

Cranberry

TODAY

SPRING 2021

**ROAD MAP
TO THE FUTURE**




CRANBERRY
TOWNSHIP

1966



**COMMUNITY
UPDATES**



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BLOCK PARTY

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Summer Camp

Cultural Events

Adult Activities

Aquatics

**4****11****14****CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
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Bruce Hezlep
Mike Manipole
Bruce Mazzoni
John Skorupan

TOWNSHIP MANAGER
Dan Santoro

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Cover Photo: Every day may be a winding road, but Cranberry resident Eric Gritz is more than prepared for the twists and turns. Gritz' 1966 Mustang Convertible is the perfect blend of muscle and beauty, its candy-red paint shining in the sun. He's just the second owner of the mean machine, buying it from the original owners 18 years ago. Keep your eyes peeled for Gritz at Township car cruises or grabbing ice cream with his family!





Road Map to Success

CRANBERRY PLAN IS TOWNSHIP'S GUIDING LIGHT

Upon his retirement in January, Jerry Andree turned over the keys to Cranberry to Township Manager Dan Santoro.

With those keys came a road map that Andree and the Board of Supervisors helped construct. The foundation of that map came in the mid-1990s as the Board created a comprehensive plan that helped the Township navigate the crossroads of impending growth.

More than a decade later, that document expanded into the Cranberry Plan, a community-created mission statement that took years of surveys, discussion, and study to draw up. It looked ahead to what the community would and could look like in 2030 and beyond.

"We worked hard on making the tough decisions to ensure the development of the Township was well managed and sustainable," Andree said of the plan. "We knew we could not let our guard down to relish in our accomplishments."

With a decade to go under the plan's scope, the outlined mission has been a rousing success. But there's no intention to stop anytime soon.

"More work needs to be done," Andree said. "More decisions need to be made, more amenities need to be added. The job isn't over."

ON A MISSION

That mission isn't lost on the Board of Supervisors, who have used the Plan as their guiding light. There are more than 200 objectives tucked in its pages, addressing everything from housing options, parks and recreation expansion, infrastructure needs and how to create a diverse tax base.

Dick Hadley, Board of Supervisors Chairman, notes the process of creating the plan was beyond extensive, not only taking community feedback but also looking at similar communities across the country to gain insight into what worked and, more importantly, what didn't.

As Mike Manipole, Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman, puts it, the Plan in many ways overthought Cranberry's future. It looked at the highs and lows, he said, and targets a middle ground.

In 2016, the Board revisited the Plan, which was created with a series of benchmarking tools. That includes seeing what items had been accomplished, what remained and if certain aspects were still relevant. And though that was the first official review, a close eye is always given to the Plan's contents.

"It's the whole foundation for a majority of the decisions we've made over the last 15-to-20 years," said Supervisor Bruce Mazzoni.

While the Plan identifies a clear path, that doesn't mean the Board isn't open to new ideas. It's quite the opposite, as Board members noted communication was important from the start. That includes questioning and scrutinizing aspects of the Plan and discussing how decisions are reached based on its contents.

"The Plan is bigger than the Board," Manipole said. "It's our ultimate road map. But we're always willing to listen – that's the way Cranberry is built."

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Sticking with the Plan has paid off through the first 15 years, and examples are scattered throughout the Township.

Hadley is quick to point to Route 228, which in the 1990s was a two-lane road surrounded by wilderness. Discussion and planning led to careful development of the area and, ultimately, the construction of international businesses like Westinghouse and UPMC.

That, Hadley said, was no accident. "If you do it correctly, other people want to be a part of it," he said. "That's why people move to Cranberry and why businesses are attracted here."

Those businesses become stakeholders, and the partnerships led to major projects such as the MSA Thruway.



“ The Cranberry Plan helps us add value not just in dollars but in quality of life. It helps us reach the decisions that make Cranberry what it is today and even better in the future.

*~ Bruce Mazzoni
Board of Supervisors*



and precise, the intention is best for everyone.

“It really is for the safety and welfare of the residents,” he said. “It’s really geared toward building a strong community that welcomes development but is also safe at the same time.”

Sippel said Cranberry’s geography makes it an attractive place to be, with access to major roadways, interstates, and the Turnpike. But it’s also the Township’s commitment to improving the traffic system through projects like the MSA Thruway that show a commitment to the partnership. And, such high standards serve as a challenge to developers looking to open something new.

“As a developer, I know that Cranberry is working to make a good, safe community, and I feel like I want to do my best to create something that’s different,” he said. “We have this great canvas to work off of, and we want to paint a great project that gets the creative juices flowing.”

It all falls in line with creating a “sense of place,” and the Township’s willingness to work with businesses like Westinghouse, MSA and UPMC fosters that.

“It’s inviting to people to know that Cranberry is working alongside them,” he said.

For resident Eric Gritz, choosing Cranberry was so easy he did it twice. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, he relocated to neighboring

“ The Cranberry Plan is the backbone of what we do every day, and the guiding light of how we get from point A to point B.”

*~ Dick Hadley
Chairman, Board of Supervisors*



“ The Cranberry Plan helps us to stay ahead of the curve and be able to offer the types of services and programs our residents expect.

*~ Mike Manipole
Vice Chairman, Board of Supervisors*

Elsewhere, major improvements to Freedom and Rochester roads are ongoing, and the Township’s Public Works, Fire, Police and EMS continues to grow. There’s also been expansion and growth of parks which were identified as a community priority. Manipole noted that without feedback and planning, the land on which Graham Park sits may have become another development instead of a world-class recreation complex.

Elsewhere, Supervisor John Skorupan said the plan’s focus on development has been a helpful tool as the Township has grown. He said the restrictions and the development process have been painstakingly created and adjusted over time in accordance with the overall mission.

This is done by seeking feedback and letting the market drive the type of development that locates in the Township, said Supervisor Bruce Hezlep.

“We’re always looking at how we make Cranberry a destination of choice,” he said.

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

For many developers making that choice is all about opportunity – and Cranberry offers it.

Gary Sippel, founder of Allegheny Excavating, has developed many projects in the Township over the years. While he acknowledged the permitting and development progress is “detail-oriented”



“ — — — — —
At the end of the day, we want to listen to our citizens and listen to the market and plan accordingly. I think that’s how we got to where we are.

~ Bruce Hezlep
Board of Supervisors

Seven Fields in the early 1990s. Seeing the growth and opportunity in Cranberry, he crossed the border in 1998, and has since raised a family.

With a lifelong career and sales and deep knowledge of tile and flooring, he was approached by Daltile, whose owners asked him what Pittsburgh area municipality offered the best chance of success to a new branch.

Again, Cranberry was the easy choice.

"I knew the area, with all the homes, facilities and schools being built, would be a great location," he said.

Since then, Gritz has run the branch on Executive Drive, making Cranberry both his home and workplace.

We may be supervisors, but we're also citizens impacted by the decisions made. The Cranberry Plan takes all of us into consideration to make the Township better.

~ John Skorupan
Board of Supervisors

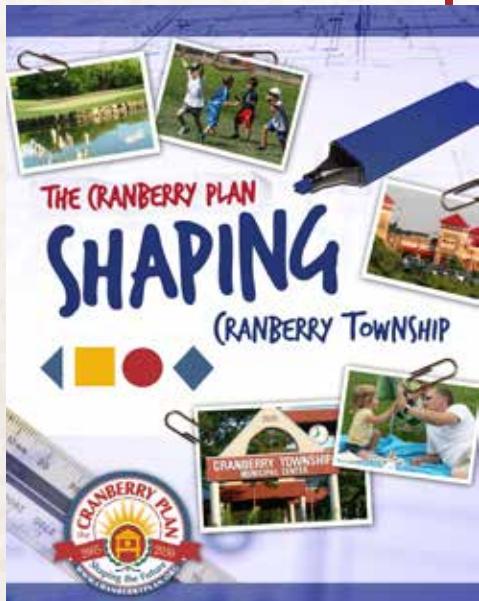
"It's been fantastic to live and work in Cranberry, and I couldn't be happier," he said.

THE ROAD AHEAD

As the Cranberry Plan enters its decade, the guiding principles remain the same: to continue to make Cranberry Township a great place for everyone.

Santoro said he and the Board will continue to work hard to make better each day, with the Cranberry Plan serving as the compass along the road to progress.

"Undoubtedly we will face many intersections in the road, but we will be prepared to stay the course, make the right decision and reach our destination," he said. 



YES WE CRAN!

The Cranberry Plan Breakdown

desired most in their growing community and look 25 years into the future to see how those goals could be accomplished.

This included conducting citizen surveys, market assessments, traffic impact analysis, sustainability assessments and growth scenarios.

It also included Citizen Advisory Panel Task Forces, which gathered more than 50 members of the community and several stakeholders to build a plan based upon the raw data and input. They focused on economic development, transportation, culture, and parks, to name a few.

The group met monthly to discuss these matters and worked in concert with a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to set the course for 2030.

That discussion and planning helped

generate three growth scenarios addressing three different population estimates. Ultimately, a plan for population potential of 50,011 was chosen by the community, due in part because it was the most financially responsible option, and also balanced growth with sustaining green space and infrastructure.

The Cranberry Plan was officially adopted in 2009 after years of discussion and work. It was revisited in 2016 and a “progress report” was created to ensure the plan’s guidance was being followed. It also evaluated what circumstances may have changed and what updates were needed.

All the while, the Cranberry Plan has served as the guiding light to create a healthy, beautiful community that will continue to thrive in 2030 and beyond.



UP CLOSE (OR VIRTUAL) AND PERSONAL

By Bruce Hezlep
Board of Supervisors



There are some things in life that are simply better experienced in person.

Whether the beauty of a scenic mountainscape or the speed of a professional hockey game, it's hard to truly see the value of something unless you see it for yourself.

In Cranberry Township, that includes our various public meetings.

Hear me out.

While they may seem like mundane, in-person sessions of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Advisory Commission and Environmental Advisory Committee are the best way to gauge the temperature of the Township. The members of those boards can question staff about agenda items and hold discussions prior to voting. Often, at least one member disagrees on a particular topic. It's all part of the governmental process.

But in-person meetings are about more than the nuts and bolts of government. They have historically given Board members and Township staff a chance to meet with residents and hear their thoughts, concerns and ideas. Even if it's a simple "hello," those interactions have proven valuable to Cranberry's success over the years.

Unfortunately, those interactions have been made more difficult over the last 12 months as the pandemic lingers. Meetings have changed scenery from our spacious Board room to our various dens, living rooms and offices.

With those meetings have come the inevitable technological issues, and even with the support of the Township's incredible IT team

behind us, sometimes things simply don't go as planned.

We've done our best to keep the discourse moving and have made it easier to participate and submit feedback. You can find links to the various board meetings on the homepage at cranberrytownship.org.

That said, we can and want to do more. We need to hear from our residents by whatever means possible, and until we can safely gather again, those interactions must remain virtual.

So, please, sign up and join a virtual meeting via GoToWebinar. Submit a comment or idea to us via email or give us a call. Find out if your homeowners association is a part of our monthly forum, and if not see if that is a possibility.

If there's an issue that's important to you, it is important to us.

We also invite you to stay informed about what's happening around Cranberry, and there is no shortage of ways to do so. Follow our various departments and organizations on social media. Sign up for text and email alerts, as well as email blasts. Visit the Township webpage, which offers everything from upcoming meeting agendas, public notices, announcements and more.

After all, this is your Township, and its success depends upon communication and engagement. And while that will take place virtually for now, it will only be stronger when we can finally gather again.

Trust that we'll be there waiting to shake your hand and say hello. 



MAN(AGER) WITH A PLAN

Santoro Takes on New Leadership Role

A building is only as strong as its foundation.

The same goes for government, and Cranberry's growth as a center of regional growth and international business over the last three decades has happened, in part, because planning and guidance of the Board of Supervisors and the Cranberry Plan.

Dan Santoro was right alongside as that plan was crafted and implemented. As he takes over as the Township's Manager, Santoro aims to continue building on the strong foundation that was set before him.

He replaces Jerry Andree, who wrapped up a 30-year career with his retirement in January.

"I have total confidence that Dan will continue to guide Cranberry Township along the path to prosperity," Andree

said. "His knowledge of the Township spans decades, and his understanding of both the major and minor details that make Cranberry great is unmatched."

Santoro is no stranger to Cranberry Township, having helped Andree and previous Boards lay the groundwork for future growth and success.

I have total confidence that Dan will continue to guide Cranberry Township along the path to prosperity.

A 10-year break from the Township saw him take on roles in the private sector focusing on engineering and government relations before returning as Assistant Township Manager in November 2017. Most recently he served as Deputy Township Manager.

"Dan's resume speaks for itself, but it's his understanding of the way the Township functions and the goals for the future that make him the ideal candidate," said Dick Hadley, Board of Supervisors Chairman. "The Board is excited to continue working with him to make Cranberry great."

A native of Monessen, Westmoreland County, Santoro earned a bachelor's degree in regional planning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in public management from Carnegie Mellon University.

Santoro, a Township resident, said he's excited to continue the work begun by Andree and the Board that has helped Cranberry prosper for three decades.

"They've created the blueprint for success, and I believe it sets the stage for many great days ahead for Cranberry Township," Santoro said. 



GO with the FLOW

Stream Bank Restoration Part of **SEDIMENT REDUCTION PLAN**

There are dozens of serene, babbling brooks throughout Cranberry. And while most of the time they offer a tranquil spot to reflect, they can quickly become agitated.

A burst of rain can cause them to swell and wreak havoc on the banks and vegetation on their borders. The rapidly rushing water also creates larger issues downstream where those tributaries meet with creeks, carrying with them tons of sediment.

In Cranberry, Brush Creek receives the brunt of that runoff. Since 2018 it has been a focus of pollution and sediment reduction as part of the Township's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) plan with the state Department

of Environmental Protection. Township engineers found it would be time consuming and costly to address issues in the creek itself.

That's why they're going to the source.

Beginning this spring, crews will begin identifying and restoring stream banks around the Township. According to Tim Schutzman, Engineering & Environmental Services Waterworks Coordinator, the goal is to build those streams back to their original form while also implementing manmade structures aimed at forcing water onto floodplains instead of rushing downstream.

"Streams need maintenance," he said. "They're going to erode over time, and they don't fix themselves. We're trying

to take as much force off the water as possible."

The MS4 plan requires a significant reduction in sediment pollution by spring 2023, and Schutzman said stream repair is just the first step.

Later this year, the Township plans to roll out inspection requirements for the 388 water retention ponds and 57 underground storage tanks used by homes and businesses. The simple checklist will ask owners to, among other things, make sure the concrete structures are not clogged or damaged, and that embankments are clear of trees.

These steps will make sure Cranberry's waterways continue to go with the flow and remain healthy. ☀



GETTING OUT OF AJAM

Traffic Program Keeps CRANBERRY MOVING

Divers through Cranberry are going to be seeing more green!

A new program aims to reduce the amount of time spent waiting for a switch from red to green at one the Township's 41 traffic signals.

The Centracs Edaptive Traffic Signal Control system was beta tested last year at six intersections along the Route 19 corridor. According to Kelly Maurer, the Township's Director of Public Works Operations, the COVID-19 pandemic proved to be the best time to implement the program, as reduced traffic volumes allowed Township officials to test the system.

The state-of-the-art system proved effective in maximizing efficiency and adapting to the ever-changing traffic volume demand. Maurer said the edaptive system uses real-time data to maximize arrivals on green and minimize delays and transitions between busy signals.

"This allows us to utilize our roadway capacity to the fullest," Maurer said.

"When events at one of our parks or schools let out, the system adapts in real time to that surge."

Additionally, the system can adapt to unexpected events such as inclement weather and crashes.

The program is drawing attention throughout the country, with Cranberry serving as the pilot program for the PennDOT central office in Harrisburg. But the edaptive signals are just part of the process.



While the edaptive system is new, the ability to implement it comes thanks, in part, to a commitment to use state and

federal grant funding to upgrade traffic signal technology. The \$500,000 in grant funding helped with the installation of radar and video traffic signal detection, as well as upgrades at the Traffic Operations Center.

"Having top-of-the-line equipment in place allowed us to equip our system with the edaptive controls," Maurer said.

The rollout of the full program will coincide with the completion of various construction projects. Marty McKinney, Manager of Traffic Communications, said the tentative schedule calls for the immediate continuation of the program on Route 19, which will help keep traffic moving as that stretch of road is repaved.

Route 228 will see the program implemented to coincide with the completion of the MSA Thruway, and the switch will be flipped on Freedom Road prior to the completion of the Turnpike Bridge project. On Rochester Road, the signals will be put in place once expansion near the Meeder development is completed in the fall. 

HIT THE ROAD, JACK!



Projects Will Improve ROADWAYS



MSA THRUWAY

The project to build a tunnel beneath Route 228 to connect Cranberry Springs and Cranberry Woods is more than halfway completed.

Despite the snowy winter, crews were able to connect the two sides and install the arches, as well as backfill the area.

In the coming months, the road itself will be constructed, and bike lanes and traffic-calming measures will be installed. A July completion date is targeted.



ROUTE 19

The newest PennDOT project, complete paving of Route 19 from the Marshall Township line through Jackson Township was put out for bid in March.

The project is expected to begin in early summer and be completed before snow falls this winter.

Orange barrels may indicate caution to drivers, but they also signal progress. Those barrels will be out in force this summer as major road expansion and paving projects continue – and some new ones get underway. Stay tuned to the Township's website and social media pages for more information on projects.



ROCHESTER ROAD

New signals and traffic-calming measures have made the Rochester Road expansion a welcome addition to those visiting the Municipal Center or living in the Meeder development.

The road was 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 was installed closer to Route 19 to allow additional, safe access.

New permanent signals will be installed in the coming months, as well as pedestrian safety measures making the intersection at Meeder and the Municipal Center that much safer. Work will then move further down Rochester toward Graham School Road. That project will continue throughout the next year.



FREEDOM ROAD

As PennDOT's replacement of the Freedom Road Turnpike bridge edges closer to completion, attention will soon turn to projects funded by Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Developments (BUILD) grants.

The first project, in development since 2018, will expand Freedom Road from Commonwealth to Haine School Road. Construction will begin later this year.

Thanks to a grant received last fall, Freedom Road will be further expanded from Lovi Road at the Beaver County line to Powell Road in Cranberry Township, and from Powell Road to Haine School Road. That project is in the planning stages.

The entirety of the expansion is expected to be completed by 2023.



INTERSTATE 79

A two-year PennDOT projects to replace the bridges on Interstate 79 will wrap up later this spring. The two spans were replaced with twin, two-lane, single span, composite steel multi-beam structures, with temporary bridges filling the gap in the interim.



WEBSITE MAKES WAVES

From hitting the links to getting lost in a best-selling novel, Cranberry Township stayed busy in 2020.

So, too, were the Township's website and social media pages, with residents looking for information of all sorts. Below are lists of the most popular pages on the website, as well as how residents are seeking that information.

While the site was popular in 2020, trends indicate that Cranberry Township will continue surfing the web in great numbers in 2021.

TOP 10 MOST POPULAR PAGES

1. Homepage
2. Golf Course
3. Tee Time
4. Library
5. COVID Updates
6. Search
7. Opening Soon
8. Bill Payments
9. Parks & Recreation
10. Waterpark/Memberships

HOW PEOPLE VIEW THE WEBSITE

Mobile	59.18%
Desktop	37.22%
Tablet	3.6%



Tax Collector Corner

2021 Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate taxes were mailed March 1 and are payable at a 2 percent discount until April 30. Taxes can then be paid at face value from May 1 until June 30.

There is no tax increase this year for Butler County or the Township. Currently, the 2020 Butler County/Cranberry Township/Seneca Valley real estate taxes that were not paid by December 31, 2020 are due to the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau. Call 724-284-5326 for more information.

Stop in or mail payments to P.J. Lynd T/C, 2525 Rochester Road, Suite 205, Cranberry Township PA 16066.

Questions? Please call 724-776-1103 or email pj.lynd@cranberrytownship.org.



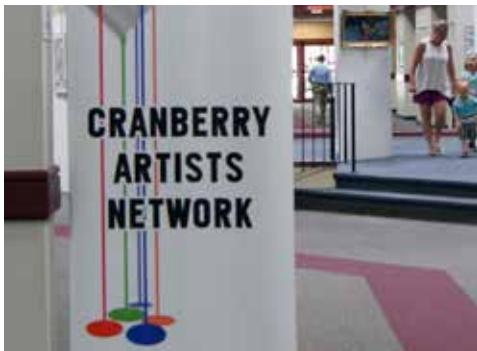
Everywhere A Sign

Graham Park signage to get upgrade

In a sign of the times, directional and location signage in Graham Park will get an upgrade as the Township works to secure a new sponsor for the complex.

Township officials anticipate that a new sponsorship will require primary and supporting signs throughout the park to be redesigned and replaced. The Board approved a contract with Kolano Design to take on the Master Signage plan update.

The cost for the upgrade will be included in the new sponsorship agreement, which officials hope to announce in the coming months.



Art Show Runs Through May 6

After a dark and isolating winter season, the promise of spring, unity, and rebirth are the hope of the Cranberry Artists Network. Through May 6, members of the group will display artwork in the Municipal Center.

Eva Trout, the director and owner of the Firebox Studios in Carnegie is responsible for selecting the work for the show and awarding prizes. Art is selected purely by the artist's aesthetic, and not by religious or cultural persuasion.

The opening for the show is set for 6-8 p.m. April 7. A virtual opening reception may be held in lieu of a physical gathering. For more information, visit cranberryartistsnetwork.com.



Annual Fire Hydrant Flushing Begins in April

Water going down the drain over the next few months is actually helping keep Cranberry's water supply flowing cleanly. Hydrant flushing is a routine maintenance operation designed to flush sediment from the water system, check fire hydrant operation, and test chlorine levels in the water lines throughout the Township. Flushing is conducted from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Discolored water and fluctuations in water pressure are normal during flushing. Customers should refrain from doing laundry when their neighborhood lines are being flushed. View the flushing schedule at CranberryTownship.org/Flushing.



Township, Pittsburgh Disc Golf Formalize Agreement

The Township will no longer be flying solo at the Disc Golf Course at North Boundary Park.

The Board of Supervisors formalized a partnership with the nonprofit Pittsburgh Flying Disc association. The group has been an informal partner with the Township since the Course opened, scheduling events and tournaments and providing ongoing maintenance.

The agreement continues that partnership and ensures the course remains pro quality for players of any skill level.



Watershed Moment

Board Approves Big Sewickley Plan

Though the section of stream may be small, its impact can be mighty. That's why the Board of Supervisors joined other municipalities in adopting the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Area Rivers Conservation & Stewardship Plan.

A small portion of the southwest corner of the Township is located within the Watershed. The plan aims to educate the public on the watershed's natural and cultural assets, as well as threats to water quality and property due to flooding. Other areas of focus include natural resource exploration, residential and commercial development, outdated municipal codes, and other potential threats to maintaining the watershed. Supervisors noted the plan is consistent with the guidelines included in the Cranberry Plan.



Learn more about the Cranberry Plan at CranberryTownship.org/CranberryPlan

Knock Knock!

Eliminate Unwanted Visitors

Someone knocking at the door? Not if you don't want them to. Township residents may choose not to have door-to-door sales of any goods, commodities, or services at their home by registering their home on the Do Not Knock list each year. Visit CranberryTownship.org/DoNotKnock to register for the list.

Connect With Us!





SAFE AND SOUND

EMS Program Gives Peace of Mind to New Parents

Shelves of heavy vinyl records. A bar cart full of liquors, mixers and glasses. A humidor packed with assorted cigars, and a cutter and torch within reach.

These are all great things for a 30-something. Not so much for a toddler.

Obviously, I knew these things. As my wife and I prepared to welcome our first child, we decided my "man cave" would be off limits. Easy.

What we (or maybe just me) were surprised to learn, though, were the potential dangers lurking around every corner of our home.

That's where the Safe Landings Program comes in.

The program technicians are well-versed on all things safety. To be a Safe Landings Technician, one must be an EMT or paramedic, a CPR instructor, and a car seat technician.

We were excited to welcome Mandy Cousins, Cranberry EMS's Community Outreach Coordinator, into our home one

Sunday morning just before the birth of our son. We expected to review some pamphlets, go over CPR techniques and do a quick walkthrough of the house.

What we ended up getting was an in-depth crash course in child safety that no book or blog could duplicate.

With a duffle bag and CPR dummies in tow, Mandy immediately went to work pointing out safety hazards and areas in need of childproofing. She pointed out which shelves could be better secured, what access points needed gates, and which exposed outlets posed the biggest threat. She also looked at our vehicles and the nursery to find any potential hazards.

That led to a discussion about safe sleep, a concept we heard much about in childbirth classes. Having Mandy describe the potential hazards of blankets and stuffed animals in a crib and the data behind keeping an object-free sleep space was a little frightening – but also a necessary and frank discussion that we think of every time we put our son to sleep.

As a first-time father, J.W. Johnson, Content & Communications Specialist for Cranberry Township, had a lot to learn. Here is an account of his experience with Cranberry EMS' Safe Landings Program.



The bulk of the four-hour program focused on CPR certification for the smallest newborns to the oldest adults.

Using the CPR dummies, we not only learned the different techniques and methods to use depending on a subject's age, but why those various techniques are needed. Not only are we now prepared in the event our child requires immediate assistance, but we are certified to help anyone who is choking or needs CPR for two years – a nice bonus, to be sure. Up to eight family members can normally be included in the training.

Lastly, Mandy made sure we had installed our car seats correctly, and that we knew the proper way to ensure safety while driving. She left us with the invitation to swing by the EMS building for another car seat check if we ever felt it was needed.

It was a lot of information to take in, but Mandy presented it with an ease and reassurance that we would figure it all out. At least once a day, my wife and I reference something we learned in that four-hour visit and will continue to do so as we further childproof our home to keep our son safe.

Starting with my man cave.

The Safe Landings Program is available for residents in Allegheny, Butler, Beaver, and Lawrence counties, and some insurances will reimburse the cost.

For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact the EMS at 724-776-4480 x1911 or mandy.cousins@ctems51.org.



Light My Fire

STAFFING PROGRAM CATCHES ON WITH VOLUNTEERS

Walk into the Haine or Route 19 fire stations and there is a strong possibility of being greeted by the scrumptious smells of a meal cooking.

For all the apparatus, shiny fire engines and possibilities for training the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company offers prospective members, its perhaps the firehouse kitchen that serves as the best recruitment tool.

It is one of the amenities that attracts participants of the stipend program to spend their time at the stations each day, forming relationships and bonds forged by fire.

In 2020, two or more qualified volunteer firefighters were on station and available for immediate response nearly 75 percent of the time. That number increased to 90 percent in January 2021.

And while the appeal of taco night with the crew certainly helps, it's the chance to keep the community safe that draws those volunteers in – and it is paying off.

The Fire Company benefitted from more than 20,000 hours at the station last year, which helped reduce response times

considerably. The average time from dispatch to arrival on scene hovered around the coveted 9-minute mark in 2020, down from 12-14 minutes in 2019.

According to Scott Garing, Chief of Fire and Emergency Services, having people on-station significantly reduces those response times.

"On-Station staffing allows us to reduce response times because we have staff ready to roll out in about two minutes," he said.

It was a solid first year for the program, which began at the Route 19 station and recently was implemented at Haine. Having crews at the ready in separate geographic locations only stands to help lower response rates even more, Garing said.

The staffing program was a direct result of the Company's 2016 Strategic Plan, which outlined the best ways for the organization to grow and change with the needs of the Township. In addition to hiring Garing as chief and improving facilities, alternative staffing was the largest task.

Those first two elements directly helped address the staffing needs.

On-Station staffing allows us to reduce response times because we have staff ready to roll out in about two minutes.

Renovations have made the stations more attractive to potential members and have given them the ability to do their day jobs – a particularly important aspect during the COVID-19 pandemic. "If you've got a job to do, you can do your job from the fire station and run calls," said Garing.

There's also flexibility with volunteers' schedules, as members are needed around the clock. It all adds up to a new way of getting volunteers involved, with many traveling from neighboring counties to spend time in Cranberry.

While Garing acknowledged the monetary aspect of the stipend program helps, it isn't the main reason many choose to join.

"They just want to be firefighters and help the community," he said.

The nightly dinners don't hurt, either.

"It's about building a core group of people who are taking a lot of pride in the facility and the atmosphere," Garing said.

It's certainly a volunteer opportunity filled with pride, positivity, and a pepperoni pizza now and again. ☕

**COMING
IN JULY!**

The Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company set a record for training completed in 2020, but there is even more opportunity on the horizon. The fire training center will soon be upgraded at the Public Safety Training Facility, giving members the opportunity to practice skills in a realistic burn setting. Be sure to pick up the July 2021 edition of 'Cranberry Today' for more on this sizzling story!



Firefighters Awarded for Service

A busy 2020 for the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company was more than manageable thanks to the dedication of the company's dozens of volunteers.

Typically honored during an annual awards dinner, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the ceremony to take place during the organization's monthly meeting.

The Company Member of the Year award was given posthumously to Chris DeCree, who died in January.

The Company also gave an appreciation gift to recently retired Township Manager Jerry Andree for his years of support.

Steven Dancisin was given the President's Award, while Spencer Shea was awarded both Rookie of the Year and Brigade

Member of the Year. Nouhoum Cisse took home the award for most calls.

Bruce Hezlep was awarded the Chief's Award and Brigade Member of the Year.

The commitment to service and safety was on full display during the awards ceremony and will undoubtedly continue into 2021 and beyond. ☰



DeCree Remembered for BURNING PASSION

For nearly four decades, Chris DeCree dedicated his life to the mission of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company.

DeCree died January 28, 2021, leaving a significant legacy stemming from a 37-year career. He served as president of the company more than a dozen times during

his career. Since 2000, he was Company Member of the Year seven times and received the award for most calls four times. He was also given the Chief's Award twice and the President Award once. In 2010 he received a Merit Award.

Perhaps most notably, he served as the Company's Fire Safety Coordinator,

educating, and teaching important lessons to residents of all ages.

For his efforts, he was voted the 2020 Company Member of the Year – his eighth such award. Cranberry Township and its residents are a little safer thanks to DeCree's efforts, whether on the back of a fire truck or in front of a classroom. ☰

SONNI DAYS

FIREFIGHTER TRAVELS FOR CRANBERRY EXPERIENCE

Tom Sonni's first attempt to pull a 24-hour shift for the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company started with two-hour delay.

With a snowstorm clogging roads from his home in Indiana County to Cranberry, Sonni had to decide if it was worth the treacherous trip to volunteer in a community in which he didn't live.

A two-hour drive later, that decision was clear.

"It's been a great journey for me," said Sonni, who each week makes the trek to spend at least 24 hours staffing the fire station.

Firefighting, after all, is in his blood. His grandfather was a charter member of the Plumville District Volunteer Fire Department, and his father joined at the age of 15. Sonni became a junior member himself at 14 and has climbed the ranks ever since.

While the three remain active in the heavily rural Plumville district, Sonni wanted to try something different. A Facebook post from friend and longtime Cranberry member Sean Sokolowski planted the seed to give the Cranberry stipend program a try.

Each week, he wraps up his day job as a 911 dispatcher in Indiana County and makes the 68-mile drive to Cranberry. He has been doing it for more than a year, and though he has only responded to three fire calls, the experience has been more than worth it.



"Fighting fires isn't why I come here," he said. "It's a big deal to come and learn."

That includes access to the training facilities and courses that Cranberry offers. Sonni recently completed his Fire Instructor 1 certification – something he hadn't considered prior to joining. He's also been able to take lessons learned back to his home department, including the organization techniques that keep Cranberry running smoothly.

It is also about the family atmosphere and relationships that have formed. Sonni and Sokolowski schedule their shifts together, leading to a bond that only helps when the alarm rings.

"We learn a lot about each other by being together all the time, and things

just click," he said. "I know that everyone understands what they need to do, and I have confidence in them."

He also appreciates the support of the Cranberry community.

"It's so heartwarming to see how supportive they are of us," he said.

Sonni, who is expecting a child this summer, hopes he can pass on his knowledge and passion of firefighting to a fourth generation.

"Seeing the dedication of my father and grandfather and what they've gotten out of being involved in the fire department – is special," he said. "I'm so glad to continue that in Cranberry." And even if he lives some 60 miles away. 



No Need for Speed

SLOW DOWN CAMPAIGN **Speeding Up**

What's the rush?

While the race to the official start of summer is speeding up, Township officials want to make sure vehicle speeds stay low to keep residential neighborhoods safe.

The Slow Down Campaign returns after a hiatus in 2020 but is back in full force this year. The movement inspired by the national "Keep Kids Alive Drive 25" program is designed to raise awareness of speeding on residential roads.

Using radar speed signs, hundreds of yard signs will be placed throughout

various neighborhoods, as well as an increased police presence from the Cranberry Township Police Department, this year's summer campaign is set for June 4-21, coinciding with the end of the Seneca Valley School District academic year.

The radar signs are moved every day to different neighborhoods, and the data gathered is used as the basis for making changes to the program or stepping up awareness of the initiative.

According to Police Chief Kevin Meyer, the campaign is more important than ever as residents spend more time

outdoors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It takes everyone to make sure our neighborhoods and residents stay safe," he said. "If we can draw awareness and make people think about their speed, the campaign is successful."

The program is funded through local business sponsorships and the Cranberry Township Community Chest. New neighborhoods are always welcome to join in the campaign. Find more information on our website at: CranberryTownship.org/SlowDown. So please slow down! 



Nothing Bundt Cakes

These "bundts" are a real home run.

Nothing Bundt Cakes, located in the Cranberry Shoppes, 20215 Route 19, Suite 106, specializes in made-to-order cakes baked in house with 40 unique designs, 10 flavors and 4 sizes.

The Cranberry location is operated by Jessica and Felipe Valdez and has served as a homecoming of sorts for Jessica, a Harmony native.

"This is part of the homecoming that Jessica and I have been building for years," Felipe said. "We are excited about raising our daughters in this wholesome environment and creating a legacy for them."

How did the idea to open this location come about?

We first tried Nothing Bundt Cakes in 2014 when we lived in Illinois. We immediately fell in love with the cakes because they were just so good. Our love for the cakes and our desire to open a business

for ourselves led to opening the store in Cranberry - it was many years in the making.

What do you offer that's unique in Cranberry Township?

We offer high-quality cakes with trademarked frosting designs at an affordable price. Beyond the uniqueness of the flavor and size combinations, there are packaging and decoration options well-matched for just about any celebration imaginable. We also offer comfort and convenience with our curbside and delivery options.

What has the reaction been since opening?

People say it smells good! Customers are super excited to try our cakes for the first time. We have seen countless repeat customers who love the cakes and will become life-long patrons. People are surprised and delighted when they learn about the many decoration and gift giving

Q & A with Felipe Valdez

options we have, plus how quickly we fulfill customized orders. They also love the friendly and inviting store environment – and how could it not be friendly and inviting – we make and sell cakes all day!

What types of events and celebrations can cakes be created for? How much lead time is needed to place an order for an event?

We have selections for just about any private or public celebration. It could be birthdays, holidays, promotions, workdays, retirements, "just because", and so much more. We have many cakes on-hand for immediate purchase, and same-day custom orders can usually be ready in 20 minutes. For a large order, we ask for at least a day in advance.

Nothing Bundt Cakes is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

Visit nothingbundtcakes.com/bakery/pa/cranberry-township for more information. ☎





Don't Be Chicken



For more information, visit hotchikn.com.

NEW RESTAURANT OFFERS SPICY FOWL FAVORITE

The weather isn't the only thing heating up in Cranberry.

A new restaurant is bringing the heat with their twist on a southern favorite.

CHiKN opened its doors at 20018 Route 19 just south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in January. Since then, there hasn't been a slow day, according to Nick Pagano, Marketing Manager for Mero Restaurant Group.

Part of that success was due to the success of other CHiKN locations, as well as social media hype in the buildup to the grand opening. The first location in Oakland has become a staple for University of Pittsburgh students, and Pagano said word of mouth – both in person and online – helped build a demand.

Using sister restaurant Stack'd, CHiKN pop-ups flew into Wexford and Hampton last year, with the spicy chicken continuing to be a customer favorite. The Cranberry location continued that trend, as Pagano said there are already several regulars who frequently return

for a chicken fix.

So what is it about the chicken?

In the style of Nashville staples like Hattie B's Hot Chicken, CHiKN offers a sandwich, tenders or nuggets tossed in levels of heat: mild, medium, hot and "damn hot," which the menu boasts as "insane." For those feeling less adventurous, CHiKN also offers a southern, no heat style sauce, as well a plethora of delicious sides like crinkle cut fries, homemade mac n cheese, coleslaw, fruit, and waffles.

Pagano said more than a year was spent developing recipes and cooking methods to deliver a unique, authentic product.

With a successful opening under its belt, Pagano said warmer weather will allow CHiKN to expand outdoor patio dining. Additionally, CHiKN offers catering for events or office lunches.

It promises to be a hot summer in the Township for CHiKN, and the delicious chatter certainly looks to continue... Cluck Cluck Cluck. ☺

In Living Color:

Atria Offers SAFETY AND ENDLESS AMENITIES to Senior Residents



Retirement is a time for relaxation, and a new senior living community in Cranberry has everything to help the golden years feel a little more golden.

In fact, residents at Atria Cranberry Woods have most everything they need under one roof – an even more important aspect of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The four-story, more than 226,000-square-foot community, located off Route 228, features 183 apartments. Of those, 96 are for independent living, 57 for supportive living and 30 in a dedicated “memory care neighborhood” for residents with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia.

All apartments are equipped with a full kitchen or kitchenette, and feature walk-in closets, bonus rooms and balconies.

But the amenities don’t stop in a resident’s room.

The building features an indoor heated pool, two movie theaters, salon and spa, art studio and a fitness center. Residents are also offered garage parking,

housekeeping service, concierge service and scheduled transportation.

Outdoor, the facility features a grill and courtyard with a putting green and fire pit. Residents also enjoy chef-prepared meals at several dining venues including a restaurant with full table service, bistro and café. Residents are also a short walk to several businesses in the Cranberry Woods area.

The community also encourages residents to continue learning and growing through the Engage Life program. Programs include continued education, fitness, and other personal growth topics.

Since opening earlier this year, Atria Cranberry Woods has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic to keep residents safe.

New residents and employees must receive a negative COVID-19 test result prior to their move-in or start date. After move-in, new residents are tested again and supported by staff wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

Residents are offered continued testing, strict safety protocols, expanded telehealth and opportunities to connect safely with other residents and family. In January and February, COVID-19 vaccine clinics were held, with all residents eligible to receive the doses.

Moving forward, socially distanced events such as small group dining, scenic drives and drive-up/patio visits from family and friends are planned.

“We are thrilled to open Atria at Cranberry Woods, and our employees are wholly focused on creating optimal resident experiences through quality service,” said Kevin Ronk, Senior Vice President at Atria Senior Living. “We know what’s most important for the well-being of older adults is a living environment that offers safety, support, social interaction and opportunities to stay healthier and happier longer.”

Atria Cranberry Woods is Atria’s sixth community in Pennsylvania and third in the Pittsburgh area.

Visit AtriaCranberryWoods.com for more information. 

MSA SAFETY

Keeps Frontline Workers Safe and Sound

For more than 100 years, MSA has been in the business of keeping people safe.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, they shifted their focus to ensuring workers and volunteers on the front line had necessary protection.

A global manufacturer of safety equipment for mining, construction, energy, and other industries, MSA saw the need in the community for personal protective equipment. Eager to help, the solution was already available.

MSA began repurposing elastomeric half-mask respirators for use in medical facilities. The masks are tight-fitting respirators made of synthetic or rubber material and are designed to be repeatedly disinfected, cleaned, and reused. At the onset of the pandemic, demand for the masks was high as they completely cover the mouth and nose.

The masks helped fill the void as standard N95 masks became increasingly sparse. MSA also donated a supply to medical workers, as well as full-face air purifying respirators. After proving successful in local medical facilities, MSA began sending masks to other parts of the United States. The total number of masks numbers in the thousands, including hundreds to COVID Courage, a New York City based non-profit that aims to equip medical professionals with PPE.

The pandemic also gave MSA even more incentive to get creative and find new ways of keeping workers safe. In November, the company's Advantage 290 LS Air-Purifying Respirator received approval from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The first of its kind, the respirator is designed without an exhalation valve and uses twin filters to provide extra protection.

"With the Advantage 290 model, our team went a step further and developed a respirator that has the potential to be an even more appealing option – today and down the road – for healthcare systems everywhere as they assess plans for the future and their own pandemic preparedness," said Greg Martin, MSA Vice President of Product Strategy and Development.

It's one more step in MSA's commitment to safety, regardless of their profession.

"Protecting the health and safety of workers around the world has never been more important or more relevant than it is today, and our team remains committed to advancing our mission," said Nish Vartanian, MSA Chairman, President and CEO.

And all from the confines of Cranberry Township. 



Chick-fil-A Drive-Thru Gets New Traffic Pattern

Having trouble crossing the road to get chicken?

A new traffic pattern at the Cranberry Chick-fil-A off Route 228 will help alleviate traffic gridlock in the drive-thru line and curbside pickup.

Please be mindful of customers visiting other businesses in the immediate area, including Smokey Bones Bar and Fire Grill, DiBella's Subs, Supercuts, T-Mobile, Massage Envy, Olive Garden, and Patron Mexican Grill.

See the new pattern here:
www.cfarestaurant.com/cranberry



Renewal By Anderson
230 Executive Drive, Suite 180

Camp Bow Wow
41 Progress Avenue

Donor CX
51 Dutilh Road, Suite 340

Club Leaf & Bean
10020 Pendleton Way, Suite 102

Lux Glam Bar
2618 Rochester Road

Welcome Home Finance
1341 Freedom Road

Liberty Dispensary
900 Commonwealth Drive,
Suite 500

Bartram House Bakery
2075 Mackenzie Way

Beyond Parallel Strength & Fitness
9021 Marshall Road, Suite 400

The Exquisite Fit
20421 Route 19, Suite 105

Ozdinec & Witzel
20399 Route 19, Suite 206

Pennenergy Resources
600 Cranberry Woods Drive,
Suite 250

SF Sales
502 Thomson Park Drive

Sheetz Charging Station
1329 Freedom Road

Empire Telecom
17 Leonberg Road, Suite 100

Cranberry Dental Arts
20215 Route 19, Suite 100

Larson Design Group
3000 Westinghouse Drive,
Suite 400

CHiKN
20018 Route 19, Suite 100

Western & Southern Life
600 Cranberry Woods Drive,
Suite 225



Expansion of Business Park Finally Proceeds

The legendary Tom Petty once said that the waiting is the hardest part.

At Cranberry Business Park, the wait to build additional office space and a distribution warehouse took six years. Though the conditional use was at one time granted by the Board of Supervisors, that approval expired.

The project will now move forward – with slight alternations – after the Board of Supervisors again granted preliminary and final land development and conditional use following a public hearing.

The two-phase, two-building project consists of 107,800 square feet of offices and the distribution warehouse on 14 acres. The larger of the two buildings consisting of the warehouse could break ground in 2021.

With the conditional use approval, the project will also bring a significant stretch of new sidewalk along W. Kensinger onto Unionville Road, paid for by the developer. That connection strengthens pedestrian access in the area, officials said.



Hospitality Grants Available to Businesses

Businesses impacted by COVID-19 in Butler County and across the Commonwealth can receive a new round of funding aimed at supporting the hospitality industry.

The COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program will distribute \$145 million in funding to all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. According to Gov. Tom Wolf, funding will be given in the form of block grants to each county based on population.

Each county will administer the funding through one or more designated Certified Economic Development Organization or Community Development Financial Institution, which will then process applications from businesses.

Applications will be accepted starting March 15, and complete program guidelines are available on the Department of Community and Economic Developments website.

For more information on the program and how to apply, visit dced.pa.gov/programs/covid-19-hospitality-industry-recovery-program-chirp

IN CRANBERRY!



At Home with **BILL SHANER**

A Recognizable Member of Cranberry's Community

Bill Shaner is a familiar face to many in Cranberry.

He's been involved with several organizations and causes and has become a recognizable face at Board of Supervisors meetings and Manager's Coffee events.

That 50-year love for Cranberry comes back to one thing.

"I care about people, and I care about this community," he said.

Shaner had been commuting from Shaler to his job as a banker in Rochester, Beaver County – a commute that took him through Cranberry. Shaner and his wife of 53 years, Florence, subsequently moved to Cranberry in 1970, and raised two daughters, Rhonda, and Lisa.

Both daughters became involved in softball, and Bill was at every game,

admittedly "yelling and screaming and complaining." Florence quickly put a stop to that.

"She said you have no right to complain while you're just watching," he remembers with a laugh.

Bill became a manager for his daughters' teams and continued his involvement as an umpire as they moved on to Seneca Valley High School. Eventually he was asked to become president of the Cranberry Athletic Association, a position he held for three years. He said when other volunteers asked him to take over the role, they had a simple explanation for why.

"They said 'you seem like you care,'" Shaner recalls. And that he did.

He served as chairman on the Parks and Recreation Board and helped coordinate events such as Community Days, which he notes has since blossomed into an amazing display of community spirit.

After retiring and seeing his daughters grow up and leave the nest, Shaner took

a break from being involved. That was until 2016, when he and Florence were attending CranFest. There, he met Bill McDaniels of the Cranberry 55 Plus club. They were asked to join on the spot.

The Shaners spent a year in the audience at those meetings, enjoying the camaraderie. He told leadership they had done an outstanding job creating a place to socialization. When a new president was needed just a year later, Shaner was on the short list. He has served in that role ever since.

Under his watch, the club has grown from about 60 participants to more than 120, and new events and trips have been added. But Shaner is quick to point out it's not his involvement that has made the group a success.

Through it all, Shaner cherishes the relationships he has gained more than anything.

"I've been able to meet people I never would have met, and formed friendships that last a lifetime," he said. 

DRIVING OVER 55

Group Celebrating 50th Anniversary



They may be celebrating their golden anniversary, but there's still a lot of drive for these 55s.

In fact, the Cranberry 55+ Club has been one of the most active groups in the Township during its 50-year history – and members do not plan to slow down anytime soon.

Formed in 1970 by Hazel Gant, the goal was to help members of the community meet new neighbors and form friendships. It has blossomed into a group of more than 100 members. Some members, including charter members Bob and Hazel Haefner, Connie Scherich and Beatrice Mashuda still take part.

The goal, according to Bill Shaner, the Club's president, is to form friendships with new members of the community. Those friendships are forged over lunch during monthly meetings, as well as trips to regional destinations in Pennsylvania,

Ohio, and West Virginia.

But the club isn't just about socializing, as Shaner notes members have held many drives and initiatives to help the community at large. That includes gathering supplies for veterans, as well as collecting donations for local food banks. Members have also helped raise funds toward the Cranberry Township Community Chest for the Jerry Andree Endowment.

"We try to do things to benefit others," Shaner said.

Over the past year, events and drives have been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. With a membership that falls heavily in the at-risk category, in-person meetings and events have been canceled.

It also forced club members to adapt how they keep in touch. While a few socially distanced meetups were held outside last

fall, most conversations and engagement take part via telephone.

As weather warms, Shaner said there are tentative plans to hold the yearly picnic at a safe, distanced outdoor location later this summer. He also hopes as the pandemic eases more of Cranberry's 55 and older community – about 25 percent of the total population – become involved.

"We have a lot of fun, and it's chance to stay active and involved in the community," he said.

Get Involved. Though temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, the Cranberry Township 55+ Club normally meets at 1 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month in Council Chambers, 2525 Rochester Road. Membership is limited to Cranberry Township residents 55 and older. For more information, contact Bill Shaner at 724-766-1300. 

GOLF LESSONS & clinics

The PGA golf pros of Cranberry Highlands want to help you stay on course by improving your basic swing techniques, chipping, putting, bunker play, etc...

CranberryHighlands.com/GolfLessons





That's Amore! Meals Made with Love

When the moon hits your eye like a big lasagna pie, that's amore!

All thanks to Cranberry resident, Chris Kachmar, who is the regional volunteer coordinator for Lasagna Love – a national non-profit that provides homemade meals to residents in need.

Lasagna Love started in California at the beginning of the pandemic, when Rhianon Menn, the founder of Good to Mama, was looking for ways to help moms in her community. She started cooking and delivering meals to neighbors who were struggling, whether physically, emotionally, or financially.

Lasagna Love has since grown into a national non-profit movement and has dutifully arrived in Cranberry Township. The movement fits perfectly within the makeup of the Township as their missions are similar in strengthening communities. Kachmar knows there are

people in need in the area, but she just has to find them.

"Often times we have no idea if our neighbors are fine, so I wanted to bring this program to my hometown and help those in need," said Kachmar.

Kachmar is one of more than 10,000 volunteers nationwide who bake lasagna for delivery.

Lasagna Love is about spreading kindness and love to neighbors during tough times, and Kachmar is all in to assist.

"Volunteering comes naturally to me. The rewards of volunteering for my community far outweigh the efforts. I have always felt blessed, so helping others who are having a hard time just seems like the right thing to do," she said.

Some of the regional volunteers have reported that their lasagna was the first meal the person had in two or three

days. A hot, homemade meal, delivered to a home free of charge, can have a wonderful impact.

One of the biggest challenges Kachmar faces while being involved in Lasagna Love is identifying residents in need. "I'm finding a lot of folks either don't know we are here in Cranberry, or who don't want to bother anyone and call," she said, adding she and her army of volunteers can travel up to 20 miles to make a delivery.

Kachmar's husband, Nick, who is a seasonal employee at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, is in awe of his wife's efforts. "She is an inspiration of hope for many people, plus she's a fabulous cook that many people will now get to enjoy her meals," he said.

Admittedly, Nick gets many lasagna leftovers but never tires of his wife's delicious homemade Italian food.

Now, that's amore! ☺

Kindness Recipe

Want to provide kindness or need some kindness in your life?

- To receive homemade lasagna:
Visit lasagnalove.org/request
- To volunteer to bake lasagna
Visit lasagnalove.org/lasagnamama



Look, our Doors are Open ... Again!

Library Reopens

After hibernating for the winter, the Cranberry Public Library re-opened

its doors to the public in February with extra sanitation procedures in place.



To ensure the health and safety of library users and staff, the Library is following guidelines and recommendations from a variety of trusted sources, including the Center for Disease Control and the PA Department of Health.

That includes the wearing of masks and maintained social distancing. But it also includes a strict cleaning regimen by Library staff. Returned books are placed in quarantine before being

put back in rotation, and all surfaces and computers are frequently sanitized. Access to computers is limited to 45 minutes, per person, per day on a first come, first served basis.

The goal of re-opening is to get books, movies, and music safely from checkout to enjoyment. The popular Grab-n-Go contactless pickup also continues.

Programs and story times remain virtual, and all other in-person library services maintain suspension status, including use of meeting rooms and study tables.

The Library is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 1-7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. It will remain closed on Sunday. 

PARKS PREPPED AND PRISTINE FOR BUSY YEAR AHEAD



With fresh air and sunshine in demand, Cranberry's parks were busier than ever in 2020.

It's a trend that promises to continue in 2021, and the Township's Public Works grounds crews have spent the winter making sure every park, trail and field is ready for use.

According to Kelly Maurer, Director of Public Works Operations, crews spent the winter prepping equipment and gathering mulch and fertilizer. They've also been planning projects and were ready to hit the ground running once the weather broke.

At the top of the agenda was putting the finishing touches on the Rotary

Amphitheater in Community Park. With renovations completed, crews work to finish grading the area and the parking lot in preparation for a June 1 opening.

Further down the road in Community Park, crews also began prep work for the expansion of the Rotary Dog Park, which is expected to begin later this summer.

That's in addition to the annual park reopening procedures. Drew Fredericks, Manager of Grounds Maintenance, said that includes opening restrooms and concession buildings in addition to preparing the grounds for use.

Seasonal employees started that process in March, and while a wet winter will cause

some areas to take a bit longer to dry, the Grounds crew is playing with an advantage.

"We have eight seasonal employees returning to work in the parks in 2021," Fredericks said. "Having staff with experience allows us to transition into the spring park opening more efficiently."

The months of hard work will pay off as warmer weather returns and residents flood the parks. But, as Maurer noted, that hard work also ensured the parks were usable even in the winter months. "Our parks haven't stopped being busy since last spring," she said. "We anticipate another busy year, and we are ready." 



CADN Planning NEW, OLD EVENTS

Spring 2020 was a little less colorful in several ways, none more obvious than the cancellation of the popular CranFest at the Municipal Center.

And while the COVID-19 pandemic and gathering restrictions will again stop the celebration from occurring in April, members of the Cranberry Area Diversity Network are adapting to ensure the Township's diversity and initiatives are once again celebrated.

The 2021 edition of CranFest is tentatively scheduled for June 10 at the Rotary Amphitheater at Community Park. The open space will allow for social distancing to occur as guests enjoy the international flavors from authentic food trucks. The Amphitheater stage – set to re-open after a year of renovations – will welcome music and dance performances representing the various Cranberry cultures.

More information will be announced in the coming weeks.

In the interim, CADN is bringing the flavor of CranFest to home across the Township with a series of virtual events. Titled "Cuisine, Culture and Conversation," the events began in March, with two more scheduled for April 8 and 22.

CADN will virtually take participants into their neighbor's homes to learn how they make their favorite dishes, and to discuss the origins of the foods and cultures surrounding them.

On the weeks without a Cuisine experience, CADN hosts a virtual speaker series from 6:30-7:30 that started in March and continues into April.

On April 13, Rosita Valenzuela will talk about "Community, then Resiliency" as the ingredients needed for a positive immigrant experience. On April 27, Diana Hoffmaster will present, "Trials of a First-Generation Immigrant."

For more information or to participate in these events, visit cranberrydiversity.org, email cadn@cranberrydiversity.org, or visit the Cranberry Area Diversity Network Facebook page.

CRANBERRY HIGHLANDS HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Last year, Cranberry Highlands Golf Course set a new baseline record for players hitting the links.

In 2021, staff are hoping to shoot under par while providing even more opportunities for golfers of all ages.

According to Jesse Horner, Director of Golf Operations, planning for the 2021 season began as soon as the record-setting 2020 wrapped up. That included outlining bunker renovation and maintenance projects and prepping certain parts of the course.

A wet winter saturated the grounds, but the skilled grounds crew were able to get the greens into shape to open in March.

While the COVID-19 pandemic delayed opening in 2020 and required Horner and his staff to adapt, a summer's worth of following protocols paid off in helping

to open on time.

"Everything worked out very well last year, and the customers really helped us keep it safe," he said.

That includes sanitizing of carts and other touch points and using the starter hut as a check-in facility. Horner said even when things get back to normal, several protocols will likely stay in place to give both staff and guests peace of mind that they are playing at a safe course. "It's part of our process now," he said.

Rates for 2021 also remained steady, Horner added. Additionally, the Pro Shop continues to feature sales and a revamped product selection to help new and seasoned golfers get into the swing of things.

To review course protocols and book a tee time, visit CranberryHighlands.com



They are the **CHAMPIONS**

PARKS VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR SERVICE



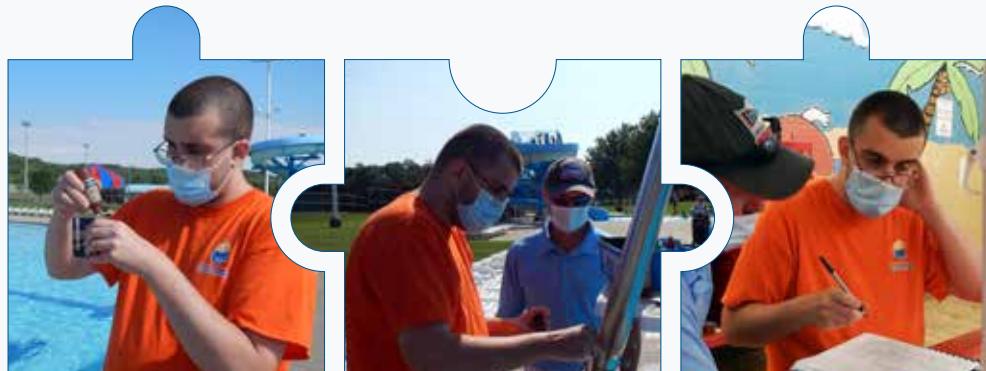
Even the greatest athletes in history had to learn the basics.

In Cranberry Township, there are dozens of dedicated volunteers who work each day to ensure that opportunity exists for the next generation of athletes.

Four of those individuals who have dedicated themselves to promoting youth sports and bettering their community have been selected as Cranberry Parks & Recreation Volunteers of the Year for 2020.

Winners include Lynsey Johnson (Youth Athletic Volunteer of the Year); Bill Kearney (Youth Basketball Volunteer of the Year); Matt Marcotte (Seneca Valley Soccer Association Volunteer of the Year); and Brenton Niebauer (DekHockey Volunteer of the Year).

The recipients were honored virtually for their decades of service to the youth of Cranberry. 



Township Continues work with Autism Employment Network

While 21 is typically a time of celebration in one's life, it's also a critical time of growth and newly acquired independence.

For individuals with autism, that milestone is a complicated one, as programs aimed at helping them navigate daily life end. As Brian Kluchurosky, Executive Vice President, Autism Services for Progress City LLC puts it, it's an "abrupt cliff" that can undo progress those individuals have made.

Through a partnership with the Autism Employment Network and Progress City, Cranberry Township is working to give a softer landing for adults with autism.

The partnership with Progress City LLC includes training and education for Township staff, including autism awareness and techniques for workplace inclusion. That includes debunking stigma and preconceived notions individuals have about autism.

The Township employed an individual with autism at the Waterpark in 2020. After a successful summer, officials are seeking additional positions to offer similar opportunities in 2021 and beyond.

According to Kluchurosky, the goal is to match jobs with skill sets while also helping participants develop new skills along the way. Weekly check-ins are maintained to ensure the program is running smoothly.

Kluchurosky met with Waterpark staff to

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

discuss how to best work with the individual, including how to give feedback or assistance. No additional accommodations were needed – simply a willingness to communicate, which the staff embraced. It led to a successful summer.

"This work experience provides great confidence and puts our adults onto a pathway of understanding that independence is possible," Kluchurosky said.

It was a success for Township employees as well. According to Valerie Murphy, Recreation Program Coordinator, the partnership led to an exciting summer, from the non-traditional interview process to day-to-day interactions. The employee will be returning to the Waterpark this summer, she noted.

Kluchurosky noted that Cranberry is an "innovator" for the program, serving as the first municipality to recognize the need and implement the program piece by piece. 

DIVE IN!



SENECA VALLEY AQUATIC CENTER **MAKES WAVES**

It took no time for the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center to make a splash.

It took no time for the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center to make a splash.

The new Center opened in February with an official ribbon cutting by the members

of the Seneca Valley School Board and Administration.

The brief and socially distanced event was met with cheers from the Seneca Valley Swimming & Diving Team and a representative group of parents. Students followed up the SVAC opening with an official first meet in the venue against Butler.

The SVAC grand opening signals the closing of the District's 56-year-old Seneca Valley Natatorium, which will be converted

into a multipurpose gymnasium.

Next up? The unveiling of a mosaic design that, when finished, will grace the lobby of the new aquatic facility. The mural is a collaboration of art teachers and students, grades 7-12, and led by local artist Elizabeth Klevens. The 8' x 16' mural will be made into a grid design and will feature harvested tile from the original pool.

Visit www.svsd.net/AquaticCenter to learn more. 

Photos by Bill Paterson

May is Bike Safety Month, Cranberry!

Be Prepared! Ride Safe, Ride Smart!

Always wear a helmet - even in your neighborhood

Ensure that brakes, gears, and tires work properly

Make eye contact with motorists to ensure drivers are watching

Obey traffic signals and signage

When entering an intersection, stop, look left, right, then left again

Make sure you have reflectors and lights if riding at dusk or dark



Information courtesy of the NHTSA

CRANBERRY
TOWNSHIP



KIND OF A BIG DILL



Cranberry to Host Regional Pickleball Tournament

Visit Graham Park on a sunny day, and there's no doubt that Cranberry Township is a hotbed for pickleball.

Now, the pickleball world is taking notice.

The Cranberry Township Pickleball Association will host the Mid-Atlantic Pickleball Tournament at the Graham Park Courts from June 4-6. Hundreds of players from the five-state region will travel to Cranberry for a chance to earn an automatic bid to the National Tournament in California later in 2021.

According to Bruce Mazzoni, CTPA Administrator, Cranberry was chosen because it is the largest club in the region, with players competing at the largest dedicated pickleball complex in the state.

That isn't by accident.

As the fourth outdoor season approaches, CTPA has a record 640 members,

which necessitated an expansion of the Graham Park complex to 13 courts. The cost to install and maintain the courts is 100 percent paid for by memberships, allowing the club to grow as demand increases.

So why, exactly, does interest in pickleball continue to grow? Mazzoni said the ease of access to the sport plays a crucial role.

"People attend golf and tennis major events where 0.1 percent of the best professional players play and 99.9 percent watch," he said. "At the pickleball U.S. Open at Naples, Fla. this April, and our June tournament, 99.9 percent of the people there will be playing - not only the 0.1 percent of the best players."

That includes age groups from 13 to 90, all at various skill levels. Even at a national tournament, anyone at any skill level can play.

"You are not an observer - you are in the action of the game by playing it," Mazzoni said.

The atmosphere created by CTPA and its members has also helped grow the

game locally, Mazzoni said. The courts are a judgment free zone, and all skill levels are welcomed. Players are graded and matched with opponents of equal skill levels, reducing the frustration that could come with being outclassed in a game. There are also "just for fun" games for those looking to simply enjoy friendly competition.

The heart of the association, Mazzoni said, is the scheduling software, that allows players to schedule play to the type of game, day and time that suits their schedule. It not only guarantees a spot, but also ensures the courts don't become overcrowded.

CTPA is always welcoming new members and has the tools and programs to turn a beginner into the next tournament winner. In fact, more than 500 players have learned the game through a CTPA PB-1 Beginners clinics, available monthly through the Parks & Recreation Department.

To get involved or for more information go to CTPAPickleball.com

Let the Fun Begin!



•CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP•
PARKS & RECREATION

SPECIAL SPRING 2021 RECREATION GUIDE

Safe summer fun is just around the corner as the Cranberry Township Parks & Recreation Department gears up for a busy season. After a full year of managing the COVID-19 pandemic, programs and offerings have all been adapted to keep the safety of participants in mind. Updated programs, dates and times can be found on the Parks & Recreation website at Cranberry4Fun.com



•CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP•

CAMP CRANBERRY

A Parks & Recreation Program



Enrollment is now open for Camp Cranberry, the Township's popular summer program. Camp is set to run June 7 through August 20, with each week focused on a theme designed to challenge, entertain, and inspire.

The programs focus on developing physical, social, and decision-making skills, promoting self-confidence, and - most importantly - having plenty of fun. Camps are split into four groups: Mini Movers, Little Achievers, Youth Camp, and Future Leaders.

Weekly themes for young campers include focuses on outer space, dinosaurs, animals, science, and storybook classics. Older campers will learn about their natural surroundings, how to express themselves creatively, and inventing games and activities.

Safety is Camp Cranberry's top priority, with counselors trained in American Red Cross CPR, AED, and First Aid as well as the use of Epi-Pens. During trips to the Township Waterpark, American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards ensure safety. COVID-19 procedures are also in place.

Full-day camp runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., while half-day programs for Mini Movers and Little Achievers from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Extended care options are available. A fresh bagged lunch is also offered for an additional fee.

For more information, visit Cranberry4FUN.com/CampCranberry.

CRANBERRY COMMUNITY FITNESS

\$5 PER CLASS!

Limited Time Offer, No Membership!

10 CLASS PASS: \$40

Cranberry4Fun.com/GroupFitness

LEARN TO PLAY PICKLEBALL!

CTPA PB-1 Beginners
Rules & basic skills, plus
\$30 membership credit
April 18 * May 23 * June 20
July 18 * Aug 15

CTPA Fast Track Clinics: May 16 * June 13
Four hour intensive clinic, plus 2021 membership
CTPAPickleball.com



SUMMER DEK HOCKEY

There's no ice needed as the puck drops on the Summer Dek Hockey program. Leagues are forming for children ages 4-15. Learn the skills and basics of hockey without the extra challenge of hitting the ice. It's sure to be a hit!



TENNIS

Cranberry's Tennis program is serving up lessons and matches that are fun for all ages. Lead by Coach Erik Grove, the programs are offered throughout the summer for children ages 5-18. Get into the swing of things and learn a sport that can be played for a lifetime!



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Why should kids have all the fun? The Women's Volleyball League is open to adults of all ages. The league will feature high school rules and women's height nets, and is open to teams of 4 or 6 women. Schedules will be emailed out to captains, and the season will conclude with playoffs. Registration is a team fee.



Before & After School Program
Cranberry4FUN.com/KidsClub
A Parks & Recreation Program

Cranberry4FUN.com/Programs



SWIM LESSONS

Lesson offerings include group lessons, Saturday lessons, preschool aquatics and parent and child aquatics. COVID-19 protocols based on CDC and Red Cross recommendations will be in place. Private lessons are also available. The lessons are an extension of the Township's Stand Up to Drowning Campaign, which aims to educate swimmers on proper safety and limit potential hazards. More information: Cranberry4FUN.com/SwimLessons



FIELD HOCKEY

Come join the official launch of the inaugural Field Hockey program for boys and girls. No experience is required to join this action packed, fun-filled time. The program is open to ages 5-13. Cranberry's program has been awarded a grant from USA Field Hockey, giving field hockey sticks and balls for use during the program.



LOADING Summer
PLEASE WAIT...

Cranberry Waterpark Opens May 29!

WATERPARK DAILY ADMISSION
Hours: 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION
* Resident- \$9 * Non-Resident- \$14

CHILDREN: 2-12
* Resident- \$8 * Non-Resident- \$12

CHILDREN UNDER 2 FREE

55+ SENIOR
* Resident- \$8 * Non-Resident- \$12

TWILIGHT RATES (AFTER 6 PM)
* Resident- \$6 * Non-Resident- \$8

NIGHT SWIMS
* Member- Free * Non-Members- \$3

DECK RENTAL
* Member- \$35 * Non-Members- \$50

Cash and major credit cards are accepted for admission, and at the concession stand.

Cool Days - Pool Days! \$6.00 Admission - If the forecasted high does not reach 75° in Cranberry, according to Weather.com

Rent the Waterpark for your special event - Call Parks & Recreation, Ph: 724-779-4386 x 1129.

COVID GUIDELINES FOLLOWED

450 North Boundary Park Dr | Cranberry Twp | 16066

Resident Membership Rates		
	Jan 1- Mar 31	Regular Season
Individual	\$84	\$105
Family of 2 *	\$136	\$170
Family of 3 *	\$184	\$230
Family of 4 *	\$228	\$285
Family of 5 or more *	\$268	\$335
Nanny (w/ Family Membership)	\$85	\$85
Senior (55+) Individual	\$68	\$85
Senior (55+) Family of 2	\$124	\$155

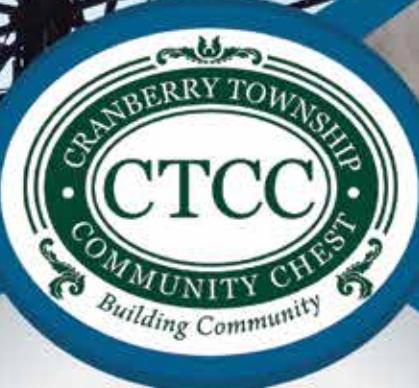
Non-Resident Membership Rates		
	Jan 1- Mar 31	Regular Season
Individual	\$105	\$131
Family of 2 *	\$170	\$213
Family of 3 *	\$230	\$288
Family of 4 *	\$286	\$357
Family of 5 or more *	\$335	\$419
Nanny (w/ Family Membership)	\$110	\$110
Senior (55+) Individual	\$92	\$115
Senior (55+) Family of 2	\$148	\$185

*For membership pass purposes, a FAMILY is identified as parent(s) and any unmarried children ages 22 and under who are residing in the same household. Children who are 22 and over living at home and any other relative or individuals in the household may be subject to proof of residency.



PRESCHOOL

The Cranberry Early Learning Center takes great pride in laying the educational groundwork for children to reach their fullest potential. With curriculum geared toward ages 3-5, students are prepared for success through a wide variety of learning styles to meet each child's individual need. The goal is to teach children to become independent, self-confident, curious learners who can work well with each other. Professionally trained instructors teach students how to learn, not just in preschool, but all through their lives. This is done by creating purposeful, productive play experiences. The learning environment through educational field trips and taking full advantage of our in-house amenities such as the gymnasium and library. For full program information, visit Cranberry4FUN.com/Preschool.



Working Together to Build a Better Community

Cranberry Township Community Chest

ABOUT US

CTCC is committed to improving the community each day by connecting residents to non-profit resources and funding community events and projects.

ADVERTISE

Located at the intersection of Routes 19 and 228, the Community Sign is a digital resource for non-profits, civic groups, and faith-based organizations to promote fundraising, events, and activities.

VOLUNTEER

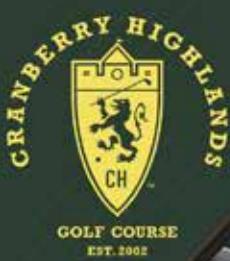
We are always seeking hardworking and passionate community members to get involved and help us positively impact the lives of others. Visit us online today!

For recent updates, event information, and volunteer opportunities visit yourCTCC.org

COMMUNITY

This summer, we will safely continue the tradition of gathering with family and friends at Community Park for the annual Community Days celebration scheduled for July 8-10, 2021.





"Think Spring" Blowout

Everything is priced to sell with huge discounts on all in-stock merchandise.

Also, renew your GHIN or purchase gift cards online!

Don't forget to schedule your golf outing!

CranberryHighlands.com/ProShop

Opening Soon...

Cranberry Township Farmers Market

Friday, June 4, 2021
Starting at 3:00 p.m.
Municipal Center



To reserve a vendor booth space, please visit
CranberryTownship.org/FarmersMarket
Spaces are limited!

Market will adhere to all current state mandates of sanitation, social distancing and masks.

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

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POSTAL PATRON
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066



COMING JULY 8-10
YOURCTCC.ORG/COMMUNITYDAYS