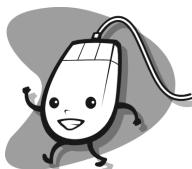


Cranberrytoday

2003 Winter EDITION

Online registration for Cranberry Parks & Recreation programs begins

Starting December 8 – the first day of registration for Cranberry's Winter/Spring schedule of Parks and Recreation Department offerings – it will be possible to register and pay for more than a hundred separate programs and classes online, from any location. The goal of the Township's new registration system, which is built on software developed by Class Software Solutions and currently in use by more than 100 other municipalities throughout the U.S. and Canada, is to improve customer service by reducing the long lines associated with in-person registration.



"Our customers will have Internet registration available from their homes, at work, or anywhere Internet service is available to them," according to Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl. "No waiting in line; just log on and go." The process is also secure, requiring new users to establish accounts and obtain PIN numbers in advance of actual class registration.

To become eligible for online registration, you must first apply for access either in person at the Municipal Center or over the Internet. Advance application gives the Township an opportunity to open new accounts, assign initial PIN numbers, and mail confirmation to those who have expressed an interest in using the service.

Online application for access to Internet Program Registration is available by going to the Township's Web site, www.cranberrytownship.org and following the links to "Parks & Recreation Internet Program Registration Application." Only one account application per household is needed, regardless of family size. Although the Township expects a significant number of people to use the online service immediately, its Internet-based program registration will run concurrently with traditional in-person registration, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, December 8. Telephone and mail-in registrations will be accepted starting December 9.

While most of the classes and programs offered during the Winter/Spring session will be available for online registration, there are some exceptions. To make sure which is which, check the enclosed Parks & Recreation program brochure – which is also posted on the Township Web site – before registering. Resident Discounts will be available for both online and in-person registration. Registration questions can be directed to the enclosed Parks & Recreation Information Desk at 724-776-4806, ext. 1129.

What's Inside...

Parks & Recreation Winter/Spring Guide

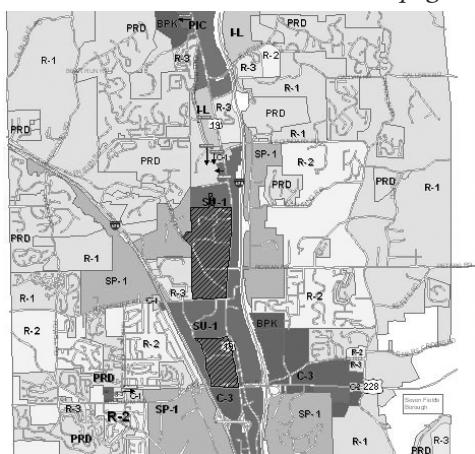
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Township proposes rezoning northern portions of Route 19

A Township effort to create an orderly system of land use zoning and traffic controls along the northern portion of Rt. 19 in Cranberry has officially begun. The initial step, which Board Chairman John Skorupan called the first of many, was the enactment of a resolution at the Supervisors' October 2 meeting to begin hearings on an amendment to its zoning ordinance. The changes aim to steer Cranberry's commercial growth in ways envisioned by the Township's Comprehensive Community Development Plan.

The proposed revisions, which apply to a number of properties on the west side of Rt. 19 between Rochester Road and Community Park, would change the zoning from SU-1 – the designation for special uses such as major malls and shopping centers – to BPK, which is designed to accommodate light industrial and business office development. They would also change the zoning of 41 other properties on the western side of Rt. 19 between Freedom and Brandt roads, where the Cranberry Square shops are located, from SU-1 to C-3. C-3, the designation for regional commercial development, would conform to their current use.

cont. on page 2



Rezoning of northern portion of Rt. 19 (cont. from p. 1)

The Township's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in August of 1995, visualized Cranberry having a commercial core in the southern portion of Route 19 and along Route 228, characterized by intensive highway development and regional shopping centers. The northern portion of Rt. 19 was seen as home to corporate office and light industrial centers, along with such ancillary retail uses as restaurants and local convenience stores.

"We want to be proactive about manag-

ing development along this key corridor," Skorupan said. "We wanted to move forward with this planning initiative while there's still time." Interest among developers in projects along the northern portions of Rt. 19 has increased along with the Township's growth. A similar effort to manage development along Rt. 228, begun in 1999, resulted in an Official Map identifying signalized points of access to all commercial properties along that corridor.

The full text of the proposed revisions has been posted on the Township's Web site. Those documents may also be examined during normal business hours at the Cranberry Municipal Center, 2525 Rochester Road. Until the conclusion of hearings and final enactment of an amended ordinance, the draft ordinance, which went into effect on Monday, October 6 at the time of its initial public advertisement, will remain in place.

Roads

Roadway Update

Two key road projects opened this fall, at least part-way. And a major new one was proposed.

Thorn Hill extended

The much-anticipated extension of Thorn Hill Road and its new connection to Freedom Road was completed and opened for business September 26. A reconstructed intersection of Thorn Hill with Rolling Road was also included. The goals of the project, which had been the Township's top priority local road improvement for 2003, were to remove cut-through traffic bound for RIDC Park, Rt. 19, and I-79 from nearby residential streets, and to create easy access to the remaining parcels of land in the industrial park. The \$1.6 million project, which began last November and was primarily funded by the Regional Industrial Development Corporation, includes new turning lanes on Freedom Road as well as a new traffic signal at the Thorn Hill/Freedom Road intersection.

New Connections

A significant part of the new Cranberry Connector opened on October 14. Turnpike traffic in both directions can now link directly to both Rts. 19 and I-79 north and south. Temporary roads bypassing the old Cranberry toll plaza for Turnpike-bound traffic from Rts. 19 and I-79 are expected to be in operation by Thanksgiving; with the Connector's permanent system of roadways, ramps, flyovers, and traffic signs completed sometime next year. Cost of building the Connector, which for years was the Township's top priority transportation project, is in excess of \$60 million.

The Big Split

An ambitious proposal by PennDOT to improve traffic flow in the heart of Cranberry is about to receive public scrutiny. The plan would split northbound and southbound traffic along Rt. 19 for about a half mile by transforming Dutilh Road into the highway's northbound artery, and change Old Freedom Road into the westbound lane of Freedom Road/Rt. 228. The proposed changes, which would simplify each of the resulting Rt. 19/228 traffic intersections, will be presented to local business owners at an exploratory meeting in early December. Follow the link to PennDOT's proposal from the Township Web site, www.cranberrytownship.org

Transitional housing unit construction begins

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a five-unit apartment building designed to shelter domestic abuse victims for as long as two years, were held at the Municipal Center, away from the facility's low-profile site, on October 24. Victim Outreach Intervention Center, or VOICe, a non-profit Butler County organization that provides free and confidential services for those who have been victimized by criminal acts, will operate the new Cranberry Township facility. The organization has run a short-term shelter for victims in the Township for the past 15 years. Cost of the new living units totals \$645,000.

Groundbreaking held for new Senior Citizen apartments

The formal groundbreaking for a long-anticipated 50-unit senior citizen apartment building in Cranberry Township was held at the project's 6.5 acre Rolling Road construction site on October 28. Residents of the new apartment building, known as the Rolling Road Regency Apartments, must be at least 55 years old and qualify under a county formula as either moderate or low-income households. Progress on the project, for which the need was identified years ago, had been stalled until Cranberry agreed to sell a Township property to the Butler County Housing Authority in early 2002. Occupancy of the new \$5 million building is expected late in 2004.

It seems like only yesterday, but Cranberry is already 200 years old

People throughout the tri-state area think of Cranberry as a new and emerging community. Of course, they're right. But it is also an old municipality. Next year Cranberry will observe the 200th anniversary of its incorporation.



To mark that milestone, the Township will be the venue for a year-long series of activities designed to celebrate its coming of age. In addition to various special programs created specifically for the anniversary, many of Cranberry's established annual events, including Community Day and Local Government Day, will also carry out the bicentennial theme.

To involve as broad a cross-section of residents as possible, there will be a variety of programs offered throughout 2004. Some of them will be community-wide, while others target particular segments of the population. They include events organized by the Township, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Historical Society as well as others offered by individual business, social, and institutional organizations with Cranberry ties.

At an October 17 planning meeting, more than 20 organizations representing the Township's business, civic, and nonprofit communities, showed up to express their interest in observing the anniversary in different ways such as displaying the official bicentennial logo, underwriting a program, providing volunteer help, or organizing complementary events linked to the celebration.

Among the activities planned: an event-a-week series of presentations by the Historical Society in January, a Craftsmen Day, a time capsule, and a competition to create cranberry-based food and drink recipes. The Cranberry Township Web site will feature historical articles about life in Cranberry authored by Helen Goehring Dewald, and all Bicentennial event dates, times and locations will be listed as well.

Public-private partnerships give township parks muscle, beauty, amenities

A survey taken two years ago asked residents why they chose Cranberry as a place to live. The answers were remarkably consistent: almost everyone responded that parks, recreational programs and public open space ranked right up among their most important criteria. And it was more than just a passive observation.

Ever since Cranberry began planning its first public park, Township officials have formed active partnerships with community members who had a stake in the parks and recreation system, according to Cranberry Township Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl.

The evidence is everywhere. Monuments and markers throughout the community testify to the role that residents, businesses, and organizations have played in Cranberry's Parks. Take, for example, Ernie Mashuda Drive. When the Rt. 19 Community Park was first developed, the Mashuda Corporation donated time and equipment to make construction of the park's ball fields possible.

During the 1980s, parents of young children joined with Township employees and other community members to donate time and materials to build the fanciful Playtime Palace in Community Park. Altogether, more than 800 individuals and families, businesses, and civic organizations contributed to its completion.

Shelters, scoreboards, bandstands, and locker rooms are named after their sponsors, the Lions Club, Rotary, Jaycees, and Dick's Sporting Goods. Improvements to the playing fields resulting from partnerships with junior football, baseball, softball, and soccer associations can also be found everywhere.

"These partnerships help the parks continue to grow and develop," according to Diehl.

Another example is North Boundary Park. Back in the 1990s, Township officials encouraged residents to plan and fund development of the newly purchased property along North Boundary Road. A support organization, Friends of North Boundary Park, was formed and raised over \$750,000 toward the waterpark and other amenities. Corporate and institutional sponsors also played a major role.

Today, Diehl, along with other Township officials, is mapping out a planning process to develop the 115-acre Graham Park. He anticipates that Township residents, businesses, and organizations will become involved, and that a new "friends of the park" organization will become active to help support its development.

Of course other ideas take longer to catch on. One which had been talked about for years – a permanent amphitheater for the Parks & Recreation's summer concert series – was eventually taken on by Cranberry Rotary. Their Community Park soundstage was completed and opened for business just last year. Diehl and his staff work also with young people, including Eagle Scouts, to develop ideas for park improvements that simultaneously help the scouts fulfill their community service requirements.

To Diehl, whose department has overall responsibility for programming Cranberry's parks, these partnerships, which continue to play a pivotal role, have been a "good story that never ends."



cran tech profile



Renal Solutions brings it all home

Medical Entrepreneur returns home, helps bring patients home, too

Maybe it's in his blood. But when entrepreneur Peter DeComo talks about medical breakthroughs, people listen. DeComo, who moved his corporate offices into the former 7-UP building in RIDC Park in Cranberry earlier this year, is particularly optimistic about the prospects for his latest venture, Renal Solutions. The company, whose technology has positioned it to change the way dialysis is delivered to 300,000 American patients and another million or so worldwide, has attracted more than \$18 million in venture capital since its creation three years ago.

Hemodialysis – a procedure to remove wastes and extra fluids from the blood stream of patients who have lost their natural kidney function – is a sophisticated process. But it's also one that has become well-established. Even so, the clinical outcome for Americans who require the treatment is nowhere near as good as it is in Europe or in other places the procedure is used. The reason: 80 percent of U.S. patients are Medicare recipients, and Medicare puts a cap on the amount of dialysis they will pay for.

The longer the patient is attached to the dialysis machine and the more frequently the procedure is administered, the better the patient's health. But since Medicare will not pay for technicians in the home, essentially all dialysis patients today receive their treatment in large commercial centers, three times a week for three or four hours per visit. However, DeComo reasoned, if the procedure could be made simple

enough to be self-administered by the patient at home, overnight, the amount of dialysis time would climb sharply, patient prognoses would improve, and their quality of life would become substantially better.

Several key technology breakthroughs ultimately opened the door to that possibility – one that Renal Solutions is poised to capitalize on as soon as FDA clearance is received. "If the market over the next five to ten years becomes a \$2-3 billion market, Renal Solutions could become a very successful and a very substantial company to the region," he noted. DeComo, who had previously set up facilities in the North Hills for another home health company and had built their workforce to 300 before being recruited by a medical technology firm in San Diego, believes that Renal Solutions could easily duplicate that feat in Cranberry.

"I'm a Western Pennsylvania boy. I was born and raised here. I love the four seasons. I love the people – they're honest, they're sincere, they're hard-working," he said. "I grew up in the health care community here, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. So when I was approached with this position by the board of directors, I said yes I'll do it, but I'll only do it out of Western Pennsylvania.

"I've had experience in the Butler County/Cranberry Township area. I built a business here in the past. I was able to recruit qualified people. I was able to establish a cost-effective facility structure. You have great access here to



Renal Solutions' CEO Pete DeComo explains the filtration and pumping innovations of his company's home dialysis unit.

roads; it's a short distance to the airport; you've got Federal Express here," he said. "Birchmere Ventures, Draper Triangle Venture, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, the Life Sciences Greenhouse, the economic development community – all of them were instrumental in bringing this company here – and our landlords have been great. But most importantly, I believed in the region and the fact that we could grow life sciences in the region."

Although widely known for its retail businesses, Cranberry is also becoming an important high technology center. Each issue of Cranberry Today will feature the profile of a different local technology company and offer a glimpse into the Township's emerging knowledge-based economy.

State budget cuts slash local library services

If your child has a project due for school on Monday, better not wait until Sunday to visit the library. That's because state funding cuts for public libraries has forced cutbacks in services including the elimination of Sunday hours at the Cranberry Library. According to Carol Troese, Director of the Cranberry Library, state budget cuts mean a 50 percent reduction in state support to the library – from \$104,000 in 2003 to \$52,000 next year. The total library budget is \$437,500.

In addition to cutting Sunday hours – popular for busy families – Ms. Troese says she also anticipates a 31 percent reduction in funds for general books and materials and a 21 percent reduction in the allocation for children's items. Staff members who leave may not be replaced. And despite past support for Internet accessibility from state funding grants and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, cutbacks in funding will mean additional equipment and upgrades will be no longer possible.

Library services are used by all segments of the community including young children, senior citizens, and low income families, according to Ms. Troese. The pre-school reading programs help young children prepare to learn; school-age students use the library for school projects; and adults use the library's computers to help with career information and job searches. Classes in the fundamentals of computers are popular among senior citizens who are eager to learn basic skills. "The strength of the public libraries is that they serve everyone," she said.

Despite intensive lobbying by library supporters, recent budget activity in Harrisburg has not reinstated funding for public libraries. However, librarians across the state still hope that at least a portion will be restored. In the meantime, the Cranberry Library is selling *Enjoy* Coupon books and is considering an annual fund drive to help fill in the funding gap, according to Ms. Troese.

Cranberry Public Library is conducting a community survey to help identify current and future needs and plan for improvements to its resources and services. You can participate in this very important planning process by responding to the two questions below. The answers you provide will be kept strictly confidential. No name is necessary to complete this form. Please return the completed survey to the library and place it in the Completed Survey box at the circulation desk or mail the completed survey to Cranberry Public Library, 2525 Rochester Road, Suite 300, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

Please answer on behalf of your entire household.

1. What are your reasons for using the Library? Please check all that apply.

- Borrow best sellers
- Get help from librarians
- Borrow fiction books
- Attend computer classes
- Borrow videos, CDs, audio books
- Use online data bases
- Reference for research
- Use e-mail
- Use the Children's Room
- Attend a children's program
- Use the Young Adult area
- Attend an adult program

Study or homework

Get tax forms

Use newspapers & magazines

Use copier

Other (please describe) _____

2. If you seldom or never use the Library, why not? Please check all that apply.

Library Factors:

- It isn't open enough hours
- It doesn't have the materials I need
- The staff service is poor
- It's too busy or too crowded

Library Book Notes



New Youth Services Librarian joins staff

Rebecca Santry is the new youth services librarian. A Cranberry Township resident for 18 years, she completed both a degree in elementary education and a liberal arts degree in sociology from Slippery Rock University. Santry has had experience in both elementary and pre-school education. She is also trained as an adult literacy tutor in Butler County.

Coupon books make great gift ideas

Stumped over a holiday gift for a loved one, business associate, or friend?

Cranberry Public Library has the perfect gift idea. The *Enjoy* Coupon Book 2004 edition is now available from the library for \$25. The library receives 30 percent of the proceeds which will be used to purchase new materials for the library.

The programming doesn't meet my needs

Other (please describe): _____

Personal Factors:

I'm too busy

I get reading and audio/visual materials elsewhere

I prefer other activities to reading

I am homebound

I do research on the Internet at home

Other (please describe): _____

Smackdown. Sudden storm tests Cranberry's services, character

Nobody saw it coming. The line of clouds ushering in an autumn weather front on the evening of October 14 had been forecast to include some wind and rain along with falling temperatures. But just minutes before five o'clock, at the peak of Cranberry's rush hour, the front suddenly turned violent. In what the U.S. Weather Service would later describe as a 'microburst,' winds as high as 100 miles an hour slammed into the heart of Cranberry's business district, flipping cars, tearing down utility poles, blowing out store windows, and ripping an office trailer away from its moorings – crumpling and smashing it into the side of a building 60 feet away.

About a mile to the northeast, the same burst of wind which less than a minute earlier had wreaked havoc in Cranberry Mall came crashing down on the quiet residential neighborhoods of Fox Run and Bristol Creek. Within seconds, more than 70 homes in the path of the wind burst sustained damage – including nine seriously damaged and one destroyed beyond repair. Trees and tree branches snapped like brittle twigs. Power lines splintered into a shower of sparks. Flying debris, which only moments before had been parts of houses, lawn furniture, street signs, and storage sheds, quickly blanketed nearby streets and lawns.

Almost immediately, fragments of the story began to clog local phone lines. Along with Cranberry's own emergency services, police cars, fire trucks and ambulances from communities throughout the North Hills quickly scrambled to respond. In Cranberry's Rochester Road municipal office, a mile to the north, Township staff about to leave for the day were quickly summoned back to duty. And crews from the Township's Public Works department were promptly dispatched to conduct an initial damage assessment.

Jim Roble, Cranberry's Emergency Management Coordinator, quickly determined that the Township was fac-

ing a major incident, requiring a multi-agency, multi-departmental response. By six o'clock, following the procedures outlined in a freshly updated emergency plan that the Board of Supervisors had adopted, an Emergency Operations Center was activated in a conference room of the Municipal Center. At the same time, Mr. Roble asked the Township to declare a State of Emergency – a request which was immediately granted. As a result, rescue and recovery efforts expanded to include a number of surrounding communities as well as all Township departments.

At the Mall, a separate incident command post staffed by police and fire officials set up shop to carry out the dual role of coordinating emergency rescue efforts and fielding urgent press inquiries. With lines down and traffic signals either dark or operating on standby power, crews from Cranberry's



Cranberry Township staff set up an Emergency Operations Center during the weather crisis.

public works department and local utilities struggled to restore power, reopen roads, and repair damaged infrastructure.

Throughout the evening, reports of damage funneled into the Center, where they were promptly marked on a map and entered into databases. Soon, a pattern of damage began to emerge: the storm had sliced through the Township, leaving a narrow swath of destruction from southwest to northeast, like a knife ripping through the heart of Cranberry. Rumors of injuries, particularly in the Cranberry

Storm Response, October 14, 2003

The response by local emergency services to the surprise storm was massive. It included, over the initial 8-hour period beginning at 5 p.m. on October 14, the following resources:

911 emergency calls received	33
Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company personnel	50
Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company vehicles	8
Mutual Aid fire companies from other communities	9
Mutual Aid volunteer fire company personnel	107
Emergency Medical Service organizations responding	6
Emergency Medical Service personnel responding	21
Police departments responding	4
Township police officers on scene	6
Fire Police Companies responding	3
Utility companies responding	3
Public Works personnel	38
Injuries to emergency responders	0



Mall area, began to circulate. But with several different ambulance companies responding and multiple hospital destinations, details were hard to come by. County and state agencies, offering help, advice, and moral support, slowly checked in. And policies about handling the practical issues brought on by the emergency, began being hammered out.

As the evening progressed, news improved. Within hours, crews dispatched to clear away fallen trees were able to reopen essentially all local roads. Power was soon restored to all but a handful of customers. Phone ser-

vice quickly returned to normal. Reports of injuries abruptly ended. No calls for emergency shelter came in. Commercial cleanup crews were reported making tremendous headway at the Mall. And despite forecasts of more high winds, the weather improved.

Inside the municipal command center, the relief was plain. The crisis had passed, the outpouring of help from next-door neighbors, nearby communities, and others had been huge. And it transformed what had begun as a disaster into a model of civic fiber and community spirit.



Night Out parade fights crime, and a whole lot more

For more than an hour and a half, they came – fire engines, tractors, antique cars, and ambulances, their warning lights flashing and sirens blaring—slowly parading down Haine School Road for Cranberry’s 17th annual Night Out Against Crime. They had narrowly missed a nearby thunderstorm, whose lightening and rain clouds crossed the parade route’s northern sky only minutes before the scheduled 7 p.m. start. Scores of communities from throughout Butler, Beaver, and Allegheny counties – particularly those whose emergency services have mutual aid agreements with Cranberry’s – showed their colors. They marched against crime and demonstrated against drugs. They rallied for commerce, posed for pictures, postured for re-election and

pitched hard candy to the hundreds of eager spectators lining the parade route. McGruff the crime dog was there. So was his companion Darren, the DARE drug lion. Mr. Potatohead made an appearance, as did Oreo Cookie and several other harder-to-recognize characters in full mascot outfits. Altogether, according to parade organizer Sgt. David Kovach of the Cranberry Police department, 128 separate civic, business, and public safety organizations took part in the parade.

National Night Out, the project of a national nonprofit organization, was created to heighten public awareness and strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts. Last year, according to the organization’s Web site, 33 million people in 9,850 communities from all 50

states were involved in the event. “Cranberry Township is known for being a proactive crime prevention community,” Sgt. Kovach noted, citing a range of ongoing educational, identification, fire safety, and neighborhood anti-crime programs which operate throughout the year.



CRANBERRY TODAY**Community Calendar DECEMBER**

1 <small>MON</small>	Book Discussion, Library at 7 p.m.	
2 <small>TUE</small>		
3 <small>WED</small>	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
4 <small>THU</small>	Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
5 <small>FRI</small>		
6 <small>SAT</small>		
7 <small>SUN</small>		
8 <small>MON</small>	Parks & Recreation Winter Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.. Zoning Hearing Board Meeting, Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.	
9 <small>TUE</small>		
10 <small>WED</small>	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m. Last day to register for Brunch with Santa	
11 <small>THU</small>		
12 <small>FRI</small>		
13 <small>SAT</small>	Brunch with Santa, Cranberry Highlands Golf Course at 11:30 a.m.	
14 <small>SUN</small>		
15 <small>MON</small>	Library Board Meeting, at 7:15 p.m. Last Day of Autumn Leaf Collection at Twp. Sites	
16 <small>TUE</small>	Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
17 <small>WED</small>	Book Discussion, Library at 10 a.m.	
18 <small>THU</small>		
19 <small>FRI</small>		
20 <small>SAT</small>		
21 <small>SUN</small>		
22 <small>MON</small>		
23 <small>TUE</small>		
24 <small>WED</small>	Christmas Eve	
25 <small>THU</small>	Christmas Day	
26 <small>FRI</small>	Municipal offices closed	
27 <small>SAT</small>		
28 <small>SUN</small>		
29 <small>MON</small>		
30 <small>TUE</small>		
31 <small>WED</small>	New Year's Eve	

CRANBERRY TODAY

Community Calendar JANUARY

1	THU	New Year's Day	
	Municipal offices closed		
2	FRI		
3	SAT		
4	SUN		
5	MON	Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
		Book Discussion Library at 7 p.m.	
		Historical Society "Cranberry History," Municipal Center at 7:30 p.m.	
6	TUE		
7	WED	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
		Local Author Series, Library at 7 p.m.	
8	THU		
9	FRI		
10	SAT		
11	SUN		
12	MON	Zoning Hearing Board, Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.	
13	TUE	Library Program. Dr. Wayne Scheller on Nutrition, Library at 7 p.m.	
		Historical Society, Cranberry Twp - The Early Years video Municipal Center at 7:30 p.m.	
14	WED		
		Local Author Series, Library at 7 p.m.	
		Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
15	THU		
16	FRI		
17	SAT		
18	SUN	Historical Society Annual Meeting featuring actor portraying Meriwether Lewis from Heinz History Center, Municipal Center at 2 p.m.	
19	MON	Library Program. Steve Pitts on Dream Workshop, Library at 7 p.m.	
		Library Board Meeting at 7:15 p.m.	
20	TUE		
21	WED	Book Discussion, Library at 10 a.m.	
		Local Author Series, Library at 7 p.m.	
22	THU	Library Program. Wayne Young, Financial Consultant, AG Edwards on How will you pay for long-term care? Library at 7 p.m.	
23	FRI		
24	SAT		
25	SUN		
26	MON		
27	TUE	Library Program. Dr. David Silk, Bellevue Pediatrics on Promoting Positive Behavior, Library at 7 p.m.	
28	WED	Local Author Series, Library at 7 p.m.	
29	THU	Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	
		Historical Society Slides and Memorabilia of Harmony Line, Municipal Center at 7:30 p.m.	
30	FRI		
31	SAT		

1	MON	Book Discussion, Library at 7 p.m.
2	TUE	
3	WED	
4	THU	Parks & Recreation Board Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.
5	FRI	Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m..
6	SAT	
7	SUN	
8	MON	Zoning Hearing Board, Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.
9	TUE	Library Program, Wayne Young, Financial Consultant AG Edwards on Planning for your Financial Future with Annuities, Library at 7 p.m..
10	WED	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.
11	THU	
12	FRI	
13	SAT	
14	SUN	
15	MON	Library Board Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Partnership, plumbing, and peer pressure focus on Fernway drainage

It's back to the '50s for Fernway. And the Township is helping it get there. A cooperative program to restore the community's original stormwater drainage system was announced by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors on September 9. Fernway – Cranberry's original housing plan – is situated on some of the Township's most level terrain. Today, it includes more than 450 homes on 158 acres southwest of the Turnpike, between Freedom and Rochester roads. When it was created in the 1950s and '60s, few building requirements were in place and many construction standards now prescribed in Township codes and ordinances – flood plain restrictions, roadside catch basins, storm water conduits, and more – simply didn't exist. In dry years, it didn't matter that much. But in rainy ones, including 2003, it did; rainwater simply had nowhere to go, and ended up ponding around the neighborhood's ranch-style homes.

When the plan was new, storm water drainage was simple: roadside trenches in front of each house linked to one another and ultimately into Brush Creek, where their waters flowed on north. And driveways crossing those trenches always included buried pipes allowing the water to flow unimpeded. It never worked perfectly, but for most residents, it was adequate.

Over the years, however, many of the original driveway pipes clogged or collapsed. Others became raised by repeated freeze-thaw cycles to a point where they no longer carried water. And some homeowners, seeing the trenches as more of a nuisance than a help, simply filled them in and extended their front yards to the street line. The result: when it rained, stagnant pools of water formed in trenches which had now become separated from one another, with no place to drain.

Frustrated by the persistent ponding and frightened by the possibility of mosquito-borne disease, several groups of Fernway residents began petitioning Cranberry's Board of Supervisors to do something – anything – to solve the problem. But they knew it wouldn't be easy; flat terrain and truculent neighbors would be working against them.

Beyond that, repeated engineering studies by the Township confirmed that a conventional underground storm drain system simply wouldn't work in Fernway. In fact, because much of the plan was built on a flood plain, a traditional system of stormwater conduits would actually introduce flooding to areas where none existed before. Clearly, something else would be required. That led back to the original concept: open trenches, only this time regraded, reconnected, and restored to their earlier state. To help jump-start the program, Cranberry's Supervisors offered both a carrot and a stick. First, they announced the Township would buy the driveway pipe, re-grade the swales, and identify contractors to remove old pipes, replace them, and resurface the driveways – for any homeowners who act within a year, beginning January 2004. But after that time, property owners who declined the offer would be required to replace malfunctioning pipes at their own expense or face citation.

Copies of a brochure providing details of the program are being distributed to every homeowner in the Fernway plan.

Public Works building gets down to work

Cranberry's new Public Works Building is open for business. Since the beginning of October, the 39,000 square foot facility, which was built and equipped at a cost of \$2.5 million on Township-owned land, has served as home base for Cranberry's field operations, vehicle mechanics, and building maintenance personnel. It replaces an assortment of older equipment storage and maintenance facilities located at a number of sites throughout the Township.

A public open house to showcase the new building, formally known as the Cranberry Township Public Works Operations Center, was held on October 2. It is situated on a 15-acre site behind the Community Park Fire Station on Route 19.

In addition to office space and workstations for approximately 30 full-time employees, the Operations Center also provides facilities for garaging vehicles, storing materials, and training staff members. A truck scale used to verify the size of incoming deliveries, a traffic signal test bench, and an electronic card access system, are also included in the new structure.



Business cycles help, hurt, confuse community college enrollment

It's no surprise that the local economy directly affects college enrollment. After all, the economy touches everyone. The surprise is that it doesn't work the way it does in retail sales. In fact, it's almost the opposite. Take the case of BCCC's Cranberry campus.

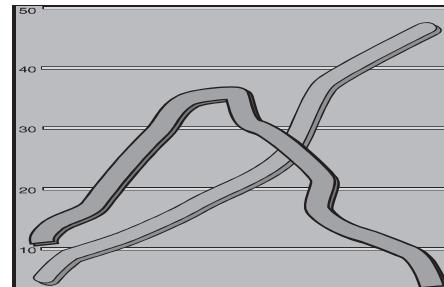
When economic times are good, more people are out in the community working, filling vacancies, accumulating experience, and replenishing their savings. As a result, the number of students enrolled in the College's degree programs declines. But when times are tough, people go back to school to improve their job skills, strengthen their credentials, and use their free time to try getting ahead. Bad times, in effect, can be good for higher ed.

However just the opposite applies to the school's lengthy roster of non-credit programs – which this fall accounted for 90 of the 148 classes listed at the Cranberry Center campus. About half

of those non-credits are categorized as Continuing Education classes – classes through which professionals in such disparate fields as child care, real estate, and accounting expand their skills and maintain their certification to practice. Enrollment in those classes is generally stable, no matter what the economy is doing.

But the remainder are self-improvement classes ranging from fine arts to martial arts and computer applications to cloth appliqués. Those are discretionary courses and, as Carole Demmy, Director of BCCC's Cranberry Center campus points out, much more sensitive to the financial climate. As a result, during tough times, they are much harder to fill, even though many single-session course tuitions are as low as \$15.

Others – including Adult Literacy and English as a Second Language – are tuition-free, and according to Ms. Demmy, are doing very well because the economy is down.



However, in what may prove to be an early sign of recovery, non-credit enrollment numbers have started bouncing back. "This fall's non-credit enrollment is already 640, up from 402 in the spring, and we are only halfway through the semester," she noted last month.

Winter session classes – both those offering credit toward degrees and those just for fun – are slated to begin in January. For course listings, descriptions, and registration information, contact BCCC at 724-772-5520 or on the Web at www.bc3.edu.

Volunteer roadway cleanup crews have seen it all

Alongside Marshall Road, things are really picking up. Things like beer cans. Pop bottles. Cigarette butts. And lots of other stuff that's hard to identify. The people doing the picking up one late October afternoon were seven Township employees – volunteers who, along with their counterparts from more than 20 other companies, families, and civic organizations have adopted sections of local roadways to clear of litter, at least twice a year.

If she wanted to, Barby Cheetham, who organized Cranberry's team and who serves as Adopt-a-Roadway coordinator for the rest of the Township as well, could tell you with great precision the eating, drinking, smoking, and snacking preferences of passers-by along this lightly-populated stretch of roadway. After all, the castoff wrappers, containers, and other packaging materials are all there, offering silent testimony to their owners' lifestyles. But she is discrete about it, and besides, sometimes the scales get tipped. On an earlier cleanup, for example, her crew found that someone – perhaps

worried that the trash collectors might discover his or her secret of weight control – had covertly dumped 500 empty cans of Slim Fast along the roadside, leaving them for volunteers to collect. Other crews, at other times, have discovered auto parts, toilets, instrument cases, bowling balls, and a wide assortment of household discards abandoned along local roads.

But spurred by community pride and the camaraderie of outdoor teamwork, Cranberry's volunteer Adopt-a-Roadway cleanup squads have stuck by their assignments, year after year, with very little turnover. In fact, since the Township program was formed in 1998 to maintain approximately 30 miles of local collector roadways, only two of the 23 original teams have called it quits after their original two-year commitments concluded. But individuals within those established teams frequently rotate on and off, so openings do occasionally occur.

Patterned after PennDOT's highly successful program for cleaning up litter



alongside state roads, the Township's program recognizes participating organizations with sign posts acknowledging their contribution. It also provides them with the materials – caution signs, safety vests, plastic sacks, and pickup tongs, along with follow-up trucks to collect the gathered debris – that allow them to safely perform their volunteer work.

To learn more about opportunities to participate in Cranberry's Adopt-a-Roadway program, contact Barby Cheetham at 724-776-4806 ext. 1500.

PUBLIC Safety 911

Safety First

Public Safety expansion separates the Good, the Bad, and the Ordinary

Preliminary work is underway to expand the Municipal Center's southeast corner to house Cranberry's Public Safety department. The department, which includes 23 police officers as well as an administrative staff, has outgrown its workspace, currently on the opposite side of the building. Construction is expected to begin early next year.

The two-story addition will extend the Municipal Center's footprint eastward by 5,000 square feet. Altogether the expansion, which will include renovation of the space formerly used by Cranberry's Municipal Sewer and Water Authority, will provide 18,300 square feet of new space for the Public Safety department as well as additional office space for other Township functions. The project also includes the installation of a building-wide security and surveillance system.

The first floor of the new Public Safety space will include a reception area, jail, and police work area. There will also be a classroom, locker rooms, a weight room, and a lunch room on the second floor. The changes will allow a clearer partition of activity than the department's existing space permits.

"One important feature of the new Public Safety facility is that it is designed to provide services to the public while allowing them to be separated from police officers and criminal suspects," according to Cranberry Township Public Safety director Steve Mannell. For example, in the current Public Safety department, one conference room serves as multi-purpose lunch room, conference room, and interview room. In the new facility, there will be separate interview rooms, so victims and witnesses will no longer be interviewed along side criminal suspects. In addition, the two interview rooms and detention area for juveniles will be separate from those for adult suspects.

While the new office space will improve cramped working conditions for Cranberry's current police officers, it is also planned to meet the department's needs through 2020. The size of Cranberry's police force is expected to continue to increase as the Township itself grows.

The Township's Emergency Management Agency will also have a permanent home on the second floor of the Public Safety facility. It will include a communications system and video monitors for use in the event of emergencies, like the storm that hit Cranberry on October 14. Another portion of the second floor will include office space for the Township's Finance department and human resources staff.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in October, 2004.



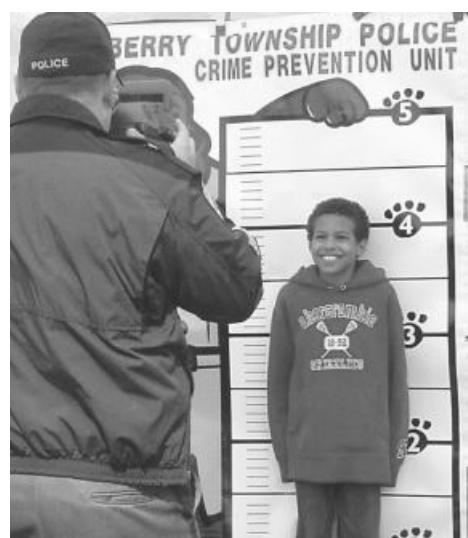
Cranberry Chamber of Commerce executive director Kari Ambrass Geyer presents a check from the Chamber to Chris DeCree and Mark Nanna for the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company.

Do you know this child?

It's not everyone who cheerfully submits to law enforcement mug shots and fingerprints. But at Cranberry Mall on October 4, more than 100 youngsters gladly stepped in front of the camera to have their photos and fingerprints taken as part of the Cranberry Township Police Department's Child Identification Program. And it wasn't the first time either; just two weeks earlier, more than 90 other local children had willingly gone through the same procedure.

Unlike criminal investigations, however, information collected through Cranberry's Child ID program is not kept by authorities, nor does it become part of any public record. Instead that information, along with other personal descriptive and health data, is turned over to the child's parents so they can quickly help police in the event of a missing child report.

Helping local families to collect and maintain vital data about their children is part of a larger effort by Cranberry's Police Department to prevent crime, to build community trust, and to anticipate potential problems before they materialize. "We're a leader in crime prevention," Sgt. David Kovach pointed out. "Not every municipality has a prevention unit; we're a community-oriented police department."



Community MAINTENANCE

Recycling: What goes around, comes around

Old electronics find new life

For five hours they came. Cars, pickups, trailers and minivans, more than 300 strong – in a mournful procession through Cranberry Woods on a Saturday morning, carrying the remains of what had once been the family's televisions, computers, stereos, and other home electronics, to their final resting place. Sort of. But that was before the collecting contractor, Envirocycle Inc., carted them away and stripped the equipment of its valuable raw materials – lead, copper, glass, plastics, and metals – for reprocessing into even newer products.

Altogether, the September 27 collection, organized by Butler County's Department of Recycling and Waste Management, yielded 42 tons – six trailers full of unserviceable electronics, according to County coordinator Cheryl Kelly. It was all very gratifying; last year, the first year of the electronics recycling program, fewer than 30 tons were collected.

"I can't promise, but we're hoping to have two collections next year," Ms. Kelly said, "and one of them would be in Cranberry."

Commercial recycling

Recycling isn't just for the environmentally-conscious homeowner; it applies even more to commercial, educational, and industrial establishments, according to Cranberry environmental coordinator Lorin Meeder. "Businesses play an important role in helping us achieve the 35 percent recycling goal set by the state," he noted.

"Every year, all of the businesses, schools, and other institutions in Cranberry have to report their recycling activities. That information, and the volume of recycling they report, enable the Township to qualify for state DEP performance grants. This year, the Township expects to receive nearly \$54,000," he said. "But we could be collecting much more if every business did its part to recycle office paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic, and metal containers." The state grants help to support the Township's environmental initiatives.

In order to secure a permit to operate in Cranberry Township and Butler County, waste haulers are required to offer recycling services to all their customers. Many haulers also offer such ancillary services as waste audits, employee training, and desk-side recycling containers.



Autumn leaves are dropping off

Through December 15, Cranberry homeowners can drop off bags of autumn leaves at any of three 24/7 self-service leaf collection sites around the Township: the back parking lot behind the Municipal Center on Rochester Road, the Jaycee shelter at Community Park on Rt. 19, and the swimming pool parking lot at North Boundary Park. Last year, with only one active site, residents dropped off more than 100 tons of leaves. This year, with more locations and a longer collection season, the volume is expected to grow significantly higher. Signs posted at each site direct deliveries to the orange-fenced area where the leaf bags are to be deposited. No garbage, please.



Christmas trees remain ever green

A self-service Christmas tree recycling program will run from December 27 through January 13 at the Jaycee shelter in Community Park. Township employees will run the trees through a chipper and use the chips for landscape mulch next spring.

Fast growth for slow pitch

Cranberry Cup creates champions, charity, community

Softball has been snowballing in Cranberry. In addition to becoming a major athletic event, the four-year old Cranberry Cup slow-pitch softball competition has grown into an impressive fund-raising machine as well as an important vehicle for community-building both among next door neighbors and between Township neighborhoods. But its start had a much more modest goal.

Back in 2000, during a brainstorming session of the Highland Village Homeowner's Association, Cathy Cortazzo suggested that a low-key neighborhood softball game might be a good activity to plan for. Her fellow members agreed, and drafted Cathy to organize it. Within a short time, seven other neighborhood associations had heard about the game and also enlisted. As a result the game grew into a tournament.

The following year 13 more neighborhoods fielded teams to play in the tournament, and \$14,000 in combined player fees, raffle income, and concession stand commissions were generated to fund a college scholarship for the children of a police officer who had died the previous year. By 2002, 24 neighborhoods entered the competition, including several which were able to field more than one team, and

\$24,000 was raised to benefit an ailing state trooper. This past August, 30 neighborhood teams, as well as 12 business and public agency teams, participated during the course of a two-day, double-elimination tournament that raised \$40,000 – including a gift from super star singer Christina Aguilera – to benefit a young local cancer patient.

With its own set of procedures adapted from the American Softball Association's national rule book, the organizers addressed a series of touchy local issues including varying field sizes, compressed playing times, and co-ed team composition. By its conclusion, Hampshire Woods, which had won the championship in 2001, once again emerged as the tournament's winner. Among the business and agency teams – including the Air Force National Guard, Verizon Wireless, American Eagle Outfitters, and the formidable State Police – the 13-member team fielded by the Township's own staff prevailed in an eight-game marathon. But for both the neighborhood and business players, there was an even more valuable outcome: strengthening community ties. Practice games provided neighbors an informal opportunity to get to know one another. And the playoffs allowed residents of different

parts of the Township to make new local friends. As Cranberry Township team captain Ron Henshaw put it, "we've always had the theory that people don't think they live in Cranberry, they think they live in Hunters Creek or Timberline or some other neighborhood. That's the way the housing plans were set up," he observed. "What this does is to bring those plans together. It's the Cranberry Cup. We're all a part of Cranberry and it pulls them together for a common cause. And that is a very positive thing for the Township."



Book your next special event at the Highlands Banquet Facility

The Banquet Facility at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course is available to hold your next business meeting, holiday party, anniversary, reunion, family function, wedding – or other special event. The banquet facility offers a comfortable setting with beautiful views of the golf course. The club house offers food and beverage packages from basic to elegant including: hors d'oeuvres, lunch, dinner, and full bar for parties of 20 to 175 guests.

Fall/Winter Banquet Specials

Reserve the Highlands Banquet Room between November 1, 2003 and April 1, 2004 and pay a flat room rental fee of \$100. Pre-book \$1,000 in food and beverage service, and the room rental will be waived. Call 724-776-7372 for more information.



Love match

Taking home trophies from October's two-day Cranberry/USTA tennis tournament were Tiffany Marino, Women's Singles; Patrick Allen, Men's Singles; Joan Greene and Kelly Stenger, Women's Doubles; Patrick Allen and Peter Czerwinski, Men's Doubles. Altogether, 35 players participated in the tournament, which was a cooperative effort of the Township's Parks & Recreation department and the U.S. Tennis Association. The Association has supported Cranberry's tennis program with grants, equipment, and instruction for the past two years.

Leaving a plume of dollar signs in its wake, the Great GASB rolls into town

Cranberry's net worth is about to go up – way up. Exactly how much won't be known for another two years, but starting in 2004, the Township will begin to follow a new set of accounting guidelines set by GASB, the Government Accounting Standards Board, a professional association of Certified Public Accountants specializing in public sector finances. Back in 1999, following 15 years of detailed deliberation, the association issued a statement, GASB-34, directed toward the financial officers of governmental units ranging from states and school districts to airport authorities and municipalities all over the country.

In it, the organization enumerated which assets townships would have to account for, spelled out the formats they would use issuing their financial reports, and mandated that they include a management discussion and analysis of their financial statements explaining, in plain English, what those statements

really meant. Although compliance is voluntary – GASB is not a law-making entity – most financial professionals believe that if they ignore the guidelines, their community would essentially lose access to the municipal bond market and other key financial services.

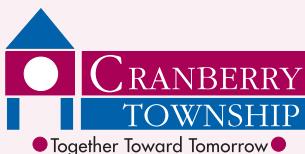
In what many regard as the new standards' most important directive, governments will be required to report the value of certain assets which had never before appeared on their balance sheets. While Cranberry, for example, has always reported the value of its vehicles, buildings, equipment, and land, the value of its streets and roads were never included. Neither were its bridges, its traffic signals, its sewer lines, water towers, or other elements of its infrastructure – many of which were built by developers in connection with their commercial or residential projects.

Finding or calculating the historical cost of those assets, which is the basis for



GASB-34 valuations, will take time, according to Cranberry Township Finance Director Vanessa Gleason, but it is a task the Township expects to complete by the end of 2005 – two years before the compliance deadline. And while no one yet knows their true value, it is certain to be well into the millions of dollars, she acknowledges.

Cranberry's next annual report, due out in late spring, will reflect many of these changes, which are designed to increase the level of professionalism and transparency in government operations.



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