

Cranberrytoday

WINTER 2014

2014 Budget Holds The Line On Taxes, Fees

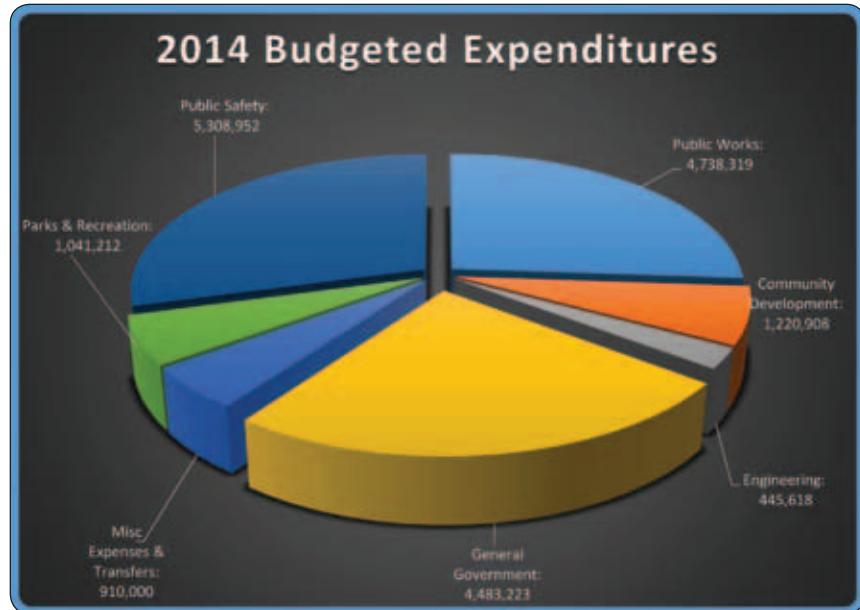
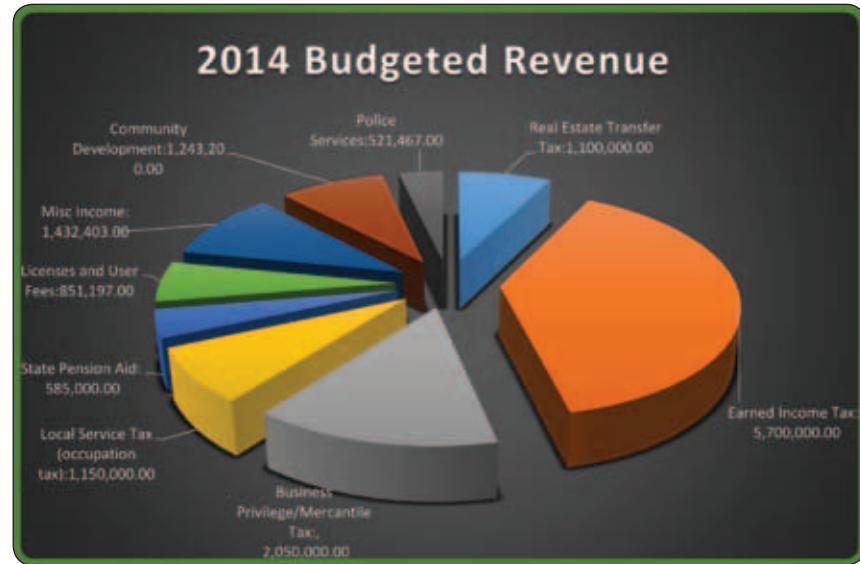
Cranberry Township's budget for 2014, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 11, maintains both its current level of services and current rate of taxes and user fees.

The budget's General Fund, which supports all of the Township's core functions including police, parks & recreation, planning, code enforcement, engineering, and public works, tops \$18 million for the year, with public safety services representing the single largest share. Public works came in second. Other dedicated funds in the budget, which are financed out of user fees such as water, sewer and trash collection charges, total \$6.3 million for 2014.

The rates for water, sewer and trash disposal, were also held to essentially the same levels as 2013. However, the Township's current trash collection service contract will expire at the end of October, and rates for the period starting in November will be determined in the new five-year contract. Likewise, the Township's sewer

Sewer rates will be re-evaluated early this year in view of required upgrades to Cranberry's sewage treatment plant.

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Of the Township's current 13 mil property tax, 8.03 mils are dedicated to the General Fund, 2.12 to the fire company, 1.00 to the library, 1.00 to Township building maintenance, and 0.85 to road maintenance equipment. For a home with a current market value of \$250,000 and a county assessment of \$28,000, Cranberry's property taxes would amount to \$364 a year.

The expense ledger

One of the primary drivers of spending in Cranberry's budget is the Board's ongoing commitment to maintaining Cranberry's public infrastructure – its

sewer, water, storm water and roadway systems – at high levels. Of the more than 117 miles of Township-owned residential, collector and arterial roadways, 98.5 percent are currently rated at B or higher; the remaining 1.5 percent are scheduled for major reconstruction in 2014-2015 to achieve that rating.

Maintenance and rehabilitation of Cranberry's stormwater handling facilities, which face increasing state and federal regulation, will remain a Township focus in 2014. The Cranberry Community Waterpark, which turns 18 this year, is slated for significant restoration and expansion. In addition, Cranberry's Public Library will undergo a rehabilitation and enhancement project this year.

Continued from front cover

Essentially all of the bonds which Cranberry has used to finance long-term capital projects during the past 20 years have been re-financed during the past two years at historically low interest rates, resulting in substantial savings to the Township. However required upgrades to Cranberry's wastewater treatment plant, currently in the design stage, could result in substantial new borrowing and customer rate increases next year.

Fees for development-related permits, business licenses, recreational programs, shelter rentals, activity room reservations, real estate transfers and other user fee rates remain largely unchanged from 2013. ~

Invite Us Over For Coffee

Want to host a Township coffee? Let us know. For several years, Cranberry's monthly series of

Coffee and Conversation with Township Manager Jerry Andree has been well received by local residents. It has been held in a variety of locations and at different times of day, providing an opportunity to hear what the Township government has been doing, what it plans to do, and what challenges it faces. It has also been a forum for those participating to have their questions about Cranberry answered and their points of view heard. That will continue in 2014, but the format will be a bit different. If your neighborhood association or community group would care to host a Manager's Coffee and Conversation meeting, just email us at: communicationsteam@cranberrytownship.org. ~

Built For You

Construction in 2013 approached record levels. Even though December's figures were not available at press time, by November the reported dollar value of construction in Cranberry Township had already exceeded three of the previous five years. Seven permits for apartment buildings issued during the year generated more than \$47 million in value – the single largest category of new construction in 2013. During that same time, 101 new single-family detached homes, valued at \$38 million, were built with new and expanded commercial construction accounting for another \$24 million. The largest number of permits – 214 – were issued for home improvements, although their combined value, at a little more than \$4 million, was among the smallest categories of construction. ~





Should We Make Cranberry Ugly As A Warthog?

by **John Skorupan**, Cranberry Township Supervisor

For the past 25 years or so, our Board has worked hard to make Cranberry an attractive and well-run community. All indications are that we have succeeded. For example, during those years, while the population of Western Pennsylvania remained essentially static, Cranberry's population doubled. At a time of economic struggle throughout the region, Cranberry's economy exploded. And in an era of meager investment in public resources, Cranberry's amenities multiplied.

There are plenty of other benefits that come from that growth, too, including a steady rise in property values – something which has long been a fundamental Township goal. It is part of a growth pattern we foresee continuing for the next 20 years or so.

However, there are also tradeoffs which result from that sort of development. The most important is the volume of traffic which grows along with it. And we've been hearing more and more



murmurings about that lately.

Five years ago, when we adopted

Cranberry's comprehensive plan, we tried to visualize what we wanted Cranberry to look like when it matured. One of our assumptions was that over time, the owners of undeveloped land would sell it to developers and that older development would give way to newer projects. Like it or not, according to state law, no local government can bar property owners from developing their land as long as it is done in keeping with applicable codes. Local

governments are prohibited from turning down development projects along state roads just because they would increase traffic. And they are barred

- *Local governments are prohibited from turning down development projects along state roads just because they would increase traffic.*

from requiring developers to add new capacity to those same roadways.

So our task was to somehow create a pattern of zoning and regulation, consistent with state law, which would allow Cranberry to develop in an attractive way while remaining fiscally sound for generations to come.

One important element of that effort involved continuing to cultivate the partnership Cranberry has had with PennDOT in planning, engineering, acquisition and financing the construction of state arterial roads in the Township. We also anticipated working with the Turnpike Commission, which maintains close ties to PennDOT, on matters concerning the four-mile stretch of its highway in Cranberry, as well as on the Turnpike crossovers involving Freedom, Rochester, and Powell roads.

We even showed our willingness to put serious Township money into state road projects. So far, we have spent more than \$13 million in impact fees collected from local developers on improvements to state roads and into engineering a replacement for the obsolete Turnpike crossover bridge on Freedom Road.

But there was a problem: Both PennDOT and the Turnpike are broke. Even so, we figured that despite its combative politics,



the state's General Assembly would recognize the value of Pennsylvania's transportation system and find a way to finance it. And they did. Just before their recess in November, after first rejecting the funding package, the House reversed itself and narrowly approved it, followed quickly by Senate approval and the Governor's signature.

What it means is that over the next five years, funds will be available for at least some of the state's roads and bridges to get the attention they desperately need – provided that PennDOT, the Turnpike, and other entities involved in politics agree on their priorities. History has made clear that funding for road repairs and improvements is likely to go to districts which were most supportive of the bill; the rest of us will simply pay for it and wait.

So what's a local government to do? One thing, I suppose, would be to stop making Cranberry attractive. Pass an Ugly Ordinance. That way, developers would be less inclined to invest here. And the less they invest, the less new traffic they'll generate. But I'm not comfortable with that approach. Instead, what we really need to do is redouble our efforts, both here and in Harrisburg, to develop the political support needed to upgrade our vital state roads. ~

How Cranberry Taxi Is Driving The Cab Industry Crazy

It's hard to make a living driving a cab, particularly in the Pittsburgh area. It's also hard to catch one, unless you're going to or from the airport. But if you're an astute taxi operator, you can still make a good living – netting around \$1,000 a week – without spending hours idling in the airport taxi line waiting for fares to arrive, according to Cranberry resident Robert DeLucia, Sr.

He should know. Ever since completing his tour of duty with the Army Military Police back in 1968, DeLucia has supported his family – along with a growing number of others – by becoming a transportation entrepreneur, beginning as a solo cab driver. Today, with more than 80 vehicles in his fleet and an assortment of branded transport services operating under the umbrella of his Star Transportation Group, DeLucia takes tremendous satisfaction in hiring and mentoring veterans of more recent

perfectly legitimate. But many of them are used by unlicensed, uninsured, and unqualified operators as their primary tool for securing business. Since those operators – variously known as gypsies, renegades, jitneys, predators and cut-rate operators – have much lower business costs, they are able to offer rides for significantly less than licensed taxis. And the use of those apps is exploding.

But the greatest challenge of all, according to DeLucia, is that American taxi companies have become their own worst enemies. By refusing short rides, providing too few cabs for major events, cherry-picking work hours, denying rides to certain neighborhoods, and taking passengers on roundabout routes to boost metered fares, the reputation of legitimate taxi service here has suffered, opening the door to newer and friendlier forms of ride sharing.

So in 2005, DeLucia started Classy Cab – a metered service using stretched Chrysler 300s, operated by uniformed drivers for a premium fare. "I knew that if you gave a good quality service with a clean car and a clean, well-spoken driver, you would get a lot of business," he said. And it's worked.

Today his company operates several other services as well, including Star Limousine black car service and Air Star Transportation paratransit access service. But his most ambitious project to date has been the Veterans Taxi service, which currently includes several dozen wheelchair-accessible, natural gas powered specialty

vehicles built in Indiana – all of which are operated by military veterans. It is a business he has paired with his Cranberry Taxi service, started in 1985, which now includes more than a dozen vehicles serving passengers in North Hills communities and throughout Butler County.

The mainstay of his Veterans Taxi fleet is the MV-1 – a roomy workhorse of a car patterned after the London taxi and manufactured at the former Hummer plant near South Bend. For DeLucia, who now owns 25 of them, the cars arrive from the factory fully prepped to run on natural gas – much of it extracted from Marcellus Shale wells in Pennsylvania. The cars are designed to last half a million miles or more. But they're expensive: \$55,000 apiece after being outfitted with meters, cameras, and other taxi gear – far more than the retired police cars most taxi companies buy at auction.

But DeLucia's approach, involving a combination of innovative technologies – 60 percent of his fleet uses alternative fuels; novel management practices – including split cab leases; and community outreach – particularly to military veterans, is not only making the business work by disrupting established patterns of local taxi service, it is also attracting serious interest from major cities around the country who want him to clone his service there. And now it even has its own app. ~

It's a demanding business, and the challenges never stop.

armed conflicts. But it's a demanding business, and the challenges never stop.

For one thing, there is an entrenched service – Pittsburgh Transportation Group's Yellow Cab, owned by the French company Veolia – which has been fiercely protective of its 100-year grip on licensed taxi service in the Pittsburgh market.

Then there are apps – a variety of software applications for smart phones which match potential riders with car services, on demand. Some of them are

Need a Cab? There's an app for that. Star Transportation CEO Robert DeLucia, whose operating companies include Cranberry Taxi and Veterans Taxi, uses a whole arsenal advanced technologies to do battle in the fiercely competitive ground transportation business.



PPG Is Painting The Township Vermillion

PPG is coming to town, adding a welcome splash of color to Cranberry's growing portfolio of Fortune 500 companies. But it also brings along a lingering identity issue.

For decades after the Pittsburgh-based corporation changed its name to PPG Industries, people persisted in calling it by its former name, the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

That name change wasn't just a cosmetic re-branding for the firm, which was founded in the Allegheny Valley back in 1883. The problem was that by 1968, when the company officially changed its name, it had long outgrown its original moniker.

For instance, it was no longer just a Pittsburgh company; it had operations all over the world. The plate glass manufacturing process by that time had become obsolete. Even the reference to glass itself overlooked what had, by then, become a diversified business including a variety of paint and chemical products. And since that time, the company has continued to evolve.

Today, glass represents less than 10 percent of PPG's sales, and it has spun off its commodity chemicals business entirely. In their place, the company has focused on specialized industrial and high performance coatings – ranging from consumer house paints to marine coatings, auto finishes, aircraft sealants, adhesives, and fire retardant materials for construction. PPG's architectural coatings represent a large segment of that business.

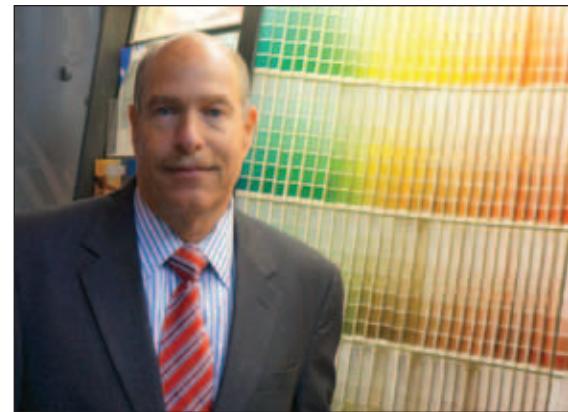
Part of the company's shift toward coatings was organic – growing out of a series of technical successes achieved earlier at its Allison Park coatings research center. But some of it involved acquiring other companies in the rapidly consolidating coatings industry – companies which had developed

technologies, distribution systems, market positions, brand recognition and price points that complemented its own, including a number of domestic paint makers and others based overseas. Its more familiar American consumer brands now include Glidden, Olympic, Porter Paints, Ralph Lauren and Liquid Nails, in addition to its historic line of PPG Pittsburgh Paints.

PPG today is the single largest supplier of paints and finishes for the world's \$95 billion coatings market.

As a result, PPG today is the single largest supplier of paints and finishes for the world's \$95 billion coatings market. To help sustain that global leadership, the company is now consolidating key business and technical personnel from its various North American architectural paint operations, particularly involving people who had worked for AkzoNobel's decorative paint division, which PPG acquired earlier this year.

But instead of building them a new office or housing them in PPG's signature downtown Pittsburgh complex, the company leased the new, but never fully occupied, 120,000 square foot Building 4 on the Westinghouse campus in Cranberry Woods. That site is now on its way to becoming the headquarters for PPG's North American architectural coatings business and, by early 2015, will be the workplace for 500 of its employees focused on marketing, training, supply chain management, support services, customer service and administration of the division's operations.



Extending its palette. Scott Sinetar, Vice President of PPG Industries' North American Architectural Coatings, is overseeing the business unit's move to Cranberry Woods, most of which is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

"When we started the project, we thought that either greater Pittsburgh or Ohio would be the two logical places to consolidate the business," according to Scott Sinetar, Vice President of PPG's Architectural Coatings business. "PPG already had a very strong position in Ohio, and AkzoNobel added to that with their team in Strongsville, near Cleveland. But when we did an analysis of all the options; we ended up in Cranberry, which is between our site in downtown Pittsburgh and Strongsville. So the location made sense."

Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development was also helpful in the process, Sinetar acknowledged. That help included a program grant, job creation tax credits, an employee training grant, and a 15-year loan. But the strategic location of Class A office space in Cranberry Woods, and its proximity to the company's planned coatings lab expansion in Harmar, as well as to its downtown and Ohio locations, also helped to make the Township a clear choice.

"We are excited how the whole process worked," Sinetar observed. "We are really happy about the whole transition into the Cranberry Township area." ~

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.

Keeping our head above water

FEMA Redraws Flood Map Lines

There seems to be some good news for Cranberry; fewer Township homes are situated in a flood plain than previously believed. But decisive action on the part of property owners may be needed to realize the benefits. Here's why:

Last June FEMA – the Federal Emergency Management Association which was absorbed a few years ago into the Department of Homeland Security – sent Cranberry a revised set of flood insurance rate maps. Those maps, which are used by insurance underwriters and municipalities, provide the basis for determining whether a property can be developed without risk of flooding, what flood mitigation measures may be required, who needs to have flood insurance, and what their premiums ought to be.

Historically, flood insurance was relatively cheap. And a number of people with flood-prone properties had their insurance premiums subsidized, so they could afford to simply rebuild and remain in place. That was then.

Now, two recent developments are on the verge of changing that pattern. One is that the maps which had been used for the past 30 years have now been refined. The elevations for floodways and flood plains on the new maps are much more accurate than before. As a result, the contour lines, used to delineate where flood boundaries touch local properties, have changed. The other development is that Congress enacted a flood insurance reform act in 2012 whose goal is to bring flood insurance premiums more closely into line with actual risks.

The new maps, which were drawn using technology which was not available when the 1982 maps were prepared, include newly collected information concerning Coal Run and Brush Creek.

They also reflect many of the changes in Cranberry's topography which have resulted from development since the initial maps were published. But, according to Township Waterworks Coordinator Tim Schutzman, they also include several areas which do not match today's lay of the land, and those discrepancies could prompt the affected property owners to file appeals.

For the most part, however, the news is good. An unofficial reading of the new maps combined with data from the Township's geographic information system shows a modest decrease – from 443 to 436 – in the number of properties touched by a one percent annual chance of a flood, a risk formerly referred to as a "100-Year Flood." But, as a result of the new maps' greater

- *An unofficial reading of the new maps showed a dramatic drop in the number of dwellings affected.*

detail, it also showed a dramatic drop in the number of dwellings affected by that same risk: 252 based on the 1982 maps, and just 70 based on the new ones.

However, the new maps – which are posted on the Township's website – are only draft versions. They won't become final until 2015. In the meantime, an appeals process beginning in the next few months will allow property owners to establish, on the basis of their own survey and engineering data, whether their property had been misrepresented on the draft map.

Particularly with the new insurance reform law in effect, a homeowner whose property is mistakenly placed in a flood zone could have to pay dearly for insurance that's not really needed. By the same token however, a number of other home owners whose properties had previously been considered in a flood zone, may be relieved of that burden. But not until next year.

Like many well-run municipalities, Cranberry is an official participant in FEMA's flood insurance program. What it means is that homeowners are eligible to buy flood insurance, and in the event of a catastrophe, other property owners would become eligible for such federal disaster relief as low-interest loans. But to become part of that program, a municipality must enact ordinances which meet FEMA's guidelines and reduce its risk of flooding. So early next year, after all the appeals have been resolved, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors will consider revising the Township's storm water, building, and zoning ordinances to retain its flood program membership in good standing. ~



Priority One

Security at Seneca Valley is a partnership

By Linda Andreassi, Seneca Valley School District Communications Director



A safe and secure learning environment is paramount to a productive learning environment. You can find books, speeches and reams of paper from school safety experts that clearly state the importance of students being able to focus on academics without the worry or fear of danger and disruption.

Over the years, we've certainly learned valuable lessons from the heartbreaking tragedies that have transpired at schools, movie theaters and other large gathering places. As with any process, we adjust and progress as our environment changes and our needs shift. Much of this can be said of security across the nation. From our airports to our hospitals, security practices and management have vastly transformed – and for good reason.

One thing hasn't changed, though: We can't do it alone.

Behind any successful effort, you will most often find an active partnership. In this case, we are fortunate to have the ongoing support of our parents and the community at large. We ask that you continue to support us in promoting a safe school environment by following the visitor procedures at our schools, reporting unusual or concerning behavior and being aware of your surroundings.

When you come to any of our school buildings, we ask that you make appointments with staff in advance when possible,

and to bring with you your valid driver's license so you can be checked in to our Raptor security system. Once in our classrooms and

hallways during the day, be sure to keep your badge on and visible to others.

When you are entering or exiting the building, we ask that you don't hold the door open for anyone attempting entrance. It certainly can create an awkward moment, but simply letting a new visitor know they need to announce themselves to office staff using the "buzz-in" or intercom system is a must – and an important part of our school safety plan for the benefit of all students.

This past summer, the Seneca Valley School Board approved Police Services Agreements with several local law enforcement agencies, including the Cranberry Township Police Department, to provide greater and more frequent patrols of our elementary schools, both internally and externally. We are fortunate to have such strong partnerships with our local law enforcement agencies and first responders.

Additionally, we finalized and opened captured entrances in our secondary schools, grades 7-12, late last year. Visitors to these schools must now funnel into a receiving area before gaining entrance to common areas of the school building. This configuration parallels the set up in our K-6 buildings, and we believe the addition of these entrances in our secondary grades will provide yet another layer of protection during the school day.

Please know the Seneca Valley School District has numerous ongoing efforts and activities to address safety and security in our schools, including crisis management plans. So as not to compromise the integrity of those measures, we do not release the full details or post anything online.

While it may seem frightening to hear of the changes summarized above, please know our schools continue to be warm, friendly places with great school spirit and tremendous academic success.

The seriousness with which we conduct such important security protocols is because we understand and accept the tremendous responsibility parents put in our hands every day when their children are in our schools and under our care. We thank you for making sure we are not alone in this endeavor.



We can't do it alone. In this case, we are fortunate to have the ongoing support of our parents and the community at large.



Drug Drop-Off Program Expanded

Getting rid of unwanted and expired medications just got easier. Now, in addition to twice-yearly drive-thru drug collections behind the Township Municipal Center, a self-service drug collection vault has been installed in the lobby of the Cranberry Police Department for use any time the office is open, six days a week. Monday through Friday, it is available 14 hours a day from 8:00 AM until 10:00 PM; Saturdays 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The collection unit is one of seven purchased by the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association for installation in various Butler County locations. The one in Cranberry is being jointly operated by the Butler County District Attorney's office and the Township Police Department. All types of medication are acceptable including prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and veterinary medicines. They can be in the form of tablets, liquids, ointments or pads. However, no sharps, inhalers, medical equipment, medical wastes or hydrogen peroxide can be accepted. ~

Hurt On The Highway?

PennDOT, along with several other state and local agencies, has launched a program designed to reduce the time it takes Emergency Medical Technicians to learn critical health information about an accident victim and for police to let that person's emergency contacts know they've been hurt. The "Yellow Dot" program asks participants to place their vital information into a folder which is kept in their dashboard glove compartment. A yellow dot is provided for the driver to stick on their vehicle's rear window, signaling emergency workers that essential medical information and emergency contact data is inside. Program details are available online at www.YellowDot.pa.gov. ~



Township Takes Platinum



Cranberry Township was once again honored with the prestigious AAA Platinum Award for traffic safety. The award, which recognizes police enforcement of traffic regulations as well as road safety initiatives by Township engineering and public works personnel, is given as a tribute to communities that "went above and beyond the call of duty by organizing projects which would make their community a safer place for motorists as well as local residents," according to AAA Safety Advisor J.J. Miller. The platinum award is the highest level of recognition issued by the automobile club and is the tenth consecutive year that the Township has been so honored. For 2013, Cranberry was among forty municipalities and law enforcement units sharing that recognition. ~



No More Mister Nice Guy

If you didn't pay your Township, County or School District real estate taxes by the end of December, your account has

been turned over to the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau. They can be reached at 724-284-5326. Good luck. However, you will have a chance to redeem yourself once again this year. Your 2014 Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate tax notice will be mailed on March 1. It is payable at a discount until April 30. If your home is your primary residence, fill out and return your county homestead application form; it will save money on your 2014/2015 school property tax. If you have changed your mortgage company or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, call tax collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or stop by his Municipal Center office to arrange payment. ~

Alcoa Thanks EMS

Alcoa Human Resources Manager Paul Harris presented the Cranberry Township Emergency Medical Service with a check for \$3,000 at a meeting of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors on December 5 – the first official event to have taken place in the ambulance service's new Rt. 19 facility. The money was given in appreciation of the community service provided by Cranberry's EMS and in anticipation of continuing good relations between the ambulance service and the company, whose Kwameer division now owns and operates the former Traco window plant on Unionville Road. ~



Vial Of Life

Cranberry Township EMS is participating in a nationwide initiative designed to make paramedics aware of a person's vital health information when they enter the individual's home in response to an emergency call. Program participants are given a form to fill out with their essential medical information along with a prescription drug container. They insert the completed form into the container and place it in the refrigerator. An adhesive sticker on the refrigerator door alerts EMS to look for the vial and the data it holds. Participation in the program is free. To obtain forms, stickers and vials, contact vialoflife@cranberryambulance.org and the packet of material will be mailed to you. More information is available online at www.vialoflife.com. ~



DIY Lifesaving

Cranberry EMS technicians often save people's lives using CPR and various first aid techniques to stabilize patients as they are being transported to hospital emergency rooms. Now you can learn how to do it yourself. On the morning of February 15, EMS will offer a CPR training class, and another class on First Aid that same afternoon. Certification of training is available in each discipline. A \$40 fee applies to each class, and includes a CPR keychain mask. To register, or to learn more, contact the EMS at 724-776-4380. ~



Cranberry's EMS Has A New Home

After more than twenty years confined to cramped quarters on Thomson Park Drive, Cranberry EMS has moved into a new 7,500 square foot home next door to Cranberry's Rt. 19 Park fire station. In addition to garaging all of the agency's vehicles – something which was not possible at its previous location – the new building is fully equipped to accommodate its eight daytime staff members with room to spare. The EMS, which was formed in 1969 as a unit of Cranberry's volunteer fire company, eventually emerged as an independent organization with a largely paid staff, financed through a combination of subscriptions, patient insurance, direct billing, and community donations. As Cranberry's designated ambulance service, the Township works closely with the EMS in support of its life-saving mission. Today, in addition to emergency patient transport, Cranberry EMS provides CPR training, child safety seat instruction, first aid certification, in-home paramedicine, and safety programs for families of newborns. ~



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JAN

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

WED 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Municipal Ctr and Library Closed	THURS 2 Parks Shelter Reservations Open † Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5	MON 6 Tree pick-up thru 1/17 on regular collection days Board of Supervisors Organizational Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm
TUES 7 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 8 Small Business Networking Event Social Media on a Budget, Hampton Inn, 7:30-9am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 9	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Senior/Teen Ctr, 9:30am Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI 10
SAT 11 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship Municipal Ctr Gym, 10:30am-2:30pm	SUN 12	MON 13 Homeland Security Active Shooter Workshop for Businesses Council Chambers, 8am Call Twp Police at 724-776-5180 x1400 to register Infant Storytime ↙ Library, 10:30am Galapagos Island Trip Library, 6:30pm		TUES 14 Preschool Storytime ↙ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	
WED 15 Toddler Storytime ↙ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 16 Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19	MON 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Library Closed
TUES 21 Preschool Storytime ↙ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 22 Toddler Storytime ↙ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 23	Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI 24
SAT 25 Let's Dance † Municipal Ctr Gym, 7-10:30pm	SUN 26	MON 27 Infant Storytime ↙ Library, 10:30am	TUES 28	Preschool Storytime ↙ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	
WED 29 Toddler Storytime ↙ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 30	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 31 CHINESE NEW YEAR		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEB

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
- ✓ SFSD-PA.com 800-559-4880
- ‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

SAT 1	SUN 2 Groundhog Day	MON 3 Infant Storytime ↵ Library, 10:30am First Editions Book Club ↵ Library, 7pm	TUES 4 Preschool Storytime ↵ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 5 Toddler Storytime ↵ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Grade 1-3 Book Club Library, 7pm
THURS 6	Discussion Group ↵ Library, 10am Seniors for Safe Driving ✓ Senior/Teen Ctr, Call to register Teen Art Club ↵ Library, 4-5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 7 Tech Expo, Armstrong Council Chambers, 12-5pm (free)	SAT 8 Tech Expo, Armstrong Council Chambers, 10am-4pm (free)	
SUN 9	MON 10 Infant Storytime ↵ Library, 10:30am Teen Advisory Board Library, 4-5pm	TUES 11 Preschool Storytime ↵ Library, 10am Indian Cooking Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 12 Toddler Storytime ↵ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Grade 1-3 Book Club Library, 7pm	
THURS 13	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Senior/Teen Ctr, 9:30am Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 14 Valentine's Day	SAT 15 Learn CPR & First Aid ◆ Cranberry EMS, 8:30am-Noon; Noon-4pm	SUN 16
TUES 18	Preschool Storytime ↵ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 19 Toddler Storytime ↵ Library, 10am Books & Bagels Library, 10am Passavant Hospital Foundation Taking Care of Your Heart Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm, Call to register Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Grade 1-3 Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 20 Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	MON 17 PRESIDENT'S DAY Infant Storytime ↵ Library, 10:30am
FRI 21	SAT 22 Special Needs Winter Family Fun Day † Municipal Ctr Gym, 12-2pm Let's Dance ‡ Municipal Ctr Gym, 7-10:30pm	SUN 23 Murder Mystery Library, 2pm	MON 24 Teen Advisory Board Library, 4-5pm 20's & 30's Book Discussion Library, 7pm	
TUES 25	Toilet Training Bellevue Pediatrics Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 26 Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Grade 1-3 Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 27 Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	FRI 28 Consolidated Communications Open House Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, Noon-5pm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAR

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

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

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

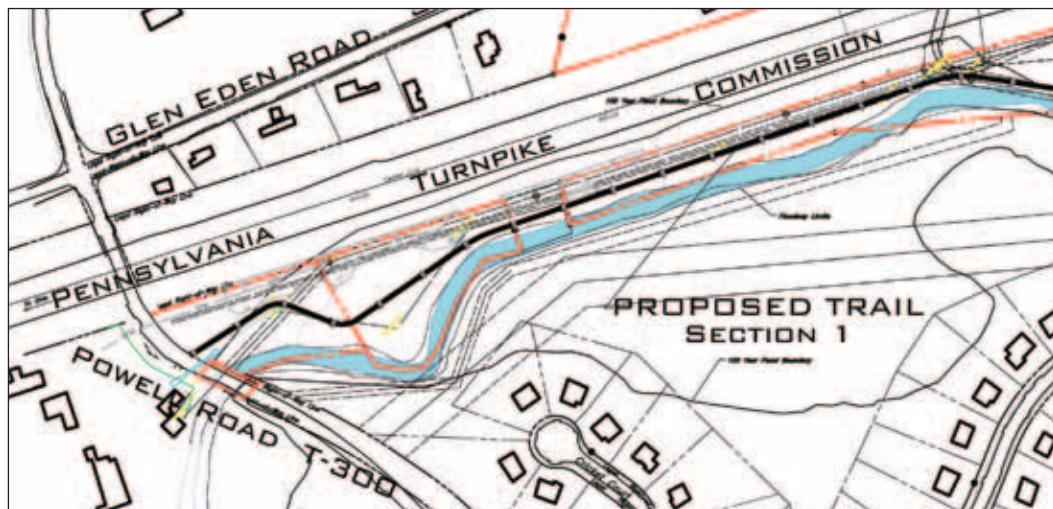
SAT 1	Consolidated Communications Open House Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 10am-2pm	SUN 2	MON 3	MON 3	First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm AABC/Cranberry Art Show Municipal Ctr, thru Mar 28	TUES 4	Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 5	Ash Wednesday Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm
THURS 6	Adult Discussion Group ↳ Library, 10am Teen Art Club ↳ Library, 4-5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 7	SAT 8	SUN 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins	MON 10	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am Teen Advisory Board Library, 4-5pm		
TUES 11	Preschool Storytime ↳ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 12	Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm SAT Prep Library, 6:30pm			THURS 13	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Senior/Teen Ctr, 9:30am Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:45 Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		
FRI 14	SAT 15	SUN 16	MON 17	St. Patrick's Day Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am	TUES 18	Preschool Storytime ↳ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm			
WED 19	Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am Books & Bagels Library, 10am Passavant Hospital Foundation <i>Colon Cancer, What You Need to Know</i> Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm, Call to register Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS 20		Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:45 Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 21	SAT 22	Let's Dance † Municipal Ctr Gym, 7-10:30pm		
SUN 23	MON 24	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am Teen Advisory Board Library, 4-5pm	TUES 25	Preschool Storytime ↳ Library, 10am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED 26	Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm			
THURS 27	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:45 Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI 28	SAT 29	SUN 30	MON 31	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am 20's & 30's Book Discussion Library, 7pm			

New Trail To Connect Graham Park With Neighborhoods

Another link in Cranberry's growing network of sidewalks and trails is about to happen. A new pedestrian connection is expected to be in place this spring, tying Graham Park into Powell Road. Its construction is being funded by a \$90,000 matching grant from the Keystone Recreation Park and Conservation Fund.

The trail involves two segments. One will connect a recently built sidewalk that runs along Powell Road between Greenfield Estates and the newly completed Brush Creek bridge, into Graham Park – a distance of 2,550 feet. It will follow the right-of-way used for construction of the new Interceptor One sewer line along Brush Creek. The other picks up and follows the meanderings of Brush Creek from the Mashuda Bridge, by the park's fishing pond, south to the end of Graham Park – a distance of about 2,700 feet. No decision has yet been made as to when or whether the trail will be paved.

Building the trail will involve crossing one small creek – the unnamed stream which flows through a culvert below the Turnpike, near the intersection of Unionville and Glen Eden Road. That stream connects with Brush Creek on the park side of the highway, where the



The finished trail will extend the Township's growing network of bicycle and pedestrian connections by a little over a mile.

crossing will be built. As a result, the trail will require certain environmental permits. Work to secure those permits is currently underway. Once the DEP and Army Corps of Engineers issue those permits, construction can begin.

The trail will be built on Township-owned property for most of its distance, although one small piece in the middle, measuring about 100 feet, belongs to the Turnpike. Township staff members are working with the Turnpike Commission to find ways of resolving

that issue. Once they do, Township Public Works personnel will perform the actual construction.

The finished trail will provide a 10-foot wide pathway, extending the Township's growing network of bicycle and pedestrian connections by a little over a mile. The trail will also tie into Graham Park's existing 2.7 mile trail system.

No motorized vehicles will be allowed on the trail. ~

Alcoa Foundation Awards Grant To Cranberry For Bike Racks

The Alcoa Foundation, by way of the company's Alcoa Cranberry (Traco) office, has awarded \$20,000 to Cranberry Township for the installation of bicycle racks in 14 different locations.

A grant application for support of the project had been submitted to the Foundation in May; notification of the award was given in October and a check presentation ceremony was held in December. The Butler County Convention and Tourism Bureau is also a contributor to the project.

A network of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout the Township had been visualized as part of Cranberry's long-range comprehensive plan, adopted in 2009. Since that time, under the umbrella of CycleCT, Cranberry has established 7.4 miles of bicycle paths and road-sharing routes in the Township. Securing bike racks along those routes had been a priority recommendation in the Bicycle-

Pedestrian element of that long-range plan.

Township Public Works personnel will install the racks in each of Cranberry's three major parks as well as at the front of the Municipal Center Building and at the entrance to its Skatepark. Each rack will be able to secure up to five bicycles.

The Township expects to have the racks installed and ready for use by March. ~



Move Over, Kids Castle. It's Time For Adult Castle

The only problem with Kids Castle – the innovative and hugely popular playground built in Cranberry's Community Park last year – is that it's not really designed for anyone over 12, and most Township residents are older than that. Now that oversight is about to be corrected.

As its 2014 Project of the Year, Cranberry Township Community Chest, CTCC, is developing a series of four fresh-air workout stations in Graham Park and North Boundary Park outfitted with fitness machines similar to what would normally be found at an indoor health club.

Every station will include a cluster of up to 15 pieces of exercise equipment on a cement pad. Each piece is designed to support workouts by either 1, 2, 3 or 4 adults at a time, several of which are accessible to people using wheelchairs. Units include a vertical press, a lateral pull-down, a rower, a leg press, an elliptical, a butterfly, a twisting station, a stair climber, and various machines focused on building back, biceps, triceps, abs, and lower body strength.



All machines are completely muscle-powered. Their levels of resistance can be adjusted, and no electric motors will be involved.

The concept of outdoor fitness stations has already experienced great success in the western United States. But, according to project chairman Bruce Mazzoni, Cranberry's project will mark the first time that equipment of this type has been installed in the eastern part of the country. As a result, the equipment manufacturer, Greenfields Outdoor Fitness, is eager to showcase its ruggedized products to a brand new regional market.

"This isn't your typical fitness station trail that you may have seen in the past," Mazzoni observed. "This will be a one-of-a-kind for Western Pennsylvania."

The combined cost for the four stations, including installation, would normally exceed \$325,000. However, a combination of site preparation by Township Public Works personnel, the manufacturer's promotional interest in displaying the company's hardware,

and the possible use of community volunteers to help with installation, should bring the cost down to approximately \$200,000, Mazzoni noted.

More than half that amount has already been committed. CTCC has pledged \$75,000, and money raised from \$5 parking donations at the 2013 Community Days event, together with funds generated by last year's golf outing, put the project's combined startup funding at over \$100,000. The remaining balance will be raised through a variety of solicitations between January and the end of April with installation expected to be complete and ready for use by July 10 – the start of Community Days 2014.

"The fundraising effort will be very similar to what we did with Kids Castle, but a little more concentrated," Mazzoni noted. "We plan to use our Ambassadors again because it worked very well. That's a great way to get into the neighborhoods and very helpful in generating awareness and in raising a large portion of the money."



Cranberry's project will mark the first time that equipment of this type has been installed in the eastern part of the country.



A series of permanent markers acknowledging gifts to support the project will be offered to all contributors. Naming rights for individual stations will be available to business sponsors. A catalogue listing recognition items, along with a companion form for ordering them with donations, is included in this issue of CranberryToday. ~

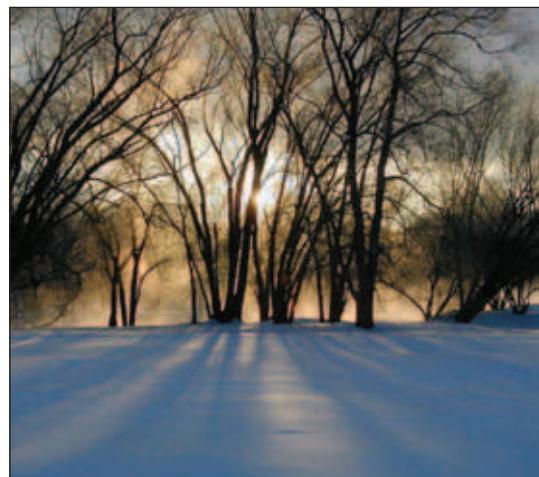
Township Parks Scale Back For Winter

Cranberry's three major parks have hunkered down for the season. Restrictions on the use of fields, roads, restrooms, parking lots and other facilities will remain in place until spring. But while some park features are closed for the season, others are open and will remain so all winter long.

In **Community Park**, Kids Castle playground and the new Kids Castle restroom will stay open through the winter season. However, the park's tennis court restroom building will be closed. Traffic on Park Road will be blocked by a wooden gate just past the entrance to Dog Park Road. Dog Park Road will stay open to provide access to the Dog Park itself and one section of the Dog Park will remain open for use all year long.

In **North Boundary Park**, the soccer field restroom will remain open, but all others will be closed. The park's walking trail, roads and parking areas, will remain open throughout the winter season. Those paved areas will also be plowed, although snow clearing there will have a lower priority than on Township streets used for normal traffic.

In **Graham Park**, only the family changing room at the Baseball complex will remain open – the other two concession buildings will be closed. The first two parking lots in Graham Park – one at the baseball campus and one at the fishing lake, will remain open. However a gate just before the Mashuda Bridge was installed to block



access to the park's soccer and football campuses.

Community Park North practice field will remain open throughout the winter. But the grass playing fields in all three parks will be closed for use until they are reopened in the spring. ~

Spend Every Day At The Golf Course – And Get Paid For It!

Cranberry Highlands is hiring. Seasonal positions lasting approximately nine months, as well as one year-round post, are now open and the search is on for qualified applicants for the 2014 season. Seasonal jobs range from starter marshals who monitor the pace of play, to grounds maintenance, cart attendants, driving range attendants, and food service personnel. The job of full-time assistant supervisor of golf is also currently open. All applications are taken online at: www.cranberrytownship.org/employment. ~



Host At The Highlands

Have a wedding, shower, reunion or business event coming up? Consider Cranberry Highlands. Its spacious Clubhouse banquet room can seat up to 150 guests in a setting that offers a panoramic view of the golf course, or it can be partitioned to fit your smaller event. Outdoors, the beautiful stone and wood Audubon Pavilion, complete with a wood burning fireplace, seats up to 100 guests. Cranberry Highlands offers a choice of menus from casual to elegant, with food and beverage service ranging from buffet to sit-down meals. And all of it is value priced. Call 724-776-7372 to reserve Cranberry Highlands for your own special event. ~

State Raising The Bar For Sewage Treatment Plants

Evaluation is continuing and the final decision won't be known until February, but it now appears likely that the required upgrades to Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant will cost more than originally anticipated.

Cranberry's rates, which went up this past September by \$1.49 per 1,000 gallons to help finance the plant project, were based on expanding the plant to satisfy current EPA requirements. However those requirements now appear likely to become more stringent. As a result, the cost of meeting them would go up, and the rates customers currently pay would need to be increased as well.

Several issues are driving the likely increase. One is the long-expected need to expand the plant's capacity in keeping with Cranberry's increased population. The last time the plant was expanded, Cranberry's population was around 20,000. It is now 30,000 and projected to reach 50,000 by 2030.



The other reason is that even if it didn't have to be enlarged, the plant needs to secure a new discharge permit every five years. Those permits are issued on the basis of whatever the state-of-the-art in wastewater treatment objectives and techniques happens to be at that time.

Today, DEP's emerging standards are focused on limiting nitrogen and phosphorus discharges, both which

have been linked to aquatic problems in the Chesapeake Bay and Gulf of Mexico.

Township engineers and consultants are working hard to nail down the plant's obligations and to resolve related design issues so they can meet the state's 2016 deadline for compliance. Customer sewage rates will be determined by the plant's final design. ~

Don't Get Plowed Under

Street parking is prohibited on most roads in Cranberry. In wintertime, that's especially important because cars parked on local roads can block snow removal equipment. If you're having company over the holidays, make sure your guests have room to park off the street. ~



LIVE, LEARN, & PLAY

Beat the winter blues with these great programs!

KIDS, Get Fit in '14

Basketball- ages 5-13
Soccer, Tumbling
Intro to Tae Kwon Do

Coming Mid-January:
Summer Camp Info
& Program Guide

Fun & Games

FPS Game Design
Amusement Park
Adventure- Snapology
Video Game Design-
High-Tech Learning
Chess for Kids

Dancing, Art & Languages

English as a Second Language
Preschool & Tot Dance, Art Classes:
Doodling Dalis, Venturing VanGoghs
Languages- Spanish, French
Chinese, or German

Just for Grown-ups

Group Fitness, Painting, Dancing
Self-Defense and More!



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP parks and recreation

CranberryTownship.org/January
724-776-4806 x 1129



In Pursuit Of Traffic's Holy Grail

Traffic signal systems have gotten a lot smarter over the past 30 years. They've also become more important in avoiding gridlock. That's because the option of adding lanes and building new roads to accommodate traffic has become so costly that no one can afford to do it anymore. Instead, finding better ways to manage growing volumes of traffic along existing ribbons of pavement has emerged as the wave of the future.

Cranberry – which has seen its traffic volume soar over the past 20 years – has been on the leading edge of signal control for some time now, studying emerging traffic patterns, adding new signals, re-striping traffic lanes, and re-timing lights accordingly. It is an ongoing effort, which has enjoyed significant support from the ten-county Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, and more refinements are expected to be introduced as soon as this month.

But even the Township's current series of carefully crafted and frequently updated timing plans, designed to

To expedite the flow of traffic at different times of day, the ultimate answer goes to the emerging traffic control concept known as Adaptive Technology.

expedite the flow of traffic at different times of day, is not the ultimate answer. That distinction goes to the emerging traffic control concept known as Adaptive Technology.

The idea behind adaptive technology is this: if a control system can 'see' all the traffic in its footprint and determine which lanes those drivers intend to

follow, its signal sequence can be modified on the fly, providing as little delay as possible for motorists. It's a dynamic system, and at least in theory, it's a great idea. Problem is, it's expensive, and there are very few examples of it in actual operation.

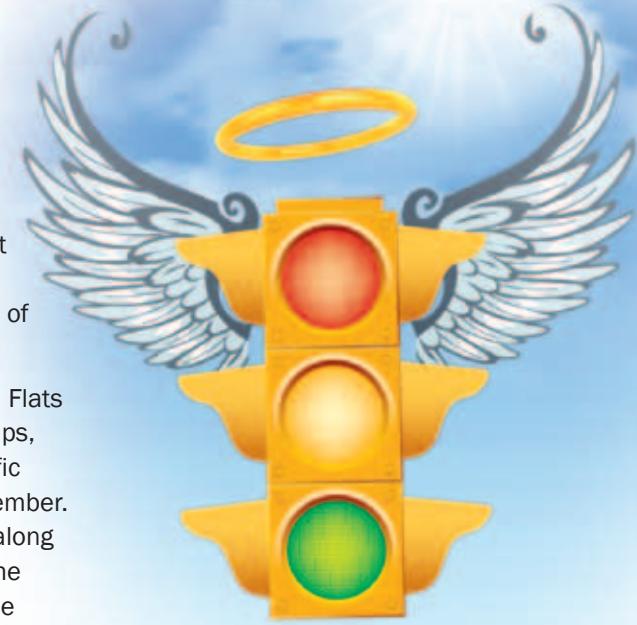
One of the exceptions is Wexford Flats in Pine and McCandless Townships, which began using adaptive traffic signal technology this past September. Cranberry's traffic specialists – along with engineers from all around the region – are looking closely at the Wexford experience to see how it works. And so far at least, it seems to be functioning well.

Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee – who has also had years of traffic engineering experience – is convinced that adaptive technology is where Cranberry's future lies. As a result, each modification to the Township's current system over the past few years has been done with a view to preparing for that future.

"In every decision we make regarding a traffic signal, whether it be maintenance or new construction, we consider what we need to do to get to Adaptive," he said. "We know that's the end game. It's just that right now the costs – as high as \$500,000 to make the changes – are simply unaffordable."

Two major areas of expense are involved in making that transition. The first is acquiring signal control software which can receive, analyze, and act on incoming traffic data in real time.

That's not cheap. But the really expensive part is the hardware – installing different types of sensors at each intersection which can detect traffic volumes and turning patterns, as well as recognizing incidents that could disrupt normal traffic flow. Sensors



could include a mix of infrared, radar, and video cameras with instantaneous connection to the Township's Traffic Operations Center.

Cranberry's system is already part way there. But Adaptive technology is still some time away.

Meanwhile, however, the Township is getting high marks for making refinements to its current system. An award-winning 2012 post-doctoral study by CMU engineering graduate Yeganeh Mashayekh credited Cranberry's example of revising its traffic signal plans every few years with saving the motoring public several million dollars annually. The author was also very supportive of Adaptive technology, recommending it as the ultimate traffic control system for Cranberry.

"There's still a lot of theory involved in how adaptive technologies are going to work," McKee reflected. "But there aren't enough systems out there to say for sure that it's the Holy Grail. The concepts are all there, the technology appears to be in line. But the proof comes when the tires hit the asphalt, and there just aren't enough examples of it up and running right now." ~

Beneath Cranberry's Resurfacing Program

In street paving as in other areas of life, timing is everything. If you repave too soon, you're wasting money. If you wait too long, you could lose the road itself and face a costly reconstruction project.

To make sure it hits the sweet spot – putting down new asphalt at just the right time – Cranberry has developed a rating system. First step: every Township road is put into a 12-year rotation. That corresponds to the minimum expected lifespan of a road surface. Since no two roads are exactly alike, 12 years is just a rule of thumb. As a road approaches its 12-year cycle, Cranberry's Public Works Department begins checking and grading it annually.

They inspect it to see whether the road is starting to show signs of distress such as potholes, cracking, or deformations which could be telltale clues to issues with the roadway's sub-base.

Each road segment is then rated A, B, C, or D. Rating of A is considered excellent; B is acceptable, but in need of TLC. At level C, the risk of losing the road unless major repairs are made quickly becomes significant. Level D is for roads that essentially need to be rebuilt from

Cranberry's strategy is to keep all 117 miles of Township roads at level B or higher. Right now, 98.5 percent of Cranberry's roads make the grade.

scratch. As a result, Cranberry's strategy is to keep all 117 miles of Township roads at level B or higher. Right now, 98.5 percent of Cranberry's roads make the grade.

But over time, every road deteriorates. "As soon as you get extensive cracking that isn't addressed, water starts



getting down into the system," cautions Township Engineering Director Jason Kratsas. "In the winter it starts freezing and popping pavement. Then you get potholes and your sub-base starts to fail.

"Our grading system catches these roads before they get to that point, and it's been very successful. But our challenge is the cost of asphalt versus the resurfacing money we have coming in from the state gasoline tax. The cost of asphalt has run ahead of revenues. We're having to use some of our General Fund to supplement the paving program so we can do the roads we need to have resurfaced."

One way to save money is by getting the work done early in the season, before paving contractors get too busy. "We want to be one of the first municipalities to get it done this year," Kratsas said. "Our goal is to put that list out shortly after the start of the year and then take bids in late January or early February."

But there are spots on many local roads which require more than simple resurfacing. "If we know there's a

drainage problem or a sub-base problem, we send our Public Works crew out ahead of the paving contractor," he said. "Glen Rape Road is one of the ones we're looking at this year. It's an older road, it has some width issues and some pavement issues. So we're looking at how we can get in there, reclaim the roadbed, and then resurface over top when we're done."

Glen Rape, however is the exception, not the rule for Cranberry. "Generally speaking, we're keeping up with our roads pretty well," he noted. ~

Cranberry's 2014 Pavement Hit List

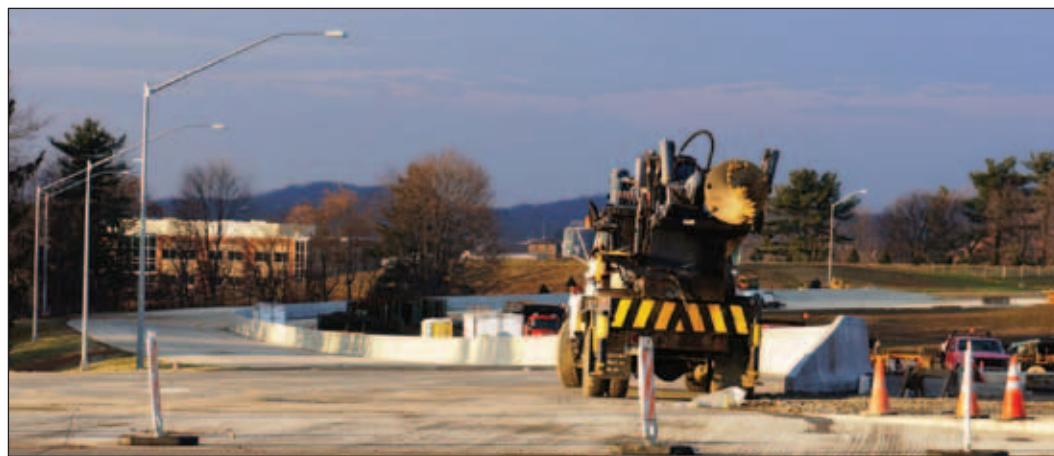
Resurfacing will include

portions of: Blue Ridge Drive, Valerie Drive, Helen Court, Lundy Court, Meadow Glen Court, Melissa Court, Winterbrook Drive, Woodcock Drive, Karen Court, Glenbrook Drive, Edgewood Circle, Clover Court, Laurelwood Lane, Mystic Pine Trail, St. Leonards Lane, Windsor Court, Goehring Road, Glen Rape Road, Haine School Road, Leonberg Road, Marshall Road, North Boundary Road.

I-79/Rt. 228 Ramps Taking Shape

They're not ready for prime time – at least not yet. But the new ramps linking I-79 with Rt. 228 are coming along nicely, according to Cranberry's Engineering Department Director, Jason Kratsas. That's no small achievement in light of the project's precarious location, touching on a segment of 228 where traffic is heavy around the clock. But PennDOT was able to secure an experienced contractor to build the ramps, so they've been able to make good progress on a project which is expected to yield significant improvements in traffic flow along the busy 228 corridor.

When it's done, however, the new ramp's intersection with 228 for traffic exiting I-79 southbound won't be precisely where it has been for the past 20 years. That intersection is actually being rebuilt 40-50 feet further west, toward Rt. 19. As a result, the signals controlling that intersection will also need to be relocated and rebuilt. New hardware has been ordered to take over that task and delivery is expected in time for installation over the winter.



Once the transition of signals is accomplished, some of the lanes can open – including the new lanes being carved out on either side of 228 between I-79 and Rt. 19. But the entire project isn't expected to be complete until mid- or late summer.

"I think there will be intermediate steps," Kratsas said. "They'll need to take the 228 traffic that's now turning left to get onto northbound 79, put it on the new ramp, and then complete the work needed in the center of 228.

I don't know exactly when to expect

each part to come on line, but they'll come on by piece by piece."

Cranberry's Traffic Operations Center will be responsible for controlling the intersection's new signals using its advanced network technology, just as it does today. But to assure compatibility, Township engineers and signal crew have been working closely with PennDOT to make certain the new signal's technical characteristics match Cranberry's system requirements and capabilities. ~

Another Good Reason To Toe The Line



The new state transportation funding act signed into law last November raises \$2.3 billion to pay for needed transportation maintenance and improvements in the Commonwealth. It raises those funds through a variety of methods including higher fuel taxes and increased registration fees. But the people who will be paying most dearly are those who violate traffic laws. For example, the fine for failure to obey traffic signals, currently \$25, will rise to \$150, almost all of which goes to the state. And that's only the beginning. As of January 1, the surcharges which apply to seven other types of moving violations, including speeding, increased by 50 percent. In addition to the penalty fee itself, the surcharges include money for the state EMS operating fund, the state's judicial computer system, legal services for the indigent, compensation for medical negligence, and more. Those increases, on top of court costs already in place, can raise the final cost of a simple traffic violation to several hundred dollars and for serious violations, even higher. ~

Local Tech Company Struts Its Stuff



What are your options for Internet, TV and phone service in Cranberry? How about wi-fi, online streaming, or home automation and security? It's something every Township resident and business wants to know. To find the answers, the Cranberry Business Hub will host an educational session with Armstrong, one of two companies which has hardwired its service area using Township rights-of-way to bring communication lines into Cranberry homes and businesses. To showcase its services and answer visitors' questions, Armstrong will hold an Open House event noon to 5:00 on Friday, February 7, and from 10:00 to 4:00 on Saturday, February 8 in Council Chambers. There is no admission charge for this event and no sales will be transacted. Commercial and residential customers are welcome. ~



Firefighter Profile: Meet The Fire Company's New President – Ed Hestin

When Fire Company President Bruce Hezlep was elected to Cranberry's Board of Supervisors in November, it created a problem: Fire Company bylaws prohibit its president from simultaneously holding the office of Township Supervisor. Doing so would pose a potential conflict of interest, and Hezlep's term as president still had a year to go.

Company vice president John Kontros, whose term was about to expire, had decided against seeking re-election. So on November 19, Ed Hestin was elected to that office, and upon Hezlep's resignation at the end of December, Hestin assumed the president's post for the remaining year of Hezlep's term. It is a role that Hestin – now a senior project manager for PNC Bank – is well-prepared to serve.

Starting in 1979 Hestin, while working on a computer science degree at Robert Morris, became a member of Monroeville's Volunteer Fire Company #4. No one else in his family – in fact nobody in his circle of friends – had ever been associated with the fire service. But something told him to pull

No one else in his family – in fact nobody in his circle of friends – had ever been associated with the fire service.

into his neighborhood fire station one day and ask to join.

It was a great experience leading to many new friendships. But when his wife Karen graduated from Pharmacy school at Duquesne University, there were no job opportunities in Pittsburgh. So the couple moved to Florida where Ed was able to find work as a programmer analyst writing code for the banking clients of Computer Associates. Volunteer firefighting simply wasn't an option there.

But over time, his job grew into a very demanding, high-stress position. After ten years, he had had enough. By then, with three young children and the prospect of sending them into the area's crowded and struggling local school system, the couple's hometown looked better than ever. "This isn't for us," Hestin recalls them agreeing. "We're going back to Pittsburgh; we know what we're getting into. We want our kids to have that experience."

Relocating to the north of Pittsburgh seemed a logical choice for easing Ed's commute to his new job at PNC downtown. So 20 years ago, the couple moved into their current home in Cranberry's Winchester Farms neighborhood.

"A few years after we were settled back in the area; I said it's time to go meet the guys at the Cranberry Fire Station," Hestin recalled. "So in 1997 I joined and stayed active for seven years." By then, however, spending time with his son and two daughters had become a top priority, and he stepped away from the Fire Company in order to focus on them. But several years ago, with his children now through school, it was time to re-enlist.



"This is a business," he points out. "It's not just guys leaning up against the bay doors waiting for a call. There is a lot of interaction with the Township and community; it requires certain types of people to be in leadership roles." So, exactly what should be the top priority of fire company leadership?

"Retention of people is critical," he answers without hesitation. "Every five years we hang a framed collection of photos of all active members at the station. Over the years, I've looked at who was in those pictures, and many of those faces are gone. Volunteers have to put a lot of time in training just to meet minimum standards. Between family and work time, there aren't many people who can do that."

"We are fortunate that here in Cranberry; we are able to keep the ranks up. Recently we have seen a spike in junior members, young men and women, some of whom are children of active senior members. Hopefully they will cause others to become interested."

"A lot of people have received important life lessons from being a part of this company. I am extremely proud to be a part of this organization and I look forward to adding value wherever I can through leadership, mentoring and community involvement." ~

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.ctvfc21.com



Winter Survival Tips

Safety is important all year long. But it works a bit differently in the winter. Here are some recommendations from Cranberry's Public Safety Department for a safer winter season:

- Inspect/clean your fireplace chimney
- Don't shovel snow onto roadways
- Don't burn Christmas trees
- No New Years' fireworks
- Clear snow around hydrants
- Don't overload extension cords
- Don't put gasoline in kerosene heaters
- Keep hot ashes out of waste carts and cardboard boxes
- Place space heaters away from flammables
- Keep public sidewalks clear
- Clear steps/sidewalk to your home
- Keep 3-5 days of food/medical supplies on hand



CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP

724-776-4806

www.cranberrytownship.org

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724-776-4806 . www.cranberrytownship.org/trash



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