

# Cranberrytoday

FALL 2014

## Power Line Collapse On 228 Tests Response System

The storm that hit Cranberry the evening of June 24 didn't last very long and didn't drop that much rain, either. But for several minutes, an associated wind burst, estimated to have reached 85 miles an hour, roared north along the I-79 corridor as the storm passed through. It was just long enough to trigger a domino effect among the utility poles carrying electric and cable lines along Rt. 228 and its bridge over the busy Interstate highway below.

One after another, in rapid succession, the wooden poles snapped, dragging their bulky lines down with them onto the eastbound lanes of 228, while knocking over lamp posts, blocking traffic, and interrupting power to hundreds of homes and businesses.

The damage was substantial – nine poles spanning 3,000 feet that supported more than 50 tons of communication cable and high voltage power lines, as well as three 30-foot steel lamp posts, lay in ruins. So did the travel patterns for tens of thousands of commuters.

Butler County 911, flooded with calls from alarmed motorists following the incident, immediately dispatched Cranberry police and fire company responders. Utility company foremen,

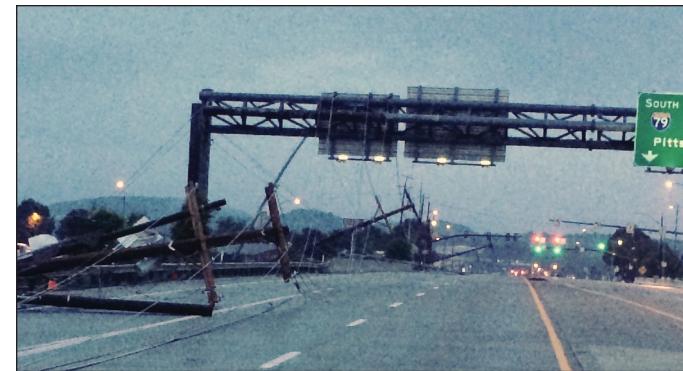
who had just left work, turned around, arriving in their personal vehicles to assess the situation. The Township quickly established an on-site command center. Emergency and utility personnel were mobilized to work nonstop on restoring power, communications, and normal traffic patterns along the bustling corridor.

Marty McKinney is Cranberry's traffic operations specialist – responsible for keeping the Township's 40-plus traffic signals running at peak efficiency. Whenever there's a traffic problem, McKinney is among the first to know.

### The real deal

"I've worked in the service industry my whole career," McKinney explained. "When I get a call that says there's been a major incident, I've learned not to get too excited because most of the time it's overstated. This one wasn't overstated. It was an absolutely catastrophic event. I was dumbfounded."

At the same time, however, as disasters go, this one also enjoyed amazingly



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good luck. For example, Rt. 228 is a tremendously busy road, averaging 40,000 vehicles a day, and the poles had toppled at 6:43, just as rush hour was winding down. Yet no one was either trapped or hurt. Then too, the power lines could easily have fallen the other direction, onto the high speed Interstate highway below, creating certain chaos and injury. But they didn't. Beyond that, the section of roadway

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A Publication of

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## Power Line Collapse On 228 Tests Response System *Continued from front cover*

where the lines went down was already an active construction zone. That meant there were all sorts of traffic control devices already on the scene – cones, markers, signs and more – devices which could be immediately repositioned to direct traffic away from danger.

Cranberry's communication team, which had received notice early on, used every available channel to stress the importance of finding alternate routes – a message credited with sharply reducing the volume of traffic at the site over the following days.

### Meet TIM

And there was good organization. One of the problems complicating major disasters is that multiple agencies respond. Each brings its own procedures, command structure, and areas of expertise to the scene. But they don't necessarily know one another, and their actions can sometimes conflict.

Two years ago, to avoid precisely that sort of confusion, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission convened an assortment of agencies responsible for one aspect or another of traffic-

related mishaps. The Traffic Incident Management teams they formed practice creating protocols and exchanging information focused on the specifics of each highway disaster. As a result, under a unified command led by Cranberry's Public Safety department, the region's TIM team was able to coordinate the huge 228 repair and traffic restoration effort, reopening the highway in just 52 hours.

A video about the disaster is online at: [www.cranberrytownship.org/228closure.](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/228closure.) ~

## Will Construction On 228 Ever End?

No. But there will probably be a few years reprieve before it starts up all over again.

Very few roads in Western Pennsylvania have seen as much change in as short a time as Cranberry residents have witnessed along Rt. 228. Its transition from a pastoral country road into a busy thoroughfare has been little short of spectacular. But it has not been haphazard.

Cranberry's 1995 and 2009 comprehensive plans visualized a community which would become largely built-out by 2030. To accommodate that development, which appeared to be an inevitable result of market forces, the Township refined its land use codes and coupled them with related transportation requirements. Rt. 228 became Ground Zero in its Master Plan.

"228 has been the most complex traffic challenge we've had over the evolution of Cranberry Township," Cranberry engineering department director Jason Kratsas pointed out. "The biggest part of that is I-79 – how to get traffic from 79 dispersed into our road network." PennDOT's recently completed ramp project, linking the Interstate into

Rt. 228, was a major step toward achieving that integration.

### Get off the highway

Yet the ramp project, as valuable as it is, represents only part of the solution to efficient traffic movement. Another piece involves taking cars off of 228 altogether. Particularly for local traffic, Cranberry's emerging parallel road network is enabling them to move along the heavily traveled corridor without actually getting onto the highway itself. A realigned Mars Road, parallel to 228 along its north, and privately owned Cranberry Woods Drive to its south, now allows access to homes, shops and offices along the corridor which involves little or no contact with 228 traffic.

And there's more. The addition of turning lanes onto 228 from Franklin Road in both directions, the widening of Cranberry Woods Drive at its intersection with the highway, the opening of Cranberry Crossroads and neighboring Cranberry Springs with their multiple-lane access onto an expanded segment of the roadway, and the addition of turning lanes at the point where 228, 19 and Freedom Road converge, all represent pieces of the long range vision.



*"No matter what we do, there's always going to be lots of traffic on 228."*

### Never-ending traffic

But there's no silver bullet. "No matter what we do, there's always going to be lots of traffic on 228. We understand that, because it's not just a thru corridor for our economy, it's a conduit all the way east to Rt. 8. But we're looking for strategies by which to minimize that traffic," Kratsas said. "We're looking at 10-year projections of traffic; we're looking at the traffic out there today plus all the potential land uses that could fill up that corridor, plus additional traffic based on the inflation of traffic volume as time goes on."

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## Will Construction On 228 Ever End? *Continued from page 2*

Down the road a few years, that view will expand to embrace several other key projects – projects designed to expedite the flow of traffic all the way through Cranberry from New Sewickley on its west to Rt. 8 on the east. One of them, tentatively named the “MSA Through-way,” would take traffic exiting I-79 beneath 228 and into the developing areas north of the highway.

Another – the replacement of the three-lane Turnpike bridge on Freedom Road – would relieve a chronic choke point in the Township’s busy east-west corridor. And the addition of left turn lanes at the westernmost signalized intersection on Freedom Road at Valley Forge, scheduled to start next year, will also enable traffic to move through more easily.

But perhaps the most significant change will be the one most difficult to see. “As much as we talk about brick and mortar type construction on Rt. 228, we’re advancing leaps and bounds with our traffic signal system,” Kratsas said. “Once we get the software in place so our system really adapts to the environment at any given moment, it’s really going to help.” ~

## Interim Traffic Signal Plan About To Roll Out

The holy grail of traffic signal controls is known as Adaptive Technology because it adapts the signal sequences to traffic conditions as they develop in real time, on the fly. Its software is expensive, though, and so is the associated hardware. But there are baby steps along the way from traditional signal sequencing to Adaptive Technology.

Cranberry, with the responsibility for traffic lights at more than 40 intersections, is determined to become a fully Adaptive community over the next few years, starting with an installation of the new technology along a six-signal stretch of Freedom Road later this year. However it will take a while longer before the needed upgrades can be made system-wide. In the interim, the timing of signals that manage traffic along the Township’s fast-changing roadway network will need to be updated.

SPC, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, plays a key role in the region’s transportation management. Cranberry Township worked with the agency several years ago to conduct traffic studies and implement new signal timing plans along its key corridors. That was Round One.

Earlier this year SPC contracted and paid 80 percent of the cost for a new study of traffic patterns in the Township by a consulting engineering group. That was the start of Round Two. This

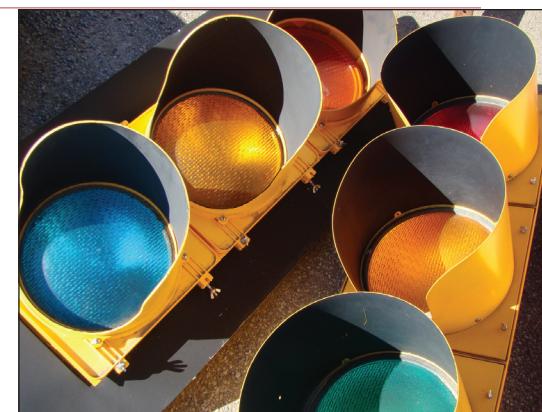
fall, with the opening of new roads, ramps and lanes in Cranberry’s busiest corridors, the results of that SPC study will be used to re-time the Township’s signals and expedite the flow of traffic along the length of both Rt. 19 and the Freedom Road/Rt. 228 corridor.

### Timing is everything

Those timing modifications are not expected to be dramatic however; the use of ‘lagging lefts’ – signal sequences in which the green left turn arrow immediately follows the oncoming thru green – will continue to be used. But their durations may be tweaked, as dictated by the study’s results.

In most communities, traffic signal timing plans are updated every five or ten years. That’s more than adequate for mature communities where the rhythm of traffic seldom changes. But in Cranberry, the cycle is much shorter – every two years – as changes in employment patterns and residential population continue at a rapid pace.

“We have 43 traffic lights, most of which are on those two corridors,” Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee pointed out. “Rt. 19 and Freedom Road/228 are both registered with SPC as official Congested Corridors. The traffic volumes on those two roadways makes them eligible for this type of funding. So we’ll be retiming from the Marshall Township signal at Thorn Hill Road all the way up to North Boundary



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Road. And then we’ll start in Adams and cross all the way over to Powell Road. That’s 37 signals.”

Application for a third round of SINC-UP grants – SPC’s acronym for its regional traffic signal program – is currently in the works for Cranberry’s Rochester Road corridor. And, as with the signals along the other two corridors, its resulting timing plans will be replaced by Adaptive technology when the required hardware and software funding eventually becomes available. ~



## Municipal Center Remake Approaches Grant Finale

After years of planning, months of construction, and millions of dollars invested, the remake of Cranberry Township's Municipal Center is now nearly complete. As a result, the building,

initially constructed in the late 1940s as a metalworking foundry and then acquired by the Township in 1988, has been transformed into a high-capability, multi-use structure which is expected to remain the focus of Cranberry's civic life for at least another generation.

### New preschool

The renovation affected many of the services housed there. But perhaps none were more completely transformed than the Township's Preschool. The bright, spacious and secure space it moved into this fall is completely new.

*The police department's holding cell is today occupied by a new kitchenette bracketed by new restrooms featuring child-size fixtures.*

What had once been the site of the police department's holding cell is today occupied by a new kitchenette bracketed by a pair of new restrooms featuring child-size fixtures. And what was formerly the department's open office area is now the site of several roomy and well-equipped classrooms.

Multiple layers of security were integrated into the new facility, which was built with continuous input from the preschool's teaching staff. An activity room, big enough to comfortably

hold its entire enrollment, sits immediately adjacent to the preschool's secure space and will soon be outfitted with a digital projector and screen, making it suitable for adult education programs after school hours.

Advanced lighting, comfort and communication systems were also built into the space, all of which are sheltered by a completely rebuilt roof. As part of the renovation, 30 of the 38 building's rooftop air conditioning units were replaced, along with skylights and base layers covering the entire structure.

### Library, Parks & Rec

The public library has also undergone significant change. What had formerly been its meeting room is now a series of tutoring carrels. Its larger meeting space has been entirely rebuilt and relocated into space previously housing the preschool. And its outdoor reading patio, immediately adjacent to the building itself, is expected to be complete by mid-October.

Cranberry's Parks, Recreation and Community Services department has also experienced a major re-do. A new Customer Service desk will enjoy a higher public profile, while the large information monitor, formerly installed on the child-watch room's outside wall, has been relocated to the building's front hallway.

Activity rooms which received cosmetic improvements several years ago have been entirely

### Municipal Center Rooms Renamed

*To commemorate the reconstruction of space in the Municipal Center, many of the rooms which were formerly numbered or named for certain functions, such as the Senior/Teen Center, have been rechristened.*

**Activity Rooms in the Center's Academic Wing, formerly known as Preschool Rooms, have been named for the original school houses in Cranberry: Garvin Room, Johnston Room and Hoehn Room**

**Former Senior/Teen Center – Grange Hall**

**Fun & Fitness Wing Activity Rooms, formerly its Parks & Recreation activity Rooms: Group Fitness Room – Venango Trail Room; Activity Room Behind Restroom – Brush Creek Room; Large Activity Room – Bear Run Room**

**Library Rooms: Large Room – Franklin Station; Hallway – Harmony Line Hall; Small Rooms – Rowan Station, Dutilh Station, West Station and Plains Church Station**

replaced by new, more specialized rooms designed for specific types of activities. And in the rear of the building, a new storage area for securing the department's field and fitness equipment is now nearly complete.

The final touch in the \$3.2 million renovation will involve replacing the hinged doors on the front of the building with automatic sliding doors, like those to its rear, which will help to make the building more easily accessible for deliveries as well as to those with disabilities.

Staff Project Manager Tim Zinkham has been the Township's point man for the project, which involved four separate contractors and a complex work sequence designed to minimize disruption, hit target dates, and satisfy design requirements.

"The whole place has turned out incredibly well," Zinkham reflected on the eve of the Preschool's August 20 Open House. "It has been amazing to see the transformation. I don't know how anybody could come through and not come away impressed. ~



# Trash Collection For Beginners

If you've lived in Cranberry for a while, you already know the drill. But if you're new to the Township, or need a few pointers, here's a brief residents' guide as to how Cranberry's trash collection system works.

Starting November 3, Mars-based Vogel Disposal will return as Cranberry's residential waste collector following five years of service by Waste Management. Pickup days will remain the same as before, although pickup times may be different. Billing for the service will continue to come from the Township, combined with water and sewer charges, every month.

Here are the basic guidelines:

- Separate recyclables from yard waste and ordinary garbage; place each in the appropriate cart. Cart lid colors identify their contents to the collection truck operator.
- Put carts out at the curb the night before your scheduled pickup day; bring them back in as soon as feasible after they've been emptied.
- Vogel's trucks use hydraulic side-loading lifts. Separate your carts at least two feet from one another as well as from any mailbox, lamp post or other stationary object so the lift can operate.
- Don't let your guests park on the street where they could block the truck's access to your carts.
- You will need to purchase tags for items placed outside the cart. Tag prices vary with the size and type of item to be collected. Check the

Township website for details: [www.CranberryTownship.org/CollectionTags](http://www.CranberryTownship.org/CollectionTags)

- Cranberry's recycling program is robust and includes a variety of plastic, glass and metal containers as well as different types of paper products eligible for collection.
- Yard waste containers are provided free of charge to customers requesting them and may be used for flowers, grass clippings, leaves, shrubbery, and roots. During two weeks in January, Christmas trees are collected at the curb.
- Butler County conducts periodic collections at ECS&R in Evans City for specialty items like medicine, electronics and household chemicals which are not suitable for normal curbside pickup.
- Toxic items, medical wastes, explosives, tanks, solvents, auto fluids and other hazardous items are



not suitable for residential waste collection. Check with Environmental Coordination Services & Recycling, ECS&R, at 1-866-815-0016 for details.

- Large and heavy items including construction material auto parts, furnaces, tubs, tires and tree stumps fall outside the scope of Cranberry's residential waste collection contract.
- Collection day is delayed by one day when the week includes one of six national holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas.
- Cranberry encourages and supports backyard composting; it also has a cardboard compactor behind the Municipal Center which can be used free of charge.
- For questions about the service, call 724-COLLECT. ~

## EZ Bill Pay; Save A Buck



You probably already pay a lot of your bills online. Now, if you're ready to take the next step, you will never miss a payment due date, never pay a late fee, and Cranberry will pass

the administrative savings along to you for your monthly Water/Sewer/Trash bill. To sign up for all-electronic management of your bill, which includes receiving your statement by email 21 days before it's due and automatic payment from your bank account on the due date itself, go to [www.CranberryTownship.org/EZbillpay](http://www.CranberryTownship.org/EZbillpay) and complete the online form. Starting November 1, the monthly bills for every customer in the program will include a \$1 deduction to reflect the paper, printing and postal savings they've earned. ~

## Rubbing Salt In

Even with a series of conservation measures in place, Cranberry used more than 7,600 tons of rock salt last winter to maintain Township-owned roads – well above its average of 4,500 tons. Cranberry's Public Works department is now hard at work preparing for the coming cold weather season. At their August 27 meeting, the Township's Board of Supervisors approved a bid from Cargill, Inc. to replenish its salt supply at a hefty \$79.29 a ton – 27 percent above the 2013 contract rate. The price was negotiated by the South Hills Area Council of Governments Purchasing Alliance, a consortium of local government who pool their buying power to secure lowest pricing. Cargill was the only supplier to bid on the SHACOG contract. ~



# This Town Wasn't Built For Walking. Introducing Cranberry's Sidewalk Retrofit.

Cranberry is pulling itself together. But it hasn't been easy.

Back in the day, most of Cranberry's individual parts – its neighborhoods, office parks, shopping centers, municipal buildings, playgrounds, schools and churches – were developed in isolation. The idea that they might benefit from being connected to one another by sidewalks, particularly in what was then a mostly rural Cranberry Township, must have seemed odd.

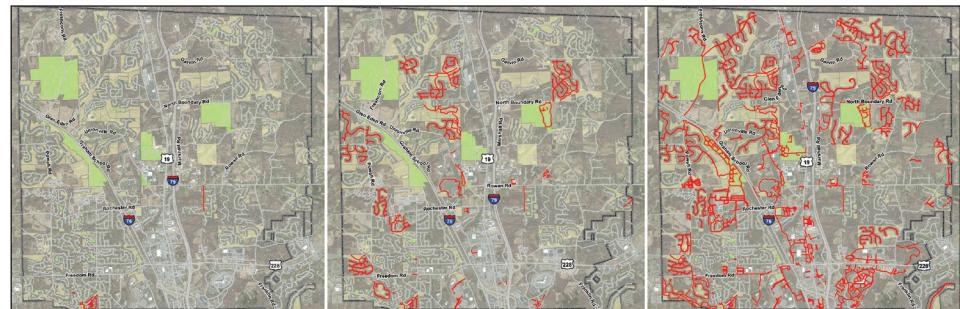
Cranberry's first comprehensive plan, in 1977, didn't even mention sidewalks or trails as priorities. Walking, after all, was what you did in parks; driving was how you got from Point A to Point B.

By the '90s, however, attitudes had changed. Developments were being built closer together. New residents were arriving from other communities where sidewalks were well-established. Developments patterned after traditional small town neighborhoods were becoming popular. Personal fitness had become an obsession. And Cranberry's Board had installed a new municipal administration.

Cranberry's 1995 plan, for the first time, recommended amending Township codes to require that sidewalks be built in conjunction with new development. Over time, it was reasoned, every parcel of land in the Township would either be developed or re-developed, eventually resulting in a fully connected sidewalk system. But it would take several generations before that goal could be realized.

### Sidewalk chic

By the start of the new millennium, the concept had been further refined. Accelerating a coherent network of pedestrian and bicycle connections had become a planning priority. Walkable neighborhood designs became a



**Stepping out.** Cranberry's sidewalk network has grown dramatically over time. These maps show the expansion of sidewalks and trails as of 1977, when the Township had just 1.64 miles of footpaths; 1995 when there were 45.74 miles, and today with 159.85 miles of dedicated pedestrian pathways.

marketplace mantra. Greenways linking public parks to neighborhoods and to one another had emerged as a municipal benchmark. And Cranberry's 2009 plan update codified the desire to create attractive streetscapes and enhance the walking experience.

But while the broad principle of creating a pleasant and convenient sidewalk network had become widely accepted, some thorny practical issues remained. Who, for example, should be exempt from the requirement? What is the

**What should the Township's role be in sidewalk and trail construction?**

Township's role in sidewalk and trail construction? Who is responsible for their maintenance, repair, snow removal, and plant trimming? And whose liability is it if someone were injured on a sidewalk?

To address these concerns in the context of a scheduled update to Cranberry's comprehensive plan, the Township formed a staff committee last summer to take a fresh look at the issues surrounding pedestrian connections. Using maps, diagrams, data sets and other planning tools,

the committee attempted to rank the significance of possible improvements, identify sources of potential funding, evaluate utility rights of way, review handicap accessibility concerns, and determine how best to secure public input to the planning effort.

### Crossing arteries

One persistent issue involves providing pedestrian crossings on the Township's major arteries. The most recent example involved a development proposal – since withdrawn – for pedestrians to cross Rt. 19 at Ehrman Road. It was along a downhill slope with a posted speed of 55. But no matter what signage or type of crosswalk configuration it involved, it would remain fundamentally unsafe. So the plan was abandoned.

The answer, according to Planning & Community Development Director Ron Henshaw, lies in the roadway's slower sections, where speeds are down to 45 miles an hour or less. "We can't cross people at every intersection," Henshaw acknowledged. "These slower sections are the areas we're going to focus on to make sure we are getting people across."

Today, getting pedestrians and cyclists safely across, and then on to their destinations, is a fundamental Township goal. ~



## Whose Sidewalk Is It Anyway?

It's yours. Many residents and business owners are confused about who is responsible for taking care of the sidewalks in front of their homes, offices and stores. As a result, people who are required to clear snow and otherwise maintain those sidewalks are sometimes unaware of their responsibilities. Regardless of who originally built the sidewalk, the Township's ordinance requires the owner whose property is traversed by that sidewalk to clear its full width within 24 hours of a snow event. Township officials plan to enforce its provisions as needed this winter. ~

## They Came From Cyberspace!

### Cranberry braces for arrival of next gen broadband

Cranberry residents are already accustomed to the high power cellular antenna masts that punctuate the region's skyline, populating smartphones with their voice, video and data services. Those tall towers, currently behind Cranberry's Municipal Center, next to Munro Muffler, and north of Marshall Woods, as well as transponders topping the Township's water storage tank in Cranberry Woods, won't be going away anytime soon.

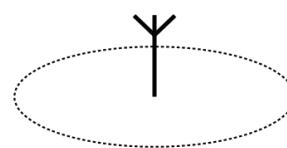
But a new generation of cellular network technology, featuring a much smaller footprint than the familiar tall towers, is coming to town. Crown Castle Communications, a contractor to Verizon Wireless, has been tasked with installing them in Cranberry, and the Township's Board of Supervisors has been working hard to keep up with their special challenges.

#### Artful disguises

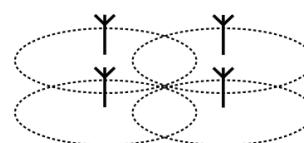
Known as Distributed Antenna System, or DAS, it is a technology designed to conform more closely to the irregular terrain of places like Southwestern Pennsylvania and to use less power than current tall towers require. The transmitters are also less visible, involving small units that can sit comfortably atop a normal phone pole, street light, or similar structure. And in some parts of the country, they are even disguised to look like trees, cactus plants, or architectural ornaments.

At the same time, however, they also cover a smaller service area, and so have to be daisy-chained together to provide continuity of service. Consequently, more of them need to be

- *In some parts of the country, they are even disguised to look like trees, cactus plants, or architectural ornaments.*



single antenna



distributed antenna system

*Individual DAS transmitters have smaller coverage areas than traditional big towers, but when linked together, they provide a better fit with local terrain.*

installed and, because the technology is already available, any regulations affecting their installation need to be developed quickly.



As a result, Cranberry's regulations are being updated to reflect this new technology which will be considered by the board in October.

#### Regulating alien invaders

It applies to the placement of tall as well as small transmitters, both in and outside public rights of way. In essence, it restricts the installation of the DAS antennas to rights of way along arterial and collector roads in the Township, except those within residential housing plans. Transmitters may not be placed immediately in front of any homes; they need to be offset to the property's edge. And they have to be 'context sensitive,' meaning that they, along with their associated control boxes, need to blend into their location as well as possible.

Under provisions of the new ordinance, Township parks – which the initial draft ordinance never considered as locations – would be allowed with Board approval. That means local cell phone users, with their constantly growing hunger for bandwidth, are expected to experience better than ever service quality. ~



# Why Volunteers Get Back More Than They Give

by **Bruce Hezlep**, Supervisor, Cranberry Township

If someone had told me twelve years ago that I would become an elected public official, I would have laughed in their face. After all, I had a busy and rewarding job as an IT consultant, as well as a young family to raise. Those were my priorities. The idea of taking time away from my family or from other interests seemed ridiculous.

Then a funny thing happened. I decided to join the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company – not to become a front-line firefighter, but as someone whose business skills might benefit the company's administrative functions – tasks I felt I could handle with only a modest commitment of time. After all, my parents raised me in the belief that giving back to your community was everyone's civic duty, and the fire service is a classic way to give back.

But my plans quickly changed upon joining the Fire Company. I enrolled at the Fire Academy, became a firefighter, and eventually a State Instructor. At that point I was approached by several members about joining the fire company's board of directors, which I did, and later about running for president. Then, after five years as president, I began to consider serving Cranberry as a member of its Board of Supervisors.

My reason for accepting those assignments wasn't because I didn't know how to say 'no,' or that I felt some solemn obligation to serve. It was actually because I'd never had a better time, or felt more connected to my neighbors, than I did from following that sequence of volunteer positions. It has been a source of tremendous

satisfaction and personal growth for me, and my family has been wonderful in their support.

*I'd actually never had a better time, or felt more connected to my neighbors, than I did from following that sequence of volunteer positions.*

I'm not the only one here who feels this way. In the nine months I've been on Cranberry's Board of Supervisors, I can't think of a meeting where we haven't recognized the volunteer work of one organization or another for doing something that directly benefitted the community.

### Collective benefit

As a result, I've become convinced that personal fulfillment is at the root of voluntary service. But there's more to it than that. A town with a vibrant voluntary sector is one with a genuine sense of community – of people looking out for one another and helping one another and welcoming one another into their lives. It is a happier place in which to live, work, and raise a family, and it can be less expensive as well. But while that's something every community longs for, it can't be legislated.

That said, there are still things local governments and public schools can do to encourage volunteerism. Seneca Valley's senior projects are an excellent way of introducing young people to the



concept of voluntary service. Cranberry Township works closely with the school district to help students identify and take advantage of opportunities here.

The Township partners with a variety of local volunteer groups in making projects happen. It also publicizes the accomplishments of its local volunteer sector and, together with Community Chest, works to recognize the important value those volunteers bring to Cranberry.

However publicity can only go so far. Bringing someone into a voluntary organization is almost always a personal matter. It happens when you, as a current volunteer, approach someone you know – face to face – and ask them to join you for a meeting or event, even while respecting the other priorities that will also, inevitably, have a claim on their time.

What they are likely to find – just as I did – is that the satisfaction derived from voluntary work, although sometimes difficult to articulate, is very real. In some cases – I offer myself as a prime example – it can even be transformative.

So while conventional wisdom holds that voluntary service is everyone's civic duty, I suggest you think about it as a personal opportunity for learning, gratification and connection, unlike any other. ~

# Volunteers Create Public Housing For Nocturnal Myotis Lucifugus

Little Brown Bats, the most common of the dozen or so flying mammalian species found in Pennsylvania, now have an official home in Cranberry Township. Eight new bat boxes – warm weather roosts created specifically for the tiny nocturnal creatures – were installed on Township property this past summer.

Constructed a year ago as a community project by volunteer employees from NeTech Corporation in Cranberry Woods, the boxes, which were built to a design prepared by Public Works employee Sean Connors, were finished and installed this past August by Cranberry resident Hunter Holt as an Eagle Scout project. Holt's work was supported by fellow scouts from Troop 479 as well as with donated materials and supplies from Home Depot and General Rental Company.

Little brown bats, whose adult weight is only a quarter to half an ounce, sleep approximately 20 hours a day. But during their waking hours – typically at dusk and early dawn – they are prolific hunters of insects, eating moths, wasps, beetles, gnats, mosquitoes, mayflies

and other pests, consuming more than half their body weight each day.

## Location, location, location

As in any matter involving real estate, placement of the diminutive bat houses follows the maxim of location, location and location. To be successful in attracting their winged tenants, bat boxes need to be near a body of water. They need to be away from any forest tree line. They need to face the afternoon sun to benefit from solar warmth. They need to be painted dark colors to retain heat. And they need to be elevated to minimize access by predators.

In Cranberry, two of the houses have been erected on the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, others have been placed in Graham Park, Community Park, the Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant, and at the sewer line lift stations at Briar Creek and Franklin Acres.

Myotis lucifugus, as the little brown bat is formally classified, has no special conservation status in North America and poses no threat to humans. In fact



*During their waking hours – typically at dusk and early dawn – they are prolific hunters of insects, consuming more than half their body weight each day.*

historically, bat populations have thrived with expansion of human populations because many of their roosting sites are in structures built for people. However, since 2007, bat colonies in temperate areas of the country are have been threatened by a fungal disease which has devastated eastern North American bat populations. ~



## Supervisor Honored

Cranberry Township Supervisor Richard Hadley, right, was named the 2014 winner of

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's Joseph James Memorial award for Excellence in Local Government Achievement. The award recognizes an elected or appointed municipal official for a lifetime of professional achievement. Supervisor Hadley has served as an elected member of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors since 1995 and has held an assortment of appointed posts involving local government, including Manager of Reserve Township, presidency of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, and his current assignment as Executive Director of the Allegheny League of Municipalities. The award, presented here by SPC Chairman Steven Craig, is named for Pitt Professor Joe James, a lifelong advocate for better local government. ~

## The Coffee's On Us

Township residents will have two more opportunities to chat with Cranberry Township Manager Jerry Andree over coffee this fall. At 7:00 PM on October 7, a tour which begins with a look at winter preparations in the Public Works Operations Center, will shift over to the nearby Public Safety Training Center classroom to watch members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company hold a training session. Access to the Public Works building is from Ernie Mashuda Drive. Then at 1:00 PM on November 5, residents can join the Manager for a tour and conversation at the Township's wastewater treatment plant, on Powell Road, which is slated for a major upgrade over the next few years. No reservations are required for either event, but for planning purposes, your call to 724-776-4806 x1103 in advance would be appreciated. ~



## New Fire Truck Shifts From Drawing Board To Assembly Line

A new and highly sophisticated ladder truck will be joining the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company starting in April. Once it's ready, the well-provisioned truck, which is being custom built by Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, Wisconsin, will be the first piece of equipment to leave the Haine School station in response to structure fire calls.

The 35-foot truck, which is equipped with a 75-foot ladder, an on-board water supply, and room for six fully-outfitted firefighters, will also carry an innovative compressed air foam system – a system that injects a chemical surfactant into the water line along with pressurized air – helping the water to saturate and smother burning material. It can also sharply reduce the water pressure needed to fight fires, as well as the volume of water used, while helping to prevent re-ignition.

The truck will also have features to enhance firefighter safety including air bags, seatbelt monitors, and a wireless intercom – a necessity for communicating in the high-decibel confines of a fire truck's passenger compartment.

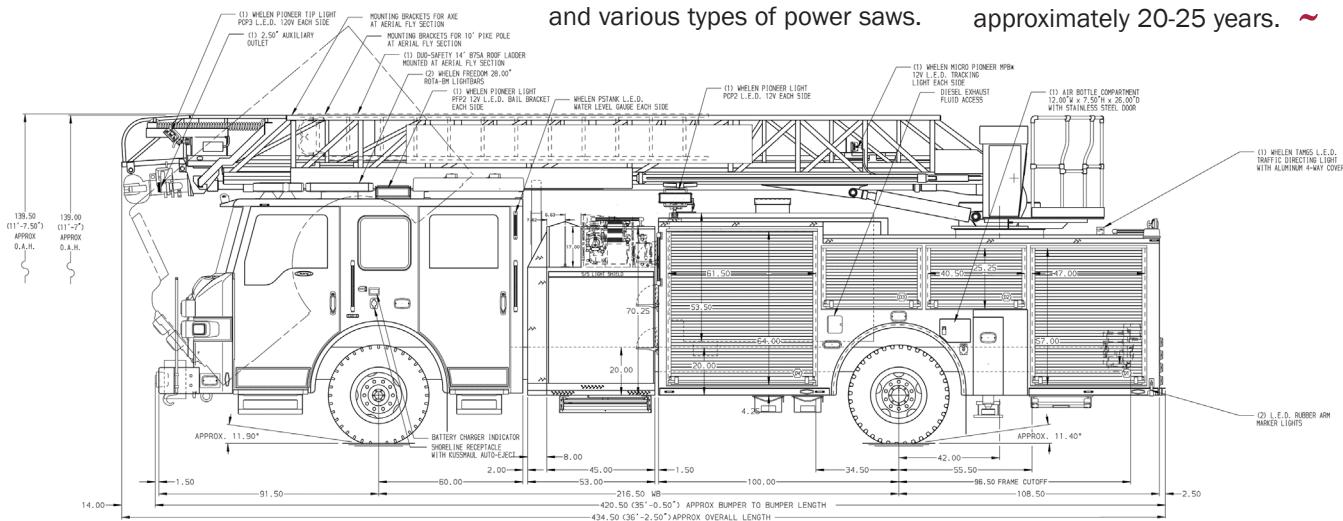
Hydraulic outriggers that can extend four feet from either side of the truck, will help to stabilize the vehicle at the scene of a fire. Its ladder platform can pivot in any direction and will be capable of operating from a near-vertical 80 degrees to a negative five degrees, allowing for pit rescues, if needed.

### No hand-me-downs

As a new addition to the fleet, the truck will not be provisioned with tools and equipment transferred from a retiring engine. Instead, it will be outfitted with a completely new set of implements including hand tools, fans, hoses, radios and various types of power saws.

Over the course of 18 months, a ten-member committee, Chaired by volunteer firefighter Steve Dancisin, worked on the truck's design in tandem with Tim Zinkham of the Township's Engineering Department. The addition of a new ladder truck – which complements its 100-foot aerial cousin based at the Park Fire Station – was a component of the Fire Company's ten-year Facilities and Equipment plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors several years ago. In June, the Board approved the ladder truck's contract award for just under \$1 million.

Once it's delivered, the Fire Company plans to provide brigade members with training in the operation of the truck's assorted onboard technical systems so that it can be safely put into service. As a multi-purpose firefighting apparatus, the new truck is expected to remain a front-line response vehicle for approximately 20-25 years. ~





## Firefighter Profile: The Fire Gene

One of the quirks of human heredity may involve attraction to the fire service. At least you might suspect so, based on the fact that more than a third of Cranberry's Fire Company members are close relatives of people who were, or now are, members of the Fire Company themselves.

At the moment, ten father-son pairs are active in Cranberry's volunteer fire company. That number would be even higher if current members whose fathers are no longer active in the fire service were also included.

So how does it happen? We polled some of those pairs to discover whether the answer actually resides deep in the human genome.

John Pristas, who has been a member of CTVFC's fire brigade for eleven years now, followed in the footsteps of his older brother when both boys were teens, back in their family's Wilkins Township home. They were the first in their family to become firefighters, but not the last. After relocating to Cranberry in 2002, and driven by a desire to give something back to his new home community, John joined the fire company and frequently brought his son Matthew along to the station.

With support and encouragement from his Dad, Matthew joined the Company as a Junior Firefighter when he became eligible at 16. He shares his father's

goal of giving back to the community – energized by the prospect of living out every boy's dream of becoming someone's hero.

Dennis Kimmel, now a chemical plant production manager in Evans City, only became interested in firefighting after beginning work at another chemicals company in his native Arkansas. But it wasn't the family's first encounter with the fire service. His Air Force dad had been trained in airport firefighting, and his brother, who works at an ammunition plant back in Arkansas, is also part of his community's fire brigade.

Kimmel's sons Nathan, 22, and Tyler, 16, have upheld the family tradition. Both say that they joined of their own volition, but both also point out that watching their father leave home for calls set a positive example of service that each of them recognized.

Nathan has now come to see his fellow fire company members as part of an extended family, and both sons point out that the work they do helps to make an important difference in people's lives – particularly during difficult times.

Brigade firefighter Matt Moran and his son Luke both claim that Luke's decision to join CTVFC as a Junior Firefighter was made independently – without active encouragement from his dad. At the same time, though, Matt notes that his own uncle also fought fires, although for a different community's fire department.



**Like father, like son.** Family ties are frequently strengthened through fire service. Pictured here: Front row, left to right: Justin Rossi, Derrick Hawk, Jason Hawk, Nathan Kimmel, Tyler Kimmel, John Howley, Dave Mack, John Pristas. Back row, left to right: Mark Sekera (father of Rossi twins), Cameron Rossi, Richard Barch, Tim Barch, Dennis Kimmel, Sean Howley, Connor Mack, Matt Pristas. Not pictured: Gene and Todd Winters, Jim and Colin Robinson, Matt and Luke Moran.

So the evidence does not appear to confirm the hypothesis that an inborn propensity for firefighting is actually handed down from generation to generation. Because if it were, how would you explain the cases of Mark Sekera and John Howley?

When Mark's twin sons, Justin and Cameron, became interested in the Fire Company last year, Mark would drive them to their weekly training and meetings. That's where he discovered what a remarkable organization CTVFC actually was, and why he decided to join.

That was similar to John Howley's experience. When his son Sean joined the Company as a Junior Firefighter, it was John who provided the weekly ride. But since he was going to be there anyway, and because he had once entertained the thought of joining himself, he figured he might as well become a member now. Today, John is part of the Company's Fire Police unit, and Sean is in his third year at Butler County Area Vocational Technical School, studying in its Emergency Services program, which offers a perfect fit for his volunteer service with Cranberry's fire company. ~

*Evidence does not confirm the hypothesis that propensity for firefighting is handed down from generation to generation.*

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

*The case of the cancelled call*

### What In The World Is That Fire Truck Doing?

When Cranberry's fire company gets summoned by Butler 9-1-1, its volunteers suit up and jump into their truck with flashing lights and blaring sirens and roaring engines. But a lot of those calls get cancelled. It may be because they were triggered by a faulty automated alarm system, or that the emergency has resolved itself, or that the call had been accidentally generated in the first place. Frequently, a call cancellation will occur while the fire truck is still en route to the scene.

But to motorists driving alongside those emergency vehicles, and trying to get out of their way, it can be puzzling. Why, they wonder, did a fire engine – or a

squad car or an ambulance – approach an intersection with its lights and sirens blaring, only to abruptly shut them off and proceed with normal traffic? Is it because they wanted to use their signal priority equipment to scramble the traffic lights for everyone else?

That seems to be a widely held belief, according to volunteer firefighter Mark Nanna who, for a number of years, found himself in the fire engine's driver's seat, attempting to plow through heavy traffic.

"When we're on our way and the dispatcher calls on the radio to say we don't need you, we turn off the lights



and sirens and return to the station," Nanna said. "If you see us turning off our lights, it's because we were cancelled – not that we wanted to get to the pizza shop before everyone else."

"You can't turn a fire truck around in the middle of the road. On 228, you have to turn into the mall or Cranberry Woods in order to come back. So it might look like we used our lights and sirens so we could get to Dick's before the sale ended. But people need to understand that we're not doing that; there are actually good reasons for what we do." ~



### Act like a grown-up.



You were mesmerized by fire engines as a kid. You followed the flashing lights and sirens as a teen. Now that you're grown up, what's next?

How about driving that fire engine and helping people in trouble? Or teaching fire safety to local residents? Or directing traffic around emergency locations? Or pre-planning the best approach to burning buildings? Or maintaining life-saving safety gear? Or scheduling training? Or managing fire company finances? Or being its news media liaison?

Keeping a fire department at the ready involves hundreds of essential tasks. It requires people with different backgrounds to do them. And they all learn new skills, too. Could that include you?

Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company would love to meet you and find out. Drop by either station, any time. Stop in for a meeting. Kick our tires. Do something real. And act like the grownup you've become.



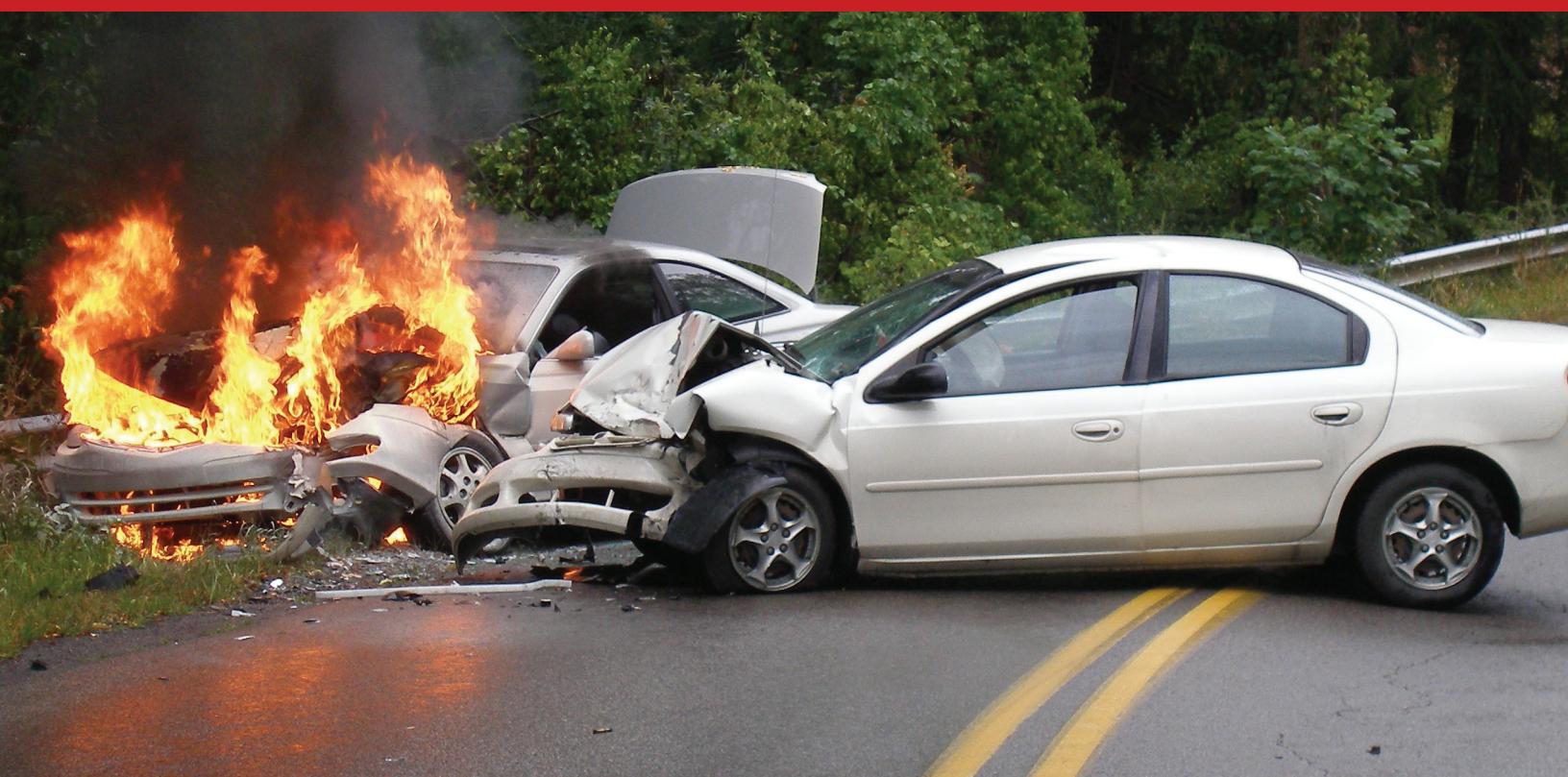
The Cranberry Township  
Volunteer Fire Company

— 2015 CTCC PROJECT OF THE YEAR —

# Volunteer Firefighter Initiative

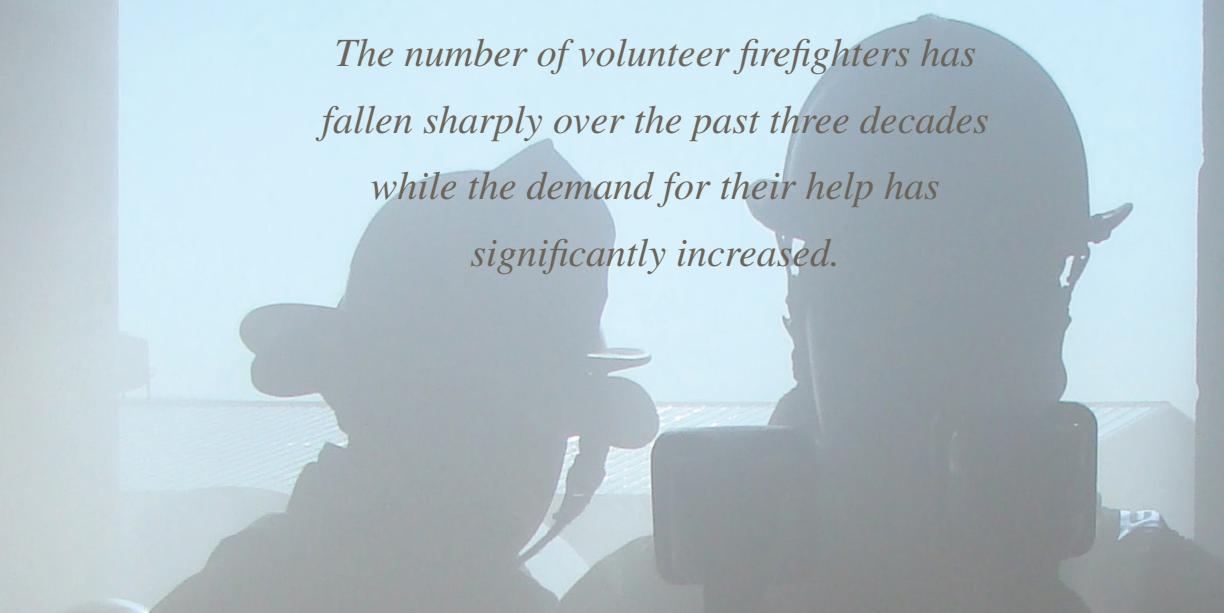


*What if you had an emergency and nobody came?*



# PROBLEM

*The number of volunteer firefighters has fallen sharply over the past three decades while the demand for their help has significantly increased.*



***We need your support!***

# SOLUTION

*CTCC's 2015 Project of the Year;  
the Volunteer Firefighter Initiative,  
is designed to prepare residents and workers countywide to  
recognize fire hazards and to deal effectively with  
fire emergencies, whether at home, at work, or school.  
It also offers a proactive approach to building the base  
of volunteer firefighters in future years.*

Project partners helping to accomplish the solution



**Butler Eagle**  
Cranberry Eagle



# Communities Fighting Fire

## We've got a problem

More than 70% of America's fire firefighters are volunteers. But the number of volunteers has fallen sharply over the past three decades. In Pennsylvania alone, volunteers declined from approximately 300,000 in 1970 to just 50,000 today. In 2004, Butler County had 34 volunteer fire companies; today we have 31 and the average age of those volunteers is on the rise. So is the demand for their help. In 1996, Butler County 9-1-1 issued 75,000 dispatches; by 2013, that number had grown to 94,250. The declining number of volunteer firefighters has led to higher home insurance rates. It is a problem that affects every business and resident in our county.

## We have a solution

CTCC's 2015 Project of the Year; the Volunteer Firefighter Initiative, was created to help every community in Butler County. It is designed to prepare residents and workers countywide to recognize fire hazards and to deal effectively with emergencies of every type, whether at home, at work, or school. And it offers a proactive approach to building the base of volunteer firefighters in future years. But its success depends on everyone getting involved, providing support, and making it a reality.

## What it means

Increasing the number of volunteer firefighter affects every local business and resident. First, it helps to assure faster response times, saving lives and property. Second, it saves money; home insurance rates are affected by the size and response times of your volunteer fire company. Third, a fire training trailer, available to volunteer fire companies throughout Butler County, will help local firefighters to train employees, students and families from their communities in fire prevention, fire safety, and emergency response.

## Three essential elements

- 1. Recognition.** Media attention will be directed to volunteer firefighters, their organizations, and their service in fire companies throughout Butler County. Each week, Butler Eagle and Cranberry Eagle will publish a profile of a different volunteer fire company in our county, recognizing all of our volunteers and providing heartfelt thanks to our unsung local heroes. It will also aid recruitment by keeping attention focused on the many community service opportunities available to firefighters and those who support them.
- 2. Training.** The initiative involves acquiring a fire training trailer which will be available to any Butler County fire company looking for a platform to provide life-saving fire emergency training for school students, business employees, and residents of their communities. In addition to increasing preparedness among residents, the trailer will also serve as a recruitment center, encouraging people to consider becoming volunteer firefighters.
- 3. Opportunity.** A new endowment, offering 15+ scholarships a year at Butler County Community College in return for the student earning Fire Essentials certification and making a commitment to volunteer with their local fire company for as long as they remain enrolled at BC3, will be created. Scholarships will be available for any course of studies offered by the college. The endowment will support these scholarships year after year, encouraging college-age adults to consider becoming volunteer firefighters in their home communities and helping to increase the number of volunteers throughout Butler County.

## *Success depends on you...*



# The Bottom Line

## Firefighter Initiative Support Recognition

\$100,000 Logo on Back of Trailer (and 5 scholarships)  
(about 5' x 10')

\$50,000 Logo on Front of Trailer (and 2 scholarships)  
(about 3' x 9')

### Logo on Side of Trailer

\$20,000 4' x 4' logo/name and  
a scholarship named after you.

\$10,000 2' x 2' logo

\$5,000 1' x 1'

\$2,500 6" x6"

The following items will be listed together  
on one larger recognition panel on the Trailer

\$1,000 3" x 3" (6 line message or logo)

\$500 1.5" x 3" (3 line message)

\$250 1" x 3" (2 line message)

\$125 your name (1 line)

### Dedication Booklet Levels:

**Gold:** \$100 **Silver:** \$50 **Bronze:** \$25



## Ambassadors needed!

You can help this project by being an Ambassador who can promote the project to other organizations, schools, businesses and residents. We will provide you with all the materials necessary and recognize your involvement as an Ambassador. More information can be found at [www.CTCChest.org](http://www.CTCChest.org) or by contacting one of our Project Partners, below:

- **Commissioners of Butler County**  
[william.mccarrier@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:william.mccarrier@co.butler.pa.us)
- **Butler County Community College**  
[william.o'brien@bc3.edu](mailto:william.o'brien@bc3.edu)
- **Butler County Fire Chiefs Association**  
(John Stokes) [jrs151@zoominternet.net](mailto:jrs151@zoominternet.net)
- **CTCC** [brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net](mailto:brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net)
- **Cranberry Township**  
[Bruce.Hezlep@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:Bruce.Hezlep@cranberrytownship.org)
- **Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Department**  
[Ed.Hestin@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:Ed.Hestin@cranberrytownship.org)
- **Butler Eagle-Cranberry Eagle** (Ron Vodenichar)  
[rvodenichar@butlereagle.com](mailto:rvodenichar@butlereagle.com)
- **Butler County Chamber of Commerce**  
(Stan Kosciuszko) [stan@butlercountychamber.com](mailto:stan@butlercountychamber.com)



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

## Firefighter Initiative – Order Form

CTCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. All donations are deductible per IRS regulations.

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EMAIL

PHONE

\$

RECOGNITION ITEM DESCRIPTION

DONATION AMOUNT

IMPORTANT: Please include a separate piece of paper with the exact inscription.

Logos require high resolution files and should be sent by email to the address below.

Make checks payable to: CTCC-Firefighter Initiative

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

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



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# OCT

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

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

⊕ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480  
 ✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016  
 ‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

<b>WED 1</b>	<b>Toddler Storytime</b> ↳ Library, 10am or 11am <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm <b>Grade 1-3 Book Club</b> Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 2</b>	<b>Senior Safe Driving Class</b> ★ Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 9am <b>Adult Discussion Group</b> Library, 10am <b>Teen Art Club</b> Library, 4pm <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8-10pm	<b>FRI 3</b>	<b>Farmers' Market</b> Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6:30pm	<b>SAT 4</b>	<b>Farmers' Market</b> Rt. 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm <b>Computer Class</b> ↳ eBooks, Library, 9am (reg. req.)	
<b>SUN 5</b>	<b>MON 6</b>	<b>Infant Storytime</b> ↳ Library, 10:30am <b>Teen Advisory Board Mtg</b> Library, 4pm <b>Planning Advisory Commission</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm	<b>TUES 7</b>	<b>Preschool Storytime</b> ↳ Library, 10 & 11am <b>Tween Art Club</b> Library, 4pm <b>Manager's Coffee</b> Public Works & Public Safety Training Ctr Tour, 7pm <b>First Editions Book Club</b> Library, 7pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm		<b>WED 8</b>	<b>Toddler Storytime</b> ↳ Library, 10am or 11am <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm <b>Grade 1-3 Book Club</b> Library, 7pm	
<b>THURS 9</b>	<b>Homeschool Crafternoon</b> ↳ Library, 1pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8-10pm	<b>FRI 10</b>	<b>Farmers' Market</b> Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6:30pm	<b>SAT 11</b>	<b>Dek Hockey Leagues</b> begin Graham Park, 724-776-4806 x1129 <b>Computer Class</b> ↳ Excell III, Library, 9am (reg. req.)	<b>SUN 12</b>	<b>MON 13</b>	
<b>TUES 14</b>	<b>Preschool Storytime</b> ↳ Library, 10 & 11am <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm	<b>WED 15</b>	<b>Books &amp; Bagels Club</b> Library, 10am <b>Toddler Storytime</b> ↳ Library, 10am or 11am <b>Hearing Loss and Dizziness</b> ★ Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm <b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm <b>Grade 1-3 Book Club</b> Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 16</b>	<b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8-10pm	<b>FRI 17</b>	<b>Farmers' Market</b> Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6:30pm <b>Car Seat Check</b> ⊕ EMS, by appt, 1-4pm	
<b>SAT 18</b>	<b>HHW Collection</b> ✓ ESCR, All Day <b>Learn CPR</b> 8:30am, <b>First Aid</b> 12pm ⊕ Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 8:30am (reg. req. - Cranberry Twp EMS) <b>Computer Class</b> ↳ Word I, Library, 9am (reg. req.) <b>Farmers' Market</b> Municipal Ctr, 10:30am-1pm <b>Fall Family Fest</b> ‡ Library, Noon-2pm	<b>SUN 19</b>	<b>Family Hayride</b> ‡ Cranberry Highlands, 2-5:30pm		<b>MON 20</b>	<b>Teen Advisory Board Mtg</b> Library, 4pm <b>Zoning Hearing Board</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm		
<b>TUES 21</b>	<b>Tween Lego Club</b> Library, 4pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm	<b>WED 22</b>	<b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm <b>Grade 1-3 Book Club</b> Library, 7pm	<b>THURS 23</b>	<b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8-10pm	<b>FRI 24</b>	<b>Farmers' Market</b> Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6:30pm <b>Tween Movie Night</b> Library, 7pm	
<b>SUN 26</b>	<b>MON 27</b>	<b>20 &amp; 30 Somethings Book Club</b> Library, 7pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm	<b>TUES 28</b>	<b>Return of the Psychic Sisters</b> Library, 6pm <b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (18+) 8-10pm	<b>WED 29</b>	<b>Free Housing Counseling</b> ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm <b>Board of Supervisors Mtg</b> Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	<b>THURS 30</b>	<b>Open Gym Basketball</b> (30+) 8-10pm
							<b>FRI 31</b>	<b>Trick or Treat in Cranberry Twp,</b> 6-8pm

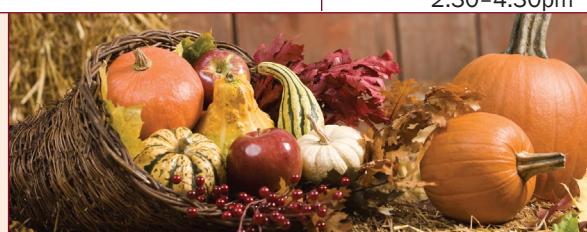
# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# NOV

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

SAT <b>1</b>	Computer Class ↳ Computer Security, Library, 9am (reg. req.)	SUN <b>2</b>	MON <b>3</b>	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am Teen Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES <b>4</b>	Municipal Election 7am-8pm Preschool Storytime ↳ Library, 10 & 11am Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Beer Brewing Library, 5:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	SAT <b>8</b>	HHW Collection ✓ ESCR, All Day
WED <b>5</b>	Flood Rate Insurance Rate Map Municipal Ctr, All Day Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am or 11am Manager's Coffee Brush Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour, 1pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>6</b>		Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Fun Night Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI <b>7</b>			
SUN <b>9</b>	MON <b>10</b>	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am Tween Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES <b>11</b>	VETERANS DAY Library Closed Early Learning Center Open House Learning Ctr, 10am-1pm & 5-7pm Board of Supervisors Budget Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED <b>12</b>	Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am or 11am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm Mother/Daughter Book Club Library, 6:30pm		
THURS <b>13</b>	Homeschool Crafternoon ↳ Library, 1pm Board of Supervisors Budget Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI <b>14</b>	SAT <b>15</b>	Sheriff's Office: Firearms Carry Permits Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 9am-2pm	SUN <b>16</b>	MON <b>17</b>	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am Teen Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	
TUES <b>18</b>	Preschool Storytime ↳ Library, 10 & 11am Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm Keystone State Testing Info Library, 6pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED <b>19</b>		Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am or 11am Books & Bagels Club Library, 10am Healthy Living with Diabetes Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>20</b>	Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	FRI <b>21</b>	Cranberry Gallery of Trees Municipal Ctr, thru Dec 31 Santa's First Stop Municipal Ctr, 6pm Teen Movie Night Library, 7pm
SAT <b>22</b>	Let's Dance the Waltz Gymnasium, 7pm	SUN <b>23</b>	MON <b>24</b>	Infant Storytime ↳ Library, 10:30am Planning Advisory Commission Regular Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30 Something Book Club Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES <b>25</b>	Preschool Storytime ↳ Library, 10 & 11am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	WED <b>26</b>	Toddler Storytime ↳ Library, 10am or 11am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm
THURS <b>27</b>	THANKSGIVING DAY Township Offices and Library Closed Trash Collections delayed by 1 day (Thursday and Friday)	FRI <b>28</b>	Township Offices and Library Closed	SAT <b>29</b>	SUN <b>30</b>			

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# DEC

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

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

⌚ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480  
 ✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016  
 ‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

MON <b>1</b>	Infant Storytime ↘ Library, 10:30am Teen Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4pm First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm	TUES <b>2</b>	Preschool Storytime ↘ Library, 10 & 11am Tween Art Club Library, 4pm	WED <b>3</b>	Toddler Storytime ↘ Library, 10am or 11am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>4</b>	Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Family Fun Night Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm
FRI <b>5</b>	SAT <b>6</b> Milk & Cookies with Santa † Municipal Ctr, 11:30am; 1pm; 2:30pm	SUN <b>7</b> Milk & Cookies with Santa † Municipal Ctr, 11:30am; 1pm; 2:30pm	MON <b>8</b> Infant Storytime ↘ Library, 10:30am Tween Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES <b>9</b>	Preschool Storytime ↘ Library, 10 & 11am Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		
WED <b>10</b>	Toddler Storytime ↘ Library, 10am or 11am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>11</b> Affordable Care Act Info Library, 10:30am Homeschool Crafternoon ↘ Library, 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI <b>12</b>	SAT <b>13</b> Sunday Brunch with Santa † Cranberry Highlands, 10am or 12:30pm (reg. req.) Let's Dance the Night Club Two Step Gymnasium, 7pm		
SUN <b>14</b>	MON <b>15</b> Teen Advisory Board Mtg ↘ Library, 4pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES <b>16</b> HANUKKAH Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		WED <b>17</b>	Books & Bagel Book Club Library, 10am Free Housing Counseling ‡ Library by Appt, 2:30-4:30pm	THURS <b>18</b> Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	
FRI <b>19</b>	Tween Movie Night Library, 7pm	SAT <b>20</b> Learn CPR 8:30am, First Aid 12pm ⚡ Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 8:30am (reg. req. – Cranberry Twp EMS)	SUN <b>21</b>	MON <b>22</b> Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	TUES <b>23</b> Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		
WED <b>24</b>	CHRISTMAS EVE Library Closed	THURS <b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY Township Offices & Library Closed Trash Collections delayed by 1 day (Thurs. & Fri.)	FRI <b>26</b>	SAT <b>27</b>	SUN <b>28</b>	MON <b>29</b> 20 & 30 Something Book Club Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	
TUES <b>30</b>	Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm Last Day for 1st Discount Period on Waterpark Memberships	WED <b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE Township Offices Open; Library Closed Last Day To Pay Current School/Local Taxes Info 724-776-1103					



## Gore And More. EMS Hosts A Regional Training Blitz

It sounded grim. There was the body impaled on a metal fence. A cadaver with its brain exposed. A car flipped over carrying a full load of passengers. And worse. But for nearly 60 paramedics and emergency medical technicians from five different counties and rival hospital networks, it was a great weekend.

On August 16 and 17, the Cranberry EMS hosted an intense Training Blitz at the Township's Public Safety Training Center. "People loved the facility," EMS Executive Director Jeff Kelly reported. "We were both the hosts and the instructors. I taught a class in Geriatric Patient Assessment. One of our other folks taught a class in Pediatric Assessment. Our operations director taught a class in Community Paramedicine. Another taught a class on Mass Casualty Training and Triage. And one of our guys taught a class on treating firefighters overcome by smoke. But we were also working with Allegheny

Health Network, UPMC and Butler Community College, who added a lot to it.

"Saturday, UPMC brought out a cadaver. They did a session on brain trauma, and they had a neuro surgeon come out. Then Allegheny Health Network brought a burn physician out from West Penn to talk about updates in burn care. And then they had a trauma surgeon come out and talk about current myths circulating around trauma – what's new in trauma care, what we can fix and do better."

### Con ed

The weekend of high-intensity learning was organized in response to regulations for ambulance operators and pre-hospital care technicians which were issued earlier this year by the state, based on new rules from the National Registry of EMS and Paramedics, the credentialing agency for the Commonwealth.

"With the new EMS guidelines, there's stricter adherence to continuing education," Kelly said. "In the past, you had to get, for example, 18 hours of continuing education, but it didn't really matter what it was in. Now, you have to



focus attention on certain specific disciplines. They are absolutely clear that you need so many hours of con ed in pediatrics, so many con ed hours in OB, so many con ed hours in trauma.

"This year we did a little bit of that – just kind of a taste. Next year we will certainly expand that to make sure we are hitting those disciplines that are either hard to find or that aren't offered very often, in order to entice more folks to come in.

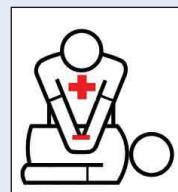
"We had great attendance, great feedback. We had a lot of really good interaction with folks and we're looking to do it next year on a much grander scale. We might even need to expand it to the Marriott or the Hilton Garden Inn or somewhere else with conference rooms." ~

- *UPMC brought out a cadaver.*
- *They did a session on brain trauma, Allegheny Health Network brought a burn physician to talk about updates in burn care.*



## CPR And Seat Checks

Save-a-Life Saturday is coming up November 8. It's a free 15-minute class at the Municipal Center to entice as many people as possible to learn CPR. More advanced classes will be offered on October 18 and December 20 at the Municipal Center for \$40 a person. The EMS will also offer a free car seat check on Friday, October 17. Between 30 and 40 cars can typically be checked during the 3-hour period, beginning at 1:00 PM, at the new Park EMS station. ~



## Ambulance Confidential

Think you're sick enough to need an ambulance? Just wait until you see their bill.

Ambulance service is expensive. A typical ride is \$800. In many cases, the biggest share of that fee is paid by the patient's health insurance. But the remaining balance – which, depending on the insurance carrier, could be quite a tidy sum – is collected from the patient. That's enough to make you really sick.

However, there are ways to reduce or eliminate that fee, according to Cranberry EMS Executive Director Jeff Kelly. And, perhaps surprisingly, driving yourself to the hospital isn't necessarily one of them. That's an artifact of the rules that determine how insurers reimburse ambulance services.

*An ambulance service can only be reimbursed for taking a patient to a hospital emergency room.*

The most important rule to keep in mind is that an ambulance service can only be reimbursed for taking a patient to a hospital emergency room. Even if the patient might be better served at their

own doctor's office, in a specialty clinic, or at an Urgicare facility, the EMS can only be paid if they transport you to a hospital's emergency room.

### Finding the right ER

If you've managed to drive yourself to the right emergency room, you may have saved a few bucks, although if you were really, really sick, you could have posed a serious danger to yourself and others on the road while getting there. But let's say you arrived at the nearest hospital without incident and checked yourself in.

What people need to understand is that not every hospital or emergency room is set up to handle every kind of health issue. If you rush yourself or your child to Cranberry Passavant for emergency treatment, they may or may not be set up to help you.

"It says 'Emergency Room' on it, but the services offered there are very limited and there are no specialty services at all," Kelly explained. "In this area, pediatrics is considered a specialty service. So when you bring your child in there with a broken arm or leg, they won't mend it. Instead, they'll stabilize

the child and then call us to transport them down to Childrens Hospital."

The problem is that moving patients from one hospital to another isn't always covered by insurance. As a result, the patient's family could get a hefty bill for transporting their child from Cranberry to Childrens.

"If they're already in the emergency room, and



we're transporting them to a different hospital for a higher level of care, a lot of insurance agencies won't cover it because they're considered non-emergent," Kelly said. "We file a claim and the insurance company says this

wasn't an emergency, and so they deny it. But if we'd have taken your child to Children's by ambulance in the first place, your bill would have been covered by insurance. The same is true for adults having chest pains or signs of a stroke."

### Subscription ambulance service

The other major way of saving money on ambulance service is by becoming a subscriber. "If it costs \$800 for you to ride in an ambulance, and you have a \$60 annual subscription, we would make that \$800 go away," Kelly pointed out. "It is a big pill to swallow when you see a bill coming across your desk for \$1,087, and then you look at that \$60 subscription card; it's a no brainer. Now, hopefully, every new person that comes into the Township will get the brochures and information that highlights our subscription program."

The subscription program also offers a certain amount of reciprocity. "We do that with 15 other EMS services through organizations we belong to – professional membership organizations," he noted. "They encompass most of northern Allegheny, southern Butler, and parts of Beaver and Westmoreland counties. So if you're anywhere within 25 miles from here, and you're taken to the hospital, they will honor that subscription."

An ambulance service subscription form is available online at [www.cranberrytownshipems.org](http://www.cranberrytownshipems.org) ~



## Cranberry Has 58,000 Eyeballs. Use Them.

You don't need a badge to play a pivotal role in public safety.

For example, one Sunday morning in September, a local resident saw some activity on her street that just didn't



seem right. So she called 9-1-1. When Township police arrived a few minutes later,

a man acting suspiciously jumped into a car and raced off, leading to a pursuit and ultimately, to the arrest of the man and a female accomplice for stealing from vehicles parked in the caller's Cranberry neighborhood.

Cranberry Township has one of Pennsylvania's most professional and widely respected police departments. But that's not always enough. "No police force can guarantee public safety, no matter how many officers you have on the street," Cranberry's Public Safety Director Jeff Schueler explained.

"Residents have a responsibility to be

the eyes and ears of the community. Our officers need the help of residents in reporting and letting 9-1-1 know when things just don't look right."

Timely reports of unusual sights and sounds from residents are especially important to public safety. But that doesn't always happen. Thefts from unlocked cars are a classic case. "9-1-1 calls are the way we solve the crimes reported to us," Schueler said. "In a lot of these cases, people will say 'I heard noises at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning,' but they didn't call us. Come daylight, we start getting multiple calls about car entries." But that three or four hour reporting lag allows plenty of time for thieves to make their getaway.

### Listen to your gut

"When your gut is telling you something's not right, you're usually right," he noted. "Maybe it's something you can't put into words, when you're observing something that just doesn't fit into this community."

It might be a van driving slowly or erratically through a neighborhood, perhaps at an odd hour. Or it could involve people you don't recognize going in and out of the woods nearby. Or someone at a mall parking lot peeking into everyone's car. Or anything else that doesn't look right. At the same time, though, what's normal for one place may not be normal somewhere else.

"Suspicious activity is when a person's conduct or action does not fit the

normal day to day activity of the neighborhood," Schueler said.

"Some suspicious activities here may not seem suspicious in other communities; our residents know what the norms are for this community and they should judge their reporting on what does or doesn't fit here; if it just doesn't look right, call."

### Call 9-1-1

For many residents, however, there is a reluctance to call 9-1-1 solely on the basis of suspicion or gut feeling. That hesitation can be reinforced by the 9-1-1 operator's standard response: 'What is the nature of your emergency?' But what if you're not sure it's an emergency? "Call anyway," Schueler advises. The dispatcher's response is simply a national standard – not something meant to discourage callers from reporting suspicious behavior.

Cranberry Township benefits from a good rapport between its local government – including its police department – and the general public. "Our police department has a good level of cooperation with local residents and businesses," Schueler observed. "We reach out as much as we can to businesses and residents. And when we hear concerns, we address them as responsively as possible. Trust has everything to do with the willingness of people to report. I believe we have a high level of trust from our community." ~



*Residents have a responsibility to be the eyes and ears of the community. Our officers need the help of residents in reporting and letting 9-1-1 know when things just don't look right.*



## The Magical Social Security Machine

The Cranberry Township Municipal Center is one of the country's first non-federal buildings to feature a new Social Security self-service kiosk, dubbed the Social Security Express Customer Service Station. The web-enabled machine, located across the hall from the Township's administrative office entrance, is designed to provide a range of informational and administrative services while protecting the privacy and security of those using it. To access your information or conduct any transactions, you will first need to create a password-protected account. The machine cannot be used to access anyone else's information. To open an account, go to [www.CranberryTownship.org/SocialSecurityExpress](http://www.CranberryTownship.org/SocialSecurityExpress) and complete the online application. ~

# An Exercise in Preparedness

## Seneca Valley, Cranberry Police to hold active shooter drill

By Linda Andreassi, Seneca Valley School District Communications Director



This is a drill. It is only a drill.

On Monday, October 13, area residents should expect heightened activity from first responders in Cranberry and surrounding communities at Haine Elementary and Middle Schools. But while the police response is authentic, the reason for it is not.

"Preparedness includes crisis exercises and drills," explained Cranberry Township Public Safety Director Jeff Schueler. "Training is essential for the successful implementation of a crisis plan."

As a result, Seneca Valley School District and the Cranberry Township Police Department will be fully implementing their respective crisis management plans during an active shooter drill on October 13 at the two schools, both of which are located on Haine School Road. The drill will be evaluated by the Center for Community and Public Safety of Penn State, Fayette.

Regrettably, violence in school settings has become a very real concern. Statistics indicate it is on the rise. In response, the Seneca Valley School District has taken a proactive stance regarding the potential for violence in its own facilities. It has been working with the Township's Police Department to stage its training in a real-life environment. Participation in emergency

simulations by area first responders, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies, will be tremendously valuable in evaluating policies and procedures that help ensure the safety of staff and students.

As the School District's lead for the

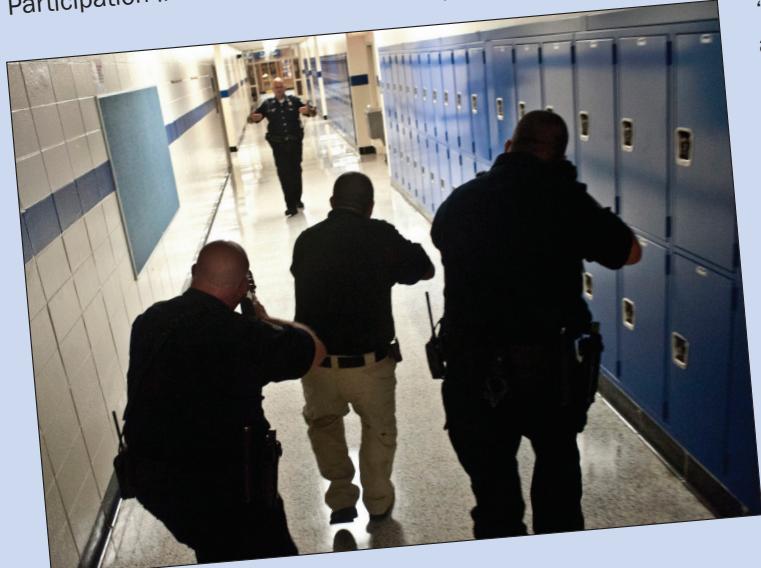
drill, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction Dr. Sean McCarty arranged to hold the exercise during a scheduled professional development day, and is developing a plan that will involve District staff in all grades, K-12.

No students will be in school on the day of the event, nor will any be involved in the exercise. The scenario will involve a staged confrontation with an active shooter or shooters escalating to simulated gun shots being fired. Law enforcement and emergency medical services providers will respond to a fictitious 9-1-1 call at the school. The first responders to arrive will access the scene, establish a command structure and call for additional units as needed. It is expected that several area police departments and EMS providers throughout Butler County will also become involved in the drill. Crisis management that day will focus on mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

"Having a crisis management plan that is tested, challenged and regularly sharpened is vital," Dr. McCarty said. "There's no question it's an intense and difficult subject; however, it's one that must be met head on with the best possible plans in place," he explained.

Cranberry Township's Police Department will be in complete control of the drill.

"One of the greatest advantages of this exercise is that first responders and educators will be planning and training together," Schueler said. "Knowing how to respond quickly and effectively in a crisis is critical to the safety of our schools and students."



# Cranberry Works To Welcome The World

Compared to most major cities – particularly America's metropolitan centers – Cranberry's population is very homogeneous. But that's gradually changing. Since 1990, according to the Census Bureau, the non-white share of Cranberry's population has increased five-fold, although admittedly starting from a very small base.

Cranberry's 2009 comprehensive plan identified managing its changing demographics and building on the strengths of its increasingly diverse and global community, as strategic goals, central to the Township's future. To achieve them, the plan outlined a series of steps and success factors. Then this past spring, it contracted with two local men experienced in intercultural affairs to coordinate the effort.

### Local leaders

They are retired media entrepreneur Gary Winterhalter and his associate, retired postal manager Charles Hawkins – both 40-plus year residents of Cranberry whose early community work included service on the Township's Parks & Recreation Commission, the Municipal Sewer & Water Authority board, and the Cranberry Public Library, as well as in drug abuse awareness efforts.

More than 20 years ago, in response to unrest following the videotaped beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, they paired up to form the Community Advocacy Network in Cranberry – a body which was revitalized and renamed several years ago following what many considered to be an offensive sign posted outside a local restaurant.

Their current assignment, with guidance from Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Pete Geis, is to form cooperative partnerships with established organizations throughout the region. Their goal is to make sure the long-range plan's diversity initiatives

are properly implemented and to coordinate efforts designed to welcome Cranberry residents and visitors of every ethnic background. Practical services, including sources for instruction in English as a Second Language and work with the 2-1-1 referral service for help in resolving problems, are also part of that effort.

One of the first fruits of their work took place during Community Days, when a series of nationality-centered cultural events they organized took place in Community Park under the theme "Our Diverse Neighbors." They are currently looking into the possibility of organizing an international food fair this winter, and a possible reprise of the Community Days program next year. They are also looking at ways of working with the library, local colleges and other educational venues to establish educational programs relating to various dimensions of diversity.

### Metrics of diversity

That's because the ratio of different racial groups in a population is only one measure of a truly diverse community. Religion, nationality, gender identity, and ability issues are equally significant. So are income, educational

and occupational disparities. But while some of those differences are innate and others are circumstantial, most will never change.

"We're dealing with ethnicity; we're dealing with religion, we're dealing with gender issues. We want to deal more with people with disabilities," Winterhalter said. "We want to talk about and celebrate and make an effort to include all those in our community who may be ostracized because they are different."

But differences, in and of themselves, need not be a source of division, Hawkins points out. In fact, they are frequently regarded as assets by colleges, businesses, and community organizations. What is of key importance is finding ways to bring those assets together where they can enrich everyone.

"All these people bring something to the table," Hawkins continued. "They are our neighbors. They are part of what makes Cranberry the community it is. With the growth of different ethnicities and cultures in Cranberry, it's critical to have a cohesive community. Our goal is celebrate diversity, and to include all of our people." ~

*• Their goal is to make sure the long-range plan's diversity initiatives are properly implemented and to coordinate efforts designed to welcome Cranberry residents and visitors of every ethnic background.*



## Dek Hockey, Anyone?

Suddenly, dek hockey is everywhere. In southwestern Pennsylvania, the number of clubs, leagues, and specialty shops, as well as commercial and municipal rinks devoted to the sport, has been exploding.

A brand new dek hockey rink built in Graham Park, courtesy of Highmark and the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation, is among the newest. It is one of a dozen such rinks that the two organizations have partnered to build as part of their four-year long, \$2.3 million Pittsburgh Power Play initiative. And it joins 43 others which were already open in the region as of Labor Day, including the privately-owned Cranberry Dek Hockey Rink on Rowan Road.

The surface of the Township's new 155 by 75 foot rink sports a playing court covered in bright blue waffle-shaped plastic tiles sitting atop an asphalt base. On August 15, those tiles were installed by a crew of volunteers from Highmark

developing programs using the rink, that group players according to age, although a local athletic association may develop, just as they have in several other of the region's dek hockey communities.

Other rink features include a Daktronics scoreboard, player benches beneath metal shelters, a penalty box, goals at each end, and startup dek hockey equipment.

"In September, our Board of Supervisors approved the installation of field lights, which will definitely increase the potential of the facility," department director Pete Geis noted. "Particularly with play starting in October, and very limited daylight hours, having those lights is going to make a big difference with getting programs in."

In the game itself, players use balls rather than pucks, and wear sneakers rather than blades or in-line skates. Unlike in ice hockey, physical contact between dek hockey players is very limited, and personal protective equipment is often minimal. However the scoring systems are very similar,



although dek hockey players often agree to modifications that suit the specific circumstances of their matchup.

Dek hockey, which is known outside the U.S. as Street hockey or Ball hockey, is believed to have taken hold starting in the American northeast during the 1970s. It later migrated to other locations across the country where it has since taken root and flourished.

Particularly with the Pittsburgh Penguins practice facility scheduled to open in Cranberry Springs next year, the Township seems poised to emerge as a major center for hockey enthusiasts.

"The nice thing about this facility is that it will be available to the entire community," Geis pointed out. "We'll have time for everybody there." ~

*Cranberry's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services will take responsibility for developing programs using the rink.*

under the supervision of Cranberry's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. The department will also take responsibility for



## Tennis Courts To Be Repaired, Expanded

Proceeds from the June sale of a narrow strip of land abutting Community Park, together with rent for the use of its tennis courts from Seneca Valley High School with funds collected from a delinquent contractor, will be used to renovate two of the park's four current tennis courts and add a fifth court this year. The new court will be built immediately to the west of the four current courts, in the area previously covered by a small, gravel parking lot. Light stands for the courts will be relocated to provide additional space for the court expansion. ~

### Helpful Halloween Hints

Cranberry's official Trick or Treat hours this year will take place from 6:00 until 8:00 PM on Friday, October 31. Township Public Safety personnel will be out in force, and drivers are urged to take extra care on residential roads during those times as children's Halloween masks and costumes can sometimes impede their vision. An adult should accompany children under 12 as they make their rounds, and all children should be given instruction in safe walking practices including the use of sidewalks wherever they are available and making eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them. Decorate children's costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and have them carry glow sticks or flashlights to be more easily seen by motorists. For children ages 1 to 6, the Cranberry Library will be holding a free Halloween-themed Fall Family event on Saturday, October 18 from noon until 2:00 PM. ~



### Cranberry's Treasure Hunt Dynasty

For the first time since Community Days introduced treasure hunts in 2009, all three quests – each leading to an ornamental key and potentially rich basket of prizes – were solved by a single family. The Freedom Woods family of American History teacher Jay D'Ambrosio was able to locate all three well-hidden keys before any of the hundreds of others who were also diligently in pursuit. But it wasn't the first time that the D'Ambrosios had success in CTCC Treasure Hunts. In 2009, the first year they were offered, Jay located the key even before the final clue was published. Then again, last year, Jay and his family succeeded in solving the most difficult puzzle and finding the key before anyone else. In addition to being great fun, wife Amy D'Ambrosio noted that the hunts teach persistence, hard work, unconventional thinking, and strategizing – all great lessons, particularly for families with kids. ~

### Cranberry Highlands Scores A Birdie

Audubon International continues to be impressed with Cranberry Highlands. In August, the environmental organization announced that Cranberry Highlands will retain its designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary – a program specifically created for golf courses. To achieve that recognition, a golf course must demonstrate continued high-quality environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, safety, reduced chemical use, water conservation and water quality management. Cranberry Highlands originally attained certification in 2009. Recertification is required every two years. Cranberry Highlands is one of 29 courses in Pennsylvania, and 906 worldwide, to receive this coveted environmental designation. ~



### Hail To The Chief

Using only his chainsaw, sculptor Ken Tynan, Jr. created this highly detailed Seneca Indian Chief over a two day period in Community Park during CTCC's 2014 Community Days. The Chief is the first of what will eventually grow into a permanent collection of eight statues commemorating Native Americans, each of which will be positioned in a prominent public area of the Township. Other plans for art in public places include wire sculptures depicting business, government, religion and volunteers – the four pillars of Cranberry Township – on the front lawn of the Municipal Center, yarn-bombed trees in Community Park, an oversize bronze eagle at the Scout Centennial Plaza, and the massive, collectively-produced murals created for Community Days. ~

### Waste Collection Goes Back To The Future

Starting in November, Vogel Disposal – the Mars-based hauler that Cranberry selected at the inauguration of its Collection Connection program ten years ago – will return as Cranberry's residential waste collection contractor. Vogel will continue servicing the same streets on the same days that Waste Management has for the past five years. However, as part of its agreement to serve Cranberry, Vogel will acquire new natural gas powered trucks in place of the diesel fueled vehicles it had previously operated. Billing for the service will continue to be handled by the Township. Under the new five-year contract, base rates will increase by \$1.50 a month for each size trash cart. ~



# Mastering Dumpster Etiquette

Upscale communities like Cranberry have rules regarding the proper handling of trash. They apply to commercial establishments and apartment complexes as well as to single family homes and townhouses. But from time to time, those rules get overlooked. That can be considered a faux pas. Or worse.

“Every year we get one or two phone calls regarding dumpsters behind stores or restaurants or other places in the Township reporting that they’re leaking,” according to Cranberry Pretreatment Administrator Rhonda Zellhart. “If it involves oil or grease or food waste, it smells, it draws insects and attracts wildlife. By March of this year, we had already had three or four complaints.”

But the issue involves more than simply offending the sensibilities of those out for a casual stroll. Leaking dumpsters can also foul local streams. Rainwater washes leaked material into nearby storm sewers and from there into Brush Creek, where it degrades other parts of the environment and ultimately jeopardizes public health.

## Focused elsewhere

It is a series of events that Zellhart leverages into opportunities for educating local business operators about the care and feeding of their trash dumpsters. The need for that sort of instruction doesn’t surprise her.

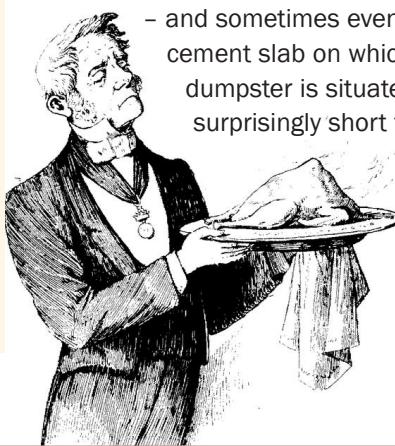
*“Most of the commercial places we visit are focused on customer service, food service, the aesthetics of the front side of the business – not the back end, the garbage.”*

“Most of the commercial places we visit are focused on customer service, food service, the aesthetics of the front side of the business – not the back end, the garbage,” she said. “So making sure they also give that part of the business a little TLC is important.”

Local dumpsters, in practically all cases, are owned by one of the five commercial hauling contractors that operate in Cranberry Township. Most are marked according to whether they are intended to hold garbage or recyclables. However, just as in the case of home waste containers, dumpsters can become damaged over time, spilling their contents onto the area around them. And when one of their dumpsters breaks, leaks, or rusts through, most haulers are happy to replace it at no charge to the customer. But they first need to be notified.

In the case of food wastes, however, dumpster damage can create a particular problem. When food breaks down – a process which accelerates in the heat of summer – it leads to acidic byproducts. Those acids can eat through the walls of a steel dumpster

– and sometimes even the cement slab on which the dumpster is situated – in a surprisingly short time.



***Phewww!*** Leaking dumpsters are not only unattractive, they are also a potential health hazard. Most haulers will replace them at no cost to their commercial customers. If you encounter one in Cranberry, there are several Township staff members who are in a position to diplomatically address the issue.

## Township code

The Township has ordinances in place to address the issue, but regular inspections are needed to confirm the integrity of a dumpster, which can deteriorate over time. That Code requires the operator of every establishment producing garbage to use leakproof containers with close-fitting covers to prevent the breeding and harboring of pests as well as odors, unsightliness, and safety hazards, including fire.

If you work for an organization that uses dumpsters, you should visually inspect them and let the hauler know if there’s a problem.

But what if you’re an ordinary resident who encounters a leaking, overflowing, or damaged dumpster while strolling or jogging through the Township? Report it.

Anyone should feel free to contact Ms. Zellhart or Environmental Project Coordinator Lorin Meeder, both of whom specialize in keeping business managers informed about practices affecting the back end of their operations. ~



# CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP.

724-776-4806

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

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

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## Recycling is Cool.

Refrigerate, refresh, and recycle your soft drink containers. Recycle Christmas gift boxes too. And don't forget that curbside tree pickup is on your regular collection day between January 10 and 21.

**Recycle. It's easy. It's clean. It's green.**



**724-776-4806 . [www.cranberrytownship.org/collection](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/collection)**

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP  
built for you.

Santa's  
Coming to Cranberry!



He is scheduled to arrive at the Municipal Center at 7:00 on Friday evening, November 21 and light the Township's Holiday Tree. It's his first stop. Crafts and refreshments begin at 6:00. Everyone is welcome.