



Cranberry

FALL 2023

TODAY

Fall is

IN THE AIR



Jingle & Mingle!

Join Cranberry Township at these fun, holiday events!

Santa's First Stop

Friday, November 17
6-8PM | Municipal Center

Brunch with Santa

Saturday, December 9
Two time slots | Cranberry Highlands

Milk & Cookies with Santa

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17
Multiple time slots | Municipal Center

Pet Photos with Santa

Sunday, December 17
Multiple time slots | Municipal Center



cranberrytownship.org/specialevents



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT

CRANBERRY HIGHLANDS

Meetings • Holiday Parties • Weddings
• Baby & Wedding Showers •

OUR CALENDAR IS FILLING UP
QUICKLY!

Call to reserve or use our online event
planner at cranberryhighlands.com

5601 Freshcorn Road,
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724-776-7372 x1214





sewer · water · trash
collection connection

2023 WASTE COLLECTION CALENDAR



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
29 30 31	26 27 28	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
			30
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1	1 2 3 4 5
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30 31
		30 31	
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30



1 DAY DELAY
(Due to weekday holiday)

LIVE TREE COLLECTION
Jan 9 - Jan 20

YARD WASTE COLLECTION
Mar 27 - Dec 8

If one of the holidays listed below occurs on a **WEEKDAY**, collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week: **New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.**

Calling all Leaf Angels

Minimize the difficulties of raking leaves for your neighbors, and volunteer to be a Leaf Angel!

Volunteers will be matched with elderly or disabled residents in need of assistance raking and removing leaves from their properties.

Register online and fall in love with volunteering!

October 2 - Application for Volunteers opens
October 9 - Applications for Requests opens

Snow Angels!
November 13 - Application for Volunteers opens
November 20 - Application for Requests opens

www.cranberrytownship.org/leafangels

www.cranberrytownship.org/snowangels

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

October 26, November 2,
November 16, December 7
6:30 PM, Municipal Center

Planning Advisory Commission

October 30, December 4
6:00 PM, Municipal Center

Zoning Hearing Board

October 16, November 20,
December 18
7:30 PM, Municipal Center

Library Board

October 23, November 27
6:30 PM, Municipal Center

CranberryTownship.org/Calendar

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving Day

Township offices, Municipal Center,
Cranberry Public Library, and
Parks & Recreation will be closed
November 23 and 24

**No trash collection on November 23 -
pick up will be delayed by one day on
Thursday and Friday**

Christmas/New Year's Day

Municipal Center, Cranberry Public
Library, and Parks & Recreation will be
closed Dec. 25 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 1
Township offices will close at 5 PM on
Dec. 22 and reopen on Dec. 26,
and close at 5 PM on Dec. 29
and reopen on Jan. 2.

**No trash collection on
Christmas or New Year's Day -
pick up will be delayed by one day**

Live Christmas Tree Collection

Monday, January 8 - Friday, January 19
curbside pickup of live trees only on
regular collection days

CranberryTownship.org

CONTENTS

CRANBERRY TODAY | FALL 2023



6

FEATURE

- 6 Parks Planning Plows Ahead
- 8 Powell Farm Happenings
- 9 More Green in Graham Park
- 10 Pollinator Garden in North Boundary Park

PERSPECTIVE

- 11 Supervisor Commentary

UPDATES

- 12 Precinct Changes for Upcoming Election
- 13 Cranberry Briefs
- 14 Updated Zoning Ordinances
- 15 Municipal Center Overhaul
- 16 Customer Service with a Smile
- 17 Answers to Utility Line Questions
- 18 Social Media Connections

COMMUNITY CHEST

- 19 Community Days Crushes Expectations
- 20 Project of the Year Review
- 21 Leaving a Legacy
- 22 Great Things Ahead for the Great Lawn

SAFETY

- 23 Igniting a Passion for Fire Service
- 24 Police Walking the School Beat
- 25 EMS Safety Stickers

LIVING

- 26 Saluting Cranberry's Heroes
- 27 Retiring Old Glory
- 28 Faces of Cranberry: Zach Ramos
- 29 Cranberry Library Celebrates 50 Years
- 30 Oh Snap! Summer Recap
- 32 Life Saving Efforts at the Waterpark
- 33 Seneca Valley Academy of Choice

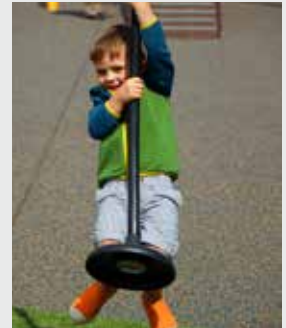
BUSINESS

- 34 Scandinavian Designs
- 35 Sheetz
- 36 Family Fun in Cranberry
- 38 Now Open

CONNECT     



ON THE COVER



It's hard not to smile or scream with joy while riding the zipline in the recently renovated Community Park's Kids Castle Playground. A focus on the future of the Township's Parks is ongoing.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mike Manipole, *Chairman*
Bruce Hezlep, *Vice Chairman*
Bruce Mazzoni
Karen Newpol
John Skorupan

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Dan Santoro

Cranberry TODAY is published quarterly by the Communications Department. Online issues are available at CranberryTownship.org/CranberryToday

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28

Faces of Cranberry:

ZACH RAMOS

Learn about this young Cranberry resident's journey to become the world's best ninja warrior.



Parks Planning

Cranberry's Township's leadership team aren't ones to rest on their laurels.

Despite boasting three of the most pristine parks in the region, there's always more to do. Creating a vision for what that entails was the focus of the ongoing Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan.

It's the first such update since 2012 and sets the course for the next 10 years of parks, programs, and recreation offerings in the Township. After a thorough community survey and recent conversations with residents during Community Days, data was provided to a committee tasked with making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Though that process is ongoing, the Board had big goals for 2023 that made major improvements in the parks.

"While we await formal recommendations from the Parks Plan committee, we knew there were a handful of projects that were needed and would have a real impact," said Supervisor Karen Newpol.

GYMNASIUM SCOREBOARD

Not that anyone is keeping score, but the scoreboard in the Municipal Center Gymnasium was well past its useful life.

Working only sporadically, it had been in the building for nearly 30 years.

The Township's Public Works Department installed a new scoreboard that has made keeping track of points, fouls, and timeouts much easier. And with that, a sponsorship covered the total cost of the board.

KIDS CASTLE 'ROYAL REFRESH'

As the Cranberry Township Community Chest's Project of the Year, the Kids Castle Playground in Community Park added more swings, a new play surface and a zipline that has become a popular feature for all ages.

Additionally, the royal entrance features a new stone wall that highlights donors, including presenting sponsor Cranberry Community Uniting People (CUP). The wall is flanked by an art installation created by local artist Alex Howland.

"We're thrilled that the community supported this project to maintain and improve a previous CTCC project," said Bruce Mazzoni, a Supervisor and President of CTCC.

DEK HOCKEY SURFACE

After exceeding its life expectancy, the dek hockey surface at UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park needed replacement, and the new grey, gold, and cranberry-colored surface brings new life to the popular rink.

The project was completed with assistance from the Public Works Grounds Division who removed the old surface, and the Streets Division who repaired the court base and re-paved a 200-foot section to ensure the surface is perfect for play.

NEW SPORTS COURTS IN GRAHAM PARK

Most of the work to upgrade sports courts at UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park was completed in late summer, creating new spaces to shoot, serve, and score.

The project replaced the existing tennis courts with six new pickleball courts. New tennis courts were built where the former basketball court was located, while new basketball courts replaced the bocce courts.

This winter, the six new pickleball courts will



PLOWS AHEAD

Township Water Park

Splash Pad Expansion

Designed for ages 2-5



August 30, 2023



be covered by an air dome system, allowing for year-round play. The ever-growing Cranberry Township Pickleball Association covered the cost of the expansion via its membership fees.

WATERPARK

While details of the overall Parks Plan are being finalized, an early outcome is underway at the Township Waterpark.

A project to replace the existing sand pit was noted as a high priority during the planning process, with work incorporated into the Township's Capital Investment Program. Though still in the early stages, the area will feature a splash pad focusing on the 2-to-5-year-old age group.

"We've seen and heard that during adult

swim periods, the current splash pad tends to attract many older kids," said Supervisor Karen Newpol. "This project will provide a safe, age-appropriate space for our younger guests to enjoy."

Engineering, demolition, and site prep for the project area are anticipated this fall, with an unveiling of the space coinciding with the opening of the Waterpark on Memorial Day 2024.

While planning continues for the future of the park system, be on the lookout for exciting new projects and programs in 2024! 🏠



A-MAIZE-ING HAPPENINGS

at Powell Farm



The Powell Farm's 71 acres are quiet, an oasis of calm in an otherwise busy corridor of the Township.

The Township acquired the sprawling farmstead in early 2023, but the relationship with the property is decades-old. The family farm was owned and operated by Denton Powell, who fiercely protected the property and gained agricultural protection and conservation status with help from the Board of Supervisors.

After Powell's passing in 2021, the farm became silent for the first time in nearly 150 years. As per his wishes, Cranberry Township took ownership and is in the process of creating a financially sustainable plan to ensure the farm will serve as an educational space for residents and educational institutions.

Moreover, the space will be a living, active monument to the Township's 200-year history in agriculture, and the next example of the commitment to guaranteeing the preservation of open,

green space. And, most importantly, it will continue as an active farm.

That's evident by the rows of corn lining the long gravel drive to the Powell homestead and filling in the hillside landscape. While plans for the property are still in the infancy stages, the Township continues to seed the farm's legacy for Denton Powell. 🏠

**SCAN TO
LEARN MORE!**



MORE GREEN

Guaranteed at Graham

Preserving and promoting green space doesn't just happen – it takes planning.

When the Board of Supervisors were first approached by developers of Park Place 20 years ago, the UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park was nothing but an idea. When those developers returned for revisions in 2005, the Board recognized parcels of property that were not being developed.

That foresight paid off two decades later as the Township took official ownership of two new parcels of land totaling 53 acres along Smiley Cookie Lane.

The land was gifted to the Township as part of the acquisition. It increases the total footprint of Graham Park to 188 acres.

Ron Henshaw, the Township's Director of Planning and Development, said while the acquisition was a long time coming, it was worth the wait."

"This adds to the guaranteed open space acreage in one of the greatest parks in our region," he said.

With the Park offering dozens of sports fields, trails, fishing, gardens, and much more, the newly acquired land provides something a bit different.

"This space offers our residents and visitors more opportunities for passive recreation," said Dan Santoro, Township Manager.

And, most importantly, it adds to the nearly 400 acres of total park space and roughly 3 square miles of open space that will remain green and preserved throughout Cranberry. 🏡

“That is open space,
always to be preserved.”
Dan Santoro, Township Manager



What's the Buzz?

POLLINATOR GARDEN GETS HUMMING

Once completed, the new pollinator garden in North Boundary Park will be fit for a king. Or, rather, a queen. Bee, that is.

The Township Environmental Advisory Committee's plan to turn the 4.1-acre space into a pollinator meadow and butterfly garden is in its first of a multi-year plan to create a protected ecosystem. The space features native plants that, once fully mature, require minimal maintenance while providing an aesthetically pleasing environment that is safe for bees, moths, butterflies, hummingbirds, and insects.

Divided into five areas near the Disc Golf Course, the project saw Township crews remove and re-seed sections, including the existing butterfly garden.

EAC members hope the meadow inspires residents and organizations to follow suit in using open space to create safe areas for these winged creatures to live and grow in harmony.

"To provide floral resources, nesting sites and a protected environment for bee species, butterflies, and moths, is a valuable environmental asset to our parks," said Ron Henshaw, Cranberry Township's, Director of Planning & Developmental Services.

That community concept has been instrumental in creating the project itself, with the EAC joined by the Township, Seneca Valley School District, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Southern Butler County Garden Club, and First Energy, which donated the seeds.

Be sure to stop and smell the flowers, and watch as nature thrives in the Township's newest community. And remember, the process takes time to come to fruition. 🍷



Placing Priority ON PARKS

By Karen Newpol, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors



It's been a whirlwind of a year!

For one year, I've had the honor of serving on the Township Board of Supervisors.

There was and still is a lot to learn.

What I already knew, and what has been confirmed time and again? Cranberry Township loves its residents and its parks!

I am fortunate to have known that for several years. As a member of the Cranberry Township Community Chest, I've had the chance to work on more than a dozen projects that have directly improved our parks.

Those projects could not have happened without the support of the community. Whether financially or through physically building the projects, Cranberry continues to step up to make these dreams a reality.

CTCC's keynote event, Community Days, is further proof that our residents, businesses, and organizations are eager to come together to support our community. In 2023, Community Days saw its largest offering of vendors. The Community Chase 5K, which I'm happy to help coordinate, welcomed the largest number of runners and walkers in its history.

There's always room to grow, and in 2023 the Cranberry Rotary clubs wanted to try something different at Community Days. The clubs hosted the Rotary Ale Garden which provided a friendly space to enjoy live music, eat delicious food, and relax on the beautiful Community Park lawn.

The Rotary, too, sees the value of our parks, supporting pavilions, community gardens, and the dog park, to name a few. You'll also see the Rotary logo adorning the Amphitheater in Community Park – a project spearheaded by CTCC and supported by Rotary and dozens of other community partners.

During Community Days, the Township's Rotary clubs presented the Township with \$10,000 to be used toward the balance of the Rotary Amphitheater project. In total, the groups raised \$40,000 for the effort.

Having served in roles with CTCC, Rotary, and now, as a Supervisor, I've had the opportunity to see how projects work from all sides. At the core, every entity works hard to make the community better.

I've also learned that even when things get busy and new challenges arise, the Cranberry community is in it together. That, too, wasn't a surprise, but a welcome confirmation of what makes Cranberry great.

Karen Newpol

COUNTY CHANGES PRECINCT LOCATIONS

in Effect for November Election

Before doing your civic duty this November, know where you're going!

Voting precinct changes aimed at reducing long-wait lines and balancing the number of voters were approved by Butler County President Judge S. Michael Yeager and the Butler County Board of Commissioners, increasing the number of precincts in Cranberry Township from 9 to 11.

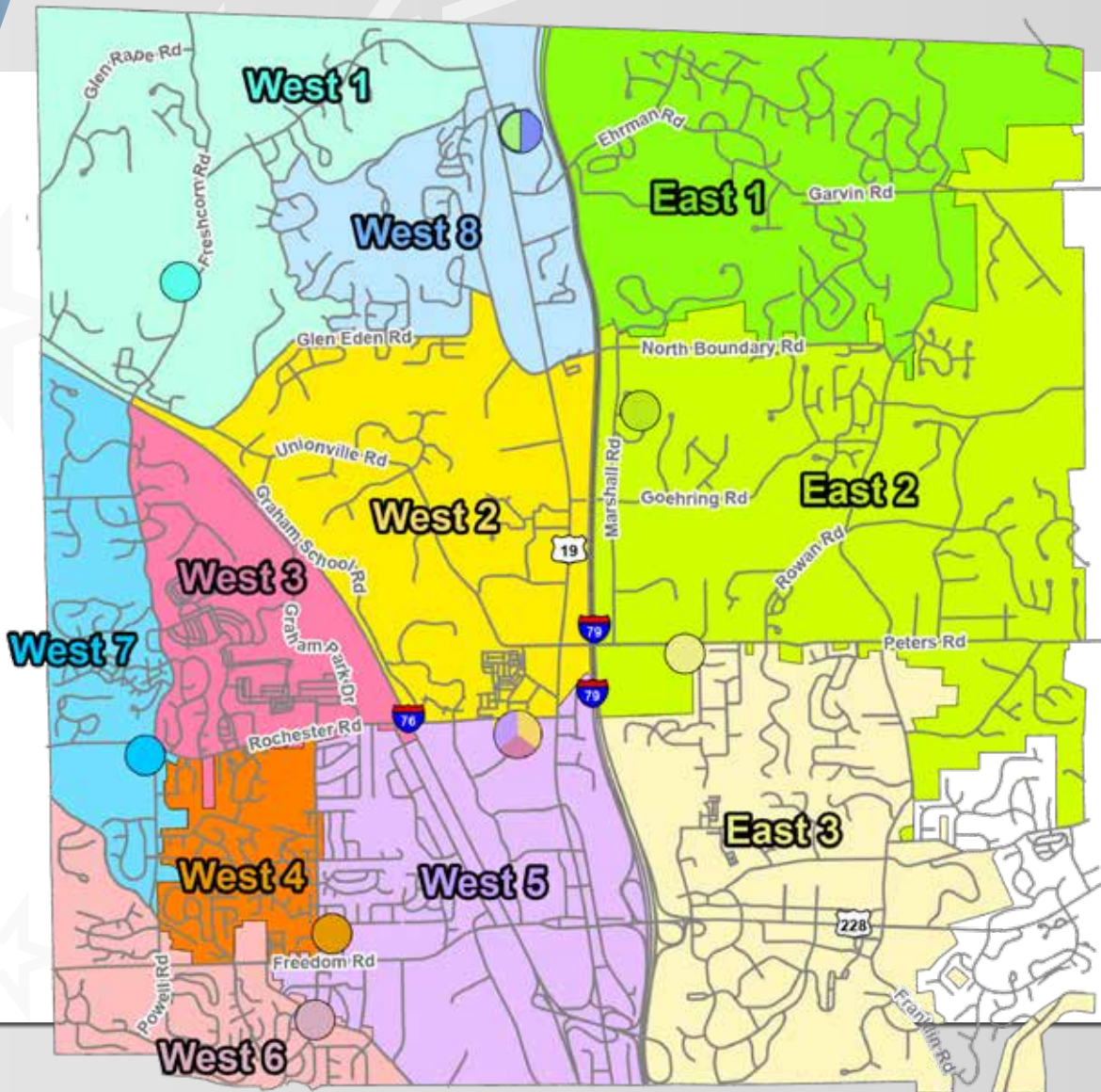
Many voters in Cranberry Township will not see any changes, however some boundaries and polling locations have changed.

The former West 1 precinct was split and now becomes West 1 and West 8; and the former West 3 was split and now becomes West 3 and West 7. The boundaries of West 6 did not change; however, the West 6 polling location changed from The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints to the Lifeway Baptist Church.

There are no changes to those voting in precincts East 1, East 2, East 3, West 2, West 4, and West 5.

Please refer to the new voting map below and to the QR code on the next page to specifically confirm polling location by using the street address. 🏠

VOTING PRECINCTS



**Election Day is
Tuesday, November 7.
Polls are open from
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

**SCAN THE QR TO FIND
YOUR VOTING LOCATION**



PRECINCTS & VOTING LOCATIONS

EAST 1	Victory Family Church 21150 Route 19 Entrance A
EAST 2	Grace Community Church 9160 Marshall Road
EAST 3	Hope Lutheran Church 8070 Rowan Road
WEST 1	Cranberry Highlands Golf Course 5601 Freshcorn Road
WEST 2	Municipal Center 2525 Rochester Road
WEST 3	Municipal Center 2525 Rochester Road
WEST 4	Haine Fire Station 1629 Haine School Road
WEST 5	Municipal Center 2525 Rochester Road
WEST 6	Lifeway Baptist Church 28 Rolling Road
WEST 7	The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints 2771 Rochester Road
WEST 8	Victory Family Church 21150 Route 19 Entrance F

CRANBERRY BRIEFS



Keeping Carts Above Par

A fleet of new carts at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course will not only make for a more enjoyable experience on the links but save money in the long run. The Board of Supervisors recently approved the purchase of 80 Club Car golf carts via a cooperative purchasing agreement. The overall cost includes the trade-in value of the existing fleet. The fleet is powered by lithium-ion batteries which after five years of use are taking longer to charge between rounds. This ultimately limits tee times. With the warranty expiring on the batteries, Cranberry Highlands officials found that the trade-in value of the existing carts would cover the cost of replacing the batteries. With the carts themselves having taken the brunt of more than 172,000 rounds of golf, it was an easy decision to take advantage and purchase an entirely new fleet. The new carts will arrive in time for golfers to tee off on the 2024 season at the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course.



Progress Made on Turnpike Project

The Rochester Road Turnpike Project aims to upgrade the Turnpike from milepost 26 to 28. H.W. Lochner Inc. was recently selected by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and will handle preliminary engineering, final design, and construction consultation. In addition to expanding lanes along Rochester Road, work includes widening the existing corridor from four lanes to six lanes, and general corridor improvements. A feasibility study will determine how to best add lanes to Rochester Road, as well as make the road pedestrian friendly. The project is a cooperative agreement among the Township, the Turnpike Commission, and PennDOT. That group is working together on the ongoing Freedom Road expansion projects, as well.



Tax Deadlines Coming

The 2023 Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate taxes are due at the penalty amount until December 31. The 2023-24 Seneca Valley School District real estate taxes were mailed August 1 and are payable at a 2% discount until September 30. They can be paid at face value from October 1 until November 30. The last day to pay all current year taxes is December 31, 2023. The tax office will continue to be open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. The office will be open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, September 30. Appointments are always available. Stop in or mail payments to P.J. Lynd T/C, 2525 Rochester Road, Suite 205, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. For changes to mortgage companies or escrow accounts to pay property taxes, contact the tax collector's office by email at pj.lynd@cranberrytownship.org, by phone at 724-776-1103 or by fax at 724-776-3011.



New IDEA Team Guidelines Outlined

A year-long quest to further the Township's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts is nearing completion. The Cranberry Township IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Advisory) Team advisory committee has worked with staff to develop a set of guiding parameters to formally establish a leadership committee. The Board of Supervisors recently approved the recommendations, including the formation of a seven-member leadership committee. The leadership committee will furnish recommendations to the Township and offer support in the Township's diversity efforts. They will work directly with a Township staff member to ensure benchmarks are met. The members are appointed by the Board and will serve varying terms.

FOLLOWING FEEDBACK



Township Updates ZONING, DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCES

Cranberry's leaders are always willing to listen.

And sometimes, that listening leads to real changes in how the Township functions.

Changes to the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance aims to build on public feedback while streamlining and consolidating requirements.

The changes to the Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development ordinances consolidate scattered landscape requirements that previously existed in several locations. According to Kyle Beidler, the Township's Strategic Planning Officer, putting the ordinances in one location not only simplifies the development process but does so while considering public input. Several of the changes were made following feedback received from residents about the land development process.

"We started hearing a lot of feedback about some things we could do better, and we're responding to that feedback," he said.

Additionally, updates were made to the Township's street tree list. Beidler noted the Township's Environmental Advisory Committee provided input on the process, particularly with the street tree changes.

"We have a number of trees that are becoming a monoculture," he said, pointing to red maples as a prime suspect. "If there was a blight or some disease, it could wipe out entire neighborhood streetscapes."

In addition to tree diversity, large and small tree lists were created, with the small list intended for planting beneath utility lines.

Elsewhere, buffering requirements and slope provisions were addressed, ensuring vegetation and green space are given a chance to take root and be maintained for years to come.

The changes continue the Township's focus on promoting sustainable, healthy growth and preservation. 🏡



MUNICIPAL SPACE OVERHAUL KICKS OFF

As the de-factor center of Cranberry, the Township Municipal Center is often bustling with activity.

A project to upgrade, improve, and expand the 32-year-old building will make those busy days and evenings a little more comfortable for residents.

A multi-phase project addressing stormwater, parking capacity, and the general appearance of the building began in August 2022 with the expansion of the rear parking lot. This summer, the focus shifted to the side parking lot where major excavation is ongoing.

That sets the stage for the most visible and impactful portion of the project, which will see a complete renovation of office and meeting space, Parks & Recreation space, and other services. Council Chambers will gain space to accommodate larger meetings, while the Customer Service area will be even more accessible to residents.

The building's tenants - including the Property Tax Office, Pittsburgh North Regional

Chamber, Butler County Chamber, and State Rep. Stephenie Scialabba - will see refreshed, expanded spaces to serve their constituents as well. Additional rooms will be added with the intention of having more community meeting and programmable spaces.

"We strive to provide the best services and programs for our community, and a major part of being able to do that is having top-notch facilities," said Mike Manipole, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "For more than three decades, the Municipal Center has served this community well, but we have now outgrown our space."

The Board approved contract awards for the project, including FMS Construction Company (general contracting), K&K Mechanical Services Inc. (HVAC), East End Plumbing & Mech Inc. (plumbing), and Allegheny City Electric Inc. (electrical). A contract for construction management services was awarded to Eckles Construction Services, who will be on-site for the duration of the project.

According to Michael Malek, the Township's Director of Engineering, the bids for the work came in under estimates, allowing the project to begin on the right foot. That budget is supported by a \$1.25 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Award from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"With any project we do, being mindful of taxpayer dollars is our top priority," said Bruce Hezlep, Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Work is expected to continue into Fall 2024 and will coincide with Cranberry Township Community Chest's Great Lawn project. Offices, meeting rooms, program space, and other services may be moved around to accommodate work - but such moves are only temporary.

"We cannot wait to have a fresh space in which to make years of memories with our community," Manipole said. "Pardon our dust for a few months while we do our part to make that a reality." 🏠

CUSTOMER SERVICE

With a

Smile

The average phone call to Customer Service is around 4 minutes long.

That doesn't seem too long to most people, but for the Cranberry Customer Service desk, those minutes add up. Considering that they answered over 27,000 calls last year, it's estimated that representatives spent a whopping 108,000 minutes on the phone.

And that time spent is for good reason: Customer Service is one of the most crucial cogs in municipal government, and

Cranberry is functioning at peak efficiency.

The Customer Service team is constantly evolving to stay in step with the needs of Cranberry's flourishing community. From renting fields and facilities, and program registrations and memberships within our Parks to scheduling move in, move out, and move within utility service applications and work orders, the Department has become a one-stop shop for anything a resident, business, or organization may need.

That one-stop shop mentality, is exactly what

the Township's Administration and Parks & Recreation Customer Service teams plan to do. They are embarking on combining teams to one central physical location to service residents, which is slated to be completely implemented by mid 2024.

In 2022 alone, Customer Service managed to process upwards of 100,000 transactions, proving that while technology can make many parts of society run more smoothly, there's no substitute for service with a smile. 📞

Got a question? Visit
CranberryTownship.org/customerservice
for contact information and more!



2022

AT YOUR SERVICE

No. of Calls per Year	27,144
Average Number of Calls per Day	89
Average Number of In-person Customers per Day	124
Number of Trash Stickers per Year	26,582
Number of Amusement Tickets Sold	1,200
Number of Lien Letters per Year	801
Number of Building & Zoning Permits	886
Number of Scheduled Building Inspections	9,596
Number of Scheduled Service Orders	1,740
Number of Scheduled Work Orders	767
Number of Scheduled Trash Cart Services	1,620
Number of Processed Transactions	119,635
Number of Field and Facility Rentals	1,150



CURRENT CONDITIONS



Answers to Your Utility Line Questions

Winter may be creeping in, but bright colors continue to pop out of the ground around Cranberry.

This kaleidoscope of color signals ongoing work to upgrade and expand utilities in the Township, most notably telecommunications infrastructure. Prior to work beginning earlier this year, the Township aimed to answer as many questions about the work as possible.

Still, as work progressed, more questions required an answer. Below are some of those questions, as well as additional information on the work itself.

As always, Cranberry Township will take every step to inform and be proactive as the project progresses.

Q: Why did the Township allow this work to occur?

A: Simply put, the Township does not have the authority to permit or stop such work. Utility companies have a legal right to access any of their infrastructure located on the owner's property due to easement rights. Easements are dedicated sections of land on private property which utility companies are allowed to access for the betterment of the community.

Q: What is the Township doing to address resident issues?

A: Cranberry has dedicated a full-time staff member to focus entirely on these projects. Joseph Leavens, the Township's Manager of Sewer and Water Field Operations, serves as the liaison between residents and utility providers to ensure a cooperative working relationship between

the parties. Leavens can be reached by calling 724-776-4806 ext. 1515.

Q: Are Township employees involved in the work?

A: While utility work is being conducted by third-party contractors, Cranberry Township employees are responsible for marking public water, public sewer, and public stormwater infrastructure. The Township is also using additional contractors to keep up with the demand of marking properties.

Q: Is the Township working with the utility companies?

A: The Township is in constant contact with the utility companies about where they are working and general timelines. While some are very responsive, others are not. All contact info is available on the Township website.

Q: Why can't companies share lines or use existing lines?

A: Each company must use their own lines to ensure oversight and accountability in the future. Similarly, any existing lines are already owned by a specific company. Those lines may not be equipped to handle additional usage, requiring new lines to be installed.

Q: Why did the Township approve franchise agreements?

A: The Township's hands are often tied by franchise agreements and federal regulations. However, Cranberry has always welcomed providers to offer their services in the community.

The reason? In short, it's about choice. For decades, residents have demanded more options and choice when it comes to cable and internet providers. This work provides those choices.

While the work is invasive, it is temporary. Once finished, providers will be better equipped to serve Cranberry Township residents.

Q: How were residents informed about this work?

A: The Township has used every available resource to communicate ongoing work and answer questions.

In addition to previous stories in 'Cranberry Today,' an announcement has been in place on the Township's website since earlier this year. That announcement also links to a webpage full of information, including FAQs, contact information, updated timelines, and much more.

Additionally, information has been shared via Cranberry Central, the Township's e-newsletter, as well as via Township social media pages.

Outside of the Township's efforts, it is the responsibility of each utility company to communicate and inform residents about upcoming work. 🏠

Scan to see more information and up-to-date locations of work or visit CranberryTownship.org/OneCall



NEWS

Social Skills

TOWNSHIP TAKES INFORMATION TO YOUR **Fingertips**

In a world where information is at your fingertips, it's easier than ever to know what's happening. In Cranberry Township, the Communications Department uses every means available to share information. As is the case for many governments, organizations, or businesses, social media remains the most direct and effective way to connect.

Be it breaking, urgent news or recaps of events, social media is a valuable tool that efficiently connects to residents and vastly impacts the Township's ability to communicate, garner good will, share news, and network. These platforms are used to effectively share news, encourage conversation and community engagement, listen to feedback and, most importantly, keep residents informed.

With a steady stream of reliable content, the Communications Department has grown the Township's social media channels to noteworthy levels which require daily attention to the process. Check out some of the most popular posts from 2023, and be sure to follow along, share, and engage with us!

**2 Million Impressions Across All Networks
& 1.7 Million Users Engaged!**

INSTAGRAM
Largest Post
Community Days
Recap - 3,439



WEBSITE
1 Million Visitors
in 2022



NEXTDOOR
Followers - 11,011



FACEBOOK (10 Pages)
Followers - 50,537
Largest Post
Waterpark Night Swims -
111,676



LIKE

FOLLOW



YOUTUBE
180,743 Lifetime
Views on 134 Videos

SHARE

X (TWITTER)
Largest Post -
Community Days
Recap - 3,439



CHAT



LINKEDIN
Largest Post -
Powell Farm -
12,199 Impressions



Community Days **Crushes High Expectations!**



Records are made to be broken – and CTCC Community Days is made to break those records.

The celebration of all things community topped a wildly successful 2022 event by setting new high marks in 2023. The three-day event featured the Cruisin' Cranberry Car Show, Community Chase 5K, Lion's Pancake Breakfast, Rotary BINGO, Cranberry CUP Home Run Derby, Battle of the Badges, and the fan-favorite Saturday night fireworks.

Nearly 300 individuals hit the road during the 5K, and more than 450 set the table at the Pancake Breakfast – both new records.

So too were the 260 vendors and food trucks offering everything from hand-made art to non-profit services.

The community stepped up to sew new seeds for the Cranberry Yarn Creations "Yarn Bomb" project lining the main thoroughway. The Cranberry Artists Network created a massive lawn display that had to be seen from above to be truly appreciated.

Elsewhere, the Cranberry Township Rotary Craft Ale Garden offered a happy, hoppy opportunity for adult attendees, while the roaming characters and mascots spread good cheer to kids of all ages.

Be sure to save the date for next year's celebration from July 11-13, 2024. 🏠

*Check out a video recap of
Community Days 2023 here!
YourCTCC.org/CommunityDays*



SCOUTS HONOR



PROJECT PAYS TRIBUTE, PROVIDES *Recreation Opportunities*

The Scout Oath is more than 40 words said aloud at meetings and events – it's a lifestyle.

Tucked in that creed is a concept not limited to Scouts but has been a driving force for the Cranberry Township Community Chest: help other people at all times.

It was an easy decision, then, to pay tribute to Scouting via the 2011 CTCC Project of the Year, which constructed a handicap-accessible flagstone plaza and fishing pond at UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park.

The concept for the open-air plaza first emerged in 2010, the year the Boy Scouts

of America celebrated its 100th anniversary. The space was officially dedicated in 2012 – the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

The centerpiece of the plaza is a stone monument highlighting the Cycle of Scouting. This first-of-its-kind monument also includes six time capsules, each containing messages addressed to those who will eventually celebrate the 125th, 150th, and 200th anniversaries of scouting.

The three-acre site also features a fishing pond that doubles as the Park's stormwater management system. It is stocked with bluegill, bass, and other easily caught fish, with installations in the pond serving as fish

attractors that create a year-round habitat. The pond can be used license-free for catch-and-release fishing throughout the year.

Since opening, the area has been popular for passive and active recreation for visitors of all ages, from fishing to simply taking a break in the sunshine. While doing so, they're also reminded of the importance of Scouting, and, more importantly, helping others. It's a concept that CTCC will continue promoting for decades to come. 🏠

Scan to learn more about the
CTCC Project of the Year or visit
YourCTCC.org/POY



What is an **ENDOWMENT?**

It's a question that has challenged man for hundreds of years: how will I be remembered?

While there's no way to truly measure one's impact on others, the Cranberry Legacy Endowment offers an opportunity to make a tangible contribution to the community.

But what, exactly, is an ENDOWMENT?

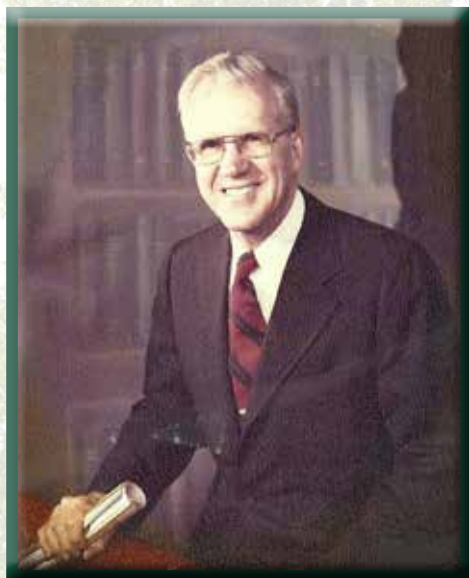
In short, it's a fund that anyone can create to support their choice of more than 40 different causes. This includes non-profit and civic organizations, scholarships, and community projects. These lifetime funds go directly to these causes, and the principle is never touched, guaranteeing its sustainability. Such donations also offer notable tax benefits to the donor.

Additionally, there are several ways to fund an endowment, including:

- **Direct Donations**
- **Life Insurance Policy Donations**
- **Real Estate**
- **Annual Charitable Gift Annuity**
- **Charitable Remainder Trust**
- **Bequest or Living Trust**

No matter the cause or the type of donation, creating a Cranberry Legacy Endowment not only provides opportunities to the community, but ensures a person can leave a lasting impact for generations.

*Now that you know how an
endowment helps you and the
community, start one of your own!*



Hess' Contributions Helped Build Cranberry

Frankly, Cranberry Township wouldn't be what it is without J. Frank Hess. With his fingerprints on many Township endeavors, Hess' legacy is synonymous with Cranberry's success. Though he passed in 2007 at age 93, his legacy will live on in perpetuity thanks to an endowment through Cranberry Township Community Chest.

Hess was an inspirational business leader, aviator, golfer, and outstanding civic volunteer. He was a founding member of the Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community and a great friend of Cranberry Township.

Born in Uniontown, he worked his way through the former Carnegie Tech, graduating in 1937 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He used that education to fuel a successful professional career which includes executive and corporate board positions.

Outside of work, he held leadership posts in the Ingomar United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Foundation. He was a longtime member of the North Hills Rotary, an early promoter of Franklin Park Borough's sewage authority, and board chairman of Passavant Hospital.

In 1983, Hess and his wife, Betty, joined with six other couples to found Sherwood Oaks. It's where he lived until his passing. Betty continued living on the campus until her passing in 2013 – she was the last surviving founding member.

Along the way, Hess stepped up to help Cranberry in many ways, most notably loaning the Township money to purchase the Municipal Center along Rochester Road.

Honoring his memory, Frank's wife Betty and the Hess family created a permanent endowment in 2010. Via the J. Frank Hess Project of the Year Heritage Fund, his legacy will live on and support his lifetime mission of making his community better. 🏠



GREAT THINGS AHEAD FOR *Great Lawn*

Fresh fruits and vegetables, a petting zoo, and Santa Claus.

Over the course of a year, these things and more can be found on the Municipal Center's front lawn. As the Municipal Center undergoes a major overhaul, Cranberry Township Community Chest is jumping at the chance to make the lawn even better.

The Great Lawn project was unveiled as the CTCC 2023/24 Project of the Year earlier this summer, with Armstrong stepping up as

the title sponsor. The project looks to serve residents with a green gathering space, an expansion of pedestrian connections, a new informational sign, and a water feature, along with the creation of a traditional town center in which the community can gather and grow together.

Finalization of the design and planning is underway, with construction expected to begin in spring 2024.

Until then, the community is invited to play a

vital role in creating this welcoming, attractive space. After all, it is the community's space to enjoy how it sees fit – and that experience will undoubtedly be great! 🏡

The Four Focuses of the Great Lawn

*Help strengthen the fiber of the community
by playing a part in the Great Lawn or
visit YourCTCC.org/greatlawn.*



CONNECTIVITY

With housing and business options blossoming around Rochester Road, the roadway itself is undergoing a transformation of its own. In addition to lane widening, as well as a planned overhaul of the Turnpike Bridge portion of the road, pedestrian connectivity continues to improve.

01



PASSIVE RECREATION

From golf to swimming and miles of walking, biking, and running trails, Cranberry has endless recreation activities, however, passive recreation is very popular, too. As a passive recreation area, the Great Lawn will offer numerous ways to relax and enjoy the beauty of Cranberry Township.

02



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Maintaining an environmentally conscience space is the key element of the Great Lawn, as it is the cornerstone of Cranberry's decision making. This initiative will integrate high-quality, sustainable practices that, conserve resources, save money, and improve ecological health.

03



PARTNERSHIPS

The project serves as an example of community partnerships creating opportunities, with Armstrong signing on as the title sponsor. It's a long-standing relationship that has helped form bonds in the community.

04

FIRE ME UP

Igniting a Passion for Fire Service

How did you spend your summer vacation?

For the 17 participants in the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company's Cadet Academy, the heat of flames was more attractive than the heat of a sunny week at the beach.

While recruiting the next generation of firefighters was top of mind, attention to detail was a constant focus – something borrowed from the Fire Company's overall mission of providing safe, efficient service to the community.

In its third year, the Academy introduced young adults to the basics of firefighting over the course of a five-day program. Sessions

began with explanations of the inner workings of the Fire Company and ended with a full mock fire fought by the teenaged crew. The week wasn't just about learning a new skill – it was about igniting the fire for a career as a first responder.

"The best way to understand what the Fire Company does each day is to experience it, hands-on," said Scott Garing, Chief of Fire & Emergency Services.

And while learning the fundamentals of firefighting is foremost, the lessons don't end there.

"At the core, it's about teamwork, supporting one another, and problem solving," Garing said.

For some, that could include joining their local fire service, as many of the 17 participants indicated they would explore the opportunity in the future.

They'll do so with the attention to detail, which the Fire Company is taking a step further via the Township's new Fire and Emergency Services Training Coordinator position. Fire Company member Chris Snedeker just recently took on the position, which serves to develop, implement, coordinate, and expand fire training and education programs.

As with the Fire Academy, the Company isn't just focused on making themselves better.

"Chris will work collaboratively with other organizations in the region to achieve training goals," Garing said. "It's about understanding the basic principles, practices, and methods of fire and emergency services operations and education and training programs to make everyone better and, ultimately, safer." 🚒





POLICE WALKING THE SCHOOL BEAT

Officer James Cipriani opens his notepad and jots down vital information – crowd size, door access, attendance variables, visitor location, and other unique behaviors.

He isn't taking notes on a crime scene. Instead, he's noting the daily activities that occur on his police beat at Haine Elementary and Middle Schools.

The Seneca Valley School District has service contracts with the Cranberry Township Police Department for regular, random patrols of K-6 sites via uniformed and armed police officers. Cipriani is joined by Officers Tiffani Shaffer and Mark Shields in covering the district's Cranberry Township schools – Haine, Rowan Elementary, and Ehrman Crest.

The officers' presence adds a level of safety but goes beyond simple security. Cipriani said forming relationships with students from

a young age is the most important – and rewarding – part of the job.

"Kids are smart," Cipriani said. "They understand and respect the rule of law, and really try hard to behave well. But it feels even more impactful when students recognize me at community events and want to talk. They recognize we can be friends."

Shaffer agrees.

"It's so rewarding to make these connections and let them see that being a police officer isn't just about catching bad guys," she said.

Seneca Valley recently appointed Jackson Township Police Officer Jason Young as the District's Supervisor of Safety and Security, furthering the Seneca Valley School Board of Directors' commitment to ensuring a secure learning environment.

"Any time you can add a layer of security to a strong crisis plan, that's a very good thing," said Fred Peterson, School Board Member.

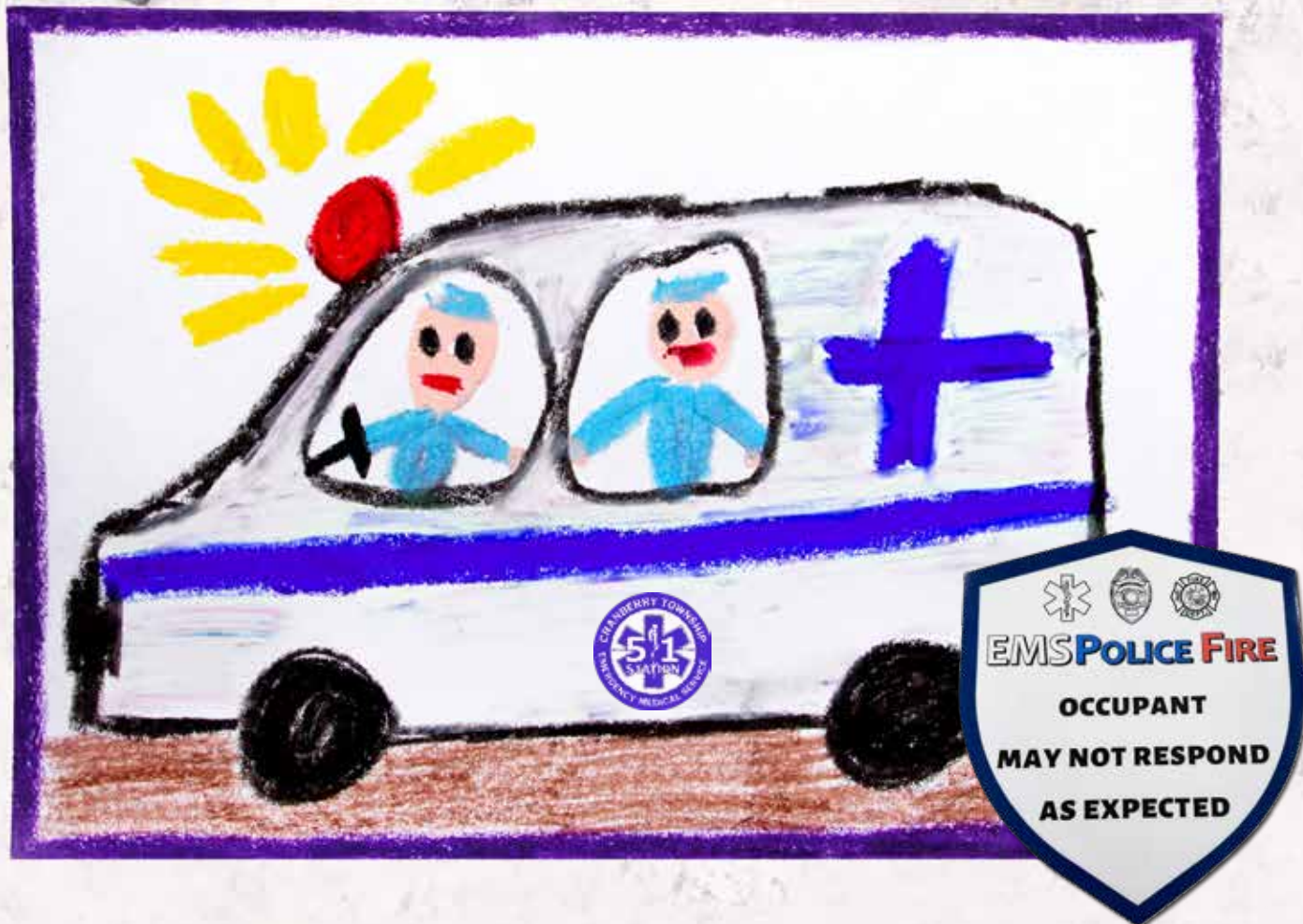
Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools, agrees on the importance of security.

"It's vitally important to have strong partnerships with our police departments," she said. "We know such a rapport has positive effects on student discipline and improves the physical and emotional safety for both our students and staff."

Chalk it up to a job well done on a unique police beat. 🏠



• CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP •
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



NEW EMS PROGRAM SENDS A SIGNAL

It's a cliché for a reason: in an emergency, every second counts.

But while rapid response is critical in any emergency, so too is having all available information about a patient or situation.

Cranberry Township EMS is taking action to ensure paramedics, firefighters, and police have all the knowledge they need to successfully handle a call.

In partnership with Butler County, the organization is providing window stickers for alerting first responders that the occupants of a vehicle or home may require special attention. The reflective stickers state,

“Occupant May Not Respond As Expected.”

The program mimics the Pennsylvania Yellow Dot program which aims to assist individuals who may not be able to communicate their needs during an emergency.

The namesake yellow dot sticker prompts first responders to check the vehicle's glovebox for emergency contact information, medical history, medications, allergies, and doctors. It also includes a headshot photo of the individual for identification confirmation. The program is geared to senior citizens, as well as any person who may have issues communicating their needs.

Cranberry's program brings that concept to homes, where a door sticker gives responders notice that the occupant may need special consideration. The goal is to spread the word of the program around the Township and across Butler County.

“Having the knowledge that a patient needs special care or attention makes our process easier,” said EMS Director Matt Nickl. “We aim to treat every patient as an individual and address all of their needs, and this program helps us achieve that.” 🏠

To get a sticker and corresponding information, scan the QR or visit cranberrytownshipems.org/contact-us.



SALUTING CRANBERRY'S HEROES



It's impossible to properly say 'thank you' to the men and women who keep Cranberry safe. The inaugural Hometown Heroes First Responders Awards, however, aimed to do just that.

A collaboration between Butler County's nine Rotary Clubs, the 2024 Can-Am Police-Fire Games, and the Butler Eagle, the awards recognized first responders throughout the county. Residents nominated those first responders who exemplified community service through their dedication to keeping the community safe.

In total, 27 first responders from across Butler County were recognized. The Cranberry Rotary Clubs chose three individuals for the award: Ed Steinmetz, Police; Mandy Cousins, EMS; and Bruce Hezlep, Fire. Though they work in separate organizations, they share a mission that goes far beyond public safety.

"Our first responders do so much more than answers calls – they form relationships, provide education, and promote a sense of community that makes us all stronger," said Township Manager Dan Santoro, a member of the Cranberry Rotary.

Jack Cohen, District Governor of Rotary International District 7280, said the awards exemplify the Rotary's mission of "service above self."

"It's an honor to recognize first responders who give of themselves every day to selflessly protect our citizens," said Cohen, "We're extremely grateful for their service and this is a way to show the entire community's appreciation for what they do."

An awards ceremony and separate awards dinner were held in September, but the appreciation for those who protect and serve never stops. 🏠

The Can-Am Police-Fire Games will be held July 15-21, 2024 at a variety of venues in Butler County. Can-Am Police-Fire Games is a multi-sport, Olympic-style event that features traditional sports and competitions that include skills used in first responders' day-to-day work. The Games will have competitors from Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service Providers, Homeland Security, Border Patrol, Corrections Officers, and other first responders along with their spouses and children over 18. The Can-Am Games are expected to see more than 1,000 participants from the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Canada.

Learn more at butlercanam2024.com





Salute to Service

RETIRE YOUR OLD GLORY PROGRAM SOARS

The sight of a crisp red, white, and blue flag waving in the wind brings feelings of pride and gratefulness.

When those American flags are tattered and torn, there's standards for retiring them, set forth in the nation's Flag Code.

In 2011, Denise Etter, Director of the Retire Your Old Glory Program, saw a need in the community for a place to properly dispose of these flags so they could be ceremoniously retired. Twelve years later, nearly 43,000 flags have been retired as the program has expanded to 16 locations from Pennsylvania to Virginia.

Etter said she started the project after hearing feedback from the community that many did not know the proper way to dispose of their flags. According to the Flag Code, flags are to be retired in a dignified and respectful

manner, including a ceremonial burning.

Retire Your Old Glory creates an easy first step in the process, providing patriotic bins that are conveniently placed in public locations. The Township Board of Supervisors unanimously supported Etter's plan to place the first bin inside the Municipal Center in 2011.

In the first five years of the program, 5,000 flags were collected via the bin. In total, 10,076 flags have been retired from the Cranberry community. Since then, additional bins have been installed in Pennsylvania communities, as well as two in Fredericksburg, Va.

Etter said in addition to providing a community service, Retire Your Old Glory offers an opportunity for community engagement. Municipalities, libraries, scout

groups, and veterans' organizations help with the process, as do members of the McGuire Memorial community. Each month, a group comes together to count and fold flags, which Etter said is impactful.

"They really get a lot out of coming here to visit and do that special project," she said.

Etter said she's excited about the future of the program and the chance to educate the community on how to properly, respectfully honor their country.

"It's been very satisfying," she said. "The new relationships I've been able to form have been fantastic." 🏠

*Learn more about the
Retire Your Old Glory program.*



Faces of Cranberry: ZACH RAMOS

The Ramos family home in Meeder is the definition of a beautiful modern home: a carefully decorated open concept living and kitchen area, cozy coffee nook, basement ninja training course, and a well-manicured lawn.

Basement ninja training course?

Indeed, the sublevel of the recently constructed home is adorned with mats on the floor and any number of monkey bars, rings, and ropes on the support beams. There, 11-year-old Zach Ramos trains to be the best ninja in the world.

Introduced to the masses via the “American Ninja Warrior” TV show, obstacle course ninja racing is a mix of gymnastics, rock climbing, and calisthenics. It challenges participants to quickly adapt to obstacles and make split-second decisions, all while enduring the physical challenge.

Since a young age, Zach has been a risk taker, climbing on anything he could find and doing tricks on the playground. With boredom setting in during the COVID-19 pandemic, Zach decided to try out the games he watched on TV. He eventually joined a ninja gym in Ross Township, learning the proper way to jump, swing, and even fall. He had – and has – no fear.

“Only if something bad happens,” he said with a smile.

Zach quickly took to the sport, taking part in tournaments throughout the region and country. Success also came quickly as he made the podium in 15 qualifying events, including finishing in the top 2% in the world in his division.

In August, Zach was invited to compete in the World Ninja League Premier Series in South Carolina. He was one of four participants to make the podium and qualify for the World Ninja League Premier Series Finals in Brooklyn in November. He’ll have the training and experience to guide him, as well as the support of his family – parents George and Karla, brother Matthew, 13, and sister Gracey, 9.

Natives of Los Angeles, George and Karla took a “leap of faith” and moved to Cranberry in 2015. They’ve become “proud Pittsburghers” – and even more proud of what Zach has accomplished.

Zach, too, is proud, if not a little shy about his quick ascent in the ninja world. But what does his classmates think at Haine School?

“They just think it’s crazy,” he said, adding he will often find something ninja-related to show off on the playground.

No matter what happens in November, Zach has his eyes set on making “America Ninja Warrior” and, hopefully, the obstacle racing competition in 2028 Olympics in his parents native Los Angeles.

Zach’s quest for ninja greatness has the potential to take him around the world – all from his home nestled right here in Cranberry Township. 🏠

Follow along with Zach Ramos’ quest
to become the best stunt ninja in the world.



TURNING THE PAGES OF

History at Cranberry Library



There's a whole world – and beyond – to explore.

For 50 years, the Cranberry Public Library has made that exploration and the quest for knowledge as easy as signing up for a library card.

Upon opening in 1973 at the former Municipal Center, the Library offered 200 books in a 120-square-foot space. With growth anticipated and the Township making a move to the current Rochester Road facility, the Library began prepping as well.

Since making the move in 1991, the Library has blossomed into a nearly 17,000-square-foot, multi-media space serving almost 30,000 registered patrons.

"The community has always supported this Library and helped us grow to meet its needs," said Leslie Pallotta, Library Director. "Our goal is to provide intellectual access to information for effective learning in a warm educational environment."

And while the focus is to promote life-long learning in a safe, diverse, and respectful place, it isn't just about books.

The Library offers dozens of electronic resources for books, magazines, and news organizations, as well as resources to help trace family history and genealogy. There are programs geared to all ages, including specialized adult, teen, and tween offerings.

The newest feature, The Forge Maker Space, is a state-of-the-art facility where makers can let their imaginations run wild using 3D printers, Cricuts, embroidery machines, a laser engraver, and any number of hands-on tools of the trade.

"Education and discovery are at the core of what we do, and the MakerSpace allows us to reach the community on an entirely new level," Pallotta said.

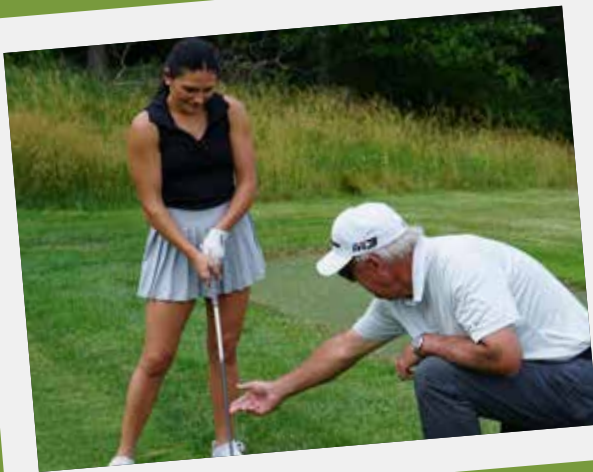
While the 50-year celebration is ongoing, Pallotta and the Library's Board of Directors are hard at work to make sure the Library's next chapter is just as easy as page-turning. 🏠



OH SNAP!

SUMMER RECAP







WATERPARK STAFF HONORED FOR LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS

Lifeguards at Cranberry's Waterpark have all the skills to keep swimmers safe. Ideally, they hope to never use them.

One early summer evening, reality struck quickly: a 12-year-old child was struggling to swim, eventually sinking below the surface. Thanks to weekly training and daily reminders, the entire crew dove action, activating the emergency response plan.

Thanks to those efforts, the boy was able to walk away shaken but unharmed.

"It may have been the summer, but you gave that boy an early Christmas gift – the gift of life," said Mike Manipole, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, during a ceremony honoring

Waterpark staff's effort. "Most of you come to work everyday hoping you don't have to get out of your chair. You were forced into duty, and you handled it so well."

More than a dozen staff members played a part in the rescue, from clearing the Waterpark of other guests to physically entering the pool to bring the child to safety. Manipole noted every piece is important, as, "it only takes one link in the chain to break."

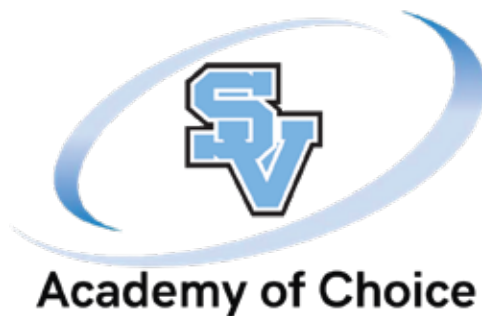
Though they ranged in age from 15 to 20 years old, the staff's experience and professionalism far exceed their years.

"These kids are representative of the great team we have," said Dave Hutner, Waterpark Manager.

Hutner said every staff member understands the importance of the Waterpark's rigorous practice procedures, which includes in-service training twice a week. The goal, he said, is to provide staff with the knowledge and expertise to react swiftly when called upon.

"We can't stop and think – we have to act," he said. "On that day, and every day, they stepped up and did everything they are expected to do, and they did it well. I can't express in words how proud I am." 🏠





SENECA VALLEY OFFERS Top-Choice Education in Cranberry

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a newfound reliance on technology to bring work, meetings, and classrooms to phones, tablets, and computers.

But as with many cutting-edge ideas and concepts, the Seneca Valley School District was ahead of the game.

In 2007, the District saw the need for expanded online learning possibilities. The program was created for high school students who found a traditional learning environment challenging and overwhelming. The first year, 36 students took advantage of the opportunity.

Now, the program has morphed into the

Seneca Valley Academy of Choice, with more than 2,000 students in grades K-12 enrolled in at least one cyber course. There are more than 175 courses available with full-time and hybrid options.

Not only does the Academy allow for flexibility, it also allows for one-on-one support. The 2023-24 school year saw the kickoff of the first full year for the Academy's Drop-in Center on Executive Drive. Serving as the physical hub for the Academy, the 6,200-square-foot facility officially began welcoming students in March.

And while the building may look like a typical school, work being done in the classroom is

unique. While some students show up for a traditional environment, some are working independently on their own schedules. The Drop-in Center offers a space for students to get hands-on learning, tutoring, or simply work in a quiet location.

In addition to traditional courses and performing and fine arts, the Drop-in Center offers blended technology courses via a STEM lab, as well as space for physical education classes.

It's the District's next step in creating student-focused learning opportunities to ensure success for everyone. 🏠



Full-time students enrolled 2022-23
2,000 total students,
taking at least
one cyber course



Courses available
for grades K-12
full-time and hybrid
options assisted with
one on one support



Diploma from the
Seneca Valley School
District, following SVSD
curriculum and PA State
standards



Learn about the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice
Drop-in Center or visit www.svsd.net/AcademyOfChoice

ARRANGING THE FURNITURE

Scandinavian Designs Make Themselves at Home in Cranberry

Furniture designs from across the pond have reached Cranberry thanks to the recent opening of Scandinavian Designs in Cranberry Square – the first Pennsylvania location.

While the company is rapidly growing with more than 44 showrooms across the country, it wasn't always that way. The company's humble beginnings came more than 60 years ago, when Norwegian founder Erling Eide brokered a deal with a craftsman who sold him a single piece of furniture to take to America. With a crisp handshake, Eide sealed the deal and headed to San Rafael, California to open the very first Scandinavian Designs showroom.

What started as a one-man mission to bring elements of the Scandinavian lifestyle to the states eventually expanded into one of the largest retailers of Scandinavian furniture in the U.S.

"We've been a well-established brand in the west for 60 years, and we're thrilled to open our first location in the state of Pennsylvania," says Regional General Manager Mike Souza. "As we celebrate our 60th year in business, we're excited to provide Cranberry Township with a unique retail experience where shoppers can explore a wide assortment of modern and contemporary designs."

The Pennsylvania location occupies the former Toys 'R Us building which has sat empty since 2018. The building underwent considerable renovations with the addition of wide-plank flooring, a new glass portion to the showroom, and a contemporary black, white, and gray color paint scheme – all to blend with Scandinavian Designs' modern aesthetics. The showroom lighting, however, is indeed the original Toys 'R Us lighting.

The Cranberry location offers designs based on the Scandinavian concept of *hygge* (hue-guh), which is regarded as a defining characteristic of the Scandinavian lifestyle. It refers to the warm feeling of contentment that is experienced in a cozy and comfortable environment.

Comfort isn't the only thing the company is focused on, though. Quality and sustainability are top priorities for the retailer, as it offers a wide range of eco-friendly products – from innovating sustainable processes used to make products in Italy to utilizing renewable resources to craft pieces right here in the United States.

Looking to arrange some new furniture in your home? Visit Scandinavian Designs in-person at Cranberry Square or online at scandinaviandesigns.com to shop all the latest pieces. 🏠



Photo is of actual Scandinavian Design furniture.



MADE TO ORDER

Sheetz & Cranberry Township: A Perfect Match

It may not be the center of the universe, but Cranberry Township is undoubtedly a hub of activity in Western Pennsylvania.

With Interstate 79, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and several heavily traveled state routes surrounding it, Cranberry is a welcome sight for travelers.

And when those travelers need a break, Sheetz is there to welcome them – no matter what area of the Township they may be in.

The Altoona-based, family-owned company recently opened its third location in Cranberry after seeing the need for reliable, fast fuel and food service. The new store, along Route 228, joins previous stores on Freedom Road and at the corner of Route 19 and Ehrman Road.

According to Nicholas Ruffner, Sheetz' Director of Communications, focusing on Cranberry was an easy decision.

"We have great community support for our brand in Cranberry," he said. "When we think of municipalities who support their businesses, Cranberry Township always comes to the top of that list."

The community has returned that appreciation in-kind, showing up for one of the company's largest grand openings in its history, offering gift cards, giveaways, and complimentary coffee.

"It's not surprising because of the great vibrancy of this community," he said.

And while offering made-to-order food and drinks is the business side of Sheetz, serving communities with donations are a big part of their charitable side. As part of grand opening ceremonies, the company donates food and funds that support Special Olympics, and Food Across America as part of their Sheetz For the Kidz™ initiative.

The Sheetz partnership with Special Olympics of PA began in 1991 and since expanded their involvement to include Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia. The humble start in Pennsylvania has raised over \$2.5 million for the charity thus far.

Sheetz was pleased to donate locally to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and Special Olympics Pittsburgh raising their total to positively impacting 160,000 Special Olympic participants living in the communities that Sheetz services.

The community connection – along with all three location's doors – are open for business. It's a business model and charitable arm ... made to order. 🍔



Family Friendly Fun Flourishes

There are two words no person likes to hear come from their family members: "I'M BORED."

Luckily, Cranberry Township has a myriad of ways for families to pass the time while spending the day together. Whether checking out the newest blockbuster or learning a new skill, there's plenty to do in Cranberry! 🏠

1. **Cranberry Golf Center**
8034 Rowan Road
2. **Cranberry Highlands Golf Course**
5601 Freshcorn Road
3. **Fun Fore All Family Fun Park**
8 Progress Avenue
4. **Lumberjaxes**
20111 Route 19 Room 302B
5. **MovieScoop Cranberry Cinemas**
20111 Route 19 (Cranberry Mall)
6. **Public Lands**
1000 Cranberry Square Drive
7. **The Turn Club**
1298 Freedom Road
8. **UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex**
8000 Cranberry Springs Drive
9. **Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park**
351 American Way
10. **X-Cel Gymnastics and Cheer**
220 Executive Drive &
707 Thomson Park Drive
11. **Community Park**
111 Ernie Mashuda Drive
12. **North Boundary Park**
1171 North Boundary Road
13. **UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park**
260 Graham Park Drive
14. **Municipal Center**
2525 Rochester Road



in Cranberry



Now Open!

- **Sheetz**
1664, Route 228
- **Run the Show Basketball**
322 Commerce Park Drive
- **Scandinavian Designs**
1000 Cranberry Square Drive
- **Middough Engineering**
2000 Westinghouse Drive,
Suite 202
- **Gulisek Construction, LLC**
300 Thomson Park Drive,
Suite 322A
- **Minuteman Press**
1185 Freedom Road
- **Union Orthodontics**
51 Dutilh Road, Suite 120



Find Out What's Coming! CranberryTownship.org/Biz411



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Learn how your business can support our healthy, active, & engaged community!

2024 Sponsorship Guide will be available this January!



CranberryTownship.org/Sponsor





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