

# Cranberrytoday

SUMMER 2017

## Community Days Are Baaaack!

Ah, yes. Remember Cranberry's good old Community Days? Where everything was fun and nothing was boring? Those are the Community Days people long for. So for them, there's good news: from July 13 to 15, they'll get what they want; 2017 is the Year of Traditional Community Days. Everything that worked is coming back in force.

Multiple Treasure Hunts with great prizes – including a private tour of the Penguins locker room – will begin even before the official start of Community Days. So will Martinis with Monet, a ticketed cocktail event that kicks off the Municipal Center's Cranberry Artists Network Summer Art Expo.

The Cranberry Classic Car Cruise will be back on Thursday afternoon. A series of free afternoon and evening concerts by an assortment of musicians and singers from throughout Western Pennsylvania has been lined up to perform at the Rotary Amphitheatre. Santa Claus, wearing a festive Hawaiian shirt, will return from the North Pole for a welcome summer engagement. Free inflatable attractions for kids will be anchored in the park's tennis courts.

One of those courts will be devoted to demonstrations of pickleball – a fast-growing sport which will have eight

new courts specifically designed for the game available for play in Graham Park by this fall. A local governing organization – the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association – will also be formally launched at the Community Days celebration.

A full-featured carnival, offering an assortment of rides, games and snack attractions, will be open for business all three days of the event.

The Battle of the Barrel – a wet and muddy competition among area fire companies to claim hose spray supremacy – will make its long-awaited return on Saturday afternoon following a four-year hiatus. Firefighters will also be on hand to demonstrate their technique for extracting people from wrecked cars.

*Booths representing a variety of business and service organizations will be open all three days.*

More than 100 booths representing a variety of business and service organizations will be open all three days to greet, sell, explain, demonstrate, recruit and even give stuff away to



interested visitors. All booths will be positioned on the Park's lower level.

Ken Tynan, the chain saw sculptor who created the Seneca Village tableaux in Graham Park will be back, working on his latest creation. A monumental metal sculpture by Butler-based Bill Secunda will also be on display. More than 50 yarn creations by local knitting and crochet enthusiasts will be enveloping trees and posts stationed throughout the park.

Food trucks and kiosks surrounding the Amphitheatre will have specialties available for sale to suit every taste and nationality.

CTCC will formally announce its 2018 Project of the Year: a disk golf course to be constructed in North Boundary Park. A temporary six-hole demonstration course will be set up in Community Park to show guests how the game is played,

*Continued on page 4*

A Publication of

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**CRANBERRY**  
TOWNSHIP

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



### Park Here

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

I've lived and worked in Cranberry most of my life. During that time, the Township

invested millions of dollars in its park, leisure, and recreational resources – way more than just about any other community our size in Western Pennsylvania. So, a logical question might be: was that really a good idea? Shouldn't we have put the money to some other use or at least slashed the taxes we collect to finance those parks?

The short answer is that those parks and facilities have proved to be a great investment, not only in terms of creating wonderful community assets, but also in terms of dollars and cents. Let me explain.

Public swimming pools and waterparks rarely earn enough for their own upkeep. Mars had to sell their pool last year. Evans City is struggling just to keep theirs open. North Park pool has become run down and outdated. In fact last year, they weren't even able to open the pool's deep end. But Cranberry's Waterpark is thriving; it's actually making money.

***Our long-standing policy is that everything we offer should be managed in a way that earns back its cost.***

There are several reasons why. One of the most important is our long-standing policy that everything we offer should be managed in a way that earns back its cost. While a zero-balance cash flow for our facilities is the minimum we strive for, we work hard to go beyond that, and with Cranberry Highlands,

for example, we do. That surplus allows us to repay the initial debt and keep going as an exceptionally well-maintained, nationally-recognized golf course.

But, you may wonder, how can a community of just 30,000 manage to do all that? After all, we're not some big metropolis that can afford to build parks and pools and golf courses and gyms on whim. Well, the answer is that we invite our neighbors to use and to help pay for those facilities.

#### **Immigrants, guests, and visitors**

In fact, about three quarters of the people who play Cranberry Highlands come from out of town. Just look at its parking lot on a nice day; you'll find license plates from all over the place. And at the Waterpark, about two-thirds of the daily admissions are from people who don't live in Cranberry. Even our Athletic Associations, which contract with the Township to help finance our playing fields out of members' dues, include a significant number of families who live outside of Cranberry.

On top of that, our recreational facilities draw individuals, families and teams from outside the Township who eat in local restaurants, stay in local hotels, buy from local stores, and in other ways bring new money into Cranberry. In 2015 alone, according to a study by 4Ward Planning Associates, visitors to our recreational facilities spent between \$4.4 and \$5 million dollars in Cranberry, supporting around 50 jobs and generating more than \$250,000 in state and local taxes.

Every year, our Township Parks & Recreation Department offers a catalog full of recreational, learning and fitness



programs at reasonable prices for people of all ages, including many who come from outside Cranberry. Some classes are offered by our own staff, others by contractors. But they're not alone. There are also several first-rate private recreational facilities in Cranberry including the Schneider Family YMCA, the Lemieux Sports Complex, X-Cel Gymnastics and the Fun Fore All amusement park. And our own programs are designed to synchronize, rather than compete, with theirs.

So we welcome these private recreation providers, just as we welcome visitors from outside of Cranberry to take advantage of our own facilities and help to share their cost. But our overriding goal is not to make money; it's to provide our residents with an affordable high quality experience, wrapped in excellent customer service – to make Cranberry a place where someone could find vacation-level recreational resources without leaving home.

It's one of the reasons that *Bloomberg Businessweek* named us the best place in Pennsylvania to raise a family.

And one more thing: Cranberry doesn't have a traditional downtown. Instead, our parks have become the place where community residents really come together. And that alone would be worth the price. ~

You can reach **Mike Manipole** by email at [mike.manipole@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:mike.manipole@cranberrytownship.org)

# Yarn Bombers Strike Again

If you're new to the concept, it's important to understand that yarn bombing is different than carpet bombing. It's also important to realize that yarn bombers are not terrorists. In fact, they're your neighbors, at least in Cranberry. And they're making the community more attractive than ever.

This year, Cranberry Township Yarn Bombing Coordinator Brenda Wittman and her core group of knitting enthusiasts will be displaying their yarn creations, together with those of numerous other groups and individuals who have contributed their work to the Community Days exhibit since 2013. In fact, she points out, more than 100 people, including some as young as eight, have worked on the project during its four years in Cranberry.

Almost all of those creations are still in use. At the end of August, after the

*After the wraps have been on display for about six weeks, they will be taken down, indexed, and stored safely for use the following year.*

wraps have been on display for about six weeks, they will be taken down, indexed,

and stored safely for use the following year. Thus far, only one out of the more than 50 items ever created for the project have been rendered unusable by weathering.

## Hooked on trees

"We wrapped eleven trees the first year," Brenda recalled. "This year we'll have close to 45 as well as at least nine pipes." Each of the 7-foot long, 8-inch diameter plastic pipes, donated by Cranberry Supply, will be slipped over the wooden bollards by the entrance to Community Park for display. Each is wrapped in an original knit creation using the same red, white and blue tinted yarns, and each required at least 25 hours of work to produce. However, other colors and other designs are also displayed on trees throughout the park. All of them carry small plaques identifying the creator as well as the name of their work.

Although creating original yarn bomb works can be an enjoyable activity, the idea of wrapping trees and tall tree branches is intimidating to some prospective program participants, Brenda acknowledged. But that shouldn't discourage someone from participating. "We have people who will install it so they don't have to," she said, noting that Cleveland Brothers has donated the use of a lift and that the

husband of one of the yarn bombers serves as its operator. "If someone is willing to do a wrap, we will find someone to install it for them."

## Closely knit groups

During the yarn bombing program's first year, a group of knitters and crocheters based at St. Ferdinand's Church was heavily involved in creating the wraps. Although that group is no longer active in the program, the items they created continue to be installed. Other groups involved have included the YMCA, Girl Scouts, Butler County Spinners and Weavers, Haine Middle School students, the Knit and Crochet Festival, the Cranberry Township Ladies Auxiliary, and many, many more.

Brenda, who has done crocheting for more than 20 years and who teaches the craft to beginners at Michael's, has enjoyed tremendous feedback from the yarn bombing project. "How do people react when they see it? They love it," she said. "The ladies and I go out to the park periodically, checking to make sure they're okay. And we see moms and dads taking photos of their children beside their favorite tree. We get such positive feedback. It's been fabulous!"

An invitation to participate in the program is open ended. Anyone with an interest in any form of yarn art is welcome to join. A Facebook page for Cranberry Township Yarn Creations provides details about the group's monthly meeting arrangements, and you don't even need to live in Cranberry to join. ~

**A tall yarn.** Cranberry Township Yarn Bombing Coordinator Brenda Wittman stands by a likeness of Uncle Sam, created by fellow yarn artist Linda Osborne, along with wrapped pipe creations by other members of the Cranberry Township Yarn Creations group. All of their work will be on full display in Community Park from Community Days through the end of August.



# Community Days Are Baaaack! *Continued from front cover*

along with a hole-in-one competition for prizes.

And a heart-thumping fireworks spectacular will close out the

celebration beginning at 9:30 Saturday night.

There is no charge for admission, although a \$5 donation for parking on

or adjacent to the park grounds will benefit Cranberry Township Community Chest and its many beneficiary organizations. ~

## Free Music, Movies Highlight Summer Park Entertainment

*Cranberry's lineup of free outdoor summer entertainment, which began June 22, runs through August 1 with six evening concerts in Community Park, three Friday lunchtime concerts at the Municipal Center gazebo, four feature movies at the Community Park Rotary Amphitheater, and four concerts as part of CTCC's Community Days celebration, July 13-15. Starting in July, they include:*



### In Community Park...

**Monday, July 3.** Air National Guard Band of the Northeast. 7:00 PM. This 36-member ensemble, originally formed in 1942 in South Dakota, currently covers 13 states in the mid-Atlantic region, performing martial music for military ceremonies and civilian events at home and overseas.

**Thursday, July 6.** The El Dorado Band. 7:00 PM. This rock-country band, formed in 2003, features five Beaver County musicians in performances marked by powerful vocals, blazing guitars, honky-tonk piano, and a tight rhythm section.

**Thursday, July 20.** Ferris Bueller's Revenge. 7:00 PM. This Pittsburgh-based party band is celebrating its 16th season performing hits from the 1980s including songs by Rick Springfield, Bon Jovi, George Michael, and Poison.

**Thursday, July 27.** Elvis Lives. 7:00 PM. Randy Galioto's tribute to The King of Rock and Roll captures the essence of a live '70s show with music ranging from Elvis' early days to his performances in Las Vegas.

### In the Municipal Center Gazebo...

**Friday, July 28.** Keystone State Musical Theater. Noon. Faculty and staff of this performance teaching school will present classics from the golden age of musicals along with favorites from today's Broadway blockbusters.

**Friday, August 4.** Rock Jazz Trio. Noon. This Grove City threesome, whose musical core includes guitar, violin and upright bass in addition to vocals, performed at more than 30 events last summer.

**Friday, August 11.** Craig Zinger. Noon. Former CPA Craig Zinger delivers a Victor Borge-style show of entertaining original parodies featuring his vocals, piano, and audience interaction.

### Community Days at Rotary Amphitheatre...

**Thursday, July 13.** Broadway in the Park. 6:00. Keystone State Musical Theatre presents an anthology of songs from classic musicals to greatest current hits.

**Thursday, July 13.** Phase IV Band. 7:30. The five-member Phase IV Band plays an assortment of music covering such hits as Any Way You Want It, American Girl, Folsom Prison, Brown Eyed Girl, Sweet Home Alabama, and Margaritaville.

**Friday, July 14.** School of Rock. 5:30. Students and instructors from the Wexford School of Rock strut their stuff along the way to rock stardom with songs from some of the best-known musicians of our time.

**Friday, July 14.** Bon Journey. 7:30 PM. Bon Journey, a high-energy, five-member band formed in 2006, brings the hits of its two namesake rock groups to life.

**Saturday, July 15.** Broadway in the Park. 3:30. Keystone State Musical Theatre presents an anthology of songs from classic musicals to the greatest hits of today.

**Saturday, July 15.** Totally 80s. 8:00. This seven-member band is totally focused on the decade from which it takes its name. Music includes, Girls Just Want to Have Fun, Jessie's Girl, Beat It, Don't Stop Believin' and Crazy for You.

### Movies at Community Park Rotary Amphitheater.

*Sponsored by Armstrong Utilities and Cranberry Township Parks & Recreation*

**Tuesday, July 25.** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows. 8:50 PM. In this 2016 action-adventure comedy, a group of mutated turtle warriors emerges from the shadows to protect their New York City home against the notorious Krang.

**Tuesday, August 1.** The Lego Batman Movie. 8:45 PM. In this 2017 animated feature, Bruce Wayne must not only deal with the criminals of Gotham City, but also the responsibility of raising a boy he adopted.

## Cranberry Rolls Out Pickleball With Relish

It may not sound that way, but pickleball is a serious game. And it's rolling into Cranberry with gusto.

Pickleball, which looks like tennis played on a half-size court, uses paddles instead of rackets and wiffle balls instead of standard tennis balls. As a result, pickleball play is like regular tennis that includes elements traditionally associated with badminton and ping pong. It can be played by either two or four players at a time, using a scoring system similar to tennis.

Originally created as a game for children in the early 1960s, pickleball has grown tremendously in popularity, especially among players over 50. Although primarily played as an informal pastime, it is also played at very competitive levels with its own national association, ranking system and championship tournaments.

This fall, Cranberry's Graham Park will boast eight new pickleball courts as part of the CTCC SportCourts project – the showpiece of the park's Phase II development. Already, a nascent Cranberry Township Pickleball Association, CTPA, is being organized under the leadership of pickleball enthusiast and Township Supervisor Bruce Mazzoni. It draws an important distinction between those who play casually and those who compete seriously. Discount dues for the 2017-2018 season are \$20 a year for casual social players and \$40 for competitive

players. Starting in 2018, both rates go up by \$20.

### A garnish of cash

"The first thing the CTPA will do is to help pay for building the eight courts," Mazzoni explained. "The second is that we have the option to expand to 16 courts which would also be financed by membership dues.

"Social memberships are for those who play just for fun. Competitive membership means you're going to be rated on a scale from 2.5 to 5.0 in increments of .5 points," he said. "It's frustrating to play against someone less proficient or much better than you are. So, for example, during certain hours, courts will be reserved by player ratings to assure competitive play. Rather than mixing them all together as almost everyone else does and which they all hate, we're going to rate players and give them special reserved times during the week that they can play."

Like baseball, football and the other athletic associations operating in Cranberry, members of the CTPA will have exclusive use of the courts during certain hours as part of their agreement with the Township. Mondays through Fridays, CTPA members could play between dawn and 1:00 PM and then again from 5:00 PM until dark. On Saturday and Sunday, they could play from dawn until 1:00 PM. All other times would be for public play. CTPA members will also have exclusive opportunities



to practice and drill in the game's key moves to increase their skill level.

### In a league of its own

But pickleball isn't baseball. "The pickleball association is a little different than the other sports associations," Mazzoni noted. "It's not based on teams; it's based on individuals and on organizing those individuals. "We'll be doing ladders and round-robin games, to see how well you play with different partners of the same rating. The league will be a great way to develop your partner skills and have a dedicated partner to get better with."

*The Valhalla of pickleball is to play with people of your own skill level on a regular basis.*

"The Valhalla of pickleball is to play with people of your own skill level on a regular basis and to have a path toward increasing that skill level," Mazzoni continued. "Cranberry Township wants to be the hub of pickleball. We looked at dozens of other pickleball associations before organizing CTPA and we have a lot of advantages being associated with the Township. We're able to use the Communications department's talent to promote it, IT's talent to set up the website, Parks & Rec to bring in the membership, Public Works to maintain it, etc. That's huge. So Cranberry Township is a very important part of making this a success."

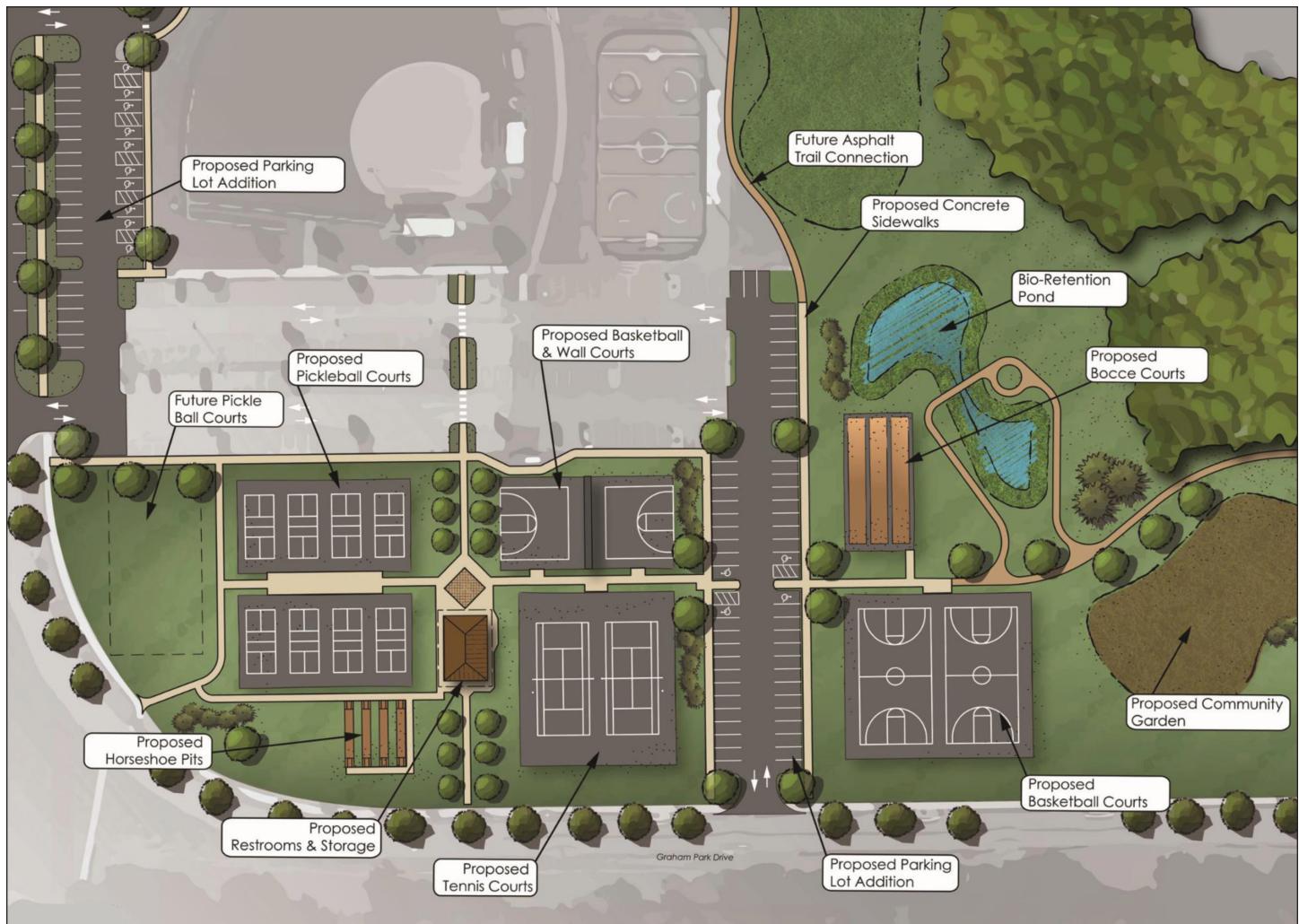
More information is available at [www.CTPApickleball.com](http://www.CTPApickleball.com). ~

## Learn Pickleball From A Master

Cranberry Township Pickleball Association will present a free pickleball clinic at 9:00 AM on July 17 in the Municipal Center gym. Strategies & Tactics to Better Pickleball will be taught by Jeff Shank of The Villages, a 55+ active adult retirement community in Florida. Shank is a top-ranked 5.0 player and has won Gold Medals at the 50+ USAPA Nationals in both mixed and men doubles. He was a finalist at this year US Open in Naples. Go to [www.CTPApickleball.com](http://www.CTPApickleball.com) for more details.



## SportCourts In Graham Park Look Toward Fall Opening



The grassy 12-acre field at the southern end of Graham Park near its entrance is about to undergo a permanent transformation; the CTCC SportCourts at Graham Park – CTCC's 2017 Project of the Year – is on the brink of fulfillment.

By October, when it's expected to be ready for play, it will include eight pickleball courts, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, four horseshoe pits, and three bocce ball courts along with a multi-sport practice area, a restroom and maybe even a garden. It will be a major step toward implementing the Township's recently updated comprehensive plan that calls for tennis and basketball courts in every park.

All ADA requirements will be met within the new complex. Sidewalks will be wide

enough for two wheelchairs to pass. All slope grades will be within federal requirements. There will be no stairs. Even the playing courts are designed to accommodate wheelchairs going in, out and between the courts.

### Underground improvements

But building a playing surface is actually the final step in creating a permanent sports venue. First, those courts need to rest atop a series of infrastructure improvements including grading, utility lines, sidewalks, roadways, parking and restrooms – all of which are being undertaken by the Township in collaboration with CTCC.

Those steps are now well underway. Back in May, stakes were already in

the ground to demarcate the outer limits of the project's land disturbance. Surveyors have been double-checking their elevation data. The corners of future playing courts have been marked off, together with the location of erosion and sedimentation control tools associated with new construction.

Clearing vegetation along with any structures in the designated area will be followed by stripping away the topsoil and beginning rough excavation for, among other things, the water and sanitary sewer lines serving the project's new restroom building. Work by three separate contractors – a general contractor assigned to do the building construction, an electrical contractor

*Continued on page 7*

## SportCourts In Graham Park *Continued from page 6*

to provide security systems and electrical service, and a plumber to install the bathroom, is advancing under the supervision of Township Project Coordinator Lorin Meeder.

*The roadway that currently serves the park will be shifted further toward the property's western edge to create more room for parking.*

Then there's roadwork. A segment of the roadway that currently serves the park will be shifted further toward the property's western edge to create more room for parking that will be shared by SportCourts patrons, Miracle League families and dek hockey fans. But what about traffic in the meantime?

### Driving to and through the park

"There are several different plans for

keeping ingress and egress open during the work," Meeder explained. "One is to route traffic through existing parking lots and use the old road while the new one is being built. Another is to create temporary roadways between parking lots. That issue will be addressed by the contractor, who will be responsible for keeping those roads open all summer long.

"The end of July and into August is when much of that work will really begin," he said. "But we don't visualize the park's western access through Park Place becoming heavily used. When you're back there, it's hard to figure out where you're going and where you come out. It's an option, but not a good one and we're not encouraging people to use it."

The project's sport-specific fundraising efforts brought out different constituencies willing to finance, use, and manage their respective playing courts. But by press time, plans for the nature and garden area were

still in flux. A preliminary design was prepared several years ago, and the Southern Butler County Garden Club is enthusiastic about providing volunteers to plant it. But, as the Club's president points out, gardens tend to evolve, so its final form will likely emerge over time.

In the meantime, water for irrigation will be provided at the garden area. A wet/dry pond there which is part of a stormwater control system can eventually be made into an environmental area. Naturalized swales will be planted with a mix of wet-tolerant plants while extensive gravel beds beneath the courts handle some of the excess stormwater. And the park's growing trail system will be linked to both the courts complex and garden area, whatever the garden's status happens to be at the time. ~

## Everybody loves a little TRASH TALK.

### Here's ours:

- Use **BLUE** carts for recycling.
- Items must be **INSIDE** the cart.
- **NO** plastic bags, please.



More info: [CranberryTownship.org/Recycling](http://CranberryTownship.org/Recycling)

## Team Spirit

Campers enrolled in Camp Cranberry during the first week of June showed their home team spirit by running around a giant GO PENS lawn sign in North Boundary Park preceding the Pittsburgh Penguins' latest Stanley Cup championship win. As the host to the Pen's second home at the Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry Springs, Township residents feel a special relationship with their team. ~



# A little more **TRASH TALK.**

- Put your carts at the curb the night before your collection day.**
- Carts should be 2 ft. apart and at least 5 ft. from a mailbox or other free-standing objects, and not blocked by parked vehicles.**
- Lids must be closed.**
- Prepaid tags are needed to have items collected outside of the GRAY-TOP ONLY carts.**



More info: [CranberryTownship.org/Collection](http://CranberryTownship.org/Collection)

## Bike Rodeo Roundup

Riding bikes is fun for kids – as well as for adults.



But it can also be dangerous. On Saturday, July 22, a Bike Safety Rodeo will be held on the Kids Castle Playground parking lot in Cranberry Township's Community Park between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM to offer free bike inspections, helmet fitting, and information about the laws that apply to bicycle use in Cranberry. There is no charge for admission to the Rodeo, which is jointly sponsored by Cranberry Elks, AAA East Central, and Trek of Pittsburgh, along with the Cranberry Township police and EMS. Everyone participating in the Rodeo is required to bring their own bicycle and to wear a helmet. Free refreshments, giveaways and prizes, including a chance to win a \$250 gift card to the Trek of Pittsburgh Bike Shop, will be offered at the event. Incase of rain, the Rodeo will be held the following Saturday, July 29. ~



## In The Garden

You are cordially invited to visit a series of private gardens in Cranberry and eastern Beaver County. The Southern Butler County Garden Club is organizing its ninth annual self-guided Garden Tour on Saturday, July 15 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. A Vendors Village with a variety of handmade garden-inspired items for sale will be operating at one of the garden stops on the tour. Door prizes and several "Gardener's Delight" raffle baskets will also be given away. Pre-sale tickets are \$20 by mailing a check to the Club at P.O. Box 454, Gibsonia, PA 15044, along with a self-addressed envelope. \$25 tickets will be available in the Municipal Center lobby between 9:00 and 10:00 AM on the day of the tour. ~

## Fishing Secrets

Former Steeler defensive end Brett Keisel – a lifelong recreational fisherman – was tapped by Field & Stream to host a fishing clinic and share his angling secrets with children ages eight to thirteen at the Graham Park fishing pond on May 9. Altogether, 13 young fishing enthusiasts, together with their parents, attended the event which was held as a fundraiser for the Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation. ~



# Welcome To Party Township



Thinking about a block party for your neighborhood? So are a lot of other Cranberry residents. And Township officials are thinking that way too. But their thinking involves more than abstract ideas about festivity.

This summer, Cranberry acquired a trailer packed full of party supplies – tables, chairs, game boards, traffic cones, trash containers, a canopy and more – all courtesy of Penn

Power, Cranberry Eagle, and CTCC. It's available, free of charge, to help neighborhood homeowner associations carry out their block party plans. Public Works will even deliver and pick it up when the party's over.

Why has the Township become a big time party promoter? "We want to generate goodwill within Cranberry's neighborhoods and create a small town feeling where you really get to know your neighbors," Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee explained. "It's sometimes referred to as building social capital. Cranberry has exploded over the last 15 years. But the ideal of a small town is powerful and has enduring value. So the township wants to be a part of bringing its people together."

## Plan ahead

Use of the trailer and its supplies is limited to neighborhoods

**Know your neighbors.** Residents of Park Place enjoy one another's company during a Township-supported block party this spring.

within the jurisdiction of Cranberry. It's first-come, first-served, although it's not available for private parties. To reserve it, neighborhood organizers need to go to online. On Cranberry's website, under the Township Services tab, there is a category called Communications, and under that is a page called Block Parties. Download and print it to fill out the application paper or submit it online to let the Township know you're interested.

Indicate on the form whether you would like to have any of the Township's emergency services attend your party. If they're available, that will be arranged.

Once the date is approved, the Township will make arrangements to have Public Works deliver the trailer to the designated neighborhood location. The applicant will receive an information packet including the combination for the trailer's door locks as well as several free trash tags. Unloading and properly reloading the trailer is the responsibility of the HOA members hosting the party.

*We want to create a small town feeling where you really get to know your neighbors.*

## Save, Spend, Celebrate

"The idea is to make the cost of holding a block party a non-issue," McKee said. "You can take the money you would have spent on those essentials and spend it on catered food, a bounce house, some other amenity, or even on other parties throughout the year. And if you're a business interested in block party sponsorship, just contact us; we'll be happy to talk it over with you."

**Cranberry would like to help your neighborhood host a block party!**

Find out about our BLOCK PARTY TRAILER:

**CranberryTownship.org/BlockParty**

# Upcoming Events

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**August 10**  
SVSD Foundation Gift of  
Hope Golf Classic, Cranberry  
Highlands

**August 12**  
Sheriff's Office Gun Licensing,  
9 AM - 2 PM, Council Chambers

**August 27**  
Military Appreciation Day  
at the Waterpark

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Import events to your calendar with  
iCalendar on our website!

### July 4

Township Offices & Library closed.  
Waterpark & Golf Course open.  
(Trash, recycling & yard waste  
collections delayed by one day this  
week.)

### July 6

Cranberry Artists Network Summer  
Show, Municipal Center during  
regular hours.

### July 12

Martini's With Monet, 7 PM,  
Municipal Center  
Tickets & Info: CTChest.org

### July 13-15

CTCC Community Days, Rides,  
Booths, Entertainment,  
Community Park on Rt. 19  
Additional Events:  
July 13- Cruisin' Cranberry  
July 15- Community Chase 5K,  
Lions' Pancake Breakfast, Fireworks.  
Info: CTChest.org

### July 22

Bike Safety Rodeo, Community Park,  
10 am - 2 pm

### July 30

Military Appreciation Day  
at the Waterpark

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### September 4

Township Offices & Library closed.  
Waterpark & Golf Course open.  
(Trash, recycling & yard waste collections  
delayed by one day this week.)

### July 15, August 19, September 16

ECS&R Hazardous Waste  
Collection; (By appointment; Fees apply)  
866-815-0016

**More Details & Info:**  
[CranberryTownship.org/Calendar](http://CranberryTownship.org/Calendar)

### TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

July 27, Aug 3, Aug 31, Sept 7, Sept 28  
6:30pm, Council Chambers

#### PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION

July 31, Aug 7, Aug 28, Sept 5, Sept 25  
6pm, Council Chambers

#### ZONING HEARING BOARD (As Needed)

July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18  
7:30pm, Council Chambers



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**THREE DAYS OF FAMILY FUN  
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Carnival Rides,  
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Attractions, Arts Festival,  
Cruisin' Cranberry,  
Community Chase 5K  
Games, Concerts,  
Fireworks & More!

**Info: CTChest.org**



## How Cranberry Highlands Navigated The Changing Contours Of Golf

Cranberry Highlands, designed by renowned golf architect Bill Love and honored by Golf Digest as Pennsylvania's best municipal golf course, is doing very well, thank you. With approximately 30,000 rounds played every year, it's hard to find a tee time when the weather's nice – particularly on weekends.

But even though Cranberry Highlands is flourishing, the years that followed its 2002 opening haven't been easy on the golf business. That's led to a shakeout in the traditionally staid world of golf.

Since the start of the millennium, a number of private and semi-private golf courses in the region have closed. And during that entire time, no new ones have been built, resulting in a net loss of golfers and golf facilities in Western Pennsylvania.

It's not just Western Pennsylvania. The National Golf Foundation estimated that 400,000 people left the sport in 2013 alone.

A 2014 ESPN story quotes the former president of TaylorMade – a leading maker of golf equipment – on golf's decline. "Every macro-indicator we've looked at for the past 20 years – rounds played, number of minorities playing, women coming into the game – all say that there's fewer people playing. Young people entering the game after high school and 18- to 30-year-olds, are down 35 percent in the last 10 years. I don't like where the game looks like it's going," he said.

*2017 marks Cranberry Highland's 15th season as one of the state's top municipal golf courses.*

Yet Cranberry Highlands has been a noteworthy exception, and 2017 marks

its 15th season as one of the state's top municipal golf courses. Cranberry Highlands was conceived, designed and run to fulfill the vision of the community – a community that played an active role in formulating it. That vision was to create an asset to complement the quality of life that Cranberry is known for and to support the life-time sport of golf. By every measure, it has succeeded.

That success involved more than the exceptional level of maintenance for which it was already known; it also involved building a new constituency for golf to replace the one which bottomed out after the 2008 recession, when fewer people were able to pay their greens fees, and the 2009 meltdown of golf icon Tiger Woods.

### Rebuilding constituency

"We not only sustained our base of players, we saw an increase in the number of golfers," Golf Course Operations Manager Craig Walker pointed out. "But we need to continue introducing new players to the game, hence our Junior lessons and Junior clinics. Our ladies' clinics are also huge; women are very interested in playing golf. And we keep looking at ways of getting the new generation into the game – we have to work to get them involved." At the same time, however,

people's motives for learning to play golf vary.

"Some people get started for business reasons. Some get started for fun. Some get involved because it's a sport and they're very competitive," he explained. "For years, Seneca Valley struggled to get girls to play on its golf team. But now they have kids who want to be involved in the sport. If a high school girl can play well, there may be a college scholarship for her. So now they're working on building a feeder program just for girls."

That represents a sea change for a sport in which women and girls weren't always welcome. "Diversity is the reason you have public golf courses," Walker said. "The first golf courses were private. Only select people were able to play them. It goes back to the days of the good ole' boys network which was for men only. That's why country clubs built pools – so the wife and kids could hang out there while the husband played golf. Even where ladies were allowed on the course, there were only certain days and times when they could play.

"But the vision for Cranberry Highlands was to be all-inclusive," he said. "It's still that way today, and we keep on improving in order to attract new players and meet our golfers' expectations." ~



# Virtual Firm Produces Actual Firmware

Nick Anthony is on a quest for the Holy Grail. A Cranberry-based physicist turned engineer, Anthony's pursuit carries him deep into the heart of electronic devices. There, he plies his arcane specialty, designing firmware – the instructions embedded into electronic components that enable circuit boards, microprocessors and IC chips to carry out software commands.

Over the years, he has conducted his highly specialized craft as a consultant for companies in a dizzying array of industries, including five years as a staff member of Westinghouse nuclear. It is the sort of specialty that most manufacturing and defense firms occasionally need. So he provides it on demand.

But his own company, PiMios, is looking for a bigger payoff. In the world of advanced technology, that means finding a way to create something once and then get paid for it over and over again. That's technology's Holy Grail. Microsoft's Office is a classic example of recurring revenue; once the upfront work and expense of creating it is done, the rest simply involves licensing it out to millions of paying users.

However, you can't do that unless you've created something that millions of users would want, need and willingly pay for. Finding that sort of opportunity in the world of embedded firmware is very much on Anthony's mind these days. Now, after pivoting his business model several times to optimize the search, he may have found a candidate.

## Gone fishing

The AngLR Tracker is a thumb-size gadget that can be attached to any fishing rod. It wirelessly sends relevant details of the customer's fishing activity to their smart phone including data about casts, catches, location, weather, water conditions, moon phase, and

tackle recommendations. Anthony created and tested the unit's custom circuit board along with its proprietary algorithms. Dick's Sporting Goods currently sells the device for \$130.

But can a fishing accessory aimed at compulsive fly fishermen become the Microsoft of firmware? Maybe not, but it could be an opening wedge. Dave Kelly, who works the marketing side of PiMios, is encouraged. "Where else could something like that be used?" he asks rhetorically. "Biking, hiking, kayaking, mountain climbing, parachuting," he replies. "You can fill pages with different applications for this type of device."

In the meantime, Anthony continues to explore other projects which might lead to recurring revenue. Although still very

*Explorations include conversations with Cranberry Township staff about municipal issues like traffic patterns, water analysis, and sewage treatment.*

preliminary, those explorations include conversations with Cranberry Township staff about municipal issues like traffic patterns, water analysis, and sewage treatment – areas where special-purpose electronics could provide new insights and control opportunities that improve government performance. If a product eventually emerges from those early discussions, it could be of value to municipalities everywhere.

## Collaboration

The search for sources of recurring revenue is far from unique to PiMios – whose name is an acronym for Propel



**Give a man a fish...** Cranberry entrepreneur Nick Anthony, co-creator of AngLR Tracker, holds the case and electronics of his company's rod-mounted device that records, analyzes and transmits a world of relevant data about each catch to the angler's cell phone.

Innovation; Make it Open Source – a concept important to Anthony and to others in the tech industry eager to build on one another's work. But his company's organization is unusual. It is a specialized engineering services firm without employees. Instead, Anthony has compiled a Rolodex of highly accomplished engineers and other specialists from all over the country with whom he can work on projects using Internet tools. Most he's never even met.

He is also generating business partnerships with whom he can jointly develop products and share the benefit of their intellectual property.

With a virtual company that could set itself up anywhere in the world, why Cranberry? "The easy answer is that I bought a house here when I worked for Westinghouse," he explains. "But where are you going to go that's better than here? Cranberry is leading-edge. It's under awesome leadership. They have the right infrastructure in place. And I'm centrally located. I can be where I need to be within a matter of two hours. There's a lot going on within a two-hour radius." ~

*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.*

## Exit Wounds

According to Cranberry EMS Director Jeff Kelly, 16 of the 26 children



## STOP THE BLEED

and adults who died at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012 could have been saved had tourniquets been available in the building and used in a timely fashion. The unstaunched blood loss associated with their wounds proved to be fatal. Blocking the blood loss from injuries of every sort has spawned a nationwide program called Stop the Bleed. Cranberry Township is poised to be among the first full police departments in the region to have gone through a full staff training. Both UPMC and AGH have been strongly supportive of the movement whose goals include having tourniquets on the belt of every police officer and kits that include bandaging, stuffing and tourniquets anywhere there's an AED station in addition to training ordinary citizens on how to use them until an EMS arrives. ~

## Police Officers Honored

On March 28, courage combined with neighborhood knowledge to alert Cranberry police Corporal Christopher Zevola and Patrol Officer Victor Korol to the possibility that people were still inside a burning home on Sherwood Drive. When they heard telltale sounds from inside the house after responding to a 911 call phoned in by a passing mail carrier, the two officers entered the building, wearing only their service uniforms, and alerted the sleeping men to the danger. Both men escaped unharmed.

Recognizing the two officers' heroism, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors, on April 27, presented them with Police Department's Lifesaving Award for extraordinary performance in the line of duty. ~



## Township Police Rise To The Challenge

Members of Cranberry's police department have been absorbed in a unique health and fitness program since December. By voluntarily following a protocol of fitness training, the program – Elite Police FIT – encourages members of the department to increase their ability to respond to the types of emergencies that often face police officers, while minimizing their likelihood of injury. In mid-June, four Township officers who ranked highest in the program's fitness assessment went to Pearl, Mississippi to participate in the 16th Annual National LawFit Challenge – a competition for police officers from throughout the country that tests and scores participants on a series of job-related strength, agility and stamina events. Their trip was undrwritten by Performance Inspired, a Cranberry-based nutritional supplement company. Representing Cranberry: Rob Capezio, Mark Shields, Randy Bauer and Ed Horan. For a first-time appearance at the event, Cranberry's team more than held its own. ~



## Green Light? Go!

Traffic movement along Rt. 19 recently got a bit of help from PennDOT. A grant for \$138,000 from the state's Green Light Go program will enable Cranberry to transform five traffic lights along the highway from clock-driven timing cycles to demand-adaptive signaling. Once installed, only one more signal will need to be updated to complete the entire system upgrade throughout the highway's five miles in Cranberry. The Green Light Go grant will be used to finance the detection equipment and software required to make the signals adaptive. An



adaptive system counts traffic in real time to determine how much time the signalized streets intersecting Rt. 19 will get to move through the intersection. Less traffic means less time. ~

## Crossing Route 19: Getting From Point A To Point B In Safety

Crossing Rt. 19 on foot can be difficult, dangerous and, in most places, illegal. But at least at one key intersection, that's starting to change.

The traffic signal at the intersection of St. Francis Way and the Cranberry Mall with Rt. 19 was built 30 years ago. Back then, it was considered the standard of its day. But that was before the opening of I-279 North and the growth of Cranberry Mall, UPMC Passavant and the surrounding businesses that followed. Now, with the number of vehicles at the intersection more than doubled, its design has become obsolete, slowing traffic along the mainline, creating turn conflicts, and prohibiting pedestrians from crossing.

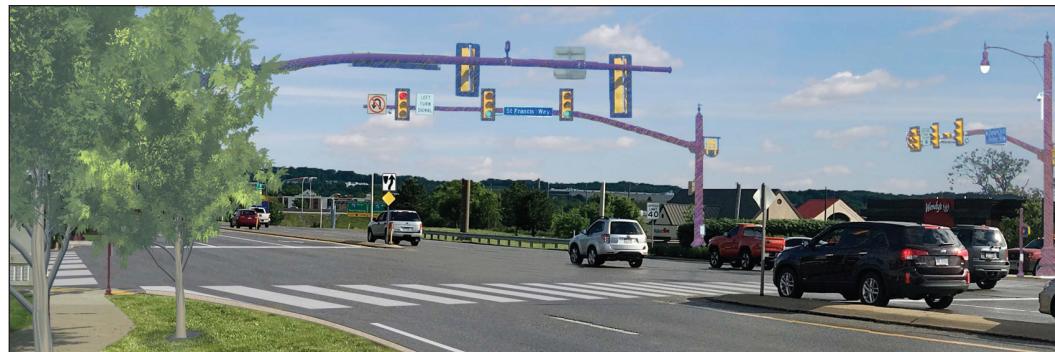
However, a \$612,000, 80:20 matching grant the Township recently received from PennDOT is about to finance a complete signal replacement there. It

*It will not only provide a safe crossing for pedestrians, it will also help to ease congestion on Rt. 19.*

will not only provide a safe crossing for pedestrians between the residential and commercial developments on either side of the highway, it will also help to ease congestion on Rt. 19 itself and improve safety along the entire corridor which saw 166 crashes in Cranberry last year alone. A better way to handle traffic exiting the Mall will also be included.

### Big bucks

The grant – the largest ever awarded to Cranberry by the state agency – will help complete a long-planned series of improvements to the heavily used corridor. It will also help make the Township a more walkable community – a longstanding Township goal – by connecting foot traffic to the pedestrian amenities built at the recently



**Future signals.** The configuration of traffic signals and poles will look a lot like this when the intersection of St. Francis Way and Rt. 19 is completed sometime in 2019.

completed outparcel restaurants in Cranberry Mall. Construction is expected to take place in 2019.

Unlike most state grants, which are earmarked for construction alone, this grant – part of PennDOT's Green Light Go program – includes engineering, design and inspection as well as actual construction. It will also replace traffic signals suspended from overhead strain wires with lights mounted on the signature cranberry red, context-sensitive poles used in other recent Township projects, providing a more attractive gateway to the Township. Improved signage to the Turnpike entrance just south of the intersection will be included as well.

“These PennDOT Green Light Go projects are designed to work with municipal partners to increase safety and mobility by reducing congestion and improving efficiency,” Township traffic engineer Kelly Maurer explained. “We were awarded this one because, by reducing congestion, we’re improving the mobility of pedestrians.”

### Plan ahead

At the same time, however, PennDOT's support involves more than just the project's impact on traffic. “I can't emphasize enough that the success we're seeing is from the Township's planning and forethought,” Cranberry Engineering Director Jason Kratsas pointed out. “Our Board requires our

staff to really think out ahead. So when it came time to ask for this money, it wasn't that we were randomly saying 'oh, we'd like to have that signal upgraded.' It was: these are the problems at that intersection – the signal, pedestrians, congestion, safety, corridor issues, etc.

“We were able to convey it to PennDOT so they understand that we knew what this money would do,” he said. “The single biggest factor that gets us these type awards is that we can clearly define to PennDOT that our project is an element of a more comprehensive plan.” That gives the state agency – which is eager to showcase its own achievements – a greater likelihood of success for its grant program.

“When these Green Light Go grants became available, PennDOT asked Cranberry to make more than one grant application,” Maurer pointed out. “In the past, we have only applied for one grant at a time. But PennDOT encouraged us to submit multiple applications because we have a success record for getting jobs done on time and in budget – we can show success with previous Cranberry projects. That's a strong credential when you're going for more funds; they want to see that the money they'd given us before was well spent.

“There's a lot of steps to go through in this process,” she admitted, “but it's worth it in the end.” ~

## New Police System Scans For Problem Vehicles In Seconds

This past January, PennDOT stopped mailing annual license plate registration stickers to vehicle owners. Instead, they will mail you a renewal reminder three months ahead of your plate's expiration. Then it's up to you to initiate your renewal online and to print out your own registration card.

The agency's explanation at the time was that ending the practice would result in cost savings. Those savings would then be set aside so local police

*A new, high-tech system quickly determines whether a vehicle is stolen, or if its registration is expired.*

could buy a new, high-tech system that can quickly determine whether a vehicle is stolen, or if its registration is expired, suspended or in some other way out of compliance with state law.

But PennDOT will need to save a lot on postage to pay for the new devices. They're not cheap. Units can cost between \$16,000 and \$20,000 apiece. And to date, no guidelines have been developed for local police to tap into those savings. But this spring, to coincide with the addition of an auto theft specialist to the Township's police force, Cranberry installed the first

of the new Automated License Plate Readers units on a patrol car, courtesy of the state's Auto Theft Task Force. It's impressive.

The ALPR, as it is known in law enforcement circles, consists of two rugged housings installed on the patrol car's trunk lid – one angled forward, the other facing rearward. The images show up on the screen of the patrol car's mobile display terminal. Each housing contains two cameras – one high resolution to read plate numbers, one standard resolution to show the vehicle on which that plate is mounted.

On patrol, the device continuously scans traffic in both directions, comparing the plate numbers it sees to lists of plates which have been deemed non-compliant. Those lists are updated daily. When there's a match, the system records the image and alerts the officer with a ping along with visual identification of the vehicle and its license plate. In a community as busy as Cranberry, that can happen a lot.

### The hits just keep on coming

"It's an eye-opener when you drive around for a short period of time to see how many hits come back to you," Cranberry traffic patrol leader Sgt. Bill Ahlgren reflected after an initial test of the system. "It's amazing. There are hundreds of thousands of vehicles that are either expired, suspended or unregistered. And in just

the few days we've been out on the road with it, we were getting hits left and right. There's a lot of vehicles out there that are not in compliance with registration."

However, in addition to producing a lot of hits, the system also generates a lot of misses. For example, an out-of-state plate could have the same alphanumericics as a Pennsylvania plate. A plate could be misread because of dirt or damage. The camera could inadvertently pick up the graphics on the side of a truck, or even mistake a yard fence for a license plate. "So it's always incumbent on the officer to validate and make sure that information they're getting back on the ALPR is accurate and timely," Ahlgren said.

Still, a hit – even if it's a false hit – provides the officer with enough reasonable suspicion to look the vehicle over to determine if there's an actual violation. "We have to confirm that before we take any type of enforcement action," Ahlgren explained. But the system's ability to scan and compare passing license plates against lists of non-compliant plate numbers is imposing.

"We went out the other day and read about 300 plates in around 20 minutes," Township Police Chief Kevin Meyer recalled. "There's no way an officer could read that many if he's typing or calling them into the control center. That would overwhelm dispatchers with requests for registration checks."

"So the automation is a huge time saver. And it provides officers with another great tool to keep the motoring public safe," he said. ~





## Honor Thy Father; The Gospel According To Matthew And Luke

to fight it as adults. Still others acquire the impulse as children. For Matthew Pristas and Luke Moran, however, the compulsion to run toward raging fires instead of away from them is a calling inherited from their fathers at a very early age. It is a legacy that both of them honor today.

Their fathers, John Pristas and Matt Moran, both joined the Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company 14 years ago. Both took the Essentials training program together and were partners for their Firefighter I exams. Both had sons born in 1998. And both sons became members of the Junior Firefighter program as soon as they were eligible. Both boys took as much of the Firefighting Essentials course as they were allowed before coming of age. Then the two became partners in their own Firefighter I exams, becoming fully credentialed members of the fire brigade by the time they turned 18.

Today, during the school year, both young men are enrolled in college – Pristas at Penn State's main campus with a focus on business and finance, Moran at the Citadel in South Carolina on an Army scholarship with a biology major and aspirations for medical school. But this summer, both are spending the break here in Cranberry, much of it around Park Fire Station, waiting for Butler 911 to dispatch them to the latest wreck, spill or fire.

### What I did last summer

Still, hanging around Park Station makes up only part of their summer plans. Another involves taking classes in structure fire rescue from the Butler

Most people are repelled by fire. But some develop an urge to fight it as adults. Still others acquire the impulse as children. For Matthew Pristas and Luke Moran, however, the compulsion to run toward raging fires instead of away from them is a calling inherited from their fathers at a very early age. It is a legacy that both of them honor today.

County Fire Academy and advanced firefighting skills from the State Fire Academy – useful skills taught under live fire conditions. But in Cranberry, the single greatest source of 911 calls is vehicle accidents. So a lot of the Fire Company's in-house Tuesday night training, which both Matt and Luke attend religiously, centers around vehicle rescue techniques.

- *A lot of the Fire Company's in-house training, which both Matt and Luke attend religiously, centers around vehicle rescue.*

It's a great way to spend the summer. During the school year, however, Luke is immersed in his studies as well as with his Army Reserve duties which include working for a medical unit. As a result, his passion for firefighting and the adrenalin surge it brings, remain unfulfilled; the regimentation of military school life and the absence of volunteer fire companies anywhere near The Citadel effectively rule it out.

For Matt Pristas, however, it's a completely different situation. In State College, the independent Alpha Fire Company welcomes student members. In fact, starting this fall, Alpha will provide Matt with free room and board at one of its three stations in return for his responding to emergency calls.



**Parallel lives.** Matt Pristas, left, and Luke Moran are following in the footsteps of their firefighter fathers.

"I like being able to fight fires," he said. "Last fall, I was so bored. I just wanted a fire call, but couldn't get anything. So being able to join Alpha for spring semester, and hopefully continuing on, will be sweet."

### Adrenalin surge

Meanwhile, back at home, do they see anything Cranberry can do to share that sweetness and adrenalin rush with its own potential firefighters? "It's tough," Luke admits. "You have to get past the fact that you have to take classes and train. I think that's a big hump for people. People just want to get in and do something right away."

But Matt has an idea: "A lot of fire companies have a ride-along program. That's what I did first semester at Penn State before I joined Alpha. Whatever calls come in, you go on, and a lot of the times you even get gear to wear. But you can't really act in that capacity because you're not trained – there are insurance issues and so on. But I still think that would be something cool."

"I don't know if they're trying to start something like that here," Luke added, "but it would be a great way to hook people." As well as another great way to honor their fathers' legacy. ~

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

## Fire Company Begins Implementing Strategic Plan

On a good day, the Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company will get maybe one or two 9-1-1 calls. But there aren't that many good days anymore. Days of five, six or seven calls are increasingly common. They include, in addition to fighting fires, rescuing crash victims, neutralizing hazardous spills, checking out errant alarms, and responding to a myriad of other real or potential emergencies. So how does a fire company manage to summon enough volunteers to respond day after day?

That's been a key challenge for Cranberry. So, two years ago, in tandem with the Township, local citizens and a major fire insurance company, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors authorized the Fire Company to

undertake a strategic planning exercise – one that re-examined all the assumptions and re-evaluated all the activities that have underpinned the organization for decades.

- *One of the key assumptions was that Cranberry's tax-supported Fire Company, could remain a volunteer body.*

One of the key assumptions was that CTVFC, Cranberry's tax-supported Fire Company, could remain a volunteer body – where nobody gets paid to train or respond to emergency calls. At the same time, it held fast to the belief that the organization's operating standards could be just as rigorous and every bit as professional as in any community's career fire department.

### Other duties

However, training and responding to emergencies are only part of what a fire company does. Beyond that, there are a variety of record-keeping and administrative duties – including some required by state law – that also need to be addressed, in addition to fire safety education, community

outreach, recruitment, maintenance and more. But do all of them have to be done by volunteers? Maybe not.

The results of a strategic planning study reflect that. A series of planning meetings begun in the summer of 2015 led to a new set of recommendations. They include changes designed to address the emerging needs of the community as well as the Fire Company's own future requirements. Six major recommendations grew out of study. They include revising the Fire Company's 1981 agreement with the Township, last updated in 1999; hiring a full-time chief/executive to manage department operations; benchmarking response standards; creating a long-range capital spending plan; and comprehensively reviewing membership requirements.

Significant progress has already been made in the plan's implementation. One major accomplishment came with the hiring of David Gallagher as Director of Fire and Emergency Services. Another has been the job of Fire Prevention Administrator, which will become part of the Township's Planning and Community Development Services department. Longtime Fire Company administrator Mark Nanna will move into that position which involves inspecting and testing systems as well as working to prevent false alarms. Nanna's replacement will have recruitment duties added to the job's administrative component.

Other positions, including that of a Risk Reduction Coordinator to focus on planning, information technology, response data analysis and more, are in the works. More details and initiatives are expected to become available later this year. ~



## The Steady Drip, Drip, Drip Of Bad News About Water

It turns out that the problem of lead in drinking water isn't confined to rundown communities like Flint, Michigan. The revelation last summer that a significant share of Pittsburgh's drinking water contained unacceptable amounts of lead came as both a surprise and a blow to local pride. When EPA published a list of 12 states with the most water safety violations; Pennsylvania came in third. And in January, it was disclosed that the well water used by Summit Elementary School in the Butler Area School District was also contaminated with lead. So Cranberry residents have a right to wonder whether lead is an issue in their own drinking water.

The short answer is no, it isn't. There are several reasons why. First, although we drink from the same rivers, Pittsburgh's water distribution system is a lot older than ours. When it was built, lead was commonly used in water mains, pipelines and home plumbing as well as in the solder used to connect sections of metal pipe. By the time most homes and water lines in Cranberry were built, lead was no longer in use. Even so, the EPA requires the Township to test its water for lead and copper every three years. The last time was 2016. Essentially nothing was found, and that result was duly published in an annual water quality report which is posted on the Township website and mailed upon request.

Beyond that, the West View Water Authority – which is Cranberry's sole supplier – treats the pH in its water to stabilize and reduce its corrosive properties. That means it's less likely to pick up contaminants such as lead or copper on its way from West View's Neville Island plant to Cranberry.



**Lead free.** Tap water in Cranberry contains no lead. But homes built before World War II, including many in Pittsburgh, may have lead in their interior plumbing and supply lines.

### Testing, testing

Once it reaches Cranberry, more water samples are drawn to check for bacteria, but they're not just taken at the Thorn Hill pump house, which is where the Township's distribution system connects to West View's line. Last year the Township developed a new sampling program to make sure that customers at the outermost limits of its system – which is where bacteria issues are theoretically most likely to occur – have the appropriate levels of disinfectant. In addition, the cycling of water in Cranberry's three storage tanks was modified to make sure everyone's water is as fresh as possible.

At the same time, other improvements to the Township's water distribution system and management procedures are ongoing. The next year or two will see new water meters, new system alerts, and new extensions of our distribution lines. All of those changes are designed to secure a healthy and abundant supply of water for generations to come.

### Well?

But what about local well water? Does that contain lead? While 95 percent of Cranberry residents are customers of the Township's water service, there are still a few who produce their own as well as a similar number who use on-lot septic fields instead of the municipal wastewater service. The answer, quite frankly, isn't known. The Township

hadn't been aware of a lead problem, but the issue with Summit Elementary School has given pause to residents who depend on well water like the school did, before it hooked up to the local water supply.

*The greater risk comes from a home's interior plumbing.*

The greater risk, experts point out, comes from a home's interior plumbing. In the case of old historic homes, that plumbing is more likely to contain lead pipes and lead in the solder used to fuse pipe sections together. Federal law eliminated the use of lead in new residential plumbing back in 1985. Even before that, many makers of plumbing fixtures had already removed lead from their mix of materials. Most homes in Cranberry were built after the lead era.

However, the risks can be minimized even in homes with plumbing that contains lead. Letting water run for a short time before use will flush out any which has been sitting overnight in pipes that contain lead. Faucet filters are another technique. And home remodeling that replaces old pipes and fixtures with newer ones, although costly, will virtually assure the absence of lead in household drinking water. Detailed information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead). ~

# The Choreography Of Sewage Treatment

As wastewater treatment plants go, Cranberry's landlocked site at Powell Road and the Turnpike is considered rather small. The three million-plus gallons of sewage it treats daily course through a series of closely connected buildings, tanks and process steps before being released into Brush Creek. It's a continuous operation; sewage treatment never takes a holiday.

On a normal weekday morning, the plant's 14 seasoned operators show up to keep the facility running smoothly and within the exacting discharge limits set by its state permits. But things have not been normal there lately, nor are they expected to be for at least two more years. That's because the plant is being completely rebuilt and expanded in its treatment capacity without adding a square inch to its property lines. It's like changing the wings on an airplane while it's flying.

*It's like changing the wings on an airplane while it's flying.*

To achieve that, approximately 60 contractor employees show up each day, in addition to the plant's own staff, to dig in, tear down, and erect new structures to house the membrane technology which is replacing the activated sludge process in use since

1998. Four separate contractors are involved in the plant's upgrade. Keeping them from tripping over one another while allowing the plant to continue normal operations requires constant vigilance.

## No storage room

"Managing all the materials – pipes, blocks, machinery and everything else – is a big challenge," Township project manager Tim Schutzman points out. "But the contractors have done a good job. Mascaro, the general contractor, coordinates with the other three to establish where they can store their material and to make sure they only bring onto the site things that can be used right away. So, for example, our electrical contractor has to store our new generator off site; there's no room for it at the plant."

Even parking can be an issue. If everyone involved in the project parked at the plant, there wouldn't be enough room left to do any work. So the contractor's workers park across the Turnpike on a Glen Eden lot that the Township is leasing. Mascaro has a hired van to shuttle their people back and forth from the site. Most work takes place during a normal daylight shift – 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

"The project is broken into four contracts: general, electrical, HVAC, and

the plumbing," Schutzman pointed out. "As we work on different sections, they establish a coordination drawing. Each contractor provides a plan that shows what they have to do, how long it's going to take to do it, and who does what first. Then they establish a timeline for when each contractor should do their specific work and at what time, so it doesn't interfere with the other contractors. So, for example, they're not installing a pipe in the ground above someone else's work."

## Phantom lines

It's a complicated system, and it generally works well. But not always. "The biggest curve ball is that there are a lot of underground utilities that have not been well documented," he noted. "This plant has been upgraded multiple times." Originally built in 1972, the plant was expanded in 1979 and again in 1997.

"Sometimes the location was different than what was shown on the original design plans. What we found is that in a lot of the spaces where the new lines were supposed to go, there was something there already, either abandoned or live. Some of them were active, so we had to reroute some of our piping."

These conflicts won't be repeated. "Newer technology allows us to document the current work carefully so that when the second phase gets underway in another 10-15 years, everything will be clear to the contractors," Schutzman said. "We have three or four people taking pictures when ditches are open, so we have a visual record of what's going on underground. That will provide a lot of assistance in the future. So we're capturing all the upgrades plus the unknowns that we found during this process where abandoned lines are located." ~



## 2017 Water System Flushing Schedule

Cranberry Township's annual fire hydrant and distribution system flushing program got underway on Monday, June 19. 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:

**June 19-23:** 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.

**June 26-30:** 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.

**July 3-7:** 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.

**July 10-14:** 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, Woodlawn Road, Windwood Heights, Crystal Springs, Walden Pond & Burke Road.

**July 17-21:** 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 Route 19, Settlers Village, Glen Eden Road, Glen Eden Phase 1, Settlers Grove & Antler Ridge.

**July 24-28:** 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.

**July 31-August 4:** 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.

**August 7-11:** 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.

**August 14-18:** Forest Park, The Crossings, Mystic Pine Trail, Blue Ridge Estates, Berkley Manor, Hampshire Woods, Autumn Hill, Orchard Park & The Glen at Woodside.

**August 21-25:** 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. ~

# New Haine Middle School Principal Puts Finishing Touches On Successful School Year



**Greetings, Cranberry Township!**

*I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and communicate that it is with much excitement that I assume the role of Principal at Haine Middle School. Serving as the Assistant Principal the past four school years provided me with opportunities to gain a deep understanding of our supportive and responsive school culture.*

*I have worked alongside students, staff, and families in our community to uphold academic excellence for all learners throughout my journey as a Seneca Valley Raider, which began as an Autism Support Teacher at Rowan Elementary in 2010.*

*As the Principal, I have the ability to improve the quality of instruction and the school experience through building relationships and collaborating with others. My goal is to develop and support initiatives that advocate for students' growth with a holistic approach. My distinctive knowledge of the school community strengthens student achievement and learning environments tailored to the needs of middle level learners. I look forward to furthering a school culture that fosters high expectations for success and provides innovative opportunities for students.*

*My desire to make a meaningful impact on the educational community is attributed to the many inspirational teachers in my life, particularly my grandmother and mother. These two veteran teachers were a living example of how education can influence the lives of others and our society. I also find inspiration in the learning process through the life of my young daughter and the support of my husband.*

*It is an honor to serve the families and community that supports our school. Through our investment in each other, I am confident we can continue to develop initiatives that advocate for students' academic, social, and emotional growth.*

*In partnership,*

**Cassandra Doggrell, Haine Middle School Principal**



## More about Haine Middle School:

Haine Middle School (HMS) is a part of the Seneca Valley School District and is home to fifth and sixth grade students. One of three middle-level grade schools in the District, it provides a rigorous academic environment encompassed within a nurturing and encouraging school community. Using a team-teaching approach – and through innovative approaches to 21st Century learning - students are exposed to a variety of real-world opportunities and authentic learning experiences. HMS has approximately 613 students and 70 staff members who are proud to be part of the Seneca Valley family. The staff works diligently each day to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of each individual student. They credit their success to outstanding students, effective instruction and strong community partnerships.

You can find more highlights, news and information via the school's building webpage. And if you haven't seen it, be sure to check out the 2017 Haine Middle School Lip Dub, which was filmed during one of the last days of the 2016-17 school year. Visit [www.svsd.net/HMSLipDub](http://www.svsd.net/HMSLipDub)





# CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP

724-776-4806

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

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CranberryToday is produced quarterly by the Communications Team on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and Township Manager.

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## Not Again!

Uh oh. You may just have missed the deadline for paying your 2017 Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate tax at face value. A late payment penalty went into effect July 1. However, your Seneca Valley School District real estate taxes won't even be mailed until August 1, and a two percent discount on it will apply until the end of September. In the meantime, if you've made any changes in your mortgage company or you're no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact tax collector P.J. Lynd's Municipal Center office at 724-776-1103 to make payment arrangements. ~

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