

# Cranberry **TODAY**

WINTER 2022



## THE FOUNDATION

 **COMMUNITY UPDATES**



**CRANBERRY**  
TOWNSHIP



## Pool Days & *Summer* Rays at the Waterpark

Buy a 2022 Membership  
before prices increase on April 1,  
and take advantage of the  
residential discount!



[CranberryTownship.org/Waterpark](http://CranberryTownship.org/Waterpark)

*Save  
the  
date*

## CRANFEST

@ the Municipal Center

May 7  
11am - 3pm



- Food booths
- Unique vendors
- Music & dance performances

Cultural & informational booths



Interested in having a booth, performing, or for more info, email [CADN@cranberrydiversity.org](mailto:CADN@cranberrydiversity.org)

# RECYCLING IN CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP



## HARD TO RECYCLE ITEMS

### TC RECYCLING LLC

*Recycling and refuse disposal station*

126 Hutchman Road, Mars, PA 16046

- Open to the public, accepting trash and hard-to-recycle items.
- Accepts e-waste, including unbroken televisions and monitors, computers and laptops, printers and computer peripherals; oil; antifreeze; latex paint; and tires, either on or off the rim. Those items must be kept separate from the rest of the load, and additional fees apply.
- A recycling container is also available at the main entrance for local residents to use at no charge. There, residents can drop off cardboard; HDPE and PET plastics; and aluminum, steel and bi-metal cans.
- Drop-Off Hours: Monday - Friday, 7 AM - 3 PM and Saturdays, 7 AM - 11 AM.
- Visit [tcrecycling.com](http://tcrecycling.com) or call 724-625-9000



[CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/COLLECTION](http://CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/COLLECTION)

### PUBLIC MEETINGS (More Info: [CranberryTownship.org](http://CranberryTownship.org))

#### Board of Supervisors

January 27; February 3, 24;  
March 3, 31

#### Planning Advisory Commission

January 31; February 7, 28;  
March 7, 28

#### Environmental Advisory Committee

January 12; February 9;  
March 9



### BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay by mail
- Pay online
- Pay in person
- Township office drop box
- Electronic payment from your bank



**Go Paperless to Save Time & Money!**



#### EMAIL-BILL

Get your monthly bill by email. Pay it any way you choose.



#### EMAIL-BILL PLUS AUTOMATIC

Choose both and get a \$1 credit every month.



#### AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT

AutoPay makes automatic withdrawals from your bank account on the due date.

[CranberryTownship.org/BillPay](http://CranberryTownship.org/BillPay)

## 2022 REMINDERS

**Live Tree Collection:** Curbside pickup on regular collection days, January 3 - 14

**Yard Waste Collection:** March 28 - December 9. See 2022 Waste Collection Calendar on page 34.

**Cardboard Recycling:** Compactor available for use behind Municipal Ctr.

**Extra Collection Stickers:** Purchase online at [CranberryTownship.org/CollectionStickers](http://CranberryTownship.org/CollectionStickers) or during business hours in Customer Service, Parks & Recreation, or Cranberry Highlands.

**Park Shelter Reservations:** Open January 3. Call Parks & Recreation at 724-779-4FUN (4386)

**Butler Co./Township Property Tax:** Notices will be mailed in March.

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**Fire Training Blitz**  
Firefighters from CTVFC and mutual aid organizations participated in a 24-hour training blitz.



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# ON THE COVER



Members of the Cranberry community pose for a photo taken by the Communications Department.



## CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dick Hadley  
Bruce Hezlep  
Mike Manipole  
Bruce Mazzoni  
John Skorupan

## TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Dan Santoro

CranberryTODAY is published quarterly by the Communications Team on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager. Online issues are available at [CranberryTownship.org/CranberryToday](http://CranberryTownship.org/CranberryToday)

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FEEDBACK WELCOME!

[CommunicationsTeam@CranberryTownship.org](mailto:CommunicationsTeam@CranberryTownship.org)

CONNECT

# BUILT FOR YOU



## No Matter Who You Are

**R**ome wasn't built in a day – and neither was Cranberry Township.

With a comprehensive plan in place and through much community interaction, Cranberry has become a place people want to live.

And while the 2020 Census confirms that fact, it doesn't take scores of data to prove what anyone in the Township has known for years.

But a simple question to those demographics is a little harder to answer: Why Cranberry?

We posed that question to stakeholders of Cranberry's various four pillars – the tenants of a successful, healthy community. Those pillars – business, government and education, faith-based groups, and non-profit and civic groups – help make Cranberry a very special place.

But what, exactly, *is* Cranberry? What does it mean to those who live, work, or play in the Township? What ideals, decisions, programs, or values make Cranberry an attractive place to outsiders?

On the following pages you will find answers to that simple yet multi-faceted question. The perspectives and verbiage may vary, but one concept is overwhelmingly clear: **Cranberry is Built for Everyone.**

# BUILT FOR **BUSINESS**



**WHO:** Jordan Grady

**WHAT:** Executive Director, Butler County Chamber of Commerce; Cranberry resident

**WHY:** Through Jordan's quest to bring new business to Butler County and support those already here, he often finds himself extolling the virtues of Cranberry.

It's an easy sell. "From a business standpoint, Cranberry Township has figured it out - that's what I tell people when they're looking at locating retail space or something larger on the industrial side," he said.

Be it the proximity to major roadways, the centralized location, or the support they receive, businesses that come to Cranberry flourish, he said.

There's also an atmosphere of community working together to achieve success, and Jordan said the occasions he's had to work with Township leaders on securing grants or other initiatives prove that.

“

All those pieces fit together, and they form a puzzle, and that puzzle is a beautiful picture and that's Cranberry Township in a nutshell. It's a great business environment.

# BUILT FOR **ESSENTIALS**

**WHO:** Jenny Taylor

**WHAT:** Unit Director of UPMC Passavant Cranberry Emergency Department

**WHY:** As a brand-new nurse, Jenny found herself working in a changing Cranberry Township.

Now, 17 years later, she can't imagine working anywhere else.

"This community has changed a lot over the last 17 years," she said. "We've seen a community that's gone from being a smaller community with very little to this huge, flourishing community with a lot of young families."

It's taking care of those families and keeping them healthy that serves as a constant reward. And with UPMC Passavant supporting causes outside the hospital walls, Jenny and her co-workers are not only providing access to high-quality healthcare, but they're also improving the community's well-being.

That support, she said, is mutual. It is an ever-present reminder of what makes Cranberry a special place to work.

"I have been so blessed to work in this hospital and this community," she said.

**We have seen such a support from the community. When the pandemic started, the community just poured out on us and supported us, and it was an amazing thing to see.**



# BUILT FOR COLLABORATION

**WHO:** Tom Salapow

**WHAT:** Director of Research and Engineering for MSA

**WHY:** There's a lot to be said about a company doing international business in Western Pennsylvania.

There's a lot more to be said when that company has a 107-year history. But for MSA Safety, the simple story is stability.

After moving its world headquarters to Cranberry 35 years ago, MSA has not only grown as a company, but helped the Township grow in lockstep with a vision for Cranberry Woods.

That vision includes the overall expansion of the Route 228 corridor, as well as the creation of an expansive, beautiful office park and living area that features MSA, the Regional Learning Alliance, Westinghouse and, most recently, the MSA Thruway. The company donated the land – valued at \$3.5 million – for that project. But those investments and collaborations are worth more than dollars – they help strengthen MSA and the community at large.

"It's important to us because we're competing for talent in the region," Tom said. "We feel that our presence in Cranberry is really a draw for people."

And with a recently expanded production facility in the rear view, the future looks bright for MSA and Cranberry.



“

Cranberry Township has been a big part of our success story. In the mid-90s, our leadership worked with the leadership of Cranberry to create the vision for Cranberry Woods.

# BUILT FOR PROGRESS

“

If you don't have a plan and you don't have a process to follow, then a lot of things can slip through the cracks and this process allows for learning and growth.



**WHO:** Christine Finnell

**WHAT:** UPMC Passavant Operations Director; Member of the Cranberry Planning Advisory Commission; 22-year resident

**WHY:** Cranberry's guiding "playbook" – the Cranberry Plan – aims to make the Township a better place to live, work, and play.

Those three pillars are applicable for Christine, who has the unique perspective of not only living and working in the Township, but also helping guide decisions that shape its future.

"Because I live here, not only does it affect me on the business side but on the private side," she said of her work on the PAC. Her two terms have been "very eye-opening," particularly in seeing how growth is managed in a sustainable way. By following the goals outlined in the Plan, the Commission has been able to make successful decisions.

Careful planning is one of the things that make Cranberry a great place to be. But perhaps more importantly, the people themselves create an accepting community.

"By getting to know the people and the community, what it is doing and what it does, and what it stands for is what keeps me here," she said.

# BUILT FOR FAMILY

**WHO:** Jessica and Felipe Valdez

**WHAT:** Owners of Nothing Bundt Cakes

**WHY:** The Valdezes love a celebration.

As co-owners of Nothing Bundt Cakes, their product has been involved in parties and events of all types. Bringing people together is at the heart of all they do both at the bakery and at home.

While looking at places to open a franchise, the Pittsburgh region popped up. The family moved from Florida, and a year later have a successful business.

But it's not just about raking in – or serving up – the dough. It's about being part of the community - something the supportive nature of Cranberry makes easy.

"Everyone is rooting for our success," Felipe said. "We want to have a really successful business, but we want to be a part of the community."

Jessica added, "We live here, we're part of all of this so it means a lot to be a part of the community and give back."

It's those lessons of empathy, consideration, and community service that make Cranberry a great place to raise their daughters.

"This is such a great place not only on a business level but also personally," Felipe said. "It's so easy to see our girls being raised here."



**“**  
You can't think of Cranberry without thinking of family.

# BUILT FOR FAITH



**“**

We could easily take things for granted, but to have the opportunity to be a part of something so much bigger than ourselves - that to me is incredibly exciting and why we absolutely love to be a part of this community.

**WHO:** Bob Zonts

**WHAT:** Campus Pastor, Grace Community Church

**WHY:** It can be a challenge to read the news each day and see the many challenges facing the world.

Bob knows because he experiences it too. But there's a silver lining, as people are seeking something bigger, a greater purpose.

And the Cranberry community is a shining example of that.

"People are rallying around for a greater purpose - people are longing for it," he said.

And Cranberry is embracing that through the alliterative principals Bob sees each day: people, proximity, parks, planning, partnerships, and potential. And while those five things make Cranberry great, it's perhaps the people and partnerships that top the list.

"We don't want to just be geographically located in a community, we want to be immersed in the community," Bob said of Grace's mission over the past 20 years.

Through initiatives like the Grace Project and partnerships with the Seneca Valley School District, there's always a cause to be had, and a group of people ready to help.

# BUILT FOR EDUCATION

**WHO:** Dr. Justin C. Griffith

**WHAT:** CEO of the Regional Learning Alliance

**WHY:** Cranberry residents have a thirst for knowledge, and it doesn't stop when a diploma is awarded.

There's a commitment to constant improvement, whether it be learning a new skill or improving upon the foundational knowledge needed for a career. It's something Justin and his colleagues at the RLA have seen since opening in 2004.

"We get thousands of people in this building every year, and they're here to learn something," he said. "They come because they want to increase their skill levels that relate to their jobs and the industries they're in. They're always pushing themselves to do more."

Justin said Cranberry's collaborative spirit is on display inside the RLA's walls. Local institutions work together to provide educational programs without a spirit of competitiveness. People with different knowledge and expertise gather for programs like the workforce growth initiative for entrepreneurs to help the greater good.

"We know that they're going to add the economic vitality to the region that we need, and they can learn from each other – it's amazing," he said, adding such shared experiences should be celebrated.



“

I think we have that sense of community in Cranberry that you just don't find anywhere else in this region, and we should be proud of that.

# BUILT FOR DIVERSITY

“  
We've come from somewhere else, and we've created our own community within our community.



**WHO:** Sonia Jaiswal and Diana Hoffmaster

**WHAT:** Directors of the Cranberry Area Diversity Network

**WHY:** There's a lot to be learned in the aisles of a grocery store, and it isn't just nutrition information.

It's there that community bonds are forged, and conversations occur. In a way, that's what CADN wants to bring to all areas of the Township.

"Cranberry is ever growing and we're just going to see more diversity, and including everyone is really important," Diana said. "You find commonalities, and that's so important."

Diana is a 7-year resident with roots in Ecuador while Sonia is a 15-year community member who grew up in the United Kingdom and has lived "all over." Her time in Cranberry is the longest she's lived in any one place.

"It finally feels like home," she said.

That's happened thanks to the welcoming nature of Cranberry residents who want to learn about their neighbors and are eager to share. And in a community featuring international business and, in turn, people from around the world, that's an important quality.

"We've come from somewhere else, and we've created our own community within our community," Diana said.

"We want to create that sense of belonging," Sonia added.

Learn more about what makes Cranberry Township a great place to be! See video vignettes at [Facebook.com/cranberrytownship](https://Facebook.com/cranberrytownship).



## Fine Fiscal Practices

### 2022 BUDGET CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO PRUDENT SPENDING

Cranberry's consistent goal of maintaining the highest credit rating while keeping taxes unchanged continues into 2022 – the result of prudent spending and careful planning that helped the community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Township's 2022 budget highlights the practices that have led to a Aaa Moody's credit rating and the ability to keep taxes low and consistent.

All Township operations and staff expenditures are fully funded by revenue and not through a reduction of services, other expenditures, or raised taxes. This allows the Township to look at expanding and improving other areas, including:

- Developing a stronger partnership with Cranberry Township EMS
- Continuing to support a fully staffed Police Department

- Helping with the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company's recruitment and retention efforts
- Replacing decades-old Collection Connection carts that have reached the end of their lifecycle
- Improving and upgrading the rear parking area at the Municipal Center
- Updating the Comprehensive Recreation and Greenways Master Plan that will outline improvements and additions in the Township's Parks System over the next two decades
- Improving park offerings in the short-term, including resurfacing and equipment repair projects

Elsewhere, the budget considers continued support of MS4 stormwater compliance. That includes improvements to the stormwater system in Fox Run and Sun Valley, as

well as a review and upgrade of the sewer collection and water distribution system.

The budget also continues the high-quality maintenance and necessary upgrades of the Township's infrastructure, including over 136 miles of existing roads, as well as further expansion on Freedom Road and the advancement of several other transportation improvement projects. Continued maintenance of the Township's vehicle fleet and facilities is also included.

"We're thrilled to continue operating with a budget that not only is considerate of the taxpayer but allows us to further advance the goals of the Township," said Dick Hadley, Board of Supervisors Chair. ☈



# DELVING INTO *Diversity*

By Mike Manipole, Board of Supervisors

It's been said that diversity isn't about our differences – it's about what binds us and makes us unique.

In Cranberry Township, we value diversity above all else. Whether in housing or business offerings within our borders, or in our residents themselves, Cranberry thrives because of its diversity.

This was recently confirmed to me as I had dinner at a Township establishment and struck up a conversation with a younger couple. They were new to Cranberry but had nothing but great things to say about their time here, and said they felt welcomed from the jump.

That welcoming, inclusive, and inviting atmosphere is Cranberry's best asset – and one formed by our communal focus on diversity.

Our individual neighborhoods are their own melting pots, bringing together people of all ages, races, socioeconomic backgrounds, and points of view. Our residents are friendly, understanding folks who want to learn about their neighbors, be it in their cul-de-sac or on a trail in one of our parks.

We see proof of that concept every day in the Municipal Center, where the Cranberry Area Diversity Network works hard to promote understanding and acceptance of all members of our community. And if you've ever been to a CranFest event, you know their efforts have been and continue to be successful.

Our community believes in supporting each other, and that includes our government, non-profit and business sectors as well. Cranberry residents spend their time and money helping their neighbors with charity initiatives or shopping at Township businesses big and small.

And, in turn, those groups and businesses give back. They become more than just buildings along our corridors – they and their employees become involved and make real connections.

Diversity shows itself in other, perhaps less noticeable ways. The many types of homes available in developments new and longstanding provide choice and opportunity for residents, no matter what style of living quarters they desire. After all, it has been said that a person's home reflects their character.

While to the naked eye it may seem as if that new restaurant or group of townhomes are just more of the same, they help create the exact opposite. They add to the richness and flavor of our community and give our residents a chance to make their mark in Cranberry Township.

The Board of Supervisors prides itself on offering something for everyone, and for those offerings to allow our community to grow. People want to be in Cranberry Township, and we want them here. And it's hard not to flourish when you're in a community you care about and that cares for you.

It's a big world – let's all keep working to make our little sliver of it a positive, welcoming, and diverse place for everyone.



# DOUBLE DUTY

## Public Works Staff are RUNNING ON ALL CYLINDERS



As winter came creeping in last fall, members of the Township's Public Works Department traded in their mowers and excavators for snowplows and salt spreaders.

The Township relies on full-time staff to pull double duty, with Township Streets, Fleet, Grounds, Traffic, and Facilities crews undertaking projects in the spring and summer before turning their attention to winter weather.

This seasonal scheduling worked to the Township's advantage even more in 2021 as other municipalities and state entities had trouble finding drivers for their winter operations. Cranberry administrators needed only to turn to

the other side of the garage.

"We are very fortunate to have a full-time staff for our snow maintenance operations," said Kelly Maurer, Director of Public Works Operations. "They're experienced, well-trained, and ready when winter weather hits."

The team also relishes the change in scenery, with many taking great care to prep their trucks before the snow started flying. Preseason preparation included an in-depth review of the various routes, as well as other information vital to successfully clearing Township roads.

Township crews learned about new processes and programs, including

Frost Technologies. Via cameras situated at several different Township intersections, crews can see a live feed of road conditions while also receiving real-time data on ground temperature, air temperature, and dew point. This data is used to determine whether service is needed immediately.

So, when Mother Nature strikes and you see a Township truck clearing the road, give them a wave and remember that months of planning went into that operation to keep our community traveling safely. ☃

**“They're experienced, well-trained, and ready when winter weather hits.”**

### Winter Reminders:

- Please keep roadways clear of parked vehicles for emergency access, snow removal, and trash collection.
- Please keep sidewalks safe this winter. Clear snow & ice within 48 hours of a snow event.

### State Roads Maintained by PennDOT:

- Route 19
- PA Turnpike
- I-79
- Route 228
- Rochester Road
- Glen Eden Road
- Freedom Road
- Franklin Road
- Callery Road
- Plains Church Road

### Winter Maintenance Summary (3/2021):

- Inches of Snow: 48.4 inches
- Number of Events: 36
- Tons of Salt Used: 5,060 Tons
- Liquid Deicer Used: 63,207 Gallons
- Miles Driven: 21,890 Miles
- Cost of Salt: \$76.20/Ton



## RIBBON SNIPPED ON ROAD PROJECTS

MSA Thruway



Freedom Road Bridge

Cranberry's gigantic new scissors got quite the workout this past fall.

Major, long-term projects culminated in October, as both the MSA Thruway and Freedom Road Turnpike Bridge saw sheer snips that signified the successful completion of these highly anticipated projects.

The MSA Thruway connects Interstate 79 to Cranberry Springs, as well as Cranberry Springs to Cranberry Woods. It utilizes roundabouts on each side to keep traffic moving, taking up to 1,350 vehicles

off I-79 and 700 vehicles off Route 228 during peak times. It also features pedestrian lanes to make the corridor a walkable community.

The Thruway, paid for using developer-paid transportation impact fees to leverage federal and state funding, is named after MSA Safety, a longtime business staple in the Township. The company donated much of the land on which the Thruway traverses.

Less than a mile west, a two-year project to expand the Freedom Road Turnpike

Bridge wrapped up with the opening of a new six-lane span that also features new signals and pedestrian access.

The PennDOT project is the first of several planned along the Freedom Road corridor in the coming years. Through cooperation and partnership with the Township, PennDOT, and the Butler County Commission, two BUILD grant awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation were obtained in recent years. Those funds will help further expand Freedom Road to the Beaver County line. ☎

## ROUNABOUTS WORK!

**I**t's not circular logic – roundabouts improve traffic safety.

And a new PennDOT study that includes data from Cranberry Township proves it once again.

PennDOT reviewed data for 26 roundabouts on state routes at intersections that were previously signal controlled – including the roundabout at Glen Eden Road, Powell Road, and Freshcorn Road that opened in 2015.

Department data based on police-submitted crash reports from 2000 through 2020 shows fatalities were reduced by 100 percent and the total number of crashes decreased by 22 percent. Suspected serious injuries were reduced by 81 percent, and suspected minor injuries

were reduced by 36 percent.

Roundabouts have been used in Cranberry for more than a decade, with the first introduced on Longtree Way in 2009 as part of the expansion in Cranberry Woods. More followed on Glen Eden Road, Cranberry Springs Drive, and North Boundary Road.

According to Kelly Maurer, the Township's Director of Public Works, roundabouts come with a lower maintenance cost, are visually appealing, and allow for constant traffic flow.

But ultimately, it comes down to safety for both motorists and pedestrians. With four new roundabouts either recently opened or under construction, it's a good time to revisit how to safely and properly use them. Scan the QR code and review tips from PennDOT on how to use roundabouts safely & effectively. ☎

A STUDY WELL TRAVELED





## Leaf, Snow Programs Bring COMMUNITY TOGETHER

**M**ove over Los Angeles – there's a new City of Angels.

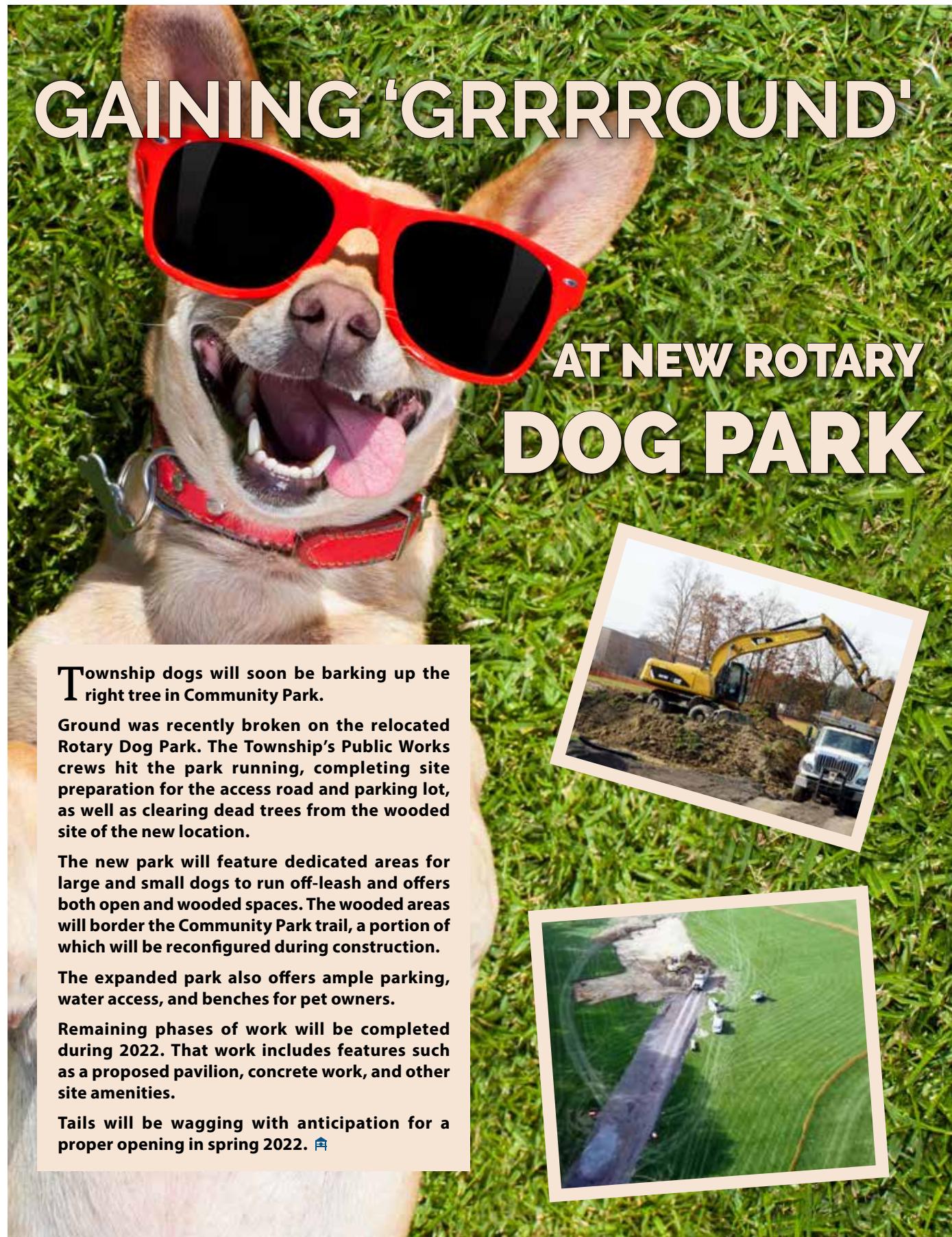
Cranberry's residents went from helping their neighbors battle pesky leaves to tossing shovels of snow as part of two sister programs.

For the first time, Cranberry coordinated the Leaf Angel Program which matched volunteers to residents who needed assistance clearing the crunchy collected leaves. The program dates coincided with the end of the Township's curbside yard waste collection date in December.

This successful program was modeled after and preceded the popular Snow Angel Program, which similarly matches volunteers with those needing assistance removing snow and ice during the winter months. Dozens of volunteers continue to stand at the ready when Mother Nature pays a visit to the Township.

Visit [CranberryTownship.org/SnowAngels](http://CranberryTownship.org/SnowAngels) to volunteer or request assistance. ☺





**T**ownship dogs will soon be barking up the right tree in Community Park.

Ground was recently broken on the relocated Rotary Dog Park. The Township's Public Works crews hit the park running, completing site preparation for the access road and parking lot, as well as clearing dead trees from the wooded site of the new location.

The new park will feature dedicated areas for large and small dogs to run off-leash and offers both open and wooded spaces. The wooded areas will border the Community Park trail, a portion of which will be reconfigured during construction.

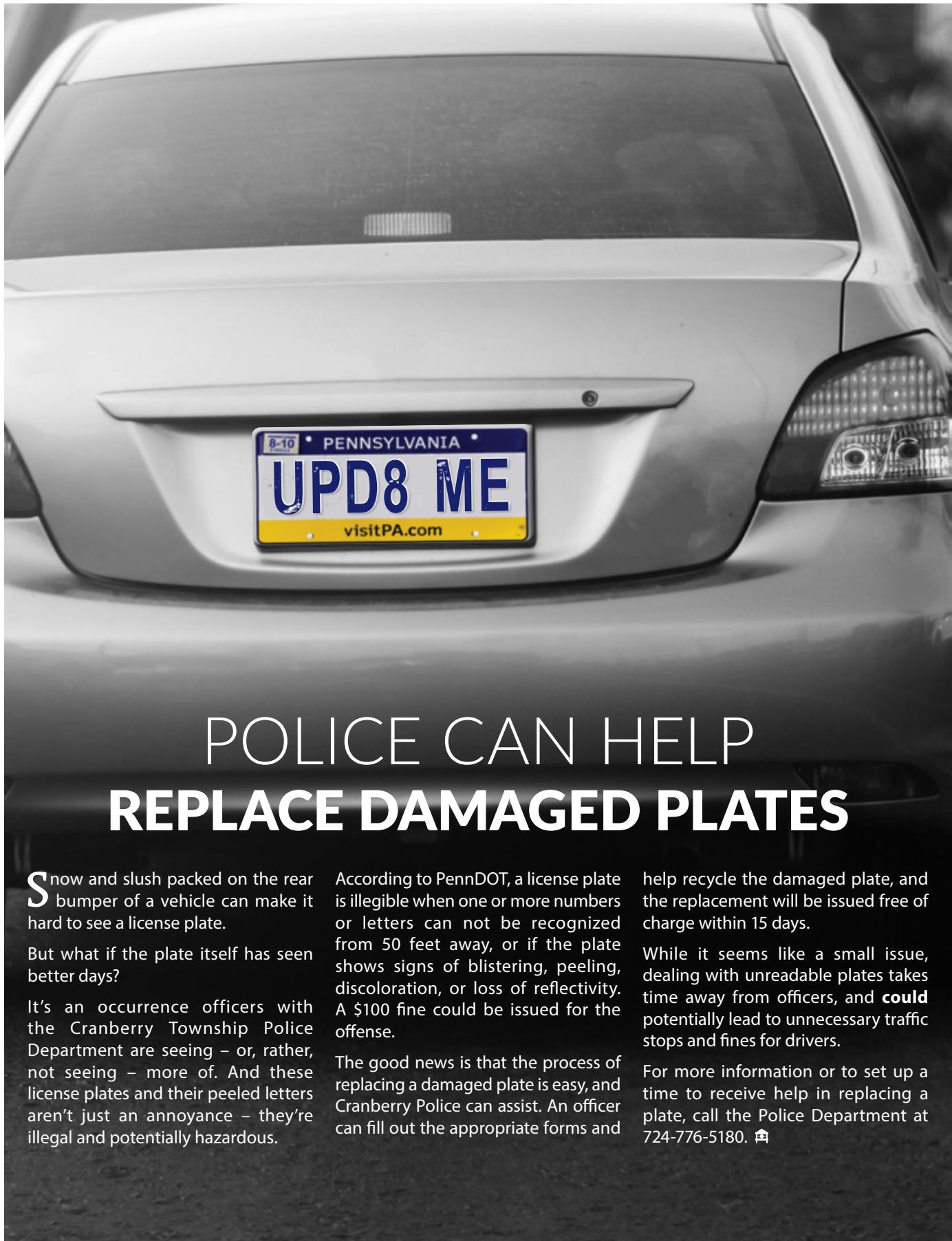
The expanded park also offers ample parking, water access, and benches for pet owners.

Remaining phases of work will be completed during 2022. That work includes features such as a proposed pavilion, concrete work, and other site amenities.

Tails will be wagging with anticipation for a proper opening in spring 2022. ☺

## AT NEW ROTARY DOG PARK





## POLICE CAN HELP REPLACE DAMAGED PLATES

Now and slush packed on the rear bumper of a vehicle can make it hard to see a license plate.

But what if the plate itself has seen better days?

It's an occurrence officers with the Cranberry Township Police Department are seeing – or, rather, not seeing – more of. And these license plates and their peeled letters aren't just an annoyance – they're illegal and potentially hazardous.

According to PennDOT, a license plate is illegible when one or more numbers or letters can not be recognized from 50 feet away, or if the plate shows signs of blistering, peeling, discoloration, or loss of reflectivity. A \$100 fine could be issued for the offense.

The good news is that the process of replacing a damaged plate is easy, and Cranberry Police can assist. An officer can fill out the appropriate forms and

help recycle the damaged plate, and the replacement will be issued free of charge within 15 days.

While it seems like a small issue, dealing with unreadable plates takes time away from officers, and **could** potentially lead to unnecessary traffic stops and fines for drivers.

For more information or to set up a time to receive help in replacing a plate, call the Police Department at 724-776-5180. ■



# BLITZBURG TO THE NORTH!

## Fire Company Puts on the Ritz

**“The experience gained from this type of training will be invaluable during real-life situations.**

**W**hile the scenario may have been staged with lights, drone video, and still cameras - the 3 a.m. emergency alarm was very real.

Firefighters from the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company and mutual aid organizations recently staffed the Route 19 firehouse during a 24-hour training blitz. It aimed to throw as many situations as possible at the crews, who had no prior knowledge of the particulars or when they'd occur.

The 20 scenarios included everything from search and rescue operations, workplace accidents, vehicle accidents with entrapment and fire, and various versions of structure fires.

The circumstances played out at the Township's Public Safety Training Center and incorporated the recently christened Burn Building structure.

"We all left as better firefighters and rescuers from the numerous sets and reps," said Scott Garing, Chief of Fire & Emergency Services. "The experience gained from this type of training will be invaluable during real-life situations."

The stage is set to accept more volunteers. The fire company is actively seeking additional members, specifically from Cranberry Township, who want to volunteer their time to serve their home community. Come and try on a uniform. Visit [ctvfc21.org/content/membership](http://ctvfc21.org/content/membership). 



Watch a recap of the whirlwind weekend  
at [CranberryTownship.org/TrainingBlitz](http://CranberryTownship.org/TrainingBlitz)





**Hit the Brakes!**

## Coffee Brake keeps Cranberry Running

You deserve a 'brake' today, and Coffee Brake at Meeder has the fuel to get the day started.

Since September 2017, Coffee Brake has been a popular stop along Route 68 in Evans City, offering quality coffee, espresso, smoothies, and lattes. It's also one of the charming small businesses that the Township loves to cater to!

A second location, situated in "downtown" Cranberry in the Meeder development, recently opened and is quickly becoming a go-to, cozy, familiar place that owner Stephanie Oliver hopes is a "home away from home" for customers.

They do so by offering all the amenities, including ample room both indoor and outdoor for gathering, studying, or simply relaxing. Coffee Brake also offers free Wi-Fi, as well as plenty of outlets to keep devices charged.

But it isn't just the devices getting a charge. Coffee Brake's menu features ample ways to get caffeinated, including specialty lattes, frozen drinks, teas and, of course, a regular cup of joe. There are also seasonal offerings that will get customers in the holiday spirit – no matter what holiday it may be.

Still, there's more to enjoy. Coffee Brake offers a wide variety of breakfast sandwiches, as well as "French toasties" creations. That's in addition to their assortment of bagels and bakery items – and, not to mention, hand-scooped ice cream in any cup, bowl, or cone.

The attention to carefully crafted food and drink makes Coffee Brake the best place to go for "a side of awesome." ☕



# THE SCOOP!

## Millie's Offering Tasty Treats

The new Millie's Ice Cream location on Route 19 is easy to spot – even if the building itself lacks the familiar black cow spots of businesses past.

The building has housed various ice cream shops over the decades, including the former Cranberry Creamery, which rose from the surrounding fields and forests with its bovine-like color scheme.

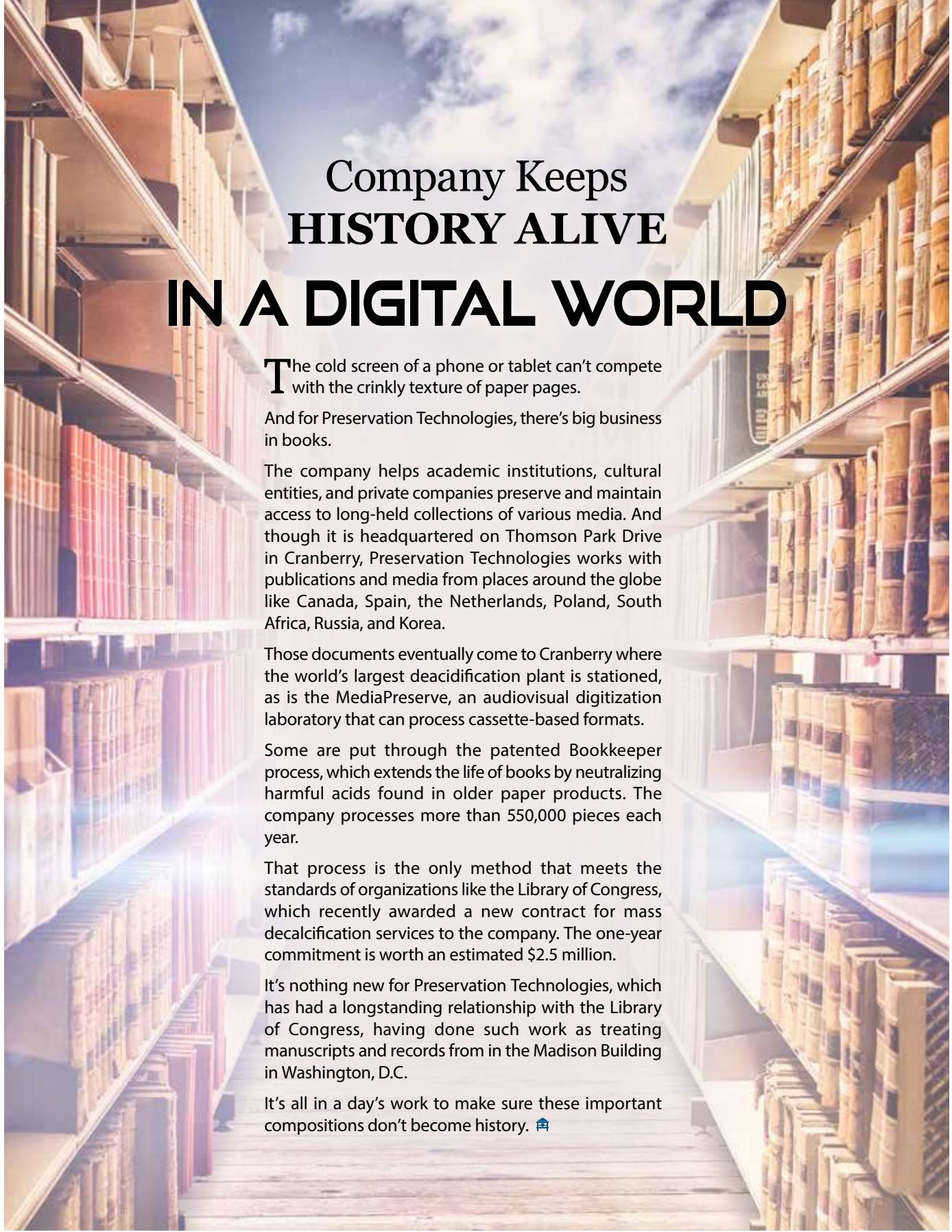
Now, the building stands out with its bright pink paintjob, a beacon for those craving homemade frozen treats.

But don't be fooled – Millie's is much more than a flashy building. The Pittsburgh-based brand was founded in 2014 by Chad Townsend, who after years of working as a chef in various Steel City restaurants decided to try something new. After trying his hand at making ice cream at home, he and his wife, Lauren, branched out to the community via a delivery service and, eventually, the original Millie's Ice Cream Works in Shadyside.

Seven years and multiple locations later, Millie's comes to Cranberry offering locally sourced, made-from-scratch ice cream, milkshakes, and floats. Outside of the traditional favorites, the shop also offers gluten free options.

Currently, the Cranberry location is open Fridays and Saturdays, with plans for an expanded schedule as the weather warms. The owners also have their eyes set on the large backyard area of the location, which is perfectly fit for hosting live music and events.

Be sure to check out Millie's – you can't miss it. ☺



# Company Keeps HISTORY ALIVE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

**T**he cold screen of a phone or tablet can't compete with the crinkly texture of paper pages.

And for Preservation Technologies, there's big business in books.

The company helps academic institutions, cultural entities, and private companies preserve and maintain access to long-held collections of various media. And though it is headquartered on Thomson Park Drive in Cranberry, Preservation Technologies works with publications and media from places around the globe like Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Russia, and Korea.

Those documents eventually come to Cranberry where the world's largest deacidification plant is stationed, as is the MediaPreserve, an audiovisual digitization laboratory that can process cassette-based formats.

Some are put through the patented Bookkeeper process, which extends the life of books by neutralizing harmful acids found in older paper products. The company processes more than 550,000 pieces each year.

That process is the only method that meets the standards of organizations like the Library of Congress, which recently awarded a new contract for mass decalcification services to the company. The one-year commitment is worth an estimated \$2.5 million.

It's nothing new for Preservation Technologies, which has had a longstanding relationship with the Library of Congress, having done such work as treating manuscripts and records from in the Madison Building in Washington, D.C.

It's all in a day's work to make sure these important compositions don't become history. ☺



OH, SO SWEET!



## Cranberry-Based **CANDLE BUSINESS ON FIRE**

The staff at Sweet Water Décor's Freedom Road warehouse are burning the candle at both ends to keep up with demand.

The seven-year-old company, founded in the basement of owner Melissa and Chris Horvath's home, has seen demand increase thanks to a strong brand and unsolicited shout-outs from the likes of Mindy Kaling and Kylie Jenner.

That growth includes a nearly 2,000% increase in production and sales since the company added candles to their product line in 2017.

That growth necessitated a new home – and Cranberry shined the brightest.

"It was the perfect place," said Melissa, a Butler native who has seen Cranberry's growth. "You have everything you could need, but still have that hometown feel."

Melissa said the Sweet Water Décor brand is strong and one based in positivity and motivation. And while

the company boasts more than 40 employees and ships out nearly 1,000 orders each day, it's still a small business at heart.

"People love versatile products that are made in the USA," she said.

Those products include the popular candles, reed diffusers, and more. These gluten, lead, and phthalate-free creations are hand-poured and packed in Cranberry. And, in addition to the company's online shop, they distribute to more than 7,000 boutiques around the world, as well as Amazon, Etsy, and more.

They offer more than 35 scents in five jar styles, with a product team constantly looking for new custom creations.

Sweet Water Décor is offering a special discount for their Cranberry Township neighbors. Use coupon code CRANBERRY for 20% off at [sweetwaterdecor.com](http://sweetwaterdecor.com). 



# NEED FOR SPEED

## ARMSTRONG KEEPS COMMUNITY **CONNECTED**

**S**taying ahead of the curve requires innovation.

But for Armstrong, speeding up and staying ahead of the curve isn't just good practice – it's a necessity.

The internet and cable provider has spent more than \$200 million over the past two years to upgrade their traditional cable network to fiber optic service, allowing for blazing internet speeds in homes and businesses in the Cranberry area.

That physical infrastructure upgrade just so happened to coincide with the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced residents to work from home that could have potentially strained the system.

That wasn't the case, especially in Cranberry.

"If you don't continually invest in the network, you can't keep up with demands," said David Wittmann, Armstrong's Vice President of Cable Marketing. "It's incredible how much more data is being consumed now compared to five years ago, and we're looking at the next 5-to-10 years."

The future is in 10 gigabyte offerings, which Armstrong is in the process of preparing. That brings with it more bandwidth, faster download and upload speeds, enhanced Wi-Fi, and the ability to expand even further. It will ensure Cranberry is equipped to handle advanced technology over the next decade and beyond.

That's important for Armstrong, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a company and more than 40 years serving Cranberry.



**“** We're excited to stay ahead of the curve and continue finding ways to improve our service.

~ Joe Taylor, Armstrong's Vice President and General Manager

## ARMSTRONG®

## BUSINESS BRIEFS



### Mini Moves

#### *Warehouse requirements revised*

The changes may be mini, but they will have an impact. A change to the Township's Chapter 27 Zoning Ordinance pertaining to mini warehouses was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors, following a public hearing.

The revisions include an update to uses for such warehouses and adjusts the permitted building height and alley access requirements. The changes pertain specifically to buildings in the CCD Corridor and the Freedom Road Overlay District.



**What's coming to Cranberry? Find out at [CranberryTownship.org/Biz411](http://CranberryTownship.org/Biz411)**

### OPENING SOON:

**Solich Piano** – 1686 Route 228 (Old Trek Bicycle space)

**Clean Eatz** – 20436 Route 19 (Old Potrait Innovations space)

**Crumbl Cookies** – 1691 Route 228 (Cranberry Commons)

**Groundwater & Environmental Services Inc.** – 500 Thomson Park Drive

**Restore Hyper Wellness** – 1713 Route 228 (Cranberry Commons)

### JUST OPENED:

**Dr. Michael Clopp, DMD** – 20399 Route 19 (Landmark Building)

**The Face Loft** – 213 Executive Drive

**Philip Pelusi Hair Salon** – 2080 Mackenzie Way (new location)

**Animal Dental Clinic** – 9117 Marshall Road

**Oilology** – 1655 Route 228 (former Grabenstein Texaco site)

**Neve Nails & Spa** – 2075 Mackenzie Way

**Premier Martial Arts** – 1187 Freedom Road (Freedom Square)

**Prossen Agency** – 1272 Dutilh Road

**General Dynamics Information Technology** – 405 Commerce Park Drive



### Meat and Greet

#### *Market seeks approval*

Seasoned grillers and first-time chefs could soon have a prime location to get their meats. Henry's Meat Market, 20865 Route 19, was given approval following a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors. The 9,852 square foot retail facility would be constructed on 2.2 acres currently occupied by a single-family home.

That building will be razed to make way for the butcher which offers beef, pork, fish, poultry, and smoked meats. It would be the second location for the business. In addition to ample parking, the venue has access points from Route 19, and continues connectivity to existing sidewalks in the area.



### Hip to Be Square

#### *Ehrman project gains approval*

It won't be back to square one for the developers of Ehrman Square, as the mixed retail, office, and warehouse space project gained approval. The two separate parcels combine to account for 17.08 acres, on which four buildings totaling 132,490 square foot will be built.

Built over the course of two phases, the project features flex office buildings with parking and loading areas, as well as an 8,900 square foot single-retail use building. Three of the four buildings within the project were granted approval by the Board of Supervisors. Approval followed a public hearing on the matter. Additional future approval is needed for the fourth building within the development.



**WHAT'S  
NEW?**

### It's True

#### *Storage facility could pop up*

True Storage, 20745 Route 19, was granted approval following a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors. The three-story, 72,000 square foot mini warehouse facility will be constructed on 2.11 acres of land and offer an answer to what developers call "pent-up demand" for storage facilities in the Township.



## Batter Up!

# At Home with Anthony Storti

**T**here's a lot to be learned from the game of baseball.

And for Anthony Storti, those lessons have been a major part of his life, including his 20 years as an active participant and vice president of the Cranberry Township Athletic Association.

### UP TO BAT

A Philadelphia native – and Phillies fan – Storti developed a love for the game early on, playing in organized and neighborhood games. And while he's quick to note that he never had dreams of playing in the major leagues – "I wasn't that good," he jokes – baseball meant more than the possibility for superstardom.

While studying computer science at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, he developed a love for coaching, spending two years in the borough's youth system. Upon graduation, he coached in Plum before he "got settled" in the North Hills.

### A 'HOME' RUN

Anthony and his wife, Kristi, were married in 1998 and quickly began looking for a place for their roots.

They found it in Cranberry and moved in 1999 because "it looked like the type of community we wanted to be a part of."

He joined CTAA as a coach in 2000 and became a board member in 2001. "CTAA was already established, had a vision, had a great relationship with the Township, and had done some pretty cool things - I wanted to continue that," he said.

During his tenure, he spearheaded fundraising initiatives for expansion projects like batting cages, protective netting, concession stands, and field resurfacing projects. And while the creation of Graham Park brought offerings like lacrosse, dek hockey, and soccer, the program has ultimately flourished.

### WE ARE FAMILY

Storti's family has always supported his love of the game while developing their own run of the pads. "They played for the right reasons and had such a positive experience," he said.

The Cranberry community also became family, with Anthony

serving two terms on the Seneca Valley School Board from 2003-2011.

"You have those relationships without knowing you have them," he said. "I've coached kids who now have their own kids in the program, and to see that next generation – I value that so much."

### IN THE BULLPEN

While he recently stepped down from the CTAA board, Anthony predicts he'll still be involved if needed. And his love of baseball isn't going anywhere.

A software product manager by day, Anthony randomly applied for a position with Major League Baseball serving as a Tracking Operator. He now spends summer evenings tracking the flight of baseballs and "massaging" that information for live stat-casts.

That excitement for the game and for Cranberry also can't be beat.

"It's a sense of service," he said. "I just want to give back to the community, however I can." And if it's through baseball – don't ever count him out. ☺



## A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS Neighbors for Neighbors Spreads Holiday Cheer

Santa Claus wasn't the only one spreading holiday cheer in December.

For more than a decade, three Township mothers have rallied the Cranberry community to make sure Christmas morning is merry and bright for those in need. This past year was no different.

Neighbors for Neighbors was the creation of Amy Roy, Jeanette Valentine, and Dani Jo McLane after they became aware of their children's classmates in the Seneca Valley School District struggling during the holiday season.

Some eye-opening research found that 17 percent of Seneca Valley families live below the poverty line, a fact that shocked Roy.

"I think sometimes we don't realize there actually is a huge need in our own community, and we maybe take for granted some of the things we are fortunate to have," she said.

The group began contacting friends and

family members to assist in providing gifts, as well as clothes and hygiene products, to students in need. Soon after, a partnership with the Seneca Valley Foundation was formed to discretely identify needs and fulfill holiday hopes.

Those wishes were inscribed on tags that adorned Christmas trees in various Township locations, including a prominent display in the Municipal Center. To no surprise, the Cranberry community stepped up once again, and fulfilled every tag on the trees - numbering more than 600. During the past decade, Roy estimates that several thousand youngsters have been helped by Neighbors for Neighbors.

Though their children are growing, and some are exiting the Seneca Valley education system, Roy said there are no plans to stop any time soon.

Donations are accepted year-round. For more information on how to get involved, visit [www.n4npgh.org](http://www.n4npgh.org). ☺

## TOWNSHIP, EAC Barking Up the Right Tree

Much like the Township itself, Cranberry's commitment to protecting the environment continues to grow.

Thanks to the efforts of Township staff, community volunteers, and the Environmental Advisory Committee, dozens of trees were recently planted in North Boundary Park, providing even more green coverage in the heavily wooded recreation center.

On one of the first cold mornings of the fall, members of Cranberry's Sunrise & Noon Rotary clubs planted trees they purchased as a community service effort.

The following week, a semi-truck carrying dozens of trees rolled into the park, which served as the pickup location for several communities that were awarded a grant from TreePennsylvania. The grant, applied for by the Township's Public Works Department, allowed for the creation of a natural buffer between the park and developments to the east.

Those trees were later planted by the EAC with help from the Public Works Department.

The initiatives helped plant new, strong roots in the community that residents can relish for years to come. ☺



# A BROKEN RECORD

Cranberry Highlands Continues

## Hot Streak

**R**ecords are made to be broken.

And for two years running, Cranberry Highlands Golf Course is shattering them.

After a banner year in 2020, the picturesque course again set a record for rounds played with 36,489 – a 5% increase.

Players found a continuation of protocols and measures that were introduced during the onset of the COVID-19

pandemic. In their second season, those measures increased the rate of play and created a streamlined process for golfers.

For those just getting into the game – or who wanted a quick refresher or some helpful tips – Cranberry Highlands' offered 322 golf lessons and held 146 golf clinics – a nearly 200% increase over 2020.

But it wasn't just the number of rounds that increased. Cranberry Highlands also

saw an increase in group golf outings. Meanwhile, the banquet and event space hosted nearly double the number of events from 2020, when strict gathering limits were in place.

While eager golfers await a spring 2022 opening date, staff and crews are working hard to make sure Cranberry Highlands remains at the top of the leaderboard for golf in Western Pennsylvania. ☺





# MAKING FUN



With the opening of The Forge at the Cranberry Public Library and a few months under its belt, Cranberry Today sat down with Mary Frances Reutzel, Manager of The Forge, to get an assessment of the visible excitement that the space continues to permeate throughout the community. Mary Frances answered our questions with great insight into the innovations of creativeness that exemplify the state of a modern makerspace.

A multitude of classes and training sessions are available in The Forge! Visit [CranberryLibrary.org/Makerspace](http://CranberryLibrary.org/Makerspace) to register, and you can "make it" happen!

## Q: WHAT MAKES THE FORGE SO SPECIAL?

**A: The Forge is a place that ignites interest in new things! It allows makers, regardless of experience, to be creative. It is a place where mistakes happen and, to share Library Director's Leslie Pallotta's quote: "Where making mistakes is kind of the fun!" That represents the beauty of the whole thing.**

**Q: WITH THE OPENING OF THE FORGE, WHAT'S MOST FASCINATING ABOUT THE SPACE?**

A: The Forge users are the most fascinating aspect of The Forge. These makers come from all walks of life and bring such amazing ideas, skills, and interest to our space. Creative people are inspirational. These makers are our foundation whether they visit one time or have visited multiple times.

## Q: WHAT SKILLS SHOULD POTENTIAL USERS HAVE?

**A: At a basic level, makers in The Forge should have an interest in learning and have patience with themselves through the process. As they grow, the ability to learn software for designing for 3D, laser engraving, and Cricut advances.**

## **R: WHAT'S THE MOST ADVANCED IDEA THAT A MAKER WANTED TO MAKE AND WAS IT MADE?**

**A:** A maker had a vision to utilize the 3D printers, Cricut, and laser engraving for model making. Our maker is still in the planning phase while obtaining material for the prototype.

## **Q: WHAT WAS THE SIMPLEST REQUEST IN THE FORGE SO FAR?**

A: To date, the simplest request was to utilize a hot glue gun.

## Q: WHAT'S ONE OF THE CHALLENGES THE FORCE FACES?

A: In partnering with other Library Makerspaces and applying their best practices, we have learned that slow and steady is the pace. It is challenging to accommodate the depth of opportunity The Forge presents; however, we are building relationships with other community makers in the mutual interest of recruiting talented volunteers to assist in the high demand of "making."



 The  
Makerspace is  
a game changer  
that taps new  
energy into the  
library which  
will ultimately  
inspire creative  
collaboration to  
the highest levels  
imaginable.

**Leslie Pallotta,  
Library Director**





# JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!

## PARAS/SUB TEACHERS NEEDED!

Make a difference in the lives of our students and become a substitute teacher or paraprofessional teacher's aide. Training is provided.

### Substitute Teachers:

Openings for substitutes, including extended positions. Working as a substitute can be a great way to gain experience, introduce yourself to building principals and serve your community. If you are interested in becoming a substitute, please contact Kim Capozzi in Human Resources at [capozzikc@svsd.net](mailto:capozzikc@svsd.net).



### Paraprofessionals:

Do you love working with children? Seneca Valley School District is accepting applications for the very fulfilling role of full-time paraprofessionals in various district buildings and at a rate of \$14/hour; 182-day school year. Responsibilities include supervising and assisting with students' daily routines. Proficient technology skills, and strong communication and interpersonal skills are key components for becoming a part of the paraprofessional team. Please submit required information to [www.svsd.net/Employment](http://www.svsd.net/Employment).



### Substitute Paraprofessionals:

Make a difference in our schools! Responsibilities include supervising students' daily routines; \$13.50/hour. We are looking for individuals with proficient technology skills, and strong communication and interpersonal skills. If you are interested in becoming a substitute, please contact Kim Capozzi in Human Resources at [capozzikc@svsd.net](mailto:capozzikc@svsd.net).

## ALSO HIRING: BUS DRIVERS | CAFETERIA WORKERS | SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIANS

### APPLY TODAY!

To learn more and apply, visit  
[www.svsd.net/HumanResources](http://www.svsd.net/HumanResources)  
or call (724) 452-6040

#### Benefits of working at Seneca Valley:

- Competitive wages and benefits
- Outstanding professional development
- Commitment to supporting diverse faculty and staff
- Inclusive and motivated students and engaged families
- Commitment to community service
- Exceptional facilities

The Seneca Valley School District is committed to advancing equity and embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace. EOE.

# CRANBERRY BRIEFS



## Pining for Pedestrian Safety

*Township pursuing new signal*

Improved pedestrian access to North Boundary Park from developments surrounding it was a major focus of recent upgrades made on North Boundary Road. The goal of further increasing safety in that area continues as the Township pursues an Actuated Pedestrian Crossing Signal at North Boundary Road and Pinehurst Drive. Such a signal requires a permit and maintenance agreement with PennDOT. Via a resolution, the Township upheld its commitments to the agreement with PennDOT, allowing the project to move forward.



## Going to Waste

*Township seeks HHW agreement*

There was trash talk at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting. The cordial conversation regarding the Township's Electronic and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal services led the Board to advertise for bids for the service. The Township offers collections of such waste through the Collection Connection program. It provides opportunities for residents to properly get rid of electronics and hazardous waste at a low, fixed cost via a convenient drop-off event.



## Take A (Side)walk:

*Project will build Freedom paths*

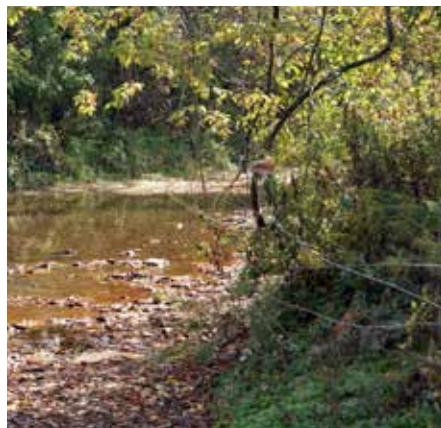
Ongoing work to expand Freedom Road won't just improve vehicle traffic – it will enhance the area for pedestrians as well. Approved by the Board of Supervisors, an agreement with PennDOT enables work to be completed under the BUILD Grant project from Powell Road to Haine School Road. PennDOT will complete the work, according to plan.



## Making Connections

*Grant sought for improvements*

The goal of making the Township more pedestrian friendly while also improving traffic infrastructure continues. The Board of Supervisors approved a submission for a 2021 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program grant to be used for intersection improvements on Franklin Road, Garvin Road, and Callery Road. In addition to intersection improvements, funding would be used for additional roadway upgrades aimed at aiding the flow of traffic and increasing pedestrian connectivity. As part of the application, the Township would contribute 20 percent matching funds.



## Workflow

*Agreement advances MS4 program*

Restoration is in store for streams in several areas of the Township. A design, consulting, and permitting agreement with Wallace & Pancher Inc. will lead to stream restoration throughout the Township. The stream restoration projects are needed to satisfy the Township's Pollution Reduction Plan requirements under the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's MS4 Permit Program. They are paid for by the Stormwater Utility Fee adopted in 2020. The design agreement with Wallace & Pancher Inc. includes design drawings, plans, specifications, meetings, permitting, calculations for sediment reduction credits, operation and maintenance plans, a cost estimate, easements, and construction consulting services.



## Into the Woods

*Thruway brings new road agreement*

All roads lead to the new MSA Thruway, and those roads require attention and care. That's why the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution accepting a portion of Cranberry Woods Drive into the Township Public Road System. The resolution also executes a Deed of Dedication of Right-of-Way. The .034 mile stretch of road will be maintained by Township crews and will see plenty of use as the MSA Thruway officially opened to traffic last fall.

# OH SNAP!



This is a feature that puts an exclamation point on a sampling of the wonderous sights and views that we see daily in the Township. Artistic beauty meets human interest in the collection of images captured by the Communications Department and residents. Enjoy the view!







# 2022 WASTE COLLECTION CALENDAR

## JANUARY

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## DECEMBER

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31



**1 DAY DELAY**  
Due to Weekday Holiday

**LIVE TREE COLLECTION**  
Jan 3 - Jan 14

**YARD WASTE**  
Mar 28 - Dec 9

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

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



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[UPMC.com/BreastCancerAwareness](http://UPMC.com/BreastCancerAwareness).

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CANCER CENTER | UPMC MAGEE-WOMENS  
HOSPITAL

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