

# Cranberrytoday

FALL 2013

## The Castle Is Open!

Kids Castle, the successor to Cranberry's popular Playtime Palace playground, officially opened for business on September 26. Its formal dedication marked the culmination of a community-wide effort involving hundreds of men and women, as well as thousands of school students in and around Cranberry Township.

The need for a new playground had become increasingly apparent as the wooden structure of Playtime Palace gradually succumbed to more than 20 years of exposure to the elements. Kids Castle, which CTCC adopted as its Community Project of the Year for 2013 with strong support from Cranberry CUP and the Township, emerged through a design process which ultimately involved 3,600 school students as well as scores of residents and professionals.

Key to the effort was the notion of Community Build – where local residents and businesses would volunteer to provide materials, labor and support for the playground's construction.

"A lot of businesses provided people, especially on Wednesday and Thursday, which was very important," Bruce Mazzoni, the project's coordinator,



**All work, no play.** In early September, Cranberry's Public Works personnel and contractors worked feverishly to complete the Kids Castle playground in time for its September 26 Grand Opening.

noted. "We had 300 people who filled 400 shifts during the five days of the build. We struggled a bit on some shifts to get enough people, but sure enough, they ultimately came through. We even finished up ahead of schedule; we planned to finish up at 8:00 on Sunday, but we actually finished by 4:00."

The logistics for a project the size of Kids Castle are formidable. To synchronize the labor, materials, tools, food, supervision and other forms of support, two employees from Play by Design, a company specializing in

large-scale community projects, were kept on site. "We had six additional captains whose job it was to coordinate the volunteers," Mazzoni said. "They were all people with certain construction skills who volunteered to be there all five days, 12 hours a day. So each volunteer was assigned to someone who was responsible for the overall task."

### Volunteer labor

"There was a half-hour overlap between shifts. When someone arrived and was

*Continued on page 2.*

## ► Inside This Issue:

Parks & Recreation .....	2	Business Profile .....	9
Supervisor's Commentary .....	4	Calendar .....	10
Seneca Valley .....	5	Cranberry EMS .....	13
Library .....	6	Fire Company .....	14
Advanced Generation Autos .....	7	Public Works .....	16
Community Development .....	8		

A Publication of



**724-776-4806**

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## The Castle Is Open! *Continued from front cover*

assigned to an area, they got to see what was going on before starting. So rather than having to hear what they had to do, they got to see what they had to do. We also had meals prepared by volunteers.”

At the same time, however, the project execution included enough flexibility to accommodate the vagaries of weather and other surprises. “They didn’t have this rigid formula that said: ok let’s do

this; there was a lot of ad libbing going on from their standpoint,” he said. “Each morning, they would list all the things that had to be accomplished. And then, as volunteers came in, they knew we needed three people to do this, or four to do that. And that’s ultimately how everyone got their assignments.

“We set it up so we didn’t have too many people; we didn’t want anyone sitting around twirling their thumbs. Anyone who came had a meaningful task to do. Some people who weren’t comfortable using tools were assigned to a separate group. But we set them up to do certain things – including routing and using a jigsaw to cut patterns. Sure enough they enjoyed that – they enjoyed doing something they hadn’t done before, and they saw that they could do

it too. I think that everyone who came felt they added value to the project.”

Financing for the playground, which was largely accomplished through grassroots community fundraising together with contributions from CTCC and Cranberry CUP, generated nearly all of the project’s \$495,000 cost. An initial mailing alone produced more than \$90,000 in individual donations.

The evening before the September 26 dedication, all 3,600 students who had participated in the design effort were given a 90-minute VIP preview of the playground. At the grand public opening itself, ten-year old Bella Stefanowicz, who had asked friends and family to contribute to Kids Castle in lieu of buying birthday presents for her, cut the ribbon. ~

*“Anyone who came had a meaningful task to do. I think that everyone who came felt they added value to the project.”*

## Practice Field Players Say: Gimme Shelter!

The three practice fields in the six-acre tract now known as Community Park North are used intensively. They host hundreds of football and lacrosse practices a year. Throughout the fall season, on any given evening, at least 90 young athletes can be found going through their drills there.

The availability of those practice fields has taken a lot of pressure off the Township’s Graham Park playing fields, but they’ve also presented an dilemma: where do you go if it starts raining?

“If a thunderstorm or bad weather breaks out, there’s no shelter at all,” Cranberry Grounds Maintenance Manager Rebecca Auchter pointed out. “The only thing they can do is either run to the cars or run all the way through the nature trail to the Rotary or Lions shelter in the main part of Community Park.”

So last winter, representatives of the Seneca Valley Junior Football Association and their lacrosse partners approached

Auchter to inquire about building a shelter there. She replied, “We love partnerships; let’s make it happen.”

What they came up with was a 20 by 40 foot pre-engineered wood and metal shelter, with its material paid for by the two athletic associations. It will be assembled near the pond by the practice fields. Township Public Works personnel will provide the site work including grading, drainage, and cement pad preparation as well as final assembly, with work expected to begin later in October.

Although the timing of the project was driven by the associations’ needs, the shelter itself was not a spontaneous idea; together with a long series of other improvements, it was contemplated in the Open Space Master Plan which Cranberry’s Board of Supervisors adopted last year. In that document a shelter, as well as its location on the park site, were all clearly identified.



*If a thunderstorm or bad weather breaks out, there’s no shelter at all. The only thing they can do is run.*

When it initially opens this fall, the shelter won’t have either water or electrical service; those will be added in the near future, according to Auchter. But restrooms may have a longer wait; there are no sanitary lines currently serving the area and no schedule has been set for their installation. Even so, the shelter will be available for private rentals through the Parks & Recreation Department, but only after all of its athletic association dates have all been spoken for. ~



## Wake Up, Kids! Parks & Rec Now Offers A Before-School Program, Too

For years, Cranberry's after-school program for children 5 to 12 years of age whose parents normally work until later in the day, has been a huge success. Now it has an early morning companion.

Beginning this fall, a before-school program starting at 7:00 AM will be available for working families with

expectations," he said. "And this fall, we're starting an academic tutoring service to work in association with, and as a complement to, our after-school program. It's called Homework Zone, and state-certified teachers will be available to help kids in grades 1 through 6 with individual, subject-specific tutoring in a separate, quiet area of the building."

Other new and expanded programs include an intramural sports program. A three-on-three adult basketball tournament will be held in December. New foreign language instruction is now being offered, and new dance programs are also available for the first time.

At the same time, a series of interior renovations to the municipal center will create additional programmable community spaces for the department. "One of the new spaces will be a room with a floor that's more conducive to fitness and exercise classes," Geis said. "So a 15-person Pilates class wouldn't have to take up the entire gymnasium."

That project, which also affects the department's offices and activity rooms, is being done in conjunction with improvements to the library and



preschool; they are all expected to be ready by November of 2014. ~

*This fall, we're starting an academic tutoring service called Homework Zone, and state-certified teachers will be available to help.*

school-age children. Homework help will be available if needed. And daily Seneca Valley school bus transportation from the Cranberry Municipal Center will be provided for students attending Haine, Rowan, CVE or Evans City schools.

The early morning program is among a number of new and returning offerings for the Fall/Winter season.

Interest in the early morning program has been keen, according to Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis. "Registration has exceeded

The full set of Fall/Winter offerings is detailed in the Parks & Recreation Department's program guide, "Live, Learn & Play," which includes options for all ages and interests. It is available online at [www.cranberrytownship.org/programs](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/programs) and print copies are available at the Customer Service counter in the Cranberry Township Municipal Center.



## The Coffee's On Us

Join Township Manager Jerry Andree for Coffee and Conversation at either of several get-togethers scheduled for this fall. On Tuesday morning, October 22, one will be held at the Cranberry campus of Butler County Community College from 8:30 until 10:00am for local business owners and managers. On Wednesday evening, November 20, Grace Community Church on Marshall Road will host a community-focused coffee from 7:00 until 8:30pm. The Coffee and Conversation series, which is 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, and what it has recently completed, as well as to pose their own questions to the Manager. There is no charge to attend, but an RSVP to 724-776-4806 would be appreciated. ~



## Kids And Cops

by Mike Manipole, Cranberry Township Supervisor

Last year, right after the Newtown, Connecticut school shooting,

Seneca Valley and the Township got together for an urgent weekend meeting. They agreed it was a good idea for Cranberry police officers to come through the district's three schools in Cranberry at different times to establish a visible presence. Then just this past August, our Board approved an agreement with Seneca Valley to provide officers for a portion of the school day at each of those schools through the remainder of the school year.

To a lot of people, seeing uniformed police in their building can mean only one thing: that something bad has happened and someone is going to be in serious trouble. But at Rowan Elementary, where I work, police aren't that unusual a sight. And it isn't because there's lots of bad stuff going on there. Rather, it's because for many years, we had invited police into our school to spend time with our kids and to help strengthen our community relations. So the police are well received.

But that may be the exception. When I was a kid, calling the police was the threat adults would use if you didn't do what you were supposed to do. The idea was that police would come to interrogate you, ticket you, take you to jail, and find other ways to punish you. It's an attitude that many children – and former children – carry into their adult lives. To this day, when most people see a patrol car in their neighborhood, the first thing they say is "Uh-oh! What happened?"

TV shows don't help. They tend to center around violent crime. And police dramas don't usually end happily – someone

either goes to jail or gets killed. Police on TV are surrounded by violence. Their only real job is to solve this crime or neutralize that bad guy. That's great entertainment, but it doesn't have much to do with real police or the jobs they actually do.

I realize, of course, that no one would have any interest in a police show about crime prevention; there's nothing thrilling about it. And there's no entertainment value in a show about policemen going into a school and reading with kids. But that's a big part of what they actually do. And it pays real dividends.

### Strong impressions

Uniformed police officers make a strong impression on children. When I shake hands with a kid, he might think to himself that I was a nice person. But when a policeman comes up and shakes their hand, that child will see it as something exciting and immediately tell five or six friends. It's all about building relationships which show children that the true intentions of the police are to help and protect them.

In the past, our kids would respect the police because they carried guns, but today it's more that they respect the officers for who they are and what their job actually entails.

So when police walk the hallways at Rowan Elementary, they're constantly bending over, shaking hands with kids, and showing genuine interest in what they're doing.

Knowing that police are not there to threaten and coerce, but instead to help and protect, is fundamental to any

healthy community. Cranberry Township spends a lot of effort ensuring that Cranberry Township is a safe, family-oriented community where everyone works together to achieve goals. Our police department is part of that effort. In fact, it's fundamental to establishing those goals.

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Of course crime prevention and deterrence will remain primary goals for our Township police. And deterring the most heinous of crimes is what the recent agreement between Cranberry and Seneca Valley is largely about. But what makes a community truly safe and healthy is a close and trusting relationship between its residents and its police officers. So perhaps, if there is any good to come out of the horror of Sandy Hook, it's that our police and kids can develop the respect and connection which will serve Cranberry well for generations to come. ~



You can reach **Mike Manipole** by email at [mike.manipole@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:mike.manipole@cranberrytownship.org)

# Leading By Example

By Linda Andreassi, Seneca Valley Communications Director



One word, five letters: Pride.

We're a school district with a wealth of history and an abundance of pride. I'm pleased to tell you that school spirit at Seneca Valley is alive and well - and we invite you to join the thousands who make Raider Nation so strong.

Earlier this summer, residents were sent a postcard inviting our public to read more about our many accomplishments and accolades in our first-ever published Seneca Valley Annual Report. If your summer plans and activities kept you from having the opportunity to view it, we wanted to invite you once again to learn more about our many highlights from the 2012-13 school year. It's an excellent opportunity to see where the District is as we move toward a future filled with countless possibilities.

The online, interactive report features photos, videos and print that covers everything from awards to technology.



In addition, the district's historical timeline plots a course through our development while the budget summary includes local, state and federal revenue, along with varied expenditures. Many residents may find it interesting to look at the tax rate comparisons, which highlight the property market values of Seneca Valley versus other area schools.

New to the District is the Seneca Valley Foundation. This non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization has raised tens of thousands of dollars to benefit the students of Seneca Valley. In our report, we're proud to share with you the names of the many generous donors who have joined us in our commitment to giving the Gift of Hope, the Promise of Excellence. We also feature the various levels of giving for those who wish to join us in our continuing efforts. We certainly can't do it alone.

For those who enjoy statics and demographics, there are plenty to be found. The report covers everything from our enrollment to test results and graduation figures. You can even read more about where the Class of 2013 is today.

More details and stories can be found to feature some of the pilot programs taking place in our schools, including Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT), the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice and the increased offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Finally, you can find a round-up featuring a year of impressive accomplishments on the playing fields for the numerous athletic teams in the District.

As the report states, we are very proud of the caliber and character of our students. Once you read the report, we believe you will agree.

In addition to the interactive report, you will see a Flipbook version as well as a downloadable, printable PDF file. For those who don't have Internet access, a hard copy can be requested by calling (724) 452-6040, ext. 1612. To read the report, please visit: [www.svannualreport.com](http://www.svannualreport.com)



## Library Turns 40, Gets A Facelift

At the end of October, Cranberry's Public Library will mark its 40th anniversary. And what better a gift for a 40-year old than a little cosmetic touchup? At least that was the thinking of the Library's board as they contemplated modernizing the facility's looks and updating its program space.

This past August, that gift came into being, thanks to a bequest from the estate of former Township resident Margery Himes.

It included three major parts. One involved moving the circulation desk to a more prominent central location and combining it with the library's reference, technical support and customer service functions. A second change involved expanding the area devoted to its rapidly growing Teen Services and

programming. The third involved creating a new reading/relaxation area where the circulation desk had previously been situated.

Accomplishing those changes within the same footprint required taking out a seldom-used conference room adjacent to the library's primary computer stations and extending the Young Adult area through to the front of the library, where a general reading area had previously been situated.

"We think that visually, it's more inviting," Library Board Chair Judi Boren reflected. "And it looks fairly comfortable; people just acted like they'd been there forever."

An even larger series of library projects are on tap for 2014 including the expansion of its meeting rooms,



reconfiguring its work space, and adding an outdoor Reading Garden. But unlike the relocation of its circulation desk and teen area, which required the library to close for three days, these other projects are not expected to affect the library's day-to-day operations.

"The bequest from Margery Himes made these initial changes possible," Boren pointed out. "We were able to do two things based on her generosity. We opened a Legacy Fund in her memory through the CTCC Library Fund. And with the other portion of the money, we were able to do all of this remodeling." ~

... *Visually, it's more inviting.*  
... *People just acted like*  
... *they'd been there forever.*



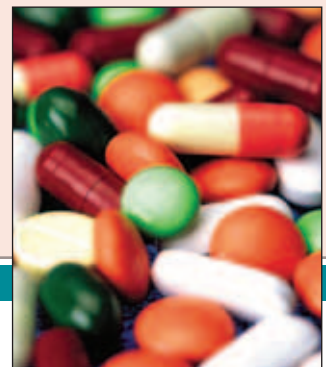
### Tax Time

If you've already paid your County/Township real estate tax, you're in great shape. If not, you have until the end

of the year to pay it, but with a hefty penalty tacked on. On the other hand, your school district tax, which was eligible for a discount until September 30, can still be paid at face value and without penalty, through to the end of November. If you changed your mortgage company recently, or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, you can make payment arrangements by stopping by the tax collector's office in suite 402 of the Municipal Center, calling him at 724-776-1103, or emailing him at [pj.lynd@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:pj.lynd@cranberrytownship.org). ~

### Ditch Dated Drugs

Get rid of expired, unused, surplus or unwanted medications, and do it safely. Cranberry Township will once again participate in the nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day behind the Municipal Center on Saturday, October 26, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The popular drive-thru, drop-off collection program will be staffed and coordinated by members of the Cranberry Township police department. The program has several goals including disposal of outdated drugs, protection of rivers and streams against pharmaceutical pollution, and keeping drugs which could be abused from falling into the wrong hands. All forms of medication, whether purchased by prescription or over-the-counter, will be accepted either loose or in their original containers. Syringes, however, cannot be accepted due to the hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens. There is no charge for the disposal service. ~



# Advanced Generation Autos Face The Big Test: Route 19 Traffic

Sample tastes of smart car technology have been arriving in showrooms for several years now. For instance, there are cars that park themselves. There are ones that hit the brakes if you're about to back over something behind you. There are ones that warn you if changing lanes is going to result in an accident. And more safety and convenience driver assistance technologies are on the way.

But in Cranberry, an experimental vehicle created as part of a joint General Motors-Carnegie Mellon University research program, has taken the technology one huge leap further.

*An unmarked Cadillac SRX has been quietly plying Cranberry's Route 19 without the intervention of a human driver.*

For most of the past year, an unmarked Cadillac SRX has been quietly plying Cranberry's Route 19 without the intervention of a human driver. All they have to do is key in the destination and go.

It's no ordinary Cadillac, however. Largely hidden from view, the car is bristling with sensors, lasers, cameras, and radios. With four laptop computers

in the trunk to process and interpret the data streaming in from those sensors, the vehicle is able to recognize traffic conditions in real time and to activate the car's control systems in response to whatever's happening around it.

## Panic button

In case something goes wrong – and to avoid raising suspicions among other drivers – a member of the research team always remains seated behind the wheel. Next to him, in the center of the dashboard, is a bright red panic button which can immediately restore the car to normal operation. It's a fallback, intended to assure the safety of everyone else in nearby traffic. And safety is a key driver of the project.

If the program succeeds, and if its technologies become widely available as its sponsors believe they will, it could have a major impact on highway safety. That's because more than 30,000 Americans die in vehicle accidents every year, and 90 percent of those accidents are the result of driver error. The GM/CMU program, which is expected to result in fully autonomous vehicles becoming available in local showrooms sometime in the next decade, is focused on creating cars which would essentially eliminate human error and, as a side benefit, make more efficient use of the existing road network.

the green-yellow-red traffic signal sequences. Although the car's onboard cameras have enjoyed considerable success in seeing traffic lights at relatively close distances, its primary method of seeing them is actually through a series of transponders installed by Cranberry's Public Works department at eleven intersections along Rt. 19. They send radio signals that the vehicle can use to determine where it is in the signal sequence. Other autonomous vehicle systems are also being developed, including some in other places. Cranberry is one of seven U.S. locations where pilot tests of the advanced car components are currently being conducted.

Non-technical, as well technical issues, remain to be resolved including state legislation and insurance regulations to accommodate the new technology. But the autonomous vehicle program, and the family of technologies it is spawning, come with a sense of inevitability. Although autonomous features are estimated to initially add \$20-25,000 to the sticker price, their costs would fall quickly as they became widely adopted, according to project leader, CMU Prof. Ragnathan Rajkumar.

To showcase the vehicle's capabilities, a group of dignitaries gathered at the Community Park parking lot on September 3 for the car's media rollout – a 33-mile trip to Pittsburgh International Airport for a press conference, with public officials riding in the rear seat. Just in case, though, a CMU engineer remained behind the wheel, keeping a close eye on the car's automatic systems. ~

## Work in progress

Before that can happen, however, a significant amount of development remains to be done. That includes accurately identifying

**Look, ma! No hands!** Route 19 in Cranberry provides the real-world laboratory for this CMU-GM experimental car capable of driving itself without the intervention of a human operator. On September 3, the modified Cadillac SRX, which had quietly been tested along the Township's main artery during the past year, made its public debut on a 33-mile drive from Community Park to the airport. A big red button in the center of the console instantly returns the car to normal operation.





# Unconditional Use: Business Permits Pick Up Speed

There's good news for entrepreneurs looking to open their doors in Cranberry. For many of them, the time and cost involved in securing the needed permits has been dramatically downsized. That streamlining is an artifact of Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code, which sets out conditions for creating land use zones.

According to state law, every local government in Pennsylvania that regulates land use through zoning, including Cranberry, needs to provide a zone for every sort of business – no matter how unpopular, intrusive, or annoying that business might be.

Municipal governments are not allowed to simply decree that particular types of lawful businesses aren't allowed within their boundaries; that would be an abuse of the Commonwealth code, which requires zoning to be all-inclusive. So the Township created a grid which matches all 14 of its zoning districts against every category of business use known to exist. In each case, it indicates whether a particular type of use is okay, not okay, or okay with special

conditions. And, at least in theory, it provides a home for every type of business.

Depending on the nature of their business and where they want to set up shop, many of those uses were considered Conditional Uses – that is, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors, which has final say over every land use application – could require the applicant to satisfy certain stipulations as a condition of receiving approval. It is a fairly detailed process, requiring as much as ten weeks, lengthy forms for the applicant to complete, and more than \$600 in fees. Its purpose is to determine how or whether the proposed use would affect neighboring properties and, if it does, to set requirements that would mitigate those impacts.

## No impact, no problem

Until earlier this year, practically every sort of business had to go through the process of establishing whether its particular use would require special conditions. But, according to Township Community Development Director Ron Henshaw, a number of business types

– dance studios, yoga classrooms, and tutoring offices, for example – have zero impact, and that there was no need for them to go through the arduous Conditional Use assessment process.

Accordingly, at their September meeting,

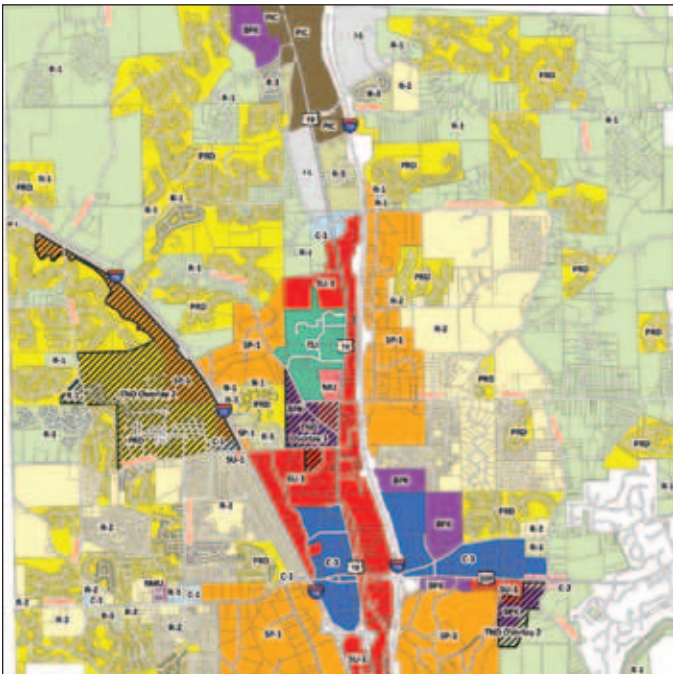
Cranberry's Board of Supervisors changed the classification for a number of recreational and instructional

*A number of business types have zero impact, and there was no need for them to go through the arduous Conditional Use assessment process.*

businesses identified in the zoning grid as "commercial and private recreation" from 'Conditional Use' to 'Use by Right' – a change which effectively bypasses the time-consuming steps which were previously required to receive an occupancy permit.

"They can apply for a zoning permit today and I could issue the permit tomorrow if all their paperwork is in order," Henshaw claimed. "It could go from two and a half months down to a matter of days in a best-case scenario." Beyond that, it would only involve Township staff, freeing Cranberry's independent five-member Planning Advisory Commission to focus its efforts on those applications where special conditions really would be essential for a business to work at a particular location.

"It's faster, less expensive, and a lot more business-friendly," Henshaw noted ~



*Cranberry's online Business Hub is available 24/7 as a clearinghouse for business inquiries and information. It can assist entrepreneurs and help business managers identify local business resources, troubleshoot building code-related issues, navigate the land development process, and find the data needed to make business decisions. Go to: [www.CranberryBusinessHub.org](http://www.CranberryBusinessHub.org).*





## How Cranberry Keeps Cadence At The Cutting Edge

For decades, America's leading surgical instrument suppliers designed, built and sold their tools to hospitals and clinics in carefully sterilized packages emblazoned with their companies' brand names.

Part of that process involved seeking out vendors to manufacture parts and materials to incorporate into their finished products. Specialty Blades – a maker of highly engineered industrial blades in Staunton, Virginia – became part of that supply chain, eventually refocusing its business on cutting parts for medical applications, where the growth prospects seemed greatest.

From the time it was founded in 1985, the company had built a reputation for its engineering prowess, for its process equipment design capabilities, and for pushing the technology involved

*From the time it was founded in 1985, the company had built a reputation for pushing the technology involved in placing sharp edges on metal.*

in placing sharp edges on metal. So its gradual transition into surgical blades, culminating in a dedicated medical division in 2005 and its 2008 acquisition of a Rhode Island tube and syringe company, offered a natural fit and confirmed its place as a partner to the leading medical device companies.

But a long-term movement to outsource manufacturing, which cut across the entire industrial landscape, was changing the business environment. Name-brand companies, which had previously worked with dozens of vendors to procure components for their medical tools, began to consolidate

their supplier families. A growing demand for suppliers who could custom-build entire instruments, allowing the OEMs to focus attention on their design, sales and distribution capabilities rather than on manufacturing, began to fundamentally reshape the industry.

To Cadence, as the company re-branded itself in 2011, the change was seen as an opportunity to move its operations further up the industry's value chain – to contract-manufacture complete surgical instruments for its customers rather than just the cutting components that its reputation was originally built around. To hasten that transition and provide a timely response to a major customer project, the company considered making multiple acquisitions before finally deciding to turn to Pittsburgh, where they felt it could start up quickly, from scratch, while maintaining its own corporate culture.

### The Cranberry connection

Years before, while they were both employed at Medrad in Indianola, Cadence VP and General Manager Marc Mabie – a graduate of CMU's Tepper Business School – had connected with future Cadence President and CEO Alan Connor. Both men understood that for their new medical device division to get up to speed quickly, they would need to tap into the region's rich management and engineering talent network.

"The Pittsburgh area has a strong culture of science, math, engineering, and technology with Pitt and CMU," Mabie reflected. "So we knew we would not have a problem bringing in engineering talent. When you add in the region's medical technology companies and all the science and healthcare



**The leading edge.** Marc Mabie, Vice President and General Manager of the new Cadence device division in Cranberry Business Park, stands next to the facility's high-tech clean room, where it manufactures precision medical instruments used in hospitals worldwide.

startups around Pittsburgh, it creates a good pool of talent to draw from."

Starting earlier this year, the company leased a 21,000 square foot space from Cranberry Business Park in which it built a 2,500 square foot clean room outfitted with advanced generation welding tools. "We looked at six or eight alternate locations in Pittsburgh," Mabie recalled. "One of the reasons we ended up choosing Cranberry was because of its access to the airport for our customers. And its highway access makes it easy for our employees."

This past May, the company received its ISO certifications which are critical for FDA regulated medical device makers. "As we grow – and in a three to five year time frame we're targeting 40 to 60 people to be at this location – this facility offers just the right match for what we were interested in between front office, manufacturing, and warehousing space," he explained. "And coming into Cranberry, you feel good about the area; it's fresh, it's growing. So the combination of all those things makes Cranberry a great place to be." ~

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

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# OCT

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

◀ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

☒ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

★ SFSD-PA.com 800-559-4880

✓ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

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

‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

TUES 1 Preschool Storytime < Library, 10-10:30am & 11:30am-12pm 4-6 Grade Book Club Library, 4-4:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		WED 2 Toddler Storytime < Library, 10-10:30am & 11:30am-12pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm 1-3 Grade Book Club Library, 7-7:30pm		THURS 3 Seniors for Safe Driving ★ Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 9am-1pm Adult Discussion Group < Library, 10am Infant Storytime < Library, 10:45-11:15am Teen Art Club < Library, 4-5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	
FRI 4 Farmers Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm	SAT 5 Computer Class < Social Media, Library, 9am Cranberry Casters Family Fishing † Graham Park Fishing Lake, 10:30-11:30am Farmers Market Rt.19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm		SUN 6	MON 7 Teen Advisory Board Library, 4-5pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm First Editions Book Group Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	
WED 9 Toddler Storytime < Library, 10-10:30am & 11:30am-12pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Manhattan Project Library, 7pm 1-3 Grade Book Club Library, 7-7:30pm		THURS 10 Infant Storytime < Library, 10:45-11:15am Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI 11 Farmers Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm	SAT 12 Computer Class < Internet I, Library, 9am Farmers Market Rt.19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm
MON 14 COLUMBUS DAY Twp offices open, Library closed Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 15 Preschool Storytime < Library, 10-10:30am & 11:30am-12pm 4-6 Grade Book Club Library, 4-4:30pm Psychic Sisters Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		WED 16 Toddler Storytime < Library, 10-10:30am & 11:30am-12pm Books & Bagels < Library, 10am UPMC Wellness Series Sleep Disorders Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm 1-3 Grade Book Club Library, 7-7:30pm	
FRI 18 Farmers Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm	SAT 19 Learn CPR & First Aid ☸ Cranberry EMS, 8:30am-12pm; 12-4pm Computer Class < Internet II, Library, 9am Farmers Market Rt.19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Pet Parade Library, 11am		SUN 20	MON 21 Teen Advisory Board Library, 4-5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES 22 Business Hub Coffee w/ Twp Mgr BC3 Cranberry Campus, 8:30-10am 4-6 Grade Book Club Library, 4-4:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm
THURS 24 Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI 25 Book Sale Library, 10am-3:30pm Farmers Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Friday Night Family Fun † Minicipal Ctr Gym, 6:30-8:30pm Teen Movie Night < Library, 7-9:30pm		SAT 26 Computer Class < Computer Security, Library, 9am Farmers Market Rt.19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Drug Collection Municipal Ctr, 10am-2pm Book Sale Library, 10am-3:30pm Spookapalooza † Municipal Ctr, 12-2pm Let's Dance Class & Dance Foxtrot † Municipal Ctr Gym, 7-10:30pm	
SUN 27 Book Sale Library, 10am-3:30pm Fall Hayride at Cranberry Highlands ✓ 2-5:30pm	MON 28 Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30's Book Club < Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 29 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 30 Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	THURS 31 HALLOWEEN Trick or Treat in Cranberry Twp 6-8pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# NOV

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

◀ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

☎ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

★ Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

✓ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

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

‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

<b>FRI 1</b>	<b>SAT 2</b> <b>Computer Class</b> ◀ <i>MS Word I</i> , Library, 9am <b>Farkleberry Craft Show</b> Municipal Ctr, 9am–3pm	<b>SUN 3</b> <b>Daylight Savings Ends</b>	<b>MON 4</b> <b>Teen Advisory Board</b> Library, 4–5pm <b>First Editions Book Group</b> ◀ Library, 7pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm	<b>TUES 5</b> <b>Election Day</b> <b>Preschool Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm
<b>WED 6</b> <b>Toddler Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm	<b>THURS 7</b> <b>Adult Discussion Group</b> ◀ Library, 10am <b>Infant Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10:45–11:15am <b>Teen Art Club</b> ◀ Library, 4–5pm <b>Family Pajama Time</b> Library, 6:30pm <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8–10pm		<b>FRI 8</b> <b>Friday Night Family Fun</b> † Minicipal Ctr Gym, 6:30–8:30pm	<b>SAT 9</b> <b>Computer Class</b> ◀ <i>MS Word II</i> , Library, 9am
<b>SUN 10</b>	<b>MON 11</b> <b>Veteran’s Day</b> <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm	<b>TUES 12</b> <b>Preschool Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Evening with Cyril Wecht</b> Library, 7pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm	<b>WED 13</b> <b>Toddler Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>UPMC Wellness Series</b> <i>Diabetes &amp; Foot Care</i> Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm <b>Mario Kart Tournament</b> Library, 6:30–7:30pm	
<b>THURS 14</b> <b>Infant Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10:45–11:15am <b>Family Pajama Time</b> Library, 6:30pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8–10pm	<b>FRI 15</b>	<b>SAT 16</b> <b>Computer Class</b> ◀ <i>Excel I</i> , Library, 9am <b>Gun Licensing</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 9am–2pm	<b>SUN 17</b>	<b>MON 18</b> <b>Teen Advisory Board</b> Library, 4–5pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm
<b>TUES 19</b> <b>Preschool Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm	<b>WED 20</b> <b>Toddler Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Books &amp; Bagels</b> ◀ Library, 10am <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm <b>Coffee w/ Twp Mgr</b> Grace Community Church, 7–8:30pm		<b>THURS 21</b> <b>Infant Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10:45–11:15am <b>Family Pajama Time</b> Library, 6:30pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8–10pm	
<b>FRI 22</b> <b>Santa’s First Stop &amp; Nonprofit Tree</b> Gallery, Municipal Ctr, 6:30pm	<b>SAT 23</b> <b>Computer Class</b> ◀ <i>Excell II</i> , Library, 9am <b>Let’s Dance – Group Class &amp; Dance Samba</b> † Municipal Ctr Gym, 7–10:30pm <b>Meet the Very Hungry Caterpillar</b> Library, 10am, 11:30am, & 1pm	<b>SUN 24</b>	<b>MON 25</b> <b>Planning Advisory Commission Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm <b>20 &amp; 30’s Book Club</b> ◀ Library, 7pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm	<b>TUES 26</b> <b>Preschool Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8–10pm
<b>WED 27</b> <b>HANUKKAH begins at Sundown</b> <b>Toddler Storytime</b> ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm	<b>THURS 28</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> Municipal Ctr, Library, Twp. Offices Closed; No Waste Collection		<b>FRI 29</b> <b>Waste Collection</b> 1 day delay Municipal Ctr, Library, and Administrative Offices Closed	<b>SAT 30</b> <b>Last Day to Pay School Tax at Face Value</b> <b>Mario Kart Tournament</b> Library, 6:30–7:30pm

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# DEC

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

◀ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

★ SFSD-PA.com 800-559-4880

† 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

SUN 1	MON 2 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 3 Preschool Storytime ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		WED 4 Toddler Storytime ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm	
THURS 5 Seniors for Safe Driving ☆ Municipal Ctr, Sr/Teen Ctr, 9am–1pm Adult Discussion Group ◀ Library, 10am Infant Storytime ◀ Library, 10:45–11:15am Teen Art Club ◀ Library, 4–5pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm		FRI 6 Friday Night Family Fun † Minicipal Ctr Gym, 6:30–8:30pm		SAT 7 Pet Photos with Santa Library, appt. only	
SUN 8	MON 9 Teen Advisory Board Library, 4–5pm First Editions Book Group ◀ Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 10 Preschool Storytime ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		WED 11 Toddler Storytime ◀ Library, 10–10:30am & 11:30am–12pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm	
THURS 12 Infant Storytime ◀ Library, 10:45–11:15am Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm		FRI 13 Teen Movie Night ◀ Library, 7–9:30pm		SAT 14	SUN 15 Brunch with Santa ✓ Cranberry Highlands, 10–11:30am, 12:30–2pm
MON 16 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 17 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	WED 18 Books & Bagels ◀ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30–4:30pm		THURS 19 Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm	FRI 20
SAT 21 Winter Begins Learn CPR & First Aid ☆ Cranberry EMS, 8:30am–12pm; 12–4pm		SUN 22	MON 23 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Library Closed	WED 25 CHRISTMAS DAY Municipal Ctr, Library, Twp. Offices Closed; No Waste Collection
THURS 26 KWANZAA begins Waste Collection 1 day delay thru 12-28	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29	MON 30 20 & 30's Book Club ◀ Library, 7pm	TUES 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Last Day to Pay Current School/Local Taxes



## Cranberry EMS Rolls Out Community Paramedicine Programs

Healthcare delivery is changing everywhere. In Cranberry, the most recent example involves the Cranberry Township Emergency Medical Service, or CTEMS. Since its beginning in 1969 as an arm of the Township's volunteer fire company, Cranberry's EMS has focused its efforts on emergency dispatches and scheduled ambulance transport.

Those are still mainstays of the agency. But beginning in October, CTEMS expanded its service offerings to include two new non-emergency programs – neither of which involves transporting patients, and neither of which is insurance-driven. One involves in-home health and safety checkups for the families of newborn babies; the other offers peace of mind for the relatives of adults who would benefit from periodic in-home checks by a healthcare professional.

### Safe Landings

New and expectant parents – particularly those bringing home a first born child – already have their hands full. There is a lot to learn and a lot of preparation to assure an infant's safety. The Safe Landing Program helps families prepare their homes, vehicles and nurseries to safeguard babies against known safety hazards.

During a four-hour visit, a specially-trained EMS technician will perform a child car seat inspection to make sure

the seat is properly installed in any family vehicle, that the seat itself is in good operating condition, and that it is a match for the specific vehicle to which it is attached.

*A specially-trained EMS technician will perform a child car seat inspection, instruct parents on the proper positioning of their infant in a crib and childproofing the home.*

The technician will also instruct parents on the proper positioning of their infant in a crib and provide crib safety tips; the hardware, posts, slats and rails used in cribs can each pose potential risks. Childproofing the home – making parents aware of a regimen that can include making sure cupboard latches, safety gates, edge bumpers, plug covers, window cords, and furniture are properly placed – is also a priority of the Safe Landings service.

Anyone who signs up for the one-time \$150 service can invite as many as a dozen friends, relatives and neighbors to hear the safety presentation and to learn CPR – at no additional cost.

### Wellness Checks

Through its Community Wellness Check program, elderly and chronically ill adults whose health does not require hospitalization, can have a healthcare professional provide affordable, in-home, non-clinical support for their medical needs as often as three times a week.

During one-hour visits to a household, CTEMS technicians, in cooperation with the individual's primary care physician, will help make sure that each patient's vital signs are accurately recorded and that their medications are being taken as prescribed. The technician can also help with questions concerning drugs and treatments, refer the patient to social service organizations, assist them in setting up appointments, help to make transportation arrangements, and conduct home safety checks for trip-and-fall hazards.

The Community Wellness Check program is a partnership with the United Way 2-1-1 referral service, which includes more than 50 human service agencies operating in Butler County. Monthly subscriptions to the service range from \$145 for a weekly visit involving a single individual, to \$225 for three times weekly visits for a couple. Details are available by calling 724-776-4380 ext. 4.

Similar programs in widely scattered locations are already in service. In Pittsburgh, a new three-year, \$600,000 joint venture of the Allegheny Health Network and UPMC Health Plan, is starting to identify patient populations in and around the city which would benefit most from advanced community paramedicine. Everywhere else, EMS services are gathering data they can bring back to insurance carriers, who do not currently cover the services, to say "look how much we saved you!" ~





## Firefighter Profile: The Cranberry Township Volunteer Teaching Company

Back in the day, as old-time firemen will tell you, just about anyone could be a firefighter. All you had to do was grab a shovel, a broom, or some other household implement and whale away at it. That was then.

Over the years, firefighting has become a much more technical, and far more safety-conscious undertaking. Beyond that, the range of incidents fire companies are dispatched to deal with today are far more varied than at any time in the past. So while hands-on experience remains key to achieving proficiency, firefighting today is both more specialized and more disciplined, with formal instruction playing an increasingly important role.

Providing that instruction, and turning new recruits into highly skilled firefighters, is a central mission of fire companies everywhere. But for the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company, with its historically strong focus on training, it has particular significance. Of the 60 or so active members of the Company, 12 are certified fire instructors, and half

of those are also credentialed as instructors in the State Fire Academy.

It's not an easy path – those seeking the Instructor I credential have to go through a 40-hour course in teaching techniques, lesson planning, instructional technology, presentation methods, and student evaluation. And that doesn't even address the specific content of the courses they want to teach, for which a separate combination of training and first-hand experience are considered prerequisites.

To attain certification as Instructor II, as several CTVFC members have, another 40-hour course in management and curriculum development is required. Then, to become a state fire instructor – the highest level of teaching in the system and the one which enables those certified to teach anywhere – even more stipulations apply.

### A matter of pride

In Cranberry's fire company, no one is obliged to secure certification as an instructor. As a truly volunteer organization, members can participate in the full range of company activities without ever becoming teachers. But the company's emphasis on training, and its culture of professionalism, have become a powerful impulse for its members to seek the teaching credential. Teaching also provides a platform for members who have developed different firefighting specialties to share their expertise.



**Teacher corps.** Cranberry's volunteer fire company includes a dozen certified fire instructors, including six who hold state fire academy teaching certification. They are, left to right, Chief Brian Kovac, Assistant Administrator Mark Nanna, Firefighters Dave Mack, Larry Clutter, Jeff Gooch, David Watkins, Dennis Kimmel, Sean Hayden, and Company President Bruce Hezlep. Not pictured: Chris DeCree, Mike Hanks, and John Poepoe.

"Everybody has a different interest – one they love to do," Fire Chief Brian Kovac pointed out. "Some of our guys love rescue, so they focus on ropes and ladders. One of our guys is a chemical engineer, so he teaches Hazmat. I install, test and service fire suppression systems for a living, so obviously that's one of the classes I teach for the state. And our fire company president, Bruce Hezlep, is into management, so that's what he teaches."

Although state-level fire instructors are typically paid by the institutions for whom they teach, the availability of certified instructors who are already members of the Cranberry Fire Company has a practical financial benefit – fire company members don't charge to teach in their own organizations, and those who are taking the class don't have to pay tuition, either. The resulting savings are considerable.

Pennsylvania's State Fire Academy course catalog lists hundreds of courses. Some are pretty basic, others are fairly specialized, and a few are truly obscure. But mastering the ones that really matter to Cranberry, and making full use of the Township's sophisticated on-site training facilities, remain central to the philosophy and practice of Cranberry's fire company. ~

*No one is obliged to secure certification as an instructor. But the company's emphasis on training, and its culture of professionalism, have become a powerful impulse for its members to seek the teaching credential.*

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





John Thrower, Jr.,  
CEO Thrower Concrete



## I was amazed at their response.

*"Around 1:05 a.m. on January 20, I got a call from the Cranberry Fire Company that there was a fire at my cement plant. An electric heater had caught the office on fire, and it spread through the rest of the building. Someone had seen it from the highway and called 911.*

*"They had it pretty well out by the time I got there. However, the control room building had been completely destroyed. We were out of business there for most of the year. Fortunately, we had two other plants, but it took us a lot longer to make deliveries.*

*"Now we're back on line, but I'm still amazed at the amount of equipment and manpower the Cranberry Township Fire Company had on the scene for the middle of a cold winter night. I'm really happy to be back in business here in Cranberry."*

Every year, the men and women of the Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company answer over 600 calls, from reassuring residents to taking decisive action. They do it all without hesitation, without complaint, and without pay. And they do it with the thanks of a grateful community.

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



**The Cranberry Township  
Volunteer Fire Company**

1629 Haine School Road and 20727 Route 19

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

724-776-1196

[www.ctvfc21.com](http://www.ctvfc21.com)



## Fire Prevention Week

Holy Cow! It's that time again. The October 10 anniversary of the day Mrs. O'Leary's fabled cow kicked over a lantern and ignited the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, is now memorialized as Fire Prevention Week throughout the United States. This year, between October 6 and 12, fire safety professionals across the country will promote the message "Prevent Kitchen Fires." More fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Accordingly, the theme of the week is keeping kitchen fires from starting in the first place. Among the kitchen safety tips: Plug microwaves

and other cooking appliances directly into a wall outlet; never use extension cords. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food. Keep pets off of cooking and counter surfaces. In case you do have an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed so flames won't burn you or your clothes. More fire safety tips are available online at [usfa.fema.gov/citizens](http://usfa.fema.gov/citizens). ~

## Is Cranberry going British?

# Fetid Foods And Flushables Foul Sanitary Sewer System

The Daily Mail – an English newspaper not known for subtlety – put it this way: “Fatberg weighing 15 TONNES found blocking sewers under streets of London!” its headline screamed.

The story went on to describe “a lump of fat the size of a double decker bus” blocking sewer pipes under the streets of south London. “The revolting mass caused sewage flows through the pipes to be reduced to five percent of normal,” the article continued. “It was created by people pouring cooking oils down the drain and flushing sanitary products.”

Cranberry may never accumulate a bus-size lump of fat in its sewer lines, according to Township Pretreatment Administrator Rhonda Zellhart, citing the smaller diameter of Cranberry’s sewer mains. “However, we might be able to get a Mini-Cooper,” she noted hopefully. But only if no one did anything about it first. And that’s unlikely.

“We actually have a very pro-active maintenance program,” Zellhart pointed out. “We go out and clean our sewer lines. If we are in a residential area and see high volumes of grease accumulating in the sewer line, we’ll send notices to the residents. We ask them to keep in mind that grease doesn’t just break down and disappear in the sewer lines; it accumulates. We either have to get it out of the sewer lines or remove it at the plant before it goes through the treatment process.”

In the pre-World War II era, when many municipal sewage plants were designed, fat was not regarded as a waste product; it was considered a byproduct of food preparation. It was collected for cooking, soap making, animal feed, and other applications. Today, grease, fats and oils are generally thought of as disposable. But if they hit a sewage treatment plant, they tend to spike the level of organic matter in the

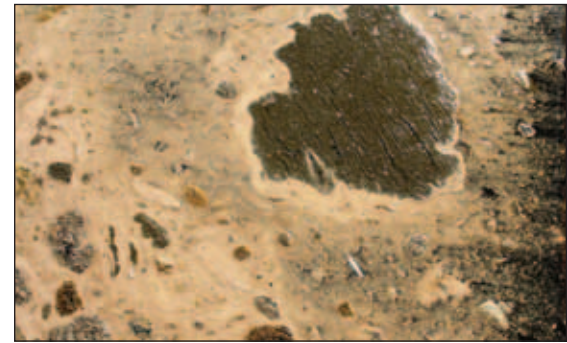
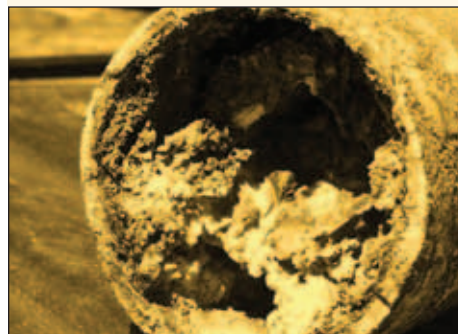
wastewater, potentially creating pollution problems downstream.

### Down the drain

Beyond that, wastewater treatment plants are only designed to address a limited range of wastes – human waste, toilet paper, and the gray water associated with washing dishes and laundry. They were never designed to treat dental floss, cottony baby wipes, vinyl condoms, plastic Q-Tips, feminine hygiene pads or other disposable convenience items which continue to grow in popularity.

Even those product labels which say ‘flushable’ are often misleading. “Once they see that flushable label, everyone thinks: okay, we can flush it down the toilet,” she observed. “Unfortunately, it doesn’t break down in the sewer system. Flushable wipes are still intact by the time they reach the treatment plant. Anything with a two-inch diameter will flush. We’ve seen children’s toys and cell phones in the sewer lines. But

Product labels which say ‘flushable’ are often misleading. Flushable wipes are still intact by the time they reach the treatment plant.



just because something can flush down the sewer line doesn’t mean that it should be flushed down.”

Many people raised in urban areas, surrounded by convenience stores, have trouble with that concept, but those raised on farms and in rural areas usually have a better grasp of the issue. “If you lived somewhere where you have a septic tank, you’re very conscious of what you put down your sewer lines. You don’t put harsh chemicals down. You don’t put certain types of toilet paper that don’t break down well, and you don’t use a garbage disposal. That’s because your private septic tank and the bacteria that live in it are not capable of breaking down all of those extra materials.

“It’s the same with a sewer system. Look at a sewer system like a very large septic tank; we’re not designed to take on all those extra items. So ideally, where we can prevent them from getting into the sewer system, that’s where we would like to start – without infringing too much on modern conveniences,” she said. “But it’s a hard sell.” ~

**Gross national product.** The typical American home washes an average of one tablespoon of grease down the drain every day. That comes to 12 pounds a year. Residential developments in Cranberry generally have 50 to 100 homes sharing a single sewer main. That’s half a ton of sticky, smelly grease in your neighborhood pipeline every year.



## Sewer Rates Increase To Finance Treatment Plant Upgrade.

At the end of July, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors determined that the rates for local sewer service customers would need to go from \$5.67 to \$7.16 per 1,000 gallons, starting in September. As a result, the average monthly sewer cost for most households went up by approximately \$8, from \$35 to \$43.

It was a difficult decision. But Township officials have known for the past 15 years they would eventually need to expand the plant's sewage treatment capacity to serve Cranberry's growing population.

Learning from earlier challenges, the Township and the formerly independent Sewer and Water Authority merged in 1999, just after the last plant expansion. The merger underscored the importance of consistent planning on all fronts. Among its top priorities was finding ways to postpone the next expansion.

To achieve that, the collection system was tightened up to eliminate the inflow of ground water into the sanitary lines. A pretreatment program was put into place for commercial customers. And the plant's treatment process itself was tweaked. For the most part, those measures succeeded in forestalling the need for a significantly expanded plant.

However, that tipping point was reached during the past year. As a result, the Township is now close to the point where an expansion must be built in order to satisfy its mandate to operate a wastewater treatment plant that complies with state and federal laws.

### The clock is ticking

During the past year, a timeline to achieve that goal was worked out with Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, the primary regulator of treatment plant design. By the end of 2012, Cranberry's Board had adopted a resolution to start the planning, design, and permitting process which would lead to an expansion of the Brush Creek plant's treatment capacity.

That process is still underway, and it is already clear that certain upgrades will be required, both to serve a larger population and to satisfy today's DEP/EPA requirements. Meeting those requirements will cost at least \$18-\$20 million.

However, the plant's final operating requirements have not yet been determined. The Township's cost estimates are based on current operating requirements. If those treatment and performance



*The plant's final operating requirements have not yet been determined. If those treatment and performance requirements were to change, it could affect the design of the plant.*

requirements were to change, it could affect the design of the plant as well as its construction costs.

Behind that uncertainty is an active debate about how water discharged from the Cranberry plant, as well as effluent from other communities in the Commonwealth, would affect the Gulf of Mexico – essentially an expansion of regulations initially developed to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Discussions over those requirements have prompted a sense of urgency in the Township's work with DEP officials and its own team of experts who are struggling to identify the obligations and resolve the design issues so that an upgraded plant can be up and running by the state's deadline – a deadline which carries serious consequences if it is missed.

Find more information about the project at [www.cranberrytownship.org/PlantUpgrade](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/PlantUpgrade). ~





# Township Marks Triple Project Milestone

It's official: Cranberry residents are now better connected than ever. On August 29, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors marked the conclusion of three major Township projects linking its northern and southern areas more closely.

Along Executive Drive and Thomson Park Drive – which were themselves joined in 15 years ago by a Township-financed bridge over Coal Creek – a new 24-inch water main connecting Cranberry's southern water circuit and storage system with its counterpart in the northern areas of the Township, has now been completed. The line will allow Cranberry to take full advantage of the powerful new Commonwealth pump station completed earlier this year on Pennwood Drive in Thorn Hill Industrial Park.

*The new pipeline will provide as much water as planners anticipate the Township needing by 2030.*

The new pipeline, which runs from Freedom Road to Rochester Road, will provide as much water as planners anticipate the Township needing by the time the community is fully developed, which they estimate could take place by 2030. It will also help make sure that desired water levels in Cranberry's west and north storage tanks, both of which are served by the Township's 16-inch northern water circuit, are maintained.

In a ceremonial inauguration of the new water line, Board members joined to turn an oversize wrench opening the valve in a vault below ground level.

During construction, as the excavation trench for the new water line was being filled, the Township had the project's contractor pour a new cement sidewalk above the pipeline instead of covering

it with grass and shrubbery. The 2,600 feet of new sidewalk connects with other sidewalk segments which had previously been in place alongside the road. As a result, pedestrians are now able to walk the entire mile from Freedom Road to Rochester Road without stepping into traffic lanes.

A symbolic test walk of the sidewalk by Township staff members was held the morning of the dedication. It joins a rapidly growing network of sidewalks and trails in different areas of Cranberry which have either recently been completed, are now being built, or whose construction is planned for the near future.

Slightly west of the new water line and sidewalk, a second major pipeline project is also now complete. A new sewer main running along Brush Creek from the sewage treatment plant on Powell Road to Cranberry's southern border with Marshall Township, has been placed into service. The five-mile pipeline, known as Interceptor One, carries wastewater

from all parts of Cranberry into the Brush Creek plant.

"These projects will enable Cranberry to grow the way we visualized in our comprehensive plan," Board Chairman Bruce Mazzoni pointed out. "They also will keep our sewer and water infrastructure in top operating condition for the foreseeable future. And the sidewalk is something our residents have consistently requested to improve pedestrian connections in the Township."

The three projects, with a total cost of approximately \$10 million, will help both to integrate Cranberry's waterworks infrastructure and to implement its bicycle-pedestrian circulation plan more fully than at any time in the Township's history. ~



**Turn it on!**  
Township Environmental Projects Coordinator Lorin Meeder, in orange vest, joins Township Supervisors, from left to right: Mike Manipole, Bruce Mazzoni, Dave Root and John Skorupan in opening the new Thomson Park/Executive Drive water main valve.

## The Care And Feeding Of Local Sidewalks

Cranberry is becoming more and more pedestrian-friendly. Its growing network of sidewalks is linking neighbors to one another, subdivisions to schools, and businesses to residents. That system of trails and sidewalks promises to fulfill the single most persistent request from residents – to make Cranberry a more easily walkable community. But help is needed. In fact, it's required.

Sidewalks, like streets, need to be maintained. Obstructions need to be removed. Nearby trees and shrubs need to be trimmed back. Snow and ice need to be removed. And broken sidewalk segments need to be fixed.

*The responsibility for sidewalk maintenance in Cranberry belongs to the residents and businesses whose properties abut those sidewalks.*

But unlike local streets, the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance in Cranberry belongs to the residents

and businesses whose properties abut those sidewalks – not to the Township's Public Works department – no matter who initially built them. Failure to fulfill that responsibility can even result in the property owner receiving a citation.

Eventually, everyone will be able to walk safely and efficiently from Point A to Point B, anywhere in Cranberry. The Township's Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan, which was developed in response to the single most asked-for improvement during the formulation of its 2009 Comprehensive Plan, envisions a safe and conveniently walkable community from top to bottom.

That plan saw significant progress in 2013 during which the Township's growing system of public footpath connections was extended another 2.1 miles. The Plan's overall goal is to increase pedestrian mobility by developing a grid of interconnected sidewalks, crosswalks and trails to access key north-south and east-west corridors throughout Cranberry. But the long-term realization of that strategy will remain the responsibility of its residents. ~



### **Sidewalk maintenance responsibilities of Cranberry residents**

*Township Code requires property owners to maintain the sidewalks that cross their property*

- Do not obstruct sidewalks with vehicles, sports equipment, construction material, etc.
- Keep sidewalks free of weeds, tree branches, encroaching shrubbery, etc.
- Clear snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours of a storm
- Repair damaged sidewalk segments to maintain safe pedestrian use



## FEMA Issues New Flood Maps

What would Noah do? The Federal Emergency Management Administration maps of Cranberry that show where streams are likely to flood in case of severe weather were compiled 30 years ago. Problem is, its elevations were in 20-foot increments – too coarse for most practical purposes. Now, as a result of advanced aerial mapping technology, a new set of maps has been issued in draft form showing increments of two feet or less. As a result, the flood plains it shows are more nuanced and somewhat different than the ones in the 1982 map. Why is that important? Since mortgage companies require flood insurance on properties based on their proximity to streams, those map differences could mean that some people who are now obliged to buy flood insurance may be able to let it lapse. But the reverse may be true for others. Going forward, the Township's process for issuing building permits and enforcing the floodplain provisions of its zoning ordinance will be guided by the new map's information. To see where your home stands, go to [cranberrytownship.org/floodmap](http://cranberrytownship.org/floodmap). ~





724-776-4806

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

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

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## **FALL FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

Test home smoke alarms • Make a family escape plan • Keep matches away from little children • Keep outdoor grills 10-feet from siding, railings and eaves • Replace worn appliance cords • Have fireplace chimney inspected • Don't burn leaves