

Cranberry

WINTER 2020

TODAY

CRYSTAL CLEAR

WATER TREATMENT VISION BECOMES REALITY

COMMUNITY UPDATES

WEATHERING THE STORM
NO TAX INCREASE IN BUDGET
HEROES AND HELPERS



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Cranberry**TODAY**

The official magazine of Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. Trusted by the public and frequently honored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

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CONNECT





CRYSTAL CLEAR

NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROCESS OFFERS IMMEDIATE RESULTS

There aren't many things that make Joe Corraini feel more pride than clean water.

As a Crew Leader for operations at the Township's Brush Creek Treatment Plant, Corraini has seen two major upgrades at the plant. The goal of both projects was to continue providing customers with the safest, cleanest water possible – something that has remained consistent during his 30 years with the Township.

"It makes you feel good," he said while giving a tour of the operations center.

Still, as he pointed at clean water holding tanks beneath him, he shared his disbelief that the Township's water could, somehow, be even better.

"With the old plant, we knew it was a good product we were putting out," he said.

However, when the initial phase of the new plant came online and the old and new processes were running side-by-side, the reason for the Township's investment became quite literally crystal clear.

"When we split the two and you could see the differences, it was just amazing the quality of water," Corraini recalled.

The quality is the result of an eight-year process that sought to not only improve quality but also improve the plant's footprint at the space nestled between the Turnpike and Powell Road. It also allows the Township to grow with its ever-growing population by increasing production capacity.

The Township has been in the waste water treatment game since the late 1950s, when a small plant began serving the Fernway community.

The Brush Creek plant opened in 1973 to serve a population of about 11,000. It had the capacity to manage 500,000 gallons each day. Mike Sedon, Manager of Operations at Brush Creek, noted that is slightly more than fits in the Township pool.

In 1979, it was expanded to 3 million gallons per day. It was upgraded again in 1990, but by the late 90s, population had more than doubled, necessitating

another major improvement.

The 1999 upgrade increased capacity from 3 million gallons per day to 4.5 million, Sedon said. The challenge at the time was the relatively small footprint of the plant area, which did not offer much in the way of expansion.

In the early part of the 2010s as the Township's population eclipsed 30,000 on its way to a projected 50,000 by 2030, officials saw the need for more processing power. Challenged with the lack of additional space at the 15-acre site, they got creative.

The process remains the same at the start: wastewater pours into the facility where debris and other items are separated. That process now occurs in just one pump station, with a second existing building now used for storage. Three new large pumps and two new small pumps now perform the work previously done inside the two buildings.

The new pump system will be better able to handle high-flow days, Corraini

said. The system also features high-powered odor scrubbers to address issues at the source and stop them from spreading to nearby neighborhoods.

A separate set of tanks eliminates grease and other matter. The liquid then moves on to a series of tanks where science gets involved: bacteria naturally breaks down the wastewater in a process called “activated sludge.”

The clean water then makes its way to the crown jewel of the plant upgrade: the membrane bio reactor tanks. They don’t look like much as they sit in the newly constructed tanks and building: thousands of white, rubbery cords akin to phone charging cables.

However, those cords make up the membrane technology that eliminate excess biology from the sludge as it passes through. The cords have pores that Sedon said are smaller than bacteria, allowing water to pass through and leaving the potentially harmful particles behind. Chlorine is still added toward the end of the process to eliminate any pathogens.

For a period in 2018 as the project was in construction, both the new membrane process and former activated sludge processes were used. By all accounts, the side-by-side comparison of water confirmed the right decision had been made.

“It was like night and day,” said Tim Schutzman, Waterworks Coordinator. “Both methods met all the water quality standards, but the clarity (of the membranes) was amazing.”

The water not only passed the eye test, but lab tests as well, as officials said routine checks show untraceable levels of bacteria and water quality that far exceeds standards.

The full plant recently went online and can now process an average daily flow of 8.73 million gallons a day. In the event of excessive storms, it can take on 23 million gallons at once. Corraini said the overall system has already handled high-flow days even better than anticipated.

“It’s a small footprint, but we’re able to treat a lot of water in a very small space,” Sedon said.

With more growth anticipated, and future quality standards always an unknown, the membrane system allows the Township to adjust to whatever comes next.

“(Expansion) is factored in,” Schutzman said. “We have that capability.”

In the interim, routine maintenance keeps the system flowing free with a goal on extending the 10-15 shelf life of the membranes. Sedon said because high-flow days are not common, the system should surpass that limit. 🏠



WEATHERING THE STORM

PROGRAM TO HELP WITH STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Township residents may have noticed a new line on their sewer, water and trash bill as the calendar turned to 2020.

What they don't see, however, is the miles of pipes and other pieces of the Township's stormwater management system that fee will support.

The fee helps address increased stormwater requirements by the U.S. EPA and the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Those requirements increase the level of required storm sewer maintenance and impose new pollution rules on the Township, with a new goal to be reached every five years under a mandated permit.

With the current permit date on the horizon, a number of capital improvements will be made to the existing stormwater system, including projects in the Sun Valley-Laporte and Greenwood Drive areas. The funds will also cover sediment control in Brush Creek.



To cover the costs associated with those rules, the line item costs single-family homes about \$3 per month.

That fee will increase to about \$6 per month in 2021, with the additional funds covering operational expenses.

Multi-family buildings and non-residential properties will also be invoiced based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. There are exemptions for properties such as farms that are over 20 acres but are less than 5 percent impervious area.

An open house on the proposal was held in October, with

additional information online at CranberryTownship.org/Stormwater.

The Board of Supervisors approved an operating agreement between the Township and the General Authority to implement the rate structure at their November 7 meeting, with the new rate appearing on the first bill of the new year.

Many other municipalities in Western Pennsylvania are also initiating stormwater programs to comply with the new regulations, and Cranberry Township's rate is one of the lowest in the region. 🏠





PORTAL LETS CUSTOMERS TRACK DATA

week, month or year. Based on those comparisons, they can set usage limits and alert thresholds. Those thresholds can be set according to usage, rainfall or temperature, which is helpful to adjust for excessive heating or cooling.

The portal also lets customers set vacation alerts, which will alert them or another designated family member or neighbor in the event of excessive water usage while they're gone.

To use the portal, customers can use their Account Number and Customer ID Number (both can be found on a recent bill) to log into CranberryTownship.org/CustomerPortal and follow the setup directions.

Contact Customer Service at 724-776-4806 for more information. 🏠

It's a worst-case scenario: you're enjoying a much-needed vacation, relaxing in the sun.

Meanwhile back at home, water is slowly leaking, potentially causing damage and running up a large bill.

The Township's new customer portal aims to stop those unexpected surprises while also giving customers all of the information they need to budget and maintain their water bills.

Officially rolled out on October 1, the portal is the result of a five-year project to overhaul the Township's meter

system. It began by creating two-way communication between the Township and consumers' meters.

It coincides with the introduction of single-gallon billing, with meters showing individual gallons used instead of by the thousand.

The collected data is linked with customer accounts and available in the customer portal.

In addition to information from the current billing cycle, the portal dashboard allows customers to compare usage from the previous day,

MAKE YOURSELF COUNT



CENSUS 2020 NEEDS YOU

The Census is a huge undertaking with major consequences for the way legislative districts are formed and how federal money gets spent on projects including health, schools, transportation and more. It is also important to the private sector, for example, in locating stores.

Securing a complete count of Cranberry's population is also a priority for the Township. That's because the decennial census is considered the gold standard of population record since it counts every individual rather than making estimates based on projections drawn from samples.

As a result, census findings are used as the basis for more than \$675 billion in population-driven funding formulas; the larger a community's residential population as determined by the census, the more federal funds become available for basic public needs, as well as the allocation of state resources.

Completing and submitting your census form is important to the future of Cranberry. However, if you want to help your community even more, consider becoming a census-taker yourself. Details are available at www.census.gov. 🏠



BUDGET ADDRESSES EXISTING MAINTENANCE, NEW GROWTH NEEDS

Cranberry Township's 2020 budget aims to maintain existing infrastructure while keeping an eye on future growth.

The Township's General Fund is expected to generate \$22.5 million in revenue in 2020, down about \$3 million from 2019. However, that amount still allows Township officials to address changing public service and capital improvement needs without a tax increase.

Township officials have their sights set on refinancing a series of bonds featuring a 2020 call date. Projections show a significant savings will come with that refinancing, allowing for more money to go toward capital projects.

Among those capital projects is the MSA Thruway tunnel beneath Route 228 which is set to begin in earnest in the spring. Other projects include

stormwater upgrades in the Sun Valley neighborhood and engineering work for a similar project in the Fox Run system.

A large portion of the budget is focused on maintaining more than 125 miles of roadway, a 187-mile water distribution network and 198 miles of sanitary sewer collector and interceptor lines. This includes a focus on replacing aging lines near Route 19.

At the Municipal Center, a Master Plan for exterior grounds and parking will look to tie the building to the Meeder community being constructed across Rochester Road. That includes a focus on better pedestrian access as well as a "great lawn" gathering space in front of the building.

Inside the building, the Administration area will see upgrades that promote collaboration among staff. Cyber security

will also be increased to better protect information.

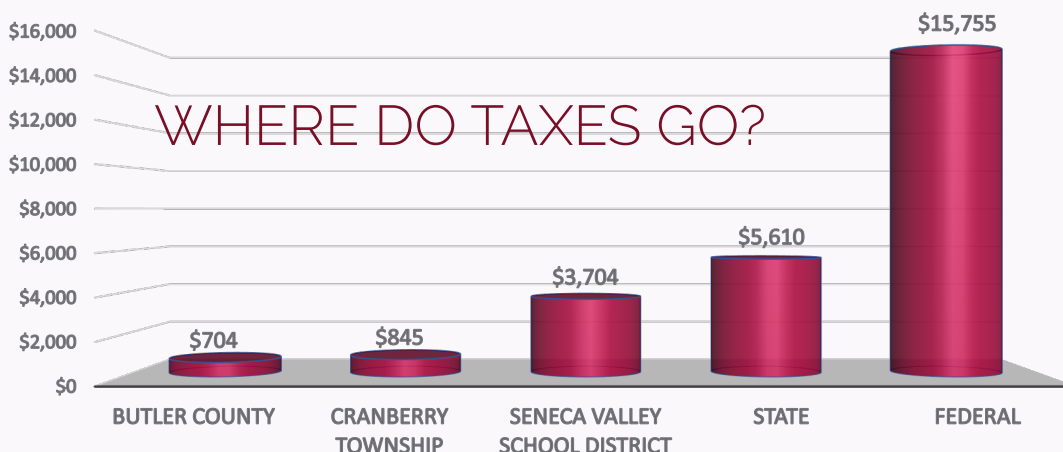
Internal programs and communication is set to be reviewed to ensure the Township can continue to attract the best and brightest employees to address residents' needs. This includes the addition of a community liaison position within the Communications Department.

Elsewhere, a new Parks/Grounds position will be created in a division of the Public Works Department to focus on maintaining park facilities. Officials noted the parks hosted nearly 2 million visitors and program participants in 2019.

The budget also addresses increased demands on public safety, including a new multi-year agreement with the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company. That includes "right sizing" the department's fleet, with two new fire trucks in 2019 and a new ladder truck in 2020 replacing four outdated models.

A new position will be added to the Police Department, increasing the number of officers to 33. New initiatives and training will also be added.

"The Budget provides for a responsible fiscal approach to address the changing public service and capital investment needs of the Township," said Township Manager Jerry Andree. "This fiscally sound Budget will provide an excellent start to the decade of the 2020s." 🏠



Estimates based upon 2019 Real Estate Tax Rates:
 Township - 13.25 + .5% Earned Income Tax
 County - 27.626
 School District - 127.89 + .5% Earned Income Tax
 Assuming: \$101,342.00 Average Household Income - US Census
 \$25,500.00 Assessed Valuation - Butler County

Sources: Peter G Peterson Foundation
 Tax Foundation



SAFETY



SURVIVING AND THRIVING

EMS event teaches benefit of quick response

Their stories are different: a dek hockey player working on a hat trick; a delivery driver loading items as he kicked off a day's work; a husband stacking mulch into the bed of his truck.

The three men, though, possess a shared experience in 2019: they each suffered sudden cardiac arrest.

Through the quick work of Township police and EMS teams, as well as those around them, the trio survived.

Those responders, as well as the survivors themselves, were honored in November during the Save-A-Life Saturday event, held annually in the Township's Municipal Center.

According to Ted Fessides, Chief and Executive Director of Cranberry Township EMS, the organization began holding the event in 2012 to train residents on compression-only CPR. Through that training, they are taught to identify someone experiencing cardiac arrest and how to help until authorities arrive. That act can improve a person's survival rate from 11 to 50 percent.

For the three survivors, what began as normal activities quickly turned into panic.

Richard Ross can attest. He had scored a few goals for his dek hockey team before skating to the bench. There, he collapsed, and emergency crews were called.

Before they could arrive, Bryan Conforto stepped in. Having given up goals to Ross earlier that night as the opposing team's goalie, he put jersey color aside



and began CPR.

Ross has made a full recovery and has even returned to the rink. His team's name carries a subtle nod to his experience: Creeping Death.

The pair were given a special gift from the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex for their sportsmanship and life-altering bond.

For Richard Holzer, catching up on yard work on a hot July day had him feeling dizzy.

That dizziness worsened, and he collapsed to the ground while loading mulch at a Township store. Nearby, an off-duty Josh Rader, who serves as a firefighter for the Harmony Volunteer Fire Department, rushed to his aid. Holzer's wife, Debra, helped perform CPR until EMS arrived.

The couple have been married for 45 years and have "a great life together," Holzer noted as he quietly thanked those who helped him.

Meanwhile, it was a case of "right place, right time" for Gary Lucente.

He, too, felt dizzy as he loaded his work truck for a day of deliveries. He attempted to lower himself to the



ground gently but collapsed. His co-workers called for help, but a nurse who happened to be nearby came to his aid and started CPR.

The 70-year-old Lucente was emotional in thanking those who helped him. It was an emotional day for his family as well, including daughter, Elissa Mimran, and grandson, Vincent. Mimran said she's thankful he's around to spend time with his grandchildren.

Vincent agreed.

“Thank you everyone for saving my pappy.”

Township police officers receiving commendation include Officers Randall Bauer, Jeremy Norton, Michael Weleski, Joshua Shimko, William Wilson and Cpl. William Och.

Members of the Township EMS receiving accolades were EMTs Alyse Saylor, Curt Huffman, Shawn MacIntyre; Paramedics Scott Garing Jr., Jeremy Nickl, Matthew Nickl, Kaitlyn Finneral, Ryan Mann, Nicole Dambaugh and Brian Dambaugh. 🏠

Traditional “Push-in” Ceremony Honors Past, LOOKS TO FUTURE



The Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company looked toward the future while pausing to honor the past in September.

The volunteer department officially unveiled two 2020 Pierce Enforcer fire engines that will join their fleet. Members took part in a “pushing-in” ceremony, a department tradition.

The event also served to honor 60 years of service provided to the Township, with Township and Company officials offering remarks on the important role the all-volunteer department plays in the community. 🏠

SMOKE DETECTOR GIVEAWAY MAKES SENIORS SAFER



Township seniors are a little safer after the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company gave away more than 500 free smoke detectors in December.

The battery-powered detectors were distributed to Township residents aged 65 and over as part of the Fire Company’s Fire Safety Education

Program. Leaders said they strongly believe in the importance of having working smoke detectors, as research indicates the risk of dying in a home fire is reduced by 50 percent when a working smoke alarm is installed.

Data suggests seniors are among the most vulnerable and comprise 8.5 percent of the Township’s population. 🏠

THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR **Sean Mulraney**

Sean Mulraney knows that his life is about to change big time. An accountant by training, and an all-around utility hand at the machine shop owned by his father in Murrys ville, Sean and his wife – who is also a certified accountant – are preparing to welcome home their first child in February. But in the few quiet months preceding that event, Sean decided to take the opportunity to pursue a lifelong interest in learning to become a firefighter. That hadn't always been an option.

Before starting work with the machine shop, he had worked for H.J. Heinz, and then for the Deloitte professional services network as a CPA, typically logging in 60 to 70 hours a week at his desk. That, plus a lengthy commute to Murrys ville, left no time to follow in the footsteps of another family tradition: volunteer service.

Earlier in his career, Sean's father had been a volunteer ambulance driver for Wilkinsburg. Uncles, cousins, aunts and great uncles, each in their own way, had also found avenues for giving back to the community, or even to the nation, through their public service. For Sean, that pathway would be as a volunteer firefighter, armed with the Firefighter One certification he had prepared for throughout the past year.



A native of Murrys ville and a longtime resident of that fashionable Westmoreland community, Sean and his wife moved to Cranberry in 2018 for what he claims were practical commuting reasons: he can take the Turnpike directly to Murrys ville, his wife can take I-79 directly to SouthPointe, where she works as a CPA for Crown Castle Communications, and both can make their respective trips in about 45 minutes.

But there's actually more to it. When he was a student at West Virginia University, Sean explains, the roommates of the girl that his own roommate was dating at the time included the woman who later became his own wife. And that was just the start. Eventually, all four

of the roommates from college ended up marrying one another, and even now remain inseparable friends, living between Cranberry and Wexford. Is that outcome a reflection of Mountain State culture, he is sometimes asked? "It's all relative," he jokingly replies.

Sean and his wife currently live in a rented Cranberry townhouse. And, as certified financial professionals, the two typically see eye to eye when it comes money. That's important because, after the baby is born, the couple's next big project will be to find a permanent home, preferably in Cranberry, to house their growing family and become a springboard for Sean responding to fire emergencies. 🏠

WHAT IF YOUR
ALARM *went off*
AND *nobody* ANSWERED?

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HEROES BRING HOPE FOR HOLIDAYS DURING SHOPPING SPREE

More than two dozen children were given a police escort as they dashed and danced their way through the aisles of Target last month in preparation for the holiday season.

A now annual event, the Township's Police Department joined forces with Target and MSA Safety to sponsor the Heroes & Helpers program. The

program donated money to students in the Seneca Valley School District to be used during a shopping spree alongside Township officers.

This year, 26 students were paired with an officer. Most shopped for toys for their siblings and home goods for their parents to make sure they could give a gift on Christmas. They added a few

gifts for themselves.

Chief Kevin Meyer said the event is one of his favorites each year as it allows him and his officers to enhance communication with the community on a personal level. He said he is proud to partner with MSA Safety and Target to make the holidays bright for local families. 🏠

DIGGING IN

MSA THRUWAY CONTRACT AWARDED

Work to start in spring

Can you dig it? Cranberry Township can after awarding contracts and entering into funding agreements for the MSA Thruway project.

The Board of Supervisors approved a \$12,048,068.16 contract with Allegheny Excavating Inc. for the project, which will connect Interstate 79 to the Cranberry Springs development by constructing a tunnel beneath Route 228. The project is named after MSA, which donated about \$3.5 million of land for the project.

Work on the project is expected to begin in the spring, with completion set for the end of 2021. Work includes the tunnel itself, ramps, a roundabout connecting the project at Cranberry Woods and sidewalks.

Throughout the project, traffic on Route 228 will be maintained.

The Board also entered into funding agreements with Sippel Enterprises L.P. and UPMC for the project. They also approved a \$1,119,000 project management and inspection service contract with Whitman Requardt & Associates LLP.

The project follows the Master Plan that was developed in 1995, which depicted the future of the Route 228 Corridor when it was just a two lane road. All subsequent improvements in the Corridor have been consistent with that Master Plan.

The Board thanked officials from Sippel Enterprises and MSA, who was the first partner to step up and help advance the vision.



The project, when completed, will ensure the Route 228 Interchange will avoid the conditions that exist at the Route 19/Interstate 79 northbound intersection.

The Township will contribute about \$2.5 million toward the total project cost. 🏠



NO MORE MISSED CONNECTIONS

Program aims to make Township more walkable

system from newer housing developments to North Boundary Park.

The connection was the next step in a program aimed to eliminate “sidewalks to nowhere” in the Township. According

to Ron Henshaw, Director of Planning and Development, several of these missing connections exist because the Township did not always require sidewalks as part of new development. To address the missing links, staff created a system to identify and rank projects. The system considers issues such as drainage, permitting and right-

of-way acquisition.

For 2019, a stretch of sidewalk on Franklin Road was added that not only benefitted residents, but the property owner as well, as he took the opportunity to remove trees and install new driveways at the same time.

As for the sidewalk, Henshaw said it gives residents of Washington Farms and nearby Bristol Creek a way to walk from their homes to North Boundary Park.

“This helps build that whole pedestrian network, and we love when we start to connect developments to things like parks,” he said. 🏠

When the Township’s “Sidewalk of the Year” program can connect two areas, it’s a win for all involved.

When that connection also gives residents walkable access to parks? That’s a cherry on top.

This year’s project on Franklin Road does just that, creating a sidewalk

PUSHING BOUNDARIES



NEW LANDSCAPE PLAN IN ROUNDABOUT CHALLENGES STAFF

There's no doubt that roundabouts go a long way toward improving safety of motorists in the Township.

As their popularity has grown, the challenge to Township staff has been to find a way to blend the large traffic circles into the communities that surround them. A recently completed project at the North Boundary Road roundabout did just that, as the inner portion now boasts an attractive design featuring greenery that maximizes the available space.

The plot of land was originally landscaped in 2017 but failed to produce and was removed as part

of later utility work. Having been reduced to an open hole with river gravel inside, the Township's Planning and Engineering Department sought to make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

Kyle Beidler, Manager of Strategic Planning and Economic Development, said the goal was to find greenery that did not require a lot of maintenance and a design that would build up the depression in the ground. Planners were further challenged by a lack of irrigation at the site, as the only water any plants would receive is when it rains.

He and Evan Oswald, Assistant Project Manager, worked with the Township's Public Works and Engineering department to create a landscape plan featuring large boulders around trees and shrubs. While other Township roundabouts have aesthetic touches, this was the first to feature such a design.

According to Oswald, about 100 tons of topsoil was brought in to fill in the middle portion before greenery was planted. Work was completed in October, with the three redbud trees expected to bloom in full in the spring to add a pop of color to the area. 🏡



GETTING THE GREEN LIGHT

Group gets insight into how technology eases traffic issues

Cranberry's use of technology to keep traffic flowing smoothly gained international attention recently.

A group of five Indonesian professionals and public officials visited the region in October to see smart technology in action. They visited as part of the "Good Governance Through Technology" project.

During the various stops, they examined how technology allows for faster response to citizens and greater planning and budgeting transparency.

They also sought to gather information about prospective United States partners to help them in implementing smart city technology.

During their visit, they met with representatives from the City of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh and the Port Authority of Allegheny County before traveling north to Cranberry.

While at the Township's Traffic Operations Center, the group saw how a typical American community uses technology to increase efficiency. Part of that was a look at the Adaptive Traffic Signal Technology, as well as the Roadbotics program that is used to evaluate the road system using video and computer algorithms to create data. That data is used to prioritize road and paving projects.

The contingent told Township officials they, "saved the best for last" in viewing Cranberry's operations. 🏠



THE COLOR PURPLE

Traffic signals to change shades

It may not be 50 shades of grey, but traffic signals at several Township intersections are at least a few different shades of cranberry.

A new plan however aims to standardize those signals to one solid color – while saving money in the process.

Several signals were originally painted the cranberry color over the last decade as part of a recommendation from a citizen's advisory board. Over time, however, the paint has faded differently on different poles. Some signals have multiple shades of the color due to touch-up attempts.

The Township's Public Works department worked with manufacturers and paint experts to determine if the color used is heavily impacted by UV rays, and does not fade consistently in sunlight. It also does not stay consistent on different surfaces.

Public Works officials spent five years looking at solutions to the issue, and ultimately determined the poles would need to be entirely repainted once every five years, resulting in a large cost to the Township. That would be in addition to the work needed to simply get all of the poles cleaned and primed and at the same starting point for new paint. Even then, there is no guarantee the same deterioration wouldn't happen again.

Instead, officials have decided to choose a new black gloss paint that will fade more consistently and is more resistant to UV rays. This UV resistance will reduce long-term maintenance costs.

The first black signal is set to be installed in the first few months of 2020 at the intersection of Route 19 and Cranberry Mall/St. Francis Way.

Moving forward, the original 14 signals will be prioritized, programmed and repainted. Any new signals that may be constructed or replaced will be installed with the new standard black paint.

By making the switch, officials said they will be able to better maintain the signals, which will not fade as quickly or unevenly.

That, ultimately, will help keep the Township in the "black" for years to come. 🏠

READY SET RELAUNCH!



The newly designed Township website launched in December with a goal of creating a more user-friendly experience.

After seven months of extensive market research, data analysis from Google Analytics and attention to detail, the redesign makes the site easier to navigate, mobile-friendly and more efficient to use. The site also provides an

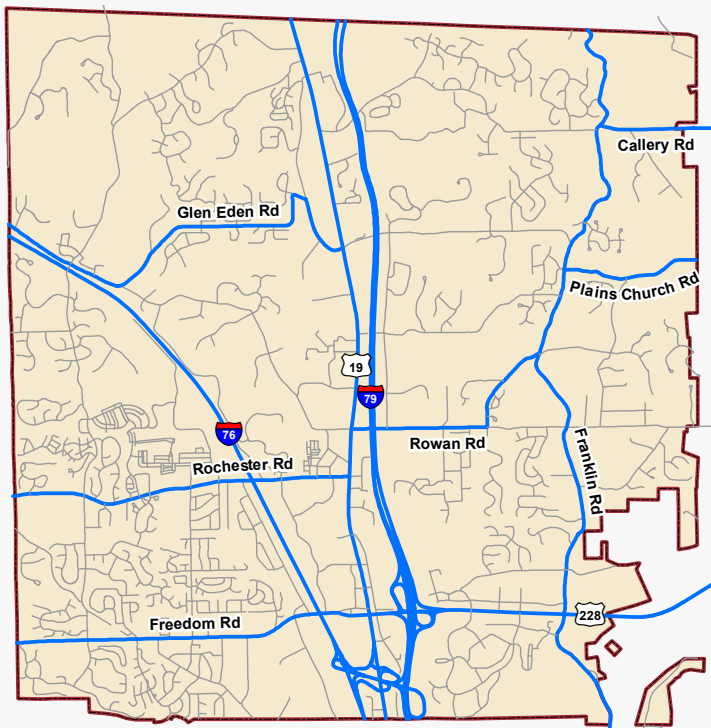
improved self-service experience with online forms and registration processes.

Among the new features include more prominently displayed social media icons to foster improved communications with the community; new department headers for Public Safety and (Township) Services; along with a sleek, progressive design.

The website menus have been re-arranged based on analysis of a year of data from Google Analytics, recognizing what people search for most and positioning content where they expect to find it.

Visit us at www.CranberryTownship.org for a new online positive experience. 🏠

WHOSE ROAD IS IT ANYWAY?

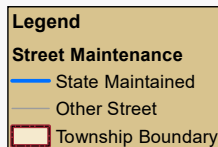


SNOW REMOVAL PATHS OUTLINED

When snow starts flying, the first thing on many people's minds is when roads will be cleared.

Cranberry Township is in a unique position in that many state-owned roads run through its boundaries, and often those are the roads that concern drivers most.

It isn't surprising that PennDOT maintains roads like Route 19, Route 228, the Turnpike, Interstate 79. However, many may be surprised to learn they also maintain Glen Eden, Freedom, Franklin, Callery, Rowan, Rochester and Plains Church roads.



To see a list and map of state vs. Township-maintained roads, visit CranberryTownship.org/WinterRoads.



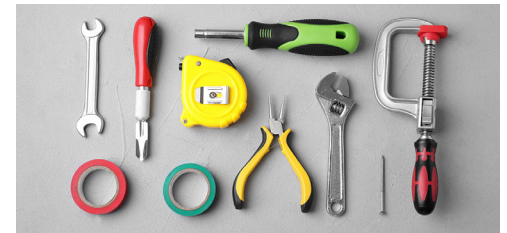
Talking progress in Southern Butler County

With Southern Butler County continuing to develop, business leaders in the area will discuss future growth and what to expect.

"The Intersection of Progress," featuring a discussion on Southwestern Butler County, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. January 15 at the Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township.

The event, organized by the Cranberry Township Business Hub and Butler County Chamber of Commerce for business leaders, will highlight the economic development that is occurring in Southern Butler County, including the Route 19 and Route 228 corridors.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch and the program beginning at noon.



Tool Time

Items needed for new library makerspace

In a matter of weeks, a gorgeous new Makerspace will open inside the Cranberry Public Library.

There is still work to be done to fill that space with the tools of the trade makers will use to create their inventions.

That's why the Library has started an Amazon Wish List featuring everything from trash cans to pliers to hammers and noise reduction earmuffs. All of the items will ensure the space is ready for eager users when doors open later this winter.

Browse the list and donate at CranberryLibrary.org.



Sign of the times

Perhaps you've read it while waiting for a light to change at the intersection of Route 19 and Route 228.

Announcing everything from Township events to traffic alerts, the digital sign brings vital information to thousands every day. Centrally located, the sign was the 2011 Project of the Year for the Cranberry Township Community Chest.

Be alert for an exciting new partnership announcement in the coming months!



Trash an ever-changing Township service

One man's trash may indeed be another man's treasure, but in Cranberry Township that trash can also cost a small fortune. That's why residents will soon see a roughly .35 cent increase on their sewer, water and trash bills for trash collection. The increase is enough to cover operating expenses and will not generate additional revenue.

The increase was factored into the 2019 solid waste contract, which had a provision to address the rising cost of trash collection and uncertainty in the recycling market. That contract and fee structure allowed the Township to continue to offer a recycling program to residents while neighboring communities discontinued their programs due to the expense. Rate increases over the next five year contract will cover future expenses. Customers will also soon notice an upgrade at their curbs, as new trucks will be rolled out into the fleet in January.

The recycling trucks from Vogel Disposal Service Inc. have a refined loading configuration that aims to contain recycling and cut down on blowing items on Township streets. The natural gas-powered trucks will help the environment and ensure Cranberry remains pristine.



NEW AXE-THROWING BUSINESS HITS THE MARK

“It’s all
about the
experience.”

On a recent snowy afternoon, Jack Welsh, ax in-hand, stepped out onto the concrete pad.

He raised the foot-long hatchet above his head and tossed it with precision toward the center of a wooden target. It planted with a thud inside the center of a red circle.

Much the same, Welsh, along with his business partners Corey Deasy and Matt Peyton, are hoping their ax-throwing entertainment venture Lumberjaxes will hit the bullseye with Cranberry Township residents. Their large industrial space inside the Cranberry Mall opened for business Nov. 1, and has been hitting the mark thus far.

“We’ve been getting super good feedback from the community,” Welsh said.

The trio of childhood friends were first introduced to ax throwing in 2016 while visiting Philadelphia. Obscure entertainment ventures were nothing new to Deasy, who opened the Pittsburgh region’s first escape room in

the group’s native Greenfield.

By 2017, they had opened the first LumberjAxes location in Millvale to many accolades. A similar venture in Mt. Lebanon followed, with Cranberry Township and Monroeville locations opening in 2019. Two locations have also popped up in Arizona.

“It just took off,” Welsh said.

The concept is simple: a group of people get together to challenge each other in three rounds of ax-throwing battle. A minimum group of six players square off in a variety of games after being taught the basics by one of the facility’s coaches.

Welsh stressed no prior experience is necessary.

“We can teach anyone to throw an ax,” he said. “Depending on where your axes hit, (coaches) can tell where you’re making mistakes and they adjust you and get you on the right track.”

LumberjAxes offers walk-in hours from 5-9 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. There are no

walk-in hours on Saturday, though the location is open seven days a week, with times open for groups to schedule space in advance, and play in tournaments against one another over a two-hour span. An ultimate grand champion is crowned.

The competitive atmosphere is also a fun one, with music blasting on the sound system and a large mural depicting wings made of axes adorning a wall, prompting visitors to take their photo and share on social media.

Food is available by delivery from Monte Cello’s and neighboring Rajbhog Café. The venue is BYOB beer and wine, with a bar planned in the future.

Welsh said leagues are expected to begin forming in early 2020, and have been successful at other locations. It all adds up for an afternoon or evening of the type of competitive fun the group has seen take off in recent years.

“It’s all about the experience,” Deasy said. 🏠

GETTING A “FRESHII” START TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS

As the calendar turns to another year, many find themselves making a renewed commitment to getting healthy.

Often, that means hitting the gym or dusting off home workout gear. But a well-balanced, healthy diet is just as important to making strides toward a fitness goal – and one that can be challenging with life’s other commitments getting in the way.

That’s where Freshii, a fast casual restaurant in the Cranberry Commons on Route 228, comes in.

The concept is simple, displayed in large letters on the restaurant’s wall: Eat. Energize.

“We’re trying to bring healthy food that’s affordable, fast and convenient to everybody,” said Laurie Waller, co-owner of the restaurant.

Waller is no stranger to running a business, having co-owned an industrial and welding supply business with her brother for more than two decades.

As her children prepared to go off to college, she set her sights on opening a new business of her own, with one caveat: no restaurants.

That was until she found Freshii through research and tried a meal at a Columbus location.

“After I ate the food, I knew I was bringing it to Pittsburgh,” she said.

She opened the first location on Grant Street in downtown in January 2018. Though it was a slow start as the Canadian-based brand inched into the U.S. market, numbers soon started



FAST-CASUAL RESTAURANT OFFERS HEALTHY OPTIONS ON THE GO

The Pittsburgh location is the sixth-highest grossing franchise of more than 450 in the world, Waller said.

Waller said the idea of a plant-forward menu may seem daunting to prospective customers, but once they visit once they’re usually hooked.

“It’s just real food that’s put together in an interesting way,” she said.

The menu offers a variety of bowls,



wraps, soups and burritos, with endless toppings and combinations available. A number of chef-created menu items occupy the main menu, though Waller said return guests have been known to create their own dish using a check-sheet system.

Thus far, Waller said bowls tend to be

the most popular, those dishes like the tortilla soup do well in the Cranberry market.

The combination of vegetables, grains and proteins serve as the base, with ingredients prepared fresh each morning. Dressings are prepared daily, as are a variety of healthy, natural juices.

Waller said one of the challenges is showing

customers that just because the meal is healthy, doesn’t mean it has to be expensive.

“You can eat here for the same price you can eat at any other fast casual place, and you can have a very healthy meal, and a very good portion,” she said.

While the meals themselves offer a healthy option for those under a time-crunch, the extra-busy can also take advantage of Freshii’s meal planning. Waller said a store manager will meet with a customer and discuss dietary goals and tailor a plan for their desired result.

Meals are made fresh and picked up at the restaurant each day. Freshii also offers a juice cleanse plan from juices made in-house daily.

Mobile ordering is available through the Freshii app, with the Cranberry location serving as a test location for local delivery within 3 miles.

Freshii also offers catering for large events, with orders placed in-store or online.

Freshii, 1713 Route 228 Suite E, is open from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit freshii.com for more information. 🏠



A SWEET BLAST *from the Past*

From a quality standpoint, the family and their team invests months into creating new offerings. In partnering with Rivendale Farms, they collaborated to create a new ice cream that serves as the base for the 28 standard menu items. It also helped cut the hand spun process from over 2 minutes to just 30 seconds.

Edwards said his family comes up with ideas, which are then taken to a team of food scientists that perfect it, a process that can take months.

Some of the offerings the company has become known for include bananas foster, fried ice cream, birthday cake and peanut butter brownie. The top seller is Jake's Shake, named after Pittsburgh Penguin Jake Guentzel.

The Milk Shake Factory also produces seasonal shakes, including peppermint brownie fudge during the winter months, as well as a hot chocolate offering. And, of course, there is the family's traditional chocolate offerings.

"We use those nostalgic ingredients to put a twist on what people grew up with," Edwards said.

That nostalgia is something Edwards believes is important to the company's success.

"It's more than just coming to get a nice treat," he said.

"When you see families come here now, those kids are creating memories they'll remember for the rest of their lives." 🍦



MILK SHAKE FACTORY CREATING MEMORIES

Whether celebrating a big Little League victory, on a first date or just enjoying a night out, Chris Edwards believes milkshakes have the ability to bring people together.

And while each sip is full of sweetness, it's also full of history and strategic planning.

Creating memories is what The Milk Shake Factory is all about, Edwards said. That's apparent when looking at the history of the company, which opened its Cranberry Township location in August.

The opening came 105 years after Edwards' family opened a chocolate shop and soda fountain in the Lawrenceville neighborhood. A South Side location opened in 1978, and the family sold its perfected blend of chocolate, as well as ice cream.

The fourth generation of the family, including Edwards and his siblings Mark and Dana, had been working in Washington, D.C., where they organized logistics for President George W. Bush. However, they felt compelled to get involved with the family business and took to running the South Side shop alongside their mother.

The concept for changing the chocolate shop to The Milk Shake Factory came from one of Dana's college projects, Edwards said. Eventually, the idea became a hit with college students in the area. The popularity of the family's chocolate brand, Edward Marc Choclatier, also increased, as did their line of chocolate novelties, Snappers Crafted Snacks. The latter was picked up and continues to be sold by Costco.

Since then, The Milk Shake Factory has expanded throughout the region, with locations in Downtown Pittsburgh, East Liberty and Oakland as well as PPG Paints Arena.

The location, along with a new store in McCandless, served as a test for how the business would perform as a destination, as existing stores were in areas with high foot traffic. Almost immediately, the Cranberry store was a success.

"They instantly became the top performing stores in the chain," Edwards said.

That success is due to a few things that Edwards is quick to point out: quality and nostalgia.



NEW CAFÉ AND MARKET SHOWCASES **Spice of Life**

Nishat Kazi recalls many occasions when friends would visit her Pine Township home for dinner.

As she prepared traditional Indian dishes, her daughter would often chime in that the guests likely wouldn't enjoy what had been prepared.

Kazi, though, said as soon as they took a bite, they were hooked.

"It's all about introducing new things and making people comfortable with them," Kazi said.

That, too, is the concept behind the Rajbhog Indian Market and Café, which opened in the Cranberry Mall in the fall. It's a joint venture for Kazi and Krishna Rahod of Cranberry, along with Anwar Syed of New York and Nidhi Chaudhari of Portland, Ore. It's the largest such store in the chain, and the furthest west, Kazi said.

It's a change of pace for Kazi, who moved to the area 22 years ago from Atlanta to take a job as an occupational therapist at Children's Hospital. That was followed by stints as an event planner and decorator.

That lead her to working with the Cranberry Area Diversity Network, whom she helped organize a South Asian-themed bridal show in 2016. It introduced her to the diverse and welcoming nature of Cranberry, and

she decided a business exposing South Asian foods to the masses could be a fruitful venture.

"There was a need for more diverse business in Cranberry, where people are very welcoming and accepting," she said.

That's where Rajbhog came in.

Having been established for 40 years and producing much of the food in the United States, Kazi said the company helps ease fears some may have over trying new cuisine.

"We want to expose our food and our spices and our culture to a wider range of people," she said. "We felt there was a lack of confidence from the consumer for many Indian food stores."

Both the group of partners and Rajbhog officials agreed Cranberry was the best location for the initial store, which is equal parts café and market.

In the café, fresh Indian street food is prepared to order with a wide range of vegetarian and vegan friendly wraps and bowls. Foods are made fresh, with meats cooked on a charcoal clay oven.

A separate case holds colorful sweets that Kazi said have become a popular item. She said the store is the only place in the region to get such treats.

"We've had many people come and

buy them for their cookie tables as a way to add something different," she said of the Pittsburgh wedding tradition.

The market features everything from prepared frozen items to spices and snacks. It also offers fresh produce items that can't be easily found elsewhere, including jackfruit and whole turmeric.

Kazi said many customers have found themselves interested by an item in the café, and then turning to store employees for help to make the dish at home. That includes creating the perfect spice blend from the dozens of options.

"If you can pick up a few things and make it yourself, it makes you feel better," Kazi said.

In the new year, there are plans to hold cooking classes and create a spice bar to better explain the health benefits of certain ingredients. The Cranberry store, Kazi said, will serve as the "mothership" as the partners look to open additional stores in the region. Delivery through third-party services is expected to be available in January.

Rajbhog Indian Café and Market is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. 🏠



BANKING ON THE COMMUNITY

Farmers works to become part of Cranberry's fabric

When he oversaw the opening of Farmers National Bank's Cranberry branch in 2014, William Marsh thought it would take some amount of time to become established and trusted by the community.

Marsh, the bank's Chairman, President and CEO, was pleasantly surprised to find it took less than a year. As they celebrate the branch's fifth anniversary, Marsh and other bank officials believe the success is thanks in part to a mission to be a part of the Township's fabric.

"Our bread and butter is the community," said Trey Skalos, Branch Manager for the Cranberry location.

That's been the goal for more than a century – 120 years, in fact – for the community bank that started in Venango County. It began expanding in the 1970s through acquisitions and new branches and today has 20 offices in 10 counties in Pennsylvania and West

Virginia.

Even though the bank has expanded, community engagement and interaction remain the focus, Marsh said. Farmers offers the same products and services that larger banks do, as well as the same technology and security. What sets them apart, he said, is the face-to-face interaction customers have with bank leaders.

"You have a lot closer access to the decision makers," he said.

That means knowing and working with the people who make decisions on mortgages and loans. The group meets weekly to provide timely decisions. If a customer has a question about the process, they can reach out to any staff member, Skalos said.

"We're very easily able to adapt to all the hats of banking," he said.

Marsh said the process of buying a home or pursuing a loan is inherently

stressful, and Farmers staff works hard to ease the tension for customers.

"We try to figure out a safe and sound way to lend you money," Marsh added.

Farmers is about more than lending and handling money, however, Marsh and Skalos said a heavy focus is put on being active members of the community. That includes participating in events like Community Days and the Cranberry Township Community Chest, as well as local Rotary clubs and chambers of commerce.

The Cranberry branch, like others, also opens its doors to provide a community meeting space when possible. That's something Marsh and Skalos both said is a high priority.

"We're a small business serving the people, and our focus is local and on our customers," Skalos said.

Farmers National Bank is located at 20581 Route 19, Cranberry Township. 🏠

Now Open!

IN CRANBERRY!

Aspen Contracting

20421 Route 19, Suite 105

D-1 Training

20111 Route 19, Suite 302A
(Cranberry Mall)

Bank of America

20133 Route 19

Intelomed

201 Smith Drive, Suite D1

Luck Nail Club

20530 Route 19, Suite 3

Cannatech Extracts LLC

700 Thomson Park Drive, Suite 701

Val Pak of Western PA

300 Thomson Park Drive, Suite 327

Framatome

100 E. Kensing Drive, Suite 100



New Hope for the dead

Church gets approval for new mausoleum

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church on Rowan Road, which observed its centennial anniversary in Cranberry two years ago, has received conditional use approval to add several small mausoleum buildings to its property. The church does not currently operate a cemetery on site. Each of the proposed marble and granite mausoleums will be used for the interment of ashes from four deceased congregants. The structures will be built in a grassy area on the opposite side of the church from where homes are located. No graves or headstones are planned for the property.



Indoor dog park design revised

Membership facility to remain open year-round

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 application to build a membership-based indoor dog park was approved by the Township's Board of Supervisors earlier this year. Last month, the applicant returned with a slightly modified version of the initial proposal. Those revisions would slightly reduce the facility's original single-story 19,425 square foot size and change an exterior split-face block to stucco. Two bump-outs which had been included in the building's initial plan will also be reconfigured. The facility, on a previously undeveloped 1.2-acre lot at the corner of Alps Avenue and Rochester Road, will include an open off-leash play area with artificial grass and dog toys as well as a lounge for dog owners. At its November 7 meeting, the Board approved the applicant's changes.

Cranberry extends agreement with neighboring sewage authority

Eastern Cranberry area residents to continue service from Breakneck system

The Board of Supervisors approved a contract between the Township and the Breakneck Creek Regional Authority which currently serves homes east of Cranberry Township.

The agreement provides for Breakneck to treat wastewater that now passes through the Franklin Acres Lift Station on its way to the Brush Creek treatment plant. The Township will now be able to dismantle that pumping station.

Instead, its flow will be carried by gravity into the Breakneck treatment facility. That change will help to lengthen the life of Cranberry's newly expanded Brush Creek plant, extending the time until the next expansion would be needed. There will be no charge to customers, and they will continue to receive and pay bills to the Township.



The darker side of Eagle Ridge

Street lights go out; lamp posts come in

Eagle Ridge, a 22-home planned residential development on a 25-acre site along Old Ehrman Road approved in 2016, recently returned to Cranberry's Board of Supervisors to seek approval for a modified version – this time without the street lights which had been mandated when the plan was first approved, but later dropped by the Township as a PRD requirement. In their place, the developer will include post lamps throughout the plan. After accepting public comment on the changes in October – changes which also included eliminating a proposed rain garden in a cul-de-sac – the Board approved the revised plan at its November 7 meeting.

It Takes A Village

Plans changed for Cranberry Woods

A change to plans for a vacant piece of land in the Village of Cranberry Woods will bring new business to the Route 228 corridor.

Developers recently presented a new conditional use application revising the permitted use for the 57.11 acre plot of land near Route 228 and Franklin Road. Situated next to the Hilton Garden Inn, the plan calls for a new Sheetz gas station and convenience store located along Route 228 with right-in, right-out access.

A second access point will be created to benefit the development, as well as neighboring SSC Tool & Supply from Franklin Road.

A street system connects the remainder of the plan that will feature restaurant space with drive-thru access, as well as a daycare with an outdoor play area. Other retail buildings and office space are also to be built as part of the plan.

The changes differ from the original Village of Cranberry Woods development, which features a hotel, senior housing and apartments. It was introduced in 2008 as a Community Character Development project, which allows for the use of land to change through the permitting process.

A public hearing on the changes was held during the November 20 Board of Supervisors meeting, with Supervisors granting approval thereafter.

THE LESSONS OF **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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



I consider myself tremendously fortunate to have three families. First, of course, there's my nuclear family – the one I love and go home to every evening. But my long-time work associates have become family to me as well, and I have two of those. One is Cranberry Township, where I worked part-time in the Parks and Recreation Department for more than 20 years before becoming

a Township Supervisor. The other family is made up of my colleagues and students in the Seneca Valley School District, where I've taught for more than 25 years. And since around 2015, I have worked with an amazing group of people on bringing those two families together.

This past October 18 – which was a normal school day – along with four of my fellow Ryan Gloyer Middle School teachers -- we brought 115 seventh and eighth graders to North Boundary Park. But it wasn't for play. It was a day of community service, where the kids were divided into groups to complete a series of tasks which needed to be done before the disc golf course could be opened for dogs on a leash. They included mulching the fairways, picking up fallen tree branches, cleaning up trash, digging drainage ditches, painting dog prints to show where dogs were allowed, and so on.

But it wasn't only physical labor. Each student had been given a topographic map showing the quadrant of the disc golf area they were assigned to. And that required learning certain map reading skills. Measurements needed to be taken and angles of trajectory calculated to determine

where to dig holes for the basket posts. Along the way, we made observations about the habitat of wildlife in the area, the natural system of growth and decay, and the practical aspects of sustainability. Then afterwards, the students were assigned to write journals about what they had learned.

Over the past few years I have worked with that same amazing group of people to advocate for more opportunities to increase school-community interaction. Every year we undertook a new project, that interest increased – not only among the students, but also among teachers, municipal leaders, and parents. Thanks to the support of our leadership in the District, the interest in school-community projects has grown.

One reflection of their support is that community service days have now become a standard part of the Seneca Valley curriculum – a learning program unique among school districts in all of Pennsylvania. Seneca Valley has developed standards that define and uphold the program's physical, social and cognitive learning goals. Municipal and school officials are convinced that the program's greatest goal is to encourage the students to become active citizens in their communities. Parents have been tremendously supportive. The students end the day with a sense of ownership in the welfare of their communities as well as in the practical skills involved in its maintenance.

So, in addition to helping provide our students with a great educational adventure and assisting our member communities in getting valuable work done, I am especially happy to have brought together the members of my own two extended families for a memorable and rewarding experience.

Your feedback is always appreciated
at mike.manipole@cranberrytownship.org.





PAW PATROL

DOGS HAVE THEIR DAY AT NORTH BOUNDARY PARK TRAILS

A different kind of “Paw Patrol” is being created by Cranberry Township’s Parks and Recreation Department.

As part of a series of recommendations from the Township’s K-9 Connections Committee, changes are coming to where canine companions may legally roam certain areas of Township parks. With that comes a volunteer group who will guide owners and explain the changes.

Previously, dogs were not permitted in parks other than the designated dog park in Community Park. At the committee’s recommendation, a pilot program was approved by the Board of Supervisors in October permitting leashed dogs at the North Boundary Disc Golf Course and Nature Trail area. Signage was placed at various points

throughout the park in November, designating where dogs are permitted. Paw prints are painted in the permissible areas. They also outline rules, including a “carry-in, carry-out” animal waste stipulation.

As part of ongoing education about the program, a group of volunteer ambassadors has been assembled to roam the trails at peak hours and inform pet owners of the rules.

Two ambassador training and orientation programs were held in October and November, with about 12 volunteers taking part.

Brian Perry, Facility, Field & Special Event Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation department, said the volunteers are excited to get started, and will serve as the “eyes and ears” for the Township as the program gets

underway. He said they will spend some time on the trails during the winter months, which provides a chance for both volunteers and pet owners to gradually ease into the program.

The goal for the volunteers is education, not confrontation, officials said. Pet owners found to be in violation of the rules potentially face a \$35 fine, which is enforced by police.

With the new program, the Township now boasts three dog-friendly areas, including the Brush Creek Trail Extension off Commonwealth Drive, two miles of trails in North Boundary and the dog park in Community Park. Indeed, all dogs have their days. 🐾

SCOUTS GAIN **WISDOM** FROM OWL PROJECT

Scouts in Pack 406 showed they give a hoot about wildlife with a recent project involving the Township.

The group of 10 fifth graders constructed owl boxes that will serve as shelter for the feathered friends in and around North Boundary Park. It's a project that not only helps them learn new skills but gives them a stake in the community.

According to Den parent Alan Bachman, the goal was to introduce the young scouts to the type of project they could find themselves doing if they chose to pursue an Eagle Scout certification. It also helped them earn an engineering achievement within their current scout den.

The group approached Brian Perry, Facility and Field Event Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department to determine what type of project would be most beneficial. The owl box project was decided upon, and the scouts set about researching which owls they should target with their shelters.

They decided on barn owls and barred owls, Bachman said, as they were found to be among the most prevalent in the area.



Using plywood, as well as toolboxes they constructed themselves, the scouts built several boxes that can serve as homes for those owls. Though they look like basic wooden boxes from afar, they're quite complex.

Bachman said the boxes are deep so that baby owls can be kept safely inside until they are strong enough to head out on their own. They also have "exercise bars" on the outside where they can perch and build strength.

The group scouted areas in North Boundary Park, ultimately deciding to place one near a disc golf tee and another near a barn. The boxes will

be placed about 35 feet in the air, Bachman said.

The Den donated the boxes to the Township, with installation expected to occur before inclement weather hit.

Bachman said the group was donating the boxes in Perry's name in honor of his decade of service in helping community organizations partner with the Township on projects such as the owl boxes. The move was a surprise to Perry.

Bachman said he hopes other groups will see how beneficial such a project is to the community and will get involved in the future. 🏠



SANTA STOPS BY TO SIGNAL START TO SEASON

Though late November is crunch time for Santa Claus and his North Pole team, the jolly old elf found time to make his annual First Stop in the Township.

Children young and old were able to get their first glimpse of Santa, Mrs. Claus and the team of reindeer during the November gathering. As has become custom, Santa arrived on the Township's antique fire truck as the huge crowd waived and cheered. He threw the switch to light the Township's holiday tree before returning to the North Pole to continue preparations for the big day.

The event, sponsored by Karski Spokane Orthodontics, featured a "cool" new element in the Eagle North Pole Ice Festival, sponsored by the publisher of the Cranberry Eagle and Butler Eagle newspapers. In addition to many impressive sculptures carved from blocks of ice, the festival featured an ice slide comprised of more than 40 giant ice blocks for children and parents to ride.

A portion of the proceeds from the ice festival were donated to the Cranberry



Township Community Chest 2020 Project of the Year.

The event also featured crafts, activities and games, as well as a Lego train display by Steel City Lug inside Council Chambers, which kept children entertained until Santa's arrival. It also offered a performance by the Dutilh United Methodist Church Choir. 🏠



ANNUAL CRANFEST TO HONOR FOUNDING FATHER

The sixth annual CranFest, the Township's celebration of diversity, will also serve as a celebration of one of our event's founders who passed away in 2019.

The event, organized by the Cranberry Area Diversity Network, will be the first without Gary Winterhalter, who co-founded the Diversity Network with Charles Hawkins. Winterhalter passed away in May.

Sonia Jaiswal, CranFest coordinator, said Winterhalter's dedication and ideas will be honored during the event, set for April 4 in the Municipal Center.

"It was his brainchild," she said.

That idea started simply enough in

2014: create an event that brings together people of different races, religions and ethnic backgrounds to educate and celebrate the Township's diversity.

It has blossomed into an afternoon of food, music, dancing and information booths that attracts nearly 3,000 people each year. The scope of inclusion has also expanded to represent mental health and special needs. It's all put on by a small group, plus volunteers from Seneca Valley School District and local civic organizations.

The event is scheduled to feature food from China, India, Pakistan, Thailand,

Germany, Hungary and many more. Cultural entertainment will represent Germany, India, China, Austria, Korea, Bulgaria, Japan, Thailand and Ireland.

Cultural booths will present attendees with information on Japan, Henna art, Venezuela and Ireland, as well as booths featuring the Slippery Rock University Modern Languages and Cultures Department, North Hills/Cranberry Township Genealogists and the Seneca Valley Student Diversity Committee.

The event is free to attend, though there is a cost for food.

Visit cranberrytownship.org/CADN for more information. 🏠



FILMS WITH
INTERNATIONAL
FLAIR



CADN

CRANBERRY
AREA
DIVERSITY
NETWORK

SERIES TO HELP CURE
WINTER BOREDOM

The Cranberry Area Diversity Network Film Series is providing entertainment and discussion to fill the winter months.

Formerly called “Movies, Mumble and Munch,” CADN Film Series events are scheduled from noon to 3:30 p.m. January 18, February 8 and March 7 at the Cranberry Public Library Franklin Station Room. The films begin at noon and are followed by a facilitated discussion. Complimentary snacks and water are provided. Pre-registration is required.

The schedule of films includes:

January 18 – Gandhi (1982. 3 hr 11 min. PG) This acclaimed biographical drama presents major events in the life of Mohandas Gandhi (Ben Kingsley), the beloved Indian leader who stood against British rule over his country. Dedicated to the concept of nonviolent resistance, Gandhi is initially dismissed by English officials, including the influential Lord Irwin (John Gielgud), but eventually he and his cause become internationally renowned, and his gatherings of passive protest moved India toward independence.

February 8 – Rumble (2017. 1 hr 43 min. PG.) Filmmaker Catherine Bainbridge examines the role of Native Americans in contemporary music history. She exposes a critical missing chapter, revealing how indigenous musicians helped influence popular culture.

March 7 - A Beautiful Mind (2001. 2 hr 20 min. PG13.) John Forbes Nash Jr., a mathematical genius on the brink of international acclaim, finds himself on a harrowing journey of self-discovery.

The Cranberry Area Diversity Network, with support from Cranberry Township, focuses on creating programs designed to welcome visitors and new residents from different cultures to the Township.

Pre-registration is required and appreciated by visiting Cranberry4FUN.com/Register. 🏠



KEEPING THE BALL IN PLAY

VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR SERVICE

Volunteers are the heart that keeps the Township's Parks and Recreation programs running smoothly.

From scheduling games and events to coaching youth, the sometimes-thankless jobs are vital to ensuring the Township can continue to offer the types of programs to which residents have become accustomed.

For the first time, some of those volunteers have been honored for their service, as the Parks and Recreation Department recognized six individuals as 2019 Volunteer of the Year recipients.

Those recognized include:

- Joe DeCristoforo for 22 years as scheduler for the Cranberry Township Athletic Association baseball and softball leagues
- Seth Murray for his service as a coach for the Seneca Valley Soccer Association (Youth Athletic Volunteer of the Year)
- Dave Bacher for more than nine years as treasurer of Seneca Valley Junior Football and Cheer
- Mark VandeWater for more than nine years as a coach for the Seneca Valley Lacrosse Association
- Arron Morrow for 15 years as a referee for the Parks and Recreation basketball leagues
- Dan Kramer for two years as coach in the Parks and Recreation's dek hockey league

The volunteers were honored with a plaque for their service during a December Board of Supervisors meeting. 🏠

Thank you!



TOWNSHIP GETS "SCHOOLED" ON NEW SENECA VALLEY BUILDING

Township and Seneca Valley School District officials have spent a lot of time in "study hall" recently, reviewing plans for the new Seneca Valley Elementary and Middle School.

The building, to be built off Ehrman Road at the border of Cranberry and Jackson townships, will replace the existing Evans City elementary and middle school. The entirety of the campus will sit in Cranberry Township.

The two-story, 197,000-square-foot school has a maximum building construction cost of about \$60.5 million, with a maximum project cost of more than \$78.7 million.

The building design features wings, with elementary classrooms on one side and middle school on the other. Classrooms are a combination of traditional and collaborative learning spaces.

Common areas in the middle are meant to draw students in via stairs and walking ramps to promote interaction.

The state-of-the-art facility focuses on sustainability, and will itself serve as a teaching tool as components like solar panels can be used to educate.

According to Ron Henshaw, Director of Planning and Development Services, the plan was to be approved in one phase. However, spaces for potential future athletic fields are situated behind the school, and would need separate approval in the future.

Henshaw said one of the most notable discussions through the planning process dealt with traffic on Ehrman Road. Officials agreed to a roundabout at the school's entrance is the best and safest solution, which will be directly across from Legend Creek Drive. That road serves as the entrance to the

Foxmoor development. Henshaw said traffic safety was the deciding factor on installing the roundabout.

"We are, by design, slowing people down," he said, adding crossing guards at peak hours will help ensure pedestrian safety.

On the campus itself, parent and bus drop-off points will be separate, with traffic patterns clearly marked. Henshaw said the district has an agreement with neighbor P.F. Cook Brick to create a gated off access road.

A required public hearing was held by the district in November, with bidding expected to begin in February. The Township Board of Supervisors approved the project in December. Construction is expected to begin this spring, with occupancy by fall of 2022. 🏠

SENECA VALLEY 'FLEXING' ITS SNOW-DAY MUSCLE

The days of students waking up to a fresh blanket of snow signaling a day off from school are becoming a thing of the past – or at least less frequent.

That's because the Seneca Valley School District will continue to take advantage of flexible instructional days for the 2019-20 school year. The days, dubbed FIDs for short, are stay-at-home work days used instead of or in addition to regular snow days. Students are assigned work to be completed through online portals, and the days count toward the state-mandated 180



instructional days each year.

Seneca Valley has implemented the days since the 2014-15 school year as member of the statewide pilot program.

In July, Gov. Tom Wolf signed legislation allowing districts throughout the state to use the days.

For the 2019-20 school year, Seneca Valley's first two cancelled days are "traditional" days in that they will be

made up on Feb. 14 and April 14. The third, fourth and fifth missed days will become flexible instruction days. Students have five school days to complete any assignments given on those days.

The benefit, district officials said, is that the school year will not need to be extended in the event of multiple days of inclement weather, ensuring students and teachers alike can maximize their summer breaks and optimize learning during the year.

So go ahead, let it snow. 🏠

Cranberry Township Community Chest

Your non-profit neighbor.

We're called the "Community Chest" because that's what we are, your local treasure chest. Our goal is simple: to improve our community and connect residents with local non-profits. We aim to make our region a better place through:

1. our annual CTCC Community Days event, held every July in Community Park;
2. local improvement projects like Graham Park's SportCourts and the Library Makerspace;
3. encouraging residents to volunteer, support, and engage with our 70+ non-profit members.



View past projects, scroll through previous Community Days' photo galleries, and interact with our non-profit members by visiting our website at CranberryTownship.org/CommunityChest

2020 WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE



1 DAY DELAY

**NO COLLECTION AND ONE DAY DELAY FOR REMAINDER OF WEEK
WHEN THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS OCCUR ON A WEEKDAY:**

New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.



LIVE TREE COLLECTION
(on regular pickup day)

YARD WASTE
Mar 30 - Dec 11

JANUARY

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

MARCH

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

LIVE TREE COLLECTION JANUARY 6 - 17

YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS MARCH 30

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MAY

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31						

JUNE

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28	29	30				

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30	31					

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

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29	30					

DECEMBER

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

YARD WASTE COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 11.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

WASTE COLLECTION UPDATES

Trash collection delayed by one day,
Wednesday-Friday (January 1-4)

Live Tree Collection: January 6-17 on regular
pick-up day. Remove decorations; cut into
4 ft. lengths, and place curbside.

- 1** NEW YEAR'S DAY: Twp offices
& Library closed, no trash collection.
- Board of Supervisors, 6:30 PM, Muni Ctr
- 6** Reservations open for Park Shelters
724-779-4FUN (4386) x1129
- 7** Planning Advisory Committee,
6 PM, Muni Ctr
- 8** Environmental Ad Hoc Advisory
Committee, 6:30 PM, Muni Ctr
- 9** Seasonal Job Fair, 2-7 PM, Muni Ctr
- 13** HOA Forum, 6:30 PM, Muni Ctr
- Environmental Ad Hoc Advisory
Committee, 6:30 PM, Muni Ctr
- 15** Friends of the Library, 6:30 PM
- 18** CADN Film Series, "Gandhi",
12 PM, Library
- 20** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Twp offices
open, Library closed, no trash delay
- 25** Let's Dance: Foxtrot, 7 PM, Gym, \$10 fee

FEBRUARY

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Sign up for Community CPR & First Aid Class
CPR: 9 AM - 12 PM; First Aid: 12:30 - 3 PM
Muni Ctr; \$40 / session
Register: CranberryTownshipEMS.org
or call 724-776-4480

- 1** Sheriff's Gun Licensing, 9 AM - 2 PM,
Muni Ctr
- 4** Cranberry Artists Network Open
Studio, 10 AM - 1 PM, Muni Ctr
- 7** Special Needs Valentine Dance, 6 PM,
call 724-779-4FUN for location & details
- 8** CADN Film Series, Rumble, 12 PM, Library
- 14** Sweetheart Bingo, 1 - 2 PM,
Grange Hall (formerly Sr Ctr), Fee
- 15** CPR & First Aid- details listed above
- 17** President's Day: Twp offices open,
Library closed, no trash delay
- 22** Special Needs Winter Family Fun Day
Call 724-779-4FUN for location & details
Let's Dance: Salsa, 7 PM, Gym, \$10 fee
- 27** Opening Reception CAN Spring Art
Show, 6-8 PM, Muni Ctr

MARCH

WASTE COLLECTION UPDATE:
Yard waste collection resumes
week of March 30

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Begins March 8

- 1** Butler County/Cranberry Township
property tax notices mailed
- 3** Cranberry Artists Network Open
Studio, 10 AM - 1 PM, Muni Ctr
- 7** CADN Film Series, "A Beautiful Mind",
12 PM, Library
- 13** Special Needs St. Patrick's Day Dance,
8 PM, call 724-779-4FUN for location &
details.
- 28** Sheriff's Gun Licensing, 9 AM - 2 PM,
Muni Ctr
- 31** Last day for discount on Waterpark
membership

COMING SOON!

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION

2020 Winter/Spring
Recreation Guide



CRANBERRY HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY APIARY
THANKS OUR QUEEN BEE SPONSORS:

**GIANT
EAGLE®**



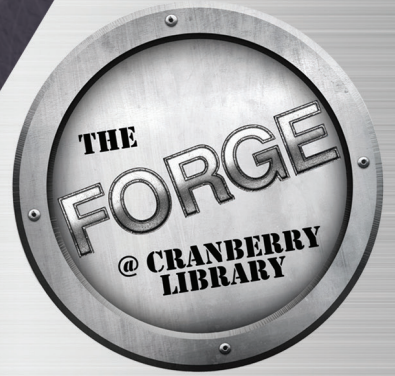
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CHEST
GIANT EAGLE OF CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

Cranberry Library's Makerspace

GRAND
OPENING
AND MAKER FAIRE

This FREE, family-friendly event will be a display of invention and creativity for tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, artisans, hobbyists, among others.

Information on how to be a participating maker in the event will be available in February.



4.18.20
SAVE THE DATE



**YOUR WATERPARK
MEMBERSHIP WILL OFFER AMAZING DISCOUNTS FOR
AQUATIC PROGRAMS AND SWIM LESSONS!**

Plan ahead and buy yours today!

WWW.CRANBERRY4FUN.COM/WATERPARK

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CRANFEST

is coming...



4.4.2020
11:00AM - 3:00PM