



Cranberrytoday

For up-to-date information, visit us on-line at www.cranberrytownship.org

2006 SUMMER EDITION

Infernal Tower Rises From Ashes

New facility designed to enhance local firefighter training

Although it can't be seen from nearby Route 19, an austere, four-story cinder block tower is now taking shape on the lunar landscape behind Cranberry Township's Public Works building. Surrounded by the burnt-out shells of wrecked cars, heavy earthmoving machinery, and miscellaneous cast off debris, and without the comforts of either glass windows, running water, electricity, heat, or furnishings, the building is not a welcoming presence.

But when completed later this summer, the tower – the initial phase of Cranberry Township's new Public Safety Training Complex – will serve an important civic purpose: to allow volunteer firefighters from Cranberry as well as its surrounding Mutual Aid fire companies, to train in structure

fire management, rescue, and recovery, and to do so on week-nights, without having to spend so many Saturdays commuting 45 minutes each way to the County's Fire School in the Township of Butler. It will also help the Township retain its current high level of service.

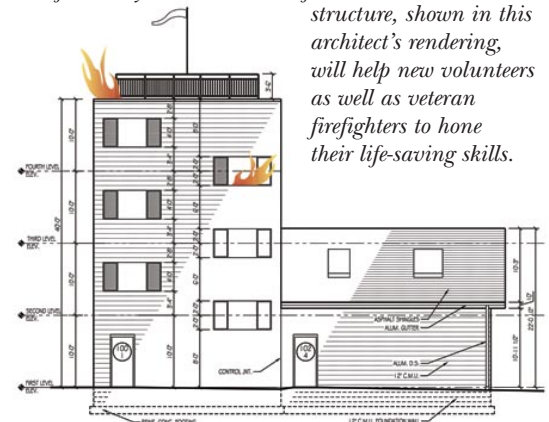
Cranberry's rugged training tower and smoke room maze will be joined within the next three years by a classroom. Several vehicle practice rescue pads are already located at the same site. Together, they will enable Fire Company volunteers who currently train in the confines of Cranberry's two fire stations to experience a more life-like fire environment and, at the same time, avoid further wear and tear to the stations themselves.

(Continued on page 2)



Before and After. Construction of Cranberry's new fire training tower is moving quickly behind the Township's Public Works building. When completed, the four-story tower and its adjacent smoke maze

structure, shown in this architect's rendering, will help new volunteers as well as veteran firefighters to hone their life-saving skills.



FRONT ELEVATION

That's A Big Ten-Four

Township police ramp up truck safety inspections

Insuring truck safety has always been a priority for Township police. That's because problems of poor maintenance or substandard attachments, which create hazards on any vehicle, can quickly escalate to lethal levels when they reach the size and scale of an 18-wheeler. The catastrophic collision of a badly secured wood chipper with a family car in April,

which claimed three lives on Route 8, drove that point home with particular vengeance.

But until several years ago, Cranberry's capability to carry out truck inspections and determine whether something illegal had contributed to an accident, required Township police to call on state troopers. "We didn't

(Continued on page 14)

INSIDE *this edition*

Fire Company	2
Commentary	4
Parks & Recreation	5
Calendar	8
Technology Profile	10
Library / Public Works.....	11
Recycling	12
Public Safety	15
Adopt-a-Roadway	16

Township's Fire Protection Rating Upgraded By National Agency

Cranberry's steady progress in providing superior fire protection has now been made official. Using a ten-point scale in which the lower the number, the better the rating, the nonprofit Insurance Services Organization, ISO, recently upgraded the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company's level of community fire protection from a good 6 to a very commendable 4.

"Going from a 6 to a 4 is something that just doesn't happen," Fire Company President Chris DeCree told the Township's Board of Supervisors in reporting the rare two-step upgrade in its ISO fire protection score.

"I'm not aware of any other volunteer fire company in Western Pennsylvania with higher ratings," Public Safety Director Steve Mannell added. "A 4 is a very high rating. That puts us in the top ten percent of all fire companies in the United States – paid and volunteer. It is a tribute to the Township that they have that kind of interest and volunteers."

In addition to recognizing the Fire Company's high levels of training, equipment and preparation – factors which accounted for half of ISO's total scoring – improvements to the Township's high-capacity water system as well as Butler County's new 911 dispatching center helped to raise Cranberry's score since it was last evaluated in 1990.

At the same time, the ISO report noted that there remain areas in which Cranberry's fire protection score can improve even more including acquiring a reserve pumper and another ladder truck, adding a third fire station, and increasing the number of current floor plans on file for local businesses. But not all of those recommendations are cost-effective, according to Fire Company Administrator and longtime volunteer firefighter Mark Nanna.

"It's a one-size-fits-all system," Nanna said, noting that the same ISO criteria apply to paid and volunteer companies alike, as well as to both urban and suburban companies. "We scored very high in training for a volunteer fire department, but the ISO criteria area based on a paid

department where you've got people there for 24-48 hour shifts; that's how they get all their training hours in. In Pennsylvania, there are 2,400 volunteer fire companies and only about two dozen paid departments. That's why so many departments fall into the lesser classifications on these scales. If you're a volunteer department and you can achieve the better levels, you're really doing good."

Information collected by ISO is used by insurance companies in underwriting their customers' policies and in determining premiums for coverage. Although Mannell was quick to note there is no direct link between a community's rating and the rates paid by local residents for fire insurance, that businesses in the Township, which normally negotiate their insurance rates, should be sure to tell their agents about any fire protection systems, such as sprinkler systems or centrally monitored alarms, which they have in place. They should also feel free to bring up the Township's improved fire safety rating as part of those negotiations. ~

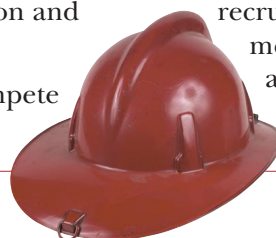
Infernal tower rises from ashes *(Continued from front cover)*

As permanent structures, the safety training complex will eliminate the time-consuming requirement of setting up and breaking down the Company's training apparatus around each session. The result: more training hours per session, shorter drive times, and more advanced training capability. As a bonus, Cranberry's police department will be able to use the facility – which is right next to its practice firing range – for emergency training of its own officers, as well.

At the same time, Township fire company administrator Mark Nanna points out, the Township's new training capability will not duplicate the County's own training curriculum. "Ours is more hands-on," he noted. "Theirs are mostly state-certified classes, while ours are more in-house training – where our own people are training our own people. They won't get a certificate here; our facility is strictly to prepare them to take their state certification and to refresh them."

"We are not trying to compete with Butler Academy,"

Public Safety Director Steve Mannell added. "We are trying to make day-to-day, on-the-job training more effective for our fire fighters and for the surrounding municipalities. A new volunteer who comes in and needs the full spectrum of fire fighter training would be able to do some of it here, but not all of it. Making training more convenient for our firefighters is just another part of Cranberry's strategy for recruiting and retaining members so we can remain an all-volunteer service." ~



*Firefighter profile...***Burning Love: Newlyweds Steve And Betsy Tedesco Fight Fires – Not One Another**

Sirens truly sounded when Steve and Betsy Tedesco first met in 2002. He had just started working as an ER technician at UPMC's Passavant Hospital, and she was an EMT with the Cranberry Ambulance Corps. Both were also volunteer firefighters.

"I was in Ross as a firefighter and paramedic," recalls Steve. "Betsy was a firefighter with the Zelienople Volunteer Fire Department, and our paths would never have crossed except at a hospital. But because I was working at Passavant, we met when her ambulance brought someone in."

Now, four years later, and after celebrating their first wedding anniversary, the two are fighting fires together – the only married couple in Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company still in active service.

"It's hard to talk about the fire service with other people my age, but it's always been easy to talk to Steve about what's going on in my life," says Betsy, 24, who recognized him as her soul mate by his sooty face and black fingernails. "Steve's not the office type, he likes to get his hands dirty, too. And he doesn't judge me when my face is dirty from fighting fires."

A native of Zelienople, Betsy began following in her father's firefighting boot-steps when she was just a sophomore at Seneca Valley High School. "My dad gave me the application to be a volunteer firefighter

because he thought it would be interesting for me to do this when I was in school, and that it was something we could do together." At the time, she remembers thinking he was crazy. "Being a female and just 16, I didn't think I could do it."

But with her father's steady encouragement, Betsy became a firefighter and then an Emergency Medical Technician following her high school graduation in 2000. Now, in addition to working as a registered nurse in the emergency room at UPMC Passavant, Betsy is also attending the University of Pittsburgh for her Master of Science in Nursing. Her ultimate goal: to become a flight nurse.

It was different for Steve. By the time he graduated from North Catholic High School in 1999, Steve knew what he wanted to do with his life. "Firefighting has been my true passion since I was 17. It's that adrenaline rush of never knowing what to expect when you get to the scene."

Steve became a registered EMT paramedic in 2003 – the same year

he received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Duquesne University. He is now in the initial stages of earning his certification as a Fire Service instructor.

Busy with school, firefighting, and paramedic service, Steve had little time for socializing. But Betsy understood that when the pager goes off, dates get cancelled. "We're both on-call all the time, and it's a mutual understanding," she said.

Today, their lives revolve around accident scenes, burning buildings and the camaraderie of the fire company. "This is a very interesting and lifelong learning career," said Steve, who now works as an EMS specialist with pre-hospital care, based out of UPMC's Magee Women's Hospital.

Two years ago, the Tedescos moved into Cranberry; they joined the Township's Volunteer Fire Company that August. "The fire company is one big family, and you have to trust everyone," Betsy noted. "I do it for the satisfaction of coming home at night knowing I did something for my community." ~

"Steve's not the office type, he likes to get his hands dirty, too. And he doesn't judge me when my face is dirty from fighting fires."



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

Dear Fellow Resident:

The following article marks the start of a new feature in CranberryToday: individual commentaries by our five Supervisors. Over the coming year, every issue will carry an article by a different Board member. Together, we hope they will help you better understand the thinking behind the policies we are responsible for enacting. We'd also like to hear back from you; so please feel free to respond to us individually or collectively about the points of view represented here.

– John Miliuis CHAIRMAN, CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

First Impression: Is Cranberry Spending Our Tax Dollars Wisely?

by Bruce Mazzoni, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



I have spent my entire career in private industry. I love the dynamics of business, and I pay close attention to companies'

financial reports which tell the real story of how they're doing and where they're going. Success in the private sector is usually measured in terms of profits and growth. But in the public sector, it works a little differently. Whereas growth in private industry wins praise from investors, growth in government gains the scorn of taxpayers. So how does Cranberry Township's government measure up?

If it were in the private sector, Cranberry Township would easily qualify as a mid-size business. It has more than a hundred full-time employees – not including another 200 summer part-timers – assets of around \$100 million and a budget of nearly \$30 million a year. Forty percent of that budget revenue comes as direct taxes from residents and businesses. The rest comes from user fees collected for services including sewage, water, garbage collection, the WaterPark and the golf course. Each of these services operates as a business with its own budget and balance sheet. And each is expected to recover its own costs

in addition to providing excellent value, which they do.

But what about the \$12 million General Fund, which is financed with direct taxes? That's the one that pays for police and code administration and parks and roads, among other things. Is Cranberry as efficient with those tax dollars as it is with user fees?

A family earning \$75,000 a year and living in a home worth \$200,000 will pay Cranberry a total of \$659 in taxes a year in real estate and income tax *combined*. For this they receive, 24/7 police and fire service, public parks, upkeep of traffic signals, maintaining over 100 miles of roads, a first-rate public library and a full-service municipal center.

That same family will likely pay \$900+ a year for basic cable and internet service, another \$4,122 in state income taxes, and \$7,291+ to the

federal government – and that's not even counting their county or school taxes. "Cranberry delivers a lot of essential services for a lot less money than most people realize."

At the same time, however, Cranberry's cost of doing business continues to rise with higher fuel prices, health care costs, and so on. And while the Township's revenue

from its earned income tax grows as personal incomes increase, revenues from real estate tax stay flat because property values here haven't been reassessed since 1969. So sometimes, just to keep up with inflation, property taxes have had to rise. Even so, after inflation, a resident in Cranberry pays less in local property tax today than they did 10 years ago.

Part of the reason is that for some years now, Cranberry has benefited from all the new growth taking place here. The income it produces has allowed Cranberry's government to expand its services in step with a growing population. But we have only so much land to develop, and once it's built up, that growth

will stop. So our real challenge will be to make sure that when it happens, we end up with a level of government services we can afford and that can support the mature community we will have become.

"Cranberry delivers a lot of essential services for a lot less money than most people realize."

Pacing growth at a sustainable level over time is a challenge for any organization, public or private. And Cranberry is no exception. But as a private sector veteran, I have been impressed with how well Cranberry is run and I am optimistic that this efficiency can be sustained. To learn more, click 'finance and taxes' on our Web site home page. ~

You can reach Bruce Mazzoni at: brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net

COMMENTARY

In Briefs...

Must Love Dogs. The effort to build and maintain an area for dogs to run off-leash in Cranberry's Community Park is leaping forward, according to the Township's Parks & Recreation Director, Mike Diehl. A committee of local dog park advocates is now taking the lead in seeking private financing for the park as well as in formulating its operating and maintenance procedures. The committee is seeking contributions from individuals as well as from area businesses. And support from civic and service organizations, led by the Cranberry Township Rotary Club, has been growing. Anyone interested and available to help is invited to contact Diehl at 724-776-4806 x1127.

Happy Campers. Camp Cranberry, the Township's popular summer youth program, has expanded its weekly Pee Wee Camp sessions to accommodate an additional 15 children ages 4 to 6 during its morning sports camps as well as its afternoon theme weeks. Also new in 2006 is a Counselors-in-Training Leadership camp for 13- to 15-year olds who are interested in becoming counselors in future years. In addition to building up the program's future staff levels, Cranberry's CIT camps provide an opportunity for young teens to see whether careers in early childhood development, education, or youth work would be a good fit. Call 724-776-4806 x1129 for more details.

Fall in Line. Walk-in and on-line registration for Cranberry's fall 2006 schedule of Parks & Recreation programs will open at 8:30 the morning of August 19. Program guides describing the offerings will be mailed in mid-August. Copies will also be available from the Parks & Recreation information desk at that time.

For New Residents Only. The Township mails packets of important information about living in Cranberry to new residents all year long. If you didn't get one, call 724-776-4806 and we'll send yours out right away.

Cranberry Cup Runneth Over.

The sixth annual weekend-long edition of this highly successful neighborhood softball tournament and fund-raiser will begin Friday August 4th with a golf outing at Cranberry Highlands. Registration and lunch begin at 10:30 with tee off time beginning at noon. The official Kick-Off party begins at 7:00 PM that evening. The softball games themselves begin at 10:00 in Community Park. Championship playoff games begin at 6:00 PM on Sunday. More information is available at: www.cranberrycup.org.

Gym Takes a Breather. Cranberry's Municipal Center gymnasium is scheduled to have its floors refinished starting August 18. Work will begin after the final summer camp session and conclude by Monday, August 28. The gym will be out of service while work is underway.

Skatepark Has it Made in the Shade.

Thanks to a generous grant from Connecticut's McKenzie Foundation, Cranberry's popular skatepark, behind the Municipal Center, now has shade and screening trees. In addition to being in constant use during fair weather, the park has brought several additional benefits: a sharp reduction in the potentially dangerous situations formerly encountered by skateboarders in the Township and an 85% reduction in the amount of cleanup previously caused by unauthorized skateboarding in Cranberry's parks.

Happy Anniversary! Plains Presbyterian Church – Cranberry's first church – celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the Cranberry Historical Society will dedicate an historical marker at the church on Sunday morning, July 23, beginning at 10:00.

Firehouse Tours. Fire safety demonstrations using 'Hazard House,' a specialized instructional tool to help visualize household fire risks and related prevention measures, can be safely arranged by contacting the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company at 724-776-1196. Business-oriented fire safety programs as well as guided tours of the Township's two fire stations are also available by request.

Thorn Hill 5k Race. Applications are now available for the 17th annual Thorn Hill 5K Race & Walk, scheduled for Sunday, July 30 at 8:00 AM. Early registration fee is \$15 for runners and wheelchair racers. After July 20, registration is \$17. Registration fee for walkers is \$8. All pre-registered individuals are guaranteed a race-shirt. Proceeds benefit the Chamber Foundation which awards three \$1,000 scholarships annually to outstanding high school seniors from Seneca Valley, Mars Area, and North Allegheny High Schools. For additional information, call the Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce office at 724-776-4949.

A Taste of Cranberry. The annual "A Taste of Cranberry," a showcase for the specialties of dozens of Cranberry Area restaurateurs, is scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 13. Tickets go on sale on August 21. For more information, call the Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce office at 724-776-4949.

'Thursdays In The Park' Marks Its 2006 Season With Catered Concert Meals

Music lovers, fresh air lovers, and food lovers will have a lot in common this summer. A series of seven outdoor concerts in Cranberry's Community Park, which feature an assortment of musical styles, opened on June 15 with the Caribbean sounds of the Ambridge High School Steel Drum Band and food selections prepared by the North Park Deck House.

Cranberry's free 2006 *Thursdays in the Park* summer music series will continue on the lawn at the Rotary Amphitheatre in Community Park through mid-August. All concerts begin at 7:00pm.

For the first time this year, concert-goers can also plan on dining in the park at each event. A winning selection of food and beverage items will be available for sale by members of Cranberry Rotary at the concert site. Menu selections will include Italian hoagies, turkey wraps, pulled pork, meatball, and mild Italian sausage sandwiches at \$4.00 each; coleslaw or pasta salads at \$2.00; fresh fruit with yogurt dip or a veggie assortment with ranch dressing for \$3.50; soft drinks or bottled water for \$1.25; chips for 75¢ a bag; sandwich and drink together for \$5.00, or combinations of sandwich, slaw or pasta and drink for \$6.25.

All performances in Cranberry's summer concert series are supported, in part, by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. ~



Off with a bang. Cranberry's popular 'Thursdays in the Park' summer concert series got off to a strong start on June 15 with members of the Ambridge High School Steel Drum Band beating out calypso rhythms in front of an audience estimated at 1,000.



Upcoming concerts in this popular outdoor series will include:

Thursday, July 13

Dwayne Dolphin

Jazz instrumental

Sponsored by Northland Lincoln Mercury – Cranberry Township

Thursday, July 20

Burgh Big Band

Big band standards

Sponsored by North Pittsburgh Telephone Company

Thursday, July 27

The Eldorado Band

Country

Sponsored by Northland Ford – Zelienople

Thursday, August 3

Pittsburgh Banjo Club

American classics

Sponsored by North Pittsburgh Telephone Company

Thursday, August 10

Donna Bailey

Jazz vocal

Sponsored by Friends of the Park

Special bonus concert, especially for young families...

Tuesday, July 11

Joe Negri and the Neighborhood Friends

Music for young children from the cast of 'Mister Rogers Neighborhood'

Sponsored by North Pittsburgh Telephone Company

For more information, call

724-776-4806

or visit us online at

www.cranberrytownship.org

Different strokes...

Golf Instructor Matt Black Joins Cranberry Highlands Staff

The first photo showing PGA Apprentice Matt Black holding a golf club was taken when he was just a toddler of 18 months. But, as he recently recalled, he didn't get all that serious about the game until much later – when he was eight. And he has remained serious ever since, scoring a stunning 68 the first time he played Cranberry Highlands this year.

So this past March, Black, who until recently worked for the Brackenridge Heights Country Club, was appointed Cranberry Highlands' teaching professional, providing individual lessons as well as group clinics and semi-private instruction for golfers and wannabe golfers of every age and level of experience. It is hard work, often with 12-hour days, six days a week, at the peak of the summer season. But it is work he finds particularly rewarding.

"I don't teach everybody the same way," Black said. "Everybody is

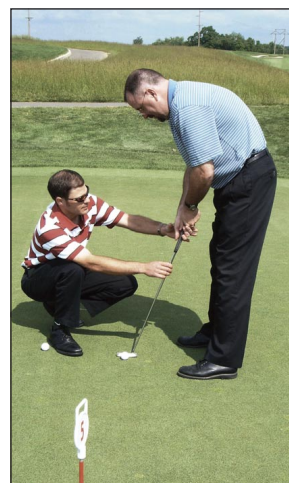
unique. There's not one perfect golf swing and there never will be because everybody has a different body type, size, shape, strength level. So I work with what their natural abilities are. And I never teach people my own swing."

Children make up a huge share of Black's instructional business with nearly 200 enrolled in Junior Clinic programs so far. "Right now, the children outnumber the adults in the instructional program, which is good, because they're the future of our business," he said.

"We try to get them all on the same page with fundamentals," Black continued. "If you have the fundamentals, you can play anywhere. It's just a matter of hitting the ball where it needs to be hit. And every golf course is different. If you're hitting the ball straight and into the fairway, you can play any golf course. But in golf, you're not going to hit everything perfectly.

It doesn't matter who you are. That's why I love this game so much; it's that challenging. There's never going to be 100 percent perfection in this game. Everybody hits a shot that they don't like; everybody gets the bad shot now and then."

For more information about golf instruction at Cranberry Highlands, click on the Web site at www.cranberryhighlands.com. ~



Putting around. Cranberry Highlands Golf Course teaching pro Matt Black, left, provides instruction for players of every age and at every level of the game.

Inflatable Pool Owners Go Off The Deep End

Inexpensive, popular plastic pools flunk Township safety tests

Private backyard swimming pools have long been a status symbol – a luxury only the privileged few could afford. But the recent introduction of inexpensive inflatable pools have opened the gates of ownership to just about everyone. Problem is, every pool requires a permit in Cranberry and most of the new inflatables fail to meet Township safety regulations.

Cranberry's pool, spa, and hot tub regulations, which are part of the state code the Township adopted in 2004, apply to any above-ground or in-ground pool more than 24 inches deep, regardless of how much water it actually contains. And it applies to

temporary pools as well as permanent ones. Although those regulations are highly detailed and complex, their essence is quite simple: any pool deep enough for a child to drown in must be built to keep young children out.

In most cases that means surrounding the pool with a four-foot high fence and equipping that fence with locks and gates that a small child would not be able to operate. It also affects the placement of the pool with respect to natural or manmade objects which would allow a child to enter the pool area by climbing on them.

Anyone who contemplates adding a pool to their home should first



Deep doo doo. Inflatable backyard pools are popular and affordable, but they fail to meet Cranberry's safety requirements and can create significant liabilities for their owners as well as the possibility of receiving citations.

contact Ron Henshaw, Manager of Code Administration for Cranberry's Community Development Department. Don't rely on the pool or fence installer to provide the guidance required for receiving a Township permit. ~

SEPTEMBER

FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3	MON 4	LABOR DAY All Township offices closed		TUES 5	Planning Commission Meeting Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Tenant Conference Rm, 7 pm Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm			WED 6	2-year old's Storytime Library, 7 pm		THURS 7	2-year old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Meeting Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm			
FRI 8	SAT 9 Puppy Plunge Pre-registration required Waterpark			SUN 10	MON 11	TUES 12	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm Historical Society Presentation Joe Bullick, 7 pm		WED 13	2-year old's Storytime Library, 7 pm A Taste of Cranberry Municipal Ctr, 4:30 – 7 pm Backyard Composting Class Pre-registration required Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm		THURS 14	2-year old's Storytime Library, 11 am Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 9:30 am				
FRI 15	SAT 16	SUN 17	Kids All American Fishing Derby Pre-registration required Waterpark		MON 18	Registration Deadline 4th Annual Tennis Tournament Registration Deadline October Backyard Composting class		TUES 19	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm		WED 20	2-year old's Storytime Library, 7 pm		THURS 21	2-year old's Storytime Library, 11 am		SAT 22
SAT 23	4th Annual Tennis Tournament Pre-registration required Community Park, 9 am – 4 pm			SUN 24	MON 25	Planning Commission Meeting Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm		TUES 26	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm		WED 27	Board of Supervisors Meeting Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm		THURS 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	Final Day to pay SVSD real estate tax at 2% discount

Inside Iron Mountain's Rich Data Mine

Law, economics, and fear drive customers to store vital records in the company's Cranberry facility

Behind layers of high-tech security surrounding a nondescript industrial building on Freedom Road, more than 1.5 million cartons of business records dating back as far as the early '90s are stacked on shelves towering as much as 60 feet above floor level. Although most are eventually destroyed unopened, approximately one in ten are called back at some point. And their numbers are growing. In fact, at its current rate of around 1,000 new cartons arriving each day, Iron Mountain's record storage building in Cranberry will be full in less than two years, according to company Vice President Tom Roth. Why?

Mushrooming business

Back in the darkest days of the Cold War, when the prospect of a nuclear conflict with the former Soviet Union seemed a distinct possibility, Herman Knaust, an entrepreneur from upstate New York had an idea: what if a company's vital records were spared destruction even though the company itself might have been damaged in a nuclear attack? Couldn't those records allow that company or its successors to eventually return to something like normal? No one knew for sure.

But to Knaust, it was more than just an abstract idea; as the owner of an abandoned iron mine in Germantown, New York – one big enough and deep enough to safeguard millions of file cartons against even a direct nuclear strike – it was also an opportunity. Although an earlier attempt to farm mushrooms in the mine had failed, by 1951 the Korean War had become a reality and the threat of an even wider nuclear conflict was on the rise.

So he renamed the mine "Iron Mountain Atomic Storage," and promoted his bomb-resistant warehouse to New York's business community, which at that point was more worried about mushroom clouds than edible fungi.

Iron rules

Over time, the threat of nuclear war receded. But the storage business did not. Instead, what began driving companies to store their records in Iron Mountain's expanding network of aboveground and underground facilities was simple economics: files take up space. Particularly in hospitals and corporate office buildings, the cost of maintaining extensive files became prohibitive. So off-site record storage became an attractive alternative.

Then there was the matter of law – actually, a series of laws, regulations and courtroom precedents designed to protect consumers, investors, employees, patients and litigants against a variety of abuses. By the early '90s, satisfying record retention requirements and implementing procedures to access those records had become prerequisites to operating in the Information Age. And Iron Mountain's services expanded to meet those needs.

Of course, there was still the fear factor. Although worries about enemy strikes had largely faded after the Cold War ended – the attacks of September 11 quickly re-established the value of off-site record storage. As a result, 145 of Iron Mountain's customers with offices in the World Trade Center were able to recover some sense of normalcy after 2001.



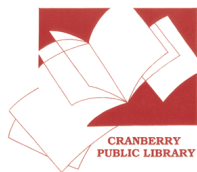
Record heights. Cartons holding millions of business records from some of Iron Mountain's 90,000 clients are stacked in the company's secure storage facility in Cranberry Township. The mushrooming growth in documents of every sort has helped to propel the company's own record management business worldwide, according to Vice President Tom Roth.

Why Cranberry?

Today, the 45 employees at Iron Mountain's Cranberry facility serve corporate and public sector clients from western New York to western Maryland, from eastern Ohio to central Pennsylvania. And demand for the safekeeping of film, electronic files and other media, in addition to paper documents, has continued to explode and to help feed a sister storage facility – one of the company's largest – which is also located in western Pennsylvania, inside a sprawling former limestone mine.

But, as a \$2 billion business committed to storing and protecting its clients' information, the company's guidelines for selecting its Cranberry site went beyond the usual criteria of convenient highway access, workforce availability, and local market demand. "We also looked for seismic stability and low chance of flooding," Roth noted, "we're a paranoid company." ~

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.



Library Use Continues To Climb Despite, Or Maybe Because Of, The Internet

The first "State of America's Libraries"

report, which examines Americans' perceptions and use of public libraries, was released April 4 by the American Library Association. In the survey, conducted for the ALA and The Campaign for America's Libraries by the independent KRC Research firm, Americans identified the four most important characteristics or services of public libraries as being: that the services are free (79%), that the library "is a place where I can learn for a lifetime" (71%), that "it enhances my education" (65%) and that "it provides information for school and work" (65%). In addition, three-quarters of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that "because it provides free access to materials and resources, the public library plays an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed."

Almost two-thirds of U.S. citizens now hold library cards, and most visit the library in person at least once a year, the study found. While they are in the library, their use of electronic resources as well as audio and video materials has been increasing. In the Cranberry Public Library, Internet use rose eight percent in 2005 from 2004. Multi-media circulation at Cranberry was up five percent over the same period.

Virtually all public libraries in the U. S. now offer public access to the Internet through library-owned computers. In addition, Cranberry Public Library provides wireless Internet capability for anyone whose laptop is equipped with a wireless network card. Not only is Cranberry Public Library adapting in the Internet Age, it continues to play a vital role in the community as a place of information, self-help, and lifelong learning. ~



Paws, Claws, Scales, & Tales

The statewide theme for public libraries participating in the 2006 Summer Reading Program is "Paws, Claws, Scales, & Tales." Cranberry's own Summer Reading Program runs through July 21st. This year the Library is having a bike raffle benefiting the children's summer reading program, co-sponsored by Owl Cleaners and Scholl's Bike Shop.

Township Adds Drain Brain To Public Works Staff

Pretreatment Coordinator to work with non-residential sewage customers

Protecting the delicate biology of Cranberry's Brush Creek sewage treatment process and helping to keep its collection system from clogging with fats, oils and grease, will be among the primary responsibilities of Mark J. Wolinsky, Cranberry's newly-appointed Pretreatment Coordinator.

On June 21 Wolinsky became Cranberry's liaison with its non-commercial sewer service customers. Earlier water analyses, as well as the preliminary results of a survey conducted this spring by the Township's Public Works department, found that some of the liquid wastes being discharged into local sewer lines had the

potential for hurting Cranberry's treatment method.

That's because the treatment process at the Brush Creek facility uses aerobic digestion – reducing organic substances in sewage sludge through the use of living microorganisms. Protecting those tiny organisms requires aerating the tanks so they can breathe as well as providing them with ample food throughout the year.

But even though these microscopic life forms thrive on wastes that would repel any ordinary person, they have no tolerance for certain industrial chemicals, which can quickly kill them. So making sure those chemicals never enter the

system helps to safeguard the plant's treatment capacity.

Likewise, cooking fats and grease can coat, and eventually block, the lines which carry wastewater to the plant from homes, restaurants, and institutional kitchens. In addition to causing unpleasant backups into sinks, toilets and bathtubs, blocked sewer lines create serious public health and environmental hazards.

A detailed ordinance regulating the discharge of various problem materials into the municipal sewer system and mandating the use of various pretreatment and grease trapping technologies, will be considered later this summer. ~



Township Forages For Cash In Residents' Trash

Better than average recycling rate means better than average income for Cranberry

It's been over a year and a half now since Cranberry residents were introduced to a whole new system for recycling glass, plastics, paper, and metal. And the apparent rate of success has been spectacular. Earlier studies showed that the total volume of material residents put into their recycling carts under the Township's Collection Connection™ system had skyrocketed from just nine percent in 2003 to nearly 40 percent by late last year. But how much of that was really made up of materials that simply can't be accepted for recycling – things like garbage and kids' toys and tree stumps?

According to the state Department of Environmental Protection, which gives municipalities cash awards to help encourage recycling, the average amount of unacceptable materials mixed in with the real recyclables comes to 15 percent of the total. So they deduct that from their grant, which for Cranberry totaled \$52,000 in 2004. But what if the amount of unacceptable waste were actually much lower – say, 5 percent or 10 percent? Under the DEP formula, if a lower rate could be proven, it would make the payment substantially larger. It was a challenge that Cranberry decided was worth accepting.

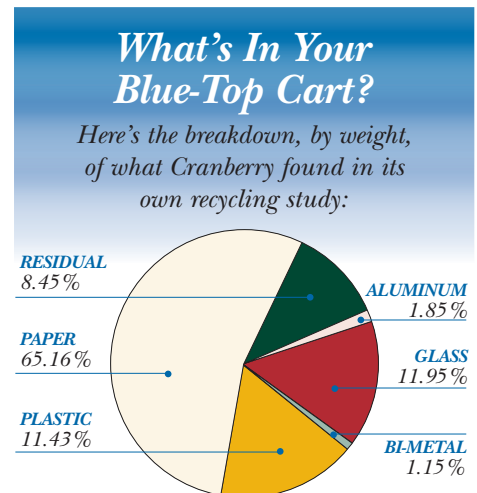
Based on what it kept hearing from Tri-County Recycling – the unit of Vogel Disposal that sorts recyclables collected in Cranberry – Township officials believed that their residents did a lot better than the state average in recycling the right items. So they set out to validate that impression. The technique was straightforward: pick through an average load of recyclables collected in Cranberry, sort it, weigh the

various materials, and see how much was really unacceptable – 'residual,' as DEP calls it.

On Monday afternoon of May 8, instead of delivering the items collected that day to Tri-County Recycling in Mars, the Vogel recycling truck emptied its entire 7,200 pound load in the Township's own Public Works garage. The following morning, twenty Township employees – engineers, administrators, customer service employees, and others – showed up to sort through the massive pile and get to the bottom of the matter. And by 4:30 that day, the verdict was in.

Sure enough, Cranberry's rate of residual waste was below 15 percent – well below it. In fact, by weight, the inappropriate discards amounted just under 8.5 percent – almost half the rate assumed by DEP. And some of that actually consisted of material which was the right composition for recycling – such as waterbed mattresses, garden hoses, and large plastic toys – but was in the wrong form for Tri-County's pick line to process. The volume of hard-core garbage found in the load was actually very small.

So what does that mean? According to Lorin Meeder, Cranberry's solid waste program coordinator, it means big bucks. The state formula for determining payments to municipalities – so-called 904 Performance Grants – is a complex one, Meeder pointed out in a June 1 presentation to the Township Board of Supervisors. But when all the numbers are crunched, Cranberry's grant comes close to \$145,000. Although those funds would not be received for at least another year, it is enough to continue improving the service while holding down its costs to residents, he said. ~



Dumpster dive.
Twenty Township workers volunteered to sort through more than 7,200 pounds of material collected from residents' recycling carts that day and unloaded into Cranberry's Public Works building. Their goal: to determine how much of it was actually acceptable in the recycling program.

Where Did My Pepsi Bottle Go?

With today's advanced recycling technology, it may be right under your feet

In her office at Tri-County Recycling – the recycling arm of Vogel Disposal on the edge of Mars – Assistant Manager Cheryl Sloan shows her visitor a swatch of soft blue carpet. “Where do you think this comes from?” she asked her guest. The surprise answer, it turns out, is from pop bottles – the clear variety known in the industry as Poly Ethylene Terephthalate, or PET for short, that carries the #1 identification in its recycling symbol.

“And look at this,” she continued, handing her visitor a blue pencil. “What do you think this is made from?” The unexpected answer: denim – the same denim used in blue jeans and various high fashion garments.

Although clothing is not currently among the items eligible for recycling in the Collection Connection™ program, in one instance after another, materials discarded by Cranberry residents as recyclable waste are coming back to life in entirely new forms. Of course, recycling has long been recognized as beneficial to the environment. But for Tri-County as for many other firms involved in the low-profile industry of buying, brokering, and reselling recycled commodities, it is also a major business.

In fact, according to the state’s DEP Web site, just collecting, sorting and aggregating recyclable materials – the first steps in the recycling

process – accounts for nearly 10,000 employees in Pennsylvania, with a payroll of \$284 million and annual sales of \$2.3 billion. And that doesn’t even count the tens of thousands more involved in the actual conversion of recyclables into products.

Back in the 1980’s, when consumer recycling first came into vogue, it was a more difficult business. People weren’t in the habit of recycling, so the initial volumes were modest – which was a serious problem for anyone trying to scratch out a living in the commodity business. Then there was the challenge of reprocessing: most companies simply weren’t set up to process recycled material. Their equipment was designed to start from raw ore or petroleum or wood chips, and they just couldn’t use the recycled items.

There was also price volatility; at one point newsprint fetched nearly \$250 a ton, and scavengers would steal them from the curb, effectively robbing the legitimate collector. Then, just as quickly, the price tanked, and newsprint became impossible to unload at just about any price. So a lot of recycled items ended up in landfills – precisely the opposite of what had been intended.

That was then.

Today, market prices still fluctuate, driven by seasonal factors, transportation costs, and raw material prices. It’s also become a global

market, with new industrial giants like China buying recycled cardboard, plastic, and steel by the shipload. But the demand for recycled material is much wider now, and the equipment for using it far better established than in the past.

For paper products – which represent two-thirds of the material collected from Cranberry residents – wholesale prices currently range from as little \$40 a ton for certain grades of newspaper, to more than \$200 for computer laser paper. Clear PET soda bottles command in excess of \$400 a ton. And aluminum cans – the crown jewel of recycled materials – fetch a whopping \$1,800 a ton, although it takes 54,000 of them to reach that weight.

At Tri-County, sorting the mix of material coming into the plant is primarily accomplished by hand; each of the dozen or so employees working a fast-moving conveyor belt is assigned to grab one or two specific types of materials and put them down the proper chutes. Eventually, the material is clustered into more than two dozen different types and readied for shipment to reprocessors. And now, with an annual average of 339 pounds of material recycled per person in the U.S. and counting, the end is nowhere in sight. ~



Ditch Unwanted Cardboard Boxes, Free!

Cranberry Township, in cooperation with Vogel Disposal, is now offering residents new option for getting rid of cardboard boxes. A steel container has been placed at the back of the Municipal Center’s rear parking lot, solely for residents’ use in recycling

cardboard. Before placing them into the container, boxes must be folded down and all other packaging items – Styrofoam blocks, plastic peanuts, air pillows, and so on – must be removed. The container is available 24/7, and it’s yours to use free of charge. ~

That's a big ten-four *(Continued from front cover)*

have the trained people to do an evaluation of the truck," Public Safety Director Steve Mannell recalled. "But as we got bigger, we were able to train people. We now have two officers that are certified truck inspectors – officers Hahn and Marshall. And one of our new guys also has some background in truck inspections, so we'll possibly have a third.

Last year, Township police performed 65 truck inspections, and only a few of them were triggered by accidents. "It's an effort to make sure they're safe," Mannell said. "So we pull them over and inspect them. It might be triggered by a moving violation. But it can also be triggered by the officers who have the certification to do truck inspections. And the other officers, if they know one of the inspectors is on

duty, will call to report that it looks like someone has a load that's not properly tied down or that there's a trailer behind this truck which doesn't appear to have chains. And our guys out there enforcing the law know how dangerous those conditions can be."

To become a certified DOT inspector, an officer must first go through a series of training classes. The truck training segment alone takes two weeks. And annual re-certification requires the officer to perform at least 30 truck inspections a year. "Some trucks have only one brake operating with the rest out of adjustment or brake hoses are frayed, leaking hydraulic fluid," Mannell said. "Load securing is a state inspection pass/fail issue too. If they don't have the equipment on board to properly secure their load, they have to park it until they get the right kind of cable to secure that load. The inspectors also look at tires; they look at the air hoses between the truck and the trailer. And we report every inspection to the DOT listing the times, what the log book reveals, what the inspection

reveals, what the issues were, what actions were taken, any citations and warnings."

Yet even though Cranberry now has its own truck inspection capability, it doesn't always act alone. "We also do truck inspections in cooperation with the State Police DOT inspectors," Mannell explained. "We don't normally go onto I-79, but when our truck inspectors are working, it doesn't take very long for truck drivers to get the word via CB radio that Cranberry has its inspectors out on Rt. 19. What normally happens then is that the trucks try to avoid 19 and go on 79. So a lot of times we'll coordinate with the State Police DOT truck inspectors who are on 79 at the same times we're on Rt. 19.

"Historically, we've had a problem with truckers, especially on Rt. 19," he continued. "The trucking world knows we're out there. If they have an accident, they're going to get a full inspection. They know they might get stopped. So is it a deterrent? Yes it is. It helps get bad trucks off our highways, and that's what we're trying to do." ~



The truck stops here. Cranberry police cited the driver of this rig on Rt. 228 after its load of steel coils, illegally secured with canvas straps alone, shifted and rolled onto the highway as well as into his cab. Township police have stepped up their truck safety inspections over the past two years.

One Of Life's Two Certainties Is Coming Due

County and Township real estate taxes, which were due at face value until June 30, may be paid at the penalty rate through the end of the year, according to tax collector P.J. Lynd. The School District's real estate tax bill, which includes a newly enacted 5 mill increase to 125.39 mills, will be mailed August 1 and may be paid at a two percent discount until September 30. The tax can be paid at face value from October 1 until November 30.

Lynd's Municipal Center office hours are Monday 9:00 to 6:00, Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 to 4:30, and Friday 9:00 to 3:00. The office will also be open the last Saturday in the discount period, September 30, from 9:00 to noon. Appointments can also be arranged at other times by calling 724-776-1103 or by fax at 724-776-3011. ~

Emergency? What Emergency?

Township updates emergency management plan, trains for incidents



As important as they may be, and despite the exciting issues they address, Emergency Management Plans seldom make for riveting reading. “They are mostly only read by their authors,” Cranberry’s Public Safety Director Steve Mannell acknowledged. “They’re boring.”

Even so, as the final step in a long series of official acts which began after the 9/11 attacks five years ago, Cranberry Township adopted a revised Emergency Management Plan on June 1.

The updated plan, which essentially enacts a generic planning structure

approved earlier by Butler County officials, attempts to prepare the Township for crises arising from a variety of natural and manmade disasters. Among them: chemical spills, civil disturbances, floods, epidemics, blizzards, tornados, and “mass casualty” events – presumably including further acts of terrorism.

Elements of the Township’s plan include preparing an inventory of local resources and checklists, an evacuation plan, a public notification plan, and a specific response strategy for protecting the community’s water system. Implementation of the plan

is being overseen by the Township’s Emergency Management Agency coordinator, Lee Nanna.

In a related development, personnel representing all levels of the Township’s police, fire, and EMS services are completing the curricula mandated by the National Incident Management System, NIMS, which requires first responders to have certain levels of training. Although incident management training programs have been in place for years, they have seen a renewed emphasis since 9/11, according to Cranberry Police Lieutenant Jeffrey Schueler. ~

Be Prepared: *It’s not just for Scouts anymore*



The problem with disasters is they don’t usually announce themselves ahead of time. Once they arrive, it’s too late to start preparing. The government’s slow initial response to victims of Hurricane Katrina was a wake-up call for all Americans, including those living far from the hurricane’s path, that underscored the importance of personal preparedness. So developing your own family disaster plan, and preparing ahead of time to survive at least three days without utilities or public services, is prudent. Why? Because a major disaster is also likely to disrupt public services and affect public service workers.

Here are some suggestions from the American Red Cross, an agency that’s always preparing for disasters: There are seven basics you should stock for your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, sanitation needs, and special items. Keep the items you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to carry container such as a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or a duffle bag.

- **Water.** Store one gallon of water per person per day in plastic containers. Your hot water heater also holds plenty, and it will cool down quickly when the heater is shut off.
- **Food.** Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food such as ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and canned juices.
- **First Aid.** Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car including useful non-prescription drugs.
- **Tools and Supplies.** Items such as mess kits, flashlights, money, a battery operated radio, knives, tape, foil, matches, plastic sheeting, a pencil and a fire extinguisher can be essential.
- **Sanitation.** Be sure to pack toilet paper, towelettes, soap, personal hygiene items, and plastic bags.
- **Clothing and Bedding.** Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person. Also include rain gear, blankets, hats, gloves and thermal underwear.
- **Special Items.** Remember family members with special requirements, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons.
- **Important Family Documents.** Keep records of wills, insurance, securities, passports, bank accounts, immunization records and credit cards in a portable, waterproof container.

More ideas about preparing yourself for disaster are available on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association Web site, www.health.state.pa.us. ~

You Load 16 Tons, And Whaddya Get?

Cleaner local roads, for starters

What do a bowling ball, a saxophone case, a computer and a toilet have in common? Give up? They are all among the 30 tons of items which have been collected along local roads in Cranberry by teams of Adopt-a-Roadway volunteers since 1997.

Cranberry's program, which is patterned after the state's very successful Adopt-a-Highway volunteer effort, currently includes 23 volunteer groups who patrol 25 Township roads totaling 29.5 miles. They go out and collect debris at least twice a year. Last year alone, 270 bags of litter weighing in at nearly four tons, were collected by local volunteer groups.

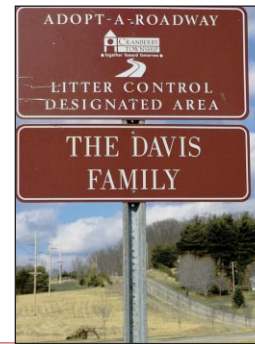
Adopt-a-Roadway volunteers, which include families, businesses, civic

and social organizations, work in cooperation with Cranberry's Public Works department, and their work is acknowledged in signs posted by the roadside. The Township provides volunteers with bags, vests, warning signs, and other safety apparel. Public Works crews later collect and dispose of the collection bags that volunteers leave by the roadside.

To participate in Cranberry's program, volunteers must first sign an agreement accepting the conditions that go with taking responsibility for local roadway cleanup. Among them: guaranteeing their participation for at least two years, with a minimum of two organized cleanup days – spring and fall – each year. Volunteers also agree

to observe a series of safety requirements and recommendations during cleanups. Only those over age 10 may participate, and anyone under 18 must have a parent's signed agreement to take part in the cleanup activity.

Applications to participate in the program are available from the Township's Adopt-A-Roadway coordinator, Barby Cheetham, at 724-776-4806, ext.1500. ~



All in the family.

The Davis family has maintained this stretch of Freshcorn Road in northwestern Cranberry Township for the past seven years. Organizations as well as families are eligible to adopt and clear litter along local roads.

For the most up-to-date information, visit us on-line at www.cranberrytownship.org



2525 Rochester Road, Suite 400
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

724-776-4806
www.cranberrytownship.org

Board of Supervisors

John Milius, CHAIRMAN
Chuck Caputy, VICE CHAIRMAN

Richard Hadley
Bruce Mazzoni
John Skorupan

Jerry Andree, TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Jill Cueni-Cohen *Contributing Writer*
Shelley Notaro *Layout and Design*
Peter Longini *Director, Communications*

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #25
Cranberry Twp., PA
