

Cranberry **TODAY**

FALL 2020



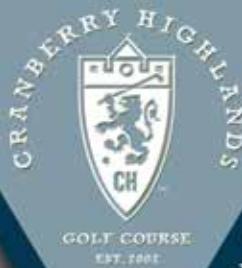
WALK THIS WAY

EXPANSION, CROSSWALKS ON ROCHESTER
A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

+ **COMMUNITY
UPDATES**



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TOWNSHIP



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CranberryTODAY is published quarterly by the Cranberry Township Communications Team on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager. Online issues are available at CranberryTownship.org/CranberryToday

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CONNECT

Cover: New Cranberry Township and Charter Home residents, Elis and Michael Ponzurick take a stroll through the magnificent walkways of the Meeder development.



SEE YOU AT THE CROSSROADS

Rochester Project Aims to CONNECT COMMUNITY, IMPROVE TRAFFIC



Why, exactly, did the chicken cross the road?

Fifty years ago, that chicken crossing Rochester Road from the Meeder Farm was likely looking for more open space to roam.

In 2020, those chickens have been replaced by people living in the Meeder mixed-use development, and they're crossing the busy Rochester Road to check out a library book, pay a bill or take a yoga class at the Municipal Center.

As more businesses open in that development and residents move into the single-family dwellings, townhomes and apartments, it is more important than ever to ensure it is safe to cross the busy roadway.

That's why a long-sought expansion of Rochester has begun, with the goal of widening the stretch between Route 19 and Graham School Road, as well as

adding numerous pedestrian-friendly features along the way.

"This will be a great advancement, and we will continue to see use with additional development at the Meeder plan," said Dan Santoro, Deputy Township Manager.

The road will be widened to include two through lanes in each direction, as well as turning lanes onto Thomson Park Drive and Norman Park Drive. A right-in, right-out entrance to the Meeder development will be installed closer to Route 19 to allow additional, safe access. New signals will also be installed along the stretch of road.

This includes the major focus of the project, which will connect Main Street in the Meeder development to the Municipal Center and St. Ferdinand Catholic Church. A traffic signal will allow for safe pedestrian crossing at all hours of the day.

But that's not all.

Traffic islands will be placed in front of the Municipal Center and at turning lanes, and sidewalk will be added on the north side of Rochester Road.

The Municipal Center/Main Street intersection will be brightly lit, and the crosswalks will be clearly differentiated from the road surface via colored, stamped asphalt and pavers. The 10-foot wide crosswalks lead to depressed curbs and pedestrian pockets at each corner, which are protected by bollards. Push-button signals will be placed on utility poles to ensure pedestrians can safely cross the road.

"We're really going to try and enhance this area so that when you're traveling through, it becomes apparent that it's a pedestrian crossing," Santoro said.

While ensuring pedestrian safety is a key component of the project, Township



officials and a team of designers from Herbert, Rowland & Grubic also aimed to create a project that helps traffic flow in the area.

Ryan Minor, project manager for HRG, said traffic impact studies related to the Meeder plan have shown that any increase in vehicles will be offset by the signal at Main Street and the Municipal Center. It's part of both a Township and PennDOT requirement that stipulates traffic must flow more efficiently than it did prior to the project.

Minor said since the location will serve as the "model intersection" for Cranberry Township, designers aimed to make it safe for pedestrians and vehicles while also being aesthetically pleasing. It's a challenge HRG is well-equipped to handle.

Work began in July, with crews working to widen the northern side of the road and re-routing utilities. They then moved

the south side, with the expectation for widening work to be completed by November. The Main Street intersection is anticipated to open when the signals are installed in early 2021. Minor noted the work is being paid for by the developer via the Township Impact Fee Program,

which was created to mitigate future growth.

Santoro said with delays in the permitting process and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the work will take two construction seasons. ☺



WALK THIS WAY

Meeder Residents Make Themselves at Home

With so many walkability options, new Meeder residents Barry and Laurie Pile laced up their shoes, signed on the dotted line of their closing document, and their steps were on the way to an exciting new style of living. Walk this way.

Having spent more than three decades in Cranberry, the couple had seen firsthand the growth over what occurred in that time period.

In fact, when they looked to build along North Boundary Road in the late 1980s, it was still a relatively rural plot of land. Soon, however, came more housing developments and the sprawling North Boundary Park, and as their family grew so did the community around them.

Now, with their children on their own, the Piles are joining many families moving into the epicenter of development at Meeder.

"We just wanted something different, and this is different," Laurie said of the mixed-use development that will contain townhomes, single-family homes, apartments and future retail locations. There are also plans for an array of outdoor features aimed at promoting activity and gathering, making it a community unlike any other.

The idea of living in a walkable community with many amenities nearby was appealing to the retirees who at one point in life sought a more rural environment. Now, they prefer their



Laurie and Barry Pile

backyard that takes just 10 minutes to mow and being able to walk or bike to church, the library and the grocery store. It also offers almost endless activities for their grandchildren.

"The location was a huge factor," Laurie said.

With work underway on making Rochester Road more pedestrian friendly, that location only gets better, according to Barry. An avid pickleball player, he frequents the Municipal Center for a quick match.

"Access to that was just icing on the cake for us," he said.

Just down the street from the Piles' home, Nancy and John Mazzoni had a similar



Photo courtesy of Charter Homes

need and desire to downsize as they enjoy their retirement years. Though they moved from Wexford, they frequently took advantage of what Cranberry had to offer, including the library and park system.

They, too, were drawn by the access to amenities and walkability of the neighborhood. As their street becomes more populated, they've been surprised by the diversity of the neighborhood, with homes occupied by everyone from retirees to young families.

It's a concept Barry hopes will only continue to grow as construction continues.

"I think the neighbors will start to get to know each other as things begin to settle down, and I can see the community becoming close-knit," he said.

As two of the first families in the development, daily life is one surrounded by an active construction zone, with cranes dotting the skyline outside their windows.

However, both the Mazzonis and Piles said the aggravation, while existing, has been minor. Both said they feared traffic noise from the surrounding roadway but have been pleasantly surprised by the serene nature once construction wraps for the day.

"We know it's temporary, and we're hoping a year from now it'll be almost done," Nancy said. "Yes, it can be annoying, but it's temporary. We're cautiously optimistic of how great it will be when it's done." ♣



Nancy and John Mazzoni

THE PERFECT STORM

ROAD PROJECTS TAKE PARALLEL PATHS



“Why are they fixing all the roads at once?!”

While the impact of Freedom Road, Rochester Road and the MSA Thruway being under construction this year may have been aggravating, it's not the result of poor planning.

In fact, the plentiful projects are the result of coincidence and timing, as well as years of effort by local officials.

The Board of Supervisors has made infrastructure and expansion a priority over the past two decades, leading to local, state and federal funding being awarded at an astronomical rate. And, when that money is offered, it's impossible to say no.

The same goes for projects that involve partnership with PennDOT or other local entities, like the MSA Thruway.

“We are always prepared to take advantage of opportunities with partners when they present themselves,” said Dan Santoro, Deputy Township Manager. “This is the difference between being good vs. lucky.”

With the planning process taking many years from idea to implementation, officials are at the mercy of the challenges that process can provide.

That includes the MSA Thruway and Freedom Road projects. Santoro noted work on the MSA Thruway was always intended to follow the replacement of the Freedom Road Bridge in sequence. However, the right-of-way acquisition process was delayed due to legal filings, leading to both projects occurring simultaneously.

Conversely, sometimes projects need to get underway faster than anticipated, as is the case with Rochester Road. Though the project has long been planned, the swift development of the Meeder plan allowed for officials to take advantage of an opportunity to start upgrades in 2020.

Another opportunity arose in September, when Butler County officials learned they will receive a \$25 million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Developments (BUILD) grant.

It's the second BUILD grant received by the county since 2018, with that grant funding the expansion of Freedom Road from Commonwealth to Haine School Road. Construction will begin in 2021.

The new BUILD grant will help pay for the expansion of Freedom Road from Lovi Road at the Beaver County line to Powell Road in Cranberry Township, and from Powell Road to Haine School Road.

It is anticipated the new project on Freedom Road would be under construction in 2023 – by which time other road projects will be completed.

The orange barrels may not be going anywhere anytime soon. Ultimately, though, it's a good problem to have for a Township that continues to develop. 

HAVING 2020 VISION: THIS YEAR MORE THAN EVER, BE THANKFUL

With each flip of a calendar page in 2020, a simple but terrifying question comes to mind: What's going to happen THIS month?

For sure, 2020 has provided challenges that even the most impressive psychic couldn't have seen coming: A pandemic. Civil unrest. Growing division along political lines. Every facet of daily life turned upside down, replaced by the "new normal."

But dwelling on the negative only makes those challenges harder to overcome. Instead, as the holiday season approaches, it's the perfect time to look back and find the silver linings.

For starters, while nobody was exempt from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, that didn't stop the Cranberry community from doing what they do best: support each other.

We saw that in the countless donations of money, goods and services. The outpouring of support was so great, the Township, with the help of the Cranberry Township Community Chest, started the Cranberry Community Response Team.

This group of volunteers have donated their time and energy to do everything from deliver groceries to those who at highest risk of contracting the virus to sprucing up the Veterans Memorial in North Boundary Park prior to Memorial Day. They've also helped give away everything from food to school supplies to ease the burden for their neighbors.

As a Township, our team spent the spring and summer looking at ways to bring a sense of normalcy to uncertain times – a task further complicated by ever-changing mandates and regulations.

Despite that, they were able to safely host programs like Camp Cranberry, outdoor fitness classes and our Take-Out Movie series. The Waterpark was able to open – albeit with residency requirements – and operated without incident for several months. The Township Farmers Market not only runs every Friday, it's grown week-over-week thanks to a new partnership with the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber.

All of these events and programs have been held with safety in mind, with social distancing and masks strongly



urged. And, to the community's credit, those requests were adhered to and respected – another sign that the Cranberry community cares for each other.

Because of the caution and care given by all involved, these events and programs were successful in bringing the community together and offering a break from daily life when it perhaps was needed most.

As school begins and we look ahead to the holidays, the annual programs our residents have come to love may look and feel a little different. But as the community continually does, we will adapt and make the best of a bad situation.

We hope our residents will continue to find that difficult silver lining and take a moment over these next few months to stop and be thankful for making it through a year unlike any other. It may not have been what we planned, but we made it through. That's something for which we can all be thankful.

And as the calendar creeps toward 2021, we wish for everyone nothing but the best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead. ☺

Sincerely,

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





Pedestrian Improvements **ENHANCE FERNWAY ACCESSIBILITY**

With its quaint and quiet streets and rich history, the Fernway community is unlike any other in the Township, tucked delicately away from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding major roadways.

That age and uniqueness has also posed challenges and called for improvements, leading to a year-long study and planning endeavor aimed at finding ways to improve the neighborhood.

The Township began engaging with Fernway residents via a survey in March 2019. Among several topics identified, the survey indicated most respondents wanted to see improvements that addressed traffic concerns and pedestrian connectivity.

Resident forums in April and September 2019 gathered even more feedback and focused on possible solutions and upgrades. Township staff presented an intersection improvement plan to the residents that was met with overwhelming support, with a final, refined plan presented at a third resident forum in November 2019.

Those improvements were implemented this summer, with work including upgraded intersections and added lane markings aimed at calming traffic and improving pedestrian safety. Seven total intersections along Dover and Robinhood drives were upgraded.

Pedestrian lanes were also added along these roads to not only provide accessibility but also encourage drivers to be cautious in the area.

The Township will continue to receive feedback on these and future improvements. ☎





PUBLIC WORKS CREWS POUND THE PAVEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a worldwide discussion on what jobs are essential to keeping society moving.

There's never been a question that the Township's Public Works Department is exceptionally essential, and this summer was no different as several major projects were completed.

Crews at the Brush Creek Water Pollution Control Facility worked hard to make sure the recently installed membrane filtration system continues to flow smoothly while saving time and continued energy. They cleaned 60 membrane cases and

inspected them for issues, preserving the recent investment.

At Graham Park, crews completed much of the work on five new pickleball courts in house, leading to a large cost savings on the project. Similarly, a paving project on the Learn to Play Disc Golf Course at North Boundary Park was completed, ensuring discs will fly this fall.

Workers dug in on a project to grade the hillside on Ehrman Road near the planned Seneca Valley Elementary School, completing the project in just a few days.

That's all in addition to the "normal" jobs workers do every day, from fixing waterline breaks, cutting grass, flushing hydrants, planting new greenery and keeping facilities and utilities operating at the highest level possible.

As the temperatures drop, the focus will shift to road maintenance and safety, as well as additional work on the sewer and water system.

It's all in a day's work for our essential Township crews. It may be a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it! ☺

FINAL WEEK OF 2020 YARD WASTE COLLECTION: DECEMBER 7 - 11

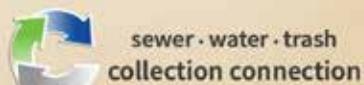


ACCEPTED:

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

NOT ACCEPTED:

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



More waste collection info:
CranberryTownship.org/Collection



New Requirements to be Considered

The human body isn't the only thing that slows down due to excess fats, oil and grease. Those elements can harm wastewater systems – even the newly renovated Brush Creek Water Pollution Control Facility.

Because of the potential for damage to the new system, the Board of Supervisors will soon consider a replacement of the Township's wastewater pre-treatment regulations. The changes focus on industrial facilities that generate process wastewater to strengthen pretreatment requirements, and a new enforcement response plan that will ensure compliance.



Garden Earns State, National Awards

There are more than beautiful flowers being grown at the Community Garden in Graham Park – there's also national recognition sprouting up.

The garden recently received the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania First Place Award Pollinator Project and National Garden Clubs Certificate of Appreciation.

Additionally, it received the First Place Award for Community Garden Partnership and NGC Certificate of Appreciation for the Pollinator and Community Gardens.

Refinancing to lessen Loan Interest

A chance to refinance a loan with Butler County will save the Township hundreds of thousands of dollars in the coming decade.

The Board of Supervisors voted to refinance general obligation note through the Butler County Infrastructure Bank.

The refinancing lowers the Township's interest rate from 1.96 percent to 0.56 percent and will result in a savings of \$354,353 over the next eight years. The loan was taken through the Bank program in January 2019 is helping pay for the MSA Thruway project.



Strategic Plan Changes Outlined

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

The Board of Supervisors voted 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.



Agreement Opens the Road to Expanded Dog Park

A pipeline crossing agreement between the Township and Dominion Energy Transmission is barking up the right tree.

The Board of Supervisors gave authorization to execute a right-of-way agreement as a critical piece of the planned relocation of the Rotary Dog Park in Community Park.

The agreement will allow for the construction of a new road leading to the relocated Dog Park, which will be larger and feature shaded areas. The planned expansion is tentatively scheduled for 2021 and is a collaboration of Parks & Recreation and Cranberry K9 Connection.

Visit cranberryk9connection.com for information on Cranberry K9 Connection.



Santa Still Making First Stop – With a Twist

Santa Claus is still coming to town, albeit in a little different fashion. With the cancellation of the annual Santa's First Stop event due to safety and health concerns, plans are in the works for a replacement event featuring socially-distanced in person and virtual elements. Stay tuned to the Township's website and social media for more information on virtual events and a Jingle Bell Tour!

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP GOES GREEN

Careful planning and strict guidelines have gone a long way toward making sure development in the Township has as little environmental impact as possible.

However, a new Township Committee wants to make sure developers aren't paving paradise to put up a parking lot.

The Environmental Advisory Committee was given the green light to graduate from Ad Hoc group to permanent committee by the Township Board of Supervisors, the result of 18 months of planning and discussion.

Formed in May 2019, the Ad Hoc Environmental Advisory Committee consisted of 10 community members and two employees tasked with finding new ways to implement and support the Cranberry Plan's environmental goals. They discussed everything from land development patterns and density issues to green space preservation and stormwater regulations.

Ron Henshaw, Township Director of Planning and Development Services, outlined the group's suggestions, broken into 1-3, 3-5 and 5-10 year goals.

In the immediate future, the Committee intends to focus on

enhancing the open space and buffer requirements, developing incentives for environmental quality measures and evaluating landscape requirements.

But it isn't all rules and regulations.

The group also intends to celebrate environmental holidays like Earth Day and Arbor Day to engage and educate the community.

"We really care about our community, and we appreciate this opportunity to learn more about the nuts and bolts of operations," said Committee Member Anne Gill.

Member Tim Casey, who served on a committee during the creation of the

Cranberry Plan, said the document was never intended to be static, and the Environmental Advisory Committee will help advance the ball.

"We only get to do this once," he said. "I want my kids and my grandkids to look back and say 'they got it right ...' and made decisions that really tried to balance development with long-term sustainability." ☎



CRANBERRY VFC

IS GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME



The saying goes that if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life.

That mantra doesn't just apply to day jobs – it also applies to hobbies and volunteer efforts. And if you ask members of Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company's brigade, the past year hasn't felt like work at all.

"I tell people, it's like the family you never knew you had," said Kyle Mannas.

Mannas, along with Stefan Bordeianu, Alex Hepler, Shweta Chakradeo, Nouhoum Cisse, Kevin Starkey, Andrew Chambers and Sean Mulraney were part of the first "class" of the Fire Company's new recruitment model. By bringing in one group at the same time each fall, training can begin right away within the department while waiting for coursework to begin at Butler County Community College.

It also gives new recruits some hands-on experience and a chance to eliminate any misconceptions.

"I think a layperson doesn't know how much training goes into this," Chakradeo said. "They think we just come in and jump on a truck. It's not that."

All recruits from the Class of 2019 have either completed or will soon complete their training. Beyond that, they've grown together and formed a bond that in the past may have taken longer.

"It's encouraging to see people from different walks of life come together and give their time," Chakradeo said.

From running on calls to training to simply hanging out or cooking dinner at the station, the program has helped make sure at least two members are always on site.

"It's been nice to be able to stay here and bunk," said Bordeianu, who spends about 24 hours each week at the station as part of the stipend staffing model. "We run a large amount of calls, and our call volume is only getting larger, so it's important to try and exceed in getting new people. This program is definitely helping."

Having crews at the station has helped in every facet of the organization's operation, according to Scott Garing, Chief of Fire and Emergency Services. That includes lower response times, increased numbers of members responding to calls at all hours of the day, and a higher level of training.

Still, it's the connections being made that

pleases Garing the most heading into the second year of the associate program.

"I'm a big believer that people bring people, and those good people bring even more people with them that are just as good as the ones that started them," he said, adding that camaraderie and a sense of belonging will always trump any reward.

"Money is enticing, but we're realizing that it's more than just the money – it's the culture, the atmosphere, the training," he said. "The guys and girls are loving every second of it."

That change in atmosphere is thanks in part to Garing's attitude, something Township Manager Jerry Andree said is infectious.

"For 61 years, they've strived to make sure we are well prepared with a volunteer professional fire force, and we are very pleased to say great progress has been made," he said. "That's a credit to leadership."

To learn more or get involved, visit CTVFC21.org.



SHEA SPENDS HIS DAYS PUTTING OUT FIRES

It's been an eventful 2020 for Spencer Shea.

As Senior Vice President of Risk Management & Deposit Operations for PNC Bank, he's in charge of crisis management for events like civil unrest, epidemics and weather events that are very impactful.

There's been no shortage of crisis in 2020, which also saw Shea turn 40. With that came an urge to do something new and exciting. Re-enlisting in the United States Army was the first thing that popped into his mind – until his wife kindly suggested looking a little closer to their Cranberry Township home.

That led Shea to join the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company in November 2019. His life has been nothing but fires – real and metaphorical – ever since.

"I tell people I put out a lot of fires for the bank too, so it was an easy transition," he joked. "Every single incident that 2020 has put forth, I've been on the front lines."

Originally from Long Island, New York, Shea and his family – wife, Peggy, and children Catherine and Lazaro – moved to the Pittsburgh area in 2009 when he took his job with PNC. After a few years living in Mt. Lebanon, the family moved to Cranberry.

Though he had no previous experience working for a fire department, Shea said he always appreciated and had admiration for what firefighters do each day. He also sought the camaraderie and fellowship he previously enjoyed while in the Army.

He found that and more at the Fire Company, learning the job from the ground up and making friends along the way.

"I was really nervous at first, but I got to

know everybody very quickly," he said. "The relationships I've formed here, I hope to keep them for the rest of my life."

Shea spends two nights a week overnight at the station, responding to calls and forming those friendships. That includes group dinners at the station and sessions in the gym. He's also taken on the role of health and wellness committee chair, helping to upgrade equipment and find programs to promote physical fitness.

"This organization gives you many opportunities and things to run with if you're really passionate about it," he said.

The relationships have also helped Shea in his day job, as he said his fire colleagues bring a wide array of backgrounds and expertise to the table."

"You learn different ways to think on your feet, different tactics and different strategies that you learn from the other men and women here," he said.

The experience has also given Shea perspective as he eclipses the Big 4-0, including empathy and the ability to be humble.



"Often when we are involved in something, it is for all intents and purposes the worst day of somebody's life," he said. "To be there and provide a sense of calm, comfort and reassurance for a family has been really inspiring."

Having scratched that itch to give back and be part of something bigger, Shea isn't shy on committing to the fire company for 40 more years and beyond.

"If they'll have me, I'd like to stay here forever," he said. ♣



KEEPING THE BEAT GOING

EMS Working Hard to Crack Income Code

It may not be disco, but the goal for Cranberry Township EMS has remained the same since 1969: stayin' alive.

That not only goes for the community the organization serves, but for the organization itself – a constant challenge throughout the 50-year history. It's a history that is built on ensuring paramedics and crews are available when the call comes and responding with the highest quality service.

"To have a service that has been here for that long and has been an integral part of the community is an impressive feat," said Mandy Cousins, CTEMS' Outreach Coordinator.

Even more impressive when surveying the EMS landscape throughout Pennsylvania, where rising costs and healthcare regulations have driven many organizations out of business – roughly

22 percent from 2002-2018.

Add to that a stagnant call volume and a younger demographic becoming more prominent in the Township and the challenges seem never-ending.

That hasn't stopped crews from providing the best service possible when called upon. "Our mission is simple – preserve life and promote health and safety in our community," said Ted Fessides, Chief and Executive Director of Cranberry EMS.

The organization has been independent from the Township since 1982 and has grown alongside the Township. Fessides notes that with the number of out-of-town workers, hotels, youth sports leagues, shopping and dining areas and the busy highway system, Cranberry EMS must plan to serve more than just the roughly 32,000 residents.

That growth has occurred primarily by relying on health insurance reimbursements to keep them afloat. However, Fessides is quick to note that despite their best efforts, expenditures continue mounting while reimbursements get smaller.

That includes Medicare, the organization's largest payer, which reimburses significantly less than what a service costs. Fessides said the gap used to be filled by commercial insurance payments, but those are also declining.

Then there's the matter of unpaid bills sent to collections, which Fessides said are over half a million dollars and growing.

Meanwhile, expenses do what they do: rise. That includes keeping the lights on, equipping ambulances with the proper tools and employing a trained staff. Fessides doesn't mince words, saying it's



hard to convince potential employees to take on the stress, challenges and demands of working as a paramedic for not much more than they could make in fast food service.

To help ease the burden of these challenges, the Township is working on a new partnership with CTEMS.

Additionally, there are bright spots, including the organization's Subscription Service, which limits out of pocket expenses for those who sign up. Fessides estimated about 25 percent of those solicited have taken advantage of the offer.

Despite the challenges 2020 has presented, including the pandemic and continued loss of insurance reimbursements, CTEMS was recognized as the 2020 Pennsylvania Small EMS Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS and the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council. The organization earned the award over more than 1,200 EMS agencies in Pennsylvania.

The commitment to serving the community is something CTEMS intends to do for the next 50 years and beyond. ☺

The Phone is Ringing...



**HELP
CRANBERRY EMS
ANSWER THE CALL**

A mid-afternoon traffic accident on Interstate 79.

A late-night house fire in a cul-de-sac.

An early morning cardiac event at the gym.

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

Now, they need Township residents to answer a call of their own by becoming an EMS subscriber.

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.

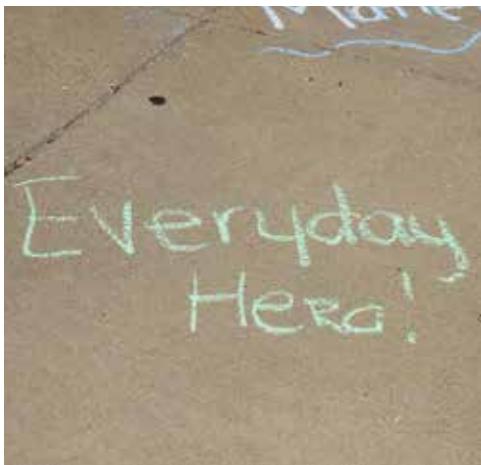
The subscription not only provides peace of mind but goes a long way in ensuring Cranberry Township EMS can continue serving the community, ensuring staffing levels remain at full capacity and vehicles and equipment are well-maintained to provide around-the-clock care, 365 days a year.

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.

The 2021 Cranberry EMS Subscription Campaign begins November 1.

**More information:
CranberryTownshipEMS.org
724-776-4480.**

POLICE BLUES



From red to white to blue chalk, Cranberry Township Police Officers had the opportunity to view great chalk art on their sidewalks from residents who wanted to show their support

The Downey Family, who have law enforcement officers in their family, thought it was important to introduce the youngest members of their family to real life heroes who risk their lives on the job in order to protect and serve their fellow citizens.

Police Sgt. Chuck Mascellino and Cpl. Chris Zevola greeted the family and accepted the food and drink donation on behalf of the entire police force.

"We regard our residents to the highest degree of respect and are always thrilled to meet them. We believe it's vitally important to have open lines of communication with citizens and work to ensure that every single day," Mascellino said.

While the chalk drawings have since faded, the lines of communication between the department and the public remain in tact. ☺



COMCAST BUSINESS EXPANSION **Helping Local Businesses**

Perhaps now more than ever, reliable internet access is a key piece to a business's success.

Comcast Businesses' recent expansion along the Route 19 corridor will help add to the quality companies already providing dependable, fast ethernet, internet, wi-fi and phone service to the

greater Cranberry Township area.

The expansion brings access to more than 2,400 additional business addresses, company officials said.

The impact is already being felt by local organizations, including the Regional Learning Alliance, a non-profit agency dedicated to improving the workforce and economy in the area.

"Comcast Business is providing us with the speed and reliability we need to be successful," said Dr. Justin Griffith, CEO of the Regional Learning Alliance.

Comcast Business was also quick to support efforts aimed at making Cranberry Township a better place to live, work, and play. Through a new multi-year agreement with the Cranberry Township Community Chest (CTCC), the organization has become the main sponsor of the community sign at the corner of routes 19 and 228.

"We are excited to work with Cranberry Township as it continues to support local businesses, from restaurants and doctors' offices to corporate centers, professional complexes and more," said Aaron Mimran, regional vice president of Comcast Business.

"Cranberry Township is a hub for regional, national and international businesses, and those companies need reliable services that will ensure they can get the job done each day," said Dick Hadley, Chairman of the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors. "We are thrilled that Comcast Business has expanded into Cranberry Township, joining other quality internet technology companies in providing these critical services to our businesses."

For more information, businesses can visit business.comcast.com. ☎





PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION!

UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex Celebrates Five-Year Mark

They can't be missed from Interstate 79: five large banners commemorating the Pittsburgh Penguins' Stanley Cup championships hanging on the side of the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex.

Of those five, two have come in the past five years – the same length of time the team has called Lemieux Sports Complex home.

But it's the impact the public perhaps doesn't see that have made the complex such a success. The facility is making champions every day with UPMC's first class medical care, diversity and inclusion programs, along with competitive youth hockey teams.

"Having a world-class practice facility has been instrumental to the success of all of our teams, both the NHL team and our youth programs," said Rich Hixon, Vice President of Facilities for the Penguins.

Those youth achievements include the Pittsburgh Penguins Elite program, which was earned three Tier I National Championships – two boys and one girls.

"Much of this can be attributed to the world-class facility and staff of professionals at the facility," Hixon said.

That facility has also been an economic

driver, attracting people to the region at an almost unfathomable rate.

Hixon said the Complex brings in more than 700,000 visitors each year, and over the past three years that tourism segment has garnered more than \$200 million to the local economy via hotel stays, food, beverage and retail purchases.

"When you include local and state taxes, the impact since 2017 is more than \$400 million," Hixon said.

The facility continues to reinvent itself by hosting the Women's National Team exhibition game, USHL Fall Classic, and National Women's Hockey League All-Star Weekend which highlighted the best female players in the world. The Complex is scheduled to play host to USA Hockey's Disabled Festival in 2021.

"The Pittsburgh Penguins are developing a plan to focus on anti-racism and diversity in youth hockey," Hixon said, adding plans include several programs dedicated to providing access, equipment, mentorship, and inclusion for all in youth hockey. Plans are forthcoming.

Despite the focus on the ice, the Complex isn't limited to just hockey. Hixon said it hosts many community programs, including public skates, birthday parties

and corporate events. That's not to mention the attached UPMC medical unit, which features a comprehensive sports medicine facility focused on orthopedic care, primary care, physical therapy, concussion and imaging for the general public.

Recently, UPMC made a \$3.7 million investment, opening the UPMC Children's Express Care Center, as well as an extension of UPMC Magee-Women's Specialty Services. It's all part of growth that Hixon sees continuing in the future, which will be aided by the construction of the MSA Thruway connecting Interstate 79 to the Cranberry Springs area.

While future development will ramp up around the facility as the MSA Thruway nears completion, Hixon said the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex will also continue to develop.

"Our area of emphasis in the future will be on research, specifically how we can improve athletic performance and enhance player safety," he said.

It's all part of the plan to assemble a high caliber complex that serves the Cranberry community and beyond, while continuing to develop champions every day of the year. ☀

Getting Back IN THE GAME

Experienced Physical Therapy Duo
**HELPING ATHLETES
AND BEYOND**

What's in a name?

For Jason Kelley and Glenn Holland, it's nearly 50 years of combined experience in the physical therapy game.

And after helping everyone from NFL superstars, high school students and older adults with daily aches and pains at various practices in the region, Holland and Kelley decided it was time for their names to stand on their own.

The newly opened Holland and Kelley Physical Therapy & Athletic Rehab is the first business to set up shop in The Shoppes at Franklin Square at the corner at Franklin Road and Route 228. While the attraction of tens of thousands of motorists passing each day and access to major roadways will help build a client base, Kelley and Holland's relationships from over the years are the groundwork for their business.



Many clients from the past are making the trip to Cranberry to be treated – some traveling up to 90 minutes to see their familiar faces.

Both Holland and Kelley earned doctorates in physical therapy and have a history of working with some of the best athletes in professional sports. Photos of those clients adorn the wall inside the building's entrance. With Holland's specialty and knowledge for overhead athletic injuries, quarterbacks and pitchers have sought him out for help getting back their fast ball.

But Kelley is quick to point out that clients need not be professionals to receive quality treatment. They treat everything from ankle sprains and running injuries to back and neck pain, sciatica and other orthopedic injuries.

"We're going to take care of everybody, no matter what," he said. "We love treating everyone, and we treat everyone the same."

Holland and Kelley, along with their wives, are the sole owners of the venture, meaning each client knows exactly who they'll see during each visit. The dual role of therapist and owner allows them to create an atmosphere unlike any they've worked in before.

That includes an open space with mounted flat screen TVs, and the ability to see patients only when they need help – not on a set, mandated schedule.

"We're not handcuffed by the rules that hinder patient care," Kelley said.

All insurances are accepted, and evaluations are arranged within 24 hours. For more information, call 724-591-8900. 





DIVISION 1 TRAINING HELPS ATHLETES

and everyone else – swing for the fences

High school student-athletes hoping to get a scholarship offer.

Weekend warriors who want a little extra boost at their next pick-up game.

Top college athletes looking to make the transition to the pros.

The 50-yard turf field inside D1 Training helps all of them achieve their fitness goals and challenges them to be the best they can be.

The not-so-typical workout facility offers athletic-based training that is modeled after the training practices of Division 1 athletic programs. Hour-long workouts feature a warmup followed by a performance based on on-field skills. That includes plyometrics, cone drills, sled pushes and box jumps.

That is followed by strength training focused on building lean muscle mass, as well as cardio and a cool-down period.

No two 60-minute circuit workouts are the same, according to Joel Stewart of D1 Training. He added individualized training is incorporated into the group workouts, and any skill level or athletic ability can participate.

Those workouts include children as young as 7, high school athletes looking to improve skills, college athletes needing elite-level training and non-athletes who simply want a different, challenging workout.

"You don't have to be an athlete to train here," he said.

Though those goals can be varied, helping athletes get better at their craft is a focus. For high school athletes, that includes working on in-game skills, but also the challenges of collegiate sports. The workouts, Stewart said, are intense, but show teens the commitment and determination needed to achieve collegiate goals.



"We're prepping them for college, and giving them Division 1 style workouts," he said.

That also includes balancing other commitments.

"You're still student-athletes, you're not athlete-students," he said. "The time commitment for sports is a lot, but in the end, academics is why you're at college."

In addition to training, Division 1 Training is the only location to offer Standardized Athletic Test scores using Zybek Sports testing. That testing not only determines where additional work is needed for the athlete but shows how they compare to tens of thousands of other athletes across the country.

The certified and experienced team of coaches and trainers also plan to host sport- and position-based camps and clinics. Recently, they partnered with Seneca Valley graduate and Cranberry native Don Barclay, who played several seasons in the NFL. An offensive lineman, his camp helped young lineman learn the skills they need to be successful.

D1 Training, located at 20111 Route 19, Cranberry Mall, offers weekly memberships that offer classes six days per week, as well as individual and team training. 

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Agreement Could Permit Additional Transmission Line Expansion

A powerful new agreement between the Township and an energy provider ensures a safe, discrete expansion of power lines in a Township park.

The Board of Supervisors approved an option with American Transmission Services Inc., an affiliate of First Energy, to expand existing power lines in North Boundary Park.

The agreement grants an additional 20 feet to the existing easement determined it to be less intrusive than a new, stand-alone easement. The location is a collaboration between the Township's Engineering and Planning departments and the Township's youth sports partners.

The agreement only grants the option to purchase the additional easement in the next two years and is not a guarantee that additional transmission lines would be built.



Private Cigar Club Moving into Former Event Venue

From the ashes of a former event center, a new private club is rising in the Township. Club Leaf & Bean, a private club with a focus on cigars, was granted conditional use to move into a portion of the former NOAH's Event Venue, 10020 Pendleton Way, Suite 102, within the Village of Cranberry Woods.

Following a public hearing on the conditional use application, Supervisors approved the matter. The 2,965 square foot club is only open to members, and provides meeting spaces, lounge areas and other amenities to enjoy cigars. A similar club has operated in Washington, Pa., since 2013, operating under an invitation-only concept.



Dog Days Begin: Camp Bow Wow Gains Approval

A new business is barking up the right tree in the Township.

The Board of Supervisors granted conditional use for Camp Bow Wow following a public hearing. Camp Bow Wow will occupy an 8,200 square foot building at 41 Progress Avenue. Formerly an industrial building, the new business offers day-care, boarding and training for pooches of all kinds. It will be entirely housed indoors.

Now Open!

IN CRANBERRY!

Community Park Storage

20709 Route 19

Sola Salon

2045 Mackenzie Way, Suite 400

Kelly & Kelly Enterprises, LLC

1656 Route 228, Suite 102

Matthews Marking Systems

3159 Unionville Road, Suite 300

CBD Knowledge Center

20280 Route 19, Suite 3

Phoenix Rehabilitation & Health Services

2000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 200

What's Next?

WHAT ARE THEY BUILDING?

Find out what just opened, is opening soon, is under construction, and what is currently under review at

CranberryTownship.org/Biz411.





Cranberry Cares

BUSINESS MISSION IS HOPPING FOR THE BLUE KANGAROO

Erin Spaid had every intention of using her finished basement for fun and relaxation.

In recent months, though, that room has been taken over by bags and racks of clothes - hundreds of shirts, pants and jackets piled high.

And don't even ask about her garage. Spaid is the woman behind The Blue Kangaroo, a concept that began in 2013 as a children's resale shop on Route 19. Spaid's goal was to help new moms and families secure clothing and goods that otherwise could break the bank.

The retail shop closed after nearly four years, and Spaid moved the business to her Township home, where she's lived for nearly a decade. After years of accepting donations of only children's items, she began taking adult clothes as well, a move that changed the direction of The Blue Kangaroo mission.

As the clothes began to pile up, Spaid learned of an old friend who was looking for help at Homeless Hookup CLE, a Cleveland non-profit aimed at helping those in need. A native of the Cleveland area, Spaid jumped in, and began making regular trips to drop off donations.

Closer to home, she joined with Britt's Bags and Wags, a volunteer group that delivers meals to homeless on the streets of Pittsburgh. Spaid hand-delivers socks, hand warmers and other items to brighten the days of those facing challenges. She covers any costs using money generated from the children's resale business.

Thanks to word-of-mouth promotion, donations began coming even faster. Spaid arranges home pickups several times a week throughout the region - hence the full basement.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Spaid anticipated a slowdown and a chance to get organized. After all, the donation is just the start of the process - Spaid washes, folds, sorts and arranges every garment she receives.

While she was able to take a break, donations didn't stop. "I'm incredibly grateful," she said. "When COVID started I was concerned I wouldn't be able to do this, but it's been so busy. We've been our busiest in the past few months."

When she's not making her way through the pile of clothes, Spaid can be found spending time with her husband, Chuck, or homeschooling their daughter, nine-year-old Willow. Willow grew up around

the business and helps with everything from delivering items to designing logos. The experience has become part of her home-school curriculum, Spaid said.

"She's learning street smarts, but she's also learning to have compassion for other people," she said.

The ability to give back will grow even more, as The Blue Kangaroo recently began operating a free clothing store out of St. John's United Church of Christ in Evans City. Spaid said it will allow the impact to extend into other parts of Butler County and beyond.



And, it might finally give Spaid and her family a chance to enjoy that finished basement.

To donate items to The Blue Kangaroo, visit bluekangarookids.com or find them on Facebook. ☺

Editor's Note: Mr. Fred Rogers perhaps put it best: in times of trial, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." In Cranberry Township, the community spirit of helping neighbors and strangers is built on that concept. Often, those deeds are done without a thank-you or pat on the back. We intend to change that through our new series, "Cranberry Cares," in which we'll highlight those who volunteer their time to make the Township better each day. Know a person who fits the bill?



CTCC Sets the Stage for More Rotary Amphitheater Work

As it is every spring, the stage was set in March for the curtain to rise on the Cranberry Township Community Chest Project of the Year.

With a focus on expanding and improving the Rotary Amphitheater in Community Park, the promise of entertaining nights under the stars were in sight.

But like all aspects of daily life in 2020, the project was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the ripple effect being felt by every member of the community, fundraising

for the 2020 Project of the Year seemed inconsequential. After all, the projected amount needed for upgrades and enhancements to the 17-year-old Amphitheater had been met.

However, the project was not immune to the challenges caused by the pandemic.

Due to increased construction and material costs, the final total is significantly higher than planned. Though work has begun on the first phase, additional fundraising is needed.

The numerous obstacles caused by the

pandemic for the entire community lead the CTCC Board to pause on naming a 2021 Project of the Year.

Instead, the Board will continue to raise funds for the Amphitheater project, with hopes of closing the funding gap while also looking toward additional phases. It will ensure the Amphitheater project is completed the right way, making future concerts, plays and other events possible for another 17 years and beyond.

To donate, visit YourCTCC.org. 



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE ROTARY AMPHITHEATER RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT!

Donations are accepted online at YourCTCC.org or by mail- CTCC, 2525 Rochester Road, Suite 450, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED (Payable to CTCC.)

CREDIT CARD MasterCard VISA

Card Number:

Expiration Date (Month/Year): /

Name (as shown on card): _____

Signature: _____

I AM PLEASED TO DONATE:

\$1,000 \$500

\$250 \$100

\$75 \$50

\$25 Other \$ _____

I /We would like to be recognized for this donation in the CTCC Impact Report.

Please Print Name(s) _____



CRT HELPS TURN THE PAGE ON 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2020 school year has been full of adaptation for students, teachers and parents.

An initiative by the Cranberry Township Community Response Team aimed to make the special time of year a little easier and fun for everyone.

The team of volunteers gave away 100

lunch bags filled with school supplies during their Operation Lunch Pail Pals event. The insulated lunch bags contained everything from pens, pencils, erasers, Post-It notes, highlighters, note cards, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, notepads and pencil cases. All items were new and supplied by monetary donations received by the CRT,

which formed earlier this year to help those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group is setting sights on helping the community this holiday season, with plans in the works for a Thanksgiving food drive. More information is forthcoming.

Want to get involved and help give back? Visit cranberrytownship.org/CRT. ☺



APIARY VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEE'S KNEES

The early bird may get the worm, but for a group of volunteers at the Township Community Apiary one recent Friday morning, the early birds got the bees.

A dozen members of the Township's Community Response Team helped clear weeds, plant flowers and beautify the pollinator garden.

For siblings Abby and Aiden Kutchna, the chance to give back to the community was more important than ever due to the pandemic.

"It's a great way to spend our free time," Abby said, adding the CRT also provided a perhaps unlikely result. "I've met some of the best people through this," she said.

"It's a great way to help the community," added Aiden, who admitted he'd otherwise likely be sleeping instead of meticulously weed eating. "It's a good feeling to be productive."

The group's work set the stage for Nick Benec, a 16-year-old Butler High School student and member of Troop 6 in Butler.

Benec said he and his troopmates had learned about mason bees, and his interest was piqued. He reached out to Township officials to see how he could get involved.

That lead to Benec pursuing an Eagle Scout project that involved installing mason bee nests, which will attract the incredible pollinating power of the mason bees to the apiary.

Benec said he intends to help build hives around the area and hopes to create some buzz about what's happening at the Township Apiary. ☺



FIGHT ON! Relay for Life Shows Off COMMUNITY SUPPORT

When facing a battle with cancer, no one fights alone.

The hours of fundraising and planning that went into the Relay for Life of Greater Cranberry Township's annual fundraising event proved just that.

Though impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers got creative and were well on their way to meeting their fundraising goal.

In lieu of the annual walk-a-thon event at North Boundary Park, the 2020 event featured a drive-thru luminaria celebration at Community Park. More than 1,500 lit bags created a bright yellow guide along the park's roads, paying tribute to those who have lost their battle with cancer, as well as those still fighting, those who have defeated the disease and those who support their families and friends in their battle.

The 17th annual event raised nearly \$80,000 which will help find a cure for and support those whose lives have been impacted by cancer. And almost as importantly, it provided hope for the entire community. ☺



A-Camping We Will Go! Annual Camp Cranberry Offers Fun in the Sun

There weren't fires, singalongs and s'mores, but the annual Camp Cranberry offered children of all ages wide open spaces and a chance to socialize this summer.

The Mini Movers, Little Achievers, Youth Camp and Future Leaders programs were full of eager campers who spent their summer developing physical, social and decision-making skills while having fun.

With COVID-19 protocols in place, children enjoyed games, crafts, trips to the Waterpark and other outdoor activities through the summer in the Township's parks. The 12-week program ended in late August as students prepared for a new school year.

Thanks to all campers and camp counselor for a great season! ☺



Waterpark Lets Residents **SOAK UP THE SUN**

Though this summer may have been unlike any other in history, the long, hot days remained.

And as it does every year, the Township Waterpark was open to offer just a little something to break the monotony.

With the opening delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff spent the early

parts of summer ensuring the Waterpark could safely open. And, for more than two months, it did just that with social distancing and extra cleaning protocols in place.

Additionally, access was restricted to existing members and residents, ensuring the community could take advantage of the pool, water slides, splash pads

and other popular amenities. Pair that with a dryer-than-normal summer, and the Waterpark was safely packed with families most every day.

With the annual membership drive looming this December, sunny days and a dip in the pool are already top of mind. ☀



DOGS Take A Dip As Waterpark Closes

With the dog days of summer giving way to falling temperatures and the changing of the leaves, Cranberry's canines had a chance to enjoy one last splash in the Township Waterpark.

The popular Puppy Plunge gave pooches and their owners a chance to get one last chance to catch some rays and paddle around the spacious pool before it was drained for the winter.

This year's event drew a large crowd that maintained social distance. Many made a day of their trip to North Boundary Park by going for a hike and exploring the trails and Disc Golf Course adjacent to the pool.

It was the perfect end to a year that saw the Township work toward making Cranberry a canine friendly community. The wagging tails proved that mission is working. ☀



NOT A TRICK: Halloween Celebration Goes On

Neither snow, rain nor a pandemic can stop trick-or-treat in Cranberry Township. Cranberry Township will keep tradition and celebrate Halloween from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, October 31.

The Township is leaving it up to residents to decide whether to participate or not. This is not a mandatory event and families should make the best decision for their own family. There will be added Police, Fire and EMS personnel on duty to ensure a safe night for residents.

Here are a few tips to help navigate through the evening amidst the COVID pandemic:

- Do not leave candy in a bowl for kids to take. It's best to designate one person to hand out candy, instead of having many children reach into a candy bowl.
- Designate an outdoor spot to pass out treats. It's recommended to position oneself outside to pass out treats, instead of having children ring doorbells and wait for the door to be opened.
- Treats should be individually wrapped. To avoid any cross-contamination, please consider all individually wrapped treats.
- Face masks should be worn. It's recommended that kids wear face masks while collecting Halloween treats.
- Gloves should not be worn. Gloves are not recommended, as they would need to be changed regularly. Parents should have hand sanitizer readily available for children during treat gathering.
- To sanitize treats or not. It is not recommended to sanitize packaging and groceries. The transmission of the coronavirus on these types of surfaces is low. But, if parents want to sanitize the packages, they should.
- Anxious parents should not participate. It's best to buy your own Halloween treats and give to your kids – instead of being anxious about participation.

Items to bring during treat gathering:

- Bring hand sanitizer and require kids to wear masks.
- Also, don't forget flashlights, glow sticks, or any reflective material on clothing.
- Bring water to hydrate children during the walk.

Tips provide by Dr. Jean Moorjani, a board-certified pediatrician at Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital in Florida.





ANSWERING THE SCHOOL BELL

Township Turns on the Lights for Education

Hybrid schedules and virtual learning in the age of COVID-19 are complicated matters for parents – and not just because they've forgotten basic algebra or how adverbs modify verbs in sentences.

to ensure student and staff safety.

The decision to extend the Department's Before and After-School programs came after the Seneca Valley School District announced plans to use a COHORT schedule, with students attending two days/week in-person instruction. Since then, the District's School Board has voted to return to the traditional, five days/week in-person instruction.

To meet the needs of the community, Pete Geis, Parks & Recreation Director, said he and his team created a program that provided educational support while also meeting state and COVID-19 related standards.

The result was Kids Club PLUS, which offered child supervision for students in kindergarten through sixth grade from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each weekday.

The program was enhanced with a learning environment that allowed students to complete virtual assignments with full IT support. It also offered access to the Township Library, as well as structured activity and leisure time. Transportation was also provided from the Municipal Center to the child's school when needed.



Sensing the hardship altered school schedules were placing on families, Cranberry Township's Parks & Recreation Department put together an all-day childcare program to help relieve that stress. That's in addition to the Township's Early Learning Center, which added strict sanitation protocols

As for the Early Learning Center, the solid curriculum foundation already in place allowed staff to turn their attention to focusing on safety protocols.

The many added daily precautions include temperature screenings; limited group sizes; social distancing; and face coverings worn by all staff and students. A strict set of cleaning guidelines, recommended by the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health, will be followed each day, and a focus will be placed on teaching good hygiene.

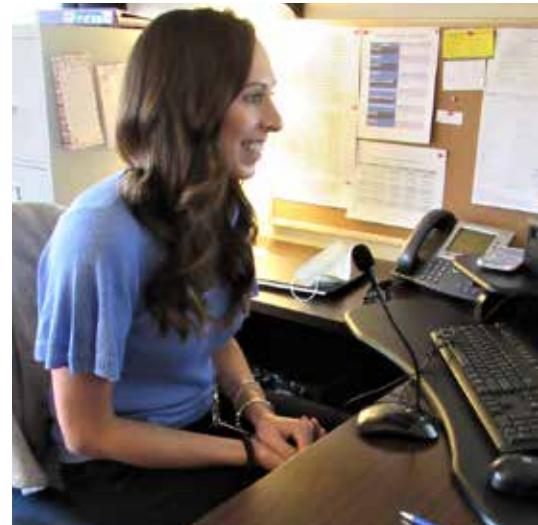
The Center has also partnered with PURO UV Disinfection Lighting to start each school day 99.9% free of the virus that causes COVID-19. The Township lights are on – power cleaning overnight and warmly lighting the rooms for education during the day. ☺





Listening to 'Voices'

Seneca Valley rolls out a new podcast series



Seneca Valley has entered the growing world of podcasting.

Rolled out in August, "Voices" features interviews with guests who share an inside look at what is taking place at Seneca Valley. Show episodes are released in near-real time, so audience members will hear about the most current topics and updates.

"The podcast world is increasing in popularity, and we believe such a medium serves as an excellent way to communicate with the public, especially during this time," said Linda Andreassi, Communications Director. "There's something to be said about hearing directly from the

school district and getting a more detailed 'behind the scenes' look at what is taking place."

With nearly 1,000 downloads, the podcast currently has 17 episodes, 10-to-12-minutes each, addressing Seneca Valley's 2020-21 Return to School. Interviews include Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale discussing how the district is moving forward with the school year in the time of COVID-19; Human Resources Director Kyra Bobak talking about staff training and incentives for substitutes; and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Principal Denise Manganello sharing about how the

established cyber program at SV differs from remote learning.

Recent episodes highlight sports and activities, as well as the social, emotional needs of students during COVID-19.

Non-COVID-19 episodes are also being planned to feature district construction projects, student registration and much more. Special guests from the community – along with staff and students - will also participate.

Listen today and learn more at www.svsd.net/podcast or listen on Apple or Spotify.





NEW ELECTIONS DIRECTOR GIVES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE



Free. Fair. Safe.

For Aaron Sheasley, that mantra has guided him each day since taking over as Butler County's Director of Elections. Ensuring the 2020 General Election meets those three criteria is something the Cranberry Township resident takes incredibly seriously.

Luckily, Sheasley has been around elections and experienced the process throughout his adult life.

A York County native, he attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania before taking a tech job in Washington, D.C. At the turn of the century, he found himself doing work for what was then Diebold Election Systems, helping create software for the next generation of voting machines.

A few months later, the contentious and controversial 2000 presidential election

played out, forever changing the way Americans cast their ballots.

Sheasley and his wife, Tracy – who grew up together and have known each other since their pre-teen years – and their son, Alex, moved to the area in 2005 when Tracy took a job at American Eagle Outfitters' Thorn Hill Industrial Park office. Sheasley set about creating his own information security firm, SE Systems and Technology of Cranberry Township.

After a stint in Seven Fields, the family moved to Cranberry Township, where Sheasley became involved in the election process once again as a judge of elections in the Cranberry East 2 precinct. It was there he learned the nuances of the Butler County election process, meeting people and watching thousands of ballots being counted at the County Government Center.

When the Director of Elections position

At Home with AARON SHEASLEY

opened in spring 2020 and Sheasley having just sold his company, he felt compelled to throw his hat in the ring.

"Everything just kind of clicked into place," he said.

Sheasley worked as a judge during the 2020 Primary Election, and soon after hit the ground running to ensure the upcoming election will be free, fair and safe.

He's also mindful of poll workers and election judges, having been in their shoes. The importance of that task is heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheasley, however, notes that the office is exceeding all safety protocols.

It's also meeting the needs of the voting public, thanks in part to Act 77 of 2019, which allows voters to use mail-in ballots without giving a reason to not vote in person. Butler County's system ties mail-in ballots to the electronic system to ensure every vote is counted.

The system has been subject to audits and testing in recent months and has met every demand that has been thrown at it. Though he has heard many concerns from voters about the safety of the upcoming election, Sheasley said walking them through the process typically calms those fears. He noted once a mail-in ballot is received, it is placed in a locked room for which just two keys exist. Those keys are secured, ensuring the ballots are untouched until Election Day.

"I think people should feel good knowing we're following strict protocols to ensure everything is right where it needs to be," he said. 



Casting a Ballot is **EASIER THAN EVER**

The campaign ads are ramping up. The signs are sprouting from the ground. It's almost time to make your voice heard.

While COVID-19 has created challenges to achieving high voter turnout, Election Day 2020 provides the chance to make decisions that will impact the Township, state and country for the next four years.

That's why there are more options to cast your ballot this year, including traditional in-person voting, mail-in ballots and absentee ballots.

If voting by mail, be sure to act early to ensure the ballot is received by the due date to make your vote count!

Butler County is in need of poll workers to serve in various voting precincts throughout the county.

To find out more about voting in Cranberry, visit our website at:

CranberryTownship.org/Vote





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! Take-Out Movies Offer Dinner and a Show

What's a night at the movies without the popcorn – and maybe a gyro or a beer?

The front lawn of the Municipal Center was ready for its closeup this summer as it played host to four recent silver screen hits as part of the "Take-Out Movie" series. Crowds of more than 100 gathered each

week – socially distanced and wearing masks – to watch family friendly films including "Secret Life of Pets 2," "Frozen II," "Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" and "Aladdin."

Sponsored by Armstrong Cable, the large inflatable screen made for crisp viewing on the building's front lawn as the sun set

in the distance.

The front parking lot was taken over by various food trucks, offering dinner and snacks for moviegoers to enjoy.

The series was so popular that the Parks and Recreation Department planned additional movie nights this fall. Get your popcorn ready! 🍿

Improved Farmers Market Has Residents Saying E-I-E-I-OH WOW!

The farm-to-table produce pipeline has been making a stop at the Township Municipal Center this year, making it easier than ever to eat healthy, fresh foods.

It's all thanks to the new and improved Cranberry Township Farmers Market and a joint venture between the Township and the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber.

Held from 3-7 PM every Friday through October 23, the re-imagined event started small in the back-parking lot of the Municipal Center before making the jump to the front of the building. More

than 30 vendors have gathered each week to offer fruits and vegetables, beer, honey, crafts, baked goods and other services.

In addition to the increased visibility in the front of the building, the market received a boost thanks to an anonymous donation from a Township couple, who gave their \$2,400 stimulus check to help the small business community.

The week-over-week success of the market ensures the popular program will continue for years to come. 🍂



VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Board of Supervisors

October 29; November 5, 19; December 10: 6:30 PM

Planning Advisory Commission

October 5, 26; November 2; December 7: 6:00 PM

Farmers Market

Fridays through October 23: 3 - 7 PM

Municipal Center Front Parking Lot

Cranberry K9 Connection

October 13: 6:30 PM

Municipal Center

HOLIDAY CLOSURES & TRASH DELAYS

THANKSGIVING

Township offices & Library closed November 26 & 27.

Trash collections delayed by one day.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Township offices & Library closed December 25.

Trash collections delayed by one day.

More Upcoming Events: CranberryTownship.org/Calendar



at the Municipal Center

Come in costume to enjoy The Addams Family (animated) on the Municipal Center lawn behind the Schoolhouse.

4:30 - Food Trucks
5:00 - Candy Graveyard
6:30 - Movie



10.15.20
No Registration Necessary

TRICK
Treat

THE TOWNSHIP IS LEAVING IT UP TO RESIDENTS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT. THERE WILL BE ADDED POLICE, FIRE & EMS PERSONNEL ON DUTY.

SATURDAY
10.31.20
6 - 8 PM



Halloween Covid Safety Tips

FACE MASKS SHOULD BE WORN
GLOVES SHOULD NOT BE WORN
TREATS SHOULD BE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED
DO NOT LEAVE CANDY IN A BOWL FOR KIDS TO TAKE
DESIGNATE AN OUTDOOR SPOT TO PASS OUT TREATS



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TOWNSHIP

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