

Cranberrytoday

SPRING 2016

Waterpark To Reopen With A Splash

Even in the dead of winter, rebuilding work never stopped on the Cranberry Community Waterpark pool. When things got too cold to work outdoors, the contractors simply shifted work inside to the facility's expanded pump house, installing its new filtration equipment.

Still, it was a short and relatively mild winter. As a result, the extensive work involved in the \$1.7 million renovation of the Waterpark starting at the end of last season shows every sign of being completed on schedule with the facility ready to take in guests by the start of Memorial Day weekend. New highlights, including an expanded zero-depth entry pool with a dump bucket, a barrier separating it from the deeper main pool, a climbing wall at the deep end, easier disabled access, and several water slide enhancements, will all be featured.

- *Waterpark opens May 28th.*
- *Ceremony June 18th.*

A Grand Reopening ceremony is planned for three weeks later, Saturday, June 18. "We have a celebration planned – a band, all kinds of games and activities," Parks Program Manager Dave Hutner said. "Fun is the theme of the day."

Holding the official ceremony after members and guests have already tested the waters will provide time for Parks & Recreation to get the Waterpark fully up and running, to get its staff trained, and to work out any new equipment kinks that might come up along the way.

"We want to provide our guests with a great experience," Hutner said, "so June 18 is when the grand opening celebration is going to happen. It will be open to anyone, whether they're a season member or someone who's just paid for a single-day admission. We want people there. We want them to see what's been done."

Come on in

Plans for the event include musical entertainment, games, crafts and other activities which will take place throughout the day to keep guests engaged, to have fun, and to celebrate the region's most appealing waterpark.

"CT will be there in full crocodile mode, but we don't expect any speeches. We want to keep this as festive as possible. However, there will be a dress code. "You must wear proper swimming attire," he said, smiling.



"There will also be inflatables – big jump-around castles and things like that. It's the Grand Pool Re-Opening at Cranberry Community Waterpark, and we want everyone to attend."

Until then, the Township will continue hiring for positions at the Waterpark including customer service, concession, lifeguards and maintenance personnel. Online application forms are available at the Township's website. ~

A Publication of

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Save The Lifeguards!

Allegheny County wasn't able to open the deep end of its huge North Park pool at all last summer. And other pools in the region were scrambling just to maintain their posted hours. Why?

"Right now there's a massive shortage of lifeguards in the region," Cranberry Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis acknowledged. "It's not just in Cranberry. Last year we were comfortable hiring about 60 lifeguard but we could only get 45. The lifeguards were happy because they got a lot of hours. But we were only at 75 percent of where we wanted to be."

"Butler County was doing their training down here and they weren't getting their lifeguards until the last second. Everybody is challenged right now getting lifeguards."

It's an issue that Geis and his department are working hard to solve, at least in Cranberry, and at least for this year. A key part involves enticing younger people to step up and secure their lifeguard certification. To help, he has been developing a partnership with Alcoa, which maintains a full-size indoor pool at its Kwaneer plant in Cranberry Business Park. Among other things, using that pool for training this spring removes any weather uncertainties that

could slow the certification process.

But weather conditions affect more than just training; they also affect the ability of lifeguards to work consistent hours. If there's a stretch of bad weather, the pool remains closed and its staff doesn't get paid.

Any seasonal job is a challenge, particularly if it relies on the weather.

"Any seasonal job is a challenge, particularly if it relies on the weather," Geis noted. "We have to control expenses, so when we're not going to be open, we usually can't work it out. If we do, we're getting jobs done like cleaning, fixing, whatever. We do a pretty good job of keeping them busy."

Help!

One of the other things working against prospective lifeguards is that it costs money to become certified. Fees for 30-hour Red Cross certification



programs in the region average \$250 with some as high as \$285. For a beginning lifeguard, that can equal a week or more of income – a significant bite out of a relatively short season. So Geis is making a better offer: \$150 tuition for the

class with \$100 of that refunded once the lifeguard completes a season at Cranberry's Waterpark.

Red Cross pool certification is good for any pool, and the certificate follows the individual. "If you wanted to work for us during the summer and then go to Pitt during the winter as a lifeguard in their natatorium, go right ahead," he said. "You'll have the credentials to do that."

Registration for the discounted lifeguarding class is now open. Contact Parks & Recreation Customer Service for more information at 724-779-4386. Interviews for hiring lifeguards as well as seasonal workers in pool maintenance, customer service and Waterpark food concessions, are also being held. Interested applicants should go to the Township website for details and online application forms. ~



Dek Hockey Leagues Forming

The Pens-Highmark Dek Hockey rink in Graham Park is poised for its second full season of play, with age-grouped youth leagues about to be assembled for players ranging from 4 to 15 years of age, beginning the week of Monday, April 11. That's when players' skill levels are evaluated before team members are drafted. All players are required to provide and wear their own protective gear during the season, which includes eight games plus playoffs in the Chipmunks division for those ages 4 through 6. The season is 10 games long, plus playoffs. For the other leagues: Penguins for children ages 7 to 9, Beavers for those 10 to 12, and Cadets for kids 13 to 15. Registration fees for the Chipmunk division are \$40 for Cranberry residents and \$45 for non-residents. Fees for youth and teen division leagues are \$50 and \$55, respectively. All fees are payable at the time of registration. Parent coaches are needed and welcome for all league games. ~

CranFest Is Baaaack!

CranFest – it's two great family events in one. Folk & Food Festival and Cranberry at Your Service will both be held in the Municipal Center on Saturday, April 9 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Cranberry at Your Service provides an opportunity to go behind the scenes and see your tax dollars at work. Learn what Cranberry's operating departments actually do for the Township and how they go about doing it. At stations spaced throughout the Municipal Center, each of the Township's departments – Public Works, Public Safety, Administration, Parks & Recreation, Engineering, Codes, Information Technology and Customer Service – will have representatives, along with

displays and tools that demonstrate their work as they talk with guests.

In the back parking lot, Township vehicles will assemble for Touch-a-Truck – a first-hand experience with Cranberry's fleet of specialized mobile equipment, created for children and adults alike. Among the work vehicles on hand: an aerial fire truck, a 20-ton dump truck, patrol cars, an ambulance, a garbage truck, a front loader, a golf cart and more.

The Cranberry Area Diversity Network's Folk & Food Festival will once again be the key attraction of CranFest, celebrating Cranberry's ethnically and culturally diverse population. Presented by the Network and the Township,



together with the Cranberry Public Library and the Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, the Folk and Food Festival will feature entertainment by residents of the Cranberry area representing countries all around the world. Presentations will be held in venues throughout the Municipal Center. An assortment of authentic nationality foods will be served inside the gym. Entrée-size portions will be available for prices set individually by each booth vendor.

There is no charge for admission to either CranFest program. ~

A Hot Cuppa Joe?



Cranberry's Coffee and Conversation series with Township Manager Jerry Andree continues this spring with one morning and two evening events. At 7:00 Thursday

evening, April 21, guests will assemble at the Graham Park Maintenance Building where the theme will be stormwater management. Township engineers Jason Kratsas and Tim Schutzman will be on hand to answer questions. On Tuesday evening, May 24 at 7:00, Seneca Valley School District Superintendent Tracy Vitale will talk about school-community collaboration and the school district's master plan. Then on Tuesday morning May 31, Butler County Commissioner and former Butler County United Way head Leslie Osche will be the featured guest in Council Chambers beginning at 10:00. No reservations are required, although RSVPs are appreciated at 724-776-4806 x1089. ~

Township Takes Top Trophy

A statewide association's competition to promote communication excellence among Pennsylvania's townships has awarded Cranberry its top prize for 2015. The competition, conducted by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, was the organization's 48th annual communication contest and its 25th year for presenting its highest honor, the Outstanding Citizen Communication Award. Cranberry's first place finish resulted from several of its entries coming in first, including its newsletter and social media, as well as second place in the category of Other Publications. The award will be formally presented to Township officials at the association's statewide conference in Hershey later this month. ~



Give Yourself A Tax Break

You can still get a two percent discount on your 2016 Butler County-Cranberry Township real estate taxes if they're paid by April 30. Between May 1 and June 30, they'll be payable at face value. This year, a new line item, for Butler County Community College, resulted in a 3 mil tax increase from the County. There was also a quarter mil increase in the Township's fire tax. If you still owe last year's real estate tax, you'll need to contact the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau, 724-284-5326, to make arrangements. Otherwise, if you had any change in your mortgage company or you're no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact tax collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or stop in his Municipal Center office. ~



When Managing Stormwater, Cranberry Goes With The Flow



Clean water flows downhill in American politics – but slowly. The 1972 federal Clean Water Act eventually trickled down to the states, then to counties, and finally to local municipalities, where responsibility for implementing its provisions and protecting the nation's waterways now resides.

A complex act to begin with, its massive body of regulations acquired even more detail as it cascaded from one level of government down to the next. Those provisions continue to grow. For example, municipalities defined as urbanized areas, including Cranberry Township, are required to secure stormwater permits from their states. A permit is valid for five years. Cranberry's expires in 2018, and Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has made clear that the requirements for its renewal will expand significantly.

Problem is, the timeline for securing permits includes a series of built-in milestones. To meet them, the action plans required by the permit application will have to be formulated very soon. But DEP has yet to provide the necessary guidance. It's a Catch 22.

Looming deadline

"By March of 2018 we'll have to get our new permit," Township Waterworks

Coordinator Tim Schutzman pointed out. "Six months earlier, we'll need to submit our Notice of Intent, but you need to have your Pollution Reduction Plan in place before submitting the Notice of Intent. Your plan has to go through a public comment period so that everybody has a chance to review the final version and offer their comments before it can be approved by the Township.

"At this point, we're trying to find out from DEP what, exactly, are we going to be required to do? What's going to be involved? What are the guidelines? What are the criteria? And what can we

• We're trying to find out from DEP what, exactly, are we going to be required to do?

do to meet those criteria? Right now, the ball is in DEP's court."

Among the anticipated changes will be a huge increase in the number of outfalls – points from which rain flows into various stormwater handling facilities – all of which require inspection by Township staff. From the 150 outfalls currently inspected each year for illicit discharges, the new rules are expected to involve 700 or more – a huge expansion of Township staff time required to comply.

Do it yourself

Still, the intent of the law – to safeguard streams from pollution, minimize flooding, and recharge underground aquifers – is important, and Cranberry has made significant strides in satisfying

its provisions. That's not the case everywhere. Many older communities whose land development pre-dates current stormwater regulations, have sanitary and stormwater lines which are combined into a single system. Today, they're struggling with stormwater issues. A number of them, including Mt. Lebanon, Meadville, Dormont and Whitehall, as well as the entire state of Maryland, have created stormwater management districts to help retrofit their water handling systems and reduce the impacts of storm water runoff from sources such as construction sites, industrial operations, government properties, and institutional facilities.

Here in Cranberry, the sweat equity of residents is helping to move the community in the right direction. They include Seneca Valley girls in an after-school STEM club stenciling dumping alerts on catch basins, a growing number of households installing rain barrels, people landscaping lawns to incorporate rain gardens – recessed areas that allow water to be re-absorbed into the ground. They include the steadily expanding use of pavers in place of cement or asphalt – an approach that allows water to seep down between the blocks. They include the installation of small earthen berms where a lawn meets the road so that water is retained long enough to soak in. And they include marking property lines with vegetative swale instead of hedges or fences.

"DEP's website has other examples," Schutzman said. "If someone is going to do a project anyway, maybe they should consider doing it so that it holds water, too. It doesn't have to be big projects. Little improvements can go a long way. If everyone does a little bit, those little things will have a big impact downstream." ~

Hovering Around Cranberry

Where can you use a hoverboard? And just what constitutes a motor vehicle, anyway? Both PennDOT and the state's municipalities have been pondering the answers lately. And it hasn't grown any easier.

This past Christmas, one of the most popular gifts was the hoverboard – a self-balancing, battery-powered transporter inspired by the 1985 movie *Back to the Future II* and engineered in much the same way as the now-established Segway standup transporter. But hoverboards are only the most recent in a growing list of motorized conveyances introduced over the past decade. They range from single-seat electric cars for young children to mobility assistance devices for the elderly and disabled, as well as everything in between.

For lawmakers, the surge of unconventional vehicles poses a challenge: how should the laws regarding motor vehicles, roadway use, and operator safety apply to this new generation of conveyances? Where should the lines be drawn defining who is eligible to operate the vehicle, where they can operate it, and how the vehicle itself should be equipped?

Up in the air

PennDOT, like the transportation departments of other states struggling to keep up with advances in technology, has offered only limited guidance, treating hoverboards as vehicles, but not as motor vehicles. That leaves municipalities with the responsibility for making the rules for their own communities. Some have stepped in vigorously.

In February, for example, New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority issued a complete ban on hoverboards from the city's buses, train stations and subways. Passengers are not only prohibited from riding them, they can't even carry one. The agency has posted signs reading "Hoverboards Not Allowed" at the entrances to all of its commuter rail and subway stations.

Pennsylvania is more forgiving when it comes the use of hoverboards, which it somewhat awkwardly refers to as Electric Personal Assisted Mobility Devices. According to state law, they're allowed to be operated on both sidewalks and roadways. The only exceptions are limited access highways. "Unless prohibited by ordinance, municipalities shall permit their use," the Commonwealth code reads.

Cranberry has not enacted any further restrictions on their use, although if problems arise, that could change. "We've got to see how it's going to impact our area and what the safety concerns are here," Cranberry Police Sergeant Bill Ahlgren pointed out.

... We're trying to be proactive and get a feel for where this is going.



"The fact that they can be operated on the roadway doesn't mean that's the safest thing to do. So we're trying to be proactive and get a feel for where this is going. If we see a bunch of people using them and causing traffic problems, we might have to re-evaluate the situation."

Back to the present

"You still have to operate in accordance with traffic laws," Ahlgren noted. "If you're going to use it on a roadway, you have to operate as if you were riding a bicycle; the same rules apply. You can't go against traffic and you've got to yield to pedestrians on sidewalks. But they're not subject to titling, registration, insurance, inspection or driver licensing laws."

That isn't true for all of the small motorized or motor-assisted vehicles now in use. Neighborhood electric vehicles – essentially golf carts – are required to have insurance as well as gauges, brakes, and windshield wipers, but they're only allowed on residential streets. Scooters – one- or two-person electric vehicles used as personal

mobility aids – have been exempted from some of those requirements. Battery powered Barbie cars and miniature motorcycles are prohibited from streets and sidewalks. And motorized pedicycles – bikes or tricycles with electric assist motors – have their own set of rules.

Confused? That's understandable. For guidance on how state law and local ordinances apply to a novel vehicle you are considering, call the Township police department at 724-776-5180 and ask. ~

Life Can Be Messy, But The Alternative Is Worse

Poor Sim. The guy has gaping wounds, missing limbs, holes in his body and recurring heart problems. But he's exactly the sort of fellow that Cranberry's 32 Emergency Medical Service paramedics and EMTs love to keep around.

A 2012 gift from Firehouse Subs, Sim Man, despite his maladies, has proved to be a tremendous asset to the agency – one of very few EMS organizations in the region to have its own \$13,000 simulation mannequin to train on. And that training involves a demanding set of exercises, including breathing tube insertions, chest compressions, electrical shock, and other jarring emergency procedures.

A significant part of that training provides technicians with the same sort of muscle learning that people acquire from any repeated practice. But the agency also uses sophisticated equipment to monitor the effectiveness

of trainees' therapy and help them refine the pressure and timing of their chest compressions as well as the accuracy of their tube insertions.

The three-minute window

For someone with heart failure, that can make all the difference. "One hundred

- ⋮ *"One hundred percent*
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- ⋮ *into cardiac arrest and*
- ⋮ *don't get CPR die."*

percent of the people who go into cardiac arrest and don't get CPR die," Cranberry EMS Executive Director Jeff Kelly points out.

But there's a very short window, typically around three minutes, in which CPR can be applied successfully – often less than the time it takes an EMS to arrive at the scene. The key is having a civilian population sufficiently trained to recognize when someone is in cardiac arrest, to call 9-1-1, and to administer chest compressions until the ambulance arrives. Having an AED unit nearby can also be a tremendous asset, and most are equipped to talk you step-by-step through their use. Cranberry's EMS regularly offers instruction in using those tools and techniques.

To drive home the point, Kelly tells the story of a woman from Adams who was shopping at Kohl's last year with her young son. The woman suddenly collapsed in cardiac arrest. Her son, who had learned CPR just two weeks earlier at Boy Scout camp, immediately jumped in and administered compressions. Fortunately, two of Cranberry's EMTs were passing nearby and responded,

restoring the woman's heartbeat before rushing her to the hospital.

"He took the training and did exactly what we would have expected him to do on his mother, which saved her life," Kelly noted. But training someone in the technique is no guarantee that the training will be used. "Would you have the mindset to literally get down, get onto somebody's chest, and start pushing?" He asked. "That's what we don't know. You could teach everybody, but at the time of need, would you recognize it and do it?"

The cultural challenge

Part of the problem is cultural. CPR, even if done properly, is likely to injure a patient in addition to violating their privacy. So people often feel reluctant to step forward, even if they know the technique. "If your fear is that you're going to have to touch a woman's breasts or break a couple of this guy's ribs, you're not going to help us, you're not going to help them," he said. "If it's me and you're breaking a rib versus saving my life, I'd rather you break the rib."

Pennsylvania's Good Samaritan Law is designed to shield those offering help from liability for any injury resulting from a good faith effort to resuscitate someone. But as a practical matter, the law is seldom invoked.

"If you do happen to get a resuscitated cardiac arrest patient back, if you're able to transport them to the hospital from where they were, they're not going to care about those injuries," EMS Training Director Bill Hume explained. "I've had quite a few resuscitated patients that I've transported to a cath lab or some other facility, and they've never said anything about it." ~

Hang in there. Cranberry EMS Training Director Bill Hume checks Sim Man's vital signs on a monitor at the agency's Rt. 19 base station.



Cranberry EMS Aspires To The Head Of Its Class

Ambulance services in Western Pennsylvania haven't changed much in the last 30 years, but the environment in which they operate has. To Cranberry Emergency Medical Service Executive Director Jeff Kelly, those same changes present new opportunities, and he is guiding the agency's efforts to seize them.

Cranberry EMS works closely with the Township's Fire Company and police department; it is, after all, the Township's officially designated 9-1-1 ambulance service. But unlike fire and police, the EMS agency – which employs 32 full-time paramedics and emergency medical technicians – is a business, albeit a 501(c)3 business. Other than refueling privileges, it receives no tax money from the Township. It is governed by its own Board of Directors. And it has its own strategic plan.

Earlier this year, the agency adopted a new five-year plan. Its ultimate aim is to create new streams of income by repackaging some of its current capabilities to help offset the decline in revenue from traditional sources, particularly health insurance. But looking ahead five years is especially hard to do in healthcare since the whole

system could change dramatically with the outcome of November's election.

"We might be sitting here two years from now with everything scaled way back because we may not be in the same financial situation we're in now," Kelly observed. "We were hoping to make some long-term investments to weather a storm, should a storm occur. But we really can't. From an income perspective, we have to play the cards we were dealt."

Refocused mission

Even so, the agency is hard at work refocusing its mission from the traditional ambulance service model, which Kelly characterizes as "you call, we haul," to becoming a more integral part of its community with an emphasis on preserving life through preventive health and safety measures – not just driving people to emergency rooms once they become sick or injured.

That's not to say that transporting patients will fade away. It will remain a high priority for the EMS whose volume of service calls actually grew by more than five percent between 2014 and 2015. But engaging the Cranberry community and determining what other types of health-related services residents really want, is becoming a bigger aspect of its operation.

"Part of our last mission statement called for us to be an engaged participant in the Township," Kelly said, "so we kept that. But what does the

community actually want? Does the community want more AED training? Let's say we recognize that there's a fall problem. Or we see a problem with hoverboards. Or we see an increase in pediatric head injuries because kids aren't wearing helmets. Then we make that an initiative and partner with Children's Hospital or a bike company. We want to use our knowledge and our data to improve outcomes and increase the overall health of our community.

Community partnerships

"We're strengthening our partnership-building in and around Cranberry as well as with other folks we work with on a daily or weekly basis, trying to leverage some of our external partnerships. For example, we're receiving funding from Highmark to do our Safe Landings," he said, citing his agency's innovative program directed to families bringing home their first baby.

But being more responsive to market demand is only part of the agency's updated mission. Another is to become an industry leader in its level of service, its training, its internal organization, and its personnel recruitment. Kelly is an active advocate for the industry, having lobbied and testified several times on behalf of EMS in Washington. He is leading Cranberry EMS to achieve the coveted CAAS license accreditation certifying high service standards. He is taking steps to create a culture of safety within the agency – which is part of the nation's most injury-prone industry. And he has restructured the EMS internally to include a full-time training coordinator with a goal of becoming the premier off-site training resource for all of Western Pennsylvania. ~



The whole healthcare system could change dramatically with the outcome of November's election.





Cranberry EMT Honored

Emergency Medical Technician John Naleppa, a member of Cranberry's EMS since 2011, was honored recently by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council as Pennsylvania's EMT

Practitioner of the Year. Described by his co-workers as a hard-working, determined, and dedicated professional, Naleppa, who recently moved from Millvale to Rochester in Beaver County, was presented with a commemorative plaque at a December ceremony in Harrisburg. "We talk about being in the forefront not just of Cranberry or Butler County or even the western region, but the entire state," EMS Executive Director Jeff Kelly observed. "So having one of your own folks receiving Practitioner of the Year is pretty special. It was good for the organization." ~

Ditch Your Car Seat

Unlike ordinary household furniture, children's car seats have a finite life. After 10 years, they deteriorate in ways that may not be visible, but which compromise their structural integrity and diminish their safety. So they should not be kept indefinitely, handed down from generation to generation like heirlooms. To help keep older, unsafe child car seats off the road, Cranberry EMS, together with West Penn AAA, will be holding a Child Seat Takeback, collecting seats which have passed their useful lives, and shredding them. The old car seat roundup will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 PM on Wednesday May 25 at the EMS Base Station on Rt. 19, next to the fire station. There is no charge for the service. ~



BC3 Throws Open Its Doors

The Cranberry campus of Butler County Community College on Executive Drive invites you to stop by for an open house on Thursday evening, May 12, between 6:00 and 8:00 PM. The event is open to anyone who wants to learn more about the college, but particularly for those who may be considering enrolling this fall. BC3 at Cranberry offers 11 two-year career-focused Associate degree programs with credits transferrable to most four-year institutions. ~



Water Safety Day Is HUGE

Water Safety Day – a school district-wide effort to teach kids about aquatic safety – has received top recognition from a statewide conference of recreation professionals. Now in its third year, the program, which was created by Cranberry Township Supervisor and Seneca Valley teacher Mike Manipole, takes place at three different community pools including Evans City, Zelienople, and Cranberry. All 4,500 elementary school pupils in the district pass through the program. Lessons include rules involving pools as well as watching and listening to lifeguards. This year's program will take place at Cranberry's Waterpark on the mornings of June 1 and 2. ~



Human Service Center



A new office of the Butler County Center for Community Resources is now open in Cranberry's Municipal Center. The agency's goal is to coordinate the delivery of supportive services

for individuals and families seeking information and referrals for mental health, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse, and other human service needs. The agency provides free and confidential assistance regardless of religion, race, age or ability to pay. For more information, call 724-431-3748. ~

Alarming News

Home alarm systems need TLC, too. Most businesses in Cranberry are equipped with alarm systems and their owners are required to have their systems serviced every year. But homeowners with similar systems are under no such obligation. The monthly monitoring fees that residents pay don't include maintenance. But that doesn't mean it's not needed. In fact, according to Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company, the useful lifespan of that equipment is only about ten years from the date it was manufactured, and that's assuming the system has been periodically tested, checked, maintained and adjusted. Otherwise it could fail to go off in an emergency or issue false alarms resulting from malfunctions. Every brand of alarm system is different; to have your system serviced, contact the company that supplies your own home's service. ~





few, actually.

Its firefighters, to no one's surprise, will continue responding to fire calls, auto wrecks and other 9-1-1 alarms with all the resources at their command. But just as front line soldiers require extensive support from non-combatants to be effective on the battlefield, firefighters need a support system as well.

However, while the Fire Company works hard to provide its brigade members with the necessary support, staffing those support functions is often a struggle. Unlike commercial firms that can select and hire specialists as needed, the members of Cranberry's all-volunteer fire company join at their own convenience, bringing an assortment of backgrounds to the task. Some bring only their enthusiasm and willingness to learn techniques of firefighting. Others come with specialties acquired through their work, their formal education, or their personal interests.

Filling the gaps

As a result there are often gaps between fire company needs and its members' talents – despite having

There are often gaps between fire company needs and its members' talents.

two dozen committees tasked with providing needed support. But there are also cases where the fire company has had tremendous luck in its recruitment, attracting highly qualified and experienced members to handle

The Fire Company's Talent Search

Cranberry's fire company is looking for a few good men and women – quite a

different support functions.

Elaine Cornell, who moved to Cranberry after performing background checks for the Coast Guard in Florida, is applying that know-how to Cranberry's membership onboarding function. Jack Carney, who retired after 41 years of teaching and 40 years as a firefighter in Robinson Township, is combining his own talents with law enforcement veteran Chris DeCree in fire safety instruction. Jeff Gooch, a crackerjack IT professional during the daytime, has been responsible for setting up the company's website and mobile technologies. Engineer Carolyn Nelson originally joined to apply her familiarity with signs of structural collapse as a Safety Officer at fire sites. Broadcast technician Paul Brown maintains the company's radios. And motor enthusiast Jim Cole spearheaded the restoration of the company's first fire engine – a 1928 Pirsch pumper.

Experience welcome

Still, a lot of Fire Company needs remain unfilled and people with appropriate experience would be more than welcome. Someone with a teaching background would be a huge help in fire safety education and in working with Junior Firefighters. A person with communications experience would be a tremendous asset for both internal and external presentations. Graphic designers, videographers, photographers, technical writers and information technology specialists would all play valuable roles in fire company operations.

For instance, someone who could become a content manager for the website, or a youth program counselor, or collect information about commercial building characteristics, or upgrade the fire company's training



Got what it takes? Fire Company President Ed Hestin, left, and Fire Chief Todd Rice are looking for talented, enthusiastic, volunteers to fight fires and a whole lot more.

materials, or keep its street maps up to date – all high-value tasks that benefit tremendously from real-world experience – would be a huge asset.

"Our committees exist for a reason, however we may not have the right skill set in the Fire Company to effectively do them all," Fire Company President Ed Hestin reflected. "But there really isn't anything that would differentiate a woman doing it versus a man doing any of those things."

"Anyone with an interest like that should contact me or Chief Todd Rice for a follow-up conversation. We would be happy to speak with them and learn a little bit more about what their skills are. You don't have to join just to fight fires. We just need skilled people who can help make us more effective."

At the same time, though, aspiring firefighters are always welcome. "You don't have to have specific firefighting skills," Rice said. "We'll take guys that want to be in the fire service and put them through school; we pay for their classes. We can bring them up to speed on what they need to know and let them contribute to the Fire Company." ~

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

Residential Building Codes Apply In Cranberry, But Only Sparingly

So, you're contemplating a home remodeling project. Updating your kitchen. Installing a new front door. Finishing your basement. Adding a wood-burning stove. Rebuilding a shower stall. Re-grading your yard. Switching your wiring around. And adding French drains. What sorts of permits do you need to get from Cranberry's Codes Department?

"Well, if the work is being done to a townhouse or a one- or two-family dwelling, surprisingly enough, not much is required," according to Township Codes Manager Jeff Musher. "The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, UCC, is very clear: Unless you are making a structural change to the home or to its existing means of egress, you don't need a permit. And you don't need to meet the building code's minimum requirements either; that's excluded when it's residential. But that's not a safe thing to do."

A homeowner has the option and the right to remodel, rebuild, or refurbish – however they see fit.

"All construction should follow the codes, as a minimum. But a homeowner has the option and the right to remodel, rebuild, or refurbish – however they see fit for themselves – as long as it doesn't change the building structurally, such as removing the support post under a steel beam in the basement, or closing off an exit by blocking the front door." If an alteration doesn't threaten the building with collapse, or its occupants with entrapment, then no permits or inspections are required.

Permit needed

There are, however, a few exceptions. If you're expanding the building by constructing an addition or adding another floor, you will need a permit.

"If you've extended the footprint out or up, that throws you into the permitting process and the addition is subject to inspection, approval and eventually a certificate of occupancy," Musher said. But you would only need a permit for that specific portion of your project. Unrelated work elsewhere in the house would not need to be included in the permit.

Another exception applies to hot tubs, pools and spas – although not to conventional showers or bathtubs. "Those fall under permit requirements," he said. "They are specifically called out under the UCC. That's especially important in keeping toddlers safe."

"For the most part, however, residential interior work is excluded from permitting," he said. "That means the Township does not require a permit for it. And since we don't issue a permit, we don't go and inspect it. But you should always hire somebody who's qualified to do the work and then have any new electrical work inspected by a third party. It's just that it doesn't fall to the Township to do that."

Camping in

Camps – houses for short-term use in rural areas – are also specifically exempt – but in their case, they're exempt from almost everything. "It can't be a permanent residence and you can't collect mail there. But, except for a few restrictions, it can be declared a camp," he said. "Some million dollar buildings around ski resorts are considered camps. You can even build a camp in Cranberry."

Since 2004, Pennsylvania's UCC has dictated which projects require



For the most part, residential interior work is excluded from permitting.

what sorts of permits. It is based on International Code Council publications, which are revised every three years. But it is a peculiar amalgam of selections hand-picked from ICC's 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015 code books. It almost appears to have been driven by a series of compromises between legislators from the Commonwealth's eastern counties who are big on code enforcement, and their counterparts in Western Pennsylvania, who see codes as impinging on private property rights.

"Building codes are the minimum you can do," Musher emphasized. "You can always go better. We would recommend having any work you do inspected by a third party. And we would recommend always contacting us in the Building Codes department. We can guide you as to whether or not you need permits. That way you don't get yourself in trouble. We can explain what bearing walls are and what it takes to change them. We won't engineer a job for you, but if you need to get competent contractors, we can help. So you should always call."

To learn about what permits your project might require, call the Township's Codes Officer at 724-776-4806 ext. 1105. ~



Schools And Their Communities: The Bottom Line

By Mike Manipole, Vice Chairman, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

Do schools *really* add value to a community? Yes, really.

A friend recently told me about

how his sister, who lives in Fremont, in California's East Bay area, bought a home there 25 years ago for \$160,000. But over just the past few years, she and her husband have repeatedly turned away offers in excess of \$2 million for their house.

Of course, they made a number of improvements over the years and their home is well-maintained. But it still sits on the same modest-size lot in a neighborhood of single-story homes which were all built back in the '60s and show it. It doesn't have a basement. And the state's water shortage, which remains in effect, still impacts it. So what's behind the huge spike in its value? Several things.

One is that the Bay area as a whole has become a very hot real estate market. Houses there are selling for amounts that make homes in Cranberry look like a steal. That region-wide increase alone accounts for a significant part of the jump in value. But only about half of it. The other half comes from a peculiar convergence of education and demography.

Bending the curve

Back when the family bought their home, nearby Chadbourne elementary school – which is part of the Fremont Unified School District – was pretty good, although not exceptional. But then the neighborhood demographics began to shift. Families from China and India began arriving in numbers. Many brought with them an attitude toward academic success which bent the curve

of achievement sharply upward.

As that happened, the district began developing a reputation for excellence – one which quickly spread among immigrant communities throughout the region as well as overseas.

Fremont became a magnet for success-oriented new arrivals who would frequently find themselves in bidding wars over newly listed properties, many of which ended up selling for far more than their asking prices, which were often quite high to begin with.

In response, the school doubled down on its core approach: providing a rigorous, standards-based academic program, along with a variety of interventions, enrichment activities and programs. Today, of its 803 students, 84 percent are Asian, and its test scores are consistently in the nation's top decile.

The premium

What happened in Silicon Valley is unlikely to happen in Seneca Valley, at least not in detail. But the value that a school district's reputation brings to property in the area it serves applies everywhere; school quality remains one of the most important factors in homebuyers' purchase decisions.

A 2013 study by the national real estate brokerage Redfin provided some concrete evidence. Using data from more than 400,000 home sales in 11,000 school districts, the study concluded that on average, buyers pay \$50 more per square foot for homes in top-rated school districts compared with homes served by average-rated schools, as determined by student test scores. That's a \$125,000 premium on a 2,500 square foot house.



The relationship between schools and their host communities is a complex one.

I realize, of course, that the relationship between schools and their host communities is a complex one, and that real estate value is only one reflection of that relationship. There's also a chicken-and-egg aspect to it: do good schools create great communities or is it the other way around? Personally, I think it goes both ways – great communities value education and tend to support the schools that provide it. And great schools give their community's children better opportunities to advance in their careers as well as the life skills which lead to better, stronger, more attractive communities.

For the past 20-plus years, my own career has been in education, right here in the Seneca Valley School System. I can assure you that our teachers and administrators are keenly aware of how important it is to engage with our community. And now, as a Township Supervisor, I can also tell you that our Board feels exactly the same way. ~

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APR

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

* Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806 # Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372
 + Cranberry Library 724-776-9100 < Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480
 ^ Parks and Recreation 724-779-4FUN > ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

FRI 1	Yard Waste Collections Resume	SAT 2	Celebrate Butler County! Pittsburgh North Marriott, 10am-4pm + Excel I Class Library, 9am + Teen Read-a-Thon & Hangout Library, 11am-3pm	SUN 3		MON 4	Planning Advisory Commission Council Chambers, 6pm + First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm	TUES 5	+ Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Cranberry Artists Network Open Studio Grange Hall, 6pm + G. Washington First Official Mission Part 2 Library, 6pm
WED 6	+ 1st-3rd Grade Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 7	Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am < EMS Child Car Seat Checks 10am-4:30pm by Appt. + Family Fun Night Library, 6:30pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm	FRI 8		SAT 9	+ Excel II Class Library, 9am Sheriff's Office, Gun Licensing Admin. Room 1401, 9am-2pm CranFest Municipal Ctr, 10am-3pm + Movies, Munch, Mumble CADN Library, Noon < EMS Free Car Seat Check 10am-2pm		
SUN 10	MON 11 + Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am + Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm	TUES 12	+ ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am	WED 13	+ ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + 1st-3rd Grade Book Club Library, 7pm + Young at Heart Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 14	+ Homeschool Crafteernoon Library, 1pm + Family Playtime Library, 6:30pm + Block Party Library, 6:30pm	FRI 15	Friends of the Library Book Sale
SAT 16	> ECS&R Hazardous Waste Collection by Appt. < Learn CPR 8:30am, Learn First Aid 12pm Friends of the Library Book Sale	SUN 17	Friends of the Library Book Sale	MON 18	+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am + Maker Monday Library, 4pm Library Board Mtg Library, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm	TUES 19	Open Gym Pickleball 9-11am + ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am < EMS Child Car Seat Checks 10am-4:30pm by Appt. + Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm		
WED 20	+ Books and Bagels Book Club Library, 10am + ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + 1st-3rd Grade Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 21	< EMS Child Car Seat Checks 10am-4:30pm by Appt. + Budding Builders Library, 4pm + Tail Waggin' Tutors Library, 6:30pm * Manager's Coffee, Stormwater Management Graham Park Maint. Bldg., 7pm + Poet Laureate of Pgh, Billy Nardozzi Library 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+) 8-10pm			FRI 22	Passover Earth Day		
SAT 23	Free Electronics Recycling Public Works, 10am-2pm Let's Dance, Quick Step Gym, 7pm	SUN 24		MON 25	+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am + Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 6pm	TUES 26	+ ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am Primary Election Day		
WED 27	+ ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + 1st-3rd Grade Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 28	+ 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am + Meet the Author, J.J. Hensley Library, 6pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm	FRI 29		SAT 30	Hoop Shoot hosted by Cranberry Lions to benefit Miracle League, Gym, 11am-12:45pm + Intro. to Ancestry Library, 9-11am Waterpark Membership 3rd Discount Period Ends County & Township Taxes Due		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY

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

- * Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806 # Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372
- + Cranberry Library 724-776-9100 < Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480
- ^ Parks and Recreation 724-779-4FUN > ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

SUN 1	MON 2	+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am Planning Advisory Commission Council Chambers, 6pm + First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm		TUES 3	+ ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Cranberry Artists Network Open Studio Grange Hall, 6pm		WED 4		
THURS 5	+ Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 6	SAT 7	SUN 8 Mother's Day	MON 9	+ Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm	TUES 10	WED 11
THURS 12	+ Homeschool Crafternoon Library, 1pm + Block Party Library, 6:30pm Butler Co. Community College/ Cranberry Campus Open House 6-8pm		FRI 13	SAT 14	SUN 15 EMS Week Business Privilege Taxes Due	MON 16	+ Maker Monday Library, 4pm Library Board Mtg Library, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm		
TUES 17	+ Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm + Meet the Author, Annette Dashofy Library, 6pm	WED 18	+ Books and Bagels Book Club Library, 10am			THURS 19	+ Budding Builders Library, 4pm	FRI 20	
SAT 21	+ Movies, Munch, Mumble CADN Library, Noon > ECS&R Hazardous Waste Collection by Appt.		SUN 22	MON 23	TUES 24	+ Monarch Monitoring with Succop Conservancy Library, 6pm * Manager's Coffee, <i>Guest: Dr. Tracy Vitale, SVSD Supt.</i> Council Chambers, 7pm			WED 25
THURS 26	+ 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 27	+ Meet Elephant & Piggy Library, 10:30am Commencement SVHS, Class of 2016		SAT 28	+ Meet Elephant & Piggy Library, 10:30am Cranberry Waterpark Opening Day 11:30am Let's Dance, Samba Gym, 7pm		
SUN 29	Veteran's Memorial Service North Boundary Park, 1pm Library is closed Sundays through September 4		MON 30	MEMORIAL DAY Township Offices and Library Closed. Waterpark and Golf Course Open Waste Collection Delayed by one day this week		TUES 31	* Manager's Coffee, <i>Guest: Leslie Osche, Butler County Commissioner</i> Council Chambers, 10am Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 6pm		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

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

* Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

- Cranberry Senior Center 724-772-6086

+ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

< Cranberry EMS 724-776-4480

^ Parks and Recreation 724-779-4FUN

> ECS&R 1-866-815-0016

WED 1	THURS 2	+ Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm	FRI 3	Last Day of School for SVSD Students	SAT 4	Library Summer Reading Kickoff Celebration & Food Truck Round-up 11am > ECS&R Hazardous Waste Collection by Appt.	SUN 5
MON 6	+ Library Summer Reading Program Begins Planning Advisory Commission Council Chambers, 6pm + First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm	TUES 7	Cranberry Artists Network Open Studio Grange Hall, 6pm - Cranberry Senior Center Mystery Dinner Theater 4-7pm	WED 8	THURS 9	FRI 10	
SAT 11	Sheriff's Office, Gun Licensing Council Chambers, 9am-2pm	SUN 12	MON 13	TUES 14	+ Family Playtime Library, 11am Flag Day Butler County 1000 Veterans March County Courthouse, 6:30pm Waterpark Night Swim 9pm		
WED 15	+ Books and Bagels Book Club Library, 10am + Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am	THURS 16	FRI 17	Crafty (Hot Dog) Friday Library, 11am-1pm	SAT 18	< Learn CPR 8:30am, Learn First Aid 12pm + Movies, Munch, Mumble CADN Library, Noon Waterpark Celebration Bash 11:30am	
SUN 19	Father's Day	MON 20	+ Block Party Library, 11am Library Board Mtg Library, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm Summer Begins	TUES 21	+ Block Party Library, 11am Waterpark Night Swim 9pm	WED 22	+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am
THURS 23	+ 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am	FRI 24	Crafty (Hot Dog) Friday Library, 11am-1pm + Teen Movie Night Library, 7-9:30pm	SAT 25	> ECS&R Hazardous Waste Collection by Appt.	SUN 26	
MON 27	Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Council Chambers, 6pm	TUES 28	+ Family Playtime Library, 11am Waterpark Night Swim 9pm	WED 29	+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am	THURS 30	Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm

SV Hits All The Right Notes

By Linda Andreassi, Seneca Valley School District Communications Director

When it comes to the musical, vocal and performing arts, it seems we frequently use the expression “record-breaking” to describe the latest round of regional, state and national competition results. Seneca Valley has developed quite the reputation when it comes to being a leader in the arts.

Professional competitions aside, it's also apparent we make a statement with the public when we receive letters of acclamation from those who honor us with their attendance at events. One recent constituent letter called our jazz band “exceptional” and praised the Madrigal Singers as an “extremely accomplished group of young men and women.” Another said that the quality of work found within the Seneca Valley Jazz Ensemble rivaled anything you would find in the Pittsburgh Cultural District.

But don't take our word for it. We invite you to join us and find out for yourself. We offer a variety of events, including those offered by our beginner groups. You can see where the love of the arts begins and where their progress takes them as they advance through our schools. We're proud of them – and believe you will be, too.

Here are a few performances that are coming up this spring (minimal costs may be associated with some of these events – see more information below on discounts for older adults):

May 2, 2016; CVE; Beginner Band Concert; Cafeteria; 7 p.m.

May 2, 2016; Rowan and HNM; Beginner Band Concert; HNM; 7 p.m.

May 3, 2016; SVMS; Spring Instrumental Concert; IHS Auditorium; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

May 4, 2016; ECM; Band Concert; Grades 5 & 6; IHS Auditorium; 7 – 8:30 p.m.

May 4, 2016; HNM; Band/Chorus Concert; Grade 5; 7 p.m.

May 5, 2016; IHS; Spring Instrumental Concert; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

May 9, 2016; ECE and ECM; Strings Concert; Grades 4, 5, & 6; 6:30 – 8 p.m.

May 9, 2016; HNM; Strings Concert; Grades 5 & 6; 7 p.m.

May 10, 2016; ECM; Choral Concert; Grades 5 & 6; IHS Auditorium; 7 – 8:30 p.m.

May 10, 2016; HNM; Band/Chorus; Grade 6; 7 p.m.

May 11, 2016; SHS; Spring Jazz Concert; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

May 12, 2016; SHS; Spring Choral Concert; IHS Auditorium; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

May 17, 2016; SVMS; Spring Choral Concert; IHS Auditorium; 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

May 18, 2016; SHS; Secondary Strings Concert; Grades 7 – 12; 7:30 – 10 p.m.

May 19, 2016; IHS; Spring Choral Concert; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

May 20, 2016; SVAOC; Spring Dance Recital; IHS Auditorium; 6 – 9 p.m.

May 21, 2016; SVAOC; Spring Dance Recital; IHS Auditorium; 6 – 9 p.m.

May 25, 2016; IHS; Show Choir Concert; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.



If you're planning ahead: Seneca Valley's fall/winter events include the annual SV Pie Festival, Veteran Recognition Event (at the first home football games), Homecoming Parade, Carnival, the SV Senior Holiday Event, the all-school musical, building musicals, plays, dance recitals, and winter choral, band and jazz concerts.

Discounts for older adults: We invite Seneca Valley residents, 62 years of age or older, to apply and become a member of the Seneca Valley School District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend all home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. Please note that some events require card members to reserve seating. To receive a gold card, visit us online at svsd.net and download an application or call our main office at 724-452-6040, ext. 0, and request one be mailed to you.

See you at the show!

Demand Drives Transformation At Regional Learning Alliance

Workers are dangling from dangerous heights and getting entrapped just about every day at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Woods. And the school's staff is enjoying every moment of it.

MSA's new Safety Training Center, which opened in January at the nearby RLA campus, is housed in a space formerly used as a General Motors training center. Its mission is to provide safety training and certification to technicians from all over the world whose jobs involve scaling tall structures, entering confined spaces, or working in other hazardous environments.

However the new safety training center is only the most recent in an ongoing series of changes which have reshaped RLA's unique shared campus concept from an educational mall for those seeking bachelor's degrees into a center for lifelong learning, driven by the needs of an educational marketplace rather than by traditional liberal arts curricula.

Post-graduate programs

"We started out with more undergraduate programs," RLA CEO Dr. Justin Griffith explained. "But that wasn't the demand for this area. This

"We started out with more undergraduate programs, but that wasn't the demand for this area."

is a very well-educated community. Most of the working professionals in Cranberry have degrees; many of them have graduate degrees. For example, there are people with Masters degrees in engineering who are enrolled in MBA programs because now they

have to manage a whole unit of engineers and have no idea how to do that. So companies are sending us their employees. That's why our MBA programs are so successful."

It didn't happen overnight. For years, Griffith and his board struggled to bring an MBA program to Cranberry. Then, three years ago, Penn State began offering its largely online MBA there. Not long after, Slippery Rock University and Geneva College followed suit, bringing their own MBA programs to RLA. "We didn't have any, and suddenly we had three," Griffith reflected. "But they didn't want to compete for the same students, so they talked about what they could each do differently, and what their specific market segments were."

Other new and specialized programs have also accelerated RLA's transformation. Several degree completion programs have proven popular on campus, including an Early Childhood Education completion degree from Carlow University and an Adult Degree Completion Bachelor degree from Geneva College. Both cater to the needs of adults whose frequent work relocations and job assignments have interfered with earning degrees from a single institution.

Kids, culture and conferences

Keystone State Musical Theatre Academy has taken up residence on campus in spaces transformed into specialized studios for singing, dance and acting.

HeartPrints Center for Early Education, an independent, nonprofit school, offers a blended learning approach using Montessori, High/Scope and Reggio Emilia styles of teaching. The school accepts students from 2 to 8 years of

age. A Kindergarten is also available. For many of its students, English is a second language, although for some, that second language may be Spanish or another foreign tongue. Yoga trainers offer sessions there weekly. Art and culture is another important emphasis, and its faculty members are all state certified in Early Childhood Education.

"Nursing and health programs have exploded here," Griffith added. "One of the new programs Carlow University is offering is a Master of Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

"And starting this fall, Slippery Rock University is launching an MPH – Master of Public Health program here," he said. "It will be blended, so if you need specific courses, most of them are available either online or in-class."

Those new curricula will join such RLA staples as La Roche's highly-respected MS in Human Resources, as well as continuing education classes for professionals in disciplines including accounting, safety and OSHA administration.

Much of that learning takes place in RLA's Conference Center facility rather than its academic programs. More than 400 organizations currently use the Center. "We're up to 50,000 attendees a year," Griffith said. "We had over 1,500 events in 2015. We had to expand our parking lots because we simply didn't have enough parking." ~



Raising the banner. Regional Learning Alliance CEO Justin Griffith stands by the facility's display of partner institution flags. The pennant of Waynesburg University will join them this fall as RLA's newest academic partner.

Getting Online In Cranberry Township

Everywhere there's Internet service, you hear complaints about it. It's too slow. It's too expensive. It disconnects. It's confusing. And so on. Dissatisfaction with Internet service is the great lament of the 21st century.

Residential subscribers – whose personal and work lives increasingly depend on good Internet reception – wonder why they're not getting the amazing levels of service they see advertised on TV. They want to know what their alternatives are, and they suspect that their local government is part of a secret agreement that keeps them from receiving the service they really want.

A lot of Cranberry's Internet subscribers feel the same way. But Cranberry really is different. In most of the Township, there are actually two wired services available to deliver Internet: Armstrong and Consolidated Communications. Parts of Cranberry even include small pockets of service from Verizon and Century Link, although they don't offer internet service.

Until about twenty years ago, Armstrong and what was then known as North Pittsburgh Telephone Company, were in separate businesses. Armstrong sold TV signals, North Pittsburgh sold phone service. Both invested heavily in wiring most of Cranberry in the expectation that practically every home they passed would choose to become a subscriber.

Non-exclusive franchises

Cranberry's government was involved as well. For their video service, both companies required non-exclusive franchise agreements from the Township allowing them to run their lines through and across public rights of way. Beyond that, federal law requires electric and telephone companies to allow other wire-based services – even competing ones – to use their poles at rates that the companies

would negotiate among themselves. In effect, the door has always been open to any new cable TV, phone, security or Internet provider that wants to come into the community.

But starting in the mid-'90s, the lines differentiating the various wire-based businesses started to blur. In 1997, Armstrong began offering Internet service. Not long after, Consolidated began offering Digital Subscriber Line, or DSL Internet service, to its own customers. By the turn of the century, Consolidated was in the TV delivery business, and in 2005, Armstrong began offering telephone service. Today, both companies offer packages that bundle all three services to subscribers.

At the margins of Internet delivery in Cranberry are various wireless services. Satellite Internet, which is considerably slower than wire-based service, is technically available, but generally regarded as suitable only for remote areas of the country which have no cable or landline alternatives. Cellular service, including hotspot devices which can connect laptops and tablets to the Internet as well as to the smartphones themselves, is both slower and far more expensive than the broadband service most users have come to expect.

New competitors?

But what about other cable and phone companies? Why aren't Fios, Xfinity, U-Verse, Time-Warner and Google clamoring to come into Cranberry and compete for customers with their dazzling service offerings? The answer is that while they're certainly welcome, it's ultimately their business decision. Building out a hard-wired delivery network is expensive. And with two



The door has always been open to any new cable TV, phone, security or Internet provider that wants to come into the community.

providers already here, the likelihood that a new supplier would siphon off enough customers to make it profitable is uncertain.

On top of that, both the TV and telephone components of residential service are now in decline. Just about everything on TV is currently available online. And with cell service now essentially universal, landline phones are vanishing, along with phone books and phone booths. That puts the economics of wiring up a community even more in doubt.

Of course, there's also free wi-fi, from Armstrong in Cranberry's parks and Municipal Center. That's a great option for people on the go. But the footprint of its service doesn't extend into residential neighborhoods. So while local web surfers struggle to make the best of what's currently available, they should also understand that those same services are constantly struggling to improve what they offer. ~

1991 Time Capsule Reveals A Fast Growing, Hopeful Cranberry

What was Cranberry actually like 25 years ago? On March 4, more than 100 past and present community leaders witnessed the formal opening of a time capsule which had been assembled to commemorate the 1991 inauguration of Cranberry Township's Municipal Center.

39 organizations submitted entries reflecting the things that mattered most to them at that time.

Altogether, 39 organizations submitted entries which included photographs, directories, letters and artifacts reflecting the things that mattered most to them at that time. Two bottles of water – one from Brush Creek, and another from the old Municipal Sewer and Water Authority, were also inside, along with an ashtray sporting an early Township coat of arms.

Several entries made note of the battle going on at that time against a thoroughbred racing track which was attempting to locate at what is now Cranberry Crossroads and Cranberry Springs. Several local churches used capsule entries to advance their ethical missions.

Bully pulpit

For example, New Beginnings Church of God enclosed a newspaper clipping entitled: "Cranberry churches warn about the evils of pornography." In it, the pastor, Rev. Charles Yost is quoted as saying "Pornography is not protected by the First Amendment."

It goes on to say that the Cranberry Church Council, which included a number of denominations, approached Cranberry's Board of Supervisors in January 1990 to consider enacting what they called an "up-to-date obscenity ordinance." Cranberry later revised its zoning ordinance related to siting sexually oriented businesses.

A packet from Cranberry Assembly of God Church includes a newspaper article reprint. It is headlined "Area pastor says faith healing real." The pastor was Rev. Richard Rossi. In the story, Rossi describes leading the exorcism of a troubled young man. "I commanded the demons to leave," Rossi is quoted as saying. "The man then projected an orange substance from his mouth, and we saw the demons leaving." Rossi later achieved notoriety after savagely attacking his wife – an accusation she later withdrew, attributing it instead either to Satan or a stranger identical to her husband.

Baseball, battles, and boards

The capsule contained a Cranberry Eagle issue dated January 2, 1991. Its headline declares "Experts Expect Economic Health By Mid-1991." But it included an interesting caveat: "If the United States becomes involved in a

war in the Persian Gulf," the article said, "the economy likely will suffer." Operation Desert Storm began two weeks later.

Sherwood Oaks, which opened in 1982, enclosed a letter from its Marketing Director

noting that one of its residents, Frank Hess, had been very involved in the acquisition of the new municipal building. That's an understatement. When Cranberry decided to acquire the old Perry Forge factory, Frank Hess and Paul Sweeney actually optioned it in order to take it off the market and give the Township time to raise enough money to buy the building.

Baseball Card Castle enclosed a set of trading cards featuring the 1990 Pittsburgh Pirates: Barry Bonds, Bobby Bonilla, and Sid Bream – who is still a Cranberry resident – along with all the rest. That was the Pirates' 109th season. The team finished first in the National League East that year with a record of 95–67. But then the Cincinnati Reds beat them four games to two in the 1990 National League Championship Series.

The girls and leaders of Girl Scout Troop 510 signed a group Salute to the Township, packed together with pins and patches commemorating the move into Cranberry's new Municipal Center.

The late Mark Anderson, who was then Chairman of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors, left a letter on Township letterhead offering a taste of what was happening in Cranberry. It talks about a proposed thoroughbred horse race track, noting that "the entire township is rallying against its development." And he points out with pride that the Board had finally selected a new Township Manager, Jerry Andree, saying "I think Jerry has a long future with the Township."

Artifacts from the time capsule are available for view in the Municipal Center's main lobby display case through April 22. ~

ashes to ashes. Cranberry Board Chairman Dick Hadley holds an ashtray with an old Township coat of arms that was retrieved from the 1991 time capsule.



Shape Up! Cranberry Takes On Street Trees.

Even the trees in Cranberry's public rights of way are subject to Township ordinance: you can't have branches lower than 14 feet above a traffic lane or less than 9 feet above a sidewalk. If you do, you could get whacked.

It's not easy being a street tree. Trucks driving by can smack your boughs. Kids grab your lower branches to swing over sidewalks, frequently breaking your limbs. Pavement on either side restricts water from soaking into the soil around you. Overhead lines get tangled in your twigs. Your shallower roots can damage the sidewalk. And your deeper roots can penetrate, and ultimately block sanitary and storm sewer lines.

At the same time, however, everyone loves their street trees. To homeowners, they are treasured assets. They improve the look of a neighborhood and the value of its homes. They create shade, they absorb carbon dioxide, and they support all sorts of wildlife.

For a while, ash trees were the preferred variety and hundreds were planted along Freshcorn Road when Cranberry Highlands opened 15 years ago. But an infestation of emerald ash borers essentially wiped them out, just as Dutch elm disease had decimated the stately elms a generation earlier.

Asset or liability?

"The problem is, if you pick the wrong one, that asset becomes a liability," Cranberry Public Works Director Jason Dailey explained. Some species make

- *Some species make better street trees than others.*

better street trees than others. "We always try to go with a columnar tree," he said, referring to the compact vertical aspect of the tree's branching. "The Davis Pear is a great one, and there are others, too."

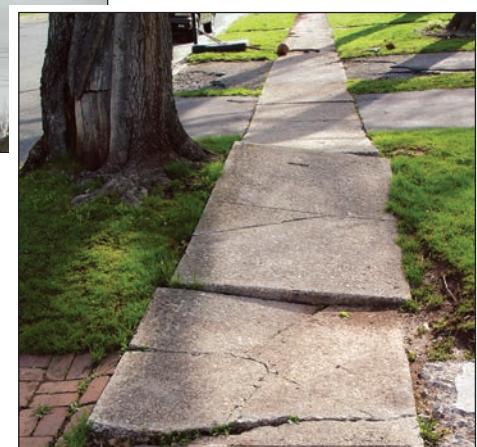
But some trees make terrible streetscape plantings. "Pin oaks have wiry branches, and a notoriously bad shape for a street tree," he said. "They're very thick, and they grow wild quickly. Look at some of the old neighborhoods in Beaver. They have these

massive oak trees, right up against the asphalt. They're in tiny plots on the sidewalks. So 15 feet down the street, their roots are popping sidewalk panels. You can start to see it on the roads too, because that root structure is very strong and aggressive. But Davis Pear roots go down and form more of a root ball than either silver maples or pin oaks, which tend to spread out and up."

The law of the trees

According to Township law, the responsibility for trimming trees to their required clearances belongs to the tree's owner. "That's a challenge for homeowners associations and for individual homeowners," Dailey admits. "Street trees aren't always owned by the individual homeowners. If there's not an HOA, there's a good chance the tree belongs to the homeowner. But in an HOA neighborhood, depending on the covenants, the HOA could have responsibility for the street trees. And in some plans, individual homeowners own those trees, even though they're on HOA common ground property."

It's also a practical issue. Trimming trees 14 feet above street level requires special tools – tools that



Good tree, bad trees. A good street tree grows in a compact vertical column with deep roots. A bad street tree spreads out in all directions with shallow roots that break sidewalks, block sewer lines and brush against overhead wires.

most individuals don't own. It also requires special know-how; there's a right way and a wrong way to prune back tree branches. If it's done properly, the branches will grow in the desired direction. Done wrong, they can either grow right back the next year, expose the tree to blight, or both. So the Township decided to have an arborist prune the street trees in a few neighborhoods this past winter.

"We addressed hundreds of trees this past winter," Dailey said. "We started that work in the fall, after the leaves were down. We wrapped it up in February. This preserves the tree, makes it healthy. The arborist who did the work said that when it grows back out, it will have the look we want – clear up to 14 feet above the curb. And it's a long-term solution for these trees; it's not something we're going to have to re-do every so many years." ~

Street Smarts: Cranberry's New Road Maintenance Strategy

Different communities have different strategies for maintaining their local roads.

The conventional way is to put streets into a rotation where every 12 years or so, a paving company comes in with a milling machine, strips away the old asphalt, and replaces it with a new layer of blacktop, mostly funded by the fuel taxes the state collects.

But that source of revenue has been in a long-term decline, aggravated by improved fuel economy, hybrid vehicles, and a political aversion to raising taxes. So progressive communities, including Cranberry Township – whose elected Board has made high levels of road maintenance a matter of policy – are finding new, more cost-effective strategies for keeping up their roads.

Cranberry is currently responsible for maintaining more than 600 roads in the Township, totaling approximately 130 lane miles. Some types of preventive maintenance cost less than \$1 a square yard – a real bargain. But if the road has deteriorated to the point that major reconstruction is needed, the cost can easily exceed \$20 a yard. So the Township's goal is to keep its roads from falling into disrepair – stretching out the interval between repavings and extending the road foundation's life-cycle.

Cheaper alternatives

With maintenance costs varying so widely depending on what's involved, Cranberry's Public Works Department has been focused on identifying the most effective, efficient and least expensive ways to keep its roads in shape. And the traditional 12-year cycle just doesn't fit that need.

"We're going to look at what's involved in preventative maintenance on roads once they hit the 5 to 7 year window," Cranberry Streets Manager Bob Howland explained. "What it means

is that you take the budget you used to have for blacktop and milling, but instead of spending 100 percent on blacktop, you spend 75 percent, and then 50 percent. At the same time, we increase our use of thin overlays – crack sealing, single and double seals, and so on – to 20 or 30 percent of our budget.

"In the next year or two, you come back and seal that entire road to form a barrier that prevents water from getting down into it. Then you keep doing that every 3 to 5 years. That's what our 2016 program is beginning to look like. We're actually putting \$125,000 into thin overlays this year and crack sealing; it's the most inexpensive, highest value fix you can do for your roads.

"We're in the process of installing pavement management software to help us grade and manage our entire road system, every year. Right now we use a spreadsheet for our road management system. But we haven't been looking at every road, every year."

Keep looking

"That's one of the best management practices we found out there," he continued. "If you're only looking at the road whenever your spreadsheet says it's 12 years, you could have missed

something happening to it, something you could have caught a lot sooner and cheaper. Because by that time, it may be too far gone. We could have used a lower-cost, more effective solution earlier in the decline.

"We're hoping to shift some of our dollars into preventative maintenance instead of reconstruction – to see a big shift in the allocation of those monies so we can address road issues sooner rather than later. So that's the new

The new strategy we're trying to develop: be more objective in the way we approach different road surfaces.

strategy we're really trying to develop: to be more objective in the way we approach different road surfaces. For example, we have different road classifications, they're built differently for different types of traffic and traffic volumes, and that could change our preventative maintenance approach.

"Think of road surface fixes like a decision tree matrix. The applications need to be very specific for every type and condition of road." ~





How Cranberry Gets To Bill The Power Company

Cranberry's municipally-owned facilities use a lot of electricity, so

the Township has a hefty electric bill – about \$750,000 last year. At the same time, though, thanks to an innovative federal energy conservation program called Demand Response, the power company now pays Cranberry thousands of dollars a year, based on energy the Township could have used, but didn't.

This year, with Cranberry's original 2013 Demand Response contract set to lapse, Public Works Director Jason Dailey is working hard to re-negotiate the arrangement with the company that generates the power Cranberry buys. His goal: to get a good price for the power we do use, and an even better price for the power we don't.

It's all a bit wonky, but it grows out of an arrangement that essentially pits 21st century energy conservation and generation strategies against companies with a stake in building more 20th century fossil fuel power plants. And it was an important enough conflict to have reached all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided in January that the program was constitutionally sound.

Peak shaving

Here's how it works: when energy use hits an unusually high peak, for example on a hot summer day, organizations with demand response contracts agree to drop a certain amount of power they would otherwise draw from the grid. In return, they get paid – whether they are asked to shed their power use or not. Last year, Cranberry's contract was for \$156,000, but it didn't get a single call to scale back its power use. If it had, it would have been paid even more.

However, things could always go the other way; next summer could be a scorcher and the Township would be obliged to stop drawing its normal load of power from the grid every day for as long as necessary. But that wouldn't mean the Township gets plunged into darkness. Instead, it could mean that some power-hungry activities normally taking place in the daytime would shift over to night time hours, when overall power demand declines. Examples might include the time of day that water gets pumped into Cranberry's three storage tanks, or that water is pumped into the irrigation pond at Cranberry Highlands, or the times that its electric golf carts get recharged.

The Township also has power generating facilities of its own. Originally built as an emergency standby power source, the

generator behind Cranberry's Municipal Center can provide the building with enough electricity to get by whenever a demand response call comes through.

Big users only

However it's not something that's done on the honor system. If an electric customer decides to enter a demand response contract, they'll need to install a special interval meter that

Some power-hungry activities taking place in the daytime would shift over to night.

communicates with the power company, showing exactly what that customer is doing every 15 minutes. But even before one is installed, the user – and all users in the program are big institutional customers – the power company has to be convinced that the amount of power the customer promises to shed when given 24-hours advance notice, can actually be achieved.

Of course Cranberry, like most other electric customers, has been working to improve its energy efficiency all along. The Demand Response program is simply another element of the Township's energy management strategy. ~



Treatment Plant Bids Rejected

When contractors' bids for a planned upgrade and expansion of Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant were opened in early February, they were way above initial estimates. Construction of the project, which involves four separate contracts, was expected to have cost around \$41 million. But the bids received exceeded those preliminary estimates by more than \$15 million. In response, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors rejected all four sets of bids and authorized staff to revise plans and solicit a new round of bidding.

Proposed changes to the design include shifting certain elements of the two-phase project from Phase I into Phase II – which is not expected to start until at least ten years after Phase I is completed – as well as modifications to several other project components. Board action on the new round of bids is anticipated by May. ~

Crud In Your Plumbing Is Good For You

A huge amount of attention has been focused lately on the struggling city of Flint, Michigan, whose water is not only discolored, evil-smelling, and overpriced, it also contains lead, which accumulates in human users, leading to serious health problems.

Can the same thing happen to Cranberry? We asked Mike Sedon who, in addition to managing the wastewater treatment at Cranberry's Brush Creek Water Pollution Control facility, is also deeply involved in the Township's drinking water distribution system. And it turns out that one big reason water tainted with heavy metals won't happen in Cranberry results from what most people regard as the crud in their pipelines. Think of it instead as a protective coating.

What happened?

"In simple terms, Flint didn't adjust the pH of the water going out to its people," Sedon explained. "Because their water was acidic, it leached the lead out of their pipes and then it dissolved into their water. But it's more than just pH. There's a calculation we call a Langelier Index that measures five different chemical factors as well as scaling elements in the water; calcium and magnesium are big buffers for pH that help make it less acidic."

"In the pipeline, that calcium will precipitate out of the water and form a protective coating inside house plumbing. It's like a barrier. If your

Calcium will precipitate out of the water and form a protective coating inside house plumbing. It's like a barrier.

water is acidic, that acid will take some of the calcium off and eventually your protective layer erodes away. Then

you're down to bare metal. If that pipe is made out of copper, it's going to start dissolving the copper. If it's made out of lead, it's going to start dissolving the lead.

"When you do a Langelier Index, you look at parameters like pH, temperature, hardness, and calcium concentration. If you get a negative number, your water is going to be aggressive and corrosive and leach out metals. If you get a positive number, it won't. And if you get a zero, the water is neutral. So water treatment plants are supposed to routinely perform Langlier indexes."

Why not in Flint? "The plant operators didn't pay attention to their chemistry," Sedon said. "You can adjust your pH by adding an acid or base. For whatever reason, they didn't do that. And aggressive water caused the lead to leach from their distribution pipelines and residential plumbing."

Why not Cranberry?

"Here in Cranberry, we do lead and copper sample testing every three years because we triple-check to make sure that our water isn't aggressive and make sure we're not dissolving lead and copper into the drinking water. Those are heavy metals and heavy metals aren't good for you."

But there's another, even more significant reason why lead contamination is unlikely to ever become a problem in Cranberry. It's that compared to Flint and many other communities, Cranberry's water system is relatively new. A hundred or more years ago, when many of America's municipal systems were first built, lead was frequently used as an alloy in plumbing. Decades later, when health problems were traced to lead in



Friend or foe? Cranberry treatment plant manager Mike Sedon holds a section of pipe with a heavy buildup of scale inside. The scale – actually calcium deposits – creates a barrier between the water and the pipe metal. Too much buildup can clog the pipe; too little can allow heavy metals to leach into the water.

plumbing, its use was terminated. But that change occurred before Cranberry's system was built, so there simply aren't any pipes here for lead to leach out of.

However there's another reason, too. It's that the pH of Cranberry's water is not aggressive. The West View Water Authority, Cranberry's sole supplier, constantly checks its water's Langelier Index at the source. And Cranberry's own technicians perform spot checks to make sure nothing has changed between the Authority's Ohio River plant and its arrival here.

"We've got a couple different firewalls against lead in our water," Sedon reflected. "The main one is that we're a pretty new system; lead had been removed from plumbing by the time Cranberry's system was built. And then we balance for acidity." So think of the scale inside your pipelines as being your friend – just as long as it isn't there in excess. ~

2016 Water Flushing Schedule

Cranberry Township's annual fire hydrant and distribution system flushing program gets underway on Monday, April 11. It is a routine maintenance operation designed to flush sediment from the water system, check fire hydrant operation, and test chlorine levels in the water lines throughout the Township. Flushing is conducted Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A week-by-week schedule is provided here; for detailed information on the date for your own street, call the Township's Customer Service Center at 724-776-4806. Here are the water line areas to be flushed during the weeks beginning:

APRIL 11: Dutilh Road between Freeport Road and Cul-de-Sac at Turnpike, Candlewood Suites, Route 19 south of PA Turnpike to Bravo's Restaurant, Hyatt Hotel, Cranberry Springs Complex, Pennwood Place, McKinney Warehouse, Keystone Drive, Gateway Building, Commonwealth Drive, Residence Inn, Freedom Road and Old Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Route 19, UPMC Medical Center, Fairfield Inn, Norberry Court, Dutilh Road south of Route 228, Lemieux/UPMC Ice Rink, Marriot Complex, Knockout Development – Longtree Way and Garden View, Westinghouse, Cranberry Woods – MSA Complex, Cranberry Mall, Cranberry Springs, Old Mars Road between Cranberry Springs Drive and Franklin Road, Cranberry Crossroads, Cranberry Commons Mall, Grandshire, Spring Meadows, Franklin Road between Old Mars Road and Beacon Drive & Hazelwood.

APRIL 18: Thompson Park Drive, Executive Drive, Costco, Brandt Drive, Commerce Park Drive, Cranberry Corporate Center, Rochester Road from Route 19 to Powell Road, Forest Park, Hampton Inn, Laurelwood, Sherwood Oaks & Fernway.



APRIL 25: Route 19 between Freedom Road and Rochester Road, Cranberry Shoppes, Walmart, Cranberry Square, Streets of Cranberry, Route 19 from Smith Drive north to Goehring Road, Goehring Road from Route 19 to Marshall Road, Wisconsin Avenue, Doyle Equipment, Ogle Station, Boston Market, Jerry's Car Wash, Home Depot, Smith Drive, Walgreens, Ogle View Road, Alcoa/TRACO, Progress Avenue, Park Road, Ernie Mashuda Drive, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction north to Kenny Ross, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction south to Ron Lewis Used Vehicle Dealership, Enterprise Rent-a-Car Center, Wiegand Drive, Marshall Road, Goehring Road, Preserve East and West, North Boundary Road, Marshall Woods, Marshall Heights, Pinebrook Manor & Cranberry Water Park.

MAY 2: Former McElroy Road, Fox Run, Canterbury Heights/Buckingham Trail, Rowan Road between Marshall Road and Old Farm Road, La Grande Drive, Rowan School, Rowan Towers, Hope Lutheran Church, Leonberg Road, Franklin Road, Peace Street, Franklin Ridge, Franklin Crossing, Shadow Creek, Bristol Creek, Washington Farms, St. Leonard's Woods, Timberline, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Old Farm Road, Redmond Place, Old Towne Apartments, Scenic Ridge, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Burke Road, Forest Knoll, Lakeview Estates, Windwood Heights, Crystal Springs, Walden Pond & Burke Road.

MAY 9: Pinehurst Estates, Ehrman Road, Garvin Road, Grace Estates, Mystic Ridge, Foxmoor, Ehrman Farms, Oakview Estates, Unionville Road, Springfield Manor, Cranberry Business Park, Winchester Lakes, Winchester Farms, Old Rt. 19, Settlers Village, Glen Eden Road, Glen Eden Phase 1, Settlers Grove, Antler Ridge.

MAY 16: Acer Court, Greenspire Court, Windsor Court, Cedarbrook, Glenbrook, Glen Eden Townhouses, Manor Creek, Freshcorn Road, Glen Eden Road west of Powell Road, Briar Creek, Cranberry Heights, Kingsbrook, Madison Heights, Glen Rape Road & Wakefield Estates.

MAY 23: Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Thorn Hill Road (RIDC) & WESCO, Rolling Road Regency Apartments, Iron Mountain, Freedom Road, Freedom Square, Freedom Road Car Wash, Haine Fire Station, Freedom Road from Georgetown Square to Parkwood Drive, Parkside Place, Carriage Drive, Kira Circle, Haine School Road, Haine School, Pine Ridge, Rochester Village, Bellevue Park, Graham Park, Valleybrook, Deer Run, Sun Valley, Cranbrook & Kirkwood Drive.

MAY 31: Woodlands Townhouses, Swift Homes, Woodlands Houses, Clearbrook, Cranberry Estates, Ashford Manor, Cranberry Pointe, Cranberry West, Kimberwicke, Harvest Drive, Holiday Drive, Powell Road from Rochester Road to Blue Ridge Drive, Creekwood Commons, Creekwood & Freedom Woods.

JUNE 6: Forest Park, The Crossings, Mystic Pine Trail, Blue Ridge Estates, Berkley Manor, Hampshire Woods, Autumn Hill, Orchard Park & The Glen at Woodside.

JUNE 13: Powell Road between Rochester Road and Glen Eden Road, Park Place, Chatham Commons, Highland Village, Havenwood, Hunters Creek, Stonefield & Farmview, Greenfield Estates, Avery's Field, Woodbine Estates, The Links of Cranberry, Eden Square Apartments, St. Killian's Parish School, Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic High School, The Haven at Cranberry Woods & The Village at Cranberry Woods. ~



CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP

724-776-4806

www.cranberrytownship.org

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COLLECTION CONNECTION UPDATE

YARD WASTE COLLECTION IN CRANBERRY MARCH 28 - DECEMBER 16

Place items curbside

in **GREEN TOP CART OR BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAG**

Bags available for sale in Customer Service - 5 for \$2

or home improvement/hardware stores.

ACCEPTED:

- * Leaves
- * Grass clippings
- * Branches & tree limbs under 4" diameter
- * Brush up to 4 ft. in length
- * Plants, flowers, and roots
- * Shrubbery and prunings
- * Sawdust

NOT ACCEPTED:

- * Loose soil or sod
- * Kitchen food waste
- * Garden or orchard food waste
- * Excrement, pet droppings, or kitty litter
- * Plastics or synthetics
- * Tree stumps & limbs over 4" thick
- * Non-compostable bags & boxes
- * Lumber & construction material



Collection
connection™

A CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PROGRAM

TOO TOXIC FOR TRASH:

Electronics, Household Hazardous Waste & Batteries



Safely dispose of unwanted chemicals, batteries, and electronics- including TV's! (Fees Apply.)

- Drop off items on select Saturdays by appointment. Phone: 1-866-815-0016 Address: 129 Ash Stop Road, Evans City, PA 16033
- New "Point & Pack" Service will come to you. Fill out the online inventory sheet for a cost estimate and to schedule pick up. www.ecsr.net/services/point-pack

More info:CranberryTownship.org/Collection

Fact, Fiction And Food

The Cranberry public library will hold a formal kickoff for its three 2016 Summer Reading programs at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 4. Last year, 1,200 people registered for the children's, teen, and adult reading programs, which run throughout the summer and include an assortment of hands-on activities in addition to all sorts of reading material. There is no fee to participate. Again this year, the Reading Program launch will be coupled with a Food Truck Rally in the front parking lot of the Municipal Center, also starting at 11:00. A share of the vendors' proceeds will be donated to the library. ~

