Storytimes</b> Library, 10:45am &amp; 1pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>Teen Jewelry Making</b> Library, 6pm</p>	<p><b>THURS 9</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr  <b>Infant Storytime</b> Library, 10:45am  <b>Family Pajama Storytime</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>FRI 10</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr</p>	<p><b>SAT 11</b> <b>The Art of Recycling Show</b> Municipal Ctr</p>	<p><b>SUN 12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b></p>
<p><b>MON 13</b> <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>TUES 14</b> <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>WED 15</b> <b>Coffee &amp; Conversation w/ Twp Mgr</b> Public Works Operations Facility, 10am  <b>Books &amp; Bagels Book Group</b> Library, 10am  <b>UPMC Wellness Series</b> Arthritis and Pain Control Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>4-6 Grade Chapter Book Club</b> Library, 7pm</p>	<p><b>THURS 16</b> <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>FRI 17</b></p>
<p><b>SAT 18</b> <b>Household Hazardous Waste Collection</b> by Appt, ECS&amp;R  <b>Sheriff's Office: Gun Licensing</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 9am-2pm</p>	<p><b>SUN 19</b></p>	<p><b>MON 20</b> <b>Teen Advisory Board (TAB)</b> Library, 4-5pm  <b>Tutoring, Grades 1-6</b> Library, 5-6pm  <b>20's &amp; 30's Book Group</b> Library, 7pm  <b>Zoning Hearing Board Mtg</b> (if necessary) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>TUES 21</b> <b>Primary Election Day</b> Polls open 7am-8pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>WED 22</b> <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>4-6 Grade Chapter Book Club</b> Library, 7pm</p>
<p><b>THURS 23</b> <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>FRI 24</b> <b>School's Out All Day Kids Club</b> Municipal Ctr, 8:30am-4:30pm</p>	<p><b>SAT 25</b> <b>Cranberry Waterpark Opens</b></p>	<p><b>SUN 26</b> <b>Veterans Memorial Service North Boundary Park, 1pm</b></p>	<p><b>MON 27</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Twp Offices, Parks and Recreation, and Library Closed  <b>No Waste Collection</b>  <b>Planning Advisory Commission</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>
<p><b>TUES 28</b> <b>Waste Collection delayed by one day</b>  <b>Planning Advisory Commission</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>WED 29</b> <b>Waste Collection delayed by one day</b>  <b>Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm  <b>4-6 Grade Chapter Book Club</b> Library, 7pm</p>	<p><b>THURS 30</b> <b>Waste Collection delayed by one day</b>  <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm  <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+), 8-10pm</p>	<p><b>FRI 31</b> <b>Waste Collection delayed by one day</b></p>	

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# JUNE

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 <b>1</b>	SUN <b>2</b>	MON <b>3</b>	Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Library, 4-5pm  Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm  Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm		TUES <b>4</b>	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm		WED <b>5</b>	Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm
THURS <b>6</b>	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm  Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm		FRI <b>7</b>	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm	SAT <b>8</b>	Household Hazardous Waste Collection by Appt, ECS&R  Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm	SUN <b>9</b>	MON <b>10</b>	Summer Reading Program Begins  Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm
TUES <b>11</b>	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm  Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Waterpark, 9pm		WED <b>12</b>	Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>13</b>	Coffee & Conversation w/ Twp Mgr Jaycees Shelter, Community Park, 5:30pm  Concerts in the Park Street Level, Community Park, 7pm  Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm		FRI <b>14</b>	Flag Day  Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm
SAT <b>15</b>	Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm	SUN <b>16</b>	Father's Day Father's Day Night Swim † Waterpark, 9-11pm	MON <b>17</b>	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if necessary) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm  Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES <b>18</b>	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm  Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Waterpark, 9pm		
WED <b>19</b>	UPMC Wellness Series Cataracts & New Treatments, Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm  Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>20</b>	Concerts in the Park Street Level, Community Park, 7pm  Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm		FRI <b>21</b>	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm	SAT <b>22</b>	Household Hazardous Waste Collection by Appt, ECS&R  Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm	
SUN <b>23</b>	MON <b>24</b>	Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm  Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm		TUES <b>25</b>	Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm  Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Waterpark, 9pm		WED <b>26</b>	Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	
THURS <b>27</b>	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm  Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI <b>28</b>	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm	SAT <b>29</b>	Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm	SUN <b>30</b>	County & Township Taxes Last Day of Face Value		

# At Last: Parks And Recreation Has A New Leader

It's been more than a year since the departure of Cranberry's former Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl, but now the department finally has a full-time head. Pete Geis, a Hampton native and Slippery Rock graduate who for the past eleven years had managed Ross Township's Parks & Recreation Department, began his new assignment with Cranberry in March.

Holding Cranberry's recreational staff and programming together in the meantime was Greg Smith, a former Manager of Moon Township. Following his retirement, Smith took on transitional leadership roles for other communities, like Cranberry, who needed experienced interim managers.

When he was first brought in, Smith understood that he would need to be here for a month, or perhaps even six weeks, before a new director would be brought on board. It turned out to be the longest month of his career. But that transition is now complete, and he insists that he enjoyed the ride.

*Parks and Recreation is about developing relationships with the community, with the associations, with businesses, and with other departments and programs.*

As Geis sees it, the fundamental task of any Parks and Recreation director is clear. Here's how he put it in a presentation to local officials: "It's not brain surgery; Parks and Recreation is about developing relationships with the community, with the associations, with businesses, and with other departments and programs. It's making sure the community's needs are being met, and making sure the facilities are safe, current, and as top-notch as the community wants them to be."

### Tight relationships

In the world of Parks & Recreation, however, that network of relationships is even tighter. "Parks & Recreation departments are a very close knit community," he observed. "We're competitive with each other, but I've never seen a group of people who worked so closely to help one another out. If I need a program, I can call Marshall Township's Parks & Recreation director, or Ohio Township's director, because I have very strong relationships with all the local parks and recreation departments."

That includes Cranberry's own department. "I had a relationship with Mike Diehl," he pointed out. "I know the folks who directed it before that – Paul Besterman, and before that, Andy Baechle, who's now the director for the County, and before that, Cathy Frankel, who's now with the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. So I'm very familiar with Cranberry Township."

Even before he was offered the post – one he came to think of as his dream job – Geis had become a resident of the Township, where sister already lived. Following a year-long search for the right house at the right price, Geis found a great fixer-upper in Cranberry. Working together with his brother-in-law, the house – whose interiors had been stripped by its previous owner – is now on the cusp of being completely restored as a residence for himself and his 14-year old son.



### Out on the field

Geis is more than just an administrator; outside of work hours, he has also spent more than 30 years on the gridiron as a football player. After excelling on Hampton High School's team, his athletic skill earned him a full college scholarship, followed by an unending series of seasons in semi-pro and arena football, where he continues to anchor the offensive line as a long-snapping center.

"I've never not spent a year playing football since I was eight years old," he reflected. "But a lot of people just don't like to hear that, at 42, you're running around with guys from a totally different generation. They're great people, but I'm old enough to be their father."

One of the main reasons Geis's new position looked like a dream is that Cranberry residents place a much higher value on parks and recreation than most other communities do. The significance of that value has not been lost on his counterparts around the region. "Everybody wants to come with me," he observed. "They're all calling me up and saying 'hey, are there any openings up there for me?'" ~

# Citadel In The Sky: The Vision Behind Kid's Castle Playground

Kids Castle, the visionary new Community Park playground which will replace the aging Playtime Palace structure this summer, has a lot of moving parts. And they're not just mechanical.

For the past year Bruce Mazzoni, in his capacity as Co-chairman of the project and as a leader in both CTCC and the Township's own municipal government, has been tirelessly promoting the

*The finished playground is almost secondary to the community engagement which its development is intended to bring about.*

concept. It is an idea in which the finished playground – a multi-purpose park area featuring thematic play spaces – is almost secondary to the community engagement which its development is intended to bring about. That involvement ranges from initial design to construction labor, and from promotion and material preparation to fundraising.

At the outset, for example, a local citizens committee was formed to work with a professional design firm in creating the initial playground concept. Although the committee's active role has now concluded, the refinement of its work is continuing.

"Kids from Kindergarten to sixth grade in Seneca Valley and St. Kilian's art classes are preparing drawings on what they want the community-built portion of Kids Castle to look like," Mazzoni said. "We got 3,500 drawings in at the end of February.



Sherwood Oaks residents are helping provide the manpower to process all the drawings to determine what the students would like in the final design, together with support from playground designers and committee staff.

"All their drawings will be returned to the students with comments and Official Playground

Designer membership cards, to confirm that they've helped to design Kids Castle. Then, as a thank-you, and before the playground's formal dedication, we would open it up for two days to let anyone with one of the Official Designer cards come in and use it for two days – to enjoy what they built, and to be eligible for certain merchandise discounts."

## A hands-on project

The playground concept includes three separate play areas: a retro Cranberry of Yesterday area, a current Cranberry Today space, and a futuristic Cranberry Tomorrow. The Yesterday and Tomorrow areas will be built by a contractor. But its 'Today' area will be community-built during a five-day event with three 4-hour shifts a day – the same way Playtime Palace was built in 1991.

A parallel effort applies to the playground's promotion and fundraising. A major part of it involves recruiting 100 neighborhood-based Ambassadors, whose work includes relating the playground story to their neighbors and seeking financial

contributions – above and beyond the major support already pledged by Cranberry CUP and CTCC.



"A number of groups have already stepped forward in providing manpower for this project, but we do need more," Mazzoni said.

For example, Erin McClymonds, a project Ambassador, has been blogging regularly about the playground on Cranberry Patch. Some other committee members will be entering the 5K fundraising race on April 20 – the last weekend of Playtime Palace and the formal groundbreaking of Kids Castle. And Cranberry Township's government is also involved in site preparation and in coordinating different volunteer aspects of the project, including cleaning bricks from the Johnston School House.

Businesses are involved, as well. Moe's Southwest Restaurant has offered to feed a shift of volunteer workers. Westinghouse employees will help disassemble Playtime Palace on Earth Day, Monday, April 22. The Cranberry Eagle will list donors of \$500 or more every Sunday. Streets of Cranberry contributed \$3,000, and is placing two signs prominently announcing their support.

"I don't just want a donation; I want people to help promote Kids Castle," Mazzoni said. "Including our student playground designers, we expect over 5,000 people to become involved in this project; that's how you build a community playground." ~

# Going Green: Cranberry's Rebecca Auchter Uproots Turf Maintenance Rituals

Cranberry's park athletic fields take a beating. During their nine-month playing season, when you add together all the games, practices, and related field uses, it comes to more than 3,000 a year – or an average of 160 to 200 events per field every season.

That much traffic is hard on natural grass, making it very difficult to maintain the high quality playing conditions which the Township and its partner athletic associations have come to expect. However, the wear isn't distributed evenly across a field's playing surface.

In lacrosse for example, the 18-foot circle that includes the goal, or crease, is the focus of the highest intensity play. Creases roughly correspond to the 20 yard lines on a football field. And in Cranberry, lacrosse actually shares the three Graham Park football fields with Seneca Valley Junior Football Association. So by the end of the lacrosse season in June, there are typically two areas of dead grass in the goal creases.

### **Grow your own**

Of course, turfgrass can be regrown, but not in the three-week hiatus between the end of lacrosse and the start of football season. Buying segments of sod won't work either; the soil properties seldom match those of the field, and the amount of native soil that comes with each section of sod is very thin –

typically just half to three-quarters of an inch. When it's put down on bare soil, it has the same effect as playing on a scatter rug.

So how do you repair a field and make it playable in less time than it takes to grow grass? The solution, Township Grounds Maintenance Manager Rebecca Auchter discovered, is to grow your own sod.

*Using a specialized piece of equipment field maintenance crews go into areas around the perimeter of a field and serve up deep-dish slices of grass and soil.*

Using a specialized piece of equipment purchased last year, her field maintenance crews go into areas around the perimeter of a field – well outside its lines of play – and serve up deep-dish slices of grass and soil. Then they transplant the homegrown sod – which is essentially identical to the fields' own playing surface – onto the areas which had been damaged. And *voila!* By football season, it looks and works as though it had always been there.



**Putting down roots.** *The key to a high-quality playing field is the depth and density of its grass roots system. Strengthening that system in the Township's athletic fields is the goal of Cranberry's turfgrass management program.*

### **Crummy tires**

A similar issue affects baseball fields, where the movement of team coaches is restricted to an eight by ten foot box near third base. Following a season of pacing in such concentrated areas, their grassy surfaces seldom survive. Here, though, Auchter is attempting a different solution.

"We tried something else," she explained. "We actually installed crumb rubber, which protects the crown of the plant, which is the growing point; the roots grow down from the crown, the leaf blades grow up. The crumbs are made of shredded tires which are very specifically sized. And we apply it with a top dresser."

"Crumb rubber applications have been used at the Little League International Complex in Williamsport, PA, where they host the Little League Baseball World Series," she said. "But there are only a handful of trials going on in the United States, and we're doing one of them here in Graham Park. So we're on the cutting edge in trying out this new technology. And so far, we've had tremendous success on baseball Field I." ~



**Parking In The Parks.** *Cranberry's three major parks are getting plenty of use these days. That means parking is always at a premium. In response, over the past two years, the Township added new parking areas to Graham Park, just north of the football campus, and to Community Park, near the Lindner Practice Field area. This year, North Boundary Park is getting its turn. Approximately 80 new spaces are being added in the northwest area of the park – near the soccer fields in the direction of Sled Riding Hill. Eventually, the additional parking spaces in all three parks will have permanent asphalt pavement. In the meantime, the hope is that parents will no longer feel the need to park on grassy areas near the fields where ruts from tires can damage the turf.*

## Cranberry's Custom-Crafted Pole Dance

You might think that traffic light poles and signal fixtures would be pretty well standardized by now. But you might want to think again. Only certain components are standard. Just about everything else is made to order. And sometimes that can take a while.

"I can't just go down to Home Depot or Lowe's and buy the light bulbs that go in there; they won't work," according to Marty McKinney, Cranberry's traffic

*"I can't just go down to Home Depot or Lowe's and buy the light bulbs that go in there; they won't work."*

signal guru. "Everything is custom to the traffic signal industry.

Part of the need for custom tailoring grows out of the peculiar circumstances of each intersection. "The length of the mast arms are customized; they don't actually get ordered until things are pretty much ready on site," McKinney explained. "They want to make sure that the elevations and the lengths and the foundation placements all fit perfectly with the drawings.

"But it's not a perfect world out there. An underground water line in the drawing may be a foot or two off. So until we can go on site and get everything laid out exactly where it's supposed to be and make sure there's no overhead or underground obstructions, we can't order those poles.

"And it gets worse, because when I want to buy this part, I have to buy it from the approved distributor in this district," he noted. "In the state of Pennsylvania, you're required to buy all your traffic signal poles from one of three companies – one of which actually no longer makes traffic signal poles. So it's really just two companies."

### Passing the test

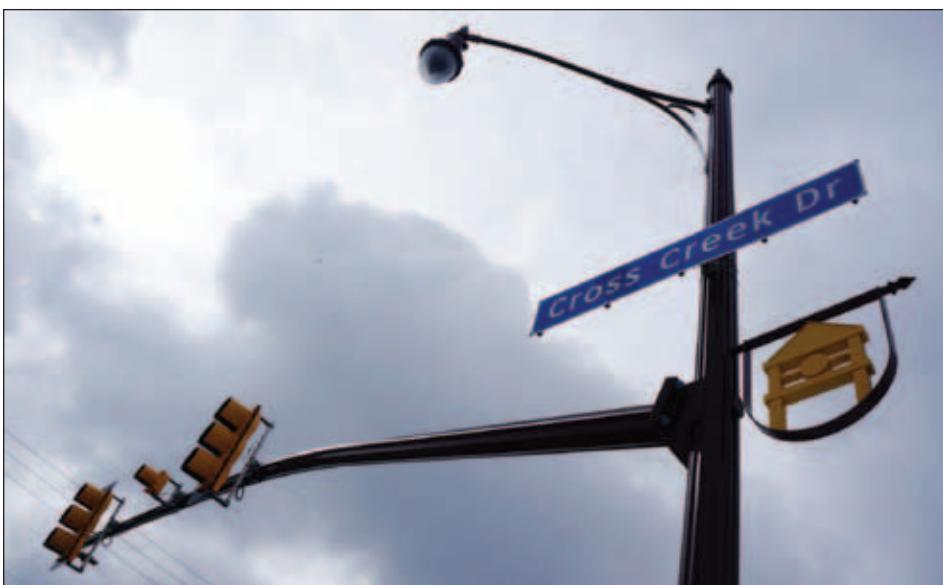
With 39 signalized intersections currently operating in Cranberry, and at least a half dozen more in the pipeline, that poses a challenge. It's one which was recently compounded by new federal regulations on signal structures – regulations which PennDOT, in turn, adopted and applied to municipal governments. Its goal was to require more substantial poles and to have tests performed documenting their strength. Problem is, no test protocol was ever provided. So pole makers are

reluctant to deliver products which may or may not pass the test – whenever one is finally established.

On top of that, traffic signals are vulnerable to damage from wrecks. Several mast arms in Cranberry have been whacked by dump trucks driving down the road with their load beds raised. Others have been taken down by speeding drunks. Cell phone reports from passing motorists typically lead to arrests, citations, and major driver's insurance claims for damage to traffic devices.

On occasion, when a pole has to be placed where it's likely to be damaged, it is installed using a breakaway attachment. When hit by a normal vehicle, it would fall apart and not cause as much injury to the driver as it might otherwise. For the most part, however, signal poles are designed to be rigid and meant to withstand impact. Even so, their exposure to traffic, weather, and fatigue over time can lead to failure.

"The first thing we do when a signal pole goes down is to make sure nobody gets hurt because there's electricity in this apparatus. Then we assess what it's going to take to make the repair," he said. "If it's something our internal staff can handle, we just do it. We keep an inventory of standardized parts on hand. But for customized parts – that's a problem. If a pole arm gets knocked down, I need to place an order and wait several months to get a new one. They make temporary signal equipment on trailers with arms that reach out so we can get some signals back up. So, in the meantime, we just do the best we can." ~



# Powell Road Bridge Gets Skinny On Its Way To Disappearing Altogether

The 75-year old concrete span over Brush Creek along Powell Road is down to a single lane these days, with traffic taking turns moving in alternate directions. The County-owned bridge, which had already been scheduled for replacement as a result of deterioration, suffered additional damage last fall in an accident where an SUV heading east on Powell hit the southbound side of the structure, damaging its abutment and creating a safety concern for motorists.

However, lane restrictions are only the beginning; in June or July, the bridge will be completely closed and then demolished in preparation for a new one which will include a pedestrian/bicycle sidewalk in addition to lanes for motor vehicles. Widening the bridge's

cart lanes from 24 to 28-feet will bring it into compliance with current PennDOT engineering standards. Construction of the new bridge is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Until then, its currently posted 15-ton weight restriction will continue in effect. The bridge will remain open to all forms of traffic, through a single 14-foot lane defined by jersey barriers and stop signs, until it is taken down.

At the same time, however, two other projects in the immediate vicinity, which are also scheduled for work this



summer, will affect motorists as well. A new traffic roundabout being built at the intersection of Glen Eden and Freshcorn Roads as part of a major housing development along the east side of Glen Eden, together with resurfacing of the Turnpike bridge nearby, are expected to create coordination challenges for builders as well as navigation issues for drivers. ~

## Low Scores Mean High Priority For Resurfacing



Approximately seven miles of roadway, including segments of 19 separate Township roads, will be treated to a new asphalt surface this year. Cranberry's goal is to have the work completed before the official start of summer.

All roads scheduled for work were selected through Cranberry's 12-year pavement review program, based on the age and condition of each roadway's surface – a program in which every Township road is assigned a score. The ones which get highest priority are the ones that score lowest.

The street segments scheduled for resurfacing this year include:

1. Bayberry Lane from St. Phillips Court to Glen Eden Road
2. Burke Road from Peters Road to Lakevue Drive
3. Commonwealth Phase II – from Pennwood to Township line
4. Chaparral Drive from Farmington to Huntington Drive
5. Dolores Circle from McDonald Drive to the dead end
6. Ehrman Road from I-79 to Old Ehrman Road
7. Ellen Drive from Bayberry to the dead end
8. Graham School Road, the entire length.
9. Hillcrest Drive from Glen Eden Road to the dead end
10. Laporte Drive from Freedom Road to Rolling Road
11. Mars Road from Cranberry Springs Drive to Franklin Road
12. McDonald Drive from Katherine Drive to the dead end
13. Meadowbrook Drive from Glenbrook to the cul de sac
14. Old Freedom Road from Rt. 19 to the new Sheetz
15. St. Andrews Court from Bayberry to the cul de sac
16. St. Phillips Court from Bayberry to the cul de sac
17. Spring Valley Drive from Rolling Road to Greenwood Drive
18. Unionville Road from Ogle View to Progress
19. Waterford Court from Ravenscroft Ct. down to the cul de sac

## Battling The Evil Twins, Underground

Late at night, when businesses are closed and practically everyone is in bed, the volume of water flowing through the Township's sanitary sewer lines ought to be very low – at least during dry weather. But what if it's not? Does that mean trouble?

"Theoretically, every sewer line should go down to zero at night when everybody's asleep," Cranberry Pretreatment Administrator Rhonda Zellhart explains. "The fact that there's flow higher than zero shows that there's infiltration and inflow."

Infiltration – the industry term for ground water entering into sanitary sewer lines through cracks – and its companion problem, Inflow – the term for stormwater entering through unauthorized connections to the sanitary system – are the twin scourges of municipal sanitary systems. Together, they're known as I&I. They have the ability to quickly overwhelm the design capacity of municipal systems, causing untreated sewage to spill over into local streams. And that makes DEP very angry.

"During high groundwater times, when we have rain, we're getting a lot of extra flow in there," Zellhart pointed out. "And it's not just a small amount; we could see 20,000 to 80,000 extra gallons within a 24-hour period going into a single sewer line in just one little area."



Even relatively new, well-constructed systems will exhibit a certain level of I&I activity. But in some communities, it's totally out of control.

### Storm surge

"Typically, with I&I getting into systems, you'll see flows jump from maybe 3.1 million gallons to 7 million gallons a day. In Cranberry Township, that's typical," she explained. "There's a ratio DEP looks at. If your peak flows are going in a 2:1 ratio or a 3:1 ratio – which is about where Cranberry is – that's not bad. But some municipalities out there

*When it starts raining, in some municipalities, their flows will go from 1 million gallons to 15 million gallons a day. No system can handle that.*

are going 10:1 or 15:1. So when it starts raining, their flows will go from 1 million gallons to 15 million gallons a day." No system can handle that.

Tracing the sources of water coursing through underground sanitary sewer lines is not an exact science. But every year it gets closer to being one. And in

Cranberry, the tools of science, coupled with a well-defined management process, are helping to

identify and shut down the sources of unwanted water entering the system – a hidden municipal asset with a value in the tens of millions of dollars.

Under Zellhart's supervision, Cranberry is systematically mapping, monitoring, inspecting, repairing, and analyzing that system to keep its ratio within acceptable limits.

### Dirty data

One key aspect of that effort is to determine what's really normal. That's not as easy as it sounds because, as the system ages, more I&I is expected to occur. A previous Township study, done a number of years ago to establish a baseline of flow data, offers a starting point. But it lacked some essential control features. So resetting her database to capture the new normal using industry standard methods, and then updating it on a regular basis to prioritize those parts of the system requiring attention, are fundamental to her assignment.

All of that matters because a more precise understanding of what's happening in the collection system translates not only into a better functioning system, it also results in significant savings on future line repairs and in the wastewater treatment plant itself.

"We have a very proactive program," she notes. "It extends the longevity of the system and adds an extra level of protection. We're mitigating problems and their impact on our customers. That should serve the Township well for many more years." ~

**Smile.** A tractor-drive robotic TV camera is lowered into a manhole to show candid images of Township sanitary sewer lines. Video data is part of a comprehensive system used to evaluate conditions and prioritize repairs in the 170-mile underground network.

## Cranberry Township 2013 Water System Flushing Schedule

Cranberry Township's annual fire hydrant and distribution system flushing program gets underway on Monday, April 8. It is a routine maintenance operation designed to flush sediment from the water system, check fire hydrant operation, and test chlorine levels in the water lines throughout the Township. Flushing is conducted Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A week-by-week schedule is provided here; for detailed information on the date for your own street, call the Township's Customer Service Center at 724-776-4806.

### Here are the water line areas to be flushed during the weeks beginning:

**APRIL 8** Pennwood Place, McKinney Warehouse, Keystone Drive, Gateway Building, Commonwealth Drive, Residence Inn, Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Route 19, Marriott Complex, Knockout Development – Longtree Way & Garden View, Westinghouse, Cranberry Woods - MSA Complex, Cranberry Mall, Old Mars Road between Route 19 and McElroy Drive, UPMC Medical Center, Fairfield Inn, Norberry Court, Dutilh Road south of Route 228, Dutilh Road between Freeport Road and cul-de-sac at Turnpike, Candlewood Suites, Route 19 south of PA Turnpike to Bravo's Restaurant, Hyatt Hotel, Brush Creek Commons, Red Roof Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Marguerite Road, Emeryville Drive, Old Mars Road between McElroy Drive and Franklin Road, Cranberry Crossroads, Cranberry Commons Mall, Grandshire, Spring Meadows, Franklin Road between Old Mars Road and Beacon Hill Drive, Hazelwood, St Kilian's School.

**APRIL 15** McElroy Road, Fox Run, Canterbury Heights - Buckingham Trail, Franklin Road, Peace Street, Franklin Ridge, Shadow Creek, Bristol Creek, Washington Farms, St Leonard's Woods, Timberline, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Old Farm Road,

Redmond Place, Old Towne Apartments, Scenic Ridge, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Burke Road, Forest Knoll, Lakeview Estates, Windwood Heights, Crystal Springs, Walden Pond, Burke Road.

**APRIL 22** Rowan Road between Marshall Road and Old Farm Road, La Grande Drive, Rowan School, Rowan Towers, Leonberg Road, Route 19 between Freedom Road and Rochester Road, Cranberry Shoppes, Walmart, Cranberry Square, Streets of Cranberry, Doyle Equipment, Ogle Station, Boston Market, Jerry's Car Wash, Home Depot, Smith Drive, Walgreens, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction north to Kenny Ross, Victory Family Church, Penn Detroit, YMCA, Century Business Park, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction south to former Northland Lincoln Mercury. Wiegand Drive, Route 19 from Smith Drive north to Goehring Rd, Goehring Road from Route 19 to Marshall Road, Wisconsin Avenue, Ogle View Road, Alcoa/TRACO, Progress Avenue, Park Road, Ernie Mashuda Drive, Marshall Road, Geohring Road, Preserve East and West, North Boundary Road, Marshall Woods, Marshall Heights, Pinebrook Manor, Cranberry Waterpark.

**APRIL 29** Pinehurst Estates, Ehrman Road, Grace Estates,

Garvin Road, Mystic Ridge, Foxmoor, Ehrman Farms, Oakview Estates, Unionville Road, Springfield Manor, Cranberry Business Park, Winchester Lakes, Winchester Farms, Old Route 19, Settlers Grove Phase 1 & 2, Glen Eden Road, Glen Eden Phase 1, Settlers Grove 3, Antler Ridge.

**MAY 6** The Maples, Cedarbrook, Glen Eden Phase 2, Glenbrook, Glen Eden Townhouses, Manor Creek, Freshcorn Road, Glen Eden Road west of Powell Road, Briar Creek, Cranberry Heights, Kingsbrook, Madison Heights, Glen Rape Road, Wakefield Estates.

**MAY 13** Rochester Road from Route 19 to Robinhood Drive, Thompson Park Drive, Executive Drive, Costco, Brandt Drive, Commerce Park Drive, Cranberry Corporate Center, Hampton Inn, Laurelwood, Sherwood Oaks, Fernway.

**MAY 20** Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Thorn Hill Road (RIDC), WESCO, Rolling Road Regency Apartments, Iron Mountain, Freedom Road, Freedom Square, Freedom Road Car Wash, Haine Fire Station, Freedom Road from Georgetown Square to Parkwood Drive, Parkside Place, Carriage Drive, Kira Circle, Haine School Road, Haine School, Pine Ridge,



Rochester Road from Robinhood Drive to Alps Avenue, Bellevue Park, Graham Park, Valleybrook, Deer Run, Sun Valley, Cranbrook, Kirkwood Drive.

**May 28** Woodlands Townhouses, Swift Homes, Woodlands Houses, Clearbrook, Cranberry Estates, Ashford Manor, Cranberry Pointe, Cranberry West, Rochester Road from Haine School Road to Powell Road, Alps Drive, Rochester Village at Park Place, Kimberwicke, Harvest Drive, Holiday Drive, Powell Road from Rochester Road to Blue Ridge Drive, Orchard Park, Creekwood Commons, Creekwood, Freedom Woods.

**JUNE 3** Forest Park, The Crossings, Mystic Pine Trail, Blue Ridge Estates, Berkley Manor, Hampshire Woods, Autumn Hill.

**JUNE 10** Powell Road between Rochester Road and Glen Eden Road, Park Place, Chatham Commons, Highland Village, Havenwood, Hunters Creek, Stonefield & Farmview, Greenfield Estates, Avery's Field, Woodbine Estates.

## Fun New Ways To Pay Your Water, Sewer And Trash Bill

Most households in Cranberry pay their water, sewer and trash bills by personal check, including a number who do it online, through their bank. But customer requests, driven in part by the growing popularity of credit card incentive programs including points toward merchandise and frequent flyer mile promotions, prompted Township officials to offer customers additional utility bill payment options, including the use of most credit cards. They have also introduced an all-electronic program which can actually earn customers a modest credit toward their payment.

But there are caveats.

While credit card transactions are free of charge to consumers, there is actually a fee paid by the merchant for the convenience of accepting payment that way. It is normally charged by a payments processor – the middleman in most credit card transactions. In Cranberry's case, it's Official Payments Corporation. For Visa – which accounts for a major share of credit card sales – the company's fee to Cranberry for processing transactions is \$2.95. It is a service charge most merchants are willing to accept as a cost of doing business.

But for utilities like the Township's water, sewer and trash services – which are priced as close as possible to the actual cost of providing those amenities – absorbing that fee could affect their

underlying cost structure. So instead of revising its price schedule upward for everyone, Cranberry now permits use of most credit cards online, but then adds on what the financial industry refers to as a "convenience fee" of \$2.95 for its use. American Express, which charges a much higher convenience fee for the use of its cards, is not eligible for this program – only Visa, MasterCard and Discover cards are.

### The small print

For Cranberry, however, the use of credit cards is restricted to online payments; customers dropping off or paying their bill in person at the Customer Service desk will still be limited to using cash or checks. That's because Visa bars merchants from charging convenience fees for their over-the-counter transactions. Also, because the security functions which are required for merchants to store customer credit card numbers are not currently in place here, that information will need to be keyed in at the time of each payment.

At the same time, though, more and more households are electing to receive their bills, as well as to pay them, entirely online. If a customer elects to receive their bill electronically and, at the same time, to make their payment automatically – where the amount due is automatically withdrawn from the bank account of their choice without any intervention on their part – then they are given credit for the paper, printing, and postage which didn't need to be used in sending them their bill. That cost to the Township is about 60 cents, and it is automatically credited to the customer's account.

*Instead of revising its price schedule upward for everyone, Cranberry now permits use of most credit cards online, but with a "convenience fee" from its payments processor of \$2.95 for their use.*



**Digital dollars.** Cash and checks are sooo last century. Cranberry is now offering several new online options for its water/sewer/trash customers including credit card payment, eChecks, and fully-automated billing with bank debit.

Automatic payments differ from conventional online banking which actually requires the bank, or its payment processing contractor, to write a check and then mail it to the Township.

If, however, the customer wants to pay online without using either a credit card or traditional online banking, it's still possible to pay electronically and have the money taken directly from an account at their bank or credit union. An eCheck option, which authorizes immediate transfer of funds to the Township, is also available now, although it too involves a processing convenience fee of \$2.95.

Enrolling in the fully-automated bill payment program, as well as selecting other options, is easy to accomplish online. The Township's website, [www.cranberrytownship.org/PaymentOptions](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/PaymentOptions), includes a link to the sign-up page, as well as information about all the other payment options available to Cranberry's 10,000-plus water, sewer and trash collection customers. ~



# CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP.

724-776-4806

[www.cranberrytownship.org](http://www.cranberrytownship.org)

2525 Rochester Rd, Ste. 400, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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