

Cranberrytoday

SUMMER 2014

Community Days To Hit Their Stride July 10 Thru 12

Preparations for Community Days – CTCC’s annual celebration of Cranberry’s nonprofit and civic groups – are nearly complete. The three-day program – actually four, if you count Martinis with Monet, the July 9 art show on the eve of Community Days’ official Thursday, July 10 kickoff – will include all the crowd-pleasing favorites of years past, as well as a few new wrinkles.

With continuing sponsorship from UPMC, Westinghouse, Whole Foods, Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, and the Lynch Weis law firm, the festival offers free admission, although a \$5 parking donation – all of which will be used to support local nonprofits – is suggested during peak hours each day.

Unlike in previous years, all 240 booths representing a mix of businesses, food vendors, service organizations, nonprofits, civic clubs and governmental groups, will be on a single level of the Park. That layout will make the entire event more easily accessible and assure all booth operators of increased visitor traffic. Also unlike in prior years, when some booths were manned for one-day only, each of the 2014 booths is being assigned for all three days of the celebration.

Among the 2014 Community Days attractions, which conclude with a Saturday night fireworks spectacular:

- **Carnival.** This year’s carnival will be a ride or two larger than last year’s. Elimination of the multi-purpose field for athletic competition will free up more room for the additional rides. One-price all-you-can-ride tickets will be available on both Thursday and Friday.
- **Car Cruise.** A series of five classic car cruises this year, in cooperation with Victory Family Church, will include one from 4:00 until 10:00 PM on Thursday, July 10, as part of Community Days. There is no charge to enter a car into the cruise, which is being sponsored by Baierl Ford and Weber Insurance.
- **Treasure Hunts.** Three separate key hunts with weekly clues published in the Cranberry Eagle are being held this year. Awards will be presented immediately before the featured concert at 7:50 on Saturday evening. Prizes include a groundbreaking shovel used by Mario Lemieux for the new UPMC-Pens facility.
- **Inflatables.** Victory Family Church will be sponsoring and staffing three



inflatable attractions which will be in place all three days of the festival.

- **Artwork.** Associated Artists of Butler County will oversee the creation of a massive new mural. A chainsaw artist will carve a Seneca Indian Chief statue. Park trees will be decorated with knitting. And the new Cranberry Arts Network will demonstrate studio art techniques on all three days.
- **Food.** A variety of healthy and not-so-healthy foods will be available from vendors all three days. On Saturday, Rotary will hold a pig roast by the Amphitheatre.
- **Music.** Performers will take the stage throughout the afternoon and evening on all three days. The schedule includes:

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Community Days To Hit Their Stride July 10 Thru 12 *Continued from front cover*

Thursday, July 10 – Broadway in the Park, 6:30. This Cranberry-based Council of the Arts group presents highlights of popular Broadway musicals. **The Holidays, 8:00.** Although the last of its original artists has retired, this reborn 1950s ensemble includes four vocalists and five instrumentalists who perform music of the '50s, '60s, and '70s at venues throughout the region.

Friday, July 11 – Froggy's Hometown Country Tour. The radio station group's 2014 country concert tour includes the six-member Christian Beck band; singer-songwriter Sydney Hutchko; the Pittsburgh-based Nomad group, and EMI recording artist Kelleigh Bannen.

Saturday, July 12 – Broadway in the Park, 2:00. This Cranberry-based Council of the Arts group presents highlights of popular Broadway musicals. **Charlie Stayduhar, 3:30.**

Wearing his signature fedora, Stayduhar's website proclaims him Pittsburgh's Best Sinatra Tribute Artist. **Softwinds, 5:30** A Pittsburgh-based doo-wop group, with origins dating back to 1960, Softwinds specializes in progressive voice scores and tight group harmonies. **Bon-Journey, 8:00.** The website of this Pittsburgh-based, three-man band proclaims the group as America's favorite original tribute to the music of Bon Jovi and Journey. ~

2014 Free Concert Lineup Includes Rock, Country, Classical

Thursdays in the Park Concert Series. All concerts begin at 7:00 PM on the lawn at the Community Park Rotary Amphitheater. Admission is free. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, refreshments. Food will also be available for sale from Rotary.

July 17 - Michael Christopher. Singer/songwriter/guitarist Michael Christopher didn't discover country music until his college days, when he found that its storytelling left a lingering impression. In 2008, he assembled a group of experienced musicians in the Pittsburgh area to form his own band.

July 24 – Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh. Dedicated to composing, promoting and performing chamber music for wind instruments, the Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh was founded in 2003 to bring high-quality wind music to the greater Pittsburgh community. The quintet will offer a program of pops music and summer favorites.

July 31 – KardaZ. KardaZ is a six-member pop rock band styled after American and British bands of the 1960s and '70s. The group flawlessly replicates the harmonic vocals and visuals of that era. In addition to vocals, KardaZ incorporates flute, saxophone, recorder, 12-string guitar, harmonica and percussions into their performances.

August 7 – The Stickers. The Stickers – three Western Pennsylvania brothers with a love of country music – have taken their passion onto the global stage with concerts and airplay in both the U.S. and Europe, including several top ten songs overseas.

August 14 – School of Rock. For more than 15 years, School of Rock – a music school started in Philadelphia that currently includes 130 franchisees in seven different countries, including one in Wexford – has inspired kids to rock on stage and in life. Its Cranberry concert will focus on cover songs from the 1960s to today.



Friday Lunchtime Series. All concerts begin at noon. Bring your own chair and refreshments.

August 1 – Dixieband. This ensemble plays a style of jazz developed in New Orleans at the start of the 20th century. It combines brass band marches, French Quadrilles, ragtime, and blues with improvisation by trumpet, trombone, and clarinet along with piano, drums, and double bass.

August 8. – Craig Zinger. Pianist Craig Zinger wrote and recorded the Pierogi Shuffle for the Pittsburgh Pirates, provided piano accompaniment for Christina Aguilera's

first studio recording session, and played with country singer Sarah Marince as well as many other recording artists.

August 15 – Pittsburgh Banjo Club. The non-profit Pittsburgh Banjo Club was created to keep the music of banjo's golden age alive. Its ensemble includes banjos, trumpets, tubas, and bass performing in a program of sing-alongs, vocals, banjo solos, polkas and Dixieland.

Jobs At Cranberry Highlands; Part-Time Work, Full-Time Fun

Retired boilermaker John DiPlacido discretely took several strokes off the game of an unsuspecting golfer a few years back. As one of Cranberry Highlands' scrupulously neutral, part-time players assistants, that wasn't actually his plan. But sometimes you have to improvise.

"I was in a cart coming up on Hole two. There's a bend, and I started to turn when a drive came and hit me right in my name tag," DePlacido recalled, pointing to his chest. "I was about 225 to 250 yards from the tee. He couldn't see me and I couldn't see the tee box. The player didn't even know he hit me, and I didn't say anything to him. But I actually saved him from going into the fescue."

Fellow players assistant Jim Duncan, a retired biology teacher, has worked the links at Cranberry Highlands for ten years now. "I like the outdoors, loved golf, and I love working with people. This is the perfect seasonal job," he recently reflected. "With the money I make, I go to Florida for six weeks in the winter, and I play golf out there."

"We have a schedule," he said, "and most of us work three days a week

– sometimes four days, depending upon the need, like when guys are on vacation, or off, or they're low on staff."

But the 12 years since Cranberry Highlands opened have seen a major shift in the local labor pool. As a result, its occasional low staffing situations have become chronic and the golf course now has multiple openings for part-time employees – both on the greens and in its clubhouse – pretty much throughout its seven-month season

Looking for work?

"When the golf course opened in 2002, 2003, we would get 200 applications for every job opening we had," Cranberry Highlands Supervisor of Golf Operations Craig Walker recalled. "Now we only get a few. We get college students, but we're not just a summer business; we start in March and run through November, and college students are only able to work maybe seven weeks a year."

The change, according to Walker, is the result of Cranberry's spectacular economic growth. "When this golf course was built, starting in 2001, I

think there were two restaurants in Cranberry," he said. "228 wasn't developed at all. As a matter of fact, when you got off 79 or 19 and headed east on 228, there wasn't another traffic light until you got to Mars-Crider Road, and then there wasn't another until Rt. 8."

"Now look at all the construction – all the restaurants, bars, and retail that have opened since

"Most of us work three days a week – sometimes four. With the money I make, I go to Florida for six weeks in the winter, and I play golf out there."

2002. Those businesses are looking for part-time people just like we are, but they're part-time year round. We're part-time seasonal, based on a golf course and nice weather. So there are many more jobs around than there are applicants.

"Most of my retired employees don't want another full-time job; this is more for pocket change, social activity, to meet people, have fun, and give some structure to their lives," Walker said. "Playing golf is also a benefit of employment. But I have employees who don't golf. Most of my employees are here for social reasons, to interact with people."

That's exactly what attracted veteran administrative assistant Linda Rocco, who lives just a mile and a half from the clubhouse and was looking for something other than a traditional work environment.

"This is a more fun office environment, and more dealing with the public, which is what I love," she said. "I love working with people instead of just being in a cubicle, staring at a computer and typing all day. So it's the best of both worlds for me because I can do administrative things, but still get at the pro shop counter and wait on people and work with merchandise and, on top of that, still assist wherever I'm needed."

To learn more about open positions at the golf course, go to www.cranberryhighlands.com. ~



A business doing pleasure. Part-time employees Jim Duncan and John DiPlacido work the greens as Cranberry Highlands players assistants while Administrative assistant Linda Rocco helps keep the golf course's business functions under control.



Grown-Ups Tone Up Using Park-Based Fitness Stations

Step aside, kids. Now parents can get a complete workout in the park – without all the fuss and bother of joining a club or paying fees.

This spring, both Graham Park and North Boundary Park – already well-provisioned with bike and walking trails – were upgraded by the addition of outdoor fitness stations, each equipped with multiple pieces of weather-resistant exercise equipment.

Designed around the idea that exercise should be a social, rather than a solitary activity, some of the machines are designed to accommodate as many as four users at once, and several are designed to be operated from wheel chairs. 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.

None of the 26 fitness machines are motorized. Instead, users apply their body weight to generate resistance. By moving from machine to machine, users build core body strength, increase agility, and enhance their flexibility by exercising a sequence of individual muscle groups as they go from one piece of equipment to another.

Exercise your thumbs

Every machine includes an instructional decal with a QR code, allowing people to watch a video about the correct operation of that particular piece of equipment, on the spot, simply by using their smart phone. The videos were

prepared by the exercise equipment's manufacturer.

Cranberry's four clusters of equipment – three in Graham Park and one in North Boundary Park – officially opened for public use on June 4 and are designed primarily for adult-size users. Each of the four pads is situated next to its park's respective athletic fields. They are intended to provide parents of players on youth sports teams with an opportunity to increase their own physical conditioning at the same time their children are in games or at practice.

However the fitness stations will remain open and available for anyone to use whenever the parks are open, from dawn until dark – no reservations

The fitness stations will remain open and available for anyone to use whenever the parks are open, from dawn until dark.

needed. And Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Department is planning to incorporate classes using the fitness stations into its warm-weather programming.

Equipment at all four stations was designed and built by California-based Greenfields Outdoor Fitness. While open-air fitness stations are popular



A park with a twist. Cranberry fitness instructor Jen Cranston demonstrates the two-person twisting station, one of 26 pieces of exercise equipment installed in Graham and North Boundary Parks as the CTCC 2014 Project of the Year.

in the west, the ones in Cranberry are believed to be the first of their type in an eastern state.

The fitness pads, which were financed by a \$200,000 gift from Cranberry Township Community Chest and installed by the Township's Public Works Department, are CTCC's 2014 Project of the Year. The organization's 2015 Project of the Year will involve the purchase of a Fire Emergency Training Trailer and the formation of a BC3 scholarship fund for volunteers. ~



North Boundary Park Goes Wireless

North Boundary Park has joined Cranberry's sister parks and Municipal Center in offering wi-fi service to park patrons. The internet connection, which is being provided as a community service by Armstrong, is free of charge to users. Armstrong provides high-speed cable modem Internet connection to residential and business customers in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. ~



Wipe That Smirk Off Your Face; Pickle-Ball Is A Serious Sport

Okay, it sounds odd. But to a fast-growing band of senior citizens, Pickle-ball is The Next Big Thing.

And Cranberry is ready.

Starting in June, the Municipal Center gymnasium, which has been mapped out for regulation Pickle-ball, opened on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for Pickle-ball play from 2:00 until 4:00 – no reservations required.



But what, exactly, is Pickle-ball?

It's a lot like tennis, only scaled back and slowed down a bit. For example, its courts are the size of badminton courts – half the size of regulation tennis. Its rackets are closer to Ping-Pong paddles than to stringed rackets. A wiffle ball is used in place of a normal tennis ball. All serves are underhand. The game can be played with singles or doubles. And points can only be scored by the serving side – that

is, until they commit a fault, for which there are multiple opportunities.

“We have two courts mapped out on our gym floor right now. We have the nets. We have a couple paddles and some Pickle-balls. Anybody 18 or older can participate – it's a drop-in thing,” Program Coordinator Jason Mentel explained. “So if you want to come on a Friday afternoon, you just pay the Open Gym fee at the customer service desk, and go in and play. It's \$4 for residents, \$5 for everyone else.” ~

Shelter From The Storm

Cranberry's Lacrosse and Junior Football associations have joined forces with the Township's Public Works department to finance and build a new pavilion in Community Park North's practice field area. The 24 by 44 foot shelter – comparable to the park's Lions Shelter – is outfitted with a grill, picnic tables, a bike rack, and fittings for eventual connections to both water and electrical service. Private party reservations for the pavilion are available through the Township's Parks & Recreation Department. ~



Nice Rack

Cranberry now has 15 new bicycle racks in public places. The Alcoa Foundation presented the Township with a gift of \$20,000 to purchase the racks, which were installed by Cranberry's Public Works personnel. Alcoa acquired Traco several years ago, making it one of the Township's largest employers. Bike rack locations include the front of the Municipal Center, the Skatepark, Community Park, North Boundary Park, and Graham Park. ~



Waterpark Renovation

At the conclusion of its 18th season this Labor Day, the pool at Cranberry Community Waterpark will start to undergo several needed restoration and improvement projects. At their June 5 meeting, the Township's Board of Supervisors approved a proposed plan to re-line the entire pool, add filtration and circulation equipment, modify the spray pad play area, and separate the zero-depth entry area for young children from the remaining parts of the pool. All work is expected to be completed this fall – well in advance of the Waterpark's 2015 season start. ~



Hit The Dek

By October, Cranberry will be the second North Hills community – the other being in North Park – to be outfitted with a public dek hockey rink, courtesy of the Pittsburgh

Penguins Foundation and Highmark. It is part of a 12-rink regional building program announced by the two organizations in May. The 155 by 75 foot rink in Graham Park will consist of a waffle-surfaced plastic playing court atop an asphalt base. Hockey games will use balls rather than pucks, and players will wear sneakers rather than blades. However the court will also be suitable for soccer and lacrosse play. Cranberry's Parks & Recreation department will take the lead in programming the rink, according to players' ages, although an athletic association may eventually develop, as it has in several of the other dek hockey communities in the region. ~



Participate in Seneca Valley's 'Gift of Hope'

By Linda Andreassi, Seneca Valley School District Communications Director



The Seneca Valley Foundation invites you to support the Seneca Valley Foundation and enjoy a day out on the beautiful Cranberry Highlands Golf Course.

The 2nd Annual Gift of Hope Golf Classic will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7, at the award-winning course in Cranberry Township. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a 9 a.m.

shotgun start. A light lunch will be provided during the event with a buffet dinner scheduled for 2 p.m.

All proceeds go to the Seneca Valley Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging excellence and innovation in the Seneca Valley School District.

Sponsorship Levels

Presenting Level Sponsor: \$7,500

Package includes:

- Three Foursomes at the Outing (12 Golfers)
- Recognition as Presenting Sponsor on all Correspondence Promoting Outing as well as Pairing/Rules Sheets at the Outing
- Company Name/Logo on Non-Golf Outing Organization Correspondence
- Signage at Registration and Post-Golf Reception
- Full-Page ad in Golf Event Presentation
- Premium Signage on Holes 1 and 10 at the Outing
- Pin Flag on Multiple Holes at the Outing
- Verbal Acknowledgement as the Presenting Sponsor during Awards Presentation
- Twelve Complimentary Dinner Guest Passes

Platinum Level Sponsors: \$5,000

Package includes:

- Two Foursome at the Outing (8 Golfers)
- Signage at Registration and Post-Golf Reception
- ½ Page ad in Golf Event Presentation
- Pin Flag on One Hole at the Outing
- Tee Sponsor Signage at the Outing
- Verbal Acknowledgement as the Platinum Sponsor during Awards Presentation
- Eight Complimentary Dinner Guest Passes

Gold Level Sponsors: \$2,500

Package includes:

- Foursome at the Outing (4 Golfers)

- Signage at Registration and Post-Golf Reception
- ¼ Page ad in Golf Event Presentation
- Pin Flag on One Hole at the Outing
- Tee Sponsor Signage at the Outing
- Verbal Acknowledgement as the Gold Sponsor during Awards Presentation
- Four Complimentary Dinner Guest Passes

Silver Level Sponsors: \$1,500

Package includes:

- Foursome at the Outing (4 Golfers)
- Business-Card Ad in Golf Event Presentation
- Tee Sponsor Signage at the Outing
- Verbal Acknowledgement of Sponsor during Awards Presentation

Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$1,500

Package includes:

- Signage on Beverage Cart Featuring Company Name/Logo
- One Staff member to Circulate Course Entire Outing
- On Course Signage Featuring Company Name/Logo
- Verbal Acknowledgement during Awards Presentation

Hole-In-One Contest Sponsor: \$1,000

Package includes:

- Recognition as Hole-In-One Contest Sponsor on all Correspondence Promoting Outing
- Signage on four (4) Contest Holes Featuring Company Name/Logo
- Staff Member to Act as Hole-In-One Witness, if Required
- Verbal Acknowledgement during Awards Presentation

Skill Prize Contest Sponsor: \$1,000

Package includes:

- Signage on six (6) Contest Holes (four closest to the pin, one long drive, one log putt) Featuring Company Name/Logo
- Skill Award Features Event logo with Sponsor Name/Logo
- Verbal Acknowledgement during Awards Presentation

Green Sponsors: \$300

Package includes:

- Pin Flag with Company Name/Logo Placed on Green
- One Sign with Company Name/Logo Placed near Green

Tee Sponsors: \$150

Package includes:

- One Sign with Company Name/Logo Placed on Tee Box

Lunch/Cocktail/Dinner Sponsors: \$1,500/\$1,500/\$3,000

Package includes:

- Signage with Event logo and Sponsor Name/Logo at Lunch/Cocktail/Dinner Location
- ½ Page ad in Golf Event Presentation
- Verbal Acknowledgement at the Outing
- Four Complimentary Lunch or Cocktail/Dinner Guest Passes

Foursomes: \$700

Individual Golfer: \$175

For more information or to register, please contact Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, at (724) 452-6040, ext. 1612 or email at andreassill@svsd.net. You can mail sponsorship/registration payment in care of and to Seneca Valley Foundation, 124 Seneca School Rd., Harmony, PA 16037.



SMS Meer Is Retrofitting America's Steelmakers

The long-rumored death of America's steel industry has been greatly exaggerated. Of course, it has declined over the past 30 years, particularly in Western Pennsylvania. But the steel, aluminum and nonferrous metal industries remain an important economic force in the tri-state area and throughout much of North America. Just ask Nils Honold, CEO of SMS Meer Inc., a leading supplier of aftermarket services related to the production equipment his company makes for customers in the metal manufacturing and forming businesses.

SMS Meer Inc., which is part of Germany's privately-held, \$4.5 billion SMS group, has been located in Cranberry Business Park since 2007. But it is no newcomer to the Pittsburgh area. SMS group, a global leader in the construction of plants and equipment for metal production and fabrication, has maintained a presence in Pittsburgh through both good and lean times. SMS Siemag, the sister division to SMS Meer, has had a major office on Pittsburgh's north shore since the mid-'90s, and some of the other U. S. companies that SMS acquired over the years have themselves been in business locally for as long as a century.

"We've been here in the good times and we stayed through the challenging times," Honold explained. "If you look at Pittsburgh 30 years ago and what it is now, a lot of the steel industry has gone. But there is still significant industry around the Pittsburgh area,

in Youngstown, and in the wider area. While the investment in new equipment may not be as strong as it used to be years ago, the need for servicing, supporting, upgrading, revamping, and modernizing equipment has not gone away. So it still makes sense for us to be here."

Internally, the SMS group distinguishes between industrial customers who produce flat metal products – plates and sheets, for example – and those making long products – tubing, pipes, beams and extruded shapes. SMS Meer's focus is on the latter, where the rapid growth of natural gas extraction and the associated need for piping has been a boon to its pipe-producing customers and, by extension, to the demand for its own pipe production gear.

For the past twenty years, however, much of the growth in steel making and related equipment has taken place far from America's shores. India, Russia and Brazil, for example, have significantly built up their metal production capabilities during that time. But nowhere has the investment in new steel plants been greater than in China, which has emerged as a vital market for the SMS group and where some of its own production equipment is now manufactured.

The company's North American market, by contrast, is focused more on machinery repair, equipment upgrades, and process improvements in legacy plants, along with related workforce training and consultation. Those services, and the replacement of normal wear parts, are at the core of what SMS Meer's 65 employees do in Cranberry. But most of their work takes place at their customer's work sites.

Easy access to those customers was a central reason for the choice of



Spare parts. Replacement wear parts for machinery used in the metals industry are housed at an SMS Meer warehouse in Cranberry Business Park. CEO Nils Honold oversees the German company's North American operations.

Cranberry as its business location. "We are close to I-79, we are close to I-76, we are fairly close to the airport – all of which are good for us since we have people traveling," Honold noted. "We need to go out. We need to be close to our customers."

But there were also a few intangible factors involved in the move to Cranberry. "We were looking for something fresh and new in terms of a building," he said. "How do we want to present ourselves to our customers? We were looking for a more modern-feeling environment, and that's what we found here. We were looking for flex space and Cranberry Business Park was able to offer it. We needed an office, we wanted to have a warehouse, and we now have a small repair shop. So we were looking for flexibility but in a new kind of setup – not some rundown industrial place. This was really the best place we could find. It's easy to get here; it works well for us." ~

• The need for servicing, supporting, upgrading, revamping, and modernizing equipment has not gone away.

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.



Why Don't Cranberry Board Meetings Look More Like Studio Wrestling?

by **Bruce Mazzoni, Cranberry Township Supervisor**

All five members of Cranberry's Board of

Supervisors are Republicans. Until this past January, that had not been the case for more than 20 years. So what difference has that made in our deliberations? Zero.

For anyone who follows state and national news, that might come as a surprise. After all, both Harrisburg and Washington seem to be in a permanent state of partisan gridlock. So a person might be excused for assuming that same sort of venom would spill over into local government as well. In a few places, it probably does. But not in Cranberry Township, although there are a handful of oddballs around who would like to see us replicate the national pattern of acrimony here at home.

But why is that the case? Why doesn't Cranberry's government operate more like the mudfighting spectacle we see at the state and national levels? After all, it's not as though Cranberry and its governing board are exempt from the law of gravity or that its members descend from a different species of political animal.

I am frequently asked that question myself. And my answer has several parts.

One reason is that the issues facing municipal governments are different than those which state and federal legislatures are sometimes required to address. Wedge issues like abortion, immigration, guns and same-sex marriage, for example – divisive topics that serve as fodder for negative campaigns – are typically not decided at the local level. We deal instead with

things like zoning and trash and safety. So you won't find many hot button issues on our agenda.

Another is that our Board members – all of whom are working professionals – share a consensus about things like the value of maintaining our public infrastructure, planning for the future, assuring public safety, and managing growth. There are, I realize, some people out there who see public planning and growth management as insidious forms of socialism, but I respectfully disagree; they're just common sense – and good business practices.

But perhaps the most important reason is that Board membership isn't a career in Cranberry. Nobody makes a living as a Supervisor here. We receive an annual stipend which, if you divide

The most important reason is that Board membership isn't a career in Cranberry. Nobody makes a living as a Supervisor here.

it by the number of hours it requires, works out to something less than minimum wage. And some of us even turn down that modest compensation. There used to be a health benefit attached to Board membership. But, as a result of a 2008 resolution we adopted, no one elected since that date is eligible to receive it.

That's important because, unlike some of our larger legislative bodies, the incentive to put personal interests and political careers ahead of our



constituents just isn't there. We don't shower ourselves with perks at public expense. As Township residents ourselves, every ordinance we enact has the same impact on us that it does on everyone else. And as taxpayers, we are no more enthusiastic about paying taxes than our neighbors. Each of us has to earn a living exactly the way our constituents do. So we tend to look at local issues in the same ways other residents do, too.

Perhaps the best way of thinking about service on a Township panel – and this applies to a whole assortment of independent public commissions, boards and councils – is by looking at it as you would look at members on the boards of nonprofit or civic organizations. Enriching themselves is not a viable option. Members are free to speak their minds because nobody is paying them to toe the official party line. And each of them is working on behalf of a cause they believe in deeply.

That doesn't mean our board members won't have honest disagreements and deeply held differences on important issues, at least from time to time. That happens. But what it does mean is that the destructive and self-serving pattern of governance we have become accustomed to at the state and national level doesn't need to apply at home. We can do better. And in Cranberry, I think we have. ~

You can reach **Bruce Mazzoni** by email at bruce.mazzoni@cranberrytownship.org

Township Board Members Honored

Three of Cranberry Township's five-member Board of Supervisors were recently honored by different outside organizations.

Board Chairman Bruce Mazzoni was presented the Distinguished Service Award for Butler County by the Butler Eagle and the Rotary Club of Butler. The award is given to honor an individual who has performed exemplary volunteer service over and above his or her employment responsibilities. Among his many volunteer activities have been his leadership of the Cranberry Public Library Board and revitalization of the Cranberry Township Community Chest. A formal presentation of the service award was held May 7.

Supervisor Dick Hadley was selected for the prestigious Joseph A. James Memorial Award for Excellence in Government Achievement by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. Criteria for the award include a lifetime pursuit of exemplary local government performance, success in promoting innovative intergovernmental ventures, improving professionalism in municipal government, and leadership for a municipal government cause. The Commission represents the collective interests of eleven surrounding counties. Hadley's accomplishments in the area of local government include his presidency of PSATS, a statewide organization of township supervisors and serving as



Executive Director of the Allegheny League of Municipalities.

Cranberry's newest Board member, Bruce Hezlep, successfully completed a 16-week Newly Elected Officials course offered by the Local Government Academy. The Butler County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing Hezlep's commitment to public service and his investment of time as a participant in the Academy's comprehensive program on local government. Prior to the start of his term on the Board, Hezlep had been President of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company. ~

Cranberry EMS Receives Pediatric Accreditation, High Heart Marks

The Cranberry Township Emergency Medical Service is now an officially certified pediatric transport service. As part of its required tri-annual licensing program, the ambulance service recently ratcheted up its professional bar by securing a Masters Level accreditation of EMS for Children, or EMSC – a certification that has only been available in Pennsylvania for about a year.

Receiving its EMSC involved putting Cranberry's EMTs and paramedics through supplementary pediatric education, obtaining additional legal clearances, and increasing the amount of pediatric supplies carried on its ambulances. The Cranberry EMS is one of just four ambulance services in the region to secure the EMSC certification, offering further validation of Bloomberg/Business Week's recent selection of Cranberry Township as Pennsylvania's best place to raise kids.

However, that certification is not the service's only involvement with local children. In addition, Cranberry's EMS

has a longstanding engagement in child car seat fitting campaigns. It also carries an inflatable car seat onboard its ambulances in the event a child who needs to be transported does not have a usable seat of his or her own. Pediatric transports represent approximately ten percent of the Cranberry service's call volume.

Taking heart

A recent report from a nationwide project called Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival, which tracks a variety of medically significant indicators for those experiencing heart attacks outside of hospitals, showed a better than average rate of success for patients in the Cranberry EMS service area.

CARES, as the registry is known among health professionals, is a Web-based data management system. Participating communities enter local data and generate reports. They can compare their EMS system performance against aggregated statistics for local, state, or

national results and discover promising practices to improve emergency cardiac care. Benchmarks include such factors as return of spontaneous circulation and the proportion of patients who eventually walked out of the hospital with limited disability.

Cranberry's EMS attributes a significant part of its success to the number of local residents who are both familiar with CPR, who recognize the symptoms, and who apply that lifesaving technique to the victim in the first critical minutes until first responders arrive. EMS professionals refer to citizens trained in CPR as the first link in a Chain of Survival that includes notifying 9-1-1, prompt arrival of first responders, having the right material on board the ambulance, delivering the patient to the right facility, and the level of care available there.

Classes in CPR are offered by-monthly by the Cranberry EMS at the Township's Municipal Center and by request on the site of organizations requesting training for their members. ~

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY

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

◀ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

☎ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

★ 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

TUES 1 Picture Book Picnic Library, 11:30am-12pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm		WED 2 Infant Storytime < Library, 10:30-11am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 7:30-10pm		THURS 3 Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Teen Art Club Library, 4-5pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Twp Offices & Library Closed		SAT 5	
SUN 6	MON 7 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm First Edition Book Group Library, 7-8pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm			TUES 8 Picture Book Picnic Library, 11:30am-12pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm		WED 9 Infant Storytime < Library, 10:30-11am Read-a-Thon Library, 11:30am-7:30pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm CTCC Community Days Pre-Opening Events: CTVFC Golf Classic Cranberry Highlands, 9am Martinis with Monet Municipal Ctr, 6:30-9pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30-10pm			
THURS 10 Reading with Rover Library, 11am-noon CTCC Community Days Cruisin' Cranberry, Booths, Rides, Carnival, Concert, Library LEGO Build, Rt 19 Community Park, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm			FRI 11 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm CTCC Community Days Booths, Rides, Carnival, Concerts, Library LEGO Build, Rt 19 Community Park, 4pm Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm			SAT 12 CTCC Community Days Run for Charity 5K, Lions Pancake Brkfst, Rotary Paintball, Booths, Rides, Carnival, Concerts, Library LEGO Build, Rt 19 Community Park, 4pm Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Household Haz. Waste ☼ Collection by appt			SUN 13
MON 14 Drop in Program Library, 1-3pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 15 Picture Book Picnic Library, 11:30am-12pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm		WED 16 Books & Bagel Book Club Library, 10am Infant Storytime < Library, 10:30-11am UPMC Wellness Series: Shoulder Pain Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30-1:30pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Candy Experiments Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30-10pm			THURS 17 Grossology Library, 2-3pm Thursday Concert Michael Christopher Community Park, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		
FRI 18 Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6-8pm Teen Movie Night Library, 7-9:30pm			SAT 19 Sheriff's Office: Gun Licensing Municipal Ctr, 9am-2pm Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Mother-Daughter Book Club Library, 1-3pm		SUN 20		MON 21 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 22 Picture Book Picnic Library, 11:30am-12pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm
WED 23 Infant Storytime < Library, 10:30-11am Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Tween Ice Cream Library, 6:30-7pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30-10pm			THURS 24 Zoo Animal Visit Library, 11am Reading with Rover Library, 6-7pm Thursday Concert Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh, Community Park, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm			FRI 25 Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6-8pm			SAT 26 Relay for Life North Boundary Park Household Haz. Waste ☼ Collection by appt Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm
SUN 27 Relay for Life North Boundary Park		MON 28 Drop in Program Library, 1-3pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, 5:30pm 20 & 30's Book Club Library, 7-8pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 29 Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		WED 30 Touch-a-Truck Community Park, 10-11:30am Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2-4pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30-10pm		THURS 31 Thursday Concert Kardaz, Community Park, 7pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUG

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

✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

‡ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

FRI 1 Last Day of Summer Reading Club Cranberry CUP Golf Outing and Kickoff Event Cranberry Highlands Crafty Friday Library, 11am–1pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm		Lunchtime Concert Dixieland, Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm Farmers’ Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6–8pm		SAT 2 Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm		SUN 3 Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament				
MON 4 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm First Edition Book Group Library, 7–8pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		TUES 5 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9–11pm		WED 6 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30–10pm		THURS 7 Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Thursday Concert The Stickers, Community Park, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm				
FRI 8 Lunchtime Concert Craig Zinger, Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Farmers’ Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6–8pm		SAT 9 Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm		SUN 10		MON 11 Fall Program Registration Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm		TUES 12 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm Family Movie Night The Lego Movie, Community Park, 9pm		
WED 13 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30–10pm		THURS 14 Thursday Concert School of Rock, Community Park, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm		FRI 15 Lunchtime Concert Pittsburgh Banjo Club, Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Farmers’ Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6–8pm				SAT 16 CPR / AED / First Aid ☘ EMS Bldg, 8:30am & 12pm Household Haz. Waste ✓ Collection by appt Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm		
SUN 17	MON 18 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, 7:30pm		TUES 19 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		WED 20 Books & Bagel Book Club Library, 10am UPMC Wellness Series: How’s Your Hearing Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30–1:30pm Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30–10pm				THURS 21 Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm	
FRI 22 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Farmers’ Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6–8pm		SAT 23 Habitat for Humanity Aquathon, North Boundary Park Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm		SUN 24	MON 25 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Planning Advisory CommissionWork Session Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30’s Book Club Library, 7–8pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm				TUES 26 Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	
WED 27 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7:30–10pm		THURS 28 Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm		FRI 29 Open Gym Pickleball (18+) 2–4pm Farmers’ Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6–8pm		SAT 30 Household Haz. Waste ☘ Collection by appt Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm			SUN 31	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPT

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

✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

MON 1LABOR DAY Twp Offices & Library Closed; No Waste Collection		TUES 2Waste Collection 1-Day Delay thru 9-5 Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 5:30pm		WED 3		THURS 4Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Place Workshop Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm					
FRI 5		SAT 6Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm Puppy Plunge Waterpark, 9am–12:30pm		SUN 7		MON 8Infant Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30–11am Teen Advisory Board (TAB) ◀ Library, 4–5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		TUES 9Preschool Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am			
WED 10Toddler Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am		THURS 11Patriot Day Home School Crafternoon Library, 1pm Family Place Workshop Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm		FRI 12		SAT 13Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm		SUN 14			
MON 15Infant Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30–11am Tween Advisory Board ◀ Library, 4:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm				TUES 16Preschool Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm				WED 17Books & Bagel Book Club Library, 10am UPMC Wellness Series: Having Senior Moment Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30–1:30pm Toddler Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am			
THURS 18Family Place Workshop Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm		FRI 19		SAT 20Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company 55th Anniversary Open House Rt 19 Fire Station, 8am–4pm Sheriff’s Office: Gun Licensing Municipal Ctr, 9am–2pm Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm				SUN 21			
MON 22Infant Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30–11am Teen Advisory Board (TAB) ◀ Library, 4–5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		TUES 23Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Preschool Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm		WED 24Toddler Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am		THURS 25Family Place Workshop Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm					
FRI 26Teen Movie Night Library, 7pm		SAT 27Farmers’ Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm		SUN 28		MON 29Infant Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30–11am Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30’s Book Club Library, 7–8pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm				TUES 30Preschool Storytime ◀ Library, 10 & 11am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	

Spite Fence Prompts New Regulation

Earlier this year, a long-simmering dispute between next door neighbors in a Cranberry neighborhood led one of them to erect a six-foot stockade fence along their property line, right beside his neighbor's driveway. As a result, whenever that neighbor would back out, his view of the road and sidewalk became obstructed, creating a potential safety problem.

But the fence was legal. Cranberry had no ordinance in place to regulate it. Anyone could install any type of fence they liked, as long as it was on their own property. In this case, since it was outside the public right-of-way, Cranberry had no authority to order it taken down.

That was then.

On April 1, after several revisions, an Ordinance was adopted by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors requiring homeowners to secure a Township permit in advance of installing certain front yard fences or walls. The Ordinance limits the height and placement of new front yard fences and walls wherever they could pose a safety hazard by limiting motorists' ability to see approaching vehicles at corners, or interfere with sidewalk use.

In the case of the original dispute, the quarrel eventually resolved itself. The people who put up the fence moved out and sold their house. Their real estate



agents immediately took the fence down, making the issue go away. But its legacy is now enshrined in Cranberry's Code of Ordinances. ~



Jim Robinson,
Cranberry Township
Resident



They saved my life.

"Ten years ago, I got rear-ended by a school bus. I was stopped to make a left hand turn. I saw the driver coming and I could tell she wasn't looking, she was paying attention to her students. So I got crushed and pushed into oncoming traffic. Then I was hit head-on by a van going the other way.

"I don't remember everything, but I do recall lying on the side of the road, coming in and out of consciousness, and it seemed to me that the fire company was there in a heartbeat. I was rushed to the hospital with head injuries, and then spent a long time in rehab. But I've always been hugely grateful for the help I got when I really needed it. And later, after I got better, I joined the fire company out of gratitude.

"They really saved my life."

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

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



The Cranberry Township
Volunteer Fire Company



Firefighter Profile: Rekindling Old Flame, Elaine Cornell Summons Fire Company

You don't need to fight fires to become an essential part of the Fire Company, at least not in Cranberry Township. That's what Elaine Cornell discovered.

Since relocating here from Florida two years ago, Cornell – who arrived without any firefighting experience and only limited emergency training – has become a pillar of Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company, chairing its Membership Committee and serving as an active member on numerous other committees including Recruitment & Retention, Media, Uniforms, Computers, and Fire Safety Education. It was a surprisingly good fit.

While still living in Jacksonville, following a career that involved website development, theater and Coast Guard service, Cornell heard about her city's Citizen Police Academy – a 12-session class that oriented civilians to different aspects of police work. Its alumni association offered graduates various law enforcement support tasks. One that intrigued her involved taking fingerprints – a skill she began applying as a volunteer for the police department, and later for the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Among her other spare-time projects was running a website for her Athens, Ohio high school graduating class. Then one day, three years ago, while on a Facebook page devoted to her classmates, a familiar face came up. It was her high school sweetheart, someone she had lost track of decades earlier, a man who had become well established as a brigade member in Cranberry's fire company. Over the intervening years, both had gone

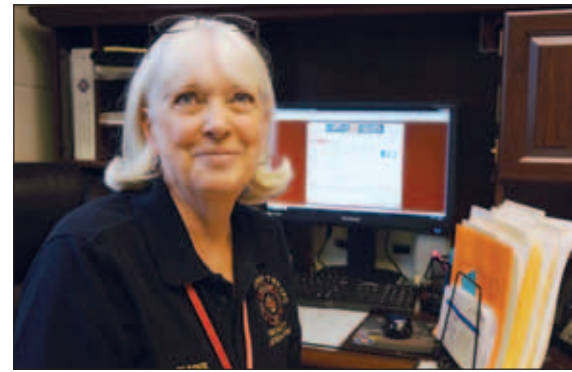
on to lead lives, raise families, and pursue remarkably similar careers in different locations. But by now their life circumstances had changed. And following a few tentative visits between their respective locations, the two agreed to set up housekeeping in Cranberry.

Looking into volunteer opportunities at the Fire Company was a natural for Cornell, but it came with a certain apprehension. "I didn't realize when I arrived here that I could even join the department, that I could be a Company member. I thought the only avenue was Ladies Auxiliary," she remembered. "Of course they provide a lot of great functions. But I'm not a typical woman, so joining the Company was more my style. But I didn't know much about firefighting and I don't know anything about the trucks, so committee work became a perfect fit for me."

Finding her niche

That was just fine with newly installed Fire Company President Ed Hestin, who at the time was its Membership Chairman. "Ed was looking at doing more involved background checks," Cornell recalled. "Back then, all they did was a Pennsylvania background check and then look online at Megan's list, for child abusers. That was it. Well, I came here from Florida and people like me have no history in Pennsylvania. So Ed concluded that expanding background checks nationally would need to involve fingerprinting. Well, I do fingerprinting; Jacksonville Beach police department trained me on doing fingerprints."

That revelation ushered her into the Fire Company's Membership Committee,



"I didn't realize when I arrived here that I could even join the department, that I could be a Company member."

where her involvement soon cascaded into other aspects of Company operation. But her primary focus these days is on recruiting retirees, particularly including former teachers, to staff the Company's Fire Safety Education Committee – an essential committee whose members travel to local schools, businesses, and youth organizations to demonstrate fire safety fundamentals, including the proper use of fire extinguishers.

"We definitely need people who did any kind of teaching, or who love to teach, or who love children, or who just want to help spread the word," she pointed out. "Being retired is better because they're available more often and there are a lot of events going on during the day."

Unlike serving in the brigade – the highly-trained firefighting unit that responds to 911 calls – regular Fire Company members do not need to go through a training regimen. "The only thing we're required to do is come here for work night, attend company meetings, and serve on two committees," she said. "So it's not a whole lot of requirements." ~

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

CTCC Takes On Firefighting As 2015 Project Of The Year

Genuine fire safety results from a combination of factors. One is knowing what to do in case fire happens. Another is having a well-trained, well-staffed fire company available to respond should one occur. A third is having building codes and work practices in place which make the spread of fire less likely.

For its 2015 Project of the Year, CTCC is taking on two of the three challenges. Its twin goals are, first, to focus attention on the recruitment of volunteer firefighters, and second, to increase preparedness among ordinary residents for dealing with fire emergencies. It is a collaborative project.

Together with the Butler County Board of Commissioners, Butler County Community College, Butler County Fire Chiefs Association, Cranberry Township, and the Cranberry Township Volunteer

and private homes where fires can cause tremendous damage and put lives at risk. So for more than 20 years, the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company has maintained, transported, and hosted youth organizations as well as grade school students throughout Butler County, in its Fire Safety House – a mobile home mockup, scaled for children, as part of its fire safety education program.

Mobile learning center

That trailer has served its purpose well. But because of its age and size limitations, an enhanced replacement – one designed to accommodate adults as well as children – was deemed necessary by the Fire Company several years ago. Grant applications to the state for a replacement unit were unsuccessful. As a result, a new and upgraded replacement trailer is the most visible part of CTCC's 2015 Project of the Year initiative.

However the new trailer will have a somewhat different mission than the one it replaces. The primary task of the old Fire Safety House trailer – raising fire awareness and reducing response times in fire emergencies among school-age children – will be extended. The new Emergency-Fire Training Trailer will accommodate safety instruction for the employees of local businesses as well as other adult organizations in the community. Training sessions will frequently be paired with coaching in related skills, such as the proper use of fire extinguishers. In addition, in the event of a community-wide emergency,



the lab can be quickly transformed into a mobile command center for first responders.

Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company will schedule the mobile unit and make it available for training with fire companies in other Butler County municipalities as well as among Cranberry's family of Mutual Aid fire company communities for use at volunteer recruitment events.

Fire scholars

Less visible, but equally important, the 2015 initiative will create a scholarship fund at BC3, valid for any degree program, that can be used by as many as 20 fire company volunteers a year in return for their commitment to completing 172 hours of required fire training and serving for one to two years as active firefighters. The scholarships will be offered in addition to the fire academy training that Cranberry currently underwrites for its fire company members.

Both the safety trailer and scholarship program are part of an ongoing effort to recruit, retain and instruct volunteer firefighters in communities throughout Butler County. The overall fundraising goal for the combined effort is \$500,000, most of which will be used to endow the scholarship fund. ~

- CTCC will acquire a new,
- high-capability Emergency-Fire
- Training Trailer for use by
- volunteer fire companies
- throughout the area.

Fire Company, CTCC will acquire a new, high-capability Emergency-Fire Training Trailer for use by volunteer fire companies throughout the area. The trailer will also serve as a recruitment center during campaigns for new volunteers.

For members of the general public, practice drills are fundamental to fire safety. They're especially important for schools, businesses, institutions



Late Tax, Early Tax. It's never too late to pay your taxes. But if your 2014 Butler County-Cranberry Township real estate tax wasn't paid by the end of June, it's overdue now and into its penalty phase. Your school district tax bill, on the other hand, won't even be sent out until the beginning of August, and it can be paid at a two percent discount until the end of September. If you have refinanced your mortgage recently and no longer have your tax funds put in some sort of escrow account, call Tax Collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 to make alternate payment arrangements. ~

Is Cranberry Getting A Heart Transplant?

For decades, the commercial and residential heart of Cranberry centered around the intersection of Freedom Road with Rt. 19, near RIDC Park. In fact, until fairly recently, the Township's southwestern corner remained the focus of both its industrial, retail, and housing development. Everything east of I-79 was pretty much rural. But that's changing almost daily, as the construction equipment arrayed along Rt. 228 seem to signify.

"Just look at what's happening in the 228 corridor, land development-wise, let alone all the road projects," Cranberry Community Development Director Ron Henshaw recently observed. "There's a real story in how the land development, coupled with all of the roadwork that's either underway, in the planning stage, or about to be constructed, is changing the face of the Township.

"When you look at 228 – the UPMC-Pens project, the new North Catholic high school, the hotels, the restaurants, the retail and even new residential construction, like the Haven at the Woods apartments in Cranberry Woods, it's all happening there. It's an exciting time for that corridor."

A change of heart

Historically, though, Cranberry's center of gravity had always been to the west of I-79 – largely between the Turnpike and I-79. Today, however, that center is shifting over to the fast-developing area on the opposite side of the Interstate. To some extent, that shift simply

represents an extension of what was already in place. But there is a distinct eastward tilt to where development is happening, and the heart of Cranberry seems to be moving right along with it.

"Just in my lifetime as an employee here, Rt. 228 was a two-lane road with nothing on either side but a campground and a few homes," Henshaw recalled. "It wasn't all that long ago. It's been fascinating for me to see the transition happen in this short time and to see the off-the-charts growth that's happening here."

The handful of residents who have remained in place through that transition hold distinctly mixed feelings about finding themselves in the heart of a bustling development center after decades of quiet pastoral life. And the few who still recall the days when a blinking yellow light at Dutilh and Mars Road was the Township's only traffic signal, are both wistful and amazed.

Yet it's far from over. Cranberry Springs – the 92-acre development at the northeast corner of I-79 and Rt. 228 – is only now getting underway. A multi-



"228 was a two-lane road with nothing on either side but a campground and a few homes. It's been fascinating for me to see the transition in this short time and the off-the-charts growth happening here."

phase development across the highway at Franklin Road – currently under agreement for new ownership – is also in the initial stages of plan preparation. And a buyer's option to build on the last remaining commercial parcel of Cranberry Woods Business Park has been rumored for months now.

New hotels are sprouting up everywhere along the corridor while even more are planned. And a cluster of road improvements, including new ramps connecting I-79 with Rt. 228, new turning lanes, new signal systems, new bike lanes, new sidewalks, and new on-site access and vehicle circulation routes, are all scrambling to keep up with the associated growth in traffic.

For some, it's as though they've just witnessed a municipal heart transplant. But for most, it's been a change for the better. ~

Preschool Is Shaping Up. *It still looks a bit rough, but renovations to the former police station area in the Municipal Center, creating a new Preschool space, are moving right along – just in time to house their inaugural classes this fall. A number of new features being built into the space will make the preschool more comfortable, more secure, and more convenient for teachers and students, as well as for parents. Some of the new space will also be used to house Cranberry's Before- and After-school care programs. ~*



Traffic Signals Set To Go Rogue

Starting early next year, traffic lights at six intersections along the stretch of Freedom Road between Thorn Hill Extension and Rt. 19 are expected become so smart that they'll modify the timing of their signal phases, on the fly and without human intervention, whenever traffic conditions change.

It is very high-tech. In fact, according to Township Assistant Manager Duane McKee, who has spent much of his career working out traffic flows for Cranberry, adaptive signal technology is the most advanced available for efficient traffic movement. And a

• *Adaptive signal technology is the most advanced available for efficient traffic movement.*

significant part of its \$50,000-plus tab will be paid by drivers who are fined for running red lights in suburban Philadelphia, courtesy of a 2012 state law. Most of the money will go toward the purchase of software and licenses to operate the signals, although some new hardware will also need to be acquired.

"We've been working our way up to this real-time response level," McKee explained. "Part of our system is ready, although a majority isn't. But we selected an area we thought was ready. We have a number of new signals going in along the Freedom Road corridor between 19 and Connector. The state is rebuilding the Freedom-Rt. 19 intersection, and when they replace those signals, they'll be putting in the new hardware."

Traffic 2.0

Traffic signal technology, like consumer technology, has continued evolving. So whenever an intersection is rebuilt,

it is typically outfitted with the then-most current hardware. In Cranberry, however, hardware purchases have been made for a number of years with the understanding that its traffic controls would ultimately be upgraded to accommodate advanced systems like adaptive technology, even though they were still under development.

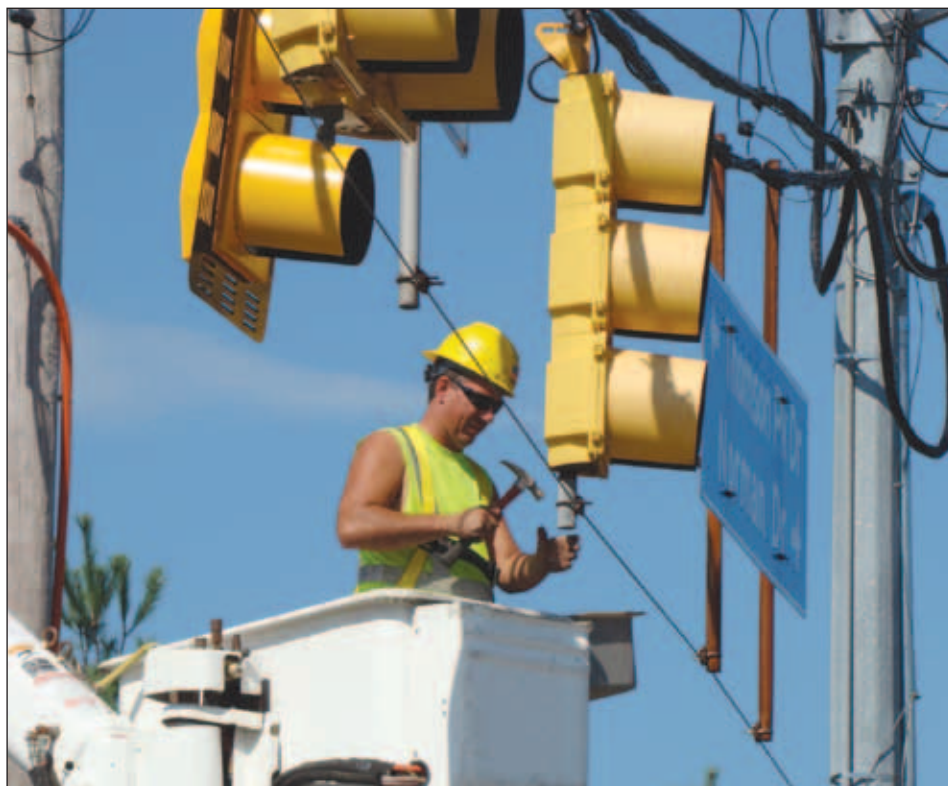
"We want people to know that we are always planning for the future and that whenever possible, we implement the latest technologies so that we are ready to move when the time comes," McKee pointed out. "We watch new technologies and stay ahead of the curve."

At the same time, though, maintaining an adaptive system at its peak performance level will be an ongoing challenge. "It's not that you just put it in and you're fixed forever," he said. "I don't want to paint a picture that this is the end game – that you just put in

adaptive and it takes care of Cranberry's traffic for the rest of our lives. We're concerned about how to maintain the system once you put it in – how do we keep it running right?"

Still, the Township's working assumption is that, one way or another, a high level of maintenance will be provided for the new technology, just as it has been for other parts of the system. "This corridor will be just the first of many that are going to happen here," McKee pointed out.

"We selected it primarily because of the new hardware that was coming in. With the new signals, we got a bit of a jump start on the hardware we need. Without a whole lot of effort, we could push it all the way through the new I-79 ramps because those are all going to have the right detectors. That's why we selected it. And it's real close to the heart of Cranberry." ~



Cranberry Makes Waves Over New 25-Year Deal With West View Water

Got water? In Cranberry, the answer will be a resounding Yes for years to come. A new agreement between the Township and the West View Water Authority now assures Cranberry residents of abundant fresh water for at least another 25 years.

It's more than simply an agreement to supply the same volume of water currently being used, which averages 2.36 million gallons a day. As a growing community with a surging economy, Cranberry's water needs are expected to expand for at least 15 or 20 more years. So on May 1, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors signed an agreement with West View – the Township's sole supplier of fresh water – to provide it with drinking water for the next 25 years, and to do so at a price even lower than the Authority's lowest published rate.

Being assured of all the water it will need is a huge benefit for any community, especially considering that there are so many others around the country whose futures are constrained

The agreement to buy water from West View through 2039 provides the Authority with a guaranteed stream of income over the contract period. That financial security, in turn, allows the Authority to move ahead with its capital improvement plan – one which will help deliver the water that Cranberry's residents and businesses, as well as other nearby communities, will need in the future.

In the pipeline

West View currently operates one water treatment plant, on Neville Island. It can produce up to 40 million gallons a day which it distributes to roughly 250,000 residents in northern Allegheny and Southern Butler Counties, where much of the region's growth is taking place. The Authority's capital improvements plan visualizes building a second water production plant, at Freedom, in Beaver County, along with a new transmission line to Cranberry. Although the City of Pittsburgh provides West View with a backup, much like Evans City does with Cranberry, adding capacity and creating a certain measure of redundancy in their system is something West View Water has wanted to have in place for a long time.

The Authority's capital improvements plan was not developed in isolation. For years now, Cranberry and West View have synchronized improvements to their water systems; the new agreement simply makes the link between their two plans a matter of record. Last year, for example, Cranberry added a new high-capacity pump station on Commonwealth Drive together with a new 24-inch main along Executive Drive. Both projects were designed in close coordination with engineers from West View.

In fact, every major land development project in Cranberry provides the



Township with another opportunity to advance a key goal of Cranberry's Master Plan – to provide reliable, affordable, high-quality water service to all of its customers. Accordingly, one of the top priorities for both the Township and the Authority has been taking care for their current water systems – maintaining them and keeping them in good repair for the long term.

A good example is Cranberry retaining a contractor to check its entire system for leaks twice a year. As a result, today's water loss – the difference in volume between the water Cranberry buys from West View and the water that local customers are billed for – is under five percent, which is less than half of what most Western Pennsylvania communities experience. ~

: The new agreement will
: mean a more robust, more
: flexible supply arrangement
: for the residents of
: Cranberry Township for
: decades to come.

by limited water supplies. The new agreement will mean a more robust, more flexible supply arrangement for the residents of Cranberry Township for decades to come.

Cranberry – West View's partner in the water business – is also West View's single largest customer, spending upwards of \$2.5 million last year.

Comparison of water rates per 1,000 gallons in cents	
Ambridge	3.11
Moon Twp.....	3.50
Beaver Falls.....	4.06
Oakmont	4.22
Robinson Twp	4.95
Cranberry Twp.....	5.09
Johnstown	5.50
Pittsburgh.....	5.66
Findlay Twp.....	7.94
McKeesport.....	8.77
Zelienople.....	10.21

Clearing The Air. Atmospheric Pollution Revisited.

Clean air today is almost considered to be a basic human right. But back when public concern about the environment first began emerging in the late '60s and early '70s, then-New York City Mayor John Lindsay famously remarked that New Yorkers don't trust any air they can't see.

Back then, in western Pennsylvania and in much of the rest of the country, belching smokestacks were emblematic of robust industry and of economic progress. So acceptance of the fact that polluted air was actually a serious problem, came about reluctantly. And then being told that some of those pollutants were actually invisible and odor-free, only compounded that hesitation.

Since that time, however, there has been enormous progress – both in public attitudes, in technology, and in the region's economic mix. With some exceptions, the air in Southwestern Pennsylvania is actually pretty good right now.

Even so, summertime air quality alerts, frequently triggered by out-of-state pollution carried on prevailing winds, remain persistent issues throughout the region, particularly for people with pre-existing health conditions. So too do concerns about greenhouse gases – typically resulting from combustion emissions which degrade the earth's ozone layer – a part of the stratosphere that helps filter out potentially cancer-causing solar frequencies.

Summertime air quality alerts, frequently triggered by out-of-state pollution carried on prevailing winds, remain persistent throughout the region.

Still, Mayor Lindsay had a point: the more difficult it is for people to see for themselves whether certain pollutants are present, the harder it is to secure cooperation in reducing them. That's where the Southwestern Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership comes in.

Connecting the dots

Pretreatment Administrator Rhonda Zellhart, whose primary focus is the Township's water systems, sees the organization's mission as a cousin to Cranberry's involvement in protecting its water quality. "One of the big things this group is pushing is to get air quality education out to residents and businesses," she said.

"One of the Partnership's projects is its Flag Program. They partner with local school districts and give students informational packets that describe different levels of air quality. They explain about different pollutants that get into the air, what causes them, and they have a color-coded flag system. So, depending on the air quality level for

that day, they'll fly a colored flag outside the school."

"We can't always see pollutants the way people could see particulates from the volcano in Iceland that shut down air travel in Europe a few years ago. It's not necessarily visible, but it's still out there and it's being measured. Making ourselves aware and understanding what we can do to help reduce the pollutants in the air is a good thing.

"Something else to think about is the holistic aspect of air quality, water quality, stormwater quality, and recycling," she said. "When people recycle cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, and paper, it's going to minimize the volume of virgin product that has to be produced. Anytime you can reuse those products, it's going to reduce water use, air quality emissions, and so on.

"Over the years, you've heard these issues talked about as though they were each in their own little silo. But now everything's starting to mingle. Maybe it's me," she reflected, "but I can definitely see how each of them has an effect on the others." ~

Summertime air quality tips:

- Mow your lawn in the evening – not during the heat of the day
- Be careful not to spill gasoline; don't top off your gas tank
- Avoid charcoal lighter fluid; use a gas grill or an electric coil starter
- Turn off unneeded lights – power plants here are mostly coal-fired
- Don't over-cool your house; air conditioners are power-hungry
- Give someone a lift; ridesharing saves fuel and auto emissions

Where there's smoke... In the early 1970s, East Pittsburgh was typical of America's industrial cities with smoke spewing from factory stacks and degrading air quality for residents.



The Landscape Is Changing In Cranberry

Never mind that Cranberry is far from the ocean's shore. Starting around the mid-'90s, inland communities like Cranberry began witnessing a significant sea change in their thinking about the role of water in landscaping. And it's affecting everything from the way back yards are shaped at home to the way commercial parking lots and entryways are contoured.

Here's the issue: until relatively recently, rainwater locally was treated as a bit of nuisance. It was something property owners were eager to move off their land as quickly as possible. Particularly in fast-developing areas like Cranberry, natural depressions where storm water would otherwise collect, get filled in, leveled, or paved.

As a result, instead of being re-absorbed and filtered through the soil, storm water is directed into catch basins. In communities with combined sanitary and stormwater sewer systems, that can sometimes lead to overflows.

Down the drain

Even in communities with separate systems, like Cranberry, excess storm water can lead to erosion or flooding in the streams which receive the runoff. But the problem isn't just one of quantity; it also affects water quality. Warmer water coming from storm drains, as well as stormwater runoff containing a variety of pollutants washed up by the rain from hard surfaces, can harm aquatic life and contaminate the stream. It can also shrink the underground water table.

A growing awareness of just how vulnerable Pennsylvania's waterways have become to damage from stormwater runoff has resulted in legislation requiring municipalities like Cranberry to obtain permits through the state's Department of Environmental Protection before discharging stormwater runoff into waterways like Brush Creek.

These permits require communities to put stormwater management programs in place that reduce the discharge of pollutants, educate the public about stormwater, and protect local water quality. That, in turn, has led to changes in municipal building codes and to a re-thinking about the importance of ponds, trenches, gardens and similar landscaping features designed to capture and retain rainwater for a day or two.

Planting solutions

Rain gardens are a case in point. A rain garden normally consists of native plants, placed in a depression on the property, which allows runoff from impervious areas like roofs, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots the opportunity to soak back into the ground. According to one study, rain gardens can cut down on the amount of pollution reaching creeks and streams by as much as 30 percent.

Reconfiguring the landscape to better absorb rainwater is an essential part of in protecting local streams. But it



Changing contours. Rain gardens, planted in lawn depressions, collect runoff from storms, allowing it to be re-absorbed into the water table instead of drained off into nearby streams.

is a subtle change – one which can easily escape notice. As a result, state law also requires communities to raise awareness of the issues involved in safeguarding those streams. Among them is alerting people to exercise care regarding the community's catch basins and storm sewers – inlets which allow water to flow directly into nearby streams.

On May 22, students from Haine Elementary School accepted that challenge. Under the direction of science teacher Alice Stebbins, the students stenciled alerts next to a handful of Cranberry's 7,500 catch basins, cautioning people not to dump hazardous material into them because they discharge directly to the stream.

Other elements of waterways care encouraged by the Township include installing rain barrels to capture excess rainwater for irrigation use in dry weather and controlling the runoff from construction sites. In combination, these measures can help to protect local streams and restore the natural water cycle displaced by development while, at the same time, allowing for groundwater recharge. ~

Leaving their mark.

Students from Allison Stebbins' Haine Middle School environmental class spray user alerts by catch basins in The Crossings, under the supervision of Township Waterworks Coordinator Tim Schutzman.



Pollutants picked up by the rain from hard surfaces, can harm aquatic life, contaminate streams and shrink the underground water table.

Popping Cassettes, Pouring Mixed Liquor. Meet Cranberry's New Wastewater Plant.

Fundamentals of the design concept are in place now for upgrading Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant, following a mandate from the state DEP. Not only do they include significant advances in filtration technology, they also involve new vocabulary for talking about the plant's operations.

For more than a year, Cranberry and its consulting engineers struggled to find the best way to meet the challenges that will face the Township's wastewater treatment plant over the coming decades. Among them: a growing population, a surging business community, tighter restrictions on wet weather water treatment, and possible new regulations on nutrients in the water it discharges.

It was a major balancing act. In addition to selecting a technology which would reliably deliver the required performance, it involved choosing an approach that was both affordable and would fit into the confines of the landlocked treatment plant's 15-acre site.

The winning approach

In the end, the choice was to go with membrane technology – filters which, in combination with the plant's current biological treatment process, would allow the facility to process more wastewater in a shorter period of time than any of the alternative approaches which were considered.

However, unlike disposable home furnace filters, the filtration membranes used in treatment plants are typically made from durable polymers with life spans as long as a decade. They are porous, with tiny holes allowing pressurized water to pass through, while trapping bacteria and small particles which are then blasted away by air jets

and collected for disposal.

At the plant site, filters are normally installed in tubular arrays. Panels of membranes, referred to as cassettes, are inserted into the tubes' chambers. A typical array would be outfitted with a number of cassettes, each of which can be pulled periodically for inspection and maintenance.

But the single most important reason for selecting membrane technology was its performance.

"Membranes can treat at a higher loading than the standard we have here today using aerators," Township Waterworks Coordinator Tim Schutzman explained. "We will still have the biological process, but we're able to use the filters to extract cleaner water because the membranes can handle a higher waste load. They call it 'mixed liquor.' It treats a higher mixed liquor rate than the conventional treatment process can do."

What's next?

Last month, with the technological basis of its plant upgrade finally settled, the Township's accepted a proposal from the global engineering firm GHD to prepare the detailed design. Then, perhaps by the fall of 2015, bids from contractors to actually build the plant according to that design will be solicited, with a goal of having the upgraded plant on line a year or so later – and to do so without interrupting the plant's current operations.



The thinking man's filter. Wastewater entering Cranberry's updated Brush Creek sewage treatment plant will pass through a series of tube-mounted membranes in addition to its screening, clarifying, and biological processes. The porous membranes are designed to remove particles and bacteria more quickly than the plant's current process, allowing it to treat a larger volume of water each day.

A typical array would be outfitted with a number of cassettes. It treats a higher mixed liquor rate than the conventional treatment process.

A second phase of the plant's two-stage expansion, which could be built in another 20 years or so, would use the same technology. And if, in the meantime, the state imposes new limits on nutrients in the water discharged by the plant into Brush Creek, modifications could be readily made to satisfy those requirements.

A public open house showcasing the new plant design is expected to be held sometime in the next few months. ~

Butler County D.A. Goes Down On The Pharm

There's an epidemic of heroin use in Western Pennsylvania, according to Butler County District Attorney Richard Goldinger. Pennsylvania now has the third highest rate of heroin use in the United States. In just one week earlier this year, Western Pennsylvania saw 22 deaths of drug users from heroin laced with Fentanyl. And much of the problem can be traced back to the humble home medicine cabinet, where unused prescriptions are frequently allowed to accumulate.

At an April 29 press conference in Cranberry's Municipal Center, D.A. Goldinger, together with the state Deputy Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Executive Director of the Staunton Farms Foundation, and representatives of various Butler County police departments, outlined the dimensions of the problem and applauded the initiative, begun in January, of placing self-service medicine collection boxes in locations throughout the state, including a very successful one in the lobby of the Cranberry Township police department. That box is in addition to the Township's twice-yearly drive-through drug collections, which will continue being held.

Get these pills out of our kids' hands by getting them out of our medicine chests. Statewide, one out of five high school students has begun abusing prescription drugs.

Deputy Secretary Cheryl Dondero pointed out that statewide, one out of five high school students has begun abusing prescription drugs. "Among a sample of drug users who use heroin,

82 percent started with abusing prescription opioids, either by getting them out of a medicine chest, or purchasing them on the street or, very validly, by taking them for an injury," she said.

Higher wisdom

High school students have become quite enterprising about securing those drugs, she noted. For example, when students have wisdom teeth extracted, they are frequently tracked and visited by classmates who know that the procedure typically comes with a prescription of Vicodin. There are Pharm Parties, where partygoers bring along a handful of anything they can find in their home medicine chest and drop it into a bowl from which everyone is welcome to help themselves. And then there are legitimate prescriptions.

"More and more of our young athletes who get a sports injury are taking prescription opiates. If it doesn't get better, and they're not able to get refills anymore, it's easier and cheaper to get heroin than it is to get prescription opioids," Dondero explained.

"Approximately one-third of all medicines go unused and hang out in your medicine chest," she pointed out. "Users are accessing them from our medicine chests, from their friends' medicine chests and their grandparents' medicine chests. We've got to get these pills out of our kids' hands by getting them out of our medicine chests. If we don't dispose of our unused medications and instead try to save them until the next time we need them, we are putting our children and our friends and family at risk."

Staunton Farms Executive Director Joni Schwager, whose foundation was



instrumental in financing the MedReturn boxes, also advocated for a change in state law which would allow police to carry Narcan – an inhalant used to prevent someone from overdosing – in their patrol cars. Another important part of the Foundation's mission involves de-criminalizing what Schwager referred to as 'behavioral illnesses' – conduct which often lands people in jail instead of in treatment.

As part of his presentation, District Attorney Goldinger urged the passage of State Senate Bill 1180, which would expand Pennsylvania's current prescription drug database to include drugs which the federal Drug Enforcement Administration classifies as Schedule 3, 4, and 5 medications – prescription drugs which are generally considered to have a lower potential for abuse than the Schedule 2 drugs which are currently covered.

Enactment of the bill would provide law enforcement with limited access to that information – its data could be used in investigating so-called 'pill mills' – physicians and clinics that may be over-prescribing scheduled medications. "The legislation would effectively take the handcuffs off the police in combating this problem and put the handcuffs back on the criminals," he said. ~

Target Was An Easy Target. Don't Let Yourself Get Hacked.

Eugene Kaspersky, one of the world's foremost cyber-security gurus, recently regaled readers of England's *The Independent* with stories of institutionalized hacking.

There was the one about how a Latin American drug cartel knocked out the IT running Antwerp's shipping port so they could unload cocaine without being bothered by customs officials; another about how Russian mobsters hacked into the software of a mining company, allowing them to sell off tons of coal on the side; and a third telling how a different Russian gang printed up gas station loyalty cards which gave them huge discounts every time they filled up.

But in the halls of local government here, no one is laughing. For municipalities, whose digital documents typically include police reports, credit card payments, tax returns, personnel records, legal filings, and other sensitive information, making sure those documents and data remain secure is always a high priority. Cranberry is no exception.

Using a constantly evolving combination of tools, including encryption, firewalls, antivirus software, security certifications and more, Cranberry's IT department

is vigilant about safeguarding the Township's data files. "We always implement those best practices, as well as securing the servers," Cranberry IT department head Adam Osterrieder explained. "We make sure the servers are up to date with all the Microsoft patches, making sure that it has antivirus on it, putting it in the DMZ, which is a demilitarized zone on the network so that it's isolated from the rest of the network in case it's compromised."

Servers, which are high-performance computers that typically reside in specially prepared server rooms on site – and more frequently today in tandem with thousands of others in server farms off-site – look a lot like desktop computer towers. But they are much more expensive, use a different operating system, are dedicated to one specific function like email or database or a website, and are designed to serve thousands or even millions of users at the same time. They are the computers behind the computers, and Cranberry has about 95 of them in operation including 55 virtual servers that run on top of the Township's 40 physical servers.

Even so, many of the same principles which apply to government data security apply equally well to personal computers at home, Osterrieder noted. For example:

1. **Check the web address.** Websites which are secure have the letter 's' following 'http' at the beginning of a web address; https stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol, Secure.
2. **Don't run as Administrator.** When

Many of the same principles which apply to government data security apply equally well to personal computers at home.

you set up a new PC, go to its User Access Control and create an Administrator account as well as a personal account. When you work using your personal account, it provides a barrier against intrusion.

3. **Install antivirus software.** There are various vendors, including Microsoft, which provides its own Security Essentials for free to PC users. Whichever you use, keep yours up to date.
4. **Beware of Phishing.** Phishing occurs when someone masquerades online as a legitimate organization, asking for personal information which can be used to steal your identity, often accompanied by a veiled threat of some sort. Ignore them.
5. **Secure your Wi-Fi.** When you install a home wi-fi system, secure it with a password and don't assign it a name that can be readily identified by people driving past your house.
6. **Find an adviser.** You already do it for your taxes, why not have someone you can trust do the same for your computer? Best Buy's Geek Squad, as well as many smaller independent services, will be happy to help you manage your computer securely.
7. **Get into clouds.** Computer clouds – actually huge banks of servers in remote locations – have security specialists watching over them 24/7. So even if your house burns down, your files will still be safe. ~





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