

# Cranberry TODAY

Spring

2024



BUSINESSES, TOWNSHIP

Tango for Success

# SWEETEN UP SUMMER WITH A BLOCK PARTY



CRANBERRY  
TOWNSHIP



Party like a Block-Star with the Cranberry Township Block Party Trailer!  
Reserve the trailer now for spring and summer gatherings.

[www.cranberrytownship.org/blockparty](http://www.cranberrytownship.org/blockparty)

## SO MUCH TO DO AT THE



## LEARN TO SWIM

PARENT & CHILD AQUATICS ·  
PRESCHOOL AQUATICS ·  
LEVELS 1-6 · PRIVATE LESSONS  
FOR ALL AGES



## PLAN A PARTY

PARTY HOST FOR 2 HOURS ·  
ADMISSION FOR HONORED  
GUEST + 12 OTHERS · PIZZA &  
REFILLABLE SODA · & MORE!



# 2024 Waste Collection



JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

APRIL						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

MAY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



1 DAY DELAY  
(Due to weekday holiday)

LIVE TREE COLLECTION  
January 8 - 19

YARD WASTE COLLECTION  
April 1 - Dec 6



## 2024 E-Waste & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates:

July 6, October 26

Fees apply - details at

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

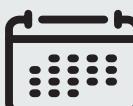


## Cranberry Yarn Creations

Interested in being a part of a crafty crew?

Cranberry Yarn Creations crochets beautiful yarn displays that decorate the community!

Email Joyce at [fjhoffman@zoominternet.net](mailto:fjhoffman@zoominternet.net) to join.



## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

April 25; May 2, 30

June 6, 27; July 3, 25

6:30 p.m., Municipal Center

### Planning Advisory Commission

April 29; May 6, 28

June 3, 24; July 1, 29

6:00 p.m., Municipal Center

### Zoning Hearing Board

(as needed)

Third Monday of the month

7:30 p.m., Municipal Center

### Library Board

April 22; June 24;

July 22

6:30 p.m., Library



[CranberryTownship.com/firecadet](http://CranberryTownship.com/firecadet)

# CONTENTS

CRANBERRY TODAY | SPRING 2024



6

## FEATURE

- 6 Cranberry is in Step With Business Partners

## UPDATES

- 8 The Growth Corner  
9 Impact Fee Getting An Update  
10 Down on the Farm  
11 Call of Honor  
12 Earth Week  
13 Stormwater Project Keeps Flowing  
15 Collection Connection Celebrates 20 Years  
16 Municipal Center Renovation /  
Planning, Paving and Progress

## PERSPECTIVE

- 14 Supervisor Commentary

## SAFETY

- 17 CTVFC Stays Hot  
18 Safest Small Town in PA  
24 EMS Save-a-Life Saturday  
25 2024 CanAm Games

## COMMUNITY CHEST

- 19 CTCC Community Days  
20 Cranberry CUP Celebrates 25 Years  
21 2013 Project of the Year Recap  
22 CTCC Endowments / How to Donate  
23 2024 Project of the Year

## LIVING

- 26 Farmers Market  
27 Faces of Cranberry  
28 Teacher Earns High Marks  
29 Add to Cart  
35 Maker in Residence  
36 Oh Snap!  
37 Next Generation of Community Leaders  
38 Innovative Education

## BUSINESS

- 30 Fred Astaire Dance Studio  
31 Indoor Dog Park  
32 Brush Creek Guitars  
33 Business Briefs / Now Open  
34 Ain't It Sweet



# ON THE COVER



Ivan Sovietov and Valeria Mkrtchian of Fred Astaire Dance Studio are in-step at one of the Township's newest businesses.



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bruce Hezlep  
Mike Manipole  
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](http://CranberryTownship.org/CranberryToday)

## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Tina Fedko, Director  
Jessie Hoffman  
J.W. Johnson  
Cindy Marzock  
Andrew Wharton

FEEDBACK WELCOME!

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

## CONNECT



## FACES OF CRANBERRY

Jim Boltz retires after many years of service to the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber.





# BUSINESSES, TOWNSHIP

## MAKE DYNAMIC *Dance* PARTNERS



**And that's no song and dance.**

A diverse business community hasn't happened overnight, but through careful consideration of modern demands – as well as the nature of Cranberry's location and access to multiple major roadways – it's become a place companies want to do business.

Nick Francic, Senior Managing Director for JLL,

**I**t takes two to tango. As Cranberry Township has become a regional business hub over the past two decades, it's more apparent than ever that such success requires strong partnerships. That's where Cranberry and its business partners work in-step to create beautiful music.

oversees the iconic Westinghouse building off Route 228 in Cranberry Woods. When the company pared down its occupancy in 2017, the idea of several hundred thousand square feet of open office space seemed daunting. The COVID-19 pandemic had the potential to make it seem downright impossible.

However, Francic said the campus has seen a sort of rebirth with a diverse client base including financial institutions, college branches, technology, and oil and gas firms. He said the marketing has been straightforward.

"We have an amenity-rich, world-headquarters quality asset that sits at the confluence of Interstate 79 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, surrounded by a retail mecca," he said of the obvious advantages. "As companies search for their next office, we're able to offer flexibility and an environment that provides employees with access to childcare, fitness, a modern food court, and conferencing facilities without leaving the building. That's not typically possible in a multi-tenant suburban building."

So far, so good, as Francic said new tenants like South College, Emerson Electric, and Knichel Logistics have helped the facility surpass 96% occupancy.



*Cranberry and its business partners work in-step to create beautiful music.*



In Emerson's case, the decision to take over a 142,000 square-foot space was spurred by the amenities, as well as the Township's fast growth and proximity to Pittsburgh International Airport.

In late 2023, Giant Eagle announced plans to take over a 100,000 square-foot building in the Cranberry Woods office park. In addition to proximity and amenities, officials cited the ability to collaborate in a convenient location as catalysts for the move.

"Our new headquarters will provide a variety of working and meeting spaces that will foster teamwork and creativity to help us continue to think like our customers, anticipating their needs and delivering solutions to make their lives easier," said Giant Eagle CEO Bill Artman.

Across Route 19, other business parks are seeing similar success. Al Thomson, President of Thomson Business Park, said careful planning by his father, Alfred E. Thomson III laid the groundwork for a long-lasting business.

"He didn't select sites for his building projects based on where the market happened to be at the time," Thomson said. "Instead, he chose them because of where the market appeared to be going. And in 1989, he purchased land

in Cranberry Township."

The company offers four commercial buildings with a combination of warehouse with truck access and office space at the busy intersection of Executive Drive and Rochester Road. Thomson said the location, as well as the attraction of amenities like the Seneca Valley School District, have led to a 100% occupancy rate – as has a commitment to offering customers whatever they may need.

"During the pandemic, we communicated with our tenants to manage through difficult times, and as a result, we had very few tenants that downsized, merged, or vacated," he said.

But even with a fantastic lead, success isn't achieved without a willing and supportive partner.

That's where Cranberry Township two-steps into the mix.

"While we cannot go and actively recruit businesses to the Township, we can make Cranberry a place people want to be," said Mike Manipole, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

That includes ongoing efforts to improve and expand infrastructure and parks while also working with developers to ensure projects



are respectful to current and future residents alike.

"When companies choose Cranberry, it's more than just occupying an office - they become a part of our community," Manipole said. "We're fortunate to have such great neighbors who deeply care about what Cranberry is and aspires to be." 

## 50,000 Residents in Cranberry?



SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!



Local government is more frequently about absolutes than it is about hypotheticals. It's the day-to-day, tangible efforts that require the most focus.

But sometimes, a good hypothetical scenario is needed to see where that government and community is headed.

In Cranberry, that scenario is one that strikes fear into many: the dreaded 50,000.

That's the population number around which The Cranberry Plan was constructed by members of the community, and one that has been much maligned in recent years as the "goal" population by 2030.

In reality, the actual number is much different: Cranberry Township has grown by about 1.7 percent in the last 20 years – the equivalent of 473 people each year.

**So, why the discrepancy?**

When constructing The Cranberry Plan in 2009, the committee was tasked with choosing a preferred "growth scenario" – a hypothetical population and how the community would need to react in order to maintain infrastructure and general operations while considering the financial implications.

The scenarios ranged from 38,095 (scenario A) to 64,293 (scenario C). The committee opted for scenario B, which estimated population at 50,011 target. Using that number, the 2009 Plan, as well as the 2016 update, considered the needs and wants of the community and how to ensure the Township could keep up with the demands of maintaining a high-quality community. Everything from parks to public safety went under the microscope with the 50K number guiding the discussion.

By basing such decisions on a large number, the Plan has helped the Township stay ahead of the curve and handle sustained, gradual

growth instead of being challenged by it.

Now, with 2030 on the horizon, the Township's population sits at 33,955 as of the most recent Census estimate. A hypothetical 50,000 population would not occur until roughly 2060 if growth continued at the same rate experienced for the last 20 years.

There's no reason to believe such a spike in growth is impending; in fact, neighboring communities are seeing an influx of growth as Cranberry stays steady.

However, with the ever-rising costs of service and unpredictable factors that all governments face, following a planned growth scenario has put the Township in a position to weather most any storm while staving off a potential decline.

This managed, sustained growth is nothing to be afraid of – no matter the scenario. ☺

# TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM TO GET **AN UPDATE**

**T**here's no crystal ball on the dais, but Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has always had a keen eye for looking to the future.

As one of the state's early adopters of a Transportation Impact Fee program, the Township was a trendsetter in finding ways to address the impact new development has on the transportation network and requiring developers to pay their fair share.

The Program - authorized by the state's Municipalities Planning Code - allows for a one-time fee to be paid in connection with a developer's project to finance future

traffic improvements that help mitigate the project's traffic impact. Cranberry began the Program in the early 90s and has used it to generate millions of dollars for infrastructure projects.

The fee is based on the number of new trips a particular development will generate, with each trip equating to about \$1,500. The funds are used for ongoing infrastructure needs, with the MSA Thruway and signal work at Route 19 and Progress Avenue serving as recent examples.

The Program will get a much-needed update in 2024 – the first major changes since a

transportation analysis study was completed in 2011. Herbert Rowland & Grubic Inc. is tasked with reviewing and recommending changes to ensure continued success.

Since its original adoption, the Program has been systemically updated to meet state standards. However, these updates pertained only to revising existing project and associated project costs. The 2024 update will re-analyze the long-range transportation needs of the Township. The project is expected to take up to a year to complete. ☺



**MAKING AN IMPACT**



## POWELL COMMITTEE Tasked with Growing Plan

**R**ows of crops aren't the only thing ready to sprout at the Powell Farm property.

Nearly a year after the Township accepted ownership of the Farm, a new committee is tasked with creating a plan for conserving and developing the 71-acre space as a public amenity.

The 10 members of the Powell Farm Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee were appointed by the Board of Supervisors in early 2024. Members include Andy Hack, Resident & Executor of Denton Powell's Estate; Ken Moniot, Butler County Agricultural Preservation Board; Dr. Sean McCarty, Seneca Valley School

District Assistant Superintendent of K-6; Dana Hadley, SVSD teacher; Andy Zadnik, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; Craig Conforti, Penn State Extension; Tim Casey, Cranberry Township Environmental Advisory Committee; Jim Halstead, Butler County Farm Bureau; and Bret Lester and Brian Miller, Cranberry Township representatives.

This cross-section of stakeholders allows for a focus on conservancy, agriculture, and education for the working farm. As part of the Township's acquisition of the property, it must remain as a working agricultural space in perpetuity as a living active monument

that highlights the significance of farming and rural lifestyles through education, programming, and other offerings.

The committee is tasked with advancing a plan and recommendations for the utilization of the property that honors the preservation status, explores educational opportunities that highlight farming and agriculture, provides opportunities to share farming and agricultural activities with the public, and promotes fiscal and operational sustainability. ☺

Scan to learn more or visit  
[cranberrytownship.org/PowellFarm](http://cranberrytownship.org/PowellFarm)





## CALL OF DUTY

# Lifeguards Honored for Heroic Efforts

For the rest of their lives, they'll know there is one person who became an adult who wouldn't have without the actions of these individuals.

*Dave Hutner,  
Parks & Recreation  
Assistant Director*

**T**he turnstiles at the Waterpark turn about 1.3 million times during a swimming season.

All it takes is one of those individuals, to have trouble swimming, for a tragedy to occur.

Luckily, the Waterpark's staff is a well-trained, professional team who turned a harrowing situation into a cause of celebration in June 2023.

For their efforts, lifeguards Greta Schmidt, Olivia Schzure, Garrett Shreve, and Paige Welch were honored by the American Red Cross Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter. The team used skills learned in a Red Cross Training Services course taught by Dave Hutner, Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, and a Red Cross instructor. Hutner also received commendation for his efforts and was thankful to the Board of Supervisors for focusing on safety above all else.

"The fact that the Board allows us to spend so much time training makes the difference,"

he said.

Even with that training, there's no guarantee that staff will utilize it properly in an anxious situation.

"We don't know how we're going to respond under pressure, and this particular situation occurred at the end of a hot day," Hutner said. "Our staff nailed it."

Jorge Martinez, Regional CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Pennsylvania, and Executive Director of the American Red Cross Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter, said those efforts cannot be downplayed.

"How you act in an emergency is what makes a hero," he told the lifeguards. "There's a child, a brother, a son still here because of the actions of these four young individuals."

Hutner agreed.

"For the rest of their lives, they'll know there is one person who became an adult who wouldn't have without the actions of these individuals," he said. 



# TOWNSHIP SOWS THE SEEDS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

**T**he Township's commitment to continued environmental improvement isn't just growing – it's blossoming.

Organized by the Environmental Advisory Committee and in partnership with Home Depot, Haine School, and the Cranberry Library, Cranberry's Earth Week celebration promises fun chances to beautify the Township one person at a time.

The week will kick off on Monday, April 22 at the Jaycee Shelter in Community Park. The event will highlight the efforts to restore the Community Park stream and new educational signage used along the banks. The EAC and staff will also assist in planting trees in the area, and a backyard habitat starter kit will be raffled.

On Wednesday, April 24, the Township will partner with Haine School officials to host a rain barrel class, with the cost of materials included in the registration fee. The event is presented with support from Haine Middle School's Purpose Students. Pre-registration is required.

These fun yet impactful events continue Cranberry's efforts to go – and stay – green. ☺



Scan to see the full Earth Week schedule and register for events!  
[CranberryTownship.org/earthweek](http://CranberryTownship.org/earthweek)



# STORMWATER PROJECT

## Banks on Improving the Environment

**T**ake it to the bank: Cranberry's efforts to restore and improve nearly 7,000 feet of streambank will pay dividends.

As part of ongoing efforts to meet Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements, which must be completed in the next few years, the Township is undertaking a stabilization project on a tributary that travels through or near the Cedarbrook, Manor Creek Farms, Glenbrook Manor, and Settlers Grove developments. The MS4 requirements are unfunded state mandates aimed at improving water quality.

The MS4 Brush Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project will remove 320,000 pounds of sediment from the creek once it breaks ground this spring.

Using funding gathered from the Township's Stormwater Rate enacted in 2020, as well as \$664,000 from the Butler County Municipal Infrastructure Program, the project includes removing fallen trees and debris from the stream, as well as realigning the channel to create a more consistent flood plain by dissipating energy from flowing water. The project will also improve the biology of the stream, enhance its aesthetic qualities, and allow for better long-term maintenance of the Township's environmental resources.

The Township is working with homeowners' associations to ensure access for the project and to ensure work is coordinated for minimal impact. It's another example of the Township working together with local and county officials to improve Cranberry. 



# SETTING TRENDS IS OUR SPECIALTY

The words “trendsetting” and “Cranberry Township” aren’t necessarily synonymous – but it’s pretty close.

The Board of Supervisors has been aggressive in finding new ways to approach old problems and has been doing so for decades.

With the Township’s Municipal Solid Waste contract up for bid this spring, it was the perfect time to reflect on just how innovative and trendsetting the Collection Connection program has been. In 2004, faced with state and county mandates for solid waste collection, Cranberry created the Collection Connection concept. It took a system that was described at the time as “laissez faire” with multiple haulers and combined everything under one comprehensive contract.

In addition to cost savings for the Township and the community, the goal was to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by promoting recycling and other programs. The variable-rate system was based on the volume of household garbage generated, and a tag system for extra or large items.

Success was swift – overall volumes dropped by more than 20% while recycling participation rose 40%.

But as often happens in Cranberry, the program continued to evolve. Under the direction of now-retired Lorin Meeder, the Township’s Environmental Projects Coordinator, the program included weekly yard waste collections seven months out of the year, and Christmas tree pickup each January. More recently, natural gas-powered trucks with mechanical arms were rolled into the fleet to maximize efficiency and lower the environmental impact.

The upcoming consideration of the new five-year contract coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Collection Connection, and that’s reason to celebrate. As you’ll read elsewhere in this issue, Cranberry’s program has long been the framework for municipal solid waste contracts. It will continue to do so as a challenging industry creates variables for both providers and local governments.

But it isn’t just trash talk that brings attention to the Township.

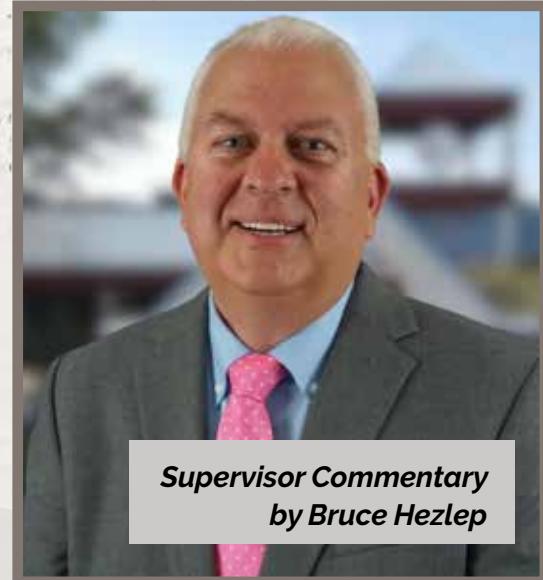
This edition of “Cranberry Today” features stories on the Township’s Transportation Impact Fee program, which collects revenue from new developments based on the assumed impact such development will have on Cranberry’s infrastructure. The Township was an early adopter of such a program and will again set the tone as a committee appointed by the Board studies and adapts the plan later this year.

Elsewhere, the Brush Creek Water Treatment Control Facility will see the second phase of updates in recent years, this time to address the solid handling process. In 2018, a major plant overhaul introduced the use of innovative water filtration and treatment technologies that were being implemented in the United States.

This isn’t to brag. To the contrary, being on the cutting edge of programs and processes takes long hours, hard work, and the willingness to go off the beaten path. Most importantly, it takes support.

The community’s trust in the Board of Supervisors when making these decisions makes it much easier to try something unique. That support has been the key piece in making Cranberry the center of attention for the past three decades.

We hope the next time you roll your carts to the end of the driveway that you remember that you are a major part of setting trends in Cranberry and beyond.



**Supervisor Commentary**  
by Bruce Hezlep



## COLLECTION CONNECTION MARKS 20TH YEAR WITH NEW CONTRACT

**O**ne man's trash is another man's treasure.

And with the cost of trash collection services continuing to climb, that treasure is more valuable than ever.

It's something Township officials are keeping in mind as they pursue a new Municipal Solid Waste contract in 2024. With the current 10-year contract set to expire, the Board of Supervisors gave authorization to bid for the Collection Connection program, which also includes yard waste and recycling collection, disposal, and processing.

Expectations for the five-year contract include trucks operated with environmentally friendly compressed natural gas, GIS equipped trucks, separate downsized trucks for collections on narrow streets and alleys, a dedicated route supervisor, and pre-route driver training.

The contract coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Collection Connection, a precedent-setting endeavor that according to the Township's Solid Waste Program Manager Josh Andree made Cranberry, "the gold standard" for municipal waste programs.

"We are the framework for other municipalities," he said.

The innovative "pay-as-you-throw" program uses a scale based on the size of each cart and the ability to pay a fee for additional items. The program has grown from 6,000 accounts in 2004 to more than 10,000 in 2024 – an average of 150 new accounts each year. That equates to 1.7 million stops for 8,000 tons of municipal waste and 5,000 tons of recycling each year.

That's not to mention more than 250 tons of cardboard collected at the Township's compactor in the rear of the Municipal Center – more than most commercial users in Cranberry.

With the municipal waste industry experiencing much change since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Township has been working to ensure the next contract meets the needs of the community. Andree said that includes listening to residents and finding best practices for internal operations.

Still, the impact will be apparent as a significant increase in cost is expected based on other contracts in the region. What won't change, Andree said, is the high-quality service residents have come to expect.

"Nobody has a program like this, and we continue setting the bar," he added. ☺



Cranberry Township's electronic and household hazardous waste collection contract with Noble Environmental continues in 2024, giving residents a place to dispose of hard-to-recycle items such as paint, electronics, and chemicals via a drive-through process.

**2024 Events:**  
July 6 and October 26

**More information:**  
[nobleenviro.com/e-waste-and-hhw](http://nobleenviro.com/e-waste-and-hhw)  
or scan the QR





## Making Progress at the MUNICIPAL CENTER

**C**hange is everywhere at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center – both the kind one can see, and the kind that can't be seen.

Work to improve and update the 33-year-old building picked up in the first quarter of 2024, with work expected to continue through the fall.

But there's no lack of activity as tenants and programs shuffle to make way for the project, which is funded in part through a \$1.25 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant.

As part of the work, State Representative Stephenie Scialabba's office has moved to

the rear of the facility. Similarly, the Property Tax Office has temporarily moved to inside the existing Customer Service Center.

These moves made way for the creation of the new Council Chambers, which will be a focal point once the project is completed. The space will abut The Great Lawn, which is expected to break ground in early summer. Work will be coordinated so as to not require crews to demo and repair new materials.

The former Council Chambers was demolished, making way for the creation of a new Customer Service center that is more visible and accessible to guests. The Parks & Recreation Department

has also undergone significant changes, with new office and program space on the way.

Other efforts, while not as obvious, are improving the overall guest experience. That includes new fixtures, carpeting, an improved fire suppression system, upgraded HVAC components, and a fresh coat of paint inside and outside.

With work ongoing, Township staff continue to plan and work around the activity, making changes to programs and meetings as needed. No such events have been canceled due to construction – a point of pride for staff. ☺

## HITTING THE ROAD

**A**rtificial Intelligence can't pave roads – yet.

While the world waits for such technological advances, Cranberry Township is putting tech to work to inform decisions on the yearly summer paving and crack sealing program.

Through partnerships with RoadBotics and Roadsoft, the Township's roads have been meticulously categorized and scored. The RoadBotics software provides Public Works with high-resolution photos and precise location information for each 10-foot section of road. That data works in conjunction with the Roadsoft to determine scores which dictate areas of greatest need.

Having effective data allows for planning around infrastructure projects to ensure work doesn't need to be re-done. It also allows the Township to be proactive and better allocate funding and address road needs before they need a full re-paving. That includes the crack seal and seal coat programs which can extend the life of non-urgent roads by several years. ☺

### 2024 PAVING PLAN OUTLINED

#### SUPERPAVE STREET RESURFACING

##### COLLECTOR ROADS

- Commonwealth Drive: Pennwood Drive - Twp. line
- Wisconsin Avenue: Smith Drive - dead end

##### RESIDENTIAL ROADS

###### The Crossings

- Stonehenge Drive: Crossing Ridge - Powell Road

###### Pinehurst

- Pinehurst Drive: Redwood Court - N. Boundary Road

###### Woodlands

- Kirkwood Drive: Parkwood Drive - cul-de-sac

###### Manorline

- Cameron Drive: Rolling Road - cul-de-sac
- Wayne Drive: Cameron Drive - dead-end

###### Avery's Field

- Jacob's Court: Avery's Way - cul-de-sac
- Avery's Way: Klein Road - Powell Road

###### Clearbrook

- Haldeman Drive: Freedom Road - cul-de-sac
- Pebble Creek Drive: Haldeman Drive - Sarah Drive
- Clearbrook Drive: Haldeman Drive - cul-de-sac
- Sarah Drive: Anna Marie Drive

###### Freedom Woods

- Yorktown Drive: Lafayette Drive - cul-de-sac
- Lafayette Drive: Valley Forge Drive - Yorktown Drive

###### Alternate 2

- Fox Run Road: Fox Run Circle - Wheatfield Drive

###### Alternate 3

- Anna Marie Drive: Haldeman Drive - Lois Lane
- Clearbrook Court: Haldeman Drive - dead end

#### 2024 SEAL COATING - SINGLE SEAL

##### COLLECTOR ROADS

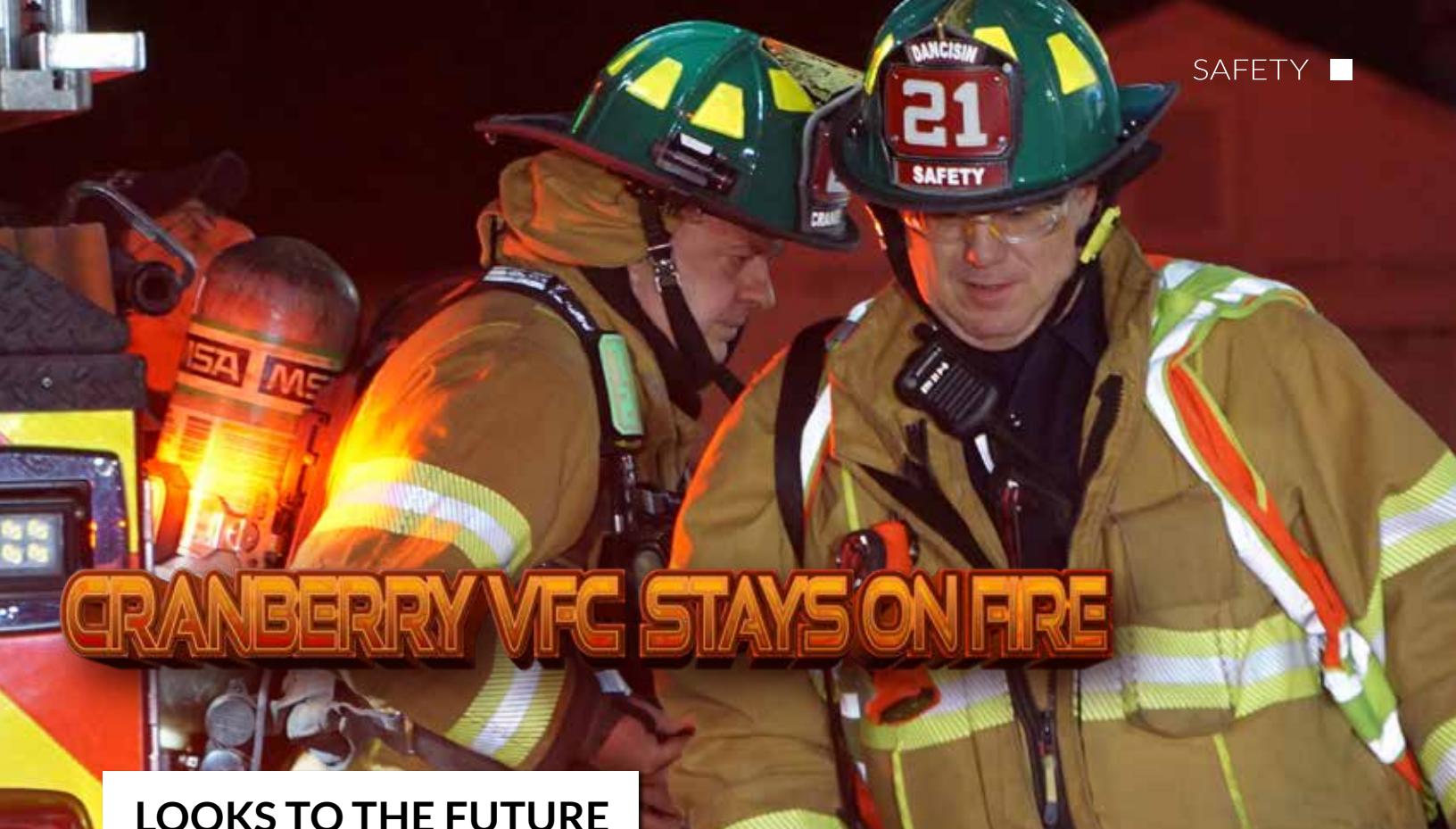
- Old Route 19: Route 19 - Glen Eden Road
- Old Ehrman Road: Ehrman Road - Township line
- Ehrman Road: Route 19 - Castle Brook Drive
- Bear Run Road: Route 19 - Chadwick Trail
- Alternate 1
- Ehrman Road from Route 19 - roundabout

#### 2024 CRACK SEALING

##### COLLECTOR ROADS

- West Kensinger: Unionville Road - cul-de-sac
- East Kensinger: Unionville Road - cul-de-sac
- Dutilh Road (North): Route 228 - Route 19
- Dutilh Road (South): Route 228 - cul-de-sac
- Heights Drive: Route 19 - Freshcorn Road
- Thorn Hill Road: Freedom Road - Township line
- Unionville Road: Glen Eden Road - Rowan Road
- Powell Road: Autumn Hill Drive - Glen Eden Road





## CRANBERRY VFC STAYS ON FIRE

### LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

**I**t's a record that nobody wants to see broken.

In 2023, the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company responded to 1,021 emergency calls, continuing a trend of record-setting years.

And while more calls for aid is not something to celebrate, the Company's response serves as proof that education and training efforts are paying off. Company members spent thousands of hours training in 2023, with increased opportunities provided by in-house Training Coordinator Chris Snedeker.

"This commitment to training ensures our personnel have the latest skills, knowledge, and techniques necessary to respond swiftly

and effectively to any emergencies," said Scott Garing, Chief of Fire & Emergency Services.

"This investment of continuous training ensures that we remain at the forefront of firefighting response and ready to face any challenge that may arise."

In 2023, those new challenges included a spike in gas line strikes associated with ongoing telecommunication upgrades around the Township. In addition to the increased number of associated calls, responders are spending more time at these scenes to mitigate hazards.

That has made incentivized duty shifts more important than ever, ensuring multiple crews are available to respond to calls. That's proven successful, as the Company recently achieved

a month with 99% of evening and overnight shift coverage.

Never content to rest on success, Company leadership is looking to improve in 2024 and beyond. That includes improving and evolving the stipend staffing and home response programs and finding new ways to recruit and retain members.

The Company also purchased a replacement for the 2008 rescue truck. While the lifespan of that truck is 20 years, delays in production and shipping required a four-year lead time.

The Pearce Enforcer Rescue Truck will become the primary rescue out of the Route 19 Fire Station once it is placed into service. According to Garing, the existing truck is ill equipped to the challenges faced by 21st century firefighters.

"The type of rescue calls has changed drastically due to the ever-changing environment, and we find ourselves in a position to do technical rescue more often," he said. "This includes cars into buildings, construction accidents, rope rescues, and vehicle accidents. The new truck equips us to effectively handle complex rescue incidents."

This commitment to training and preparedness ensures the Company is ready to handle any call that sounds the alarm. ■



# SAFE AT HOME



## Cranberry Identified as

Maintaining a safe community isn't just about arresting bad guys – it takes a commitment to being active participants in that community.

Members of the Cranberry Police Department take that commitment seriously as they patrol the Township's 24 square miles. A recent ranking from MoneyGeek found Cranberry to be the safest small town in Pennsylvania and ninth safest in the country.

The ranking is based on crime statistics and the cost of those crimes in communities with a population between 30,000 and 100,000 residents. The rankings were based on 2022 crime statistics reported to the FBI. Cranberry earned the ninth spot on the list of 1,010 communities based on four data points, including:

- \$78 - Crime Cost per Capita: Societal cost of crime per resident.
- 17 - Violent Crime Rate: Composed of four offenses including murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault per 100,000 residents.
- 885 - Property Crime Rate: Includes burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft offenses per 100,000 residents.
- \$2,683 - Cost of Crime: Economic losses attributed to crime and its cost to society (individuals, community and nationally) in millions.



## SAFEST IN PA

With a mix of 31 new and veteran officers, the Department focuses on maintaining public trust, enforcing the law, and preventing and investigating criminal activity. That equates to responding to nearly 20,000 calls per year.

While response is of utmost importance, it's the other duties that make the most impact. With officers working as school resource officers and others hosting events like CarFit, the Bike Rodeo, and through Drug Takeback Days, the community gets a chance to form relationships with those who protect them.

"Cranberry is an incredibly supportive community, and we hear that support each day," said Police Chief Kevin Meyer. "It's great to be recognized for our efforts, but we realize this sets a high bar that we will continue working to exceed." 





## 2024 Community Days

### Continues Celebrating Success

Solidifying summer vacations is well underway for many, but there's one weekend Cranberry residents should keep open.

Promising three days of music, food, art, and fun, Community Days, the three-day celebration presented by the Cranberry Township Community Chest and UPMC Passavant, is set for July 11-13 in Community Park.

Staples of the weekend include the Cruisin' Cranberry Car Show, Community Chase 5K, Lion's Pancake Breakfast, Rotary BINGO, and the fan-favorite Saturday night fireworks display. Attendees can also browse vendors and food trucks, enjoy carnival rides, hear live music, and meet dozens of the Cranberry community's non-profits.

Other events include the Battle of the Badges fire vs. police event, and the Rotary Craft Ale Garden.

Exclusive sponsor opportunities are available promising the opportunity to reach more than 45,000 households and businesses. Additionally, artists, crafters, food trucks, non-profit organizations, and businesses are invited to participate throughout the weekend. Vendors do not need to be based in Cranberry Township to participate.

Join Cranberry and CTCC for the best staycation one can have! ☀





2000-2024  
COMMUNITY UNITING PEOPLE

## Cranberry CUP

HAS 25 YEARS OF HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Twenty-five years ago, organizers of the Cranberry CUP wanted to find a way to make a real impact on their friends and neighbors.

Short for Community Uniting People, the Cranberry CUP was formed in 2000 to take on projects that better the community, including scholarships and other donations. Over a quarter century, its reach has expanded to support those who are facing life's toughest challenges.

And as the organization has grown, so too have its commitments. What once was a one-time offering of support has blossomed into continued assistance and haven for those families – while still supporting students, projects, and the community.

Funds are raised via the annual community softball tournament in August, which creates a friendly, yet competitive competition between neighborhoods in a two-day tournament. Hundreds of players come together to help raise funds for the beneficiary before battling it out on the fields in Community Park.

Other fundraisers include the Good Friday Golf Outing and the Cranberry CUP Golf Classic in August, each held at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, as well as a Cornhole Tournament.

For those looking for a more laid-back way to support the CUP, the Wine Event in June and February's Mom Prom have welcomed hundreds to gather in support of the cause.



Since its inception, the Cranberry CUP has raised more than \$2 million for individuals battling illness and families coping with the loss of a loved one. That's not to mention annual scholarships and contributions to projects like

CTCC's Kids Castle, with the CUP signing on as title sponsor for the initial project in 2013 and the Royal Renovation in 2022.

Perhaps more than money, Cranberry CUP offers a team of support for their benefactors, doing everything from helping file taxes to assisting with transportation and home purchases. That physical support is on display each August during the softball tournament, as the year's beneficiary and their family are ushered into Community Park via fire truck to be greeted by hundreds of players, local officials, volunteers, and spectators. The celebration includes music, uplifting speeches, and often joyful tears as the beneficiary gets the opportunity to engage with their supporting community.

It's a reminder of the good work Cranberry CUP has done for 25 years and offers encouragement that the organization will continue doing so for 25 years and beyond. ☺



Scan to learn more or visit  
[cranberrycup.org](http://cranberrycup.org)

# Kids Castle!



## A Vision for the Future

In 2024, the Kids Castle Playground in Community Park is a safe, sprawling facility that offers hours of fun for children of all ages.

In 1988, the play area was but an idea that required community support to bring to life.

Along the way, it has served as a place not just for recreation, but a place for community service and camaraderie.

The royal plan for Kids Castle started with a need to replace the Playtime Palace Playground, which opened in 1990 and saw 800 people come together to build.

A longtime staple in Community Park, the wooden play area had experienced significant wear and tear and was no longer up to safety and accessibility standards.

In 2011, the project was chosen as the Cranberry Township Community Chest Project of the Year for 2013. It received a sizable initial boost via the Cranberry Community Uniting People (CUP), which pledged \$175,000. A community committee explored potential amenities and designs with children providing their own ideas.

A Past, Present, Today theme was chosen

to pay homage to Playtime Palace. CTCC began community fundraising efforts, but its support didn't stop there. In the fall 2013, more than 300 individuals over the course of five 12-hour days turned out to build the Today portion of the new playground piece by piece.

Thousands of hands played a part in bringing Kids Castle to life, including a 25-year time capsule to be opened in 2038. The popular facility received a facelift in 2023, ensuring it continues a tradition of accessible family fun for all for decades to come. ☺



## What is an ENDOWMENT?

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?

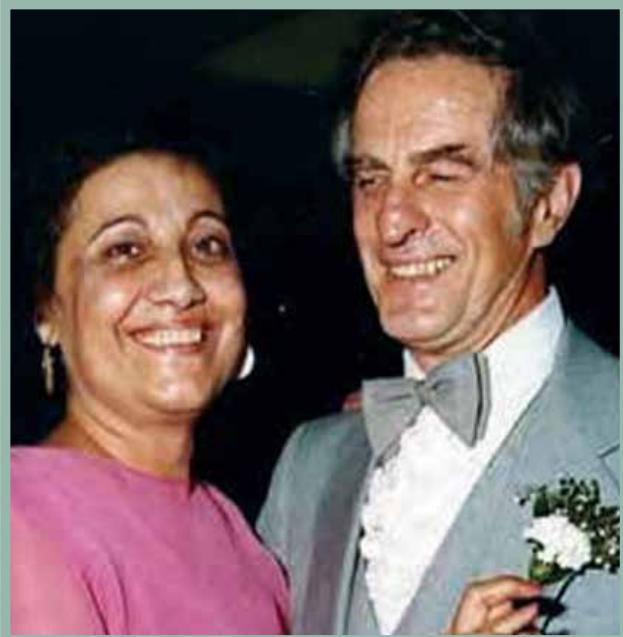
In short, it's a fund that anyone can create to support their choice of more than 40 different causes. This includes non-profit and civic organizations, scholarships, and community projects. These lifetime funds go directly to these causes, and the principle is never touched, guaranteeing its sustainability.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



## Renato (Ray) & Enis Mazzoni Project of the Year Fund (2017)

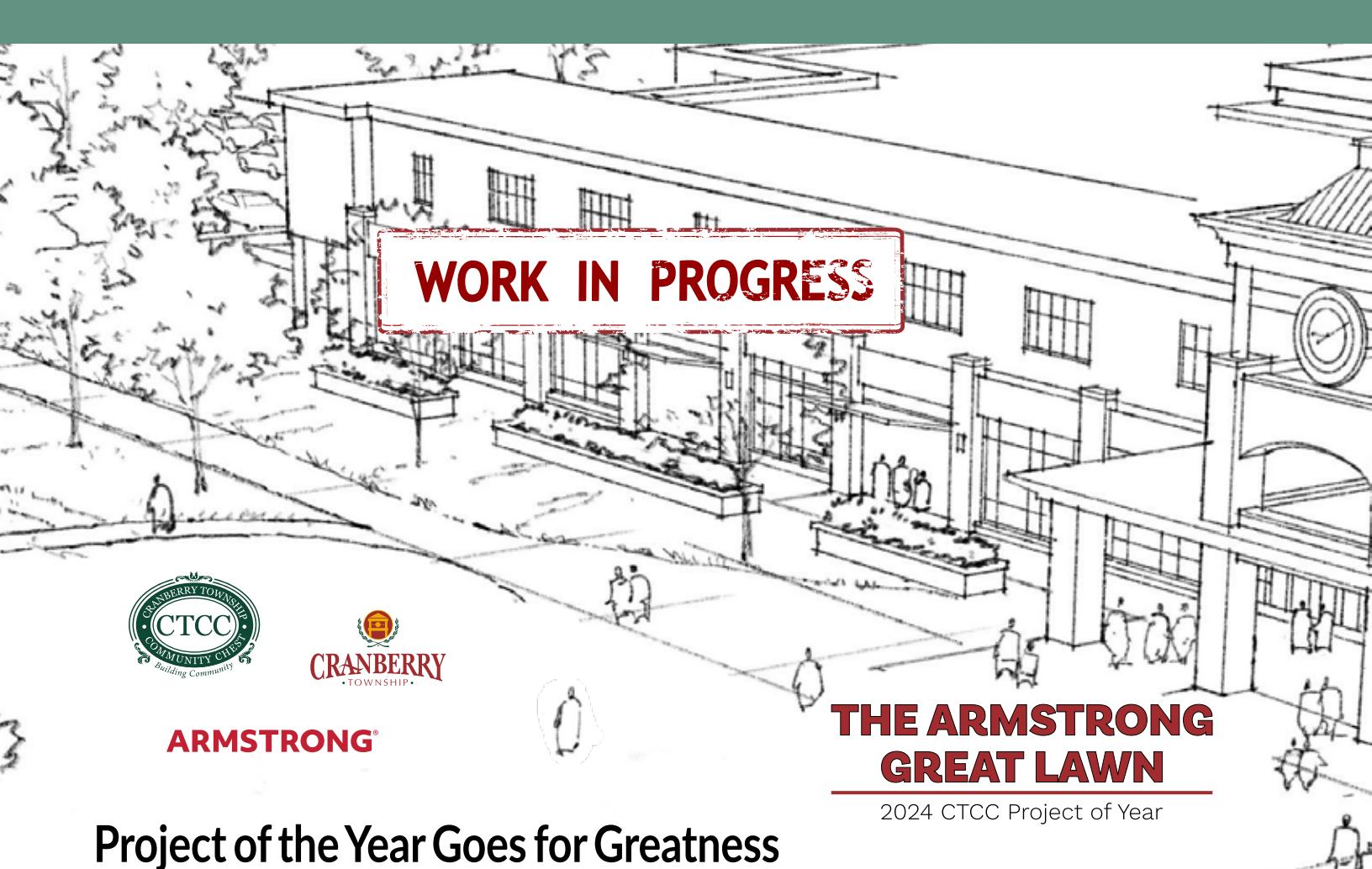
**R**enato and Enis Mazzoni led impressive lives, both living into their 80s. It's a lifetime of service that continues having an impact on Cranberry.

The Renato (Ray) and Enis Mazzoni Project of the Year Fund was created in 2017 for the couple, who lived in East Deer and raised five sons during their nearly 60-year marriage. Ray was a World War II Navy veteran who worked as a research engineer at PPG Industries for nearly 40 years, where he produced 13 patents.

He spent his free time giving back, serving on various boards and volunteering at the Mt. St. Peter Roman Catholic Church soup kitchen in his native New Kensington. He passed in 2009, which led Enis to move to Cranberry Township to be closer to her children.

Enis similarly lived to serve, volunteering for the Tarentum Historical Society. Her efforts continued upon moving to Cranberry, where she helped prepare thousands of mailers for the Cranberry Township Community Chest. She was also an active member of the Cranberry Senior Center and could often be found playing cards with her friends.

Upon Enis' passing in 2016, the Endowment was created in honor of her new hometown and for the couple's lifetime of community involvement. It has helped fund several Projects of the Year, including The Forge Makerspace at the Cranberry Public Library. 



**WORK IN PROGRESS**



**ARMSTRONG®**

## **THE ARMSTRONG GREAT LAWN**

2024 CTCC Project of Year

### **Project of the Year Goes for Greatness**

**F**or more than 30 years, the Municipal Center has been the epicenter of activity in Cranberry.

With work to renovate the space ongoing, the activity is at a fever pitch within the walls of the Township's community gathering space. But all the fun isn't relegated to the building itself, as early work has begun on the Cranberry Township Community Chest's Great Lawn Project.

The project was announced in 2022, with Armstrong signing on as the title sponsor. Being completed in step with the Municipal Center Renovation, the Great Lawn project will construct an environmentally conscience gathering space focused on passive recreation, expand pedestrian connections, and create a traditional town center in which the community can gather and grow together.

As proven during past projects, the Cranberry

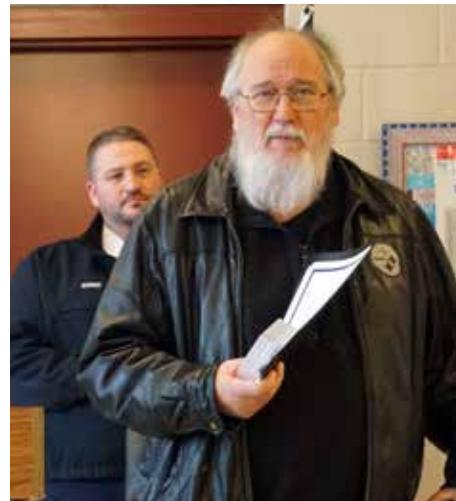
community understands the impact such endeavors have on the community. It also knows that any support goes a long way toward making a vision become a reality.

CTCC is seeking sponsors and donations as work on the Great Lawn continues. Such financial contributions not only support the brick-and-mortar aspect of this effort, but more importantly the creation of a community centerpiece that will bring people together. 



**FIND OUT MORE!**





## LIVING TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

### AEDs, Fast Response Make an Impact

Eight years of an annual event that honors the countless lives that were changed forever.

The outcomes could have been notably different if not for the quick actions of first responders and a few good Samaritans, who recognized individuals experiencing cardiac arrest.

These individuals, as well as those who lived to see another day, were celebrated during Cranberry EMS' annual Save-A-Life Saturday event. Each year, patients who suffered an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest come together with the responders who helped save their

lives together.

In total, 67 rescuers helped eight survivors beat the odds of a 10% national average survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. That includes the good Samaritans who made the call to first responders and took the first steps in performing CPR chest compressions or the use of an AED.

During the 2024 event, two of the eight survivors reunited with their rescuers. One such survivor, Stephanie Grenier, was able to celebrate the one-year anniversary of her incident during the event. She took the opportunity to thank each responder who

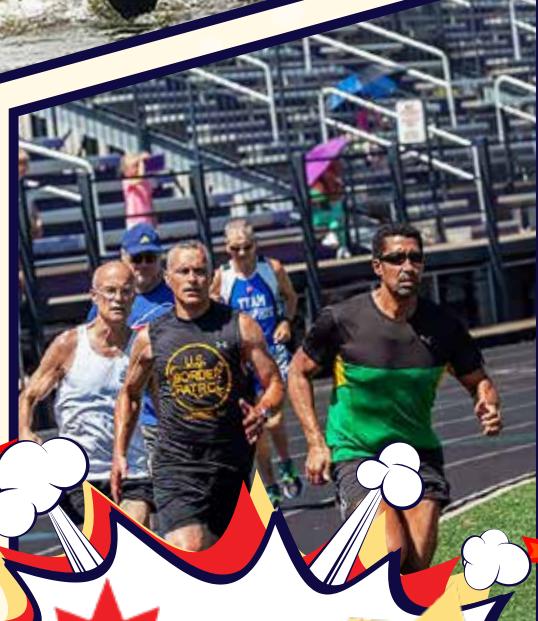
Cheryl Rickens, RN, BSN and EMS Specialist for UPMC's AED Program, said the incidents showed the importance not only of quick response but of the Chain of Survival that puts cardiac arrest patients in an, "elite club" of surviving such an incident.

"These incidents show how the link of the Chain of Survival interweave, promoting teamwork and positive outcomes," she said. ☎





## GET IN THE GAME



## Thousands to Flock to Butler County FOR FIRE-POLICE COMPETITION

*Photo credit: 2022 Windsor Can-Am Police-Fire Games*

**T**housands of athletes from around the world will go for the gold in Paris later this year during the 2024 Olympics.

But the quest for greatness isn't confined to France, as Butler County will get in the game as host of the biennial Can-Am Police-Fire Games from July 15-21. The Olympic-style event will welcome more than 3,000 first responders from the United States and Canada to compete in more than 50 events that require skills used in a participant's day-to-day work. Events include running, cycling, pistol and rifle shooting, ice hockey, powerlifting, and archery. Competitors include those working in the Fire and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service Providers, Homeland Security, Border Patrol, and Corrections fields, along with their

spouses and children over 18.

Nearly 20 venues across the county will host events, including UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex. Slippery Rock University will serve as the host venue.

The Games promote physical fitness and camaraderie among law enforcement, fire, emergency, protective service personnel and their agencies. Proceeds benefit the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania, which provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Butler County was selected after a host bid process that occurred several years before the games. With Butler County situated within 500 miles of 40% of the United States population,

and an 8-9-hour drive to six major Canadian sites and 14 U.S. states, it was an easy decision.

The Games also stand to serve as a financial boon for the county, with hotels and restaurants on tap to benefit the most.

"This event not only highlights the incredible skills of our first responders but also provides an opportunity for our community to showcase the warm hospitality and unique experiences that Butler County has to offer," said Jack Cohen, president of the Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau. ☐

Scan to learn more or visit  
[butlercanam2024.com](http://butlercanam2024.com)





Don't forget!

## MARKET BACK TO THE BACK

**A**fter a successful three seasons in front of the Municipal Center, the Cranberry Township Farmers Market is heading out back.

Due to ongoing work on the Municipal Center Renovation and Armstrong Great Lawn projects, the market will move from the parking lot along Rochester Road to the recently revamped rear parking lot of the building.

While the location is changing, the fine foods and wonderful wares will continue to offer the perfect place to peruse on Friday nights throughout the summer.

The Farmers Market, presented in collaboration with the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber, is held from 3-7 p.m. every Friday from May 31 to October 4. More than 40 vendors are featured each week offering fresh produce, honey, flowers, bread, jams, baked goods, grass-fed beef, soaps, spirits, and more. Each local vendor brings their goods and services directly to the consumer, creating a community event that supports local work.

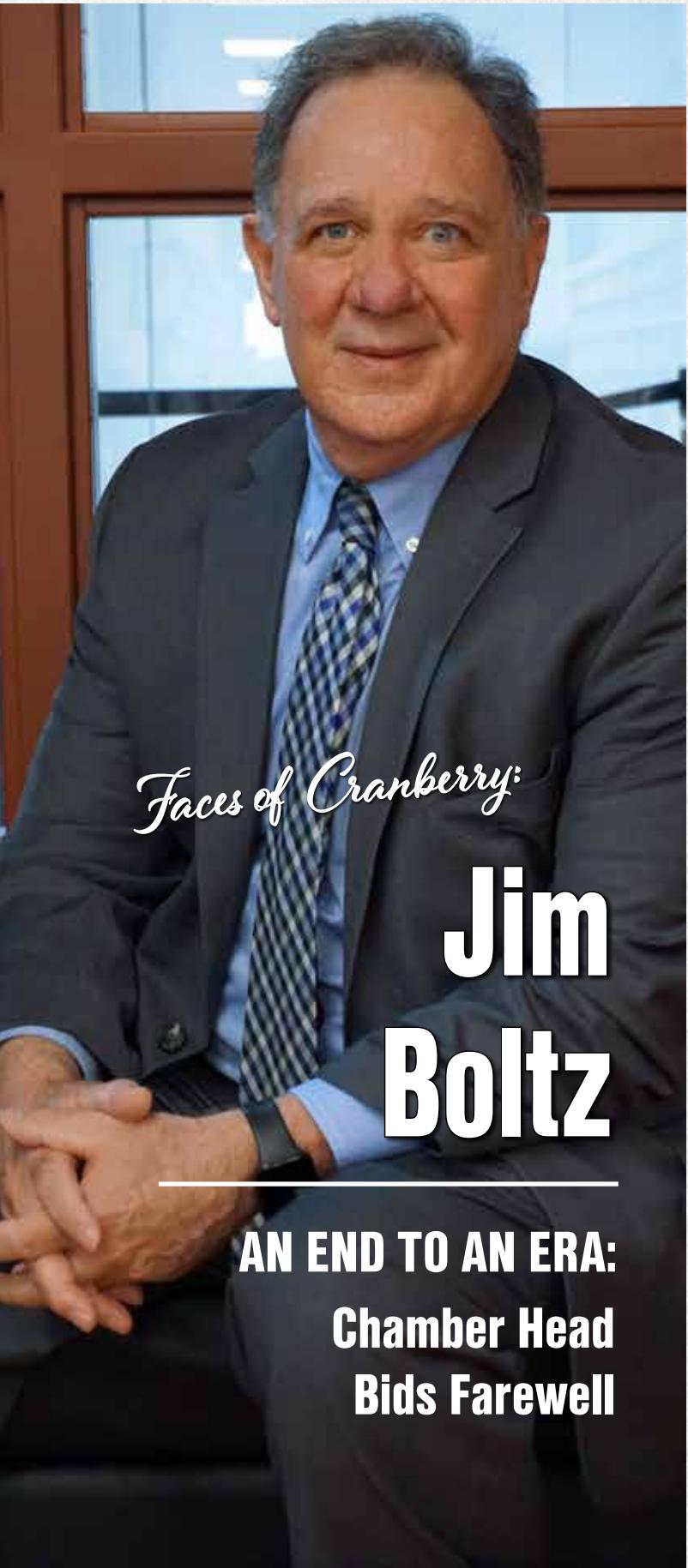
Admission to the market is free and the events are held rain or shine. As part of the temporary relocation, patrons are asked to park in the neighboring Divine Grace Parish parking lot.

Also returning in 2024 are special themed events, including the HYPE Helping Young Professionals Excel Corn Hole Tournament, Kidapalooza, and Barktoberfest.

Join the Township and PNRC in growing a summer of family fun! 

Scan for more information or visit  
[cranberrytownship.org/farmersmarket](http://cranberrytownship.org/farmersmarket).





*Faces of Cranberry:*

# Jim Boltz

---

## AN END TO AN ERA: Chamber Head Bids Farewell

**A**n era of success, strong leadership, and commitment to excellence is coming to an end as Jim Boltz, President of Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber retires.

The Cranberry Township native served regional businesses as the Chamber president for 10 years, and recently closed the door on a stellar career in community service.

Boltz began serving the PNRC as Board Chair. When the president position became available, Boltz knew the organization well and developed a passion for its work.

"I viewed the position as an opportunity to become a driving force in the business community," he said. "I felt that the experience I had, working for a major corporation, being a small business owner, and serving on the board fittingly prepared me."

Boltz never looked back and became a staple in the business sector helping to situate Southwestern Pennsylvania as a resilient economic hub.

The Chamber's work received the honor of being named one of the top three chambers in the United States by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, which represents almost 1,700 chambers across the country.

Boltz shared his pride in collaborating with other chambers and business organizations for the betterment of the business community. That includes events that brought the region's 14 chambers together for one event.

Boltz also fondly speaks of the relationship the Chamber built with Cranberry Township – particularly the annual Farmers Market. Since the Chamber's involvement starting in 2020, the market has grown to over 70 vendors with an average weekly attendance over 1,000. The Chamber estimates that the market, deemed one of the top markets in the region, produces over \$250,000 annually to the local economy.

It's a bittersweet departure as Boltz leaves the Chamber in a strong place after hitting milestone after milestone to help both for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

"It gave me great satisfaction in serving the business community by collaborating with other area organizations like Butler County Tourism, the Butler County Chamber, the Beaver County Chamber, Cranberry Township, the Butler County Community Develop Corp., Butler Economic Development, and Job Corps, to form the Tri-County Collaborative," he said.

There is power in numbers as Boltz and his colleagues were able to eliminate the duplication of efforts and leverage the strengths of each to better provide for the community. Such efforts paid off during the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Through the expertise of Butler County Tourism, we trained restaurants how to convert their business to take out only," he said. "With the help of Job Corps, we hosted a large virtual job fair and over 300 applicants participated. Our Chamber took the lead in retail and developed a series of virtual retail events to promote local stores."

Through it all, Boltz has successfully balanced work and family – which he said is extremely important to him.

"Cranberry Township is a great place to raise a family and work, too," he said. "From education, to business, to recreation, it provides opportunities that establish the highest quality of life for its residents."

He'll get more time to spend with his family as he retires, putting to rest a much accomplished and well-respected career of helping others. ☎

A+



## MANIPOLE EARNS HIGH MARKS

**M**ike Manipole has helped drive Cranberry Township's success since being elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2010.

Now, he's being honored for the same care and attention he displays at his day job.

Manipole, a health and physical education teacher at Ryan Gloyer Middle School, received the Ann Moniot Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Award for the 2023-24 school year from the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education.

This award is presented to a middle level educator who has made professional contributions that have positively influenced middle level education and students within their school, has a passion for teaching that is contagious to those around them, and someone who creates positive and caring relationships with their students and their colleagues.

"I am truly honored and humbled to accept the Ann Moniot Outstanding Middle Level Teacher award," Manipole said. "This recognition is not just a personal achievement but a testament to the collective dedication and hard work of the incredible students at RGMS, as well as the outstanding team of teachers and administrators I am fortunate to collaborate with. It is so important to try to make students know they are valued and to make them smile. We never know what a person is thinking or how they feel each day, it is a great opportunity to hopefully brighten a person's day! It is a privilege to be part of such a remarkable community that values education and fosters an environment of growth and learning."

The Association of Middle Level Education, formerly the Pennsylvania Middle School Association, was established in 1973 and serves as a voice for professionals, parents,

and others interested in the educational and developmental needs of children 10-to-15 years of age. AMLE is the only national educational association exclusively devoted to improving the educational experiences of young adolescents.

"Mr. Manipole approaches every day with a positive energy that is really unlike anyone else I know," said Dr. Tony Babusci, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Principal. "All the kids feed off that positive energy, and they know they're in the presence of someone who really cares about them. An underrated characteristic of Mike is his work ethic. He puts in as many hours as any teacher I know and often leaves school and goes directly into serving his community. ☺

Scan to learn more!



Cranberry Highlands Golf Course's reputation as one of the most beautiful and well-maintained in the region will only grow this year.

Prior to the season kicking off in March, an upgrade was made to the irrigation control system that Golf Operations Director Jesse Horner said will allow for more efficient management.

The existing irrigation system, including software, was installed when the course was built more than 22 years ago. By using

new technology, staff will have more precise control of run times and can be adjusted via a mobile app. Station-based flow management based on hydraulic piping will allow run time windows to be shortened and allow pumps to run more efficiently.

This all leads to an even better experience for golfers – as does the replacement of the Course's entire cart fleet.

The 80 Club Car golf carts address a power issue with the retired fleet that often limit tee times. The fleet, powered by lithium-ion

batteries, steadily declined over five years, taking longer to charge between rounds. With the warranty expiring on the batteries, and the carts themselves having taken the brunt of more than 172,000 rounds of golf, a total replacement was in order.

These two steps continue the Township's commitment to keeping Cranberry Highlands a top-tier golf course. ☺

# NEW CARTS, SOFTWARE KEEP CRANBERRY HIGHLANDS TEEING OFF



Scan to book  
a tee time!





# CHIN UP, CHEST OUT

Fred Astaire Dance Studio  
Waltzes Into Cranberry

**A** new business in Graham Park is sweeping customers off their feet thanks to the teachings of Fred Astaire and two internationally renowned studio instructors.

Ivan Sovetov and Valeria Mkrtchian, owners of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Cranberry, have dedicated their lives to performing, beginning their dance journeys at the age of five in Russia.

However, they met only seven years ago in Syracuse, New York where they immigrated to work at a Fred Astaire Dance Studio. During their time at the studio, they developed a friendship and made the decision to compete together as a professional dance couple. They quickly earned individual and joint achievements on the international stage in Ballroom and Latin dance styles - including their current title as United States National Open Professional Nine Dance Champions.

The two also shared the aspiration of opening their own Fred Astaire franchise, a dream realized in 2023 when they became the owners of the first Fred Astaire Studio in Western Pennsylvania.

When looking for a location in the Pittsburgh area, Cranberry Township was their first stop. They were immediately drawn to an open unit in Bellevue Commons Park and the community it is part of. Fueled by their enthusiasm for the area's promising potential and Cranberry's reputation as a thriving hub for diverse businesses, they decided to make it their home.

Since opening in December 2023, Fred Astaire Cranberry has attracted almost 50 amateur dancers, with new clients reaching out daily. Many students live in the Township, but others commute for the center's array of class styles and expert instruction.

Students at the studio can engage in private and group lessons, attend dance socials, and participate in the Studio's acclaimed Trophy System. This program allows dancers to monitor their progress by advancing through a series of programs from 'Beginner' to 'Gold' with the opportunity to compete nationally in Fred Astaire amateur competitions.

"The Trophy System is what makes Fred Astaire so unique," Ivan said. "It makes learning the movements and dance steps easy for anyone."

Importantly, the team stressed, students do not need a partner to join.

"It's very beneficial to sign up alone. Solo dancers are paired with a professional instructor during lessons which can help the student to really learn the proper movements and get the most out of their experience," Valeria said.

The studio heads also emphasized the advantages of dance, highlighting its capacity to foster friendships, enhance well-being, reignite passion, build community, and provide pure enjoyment.

For more information, visit [fredastaire.com/cranberry](http://fredastaire.com/cranberry). 

# Go, Dog. Go!



## The Indoor Dog Park - **The Place to GO**

In the magical world of Dr. Suess, it's a dog party every day, with little dogs, big dogs, black dogs, and white dogs.

In the reality world of The Indoor Dog Park, dogs party daily, too.

Co-owners Jon Hanan and Sarah Gover host themed parties for dogs and humans on a regular basis - whether it's a Taylor Swift Watch Party, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, or St. Patrick's Day – the food and fun flows freely amongst all the tail wags.

The atmosphere is family-oriented, where dogs know each other – as do the owners. It's also one of the few indoor dog parks in the country. Open 24-7, members can play all day and all night on nearly 20,000 square feet of Pup-Grass.

The facility is maintained to perfection with sanitation being utmost important.

"Cleanliness is vital to our business model, plus to provide a safe environment for responsible dog owners and safe socialization for their pets is essential," Hanan said. "It's a place where we want our members and their pets to call home."

Hanan and Gover came up with the idea of an indoor dog space when they noticed their

pup, an Australian Shephard named Hazel, couldn't find her footing or pup-friends in local outdoor dog parks. So, they thought, 'let's build it and they will come.'

Come they did! The Indoor Dog Park at 2714 Rochester Road boasts an indoor swimming pool, small dog area, main play area, doggy toilets, hydration stations, lounge, market, free Wi-Fi, toys and agility equipment, private room rentals and more with 24-hour access for members.

Among the other perks is access to personalized private training sessions. These sessions are conducted by Hanan, who takes the approach of focusing on how to effectively communicate with dogs using positive reinforcement techniques to address unwanted behaviors.

"My goal is to share my decade of training knowledge with dog owners and their families, so they may experience all the joy that comes with having a respectful, well-behaved dog," Hanan added.

To find out more about all the joy coming from the Indoor Dog Park, schedule a personalized visit and check out their website, [theindoordogpark.org](http://theindoordogpark.org)

And don't forget that party hat. ☺



**BRUSH CREEK GUITARS BRINGS  
CRAFTSMANSHIP  
TO THE CRAFT**



**"I was  
obsessed  
with learning  
and playing."**

*~ Nicholas Smith*

**T**housands of rock and roll dreams have started with thousands of hours spent learning the intricacies of guitar. Each riff and each song are their own complicated mix of notes and melodies, with great attention to detail and a focus on the craft.

Such commitment deserves an equally crafted instrument, hand-made with meticulous attention to detail.

Inside the bright rooms at Brush Creek Guitars, 20710 Route 19 Unit #2, that craftsmanship is on display via instruments for the "discerning player."

The creation of Nicholas Smith and his wife, Elisha, Brush Creek's boutique space has been as carefully created as the instruments themselves. Coming from a musical family, Nicholas grew up in North Park and went on to study at Penn State University. And while classes were important, it was the hours invested into teaching himself guitar that resonated years later.

"I was obsessed with learning and playing," he recalls.

Playing in bands and church groups in the Pittsburgh area, Nicholas found himself visiting music shops around the region, noting what he liked or didn't like about the experience. So, too, did Elisha.

"Having a place to sit and be comfortable seemed like an obvious thing" she said.

The pair took those concepts into consideration when creating Brush Creek Guitars, with guitars lining the walls of inviting rooms with comfortable spaces for customers to fully investigate a guitar, amp, or pedal. And those items are worthy of investigation, each hand-crafted in the United States at historic, noteworthy companies like Magnatone, Dr. Z, Heritage Guitar Inc., Harmony, and more. In many cases, Brush Creek is the only authorized dealer in the Pittsburgh area.

The Smiths have close working relationships with these companies, adding an additional layer of quality control to the process: customers are one degree of separation from the makers of each piece, bringing an extra measure of comfort in making an investment.

Brush Creek also sells instruments on consignment and has a full-time luthier and guitar tech on staff to repairs and service. The shop also began offering lessons in the first quarter of 2024 to introduce the love of the craft – and the craftsmanship – to a new generation.

To learn more about Brush Creek Guitars, visit [brushcreekguitars.com](http://brushcreekguitars.com).

## BUSINESS BRIEFS



### NEW LEADERSHIP AT MSA

The Board of Directors of MSA Safety Inc. appointed Steve Blanco Chief Executive Officer effective May 10. Blanco takes over for MSA Chairman and CEO Nish Vartanian, who is retiring.

Blanco had been serving as MSA's President and Chief Operating Officer. He joined MSA in 2012 as Vice President of Global Operational Excellence. In 2017, he was named President of MSA Americas, responsible for the company's business in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America. Under Mr. Blanco's leadership, from 2018 through 2022, revenue in the company's Americas segment grew by more than 40 percent.

During his tenure with the company, Blanco also oversaw the acquisitions and integrations of Globe Manufacturing, Sierra Monitor and Bacharach. Most recently, he served as the architect behind the MSA Business System.

Vartanian, a 39-year veteran of MSA, intends to continue his service on the MSA Board. He joined MSA in 1985 as a Sales Intern. Over the years, he worked in a broad range of sales leadership positions. In 2010, Vartanian led MSA's integration of General Monitors. In 2013, Vartanian was elected President of MSA's Business in North America. He was later promoted to President of the company's Americas business segment. In 2017, Mr. Vartanian was elected a director and assumed the role of CEO in 2018. He was subsequently elected Chairman in 2020.



- **ACS Machining Inc.**  
700 Thomson Park Drive, Suite 717
- **Cenci's Pizza**  
3005 Fairport Lane
- **Taste of Brazil**  
20445 Route 19
- **Accipiter Systems**  
2000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 102
- **Ready Roo's Early Learning Academy**  
20510 Route 19, Suite 106

- **Value City Furniture**  
20111 Route 19 (Cranberry Mall)
- **SkinLaB by Dr. LaBrasca**  
1713 Route 228, Suite C
- **Topcon Solutions Store**  
820 Commonwealth Drive
- **Dollar Tree**  
20111 Route 19 (Cranberry Mall)
- **Lava Cigar and Smoke**  
20120 Route 19, Suite 103



### NEXTIER, MARS BANK MERGE

A merger between NexTier and Mars Bank officially took effect earlier this year. Existing Mars Bank branches and ATMs have been switched to NexTier Bank products and services. Former Mars customers must use new NexTier Bank debit card for any transactions. NexTier Bank now possesses \$2.7 billion in assets and 31 physical branches, which includes the addition of six new locations that were formally Mars Bank. The former Cranberry office at 20249 Route 19 is permanently closed. The adjacent location at 20246 Route 19 remains open.



### LAND CONSOLIDATION APPROVED

More than a decade after initial plans for mixed-use development in the location, several parcels of land at the corner of Route 19 and Ogle View Road will be re-combined. The Board approved a consolidation plan for the Ogle View Corner LLC development, including the consolidation of lots, vacation of paper streets, and utility easements on the 19.35-acre space. The site was subdivided in 2011 as part of the Cranberry Promenade land development, which never occurred. As part of the consolidation process, .02 acres along Rowan Road will be dedicated to the public right-of-way.

- **Chick Fil-A (new drive-thru)**  
1700 Route 228
- **Get Go Charging Station**  
1737 Route 228
- **The Dive Bar**  
8001 Rowan Road, Suite 203

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



# AIN'T IT Sweet?



Sugar, spice, and everything nice – Cranberry has it all.

Whether it's an icy treat on a hot summer's day or a delicate pastry to accompany a morning coffee, there are plenty of places to get a sugar rush around the Township.

Check out some of these tasty creations that guarantee to put a cherry on top of any occasion.



**BARTRAM HOUSE BAKERY**  
2075 Mackenzie Way  
5thavenuefido.com



**CRUMBL COOKIES**  
1691 Route 228 Suite E  
crumblcookies.com/pacranberrytownship



**DAIRY QUEEN**  
20660 Route 19  
cranberrydq.com



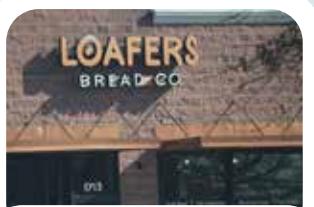
**DUNKIN'**  
20411 Route 19, Suite 1  
dunkindonuts.com



**EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS**  
20120 Route 19  
ediblearrangements.com



**JORDAN'S DONUTS**  
8001 Rowan Road  
jordansllc.com



**LOAFERS**  
1713 Route 19, Suite D  
loafersbread.com



**MILK SHAKE FACTORY**  
2085 Mackenzie Way Suite 100  
Milkshakefactory.com



**MILLIE'S HOMEMADE**  
20635 Route 19  
millieshomemade.com



**NATUROLL CREAMERY**  
20550 Route 19, Suite 5  
naturollcreameryphg.com



**NOTHING BUNDT CAKES**  
20215 Route 19, Unit 106  
Nothingbundtcakes.com



**PEACE LOVE & LITTLE DONUTS**  
20325 Route 19 Suite 16A  
peaceloveandlittledonuts.com



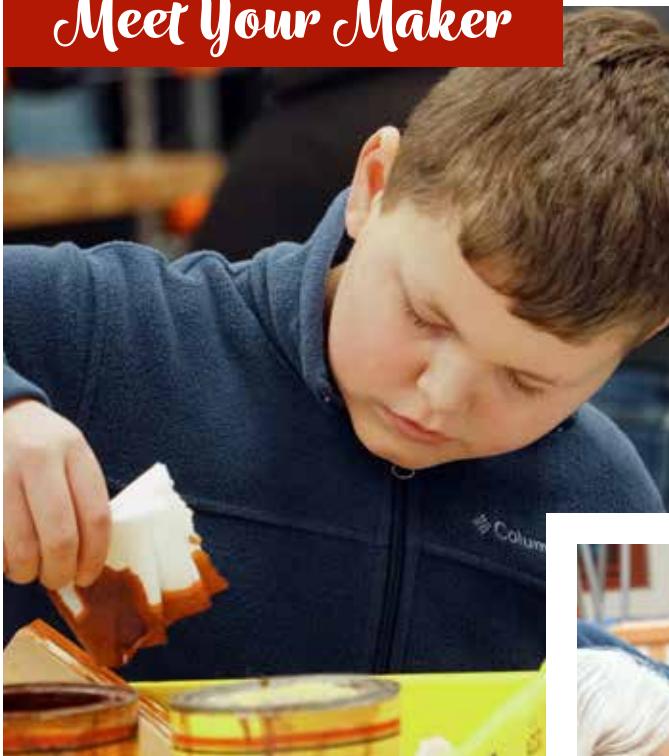
**RITA'S ITALIAN ICE**  
1302 Freedom Road Suite 200  
ritasice.com



**SINCERELY YOGURT**  
1183 Freedom Road, Suite A105  
sincerelyyogurt.com



## Meet Your Maker



## New Program Presents Opportunity at *The Forge*

**C**reativity knows no bounds – all that's needed is a spark.

Inside The Forge Makerspace at the Cranberry Public Library, that spark is being provided via the Maker in Residence Program.

Josh "J." Riesen, an information technology professional with years of experience in instructing and advocating for hands-on creation, began his six-month Maker in Residence tenure in January.

Recently, the Library was awarded a \$30,000 grant from Arconic Foundation to support STEM learning in The Forge, a space that allows for creativity of any sort via tools like 3D printers, laser engravers, and much more. In addition to more equipment, the grant funds additional classes. Riesen said he is thrilled to

kick off the program and hopes to expand the capabilities of The Forge while also helping the Library evolve.

"In this space, 'making' can be anything – it's the spirit that matters," he said. "It can be so intimidating, but at the end of the day it's about showing the power that the common person can have while creating something from nothing."

Armed with an IT background and lifetime of, "making things do what they're not supposed to do," Riesen brings a passion for creation and learning to The Forge.

"The Library is a community resource, and I'm excited to help ensure people have a great time and continue to want to come back," Riesen said.

Library Director Leslie Pallotta said she is ecstatic about the possibilities the Maker in Residence program presents.

"This program and this grant allow us to really push the limits of this Makerspace in a way that we have yet to do," she said. "Through the efforts of Makerspace Manager Mary Frances Reutzel, The Forge has become a wonderful community asset, and we believe this program will expand our reach and get more people to work hands-on while perhaps finding their own passion for creation."

For more information on the Makerspace, visit [cranberrylibrary.org/theforge](http://cranberrylibrary.org/theforge). 



# OH SNAP!



# INSTITUTE PROGRAM TRAINS

## NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

**A** guiding principle for many of history's most brilliant leaders has been, "what am I doing for others?"

It's a question that drives Cranberry's Board of Supervisors and Township staff each day. Whether making tough financial decisions or digging dirt to install new infrastructure, all work is intended to better the lives of the community.

Aimed at finding more community helpers while also showcasing what Cranberry is doing for others, the Community Leadership Institute of Cranberry has experienced immediate success as it enters its third year. Presented by the Cranberry Township Community Chest, the program engages participants by offering a

hands-on, in-depth look at how the Township works to improve the quality of life for the community.

Over the course of 10 weeks, participants learn about the components of Cranberry's government, how it provides quality services, and brings value to residents and businesses alike. Built to be a two-way street, the program also gives Township staff a chance to hear valuable feedback.

Through two full sessions, nearly a quarter of participants have gone on to hold a position on a board or committee. This falls in line with the mission of the program: encouraging graduates to become a part of their community using their enlightened leadership abilities.



The inaugural class convened in 2022, with 14 eager participants signing up knowing little about the program. After word spread through the community, demand for the 2023 session skyrocketed, thus a waitlist ensued. With participants in the double digits in 2024, the program continues to exceed expectations.

As the popularity of the program increases, the Institute is designing an alumni association, where graduates meet yearly to network and determine need of the community. With their newly acquired "education" on governance, the graduates will then ascertain how they can best serve in leadership roles to better their community. 





## Seneca Valley Recognized by AASA as 'Lighthouse' System

Seneca Valley School District has earned distinguished recognition as one of just four school districts nationwide to be designated a "Lighthouse System" for the Fall 2023 term by AASA, The School Superintendents Association, a leading organization serving school district leadership across the United States.

Being part of AASA's Learning 2025 Network, comprising over 150 demonstration systems, Seneca Valley joins a cohort committed to fostering learner-centered, forward-thinking educational approaches in diverse settings, be it urban, suburban, or rural. This collaboration aims to shape education policy and elevate student learning outcomes.

Rooted in the principles outlined by AASA Learning 2025 National Commission and inspired by its report, "An American Imperative: A New Vision of Public Schools," the Learning 2025 Network strives to revolutionize education, elevate student achievement, and ensure equitable access for all learners.

Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools, expressed gratitude for Seneca Valley's selection as a Lighthouse System, highlighting their

dedication to innovative education practices.

"We are honored to be chosen as an AASA Learning 2025 Lighthouse System as it is a prestigious recognition of our commitment to innovative, forward-thinking and effective approaches to education," she said. "It acknowledges that we are effectively shaping the future of education, and we look forward to sharing our insights and experiences with the wider educational community."

Mort Sherman, senior associate executive director at AASA, clarified that the term "Lighthouse" is not merely a label but a concept fostering collaborative learning and growth among school districts, empowering educational leaders to shape the discourse and practice of education's future.

School systems were evaluated based on strategies outlined by the commission, focusing on redesign components such as social-emotional cognitive growth, future-ready learners, diverse educator pipelines, and community alignment.

Vitale elaborated on Seneca Valley's emphasis on social-emotional cognitive growth, detailing how they utilize "innovative learning spaces

and flexible furniture to support teaching and learning while prioritizing safety and emotional well-being."

Seneca Valley's application highlighted recent achievements, including the completion of a groundbreaking K-6 facility recognized as a TIME 2022 "Best Invention," the establishment of a pioneering cyber drop-in center, and plans for reimagining an intermediate high school. These endeavors underscore the district's belief in the pivotal role of physical learning environments in shaping educational outcomes.

The term "Lighthouse" in Seneca Valley's application symbolizes the vision of education as a vast ship steering toward a future-driven, student-centered, and equitable course. It acknowledges the challenges inherent in such a transformation but expresses confidence in the District's ability to navigate with support from the broader educational community.

The AASA Learning 2025 Network aims to empower superintendents and their teams to drive the change and enhance student outcomes in their district and across the country through access to personalized tools, support and opportunities. 





# FIRE & FOOD TRUCKS

Discover Delicious Food & Meet Our Members!



Activities include touch-a-truck, fire safety demonstrations, fire station tour, and more.

**2024  
DATES**

THURSDAY, JUNE 13  
HAINES STATION, 5-8 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15  
PARK STATION, 5-8 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14  
HAINES STATION, 1-3 PM

Full food truck line-up available on Facebook

CTVFC21

[www.CTVFC21.org](http://www.CTVFC21.org)



1 person dies from cardiovascular disease  
every 33 seconds. Don't be the 1.

**Getting your heart checked could save your life. Trust the experts at UPMC.**

UPMC offers both in-person and virtual heart screenings to make checking your heart even more convenient. Knowing your family health history, and scheduling regular screenings for risk factors including high blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, and an elevated BMI, could even save your life.

Your heart care matters. Schedule an appointment today at [UPMC.com/Heart](http://UPMC.com/Heart).

**UPMC | HEART AND  
VASCULAR INSTITUTE**



## 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**

It's Cranberry's Best Celebration!

HOLE IN ONE winner every time  
HOLE IN ONE winner every time  
83/PUTT \$6/PUTT

**FUN FOR ALL** family fun park  
[www.funforeal.com](http://www.funforeal.com)

July 11 - 13

Wanted:  
Vendors & Sponsors!

[yourctcc.org/communitydays](http://yourctcc.org/communitydays)

CTCC community days  
SPONSORSHIP UPMC PASSAVANT

QR code