

Cranberry **TODAY**

SUMMER 2019



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+ **COMMUNITY
UPDATES**

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TOWNSHIP

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What's INSIDE

6



8



15



19



22



29



CranberryTODAY

- 4 Cranberry Briefs
- 5 Pickleball Play Soars
- 6 Community Days: Summer's Highlight
- 7 Free Concerts & Movies in the Parks
- 8 Disc Golf is Open for Business
- 9 Waterpark Gets a New Back Door
- 10 Graham Park Sponsorship / Dogs
- 11 Diversity Project Loses a Leader
- 12 Supervisor Commentary
- 13 Can a Township Buy Happiness?
- 14 Art Boxes / 2020 Census Jobs
- 19 Police Face Mighty Opponent
- 20 Impaired Driving Part III
- 21 Bike Rodeo / National Night Out / CarFit
- 22 Park Station Open
- 23 Firefighter Profile
- 24 An EMS Emergency
- 25 Resident Profile
- 26 Maintaining Clean, Safe Water
- 27 Stormwater Clarity
- 28 Recycling
- 29 Seneca Valley
- 30 2019 / 2020 Projects of the Year

RECREATION



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

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CranberryTODAY is published quarterly by the Cranberry Township Communications Team on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager.

We welcome your feedback!

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Cover Photo:

Pickleball craze takes over Cranberry in Graham Park.

BusinessTODAY

- 15 Your CBD Store
- 16 Bits of Business
- 17 Back to Banking/ Hop on the Bus
- 18 TrueCommerce



Calling all Home Owner Associations...

Are you a neighborhood officer?

Cranberry has more than 100 distinctive neighborhoods, most of which were required by the terms of their original permits to form Homeowner Associations, or HOAs. HOAs are typically involved in organizing block parties and holiday events, in maintaining common areas, and in sharing information with residents about topics of interest to their neighbors. In addition, many associations maintain covenants concerning things like storage, pets, painting, parking and antennas.

Beyond that, Cranberry sees these organizations as valuable resources for its own communication efforts. The Township holds quarterly meetings of the Cranberry HOA Forum, whose members are all local HOA officers. But to announce those Forum meetings and distribute other important information about life in Cranberry, they need your HOA officers' contact information. If you're not sure whether your HOA is in touch with the Township, just send your president's contact information to Neighborhoods@cranberrytownship.org. Make sure your neighborhood stays connected.



Garden Tour

Southern Butler County Garden Club will be hosting its eleventh annual Garden Tour on Saturday, July 13 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. The self-guided tour will take participants through a variety of private gardens in the Cranberry, Mars and Zelienople areas. Pre-sale tickets are available for \$20 with a check payable to the Southern Butler County Garden Club, P.O. Box 2452, Cranberry Township, 16066. Tickets will also be available on event day for \$25 between 9:00 and 10:00 AM in the Municipal Center.



Darn! Just missed it.

The last day you could pay your Butler County/Cranberry Township 2019 real estate taxes at face value was June 30. Between now and the end of December, you'll have to add on a 10 percent penalty. But if you wait to pay it until after December 31, good luck; you'll have to deal with the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau. On the other hand, your 2019/2020 Seneca Valley School District real estate tax bill won't even be mailed out until August 1 and you can help yourself to a two percent discount on it until September 30. If you have made any changes to your mortgage company or you are no longer using an escrow account to pay property taxes, stop by the tax collector's Municipal Center office to arrange for timely payment. The office is open every weekday at 9:00 AM, or call 724-776-1103.



LEVEL PLAY



Cranberry's Pickleball Academy does not offer diplomas. Nor does it carry accreditation from any formal certification body. But its graduates have been able to demonstrate consistent improvement in their play on the courts.

"Teaching people pickleball is similar to what we do at Cranberry Highlands with a teaching pro," Township Supervisor and pickleball enthusiast Bruce Mazzoni explained. "It's the same thing, except we focus on the skills associated with Pickleball: volleying, dinking, serving, returning – and we have clinics focused on just on a single skill."

"I learned pickleball on the streets," he recalled. "I have a lot of bad habits because I didn't learn the right fundamentals. Bad habits can take you to a certain level, but you're not going to get above that unless you go back and improve those fundamental skills and techniques associated with pickleball."

Recently, the Academy recognized its 300th Beginners Class graduate. For the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association, the Academy's parent organization, it has been a banner year. The fast-growing association, with more than 400 members, is now adding as many as ten new members a week.

"It is definitely booming," Mazzoni noted, pointing to evidence of rising interest. "Three of our web pages made the Township website's top ten number of hits, which is good news."

In addition to offering the Academy, which focuses on teaching pickleball skills ranging from basic moves for beginners all the way through to advanced techniques for



experienced players, the Association emphasizes the importance of assessing a player's skills and assigning them ratings, which is essential for matching players against others at comparable levels of skill.

"That is very hard to do," Mazzoni conceded. "We made the decision last year to utilize an independent rating system rather than doing it internally. That makes it less biased and allows the pickleball player to determine when they want to try out for the next rating level."

But the decision is paying off. "We have people joining us from Ohio," he said. "The reason is that good players don't have the opportunity to find other good players. So, for them to travel two or three hours each way is worthwhile because they have the opportunity to play with people at their own level or higher."

Of course, not all pickleball play needs to be at tournament level. "Two new people playing could enjoy it," he acknowledged. "You'll always have opportunities to play with friends or your spouse at a different level. But if you want to play pickleball seriously – and I do – I want to play with people at my own skill level, and I look forward to that type of competition."

"That's what we're trying to create with CTPA – the best of both worlds where it can be something for people who don't want competition and are just looking for fun, but at the same time for people who are looking for serious competition. We can provide both." ☎



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Community Days: CRANBERRY'S SUMMER HIGHLIGHT

RECREATION

Let's begin at the end. Earlier this year, the Township signed a five-year contract with Zambelli Fireworks – arguably the world's premier supplier of pyrotechnic shows – to wrap up Cranberry's CTCC Community Days celebration on its final nights, this year on Saturday, July 13. The company's traditional fireworks productions offer a high-impact sensory experience, guaranteed to close out the three-day event on a very high note.

The three days preceding the fireworks will include many of Community Days' traditional attractions including three concerts, plenty of food, and carnival rides as well as games with prizes. But the most popular attractions, according to a recent unscientific survey, are its booths – vendor booths, information booths, recruitment booths, art booths, and booths that defy categorization.

So, at CTCC's 2019 Community Days, from July 11 to 13, the park will be bursting with booths, arranged in corridors carrying the names of local streets and labeled with house numbers. As a result, when someone comes to the information table looking for a specific booth, they can learn that it's 101 Aberdine Road, for example. Certain streets will specialize on selling certain types of products.

Visitors and vendors

Parking arrangements are changed a bit this year. The open field south of Community Park will now prioritize

vendor parking, offering on-site services including carts with tarps to help vendors carry their displays. Visitor parking will be available at Cranberry Business Park and the Aetna facility. Shuttles to those lots will operate from the Lion's Shelter. Other visitor parking will be available in Lindner practice field. Local church and civic group volunteers will collect \$5 parking donations to support next year's Project of the Year.

While last year's Chainsaw Village will not return this year, Butler chainsaw sculptor Ken Tynan will be back along with a recently carved likeness of Waterpark Mascot CT. New chainsaw creations will be carved live throughout the event. Other artwork projects will include a new "chalk art" illusion, yarn bombing, and a display of statuary created by local artists.

Of course, many other mainstay attractions of previous Community Days will return. In addition to Wednesday evening's Martinis with Monet, they include a Thursday car cruise, a full carnival, musical stage entertainment, the Lions Pancake Breakfast, a 5k charity race, a demonstration of vehicle extrication technique, disc golf lessons, the fire company's Battle of the Barrel, a huge assortment of food vendors, and prizes awarded to the three successful Treasure Hunters.

The fireworks spectacular will officially close the event starting at 9:30 on Saturday evening.



HOT Summer **FREE CONCERTS**

COMMUNITY DAYS
Community Park
THURSDAY, JULY 11
RUMORS TAVERN
7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JULY 12
SYDNEY MACK
7:30 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 13
KEYSTONE STATE
MUSICAL THEATER
3:30 PM

MARY ANN MANGINI
5:30 PM

BRIGHTON BOYS
8:00 PM

PARK CONCERTS
Rotary Amphitheater
Community Park, 7 PM

THE WOO HOO BAND
Thursday, July 18

RANDY GALIOTO
PRESENTS
"ELVIS LIVES"
Thursday, July 25

THE RICK PURCELL BAND
Tuesday, July 30

THE PROJECT BAND
Tuesday, Aug 6

GAZEBO CONCERTS
Municipal Center
Front Lawn
12 PM

ROCK JAZZ
Friday, July 26

KEYSTONE STATE
MUSICAL THEATER
Friday, August 16

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

FREE! IN GRAHAM PARK

MOVIES

ARMSTRONG
Life made easy.

SMALLFOOT Weds., July 31 Rated PG	LEGO BATMAN Weds., August 14 Rated PG
PINOCCHIO Weds., August 7 Rated G	THE MIGHTY DUCKS Weds., August 21 Rated PG

CRANBERRY'S SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES IS ON A ROLL

COMMUNITY PARK'S ROTARY AMPHITHEATER

July 11: Rumors Tavern Band. 7:30 PM. This hard-rocking guitar, bass and drum trio opens the 2019 Community Days festival, belting out heavy metal music as well as classic rock standards.

July 12: Sydney Mack. 7:30 PM. Pittsburgh-born country music singer Sydney Hutchko, now a resident of Nashville, has won a following for her sultry, soulful sound and powerful on-stage presence.

July 13: Keystone State Musical Theater. 3:30 PM. Faculty and staff of this performance teaching school present classics from the golden age of musicals and Broadway favorites.

July 13: Mary Ann Mangini. 5:30 PM. This singer/actress is currently on tour with her jazz quintet. Her debut jazz album, *Release Me*, includes popular jazz standards and original works.

July 13: Brighton Boys. 8:00 PM. This Pop Rock quartet puts its own twist on throwback sounds, combining classic and current songs with a fresh, new style. The band's original tunes are also generating buzz.

July 18: The Woo Hoo Band. 7:00 PM. Four-part vocal harmonies blend with a variety of instruments to create a fun, dancing atmosphere filled with popular music and originals.

July 25: Randy Galioto Presents "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 final performances in Las Vegas.

July 30: The Rick Purcell Band. 7:00 PM. Versatile keyboardist Rick Purcell and vocalist/guitarist collaborator Shari Richards perform musical selections ranging from the Big Band era to the present.

August 6: The Project Band. 7:00 PM. This Beaver County-based ensemble describes itself as a band that plays great classic songs by classic bands. Its music set list includes songs from the Bee Gees, Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, and more.

MUNICIPAL CENTER GAZEBO

July 26: Rock Jazz Trio. Noon. Based in Slippery Rock, this violin-guitar-bass trio plays old-time jazz and gypsy jazz, along with a sprinkle of classic rock and folk covers.

August 16: Keystone State Musical Theater. Noon. Faculty and staff of this performance teaching school present classics from the golden age of musicals and Broadway favorites.

MOVIES AT GRAHAM PARK Sponsored by Armstrong

July 31: SmallFoot. 8:30 PM. In this animated 2018 adventure comedy, a Yeti is convinced that the elusive creatures known as "humans" really do exist.

August 7: Pinocchio. 8:30 PM. In this 1940 animated family classic, a living puppet, with the help of a cricket as his conscience, must prove himself worthy to become a real boy.

August 14: The Lego Batman Movie. 8:30 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.

August 21: Mighty Ducks. 8:30 PM. In this 1992 feature film, a self-centered Minnesota lawyer is sentenced to community service coaching a ragtag youth hockey team.



CRANBERRY DISC GOLF IS



OPEN FOR BUSINESS

CTCC's 2018 Project of the Year – a championship level 18-hole disc golf course, along with its companion learning course and two-mile nature trail on a 70-acre site in North Boundary Park – is now open for play. The course, which officially opened on June 15, includes some of the most challenging disc golf play anywhere.

At more than 10,700 feet in length, with a full par 72 rating, the Cranberry Championship Disc Golf Course will become known as the nation's best disc golf course, according to its designer, J. Gary Dropcho. Of the world's 7,400 disc golf courses, Cranberry's will be among the ten longest. Its challenging terrain covers elevation changes, tight fairways and lots of trees to navigate around.

The Disc Golf Course is a joint undertaking of Cranberry Township, CTCC, and the Pittsburgh Flying Disc Society, an independent organization of enthusiasts. Its senior members will offer free instruction for anyone interested in learning the sport, as well as providing maintenance and fundraising support for the facility.

By Memorial Day weekend, just two weeks prior to its official dedication, essentially every aspect of the Disc Golf course was already in place. Three concrete tee pads had been installed at all 18 holes – one each for beginner, intermediate and advanced players. Vegetation had been cleared from the fairways. Signs had been mounted. And preparations for the 6-hole Learn to Play circuit were well underway.

The Nature Trail is accessible from North Boundary Road as well as from a trailhead near the park's Veterans Memorial, next to the site of the old maintenance barn which was taken down last year. It traverses the woods with views of the course's holes, tees and fairways. The trail is designed to easily connect with other nearby trails, creating a continuous loop throughout the park.

"There's a lot of excitement going around about the disc golf course," according to Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis. "A lot of people are calling and asking about it. And Pittsburgh Flying Disc is gearing up and getting ready to offer tournaments."

Of course, casual play will always be welcome. But the project's backers also hold some serious game aspirations. "The course will be nationally sanctioned for a rotation of tournaments," Geis pointed out. "CTCC's ultimate goal is to make it a premier course hosting an annual, multi-day tournament attracting the world's best players – the Cranberry Masters! We are the only course in the region that actually has Par 5 holes, so we're considered one of the top courses in the state. We should be able to draw in some significant tournaments." ☺





Waterpark gets a better BACK DOOR

During each of the last two seasons, Parks & Recreation maintained a temporary rear entrance to the Waterpark facing the soccer fields' parking lot. Even though it was housed in a tent and lacked full-service capabilities, it proved to be popular. That is, until a storm blew the tent away and ruined its electronics.

This year they're doing it right. "We've got a really enhanced second entrance with drop-off spots," Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis explained. "Before, people had to climb a little hill. It was definitely a temporary situation. But it was so well received that it's now a full-service second entrance. IT equipment is permanently placed in there. We can accept credit and debit cards. So it's become a true, managed, second entrance."

That's not the only Waterpark improvement this year. "Brand new pool lights have been installed –LED fixtures on poles," Geis said. "That's the first time since we opened the pool 20-some years ago that those lights have been replaced. So we're going to have much better night vision. We're also

enhancing the sound system there; while we put in new light poles, we also ran new speaker wire.

"One of the other things our guests will see this year is a new monitor screen. A lot of people have expressed concerns about how we manage the Waterpark – whether it's telling people to keep an eye on their kids while they're in the pool, or why we have an 'adult swim' 15 minutes of every hour. This year we've installed a TV monitor at the concession stand to remind them of safety issues, to tell people we have new healthy food options, and to explain some of the incentives to get a Waterpark membership. Every 15 seconds the message will change."

"The biggest complaint we hear about at the Waterpark concerns the line at the concession stand," he said. "So we're trying to do something about how the lines can be better managed, and by using a second line. The concession also takes credit cards now. On the other hand, our aquatics learning programs this year are packed and very successful." 

Back then....

In 1928 – roughly 60 years before the Township's Waterpark opened – Cranberry residents found ways to cool off during the summer months. Here, Elyse Kirstatter, Ruth Powell, Odessa Deemer, Elva Powell, and Mary Deemer enjoy a swim in Brush Creek. Two of the families are memorialized in Cranberry place names. Today's Powell Road carries the Powell family name; the Avery Fields neighborhood on Powell Road is named for Avery Deemer, upon whose farm the plan was built. 

Thanks to the Cranberry Historical Society for the photo and annotations.



DICK'S WRAPS UP GRAHAM PARK SPONSORSHIP

It's been fun, but now it's time to move on.

Dick's Sporting Goods, which secured the initial naming rights to Cranberry Township's Graham Park athletic complex in 2008, concluded its ten-year, multi-million dollar park sponsorship agreement at the end of last year. That agreement was instrumental in the park's development, according to Cranberry Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis.

"We're very appreciative of Dick's," Geis said. "That was a very significant sponsorship. They fulfilled their portion of the agreement, and we thank them. They've held various events there and several Dick's commercials have also been shot in the park."

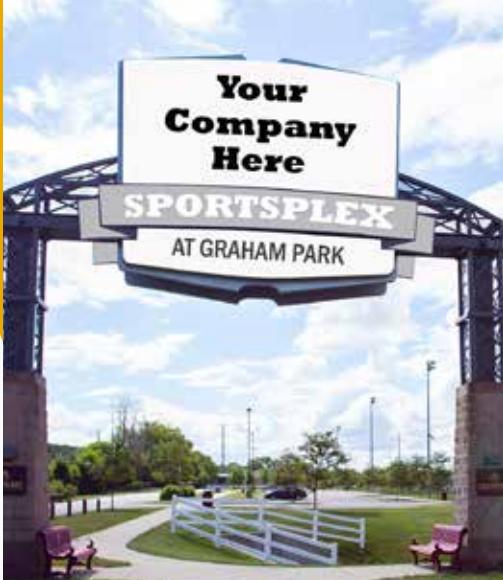
A key element of the agreement has been the tall monument sign facing the adjacent Pennsylvania Turnpike, identifying the park as Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex at Graham Park. Last year, ten million vehicles passed the prominently placed sign which also gave their occupants a glimpse at the athletic fields behind it.

"I've gotten calls from Parks & Recreation departments as close as Beaver and Allegheny County, to as far as Texas and Oklahoma from people who have passed by the park and asked us about that sponsorship," Geis said. "It's become an iconic image along the Turnpike as you approach Cranberry Township."

"I'd like to think it played some part in the success the company has experienced in this market. A lot of people have thought of it as Dick's Sporting Goods park without realizing it was actually a Cranberry Township park sponsored by Dick's."

During the park's ten-year history, its initial complement of football, soccer and baseball fields has expanded to include dek hockey, a fishing pond, fitness stations, a trail system, a playground and the CTCC SportCourts complex which opened last year.

The Township is currently seeking interest from other organizations in securing the park's naming rights over the next ten years. 



THE LATEST SCOOP ON PETS IN THE PARK

Until about 40 years ago, dogs in New York City

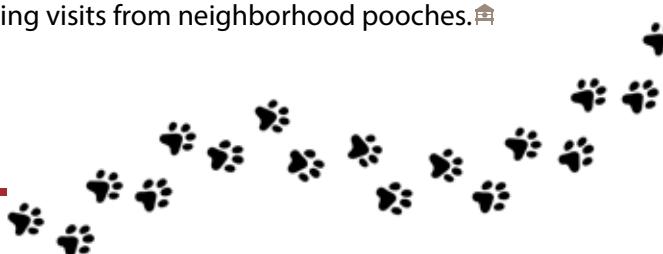
were allowed to do their business just about anywhere – sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, gardens, etc. And they did. Then City Council enacted the "Scoop Law," which many residents cynically dismissed as impossible to enforce on jaded New Yorkers. But they were wrong. Starting the very day the new law went into effect, everyone in the city became a deputy – calling out and shaming dog owners into cleaning up after their pets.

Cranberry residents are a bit more demure than New Yorkers, but they are also keenly aware that, except for certain designated areas, dogs are not allowed in Township parks. So they discretely report violations to the police or to Parks & Recreation.

"People with dogs are making greater use of the parks than they're supposed to," Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis acknowledged. "We're getting flooded with complaints that dogs are out of control in the park now. It involves dogs both on and off-leash. And it's primarily a problem in North Boundary and Graham Park; people have the option of a dog park in Community Park, so I haven't heard any complaints of people having their dogs there."

It's not that the dogs are accused of attacking people or fouling the park, he conceded. But everyone knows that dogs aren't supposed to be there, and the more it happens without consequence, the more dog owners feel that it's really okay. However, adding more "No Dogs" signs comes at an awkward time for the Township; a proposal to open the nature trail through the new Disc Golf Course to dog walkers is under consideration although, Geis emphasizes, no decision has been made.

The good news is that the Township does have a popular dog-friendly trail. The Brush Creek Trail Extension is located at the Commons at Thorn Hill and is happily awaiting visits from neighborhood pooches. 



DIVERSITY PROJECT LOSES A LEADER



Gary M. Winterhalter, a long-time resident of Cranberry Township and a devoted advocate for diversity and inclusion, passed away on May 8 of a progressive lung disorder. For the past five years, Winterhalter had co-chaired, along with retired USPS executive Charles Hawkins, a Township effort to develop programs designed to make Cranberry more welcoming to immigrant residents and visitors as well as to those with special needs. For Winterhalter, it was an assignment that grew out of strongly held beliefs.

Following a career with his family's kitchen design business, Winterhalter transitioned into publishing, working in a variety of capacities, most recently with the Post-Gazette's then-new digital venture, from which he retired in 2010. In his spare time, he and Carol, his wife of 50 years, worked on different Township commissions, including the launch of Cranberry's public library. But it was for his volunteer work with a local community advocacy network formed in 1993 after riots that grew out of the infamous Rodney King incident in Los Angeles, that brought out the depth of his concern for social justice, which was shared by co-chair, Charles Hawkins.

Over time, the network's activities receded. But in 2014, it was revived by the Township's interest in finding consultants who, under the supervision of Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis, could formulate and coordinate programs to make Cranberry more inclusive. Since then, the Cranberry Area Diversity Network, as the project became known, has produced an assortment of well-attended events: CranFest,



Gary and Carol Winterhalter enjoying their time together at 2019 CranFest.

Movies & Munch, dances for people with Special Needs, and Mental Health symposia, are among the many programs it produced.

For Winterhalter, however, there was something deeply personal about the work. "I grew up with a younger sister who had cerebral palsy," he recalled in 2014. "My sister was my hero, and I say that without any hesitation. She couldn't walk, she couldn't talk. But she could light up a room with her smile and her laugh.

"When we went into a restaurant, more often than not, people would stare and talk among themselves. It was awkward for us. I understand what it's like to have someone like that in your family. So it's important to me that nobody be ostracized in our community. We all come from somewhere in our past where people have been ostracized, and sometimes we forget that. I think we need to step back and be more involved. Right now, we've got a scenario in Washington where the idea is to bully, berate, and turn this into some sort of Mad Max movie."

"I would like to be one little point of light in the darkness saying 'No! this doesn't represent the world! This doesn't represent my community!'

"Gary's passing is a tremendous loss to our Diversity program," Geis recently reflected. "He was a massive advocate for the cultural diversity effort here, and he has been for 20 years. He's going to be tough to replace." ☀



What's the Buzzzz about the Bees?

CRANBERRY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY APIARY

CRANBERRYHIGHLANDS.COM/APIARY

Opening soon...



Should we just say “no” to growth?

By Bruce Hezlep, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



Back in March, residents of a nearby community, upset over a proposed housing development, forcefully told their Board of Supervisors that they didn't want the plan to be approved. They argued that the plan would aggravate traffic problems, create pollution, and present safety issues, in addition to consuming 52 acres of rural land.

Problem was, the proposal had been recommended by the township's planning commission, it satisfied the township's ordinances, and the Supervisors had publicly acknowledged as much. But the people at the meeting weren't satisfied. So, in the end, the Board conceded to the plan's opponents, denying approval to the project, and steeling themselves for a costly lawsuit which, based on past precedent, could easily turn out in the developer's favor.

Here in Cranberry, opposition to Singer Group's Forest Edge development was much the same, although it had a different outcome. Nearby residents were vocal in their opposition to the plan's expansion onto land that had been part of a church retreat before being sold to the developer. A few weeks later, on a separate matter, when news about the groundbreaking for a mixed-use project on the old Meeder farm was posted on social media, the responses were searing.

In each of these cases as well as many others, there seems to be a misunderstanding of what a local government should do, what it is allowed to do, and what rights the owners of property have. Some of it is spelled out in the 1988 Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, which is the foundation for local ordinances.

For one thing, Pennsylvania is strong on property rights to protect land owners against abuse by local government. That means, for example, any public authorities that have powers of eminent domain are required to operate under tight restrictions and limitations. It also means that while municipalities have the right to zone for land use, they cannot arbitrarily down-zone, or take away a property owner's right to use the land as stipulated in the property's original title transfer. And while the state allows local ordinances that guide development to include all sorts of reasonable stipulations to protect a project's neighbors, once those requirements are satisfied, the municipality is obliged to approve it.

Every square inch of Cranberry is owned by someone, even if it's only a wooded hillside or meadow. If a municipal government tries to exceed its authority by essentially taking away the property owner's rights to use their land in a lawful way, that municipality can be taken to court and subject to having its land decision reversed.

Of course, many people moved to Cranberry when it was more rural, with vast swaths of woodlands and fields. And it's easy to understand why they would want to preserve the rustic qualities that attracted them here in the first place. So our Board and staff have worked diligently to craft ordinances that protect the scenic qualities of Cranberry while, at the same time, allowing new development to go forward. We think we have largely succeeded in steering growth toward a more walkable, more appealing, better connected community. But there's no question that it comes at the price of losing a certain amount of open space and experiencing an increase of traffic.

Maintaining a balance between the rights of property owners and the legitimate needs of their neighbors is an evergreen challenge for our Board. But the option of just saying 'no' to new development is simply unrealistic. ☟



CAN A TOWNSHIP **REALLY BUY HAPPINESS?**

Municipal planners are loath to use the word 'happiness' when discussing their work objectives. Instead, they prefer the more professional term 'quality of life,' which loosely translates into the same thing.

Accordingly, over the past 20 years, Cranberry has made huge investments in its quality of life. In fact, since 1999, transportation investments alone in Cranberry have come to around \$100 million. Add to that its investment in parks, playgrounds, the golf course and other recreational amenities – without even counting Cranberry's outstanding public safety services – and the dollar figure goes even higher.

But what's particularly noteworthy about those investments is not as much the absolute dollar amount as how well-planned and strategic they've been. Take, for example, the Township's Transportation Capital Improvements Program. It's a prioritized list of needed road improvements that looks ahead ten years. To get on that list, a project must first be evaluated for current and projected traffic volumes, for crashes or other incidents reported, for stormwater drainage, for sight lines, for connectivity, and for other factors that would influence its urgency. And that list is constantly under review.

Recreational assets involving land use are a bit more opportunistic, coming into play, for example, when the owner of a farm chooses to sell. But the decision to invest in transforming that farm into parkland is also strategic – associated, among other things, with its proximity to residential neighborhoods, its linkage to the Township's trail

system, and its suitability for hosting types of recreation that don't duplicate the other municipal parks.

Parks, however, are not the only protected green spaces in Cranberry. In fact, Township ordinances require the permanent protection of what amounts to approximately 35 percent of Cranberry's total land mass. Much of it, of course, is on private land – built into PRDs, for example. Then again, apart from its parks, ALL of the open space that currently exists in the Township is on private land. And that, according to Assistant Township Manager Dan Santoro, is where misunderstandings often occur.

People whose homes abut an undeveloped area of meadow or woodland are inclined to see the adjacent property as their own scenic easement – one that belongs to them. But unless they buy or lease it, the property's actual title holder has the right to sell it or develop it consistent with Township zoning regulations. And sometimes that can mean a private view which the homeowner thought came with their home won't always be there – a turn of events which can be bitter to swallow.

At least from a distance, however, there is still a benefit to current homeowners. It's that the Township's investments and ordinances have leveraged much larger investments by the private sector in homes, offices, stores and other facilities that pay taxes. Income from those taxes helps to finance the quality of life that Cranberry residents have come to expect, and to keep their own property taxes low.

That may not be happiness, but it comes pretty close. ☺

COMING to a street corner near YOU...

Five of Cranberry's traffic control cabinets – the plain-Jane stainless-steel boxes next to the traffic light poles at most signalized intersections – will soon become works of art.

A joint pilot project by the Township and the Cranberry Artists Network identified a handful of utility boxes at high-traffic intersections to become canvases for original artwork. If the pilot program is determined to be successful, it will expand to other locations.

Although utility box artwork is new to Western Pennsylvania, art projects involving traffic cabinets have been tried successfully in California, Washington state, and Wisconsin where they are sometimes used as an antidote to graffiti problems, although that form of vandalism has not been an issue in Cranberry.

In January, the Township together with the Artists Network began soliciting ideas from artists for images which could be turned into vinyl sheets and then wrapped around a utility box. Altogether, 91 entries were received. A committee was formed to screen the applicants' ideas. Then in May, five of the artists' works were selected to be mounted on control boxes. Each artist receives a \$400 licensing fee. The names of the artists as well as titles of their work will appear on the boxes. KeyTex Energy is a sponsor of the box art program.

Here are the winning artists and the titles of their works:

- Monica Hietsch – Dogs, Dogs, Dogs
- Karen Lovette – The Incline
- Tom Panei – On a Good Note
- Debra Tobin – Sunset on the Farm
- Samantha Podnar – Sunset in Suburbia



ART



2020 Census is looking for (quite) a few good workers



The Census Bureau, a unit of the federal Department of Commerce, estimates America's population, demographics and economic activity all year long, every year. But the decennial census, mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, is not an estimate based on sampling; it's a complete count of everyone living in the United States as of April 1 each census year. It includes people in jails, hospitals, college dorms, group homes and even the homeless, as well as those in more traditional housing arrangements.

Census results have a major impact on U.S. Congressional representation as well as on the allocation of state and federal funds for things like schools, hospitals and roads – much of which is based on census-driven formulae. Private businesses also make extensive use of census data in establishing site locations and formulating marketing plans.

Conducting a comprehensive census is a massive job, involving a long sequence of steps. They require lots of feet on the ground as well as state-of-the-art technology. In the buildup to next year's census, nine area Census offices were opened in Pennsylvania, including one on Executive Drive in Cranberry. Right now, their biggest task is to recruit the thousands of temporary census workers needed to carry out field work in their home communities, like verifying address records.

Jobs with the Census Bureau offer flexible hours, weekly pay, and free training. Requirements include being a U.S. citizen 18 or older, having a Social Security number and email address, passing a criminal background check and, for men born in 1959 or earlier, registration with the Selective Service System.

The census will be supported by dedicated advertising and communication campaigns designed to increase awareness and participation in the count, which will rely heavily on people voluntarily completing the forms they are mailed. Higher self-response rates improve the accuracy of the census and reduce follow-up costs for nonresponding households.

More information: 2020census.gov/jobs or 1-855-JOB-2020.



•CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP•

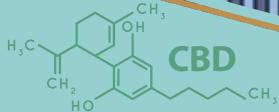
BUSINESS HUB

Business **TODAY**

UPDATES FROM THE CENTER OF BUSINESS IN CRANBERRY



CRANBERRY'S NEW CBD STORE STAYS **OUT** OF THE **WEEDS**



A trio of entrepreneurs in Cranberry may be at the leading edge of a major revolution in non-narcotic, non-addictive pain relief. But navigating the path to get there has been tricky.

Back in the 1930s, America's timber companies felt threatened by the use of hemp – a fast-growing plant with multiple industrial uses including as pulp for paper production. Banding together, the companies lobbied Congress, conflating hemp with its psychoactive cousin marijuana, and using it as a pretext for outlawing the growth and use of either plant for any purpose. It wasn't until December of last year that Congress, in an omnibus farm bill, finally legalized the production of hemp under federal law.

At the same time, however, researchers in Jerusalem, operating under a different legal code, began conducting studies looking into hemp's naturally occurring compounds. They discovered that humans, have receptors for at

least one of those compounds, CBD – shorthand for Cannabidiol – which accounts for up to 40% of the plant's extract. And their clinical studies found that CBD does, in fact, provide relief for those suffering from pain, anxiety, nausea, stress, and other conditions.

Meanwhile, back in the U.S., state and local laws concerning the sale and use of CBD – and even, by prescription, of medications containing the psychoactive compound THC – were starting to become more relaxed. But the legal environment, which is still in flux, has been uneven, varying from state to state and even county to county, resulting in confusion for suppliers and users alike. But the benefits of CBD have been so remarkable that entrepreneurs, investors, and even mainstream consumer products companies, including brewers and soft drink makers, have been moving quickly into what promises to be a huge and lucrative market.

Owners Wayne Bell, Shaun Painter, and Ed Bailey at Your CBD Store in LaSalle Plaza on Rt. 19. More info: www.cbdrx4u.com or call 877-200-1686.

In Cranberry, that initiative has been a friends-and-family project. By day, Ed Bailey – a Marine with two tours of duty in Iraq under his belt and a series of health issues to show for it – sells drugs for a major pharmaceutical company. Following his military discharge, he read as many reports as he could find about CBD and then used the product to treat his own conditions. He became a believer, and that experience led him, together with brother-in-law Shaun Painter and best friend Wayne Bell, to open The CBD Store in LaSalle Plaza on Rt. 19.

For Painter, it was actually his second CBD store; his first is in Gibsonia. But both are actually part of an unofficial network that currently includes 17 stores in the Greater Pittsburgh area selling SunMed CBD products and, if Bailey's vision comes to pass, eventually as the foundation for a national or even global enterprise modeled after Starbucks.

Until then, the company's major task is educational – helping people who stop by their store to understand that CBD is not THC, that it's not addictive, that there are no adverse drug-to-drug interactions, and even that, with the right dosage, its pain relieving properties can offer a viable alternative to the dangerous narcotics currently causing serious problems nationwide.

Anyone 18 or older is free to buy the store's CBD products; no prescription is needed.

Environmental Committee established

Residents concerned about the impact of development on Cranberry's natural environment now have an official forum for pursuing those concerns. A new Township Ad Hoc Environmental Advisory Committee has been established. Recently, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors appointed eleven residents to serve on the committee. They include Ryan Baptiste, John Burglund, Tim Casey, Anne Gill, Fred Peterson, Honora Rockar, Zachary Sanctis, Ed Sarver, Erma Scarfutti, Allison Smith, and Rodney Smith.



J P Morgan Chase comes to town

New York banks are continuing to target Cranberry. As a result, the former Sheetz building on Old Freedom Road may not be around much longer. Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has given approval to the conditional use and land development applications from J P Morgan Chase Bank to raze the old Sheetz building and erect a new, 3,470 square foot bank branch on the one-acre site, which will include various streetscape enhancements.



Apartment building developer buys into Meeder project

Charter Homes, developer of the massive Meeder mixed-use project at the corner of Rochester Road and Rt. 19, is planning to sell off the apartment component of its plans, which is identified as Phase Four of the multi-phase development's master plan. The buyer is Watermark of Indianapolis, a company that specializes in upscale apartment building. Charter, however, will remain responsible for its implementation. The project's clubhouse, pool and dog park area are also planned to be integrated into the apartment phase.



Final phase of Forest Edge gets thumbs up

Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has approved a third phase of the Singer Development company's Forest Edge Planned Residential Development. The plan, which has access from Hope Road, visualizes 42 new single-family homes on a 34-acre wooded tract acquired last year from the adjacent Russian Orthodox Church retreat. The revised master plan, which was the subject of several lengthy public hearings earlier this year, will bring the neighborhood's total to 101 units.

Neighborhood commercial uses expanded

Among Cranberry Township's zoning districts is one called Convenience Commercial, or C-1. There are five such districts. Their purpose is to enable small businesses, like convenience grocers, barbers, and coffee shops to open for business in strategic locations around the Township where they can serve nearby neighborhoods. Cranberry's Board of Supervisors recently amended the Township's zoning ordinance to allow recreational businesses to open in those zones – something that had not been permitted before. Examples would include membership or fee-based tennis clubs, swimming pools, tracks, or miniature golf courses.



Indoor dog park is coming

With six months a year of bad weather, Cranberry dogs and their owners need some relief. At least that's the theory of one local couple whose applications to build a membership-based indoor dog park. The developers' plans for a single-story 19,425 square foot building will include an open off-leash play area with artificial grass and dog toys as well as a lounge for dog owners. The structure will be constructed on a previously undeveloped 1.2-acre lot at the corner of Alps Avenue and Rochester Road.

Township lines up partial financing for underpass

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank provides an opportunity to help communities finance road projects with low-interest loans. Cranberry anticipates the start of construction on the MSA Thruway in 2020 – an underpass below Rt. 228 connecting Cranberry Woods with Cranberry Springs. However, lining up state financing for projects of that type can be a lengthy process. Accordingly, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved a proposal to submit an application to the Infrastructure Bank for up to \$9 million as a standby line of credit – just in case the money is needed to keep the project moving.

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**Find out what's coming soon,
recently opened or under construction:
CranberryTownship.org/Biz411**

**Condo project gets go-ahead**

The application for final approval of a planned residential development from Weaver Master Builders for a neighborhood of patio-style homes on a 15-acre site at the corner of Franklin and North Boundary Roads was approved by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors. The single-phase project will create 27 mostly one-story homes along a new private street which will be accessed from North Boundary Road. Other features of the plan include streetlights, sidewalks on both sides, integral two-car garages, and a unique raised garden in the teardrop loop at the end of the cul-de-sac.

HOP ON THE BUS, GUS***Set yourself free from traffic worries.***

Weekday commuter service between Cranberry and Pittsburgh is now available from three separate transit agencies: Butler Transit Authority, New Castle Transit, and Lenzner Coach Lines. Fares range from \$4 to \$5.75 each way, depending on where you catch the bus. But there's a small catch: the stop for the Butler and New Castle services is the Park 'n Ride lot at I-79 and Rt. 528 north of Cranberry.



thebus Butler Transit Authority   

Lenzner coaches leave from two places: the old Blade Runners on Marshall Drive and the Warrendale-Brush Creek Road Park 'n Ride, south of Cranberry. Downtown stops vary from one carrier to the next. Together, the three agencies provide 19 inbound trips daily, starting at 5:30 AM, and a comparable number of northbound trips starting as early as 3:45 PM. For details and links to schedules, go to CranberryTownship.org/Commute.

**BACK TO BANKING**

The white building at the northeast corner of Freedom and Haine School Road has gone full circle. On May 14, Allegent Community Credit Union, with its home office in McCandless, held a symbolic groundbreaking to mark the organization's first physical location in Butler County. Its new home in Cranberry, which is expected to open for business this fall, will provide essentially identical services to those of commercial banks, although as a member-owned business instead of an investor-owned one, its charter is issued by a separate regulatory body.

The building it will occupy has, for the past 20 years, been home to two dry cleaners – Williamsburg Cleaners and more recently Model Cleaners. But back in the '80s, it was built to be a branch of Century National Bank, a financial institution based in Newark, Ohio and part of a national family of community banks which no longer operate in Pennsylvania. As a result, both the history and architecture of the facility offered a perfect fit for its newest tenant.



TrueCommerce President Ross Elliott

TRUECOMMERCE CONNECTS BUSINESS CUSTOMERS

For most consumers as well as many small businesses, anything that happens between placing an online order and accepting delivery a day or two later occurs in something of a black box. Of course there are purchase orders, shipping notices, invoices, accounting entries, payments, and other sorts of documentation involved, most of which take place out of the customer's sight. But they're all important; if they don't happen correctly, the transaction fails.

TrueCommerce, a company with 150 employees in Cranberry Business Park and a history in the North Hills going back to the 1995 start of Internet commerce, specializes in expediting business data connections between the principals to a transaction. It also loops in all the others whose work takes place inside that black box. Today, when essentially all major retailers depend on sophisticated electronic data interchange systems linking their

internal departments to suppliers, being able to communicate in a digital format using the EDI technical standard is the price of admission for doing business.

Problem is, for a small startup business aspiring to sell its wares through Walmart, Target, Costco or any of the other big box retailers, that level of sophistication is out of reach. Most small businesses rely on off-the-shelf software like Quickbooks for their accounting, payment, and other financial functions, and those are not compliant with EDI standards. That's where TrueCommerce comes in. The company has created integrations between about 30 different off-the-shelf business software systems used in the U.S. and abroad with its own network of connections to the retail giants.

TrueCommerce President Ross Elliott explains it this way: "If you think back to the 1940s or '50s, when someone made a phone call, there was this switchboard panel where people plugged you into the person you're calling," he said. "Think of us as the guys with that panel. We've got Home Depot, Sam's Club, Costco, Walmart, Target and Kohl's among the 90,000 company connections we've already made. So as a new venture, when you

plug into my network, you immediately have access to all those retailers."

Helping small businesses to play in the same arena as the giants was the foundation of TrueCommerce's success and still represents a significant portion of its business. But over the years the company has continued to grow with most of its business now involving web storefronts, drop-ship programs, heavy-duty retail sites like Amazon, eBay, and China's huge online vendor, Alibaba. At the same time, the company itself has gone through some major changes.

TrueCommerce today is one of several dozen companies owned by the Menlo Park, California private equity firm Accel KKR, which acquired True Commerce in 2014 and has expanded under the company's brand name ever since. "My two partners and I sold our business back in 2004 and splintered for maybe a year and a half," Elliott explained. "Then we got together around the holidays in 2005 and said we'd like to get the band back together again. So we raised some money in early 2006, started a business, and acquired a bunch of companies. TrueCommerce was one of those.

"We've been very fortunate that Cranberry has provided us a rich pool of talent that has helped us grow the business," Elliott reflected.

"We are really, really focused on providing a global connectivity platform for our customers," he said. "We do EDI and we do it really well. But these days we do a lot of other stuff too."

Today, TrueCommerce's supply chain networks include 550 employees throughout North America, Europe, Ireland, the UK and China. Last year it handled 600 million transactions for more than 12,000 paying customers, generating in excess of \$100 million in revenue. 

CRANBERRY POLICE



FACE MIGHTY OPPONENT

It all came down to the Big Exhibition Game. After weeks of mental preparation and physical conditioning, 15 members of the Cranberry Police Department suited up to face down their opponent: the Mighty Penguins – a special unit of its namesake professional hockey team.

There was just one key difference: the Mighty Penguins, unlike the regular Penguins, is entirely comprised of young disabled players. So the game is played on special toboggan-like sleds, with all of the puck passing and sled propulsion focused on the player's upper body strength. For this particular game, Cranberry's police, who pride themselves on physical prowess, would also be using sleds for the game – just to keep things fair. But for almost all of them, it was their first time sitting in, and sometimes falling out of one.

Begin 50 years ago at a rehabilitation center in Sweden and later exported to the United States as a concession to handicapped children, sled hockey today is rapidly becoming a mainstream sport. It is already part of the International ParaOlympics competition and later this year, the Lemieux center will host one of the largest sled hockey tournaments ever. It is also home ice to the Mighty Penguins, and a high-profile showcase for the sport itself. Raising the sport's visibility and promoting sled hockey to prospective players in the region was a primary goal behind the Township police involvement.

Patrolman Justin Hewitt, who was already involved in youth hockey as well as being a newly elected member of the

Mighty Penguins Board, cites the case of the Humboldt Broncos. "They were a bus full of essentially professional hockey players in a Canadian junior hockey league. On their way to a game, a semi hit the bus and killed 16 players. Today some of the survivors, who are now physically disabled, continue playing hockey using sleds," he said.

But degrees of disability vary tremendously. "Some kids are physically or mentally handicapped to the point that they require volunteer 'pushers' using a rail on the back of the sled. Somebody pushes them around and frequently gets involved in the game," Hewitt explained. "They're like the 'Buddy' system in Miracle League; very similar concepts.

"However, most of the players on Team USA don't have mental disabilities. It's just that they're missing legs – some lost both legs, some just one. But they're in absolutely phenomenal shape," Hewitt said. "It's unreal how good a condition they're in for whatever disabilities they have."

The rules for sled hockey are essentially the same as those for conventional ice hockey although the sticks are shorter with ice-gripping teeth on one end and a paddle blade at the other.

In Cranberry, the puck dropped on a Saturday afternoon in May at the Lemieux Center. At first it seemed the police were focused on keeping from falling off their sleds and being nice to their disabled opponents. But, as the Mighty Penguins kept racking up point after point, the police attitude changed, although their success on the rink did not. By the third period, it was the handicapped players who took pity on the cops. Their star player – a ParaOlympic gold medalist – switched to a police jersey, scoring a goal for the PD. Then, out of a bewildering scrum of players, Police Cpl. William Och also managed to get one into the net, for a final score of Cranberry Police 2, Mighty Penguins 5.

"We were excited to do it," Cranberry Patrolman and Police Association head Rob Capezio later reflected. "The only thing that got injured was our pride. I was looking forward to this, although I was also a little terrified because we were all outside our comfort zones. But I always tell people to get comfortable being uncomfortable. This was a good opportunity to take my own advice." ☺



DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

There was a time, as motorists of a certain age will tell you, that driving a car required your undivided attention. You needed to make sure the engine didn't overheat. You had to monitor for oil leaks, you had to shift the gears, pump the brakes, check the tires, and constantly maneuver to keep your car from running off the road. Maintenance was constant, and some of it you had to do yourself. That was then.

Today, cars are much more reliable; owners can go for years without ever popping the hood. They're easier to drive and, unless they hear something unusual, people don't worry about what's going on with the car's mechanical systems. And cars are safer, too. Crumple zones, air bags, seat belts, and a growing chorus of warning systems, together with increased automation of steering and braking, have sharply reduced the likelihood of injury from collisions in today's motor vehicles.

But wrecks still occur every day, and the number of people who die or sustain injuries as a result remains stubbornly high. Ironically, according to Cranberry Police Sgt. Bill Ahlgren, who heads the Township's traffic division, one of the main reasons is an unintended consequence of all those improvements.

"We've made roads better. We've made vehicles more comfortable. We've put things into the car's interior which are great luxuries, but they're also great distractions," he said. "They have allowed us to entertain ourselves with distracting devices instead of paying attention to the road." Things like navigation systems, communication systems, entertainment systems, comfort systems, and so on. And car-based devices are evolving so quickly that state laws

and regulations often lag behind.

At the same time, however, Pennsylvania does have some laws which attempt to keep people from doing things that distract them from driving safely, and more legislation is under review. For example, you can't wear headphones while driving. You can only wear one ear bud, and even then, you can only use it for calls, not music. You can't use a cell phone to send or receive text messages while driving. And for their first six months, junior drivers can't have more than one non-family passenger in the car they're operating. All of those measures are designed to keep the driver focused on the road.

But the task of codifying penalties for every source of driving distraction is impractical. So, there is no specific citation for distracted driving *per se*. Instead, officers look for behavior that contributes to the broader category of Careless Driving. Things like eating or putting on makeup while driving, or having a pet in the front seat, or reading documents, or dealing with unruly children in the back seat – any of which could result in the car drifting from its lane, or erratic movement, or late braking – all of which constitute careless driving for which citations can be issued.

What motorists need to keep in mind is that although cars are safer than ever, it's easy to get seduced into doing other things behind the wheel. But at 70 miles an hour, a car will travel more than 100 feet in just one second – enough to get into serious trouble. So, notwithstanding all the improvements in roads and vehicles over the years, driving remains an activity that requires the operator's full attention. ☺

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Sponsored by Cranberry Elks, AAA East Central, Cranberry Township POLICE & EMS



National Night Out

Come meet your local First Responders!



Tuesday, Aug. 6
5:30 – 8PM
Target, Route 228

Parade, 6:30PM
Face Painting
FBI Child ID Kits
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NEWER CARS AND OLDER DRIVERS TO GET COZY IN FREE EVENT



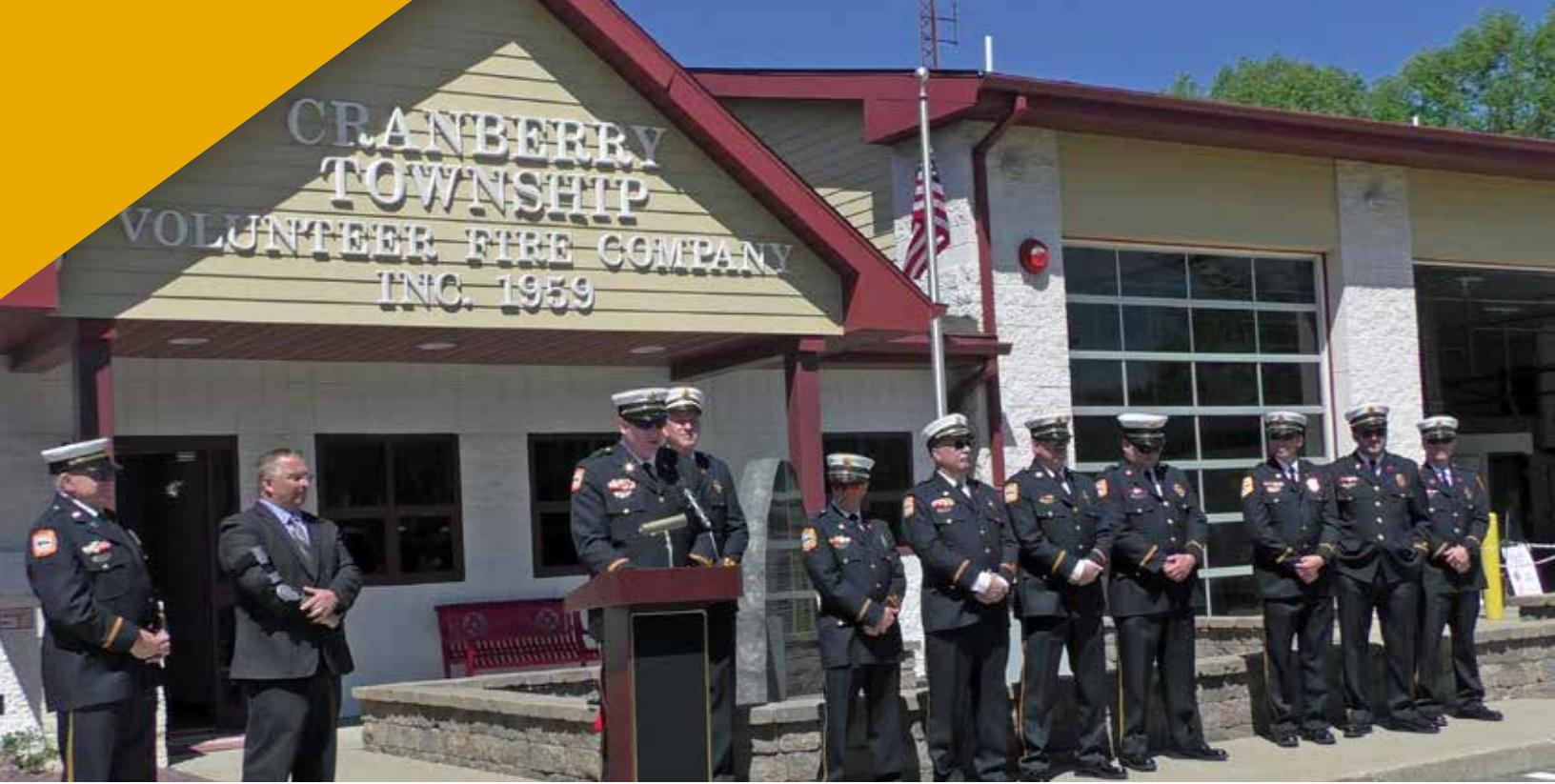
You may have learned to drive decades ago. But some of what you learned may no longer apply. And some of the comfort, convenience and control features which are common in today's cars weren't even around back then. On Thursday, September 12, from 10:00 to 2:00, Cranberry Police and EMS together with representatives from AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association, will offer mature drivers a quick, free session on getting up to speed in the operation of their new vehicles.

Topics covered to help older drivers find the safest, most comfortable fit in their car's driver's seat include getting in

and out of the car easily, avoiding blind spots while driving, sitting where an air bag won't cause injury, comfortably reaching the pedals, clearly viewing the gauges, and readily locating the vehicle's operating controls. Adjustments of steering wheel angle, head restraint height, seat position, mirror settings and vehicle operating controls are all evaluated by safety professionals with recommendations tailored to each individual driver, including those requiring special assistance. The free 45-minute sessions will take place behind Cranberry Township's Rochester Road Municipal Center. To reserve a time, call 724-776-5180 ext. 5.



HOSTED BY CRANBERRY POLICE, EMS
AAA AARP & AOTA



Expanded Fire Station Opens for Business

There are no poles for sleepy firefighters to slide down when midnight alarms come in. But in most other respects, Cranberry's newly rebuilt and expanded Park Fire Station is a contemporary version of the classic urban firehouse, with essentially complete on site living and working quarters for fire company members. A Spring Open House marked the official conclusion of the expansion project.

The Township's decision to invest \$1.3 million in the fire company – which also included a series of modifications to the older Haine School Fire Station – was driven by two strategic considerations.

The first was to reduce the time needed to respond to emergency calls. By having volunteers already at the station instead of at home, the time required for them to drive from their homes to the station where their turnout gear is stored and from there to the scene of the incident, could be significantly shortened. Prior to the expansion, the average time from the receipt of a 9-1-1 call to arrival at the scene approached ten minutes. With the ability to respond directly from the station, that time could be reduced by as much as half – a huge savings in time, particularly in emergency situations.

The second reason has to do with recruitment. Attracting and retaining firefighters is a struggle in essentially every community that depends on volunteer firefighters. Cranberry is no exception. So a major objective of the expansion was to make being part of the fire company more attractive and convenient for members. The dormitory-like design of the station – complete with an

exercise room, a kitchen, a TV room, a conference room, a laundry room, wi-fi service, and various work stations, in addition to the sleeping quarters – can facilitate greater trust and camaraderie between members, both of which are critical factors in responding to danger.

Members are invited to schedule themselves for an overnight or two each week at the station to accelerate emergency responses. However, at some point in the future, accommodations could be offered on a longer-term basis as housing for students or other volunteers who, in return, would commit to responding to 9-1-1 calls.

But it's not all business. The expansion also includes a glassed-in, street-facing room housing the Fire Company's very first engine – a 1928 Pirsch pumper acquired 60 years ago from another volunteer fire company and lovingly restored by Cranberry Fire Company

members under the direction of veteran volunteer Firefighter Jim Cole. ☺



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS SONS

Cranberry firefighter Mark Sekera will be the first to tell you that he really wasn't born to be in the fire service. After all, he was apprehensive about climbing ladders. He had always felt somewhat claustrophobic. No one in his family before him had ever been in the fire service. And besides, he had important family and career matters to attend to.

But seven years ago, his then 15-year old twin sons, Justin and Cameron, became fascinated with the Township's volunteer fire company, and joined it as Junior members. Too young to have their own driver's licenses, they needed a ride, so Mark provided the transportation, frequently hanging out at the station while the boys would go through training.

Today, the twins are in their junior years of college – one at Pitt, another at Penn State – with uncertain prospects of ever returning to firefighting. In the meantime, though, Mark found the fire service to be unexpectedly attractive. So he signed on, completed his Firefighter I certification last year, and serves on the board of the Relief Association – a key financing arm of the volunteer fire company. "The exhilaration you get from going to an emergency and the training just takes you over," he said. "And it motivates me to keep in shape."

By day, as a financial advisor for TIAA, Mark counsels faculty members at universities throughout Western Pennsylvania about their retirement planning. But his company's Bakery Square office in East Liberty is too far for a timely response to 911 calls. As a result, most of the calls Mark answers occur when he's home, in the middle of the night, about four minutes from the Fire Company's Rt. 19 Park Station.

"The majority of them are false alarms," he acknowledged – primarily the result of malfunctioning automatic alarms. "But you never know if it's going to be something, and when it is, it reinvigorates you. You don't realize if it's actually a working



fire until you're on the truck getting updates from the police or the Chief on scene. But you have to prepare. Part of the excitement you've got to prepare yourself for is: is this is going to be the Big One? Or is it just toast, or burned popcorn in a microwave? You've got to be prepared for the real thing. You just never know."

After automatic alarms, the next most frequent calls involve auto wrecks – not surprising with the volume of traffic flowing along the arterial roads that run through the Township. "We do get dispatched for a lot of vehicle collisions," he reflected. "Structure fires are rare." Yet for Mark, the incidents that haunt him most relate to people injured – sometimes fatally – in auto wrecks where a seatbelt could have made a real difference.

Even so, his experience with the fire service has been overwhelmingly positive. "The fire company has really played a great part in the last five years of my life by all the new things that it's opened me up to," he said. "This was never something I thought I'd be doing – until my twin sons joined. And then it became a passion. Now my two youngest sons, Bryce and Declan, are starting to pick up on that excitement." ☀



Emergency Services Facing an Emergency of Their Own

If you live in rural areas, please don't get sick. It can easily take an hour for an ambulance to reach you – if one arrives at all. And when you consider the sorts of emergencies that prompt ambulance calls, a slow response can make the difference between life and death.

"It's a true crisis throughout the state and we are just now starting to talk about it," Cranberry Fire and Emergency Services Chief Dave Gallagher recently reflected. "Because of mutual aid agreements, our ambulances are going out on calls more often due to the demands placed on all EMS agencies. Without mutual aid, you wouldn't get an ambulance, and that's exactly what we don't want; we don't want to reach the day where somebody calls and nobody answers."

While the problem is most acute in rural parts of Pennsylvania, Cranberry is not immune from its impact. Cranberry EMS, which operates under a standards-setting service agreement with the Township, is in a precarious financial situation. Staff turnover is a concern. EMS employees, whose pay ranges from \$11 to \$18 an hour, operate under conditions of high stress, sleep deprivation and traumatic work exposure – frequently requiring them to hold several jobs just to make ends meet. Reimbursement for service from Medicare and Medicaid has been flat for years while the cost of providing those services – a normal run now costs anywhere from \$400 to \$1,200 – has climbed. Beyond that, many private insurance companies pay the patient instead of the ambulance that provided the service. It's a recipe for failure. And Township officials are acutely aware of the risk.

"We won't let it become a crisis here," Township Manager Jerry Andree stressed. "The Board is working hard to find a solution. We're trying to do that in a proactive way versus a reactive way. We don't want to wait until it's a crisis – until our first responders aren't there on time and someone gets badly hurt."

While the struggles of local ambulance companies are only now coming to public attention, the better-known battles of volunteer fire companies to recruit and retain firefighters – particularly for daytime 9-1-1 calls – are happening at essentially the same time. However, the convergence of issues facing the two emergency services may also hold the seeds to a strategy that addresses both functions simultaneously.

Until the 1960s, transporting patients to hospitals was done by local funeral directors using a hearse. That's when Cranberry's ambulance service was formed as part of its volunteer fire company – a common pattern at the time. Eventually, as ambulance services evolved, they became independent with their own administrative and operations personnel. They still are. And the fire companies they began from also retained their own staff hierarchies. That led to duplication of effort.

"We now need to look at the synergies between our existing leadership in Fire and Emergency Services and see if we can reduce some of those redundancies," Gallagher observed. "We also need to look at operating costs to see where we can find synergies."

No one is suggesting a return to having funeral directors double as ambulance drivers, but a rapprochement of fire and EMS with the Township stirred into the mix, may be on its way. ☺



At Home With... JOE AND EMILY YZQUIERDO

Five years ago, Joe Yzquierdo – a local graphic designer whose day job focused on updating his employer's website – was getting bored. The work had become repetitive, involving the same tasks over and over again. He longed for a creative outlet.

A lifelong game enthusiast, Joe would often spend hours with his wife Emily and their friends at home playing board games to pass the time. That's when he came up with the idea for a new game – but it wasn't for the sort of hyper-realistic, ultra-violent online game favored by so many hard-core gamers around the world. Instead, it would be a throwback – a family-friendly game, played face-to-face, using physical cards, tokens and dice on a custom-built playing board illustrated with retro graphics.

Although he had never built a game from scratch before, and wasn't confident that it would actually lead to anything, Joe felt it was worth a try. "I started tearing up little pieces of paper, cutting them out into rough estimates of what a card would be like, writing down anything I thought would work," he recalled. "Within a couple days, I had something I could test. And within a couple weeks I had friends trying it out."

Those friends liked it and thought it was fun. So, to see what other people thought of it, Joe showed his game to New Dimension Comics in Piazza Plaza. The following week, the store brought in some of its regular customers to play the game and offer feedback, which proved helpful.

"It evolved into something where we would take the game to little tournaments," Joe said. "There I met some people

who ran conventions and we talked about running our own tables." So the couple rented one.

Apprehensive that nobody would visit their table, Joe and Emily paid a few of their friends to pretend to play the game. But the ruse turned out to be unnecessary. "We had people waiting in line two hours-plus, just to play the game. That's where they spent their entire weekend, just playing our game – and that was at a convention where the focus wasn't even on board games," he said.

Today, their game, *Havenfall*, is complete and sales are steady, if not spectacular. A scaled-down demo version is available at their website, www.havenfall.com. But bringing it to the point where it could be professionally produced and made available for sale has been a major undertaking for the couple, who are its sole owners, developers and sales staff. It has also been a great learning experience, and what they've learned is now being applied to the development of an entirely different game, *Tectonic Shift*.

For the couple, it has all been part of an interesting voyage. Fourteen years ago, Joe and Emily met while working at Sherwood Oaks – she as a dining room server, he as a dishwasher. Then eight years ago, they got married. Today, Emily works as Senior Coordinator for an aerospace company, auditing the suppliers of aircraft components; Joe's new day job is doing graphic design for Giant Eagle. But in the privacy of their townhome in The Woodlands, it's Joe who still does the dishes while Emily tends to the business aspects of their joint game publishing enterprise. ☺

Cranberry's Water **CLEAN, SAFE, FRESH**

Back in January of 2017, Pittsburgh's Water and Sewer Authority issued a notice to approximately half its customers warning them to boil their water before consuming it. Twenty-two schools were immediately closed as a result. The problem: low levels of chlorine had been discovered in its Highland Park reservoir, leading to possible contamination with giardia – a parasite that can produce intestinal infections.

Pittsburgh wasn't the only city experiencing water problems. Milwaukee, Flint, Newark, Baltimore, Washington, and Charleston, West Virginia also had issues of potentially dangerous contamination. And it's even worse in rural, poor and minority communities, according to a study by News21 that found as many as one in five Americans exposed to potentially unsafe water during the past decade.

So it was comforting to learn that Cranberry's water quality remains excellent. The results of state-mandated water tests for 2018, posted on the Township's website, document that conclusion. But, based on other communities' experiences, a number of new regulations, designed to safeguard America's water supply, have been implemented. One of them recently came into force.

Public water systems are already required to maintain certain levels of disinfectant. The focus of Pennsylvania's new regulation concerns the consistency of that chlorination, which can vary depending on where in a system's distribution lines the water is drawn. The issue's flip side concerns Trihalomethanes (THMs) – by-products of the chlorine used to disinfect drinking water – which tend to build up over time, especially in slow-moving water. THMs have been associated with adverse health effects.

To comply, the Township set up a handful of sampling stations to check on disinfectant and THM levels in different parts of the network. Until last year, Cranberry had managed its water system using data from those sample sites based on the number of residents who subscribe to the service. Of the roughly 12,000 households in Cranberry, all but about 1,000 subscribe; the rest use water from their own wells.



But last fall, the state's Safe Drinking Water Regulations were updated, affecting the way Cranberry counts its water customers. For example, people who commute into Cranberry for work now count as one-third of a person. A similar fraction is subtracted for Cranberry residents who commute out of the Township for work. Guests staying at Cranberry's 13 hotels, the patrons of Cranberry's 80 restaurants, the patients admitted to the local hospital, and an algorithm for shoppers or visitors passing through the community, are all added in.

One outcome of that re-calculation was a significant expansion in the number and breadth of water sampling stations. Cranberry now has 40-plus sampling points scattered throughout the system, with a special emphasis on lines at the perimeter of the Township, where slow-moving water tends to accumulate, along with THMs. Their findings reinforced the Township's strategy of accelerating water turnover in the system using an arsenal of methods to accomplish that objective.

Still, maintaining water quality is a moving target; the standards keep changing as new risks are identified. Even so, tests of water from Cranberry's municipal system show that it continues to be safe, fresh, abundant, and poised to continue meeting the needs of residents, businesses and guests, well into the future.

View the Township's water quality report online: CranberryTownship.org/WaterQualityReport. 

SEEKING GREATER CLARITY ON STORMWATER

The pond that follows the bend along Cranberry Woods Drive in the business park of the same name, is a joy to see. Ringed by woods and cattails, with a fountain gushing from its core, it has long been a favorite stop for employees and residents walking the park's nearby trail system.

Built by MSA in the early '80s, when the business park was first carved out of what had previously been a forested church retreat, the pond is more than just a scenic asset. It is actually an integral feature of the property's stormwater handling system, receiving runoff from a series of small water channels that traverse the hillside above it, draining the park's paved surfaces. Water accumulated in the pond is released into Brush Creek at a rate controlled to minimize the risk of downstream flooding.

But until earlier this year, an aerial view of the pond told a different story. At its southernmost point, where tributaries drain into the pond, the water had turned a murky brown – the result of soil, eroded from the channel banks, being washed down the hillside and into the pond. Not only does the soil create a murky mess, it degrades the stormwater control design of the pond.

Beyond that, the muck violates a recent agreement between Cranberry Township and Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to decrease sedimentary pollution by reducing erosion and by requiring regular maintenance of stormwater ponds, of which there are currently 367 in Cranberry. But fixing theirs, the Cranberry Woods Association learned, would cost a million dollars – a figure which gave its members serious pause.

Eventually, through the intervention of Township staff, DEP, and the Association's own consulting engineer, a solution was crafted that cost only a quarter million dollars

– one which, at the same time, protected its network of tributaries from undergoing further erosion.

Although Cranberry Woods' pond may be the community's largest and most visible, every pond in the Township – including 42 below-ground stormwater detention facilities – now requires regular maintenance and inspection. In essence, that mandate means whoever owns a stormwater detention facility, whether above or below ground, is responsible for maintaining it. The goal, in the event of a major storm, is to make sure it works as designed.

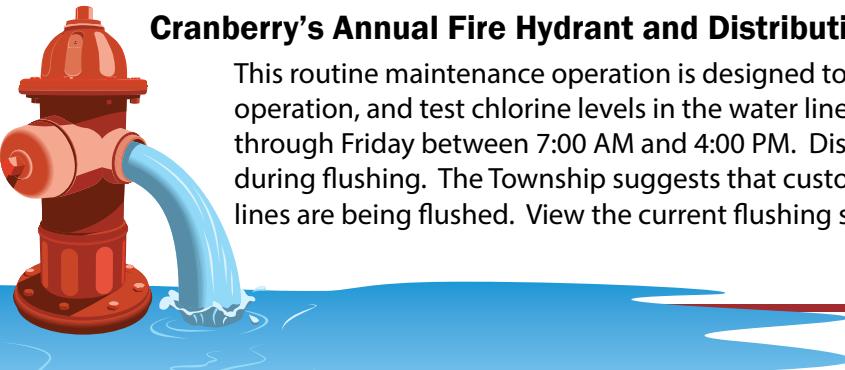
Understanding both the operation of stormwater management facilities and their maintenance is fundamental to satisfying the state's requirements. But it's not something people usually know a lot about. So, to help pond owners learn about their systems and their own responsibilities for keeping them up – whether they're individuals, companies, or homeowner associations – Township Waterworks Coordinator Tim Schutzman will be offering free one-hour workshops at intervals throughout the year, focused on pond maintenance issues.

"We're encouraging people to educate themselves at these workshops, to avail themselves of consultation that we will provide upon request and to raise awareness about the importance of complying with the maintenance requirements," he said. "That's because it would minimize the risk of flooding and help to catch minor maintenance problems before they become costly repairs. Also," he added, "the guidelines established by DEP, which were incorporated into Butler County Act 167, requires that Cranberry be given the power to assess fines for non-compliance."

But that's an extreme measure Schutzman is working hard to avoid. ☺

Cranberry's Annual Fire Hydrant and Distribution System Flushing Underway

This routine maintenance operation is 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. Discolored water and fluctuations in water pressure are normal during flushing. The Township suggests that customers refrain from doing laundry when their neighborhood lines are being flushed. View the current flushing schedule at CranberryTownship.org/Flushing.



THE FUNNY THING ABOUT RECYCLING...



"Carting," TV gangster Tony Soprano confided to his psychiatrist, "is a funny business." As a self-described 'waste management consultant' whose consultations had a distinctively hands-on quality, Soprano would certainly have known.

In Western Pennsylvania, it's also a funny business, but in a different way. Here, the industry is heavily influenced by state law – PA Act 101 – and by residential contracts with local municipalities as well as with commercial customers. But it's also very competitive; a five-year contract with Cranberry is worth at least \$10 million. As a result, every time the contact is up for renewal, different waste collectors angle for the business. As a point of differentiation, some promise to pick up more kinds of trash or recycle more types of materials than their competitors. Some even offer to collect electronics and hazardous wastes upon request.

Caught in the Act

Pennsylvania Act 101, which sets the requirements for waste collection, is only a baseline. It requires municipalities to recycle at least three of the items from a state-approved list of potentially recyclable materials. Among them: cardboard boxes, newsprint, junk mail, glass bottles, plastic food containers, aluminum cans, and bi-metal cans.

But it gets more complicated than that. Even within the family of plastics, there are certain varieties that have real market value, and others which are essentially trash. So to win the business, a hauler might offer to take more than the three-item minimum – even when the markets for some of them are terrible, essentially loss leaders.

In one recent instance, according to Cranberry's contract collector Vogel Disposal, instead of getting paid for bundles of cardboard, a glut of incoming material prompted the box factory to actually charge Vogel for the privilege of taking the cardboard off its hands.

The China Syndrome

To a great extent, the ups and downs of market pricing for recycled materials are determined far offshore. China, which had been a major buyer of recycled material, recently raised its quality standards in a way that made much of America's post-consumer recyclable waste unacceptable. Whereas before, Chinese buyers would accept paper with a five percent level of contamination, the new requirement slashed that limit by 90 percent, to just one half of one percent adulteration.

That's a real problem because, even in Cranberry, between 30% and 40% of the material placed into recycling carts isn't actually recyclable. Contaminants include ordinary garbage as

well as paper towels and tissues, items polluted with food or liquids, Christmas decorations, plates, window glass, drinking glasses, hoses, toys, tools, car parts and ceramic items, among others.

Then there's the issue of glass. When curbside recycling began in the U.S., glass containers were a major part of the waste stream. After being separated by color, glass jars and bottles can be easily recycled and made into new containers. But glass weights a lot, and the cost of shipping food and beverage products in glass represents a significant part of the overall cost of getting products to market. So, to reduce the transportation component of their expenses, many food and beverage producers opted for lightweight plastic. That caused the container market for recycled glass to tank and led to this question: If you can't sell it, yet you claim it as a recyclable, what should you do with it?

What is recycling, anyway?

The answer lies with the state's DEP Waste Management administrator. For example, is using crushed glass as a pipe bedding sand or as a structural fill acceptable? Is using it as part of the required daily cover for garbage collected in a landfill okay? Is using collected yard waste to fertilize plantings at the landfill site legitimate? Is composting it for methane gas and capturing that gas to fuel its trucks a proper form of recycling? In many cases, it's a matter of interpretation, determined through negotiations with the administrator over what's acceptable.

However, of all the materials that create headaches for haulers, the worst are simple plastic bags. Ed Vogel, whose namesake company also operates Tri-State Recycling, put it this way: "Plastic bags are our biggest single issue. They're readily recyclable, but people need to take them back to the store's recycling bin. For us, it's hard to get every plastic bag out. People tie them in knots. We have to tear the bags open and they get tangled in the machinery. There's no automatic system to grab them. So for us, there's nothing recyclable in plastic bags. Don't put them in the recycling cart; take them directly to the store." ☺

FUNNY FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING...



- Children's toys, laundry baskets and lawn furniture could be recycled, but residential waste recycling machinery can only handle small items.
- Plastic forks and spoons could be recycled, but they are bought in 20-ton increments, taking years to accumulate that much. So most of it goes into landfill.
- The volume of Styrofoam required to reach the weight requirements for industrial recycling is massive, so it gets trashed.
- Single-use packaging such as small food containers are typically too small for recycling machinery and often end up polluting waterways.



Seneca Valley Students Are Making a Difference in Our Community



Almost exactly 75 years after the D-Day invasion of Normandy, platoons of eager seventh and eighth grade students from Seneca Valley middle schools descended on Cranberry's facilities for a day of intensive community service. Their job: to tackle a long list of labor-intensive maintenance and cleanup projects. Defeat was not an option.

Half a dozen Township staff members were detailed to oversee 122 students and 16 adults under the supervision of Assistant Public Works Project Manager Evan Oswald. Seven teams, each with a chaperone or two as well as a nurse took on the assorted tasks. Township Supervisor Mike Manipole, himself a teacher in Seneca Valley, organized the day of service and served as liaison between the Township and school district. In the end, their efforts proved to be a triumph of determination over trash.

Among the assignments:

- Painting light pole bases, edges of sidewalks and railings
- Cleaning up trash along entrance roads and trails
- Cleaning baseball dugouts and beneath bleachers
- Adding and leveling sand at the volleyball courts
- Cleaning signs and planting flowers
- Cleaning playground, fitness stations and pavilions
- Pulling staples from picnic shelters and tables

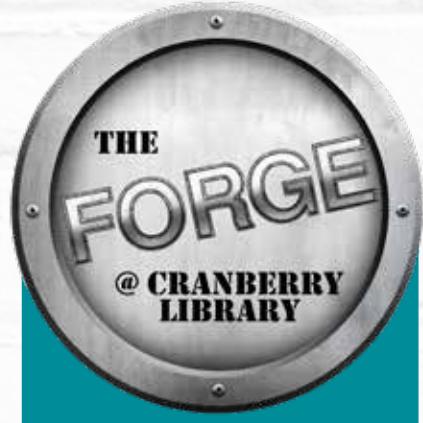


It's our good fortune to partner with Allison Stebbins, John Schmidt and the Haine Middle School Purpose Students each year to raise awareness of the importance water conservation and keeping trash out of the storm drains. The students stenciled storm sewer basins in the Creekwood Commons and Creekwood, and Bellevue Park neighborhoods. Two separate rain barrel classes were conducted at the Municipal Center, and the students shared their knowledge and research about water conservation and protecting our watershed with the Board of Supervisors.

Graham Park became a little brighter as students of Haine Middle School (Rooms 307, 313, & 316) completed a "Kindness Rocks project". Students, under the direction of Danielle Fagan, Julie Fornadel, Julie Mann, created a special rock garden filled with decorated rocks conveying messages of gratitude, affirmation, and encouragement, with the simple hope of brightening someone's day. "A message at just the right moment can change your whole day, outlook, and life."

The Township extends its deepest thanks to all those taking part in community service!





PROJECT OF THE 2019 YEAR

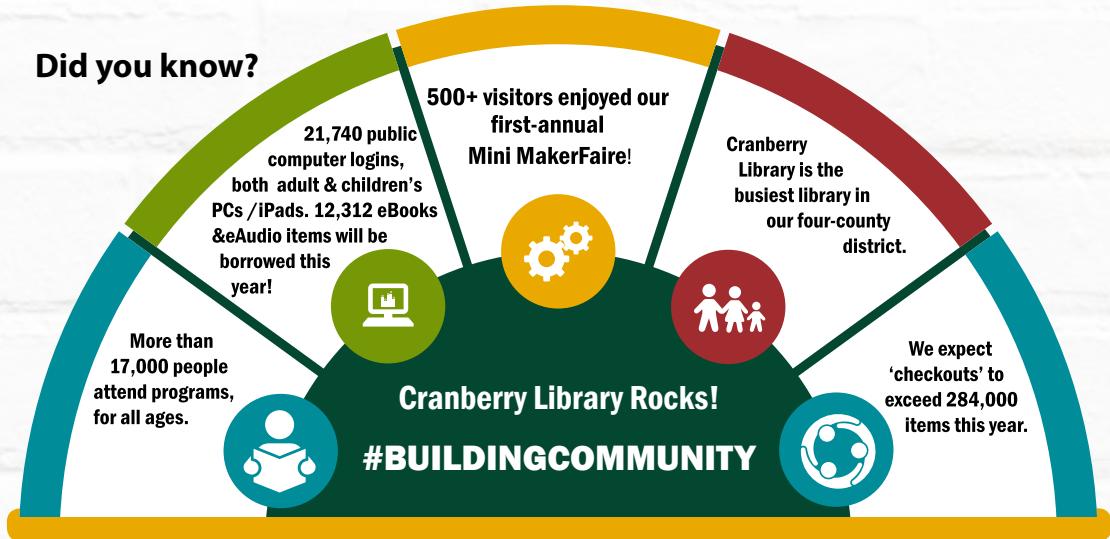


A MAKERSPACE IS COMING TO THE CRANBERRY LIBRARY!

WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE?

Makerspaces are small workshops, outfitted with tools ranging from very high tech to no tech at all. They are workstations designed for collaboration and equipped to build things in a hands-on learning environment.

Did you know?



We have been gratified by the interest shown by Library patrons and Cranberry residents. If you have already donated toward this project, please accept our heartfelt thanks. If you have not yet contributed, there is still time to do so.

More info:
[CranberryLibrary.org/
Makerspace](http://CranberryLibrary.org/Makerspace)



CTCC 2020 Project of the Year Takes the Stage

Over Memorial Day weekend, Cranberry Township Community Chest released a rendering of its 2020 Project of the Year: a series of major upgrades and enhancements to the 17-year old Rotary Amphitheater in Community Park. The project's details, however, have not yet been finalized.

The Amphitheater has been a venue for concerts and other program presentations throughout the summer months since it first opened in 2002. But performers and audience members have been vulnerable to the caprices of weather, resulting in a number of rain-related cancellations. That may become a thing of the past – then again, it may not. It all depends on the final budget, which had not been set as of press time.

A key element of the project – which comes with the full, enthusiastic backing of its namesake Rotary chapters – will be

an extension of the band playing area along with an extension of the roof, potentially covering much of the audience seating area as well, although the extent of the extension is not yet finalized. In addition, preliminary elements of the project include enhancing the amphitheater's sound boards, upgrading its electric service, adding lights, and installing an art display area for statuary.

Enhancing the amphitheater's façade is also part of the proposal. So are sidewalk connections, as well as improved vehicle access to the facility. "We're open to other things as well," Parks & Recreation Director Pete Geis observed. One suggestion – a proposal to include a fenced-in area with a ticket booth for paid concerts – is also a possibility.

Check out this year's line up of concerts at the amphitheater on page 7 or visit CranberryTownship.org/Events.

What's HAPPENING

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Council Chambers, 6:30 PM

July 25

August 1, 29

September 5

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION

Council Chambers, 6:00 PM

July 1, 29

August 5, 26

September 3, 20

As Needed:

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Council Chambers, 7:30 PM

Third Monday

Upcoming Events

JULY

- 2- CAN Open Art Studio, 6PM, Muni Ctr
- 4- Independence Day; Twp Offices & Library closed; Trash delay Thurs & Fri
- 8- HOA Forum, 6:30 PM, Muni Ctr
- 10- Martinis with Monet, 7PM, Muni Ctr
- 11, 12, 13- Community Days, Community Pk
- 19- Bike Rodeo, 10AM-2PM, Community Pk
- 28- Waterpark Military Appreciation Day



More events & details: CranberryTownship.org/Calendar

AUGUST

- 2- CAN Open Art Studio, 6PM, Muni Ctr
- 10- Sheriff's Office Gun Licensing, 9 AM – 2 PM, Council Chambers at Muni Ctr
- 13- Cran Area Canine Partners, 6 PM, Muni Ctr
- 14- Touch a Truck, 11AM - 1PM, Community Pk
- 17- CPR & First Aid, 9AM-3:30PM, Muni Ctr
- 27- Waterpark Military Appreciation Day

SEPTEMBER

- 2- Labor Day; Twp Offices & Library closed; Trash delay all week
- 3- CAN Open Art Studio, 6PM, Muni Ctr
- 8- HHW/e-waste Collection, 9AM, Public Works (Appts & Fees Apply)
- 28- Free Child Car Seat Check, EMS Station, Call 724-776-4480 for appt.
- 30- Final SVSD School PropTax discount



FREE Summer



MOVIES
in the Park
at Dusk



Held on the Graham Park Sportcourt Lawn



SMALLFOOT

Wednesday, July 31
Rated PG



PINOCCHIO

Wednesday, August 7
Rated G



LEGO BATMAN

Wednesday, August 14
Rated G



THE MIGHTY DUCKS

Wednesday, August 21
Rated PG



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 400
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066-6499
724-776-4806

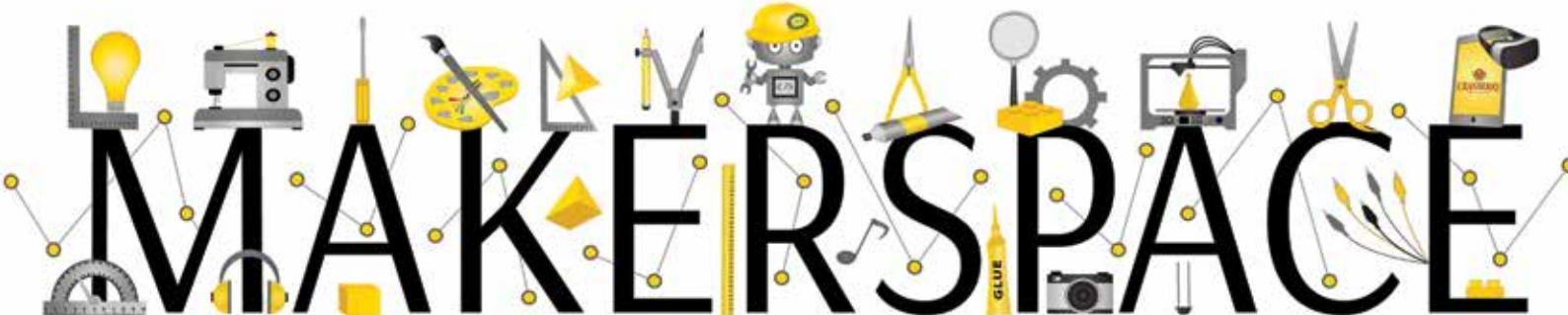
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CranberryLibrary.org/Makerspace

Your gift can make a difference... Donate today!



#ForgeAhead