

# Cranberry **TODAY**

SPRING 2018

## CRANFEST

INTERNATIONAL FOLK & FOOD FESTIVAL  
PLUS A LOOK AT TOWNSHIP SERVICES!

## TIME FOR FUN

WHAT'S NEW IN CRANBERRY'S PARKS  
SPORTCOURTS COUNTDOWN

## UPDATES

NEW FIREWORKS ACT  
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## Show me the numbers...

# DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING IN CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

By Bruce Hezlep, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



Government in America is a political creature, bounded by certain democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution.

That's the way it was created, that's the way it continues to operate, and despite its challenges – of which there are many – I concur with Winston Churchill that it may be the worst form of government except for all the others that people have tried. Local government, including Cranberry's, is a product of that same political culture. It draws legitimacy from its Commonwealth charter along with the views and votes of the citizens we represent. It's what I call principled politics, and we should all feel good about it.

But the world is littered with the wreckage of societies where the politics of narrow self-interest is the only way things get done – or fail to get done in many cases. There, decisions concerning matters such as how and when to raise revenues, where to target spending, whether to create and enforce certain laws, who to hire or select as contractors, whether to issue or deny permits, what to concentrate on and what to neglect, are all determined politically – where government favors are either withheld or granted in return for assurances of financial, electoral, or volunteer support that benefits the incumbent office holder.

That's old-school politics and I do understand that, even though I don't like it. But in my day job, I specialize in digital technology, helping clients – including some of the nation's largest companies – configure software to collect, store and analyze vast sums of data. The reason they do it is to make better decisions – to be guided by objective facts rather than guesswork, petty self-interest, or political

expediency. And making use of data in decision-making is an approach I understand even better than traditional politics. So it's a perspective I bring along to my work as a Cranberry Township Supervisor.

Let me give you an example. Every municipality has roads to maintain. Lots of communities in Western Pennsylvania decide which ones to prioritize according to whose mother-in-law, or political donor, or ballot-box supporters live there. Everyone else is just out of luck. That's old-school politics.

In Cranberry, however, we do it differently. In the case of roads, we use a software solution to objectively evaluate the condition of pavement, segment by segment, year by year, assign it a numerical grade and propose a cost-effective treatment. That same approach is used to evaluate our sewer lines, water lines, playing fields, building conditions, vehicle replacements, and even fire calls. The political part of it involves listening and responding to the demands we hear from our residents. They include things like maintaining Cranberry's assets, managing traffic, providing recreational resources, holding down taxes and assuring public safety. The data part of it involves calculating how we make best use of our resources to achieve those politically popular goals.

But let's say that the politics of Cranberry were to change – if, for example, our residents told us that what they really wanted were more stores and fewer open spaces. What then? We would probably use the same tools. We'd direct our staff to use data about land use and commerce to find the most cost-effective ways of meeting those demands. It would enable us to use Township resources more efficiently and to optimize traffic flow under whatever conditions people were demanding, even if what they were demanding were things our Board members didn't personally care for.

Of course, I hope that specific example won't occur. If it does, some of us would probably decline to run for office again. But I can assure you that even if it were to happen, Cranberry is committed to using the best real-world data we can get to make the things our people need come about as efficiently as possible.



Saturday, April 7, 11 AM - 3 PM  
Cranberry Municipal Center

# CRANFEST



## Ethnic Food, Music & Dance

*Plus, Cranberry at Your Service!*

### From the prosaic to the exotic

Final preparations for CranFest – Cranberry Township's annual celebration of cultural diversity and local government service – are just about complete. It will take place Saturday, April 7, from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM in the Township's Rochester Road Municipal Center. There is no admission charge.

CranFest includes two major components: the international Folk & Food Festival, and the local government showcase Cranberry at Your Service. Both run concurrently.

The Cranberry Area Folk & Food Festival, presented by the Cranberry Area Diversity Network, will feature a series of 20-minute dance and musical

performances by more than a dozen separate nationality groups on two different stages in the building.

Cranberry area groups representing cultures as diverse as Japan, China, Peru and Venezuela, as well as several local advocacy organizations, will man information booths throughout the Center. Kiosks representing the cuisine of various South American, East Asian, Eastern European and South Asian nations will also be operating on site. Entrée-size portions will be available for prices set individually by each vendor.

Cranberry at Your Service – which highlights the services routinely performed by the Township's different municipal departments, will feature Public Works, Public Safety, Parks & Recreation, Cranberry Highlands,

Technology & Communications, Finance, Engineering, Codes, and Customer Service – each of which will have representatives on hand to answer visitors' questions, along with displays, tools and work demonstrations.

Behind the Municipal Center, an assortment of Township vehicles will assemble for Touch-a-Truck – a hands-on experience with Cranberry's fleet of specialized mobile equipment. Among the work vehicles expected to be on hand: an aerial fire truck, a 20-ton dump truck, squad cars, an ambulance, a front loader, a golf cart and more.

2018 will be the fourth year that Cranberry has held its CranFest celebration. Last year's event attracted more than 2,000 visitors.



A project currently in the design stage for future construction will extend the westbound merge lane.

# ROCHESTER ROAD TO GO WIDE Before it Gets NARROW

Construction is expected to begin soon on an improvement to the intersection of Rochester Road with Route 19. A

50:50 matching grant from the federal

Congestion Management and Air Quality fund

is helping the Township to add another lane onto Rochester Road at its intersection with Route 19, along with a widening of the bridge over Coal Run and a new sidewalk along the north side of Rochester Road. That sidewalk will connect with a new Rt. 19 pedestrian crosswalk and an ADA-accessible ramp on the Wisconsin Road side of the crossing.

The additional lane will allow traffic from both Rochester and Wisconsin Roads to turn left at the same time rather than staggering their movements, as currently required. The resulting time savings will be added to the green light cycle for thru traffic on Rt. 19.

As part of the \$1.3 million project, the westbound merge

lane on Rochester will be extended from its current terminus at Commerce Park Drive to the driveway shared by the Municipal Center and St. Ferdinand's church. A project currently in the design stage for possible future construction will extend that lane even further, to Graham School Road, and add a new eastbound lane, resulting in a five-lane stretch of roadway with two lanes in each direction and a center turning lane.

But that's where it hits a choke point. There are no current plans to expand Rochester Road's two-lane Turnpike underpass. Although the Turnpike Commission's long-range vision calls for widening the full length of the toll road to six lanes from its original four – a change which would require alterations to the Rochester underpass – no plans or timelines have thus far been announced.

Work on the Rochester/19 intersection, sidewalk and crossing will not allow any daytime lane closures. Construction is expected to be completed by October.

## STREET IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2018

A number of road improvement projects in Cranberry, financed from multiple sources, are tentatively on the calendar for work this year. All involve repaving or seal coating road surfaces. Projects involve portions of:

### Cranberry Township Projects ([CranberryTownship.org/Streets](http://CranberryTownship.org/Streets))

- Adare Court
- Alex Court
- Auburn Drive
- Autumn Hill Drive
- Bellford Court
- Brandt Drive
- Burke
- Cavan Drive
- Crescent Court
- Darlington
- Drake Circle
- Ennis Road
- Erin Drive
- Farmington Road
- Garvin Road
- Greenwood Drive
- Greenwood Dr Extension
- Havenwood Drive
- Huntington Drive
- Jane Street

- Joan Street
- Kerry Court
- Kilbuck Drive
- Klein Road
- LaGrande Drive
- Mary Street
- North Boundary
- Oakridge Trail
- Old Franklin Road
- Opal Drive

- Peters Road
- Ruth Street
- Saige Court
- Scarlet Peak Court
- Seth Drive
- Spring Drive
- Tania Court
- Thorn Hill Road
- Windgap Drive
- Wisconsin Avenue

### PennDOT Projects ([CranberryTownship.org/PennDot](http://CranberryTownship.org/PennDot))

- Callery
- Franklin
- Glen Eden
- Plains Church
- Rochester
- Route 19

- Rowan



### Golf Cart replacement postponed.

Cranberry Highlands originally planned to replace its 80 golf carts this year, based on the Township's standard vehicle replacement program schedule. But a number of changes have taken place in golf cart technology in the five years since they were acquired, particularly involving their batteries. Right now, only one cart maker includes the advanced generation lithium ion batteries. However, more are expected to do so in the coming year. So the Township's Board of Supervisors has decided to postpone the replacement long enough to evaluate the effectiveness of the new technology and to allow more competition into the marketplace.

### Rt. 228 to get a new eastbound lane.

In 2016, Cranberry proposed adding a new eastbound lane onto Rt. 228 between I-79 and Franklin Road for \$5 million. But Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development could only come up with \$1.5 million. The Township faced a choice: either to cough up the additional money itself, or to scale the project back. At its January 25 meeting, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors opted to change the project's scope to match the available funds. As a result, the new lane will begin at I-79, where the Rt. 228 underpass known as the MSA Throughway is planned, and then go as far east as Cranberry Woods Drive – 1,240 feet instead of the original 5,200. Plans call for relocating the affected utility lines this year and the actual road widening next year.



### Take a tax break.

Your federal and state returns for last year still need to be filed by April 15, but your 2018 Butler County and Cranberry Township real estate taxes can be paid at a two percent discount through April 30. From May 1 until June 30, they can be paid at face value. There were no County or Township real estate tax increases this year. However, any 2017 County, Township, or Seneca Valley real estate taxes that were not paid by the end of last year are now in the hands of the famously unsmiling Butler County Tax Claim Bureau, at 724-284-5326. If you changed your mortgage company and are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, please call the tax collector's Municipal Center office at 724/776-1103 to make payment arrangements.



### PA celebrates obscure traffic laws.

A February memo from PennDOT secretary Leslie Richards and State Police Commissioner Tyree Blocker urges drivers in the Commonwealth to obey traffic laws they probably didn't even know existed. Among them:

- “Blind Pedestrian” law, requires drivers to yield to pedestrians with white canes or guide dogs.
- “Prohibiting Hearing Impairment Devices,” Don’t use headphones covering both ears while driving.
- “Unintended Motor Vehicle” law says you can’t leave a car running unattended in public places.
- “Traffic Control Signals” law directs you to treat a broken traffic signal like a stop sign.

## CRANBERRY BRIEFS

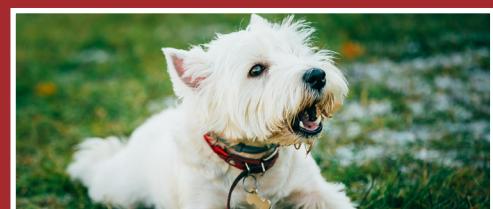


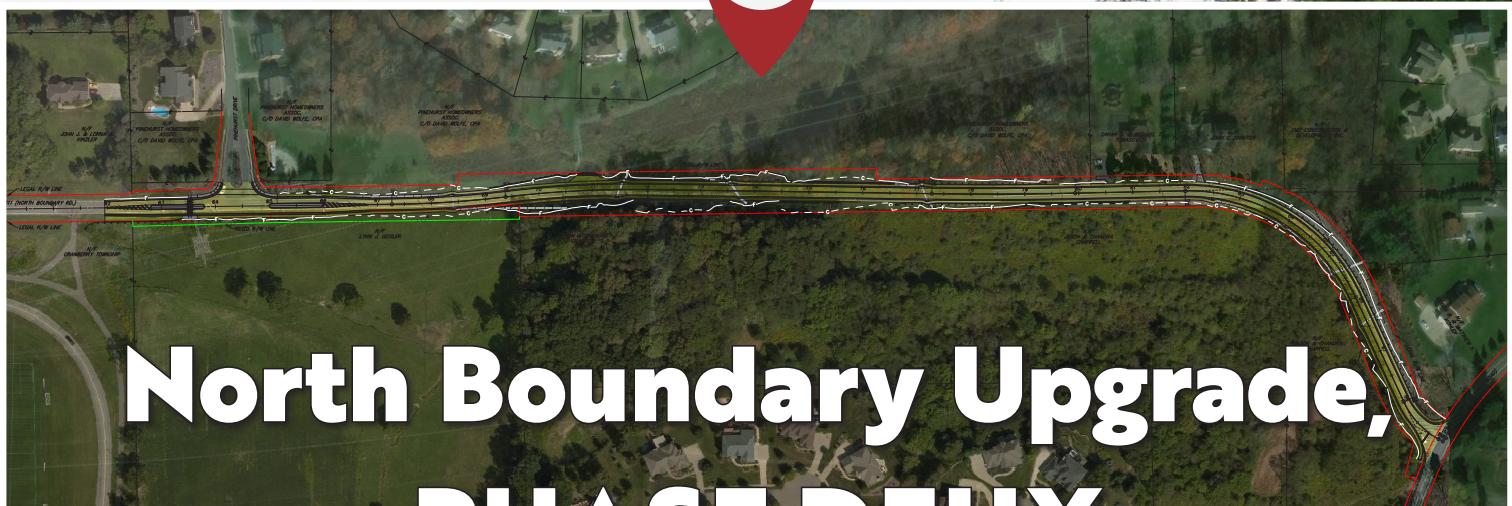
### Plan projections revisited.

The Preferred Growth Scenario of the Cranberry Plan – the Township's 25-year comprehensive plan adopted in 2009 – projected a community of 50,000 residents by 2030, when it visualized that Cranberry would be fully developed. That population forecast, in turn, has been used to inform a variety of decisions about which types of land uses should be zoned for and what size of infrastructure – roads, water lines, sewage treatment, parks and so on – would be needed to serve a community of that size. But how are those projections holding up? And what should be done if they don't? It's a question that the Township's Planning and Development Services Department, together with an expert consultant, will focus on this year. According to Department Director Ron Henshaw, the outcome holds big implications for Cranberry.

### Have a word with your dog.

Dogs that are tied outdoors, barking for hours on end, create more than a nuisance; they are also disturbing the peace, which is an ordinance violation that the police department would address. However, when it comes to the point of issuing a citation or paying a fine, it's not the dog that gets in trouble – it's the owner. So if yours is a particularly loquacious canine, Cranberry urges you to bring your dog indoors longer. Your dog will love it, and so will your neighbors.





# North Boundary Upgrade, PHASE DEUX

The idea of upgrading historic North Boundary Road, which once marked the north boundary of four 18th century Depreciation Lands tracts, is nothing new. In 1996, North Boundary Road had its first upgrade from Marshall Drive to Pinebrook Drive.

Fast forward 20 years of increasing use with constantly evolving traffic patterns, and the idea of improving the hilly and rolling road – essentially to find ways of safely moving a growing volume of traffic and pedestrians through, alongside and across its two-lane roadway – became timely all over again. This time around, however, the proposed improvements were separated into two phases.

The current upgrade started in 2016 with Phase One, involved creating a traffic roundabout at the intersection of North Boundary and Marshall Road, along with a sidewalk connecting the traffic circle to Rt. 19. Phase Two, which takes place this year, will focus on improving the geometry of the remaining roadway – filling in dips, shaving off knolls, and realigning the intersection with Franklin Road at its eastern end. This phase completes the entire corridor.

It will be a significant project requiring closure of a portion of the roadway for about 30 days during the school district's summer break. Although most of the work on North Boundary will take place to the east of its intersection with Pinehurst Drive, the idea of improving Pinehurst's pedestrian crossing and access to North Boundary Park as part of that same project phase proved irresistible.

Several crosswalk ideas were proposed, including a mini-roundabout which would both calm traffic and provide a safe haven for pedestrians as they crossed over to the park. However, comments received at a public meeting, together with an online survey of Pinehurst residents, newly collected traffic data, and a reassessment by Township engineers, pointed toward a different approach. So it was back to the drawing board.

After talking with its consultants, the Township ultimately came up with a design that includes a crosswalk with splitter islands to separate the traffic lanes, provide a safe mid-point stopover for pedestrians, and help to calm traffic in this busy corridor.

Preliminary work on the project is expected to begin in late April or early May, with completion in time for the start of school in August. Funds for the project, which is expected to cost a little over \$1 million, will come from developers' Transportation Impact Fees which are already in hand.



•CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP•

**BUSINESS HUB**

# Business **TODAY**

UPDATES FROM THE CENTER OF BUSINESS IN CRANBERRY

**Capturing Emotions,  
Documenting Transitions...**



Chris Border, *Grit & Grace Photography*

## **GRIT & GRACE STUDIO**

*For 15 years after graduating from Slippery Rock University with a degree in Education, Christine Border worked as Recreation Manager on the Township's Parks & Recreation staff. Five years ago, she started Grit & Grace Studio.*

### **What inspired you to open a studio?**

When I was a senior in high school, my family moved to Pittsburgh. I stayed back in Ohio to graduate from my high school. In my weekly travels between Pittsburgh and Cleveland I loved the beautiful landscape and daydreamed that I would be a photographer. Years later, I picked up a camera and began documenting my boys, particularly through sports. That's when the idea of owning my own photography business came back. I always knew that once my career path changed I would be working for myself. So I took the leap and had the opportunity to grow from an amateur mom into a photography professional. And I've never looked back.

### **Did photography start out to be a hobby, a passion?**

Both. I am an emotional person. Photography allows me to capture emotions and to tell someone's story expressively.

### **How did you come up with the name?**

For most girls and women, it means having to be both strong and gracious in life, and a lot of my work is dedicated to moms.

### **What are your most popular services?**

A lot of my photography involves children, beginning with newborns. Family photography is very popular. Many clients want an annual family photo to use for their holiday cards. High School senior photos are popular during the summer and fall. That is where I use creativity to draw the personalities from my clients and celebrate who they are as they begin planning for the next phase of life. I also do one or two weddings a

month as well as other types of photography. It is a great balance.

### **What's your best photo setting?**

The best setting is anywhere the client is comfortable! It can be in my studio or on location. The important thing is to get a feel for what the client is looking to achieve with their images.

### **Why did you choose Cranberry?**

For one thing, I live in Cranberry and most of my clients are in Cranberry. But, most importantly, there are no other boutique photography studios here. I find that my clients prefer the comfort of a location for pictures outside of their home. And this community is great for business owners with a lot of support and networking opportunities.

*Grit & Grace Photography  
8035 Rowan Road,  
gritandgracephotography.com*



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Tell us your story: [BusinessHub@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:BusinessHub@cranberrytownship.org) or 724-776-9861



OLE!!!



host Benefit Days for local organizations where a portion of our proceeds go back to their cause. We stay in touch with the community and with all the people who have made Emiliano's successful throughout the years. We are proud to share our heritage with our neighbors in the Cranberry area."

The restaurant features moderately priced brunch, lunch, dinner and children's menus, along with a selection of appetizers, drinks and desserts, as well as happy hours from 4:00 until 6:00 every weekday, Monday through Friday.

[@EmilianosCranberry](#)

## EMILIANO'S CONQUERS CRANBERRY

It has taken decades, but the taste for Mexican-style food has finally hit Western Pennsylvania big time. Satisfying that hunger became a tremendous opportunity for restaurateurs Benigno and Vianeth Ulloa, who, since 2007, have opened four family-owned restaurants in the Greater Pittsburgh area, including one in Cranberry Mall.

While some of its recipes have been adjusted to suit local tastes, Emiliano's – named for the couple's son – offers some of the region's most authentic Mexican food, much of it taken from Ulloa's own family recipes.

"The freshness of our ingredients is one of the main things," according to Benigno. "When you pair those ingredients with recipes that have stood the test of time, you get delicious and authentic food."

Emiliano's caters to a family-centered clientele but also attracts business and professional customers, especially at its Cranberry location. Signature margaritas, flavorful food, and an authentic Mexican atmosphere keep customers coming back. As a result, Emiliano's has grown to be one of Pittsburgh's "go-to" restaurants for friends, neighbors, coworkers, organizations, fundraisers, and more.

"We strive to be an asset to the community," Benigno said. "We

*Emiliano's Mexican Restaurant & Bar*  
20111 Route 19; 724-776-8080  
[www.Emilianos.net](http://www.Emilianos.net)



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**Fit Body Boot Camp**  
20644 Route 19  
724-418-2070  
[fitbodycampcranberrytwp.com](http://fitbodycampcranberrytwp.com)

**Sepro America**  
765 Commonwealth Drive  
877-737-7610  
[sepro-america.com](http://sepro-america.com)

**Cranberry Township Learning Center**  
20550 Route 19

**Capital A Financial & Insurance Associates**  
4107 Creekview Circle  
724-658-4211

**Mission Mahi**  
8032 Rowan Road

**Kirklands**  
20111 Route 19  
724-772-0040  
[kirklands.com](http://kirklands.com)

**Churn LLC**  
20550 Route 19  
[homemadeicecreamandcoffee.com](http://homemadeicecreamandcoffee.com)

**Patron Mexican Grill**  
1724 Route 228  
[patronmexicangrills.com](http://patronmexicangrills.com)

**Nick's on 19**  
20273 Route 19

**Beacon Roofing**  
9018 Marshall Road  
724-779-7300  
[brsbecn.com](http://brsbecn.com)



**WHAT** are THEY **BUILDING** ? Get the latest info on what's coming soon, recently opened or under construction: [CranberryTownship.org/Biz411](http://CranberryTownship.org/Biz411)

## Shopping Center Zoning Ordinance Replaced

Strip shopping centers – rows of storefronts situated behind expansive parking areas with roadway curb cuts at either end – were products of the post-World War II era. They played an important economic and cultural role in America's suburban development. But the retail business has changed and so have suburban design standards.

For the past year, Cranberry's Department of Planning and Development Services has been

But before they could get down to specifics, they needed to confront a more fundamental question: what is a shopping center, anyway?

Commercial developments are increasingly multi-purpose. In addition to stores and restaurants, they might include hotels, movie theatres, spas, office space and even some housing. So how do you know if a project is a shopping center, subject to code stipulations, or if it's something else? Their answer: if more than 50 percent of the project's floor space is for retail, then it's a shopping center, even if the other 49 percent go for other uses.

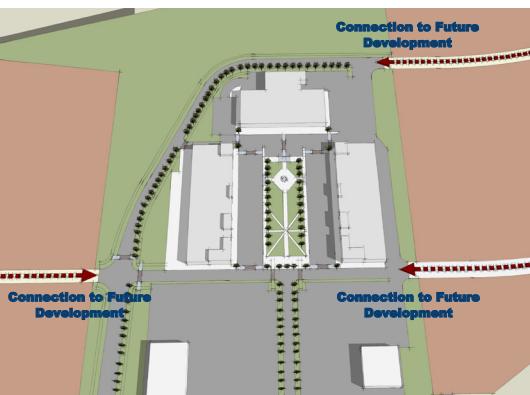
No two shopping centers are exactly alike and code requirements need to reflect their differences. Among the many ways that shopping centers vary, size is perhaps the most significant. So the new code identifies three size categories. Neighborhood shopping centers are those 5,000 square feet and under. Community shopping centers have 5,000 to 25,000 square feet. And Regional shopping centers are those above 25,000 square feet.

The shopping center's size category determines how extensive its required amenities need to be. "A green common space is always required,"

according to Department Director Ron Henshaw. "The bigger shopping centers have bigger ones – actually two. The community-size shopping centers, have smaller ones, and then the neighborhood shopping center have ones that are even smaller. But in each case, they're proportionate to the size of the shopping center and the number of people who will hopefully patronize it."

Among the specific elements of pedestrian-friendliness stipulated in the code are curb bump-outs with landscaping, protected pedestrian walkways, hedge screening, pier walls with wrought iron fencing, plazas, pedestrian pockets, pet pockets, interconnected sidewalks and defined crosswalks.

By the time they were through, the planners realized they had made so many modifications to the old ordinance that they threw it out and started over. But like any zoning ordinance, it isn't retroactive. Only when a shopping center's owners propose major changes to their properties would its provisions apply.



working on revisions to the Township's zoning code stipulations that apply to the layout of new shopping centers. Their goal: to encourage the development of shopping areas that are more people-centric than car-centric, that are better connected to adjacent properties, and that improve the aesthetics of the community.

**Thorn Hill to reach new Heights.** The land development application for two new buildings on a 16.5-acre site along Thorn Hill Road, was approved Cranberry's Board of Supervisors at its meeting on February 22. The buildings – one a 60,000 square foot distribution warehouse and the other a 75,000 square foot, three-story office structure – are projects of the Elmhurst Group, which was previously behind a pair of industrial buildings along Commonwealth Drive and an office building at Cranberry Crossroads as well as several residential developments. Work on the new buildings, to be known as the Heights at Thorn Hill, will begin this spring.

#### **Self-storage companies get another option.**

Pity the poor self-storage operators. Nobody wants them. So in February, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors revised the list of authorized uses in the Township's Transitional Light Industrial zone around Progress Avenue to allow for the placement of self-storage units. An earlier sticking point with siting self-storage companies was that their architecture – typically single-story buildings with a row of garage doors along one side – was not a particularly attractive sight in most zoning districts. But lately, their designs have evolved into more office-type structures with internal as well as external storage access – designs which are more compatible with neighboring buildings and capable of eventually being re-purposed.

#### **Sign ordinance repealed and replaced.**

Cranberry's last major sign ordinance was written in 1995. It made extensive use of charts and tables to connect building size, zoning, sign size, sign materials, illumination features and more into elegant grids. Problem was, they not only confused business owners trying to figure out what was expected of them, they baffled the Township's own staff as well. So, over an 18-month period, the code was completely rewritten to clarify its terms, improve its organization, and provide visual support for its definitions. At its December 14 meeting, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved the revised ordinance which is now in effect.

**Local farmstead downzoned.** Over the past few years, aspiring developers of properties at the northwest corner of Rochester and Rt. 19, including the Meeder farm with its iconic red barn, have been unable to reach an understanding with the Township over the extent of roadway improvements which would be needed to accommodate the level of development allowed under the properties' former CCD-3 zoning designation – the Township's most dense and intensive zone designation, intended primarily for commercial uses. Accordingly, in mid-December, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors agreed to change the properties' zoning overlay to a less intense CCD-2 – the same designation which has been used for Park Place, Bellevue Park, and other developments. The change offers a better match for whatever future improvements may be needed to handle anticipated development. The changes reduce the allowable density of dwelling units per acre, expand the amount of open space, limit the amount of paving and cap the heights of buildings.

#### **Laurel Point isn't resting on its laurels.**

The developers of Laurel Point, a large Planned Residential Development of 157 single-family units received final approval from Cranberry's Board of Supervisors for both the first and second phases of their project. The PRD is being built on a 115-acre property acquired from the Fresh Air Camp, adjacent to the Family Resource Center. Its developers hope to begin building Phase One this year. The plan, which is in the southeastern area of Cranberry, would have vehicle access at two points along Franklin Road, as well as through a trail connecting it to the adjacent Cranberry Woods Business Park. The plan anticipates two types of housing: Condo-style Villas, which would have their lawns and shrubbery maintained by the homeowners' association, and larger Estate Homes, for which the maintenance would be the homeowner's responsibility.

**Starbucks is moving.** An application for conditional use of a 2,467 square foot tenant space in the Cranberry Commons Shopping Center for a new Starbucks coffee house was approved by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors in December. The corner store space, which was previously vacant, will include a new drive-thru window as well as indoor and outdoor seating. Although its formal address will be 1713 Rt. 228, access to the space will only be available through Cranberry Commons Drive and the shopping center's internal road network. Neighboring businesses include Hobby Express, Plato's Closet, and Randstad.

## **BITS OF BUSINESS**

**Westinghouse sold again.** At the beginning of the year, Westinghouse Electric Company – whose nuclear power business was purchased by British Nuclear Fuels in 1999 and then sold to Japanese industrial giant Toshiba in 2006 – agreed to be acquired by Canada's Brookfield Business Partners, a firm specializing in distressed business assets. The Cranberry Woods-based company, whose creditors claim they are owed \$11 billion, filed for bankruptcy last year and announced that it would lay off 1,500 workers. The latest acquisition is expected to become final during the third quarter this year, pending court and regulatory approval, according to a company news release.

#### **There's Room to Grow Here.**



**3,300 acres of developable land.**

**Get the Dirt from Cranberry's Center of Business.**



With state mandates increasing, the costs of stormwater management are expected to grow significantly.

## TOWNSHIPS SCRAMBLE TO UPDATE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

This past February was the rainiest in recorded history, and Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection says that something needs to be done. So Cranberry's officials and their consulting engineers are hard at work trying to find an answer. There's real urgency. The Commonwealth is holding local governments responsible for coming up with plans that DEP accepts. If the Township is found to be out of compliance with state requirements, it could face six-figure fines. And the deadline is fast approaching. So what's the problem?

It's not just a Cranberry issue. All across the country, but especially in urbanized areas, the volume of stormwater draining into local streams has increased, along with a steady decline in the quality of that water. Both have largely resulted from a combination of construction, earthmoving, agricultural chemicals and road salt, along with increased paving.

While all of these changes have been going on for years, they have become a growing concern to public officials who worry about flooding, erosion, and stream contamination resulting from those environmental impacts. Lately, however, their worries have been accelerated by the state's requirement

to comply with new water conservation mandates and to find ways of paying for them.

As far back as 1972, Congress passed its Clean Water Act, which has been reinforced by increasingly tougher regulations over the years. Cranberry considers the Act's goals to be worthwhile. But implementing its requirements is expensive. The federal Environmental Protection Agency, without providing funding, pushed fulfillment of the Act's requirements onto the states. The states, in turn, pushed them onto local governments.

To enforce compliance, Pennsylvania issues five-year permits to municipalities under the theory that stormwater from every new project ultimately drains into local streams and that all such streams belong to the Commonwealth. Last year, Cranberry submitted its proposal to meet the Act's requirements for the next permit period, which included new measures to reduce erosion into Brush Creek. But even if approved, that permit will only be good until 2023, by which time its requirements are expected to become even stricter.

Right now, the cost of maintaining the Township's municipal stormwater

system, including catch basins, conduits and pipes, are paid out of its General Fund, financed by Cranberry's income and property taxes. But with state mandates increasing, the costs of stormwater management are expected to grow significantly. Earlier this year, Cranberry retained HRG Engineering, a firm which has worked with a number of other Pennsylvania municipalities on stormwater issues, to help the Township figure out the most cost-effective ways of meeting the Act's requirements.

Many Pennsylvania communities, including Mt. Lebanon, Meadville, Lancaster and Philadelphia have financed the repairs and improvements to their stormwater systems using the same approach as other utilities. Maryland, for example, has enacted a statewide stormwater fee, and other states are considering similar approaches. Like the user fees paid by customers of sewer and water systems, this approach shares the cost of compliance equitably with those who generate the impacts.

Whatever direction Cranberry's strategy finally takes, both its design and ultimate success will require public outreach and involvement. Stay tuned.



## PENNSYLVANIA'S NOVEL FIREWORKS ACT

Until last year, only fireworks classified as "novelties," including hand-held sparklers, poppers, smoke balls and snakes, could be sold to or ignited by residents without personal licenses or significant use restrictions. More powerful pyrotechnic devices, classified as either "consumer" grade or "display" grade, could only be sold by a handful of vendors from permanent stores in the state, and even then, only if the buyer produced proof of a pyrotechnician's license or an approved permit for a fireworks display issued by their local municipality.

That has now changed. As a result of PA Act 43 of 2017, Pennsylvania residents 18 and older will be able to buy both novelty and most consumer-grade fireworks from any store or tent licensed by Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture – the state agency charged with regulating the distribution and use of fireworks. As long as the user is sober, that person can buy, keep and discharge novelty-grade items pretty much without restriction. However, the act stipulates that the more powerful consumer-grade fireworks require permission from the property owner, a distance of 150 feet from any occupiable structure, and that they cannot be aimed at buildings, vehicles or people.

Under the law, display-level fireworks – the heavy-duty commercial types produced by companies like Zambelli for use in stadiums and municipal fireworks shows – are typically limited to "professional pyrotechnicians" and may not be sold to or used by the general public. Other explosives, including cherry bombs and M-80 devices, are dangerous and remain illegal in all 50 states.

In prior years, temporary sales tents selling novelty items have been put up in and around Cranberry. This year, under the terms of Act 43, the operators of those tent stores will be able to sell consumer-grade fireworks as well. Their selling periods will be limited to June 15 - July 8 and December 21 to January 2. However, they will only be allowed to operate after paying a \$1,000 application fee and a \$3,000 license fee to the state Department of Agriculture, as well as having at least \$2 million in liability insurance.

Will those fees result in fewer temporary sales sites? Cranberry police chief Kevin Meyer doesn't think so. "The licensing fees won't inhibit them from opening; they'll make a ton of money," Meyer said. But so will the state treasury.

"The license fees are not where the state is making its money," he said. "They're getting an additional 6% sales tax on top of the regular sales tax. Out of the 12% total that goes to the state, no more than \$2 million will be shared by the hundreds of public safety services in Pennsylvania. "We'll get about \$20."

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION RESUMES WEEK OF APRIL 2



### ACCEPTED:

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

### NOT ACCEPTED:

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

Place items curbside in **GREEN TOP CART** or **BIODEGRADABLE YARD WASTE BAG** on regular collection days.  
More info: [CranberryTownship.org/Collection](http://CranberryTownship.org/Collection)



*“It’s a tolerant community.  
It’s a community that cares about people  
and is accepting of differences.”*



## At Home With... **CINDY TANANIS**

Nineteen years ago, when Pitt Education Professor Cindy Tananis and her longtime partner, Nurse Practitioner Nancy Mantz, decided to look for a house somewhere more pastoral than the one on the Brighton Heights bus line they had lived in for the previous thirteen years, their real estate agent brought them to Cranberry.

As a native of Ross Township, Cindy was already familiar with the North Hills. But her image of Cranberry had been formed when, as a child, her family would take her to the country for a dinner at the old Hartner's restaurant. To her, it was like visiting a distant state. So, years later, when the agent brought them up to the Township, she remembers thinking: 'what are we doing out here? This is way too far.' And besides, it seemed much too expensive.

"I told the agent 'There's no way we could afford Cranberry,'" she recalled. But the realtor persisted, and after looking at some new construction, they came upon a charming four-bedroom house in The Crossings. "I actually got angry at the agent and I said to her: Why would you show us this house?" Cindy said. "This is the sort of house that gives you a vision of where you want to live and what it's going to look like, but then you can't afford it. So the agent said: 'Let's see how it works. You're in a different county!' The county tax difference was tremendous and it made a difference in what we could afford. And besides, the people who were moving out had already purchased another house, so they were eager sellers."

There was also another issue of significance to the two women: Cranberry was not known as a diverse or inclusive community. "To this day, when I talk to people about Cranberry, they have the sense that you have to be affluent to live and be happy in this community – that it's only for straight families with children, and only for homeowners, not renters, for example," she reflected. "But when you live in Cranberry, you come to know that's not the case at all."

"One of the things that impressed me with Cranberry early on was a focus on welcoming diversity. There's a lot of diversity here. There's age diversity. There's income diversity. There's diversity of race and ethnic background. More and more LGBTQ people are here. And it's a tolerant community. It's a community that cares about people and is accepting of differences. And I think the leadership in the community has really helped to make people feel welcome. So to me, that's becoming a hallmark of Cranberry – one that many folks did not anticipate and still, to this day, many people outside of Cranberry don't recognize.

"We are very much a part of our community here in The Crossings. We've always been accepted and have always been welcome. That's true anywhere we've gone in Cranberry."

But that acceptance hasn't been passive. Ten years ago, she spent months on a Citizens Advisory Panel, helping the Township formulate its comprehensive plan. More recently, she served as part of the committee developing a long-range strategic plan for Cranberry's volunteer fire company. And she has been an enthusiastic proponent of the Township among her colleagues.

"I've never regretted moving into this community," she observed. "I've become what one of my friends at work calls an 'ambassador for Cranberry' because I talk about Cranberry all the time. But the fact of the matter is that this is a community where you can make a difference, where your voice can be heard. You can be a part of something positive and help to make a difference. It's a place where you can be welcome and comfortable. We love Cranberry and look forward to growing old together, right here."

*Cranberry residents, do you have an interesting story to tell?  
Contact us: [CommunicationsTeam@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:CommunicationsTeam@cranberrytownship.org).*

# SCREEN CAPTURE



• CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP •

**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

# THE ARRESTING POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Video cameras are everywhere. Public spaces are routinely under surveillance. So are stores, banks and private institutions. Personal smartphones, with their video cameras always at the ready, are now ubiquitous. Combine that with the explosive growth of social media, and the chances of a crime being recorded, posted and going viral are huge.

That gave Cranberry police an idea: why not engage the power and reach of social media to help identify perpetrators of crimes which have been caught on camera? So, several years ago, they discretely opened a Facebook account; it now has 4,297 followers. Some of those followers are other law enforcement agencies. Some are news organizations. But most of them are private individuals who have some connection to Cranberry Township.

It can work a lot faster than traditional methods of identification. "We had two theft incidents in December," according to Cranberry police chief Kevin Meyer. "Both cases went unsolved. So we grabbed images and put them out on Facebook to see if the public could help us find or identify the person. In one day we had 27,000 hits. But we've had even more. Last year we posted the image of a girl involved in the theft of a purse which received over 100,000 hits."

"When we put something out there, those 4K+ followers get it and then it grows legs from there. People are hitting it, tagging it, sharing it with family, friends, whatever, and then commenting on it. We get a lot of feedback and positive responses."

Another recent incident involved a man filmed walking out of Walmart with a cart full of shoplifted items. "We put that out on some local law enforcement sites trying to identify him, but we were unsuccessful," Meyer said. "So we put it on Facebook and that same day, in less than 24 hours, we had four separate people call and say this is exactly who it is, and all of them gave us the same name."

**Attention shoppers!** A shoplifter exiting the Cranberry Walmart was captured on surveillance video, posted on Facebook, and identified by four different people the following day.



**FOLLOW CRANBERRY**



“

We don't know how we ever found the time to work.”



## STEVE AND RENEE BAYER RETIRE TO FIRE

### What do retired couples in Cranberry do for fun?

In the case of Steve and Renee Bayer, at least part of it involves putting out fires, extracting people from car crashes, redirecting traffic and cleaning up debris left by auto wrecks on local roads – sometimes in the middle of the night.

Since joining the Cranberry Fire Company in 2014, the couple has found the fire service to be a fulfilling pastime as well as a source of new friendships and deeper community connection. But it wasn't until the two retired from their respective day jobs that they actually found the time to do it.

Until his retirement, almost all of Steve Bayer's career had been spent with MSA Safety, which firefighters everywhere recognize as a leading maker of personal fire protective equipment. But that wasn't the part of the company he worked for. Instead, he worked with a team that handled gas detectors, where he was dispatched to distant client plant sites and assigned to solve problems that involved tracing industrial gasses. “The job was challenging but rewarding,” he reflected.

Renee, a native of Michigan, had been an occupational therapist, specializing in home-based healthcare in and around Cranberry. However, regulatory and insurance changes in the healthcare environment had made her work less and less fulfilling, with each hour of treatment followed by more hours of tedious paperwork. Several years ago, they both realized it was time for a change.

Today, Steve is certified as an interior firefighter, attached to the Company's fire brigade, where he responds to 9-1-1 calls, doing whatever is required to save lives and property. Renee's job involves working as a Fire Police officer with the unit of the Fire Company's Brigade that directs traffic around and away from fire and crashes.

For both Steve and Renee, the key to a successful retirement has been having something to do. “We go to the YMCA for two hours in the morning, every day, Monday through Friday,” Steve pointed out. “I'm also an officer with my homeowners' association and an officer of my church. And then we're both doing stuff with the fire company, maybe five or ten hours a week. But the important thing is to make sure

you have something to keep busy. You don't want it to be 40 hours a week; you want it to be a little flexible, a little rewarding, something that's going to make you feel good. We've found the fire company to be a great place for volunteer service. There are lots of ways to serve and they don't all involve fighting fires or controlling traffic.”

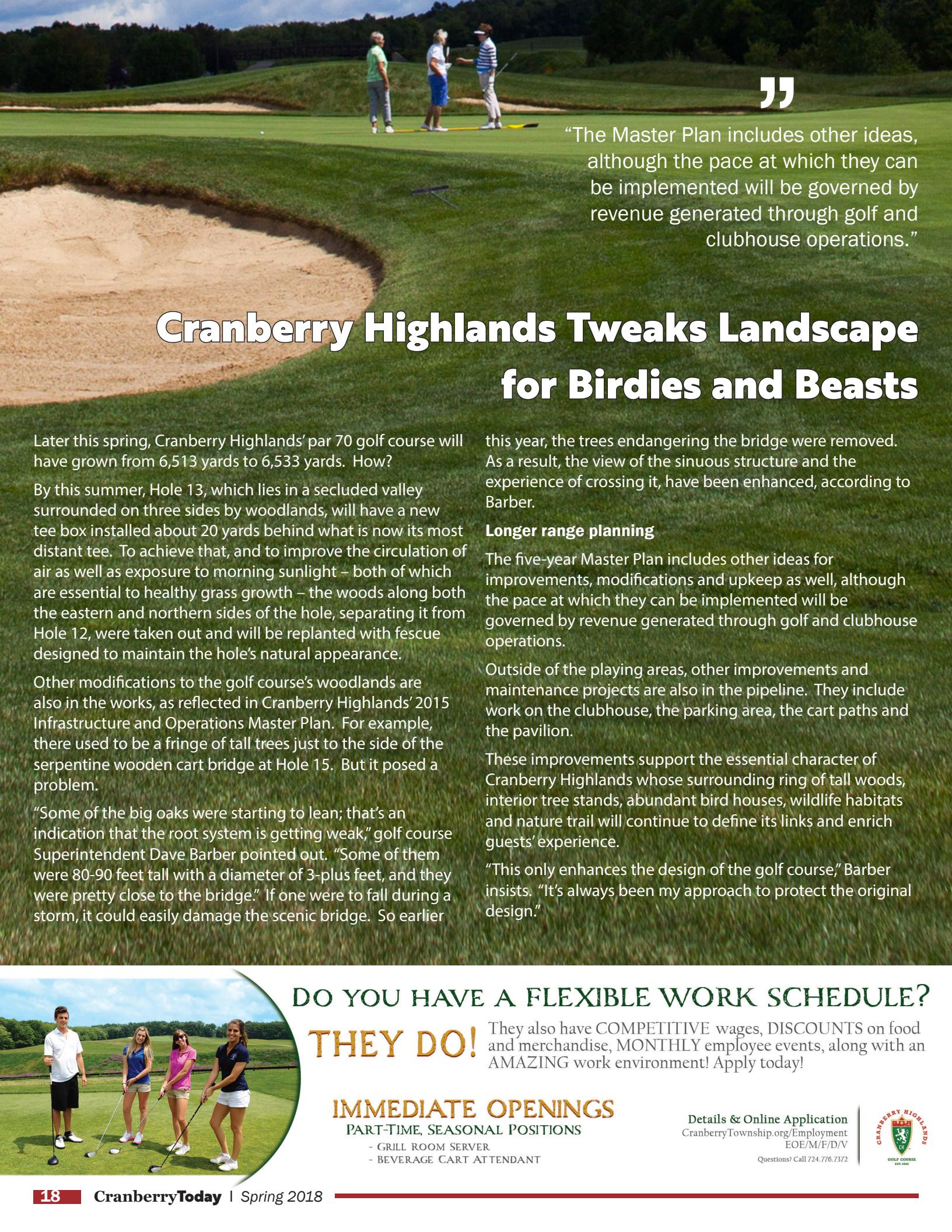
Nearly 40 years ago, while pursuing his interest in technical rock climbing, Steve met fellow climbing enthusiast Renee at the White Rocks climbing area near Uniontown. “Our relationship has been on the rocks from the beginning,” Renee jokes. But today, with a host of community activities on their busy calendars as well as visits to grandchildren in Delaware, their rock climbing expeditions have been put on hold.

“We don't know how we ever found the time to work,” Steve reflected.



[CTVFC21.org](http://CTVFC21.org) | 724-776-6130

[CranberryTownship.org](http://CranberryTownship.org)



“

The Master Plan includes other ideas, although the pace at which they can be implemented will be governed by revenue generated through golf and clubhouse operations.”

## Cranberry Highlands Tweaks Landscape for Birdies and Beasts

Later this spring, Cranberry Highlands' par 70 golf course will have grown from 6,513 yards to 6,533 yards. How?

By this summer, Hole 13, which lies in a secluded valley surrounded on three sides by woodlands, will have a new tee box installed about 20 yards behind what is now its most distant tee. To achieve that, and to improve the circulation of air as well as exposure to morning sunlight – both of which are essential to healthy grass growth – the woods along both the eastern and northern sides of the hole, separating it from Hole 12, were taken out and will be replanted with fescue designed to maintain the hole's natural appearance.

Other modifications to the golf course's woodlands are also in the works, as reflected in Cranberry Highlands' 2015 Infrastructure and Operations Master Plan. For example, there used to be a fringe of tall trees just to the side of the serpentine wooden cart bridge at Hole 15. But it posed a problem.

“Some of the big oaks were starting to lean; that's an indication that the root system is getting weak,” golf course Superintendent Dave Barber pointed out. “Some of them were 80-90 feet tall with a diameter of 3-plus feet, and they were pretty close to the bridge.” If one were to fall during a storm, it could easily damage the scenic bridge. So earlier

this year, the trees endangering the bridge were removed. As a result, the view of the sinuous structure and the experience of crossing it, have been enhanced, according to Barber.

### Longer range planning

The five-year Master Plan includes other ideas for improvements, modifications and upkeep as well, although the pace at which they can be implemented will be governed by revenue generated through golf and clubhouse operations.

Outside of the playing areas, other improvements and maintenance projects are also in the pipeline. They include work on the clubhouse, the parking area, the cart paths and the pavilion.

These improvements support the essential character of Cranberry Highlands whose surrounding ring of tall woods, interior tree stands, abundant bird houses, wildlife habitats and nature trail will continue to define its links and enrich guests' experience.

“This only enhances the design of the golf course,” Barber insists. “It's always been my approach to protect the original design.”

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Learn more @ [www.svsd.net/SVFoundation](http://www.svsd.net/SVFoundation)



THE GIFT OF HOPE, THE PROMISE OF EXCELLENCE



# COUNTDOWN TO SPORTCOURTS LAUNCH IS UNDERWAY

*Grand Opening April 14  
in Graham Park!*

Whack-a-Mole is not among the officially sanctioned games about to get underway at the new CTCC SportCourts complex in Graham Park. But, according to Lorin Meeder, the Township's project manager, it could have been. Workers building the complex of court games discovered that the substrate of clay below the court area of the park had an odd characteristic: as soon as pressure was applied to one part of the ground, its surface would immediately push up several feet away. That's not good for construction.

But by using an assortment of innovative digging, filling, and geotextile techniques, all the heavy construction work on Phase II of Graham Park was successfully completed by the end of last November. By then, however, it was too late in the year to either plant or do final landscaping on the site. But all is expected to be ready in time for the facility's April 14 Grand Opening.

The CTCC SportCourts complex includes three bocce courts, four horseshoe ranges, two tennis courts and two basketball courts. An open area adjacent to the court complex is available for temporary games, like cornhole, as well as for future permanent court development. And a space designated for a future community garden or orchard, lies immediately to its east.

In addition to its playing courts, the project included a realignment of Graham Park Drive to allow for an expansion of the Miracle League parking area immediately north of the SportCourts complex. A new building combining restrooms and equipment storage was added to serve players using the courts as well as other park patrons. And an extension of the park's walking trail system through the complex now links the court area to Brush Creek trail.

Signs, plaques, nets, benches and other accoutrements of the Sport Courts facility have been scheduled for installation

in the weeks leading up to the grand opening. A 200-square foot memorial park located immediately in front of the new building will house many of the donor recognition items.

Despite the site's peculiar soil conditions, construction of the SportCourts moved ahead according to schedule and was completed within its original \$1.6 million budget.

## **The Big Pickle – Cranberry Township Pickleball**

But the most prominent aspect of CTCC SportCourts is its array of eight dedicated pickleball courts. A fast-growing official body of enthusiasts – the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association, CTPA – was formed last year to schedule play, organize players, offer lessons, and otherwise advocate on behalf of the fast-growing sport; by March 1 it already had 252 members. Indeed, some of the court's permanent signage is understandable only to those already familiar with the game. For example: "When there are more than 100% queuing than playing, all games will be played to 9 with no winning by 2." There you have it.

According to Township Supervisor Bruce Mazzoni – an ardent pickleball proponent and one of the founders of CTPA – its members have high expectations for the sport's growth. "We had 120 people come through our training classes last fall, and we expect to exceed that this spring," Mazzoni said. "The game is very social and provides a lot of healthy exercise in a fun environment. CTPA helps to make sure people are playing at the appropriate skill levels and provides them with opportunities to improve their game. Our new courts will host different leagues for competitive play. Anyone interested should visit our website at [www.CTPApickleball.com](http://www.CTPApickleball.com)."



# DISC GOLF COURSE OFF TO A FLYING START

April 10 is the official groundbreaking date for the latest CTCC project of the year – a 3,395 yard, 18-hole championship disc golf course in North Boundary Park. Unofficially, however, selective clearing of the fairway corridors through the wooded area along the western edge of the park where the course will be built, actually began last November.

Disc golf is similar to ball golf in many respects. Its objective is to fly a disc from the tee to the pin – in this case a specialized basket – in the fewest number of strokes or, in the case of disc golf, throws. Just as golfers would change clubs as they approach the pin, experienced disc golfers change discs – Frisbee-like saucers that vary in size, weight, and aerodynamics and whose flying performance is strongly influenced by the player's throwing style.

The championship course, designed by architect J. Gary Dropcho, is nearly two miles in length and will be among the most highly rated in the world, both for its distance, for its changes in elevation, and for its naturally wooded setting, according to CTCC project leader Bruce Mazzoni. Each of the 18 holes, which vary from 246 to 907 feet in length, will be outfitted with multiple tees, or launching pads. Large trees fringing the fairway will add to the challenge of the course.

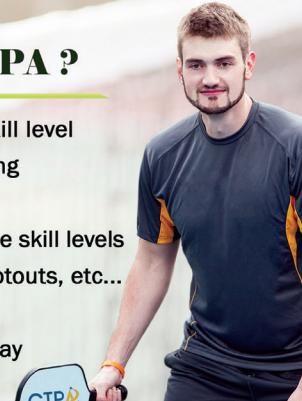
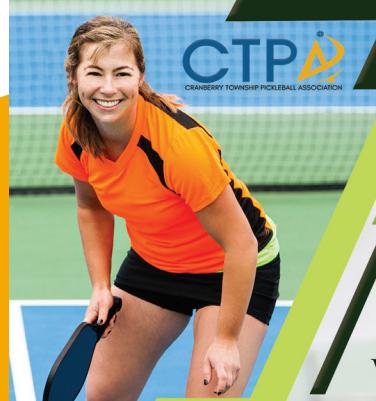
Final placement of the tee pads will be determined using information collected from experienced members of the Pittsburgh Flying Disc, who will beta test different launch positions throughout the course this spring.

A two-mile nature trail will be built along much of the course, and a separate ADA-accessible, six-hole Learn to



Play course for younger players and for instruction from members of Pittsburgh Flying Disc, will be built adjacent to the championship course. An expanded parking area will be constructed nearby. No fees are required for either using disc golf course or for walking the nature trail.

The overall cost of the project is projected at \$300,000. Except for pouring the concrete tee pads, all of the labor is being provided by Township Public Works crews. A preview of the course, which is not expected to be ready for play until at least October, will be offered through a Coffee and Conversation event in June with Township Manager Jerry Andree.



## What is Pickleball?

**Come in and see!**

[www.CTPApickleball.com](http://www.CTPApickleball.com)

**Why join CTPA ?**

- Help you to the next skill level
- Provide you with a rating
- Exclusive hours
- Play with others of same skill levels
- Leagues, ladders, shootouts, etc...
- Drills & practice
- Discounts for indoor play

CTPA PB-1: Beginners class that includes a paddle, ball and \$25 off a CTPA membership

CTPA PB-2: Learning the soft game

CTPA PB-3: Understanding the tactics and strategy

CTPA Fast-Track Clinic: For those with good mobility & racquet skills. Includes, paddle, ball and CTPA membership

# UNDER CONSTRUCTION



## WATERPARK PLAYGROUND TO BE REBUILT

It's been 20 years since the North Boundary Park Playground adjacent to the Cranberry Waterpark has been in operation. It's the oldest of the Township's three playgrounds, and this year it will undergo a major re-do.

Design details for the replacement playground – which will occupy the same footprint as the original – were still being formulated at press time. But the basic concept is already well-established. For one thing, the playground's design will attempt to tie it thematically into the neighboring Waterpark, possibly including a bridge over a simulated water feature and footprints of the Waterpark's crocodile mascot CT embedded in its walkways. And the playground's name will be changed to Crocodile River Playground.

Beyond that, the playground will be divided into three distinct areas with age-specific equipment. One space will be for children from 6 to 24 months of age. Another will be for those age 2 to 5 years old, and a third area will be for those 5 to 12 years of age.

At some point, according to Township Project Manager

Tim Zinkham, the playground will need to be closed to allow preliminary work like removing equipment and mulch, preparing the sub-base, and installing new drains, to proceed without endangering children. However, the conclusion of the project will use a community-build approach with local residents recruited to volunteer their labor under the supervision of Kaboom, Inc., to install equipment for the two youngest children's play areas.

Pashek Associates, which designed the original North Boundary Park Playground and was also responsible for the design of Kids Castle Playground in Community and Out of the Ballpark playground next to Miracle Field in Graham Park, is the architect of Crocodile River Playground.

Financing for the \$400,000 playground renovation was made possible by two grants received last year from the state's Department of Community and Redevelopment. Those grants are being matched 50:50 with Township funds. Admission to the playground will remain free of charge and separate from admission to the next-door Waterpark.





# SLOW DOWN CAMPAIGN IS GAINING TRACTION

Information is transmitted in real time to the Township's engineering and police departments.

Cranberry's annual two-phase Slow-Down campaign to raise driver awareness of speeds in residential neighborhoods is gearing up for an end-of-the-school-year rollout on June 8. Each year since the Township launched its program in 2011 with underwriting from local sponsors including RJ Community Management and CTCC, the campaign has attracted more neighborhoods to participate. Last year there were 25.

Phase One of the campaign will run from June 8 to June 15. Phase Two will occur from August 29 to September 12.

Participating neighborhoods receive a permanent "Drive 25" sign at their plan's entrance, as well as temporary lawn signs with messages promoting awareness, along with increased police patrols and radar-based displays that show the motorist's speed. If it exceeds 25 miles an hour, the numerals will flash in an attempt to direct drivers' attention to the indicated speed.

But it doesn't stop there. Electronics embedded in the signs record the speeds – both of those vehicles that observe the posted limit and those which do not. That information is transmitted in real time to the Township's engineering and police departments along with a time stamp. Even though the sign is capable of measuring speeds well above that, at 50 mph the display will go dark to discourage its use as a tool for judging street races.

*Upcoming Campaign:  
June 8 - June 15, 2018*

Four of the electronic speed signs are permanent installations; two each on Peters and Mars roads. Four others are rotated through neighborhoods participating in the program. Data from all of them are captured and examined by Township officials to determine whether additional police patrols or traffic calming methods are needed. But, according to Township traffic engineer Kelly Maurer, most neighborhoods in the program don't have a problem.

"It's the outliers who may be going 45 or more on a local street that make residents think people are speeding, and they are. But we've found that it's usually less than 1 percent of the vehicles. But the slow-down campaign is a good reminder for everyone," she said.

For more information, visit:  
[CranberryTownship.org/SlowDown](http://CranberryTownship.org/SlowDown)



# THE ATTACK OF THE ROBOKIDS.



First Lego League team of MySTEM Academy, creating real-life robots which can do all sorts of useful things.

In mid-January, the Beast Bots – a team of students from the Pittsburgh area – came to Cranberry where they presided over a lunch 'n learn session for Township staff demonstrating their creations, including one which took top prize in a January 13 Robot Design Strategy and Innovation championship. The same bot took second place in a head-to-head Robot Game competition.

Another team project, called HydroWatch, measures home water use and relays the information through a Bluetooth connection to an app on the homeowner's smart phone. Cranberry Township served as a lab for the team to learn about water use in a large community. The Beast Bots then shifted their focus to another Cranberry Township project involving waste disposal awareness.

Both projects, as well as others carried out by different First LEGO League teams, are enabling local students to use technology in creating a better tomorrow.

First it was water,  
then waste,  
**WHAT'S NEXT?**

It wasn't all that long ago that Legos were simple toys. Young children would use the company's small plastic bricks to build fantasy objects, like spaceships and robots.

That was then. Today, Lego has gotten serious. For example, there was the 2014 animated feature film which has since expanded into a major movie franchise. Then there were Legoland amusement parks, which have been replicating themselves in major cities everywhere. And now, some of the region's brightest kids are part of the

## Coffee & Conversation

with the Township Manager

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

### LIBRARY 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 PM, Library

### WHEN TO CALL 911

What constitutes an emergency and what to do until the EMS arrives.

Tuesday, May 22, 6:30 PM, EMS Station

### CTCC 2018 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Disc Golf & Nature Trail

Saturday, June 16, 10 AM, North Boundary Park

“

Cranberry's dog owners are passionate about the well-being of their four-legged family members.



## Local Group Seeks to Elevate Canine Status

The elevation of dogs in America from mere household pets into full-fledged family members – companion animals who enjoy the privileges and amenities traditionally reserved for people – has been a defining quality of our times. Accommodating that shift in public attitudes toward dog status has spawned whole new industries featuring luxury dog spas, gourmet dog foods, dog-friendly hotels, dog apparel boutiques, dog training academies, dog birthday blowouts and a range of flamboyant dog accessories.

Cranberry's dogs are no exception. Their owners are passionate about the well-being of their four-legged family members and increasingly outspoken about improving the local dog experience. Township staff members are listening. Starting last year, a local group operating as Cranberry Area Canine Partners, CACP, has been meeting with Parks & Recreation officials to advocate on behalf of their pets and fellow dog owners, seeking more opportunities for people to enjoy Township amenities in the company of their dogs.

On their agenda: creating a more positive canine experience in Cranberry with enhancements to the current Rotary Dog Park including improved lighting, better signage and

a new shelter, as well as access to other municipal facilities and more dog-friendly destinations. Their ideas have already resulted in a new obedience training program and professional therapy dog evaluations together with such established activities as the Waterpark's late summer Puppy Plunge and the library's Tail Waggin' Dog Tutors for elementary school age children.

The work of the CACP is ongoing. It meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Municipal Center, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Interested residents are welcome to attend and participate in their meetings. The group shares ideas with Township staff on what they would like to see in the dog park, on dog training classes, leash laws, licensing, noise ordinances, and issues concerning dogs on park trails, as well as ideas about their own role in supporting such developments.

CACP meetings are limited to humans only. Direct any questions to Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis at [pete.geis@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:pete.geis@cranberrytownship.org).

More info: [www.cranberryareak9partners.com](http://www.cranberryareak9partners.com)

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# Positioning Cranberry for an Uncertain Future

Futurists – people whose professional reputations rest on forecasting what the future holds for industries, communities, institutions and people – are having a ball right now. You've probably heard some of their predictions:

- Online shopping will obliterate traditional brick and mortar stores
- Home deliveries will be made by unmanned drones
- Young people will prefer using Lyft or Uber to owning cars
- Millennials will reject single-family homes, favoring apartment living
- Driverless cars and trucks will dominate traffic
- Single occupant and non-traditional households will become the norm

And there are plenty of others as well. But for public officials, whose reputations hinge on successfully transitioning their jurisdictions into whatever the future happens to be – those predictions present a tremendous challenge. While some of them may never come true, ignoring them can put their communities at serious risk.

Cranberry Township Assistant Manager Dan Santoro, who grew up in the distressed Mon Valley town of Monessen, knows that first-hand.

"Over the next two decades, the folks who aren't thinking about that now are going to become the steel mill towns of the '70s and '80s who kept saying 'Steel is coming back! They're going to reopen this mill!' Well, no. It's not coming back.

"Elected officials in the next 15 to 20 years need to be thinking about how we survive a potential economic shift so that we don't become just another backwards-looking failed community. But do I really believe that the suburbs are going to be difficult to fill because of changing household sizes? I find that hard to believe. Is it something we need to pay attention to? Sure it is.



"Township officials need to make decisions that are forward-looking; that's not easy," he said. "In Pennsylvania, it's the exception rather than the rule. But it's something that Cranberry does really well because we have elected officials who manage the Township with an eye to the future."

## FIND THE FIGHTER IN YOU



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:



- Firefighters & Fire Ground Support
- Non-Fire Related Support Roles
- Fire Safety Education
- Fire Police

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

# What's HAPPENING

**DISC GOLF GROUND BREAKING**  
April 10 at 10 AM  
North Boundary Park

**SPORTCOURTS GRAND OPENING**  
April 14-Graham Park

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Council Chambers  
6:30 PM

April 5  
April 26  
May 3  
May 31  
June 7  
June 28

**ZONING HEARING BOARD**  
3rd Monday  
Council Chambers  
7:30pm (as needed)

**PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
Council Chambers  
6:00 PM

April 30  
May 7  
May 29  
June 25

## CRANFEST

Saturday, April 7  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Municipal Center

## WATERPARK OPENING MAY 27

11:30 AM - 8:00 PM  
North Boundary Park

## MEMORIAL DAY MAY 28

Township offices and Library closed  
Trash collections delayed by 1 day this week

**Cranberry EMS First Aid & CPR**  
April 21; June 16  
9 AM - 3 PM  
Council Chambers

**MUNICIPAL CENTER  
Butler Co. Sheriff, License to Carry**  
April 14, 9 AM - 2 PM  
**FREE SHREDDING EVENT**  
APRIL 14: 9 AM-1 PM

## MANAGER'S COFFEE SCHEDULE

**APRIL 11, 6:30 PM**  
CELEBRATING THE LIBRARY'S  
45TH ANNIVERSARY, LIBRARY

**MAY 22, 6:30 PM**  
WHEN TO CALL 911  
EMS STATION

**JUNE 16, 10 AM**  
DISC GOLF & NATURE TRAIL  
NORTH BOUNDARY PARK

**HHW/EWaste Collection- ECS&R**  
April 7: 9 AM-1 PM  
Call 1-814-425-7773  
Public Works  
Operations Facility

Import events to your calendar with  
iCalendar on our website!

# Community Days

July 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

*Three exciting days of family fun at Community Park!*

- Cruisin' Cranberry
- Carnival Rides & Games
- Community Chase 5K
- Food Booths
- Pancake Breakfast
- Arts Festival
- Martinis with Monét
- Chainsaw Carving
- Battle of the Barrel
- Concerts
- Fireworks
- And Much More!



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

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