



# Cranberrytoday

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2007 SUMMER EDITION

## Westinghouse's Power Move

Westinghouse Electric's decision to move to Cranberry Woods in order to expand its nuclear engineering campus may have come just in time. All over the world, orders for nuclear plants to generate electricity are mushrooming. Even in the United States, where no nuclear plants have been built since 1978, the country is approaching a point that one industry consultant has characterized as the "edge of a nuclear renaissance" with as many as 30 new plants contemplated over the next 15 years.

In December, the company won a \$5.3 billion contract from China to build four reactors, and hopes to win a contract for four more in the next year, according to published reports. About 25 nuclear power plants are now under construction worldwide, and another 440 plants are currently in use. Most of that additional capacity is planned in India, Russia, Taiwan and Japan. China

has said it hopes to build at least 30 reactors during the next two decades. So Westinghouse engineers, whose technology already enjoys a global market share of about 45 percent, could really use some more work space.

Cranberry is happy to help. At an extraordinary joint meeting with the Seneca Valley School Board and the Butler County Commission on May 3, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors enacted the Strategic Development Area designation requested by Governor Rendell as part of a state-led incentive program crafted to keep Westinghouse from leaving Pennsylvania for the Carolinas.

Shortly after, the company submitted its first land development application which the Board was expected to approve at its June 28 meeting. "That's really the first development step from

*Continued on page 2.*



## Dirt Has Started Flying At Graham Park

The construction of Graham Park – Cranberry's third and largest public park – is finally underway. But you'll have to wait a while to see it since access to the construction site is restricted right now.

More than a month after the official groundbreaking ceremony at the Municipal Center on April 26, workers from the Mashuda Corporation began grading operations to level the 115-acre farm and prepare it for park use. Those earthmoving services, valued at close to a million dollars, were donated by the company's owners with the Township paying only the fuel costs.

But even before grading could begin, the first step in building the park – which will eventually house four distinct activity campuses – was the installation of a special fence to prevent silt runoff into Brush Creek

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### New Home.

Westinghouse Electric's new corporate and engineering headquarters will be housed on an 80-acre site in Cranberry Woods. The first three buildings in the complex will provide 775,000 square feet; a possible fourth building will bring the total to around one million square feet of office, computer, mechanical, and lab space. Estimated price: \$140 million.

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## Westinghouse's power move *Continued from front cover*

the Township's perspective," according to Cranberry Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. "It will set them on a course to get a shovel in the ground by July or August."

During the first week of June, Trammel Crow, the property's developer, submitted a grading

application. "We're going through a process for grading only because the review period is shorter. That allows them to begin quickly, which they need to do because they have a lot of rough grading to take care of," Trant said. The company will then follow up with land development applications for buildings, parking lots, and landscaping.

"It is being built with an extremely aggressive timeline. We are speeding up the process as much as we can to be sensitive to their timetable which is to have some buildings occupied by the spring of 2009," he said. "They are growing and continuing to hire at an aggressive pace. That's why they're anxious to get into the new facility in Cranberry Woods." ~

## Dirt has started flying at Graham Park

*Continued from front cover*

during construction. That fence will remain until a series of key projects are completed including leveling the soil, putting in the roadways, installing the underground utilities, creating irrigation lines for the playing fields, final grading and growing grass – altogether about a year and a half.

"We have excess dirt on the football campus and excess dirt in the baseball campus, but the soccer area is deficient," Cranberry Parks and Recreation Director Mike Diehl explained. "We need to stockpile it there and level it off, so we'll be moving both ends toward the middle." Altogether, about 150,000 cubic yards of soil will be moved.

### Ground Water

Graham Park's football campus, which is expected to be available for play by fall 2008, is near one of Cranberry Township's original water production wells. Although the Township now buys its drinking water from the West View Water Authority, all of the electrical service and equipment to pump water from the old well is still in place. "We're



**Can You Dig It?** Grading for the new Graham Park began in earnest last month. Mashuda Corporation donated its earthmoving services, valued at close to a million dollars, toward the Township project. Initial use of the park is anticipated for the fall of 2008.

going to bring a temporary line out of that well to the football campus, put the irrigation in, final grade, and seed it for playing field grass this year," Diehl said. "We'll need to tap into other wells and install irrigation lines, water supply lines and so forth for the baseball and soccer fields which are much farther away. So we're looking for Spring 2009 as the most likely time to open the baseball and soccer complexes."

Having access to free water is a huge benefit. "It's going to save us an amazing amount of money –

thousands a year," Diehl said. "It's just not economical to use tap water; finding a natural source of water is a tremendous advantage. And there are other benefits, too: you don't have the chlorine and other things you then have to balance in the soil. Our estimate is that we can pull a million gallons of water a day from these wells. That's plenty of water to irrigate the ballfields. And there will be a separate potable water line from our regular supplier to provide drinking water." ~

### School Tax Note

Bills for the Seneca Valley School District real estate tax, which was raised by 4.26 mils for the 2007-2008 school year, will be mailed on August 1. They can be paid at a two percent discount until September 30 and then at face value through November 30. If you have changed your mortgage company or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact the tax collector's office in the Municipal Center. Office hours for Tax Collector P.J. Lynd are Monday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, as well as Saturday, September 29, from 9:00 AM to noon.



## The Spirit May Be Willing, But Becoming A Volunteer Is Getting Harder

By John Milius, Chairman, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors

There was a time, not so terribly long ago, when volunteering for community service was regarded as a normal part of everyone's social life. Depending on your age, actively participating in scout troops, garden clubs, civic associations, church groups, veteran and fraternal organizations, athletic leagues and so on, was both a routine and popular occurrence – one which formed the social backbone of most traditional American towns. Together, their work helped improve the lives of everyone in the community.

But all across the nation, for a number of years now, volunteerism has been in decline. And that decline has had consequences. One is economic. Essential services like fire protection, which are provided by volunteers here in Cranberry, would otherwise have to be paid for out of tax revenues, as they now are in many places. So volunteering saves taxpayer money and adds to the Township's overall economic output.

Equally important is that volunteering helps to build a more cohesive community: engaging young people, fostering trust between residents, and developing norms of helping one another – expectations which are at the heart of every desirable community.

People who have studied the decline point to a number of factors contributing to the erosion of voluntary service, including the

growing number of two-earner households, the expanded reach of personal technologies like the Internet, and so on. But some of it is self-inflicted: our state and federal requirements for training firefighters and EMS technicians have been raised to such high levels that fewer and fewer ordinary residents can qualify for voluntary service.

Take the case of the Township's Volunteer Fire Company. Just two years ago, a new firefighter had to complete 88 hours of basic training before being allowed to respond to fire calls. That's a lot of time – particularly when you add in the travel to Butler's Fire School. But then last year the ante was raised even higher; a new volunteer now needs 160 hours of basic training. And the same kind of thing has been happening with emergency medical volunteers.

We've tried to offset that burden by relieving our firefighters of as much paperwork, fund-raising, and travel to training sites as possible. But even though it's been an uphill struggle,

it's one that is well worth the effort. Why? Because professionalizing every service – turning a self-reliant community of residents and their fellow stakeholders into passive consumers of tax-supported offerings – can eat away at our social fiber, making us a weaker, not stronger, community.

While it is becoming harder and harder for residents to find the time, volunteerism is still an essential

element of life in Cranberry. And there are a number of reasons that people here give as to why they find it worthwhile. One is altruism – the satisfaction of helping someone less fortunate than yourself. Another is community pride, for example cleaning up litter along a roadway. Helping build character and instill teamwork among our young people is a major goal for many volunteers. For others it's a hobby, such as caring for animals at a shelter. And for some it's a way to gain some sort of useful career experience in teaching, care giving, or some other vocation in which volunteers are welcome.



There is clearly no shortage of voluntary organizations in Cranberry – only a shortage of time in which to

participate. But volunteering doesn't have to be a huge commitment. Many local organizations welcome participants whose time is very limited. And for anyone with the inclination to become involved, the Township wants to help. One way is that we have a link on the home page of our Web site called "Volunteer Opportunities." It includes a number of opportunities for service with organizations that have relationships with the Township government. But it only scratches the surface. That list could be extended indefinitely. And with your help, so can the spirit of volunteerism in Cranberry Township. ~

***"Turning a self-reliant community of residents into passive consumers of tax-supported offerings can eat away at our social fiber, making us weaker."***

You can reach John Milius at: [john.milius@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:john.milius@cranberrytownship.org)

## In Briefs:



**How low can you go?** Cranberry is converting its heavy equipment to low-sulfur diesel fuel as the result of new environmental regulations for trucks. Until this summer, standard diesel fuel had 500 parts per million of sulfur; now it can contain no more than 15 ppm – a huge reduction. The Township, which maintains its own fleet fuel tanks, began turning them over to the low sulfur fuel in May. Older diesel engines can use the new fuel without costly conversion, however the new fuel tends to gel at low temperatures.

### Steal this police car.

A shrewd buyer got a steal of a deal at the Township's May 23 auction of surplus items. A 2004 Crown Victoria formerly used by Cranberry's police department was gavelled down for a mere \$2,300; a 2001 model went for just \$1,800. A wide assortment of other items also went for a song although a few fetched fair market prices, including a Kabota tractor which went for \$7,200. Cranberry and a handful of neighboring communities jointly auction off used and excess equipment each year at the Township's Public Works building. Sales are open to the public and conducted by Hostetter Auctioneers of Beaver Falls.



**Dog Park slows to a crawl.** Issues involving motor vehicle access to a site on the expansion area of Community Park targeted as home for a new Dog Park have hampered progress in developing the much-awaited project. Environmental wetland issues need to be resolved before the traffic corridor is complete, according to Parks and Recreation Director

Mike Diehl. "Each of the alternative approaches also present concerns," Diehl said. "This is a park first and foremost. I'm looking for the best long-term solution for the entire park – not just for today or just for the dog park but the future of that whole parcel."

### Whatever you do, DON'T PANIC!!!

An orderly evacuation plan for the Municipal Center in case of emergency is now in place. Fire drills in the Municipal Building will be conducted at least twice per year. For employees and visitors, there will be safety Marshals assigned to check exits, and search for stragglers. Evacuation drills will be conducted under different conditions and at unexpected times to help simulate the actual conditions that may occur in an emergency. Emphasis will be placed upon orderly evacuation rather than speed of evacuation. Maps showing the locations of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and fire exit doors have been placed in common locations throughout the building.



**Relay for Life.** The American Cancer Society's epic fund-raising event in North Boundary Park, involving groups of 8 to 15 members circling the park's 1.1 mile track in relay teams over a 24 hour period, will get underway at 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 21 and conclude the following morning. Each 15-member team, which are typically made up of members representing local businesses, clubs, families, churches, schools and other organizations, pays a \$150 registration fee. Individuals pay \$10. Contact Tonya Newberry of the ACS at 412-919-1072 for registration details.

### Cranberry CUP winds up for pitch.

The eighth annual Cranberry CUP charity softball tournament, which pits adult neighborhood and business teams against each other in a weekend-long series of bracketed playoffs, will get underway Friday, August 3 with a Neighborhood Golf Outing at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. Registration for the tournament is available at the Township Parks and Recreation Information Desk. Registration forms and additional detail are also available at the organization's Web site: [www.cranberrycup.org](http://www.cranberrycup.org).



### Aerobics twofer.

Members of Cranberry's Total Body Conditioning aerobics program can now add a water workout regimen at no extra charge. The program, which offers morning classes five days a week and evening classes Monday through Thursday, involves a range of activities from basics step classes to yoga, pilates, kickboxing, and more for a monthly fee of \$27 and \$4 a class for Cranberry residents. This summer, monthly members can participate in water aerobics workouts on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the WaterPark at no extra charge.

### Prep for Preschool.

Openings are now available for two preschool programs offered by Cranberry Township for children as young as three. A class for 3 and 4-year olds who will be entering Kindergarten in September of 2009 meets twice a week for 2 hours a



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## In briefs: *Continued from page 4*

day from September through May. A class for 4 and 5-year olds who expect to enter Kindergarten in September of 2008 meets four days a week, also for 2 hours a day. Both programs follow the Creative Curriculum for Preschool approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Monthly tuition fees for residents are \$80 and \$150 respectively.

**UPMC Wellness series.** A presentation on the signs, symptoms and treatment of osteoarthritis, a common type of arthritis affecting over 25 million Americans, will be

offered by UPMC at 12:30 in the Senior Center of the Cranberry Township Municipal Center on Wednesday, July 18. Another presentation, concerning the symptoms, treatments and preventive measures to help reduce the risk of strokes, will be offered there on Wednesday, August 15 at 12:30. Both presentations are free, however advance registration is required by calling 412-367-6643.

**Eat and Run.** The Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce is holding its 18th annual Thorn Hill 5K Race & Walk on Sunday, July 29, rain or



shine, beginning at 8:00 AM. Early registration fee is \$15 for runners, \$8 for walkers. Proceeds fund the Chamber's educational scholarship program and all pre-registered individuals get a tee shirt. Then on September 12, the Chamber hosts its annual "A Taste of Cranberry" event where dozens of Cranberry area restaurateurs get to showcase their signature dishes. Tickets go on sale August 20. Call the Chamber at 724-776-4949 for details. ~



## Thursdays In The Park Concert Series To Be Joined By Fridays At The Gazebo

Cranberry Township's 2007 seven-concert Thursday evening summer music series in Community Park, which opened June 21, will be joined later this summer by a six-performance Friday Lunchtime Concert series at the Gazebo on the Municipal Center front lawn starting July 13. A special Tuesday evening performance by characters from Mister Rogers Neighborhood will also take place at the

Community Park Rotary Amphitheatre on July 10. Rotary Club of Cranberry Township members will be selling a variety of foods from the North Park Deckhouse restaurant at each evening concert.

Admission to all concerts is free of charge through the generous support of sponsors including North Pittsburgh Telephone Company, PNC Bank, Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community, Wal-Mart, Monte Cello's of Cranberry, Delta Development Group, Inc., and Friends of the Park. Evening concerts begin at 7:00, lunchtime concerts start at noon, weather permitting. Performances include:

**July 10 (Tuesday) Joe Negri and the Neighborhood Friends.** This popular annual event features characters from the famed Mister Rogers Neighborhood TV program. The concert concludes with picture signing for all children. *Sponsor: North Pittsburgh Telephone Company*

**July 12 The Eldorado Band.** Band members elated their Cranberry audience last season with powerful vocals, blazing guitars, honky-tonk piano, and a tight rhythm section for an all-country music event. *Sponsor: PNC Bank*

**July 19 Graham Grubb and The Orchestra.** These musicians have performed for over 20 years with music in the Big Band tradition.

**July 26 Joe Negri Quartet –** World-renowned guitarist Joe Negri returns with a jazz ensemble to play tunes from his latest album, 'Uptown Elegance,' and much more. *Sponsor: Wal-mart*

**August 2 Dick Clarks.** Musicians in this group, who are all members of the band The Clarks, perform songs from Greg Joseph's solo album 'American Diary' and their own songbook. Singer Scott Blasey and guitarist Rob James join Greg for this concert. *Sponsor: Friends of the Park*

**Aug. 9 Allegheny Brass Band.** In the tradition of the British brass bands which inspired it, the ABB performs many styles of music including symphonic, opera, Big Band, and pop selections.

**FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS**  
Garden Gazebo at the Cranberry Municipal Center

**July 13 The Pittsburgh Banjo Club.**  
*Sponsor: Sherwood Oaks*

**July 20 The Greater Cranberry Barbershop Chorus.**  
*Sponsor: Monte Cello's of Cranberry*

**July 27 Ambridge Steel Drum Band.**  
*Sponsor: North Pittsburgh Telephone Company*

**August 3 Singer/Guitarist Nick Marzock.** *Sponsor: Delta Development Group, Inc.*

**August 10 Suzanne DeCree and Aaron Griffith Duet.**  
*Sponsor: Sherwood Oaks*

**August 17 Jazz singer Donna Bailey.** *Sponsor: North Pittsburgh Telephone Company*



## Why Do Firemen Have Dalmatians? To Find The Hydrants.

*What Cranberry firefighters do when they're not fighting fires*

The life of a firefighter carries certain risks. Consider the case of Sparky the fire dog. For years, Sparky – the lovable Dalmatian mascot of fire companies everywhere – rode behind the wheel of his miniature, remote-controlled fire engine in classrooms and parks and fire houses all over Cranberry, exciting young children about the need for fire safety. But sadly, tragedy struck.

"We have to get a new Sparky," Fire Company President Chris DeCree lamented recently. "We had to take it out of

service because the kids run up to it, hug him, and end up taking his head off. Every year we're rewiring the thing and now we can't get parts for it anymore." Sparky's long tail of woe continued. "We had Sparky at the Haine School Fire station and I had a plastic bag over it, to keep the dust from getting in there," DeCree recalled. "And this kid came up to me crying, because I was smothering him – I was killing Sparky."

Last year, Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company responded to more than 550 calls from Butler 911, and spent another 5,500 hours in training. But emergency response is only a part of the fire company's mission. Fire prevention – educating children, the elderly, and everyone in between about fire dangers – represents a major effort of the Company and its volunteers.

Some of it is just plain fun. Take the Battle of the Barrels – a popular, if muddy, Community Day competition



***Hot Dog.** Sparky the fire dog lost his head last year – a victim of the energetic affections of his young admirers. During 2006, Sparky and his Cranberry Township volunteer firefighting associates helped to educate 3,500 children in fire prevention. Cranberry's Fire Company is currently seeking a replacement mascot.*

which pairs area fire companies using streams of water from fire hoses to drive a barrel hanging from an overhead cable into their opponent's territory. "We're also on standby for the fireworks. We start about 7:00 in the morning and we have 20 or 30 guys there all day long," DeCree said. "We do a lot that's not directly related to fighting fires."

But Community Day is just the beginning. "We

always have kids coming through Haine Station," he noted. "A Mom's Club will call and ask if can I do something with their kids today. We have a Fire Safety House that we keep in the station. Home schoolers get credit for fire safety. Fire safety is built into the curriculum at Haine Elementary school. That's where one of the kids told me the reason firemen use Dalmatians is to find the hydrants.

"We have different programs for each age. We go through the Fire Safety House, show them the trucks, put on the gear. We teach them not to be afraid of the firefighters when they see them. We have the fire-fighters turn out the lights, put on their gear and sound their beepers so they know what it sounds like."

Fire Safety House has a companion. "We also have something called the

Hazard House," DeCree pointed out. "It's a mockup of a house, about 2-feet by 3-feet. You push a button and the hazards light up in each room. We take that around with us to the classrooms, too."

Cranberry isn't the only place the Fire Company serves. "We lend the Fire Safety House to other fire companies. We train their people how to use it, we drop it off, we pick it up. And it's often reserved well in advance. Slippery Rock reserved it two years ago for this fall," he said. And Scouts from all over hit us in the winter months because they can't get outdoors, so they do indoor stuff and one of the things they do is work on their fire safety badges."

"Last year we had 5,000 people go through our fire prevention program and 3,500 of them were children," DeCree recalled. "We do fire prevention all year long. We just gave all the seniors here smoke detectors that I got through the Chiefs Association. We're going to do a fire drill at the Regency Apartments. We developed a program about the use of fire extinguishers. Companies call us and ask us to do fire prevention programs for their employees. People call us all the time for things like block parties."

***"We'd rather prevent fires than fight them."***

And it seems to make a difference. "A few years ago, there was a fire in Marshall Township where a little girl saved her little brothers.

When her parents got home, they asked where did you learn this? And she said I learned it at the Fire Safety House in Cranberry Township. She was six or seven at the time, and she got her three brothers out. But we'd rather prevent fires than fight them." ~

## *Profile of a firefighter:*



fight fires. But a handful of them fight traffic. An elite group of Cranberry Township's 60 Volunteer Fire Company members are assigned to provide an important, but little-known service that has nothing to do with putting out fires. They're known as the Fire Police, and they're often the first to arrive at the scene of an accident, fire, or storm-related emergency.

"The firemen fight the fire while the Fire Police take care of traffic and crowd control and provide security as needed," Fire Police Officer Jim Sines explained. Together with fellow volunteers John Kontros, Jim Robinson and Chris Petrisek, Sines is one of four Fire Police officers in the Township's fire company. "If it's an accident scene, we take control of the traffic. If a road has to be closed for a fire or a storm, we close the road. We protect our firefighters and their equipment."

In addition to allowing firefighters to concentrate on their work and protecting their fire hoses from being run over, redirecting traffic also spares motorists themselves from the very real hazards inherent in fire emergencies, according to Sines.

# *No Arguments, Please —* **When a Fire Police Officer Speaks, Motorists Need To Listen**

## Most Fire Company volunteers

A Cranberry resident since 1970, Sines has witnessed Township's dramatic transformation from a sleepy farm community of 4,200 into the budding metropolis it is today. Although never interested in becoming a fireman, he still wanted to be a member of the volunteer fire department – as are all Fire Police – and do his part to ensure the safety of his community. So, for the past 15 years, Sines has put up road blocks and taken abuse from impatient drivers who don't like the inconvenience of finding an alternate route. But in keeping with the Fire Police Officer's Code of Ethics, Sines responds with the polite but firm authority provided by the Pennsylvania Fire Police Act.

“The first Fire Police got started in the late 1800’s when they were still pulling fire wagons,” Sines pointed out. “The Fire Police were responsible for protecting fire equipment and keeping firefighters safe.” But it wasn’t until the state act was passed in 1941 that municipalities in the Commonwealth were legally obliged to provide emergency management at the local level, including Fire Police officers.

It's a position which requires Sines and his fellow officers to continuously train. Among the required courses: basic and advanced fire training, legal concepts, arson investigation, highway and incident management, emergency vehicle operations, HAZMAT, and – most recently – terrorism.



**Follow Directions.** At the scene of an emergency, Jim Sines and his fellow Fire Police officers, John Kontros, Chris Petrisek and Jim Robinson don't have time to explain to every driver exactly what's happening or why they need to take a different route than the one they had planned. But Fire Police have full authority to direct traffic away from the scene and motorists are required to follow their directions.

“Things are always changing, so the courses we take are changing,” he said. “We never had a terrorism class before. But in this day and age, anything can happen anywhere, so you have to be ready for it. You hope nothing happens, but you never know.”

However at the scene of emergencies, motorists don't always appreciate the Fire Police, particularly when they are directed away from where they want to go. But Fire Police provide a valuable service to local law enforcement officers. "On the scene, we take control of the traffic and let the police do what they have to do," explains Sines. "In fact on a fire scene, the police will often go about their normal patrol. And because we're there, they may have no reason to stay. It's a service to the police as well as to the Township."

Cranberry's Fire Company welcomes new recruits for its Fire Police unit. And, as Sines points out, a volunteer can come into the fire company specifically to become part of the Fire Police. ~

*Cranberry welcomes new Fire Company volunteers throughout the year. To learn more, call 724-776-1196.*

## Smart Robots Invade Cranberry!

U.S. armed forces have close to 2,000 robots currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are attached to bomb disposal squads, and their mission is to disarm deadly roadside bombs – improvised explosive devices which have already claimed hundreds of American lives. But they are dumb robots – operated by a nearby soldier using a control pad, much as a child would do for a remote control toy. However one Cranberry-based firm is working to change all that.

"We develop the software that starts to make those robots smarter and lets them operate by themselves," according to Todd Jochem, a CMU robotic scientist and founder of AppliedPerception, a cutting-edge technology company on Executive Drive. "Instead of having the operator use joysticks to make the robot go, the software lets it use GPS information to drive a path that's been downloaded into it. It lets the robot use sensors to avoid obstacles that might be in its path. The more authority you put on a robot, the safer, quicker and more efficient the operator's job is going to be."

Particularly when someone is facing lethal danger, shortening the time they are exposed to that risk is critical. "If our technology can cut the time it takes to dismantle a roadside bomb in Iraq from 30 minutes to 20, well that's 10 less minutes that our guys are sitting there – potentially as sitting ducks. It gets them out of harm's way quicker. It can potentially let you reduce the manpower needed to do these tasks," he said.

As with many other new technologies, the military applications of smart robots have been among the first to emerge. But over time, the spinoffs

of that research and development are likely to find their ways into other areas of the economy as well. "The military is putting a ton of money into these robots, essentially to save lives," Jochem pointed out. "What's going to happen though, is there's this whole suite of industrial applications in construction, in mining, in agriculture, where the technology is going to migrate. It's safer, because you don't have these tired people working 12-16 hours a day; it's faster; it's probably cheaper too. So that's where I see the migration happening."

AppliedPerception itself has done a bit of migrating, largely driven by its steadily growing space requirements, since the company was founded in 2001. Ten years ago, Jochem and his wife – both natives of rural Indiana – bought a house in Treedsdale, where they soon felt at home. That eventually prompted a search for nearby places to grow his startup business. And in October 2005, after outgrowing the company's first two sites in Pine and Marshall townships, he moved the firm to Cranberry.

***"The military applications of smart robots have been among the first to emerge. But the spinoffs of that research are likely to find their ways into other areas of the economy."***

"It was a natural to come here because it met all our business needs: it was convenient to my house and to many of the other people's houses. The folks who live in the city have a reverse commute here, which

is great. And it is still very rural, which we need for our test site; we have a 6,000-pound robot that you can't run around a parking lot. So we lease land in Valencia, just down 228, to test these robots. We've got easy access to the airport. Education-wise it's great. So it's really an ideal situation for us."

Earlier this year

Foster-Miller, a large Boston-based robot-maker and a division of an even larger international technology firm, bought AppliedPerception. The resulting cash infusion will allow the firm to expand even more quickly in Cranberry, growing from 16 to more than 20 employees in just a few months and even more during the coming year. "Definitely in the next year, we'll be looking for other space, hopefully in the same industrial park, to move into as the company grows," he said. "We are fortunate that we are here at the right time." ~



***Hot Wheels.*** An array of sensors collect information which enables this small robot in the shop of AppliedPerception to maneuver around obstacles without the intervention of a human operator. Currently targeting such high-risk military applications as disarming roadside bombs, company founder Todd Jochem sees different types of smart robots eventually saving lives, time, and expense in peacetime industries as well.

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

## Stuck In The Middle?

by Dr. Michelle Miller, Haine Middle School Principal

When it comes to family dynamics, the thought of the "middle child" encourages a flood of concerns.

The middle child seems to get less attention and is often described as the forgotten one. The middle child isn't the cute, younger sibling who gets the attention or the older one who experiences everything for the first time. The middle child is sometimes described as the one who seems lost, not knowing where he or she belongs. Being stuck in the middle of the family tree may not be favorable; however, being stuck in the middle at Seneca Valley couldn't be better. Being stuck in the middle at Seneca Valley lands you in one of three middle schools where we pride ourselves in meeting the needs of the middle level learner.

The middle school concept isn't new, but at Seneca Valley, we keep refining it and making it better for students. At Haine Middle School, a fifth and sixth grade middle school, we pride ourselves on meeting the needs of students who are stuck in the middle. They are between their elementary years and their high school career. As they enter adolescence, the teaching staff is poised to meet their specific needs that come with puberty, the desire for independence, and the need for social interactions with peers.

To meet their needs, we focus on the wellness and growth of middle level learners in four areas: academic, social, emotional, and physical. In order for students to be truly healthy kids, these four areas of their lives must be in a delicate balance as they go through their adolescent years. To do this, we expose our fifth and sixth grade students

to a wide array of educational experiences that are supported by integrated curriculum and the team-teaching approach. We have a dynamic cadre of talented teachers and support personnel who provide meaningful and challenging learning activities within a safe, nurturing environment. Further, this is accomplished in a close partnership with family and community.

The physical, social, emotional, and academic needs of the middle level learner guide our curriculum, strategies, and programs, so that each student achieves their maximum growth while attending Haine Middle School. We pride ourselves in providing learning experiences that nurture the uniqueness of each child and promote happiness and success.

Being stuck in the middle isn't a bad thing if you are a student in the Seneca Valley School District. Whether you find yourself being stuck at Haine Middle School, Evans City Middle School (grades 5-6) or the Seneca Valley Middle School (grades 7-8), consider yourself lucky to be stuck. There's not a better place to be when you are between the ages of 10-14.

Dr. Michelle Miller, Haine Middle School principal (at right) and Dr. Michael Bjalobok, Haine Elementary School principal, welcome Governor Ed Rendell to the school in 2006.



Haine Middle School students cheer on their teams during the school's annual volleyball tournament.

## JULY

SUN 1	MON 2	Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Canceled – all business conducted at June 25 work session <b>Book Discussion: When The Emperor Was Divine</b> , by Julie Otsuka, Library, 7 pm			TUES 3	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm			WED 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY Township Offices Closed 6th Annual Race for Virignia and Friends 5K Run/Walk, Community Park, 7:30 am			Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast Lion's Shelter, Community Park, 8 am - Noon 31st Annual Cranberry Community Day Community Park, 12 pm - 10 pm Fireworks									
FRI 6	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm		SAT 7	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 8	MON 9	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm	TUES 10	Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm <b>Concert in the Park</b> <i>Joe Negri and Friends</i> , Community Park, 7 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm			WED 11	THURS 12	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am <b>Thursdays in the Park</b> <i>Eldorado Band</i> , Community Park, 7 pm							
FRI 13	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo <i>Pittsburgh Banjo Club</i> , Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm			SAT 14	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 15	MON 16	Registration Deadline for August Backyard Composting Class †	TUES 17	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm		WED 18	Books & Bagels Book Discussion <i>March</i> by Geraldine Brooks, Library, 10:15 am UPMC Wellness Series ~ <i>Osteoarthritis</i> Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30 pm Doc Dixon Magic Show Library, 3 pm								
THURS 19	Thursdays in the Park <i>Graham Grubb and the Orchestra</i> , Community Park, 7 pm		FRI 20	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo <i>Greater Cranberry Barbershop Chorus</i> , Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm				SAT 21	Cranberry Township Relay for Life North Boundary Park, All Day Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am			SUN 22	Cranberry Township Relay for Life North Boundary Park, All Day		MON 23	TUES 24	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 25				
THURS 26	Thursdays in the Park <i>Joe Negri Quartet</i> , Community Park, 7 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm			FRI 27	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo <i>Ambridge Steel Drum Band</i> , Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm				SAT 28	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 29	18th Annual Thorn Hill 5K Race/Walk Cranberry Chamber of Commerce, Thorn Hill Industrial Park, 8 am			MON 30	Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm					
TUES 31	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm		WED 1	THURS 2	Thursdays in the Park <i>Dick Clarks</i> , Community Park, 7 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm			FRI 3	Cranberry CUP Neighborhood Golf Outing Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, 10:30 am Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo <i>Nick Marzock</i> , Municipal Ctr, Noon			Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm Cranberry CUP Kick-Off Party Cranberry Highlands, 7 pm			SAT 4	Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Community Park, 10 am Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am						
SUN 5	Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament continued with championship games at 6 pm Community Park		MON 6	Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Book Discussion <i>Water For Elephants</i> by Sara Gruen, Library, 7 pm			TUES 7	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm			WED 8	THURS 9	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am Thursdays in the Park <i>The Allegheny Brass Band</i> , Community Park, 7 pm			FRI 10	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo <i>Suzanne DeCree and Aaron Griffith</i> , Municipal Ctr, Noon					
FRI 10	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm		SAT 11	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 12	MON 13	Zoning and Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm		TUES 14	Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm			WED 15	UPMC Wellness Series ~ <i>Stroke Smart</i> , Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30 pm		THURS 16	Backyard Composting Instructional Class † Municipal Ctr, 7 pm				
FRI 17	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo <i>Donna Bailey</i> , Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm			SAT 18	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 19	MON 20	Registration Deadline for September Backyard Composting Class		TUES 21	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm		WED 22	THURS 23	FRI 24	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm		SAT 25	9th Annual Tom Murray Cranberry Twp Aquathon, North Boundary Park, 8 am Registration begins - Parks & Recreation Fall Programs, online/walk-in, 8:30 am		
SAT 25	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 26	MON 27	Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm		TUES 28	First Day of School, Seneca Valley Infant Family Time with Children under 2 years, Library, 11 am and 1 pm			WED 29	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 30	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm		FRI 31	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm		SAT 1	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		

## SEPTEMBER

SUN 2	MON 3	LABOR DAY Township Offices Closed		TUES 4	Infant Family Time with Children under 2 years, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Bd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm				WED 5	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm		THURS 6	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm			FRI 7	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm					
SAT 8	Puppy Plunge † Community WaterPark, 9 am Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am			SUN 9	MON 10	Zoning & Hearing Bd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm				WED 12	Taste of Cranberry Cranberry Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Ctr Gym, 4:30 pm 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm			THURS 13	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am							
FRI 14	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm		SAT 15	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 16	All-American Fishing Derby † WaterPark, 8:30 pm		MON 17	TUES 18	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm		WED 19	UPMC Wellness Series ~ Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30 pm 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm			THURS 20	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Backyard Composting Instructional Class † Municipal Ctr, 7 pm				
SAT 22	YOM KIPPUR Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 23	MON 24	Registration Deadline for October Backyard Composting Class Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm				TUES 25	WED 26	THURS 27	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm		FRI 28	Farmer's Market Municipal Center parking lot, 3:30 pm		SAT 29	Farmer's Market Rt. 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am		SUN 30	Final Day to pay SVSD real estate tax at 2% discount	

## A New Small Town Corridor Is Emerging, Right In The Heart Of Cranberry

It's not yet visible, but already, the foundation for Cranberry's newest traditional neighborhood and Main Street community has started taking shape. Five separate development projects, each featuring a mix of structures and an assortment of uses, have begun to cluster in the area immediately north of Rochester Road. And the near-seamless connections between them will form a new corridor unlike anything Cranberry has seen before.

Although changes are still likely, and some key enabling ordinances remain to be enacted, the combined projects show the potential to remake the heart of Cranberry Township. If and when their shared concept moves forward, Graham Park, Park Place, BelleVue Park, Town Center, and Cranberry Promenade will create something entirely new: a business, civic, and residential district marked by easy pedestrian access, traditional architecture, on-street parking, open spaces and a mix of building types and uses next door to one another.

"What you see here is a national trend," Community Development Director Ron Henshaw noted. "It's true mixed use – mixes of compatible commercial uses along with a

mix of residential types – that's one concept that we really want to see. The corridor has the potential to be an area of unique growth that we haven't seen before in the Township – it's all new types of development we haven't had before."

Exactly what might that include? "From the residential end we want to see townhomes, apartments, perhaps quads and, if possible, maybe even single family homes. We want to see those things mixed amongst themselves, but also coupled with commercial development in certain areas. The third part is to have residential apartments above those storefronts, like you see in the old towns, creating Main Street views of tight-knit communities where you can walk to this and walk to that. There may be the possibility of parking garages in certain areas and on-street parking for ease of access."

But nothing is certain. "It's close but it's just not there yet," Henshaw acknowledged. "This is a concept, an emerging vision and a work in progress with significant implications for the community. The Simon lifestyle mall proposal, on the other side of I-79, also includes some interesting features – residential units above store fronts, maybe some



apartment type buildings, creating its own mini town or village. It's a true mix of things; people can live there, shop there, walk to work, and so on."

Each of the five projects has its own developer and is proceeding at its own pace. Changes in the housing market, among other things, have already prompted some plan revisions. But other parts are either underway or on the cusp of actual construction. "BelleVue Park is approved," Henshaw noted. "They are working on their permits and releases for road improvements. That will allow them to get a shovel in the ground and start moving dirt." ~

***"It's true mixed use – mixes of compatible commercial uses along with a mix of residential types. The corridor has the potential to be an area of unique growth that we haven't seen before in the Township."***

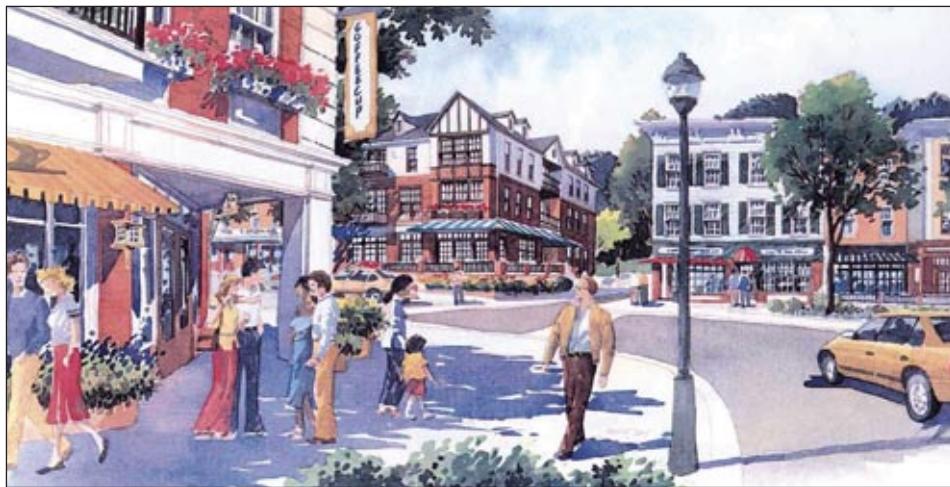


Image courtesy of Park Place

## Township Impact Fee Now Has Greater Impact

Cranberry's Transportation Capital Improvements Plan, which sets the priority for Township roadway improvements financed with Transportation Impact Fees, has now been updated along with the schedule of fees itself. All of the projects are capacity related. Impact fees are one-time only fees collected at the time of initial home or commercial construction.

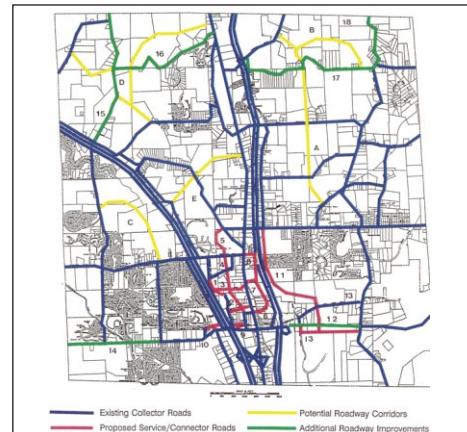
Back in the early '90s, Cranberry Township was the first community in western Pennsylvania to impose impact fees. The fees are assessed on all new development projects and used to finance improvements required to handle the additional traffic generated by that new development. They are levied according to a formula which calculates how many trips during peak traffic hours are generated by a particular size of office building or number of living units.

Cranberry's last Capital Improvements Plan was enacted in 2000. Following a June 14 public hearing, the updated 2007 plan, which had been reviewed by a

committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors, was recommended for adoption. "A few new projects were added, and all of the construction estimates were updated. We also updated the estimated year for completion of several projects," according to Cranberry's Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr.

"The Impact Fee is also going up," he noted. "That's a reflection of two things: increased cost in the projects on the capital improvements list, and adding a few new projects. The whole purpose of updating the capital improvements list was to keep pace with development; we need to constantly update it so that as development occurs, we're collecting an appropriate fee and have the funds needed to support actual construction of those projects. We can't always pay for every project in its entirety, but by us putting money toward a project, it may incentivize contributions from private entities and/or the state."

Residents of existing homes or developments in Cranberry have



already paid their impact fee or, if their properties pre-dated the early '90s when the program was first instituted, they don't have to pay at all. The program can only fund new improvements and it only can fund improvements necessitated by new trips after the date that the land use model used for the program was put into place when the ordinance was adopted, Trant explained. As a result, the trips generated by pre-'90s developments are excluded from the calculations; the program only addresses new trips generated after that date and improvements needed as a result of those trips. ~

## Local Collector And Connector Road Projects Advance

Two important connector road projects in the northern part of Cranberry are coming closer to reality. Both would enhance safety and improve the flow of local traffic. Heights Drive Extension would link the northwestern quadrant of the Township to Rt. 19. An Ehrman-Garvin connector road in the northeast portion would pull traffic away from the winding section of Garvin Road and up onto

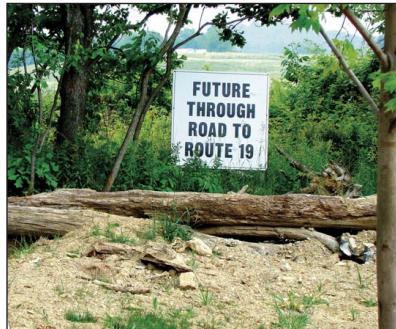
Ehrman Road, which was designed and built to handle higher volumes of traffic.

"Ultimately, these connections provide safer travel routes as well as a system of interconnected collector roads throughout the Township. They will reduce heavy traffic on roads that were never designed or intended to accommodate heavy vehicular traffic," according to Cranberry's Chief

Strategic Planning Officer, John Trant, Jr.

Right now, the main access to Rt. 19 from the area of the Township which includes Cranberry Highlands is Bear Run Road – a narrow, winding and dangerous road that would be prohibitively expensive to bring up to current safety standards. Heights Drive, on the other hand, was planned, designed and built as a collector road – one that could provide a north-south connection for that

*Continued on page 14.*



## Someday You Really Will Be Able To Get From Here To There On Rt. 228

The actual distance isn't that great, about eight miles. But traveling east from Rt. 19 to Rt. 8 along Rt. 228 carries you along an exceptionally diverse corridor and, as development in the area continues, through an increasingly time-consuming journey as well.

At the Cranberry end, for example, the road is a broad thoroughfare outfitted with turning lanes, central planters, and multiple through lanes in each direction. To the east, however, the road narrows, its sightlines shorten, its curves tighten, and traffic speeds slow to a crawl.

Improvements to the highway have been discussed and debated for years. But in May, PennDOT reached a final recommendation for upgrading the roadway into a what it characterizes as an "Urban Boulevard," consistent with local land use plans and with minimal impact on homes, businesses and the environment.

Many of those improvements are slated for the communities east of Cranberry: Seven Fields, Adams, Mars, and Middlesex Township, where the road would be widened to four lanes along its entire length. Renderings of the finished roadway in a PennDOT newsletter show a lightly-traveled scenic road featuring sidewalks, crosswalks, and lush greenery along its central dividing islands.

However the first phase of those improvements would actually be in Cranberry, where the highway will expand from four to six lanes throughout the Township. Although major improvements and expansions were completed in the area where I-79 connects to Rt. 228 several years ago as part of the Turnpike/I-79 Connector project, additional capacity expansions are planned to accommodate a growing volume of local as well as through traffic.



**Pastoral Splendor** PennDOT describes this artist's rendering of Route 228 looking east toward Route 8 as a potential vision of the corridor rather than its actual design.

More commuter trips generated by continuing development in the corridor, including a new Simon lifestyle mall proposed for the north side of the highway, further amplified the need for improvements.

Additional changes, following a public review period for the proposal, could take place. And federal approval for the plan, with an estimated price tag of \$88 million, must also be secured before construction could begin. ~

## Local collector and connector road projects advance

*Continued from page 13*

part of the Township, even though its extension would follow a generally east-west alignment for several hundred yards.

However the project's safety concerns run deeper than traffic accidents; emergency vehicle access to the area is now severely limited. "Try to drive a 33-foot fire truck down Bear Run Road in the winter," Fire Company administrator Mark Nanna suggested in response to criticism of the project. "Or try driving the 48-foot aerial down there anytime. It's just about impossible. And right now, Heights Drive dead ends."

A committee of local residents has been meeting with Township officials to identify potential traffic calming measures as well as corridor enhancements in the area that the new connector would go through. "The project is moving forward," Trant noted. "The next step is to finalize negotiations and purchase the right-of-way. We could be under construction as soon as early 2009."

Collector roads, such as the two underway in Cranberry, are designed, aligned and built to accommodate more traffic than the residential roads which connect to them. At the same time, during their initial

design phase, various traffic calming measures can be engineered right into those roadways, discouraging excessive speeding.

"Any traffic calming effort for either corridor would be to discourage excessive speeding, not to reduce the speed of travel below that for which the road was designed," Trant observed. "I don't want people to think that we're going to slow traffic down to 15 or 20 miles an hour; that's not going to happen. But in terms of providing a collector road that moves traffic safely and at a reasonable rate of speed, that's our goal." ~

## Township Re-Starts Its Comprehensive Plan Update

Two years ago, Cranberry began revising its ten-year old Comprehensive Plan. One of the early results of that effort was a consensus vision of Cranberry Township in the year 2015, along with a series of specific goals residents said they wanted to accomplish along the way toward realizing that vision.

But just as the second phase of the planning process was starting to unfold, two things happened: the Township's planning director had to move away, and development here on the ground began racing ahead. Perhaps the most significant change was the decision by Westinghouse Electric to relocate to Cranberry Woods – a move with consequences for employment throughout the entire region but with particularly profound effects on Cranberry's local economy. That forced a reexamination of the Township's assumptions about the pace and direction of its growth as well as the key objectives of its planning effort.

As a result, the planning horizon has been extended from ten years to 25 years – a period believed to

be pivotal in shaping Cranberry's future. "Our central goal is to determine what the grown-up, built-out Cranberry ought to look like. We want to identify the best strategies to help us get there. And we have formed an Advisory Committee of local residents to guide us through that phase of the process," explained John Milius, Chairman of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors.

"Right now, about 40 percent of Cranberry's land is undeveloped; another 10-15 percent may be ripe for redevelopment," he noted. "If we assume that all or most of this development takes place in the next 25 years, what should the fully-grown Cranberry look like? What sorts of infrastructure improvements will be needed to support that emerging community? What types of social services and governing structure will the mature Cranberry require? What cultural and recreational assets are necessary to sustain a high quality of residential life? What sorts of economic development and fiscal strategies will be needed to keep the grown-up Cranberry financially secure? And how can we grow



smarter – growing to become more efficient and to sustain that growth over time – as well as becoming bigger?

The updated Comprehensive Plan will be designed to help answer those questions. "We will be looking at several alternative visions of a mature Cranberry in 2030 and then look backward from that vantage point to see what actions would have been required, at which points in the Township's development, to reach those outcomes," Milius said. "What we find will form the basis for what will essentially become a business plan – a strategic roadmap for Cranberry to follow as it grows and matures over the next 20-25 years." ~

## Soaring Asphalt Prices Give Township A Bumpy Ride

Asphalt – the paving material of choice for Cranberry and most other communities – has become a lot more expensive in the last few years. And its steep price climb threatens to leave a pothole in the Township's paving plans as well as in those of its neighbors.

A mix of limestone aggregate coated with a tar-like byproduct of oil refining, asphalt road paving material is used on essentially all local roads in Cranberry. A mile of two-lane road with a two-inch layer of asphalt requires 1,800 tons. Those roads are then milled and repaved

every 10 to 12 years, depending on traffic, weather and other factors. And as much as 30 percent of the new asphalt coating material can be made up of the old recycled asphalt.

The Township currently maintains 107 miles of roadway and its repaving program calls for seven or eight miles of resurfacing a year. Most of the cost is paid from taxes that the state collects on gasoline and diesel fuel and distributes to



municipalities according to a formula by which Cranberry gets \$485,000 a year. That used to be enough. But no more.

Just last year, the liquid component of the asphalt cost \$267 a ton in western Pennsylvania; today it's \$330.

In 2002 it was \$163 and just 15 years ago, the price was a mere \$76. And the spike is even worse in some parts of the country. Utah, for example,

*Continued on page 16.*

## Secret State Roads Turned Over To Cranberry Ownership

The streets in Cranberry Township, as in most Pennsylvania communities, are a quirky mix of local, state, and private roads. Although they may look alike to casual motorists, the practical consequences of separate ownership include determining who is responsible for fixing potholes, for repaving, for plowing, for salting, for signage, and more.

Earlier this year, under a statewide program designed to focus PennDOT's resources on main connecting arteries while its municipalities took care of their residential streets, several roads in Cranberry that nobody knew the state actually owned in the first place were transferred from PennDOT to Township ownership. Plains Church Road, in the eastern part of Cranberry, and Ehrman Road along the Jackson border, are now officially the property of Cranberry Township. But they weren't necessarily transfers the Township was eager to bring about.

"They essentially give you a piece of junk," Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee observed. "They try to give you enough money to rebuild it to a standard that you're satisfied

with, and then you maintain it forever. And in turn, instead of getting your standard liquid fuels tax reimbursement, you get slightly more. The reason it's been a problem child to them is that they consider it to be a tertiary road, which to us is a residential road. Residential roads are important to us, but not to them. The logic behind it is that we'll take better care of it than they do."

### ***It's Your Problem***

"Plains Church Road has been a problem to PennDOT for years. Most residents already thought it was ours, even though we kept telling them it was a state road. And the state has wanted us to take this over for quite a while; I've been hearing about it for ten years. The last one we did was Ehrman Road, where it comes down from Ehrman farms and goes down a hill into Jackson Township. Before



***No Pictures, Please.*** One of Cranberry's best-kept secrets has been that PennDOT, rather than the municipality, own some of the Township's worst roads. Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee, shown here, has been negotiating an agreement through which the state will turn ownership of several such roads, including Plains Church Road, over to the Township for improvement and maintenance.

that it was a gravel road; it fell apart every year and had numerous potholes."

However that may not be the end of it. "They talk about other roads all the time, like Glen Eden Road, they'd love to give them all to us," McKee said. But there's a problem. "The money the Township gets for a turnback may not be enough to bring it up to Cranberry's standards, partly because it doesn't include any money for right-of-way acquisition which may be needed to straighten out kinky

curves, drain standing water, or correct terrible sight lines. Cranberry is trying to strike a deal where we can provide better transportation for our people; it's certainly not a financial gain for Cranberry. Our philosophy is that if we're going to take a road, we're going to get enough money to rebuild it to our standards so that it's maintainable and a good road." ~

## Soaring asphalt prices give township a bumpy ride

saw its price jump from \$192 to \$395 in just one year. Of course when you mix in the stone, the unit price is much lower – \$60 per ton is what Cranberry paid this year. But that compares to just \$40 in 2004 and \$51 last year – a whopping 42 percent in just one year.

"Cranberry has a 10-year plan for resurfacing that provides a certain number of miles a year," Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee explained. "We anticipated the price rise this year and programmed the roads accordingly, but we're still spending more than we want to

and doing less than we did in past years. We need to be spending \$800-850,000. We get \$485,000 a year in liquid fuel taxes, and we've had a reserve that we've been saving for the last ten years. But next year it will be gone.

"The point is that we don't get enough from liquid fuels taxes; we're spending more than we get. Our reserves are going to be gone and the prices will continue going up. So our pavement program suffers," he said.

As a result, throughout the region, repaving projects are being pushed

*Continued from page 15*

back. McCandless, for example, slashed its repaving program from 7.5 miles to 5.2 miles this year. And other communities are paying more while doing less than originally programmed.

Ironically, according to one news report, part of the cause for the price increase is a drop in the volume of asphalt from refineries which were required to install new equipment to produce the low-sulfur diesel fuel mandated by the federal government. The production of low-sulfur diesel results in significantly less asphalt oil. ~

## Trash Science: The Answer Is Blowing In The Wind

Leading scientists around the world have reached a rare consensus: with few exceptions, climatologists now agree that global warming is a major cause of garbage getting blown haphazardly across your lawn. Why?

Climate model simulations for the 21st century show a robust increase in wind shear across the tropical Atlantic region due to global warming, according to the respected journal *Science Daily*. The resulting increase in severe weather events with elevated wind speeds, when amplified by the canyon effect of air currents funneling between buildings, causes garbage carts to blow over and scatter their contents around the neighborhood, local authorities have observed.

April 16 was a classic case in point. While the Atlantic seaboard was reeling from the effects of a powerful nor'easter, Cranberry Township was experiencing a windstorm that knocked over garbage carts and scattered recyclables across a wide swath of streets, lawns, and open spaces. It was a mess.

Although Township officials have not yet solved the problem of global climate change, they offer these suggestions to keep your garbage from scattering across the community:

- Keep your carts on level, stable ground; they are less likely to blow over
- Keep the lids completely closed; even a slightly open lid can catch

enough wind to blow the cart over

- Place heavy items, like glass bottles, toward the bottom of the cart, essentially serving as ballast
- Place paper and lightweight items in a bag and weigh it down with bottles
- When the wind is really, really strong, keep your cart in your garage and hold onto it until the next week's collection
- Be sure to bag all your garbage; bagged garbage tends to remain in the cart even if it gets knocked down in the wind ~



## TRASH MASTER Challenge IV – The Final Chapter

Just pick the right choice for disposing of each of the twelve items pictured below.

A. Garbage    B. Recycling    C. Yard Waste    D. Tag    E. Ineligible

1



Magazines

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

2



Cleaning products

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

3



Paperboard boxes

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

4



Glass bottles

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

5



Fluorescent bulbs

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

6



Metal food cans

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

7



Propane torch

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

8



Nails

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

9



Old appliance

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

10



Hair Dryer

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

11



Folding chair

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

12



Upholstered chair

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

When completed, turn the page to find the correct answers. Then check your TQ.

## What's Your TQ (trash quotient)?

Check your score and rate yourself on the following scale:

12 –Trash Guru 11 –Trash Master 10 –Trash Journeyman 9 –Trash Apprentice  
8 –Trash Trainee 7 –Trash Novice 6 –Trash Wannabe 5 or lower –Poor trash

### Magazines.

**Answer: B.** Magazines, whether glossy or not, can be recycled along with newspaper and junk mail. Just drop them in your blue-top cart.

**1**



### Cleaning products.

**Answer: B.** You can recycle the empty containers, but if they've still got cleaning material inside and you can't use it all up, treat it as ordinary garbage.

**2**



### Paperboard boxes.

**Answer: B.** Fold them down and drop them right into your recycling cart. Actually, you don't even need to fold them first.

**3**



### Glass bottles.

**Answer: B.** Glass jars and bottles – including clear, brown, green and other tinted bottles – are perfect for recycling.

**4**



### Flourescent bulbs.

**Answer: A.** Some communities treat fluorescent bulbs as hazardous material, but in Cranberry, you can just pitch them in your gray-top trash cart.



### Metal food cans.

**Answer: B.** Aluminum and bimetal cans (also known as tin cans) may be recycled as long as they're empty and relatively clean.

**5**



### Propane torch.

**Answer: A.** There is a danger of residual propane in the disposable tanks used for small torches, so they can't be recycled. Pitch them in your trash cart.

**6**



### Nails.

**Answer: A.** Although they are made of steel, nails are not suitable for recycling like food cans. Dump them in your garbage cart.



### Old appliance.

**Answer: D.** Discarded appliances like this old mangle will be picked up at the curb if they have a \$10 Large Appliance Tag attached.

**7**



### Hair dryer.

**Answer: A.** Small electric appliances like this can be treated as ordinary garbage as long as they fit into your trash cart.

**8**



### Folding chair.

**Answer: D.** Lightweight furniture like lawn chairs that don't fit into your garbage cart can be picked up using a 65¢ Small Item tag.



### Upholstered chair.

**Answer: D.** Sofas, upholstered chairs, mattresses and similar large furniture items will be picked up if you attach a \$4 bulky item tag.

**9**

**10**

## Stormwater Management Planning Gains New Followers

When it comes to flood control, no town is an island. However for Cranberry, it sometimes seemed that way. But now that may be changing.

Five years ago, after considerable study and planning, Cranberry adopted a comprehensive stormwater management program. Driven to a great extent by the changes in its topography that came with development, the plan had two goals. The first was to minimize flooding which endangered private property as well as public roads. The second was to bring the Township into compliance with the provisions of state Act 167, the Storm Water Management Act, which had become law all the way back in 1978.

But rainwater is notorious for disregarding municipal boundaries, so the actions or inactions of a community upstream of your own can have a devastating impact on you, regardless of how carefully you

may have planned. As a result, Cranberry's protection against damaging floods was strongly affected by its neighbors, as well as by some more distant communities.

Now, however, a joint project by the members of the North Hills Council of Governments is about to formulate a cooperative plan that will extend the hydraulic computer models developed for Cranberry into all of northern Allegheny County. Using the same consulting engineers that Cranberry Township employed, the member communities will have their stream beds, culverts and bridges monitored to create one large model for the entire North Hills. That data will help create a schedule of water release rates for future development throughout the area, slowing the flow with detention ponds and other means to match



the handling capacity of the drainage system.

Not only can that program help protect Cranberry against flooding, it can also help it shake a bad rap

with which the Township has been tagged by some other communities. "There's a misconception that when there's flooding down in the Etna area, people say 'they're building all these parking lots in Cranberry and it's getting down to us,'" according to Township Engineer Jason Kratsas. "But actually, all of our water flows into Brush Creek, Kaufmann Run, and Wolf Run, which flows north. So we're actually taking Allegheny County's water that flows through Cranberry Township and not the other way around. ~



## Water-Saving Tips For Summer

Last month, Florida's Lake Okeechobee – the nation's fourth largest fresh water lake – hit an all-time record low, forcing officials to bar homeowners in an area that now includes six million residents from sprinkling their lawns more than twice a week. Record low rainfall and tinder-dry brush caused the city of Burbank California to scrub its fabled Fourth of July fireworks show, with Los Angeles and others following suit.

In one area after another, rainfall shortages have threatened crops, created fire hazards, hurt the environment, and prompted forced conservation measures. So far, at least, western Pennsylvania has been spared such steps. But using water wisely has become increasingly important to communities throughout the world. Here are a handful of ideas for saving water, and cutting your water bill, this summer.

- More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.
- Use a grease pencil to mark the water level of your pool at the skimmer. Check the mark 24 hours later. Your pool should lose no more than 1/4 inch each day.
- Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground.
- Water lawns during the early morning when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces evaporation and waste.
- Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers.
- Hand-water with a hose where possible. Homeowners who water with a handheld hose can use one-third less water outdoors than those who use automatic sprinklers.
- Fill your pool a few inches lower than usual.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.
- Chill drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet until the water is cold.
- Clean your driveway or sidewalk with a broom, not a hose.
- Place a barrel under your downspout to capture rainwater for use on your landscape.
- Choose drought-tolerant plants when landscaping, and group plants with similar water needs together.

## North Pittsburgh Telephone To Offer TV Service In Cranberry

About a year ago, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors wrote to North Pittsburgh Telephone Company asking if they would consider providing video service to their customers in Cranberry. After all, the boundaries separating telephone, television, and broadband Internet providers have gotten awfully blurry of late. So it wouldn't be surprising if North Pittsburgh, which currently serves about three-quarters of the Township, might also want to think about expanding its current telephone and Internet service into TV.

As it turned out, they were already thinking about it very hard. "The timing was excellent," North Pittsburgh vice president Albert Weigand told Cranberry's Board of Supervisors at their May 31 meeting. "We had been reviewing the opportunities to provide video service for quite some time. Many telephone companies are entering that market and we're no different. So we do intend to offer service as a video service provider over the next year or so, and we're committed to offering a competitive alternative to the incumbent providers just as they

have provided competitive alternatives on the telephone service side," he said.

"Our initial deployment will be in Cranberry Township, partly because it is one of our most active areas, and partly because you showed the foresight to invite us to come and do so," Weigand told the Supervisors.

It won't happen immediately, but plenty of preparation has already taken place. Unlike Verizon, which is re-wiring its network to bring fiber optic cable all the way to each subscriber's home, North Pittsburgh will be using a combination of fiber optics and advanced DSL technology to deliver video signals throughout its service area at speeds that Weigand characterized as somewhere in the neighborhood of seven times faster than the fastest Internet the company provides today. The fiber optic portion is already in place; installation of the DSL multiplexers will begin this summer, he said.

Specifics of North Pittsburgh's offerings – channels, subscriber packages, playback features and so on – are still in development. But the company anticipates rolling its residential service out early next year. "It will be a competitive offering in the spirit of full competition," Weigand said. "We believe that our alternative will offer a differentiated service that will be attractive to our customer base."

A franchise agreement between North Pittsburgh and the Township was adopted at the Supervisors' June 7 meeting. That agreement also provides for local access channels, as does the Armstrong Cable system, Weigand confirmed. "We're very interested in local content. The design of our system is such that we would be able to provide multiple channels of local content if there are opportunities for Cranberry or other entities to deliver us content that they would like to put on the network." ~



For the most up-to-date information, visit us online at [www.cranberrytownship.org](http://www.cranberrytownship.org)



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