

Cranberrytoday

FALL 2016

It's A Miracle!

It's a pirate ship! It's a baseball fantasy! It's a playground! It's Out of the Ballpark!

Cranberry's newest playground is open, and its design is both appealing, friendly and accessible to everyone. The playground, built as CTCC's 2016 Project of the Year in partnership with the Miracle League and with major support from Pirates Charities as well as local donors, wraps around the Miracle League Ballpark's outfield in Cranberry's Graham Park.

"It's an all-inclusive playground," Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis pointed out. "We already had a playground in North Boundary and we've got an amazing playground in Community Park.

But one of the most frequent comments I was hearing was: 'I can't believe you didn't put anything in Graham Park!' Not anymore.

Originally planned to open on September 10, the playground's dedication was postponed to September 24 to allow a replica pirate ship to be brought in and installed. "We went with the pirate theme for two reasons," Geis explained. "Pittsburgh Pirates Charities are a huge sponsor, not only for the playground, but the entire Miracle League complex in Graham Park. And

by a ramp, with various amenities on top. Built off site, the ship was delivered and lowered into place in time for the playground's formal opening. The ship is expected to become the playground's signature attraction.

The playground's left field entrance features oversize baseball bats arching over the walkway's stone pillar gateway. Bricks, plaques and pavers recognize sponsors and donors throughout the playground. Its play apparatus includes spinners, rockers and swing sets, as well as a walkway with shelters to provide shade on the facility's right outfield side which also includes other playground features.

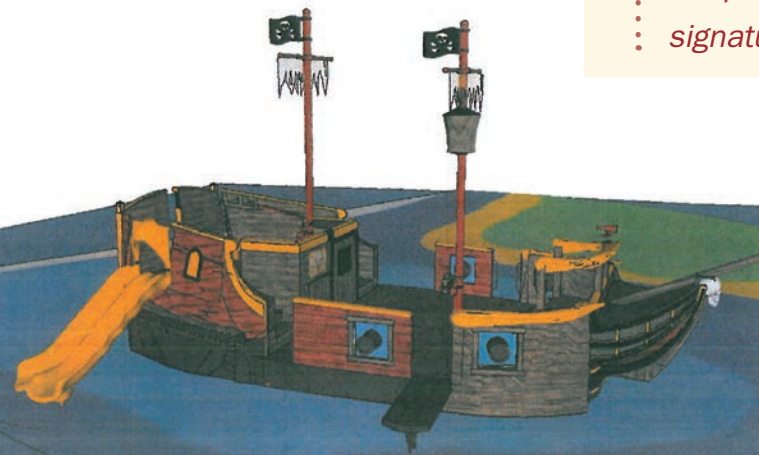
The playground, officially known as the Out of the Ballpark Playground, was completed as a component of a joint CTCC and Miracle League two-part 2016 Project of the Year — a project which also involved resurfacing the adjacent Miracle League Ballfield.

"The equipment provides a playground opportunity for both able-bodied and wheelchair-bound kids of all ages," Geis said. "So it's what I consider handicap-friendly, not just handicap accessible. However, it's open to anyone and everyone's welcome." ~

The pirate ship is expected to become the playground's signature attraction.

it's a pirate ship that attracts young families to play on it. It's just part of the playground, and it's exciting."

The pirate ship, which is the playground's most prominent feature, has an upper level deck, accessible



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Rec Tech: How Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Department Does R&D

This past summer, as Cranberry Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis was chauffeuring his high-school senior son around to visit different colleges, he noticed that the boy wasn't paying attention to the schools' academics or cultural offerings. Instead, he was glued to his smart phone, looking for on-campus Pokémon characters.

"Where is the gymnasium?" his son would ask him.

"I don't know," the father replied.

"But there's a dinosaur over there!" the boy explained.

However, instead of feeling exasperated, the elder Geis felt inspired. "I could see somebody taking advantage of that game and growing it into something like a geocache, which is basically a way of getting people out and into the parks by enticing them to find certain things," he said.

"That's the way our staff works; we're trying to figure out how we can take advantage of technology to have something that excites, encourages and incentivizes the community to visit our parks and to keep the community healthy by encouraging the use of our trails and fitness stations. That's the way we look at innovations. There are

this. It's using the technology to enrich people's lives."

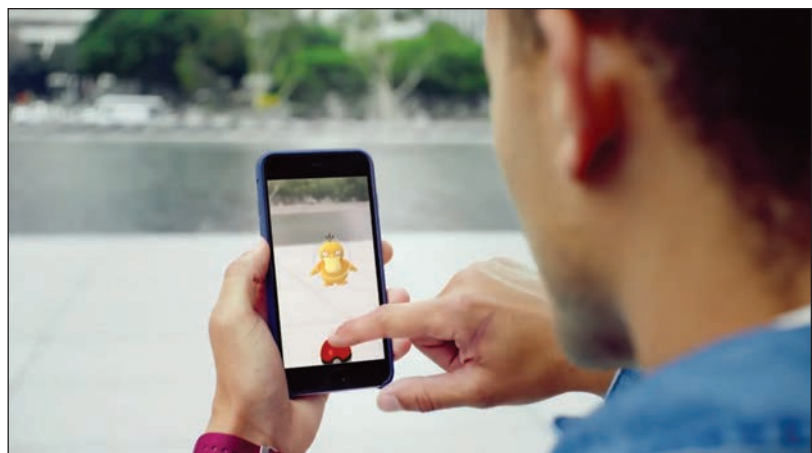
Scouting around

Although developing new software is not a core pursuit of Cranberry's Parks & Recreation staff, researching the interests of Township residents and finding instructors who are qualified to teach specialized programs, is an ongoing activity.

"Our whole program staff is basically a research and development staff," Geis reflected. "They're tasked with constantly researching other communities online – what's going on big right now in Erie? What's big over in State College? What's going on in the eastern part of the state? If somebody has an idea of something they want, bring it to our attention; people do that all the time. And if they have a particular skill set, encourage them to contact us.

"We're always reaching out," he said. "One unique part of my job is that everywhere I go I'm looking for somebody who does something that might be interesting to Cranberry residents. I recently went to a picnic where a lady came in wearing a Tai Chi class shirt. So I introduced myself, gave her my card, and said 'what do we have to do to get you to Cranberry Township?'

"We're always looking to freshen up what we offer and to offer new programs. For example, we're working with the Moraine Preservation Fund to develop more nature programs for 2017. We're working with SVSD's STEM program to make interpretive trail signs



through our wetlands. By bringing more partners in, we've got a whole lot going on when it comes to programming."

Specialty contractors

Many of those partners are cultural and recreational entrepreneurs who bring their specialized skills and programs into the Township. The Parks & Rec staff works with them to schedule, price, promote, and refine their offerings, and then to sign up interested residents. Snapology, High Tech Learning, CDG Sports, End Zone Soccer, Keystone State Musical Theatre, and many, many more – some national franchises, some sole proprietor businesses – are among the department's roster of instructional sources.

"One of the challenges our Parks & Recreation department has is that we can't just go out and hire hundreds of people for full-time or even part-time jobs," Geis said. "The staff we have needs to be resourceful, efficient and professional to serve the ever-growing Cranberry population. So first, we get public input: what does the public want? Then we've got to find the providers of what they want.

"It's not as easy as just going out, finding somebody and hiring them. Whether it's a part-time, seasonal or contracted staff, everyone who works with our Department goes through the

Our whole program staff is basically a research and development staff. They're tasked with constantly researching other communities online.

definitely some good, creative, positive things that are going to come from

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Rec tech: How Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Department Does R&D *Continued from page 2*

same hiring process. We do all the background checks and make sure they have their insurance and drug tests in addition to the skills they hope to bring

to Cranberry. Not all communities do that. Sometimes instructors may have an easier time getting in the door of other communities, but they won't find a

more supportive and rewarding place to work then here with us. It's a win-win for everyone." ~



The Eagles Have Landed

Two new Eagle Scout projects enhancing Township parks are now in place or underway. This summer, Scout Kenny Rochford built two 4 by 8-foot storage sheds to secure baseball equipment at the North Boundary Park Veterans field and the Graham Park K field. The wooden sheds were constructed off-site, at the Dutilh United Methodist Church, using material donated by Home Depot. Cranberry Public Works then collected them and installed the sheds at their park locations.

This fall, Scout David Hosso is building a chimney swift tower which will be installed by the newly-built walking trail at the southern end of Graham Park. Chimney swifts, which nest and roost in chimneys, used to be abundant in North America, according to Texas A&M. But by the late 1980s, the number of swifts migrating to North America from the Amazon River Basin had fallen into decline. In response, a number of people across North America constructed nesting towers which provide a practical way to create more habitat for these beneficial birds. Cranberry salutes its Eagle Scouts. ~

Our New Class A Golf Pro

From the time he joined Cranberry Highlands in 2010 until this summer, assistant golf pro Shawn McCall had carried the PGA designation of Apprentice under the watchful tutelage of PGA golf pro Jody Barrett. This summer, following a series of week-long sessions at the PGA academy in Port St. Lucie, Florida, Shawn was able to complete the Association's multi-level curriculum and become a certified Class A PGA Professional. It involved a lot more than just playing well, although being able to do so is the opening ante for admission into the Association's program. McCall recently demonstrated those skills by finishing first in an Omega golf match play and second in a regional PGA Assistants tournament. Other PGA certificate instruction involved Customer Relations, Teaching, Business Planning, Tournament Operations, Golf Operations, Merchandising, Golf Club Fitting, Player Development, Supervising and Delegating. Now back home at Cranberry Highlands, McCall continues to teach both novice and seasoned golfers on the fundamentals as well as the finer nuances of golf. ~



Get Out And Vote. But Where?

With U.S. President, Senator and Representative on the ballot at the same time, turnout for the 2016 elections is expected to be at an all-time high in Cranberry. But before you vote, make sure you know where your polling place is located and whether your registration is current. Polling places this fall are the same as they were in the Primary Election earlier this year. But some of those places had been reassigned since the last general election in 2012.

Cranberry has nine voting districts, each with a relatively equal number of residents. Each district has its own polling place; if you've moved, you can't cast a ballot in your old neighborhood location.

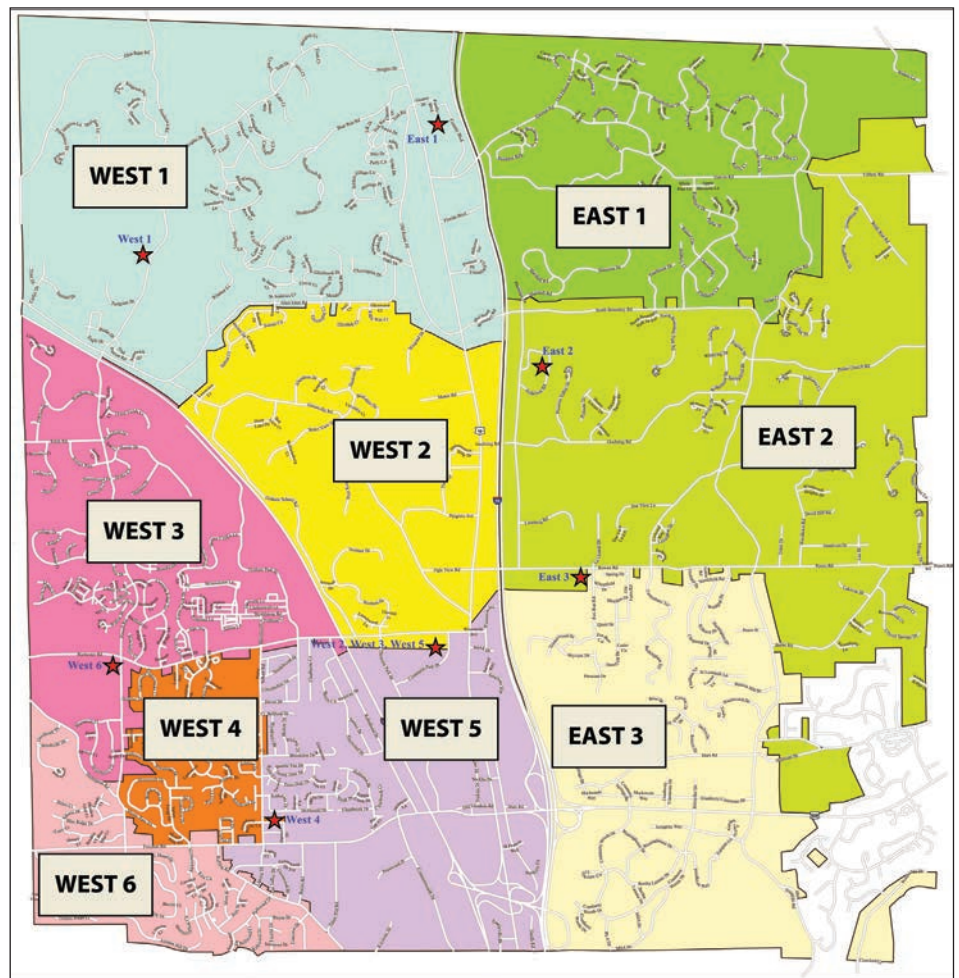
You must also be registered as a voter with the Butler County Bureau of Elections. To qualify, you have to be a citizen of the United States for at least one month before the election, be a resident of Pennsylvania and of your election district for at least 30 days before the election, and be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election.

You can register as a voter online at the state website www.cranberrytownship.org/PAVoterServices by October 11 to be eligible for this November's election. A County application form is also available online, but it must be printed out, completed and mailed into the Bureau

by the stipulated deadline. Forms and more information about voting in Cranberry are available from the County website at www.cranberrytownship.org/VoterApplications.

This map outlines Cranberry's nine districts. For a street-by-street directory

as well as other voter information, go to the Township's website at www.cranberrytownship.org/Vote. You can also visit the state's website to confirm whether you're registered as well as the location of your polling place. ~



Cranberry East 1	Victory Family Church	21150 Rt. 19
Cranberry East 2	Grace Community Church	9160 Marshall Rd
Cranberry East 3	Hope Lutheran Church	8070 Rowan Rd
Cranberry West 1	Cranberry Highlands Golf Course	5601 Freshcorn Rd
Cranberry West 2	Municipal Center (Senior/Teen Room)	2525 Rochester Rd
Cranberry West 3	Municipal Center (Council Chambers)	2525 Rochester Rd
Cranberry West 4	Haine School Rd Fire Department	1629 Haines School Rd
Cranberry West 5	Municipal Center (Gymnasium, Rear)	2525 Rochester Rd
Cranberry West 6	Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints	2771 Rochester Rd

Cable Operators Starting To Outfit Customers With Data Caps

How much Internet data does your family actually need? Most people have no idea. And until fairly recently, it didn't really matter, except perhaps when it came to their smartphone plans. But for Internet service delivered by cable, there was no limit – megabytes, gigabytes, terabytes, what's the difference? You just turn on the cable spigot and out it comes.

But that's beginning to change. And in Cranberry, the eight or nine thousand households who subscribe to Armstrong's Internet delivery service could start to feel the results. Depending on the subscriber's plan, the volume of data included ranges from 200 Gb to 400 Gb – and up to 1 Tb for business services – with even more capacity available at an extra charge.

For most users, that's plenty; in fact, it's easily 100 times more than most cellular plans. However, for a small but growing number of subscribers – estimated at somewhere between 3 and 5 percent – those capacities are too restrictive. And there could soon

of the industry's response to recent FCC decisions regarding the concept known as 'net neutrality.' In essence, the federal agency rejected the idea that big suppliers of Internet content like Netflix, Amazon and YouTube – which together represent nearly two-thirds of all Internet traffic – should pay cable companies to invest in equipment needed to expedite the flow of their material.

Those investments are significant, both at the interstate transmission level and at the local delivery end, where consumers receive their service. For Armstrong, it includes replacing the modems of all 120,000 customers in Butler, Lawrence, Beaver and Allegheny Counties, as well as upping the speed of its basic Zoom Internet delivery package from a current 30 Mb per second to 100 Mb by early 2017. For premium users, the company's goal is to offer gigabit service – 1,000 Mb per second – by the end of this year. And in the foreseeable future, it would also include Community Wi-Fi – wireless Internet service available to Armstrong subscribers as well as those of partner Internet service providers – along Cranberry's busy Route 19 and 228 corridors.

Without the option of charging major content suppliers for delivering their content, Armstrong and other cable operators are beginning to turn to a business model patterned after traditional utilities where subscribers pay for the volume they consume, whether it's water, natural gas, electricity, or phone service. But just as there are ways to conserve on subscribers' use of those commodities, there are also ways to manage the use of cable data, and the company has people available to help.

Managing consumption

"We have a good customer support group," Armstrong General Manager Joseph Taylor pointed out recently. "I



All the rage. Data caps are the next big thing among Internet Service providers. Caps vary in size.

tell people to call us because we have people who can answer questions, make recommendations, and insure that people are getting the best value for their specific needs."

Those needs are likely to change over time for a number of reasons. One is because with tablets, laptops, game consoles and other devices throughout the home, a household member can unwittingly cause a spike in data use as the result of downloading a movie or an electronic game – some of which can be as large as 60 Gb – without the subscriber's knowledge. Another is that the online services themselves are constantly changing the way their material is delivered. Videos on Facebook, for example, now run automatically, burning up data, even when nobody is watching.

But there are ways of resetting Facebook, YouTube and other frequently used online services to consume less data. Securing home wi-fi routers can keep neighbors and others nearby from piggybacking on your signal and eating up your data allotment. And not downloading movies in higher definition than your device can display is another good way to scale back on data use. ~

Cable operators are beginning to turn to a business model patterned after traditional utilities where subscribers pay for the volume they consume.

be more; the growing use of Internet to deliver TV shows, movies, games and other data-intensive content, combined with the proliferation of mobile devices tethered to the Internet, is pushing data use up to and beyond the limits of popular plans.

Different business model

To cable company management, the transition from an all-you-can-eat model to a plan-limited ceiling has been part



The Forgotten Highway

By Dick Hadley, Chairman, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

It's time to revisit an idea which seems to have slipped off the edge of the earth.

Back in the 1990s, PennDOT proposed a limited access highway linking Rt. 65 along the Ohio in Beaver County to Cranberry, where it would connect to the Turnpike and I-79. It was called Crows Run, named for a small stream which followed the proposed roadway's alignment. The segment in Cranberry, running from the Beaver County line, would replace Freedom Road, a state-owned highway.

Although the principle of improving the region's east-west roadway network made sense, PennDOT's Crows Run proposal sparked massive consternation and pushback, including from Cranberry officials who felt that a limited access highway, instead of a four-lane road with local intersections, would be a disaster along the Freedom Road corridor. So PennDOT came up with several alternatives – a northern bypass and a southern one – each of which also generated a lot of resistance. Eventually, the state simply walked away from the project, leaving Freedom Road as a congested two-lane roadway. That was 15 years ago.

Incremental improvements

Since then, the Township has pursued funding for a series of improvements along Freedom Road – even though it's a state-owned highway – including the addition of turning lanes and traffic signals to help ease congestion. The intersection improvements at Valley Forge and Parkwood along Freedom Road are only the most recent. But the capacity of the road has never increased, even though its traffic volume has exploded.

Now, however, several game-changing developments have occurred. One is that the Turnpike will soon be replacing the current three-lane Freedom Road bridge with a six-lane version across the toll road, which will itself eventually be widened to three lanes in each direction. That will relieve one of our longest-standing choke points. Then at the Beaver County end of Freedom Road, with strong support from its state elected officials, PennDOT recently awarded a contract to upgrade the roadway between Rt. 65 and the western edge of Cranberry Township. But that's where it stops, funneling into the already congested two-lane Freedom Road.

Think of our roadway network as a hose that carries traffic. Over time, a number of kinks in that hose have been fixed. But Freedom Road between Commonwealth Drive and the Beaver County line remains a huge kink in that traffic hose.

A running start

Back when Crows Run was a front-burner topic, Cranberry put its money where its mouth was by investing in the roadway concept it was promoting – a transformation of Freedom Road into an urban-style boulevard complete with planter islands, sidewalks, street lights and other amenities. The Township undertook engineering studies and financed design work to show what Freedom Road could look like if it were widened and had turning lanes added. This approach enjoyed significant acceptance by the community. Beyond that, over time, Cranberry acquired much of the right-of-way that would be needed for this type of design. As a result, many of the pieces have been in



Cranberry put its money where its mouth was by investing in the roadway concept it was promoting.

place for years; so they won't have to start it from scratch. But financing the transformation will require state money, which was estimated at \$20 million back then.

On the eastern side of Rt. 19, where commercial development is intense, we were able to expand the capacity of 228 without using a dime of state funds or local taxpayer money. But Freedom road, with few exceptions, is residential and was developed decades before the tools were available to obtain developer funding. As a result, that money is not readily available to finance improvements.

Even though the concept is nothing new, the idea of upgrading Freedom Road still has merit – in fact, more now than ever. It's the missing link in an otherwise robust highway network. And a number of elected officials are solidly behind it, including our own Board of Supervisors and all three Butler County Commissioners. Cranberry is fully prepared to continue being a partner in this enterprise, and we welcome the support and leadership of our residents and public officials in getting it done. ~

Dick Hadley can be reached at Dick.Hadley@cranberrytownship.org

Township's Comprehensive Plan Gets An Update

The Cranberry Plan – a forward-looking, 20-plus year comprehensive plan that the Township's Board of Supervisors adopted in 2009 to guide their future policy and spending decisions – had a lot of moving parts. Each of its 13 chapters included several high-level goals, and each goal was supported by a series of strategies. Altogether, the document spelled out more than 250 strategies dealing with everything from the economy to housing to transportation.

But a lot has happened since 2009 – and some things that were expected to happen, simply didn't. So starting last year, the Township's Planning and Development Services Department revisited the plan to see where each of those strategies stood, and then to update them as needed. A draft of that updated plan is available for inspection on the Township's website as well as in print at the Library and in the Customer Service Department. A public hearing on the update is scheduled to take place at the Board's October 27 meeting prior to its anticipated November adoption.

A major part of the update is a detailed report on progress for each of the plan's many strategies – indicating whether they were completed, are currently underway, have yet to be started, or have become institutionalized as part of the Township's normal work rather than treated as one-off projects. Beyond that, however, the update also includes new and expanded material. For example, a

chapter on Public Safety is part of the plan for the first time. There is also a heightened emphasis on education from Kindergarten to college, together with ways the Township can collaborate in support of its educational institutions. Strategies for sustainability – a fundamental principle of the 2009 plan – were also given careful scrutiny.

Emerging trends

"Comprehensive plans are not crystal balls; they're not perfect predictors of the future, and things have changed over the past six years," Department Director Ron Henshaw acknowledged.

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"We saw what we call 'emerging trends,' including things like making sure we understood the number of properties and buildings that are not taxable, because some laws have changed. So that's where we made adjustments to existing strategies and then added some new ones based on emerging trends and other things that weren't even conceived of back in 2009."

In developing the 2009 plan, three different growth scenarios were developed to simulate various 'what-if' conditions. One was a hands-off approach, another was an aggressive

high density approach, and the third option was somewhere in between. That third option, which visualized more mixed-use developments with a variety of housing options, was ultimately selected as the Preferred Growth Scenario and used to model the outcomes of different zoning and infrastructure choices. It envisioned a residential population of 50,000 by 2030 along with an infrastructure to support that number. Whether the Township hits that mark remains to be seen, although the Township is still among the state's fastest growing communities.

Making adjustments

"We will be paying close attention to the Preferred Growth Scenario over the next several years in anticipation of making changes to current strategies for the next plan update" Henshaw said. "Several developments that should have been well underway have lagged behind for various reasons. Park Place Phase Two is finally getting started and The Village of Cranberry Woods Phase Two is also just about to get underway. As we move forward, we will be performing a full examination of our Community Character Development ordinance to see where adjustments may be needed."

In the meantime, the Township ordinance governing new Planned Residential Developments – currently the primary form of housing in Cranberry – is undergoing a major overhaul to bring it more closely in line with the plan's goal of encouraging a mix of housing types. And, in the not-too-distant future, Henshaw's department will begin formulating a redevelopment plan – an element of the document's economic development section that particularly targets older business areas which may be suited for a mix of residential and commercial uses. ~



Cranberry Symposium To Shine Spotlight On Teen Anxiety

“Acting out” is the term used in clinical psychology to describe a person’s failure to manage their impulses. It can take a variety of forms, many of which are self-destructive or harmful to others. What they share in common, however, is that people who act out are typically shunned by others and stigmatized in their communities as mentally unstable or dangerous. No community is exempt from it, including Cranberry Township.

Years ago, people exhibiting strange or antisocial behaviors were committed to institutions where they were locked away indefinitely – often without due process of law – out of public sight and frequently out of the public’s mind as well. But about 30 years ago, things changed. Politicians began to disparage, defund and ultimately dismantle mental institutions. Their patients were mainstreamed – discharged into residential communities which then had to find ways of accommodating them. And a new generation of medications that promised to manage previously uncontrolled symptoms of mental illness became widely available, although getting people to actually take their medication often proved to be a challenge.

Back in the mainstream

Today, people who experience a variety of emotional and cognitive disorders are everywhere. But the stigma

People who experience a variety of emotional and cognitive disorders are everywhere.

attached to those who suffer remains. That stigma constitutes a form of discrimination which surfaced during a leadership forum convened by the

Cranberry Area Diversity Network back in April. And it led to the creation of a series of programs focused on mental health, under the direction of Grace Church counselor and Care Director Jackie Eppler, beginning with the topic of anxiety among youth on Tuesday, October 11.

The debilitating effects of anxiety and stress on adults are fairly well known. Less well understood, however, is that teens and children as young as 10 experience those same disorders with equally devastating impact. Unlike adults, however, in the case of children, the time between the onset of those conditions and professional intervention providing treatment, is frequently delayed – often by as much as ten years.

The Symposium

In two identical sessions – one beginning at 5:00 and another at 6:30 – the dimensions of anxiety will be explored through the experience of two women who suffered and later recovered from disabling levels of anxiety. A panel of mental health professionals under the direction of psychologist Dr. Sharma Dudley, will answer guests’ questions following a presentation on the biological and behavioral aspects of anxiety, their impact on learning, and their effects on athletics and family life.

The October 11 forum will be largely directed to parents and adults who work with young people. The focus will be on better understanding the spectrum of anxiety disorders, recognizing its symptoms, identifying warning signs, and learning about treatment options.

Doors to the event, which will be held in Cranberry’s Municipal Center, open at 4:30. Agencies and professionals who counsel patients, treat emotional stress and deal with other aspects of mental health will have kiosks set up throughout the building to introduce themselves and their services. There is no fee to participate in the program and no pre-registration is required. Future symposia will focus on other aspects of mental health. ~



Seneca Valley Will Never Forget

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District



It's hard to believe you could gather thousands of football revelers on the first home game of the season and bring them to a silent start.

That moment happened for Seneca Valley fans and visitors on September

2, when they were asked to participate in a moment of silence to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom; to honor the brave men and women who have perished while fighting for this great nation.

The moment of silence that quieted the large crowd was part of the District's 17th Annual Veteran Recognition Night. It was an especially poignant this year as we also recognized the 15th Anniversary of 9/11, and honored the upcoming 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

The more than 50 Veterans and active military personnel in attendance represented peace time as well as World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, just to name a few. Among this elite group included recipients of the Purple Heart, special service medals, defense medals, commendation ribbons and battle stars. They were provided with a District gift, free tickets to the game, special seating accommodations and were recognized on the track prior

to kick off. A constant flow of football players, cheerleaders, coaches and other members of the community visited the Veteran tent area and personally thanked these men and women for their service.

Additionally, the group gathered prior to kickoff with Dave Vestal, head football coach, and members of the Seneca Valley Raider Football Team and Staff. Veterans participated in a pre-game huddle and met individually with our student athletes for a personal meet and greet. American Flag decals were also placed on each helmet, where they will remain for the season.

"You are the true heroes of our country," said Coach Vestal. "We are proud of you and everything you have done for us."

Afterward, when the group appeared before the home stands, and where our stadium announcer shared a message of gratitude, they were greeted by loud applause and recognized with several standing ovations.

"It's our privilege to recognize them for their service," said Mark Korcinsky, Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal and Retired U.S. Army Captain. "It's a small token of our appreciation, and serves as a great reminder to never take our freedoms for granted."



PHOTOS BY BILL PATTERSON

The Westinghouse Power Play

Westinghouse Electric, with its hilltop campus in Cranberry Woods, is easily the Township's largest employer with a workforce of 2,700 divided between its Cranberry and Warrendale operations. The Westinghouse name has been emblematic of industrial savvy in the region for longer than anyone can remember. But by the time its relocation to Cranberry was announced ten years ago, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation which had been one of Western Pennsylvania's leading industrial icons for generations, had already dissolved.

The firm which set up its headquarters in Cranberry Woods was actually a wholly new company formed from assets acquired by the giant Japanese firm Toshiba from British Nuclear Fuels, which had purchased the Westinghouse nuclear power operations years earlier. Today, the Westinghouse name, which appears on 62 facilities in 18 countries, is used under license and its technology is in use at nearly half of the world's power reactors.

Innovative design for a new generation of megawatt-level nuclear power plants came at a time when industry observers felt that the world was on the cusp of a nuclear power renaissance.

Advanced technology

Even though the business had changed hands several times, its employees

Final check. Prior to shipment, Westinghouse Quality Control Manager Nicole Stadelman makes sure the control instrumentation in the cabinets around her match the specifications of their nuclear power plant customers.

continued their work on an innovative design for a new generation of megawatt-level nuclear power plants, designated the AP1000. And it came at a time when industry observers felt that the world was on the cusp of a nuclear power renaissance.

The AP1000 offered a number of important benefits compared to older power reactors. For example, using a standardized and federally approved design, it substantially reduced engineering time and expense. Built with modules that can be fabricated off-site at the same time, it significantly shortened the plant's construction schedule. And its passive safety systems, relying on gravity rather than multiple electrical pumps, slashed the amount of safety-related equipment needed by nearly half.

No matter whether it is fueled by coal, gas or nuclear energy, essentially every power plant is little more than an industrial-size water heater using steam to spin the turbines that generate electricity. Nuclear plants enjoy the lowest carbon footprint of them all. In a power-hungry world requiring both TLC and multiple sources of energy, the company is betting on the environmental benefits of nuclear to help retain and expand its share of the world's energy supply.

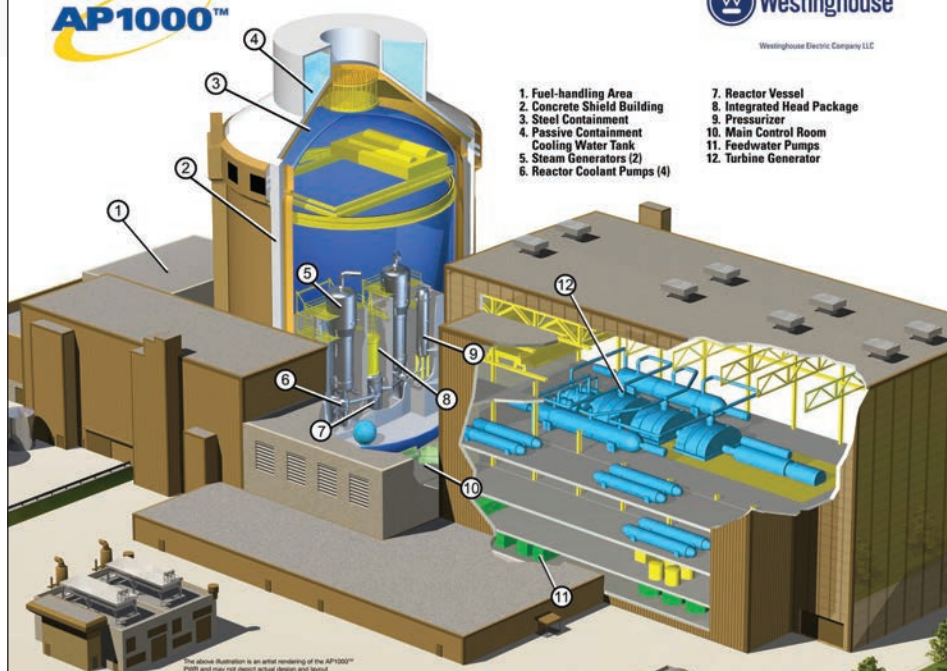
In 2006, following several years of negotiation, the State Nuclear Power Technology Company of China, an agency tasked with helping to satisfy the country's burgeoning power needs, signed a framework agreement that included an order for four of the AP1000 reactors – a huge win for Westinghouse. But the work it required would exceed the capacity of Westinghouse's Monroeville campus, so a national relocation search was begun – a search which ultimately led to Cranberry Woods.

Ups and downs

There has always been a certain degree of public concern about risk involving nuclear energy – a perception the industry works hard to mitigate. After a 2011 tsunami disabled Japan's Fukushima Daiichi power plant, work on a number of plants around the world was suspended. Then natural gas prices started falling, making electricity generated by gas-fueled power plants cheaper to produce. So, after initially scaling up to meet its orders from China, Westinghouse found itself scaling back.

Lately, however, the company has found a more stable footing. In addition to completing work on the four plants in China, it has two new plants underway in South Carolina and two in Georgia. It is bidding on three others in the U.K.





Next Gen Power. The advanced design used in Westinghouse's AP1000 nuclear power reactor has earned it the U.S. Department of Energy's designation as the industry's first Generation III+ unit.

Continuously supporting the 444 power units now operating worldwide represents a major piece of the company's business.

and recently inked a deal for six more in India. However, in addition to new construction, there is a constant need to replenish the fuel rods, replace worn generators, update control equipment, and refurbish instrumentation over the 60-year lifespan of a typical nuclear plant. Continuously supporting the 444 power units now operating worldwide with fuel and replacement parts currently represents a major piece of the company's business. But it doesn't end there.

Beyond supporting active plants, there's also a cradle-to-grave aspect of Westinghouse's business. When a nuclear plant approaches the end of its service life and its government-issued licenses expire, taking the plant safely offline is a complex process. Today, however, with some of the

oldest facilities reaching the sunset of their lives, there is a growing need for contractors who know how to decommission them. It is a business that Westinghouse expanded last year when it acquired a division of a Chicago Bridge and Iron.

Why Cranberry?

Westinghouse has been one of America's most recognized and respected company names for more than a century. Today, the footprint of its nuclear business is global with most of its current growth centered in Asia. So, for a Japanese-owned company that

What led Westinghouse to choose Cranberry? It almost didn't happen.

could have decided to locate practically anywhere, what led Westinghouse to choose Cranberry?

It almost didn't happen. Offers from business development agencies all over the country – which included generous land, construction, training, and tax

abatement deals – were quite tempting. But then-Governor Rendell was determined to keep Westinghouse in Pennsylvania. And he held an important card: the company had thousands of seasoned employees already in place throughout Western Pennsylvania. Nuclear engineers are not easy to find and a move out of state would likely result in the company losing a number of them.

"We chose Cranberry as our headquarters primarily to have everyone at one location as much as we could," explained Denise Hughes of the company's Corporate Communications department. "Of course a big factor was talent retention and talent acquisition – business continuity. Access to the infrastructure here, along the 228 corridor, was another big component. They have hotels, they have good housing, you have a thriving community, which is good for the employee population, but also good for our customers. Having a site with infrastructure already in place – the utilities, the Interstate access and the size of the land we needed – was important, and they all contributed to why we decided to come here.

"I think it's worked out," she reflected. "A lot of employees are very happy. We've minimized disruption. We have shuttles for people who want to van pool as well as a lot of car pools. Employees who still live east can park at our Churchill facility and ride together. And Westinghouse is really good at engaging employees to support community outreach. We want to engage people in the community and interest high school students in engineering careers, many times leading to internships and eventually full-time employment. People want to work with Westinghouse." ~

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

OCT

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

SAT 1 Fall Car Seat Check Municipal Ctr, 10am	SUN 2 ROSH HASHANAH	MON 3 + Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm + First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm	TUES 4 + ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Cranberry Artists Network Open Studio Grange Hall, 6pm Women's Safety Seminar Municipal Ctr, 7pm	WED 5 + ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am
THURS 6 + Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am + Homeschool Crafternoon Library, 1pm UPMC Thrive in 5 Municipal Ctr, 6pm + Tail Waggin' Tutors Library, 6:30pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 7 Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 8 Sheriff's Office, Gun Licensing Council Chambers, 9am-2pm > TV Recycling Event Public Works Facility, 9am-1pm. Fees apply. Call for appt.	SUN 9 MON 10 + Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am
TUES 11 + ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am Spotlight on Mental Health Wellness Municipal Ctr, 5pm	WED 12 + ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + Tinkering Tweens & Teens Library, 4pm	THURS 13 + Meet the Author, Nancy Martin Library, 6pm	FRI 14 Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 15 CPR and First Aid Training Municipal Ctr, 9am > Household Hazardous Waste Collection By appt. Call 1-866-815-0016
SUN 16	MON 17 + Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm	TUES 18 + Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm + Meet the Author, Thomas White Library, 6pm	WED 19 + Books and Bagels Book Club Library, 10am	THURS 20 + 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am + Budding Builders Library, 4pm ^ Great Pumpkin Festival Parks & Rec, 6-8pm
FRI 21 Friends of the Library Book Sale 10am-4:30pm Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm Great Pumpkin Festival Municipal Ctr, 6pm	SAT 22 Let's Dance: Salsa Gym, 7pm Friends of the Library Book Sale 10am-3:30pm	SUN 23 Friends of the Library Book Sale 1-2:30pm	MON 24 Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm	
TUES 25 + Psychic Sisters Library, 6pm	WED 26 + Tinkering Tweens & Teens Library, 4pm	THURS 27 Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 28 Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6pm
SAT 29 > Household Hazardous Waste Collection By appt. Call 1-866-815-0016	SUN 30	MON 31 + Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm Cranberry Trick or Treat 6-8pm		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOV

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

TUES 1 + **Tween Art Club** Library, 4pm
Cranberry Artists Network Open Studio Grange Hall, 6pm
Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm

WED 2
THURS 3 + **Adult Discussion Group** Library, 10am
+ **Tail Waggin' Tutors** Library, 6:30pm
Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm

FRI 4
SAT 5 ^ **Family Nature Hike** Lions Shelter 10am

SUN 6 + **Pittsburgh's Ghost Bomber & Other Mysteries** Dr. Andrew Masic Library, 1:30pm

MON 7 + **Infant Storytime** Library, 10:30am
+ **First Editions Book Club** Library, 7pm

TUES 8 + **ABC Storytime** Library, 10am & 11am
General Election Day 7am-8pm

WED 9 + **Tinkering Tweens & Teens** Library, 4pm

THURS 10 + **Homeschool Crafternoon** Library, 1pm

FRI 11 **VETERANS DAY** Library Closed
PreSchool Open House (2017 registration) Municipal Ctr, 10am & 5pm

SAT 12 **Safe Sitter-Babysitting** Municipal Ctr, 9am-3pm
Save a Life Saturday 10am

SUN 13
MON 14 + **Infant Storytime** Library, 10:30am
+ **Teen Advisory Board** Library, 4pm

TUES 15 + **ABC Storytime** Library, 10am & 11am
+ **Tween Lego Club** Library, 4pm

WED 16 + **Books and Bagels Book Club** Library, 10am

THURS 17 + **Budding Builders** Library, 4pm
Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm

FRI 18 **Santa's First Stop** Municipal Ctr, 6pm
EMS Stuff the Ambulance Municipal Ctr

SAT 19 **Let's Dance: West Coast Swing** Gym, 7pm
> **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** By appt. Call 1-866-815-0016

SUN 20
MON 21 + **Infant Storytime** Library, 10:30am
Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm

TUES 22 + **ABC Storytime** Library, 10am & 11am

WED 23 + **Tinkering Tweens & Teens** Library, 4pm

THURS 24 **THANKSGIVING** Twp Offices and Library Closed
Trash collections delayed by 1 day

FRI 25 Twp Offices and Library Closed
Trash collections delayed by 1 day

SAT 26

SUN 27

MON 28 + **Infant Storytime** Library, 10:30am
+ **Teen Advisory Board** Library, 4pm

TUES 29 + **ABC Storytime** Library, 10am & 11am

WED 30



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DEC

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

THURS 1+ Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am + Tail Waggin’ Tutors Library, 6:30pm			FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4	MON 5+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am + First Editions Book Club Library, 7pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Council Chambers, 6pm		
TUES 6+ ABC Storytime Library, 10am & 11am + Tween Art Club Library, 4pm Cranberry Artists Network Open Studio Grange Hall, 6pm				WED 7+ Tinkering Tweens & Teens Library, 4pm		THURS 8+ Homeschool Crafternoon Library, 1pm		FRI 9^ NYC Express Municipal Ctr parking lot 11pm
SAT 10	SUN 11	MON 12+ Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm			TUES 13	WED 14	THURS 15+ Budding Builders Library, 4pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Council Chambers, 6:30pm	
FRI 16	SAT 17	Let’s Dance: Foxtrot Gym, 7pm CPR and First Aid Training Municipal Ctr, 9am > Household Hazardous Waste Collection By appt. Call 1-866-815-0016				SUN 18	MON 19Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (as needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm	
TUES 20+ Tween Lego Club Library, 4pm			WED 21Winter Begins + Books and Bagels Book Club Library, 10am			THURS 22+ 4th Thursday Book Club Library, 10am		FRI 23
SAT 24HANUKKAH CHRISTMAS EVE Library Closed		SUN 25CHRISTMAS DAY Library Calosed			MON 26Twp Offices and Library are closed		TUES 27	WED 28+ Infant Storytime Library, 10:30am
THURS 29	FRI 30	SAT 31NEW YEAR’S EVE Library Closed						

Westinghouse Teams Up With Township Against Slip And Fall Injury

United Parcel Service, with tens of thousands of employees delivering packages throughout the year, had a problem: in winter climates, its drivers experienced frequent slip and fall injuries – injuries which were painful, costly, and interfered with time-sensitive UPS deliveries.

So the company's safety managers, together with experts from Virginia Tech, developed a training system built around a slip and fall simulator. Every UPS driver working in a region where ice is a seasonal factor was required to train using the system. And within a few years, its incidence of slip and fall injuries had plunged by two-thirds.

Several years ago, at its Cranberry headquarters, Westinghouse – which also prides itself on a strong culture of safety – acquired the same type of simulator and trained its own personnel how to walk securely on slippery surfaces. Then, this past August, the Company extended an invitation to the Township, offering use of its simulator for training municipal employees – an offer the Township

eagerly accepted. That was because slip and fall injuries had also been a problem for the Township. This past year, injuries sustained from slip and fall incidents were its leading source of Workers Compensation claims. In fact,

Injuries sustained from slip and fall incidents were its leading source of Workers Compensation claims.

every year since records were kept, slip and fall injuries have been among the Township's top three or four claim categories.

Slip simulator

To make best use of the Westinghouse offer, Cranberry's departmental safety committees were mobilized and asked to select trainers who would be taught the technique at Westinghouse and then return to instruct their fellow employees in its use. Jeff Gooch, of

Cranberry's IT department, is part of the Administration Department's Safety Committee. Together with Chelsea Puff of the Township's Planning and Development Services Department, Gooch was the first Township employee to be taught the technique.

The simulator itself consists of a glass walkway covered in soapy film. Suspended above it is a safety harness which is worn by the person learning the technique; it keeps them from falling more than a few inches.

Learners also have small furniture skids attached to the soles of their shoes. As a result, they are attempting to walk on a surface with no available traction – one even more slippery than natural ice.

"The first time I went across was like watching a guy walking across a skating rink," Gooch admitted. "My hands were flailing; my feet were sliding all over the place; I'm barely making it from one end to the other, and I'm moving super-slow because I know it's slippery. They want you to experience what it feels like to fail." That's when the instruction starts.

No slip tips

Among the lessons: Be alert to signs of possible danger like freezing temperatures or recent precipitation. Don't look down. Keep your feet close together. Move quickly and deliberately. Use flat steps – not heel-toe steps. And keep yourself standing straight so that your weight is directly above your feet. "It only took a matter of minutes for them to coach me through that process," Gooch reported. "After doing it once or twice, I was fine. I went across it six times, and I didn't slip and fall once."

But what should you do if you're not sure whether there's actually any ice on the parking lot as you're walking to your car? "If the surface isn't slippery and you use the technique, guess what? You still get across to the other side and you won't have an issue," Gooch said. "It might look a little goofy, you might feel like you didn't have to do that. But at the same time, it's not going to hurt anything if you use the technique you learned in this simulation."

Plans call for all full- and part-time Township employees to learn safe walking on the Westinghouse slip simulator by the end of the year. ~



Slip sliding away. Cranberry Township IT administrator Jeff Gooch struggles to keep his balance on the Westinghouse slip simulator. The low-friction device is used in training workers to avoid slip and fall injuries.

Your Winter Emergency Road Kit

Carrying an emergency kit in your car this winter is a good idea – particularly if you anticipate driving long distances or in remote areas. Prepackaged winter road emergency kits are available from as little as \$25 to well over \$150; their contents vary – some are more oriented to survival camping, some to mechanical auto breakdowns. The kit pictured here is \$112 plus tax and shipping from Amazon. If you prefer to create your own packet, here are some suggested items and prices; their details will vary depending on the supplier. Prices are approximate. You may want to add clothing items.



Organizer/carryall.....	\$15
Hand warmers.....	\$10
Emergency blankets.....	\$7
Kitty litter for traction	\$5
Drinking water	\$5
Food bars.....	\$5
Multi-tool.....	\$15
Glow sticks.....	\$22
Rope.....	\$10
Shovel	\$15
First Aid kit.....	\$15
Warning triangle.....	\$10
Waterproof matches	\$2
Crank radio.....	\$20
Flashlight	\$5
Utility gloves	\$12
Tire repair kit.....	\$10
Jumper cables	\$15
Tow strap	\$11
Air compressor.....	\$30
LED flares	\$10
Gas siphon	\$10
Disposable ponchos	\$10
Safety vest.....	\$5
Whistle	\$3
Tire gauge.....	\$8
Duct tape	\$8
Safety cone.....	\$12
Fire extinguisher	\$20
Ice scraper/brush	\$10
Traction mat	\$20

The Stork Has Arrived

A 9-1-1 call to the Cranberry EMS on June 9 alerted responders to the case of a very pregnant woman whose water had broken just as she was driving along Rt. 19. Medics Ryan Kahsar, Luke Fleeger and Christina O'Kane along with EMT Shawn MacIntyre rushed to the scene. Cranberry resident Jessica Charlton was having a baby, and there was no time to get her to the hospital. Shortly after they arrived, baby Zander was born. Mother and son are both doing fine. So on August 26, following a brief ceremony at the EMS base station, Jessica pinned stork lapel badges onto each of her EMS heroes – a tradition honoring those in the emergency medical service who deliver babies on the job. ~



Ride On Red? What To Do When A Traffic Light Isn't Working

Say you're stuck at an intersection, waiting to make a turn, but you never get a green light. What can you do? Drivers in Pennsylvania now have a legal remedy. But it comes with certain conditions.

For a number of years, traffic signals in the Commonwealth made use of inductive loops – essentially magnets embedded in the roadway to detect vehicles and then trigger signal changes. It wasn't a perfect system – it led to potholes, it would get damaged by plows, it would get wrecked in repaving, and it was sometimes out of alignment with the road's painted lines – but other than that, it usually worked pretty well.

Problem is, if a lightweight vehicle approaches the intersection, the loop may not sense that there's anyone there. That's particularly true for bicycles and light motorcycles. But if the loop's sensitivity were cranked up enough to see a bicycle – which is technically easy to do – it would also detect trucks in nearby lanes and end up wasting green light time where it's not needed.

Harrisburg to the rescue

So a group of motorcycle and bike enthusiasts petitioned Harrisburg to enact a bill that would allow riders stuck at an unresponsive intersection to continue on their way without breaking the law. Here's what they wanted the law to say: If, after waiting through a signal cycle for the light to change, the operator's vehicle doesn't trip the sensor that changes the light, they can treat it like a stop sign and proceed through with caution when it's safe to do so – all perfectly legally.

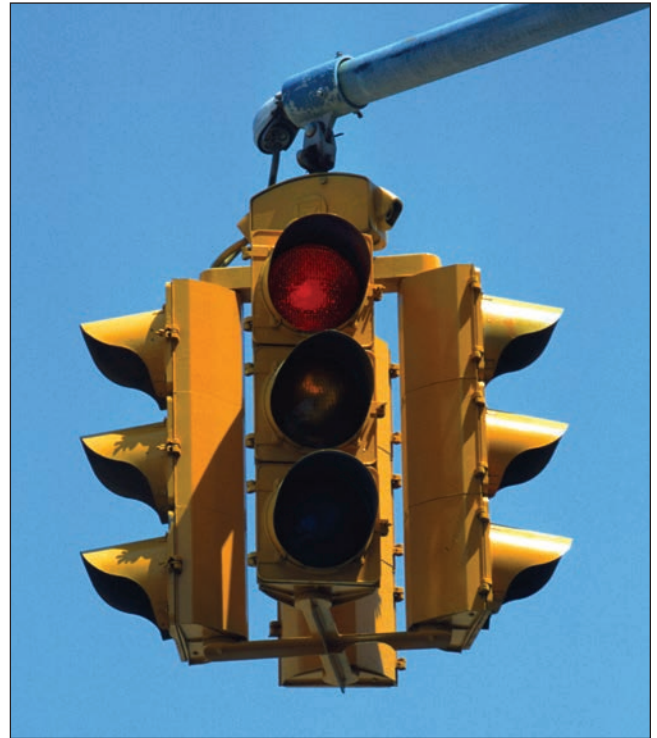
But a funny thing happened as the bill worked its way through the General Assembly. Instead of simply applying to lightweight vehicles, it was modified to apply to all vehicles. Instead of just

focusing on situations where a sensor fails to detect a vehicle, it was extended to include any sort of signal malfunction. And instead of stipulating a minimum amount of waiting time, it left that up to the driver's discretion. The resulting act went into effect September 18.

The local angle

In Cranberry, Township police suggest waiting at least two full cycles before even considering that a signal may be malfunctioning. They're concerned that normal functions of the traffic system, including intentional changes in timing, or sequence, or signal patterns, could be misinterpreted by impatient drivers as an opportunity to run a red light. Particularly when someone arrives at an intersection shortly after an emergency vehicle has passed through it, preempting the normal signal sequence, it can take a few minutes for the lights to return to their normal cycle times. But unless a driver realizes that an emergency vehicle had changed the cycle, it could seem like a signal failure.

At least in Cranberry, the occasions where loops can actually malfunction are diminishing. Twenty years ago, loops were the most advanced tools available for moving side street traffic onto main roads. Since then, video and radar have become the preferred technologies and now control three-quarters of the Township's intersections. Over time, the remaining loops will be phased out entirely in favor of more advanced



Township police suggest waiting at least two full cycles before even considering that a signal may be malfunctioning.

traffic management techniques. Although signal failures from other causes are still possible, they are rare and typically short-lived in Cranberry's well-maintained system.

"Just because you don't like how long you have to wait doesn't mean the signal's not functioning," Cranberry Traffic Operations Manager Marty McKinney cautions. "In Cranberry, you might have to wait two minutes before ascertaining that a signal hasn't seen you. And if you really think a signal isn't working, call 9-1-1 or the Township's Customer Service line. But for the most part, in Cranberry, you need to be very careful when you make that claim. Because if you get caught, you should be prepared to pay the fine." ~

Reflecting On Traffic Signs

There are more than 6,000 road signs in Cranberry, and the responsibility for maintaining most of them falls to the Township. It's a big job, and it's one that Cranberry does remarkably well. But it's a constant battle, and it's one in which the Federal government's highway administration, FHWA, has also become involved. Their concern, driven by a mandate from Congress, is that road signs need to be readable, particularly at night.

Nighttime crashes per mile of travel, according to the National Safety Council, are way above those of daytime driving.

The difficulty of seeing road signs and markings is a significant contributor to fatal crashes.

And the difficulty of seeing road signs and markings is a significant contributor to those fatal crashes. So in 2004, the FHWA issued a revision of its authoritative Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. It provided for testing and improving the nighttime visibility of road signs, including the use of a tongue-twisting high-tech device known as a retroreflector.

Big ticket meters

Cranberry, along with other members of the Butler County Council of Governments, pooled their resources to buy one of the units. Out in the field, public works technicians would press the device, which looks a lot like an oversize radar gun, against a sign's surface. In seconds it would provide a readout indicating how reflective that surface was; the more reflective, the better.

However, using the device was cumbersome. It required downloading its data onto a spreadsheet, analyzing

the spreadsheet for acceptable reflective parameters, and then matching the signs to GPS coordinates. And eventually, the unit itself became unreliable and was pulled from service.

Throughout the country, FHWA heard an outcry for relief – particularly from smaller municipalities for whom the meter was way too pricey to begin with – so the FHWA eventually backed off, at least a little. Instead, it proposed that every unit of government develop standards which would include routine inspections to determine when a sign needed to be replaced. And it offered some alternate methods of deciding whether a sign was sufficiently reflective.

The option Cranberry selected – as did many other communities – was to have an older operator drive past a sign at night in either an SUV or pickup truck made since 2000 – and then to have that person report on its legibility. Specifically, the test driver needs to be at least 60, sitting in a vehicle with a higher, and therefore more difficult, angle of vision than a sedan, and driving a vehicle equipped with the newer headlight systems which were mandated starting in 2000.

The method may not sound all that elegant or scientific, but it does make a point of looking for poorly reflective signs and setting the foundation for a strategy to replace those which fail. Other elements of the Township's comprehensive sign strategy are still under development.

Friday is sign day

"At least one day a week, the traffic staff goes out to attend to all the



What's your sign, man? Cranberry has more than 6,000 road signs and the Township is responsible for maintaining most of them. An inventory of replacements is kept at the Public Works building.

minor repairs and new installations that cropped up during the past week," Traffic Operations Manager Marty McKinney noted. "Pretty much every Friday somebody's on sign duty. So we're ahead of the curve on the federal mandate because we do regular maintenance, we've established an inventory, we know what the criteria are, and we're always working to do a better job than in the past."

A damaged or missing stop sign is a particular concern to the Township. "A stop sign down is an immediate priority," McKinney said. "So we're on call 24/7 to repair or replace downed stop signs. And we replace the speed limit and street name signs as quickly as we are able based on whether it's in stock or has to be special ordered."

But there's one more key element to the Township's maintenance strategy; vigilant residents. "If you see a sign that's in disrepair – whether you can't read it, or it's been defaced by graffiti, or it's down or damaged and isn't doing its job, notify us," McKinney said. "You can reach us either through the website or Customer Service or you can call Public Works. Depending on what type of sign it is, we'll attach a priority to it."

~

Watching Paint Dry At The Sample One-Room Schoolhouse

After 142 years, there are still lessons to be learned at the old schoolhouse. One of them is how to make paint stick.

The 1874 one-room Sample schoolhouse sitting on the Municipal Center's front lawn, which was lovingly restored under the direction of the Cranberry Historical Society and relocated from Rowan Road in 1999, is in remarkably good shape. But a closer look reveals that it really does need some TLC. For one thing, the paint on its clapboard exterior is flaking off, so the building needs to be repainted. Beyond that, the building's wooden window frames have deteriorated to the point where they need to be replaced. As a result, there is preliminary work on both items now underway with various contractors examining the building, offering recommendations, and coming up with cost estimates.

Ever since the schoolhouse was moved to its current location, Public Works personnel have been scraping paint and patching its exterior walls as needed. But those repairs typically lasted just a couple years – fewer than might have been expected. So this year, a representative from PPG's Architectural

Paint division took a look. He sampled the paint and came back with an important finding: there's a lot of moisture trapped underneath the paint. The only way to get the finish to last, he said, would be to strip all the paint from the building, let it dry, use an oil base primer, and finally repaint it. PPG would donate the needed materials and the colors would stay the same – white, black and cranberry red.

Armed with that insight, Mariani and Richards, a company that has done a lot of building restoration in the region, was invited to look into the feasibility of sandblasting the building's walls with a rubber, corncob, baking soda, or some other mild abrasive, to remove its paint. But as an historic landmark, they needed first to make sure that sandblasting wouldn't damage the wood underneath.

Replacement parts

Not surprisingly for a building of its age, some of the exterior boards will need to be replaced, but no wood mill produces board of that type today. So Township Facilities Manager Gary Beltz was able – with the family's permission – to salvage some boards from the back



of the old Meeder house at Rt. 19 and Unionville which had been taken down earlier this year. The house and school were built at approximately the same time and their materials were essentially identical. So replacement boards from the old Meeder home are currently in safe storage, awaiting restoration of the school house exterior.

However, redoing the window frames will be more of a challenge because, as an historic building, they will need to be done using the original panes of glass. Several companies have been contacted to see whether they could produce new frames that resembled the original ones while using the old glass and preserving its mottled character.

The timeline for restoration will largely depend on cost. If it's very expensive, it might be done in phases. "I'd like to get 15-20 years out of it before I have to scrape and paint again," Beltz said. "The interior is in pretty good shape. I've already done some roof work and fixed the bell tower. So I'd like to see it done this fall. But I won't let another winter take it to the point of no return; at the very least we'll go out and seal it up for winter. Then if we have to, we'll start over again. But we're not going to end up in trouble next spring." ~

: PPG's Architectural Paint division came back with an important finding: there's a lot of moisture trapped underneath the paint.



Cranberry's Water Is So Good, Maybe We Ought To Bottle It

These days, Americans have water on the brain. In California it's because there's too little. In Louisiana it's because there's too much. In Washington, Newark and Flint, it's because there's lead. In other parts of the country it's because industrial contamination affects the taste, distorts the color, or changes the chemistry of their water. In fact, according to Gallup, the pollution of drinking water drawn from rivers, lakes and reservoirs has topped Americans' environmental concerns for the past 27 years.

One result, according to a recent Post-Gazette story, is that bottled water is now outselling soda for the first time

• *Bottled water is now outselling*
• *soda for the first time ever.*

ever – despite the fact that compared to tap water, it's about 2,000 times more expensive per gallon and that empty plastic water bottles are themselves a leading source of environmental pollution. But they're not the only source.

E.coli – a family of pathogenic bacteria found in human and animal waste – is another. Tests for E.coli have been conducted for years, and none have ever been detected in Cranberry's water. But it is a source of contamination that Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection takes seriously and recently took additional steps to protect Commonwealth residents against.

Testing, testing

Earlier this year, the agency established a new, more intensive protocol that

municipal water systems need to use in testing for E.coli. The new procedure calls for an increase in the number of test samples drawn each month as well as for broadening the geographic reach of the places tested. Water system operators were directed to develop plans for meeting those requirements and, as of press time, Cranberry's plan was still under DEP review. But it is moving ahead anyway.

To accelerate the reach of Cranberry's water testing, letters soliciting homeowners' help were sent to families in targeted areas of the Township. Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved a \$50 annual credit to any customers in those areas who would allow a Public Works employee draw water samples from a tap in their homes or businesses up to six times a year. In addition, the Township is building permanent test stations in those same areas, but outside of private homes.

Other tests of water quality are constantly underway as well – some more frequently than others. One,

for copper and lead, which is only conducted every three years, was done again this year with barely detectable results. More frequent tests for barium, nitrate, haloacetic acids, chlorine, organic carbon, turbidity and di-Phthalate have continued to turn out well within safe limits.

Bottoms up

Not only that, the water tastes good too, although not everyone believes that it's possible for municipal tap water to taste as good as pricey bottled water. One of the skeptics was the daughter of Cranberry Township Supervisor Bruce Mazzoni. So they decided to put it to the test using four identical glasses, two filled with Cranberry tap water, two filled with upscale bottle water, all at the same temperature. In several attempts she was unable to distinguish the glasses with tap water from those with bottle water. It is a test Mazzoni encourages other Township residents to replicate in their own homes and then to share the results. ~



The Meter Is Running

Cranberry's plan to replace more than 8,000 older analog water meters with new digital ones capable of reporting readings remotely, in near-real time, is underway. Antennas to receive signals from the meters are already in place. Installation of software needed to transform the data transmissions into a billable format for customer accounts is now in progress. Staff recommended a data integration contractor to the Board in September and received authorization to bid for a separate contractor to install the meters, starting early next year. Project completion is anticipated by mid-2018. Residents will be contacted in advance to schedule their installation which takes about 20 minutes and requires access into the home. ~



Municipal Center Shows Its Colors

For years, the front of Cranberry's Municipal Center building was illuminated by a series of powerful up-lamps. Eight fixtures, each burning 400 watts, lit the building's façade to showcase the Township's 25-year old Municipal Center. But aging lamps coupled with a mandate to reduce energy consumption converged earlier this year, and the lamps were taken out of service. In their place an installation of eight LED fixtures, each using 70 watts of electric power, was designed for the building and purchased from Clear Story, Inc. – the same firm which created distinctive lighting designs for PNC Plaza, Bakery Square, Steel Plaza, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, and other high-profile sites in the region. In addition to elevating the Municipal Center's visibility, the lamps are capable of projecting a range of colors, motions and intensities – all of which can be computer-controlled to indicate special or seasonal events. Best of all, because of the energy savings, the payback period for the entire system is less than five years. ~



Cranberry Demystifies MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, abbreviated MS4, is the title of a statewide program that started with the federal EPA and eventually ended up as the responsibility of local governments. It is designed to protect communities against flooding, water pollution, and environmental degradation resulting from poor stormwater management and careless waste disposal practices. The program has a number of elements, and many municipal governments are overwhelmed about finding the best ways to meet their requirements. Cranberry's Engineering & Environmental Services Department, however, has been focused on implementing MS4 for a number of years. So on August 23, Township Waterworks Coordinator Tim Schutzman gave a half-day Water Resource Center Workshop, sponsored by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, to his counterparts from more than 50 local governments around the state about how Cranberry does it. ~



Trash Your Old TV

You can't leave old TVs at the curb for pickup anymore, and a lot of places that used to take them have stopped.



But on Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Cranberry will be sponsoring a TV collection at the Public Works building operated by ESC&R – a commercial waste management and recycling company. However, pre-registration is required. Call ESC&R at least 24 hours ahead of time at 866-815-0016 to let them know you're bringing in an old TV; no other electronics will be accepted that day. The fee for disposal is 60¢ a pound. ESC&R will unload the TV from your vehicle and weigh it at the drop-off site. Payment can be made using cash, check or credit cards. To get to the site, take Ernie Mashuda Drive from Rt. 19 and then turn right. ~



What Happened When Dan Kane Hopped Off The Fence

Only minutes after a guest sat down with firefighter Dan Kane in the

Township's Park Station to talk about his work with Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company, the shrill tones of the station's emergency radio blared out. A Butler County 9-1-1 dispatcher's announcement followed:

Stations 21, 42, 51. Response for possible structure fire. 117 Lewisham Road, Cranberry Township, for something electrical burning under a kitchen sink. It's now 17:45.

Structure fires are relatively rare in Cranberry; most emergency calls involve traffic accidents and malfunctioning automatic alarms. When home fires do occur, they have the potential to become catastrophic very quickly. But the actual extent of danger can only be determined once firefighters arrive at the scene. So, out of an abundance of caution, Butler County 9-1-1 dispatched three different fire companies to respond.

Reflecting on the incident a few days later, Kane explained why so many resources were summoned. "We had two trucks from here – one with a full crew, and a second one with more personnel. We brought the ladder truck out. And we had some Mutual Aid

• *You need a lot of support*
• *because if things start going*
• *bad, they can go **real** bad.*

companies show up. You need a lot of support because if things start going bad, they can go *real* bad. No single fire company has enough people to handle a major issue. And we were lucky because at that time of day – it was right at the end of day shift – people were getting

home from work. That's a lot easier than if it had happened at noon."

Keeping busy

Kane, who was raised in Youngstown, has never been content to sit around with his feet up. Keeping busy is simply part of his DNA. So, after working as an electrical engineer in New Jersey and Connecticut for several years and eventually settling into Cranberry for a job with Curtis-Wright, he kept an eye out for interesting activities that could fill what little down time he still had available after working, caring for the family's two young sons, and pursuing an online Master's degree from Penn State.

What ultimately caught his attention was the Township's volunteer fire company. "I saw that they were looking for volunteers," he recalled. "I was looking for something new that would add to what I was doing. So I started to research the training aspect of it and it looked very interesting, as well as a fun way to help out in the community."

Hesitation

Still, he remained on the fence about signing up. "I was thinking: well, I don't work in Cranberry so I can't be there every time a call goes out. I work in Cheswick, about 40 minutes away. So I'm not here during daylight unless I'm on vacation or home during the weekend. I knew I wouldn't be able to support daylight calls. But it turns out the fire company can use help either way. So if there are people out there on the fence about joining, they should give it a try."



Two years ago, Kane himself decided to hop off the fence. "That was in 2014," he said. "I've gone through all the Essentials courses and took the Firefighter One exam. So now I'm state certified." But any additional training and certification will need to wait until after his Master's program is completed.

In addition to enjoying the training and emergency response aspects of membership, Kane also likes the family-oriented culture of Cranberry's fire company. Although a first-generation firefighter himself, as the father of two sons, he is keenly aware of the multi-generational aspect of fire service.

"There is a lot of family atmosphere here – a lot of fathers and sons. You keep hearing stories about father and son ties where the father is there and then when the son is old enough, he joins. We were on a call last night and two of the firefighters who showed up had just graduated from high school. They're now senior members of the fire company – and their dads are senior members as well." ~

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

What if No One Answered the Call?



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NEEDS YOU • JOIN NOW!

There's a place here for you in emergency response and rescue or administration. Learn how you can be part of our life-changing organization. Contact us: 724-776-1196 or visit www.ctvfc21.org.



Fire Safety Education Program Honored

Responding to emergency calls is the central mission of Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company. But for years, teaching people how to prevent fires and protect themselves in case a fire occurs has also been a major part of their mission. On September 23, the Company was presented with the Chief Robert W. Little Jr. Memorial Fire Safety Education Award by the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association for its outstanding job of providing fire safety education programs to local residents. A commemorative plaque was accompanied with a modest cash award recognizing the Company's instructional programs, led by veteran firefighters Chris DeCree and Jack Carney. Safety classes include the use of a fire safety house trailer, a fire extinguisher simulator, and age-appropriate safety education programs for both adults and children. ~



Fire House Coffee

A visit to the Cranberry Township Volunteer



Fire Company's Park Station will be featured in a Manager's Coffee and Conversation get-together on Monday evening, October 17. In addition to a station tour, the event will include a walk-through of the Fire Safety House trailer which was a gift last year from CTCC, and a hands-on demonstration of the Company's fire extinguisher training simulator – both of which are key elements of the Fire Company's award-winning fire safety education program. The recommendations of a recently completed strategic plan for the Fire Company will be a topic of discussion along with any questions posed by participants. There is no charge to take part in the tour, which begins at 7:00 PM at the Rt. 19 Park Fire Station. No reservations are required either, although for planning purposes, an RSVP call to 724-776-4806, ext. 1089 would be appreciated. ~

Keep The Home Fires Burning – But Safely



Historically, the three main causes of home fires have been smoking, heating equipment, and electrical malfunctions. All of them have decreased in recent years. But candle-related fires are up 125 percent, particularly during the fall and winter months, according to the National Safety Council. The Council strongly encourages the use of smoke alarms as well as carbon monoxide alarms and changing their batteries at least once a year. Other advice includes refraining from burning leaves – which is illegal in Cranberry anyway – learning how to operate a home fire extinguisher, planning and practicing a home escape route, and agreeing on a meeting place outside the home. Be prepared to assist young children, pets and family members with special needs in evacuating your house in case of fire. ~



724-776-4806

www.cranberrytownship.org

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CranberryTownship.org/Collection
724-265-5328

TV ONLY

Recycling

Event

**Saturday, Oct. 8
9 AM - 1 PM
Public Works
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ECS&R will manage
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No other electronics will
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Golly! I Forgot To Pay My Taxes. If you haven't paid your school district real estate tax yet, you've just missed the two percent discount period which ended September 30. But you can still pay it at face value without any penalty until the end of November. However, if you missed paying your Butler County-Cranberry Township real estate tax, you're already in the penalty box with a ten percent fee added onto what you already owe as long as you pay it before the end of December. After that, you'll have to deal with the famously unsmiling Butler County Tax Claim Bureau. In the meantime, though, if you have refinanced your mortgage and are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, you can contact Tax Collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or stop by his Municipal Center office, to arrange payment. ~