

# Cranberry **TODAY**

WINTER 2024





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# 2024 Waste Collection



## JANUARY

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1 DAY DELAY  
(Due to weekday holiday)

### LIVE TREE COLLECTION

January 8 - 19

### YARD WASTE COLLECTION

April 1 - Dec 6



## STAY ALERT!

Receive mobile and email alerts about program delays and/or cancellations, travel advisories, public safety announcements, Township news, and more.

GET CONNECTED AT [CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/CONNECT](http://CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/CONNECT)

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

January 25; February 1, 29;  
March 7, 28; April 4, 25  
6:30 PM, Municipal Center

### Planning Advisory Commission

January 29; February 5, 26;  
March 4, 25; April 1, 29  
6:00 PM, Municipal Center

### Zoning Hearing Board

February 19; March 18;  
April 15  
7:30 PM, Municipal Center

### Library Board

January 22; February 26  
March 25; April 22  
6:30 PM, Library

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



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35

## ON THE COVER



*Master Gardeners from the Butler County - Penn State Extension move and replant a garden at the Municipal Center as the modernization upgrade continues.*



#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bruce Hezlep  
Mike Manipole  
Bruce Mazzoni  
Karen Newpol  
John Skorupan

#### TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Dan Santoro

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# GROWING TOGETHER

Andy Dufresne in the classic film “The Shawshank Redemption” quipped that when facing challenges, one can either get busy living, or get busy dying.

While the idea of growth in Cranberry Township isn’t exactly a life-or-death situation, it is one that the Board of Supervisors thinks about constantly. We imagine that many of our residents do, too.

Cranberry has steadily grown at a rate of about 1.7% each year – a number that is both manageable and necessary for sustainability.

Why necessary? To paraphrase Mr. Dufresne, if we aren’t growing, we’re dying.

This concept is the crux of the lifecycle of a community, a well-researched and proven way to view the health, vibrance, and long-term success of an area.

There are five main stages in the community lifecycle: ideation, initiation, growth, maturity, and division/decline. A community’s success is determined by how it navigates the challenges along the way.

Cranberry is well through the ideation and initiation phases and firmly located in the growth stage. As residents and businesses continue moving into the Township, the Board makes critical decisions that advance the mission of creating a community where people want to live, work, and play.

That includes maintaining infrastructure and services while finding new ways to increase value for homeowners and businesses. We do that through innovative programming, careful planning, and strong community engagement.

While the Board makes the official decisions, the community is encouraged to provide feedback. We have always and will continue to keep these lines of communication open.

Ultimately, the main challenge the Board and Township leaders face is sustaining the community as we grow and mature while never slipping into decline. While it’d be easy to put off thinking about such things, the downhill ascent is always faster than the climb. We don’t have to look too far from home to see declining communities that a few short decades ago were seen as communities of choice.

The downward slope of the community lifecycle is filled with seemingly insurmountable obstacles: decreased property values, less funding for public services, and a smaller tax base.

Thankfully, the Board always considered not just how their decisions would have an immediate impact, but how those decisions would shape the community decades down the road. This has Cranberry in a position to weather most any storm, and extensive planning has allowed us to continue providing the high-quality services our community expects.

With similar managed growth expected for the next two decades, we will continue making decisions that allow us to keep up with the demands of our growing community.

For now, the following pages will answer some of the most common questions we receive when the dreaded “G” word comes up. The Board and the Township’s staff have worked tirelessly to find innovative ways to manage growth, and we intend to keep moving forward.

And, as another famous fictional character once declared: may we all live long and prosper.

Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

Why can't we just stop growth in Cranberry Township?

## Raise the Drawbridge?



 "I wish they'd just stop growing!"  
Browse social media on a given day, and you'll find some variation of that phrase about Cranberry Township.

But it isn't as easy as hanging a "Sorry, We're Closed" sign at the Butler County line.

And, most importantly, it doesn't solve anything. In fact, it would have a far more negative impact.

"It sounds easy – just say no, we're done growing, and call it a day," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Mike Manipole. "But the impact that would have on the community from a financial and legal standpoint, would be catastrophic."

For starters: raising the drawbridge doesn't stop growth in surrounding areas. And, according to the 2020 Census, that growth is steady.

Over the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020, Cranberry Township's population increased from just over 28,000 to 33,096 – about 1.7% each year. It's a steady, manageable, sustainable, straight line on a growth chart that many municipalities would love to see.



## BORDER GROWTH

However, Cranberry isn't unique in seeing such growth, with neighboring communities just beginning to see an influx of residents. Adams, Forward, and Jackson townships saw substantial growth over the last decade, and while some are seeing a slight plateau in more recent years, others are heating up.

That's clear when traveling north on Route 19 through Jackson and Lancaster Township or east on Route 228 into Middlesex Township. New homes, expanded infrastructure, and more businesses are dotting the landscape as municipalities adjust to their new normal.

With that growth happening at its borders, the reason for Cranberry's growth is also what would wreak havoc if development simply ceased within its confines.

"Folks traveling north or east to these other communities, or heading south to Pittsburgh, still have to pass through Cranberry," said Supervisor Vice Chairman Bruce Hezlep. "Couple that with the fact that we are an economic hub and there are more people who commute to the Township for work than who

leave, and stopping growth certainly wouldn't solve the traffic or infrastructure puzzle."

And while increased traffic would remain or even increase as people flock to other areas, Cranberry's tax base would take a hit if development dried up altogether. That leaves less funding to maintain or expand infrastructure.

"With every project, Cranberry is happy to have skin in the game," said Supervisor John Skorupan. "If our tax base drops, that means we have less ability to leverage public funds to support projects like the Freedom Road expansion or the MSA Thruway. That's been the key to much of our success, and to lose it would be devastating."

## PROPERTY VALUES

Limiting development would also impact current residents, as property and home values could decrease in step with the loss of the tax base. That's not to mention the potential legal battles the Township would undoubtedly face if the plug was pulled on new development.

In Pennsylvania, property owners have the right to develop their land however they see

fit. Denying land use requests for the sole reason of halting continued growth would lead to costly lawsuits that would use taxpayer money – not to mention, the result would be predictable.

Instead, Cranberry has focused on future planning throughout the process and creating a strict set of requirements. The practice has become the blueprint for many municipalities around Pennsylvania.

Despite these efforts, the fact remains that growth depends on demand to live in Cranberry, not the Township's practices.

"The market drives where people want to be, and for the past several decades they want to be in Cranberry Township," Manipole said. "We take that as a sign that we are doing things the right way, protecting folks' investments while finding ways to offer the level of service they expect." 



## How does the Township manage development?

### Planning Playbook

### KEEPS DEVELOPMENT DEFINED



Cranberry has long been speaking in code, but the message is quite clear: development must be done according to plan.

That plan is a carefully constructed series of rules, regulations, and requirements that all developers must adhere to. Overseen by the Planning & Development Services Department, the planning process is regionally renowned for the way in which it engages stakeholders to become active participants in the community.

Built according to the community created Cranberry Plan, the Township's code of ordinances ensures that existing and new development meets the high expectations to positively impact quality of life in the Township. Overseeing zoning, land development, and building regulations as well as providing long-range and current planning programs, the Planning & Development Services Department also carefully analyzes emerging trends.

The strict development process includes requirements on traffic, impact fees, stormwater, and pedestrian and streetscape enhancements. This is done to ensure new developments follow the same standards as those before and after them.

The Department is divided into three divisions, including:

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

This division governs land development and use regulations to ensure proper development of the land while considering the most positive

impact. This accomplished a strenuous land development process, which includes working with and through the Planning Advisory Commission.

Community engagement and involvement is also a part of this process through avenues like the Neighborhood Forum, which brings home owner associations together to engage with Township staff on issues that affect their neighborhoods.

#### CODES DIVISION

The Codes Division handles the building permit and inspection process and enforces building, fire, and property maintenance codes.

They are heavily involved in the zoning, plan review, permit issuance, property maintenance, and inspection processes, working closely with developers to ensure requirements are being met and safety is maintained.

#### PLANNING DIVISION

This segment of the Department focuses on the future by managing and reviewing policies and regulations to keep them current to community needs.

The overall focus is to ensure the Township's practices are in-step with the long-term vision set forth in The Cranberry Plan.

Through the efforts of this Department, Cranberry Township has developed a reputation for being thorough while adding value to the community as a whole. 



Learn more about  
The Cranberry Plan!

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



# What is Cranberry doing to ensure green space remains for future generations?

— THE GRASS IS

Always

## GREENER IN CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP



The Cranberry community's love of and desire for green, programmable space for recreation of all types is well documented – and the Township's commitment to making that happen is evident by visiting any of the three parks.

So, too, is the Township's status as a "high need" community for even more parks space, thanks to an analysis by the Trust for Public Lands.

With these factors as support, and Cranberry's potential for an even better parks system, the Township recently received a \$2.8 million grant from the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation within the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Community Park North project.

As one of the largest such awards historically granted, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund joined in to provide financial support. It's a clear sign that Cranberry's efforts to preserve and maintain green space are being noticed.

With 345 acres in Community, North Boundary, and UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park, another 309 at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, 71 at various parklets, and another 71 acres at the former Powell Farm, the proof of preservation is written in green.

While the Township works to wrap up the 10-year Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan, there's plenty of activity with which to keep busy.

The Community Park North project aims to transform a roughly 10-acre parcel of land near the Rotary Dog Park into a complex featuring multiple amenities, including two multi-purpose fields to be programmed by the Parks Department. Such fields were called for in the 2012 Parks Plan and confirmed in the recent update.

To make sure these spaces remain dynamic, the Township's dedicated Parks & Recreation Department works to stay on the cutting edge of program and recreation offerings. In total: That includes more than 2000 programs enjoyed by over 12,000 participants each year.

Part of that programming includes Group Fitness, the Early Learning Center, and the Waterpark, which welcomes nearly 40,000 people each summer and brings roughly 175 seasonal staff on board. The Department also works with various adult and youth athletic associations and cultural organizations to support and broaden offerings.

Whether a walk in the park or a place to learn a new hobby, Cranberry's parks are ready and waiting for fun all year long. ☺



Find out more at  
[Cranberry4FUN.com](http://Cranberry4FUN.com)





**How does the Township maintain and protect its infrastructure?**

## PUBLIC WORKS IS WORKING FOR THE

**Public**



**W**ith more than 130 miles of roads, dozens of traffic signals, nearly 140 pieces of equipment and vehicles, three parks, and several facilities, there's hundreds of pieces that keep people and business moving in Cranberry.

The Township's Public Works Department, consisting of four separate divisions, has set the standard for planning, designing, building, and maintaining the high-quality public infrastructure that has helped Cranberry meet the needs of the community.



### STREETS AND FLEET

With 139 miles of Township roads, plus major state-owned throughways in Route 19, Route 228, Freedom and Rochester roads, it's a full-time job to keep traffic moving.

Actually, it's eight full-time jobs, plus a team of seasonal workers dedicated to keeping Cranberry moving.

The Streets and Fleet Division is tasked with roadway resurfacing and repairs, right-of-way clearing, and street sweeping. Crews also perform stormwater basin and infrastructure repair work to bring the Township in compliance with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements.

By taking these projects in house, Public Works has helped save tens of thousands of

dollars each year.

So, too, does the work of the Fleet Maintenance Division, which maintains the 117 Township vehicles plus other heavy equipment and keeps them in top working condition. Three state-certified inspection mechanics perform routine maintenance that ensures investments outlive their life expectancy – some Township vehicles from the 1990s are still in great working order.

But the crew's work doesn't stop once snow starts flying, with staff trading in their backhoes and excavators for snowplows and salt spreaders. A team of 20 from across the Department assist with snow removal on 16 different routes. Using state-of-the-art technology, they're able to hit the ground running before a flake hits the asphalt.

These efforts ensure roads are maintained year round in a way that extends their life cycle.

### GROUNDS

With 325 acres of green space, including 92 acres of playing fields, Cranberry is a grounds crew's dream.

Year-round and seasonal staff maintain and repair public grounds in the three parks and at other Township facilities, as well as other open space and traffic islands.

The division's efforts have not gone unnoticed, as the Township routinely hosts regional and national events at its facilities, including pickleball and disc golf. It offers a chance for the crew's work to shine on a large stage.

### FACILITIES

The Township's seven facilities see thousands of visitors each year, and those visitors have come to expect well-maintained and

accessible buildings.

The maintenance of those facilities is completed in-house by the Facilities Division, which also oversees repair and preventative maintenance of heating and cooling systems, life safety equipment, and daily housekeeping performance.

The Division's goal is to ensure investments made into Township facilities are protected, cared for, and last beyond life expectancy.

### TRAFFIC

Another Public Works Division also focuses on green – and red, and yellow.

The Traffic Division maintains and operates 53 traffic signals along state and Township roads in Cranberry, including the electrical infrastructure to keep the Township running. Through intermunicipal agreements, the Township also maintains 11 traffic signals in Seven Fields borough and Marshall, and Adams townships.

Additionally, the Division maintains road and street signs, pedestrian crossings, and other traffic-related infrastructure.

These divisions work in-sync to ensure Cranberry Township remains the beautiful, accessible, and buzzing community residents and visitors have come to love. ☺

**Scan to learn  
more about the  
Public Works  
Department!**



# How do the Township's public safety entities keep the community safe?

## Right Response:

BUILT TO HANDLE THE CALL



**W**ith a force of hundreds, Cranberry's heroes are always at the ready to answer the call.

And members of the Police Department, Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company, and Cranberry EMS take that call to action seriously, devoting themselves to extensive training, planning, and preparation for when the alarm sounds.

Each department has continued to grow alongside the Township, with just the right number of responders providing around-the-clock service. And it isn't just about emergencies, as all entities actively work to engage with community members to ensure quality communications and care.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keeping law and order in Cranberry takes 31 full-time police officers patrolling the nearly 24 miles of the Township.

With a mix of new and veteran officers, the Department focuses on maintaining public trust, enforcing the law, and preventing and investigating criminal activity. Led by the police chief and with the assistance of two lieutenants and four sergeants, the Department handles nearly 20,000 calls each year, plus more than 1,500 traffic stops. Roughly 400 arrests are made each year.

The officers are versatile, taking on extra responsibilities each day. The Department employs a Drug Recognition Expert that also helps surrounding organizations, a Crisis Intervention Team, and unmanned aircraft system certified pilots. Others work as bicycle, traffic, and school resource officers, and some are members of the Butler County Emergency Services Unit.

While protecting and serving are paramount, community engagement and partnerships are the cornerstones of the Department. Through annual programs like CarFit, Bike

Rodeo, Shop with a Cop, and Drug Takeback Days, officers can positively engage their community while forging new relationships.

### VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Formed in 1959, the all-volunteer organization is home to nearly 100 members who provide fire and rescue services to the Township and beyond.

The 60-member brigade of firefighters, fire police, and juniors can respond from their homes or from one of two Company fire stations – one on Route 19, and another on Haine School Road. Through a stipend staffing program, volunteers receive financial support for spending time at the station, ensuring 24/7 coverage.

Dozens of Company members – non-emergency participants – volunteer their time as members of the Auxiliary or the fire safety education program. Hundreds of children and adults learn fire safety each year through those efforts.

When they aren't in the community, organization members can often be found training at the state-of-the-art Public Safety Training Facility off Route 19. Featuring a burn building, training



tower, fireground, and classroom facility, the space is a regional destination for other departments.

Members regularly train more than 6,500 hours each year at the facility.

All that training has paid off. As calls have steadily increased to nearly 1,000 each year, response times have improved. Averaging under eight minutes per incident, the response time is below national standards.

In total, more than 47,000 volunteer hours are dedicated to the Company. The Township, acknowledging the importance of such top-tier services, provides leadership and financial support to the Company for building maintenance, equipment, and apparatus.

## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services works closely with Fire and EMS to help protect the community from fire, disasters, and other emergencies through education, prevention, and response.

The Chief works with the CTVFC Board of Directors and acts as the Chief of the Brigade Officers. With a focus on "real-life" scenario training, the Department oversees several events each year.

Additionally, the Department focuses on recruitment and retention of volunteers through events like Fire & Food Trucks, the Fire Cadet Academy, safety training, and other community initiatives.

The Department also oversees the contract for Emergency Medical Services.

### EMS

Responding to more than 4,000 calls each

year, Cranberry EMS is an independent, professionally staffed organization that serves Cranberry and surrounding communities.

And while treating and transporting patients is paramount, promoting public safety, health, and wellness requires much more.

Through first aid and CPR training, car seat safety checks, wellness checks, and Safe Landings visits, Cranberry EMS provides crucial services to the community.

Financed by a combination of health insurance reimbursements, patient billing, and donations, the organization also receives assistance from the Township for IT support and vehicle and facility maintenance.

No matter when or where, Cranberry's first responders are at the ready to keep the community safe. 





**What can Cranberry do about state-owned roads to improve traffic?**

## Pedal to the Metal

## ON ROAD PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS



**A** plan is more easily accomplished with teamwork – and even more so when every teammate is heading in the same direction.

As the Township continues to expand, improve, and maintain the roadway infrastructure to better handle traffic, partnerships with other stakeholders have been the foundation.

Thanks to cooperation with the likes of PennDOT, Butler County, and the Turnpike Commission, Cranberry's roads have undergone major transformations in recent years with motorists reaping the benefits.

The orange barrels don't just mark roadwork – they mark tens of millions of dollars that government leaders at every level believe are best spent in Cranberry Township.

The largest such project is ongoing on Freedom Road, the site of a multi-year effort to widen and improve the stretch of road between Route 19 and the Beaver County line. The first phase expanded the bridge above the Turnpike, improving pedestrian connectivity in the process.

It paved the way for the Township's efforts, paid for in part by a \$20 million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Developments (BUILD) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Work expanded Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Haine School Road. A second BUILD grant of \$25 million to expand the roadway from Haine School Road to Powell Road is funding ongoing work. Butler County played a large role in helping Cranberry secure those funds.

In total, more than \$62 million will be invested into the Route 228 and Freedom Road corridor over a 10-year span.

Such projects don't happen overnight, as evidenced by a nearly two-decade quest to address the needed expansion of the Rochester Road Turnpike Bridge. Through years of conversations and the involvement of several partners, there is finally movement on a project to expand a two-mile stretch of the Turnpike from four to six lanes. In the process, it will expand a pinch point on Rochester Road and significantly improve pedestrian access.

It is the latest example of a project that takes teamwork to improve infrastructure for motorists local or just traveling through. It's a blueprint the Township will continue to use to keep roadwork moving in the fast lane. ☺



*Scan the QR  
for more info!*



*Over the past five years, several major projects have begun or been completed through cooperation with other entities, including:*

- Freedom Road BUILD 1 Expansion
- Freedom Road BUILD 2 Expansion
- Freedom Road Turnpike Bridge Replacement
- MSA Thruway
- Rochester Road Expansion
- Route 19 Resurfacing
- Interstate 79 Bridge Replacement over North Boundary Road
- Franklin Road Safety Improvement Project

# What is the Township doing to address traffic?

TOC IS THE

Heartbeat

OF CRANBERRY



Each roadway in Cranberry is its own artery, moving thousands of vehicles each day in, around, and through the Township. That makes the state-of-the-art Traffic Operations Center in the Public Works Department the heart of Cranberry's traffic system, and there's no shortage of effort, time, energy, and thought put into keeping it pumping.

The Centrac's Advanced Transportation Management System features a centralized operating platform headquartered in the largest municipal owned Traffic Operations Center in Pennsylvania. With more than a dozen screens projecting real-time traffic data from dozens of traffic signal cameras, the command center feeds into the Econolite Eadaptive Traffic Signal system.

But what, exactly, does that do for the average driver sitting at a red light?

In short, it helps them arrive at their destination safer and faster.

The system automatically coordinates signals in real time to keep traffic flowing – a crucial process to manage the more than 80,000 vehicles that traverse key intersections like Route 228 and Route 19 each day.

A total of 28 intersections are equipped with adaptive signal controllers that monitor and respond to vehicles and pedestrians, as well as sound-based response tied to an Emergency Vehicle Priority system. Updated and expanded via Southwest Pa. Commission Regional Traffic Signal Grants, the system optimizes through traffic by reducing travel hours and the number of stops. This also has an impact on fuel consumption and emissions.

In the past decade, more than \$9 million in grants have been leveraged to further improve the technology. The infrastructure is also supported by Traffic Impact Fees, a progressive concept

implemented by the Township in 1990. The fees are paid by developers based on a future projection of traffic volumes caused by a particular development. It allows the Township to stay ahead of the impacts of growth.

The system relies upon partnerships with entities like PennDOT, Carnegie-Mellon University, and private businesses to further expand. Such partnerships aim to predict traffic patterns and potential disturbances that ultimately help with overflow traffic caused by unforeseen events.

The success of these endeavors has made the Township a training ground for technology and strategies that will be used around the world. The expansive TOC has welcomed visitors from numerous countries, and the work being done there is setting a new standard for traffic control.

It's confirmation that Cranberry's traffic management efforts continue to hit the green light. ☺



# How is the Township ensuring utility infrastructure can keep up with demand?

## UTILITIES DEPARTMENT OUTRUNS THE

*Outflow*



**T**here's going with the flow, and then there's going where the flow will be.

Always looking at what the future may bring, Cranberry Township leaders have been aggressive in their approach to ensuring sewer, water, and solid waste infrastructure can keep up with demand.

Situated along the tributary that inspired its name, the Brush Creek Wastewater Treatment Control Facility is the state-of-the-art example of forward-thinking. Able to handle more than 8.7 million gallons of wastewater each day – and 23 million gallons during heavy weather events – the plant is a far cry from the Township's original wastewater treatment facility.

And, in making use of the already developed and available space, the Brush Creek upgrades sought to cut down the physical footprint of facility while also introducing new technology. While the water treatment process remains the same to separate wastewater from solids, grease, and other debris, that work is done in a much smaller space.

Further down the chain, membrane bio reactor tanks bring a new technology and cleaner process to water treatment, with untraceable levels of bacteria in routine samples.

The plant was renovated with future capacity in mind. Upgrades to the solid handling side of the process are anticipated in 2024.

It's just one – albeit large – example of the Utilities Department's commitment to finding new ways to serve the public. Via its three divisions, the Department operates with public health and environmental preservation in mind.

### WATER DIVISION

The Water Division ensures the safe and consistent delivery of above-standard clean water to more than 11,000 customers. Sourced from the Ohio River via the West View Water Authority, water is stored in three large tanks and distributed through a constantly evolving system of nearly 1,300 hydrants and 193 miles of water mains.

### SEWER DIVISION

The aforementioned Brush Creek Treatment Plant serves not just Cranberry, but also portions of Marshall, Pine, and New Sewickley

townships.

Originally built in 1972, the plant is operated by a staff of professionals who oversee the treatment of nearly 12 million gallons of water each year which is then transported to the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course where its used for irrigation.

Staff also cares for sewer infrastructure, including 208 miles of sewer lines and nearly 6,000 manholes.

### SOLID WASTE DIVISION

With more than 1.5 million collections each year, the Township's Solid Waste Division aims to reduce the amount of items that end up in a landfill.

Instead, there is a focus on recycling through annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events – more than 60,000 pounds of material disposed of each year; the Cardboard Compactor at the Municipal Center; and weekly recycling pickup, with 5,800 tons collected each year.

Through the Township's service provider Vogel Disposal Services, roughly 9,000 tons of trash is collected each year, including yard waste during spring, summer, and fall.

The Township's current contract is set to expire in October 2024. It will be put out to bid in summer 2024. 



# How is the Seneca Valley School District ensuring quality education as enrollment grows?

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FOLLOWING THE

### Learning Curve to Success

A thriving community must have well-educated members, and that starts with top-tier public schools.

Cranberry's leaders have long stated that, "good communities need good schools, and good schools need good communities." It's this understanding that makes the partnership between the Township and the Seneca Valley School District a successful one.

While schools across the Commonwealth are seeing a decline in enrollment, Seneca Valley is bucking that trend. And it isn't just because of Cranberry – the District's service areas of Forward, Jackson, and Lancaster townships, as well as Callery, Evans City, Harmony, Seven Fields, and Zelienople boroughs are seeing growth of their own.

Still, approximately 60% of the District's students live in Cranberry,

with many attending Rowan Elementary School or Haine Middle and Elementary School. Recognizing the potential impact to students and teachers alike – and understanding new buildings and programs don't happen overnight – District leaders dug in on feasibility and demographic studies that created data to help make decisions about the future.

The most obvious result of these studies is Ehrman Crest Elementary and Middle School, which opened to students in 2022. Built based on feedback from the entire community, the state-of-the-art facility is a national model for K-6 schools, earning the honor of being one of the best inventions of 2022 from TIME magazine.

Other updates and improvements may not be as obvious, but impact students and staff just the same. That includes a critical look at building infrastructure and determining whether renovations or new buildings are needed. On tap are projects to completely re-imagine the Intermediate High School, and renovations at Haine and Rowan schools.

But it isn't just about building new schools – it's about building students' abilities and setting them up for success. And Seneca Valley has been an innovator in making sure that continues.

"Seneca Valley remains committed to seeking authentic learning opportunities within and beyond the walls of the schools that enhance problem-solving and critical thinking," said Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale. "With advancements in technology, the District is adopting more personalized learning approaches that include tailored learning goals based on individual needs and interests."

That includes concepts like the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice, which provides full-time and hybrid opportunities to more than 2,000 students each year. Offering more than 175 courses, students receive the guidance and attention best suited for learning.

In 2023, a new Cyber Drop-in Center opened in Cranberry offering staff on-site for personalized learning opportunities in STEM, tutoring, intervention, enrichment activities, physical education classes, and other programs.

The commitment of the District and its hundreds of teachers and staff is the catalyst for student success even in the face of an ever-changing educational landscape. And with steady but manageable growth expected to continue, the District intends to continue expanding to meet the community's needs.

"For us, future planning is not a binder we ever, put back on the shelf," Vitale said. ☎





## How do I know what's going on in Cranberry, and what do I do if I have questions?

### CRANBERRY CONCENTRATES ON

#### Communication and Customer Service

In the age of information, answers to most every question can be found within seconds.

And while the Township doesn't quite have 24/7 coverage to handle resident inquiries, it's pretty close.

The Township's Customer Service team is available during regular business hours – and often after hours – to answer questions, direct concerns, and help the community in whatever way is needed.

That equates to more than 27,000 phone calls each year, plus countless in-person and email interactions. Overall, the Department handles more than 100,000 transactions each year. If the Customer Service representative can't answer a question, they are quick to connect customers to the appropriate Township staff member.

Sometimes, however, the demand for knowledge occurs late at night – or in the early morning hours. The Township's website is there to handle these questions, offering endless information on programs, services, and general Township functions.

Via the "CranBot" Chatbot feature, users can ask their question to the virtual concierge and receive the correct

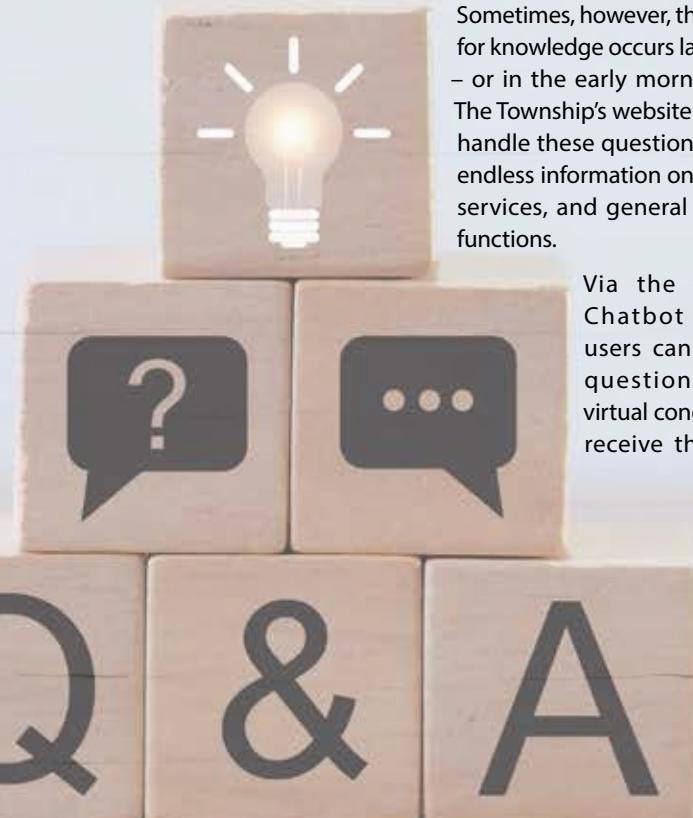
information within seconds, any hour of the day. Elsewhere on the website, users can apply for permits and request inspections, as well as keep up on the process, via the OpenGov service.

The information pipeline doesn't end there. The Township's Alert System sends public safety information, traffic and weather alerts, and other pertinent information directly to a phone or email.

The system is also used to communicate program and event information and other official Township business.

And then there's the myriad of other ways the Township's Communications Department works to keep residents informed, including monthly utility bill inserts, e-blasts, the community sign at the intersection of Routes 19 and 228, various mailed productions, and, of course, social media.

With Township personnel working around the clock – almost – it's easier than ever to know what's happening outside your front door. 



*Sign up for alerts to be sent to your phone or email!  
[cranberrytownship.org/Alert](http://cranberrytownship.org/Alert)*



CONNECT     



**A**fter record-setting attendance for programs and events at the Municipal Center in 2023, there are even greater gatherings on the horizon.

Work on the Armstrong Great Lawn, CTCC's Project of the Year, is set to ramp up in 2024 as renovations on the Municipal Center complex continue.

With a green gathering space as its centerpiece, the Armstrong Great Lawn will expand pedestrian connections and allow for more comfortable events at the Township's hub. The 33-year-old building welcomes nearly 265,000

## Great Lawn to **Get Going**

visitors each year for events like Santa's First Stop and the Township's Farmers Market, as well as regular day-to-day business.

The aesthetically pleasing, functional space will allow for expanded events and programs, while also offering passive recreation opportunities. It also expands those offerings to nearby neighborhoods by making the community more pedestrian friendly and accessible.

The Armstrong Great Lawn also continues the Township's ongoing efforts to maintain an environmentally conscience space that integrates high-quality, sustainable practices

that save money, conserve resources, and improve ecological health.

The project also 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.

Additional sponsorship and support opportunities are expected to be announced in early 2024 as physical details of the project are confirmed. 

## Fun Fore All GIVES BACK

**A** local business has continued the tradition of supporting a major project in Cranberry Township.

Fun Fore All Family Fun Park, 8 Progress Avenue, donated \$6,500 to the Cranberry Township Community Chest's current Project of the Year.

The Great Lawn, announced in July 2023, aims to improve connectivity within the commercial core of the Township while also providing additional passive recreation space. It also continues a longstanding goal of environmental conservation and preservation of open, green space.

Fun Fore All donated \$1 from every full-price miniature golf adult admission Monday



through Friday from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

"We are honored, as always, to be able to contribute to a fantastic community project," said Chris Camp, owner of Fun Fore All. "We look forward to enjoying the Great Lawn space at community events."

The continued support from Fun Fore All is the definition of a community supporting each other, according to CTCC President Bruce

Mazzoni.

"Cranberry Township is full of amazing residents and businesses that come together to make a difference," Mazzoni said. "Fun Fore All has led the way and served as a shining example of a community focused business that wants to be involved in making the Township even better."

For more information, visit [yourctcc.org/greatlawn](http://yourctcc.org/greatlawn). 



SPONSORED BY **UPMC PASSAVANT**

# GIVING BACK!

## COMMUNITY DAYS HAS BIG IMPACT

Several donations to and from Cranberry Township Community Chest and various community organizations once again prove the spirit of giving that exists in the Township.

Throughout the course of 2023 Community Days, volunteers from the Grace Project, Cranberry Township Area Lions Club, and the Cranberry Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs parked thousands of cars for the event. For their efforts, CTCC donated more than \$6,000 to those organizations.



Meanwhile, a new Community Days feature helped pour more funds into the organization's initiative.

Cranberry Township Sunrise Rotary operated a craft ale garden during the three-day festival, offering attendees a chance to enjoy craft beers in a fenced-in area near the Rotary

Amphitheater. Proceeds from the ale garden were recently donated to CTCC, with the Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs each donating \$2,000.

The 2024 edition of Community Days is set for July 11-13, 2024. For more information, visit [yourctcc.org](http://yourctcc.org).

## BANKING ON COMMUNITY

### S&T BANK GIVES BACK

The Township's newest financial institution wasted no time in pledging support for the community.

The Cranberry S&T Bank branch donated \$2,500 to the Cranberry Township Community Chest in conjunction with the grand opening of their new banking office, located at 2060 Garden View Lane.

S&T Bank has a rich history of community

involvement and giving back to local charities and civic organizations. In 2022, the organization completed over 10,000 employee volunteer hours and donated over \$200,000 to the communities they serve.

CTCC Board Members Karen Newpol, Conn Mazzoni, and Bruce Mazzoni accepted the donation from local and corporate S&T Bank representatives.



# What is an ENDOWMENT?



## Himes' Legacy of Learning and Community

The mission of the Cranberry Public Library is to help individuals learn and grow. Margery Himes shared that vision during her life, earning numerous degrees and educating students in Pennsylvania for 27 years.

In death, Himes' legacy lives on, having helped the Library grow in its own right.

The Margery Himes Cranberry Library Fund was established in 2013 following Himes' passing. A committed member of the community and a resident of Sherwood Oaks, Margery Himes believed in the mission of CTCC and of Cranberry's Public Library. The Fund helped expand the Library's teen section, relocate the circulation and reference desks, and undertake other renovations.

Himes was born in 1924 in New Bethlehem, Pa., and later graduated from Chatham College. She earned her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Pittsburgh, and put her skills to work teaching in Butler, Mt. Lebanon, and the Red Bank Valley School District.

She settled in Cranberry Township and became an active member of the community. During her time at Sherwood Oaks, she served as a Bible Study Chairman, Travel-Trips & Towns Chairman, and several other committees.

Aside from serving her community, Himes was known for her love of birds and wildlife. She was a proud supporter and member of both the National Aviary and the Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens.

Himes' endowment continues to support CTCC Projects of the Year, with a commemorative paver bearing her name installed in all projects. It ensures her legacy of love for learning and the community is written in stone. 

It's a question that has challenged many 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!



# Ways to Donate!

It's easy to forget – video streaming, magazine subscriptions, and any other service one can think of automatically withdrawal from a bank account each month.

Why not use that same "set it and forget it" mindset to give back to the community?

The Cranberry Township Community Chest accepts donations through Township utility bills with the click of a few buttons. Donors can select any amount to automatically be deducted from the monthly bill, with 100% of the proceeds going to CTCC to directly benefit Cranberry.

Whether it's \$1 or \$100, each monthly donation adds up and is entirely tax deductible. The donation will be deducted each month until it is canceled by the bill payer.

Visit [yourctcc.org](http://yourctcc.org) to set up automatic utility withdrawals.

## DONATE NOW

### HOW TO SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC UTILITY WITHDRAWALS

#### Online

- Visit [cranberrytownship.org/billpay](http://cranberrytownship.org/billpay)
- Complete the online form by entering your information and selecting the amount to be donated each month

#### In Person or Via Email

- Visit [cranberrytownship.org/billpay](http://cranberrytownship.org/billpay)
- Download and print the form
- Complete the form by entering your information and selecting the amount to be donated each month
- Email, drop off, or mail the completed form to Cranberry Township, P.O. Box 6075, Hermitage, PA 16148-1075

For more information, call 724-776-4806 ext. 1103. 



#### CHECK

Checks, made payable to CTCC, mailed to 2525 Rochester Rd, Ste 450; Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.



#### CREDIT CARD & PAYPAL

Visit [yourctcc.org/store](http://yourctcc.org/store) to donate via credit card or PayPal.



#### LEGACY ENDOWMENT

Visit [yourctcc.org/cranberry-legacy-endowment](http://yourctcc.org/cranberry-legacy-endowment) to learn how to leave your legacy.



#### DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

For information on how to combine favorable tax benefits with flexible giving, email [yourctcc@gmail.com](mailto:yourctcc@gmail.com).



#### SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor events like Community Days or specific programs and projects via the Project of the Year.



#### STOCKS & BONDS

Give assets for the maximum tax benefit, including minimum IRA distributions. Email [yourctcc@gmail.com](mailto:yourctcc@gmail.com) for more information.



#### COMPANY MATCH

CTCC is a registered 501c3 organization and qualifies for all employer matches.



# PARKS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

“ History has shown our community shares the desire for world-class parks and amenities, and we take that to heart.

*Mike Manipole, Board of Supervisors*



## BUDGET ALLOWS FOR PROGRAM STUDY

**C**areful planning takes time – and money.

Through decades of smart financial decisions, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has helped ensure the Township's history of well-studied planning decisions will continue. The 2024 budget includes the creation and implementation of several Master Plans for park functions – all while leaving tax rates unchanged.

The fiscally sound budget simultaneously pursues value-enhancing community assets while advancing critical infrastructure needs. It also ensures tax rates remain unchanged and continues efforts that have earned Cranberry a Aaa Moody's Rating.

“While crucial infrastructure projects will always be a major part of our budget, the Board also understands and embraces the value that parks adds to our community,” said Mike Manipole, Board of Supervisors. “History has shown our community shares the desire for world-class parks and amenities, and we take that to heart.”

The 2024 budget allows the Township to closely study the needs of the community, both current and future. Planning efforts include:

- Final Engineering of the Community Park North Master Plan
- Development of the Powell Farm Master Plan
- Development of a Waterpark Master Plan
- Implementation of the Golf Course Master Plan
- Advance an update to the pedestrian/bike plan to improve mobility
- Advancement of an Arts, Culture, and Recreation Center feasibility study

“The community trusts the Board of Supervisors to make the best decisions with their tax dollars, and we take that trust very seriously,” Manipole said. “We believe this budget balances our day-to-day needs while also ensuring we continue offering the amenities that make Cranberry a great place to live, work, and play.” ☺

### THE 2024 BUDGET ALSO INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

- Replacement of the Franklin Acres lift station
- Develop funding strategy for the Brush Creek Treatment Plant solids upgrade project
- Complete an update to the Transportation Impact Fee program
- Phase 2 of the Township's Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System plan, focusing on streambank restoration in the Cedarbrook, Manor Creek Farms, Glenbrook Manor, and Settlers Grove areas
- Pinehurst culvert replacement
- Develop a Route 19 water line replacement strategy and design
- Municipal Center Modernization project, including technology, and furnishings, as well as the total external renovation that includes the Armstrong Great Lawn project
- High-quality maintenance of 136 miles of Township-owned roads, including traffic signal upgrades

# LOUD

# AND CLEAR!

Scan to learn more!



## Cable Infrastructure Work Continues

**W**ith remote work, tele-visits, and family video calls becoming a normal part of society, reliable, fast internet is more important than ever.

As that importance has increased over the past three years, so too has the desire of Cranberry residents to have more choice in who provides those services. In 2023, Armstrong, Comcast, and Consolidated Communications undertook three separate, concurrent projects to improve and expand cable and internet service in the Township.

With work continuing into the new year, Cranberry continues to engage with those companies to communicate when and where work is happening, as well as connecting residents to the provider for property restoration.

The most recent effort was a two-night Coffee & Conversation with Township Manager Dan Santoro, where hundreds of residents had a chance to learn details about the projects and ask questions directly to company representatives.

Santoro stressed that while the Township cannot require or prohibit companies coming to the Township, officials see the value in working to keep residents informed and to assist in any way possible.

"Certainly, I understand there is concern over the work happening in neighborhoods," he said. "These companies are committed to making it right. It will take time, but they're committed to address the impacts for those inconveniences."

From the very start of the project, the Township continues to take an aggressive approach to communicating with residents while producing an informational video, magazine articles, a website landing page, Board announcements, rack cards, social media posts, utility bill inserts, yard signs, and public forums.

As work continues, so will those efforts. Santoro noted such work shows confidence in the Cranberry market, as well as the market working as it's supposed to.

"These companies heard you loud and clear," he said of the expanded offerings. ☺



MISS THE MEETING?



WATCH THE VIDEO!





# EXTREME MAKEOVER

## MUNICIPAL CENTER EDITION

The new year is the perfect time to make changes for the better.

At the Cranberry Township Municipal Center, work to improve and update the 33-year-old building has been ongoing for several months, with work set to pick up as the calendar turns to 2024.

Prior to the new year, crews began renovating the Parks & Recreation area and began moving State Rep. Stephenie Scialabba's office. Work on Council Chambers began after the final

meeting of 2023, with meetings in 2024 set for another meeting space in the building.

Work has also begun in the hallway that the building's tenants called home, including the Property Tax Office, Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber, and Butler County Chamber. Those spaces will be expanded and refreshed, with additional meeting rooms added.

Though work was ongoing, the Township's annual holiday events were held at the Municipal Center, welcoming record crowds

to celebrate the season.

Work is expected to continue into Fall 2024, with offices, meeting rooms, program space, and other services moved around to accommodate work.

The project will be funded in part through a \$1.25 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant and will coincide with CTCC's decision to make the Great Lawn its next Project of the Year. 





# The Big Idea

## GROUP FOCUSES ON BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Cranberry Township is a community that has long embraced its diversity and welcomed new residents and visitors from around the world.

Using the strong base formed by the Cranberry Area Diversity Network, the Township's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Advisory) Team has made a positive impact on the community in the few months since becoming an official entity.

The Team's goal is to intentionally foster the community's recognition of the value of diversity by hosting cultural experiences, and educational opportunities.

The seven-member leadership committee, appointed in September, is tasked with providing recommendations and support for the Township's diversity efforts. They will work hand-in-hand with a Civic Partnerships Coordinator, a position that will be filled in 2024.

And though the group is officially less than a half-year old, members have wasted no time making an impact.

Cranfest, a beloved cultural event for nearly a decade, welcomed hundreds of visitors to the Municipal Center for live music, food, and educational booths. Dozens of cultures were represented at the event.

The IDEA team also expanded their footprint during Community Days, as they hosted a booth that allowed them to interact with thousands of visitors over the course of the three-day celebration.

Record numbers turned out for November's Deepavali Celebration in the Municipal Center. Community members created a Rangoli, a traditional piece of Indian art, to kick off Deepavali - also referred to as Diwali or Divali - a five-day festival of lights celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains across the world.

The eventful year wrapped up with a Cookies and Conversation holiday event. Participants were encouraged to bring a holiday snack that has special meaning or importance to their family, friends, or culture. Many shared the food, the recipe, and the story behind it.

Other events included a Black History Month Celebration Event and Privilege Walk and a Women's History Month Celebration and panel discussion with female leaders.

With a new year comes even more new ideas, and this Team is prepared to continue making connections in Cranberry. ☺

# together

Learn more about Cranberry's IDEA Team and stay up-to-date on upcoming events!



# EAC FIGHTING THE INVASION OF THE UNKIND PLANTS

**S**pring flowers may soon bloom, but there are hidden menaces that await the chance to entwine those beautiful buds and zap their vibrant colors.

These invasive species are nothing new, but the list of plants and pests that can wreak havoc not only on a personal garden but can spread into the community.

That's why Cranberry Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) encourages residents to develop a patch of non-invasive native plantings on their property as a first step in developing a backyard habitat.

The first and most important step in this process is choosing plants that are not on Pennsylvania's invasive species list.

While these plants may be cosmetically appealing, they add little value to a habitat and may do harm by crowding out native species that provide food and cover for companion wildlife, including plants, animals, and birds.

Once native flora is planted, be sure to keep an eye out for unknown plants. Many of these unwanted visitors are invasive and must be removed, preferably by pulling out of the ground. They use up water and soil nutrients to the detriment of natives and often do not return the favor to birds and beneficial insects in the form of pollen, nuts, and berries.

The EAC is doing its part to assist the Township in promoting the attack on invasive species. Recent changes to the Land Development Ordinance addressed

street trees. As EAC members noted, many street trees in the Township have become a monoculture, including red maples. If a blight or disease began, it could impact hundreds of additional trees.

In addition to that recommendation, the EAC planted more than 20 trees provided via the 2023 Fall Bare Root Tree Grant Program. The trees were specifically selected to thrive in the Township and increase the amount of native, non-invasive plantings. It's one in a series of efforts to battle unwelcome greenery in Cranberry. ☺

*Learn more about  
invasive species from the  
PA Dept. of Agriculture*





# GOLDEN YEARS

From card catalogs to digital collections, the Cranberry Public Library has helped fuel and facilitate the community's thirst for knowledge for decades.

Five of them, to be exact.

As the Library celebrates its 50th anniversary, the community's continued support is more important than ever. Via the annual fundraising campaign, patrons can continue supporting a community staple that promotes and supports lifelong learning, sharing, collaboration, creativity, and discovery.

While tactile library cards and the services offered have changed since 1973, the Library's core goals and mission have not. But that mission requires funding, with several financial streams flowing onto bookshelves each year.

The Board of Supervisors, recognizing the



Library's importance, offers support via a 1 mil of real estate tax each year. Other funding – including county, state and federal dollars – are not as reliable or predictable.

Similarly, awards like a recent \$30,000 grant from the Arconic Foundation to support STEM learning in The Forge Makerspace are one-time boosts, often to specific areas of the Library's operations.

That's why public support is the most reliable

and important funding mechanism. With something for everyone, regardless of age, the Library has become a cornerstone for the community.

Help the Library grow and thrive for the next 50 years and beyond by donating online, in person, or via mail. For more information, visit [cranberrylibrary.org](http://cranberrylibrary.org).

Here's to 50 more years! 🎉

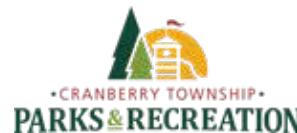


## Shelters in Place ... to Rent

Whether a graduation, family reunion, or a simple lunch with a few dozen friends, Cranberry Township has multiple beautiful gathering spaces to accommodate. And even though there's snow on the ground, now is the time to think about outdoor gatherings in 2024. Shelters are equipped with electrical outlets, charcoal grill, and picnic tables. They are situated near restrooms and running water. Access to Wi-Fi during park hours is free of charge courtesy of Armstrong. Full payment must be made to reserve a shelter, and no refunds will be issued after May 1. Available rentals include:

### Community Park (111 Ernie Mashuda Drive)

- Rotary Shelter – 35'x20.5'; seats 60-80
- Lions Shelter – 52'x29'; seats 60-80
- Jaycees Shelter – 59'x30'; seats 84-112
- Raider Pride Shelter – 35'x21'; seats 48-64



[More Information!](#) 



### North Boundary Park and Waterpark (1171 N. Boundary Road)

- Dan Baker Shelter – 25'x24.5'; seats 72-96
- Penn Power Shelter – 52'x 24.5'; seats 72-96
- North Boundary Shelter – 52'x29'; seats 84-112
- Waterpark Sun Decks – seats 12 per deck; early admission is available

## CRANBERRY BRIEFS



### End Signaled for Old Traffic Light

One of the oldest traffic signals in the Township could soon be replaced, with grant funding helping support that work.

The Board authorized the Route 19 and Short Street signal replacement project for bid. The signal is one of the oldest that has yet to be replaced, and the project will advance it to current Township standards.

The project is supported by \$350,000 from the Automated Red Light Enforcement Transportation Enhancements Grant Program.

# Blowing Up!

## INFLATION A GOOD THING FOR CTPA

**I**t's not just hot air: 2023 was another banner year for the Cranberry Township Pickleball Association.

With multiple courts and 1,750 members, CTPA has become a regional destination for those playing the fastest growing sport in the United States. For the third year, Cranberry hosted the USA Pickleball North Mid Atlantic Diamond Regional at UPMC Passavant Sportsplex at Graham Park, with victors moving on to a national competition.

But perhaps the biggest sign that pickleball continues to blow up in Cranberry was the seasonal air dome covering six new courts. The facility allows CTPA members to play seven days a week, 16 hours a day during the winter months.

A team of nearly 100 led by a technician from Yeadon Fabric Domes unrolled, positioned, and helped install the 8,000-pound structure. It will remain in place until spring.

The additional courts allow CTPA to expand even further and add new members. Interested in taking a swing at pickleball? Visit [ctpapickleball.com](http://ctpapickleball.com) for information and to register. ☺

**It's been an eventful six years for CTPA!**

*Check out a highlight video of the group's growth.*



# OH SNAP!







# CRANBERRY POLICE

## Go Beyond Protecting and Serving

Cranberry's police officers are tasked with creating a safer community for everyone.

And while making arrests and investigating crimes are a major aspect of that mission, so, too, is forming relationships with the community in which they serve.

Members of the Department participated in "No-Shave November," a popular seasonal mission across the country. More than a dozen officers made donations in exchange

for the privilege of growing a beard or mustache for the entire month.

Typically, a clean-shaven group, the officers did their best impressions of the likes of Abraham Lincoln, ZZ Top, and Grizzly Adams, all for a good cause. The donations were given to Gleaners Food Bank prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Several officers spent a December evening helping children from the community secure gifts for the holiday season as part

of the annual Christmas Shop with a Cop event. In partnership with MSA Safety Inc. and Target, officers teamed with local students to browse the shelves and find the perfect present for the holiday season.

These events, though a small part of their mission, make lasting memories in the community and for the officers who are honored to protect it. ☟





**T**he back of an ambulance is full of expensive life-saving equipment, each with a price tag in the triple – or quadruple – digits.

And while those digits aren't important when an emergency happens, Cranberry EMS still must account for the cost of service for each call – more than 4,000 each year.

And with state and local funding unsteady, Cranberry EMS relies upon community donations to keep quality emergency services readily available for residents.

As a 501(c)(3), most donations are tax

deductible, and every dollar donated helps CTEMS better serve the community. In addition to direct donations, individuals can support the organization via allocated workplace United Way contributions.

Additionally, the organization's subscription plan not only eases the burden on members during stressful emergencies, but also helps ease the financial burdens faced by the organization.

Looking for a return on a donation? The CTEMS Subscription Program helps subscribers save hundreds of dollars in



medical bills. The subscription offsets the costs of co-payments and deductibles an insurance company may require a person to pay for an ambulance transport.

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



## Practice Makes Perfect for CTVFC

**T**he average full-time employee spends 2,080 hours each year dedicated to working, learning, and growing in their profession.

For members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company – many of whom commit those thousands of hours to their day jobs – there's an even larger commitment being made to preparing for an emergency.

Almost three times, in fact.

Members trained nearly 7,000 total hours in 2023, utilizing both in-house and external training facilities. The organization also created a new probationary firefighter book outlining basic skills and information new recruits must learn. The probationary period includes tests of that knowledge and skills.

For experienced members, training hours also led to professional growth. Thirty professional certifications were obtained by members, covering everything from emergency medical response to fire inspectors.

According to Chris Snedeker, Fire & Emergency Services Training Coordinator, 2023 also featured an emphasis on live burn scenarios, including a two-day event at an abandoned

building on Ogleview Drive.

Taking months of permitting and inspections to organize, the scenario put firefighters through the gamut of potential scenarios.

"The crews got to hone skills such as hose line deployment and management, searching for victims under live fire conditions, and operating as the Incident Commander for the scenario," he said.

Snedeker said the opportunity to train in a real structure is invaluable.

"They must manage many more twists and turns, as well as the fact that, at least for the first several evolutions, they are not familiar with the layout of the house," he said of the challenge, adding that strategic changes were made to the layout as scenarios progressed.

The scenarios allowed members to practice "overhaul" of the building – ensuring that the fire was completely extinguished. This is hard to replicate and simulate in normal training scenarios.

"The training will enhance their confidence and competence when the bell goes off for the real deal," Snedeker said. 

# *Faces of Cranberry:*

## JACOB MANSON

**J**acob Manson wanted to give back to his community but was having a hard time finding the best way to do so.

His teachers at Seneca Valley High School knew just the place to look.

They pointed Jacob in the direction of Township managed volunteer programs, which serve hundreds of residents each year. To start, he picked up a rake and joined the Leaf Angels program, raking leaves for residents who needed help. He intends to join other programs after seeing the value and impact he can have.

That's a common theme found in the partnership between the Township and Seneca Valley School District, a mutually beneficial, long-standing effort that betters the community. The Township's volunteer programs receive a boost in participation, and students get a chance to learn more about their community and its people.

From litter pickups to tree plantings to stenciling stormwater intake areas to improve the environment, the students' fingerprints are all over Cranberry. It's these partnerships that make students feel at home and a part of their community. ☺





## SV STUDENTS Sow Seeds of Success

If a tree falls in a forest, does it make a sound?

We may never know. But we do know that the sounds of trees being planted can be heard loud and clear – especially when there's more than 50 seventh and eighth grade students doing the planting.

The students from Ryan Gloyer Middle School were joined by members of the Cranberry Township community, as well as First Energy, for the first ever Tree Planting Blitz.

Students planted 200 trees donated by First Energy Corp. to further sustainability in the community. Work was done in conjunction

with 12 of the Township's homeowner's associations. Neighborhoods included Cranberry West, Orchard Park, Glen at Woodside, and Park Place.

Supervisor Chairman Mike Manipole, who is also a teacher at Ryan Gloyer Middle School, organized the event and said he was thrilled with the effort.

"Being able to bring people from across our community together for a common goal is an incredible thing, and being able to involve our future leaders makes the event so impactful," he said.

In addition to planting trees, students raked

leaves and collected litter in common areas to further beautify the Township.

Jessica Shaffer, environmental scientist at FirstEnergy, gave students a lesson on the tree planting process. Other participants included Dr. Traci Vitale and Dr. Anthony Babusci from Seneca Valley; State Rep. Stephenie Scialabba; Board of Supervisors members Karen Newpol and John Skorupan; Township Manager Dan Santoro; and members of the Township's Public Works Department. 

# EVERY PET *Has*

**There is something for every furry friend!**

There are plenty of places in Cranberry Township to pamper a pet whether it's with a fresh haircut, a friendly playdate, a place to hang during workdays and vacation, or for top-notch medical care.

**Check out some of Cranberry's purrfect pet businesses.**



**5TH AVENUE FIDO**  
20634 Route 19  
5thavenuefido.com



**ANIMAL DENTAL CLINIC OF PGH**  
9117 Marshall Rd  
animaldentalclinicpgh.com



**ANIMAL GENERAL**  
20411 Route 19, Suite 10  
animalgeneral.net



**CRANBERRY VETERINARY HOSPITAL**  
120 Graham Park Drive  
cranberryvet.com



**DOGTOPIA**  
802 Thomson Park Drive  
dogtopia.com/cranberry



**GARDENS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**  
9087 Marshall Road  
gardensvet.com



**HOLISTIC PET CARE**  
20570 Route 19, Suite C  
cranberryholisticvet.com



**PETSMART**  
1717 Route 228, Suite D  
petsmart.com



**PETSUITES**  
20423 Route 19  
cranberrytownship.petsuitesofamerica.com



**REIGNING CATS & DOGS**  
20455 Route 19, Suite 13  
reigningcatsanddogspa.com



**THE INDOOR DOG PARK**  
2714 Rochester Road  
theindoordogpark.org



**WINDROSE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**  
1658 Route 228, Suite 100  
windrosevet.com

# is Its Day



**CAMP BOW WOW**  
41 Progress Ave  
[campbowwow.com/cranberry](http://campbowwow.com/cranberry)



**HEALTHY PET PRODUCTS**  
8001 Rowan Road, Suite 200  
[healthypetproducts.net/cranberry-twp](http://healthypetproducts.net/cranberry-twp)



**PETVET365**  
20111 Route 19  
[petvet365.com/locations/cranberry](http://petvet365.com/locations/cranberry)



**Looking for a way to socialize with your canine companions?**

Cranberry offers several ways to run, bark, and meet new friends, including:



## **Rotary Dog Park**

The four-acre park in Community Park features separate off-leash running areas for large and small dogs, as well as a second fenced space for large dogs to enable rotation of active play areas so that the fields can recover from wear and tear.

[cranberrytownship.org/dogpark](http://cranberrytownship.org/dogpark)



## **Cranberry K9 Connection and Canine Ambassador Program**

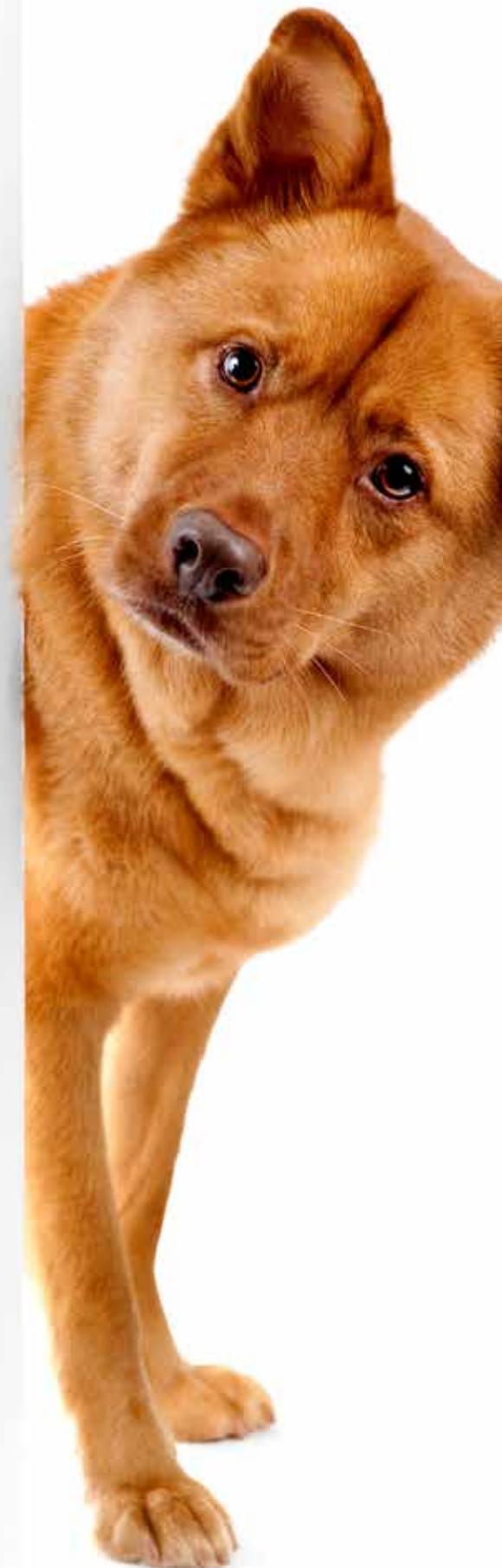
This volunteer group works with the Township and the community to enhance opportunities for K9 involvement.

The Township's K9 Connection group serves as Ambassadors to educate owners on rules.

Dogs are permitted on designated areas and trails in North Boundary and Community Parks. They must be leashed and are not permitted on sports fields or playgrounds.

Dogs are also welcome to attend the Township's Concerts in the Park and Family Movies in the Park events at the Rotary Amphitheater.

[cranberrytownship.org/K9Connection](http://cranberrytownship.org/K9Connection)



# Now Open!

- **Become Your Happy**  
71 Dutilh Road
- **Smiles of North Hills Orthodontics**  
1187 Freedom Road, Suite C103
- **R & R Beauty Salon**  
303 Tillary Lane, Suite A
- **Sweet Water Decor**  
1241 Freedom Road
- **Clarity Wealth**  
800 Cranberry Woods Drive  
Suite 260
- **Crescent Home Store**  
102 Ramsgate Road
- **S & T Bank**  
2060 Garden View Lane

- **Elevation Medical Weight Loss**  
20325 Route 19, Suite 13
- **SP-5 Management Group LLC**  
201 Smith Drive, Suite D1
- **Pizza IQ**  
1343 Freedom Road
- **Delaware Valley Floral Group**  
239 Executive Drive, Suite 260
- **Toyo Denki**  
230 Executive Drive, Suite 230
- **Taylor & Company Dance Studio**  
20630 Route 19, Suite 102
- **Valvoline**  
1343A Freedom Road
- **Fred Astaire Dance Studio**  
128 Graham Park Drive

*Find Out What's Coming! [CranberryTownship.org/Biz411](http://CranberryTownship.org/Biz411)*



## BUSINESS BRIEFS



### New Face in the Streets

Streets of Cranberry, the “preeminent lifestyle center” and shopping destination in Cranberry Township, has been purchased for over \$32 million by Regional Development Partners.

The Pittsburgh-based Regional Development Partners purchased the property Oct. 26 from DIV Cranberry LLC.

Streets of Cranberry was developed by Continental Real Estate and opened in 2007. Current tenants include Talbots, Condado Taco, Rally House, Old Navy, First Watch, Chico's, Steel City, Big Blue Swim School, Alera Salon and Spa, plus numerous additional shops and restaurants.

Visit [thestreetsofcranberry.com](http://thestreetsofcranberry.com) for more information.



### S&T Banks on Cranberry

S&T Bank officially opened its Cranberry location 2060 Garden View Lane, continuing its longstanding investment in the community.

With an original location on Commonwealth Drive, bank leaders sought a more visible space and expressed plans to move in August 2022.

After a little more than a year, the new location serves as a centerpiece of new development at the corner of Route 228 and Franklin Road.

# CALLING ALL SNOW ANGELS!



 CRANBERRY  
TOWNSHIP



## VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Make a difference this winter and help a neighbor in need!

Snow Angels are seasonal volunteers who assist residents by removing snow from their properties. Each Snow Angel (individual or group) is paired with a residential 'match' and visits the property throughout the winter months to ensure that walk/driveways remain clear.



← MAKE A SENIOR'S DAY - SIGN UP TODAY!

A PART OF VOLUNTEER CRANBERRY | [VOLUNTEER@CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG](mailto:VOLUNTEER@CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG) | [WWW.CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/SNOWANGELS](http://WWW.CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/SNOWANGELS)



UPMC Children's Hospital  
emergency medicine expertise  
is right here.

Partnering with UPMC Children's to deliver expert pediatric emergency care.

UPMC Passavant has some good news for kids and their families. The expert pediatric emergency care physicians of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh are available 24/7 via telemedicine for kids in our Emergency Department. Plus, you can schedule in-person and virtual appointments with any UPMC Children's specialist and, if needed, follow up with in-person visits closer to home. The emergency experts of UPMC Children's with the convenience of UPMC Passavant. Learn more at [CHP.edu/Passavant](http://CHP.edu/Passavant).

**UPMC | PASSAVANT**



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP  
2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 400  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066-6499

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #25  
CRANBERRY TWP, PA

**POSTAL PATRON  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066**

**Here We GROW!**

[CRANBERRY4FUN.COM/CAMP](http://CRANBERRY4FUN.COM/CAMP)

**CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP  
CAMP CRANBERRY**

A Parks & Recreation Program