

Cranberry **TODAY**

SUMMER 2020

DESTINATION SUMMER!

TOWNSHIP PARKS GET THEIR MOMENT IN THE SUN

+ COMMUNITY
UPDATES



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TOWNSHIP.

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Jerry Andree

**14****18**

Did you miss us?
The Spring 2020 edition of
'Cranberry Today' was released in
digital-only format. To read the
issue, visit CranberryTownship.org/CranberryToday!

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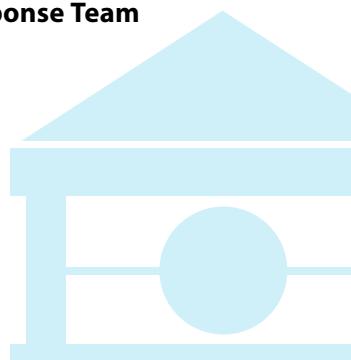
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CONNECT



Cover: Sarah Stevens, a Cranberry Township resident, who has been a lifeguard for five seasons, attends George Washington University and studies computer science.





HITTING IT OUT OF THE PARK

Outdoor offerings abound in Cranberry Parks

For nearly three months, residents in Cranberry Township and across the Commonwealth found themselves cooped-up, locked down by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the summer sun rose across the horizon and restrictions were eased, many in the community were hankering to get outside and take a hike, shoot a jump shot or make a splash in the pool.

Luckily, the pandemic didn't stop Township Parks & Recreation and Public Works crews from preparing for a summer of fun – though with a different twist.

"Like everyone else, we were carefully watching and reading about the virus

every day," said Pete Geis, Parks & Recreation director. "We wanted to make sure we were prepared if the opportunity came for us to open."

That includes the three Township parks – Community, Graham, and North Boundary – which opened with heavy restrictions in the spring. Social distancing and stay-at-home orders allowed for outdoor exercise, and many flocked to these parks to embark on physical activity.

In recent weeks, all facets of the parks have re-opened with social distancing practices still in effect.

At Community Park, sports courts are jumping with activity, as is the Rotary

Dog Park, where four-legged friends are getting in daily workouts.

Sprawling Graham Park is home to the SportsCourt complex, featuring everything from basketball, bocce, tennis, dek hockey, horseshoes and the ever popular pickleball. It also offers a chance to take a break from the bustle of everyday life at the Community Garden, or while casting a line at the fully stocked fishing pond.

Graham Park also provides easy access to the Brush Creek Trail system, which provides runners, walkers and cyclists plenty of space to put in miles.

At North Boundary Park, the recently completed professional disc golf course is



open to let frisbees fly, while the adjacent nature trail offers miles of hilly hiking opportunities.

"We pride ourselves on having such wonderful parks for our residents to enjoy," said Jerry Andree, Township Manager. "It was important to the Board of Supervisors to make sure these parks were ready once the green light was given."

The re-opening didn't come without challenges, particularly at the Waterpark in North Boundary Park. State and CDC regulations seemed to change daily, and many other pools in the region chose not to open for the 2020 season.

Township officials held daily discussions

to determine if it was feasible to open the Waterpark, and what restrictions would be necessary if that happened. They also continued the hiring process for lifeguards and public works crews just in case – a move that paid off in the end.

"Once we determined we could safely open to the public, we were able to hit the ground running because staff was already in place," Geis said.

The Waterpark opened June 20 and offers a splash pad, water slide and large pool area to beat the heat. Due to capacity restrictions, the Waterpark is open to Township residents and Waterpark members for the 2020 season. Several other protocols are also in place to ensure

both guests and staff remain safe.

The same goes for Camp Cranberry, which commenced at the end of June and will run through August, giving children of all ages a chance to get outside and play.

"We want people to be able to enjoy the pool and parks while also feeling safe," Geis said. "We're doing what we can to make that happen, but it takes the commitment of everyone."

For more information on Cranberry's park offerings, visit Cranberry4FUN.com/ParksReopening. To purchase a resident membership, visit Cranberry4FUN.com/Waterpark.



WATERPARK QUESTIONS?

We've Got Answers



Q: Can non-residents buy a membership?
A: Only Cranberry Township residents may purchase a membership. Non-resident memberships purchased before April 15, 2020 will be honored.

Q: Are guests allowed?
A: Guest passes are being sold as normal – which only members can purchase. Prices have increased \$1 across the board.

Q: Can chairs be brought into the Waterpark?
A: Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs to help with sanitation efforts. A small number of deck chairs are available.

Q: Can outside food be brought into the Waterpark?
A: No outside food is permitted. Lunch Box sized cooler bags are permitted. The concession stand will have limited food offerings available.

Q: Will members still be admitted at 11:15 a.m.?
A: Yes.

Q: Will members be turned away if capacity is reached?
A: If the Waterpark is at capacity, both members and residents must wait for someone to exit before they can enter.

Q: Will members receive priority admittance over non-members?
A: After 11:30 a.m., members and residents will have equal access to admittance.

Q: Do guests have to be residents?
A: Guests do not have to be residents, but they must be a guest of a member.
Q: Will there be two lines for members and non-members?
A: Yes. Lines will be split into members and daily admission.

Q: Will information on capacity be released on busy and slow days?
A: If the Waterpark is near capacity, the information will be communicated via the Waterpark Facebook page.

Q: Will there be scheduled lap swims?
A: At this time lap swimming is not being scheduled.

Q: If I was a non-residential member last year, but didn't buy a membership yet this year, can I still buy one?
A: Non-residential memberships are closed for purchase. Only residents can buy memberships this season.

Q: Are masks required?
A: Masks are not required in bathing areas but are strongly recommended in high traffic areas like admission and

concession lines. Waterpark staff will be wearing masks per CDC guidelines and as feasible.

Q: What refund options are available for members who are not comfortable entering the Waterpark due to COVID-19?
A: Several options are available including a full refund or transferring membership to 2021 season. Call Parks & Rec for details.

Q: What if I already requested and received a refund, but want to purchase it again, and I'm a non-resident?
A: A "re-purchase" for non-residents is not allowable.

Q: Will Noodle Nights continue this season?
A: Noodle Nights will continue every Friday evening, but guests must bring their own noodle.

Q: Are birthday parties and deck rentals still available?
A: Birthday parties and deck rentals are available, with precautionary measures in place.

Q: Are swim lessons still taking place?
A: Yes, they are under strict CDC guidelines.

Register at Cranberry4FUN.com.





Safety Program MAKES A SPLASH AT WATERPARK

Before diving in and making a splash at the Township's Waterpark, guests are taking a stand.

Water safety is at the forefront of operations, as the Waterpark staff restarts its Stand Up to Drowning campaign.

Parents are encouraged to join their children in the water and keep non-swimmers at arm's reach. Additionally, parents are urged to wait for their children at the bottom of the water slide to ensure they are exiting safely.

Parents and children are asked to Take the

Pledge and sign the board, signifying their commitment to water safety.

As an additional safety measure, certified and approved life vests are available at the Waterpark, which are kindly sponsored by Rhoads Orthodontics. The vests add an extra level of safety to assist swimmers who need supplementary support while in the water.

The Waterpark and its various amenities have specific rules in place to keep everyone safe. They can be found at Cranberry4FUN.com/Waterpark. ☺



PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION

Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

Of the many foundational lessons we're taught as children, there's one we still likely use every day:

Red means stop.

Yellow means caution.

Green means go.

Recently, Butler County and Cranberry Township were given the green light under the state's reopening plan following the COVID-19 pandemic. That green light allowed for restaurants to open to diners, gyms and salons to again welcome guests and other businesses to roll back some of the heaviest restrictions.

After months cooped up at home and social interaction forced onto computer screens, many want to put the pedal to the metal and get back to normal.

As Township Supervisors we certainly understand that sentiment. We want to see our restaurants with full tables and our businesses with long checkout lines.

But in this instance, we go against decades of teaching and say: green still requires some caution.

The spread of COVID-19 was slowed by the actions of communities across the country, with stay-at-home orders lessening the potential impact. Actions like social distancing and the wearing of masks also helped and will continue to do so.

That's why we encourage our residents to get out and have dinner with your family. Go shopping for new clothes or that new computer. But do so while following CDC guidelines and being respectful of your neighbors.

That extends to the Township's parks, which are fully open for fun, exercise and interaction. At those locations, as well as the Township Waterpark, social distancing remains the recommendation so that as many people as possible can get outside and safely enjoy the sunshine.

On the Township side of things, business continued as normally as possible during the pandemic shutdown. New building inspections were completed. New developments and businesses gained approval. Bills were paid. Projects like the MSA Thruway broke ground.



Now, as restrictions lessen our employees will slowly return to their offices after a few months of virtual work. Our Board of Supervisors meetings will again become in-person affairs – a change to which we all look forward.

Our Board and staff will be working hard to help with that return to normalcy. With many events canceled or altered due to the pandemic, planning will soon commence to make sure 2021 is full of the community events and programs our residents have come to love.

As we continue to navigate this "new normal" we encourage our residents to continue to be considerate of one another. Be patient with businesses that are figuring out new requirements and restrictions. Be compassionate for those who have been impacted by the pandemic, no matter the severity. Be kind to those around you – even if they're six feet away.

And, most importantly, we urge you to remain vigilant to make sure our community remains safe and healthy. After all, we're all in this #CranberryTogether.

Sincerely,

Dick Hadley, Chairman, Mike Manipole, Vice Chairman, Bruce Hezlep, Bruce Mazzoni, John Skorupan



CENTER OF ATTENTION

Municipal Center open for business

Businesses and restaurants aren't the only buildings with doors re-opened to the public.

The Township Municipal Center welcomed guests for the first time in nearly three months in early June. With that came the return of eager walkers winding their way through the building, as well as the return of Township business.

That includes the return of normal Customer Service options like trash bag stickers, in-person Board of Supervisors and Planning Advisory Commission meetings and other Township offerings.

The building is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The Library will follow similar hours and closed on Sunday.

The Township Police Department will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, with fingerprinting taking place from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The Senior Center remains closed, with an anticipated opening expected this fall. 



SAFETY



**SIGN UP TODAY TO
LIMIT THE OUT-OF-POCKET
COSTS FOR BASIC OR ADVANCED
LIFE SUPPORT EMERGENCY (911)!**

CTEMS51.ORG

SAVING MONEY **WHILE SAVING LIVES**

EMS subscription plan helps the community



No matter the situation, Cranberry Township EMS crews are there to answer the call.

Even during a pandemic, certified technicians are ready to spring into action when they are needed most.

Township residents can help give back to the department by subscribing to the EMS organization, all while saving money in the process.

Through the Cranberry Township EMS Ambulance Service Subscription

Program, hundreds of dollars in medical bills can be saved. The subscription offsets the costs of co-payments and deductibles an insurance company may require a person to pay for an ambulance transport.

The subscription not only provides peace of mind, but it goes a long way in ensuring Cranberry Township EMS can continue serving the community, ensuring staffing levels remain at full capacity and vehicles and equipment

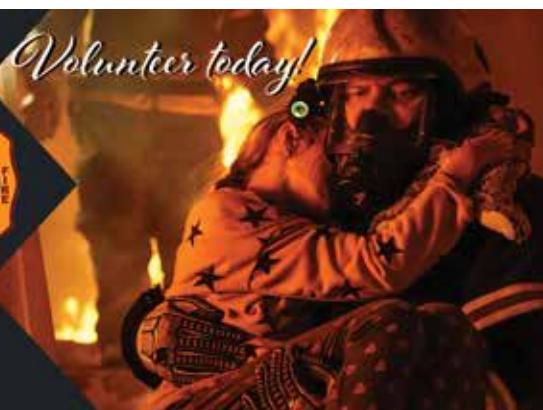
are well-maintained to provide the community with around-the-clock care, 365 days a year.

Additionally, Cranberry Township EMS has reciprocal agreements with all immediate surrounding EMS services and 17 other organizations who are members of the Northeast Ambulance Alliance, meaning the subscription will be honored.

For more information on the subscription program, call 724-776-4480 or visit CTEMS51.org.

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

CTVFC21.org • Contact@CTVFC21.org



CONNECTING TO THE COMMUNITY

New EMS position aims to educate and promote safety

As a new mother in 2003, Mandy Cousins had a hard time finding someone to educate her about car seat safety.

After finally finding a class and becoming a technician, she soon found herself serving as an instructor, helping other parents keep their children safe.

That background coupled with more than 20 years as a trained EMT and CPR instructor helps Cousins in her new day job as Community Outreach Coordinator for Cranberry Township EMS. Her goal is to connect the community to the department in situations other than emergencies.

Those connections are formed through programs like car seat checks, which are held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the Route 19 station by appointment. In 2019, more than 300 checks were performed, with a goal of hitting 400 in 2020.

"It's the easiest way we can improve the safety of children," Cousins said, adding motor vehicle accidents are the top cause of injuries for kids.

The half-hour checks cover how to install seats correctly, and how to use the



various parts. Each check is a "mini car seat class," Cousins said.

Cousins also leads the Safe Landings Program, which offers parents of infants CPR and first-aid training at their home. A safety inspection and car seat training

are also conducted for up to 10 people during those visits.

Other programs include community CPR and first-aid training held every other month, as well as additional safety outreach courses.

Cousins and the EMS team frequently lead tours of the station for school field trips and scout visits. They also go into the community and visit churches, businesses and civic organizations to educate and explain the importance of EMS to the Cranberry community.

"Getting people familiar with how an ambulance works takes some of that terror away from the situation," Cousins said.

To schedule a check, or learn more about safety programs, visit CTEMS51.org. 





Police Make **HOUSE CALLS** to Community

Birthday celebrations around the Township over the past few months may have had minimal attendees, but they certainly didn't lack enthusiasm.

That's because Township police officers brought the party to residents of all ages, with lights, sirens and well wishes screaming through the air.

Officers made several stops to visit those celebrating birthdays, bringing

an extra thrill to what could have been an otherwise low-key celebration. They didn't limit their visit to just children, however, as they also made stops to residents celebrating milestone birthdays in their 90s.

Officers also helped Seneca Valley School District teachers greet their students during May's parade through the Township. 





WHERE THE **BLACKTOP** BEGINS:

Paving machine keeps work flowing smoothly

It has been smooth sailing for the Township's Public Works Department's street crews thanks to a new piece of equipment.

The Township purchased a Vogelete Super 700 paver in early 2020 to help fix holes and bumps left after water and sewer projects, as well as general resurfacing work.

Crews got to put the machine to the test by completing a stormwater project on Shallowood Circle.

The machine can also be used to patch asphalt walking trails. The ultimate goal is to save time – and money – by conducting the work in-house. ☰



INTERSTATE 79 PROJECT BRIDGES TRANSPORTATION GAP

Atunnel beneath Route 228 and bridges dropping into place on Freedom Road aren't the only major road projects that, once completed, stand to improve traffic flow in the Township.

Work continues to replace the Interstate 79 bridge over North Boundary Road. The southbound span was completed in 2019, and work to replace the northbound span is underway.

A temporary span was constructed to allow the existing bridge to be demolished, leading to the closure of North Boundary Road for a few days earlier this spring.

The PennDOT project is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. ☰



DIG IN!

MSA Thruway Project Breaks Ground

Kevin Costner's character in the film "Field of Dreams" was taunted, tormented and ultimately inspired by a mysterious voice echoing through the cornfields.

"If you build it, they will come," whispered the now famous movie line.

While the film was released in 1989, officials in Cranberry Township were faced with the reverse of that dilemma:

It's coming. Are you going to build it?

The "it" in question was growth, and the writing was on the wall. With plans to expand the Pennsylvania Turnpike and a new connector being built on Interstate 79 to the city of Pittsburgh – coupled with low property taxes – an influx of people was inevitable.

So was a boom of business, with the

meager, two-lane Route 228 and its corridor ripe for development.

Township leaders went about planning, and more than five years of research and study produced the 1995 Comprehensive Plan that has guided development in the Route 228 corridor, as well as Route 19 and various Township roads, for more than two decades.

Findings included everything from road widening to installing signals. It also featured a project that would have the largest impact on traffic: a grade-separated road that would allow motorists exiting Interstate 79 to bypass Route 228 to get to points north.

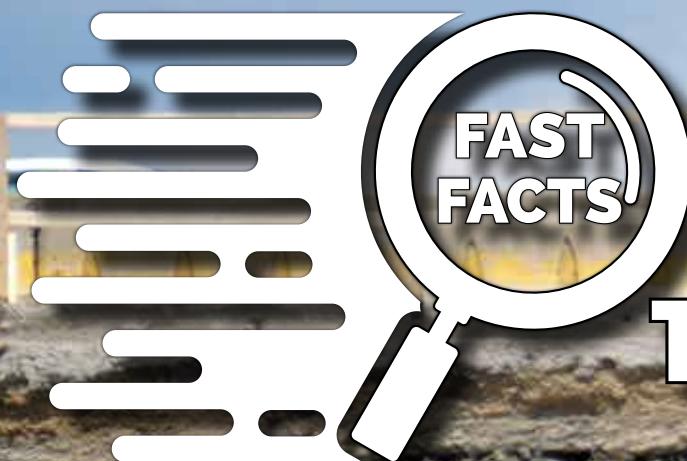
It was a relatively simple idea that proved to be challenging to implement.

Now, 25 years later, work has begun on the MSA Thruway, a tunnel beneath Route

228 that will significantly improve traffic on the corridor. The innovative project is the culmination of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as an example of community partnerships. MSA Safety, for which the project is named, donated the land to be used for the tunnel approach. Once completed companies like MSA and others in the area stand to benefit from improved access and visibility.

It's also a sign of the commitment to Township leaders have made to ensure growth happens in a positive way while understanding the infrastructure needs of the area.

So as that growth continues to come, Cranberry Township finds itself well positioned to accommodate – thanks to years of planning that saw the forest through the trees. 



MSA THRUWAY

THE PROJECT

- A tunnel is being constructed beneath Route 228 connecting I-79 to Cranberry Springs. Traffic will be maintained on Route 228 throughout the project.
- A roundabout will be constructed at the approach to the tunnel from I-79.
- The project includes sidewalks and bike lanes that aim to produce friendlier pedestrian and bike areas.
- The project broke ground in spring 2020, with completion set for winter 2021.

THE DATA

- 700 vehicles per hour will use the Thruway instead of Route 228 during peak evening times.
- 1,280 vehicles will use the free-flow lane from Interstate 79 Northbound onto the Thruway at peak morning times.
- The queue from I-79 Northbound will be reduced by 40 percent during peak morning hours.
- Eastbound traffic on Route 228 at the Cranberry Springs/Cranberry Woods intersection will be reduced by 30 percent. Average delays will be reduced by 33 percent.
- During peak morning hours, 1,350 vehicles per hour (22 percent) will use the MSA Thruway instead of Route 228. This will reduce the “weave” condition at the merge on Route 228.
- Overall traffic on Route 228 between I-79 and Cranberry Springs/Cranberry Woods will be reduced by 22 percent during peak morning hours and 10 percent during peak evening hours.
- The project could spur the creation of 2,300 full-time jobs and more than 4,000 temporary construction jobs.

THE FUNDING

- An approved \$12,048,068.12 contract with Allegheny Excavating Inc. is being implemented.
- MSA donated \$3.5 million worth of land for the project.
- About \$6.7 million of the project cost will come from the Butler County Infrastructure Bank, which provides low-interest loans for projects in the county.





Penalties Waived on Utility Bills

Penalties are waived on late sewer, water and solid waste bills through July 31, 2020.

The Board of Supervisors voted to waive late penalties for bills due March 31, April 30, May 29, June 30 and July 31. Beginning August 1, the normal penalties will be charged.

Termination of service for non-payment will resume July 14, 2020 for bills that were due February 28 and March 31.

Property Tax Deadlines Eased

The Board recently voted to extend the payment date for "face amount" real estate taxes until November 30, 2020. The original deadline was June 30.

The move is in accordance with Act 15 of 2020, implemented by Governor Tom Wolf, requesting municipalities to extend the date, as well with recent action by County Commissioners to extend the deadline for the county portion.

Beginning December 1, 2020, the normal 10 percent penalty will be applied to unpaid bills.

Fire Strategic Plan Changes Made

Additional rules and regulations outlined in a study of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company were put in place.

The Board of Supervisors voted June 4 to update Township Code of Ordinances pertaining to fire and emergency services.

The updates follow recommendations outlined in the CTVFC 2016 Long Range Strategic Plan that were adopted by CTVFC and the Township in June 2017. The proposed ordinance implements the final recommendation of that Plan to help ensure a healthy and sustainable volunteer fire force for many years to come.



New Truck Coming to Fire Company

A new ladder truck coming to the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company will help take the department to new heights.

This spring, the Board approved an agreement with the department's Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association to assist in the financing of a 2020 Tower Truck. The balance of the promissory note will be paid over 10 years.



Traffic Signal Applications Approved

Plans to install new traffic signals near a major Township development were given the green light this week.

The Board of Supervisors at their May 7 meeting approved a resolution to begin the process of installing and upgrading traffic signals at two locations near the Meeder development.

The first is at the intersection of Rochester Road, Thomson Park Drive and Norman Drive, which would be upgraded. The second would be a new signal at the Meeder development and the Township Municipal Center at Rochester Road.

Both resolutions indicate the Township will follow all PennDOT guidelines through the application process. The signals could be installed by the end of the 2020 construction season.



Making Connections

An ongoing project to widen Freedom Road brings won't be a missed connection for the Township, as sidewalks are included in the work.

Once completed, those sidewalks from Haine School Road to Commonwealth Drive will be maintained by the Township through its sidewalk maintenance ordinance, according to a resolution adopted by the Board this spring. The new sidewalks are part of the Township's goal of connecting the community, with more than 200 miles of pedestrian walkway throughout Cranberry.

Garden Tour Continues to Grow

The 12th annual Southern Butler County Garden Club Garden Tour is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 25.

Pre-sale tickets are available for \$20 by sending a check payable to Southern Butler County Garden Club along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Southern Butler County Garden Club, c/o 842 Van Buren Blvd., Freedom, PA 15042.

Tickets on the event day are \$25 and are only available from 9-10 a.m. at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center Lobby, 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township. Each ticket is eligible for a door prize plus raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win one of the "Gardener's Delight" baskets. Visit southernbutlercountygardenclub.org for more information.



WITH NEW TRUCK FLEET, RECYCLING WON'T BE BLOWING

IN THE WIND

Of the challenges related to recycling, how to keep loose plastics, paper and other items from blowing away during the loading process may be near the top.

The solution to that problem, as it turns out, wasn't blowing in the wind.

In fact, it took effort to design, plan and implement a fleet of new trucks aimed at greatly reducing or stopping loose recycling from escaping containers and polluting Township communities.

The new trucks from Vogel Disposal Service, the Township's waste management provider, hit the streets in January. They feature a side-loading arm that extends up to 8 feet out to pick up recycling bins. The arms then dump into the truck's storage area, which is surrounded by wind-blocking panels to reduce the number of loose items escaping into

neighborhoods.

Five trucks began rolling through Township neighborhoods and have worked as anticipated. While they greatly help limit the amount of loose recycling, which is to be kept unbagged, it is important to remember that trash should be placed in bags.

Vogel is no stranger to innovation, as 45 trucks in the company's fleet run on natural gas. That gas is generated from a supply chain at the landfill, where methane is produced and put back into vehicles. The Township was the first municipality in Butler County to require its contracted solid waste trucks to run on natural gas.

Both initiatives are in line with Vogel's mission to reduce its environmental footprint – a cause near and dear to the hearts of Cranberry Township's officials. ☎



Any residential concerns regarding trash or recycling should be sent directly to collectionconnection@cranberrytownship.org.





Dr. Stephanie Rhoads is all about putting smiles on people's faces.

As an orthodontist at her own practice, Rhoads Orthodontics, she is constantly working to find new technologies and advancements to ensure a comfortable, easy visit that will leave her patients smiling.

Outside of the office, Rhoads and her team continue that mission, working with local schools, civic groups and organizations to make a better community.

"We want to be really integrated in the

community and give back wherever we can," she said.

Rhoads has operated in Cranberry Township for six years and expanded her practice in 2018. The goal all along has been to create an environment where patients feel like family. That is extra important given the sometimes-difficult nature of the circumstances for visits.

"We're in a unique position where we're seeing people ... at a vulnerable time of their life," she said.

However, Rhoads and her team of eight also get to see transformations happen

SMILE

LIKE YOU MEAN IT

RHOADS WORKS TO MAKE PATIENTS, OTHERS SMILE

and self confidence being built. She sees it in every school play or athletic event she attends to support her patients.

"We get to know our patients and their families really well," she said.

Because of that connection, Rhoads focuses on staying current with her practices, constantly seeking new technology that can shorten the length of time and be as minimally invasive as possible.

That search lead to the plan to use 3-D printing to create retainers in-house, a concept she hopes to roll out later this year. Not only does that speed up the process, but it involves her younger patients in the process by educating them and letting them see the mechanics happen.

Rhoads' care for the community and focus on improving lives doesn't just apply to her patients.

She visits schools and clubs like the YMCA and Girl Scouts to talk about topics like anti-bullying. A recent campaign has Rhoads' team handing out "Intentional Act of Kindness" cards around the community. The goal, she said, is to pass along a smile or two and start a chain reaction.

"The mission is spreading joy and building people's confidence and trying to make their day better," she said. 



Silver Anniversary **HOUSE OF CHEN** a part of the community

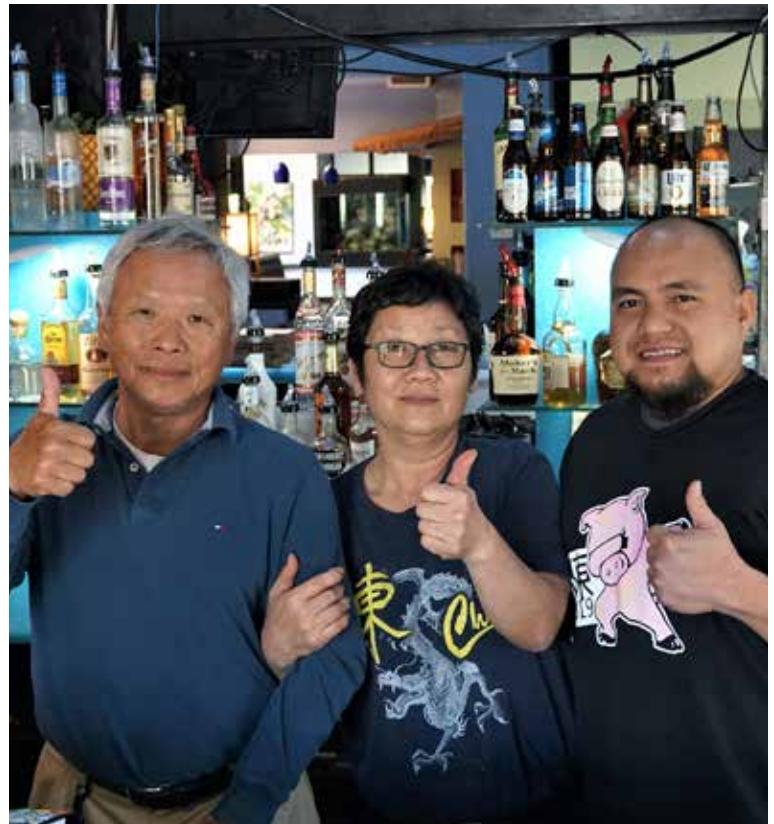
Like all businesses, House of Chen was challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, with their brightly colored dining room closed in lieu of take-out options.

Still, the fact that Cranberry Township residents have supported the restaurant for 25 years remained in the thoughts of owner Stanley Chen – so much so that he and the restaurant wanted to give back.

Chen donated meals and monetary donations to the Township's Community Response Team, which was formed to help residents from Cranberry and beyond navigate the challenges associated with the virus.

Additionally, House of Chen provided the Township's Public Works Department with lunch - in gratitude for continuing to keep the Township running smoothly during the pandemic.

These random acts of kindness were Chen's way of giving back to a community that has kept the House in business for more than two decades. Much like the fish inside the restaurant's displays, the future for House of Chen remains bright. ☀





SWEET FREEDOM!

Bridge project falls into place

PennDOT contractors played a giant game of "Operation" in early June, skillfully maneuvering a brand new bridge deck to Freedom Road above the Pennsylvania Turnpike and dropping it into place.



The "surgery" is part of an ongoing commitment by the Township, PennDOT, the Turnpike Commission and Butler County to widen and expand the Freedom Road corridor.

The current project includes the installation of a six-lane, steel beam bridge, as well as sidewalks, lighting and signals. The bridge decks are assembled off-site on Thomson Park Drive and transported to the bridge site. There, they're lowered into place by a large crane. That work is being completed during overnight hours to lessen the traffic impact.

Work is expected to be completed in 2020, though Township Supervisors already have their eye on future Freedom Road projects. In June, they pledged support for a Butler County BUILD grant application to expand the road to Route 989 to Lovi Road in Beaver County. A similar grant will be used for work between Commonwealth Drive and Haine School Road, scheduled to start in 2021.

While construction on Freedom Road may be frustrating to motorists, it also has the potential to cause headaches for businesses impacted by the ongoing work.

That's why it is important to remember that businesses situated between Freedom Road and Commonwealth Drive are open for business despite the earthwork in front of them.

Those businesses include Sports Grille Cranberry, Starbucks, Rita's Italian Ice & Frozen Custard, Refresh Dental and the Residence Inn by Marriott Pittsburgh.

Pay these folks a visit and pardon the work outside! ☺



BUSINESS BRIEFS



Expansion Continues at Thorn Hill

Two expansion projects in adjacent areas near Thorn Hill Road were granted approval by the Board of Supervisors at their May 7 meeting.

A conditional use application was granted for the second phase of the Heights at Thorn Hill. Previously, the second phase consisted of a three-story office building. However, following the success of the first phase, which included an office and distribution warehouse, developers requested a change in their plans to build a similar building for the second phase.

The 60,617 square foot building will also house office and warehouse space.

Across Thorn Hill Road, Cranberry Hill Partners were granted a conditional use application for a one story, 20,400 square foot addition to an existing office and warehouse at 230 Thorn Hill Road. The building houses Pella Windows & Doors and will allow for expansion of that business.



Residences Continue to Rise at Meeder

The Meeder development continues to grow from the ground up.

The development was given final land development approval for five additional phases of the overall project. The matters were approved during the June 4 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Phases 5 and 6 consist of 49 townhouse units. Meanwhile, Phases 7, 10 and 11 will see 9 townhouse units and 50 single-family resident lots be constructed.

Four phases of the plan still need final approval. Township ordinance allows for the phases to be built out of order or concurrently.



MSA Looks to Expand Footprint

Township cornerstone MSA Safety plans to expand their current location following approval from the Board of Supervisors.

The Board recently voted to grant a conditional use application for a one story, 18,500 square foot light manufacturing addition to the MSA location on Cranberry Woods Drive.

Now Open!

IN CRANBERRY!

Evoqua Water Technology
195 Thorn Hill Road, Suite 105

Real Thai Asian Grocery
20455 Route 19

DB Design Center
512 Thomson Park Drive

Houk Consulting
20280 Route 19, Suite 8

Komatsu
40 Pennwood Place, Suite 400

Pensiamo, Inc.
2000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 100

Cranberry Sub & Deli
1165 Freedom Road, Suite 200

Futbolerfit LLC
124 Graham Park Drive, Suite 500

Remote DBA Experts LLC
2000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 302

Drake's Car Wash
1335 Old Freedom Road

Pro Carpet, Inc.
411 Commerce Park Drive

Mainstreet Boutique
20325 Route 19, Suite 7

South College
3000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 100

Parson's Environmental & Infrastructure Group
100 Century Boulevard, Suite 6

SJ Hair Salon
20421 Route 19, Suite 120

The Healing Center
270 Executive Drive

Hanger Clinic
20421 Route 19

Rise Cranberry
20808 Route 19, Suite D

Ace Estates Roofing & Exteriors
2618 Rochester Road

READY, SET, GO!

Customers flock back to businesses

With businesses given the green light to open during the yellow phase of the state's re-opening plan, Township retailers proceeded with caution in May as they welcomed customers.



There were no red lights for customers, though, the stores and shopping plazas were packed with eager shoppers. Lines formed – with appropriate social distance – as many stocked up on items depleted during quarantine.

Retail stores weren't the only businesses serving up deals, as restaurants continued brisk take-out and delivery offerings.

As the county and Township moved into the green phase of the re-opening plan in June, restaurants prepared for a return to sit-down dining, and were finding new, creative ways to serve their hungry patrons. ☺





At Home With...

JIM AND SALLY BURKE

by guest writer Peter Longini

At age 87, with either five or seven heart attacks – he's lost track by now – along with a handful of stents, a pacemaker and an assortment of other cardiological aids to keep him going, pioneer Cranberry firefighter Jim Burke knows he's lucky to still be around.

As the Township's first fire chief, Burke clearly recalls the 1959 startup of the Township's volunteer fire company. He can still rattle off the names of all the other men who helped to hand-build its first fire station, overhaul its 30-year old fire truck, conduct carnivals to raise a few operating dollars and then join him in responding to the occasional barn and field fires which occurred in the farm community that was then Cranberry Township.

But the other men are gone now, as is the rural character of the settlement into which

he and Sally – his high school sweetheart – moved more than 60 years ago. Sally recalls that in 1957, as they were looking to buy the house located on what was then an unpaved Peters Road, her father eyed the then-seven-year old bungalow, telling the young couple it would make a good stepping-stone.

But the Burkes – who raised their three children there – fell in love with the house as well as with the community, never seeing the need to step into anything different.

Sally, who had studied and produced art from childhood, created many of the watercolors that grace the couple's walls and stand framed in stacks along the hallway and in the spacious music room of their home, where Jim still plays his Hammond organ every day.

Years earlier, Sally put her artistic talents to use in support of the fledgling fire company. She designed a velvet Santa Claus doll which the Women's Auxiliary mass-produced and sold. The proceeds

– about \$400 – were instrumental in buying garage doors for the newly built fire station. That station – now home to a beer distributor on Dutilh Road – had been a work of love.

Nearby businesses also helped, including Frankenstein Concrete and Mashuda Excavation. It was a totally bootstrapped enterprise and, at least in the early years, the Township contributed nothing. Later, when one of the volunteers was elected to the Board of Supervisors, that began to change.

Now, the Burkes enjoy their leisure, and the fire company has been passed on to different hands. Since Jim's retirement, the couple have become snowbirds and now enjoy their winters in a 55-plus community in Vero Beach. However, their hearts remain in Cranberry, where their pioneering efforts have left a lasting legacy for the entire community.

"It's really amazing to make something out of nothing," Sally said. "But we certainly did! ☺"

The Communications Team would like to thoughtfully thank Peter Longini for his many years of writing and editing for Cranberry Township. His command of the English language rivals few. May retirement be filled with bliss, as he will be remembered here as "The Most Interesting Man" forever. Take good care, Peter!





New Golf Manager **DRIVES HOME COMMITMENT** to Customer Service



If you want to learn about a subject, going to the source is ultimately the best way to do so.

Jesse Horner thinks so, too. He's made the pilgrimage to Scotland – the birthplace of golf – almost 20 times. There, over a pint or two, he's not only strengthened his love for the game but learned a deeper understanding for its intricacies.

He's putting those lessons and 30 years of working in the industry to use as the Township's Manager of Golf Operations at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course.

A Clarion County native, Horner has deep Butler County roots. He began studying as a non-traditional student at Slippery Rock University and was unsure of what career path to pursue. As a member of the golf team, he was approached by a coach who suggested becoming a club pro as a career.

He ended up pursuing a degree in Parks and Recreation management with a goal of becoming a PGA pro.

Over the years, he's worked at and helped build courses at Sewickley Heights Golf Club, Old Stonewall Golf Club in Ellwood City and Oakview Golf Club in Slippery Rock.

Throughout his career, his love of the game and helping people find their own passion has been a constant.

"I'm a good golfer, not a great golfer," he said. "But I love people, and I love the game of golf. It transcends age. I'm trying to help people enjoy the game of golf as much as they can."

Horner hopes he and his staff can help guests develop that love of the game through the course's beauty and challenging yet conquerable nature.

Horner himself was challenged just months after taking his new job, with the coronavirus pandemic taking its toll on golf courses statewide. Cranberry Highlands adapted and was able to open in May with stringent protocols in place.

One thing that hasn't changed is the top-notch customer service, with staff tasked with making sure the experience is as fun as possible for every golfer. And ultimately, that's the goal of the game: to promote fun "fore" all.

For more information or to make a tee time, visit CranberryHighlands.com. 



Five-Dollar Fitness

COMMUNITY FITNESS PROGRAM BACK IN ACTION

An hour of calm reflection, stretching and posing kicked off the return of the Township's Community Fitness program, with plenty more on the summer activity docket.

And, the in-person offerings are being offered for just \$5, offering a chance for participants to lighten their waistlines instead of their wallets.

Offerings will take place in both indoor and outdoor areas, and include yoga,

cardio training, Zumba, and strength and balance training.

"This is a great opportunity for folks to try different classes and instructors to see what meets their needs," said Nancy Triscuit, Community Fitness Coordinator.

Pre-registration is required, as class size is limited. All classes will follow CDC and social distancing guidelines. Participants must register at least 24 hours in advance. Those ages 14-17 must register with a

paying parent or guardian.

The Yoga in the Park class was offered for free, and drew a large gathering to the Rotary Amphitheater in Community Park.

See course offerings and register at Cranberry4FUN.com/CommunityFitness or by calling Parks & Recreation Customer Service at 724-779-4386 ext. 1129. 



PLAY BALL!

New pickleball courts to open in Graham Park

With each swing of a paddle, pickleball seemingly grows in popularity in the Township.

Eight courts were originally installed in Graham Park in 2017 as part of an overall expansion funded by the Cranberry Township Community Chest. With courts available, the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association formed in hopes of adding a few hundred members.

Three years later, membership has grown to nearly 600 avid pickleball players. The funds generated from those membership

fees will pay for five additional courts, with ground broken last fall.

The five surfaced, fenced-in courts are expected to be completed this summer, allowing for even more players to catch pickleball fever. Visit CTPApaddleball.com for more information. ☎



2020 CTCC COMMUNITY

Project of the Year

ROTARY AMPHITHEATER RENOVATION & EXPANSION

Rotary ROTARY INTERNATIONAL





GIVE ME SHELTER

New pavilion springs up in North Boundary

Those seeking shelter from the storm – or simply a great place to gather – have a new option in North Boundary Park.

Crews from the Township's Public Works Department laid the groundwork for a new pavilion near the Veterans Memorial. During the pandemic, crews prepped the area for the pavilion, which was constructed by Jeffrey Associates.

The shelter was funded by a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant, and also includes a new trailhead off Goehring Road. The shelter will have electric and water access – as well as a combination water fountain and dog water station for pooches using the trail system.

Concrete sidewalks, parking spaces and landscaping will be completed this summer. 

Together, We



NONPROFIT

HOPE



Build Community!

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

give

volunteer

COMMUNITY

donation

support

Find out more: YourCTCC.org



Honoring Their Fight, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE

While summer activities typically dominate the weekend before Memorial Day, Cranberry Township has its own special tradition: honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to keep America free.

Every year without fail, Township residents and veterans gather the Sunday before Memorial Day to honor and remember the sacrifice made by those who served our country.

The coronavirus pandemic had the potential to cancel the ceremony for the first time, as social distancing and stay-at-home orders were firmly in place.

Facing that reality, the Township and local veteran organizations got creative to ensure the beloved program carried on.

A virtual service was posted to the

Township's website at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 24 – the exact time the "normal" program would have begun.

The video featured the keystone elements of the annual event, including the National Anthem, guest speakers, the release of doves, a 21-gun salute and the ringing of bells in honor of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

It's a proud production and collaboration of the Cranberry Township VFW Post 879, along with the Township's Parks & Recreation and Communications departments. The video serves to make certain those who defend our freedom are remembered and honored no matter the setting.

The video is still available for viewing at CranberryTownship.org/MemorialDay. 





Library Renovations

Cranberry Public Library
inform, inspire, enrich...

FORGE AHEAD

Despite Pandemic

Renovations inside the Township Public Library were titled "Forge Ahead," a reference to the origins of the building and the library's new capabilities.

It took on even more meaning this spring as work to complete the 2019 Cranberry Township Community Chest Project of the Year was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Library leadership and construction crews continued to forge ahead to ensure the project would be completed on time.

The project included renovations, as well as the implementation of a Makerspace – a workshop designed for collaboration and making things in a hands-on environment. It also upgraded technology and added ADA accessibility.

As the Library re-opened to the public in June, the Makerspace remained closed as additional equipment is installed and programming is ironed out. More information on a grand opening celebration is forthcoming.

Other parts of the Library are at full capacity, giving patrons a chance to use full in-person and digital offerings.

For more information, visit CranberryLibrary.org.





Building A Foundation: MERSING TAKES OVER POSITIONS

By Annie Mersing, Seneca Valley School District Director of Advancement
and Seneca Valley Foundation Director of Development



I am extremely excited to take on my new roles for the District and Seneca Valley Foundation!

After joining SV in May 2019 as the School Board Secretary and Assistant to Dr. Tracy Vitale, I quickly realized I had found the ideal district to further my career in public education. The sense of community in this district is abundant and impressive, especially considering its geographic size.

I look forward to building upon and further advancing our relationships with families, local businesses and municipal partners to garner an even greater sense of connectedness. I plan to secure alternative funding through sponsorships, grant opportunities, endowments and the like to ensure the students and staff of our great school district continue to be exposed to the very best opportunities and experiences.



Seneca Valley Foundation is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to encouraging excellence and innovation in the Seneca Valley Schools with an emphasis on early literacy, STEM, travel and global competency. The Foundation achieves this by seeking donations and patrons to facilitate the development of new capital projects, programs and scholarships.

Board members consist of stakeholders from local business leaders, community leaders and school leaders. As a non-profit organization, the Foundation is also utilized as a vehicle by which memorial and other charitable donations may be made to the Seneca Valley School District.

Coming up!

Planning for the Seneca Valley Foundation's Gift of Hope Golf Classic has begun!

It will be held on Aug. 6 at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. I hope to bring a fresh energy to this already successful event, and I welcome Cranberry Township residents and businesses to soak up some sun with us on the beautiful greens of Cranberry Highlands.

For more information about the outing or to inquire about other ways you can support the district, please contact me via email at mersingam@svsd.net.

Go Raiders!

Save the Date!

Seneca Valley Foundation's
Gift of Hope Golf Classic
August 6, 2020
Cranberry Highlands Golf Course





SCHOOL'S OUT FOR PANDEMIC:

SENECA VALLEY TAKES STEPS TO HONOR STUDENTS

The last semester of school took on a new look in 2020, from lunches with classmates and school bus rides, replaced by lessons at the kitchen table in pajamas

With classes forced to the internet due to the coronavirus pandemic, teachers and students alike found themselves in unfamiliar territory.

That didn't stop teachers and members of the Seneca Valley School District community from letting students and parents know how much they care.

Teachers and staff from Rowan and Haine Elementary Schools paraded through the Township to greet students and their families. The eight parade routes also featured Township police, fire and EMS crews leading the way. All participants waved, held signs and honked their horns at students whose homes have turned into classrooms.

Graduating seniors also had to adapt, with commencement ceremonies taking place in small groups at staggered times. The Cranberry

Township Volunteer Fire Company stepped up to help make the day a little more memorable, flying a large banner featuring the names of graduates from Tower Truck 21 in the Seneca Valley parking lot.

The district and its students are looking forward to being back in the classrooms as Governor Tom Wolf recently announced Pennsylvania schools will reopen this fall. Most likely those kitchen tables will be transformed back into family eating areas. Bon appétit!





All Aboard!

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM MISSION CONTINUES

Mission accomplished, but not yet finished. As the Township moves into the green phase of the state's reopening plans, that hasn't stopped the Township's Community Response Team from continuing full steam ahead to improve their community.

The volunteer group was initially created at the start of the coronavirus pandemic to help those most impacted. They purchased groceries and supplies, packed hand sanitizer bottles, and sewed masks to help keep first responders safe.

In recent weeks, volunteers have continued to gather food donations for

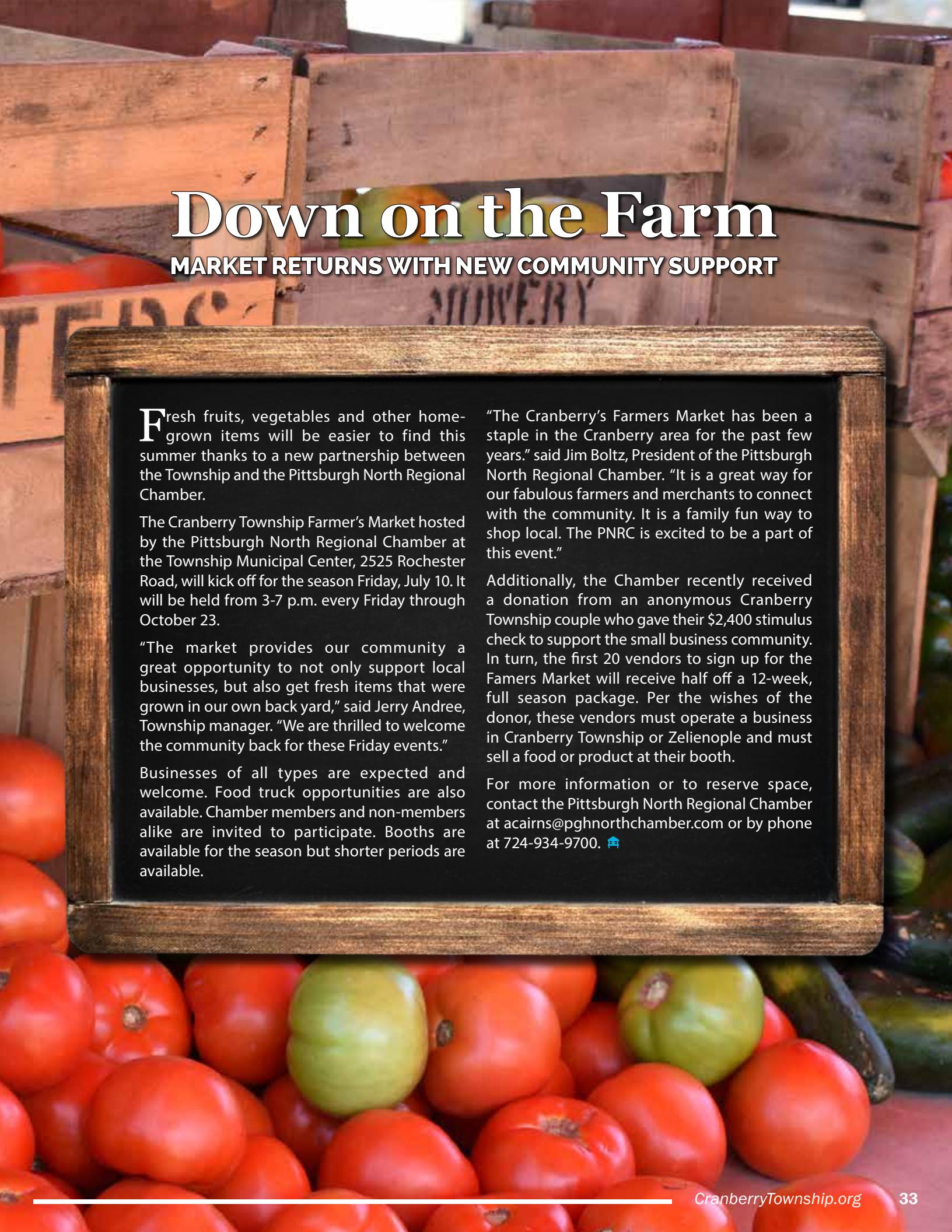
Gleaners Food Bank to make sure tables are full.

They've also turned their attention to beautification projects, coming together to help the Township's Public Works Department spread mulch around the Municipal Center.

They also braved the rain and wind to clean up and prepare the Veteran's Memorial in North Boundary Park ahead of the Memorial Day holiday.

To get involved with the Community Response Team, complete the form at CranberryTownship.org/CRT.





Down on the Farm

MARKET RETURNS WITH NEW COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Fresh fruits, vegetables and other home-grown items will be easier to find this summer thanks to a new partnership between the Township and the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber.

The Cranberry Township Farmer's Market hosted by the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber at the Township Municipal Center, 2525 Rochester Road, will kick off for the season Friday, July 10. It will be held from 3-7 p.m. every Friday through October 23.

"The market provides our community a great opportunity to not only support local businesses, but also get fresh items that were grown in our own back yard," said Jerry Andree, Township manager. "We are thrilled to welcome the community back for these Friday events."

Businesses of all types are expected and welcome. Food truck opportunities are also available. Chamber members and non-members alike are invited to participate. Booths are available for the season but shorter periods are available.

"The Cranberry's Farmers Market has been a staple in the Cranberry area for the past few years," said Jim Boltz, President of the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber. "It is a great way for our fabulous farmers and merchants to connect with the community. It is a family fun way to shop local. The PNRC is excited to be a part of this event."

Additionally, the Chamber recently received a donation from an anonymous Cranberry Township couple who gave their \$2,400 stimulus check to support the small business community. In turn, the first 20 vendors to sign up for the Famers Market will receive half off a 12-week, full season package. Per the wishes of the donor, these vendors must operate a business in Cranberry Township or Zelienople and must sell a food or product at their booth.

For more information or to reserve space, contact the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber at acairns@pghnorthchamber.com or by phone at 724-934-9700. 

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States® Census 2020



WITH CENSUS PUSH, **EVERY RESPONSE COUNTS**

Cranberry Township is counting on you to stand up and be counted!

The 2020 Census is upon us, with the data collected used to determine everything from funding for the Seneca Valley School District, Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company and Cranberry Township EMS, as well as social programs. The data is also critical in the formula that is used to distribute a portion of fuel tax paid at the pumps back to the municipalities to maintain streets.

Additionally, businesses looking to open

or relocate often use Census data to determine if an area is a good fit for their company.

Residents are asked to list their residence and number of people in their households as of April 1 – Census Day in America.

For those who have not completed a Census form, field representatives will be working their way through the community to gather additional figures in the coming months. The field work was delayed due to the coronavirus

pandemic. So if you'd rather not have a Census representative knock on your door, you're encouraged to complete the survey.

To make your household count, visit 2020census.gov.

3 EASY WAYS TO TAKE THE CENSUS

- 🌐 Online: 2020Census.gov
- ✉️ Phone: 844-330-2020
- 📞 Mail: Paper questionnaire



where
business
meets
pleasure

book your next **MEETING** with us

- complete room set up
- room layout options
- audio visual screens
- laptop
- wi-fi service

- ext. cords / power strips
- vinyl tablecloths
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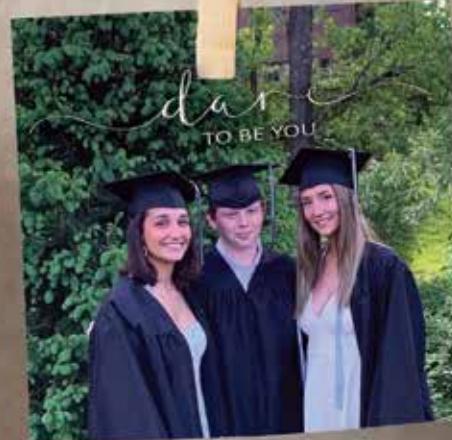
ask about our business discount program.



724.776.7372
CranberryHighlands.com



Congrats CLASS OF 2020



ADVENTURE AWAITS...



Cranberry4FUN.com/CampCranberry
Ages 3-15



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Youth Camp
Future Leaders

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Buy Local.
EAT FRESH.



Jul. 10 - Oct. 23
Every Friday 3-7p

