

Cranberry today

SUMMER 2015

Community Days 2015: Food, Fun, Fine Art

Cranberry Township Community Chest's Community Days – three days packed with entertainment, attractions, fine food and good company – all designed to celebrate and support local nonprofit and civic organizations – will officially launch in Community Park at 4:00 on Thursday, July 9. It will conclude with a dazzling fireworks display starting at 9:30 Saturday evening. Community Days Chairman Bruce Mazzoni anticipates that the celebration, for which there is no admission fee, will attract as many as 30,000 guests and generate approximately \$150,000 for CTCC's charitable projects. Voluntary \$5 donations for parking at the event will be accepted.

Since 2008, Community Days, which began as a bicentennial event in 1976, has been held the second weekend of July and been expanded to include three days of entertainment, carnival rides, inflatable attractions, informational booths, food carts, vendor kiosks, and much, much more. But even before its official start, a series of related events will take place to set the stage for Community Days. They include a joint Westinghouse-Volunteer Fire Company golf outing, the fourth annual Martinis with Monet Art show, and an invitational

preview reception in the Cranberry Library.

While many of the most popular attractions will be available throughout the three day event, others will only take place on a single day. A collectors' car and motorcycle cruise will be held on Thursday. On Friday, the Cranberry Sunrise Rotary will host a beanbag toss competition in cooperation with the March of Dimes. On Saturday, Cranberry's Diversity Neighborhood will come alive with nationality displays, information, and performances representing cultures from around the world. Also on Saturday, the winners of CTCC's 2015 Treasure Hunt will be recognized.

The art of celebration

The fine arts will be represented in a variety of ways. An invitational exhibit organized by the Associated Artists of Butler County will open in the Municipal Center on Wednesday evening and remain in place throughout Community Days. The Cranberry Artists Network will have open air artists strategically stationed in Community Park. The group will also reveal plans for a new monumental sculpture. More than 35 yarn bombed trees and other objects



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will become enveloped in crochet work which will be left in place throughout the summer. Chainsaw artist Ken Tynan will create a life-size statue depicting a Native American spiritual figure.

The performing arts will also be well-represented. Keystone State Musical Theatre will hold two performances of Broadway in the Park – one at 6:00 on Thursday, another on Saturday. The KardaZ band, featuring Chris and

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Community Days 2015: Food, Fun, Fine Art *Continued from front cover*

Bob Kardasz together with two fellow musicians, will take the Amphitheatre mainstage at 8:00 on Thursday. Friday evening's concert will be a presentation arranged by The Pickle Radio Station while Saturday's will be a production of Froggy Radio; details of both concerts, as well as other activities planned throughout the three-day event, will be

published in a 28-page guide being mailed to every household in Cranberry as well as on the CTCC website, www.CTCChest.org.

Bring along your appetite. Vendors of all sorts of food – even including some healthy ones – will be on hand throughout the three-day celebration.

On Friday, the Lions Club will sell hamburgers and hot dogs, operating out of the park's Jaycee shelter. The following morning, the organization will hold a pancake breakfast. And on Saturday evening, Cranberry's two Rotary clubs will join forces to staff a food booth at the Park's Amphitheatre, just in time for the show. ~

Free Concerts, Movies Highlight Summer Entertainment

Five evening concerts, three lunchtime performances, and two movies in the park are queued up for a summer of entertainment in Cranberry – and they're all free of charge.



Thursdays in the Park

Thursday evening concerts begin at 7:00 on the lawn at the Community Park Rotary Amphitheater. Bring your own lawn chairs,

blankets, and refreshments. Food will also be available for purchase at the concert site from Rotary.

July 16. *Blackhorse*. The mission of this five-piece band is to present overlooked classics of country music originally recorded by such legends of the genre as Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, George Jones and Hank Williams, Sr.

July 23. *Keystone State Musical Theater*. Led by theatre veterans Chris and Alirose Saunders, KSMT members will present a revue of songs taken from a variety of popular Broadway shows.

July 30. *Network*. This quintet concentrates on familiar songs, encouraging audiences to sing along with classics including Ain't No Sunshine, Brown Eyed Girl, Beast of Burden, Fly Like an Eagle, and Some Kind of Wonderful.

August 6. *NOMaD*. The six members of NOMaD are known for their hard-rocking country style which has been on display as an opening act for national tour artists as well as on their self-titled CD.

August 13. *Elvis Lives*. Elvis Lives, A Tribute to the King, features Randy Galioto performing the title role in an act

designed to capture the essence of a live 1970s show. It includes a variety of music from Elvis' early days through to his performances in Las Vegas.

Movies in the Park

Two free feature films will be shown at the Community Park Amphitheatre, starting at dusk. Both films are rated PG.

Tuesday, June 16. *Annie*. This 2014 musical comedy-drama film is a contemporary adaptation of the 1977 Broadway musical, which was in turn based on the 1924 comic strip Little Orphan Annie.

Tuesday, August 11. *Jumanji*. A 1995 fantasy adventure film adapted from the 1981 children's book of the same name. The story centers on 12-year-old boy trapped in a Jumanji game in 1969 and unwittingly released 26 years later.

Friday Lunchtime Concerts

Three free concerts in the Rotary Gazebo on the front lawn of the Cranberry Township Municipal Center will begin at noon on Fridays, beginning July 31. Bring your own lunch.

July 31. *Dixieband*. The performers in this smaller ensemble of members from the North Suburban Symphonic Band, specialize in Dixieland musical classics.

August 7. *Henry Doktorski*. Although accordionist, composer, conductor and educator Henry Doktorski sometimes plays tunes from the 1920s, his preferences lean toward more contemporary songs from performers including the Beatles, Santana, and Black Sabbath.

August 14. *KardaZ*. For more than 30 years, Chris and Bob Kardasz, together with two fellow musicians, have performed songs from the 1960s, along with other popular music genres.

It Takes A Whole Village

Before there was a Walmart, before there was Route 19, before Mathew Graham even planted his first field here, Cranberry had become a popular fishing, hunting and gathering outpost for local Native Americans. The evidence, found in Graham Park, is persuasive.

Prior to the 2006 grading of Graham Park, the Township conducted a state-mandated archeological survey of its grounds – a survey intended to determine whether the property included artifacts of historical or cultural significance which required protection. What they found were dozens of arrowheads and other implements associated with food gathering, but no evidence of either permanent Indian settlements, burial grounds, or battlefields.

Today, the early history of the Cranberry area is commemorated in the name of its school district – a region the Seneca nation once dominated. More recently, during CTCC's 2014 Community Days, a gifted chainsaw sculptor, Ken Tynan, was commissioned to carve the likeness of a Seneca tribesman – in this case, a peacemaker.

Wooden statues

The remarkable detail of Tynan's work impressed Community Days Chairman Bruce Mazzoni, who then commissioned the artist to carve several more statues.

Soon, the idea grew into creating an entire village, representing different

The idea grew into an entire village, representing different aspects of life at an Indian encampment during America's Colonial era.

aspects of life at an Indian encampment during America's Colonial era, right in the heart of Graham Park. Township Environmental Projects Coordinator Lorin Meeder, himself a student of the region's early folklore, was designated as the project's manager.

"Bruce had been looking for some artwork to put into the roundabout on Graham Park Road for quite a while," Meeder said. "Nothing can be real tall there because of the power lines; the roundabout is within power company right of way. You can't build a big structure there or plant tall trees or anything like that. So this sculpture opened up new possibilities. Tynan does excellent work."

The not-to-scale rendering of the encampment shown here illustrates the characters Tynan created for his tableau

– the last of which will be carved during the upcoming Community Days celebration.

"But that doesn't mean it's done," Meeder cautioned. The pine trunk creations first need to dry out, and then to have any cracks repaired before they can be finished and readied for mounting – a process which normally takes several months. But by this fall, the Heritage Seneca Village should be ready for display.

"Every statue has a pedestal carved into it," Meeder said. "Each one will stand on a cement pad with a cushion of other material to keep the moisture away." Protecting the artwork against traffic mishaps and vandalism are also concerns, so a fence around the village and the use of 24/7 surveillance cameras will help to safeguard the statuary.

Intersecting cultures

During America's colonial period, depicted in the tableau, Native American communities experienced a high level of turmoil. Shawnees, Senecas, Delawares and other tribes of the Iroquois confederacy throughout the Eastern U.S. were often displaced – sometimes by colonial settlers, other times by rival Indian tribes. For better and for worse, French and English colonists also influenced Indian life, including the introduction of firearms, as shown in the hands of the hunter statue.

Other characters depicted in the scene include an arrow-maker, a boy with a bow, a squaw, a papoose, a mischievous dog and a spiritual figure, along with the peacemaker created last year. The Heritage Seneca Village will be a permanent display – a gift of Community Chest to Cranberry Township, donated in appreciation for hosting CTCC's 2015 Community Days celebration. ~



CTCC's 2016 Project of the Year: Miracle League Resurfacing And Playground

One miracle can beget another, according to Cranberry Township Community Chest, which is teaming up with Miracle League to rebuild the surface of League's special needs ballfield in Graham Park and create a new playground right next to it.

Miracle League ballpark, which opened in 2009, has already lived up to its name. Over the past six years, hundreds of children and adults, including many with major disabilities, have enjoyed playing organized baseball on its specially engineered field. Every aspect of the field's design, as well as the rules of the game themselves, has been adapted to provide a great baseball experience for all, including individuals with special needs.

A number of organizations are responsible for the ballfield's tremendous success, beginning with Township resident Mike Sherry, who led the effort to form a Southwestern Pennsylvania chapter of Miracle League and raise funds for the project. The Pirates Charities and former Pirate second baseman Freddy Sanchez were instrumental in financing the field's construction. Dick's Sporting Goods was a key player in underwriting the park where the baseball campus is situated. Butler County and the Commonwealth General Assembly also helped, and Cranberry Township's own Board of Supervisors has been consistently supportive.

The success of their work will continue and grow with CTCC's 2016 Project of the Year. The project includes two key elements, each financed by a fundraising campaign with a combined goal of \$600,000. The first is to renew and replace the resilient surface of the current ballfield which, because of its texture, is more susceptible to deterioration from exposure to weather.



- : The playground will feature two baseball-themed play areas
- : outfitted with an assortment of playground furnishings
- : linked by a walkway lined with interpretive signs.

The second element involves the construction of a brand new, inclusive playground immediately adjacent to the baseball field. Designed by Pashek Associates – the same firm which designed Kids Castle – the playground will feature two baseball-themed play areas, one next to left field and another on its right field side. It will be outfitted with an assortment of playground furnishings to be determined by public input, including suggestions solicited from pupils in local schools. The two playground areas will be linked by a walkway lined with interpretive signs.

Although the playground is designed to be fully accessible to those with special needs, it will be open and available to everyone whenever the park is open.

By more closely integrating the ballfield and playground into the other features of Graham Park, CTCC's Miracle Park Project is designed to make Cranberry an even more inclusive community.

CTCC's efforts to raise funds for the Miracle Park project will officially kick off during Community Days, an event which itself is expected to generate approximately \$100,000 toward the goal. The balance of the campaign, which will get underway this fall, will be community-wide, patterned after the highly successful 2013 campaign to raise money for Community Park's Kids Castle. A parallel fundraising effort, including foundations outside of Cranberry, will be undertaken by Miracle League. ~

Cranberry Highlands Is Out For Blood

Golf is not generally regarded as a blood sport. But that may be changing. Consider the events of April 27. Last fall, Cranberry Highlands golf operations manager Craig Walker had an idea – one that combined giving back to the community with savvy golf marketing.

In essence, it was a bogo with a hitch. “What if someone comes in and gives a pint of blood,” he thought, “and we give them a CHGC 2-for-1 certificate. In other words, they give a pint and we give them a free round.” So he approached Pittsburgh’s Central Blood Bank with his idea. The organization immediately accepted and arranged a blood draw in Cranberry Highlands’ clubhouse.

On the designated day, 37 donors showed up – a very respectable

Blood Bank Recruitment Director John Barnard reflected. Altogether, 78 individuals gave blood that afternoon, a turnout which immediately placed Cranberry Highlands at the top tier of Western Pennsylvania donation sites. But it could have been even higher.

Exceeding projections

Central Blood Bank’s staff maintains a sophisticated system for projecting the turnout at different donation events – one which is usually quite accurate. This time it was off. Approximately 20 prospective donors who showed up at the clubhouse that April day had to be turned away simply because the number of cots and blood bank attendants fell short of the actual need. It was a situation that will not be repeated, Barnard vows.

A new Give-One/Get-One blood draw at the golf course has now been scheduled for August 18 – this time with many more Blood Bank resources on hand. Walk-ins are welcome. But to speed the donation process, which can take as long as an hour from start to finish, participating donors are encouraged to call ahead for an appointment at 866-366-6771, or to visit the organization’s website, www.centralbloodbank.org, where they can complete the required FDA medical questionnaire – shaving about ten minutes off the donation process – and set a specific time for their blood draw. Special Customer Appreciation Rates



for golfers will also remain in effect throughout the day.

Thirst for blood

Central Blood Bank supplies whole blood as well as plasma and platelets to 43 hospitals in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. “We need 700 donors a day, seven days a week, just to meet the needs of these hospitals,” Barnard explained. “So when we have a facility such as Cranberry Highlands that comes forth and says “we can collect 100 units,” particularly in the summer when our need is that great, it’s an incredible thing for us. We really appreciate it more than you know.”

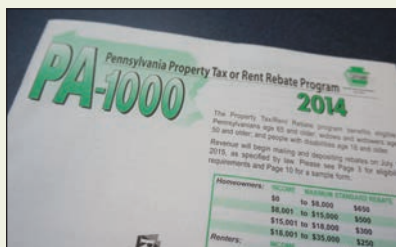
Despite a significant development effort over the past 15 years, no one in the pharmaceutical industry has so far been able to produce synthetic blood. That means only human donors can meet the need. “We can’t pay you for donating blood,” Barnard noted. “That’s illegal. So the Give a Pint, Get a Round incentive was a huge incentive.”

Central Blood Bank advises prospective donors to eat well, remain hydrated, and bring a form of identification along with them. Donors must be 17 or older – 16 if a signed parental consent form is provided. ~

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showing. But Walker was convinced that with greater promotion, those numbers could easily double. So a second day of “Give a Pint, Get a Round” was scheduled – this time for Monday, April 27. As an added incentive, the date was declared a Customer Appreciation Day with special rates for golfers.

Walker was right. “From our perspective, it was a huge, huge success,” Central



Residents Leave Money On The Table

A program directed toward older Pennsylvanians offers eligible homeowners and tenants in the Commonwealth as much as \$650 a year – but only if they apply for it, and most don’t. Officially known as the Pennsylvania Property Tax or Rent Rebate Program, or PA-1000, the Lottery-funded program is both age- and income-based. Anyone 65 or older, and widows or widowers 50 and older, as well as anyone 18 or older with disabilities, can qualify for a rebate if their annual

income is under \$35,000 for homeowners, or \$15,000 for tenants. Tax Collector P. J. Lynd has forms available at his Municipal Center office and can help applicants complete the required form. ~

Water Rates Are About To Rise; Sewer Rates May Follow

Cranberry's water rates will increase by 27 percent for readings taken on or after July 20. The biggest share of that increase, which is part of a comprehensive program to secure Cranberry's water services for the foreseeable future, is in response to a 35 percent increase from the West View Water Authority. Most of those funds will be used to finance the Authority's construction of a new water treatment plant in Beaver County, together with pumping stations and pipelines connecting that plant to Cranberry.

Last year, Cranberry signed a new 25-year supply agreement with West View Water. The Township had previously worked with West View engineers to make sure the Authority's new plant would enhance Cranberry's ability to serve its own customers for decades to come and remain in synch with Cranberry's own infrastructure planning.

Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved the rate increase at its May 6 meeting. On average, residential customers will see an increase of \$8.85 per month. Business rates will go up in proportion to their meter-size.

meters will provide customers with unprecedented control over their own water use by providing online tracking of intentional use, as well as of possible leaks.

Not far behind is another major water system development – the upgrade and expansion of the Township's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant. That upgrade was prompted by the need to meet treatment standards stipulated in the plant's new Federal and State operating permits. It is also designed to handle the additional capacity needs which are projected to be required over the next 15-20 years. Final costs for the plant upgrade will be determined early next year, with construction beginning shortly thereafter. Sewer rates were adjusted last year to pay the plant's initial design and permitting costs along with a portion of its anticipated financing. When its final cost is known, those rates are likely to be adjusted again.

Long-term strategy

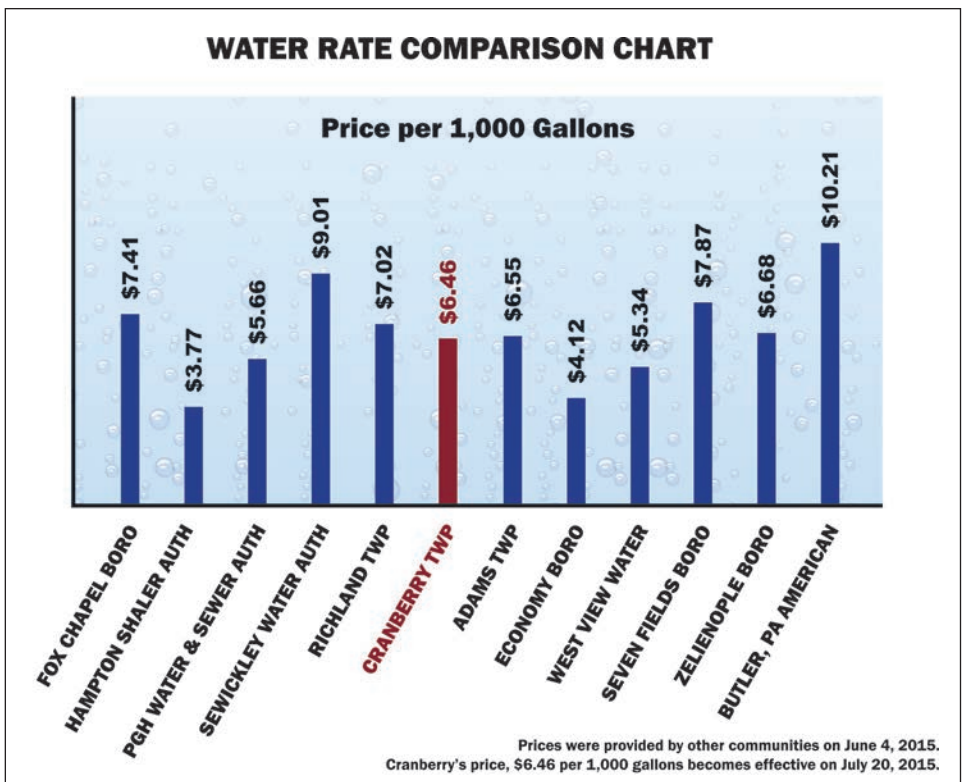
Once completed, these projects will give Cranberry's system sufficient water delivery and sewage treatment capacity to meet its needs well into the future while satisfying foreseeable environmental regulations.

To keep water and sewer rates at reasonable levels during an era of increased operating costs, Township employees have worked hard to maintain Cranberry's utility infrastructure at a high level and to operate its systems as cost effectively as possible. As a result, Cranberry's operating costs are consistently below industry averages, including less than half the industry typical rate of water loss – a source of tremendous cost to most other municipal water systems. The accompanying chart, which compares Cranberry's new rates with those of nearby communities, shows that even with the increase, Township rates remain competitive. ~

On average, residential customers will see an increase of \$8.85 per month.

Radio readings

A smaller portion of the rate increase is designated for the replacement of outdated mechanical water meters currently installed at residential and business customer locations with new meters utilizing real-time radio read technology. Many of the meters now in place have exceeded their useful life, providing inaccurate readings and limiting the Township's ability to manage its water system efficiently. The new





The Fine Art Of Can Kicking

by **Richard Hadley**, Supervisor, Cranberry Township

I trust by now you've heard reports that our water rates will be going up July 20.

Now, if Cranberry were like Harrisburg or Washington, I would categorically deny it and solemnly vow that the Township would never increase the price of anything as long as I'm in office. Instead of raising rates, our Board would simply defer any such decision until after my term had ended, leaving future policy-making bodies to deal with what would certainly become a much bigger and costlier problem. In politics, that's called kicking the can down the road.

But we're not like Washington or Harrisburg; here in Cranberry, it's what

It's doing what needs to be done in the most cost efficient manner instead of passing problems along to future elected officials.

we call good government – doing what needs to be done in the most cost efficient manner instead of passing problems along to future elected officials. Maintaining our water and sewer infrastructure is a good example. Neglecting it is easy to do because it's out of sight and therefore out of mind. But that's not acceptable.

Both the pending water rate increase and a likely sewer rate increase later this year are the results of mounting

costs associated with environmental regulations and increased demand. But neither of these costs come as a surprise; they were both discussed, analyzed, and baked right into our 2009 long-range comprehensive plan.

The sewer can

Take the case of our sewer plant upgrade. The plant was last expanded in 1998. But almost immediately, we realized that emerging regulations would require us to remove more components from the wastewater by 2017, in time for our next state and federal licenses, as well as meeting the needs of our growing community. So we began planning for that. One step involved merging our then-independent sewer and water authority into the Township, creating a more focused and efficient organization on both sides.

That was contrary to the normal way of governing, which is to create more bureaucracy and kick the can further down the road, out of public view. Nowhere is this more apparent than with all the local governments now professing shock at the billions of dollars needed to address long-ignored sewer, road and pension issues – all the results of kicking the can.

The water can

On the fresh water side, by the mid-'90s, Cranberry had evolved from a community that produced and distributed most of its own water, to one which was no longer able to meet demand. So we worked out a cost-effective arrangement with the West View Water Authority to supply essentially all the

fresh water delivered to customers by the Township-owned distribution system.

But West View itself faced those same capacity and environmental challenges. So we worked with them to make sure that when they needed to invest in their system, they did it in collaboration with Cranberry so that we would both benefit. That's what you'd expect from our Township.

Plan, not can

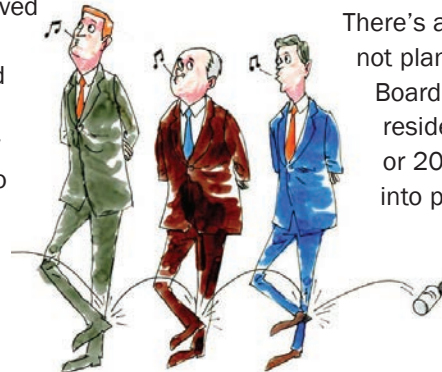
Of course I understand that in public life, nobody enjoys increasing the rates for anything. If your career aspirations

In public life, nobody enjoys increasing the rates for anything.

as an elected official are your top priority, you simply kick the can and postpone the day of reckoning, as so many others have done. However, if you think that kicking the can is the right thing to do, just look at some of our neighboring communities now facing the need to pay sharply higher pension and bridge repair and sewage treatment costs as a result.

In Cranberry, we take a long-term approach with the goal of averting crises and minimizing rate increases.

There's a penalty for not planning, and our Board doesn't want our residents, in another 10 or 20 years, to be forced into paying its price. ~



You can reach **Richard Hadley** by email at dick.hadley@cranberrytownship.org

The Joy Of Mining

In 1895, when 12-year old Joseph Francis Joy began following his father and brother, digging coal from a seam in western Maryland, underground mining was a dirty and dangerous form of manual labor. But, as a bright and highly motivated young man at the dawn of the industrial age, Joy became convinced there was a better, safer way to do the job. By his 20th birthday, Joy had designed a mechanized digging and loading device – forming the genesis of what would eventually become Joy Global Inc., now a world leader in mining machinery.

Today, the \$4 billion company is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the home of its P&H surface mining division. But its \$2 billion underground equipment division is headquartered in Thorn Hill Industrial Park. Joy Global's assortment of custom-engineered underground mining products is extensive, designed to extract softer mineral deposits such as coal and salt by cutting, crushing and transporting material to the surface in one continuous operation. Before that, the technique involved using explosives to bring down batches of material which then had to be gathered and moved to the surface for processing.

Old King Coal

During the company's early years, coal was the fuel of choice for power plants,

"The U.S. is an important part of the global market for coal. But China is almost four times bigger so we also have a very significant presence in China."

locomotives, industrial furnaces and other applications; western Pennsylvania was at the heart of America's coal mining industry. "Our business is still

very much tied to coal," division President Peter Salditt pointed out, "and the U.S. is an important part of the global market for coal. But China is almost four times bigger in terms of coal production, so we also have a very significant presence in China."

In fact Joy Global, as its name suggests, maintains a significant presence essentially everywhere minerals are mined. As a full-line supplier of mining systems, Joy Global has employees stationed at 153 locations in 20 countries on six continents, providing direct service to customers in both state and privately held mining operations. "If there's a problem, they come to us – they don't go a local distributor," Salditt said. "We are the manufacturer, the sales force, the warehouse, the distribution, the sales, the support – everything."

Those unusually close relationships have made Joy's equipment known and respected throughout the mining industry. "Customers have loyalties," Salditt observed. "People tend to be familiar with certain types of equipment from us, and with our people in service relationships. Wherever we operate, our local workforce is based at the mine – that's really how you build loyalty."

Can you dig it?

To create even closer bonds, the company recently developed JoySmart Solutions, a business that integrates data from digitally connected machinery in the field with advanced analytics to monitor the condition of its equipment and optimize performance at worksites throughout the world.

Lately, however, at least in the U.S., coal has fallen out of favor



Underground rock. Peter Salditt, President of Joy Global Underground Products, holds a scale model of one of his company's continuous mining machines. Coal extraction equipment remains the largest segment of Joy Global's \$4 billion business.

with environmentalists and stricter regulations have followed. That has clearly affected the coal market, Salditt acknowledged, but there's more to it. "A significant factor includes the headwind created by the low cost of natural gas. It is very attractive for industry to go to natural gas for electric energy production. That has put significant pressure on the price of coal. Another factor is that demand from the Chinese market has cooled off."

But Salditt remains optimistic about the future. "We are a global business, but there remain areas where we can grow our presence. And there's an opportunity for us to grow beyond coal – to any kind of deposit that can be mined mechanically. We have been very successful in bringing our technology and know-how to industrial minerals – salt, potash, gypsum and trona mining. And just this year we landed contracts to equip several salt mines in the great lakes region."

In addition, Joy Global's 2014 acquisition of Canadian company Mining Technologies International now provides it with a line of equipment for mining such hard rock minerals as copper, silver and gold.

"Coal is a tough market," Salditt said, "but we still have significant growth potential." ~

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

Please Pass The Kryptonite. Welcome To Comic-Tanium.

Research this at your local library: What's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound? Comic book superheroes!

Superheroes with incredible powers have been at the heart of popular imagination for generations now. But the amazing properties they exhibit are not entirely fictional. Materials with astonishing strength, lightness, flexibility, heat resistance, thinness, conductivity and more – extremes which have never been achieved with traditional materials – actually do exist, and even more are currently under development.

It is an exciting area of science, and one whose developments are fundamental to progress in virtually every area of advanced technology. But, like so many other STEM disciplines, it is also a field which has struggled to attract the scientific talent it deserves. So The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society,

TMS is teaming up with the Cranberry Public Library to tell the story of super materials through eye-catching displays featuring well-known superheroes.

or TMS, whose world headquarters are in Thorn Hill Industrial Park, is teaming up with the Cranberry Public Library to tell the story of these super materials through eye-catching displays featuring the well-known superheroes of fantasy along with their exotic real-life material counterparts – all with the aim of engaging the imagination of kids from Kindergarten through high school age.

Toon teachers

The display is the brainchild of Suveen Mathaudhu, a University of California

material science professor, himself a comic book enthusiast, who uses panels featuring superhero characters in his teaching and professional presentations, as well as in outreach to kids. Mathaudhu, a TMS member, collaborated with the organization's journal on an article about comic book science in January of 2012. Later that year, during a visit to Pittsburgh, Mathaudhu wandered into the downtown Pittsburgh ToonSeum where he spoke with its founder who asked whether he would consider curating an exhibit on that theme.

Mathaudhu then approached the TMS Foundation about sponsoring such a display as an educational outreach project, and the idea began to gain traction. Cranberry's Public Library is the exhibit's fourth stop. Panels showing superheroes – many dating back to World War II – are paired with real-life scientists whose current research efforts focus on creating materials with properties similar to the ones used by their fictional counterparts.

They include Thor's hammer, Captain America's shield, Wonder Woman's tiara and bracelets, Magneto's electromagnetic controls, Wolverine's internal explosives, and more. Bridging the gap between the comic characters and the current-day scientists are heroic renderings of each scientist by cartoon artist Marcel Walker, which appear alongside the superhero whose properties their work emulates. Mathaudhu, whose own work involves ultra-strong nanocrystals, is among the featured researchers.



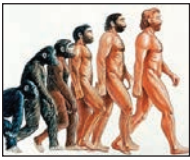
Bringing the hammer down. Wielding Thor's hammer, Cranberry Library Director Leslie Pallotta will bring it down on Comic-tanium – a library exhibit about materials research that emulates the properties depicted in superhero comics – by its final day, Saturday, July 11.

Vanishing heroes

Comic-tanium, as the exhibit is known, has been on display in the library's North Franklin Station Room since May 6 and will remain open for self-guided tours until Saturday, July 11 – the final day of 2015 Community Days. But even though it's slated to leave Cranberry soon, for library Director Leslie Pallotta, the exhibition couldn't have come at a better time. The Collaborative Summer Library Program, a consortium of libraries including all 50 states and U.S. territories, established "Every Hero Has a Story" as its 2105 theme, noting that everyday heroes are all around us.

"Because Comic-tanium is here for us this summer, our focus is largely on the superhero aspect of it," Pallotta said. "We'll be bringing other kinds of heroes in, but how could we not go with this? It's a nice tie-in and it was almost too easy."

Other exhibit attractions include an assortment of superhero props, a photo lighting setup, continuously running videos that explain the principles of material science, and autographed artifacts from superhero films. Comic-tanium is available for patrons whenever the library is open. ~



Discover Your Ancestors.

What do you really know about your forebears? For a

growing number of Americans, the answer is: not enough. To help remedy that, Cranberry Public Library has added a special Library Edition of the *Ancestry.com* website to its expanding collection of local genealogy resources. The online database includes millions of records, some dating back as far as the 1400s, with extensive public files from sources in the United States, United Kingdom and Ireland. Use of the service – which is only available on the Library's own computers – is free of charge during normal Library hours. Check the Library's website, www.cranberrylibrary.org, for details.



Read-a-Thon Fires Up.

An 8-hour summer Read-a-Thon at the Cranberry library, designed for

students in grades 4 through 12, will be held starting at 11:00 on Monday, July 13. Participants pay \$5 – more if they want – to spend the entire day, or even as little as 15 minutes, reading in the library. All of the funds raised are donated to an organization chosen by the Library's Teen Advisory Board. This year the funds will be contributed to the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company. Those participating are awarded volunteer credit for each hour they spend in the Read-a-Thon.

Food Truck Roundup. On Saturday, June 6 – the same day Cranberry's Public Library launched its 2015 summer reading program – supporters of the library were invited to fill their stomachs as well as their minds. For four hours that day, a band of food trucks gathered in the Municipal Center's front parking lot to dispense



sweet and savory specialties to hungry friends and patrons of the library. Participants were encouraged to bring picnic blankets and chairs so as to dine al fresco on the front lawn. Vendors participating in the Roundup included Fat Boys House of BBQ, The Steer and Wheel, Reids Fresh Express, Berlin Street Foods, Rolling Cones, and PGH Halal Truck. A portion of each food truck's proceeds was donated to support the library.



Somber Ritual. New members of Delta Kappa Gamma – an honorary society of women in teaching founded 85 years ago – were formally inducted into the organization's ranks on the evening of May 7 during a solemn observance featuring candles, haberdashery, and the intonation of ceremonial oaths. The ritual was held in the Sample Schoolhouse – the 1874 one-room school building which had been relocated to the front of the Municipal Center in 1999 and then lovingly restored by members of the Cranberry Township Historical Society. Following their rite, the Society's new initiates joined their fellow members in celebration at a local restaurant.

Down The Drain. Stormwater drains in Graham Park now have a new look. Members of Seneca Valley Middle School's STEM-FEMS program concluded their year-long program on watershed protection with a stenciling

project in Graham Park that urges users to respect the fragile nature of the area's streams and refrain from

disposing of waste in the park's catch basins. In addition to using stencils bearing water quality messages, the girls were encouraged to create designs of their own for use as graphic companions to the message texts. To help raise the project's visibility even more, Township traffic engineer Kelly Maurer brought along a digital sign reading "Slow down; girls working ahead." Throughout the term, Township pretreatment administrator Rhonda Zellhart and SVSD middle school science teacher Julie Smith invited guest speakers to introduce program participants to the variety of STEM-related careers currently being pursued by women working in Cranberry Township.



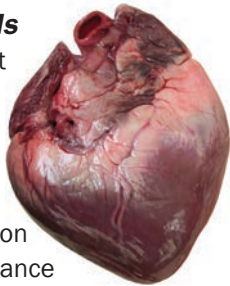
PD Adds Two Patrolmen.

Cranberry's Police Department is now up to strength. Two new officers sworn in at the June 4 Board of Supervisors meeting fill several longstanding vacancies on the force. Glenshaw resident Scott Carney, a Westminster College graduate and three-year baseball letterman who had previously held positions as a uniformed patrolman at the University of Pittsburgh and in Shaler Township, joined Cranberry's department in May. Cranberry resident Edward Steinmetz, a graduate of Mercyhurst College whose previous work also included an assignment on Pitt's police force working as a plain clothes detective, joined at the same time. Both received their certifications from the Allegheny County Police Academy.



Cranberry's EMS Is All Heart.

This past April, the American Heart Association honored Cranberry's Emergency Medical Service with its Mission Lifeline EMS Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes the critical difference that effective EMS intervention can make for patients suffering heart attacks. It is based on criteria that include rapid identification of heart attack symptoms, quick access to high-performance diagnostic devices, and amount of time before the patient arrives for treatment. The Cranberry organization is one of 447 EMS agencies nationwide to have been awarded that recognition.



EMS Safe Landing Takes Off. An innovative bundling of EMS safety and educational services for new and expectant parents introduced in 2013 has begun to gain traction, thanks in large part to Highmark health insurance taking it on as a year-long pilot program. The \$150 community health initiative is called Safe Landing, and it is fully reimbursable for Highmark customers. EMS technicians visit the family's home, teach infant CPR and first aid, do a car seat check and installation, do a home safety check, and talk about proper ways of putting babies back to sleep. An initial grant from the Alcoa Foundation helped launch the program two years ago, but initial interest was low. That has now changed with more people signing up and other EMS agencies, as well as other health insurers, expressing interest. As many as 12 people –

including friends, neighbors and guests – can attend the program's training portion at the same time. To schedule a Safe Landing visit, contact EMS Deputy Director Ted Fessides at 724-776-4480, ext. 1902.



Cranberry Hoists The Banner, Again. In April, the Allegheny League of Municipalities and its Chairman, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, designated Cranberry as one of 42 Banner Communities for 2015. It is the third consecutive year that Cranberry Township – the only honoree outside of Allegheny County – has been recognized in the program. Banner Communities are municipalities honored for implementing best practices in their operations and for governing in an inclusive, collaborative manner. Fitzgerald characterized the designated communities as 'the best of the best.' "These 42 communities have set a standard for how government should function," he said.

Township Turf Team Triumphs. When it comes to putting down roots, Cranberry's turfgrass team, under the leadership of Grounds Maintenance Manager Rebecca Auchter, takes the prize. Literally. In a recent "Roots for You!" competition organized by Holganix – an eastern Pennsylvania-based producer of plant nutrients – Cranberry's entry was chosen as the winning submission. The criteria involved the depth and density of



grass roots grown using the company's products. Until two years ago, Auchter's team had trouble getting playing field grass roots to grow any deeper than two or three inches – a significant problem for fields as heavily used as Cranberry's. But, after two years of applying the company's products, which use natural microorganisms instead of chemicals, the roots measured more than five inches in depth. The resulting field care program allowed her crew to cut back on the volume of nitrogen used, reducing both maintenance cost and environmental impact. A \$500 prize was used to buy emergency AED units for installation in Graham Park.

Share And Share Alike.

Highly specialized tools used to maintain public property are great to have. But unless a unit of government is big enough to use them essentially all the time, their expense can be hard to justify. However if a group of municipal governments share in their cost and use, it becomes a lot more practical. That was the conclusion which a handful of North Hills communities recently reached when it came to acquiring several advanced devices. One is a power tool using compressed air to turn jammed water valves. It has the potential for sharply reducing both the manpower requirements and injury rate associated with manually turning sticky valves. Another, a laser attachment to the groundskeeping tractors used to grade the skinned areas of a baseball infield, gives operators a series of audio signals to guide their operations, keeping the ground contours at precise angles. Cranberry and its neighbors pitched in to buy the tools which are now rotating in use between the Township and its participating partner communities.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY

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 724-779-4FUN

☎ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

‡ Cranberry Highlands 727-776-7372

WED 1 Comictanium Library, July 1-11 Baby Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30am Tween Superhero Trivia Library, 6:30pm		THURS 2 Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Secret Agent Library, 1-3pm Clue Hunt Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 3 Twp Offices, Municipal Ctr & Library Closed Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm		SAT 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Municipal Ctr & Library Closed Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm		SUN 5			
MON 6 Cranberry Highlands Open, Tri-State PGA Tournament Teen Creative Writing Club Library, 2pm Planning Advisory Commission Regular Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm After Tri-State PGA Tournament ‡ First Editions Book Group Library, 7pm		TUES 7 Stuffed Animal Dance Party Library, 11am Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm		WED 8 Baby Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30am CTCC Community Days Pre-Opening Events CTVFC Golf Classic Cranberry Highlands, 9am Martinis with Monet Municipal Ctr, 7-9pm				THURS 9 CTCC Community Days: Cruisin' Cranberry, Booths, Rides, Carnival, Concert by Kardaz Rt. 19 Community Park, 4pm			
FRI 10 Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm CTCC Community Days: Booths, Rides, Carnival, Concerts Rt. 19 Community Park, 4pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm		SAT 11 CTCC Community Days: Community Chase 5K, Lions Pancake Brkfst, Booths, Rides, Carnival, Concerts Rt. 19 Community Park, 4pm Computer Class: Word I ◀ Library, 9am Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm		SUN 12		MON 13 Tween/Teen Read-a-Thon Library, 11am-7pm		TUES 14 Family Playtime Library, 11am Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm			
WED 15 Books & Bagels Book Club Library, 10am Baby Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30am Tween Unplugged Game Night Library, 6:30pm		THURS 16 Thursday Concert – Blackhorse (Country) Community Park, 7pm Superhero Bingo Library, 1pm		FRI 17 Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Night Swim & Movie † How To Train Your Dragon 2, PG Waterpark, 9-11pm		SAT 18 Computer Class: Word II ◀ Library, 9am Bike Safety Rodeo Community Park, 10am-2pm Concert Promotor and Author, Pat DiCesare Library, 1pm Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Household Hazardous Waste Collection ✓ by Appt., ECS&R					
SUN 19		MON 20 Teen Creative Writing Club Library, 2pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm		TUES 21 Real Life Superhero Storytime Library, 11am Special Needs Family Game Night † Municipal Ctr, 6-8pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm		WED 22 Tween Creative Writing Club Library, 6:30pm		THURS 23 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am Teen Dodgeball Tournament ◀ 4pm Thursday Concert – Keystone Musical Theater (Disney's High School Musical, Jr) Community Park, 7pm			
FRI 24 Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Teen Movie Night Library, 7pm		SAT 25 Cranberry Highlands Four Ball Tournament ‡ Superhero Cartoons Library, 9am Computer Class: Excel I ◀ Library, 9am Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Let's Dance: Foxtrot, lesson & dance † Gym, 7-10:30pm				SUN 26		MON 27 Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 6pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Discussion Library, 7pm		TUES 28 Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm	
WED 29		THURS 30 Cranberry Highlands Junior Tournament ‡ Family Movie Library, 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Thursday Concert – Network Community Park, 7pm		FRI 31 Crafty Friday Library, 11am-1pm Lunchtime Concert – Dixieband Gazebo, 12pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm		Open Gym Basketball every Monday, Tuesday (18+) 8-10pm, and Thursday (30+) 8-10pm Open Gym Pickleball every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections every Tuesday and Thursday ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Open Gym Volleyball every Wednesday (18+) 7-10pm					

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUG

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

◀ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

* Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

† Parks and Recreation 724-779-4FUN

◀ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

‡ Cranberry Highlands 727-776-7372

SAT 1 Computer Class: <i>Excel II</i> ◀ Library, 9am Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm		SUN 2		MON 3 Planning Advisory Commission Regular Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm First Editions Book Group Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 4 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm Night Swim Waterpark, 9-11pm		WED 5 Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7-10pm	
THURS 6 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Thursday Concert – <i>NOMaD (Country Rock)</i> Community Park, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm				FRI 7 Cranberry CUP Golf Outing & Kickoff Event Cranberry Highlands Lunchtime Concert – <i>Henry Doktorski</i> Municipal Ctr, Gazebo, 12pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6-8pm				SAT 8 Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Computer Class: <i>Powerpoint</i> ◀ Library, 9am Sheriff's Office: Gun Licensing Municipal Ctr, 9am-2pm Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm	
SUN 9 Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament		MON 10 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 11 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm Free Movie in the Park – <i>Jumanji</i> , PG Community Park, Dusk		WED 12 Young Adult (at Heart) Book Club Library, 7pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7-10pm		THURS 13 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Thursday Concert – <i>Elvis Lives</i> Community Park, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	
FRI 14 Lunchtime Concert – <i>Kardaz Bros</i> Municipal Ctr, Gazebo, 12pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6-8pm		SAT 15 Computer Class: <i>Working From Home</i> ◀ Library, 9am Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Learn CPR ◉ Council Chambers, 8:30am; Learn First Aid ◉ Council Chambers, 12pm Household Hazardous Waste Collection ✓ by Appt., ECS&R				SUN 16		MON 17 Zoning Hearing Board (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	
WED 19 Books & Bagels Book Club Library, 10am Family Fishing Fun † Graham Park, 1-5pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7-10pm		THURS 20 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm		FRI 21 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6-8pm		SAT 22 Computer Class: <i>Troubleshooting</i> ◀ Library, 9am Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm Let's Dance: East Coast Swing, lesson & dance † Gym, 7-10:30pm		SUN 23	
MON 24 Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		TUES 25 Cranberry Slow Down Campaign 8/25 - 9/7 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm				WED 26 Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7-10pm		THURS 27 Open Gym Pickleball 9am-12pm 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am Free Child Seat Inspections◉ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am-5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8-10pm	
FRI 28 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Noodle Night Waterpark, 6-8pm		SAT 29 Cranberry Highlands Patriot Day Tournament ‡ Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am-1pm				SUN 30 Last day to swim at Waterpark 11:30am-8pm		MON 31 Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 6pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Discussion Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPT

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

◀ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

* Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

† Parks and Recreation 724-779-4FUN

☎ Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

✓ ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

‡ Cranberry Highlands 727-776-7372

TUES 1 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	WED 2 Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7–10pm	THURS 3 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm	FRI 4 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm
SAT 5 Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm	SUN 6	MON 7 LABOR DAY Twp Offices & Library closed; no waste collection Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 8 Waste Collection 1-day delay thru 9-11 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Teen Art Club Library, 4pm Meet Author: Tom McMillan Library, 6pm Planning Advisory Commission Regular Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm
WED 9 Young Adult (at Heart) Book Club Library, 7pm Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7–10pm	THURS 10 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Homeschool Crafternoon Library, 1pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm	FRI 11 PATRIOT DAY Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 12 Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm Free Electronic Recycling Public Works, 10am–2pm SUN 13
MON 14 Baby Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30am Teen Magazine Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 15 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Storytime (18 mo. & up) ◀ Library, 10 & 11am Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Tween LEGO Club Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	WED 16 Books & Bagels Book Club Library, 10am Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7–10pm	THURS 17 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Budding Builders (1st–3rd Grade LEGO) Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm
FRI 18 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 19 Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm Household Hazardous Waste Collection ✓ by Appt, ECS&R	SUN 20 MON 21 Baby Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30am Zoning Hearing Board (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 22 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Storytime (18 mo. & up) ◀ Library, 10 & 11am Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm
WED 23 Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7–10pm	THURS 24 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+) 8–10pm	FRI 25 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 26 Cranberry Highlands 2 Person Best Ball Tournament ‡ Farmers' Market Rt 19 Fire Station, 10am–1pm Let's Dance: Salsa, lesson & dance † Gym, 7–10:30pm
SUN 27	MON 28 Baby Storytime ◀ Library, 10:30am Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 6pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Discussion Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	TUES 29 Open Gym Pickleball 9am–12pm Storytime (18 mo. & up) ◀ Library, 10 & 11am Free Child Seat Inspections ☎ Cranberry EMS, by Appt, 10am–5pm Cranberry Plan Public Forum Municipal Ctr, 6pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8–10pm	WED 30 School Taxes – Last Day of Discount Open Gym Volleyball (18+) 7–10pm

Where has the time gone?

SV, to celebrate 50 years of growth, excellence

By Linda Andreassi, Seneca Valley School District Communications Director

On July 1, 2015, Seneca Valley officially turns 50. Just as our communities have grown, so has our district.

So, how did we get here? What follows is a brief look at our history:

In 1957, a decision was made to unify a number of independent schools, covering nine municipalities, into what eventually would become - on July 1, 1965 - the Southwest Butler County School District.

In order to prepare and help unify secondary students who were said to be very competitive sports rivals, officials in spring of 1961 brought together approximately 35-40 students from Evans City (the Rams) and Zelienople (the Bears) High Schools. The groups met to determine a name and logo to represent the merger of the two high schools. The group, deciding to honor the rich Native American Indian history, suggested names as either Oneida or Seneca Valley. The color choices considered by the group were, besides blue and black, either green and black, taupe and gold, or crimson and white. The final high school name decision: Seneca Valley - Home of the Raiders (blue and black colors).

The high school was completed in time for the doors to open to the first class in 1964-65, even if the official paperwork wasn't completed until the end of that year.

Here's a quick glimpse at how all of our individual schools came to be:

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School

On May 14, 1956, a ground was broken for construction of CVE-a joint decision of the school districts of Lancaster Township and Zelienople and Harmony Boroughs. Approximately 16 months later, the doors opened to students for the first time.

Evans City Elementary and Middle School

Housing more than 1,200 students in grades K-6, the existing Evans City School consists of three separate wings built over a 50-year period. The original building was dedicated as the Evans City High School on March 11, 1938.

Haine Elementary and Middle School

Original construction of what is now Haine Elementary School was completed in the summer of 1968. Renovations were made in 1975 and 1985. In 1996, the fifth and sixth grade middle school wing was completed with three floors.

Rowan Elementary School

Rowan School was originally built in 1952, replacing four, one-room school houses. Additional renovations were made in 1955, 1959 and 1990.

Seneca Valley Middle School

In the summer of 1971, construction of the Seneca Valley Junior High school was well underway. Once completed, it housed students in grades 7-9. In the fall of 1994, building makeup is shifted to house students in grades seven and eight. In the fall of 1997, change comes again, but this time in the form of a new name - Seneca Valley Middle School. The teaching concept was changed to incorporate the middle school curriculum that was taking shape at the lower grade level.

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School

The intermediate high school was originally built in 1964 as the first official campus building. The former high school housed students in grades 10-12 until 1994. The building now houses freshmen and sophomores.

Seneca Valley Senior High School

The senior high school is the newest building in district history after opening its doors to juniors and seniors in the fall of 1994 with an addition/renovation completed in 2008.

Of course, this history lesson wouldn't be complete without mentioning that on July 1, 1987, the Southwest Butler County School District was renamed the Seneca Valley School District to complement the already existing senior high and middle schools of the same name.

We are excited to celebrate 50 years of progression and excellence, and can't wait to see where the next 50 years take us!



Ultimate Safety Challenge Tests Workers' Safety Savvy

Anyone can get hurt on the job. But some jobs, like those in Cranberry's sewer and water system, offer more opportunities than others.

People think they're going to respond because they were trained at some point. But if you don't practice, those skills deplete really quickly.

For example, you could become trapped in a manhole filled with a toxic gas. You could get burned bumping into high-voltage electrical equipment. You could fall from a ladder leading to the top of a storage tank. You could get hit by a service vehicle. Or you could have a medical emergency, like a heart attack, at pretty much any time.

Those risks and others are all familiar to the Township's sewer and water personnel. But preparing them for such a wide range of possibilities on a moment's notice and keeping that training fresh in their minds, is a huge challenge, particularly when those skills are seldom needed.

Mike Sedon, the manager of Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant, is well aware of that dilemma. And he has been honing his approach to safety training for some time now. An April 8 safety smackdown at the plant provided the most recent example.

"When we were the old Sewer & Water Authority, we had a safety committee and I was the chairman," Sedon explained. "I was trying to find ways to make safety interesting and challenging for the plant staff. So I came up with the idea of the Ultimate Safety Challenge.

Timed teams

Participants in the Challenge, which were drawn from all parts of the Public Works sewer and water operation, are

hastily assembled into teams and given safety scenarios which they then have to execute in the shortest period of time. Judges at the site of each scenario make note of the items the teams did right, as well as those they failed to execute. Their scores would then be compiled to determine the winners. "We've learned from history that people think they're going to respond to a situation because they were trained at some point. But actually, if you don't practice, those skills deplete really quickly, and you're not able to rise to the occasion," Sedon observed.

On April 8, the Ultimate Safety Challenge involved four teams, each going through a series of four separate exercises: first aid-CPR; Bobcat rodeo, confined space rescue, and a self-contained breathing apparatus relay.

"A lot of the scenarios were designed to catch them off guard, to make them think outside the box," Sedon said. "Putting them on the clock is enough to throw them off their A-game. Those are the things we tried to accomplish. And I think they actually happened."

Taming the Bobcats

Small, highly maneuverable Bobcat tractors are in daily use, both by Township plant and field personnel. In the Ultimate Safety Challenge, each operator had to run the tractor through a slalom course of safety cones without knocking over the pails stacked in its bucket, then change attachments and

use the tractor's fork lift to pick up a basketball and drop it into a nearby trash can – a sensitive and difficult operation.

"If you made a basket, you actually got to deduct two minutes off your score – which is significant when it's a timed event," Sedon pointed out. "But it turned out that most guys realized that the basket probably wasn't worth it, so they just went as fast as they could through the rest of the course.

"We did have one basket maker, so that guy has bragging rights," he observed. "Afterwards, a couple other guys also wanted to try it – just to make sure that they could do it, too." ~



Up to the Challenge. Public Works sewer and water division personnel compete in various events during an April 8 Ultimate Safety Challenge designed to keep their life-saving skills razor sharp.



Cranberry's Intelligent Transportation Test Kitchen

"Intelligent Transportation" is an umbrella term covering all the ways of using information to improve safety, reduce travel times, and lower costs associated with getting from Point A to Point B. It applies to every mode of surface transportation. It also applies to a growing assortment of technologies, several of which were recently on display in Cranberry, just in time for a Pittsburgh conference of ITS America, the nation's largest organization for advancing Intelligent Transportation Systems.

At least for now, there is no shared vision of what a fully developed and integrated system of intelligent transportation should actually look like. So instead, hundreds of projects, each with a narrower and more specific focus, are being pursued independently by a variety of players, each marching toward what they believe will be the future of ground transportation, even if they're not sure exactly what that will turn out to be.

What's cooking?

Some of those projects have low profiles, including one where intersection traffic data from Cranberry is sent to Purdue University for use in refining signal times. Another is a prototype pole-mounted pan-tilt-zoom video camera on Freedom Road which can detect vehicles in every lane – all at the same time. But the most visible is an Autonomous Car being developed by Carnegie-Mellon University's Traffic21 Institute. On the morning of June 3, following a briefing in the Township's

Traffic Operations Center, a handful of conference attendees were treated to test rides in the project's highly modified Cadillac SRX on Rt. 19. Along its route, in partnership with CMU, Cranberry had installed special radio transmitters in traffic signal control boxes to alert the driverless car to upcoming red lights.

Although the car looks like a stock version of GM's deluxe crossover, it is actually outfitted with an assortment of sophisticated sensors that detect other vehicles around it, as well as road markings, GPS locations and traffic lights. All of that data is processed by an array of computers hidden in the back of the vehicle – and then used to operate its steering, braking, and acceleration systems.

Emergency response

Separately, the conference caught a glimpse of Western Pennsylvania's Traffic Incident Management system, or TIM, which has been refined in the Cranberry area over the past several years. Although it's far from the sort of high-tech innovation represented by CMU's autonomous car, the TIM system provides a protocol for sharing information and coordinating the work of different stakeholders when a wreck or other unexpected event disrupts traffic along key arterial roads.

At the conference, participants simulated a meeting of a regional TIM in which they discussed their agencies' response to a video showing a mockup wreck. Members of the emergency services



Driver? What driver? Followers of advanced transportation technology got a close-up look at the autonomous car built by the CMU Traffic21 Institute on the platform of a 2011 Cadillac SRX. The demonstration ride started from Cranberry's Public Works Operations Center and was part of the 2015 Intelligent Transportation System conference held at the David Lawrence Convention Center in June.

that typically deal with roadway mishaps, including Cranberry's first responders, offered their own take on what had happened and what they needed to carry their work out safely and effectively. Among the issues they faced: who else should be included in that protocol? And what if their responsibilities conflict? Sometimes they clash.

For example, the top priority of ambulance operators is to extract anyone injured in a wreck and get them to the hospital as quickly as possible. But for law enforcement, documenting and preserving evidence that would allow police to reconstruct the incident and determine where the responsibility falls, is also a high priority; disturbing evidence while attending to the injured makes their work much more difficult. So it's a balancing act.

But for emergency professionals, recognizing the needs, responsibilities and resources of other agencies, and building solid working relationships between them, pays off Big Time when incidents actually do arise. And Cranberry's leading edge effort to share that information effectively is helping America pave the way to more intelligent transportation safety. ~

Following a briefing in the Township's Traffic Operations Center, a handful of high officials of the U.S. Department of Transportation, were treated to test rides in the highly modified Cadillac SRX on Rt. 19.

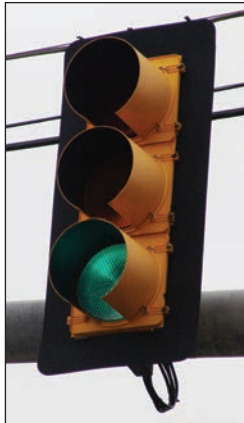
Roadway Roundup

Getting Around Is Gradually Getting Easier, Quicker, Safer

Good news for congestion sufferers: Cranberry engineers are hard at work easing Township traffic headaches. But while relief is on its way, it's not necessarily fast-acting. For example:

Adaptive traffic signals.

There's progress here. Adaptive traffic lights, a long-range goal of Cranberry's traffic management system, will adjust signal timing to meet changing road



conditions, and do so in real time. It's done using detectors at major intersections – typically pole-mounted video cameras – to sense the volume and direction of traffic.

Normally, the Township's signal sequences are governed by more than a dozen preset time-of-day schedules based on established traffic patterns. But when sensors using adaptive technology detect that something unusual is happening – say, for example, an event letting out at the new UPMC-Pens facility – the system can automatically switch from the model it would normally use at that time to a different one that better matches the emerging conditions. Those changes would then cascade through the corridor under control of the central system until conditions changed back again.

But in order to become adaptive, you need specialized hardware and software in place. Last year, PennDOT awarded the Township several rounds of funding assistance under its Green Light Go grant program. This spring, those funds bought equipment now being installed along a portion of Freedom Road, along with the centralized system brain –

the software components that enable individual areas of the system to work. Stay tuned.

Rt. 228 expansion.

For years now, Cranberry has had a vision for Rt. 228: it was to widen and improve the busy two-lane road to handle the additional volume of traffic that was certain to materialize. PennDOT supported that vision and was actively working with the Township to realize it. But in 2007, a major highway bridge in Minnesota collapsed. Pennsylvania's policy-makers quickly declared bridge safety as PennDOT's primary concern, and the agency's resources were redirected toward bridge maintenance and repair. New capacity projects, like 228, fell off the priority list. But Cranberry and PennDOT District 10, which includes Butler County, never lost sight of their original vision, and last year the funding situation eased a bit. As a result, new capacity projects are coming back.

One element of that vision, propelled by the crunch of late afternoon commuters here, is a new eastbound traffic lane in Cranberry, running about a mile from Cranberry Woods Drive to Franklin Road. The money to build it remains to be secured, but funds for the design and engineering are now in hand. The goal: by then end of 2016 to have all the necessary clearances so that the expansion will be shelf-ready as soon as construction funding can be attached to the project. The addition of a new eastbound lane would be one of a series of recent projects along 228 between Cranberry and Rt. 8 which, in



combination, will eventually bring the original vision into reality.



Freedom Road. Two projects along Freedom Road, at different stages, will eventually allow significant improvements to traffic flow. One is at its intersection with Valley Forge, where drivers wanting to turn left from Freedom are obliged to wait until oncoming traffic opens up, forcing vehicles behind them to wait. It is the last intersection along Freedom Road in Cranberry where that's the case, but it won't be for long. New left turn lanes are now being added to that intersection, allowing dedicated through lanes to operate continuously between the Beaver County line and Rt. 19. Even so, it remains an interim project. Freedom Road, like 228, is congested and will ultimately require significant new capacity changes.

The other project involves replacing the road's three-lane bridge over the Turnpike. PennDOT currently has a replacement under design and is collaborating with the Township on a regular basis, attempting to understand local stakeholders' needs in detail.



Unionville Road. There's a curve just below the intersection of Graham School Road with Unionville Road which has been identified as an accident hotspot. Township officials determined that the

Continued on page 19.

intersection would lend itself to an engineering fix. So this summer, following several months of work with a contract designer to create an improved road configuration, that curve will be rebuilt.



Graham Park Trail. The permits and approvals required to build a half-mile walking trail linking Powell Road to the football campus of Graham Park and beyond, are now in hand. Internal park trails around the fishing pond and along Brush Creek through the park's baseball campus are also in the works this summer. A \$90,000 matching grant for trail development has already been secured. That trail is a key component of the Township's developing pedestrian network.

Two years ago, when Butler County replaced the bridge over Brush Creek on Powell Road, Cranberry worked with the County to make sure it included pedestrian amenities. The Township built connecting sidewalks linking the communities on Powell Road, west of the Turnpike, to that area. As a result, Woodbine and Greenfields both have pedestrian access to the point where the new trail touches Powell Road.

Beyond that, the recently built roundabout at Freshcorn, Powell and Glen Eden also includes pedestrian facilities. When the Powell Road Turnpike bridge is eventually replaced, pedestrian facilities will be added there as well. Once that happens, the pedestrian network will extend all the way from Cranberry Heights, Woodbine, Greenfields, and Avery Fields, back to Graham Park. It will then continue on to Rochester Road and Haine School by way of the park.

North Boundary Trail. Several years ago, Cranberry bought a piece of property between Goehring Road



and North Boundary Park with a view to creating access from the park's southern end, at Goehring. Since that time, a lot of residential development has taken place along that road. So the Township is working to create pedestrian connectivity from there into the park and its trail system. To help achieve that, Cranberry recently widened the berm of Goehring Road for pedestrians and is working on a trail leading from that widened berm to a sidewalk at Franklin Crossings. From there, pedestrians can follow a trail that will be built through to North Boundary Park. The berm was paved this spring; Cranberry's Public Works crew is currently grading the trail. Work is also underway to link the park to residential developments at Franklin Crossings and Franklin Ridge. ~



UPDATE2015

Now Here's The Plan...

Cranberry's 2009 long-range comprehensive plan is due for an update. That plan guides Cranberry Township's policies, priorities and legislative agenda through 2030. The update, scheduled to begin this summer and conclude by year's end, will examine the progress made toward meeting the goals identified in that plan. Residents and members of the Township's business community who would like to get involved will have a number of in-person and online opportunities to do so, including a series of short surveys which will be posted online at www.CranberryTownship.org/CranPlanUpdate, a Community Days "listening post" in Community Park, and a Town Hall Meeting on September 29 to review the results of the update process. Other comments are also welcome; send your thoughts to: Planning@CranberryTownship.org. ~

Seeking Advice

Two important elements of Cranberry's future could benefit from your help: an update of the 1998 strategic plan for fire protection services, and guidance in creating a robust bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure. Input from local residents and from members of Cranberry's business community is welcome. To secure that input, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of two separate committees, each of which will meet periodically to advise Township staff. If you are interested in serving on either committee,



email planning@cranberrytownship.org expressing your interest, your contact information, and a little about your background. ~

Invite A Thief Home

It's really quite simple, according to Cranberry Township police. Start out by leaving a purse and other valuables in your parked car, preferably on the passenger seat where they can be easily removed with just a quick window break, as recently happened to someone in Community Park. Make sure to leave your house key in there. Better still, leave your car unlocked so that thieves can rummage through its contents without all the fuss and bother of actually having to break in. For many drivers, those contents will include a garage door opener, which provides the thief with easy access to your home. For added convenience, leave your car unlocked when it's parked on your driveway and when you park during short errands. That way, if a thief is in a hurry, he can go about his work without wasting a lot of time just hanging around.



Wipers And Lights; It's A Package Deal

It's hard to see when it rains. That's why cars have windshield wipers. But it's also hard to be seen. That's why Pennsylvania, several years ago, enacted a law that requires drivers to turn on their headlights whenever their windshield wipers are on. It doesn't matter if it's daytime and you don't need the lights to see the road. You need the lights so that other drivers can see you. Even cars with full-time running lights don't satisfy the law; a car's regular headlights and taillights both need to be turned on. Although some newer cars come factory-equipped with rain sensors that automatically turn on both the wipers and headlights, most don't. So Cranberry police encourage drivers to bundle their lights with their wipers whenever they travel in the rain. ~



The Etiquette Of Outdoor Burning In Cranberry

Some outdoor fires are permitted in Cranberry Township; others are not. But what separates an allowable recreational fire from a nuisance fire or a menacing fire?

The answer, which is outlined in Cranberry's Code of Ordinances, is somewhat nuanced – influenced by the fact that fires are used for different purposes and that they can change character quickly. In essence, though, it's that fires are allowed in Cranberry if they're small, controlled, and used for pleasure, not when they're big, unattended, or used for trash disposal.

Acceptable fires

Cranberry's ordinance has several goals. One, of course, is fire safety. What begins as a well-managed recreational

no outdoor fires can be burned during periods of high wind or extreme drought. Adequate means for extinguishing fires must be within reasonable distance of any fire for as long as it burns. Recreational fires – which burn clean wood or charcoal and are used for purposes of companionship, cooking, religion, ceremony, or warmth – must be contained in a pit or an above-ground structure no more than three feet in diameter and two feet or less in height. On top of that, all recreational fires have to be completely extinguished before the last adult is allowed to leave the scene.

Bonfires – ceremonial fires which are typically larger than recreational fires – require their leaders to secure, in advance, a fire prevention permit from the Township's Codes department. Permits are only issued to recognized organizations, and then only when appropriate safeguards are in place.

Unwelcome fires

In addition to preventing dangerous fire situations, the ordinance attempts to preserve Cranberry's

character by restricting the creation of smoke, the emission of odors, and the stockpiling of trash for fuel – all of which are likely to disturb nearby community residents. Different methods for disposing of trash, including leaves, construction material, and household waste, are available in the Township, and outdoor fires are not considered an acceptable alternative to the use of those methods.

Under special circumstances, such as emergencies in which the fire chief determines that open burning is in the public interest, or after extensive storm damage where the Township has announced procedures to allow for such burning, fires may be used, but here too, only with appropriate safeguards. Otherwise, a schedule of citations, fines and worse awaits convicted violators. ~

A well-managed recreational fire can morph into an out-of-control brush or structure fire in a matter of seconds.

fire can, under the wrong conditions, morph into an out-of-control brush or structure fire in a matter of seconds. So



Guess which fire is okay in Cranberry.

Cranberry's Fire Company Is On Red Alert

Smart phones have become ubiquitous. Smart cars are starting to come on strong. And smart firefighting may be next. But first, a lot of work needs to be done.

When Butler County 9-1-1 issues a fire call, it typically comes across as a bare bones announcement: the location of the emergency, a code for its general nature, whether victims are suspected to be involved, and which companies are being summoned to respond.

But many critical details about the incident are either unknown or not immediately available – information which can only be determined when responders arrive at the scene. For example, what is the building made of? How tall is it? How is its interior arranged? What sort of fire suppression equipment is on site? Where are the nearest hydrants? What potentially hazardous materials are being stored there? Where are its utility shutoffs located?

effectively. As a result, learning the specifics of an incident as quickly as possible is a huge priority for first responders. So, for the past three years, Cranberry's fire company has been working at collecting and delivering that sort of detailed pre-planning information to firefighters electronically – before they ever arrive at the scene.

Managing records

Their approach involves the use of a records management system called Red Alert made by Alpine Software. It not only holds a wealth of information about each structure in a community and then transmits it, on demand, to firefighters' cell phones and to tablets mounted in the fire engines' cabs, it can also track and manage a huge volume of data related to the administrative aspects of a fire company's operations – personnel, equipment, training, certifications, hours, maintenance and much, much more. That makes filing state-required post-incident reports a whole lot faster and easier than ever before.

Township IT Administrator Jeff Gooch – himself a firefighter in Cranberry volunteer fire company's brigade – has led the technology initiative, which began three years ago when Red Alert was selected to replace an earlier, hard-to-use software package.

"It's a complete records management solution that ties into a mobile dispatch functionality for the fire company," Gooch explained, using the vernacular

of his profession. "It's a full-fledged software program with a

touch interface. Anybody sitting in the truck would be able to see specific information about the call. All of Cranberry's GIS maps that pertain to the fire company have been imported into the system. So it can handle all the things a fire company does."

Work remaining

But before that goal can be fully realized, a huge amount of data remains to be collected and then entered into the system. Mark Nanna, a veteran firefighter who is also the Township's fire company Administrative Assistant, is tasked with making that happen – a chore that requires uploading site information collected by the Fire Company's Pre-plan Committee along with administrative data taken from thousands of paper documents, one page at a time. But he's steadily chipping away at it.

"With the old system, you needed an advanced degree to figure out how to make it work," Nanna recalled. I worked with that system for about eight years and it was very, very difficult. This one is very user-friendly. It's hooked up to the Butler 9-1-1 system and when a call comes in, it automatically starts to fill in certain blocks of information.

"It decreases the administrative burden for me because I don't have to sit here and put a lot of stuff into the system that's already generated from Butler 9-1-1," he said. "But it's a work in progress. It's going to take time. There is just so much information out there. We're not going to get full value from the system until the pre-plan part of it is done. Right now, 25 percent of the pre-planning still needs to be completed. But once that's done, we'll have 100 percent of the system available to do whatever we want it to do." ~

Where's the fire? Using the Red Alert system, touch-screen tablets mounted on each fire truck's dashboard can display a variety of mission-critical information to firefighters responding to a 9-1-1 call.

Learning the specifics of an incident as quickly as possible is a huge priority for first responders.

The answers can help determine what strategies, what kinds of firefighting equipment and which types of specialized personnel will be needed to combat the fire most safely and





Firefighter Profile: She's Always Battled Stereotypes And Expectations. Now She's Fighting Fires, Too.

There is nothing that Gisica Abdallah – known to her American friends as Jess – likes more than proving other people's preconceived ideas about her are wrong. As a woman, an Arab, a dual U.S.-Jordanian citizen, and a Christian born into a traditional Palestinian household, there is no shortage of stereotypes that she feels compelled to disprove.

But, as a newly credentialed Township firefighter, a math tutor, an engineering student, a fitness buff, a certified nutritionist and a former EMT volunteer, as well as a single woman, the stereotypes and expectations she encounters are not just those of her American friends; in many cases they

– still hates it. He doesn't want to hear about it. It really bothers them that I'm doing these things."

The volunteer culture

Those reasons involve a combination of culture, tradition and economics. "First of all, Arabs don't really have the time to volunteer; that's one of the things I found with my family," she recalled. "At first, when I started volunteering as an EMT in New Jersey, they would ask: why would you do it? I would say: because you're helping people. But that's a concept they don't understand.

"I think it's a western thing. It comes with the wealth of the country. Back home, you don't have people with time to donate for free. You do what you do to survive. They want to see whatever you're doing as benefitting you. If there isn't a benefit, then why are you doing it? I see it differently; it's that I'm helping somebody. That's a benefit for me.

"For example, I went on a fire call a few days ago. We didn't really do anything big, but the guy was so thankful we were there helping him that he came out and shook our hands. That was good enough for me. It was just a little thing. But I get rewarded by just being here – honestly."

There's also the feeling of community connection. "You don't know the sense of belonging to a community or belonging to an organization until you actually do it," she said. "It's a different experience than for people who don't volunteer. Here, I've been welcomed. They tease me all the time; I'm just part of the family. It's great. But I also work out a lot because I need to be taken



seriously. I don't want to go somewhere and not be able to help."

The mother tongue

Although she speaks without a trace of an accent, Jess never uttered a word of English until she was ten years old, when her family moved from their home in Jordan to Montgomery County, Maryland.

"Arabic was my first language," she explained. "I also speak Spanish and I'm trying to learn French. Why not? The more people you can communicate with, the better. A couple years ago I went to France, and they weren't very nice to me. So I told myself the next time I come, I'm going to know your language.

"Learning languages comes easily to me," she reflected. "I enjoy it. But when I went to Fire School, it was a whole new vocabulary set for me. It's ridiculous how many new words I learned. It's really cool." ~

Her own family has struggled to accept her unconventional choices.

begin right at home, with her own family, which has struggled to accept her unconventional choices.

"I grew up in a very traditional Arab house," she explained. "The woman is a woman, and the guy is the man of the house. I grew up in an environment where I'd have to do certain things as a woman. I hated that. So my entire life I've been trying to prove everybody wrong."

Today, at least in their Cranberry home, which Jess has shared with her parents and siblings since the family moved here six years ago, things have gradually improved. "My family's gotten really laid back about it," she conceded. "But my extended family – my uncle in Maryland

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

They saved my life.



Jim Robinson,
Cranberry Township
Resident



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

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

"They really saved my life."

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

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



The Cranberry Township
Volunteer Fire Company

1629 Haine School Road and 20727 Route 19

Cranberry Township, PA 16066

724-776-1196

www.ctvfc21.com

A Gentle Nudge

On May 12, Members of Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company, in a symbolic act dating back to the days of horse-drawn fire wagons, gently pushed their newly arrived aerial ladder truck into its Haine Station bay for the first time. The well-equipped truck, which was built by Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, Wisconsin, carries an on-board water supply, room for six fully-outfitted firefighters, and an innovative compressed air foam system that injects a chemical surfactant into the water line along with pressurized air – helping the water to saturate and smother burning material. Features to enhance firefighter safety include 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 extend four feet from either side help to stabilize the vehicle at the scene of a fire. ~



Fire Truck Bookcase Drives Into Cranberry Library



Cranberry's volunteer firefighters would rather prevent fires from happening than to fight them once they've spread, so fire prevention has become a key part of the fire company's mission. On March 27, as part of that initiative, members

of the Fire Company delivered a rack of fire safety-related books for young readers to the Cranberry Public Library. The books are displayed in a handmade red and white bookcase shaped like a fire engine and equipped with several child-size seats, as well as tiny ladders, pike hooks, and other classic implements of firefighting. Originally housed in a Robinson Township school library, the newly remodeled fire truck bookcase will remain a permanent fixture in the Cranberry Library's Children's Room. ~



724-776-4806

www.cranberrytownship.org

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Bike Rodeo Seeks To Corral Young Cyclists

After a seven-year hiatus, Cranberry's Bike Safety Rodeo is coming back to town. From 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM on Saturday, July 18, Cranberry Township Police will host the event in the main parking lot of Community Park. The event, which includes helmet checks, bike safety checks, and rider performance skill checks, is being offered in collaboration with Cranberry Elks, AAA, and Trek of Pittsburgh. No advance registration is necessary, and the event is free of charge. Riders with defective helmets as well as those without helmets, will be issued new ones. Another important goal of the Rodeo is to educate young riders about their obligation to observe traffic laws whenever they're on public roads – a lesson which is frequently overlooked. In the event of rain, the Rodeo will held July 25.

