



Cranberrytoday

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2008 SUMMER EDITION

Put away your sparklers:

Cranberry's Two-Day Community Days Celebration Begins July 11

There will be no fireworks in Cranberry on the Fourth of July this year. You'll have to go to Pittsburgh or Zelie for that. But a spectacular aerial fireworks display will cap the Township's first two-day long Community Days Celebration at 9:30 on Saturday night, July 12 in Community Park.

Cranberry's popular celebration, which draws as many as 25,000 visitors each year, has been re-formatted and extended from noon on Friday, July 11 at the Municipal Center, through to 11:00 PM the following night in Community Park. Coordination of the events is a joint effort of Cranberry Township Community Chest, the Community Day Committee, and Cranberry Township. Here's a rundown of its highlights:

On Friday, July 11, an eat-in or take-out chicken barbecue prepared by Cranberry Township Rotary Clubs will open for business outside the Municipal Center at 11:00 AM and continue until 7:00 PM. The Rotary BBQ represents a return of the club's popular cookout event after a hiatus of several years.

A spectacular aerial fireworks display will cap the Township's first two-day long Community Days celebration at 9:30 on Saturday night, July 12.



At noon on Friday, the Township's Lunchtime Concert Series will open at the Cranberry Rotary Gazebo on the Municipal Center's front lawn with the Greater Cranberry Bogmeisters performing classic barbershop harmonies. Picnic tables will be available for those bringing food to the concert. The Bogmeisters will also perform from 5:00 to 6:00 PM that day at the same location.

A farmers market, on the Municipal Center back parking lot, will also be operating on Friday from 3:30 to 6:00 PM and again on Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the parking lot behind the Rt. 19 Park Fire Station.

On Saturday morning, starting at 11:00 and continuing until 5:00 that afternoon, the Lions Club will offer its pancake specialty at the Community Park Lions Shelter. Official Community Day festivities begin at 3:00 PM with opening ceremonies that include the Cranberry Chorale performing on the multipurpose field community stage.

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Improvements To Rt. 228 Remain In Limbo

Plans for a series of needed capacity improvements along Rt. 228 in Cranberry are still up in the air. But either a joint breakthrough or a final collapse of the complex, long-running, three-way negotiations may come soon, according to Cranberry Township Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. "We're playing a

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Township Revisits Zoning Along Major Roadways

The form-based zoning concept which Cranberry adopted last year – an approach to land use control where development in specified areas of the Township is defined more by physical design than by use – is about to take another step, this time along Cranberry's key transportation corridors.

The Township's initial use of form-based zoning was to allow for mixed-use traditional neighborhood developments similar to Park Place and Bellevue Park – both of which are now underway on farmlands just north of Rochester Road. But those applications were primarily directed toward developments on large, open parcels of land.

"What's left is development and redevelopment along key transportation corridors of the Township," according to Cranberry's Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. "The next phase is to create corridor overlays that will

address the properties along Rt. 19 and other key corridors using a form-based approach."

So what specific forms of construction should people anticipate seeing as a result? "The primary goal is to accommodate and promote pedestrian-oriented mixed-use developments,"

Trant said. "A second goal is high-quality developments that are aesthetically appealing and that help to build the character of Cranberry Township."

At the same time, he acknowledged, mixed use developments which include residential units can be hard to achieve on smaller properties along major highways. But they can be linked to other, more pedestrian-



"The primary goal is to accommodate and promote pedestrian-oriented mixed-use developments."

friendly developments nearby.

"They will be interconnected to allow opportunities for adjacent developments to build and to create a mix of uses," he said. "So there will be vehicular connections, pedestrian connections, and consistency between them in terms of aesthetics. This type of ordinance would help to insure that the kind of development and

redevelopment we get is consistent with the overall vision of where the Township is heading and, at the same time, address property owners' and developers' goals."

Cranberry's Planning Advisory Commission is expected to study the issue this summer and to work on it for several months before taking it to the Board of Supervisors for consideration this fall. ~

Improvements to Rt. 228 remain in limbo *Continued from front cover*

massive game of chicken," Trant said. "It has gone on years and we're all going to lose because no one is giving in. We've value-engineered the project to the point where there's nothing that could possibly be cut and we're still \$8-10 million short. No new funds have been added from where we were two years ago. The Board of Supervisors has considered putting an additional \$2 million of developers' impact fees into the pot, but that still won't get the project built."

There's a lot at stake. "It's remarkable to me that we have almost \$65 million in hand and we can't spend it

because we need an additional \$8-10 million dollars," Trant said. "We can't let that happen. There's money on the table and we have to figure out a way to spend it right now within the tri-party arrangement that was formed to advance the full project"

One approach is to shift gears and start to formulate a Plan B. "If

"We have almost \$65 million in hand and we can't spend it because we need an additional \$8-10 million dollars."

Simon and PennDOT and the Township are not able to work out a tri-party agreement to do the full project from Rt. 19 to Myoma Road in Adams Township, what can Cranberry Township do to make sure there are improvements to that corridor in Cranberry

which would ease traffic for Cranberry residents and business owners?" he asked. "This is really our only opportunity to do that. I don't want to lose the potential \$24 million in state transportation money that was committed prior to Act 44."

But it's an uphill battle, Trant acknowledged. "The climate for transportation improvement statewide is putting a stranglehold on large-scale capacity projects. So we're bucking that trend, trying to keep the project alive. But as the 228 project languishes, other priorities will pull on state money, such as repair projects and bridge projects. We need to actively work with PennDOT to make sure the money that's allocated stays allocated to this project." ~

Survey Puts Cranberry At Or Near The Head Of Its Class

The results of a first-ever survey of Cranberry's residents covering different aspects of life in the Township are in, and they're smashing. Not only were most areas of community life rated as either 'good' or 'excellent' by residents, when their responses were compared to those from more than 200 other municipalities that also participated in the survey, Cranberry's results blew them away.

When asked about opportunities for jobs, shopping, recreation, and access to quality health care, child care, and housing, as well as perceived safety from crime and the quality of the community's parks and recreational services, Cranberry residents put their Township at the 80th percentile or higher. The same was true for youth services as well as for municipal planning, code enforcement, and economic development. And resident contacts with Township staff were rated well in to the 90th percentile range for both courtesy and responsiveness.

Those results may be even better than they look. That's because the communities in the reference group to which Cranberry was compared are themselves atypical. They tend to be above-average communities –

ones willing to take the time to benchmark their performance and to invest in citizen surveys.

Cranberry's survey, which was conducted for the Township by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado, went to a sample of 3,000 randomly selected homes – a huge sample for a community of just 11,000 households. And more than half of them were completed and returned – a virtually unheard-of level of response; most survey professionals consider 30 percent to be a huge success. As a result, there is very high confidence in the accuracy of the survey findings.

"Some of those survey numbers were remarkable," Cranberry Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. observed. "Across the board it was all very positive, it was great. But it's important to look at the survey not only to say okay we're doing great things, but it's also: what can we do even better? What areas do we need to improve?"

"There were no surprises. The challenges identified in the survey were traffic congestion, bike and pedestrian accessibility, culture and diversity – all of which are

high-priorities for the Board of Supervisors and high priorities identified in the Cranberry Plan," he said.

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"We are implementing strategies to continue to address those issues. Traffic congestion and traffic management has historically been a high priority for Cranberry Township. We have

lots of examples of that and we will continue making it a high priority. There was nothing in that survey that told us we were missing the mark in our efforts to implement where the Board wants us to go. We are consistent with where our residents want us to be."

"As far as a follow-up survey is concerned, the Plan will certainly recommend something, but it was actually a Board-driven project; they wanted to do that survey as part of the Cranberry Plan. But it will almost certainly be revisited within a couple years." ~

Survey Highlights:

Hits

Affordable healthcare:

91st percentile

Job opportunities:

94th percentile

As a place to work:

91st percentile

Neighborhood safety at night:

95th percentile

Recreation programs:

94th percentile

Public parking:

94th percentile

Misses

Ease of car travel:

9th percentile

Cultural activities:

17th percentile

As a place to retire:

20th percentile

Street lighting:

20th percentile

Ease of walking:

1st percentile

Bicycle travel:

0 percentile

Township's Long-Range Plan Reaches Halfway Mark

Cranberry's comprehensive planning process is about to reach a milestone. After months of data gathering and background research covering a wide range of topics, a public meeting scheduled for 6:00 on July 31 will give Township residents an opportunity to examine the initial results of that effort.

"We're making a transition from the brainstorming and inventorying and issue identification phases of the project to the analysis and ultimately to the recommendations," Cranberry Township Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. noted.

"The July 31 meeting will be a presentation of everything we've collected to date. And from that point forward, the focus will be on analyzing three hypothetical growth scenarios, assessing their impacts, and identifying ways to best manage future growth using the information from these assessments."

The growth scenarios, which are described in the sidebar below, are not alternative proposals for the Township's future development,

An open house beginning at 3:00 on July 31 will give Township residents an opportunity to examine the initial results.

Trant emphasized. They were created for the purpose of analysis. The plan's final recommendations will likely include elements of all three.

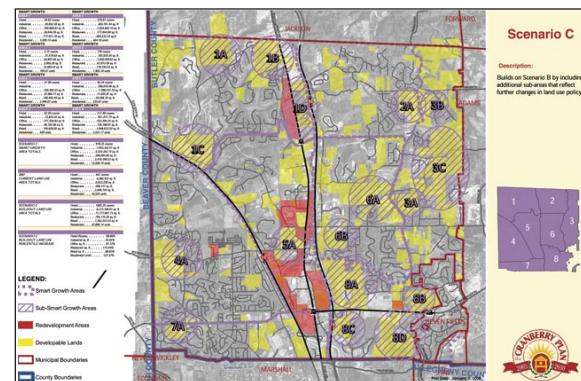
"To get to that point, the staff and consultant team has worked for the last several months on impact assessment," he said.

"There's been a lot of good information coming out of that which will help the Citizens Advisory

Panel and the Steering Committee decide what Cranberry Township's preferred growth pattern should be and why. And a lot of indicators coming out of it are saying that the path we're on now may not be the most sustainable. So it identifies ways we can make sure that 10, 15, 25 years from now, we still are a healthy, vibrant community."

The plan's citizens group, or CAP, along with its half-dozen specialized task forces, was intimately involved in that process. "We've asked the CAP Task Force groups to identify issues in a vacuum and to

brainstorm in order to help us prioritize our planning efforts," Trant said. "There was a huge educational effort with the CAP to identify areas where they felt that they needed to know more about the Township and what affects its future. So there's been an effort at every meeting to help them understand what the Township does and what other elected or appointed officials in the area do that affect them. We held a special intergovernmental panel discussion in May to highlight that. As a result, the CAP has become a tremendous asset to The Cranberry Plan." ~



Setting the Scene. Scenario C, one of three combinations of future policy assumptions, is being used as a tool for planners to analyze how its component parts would play out in terms of population, traffic, and commercial development over The Cranberry Plan's 30-year horizon.

THREE FUTURES

The background information and findings from the early phases of Cranberry's planning effort have been combined into three hypothetical scenarios for purposes of analysis. Here are their essential characteristics:

Scenario A uses Cranberry's current ordinances and policies. It would guide our growth in the same way it has for the last 10-15 years.

Scenario B introduces land use policy changes in certain areas of the Township that would promote more mixed-use development, emphasize traditional neighborhood development, and use Cranberry's newly enacted Form-Based Code to accommodate development focused on pedestrian accessibility, and mixed-use live/work/play in the same development.

Scenario C builds on Scenario B by introducing additional areas of the Township that would be

affected by those same land use policy changes. It effectively increases the magnitude of those land use changes. It's like a Scenario B on steroids.

Scenarios B and C adhere more closely than Scenario A to the Township's Sustainability Principles in their emphasis on increased walking, environmental stewardship, and reduction of car trips. They could also provide more affordable housing to better accommodate Cranberry Township's workforce.

Keeping it going...

Survey Examines Township's Economic Development

Cranberry's economic development has been vigorous for more than a decade. But a strong local economy can't be taken for granted. If a community doesn't offer conditions that encourage private investment, its economy can stagnate and see business moving away, resulting in all sorts of unpleasant problems.

So to make sure the Township's economy remains vital, Cranberry joined with Northeastern University and the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties in becoming a member of the Economic Development Partnership earlier this year and participating in an economic development assessment survey. Its purpose was to help local officials build on the Township's strengths and pinpoint its weaknesses by comparing Cranberry

to a number of other communities on a long list of factors – both positive and negative – which have been found to influence the decisions of corporate site selectors.

Although no overall grades were given, each individual factor was compared to the norms of all the other communities participating in the survey and rated as either stronger, weaker, or average. In Cranberry's case, there were some of each. But its points of comparison were all from out of state.

Its purpose was to help local officials build on the Township's strengths and pinpoint its weaknesses that influence the decisions of corporate site selectors.

"Cranberry Township was the first municipality in Pennsylvania to take the self assessment," Cranberry's Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. observed. "Fifty-three other municipalities have already done it.

"What the Economic Development Partnership did was to identify, through talking with corporate site selectors, the factors they think are the most important influences on site selection for companies like Westinghouse. They take those factors, rank them in order of importance, and ask the community for a wealth of information about how they do things – economic development, land use policies, and so forth. Then they look at how that information compares to what the site selectors think is important. And finally, they compare our results to the other communities that have taken a similar survey."

While a few of the study's findings were genuinely insightful, most confirmed what officials here already suspected. But others seemed downright surprising. Here's a sample of what the survey concluded:

Cranberry's Business Strengths

- Very good highway access
- Well-managed traffic
- Physically attractive
- Wide array of business services
- Focus on attracting certain industry types
- Desirable rental properties
- Uncontaminated greenfield space
- Land available for large developments
- Good workforce mix
- Responsive local government
- Good schools, low crime

Cranberry's Business Weaknesses

- Limited public transit
- Limited parking near development sites
- No overall economic development plan
- High business rental pricing
- No Township-owned development sites
- No tax incentives for development
- No freight rail service

SURVEY

A sampling of the results...



Can't we all just get along?

Panel Explores Issues Hindering Intergovernmental Relations

Understanding government is never easy, and in Pennsylvania, it's especially hard.

Most lifelong residents, and virtually all new arrivals to the region, find the subdivisions of government here, and their relationships to one another, to be confusing.

The responsibilities of municipalities, counties, school

districts, judicial districts, and independent authorities are neither obvious nor consistent from one part of the Commonwealth to another. And that's not even counting the numerous state and federal agencies which maintain a local presence. All their jurisdictions overlap. But their governance, financing, and priorities are separate and distinct, which sometimes leads to inconsistencies and even conflicts.

So on May 6, as part of their work on Cranberry's long range plan, members of its Citizens Advisory Panel spent an evening with representatives of the Township, the County, the Community Development Corporation, the Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the School District, the state Senate, and the



U.S. House of Representatives. Their goal: find out how the different public-sector entities that collectively form their government can work together to accomplish the plan's goals.

What they learned is that there are a number of good models for cooperation already out there. The

Turnpike/I-79 connector, for instance, is an excellent example of intergovernmental cooperation. And there are others too, including an intermunicipal agreement between Cranberry and its neighbors to the east regarding traffic management along Rt. 228.

But budget lapses, and the revenue squeeze that affects government at all levels is hurting everyone which, in turn, works against cooperative projects. Beyond that, constantly shifting political agendas and a mismatch of elected terms with project life cycles for longer-range initiatives can undermine stable cooperation between units of government, the panelists told CAP members.

At the same time, however, the panel cited several opportunities

for improved cooperation and for mutual benefit among units of government. Joint grant applications, for example, are looked on favorably by grant-making entities. Councils of Government have become an increasingly important vehicle for sharing services. Workforce development was cited as a major opportunity for cooperative planning. So was public transit and coordination of land use with transportation planning.

But perhaps the greatest opportunity, according to the panel, was to find ways that the region could speak with a unified voice in Harrisburg and Washington. Right now, it's fragmented. Grassroots unity among residents in contacting their elected representatives would go a long way toward creating a common agenda for western Pennsylvania, the CAP was told.

However, get-togethers of this type have been the exception, rather than the rule in this region, according to Cranberry's Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant. "This was a very unique opportunity. Unfortunately, a gathering of panelists representing all levels of government for an open discussion with each other and a group of residents is a rarity in Western Pennsylvania. We were very pleased we could respond to the CAP's request in such a successful way." ~

Constantly shifting political agendas and a mismatch of elected terms with project life cycles can undermine stable cooperation between units of government.

Keeping Up Appearances



When does an eyesore become a hazard? That can be a tough call. Just ask Jeff Musher, Cranberry's Supervisor of Code Administration.

It's Musher's job to decide whether a complaint lodged by one resident against another over poor housekeeping on their property actually constitutes a public danger – producing rodent harborage, for example – or if it's just unsightly. And if it does cross that line, what's the best remedy?

"We try to address all situations with courtesy and professionalism," Musher said. "We work with homeowners to show them how to bring their property into code compliance. It is important to show our property owners that we use a common sense approach with communication as the preferred means of problem-solving. It's easy to send out Notices of Violation, but we take a more human approach where we meet

with property owners, suggest solutions and establish schedules for corrective action. Part of it is that everybody has their own opinion about what constitutes an appropriate condition of their property, and that can be challenging. So the overall process for getting Property Code matters resolved can be lengthy and it requires patience on the part of all that are involved."

The basis for any sort of Township involvement – the Property Code, which Cranberry adopted in 2002 – addresses the most important matters related to property maintenance while respecting the owner's rights to privacy. But some Homeowner's Associations have their own restrictions which go beyond the Township's Code. Those restrictions, or covenants, are not enforced by the Township.

At the same time, though, there's a real need for the Code. Ron Henshaw, Cranberry's Director of Community Development, recalls one incident that led the Board to enact it. "There was an in-ground swimming pool in a backyard and the homeowner just couldn't maintain it. The condition of

the pool was deplorable and it began to adversely affect adjacent homeowners.

"The overall process for getting Property Code matters resolved can be lengthy and it requires patience."

"The Township realized that we needed the tools to address those kinds of issues as they relate to public health, safety and welfare. This happened at the time that West Nile Virus began to be noticed in our area. So the end result was that the situation was rectified and the pool was filled in," Henshaw said. Before enacting its code, Cranberry studied models from the International Codes Council, formerly known as BOCA. Those model codes included far-reaching requirements that the Township did not believe were necessary. "So we stuck to the basics – the health, safety and welfare concerns of property maintenance – and we kept it simple," Henshaw said. "The Township chose to not address high grass and weeds. Instead, we continue to work with property owners and those responsible for properties, like mortgage companies, to find solutions to these types of issues. Our system of managing situations like that may not be perfect, but we do the best we can to make things right for everyone involved." ~

What's Covered in Cranberry's Property Code?

Here are the key areas addressed by the Code:

- Sidewalks in non-residential areas are to be maintained and kept free of hazards
- Property shall be kept free from situations that create rodent harborage
- Outbuildings and accessory structures must be safe and sound
- Junk vehicle storage outdoors is prohibited
- Outdoor appliances, equipment and materials must be free of hazards
- Accumulated rubbish must be disposed of properly

Ask The Tough Questions

by **Dave Root, Supervisor, Cranberry Township**



One of the major reasons I find living in Cranberry Township so appealing is its extensive community involvement.

I first experienced this when my son joined a local Boy Scout troop where the number of parents at meetings sometimes exceeded the number of Scouts.

That same spirit is also apparent in our volunteer fire company – one that most other communities envy – as well as in the 75-member Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) that's helping the Township craft its vision for the future. Citizens' involvement is what makes our community strong and it is also what makes our form of government work.

This involvement can be as simple as staying current with what the Township is doing and to question anything you don't understand or agree with.

Disagreement is ok as it promotes discussion on how to make our community better. As long as it is done cordially, informed discussion that stems from disagreement is healthy for our government, not detrimental.

However, since I became a Township

Supervisor, I keep hearing from residents that disagreements among public officials in discussing our Township are "disturbing."

Your government should justify everything it does, and you have a right to ask why it is taking a certain path. When you do, I think you'll be surprised by how many others have the exact same questions, but were afraid to ask.

Of course not everyone will agree with every decision the Township makes. With more than 28,000 residents in Cranberry, there will always be differing opinions. But while you may not agree, you have the right to know why a decision was reached and how your tax dollars are being spent.

I also realize it's sometimes hard to know what Cranberry is doing because it's hard for the Township to communicate all the details about which services have been provided. We do use various methods, including this newsletter and the CAP, to try to get the word out. Even before I was elected, I found the Township staff to be very helpful in finding answers to questions on just about any subject affecting our lives in Cranberry.

If your questions aren't being answered fully, let us know. Of course some subjects, like possible future decisions, may not have an immediate answer. But you

shouldn't accept answers that can't be backed up by facts/data, whether from the Township's budget or some other written policy or ordinance.

Please note too that your local government doesn't control everything in the Township. The best example of this is who takes care of which roads.

Cranberry Township owns about 110 miles of local roads. But two of the roads which have become major concerns for residents – Freedom/Rt. 228 and Rochester – are both state-owned and controlled. Also, the bridge over the Turnpike on Freedom Road is Turnpike-owned. So while the Township government is working closely with state and federal agencies to increase the capacity of these roads, the state will make the final decisions.

In the end, it all comes down to money, which is not only tight at the state level, but nationally as well. State and federal gas taxes for roads are flat taxes – they're not tied to the price of gas. The less gas people use, the less road tax gets collected and indications are that gas tax revenues may be falling due to less consumption. If the impact of this concerns you, like me, then tell your state and federal representatives about your concerns.

So, please stay in contact with your local, state and federal representatives because they all have an important impact on Cranberry Township. And ask the hard questions, let them know your concerns. Keeping your government accountable will help improve how well we work for you.

As long as it is done cordially, informed discussion that stems from disagreement is healthy for our government, not detrimental.



You can reach **Dave Root** at: dave.root@cranberrytownship.org

From Its Cranberry Headquarters, Conair Molds North America's Plastics Industry

The Conair Group, part of a privately-held international company that moved its administrative and engineering operations to Cranberry Business Park at the beginning of the year, makes dryers as well as a lot of auxiliary equipment. But it's not the consumer kind that you find in bathrooms and hair salons although, according to company president Christopher Keller, his company is frequently – and erroneously – served with lawsuits angrily complaining about grooming products made by the unrelated company with whom it shares a name.

Instead, Conair Group's dryers and related equipment are used by the world's makers of plastic products to convey, dehydrate, blend, regulate, granulate, and otherwise handle the material that goes into plastic molding and extrusion machines whose output ranges from auto bumpers to laptop cases to syringes and everything in between.

However, while the marketplace for plastic products and the machinery that makes them is a truly global one, the Cranberry headquarters operation, together with its sister plant 70 miles north in Franklin, is focused on the North American plastics industry – which is still Conair's largest market.

But even though Conair forecasts an increase in demand for plastic products over the next ten years, Keller acknowledges that the domestic market faces some major

challenges. "The manufacturing environment in the United States has been under pressure for a number of years," he noted. "Yet we believe very firmly in our ability to grow this business not only globally, but also domestically. And that comes from a belief in innovation – new products and technologies – as well as customer service."

Part of the industry pressure comes from the fact that prices for its primary feedstocks – oil and natural gas – are soaring. But those same factors also present opportunities including improved reprocessing, reducing material loss, and saving energy.

"Energy is one of the top cost factors in any manufacturing process, so we're very focused on reducing energy consumption within the part of the process we control," Keller said. "For example, we've introduced drying systems over the last couple of years that reduce energy consumption 30 to 60 percent."

Of the 600-plus employed by Conair Group and its parent company IPEG, about 75 are currently based in Cranberry. That number is expected to grow steadily over the next several years which will include the consolidation of an Illinois subsidiary into the Cranberry facility later this year.

Back in 1998, Conair – which was founded 42 years earlier in Franklin – moved its headquarters to the Ohio River community of Emsworth. Last year, as it neared the end of its



Shaping America. Conair Sales and Marketing V.P. Larry Doyle and President Chris Keller, stand by the company's plastic pellet handling equipment at its headquarters in Cranberry. Conair makes a whole family of machinery related to the preparation, handling and transport of plastic products for customers throughout North America.

initial lease, the company began assessing its options. That's when it happened upon the Cranberry facility, and immediately realized it had found a new home, Keller recalled. So the company quickly decided to make its move.

"We wound up with a work environment here that has lived up to 110 percent of our expectations," he said. "Everybody being together on one floor has helped to facilitate working together. As to the location, all of our management team, save for me, lives right here. The biggest part of our employee base lives in the North Hills. So that's a huge positive. And we're right in the middle of where there's a lot happening, whether it's restaurants, hotels – you name it. It's been wonderful for us. The previous tenant, Nomos, created an attractive and open environment, and it was a perfect fit." ~

While the marketplace for plastic products and the machinery that makes them is a global one, the Cranberry headquarters operation, together with its sister plant in Franklin, is focused on the North American plastics industry – Conair's largest market.

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

Music in the air...

Cranberry's Free Summer Concert Series Is Underway

Cranberry Township's Thursdays in the Park concert series opened with a bang on June 19 in a return appearance by the popular Ambridge Area High School Steel Drum Band. The band's eclectic musical program, which typically includes more than two dozen students performing at a time, led off the Township's 2008 series of free Community Park evening concerts. Five lunchtime concerts at the Municipal Center gazebo, beginning July 11, will also be featured this season. The full schedule of performances include:

THURSDAYS IN THE PARK

Beginning 7:00 PM

Rotary Amphitheater, Community Park

JUNE 19 *The Ambridge Steel Drum Band.* Diverse musical styles.

Sponsor: Target

JUNE 26 *Jill West and Blues Attack.* Blues band with vocalist

JULY 17 *American Pie.* Oldies band

JULY 24 *Boilermaker Jazz Band.* Jazz classics and vocals

JULY 31 *Alli Gillis Band.* Country music. *Sponsor: Armstrong*

AUG 7 *East Wind Symphonic Band.* Assorted works.

AUG 14 *Michele Benson and the Benson Burners.* Jazz and vocals.

Sponsor: PNC

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S CONCERT – TUESDAY, JULY 8

Beginning 7:00 PM,

Rotary Amphitheater, Community Park

Joe Negri & Mister Rogers Neighborhood Friends

Sponsor: Consolidated Communications

Sandwiches and snacks will be available for sale from Cranberry Rotary Club members at the Community Park site for each evening concert.

Cranberry's summer concert series is 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.



FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Beginning at Noon

Garden Gazebo, Municipal Center

JULY 11 *Noon and 5:00 PM performances*

Greater Cranberry Bogmeisters

Barbershop harmonies

Sponsor: Consolidated Communications

JULY 18 *Seth McCall*

Celtic fiddler

Sponsor: Monte Cello's

JULY 25 *The Pittsburgh Banjo Club*

Banjo classics

Sponsor: Sherwood Oaks

AUG 1 *Mickey Patrick*

One-Man Band

AUG 8 *Ron & Sandy Lusco*

Folk and Old-time favorites

Sponsor: Sherwood Oaks

AUG 15 *Craig Zinger.* Jazz trio

Sponsor: Consolidated Communications

Cranberry's two-day Community Days celebration begins July 11

Continued from front cover

The crowd-pleasing fire company Battle of the Barrels will begin at 4:30. Between then and the 9:30 fireworks display, all of the favorite activities, entertainment, and fun events which were previously associated with July 4 Community Days – inflatable attractions, a climbing mountain, a petting zoo, pony rides and the Gymagic Bus – will be available, free of charge.



Food vendors of every type will offer a wide assortment of food choices throughout the day.

Saturday afternoon, community stage will feature two programs

by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History followed by several rounds of Moe's Southwestern Grill's 'Triple Dog Dare' game show competition separated by 20-minute karaoke sets.

Amphitheater mainstage attractions will open with several local bands starting at 3:30. The country & western group El Dorado performs at 5:45. And the Beatles tribute band, Come Together, begins at 8:00.

A post-fireworks musical interlude will continue until 11:00 and most food vending booths will remain open until that time to allow visitors a more leisurely exit from the park following the conclusion of the pyrotechnics display around 10:00.

Just wait 'til next year...

Graham Park: Cranberry's Sportsplex Of Dreams Is Coming To Life

Cranberry's visionary 115-acre Graham Park project – a collaborative effort of the Township, its local athletic associations, and several business sponsors including namesake benefactor Dick's Sporting Goods – is well on its way toward becoming a reality, even though wet weather earlier this summer mired the pace of construction.

"We're making steady progress," Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl reported. "The third of our three football fields was planted at the beginning of June. Our timeline for the general contract is that all the work will be done by the end of October. That includes all the fields, all the infrastructure, all the roads, parking lots, field lights, parking lot lights, water lines, sewer lines, irrigation lines – all of which will be done this year."

The park's Miracle League Field is also moving along with completion

set for June of next year, Diehl said. It will include a rubber-surfaced field that makes baseball accessible to all players, regardless of their physical abilities.

"We awarded the building contract on June 5 for concessions, maintenance, restrooms, dugouts – all of the buildings in our original plan," Diehl pointed out. "But first we need to get the infrastructure completed so we can get the buildings built. The final step will be the site work around those buildings – sidewalks, patio aprons, and nice touches like drinking fountains on the outside and fixtures in the bathrooms. So there's still a lot of work to do."

At the same time, Diehl points out, major pieces of the park's infrastructure are now either completed or well underway. That includes three bridges, extensive irrigation systems, wetland management measures, and more.



Making the Cut. Public Works veteran Brian Miller whips the grass into shape on Field One of the football campus at Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex at Graham Park for play starting next year.

But the opening of the park's football campus is now likely to be pushed back until next year, when the Sportsplex's baseball and soccer fields will also become available for play. "We would prefer to wait until next year and do it right rather than rush it just to make an arbitrary date," Diehl reported. "We're working with our partners in the athletic associations and projecting that we will not open football this year," he said. ~

Dog Days Of Summer Hound Park Builders

The project is definitely moving along, but wet weather in May and early June have dogged the Public Works personnel working to complete the new Cranberry Rotary Dog Park.

"The weather hasn't helped at all," Parks and Recreation Director Mike Diehl lamented recently.

But even a worst case scenario sees the dog park opening sometime this summer. The fencing is already in place. The double-gate entryway is largely done. A new water line has been run out to the site. Grading for the parking lot has been completed. And an Honor Brick program to fund the ongoing maintenance of the dog park has been launched.

The park, which is being built with a lead contribution of \$45,000 from the Cranberry Rotary Club, features separate off-leash running areas for large and small dogs, as well as a second set of penned-in spaces to allow for rotation of active play areas so the fields can recover from wear and tear.

The idea for the park came from local residents who own dogs and told officials during public meetings in 2005 that they wanted the Township to create more pet-friendly places. Later that year, the Township was able to acquire a 28-acre farm



adjacent to Community Park, and residents who had previously urged the Township to accommodate dogs were approached to help implement the dog park concept.

A strip of land on the east side of the farm that was poorly suited to other types of park development was selected for the dog park, which is bounded on one side by a stream and on the other by Cranberry's Public Works storage yard and Public Safety training area. Although the dog park will not be supervised, rules regarding clean-up and allowable pet behavior will be posted. ~

JULY

TUES 1	WED 2	THURS 3	Red, White and Blue Beach Blast Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	FRI 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY Township offices closed 7th Annual Race for Virginia and Friends 5K Run/Walk, Community Park, 7:30 am	SAT 5	SUN 6	MON 7	Book Discussion Lottery by Patricia Wood, Library, 7 pm Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 8	Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm Concert in the Park Joe Negri and Friends Community Park, 7 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 9	THURS 10	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am		
THURS 10	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 11	CTCC Community Days Cranberry Rotary Chicken BBQ, Municipal Ctr, 11 am - 7 pm Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Greater Cranberry Bogmeisters, Municipal Ctr, Noon and 5 pm		Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm Friday Night Lights Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	SAT 12	Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast Lion's Shelter, Community Park, 11 am - 5 pm Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am - 1 pm CTCC Community Days Community Park, 3 - 11 pm, Fireworks at 9:30 pm	SUN 13	MON 14	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm						
TUES 15	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 16	Books and Bagels Book Discussion <i>The Reader</i> by Bernhard Schlink, Library, 10 am Stand Strong For Life UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 12:30 pm	THURS 17	Thursdays in the Park American Pie Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 18	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Seth McCall, Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm Friday Night Lights Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	SAT 19	Cranberry Township Relay for Life North Boundary Park, 10 am - 10 am Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am - 1 pm							
SUN 20	Cranberry Township Relay for Life North Boundary Park, until 10 am	MON 21	Night Swim Community WaterPark 9 pm	TUES 22	Night Swim Community WaterPark 9 pm	WED 23	Thursdays in the Park Boilermaker Jazz Band Community Park, 7 pm	THURS 24	Thursdays in the Park Boilermaker Jazz Band Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 25	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Pittsburgh Banjo Club, Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm Friday Night Lights Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	SAT 26	Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot 10 am - 1 pm			
SUN 27	Mutual of Omaha Drive, Chip & Putt Junior Challenge Cranberry Highlands, 12 pm	MON 28	Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers 5:30 pm	TUES 29	Night Swim Community WaterPark 9 pm	WED 30	Open House & Board of Supervisors/Public Mtg Municipal Ctr, Gymnasium, Open House 3 - 6 pm, Mtg 6:30 pm	THURS 31	Thursdays in the Park Alli Gillis Band, Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 1	Cranberry CUP Neighborhood Golf Outing Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, 10:30 am	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm				

AUGUST

FRI 1	Friday Night Lights Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	SAT 2	Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Community Park, 10 am	SUN 3	Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Continued with championship games at 6 pm, Community Park	MON 4	Book Discussion Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross, Library, 7 pm	TUES 5	Night Swim Community WaterPark 9 pm	WED 6	THURS 7	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm				
FRI 8	Forever Free Lincoln Exhibit Opening Reception, Library, 6 - 9 pm (Lincoln Exhibit continues through 9/18 in Library)		Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Ron and Sandy Lusco, Municipal Ctr, Noon		Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm	SAT 9	Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 10	Civil War Era Music* Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 7 pm			TUES 12	Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm	WED 13	Citizens Advisory Panel Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	
THURS 14	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am		Thursdays in the Park Michele Benson & the Benson Burners, Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 15	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Craig Zinger, Municipal Ctr, Noon	SAT 16	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Manheim Pittsburgh (formerly Butler Auto Auction), 9 am - 1 pm			SUN 17	MON 18	TUES 19	WED 20	Urology Health UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm		
WED 20	Underground Railroad In Pennsylvania* Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 7 pm	THURS 21	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm	FRI 22	Registration Begins - Parks & Recreation Fall Programs online/walk-ins, 8:30 am	SAT 23	10th Annual Tom Murray Cranberry Twp Aquathon North Boundary Park, 8 am		Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 24	MON 25	Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	TUES 26	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm		
WED 27	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 28	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11 am		Lincoln and the Road to Freedom* Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 7 pm	FRI 29	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm	SAT 30	Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 31	MON 1	LABOR DAY all Township offices closed	TUES 2	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm	Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	

SEPTEMBER

WED 3	First day of school - Seneca Valley Role of the Brass Band During the Civil War * Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 4	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11 am	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 5	SAT 6	Puppy Plunge † Community WaterPark 3 sessions - 9 am - 2:30 pm	Kids Day Library Children's Room	SUN 7	Grandparents Day	MON 8	Book Discussion Five Quarters of the Orange by Joanne Harris, Library, 7 pm	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm			
TUES 9	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm	Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm	Citizen Advisory Panel Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	WED 10	Taste Of Cranberry Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Ctr Gym, 5 - 8 pm	Lincoln as an Effective Politician * Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 11	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11 am	Pittsburgh During the Civil War * Library, 7 pm	Backyard Composting Instructional Class † Municipal Ctr, 7 pm					
FRI 12	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm	SAT 13	Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 14	Fishing Derby † Community WaterPark 3 sessions - 8:30 am - 2 pm	MON 15	Works of Robert Knox Sneden * Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 16	Infant Family Time Library, 11 am and 1 pm	WED 17	Citizenship Day 2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 18	PA One Call Safety Days † Public Works, 8 am	2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11 am	FRI 19	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm	
SAT 20	Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot, 10 am - 1 pm	Hard to Recycle Event North Park Pool, 10 am - 2 pm	SUN 21	MON 22	TUES 23	WED 24	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	THURS 25	FRI 26	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30 - 6 pm	SAT 27	Farmers' Market Rt 19 Firestation parking lot 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 28	MON 29	Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	TUES 30	Final day to pay SVSD real estate tax at 2% discount

In Briefs



Down to earth. Summer interns working for the Township are using its advanced GPS satellite technology to map Cranberry's sewer and water infrastructure – valves, vents, manholes, and so on. The main sanitary sewer lines, known as interceptors, have already been plotted to survey grade, but there is more to do. So if you see someone using what looks like the instrument pictured here, you'll know what they're up to.

Instructors wanted. Do you have a special talent you'd like to share with other residents? If so, Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Department would like to talk with you about offering a class. Your class would have the benefit of the Township's publicity and registration systems, so the promotion of your teaching would be Township-wide. The department is looking for new types of offerings, particularly involving adults, seniors, and handicrafts. But program ideas for people of any age will be welcome. Send your proposal to the Township's department, attention Christine Border.



Westinghouse

Knowing the score. The Cranberry Township Athletic Association, with a grant from Westinghouse Electric, has purchased new scoreboards for the baseball campus at the Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex at Graham Park. Illuminated by LEDs, they use almost no energy.

Tennis courts reopen. Following a total reconstruction this spring, Community Park's tennis courts are now completed, repainted, and open for play.

The underground drainage system which was installed is expected to permanently fix the problem that created the uneven playing surface and prompted the rebuilding project in the first place.



Pennsylvania law requires anyone digging 18 inches or deeper to notify PA One Call at least 72 hours in advance of the work.

Bike Rodeo.

More than 175 children from Haine School showed up for this year's bike safety rodeo, held on the UPMC Passavant Cranberry parking lot. Participants passed through a series of safety stations including bike inspection, helmet check, obstacle riding courses, and more. Parent volunteers as well as Cranberry police officers took part in the event, which was underwritten by more than two dozen sponsors. Seventy-three helmets which did not pass inspection were replaced free of charge and each child was issued a certificate of completion by the police department.



fund-raiser on July 19-20. Over a 24-hour period, adults and children of all ages take turns walking around a track at North Boundary Park. Entertainment, games, activities, food, raffles and more are planned for participants. Each team includes approximately 8-15 people. To register a team or for more information, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit www.cranberryrelay.org.

Relay for Life.

Teams are still forming for the American Cancer Society's 2008 Relay For Life



Dogfish. The end of swimming season at the WaterPark on Labor Day only applies to people.

Once again this year, the Parks & Recreation Department will hold its popular Puppy Plunge at the pool for dogs six months or older on September 6, and a trout Fishing Derby for children ages three to twelve on September 14. Preregistration – which is required for the Fishing Derby and strongly recommended for the Puppy Plunge as well – is available online for \$5.



Can you dig it?

Cranberry Township will host the PA One-Call safety seminar on September 18 at its Public Works Operations Center beginning at 11:00 AM. The seminar, which is open to anyone involved in excavation or utility work, is the largest in the country. As the owner of two utilities in addition to numerous other underground facilities, Cranberry has a keen interest in protecting those assets.

Pre-school, after-school.

Registration for Cranberry's twice weekly half-day preschool and four days a week pre-kindergarten



programs for children three to five years is now available for sessions starting September 1. Tuition for the two programs, which follow age- and developmentally-appropriate curricula approved by the state's Department of Education, are \$80 and \$150 respectively for Township residents with a \$50 fee payable at the time of registration.

Forbidden fireworks. Only Class C novelty fireworks such as sparklers, caps, ground spinners, cone fountains and illuminating torches



are permitted in Cranberry, even though they can pose a danger. Aerial fireworks and explosive items are prohibited. The Township's official fireworks display this year will be at 9:30 on July 12, in conjunction with Community Days. There will be no Fourth of July fireworks show in Cranberry this year.

Grab your seat.

A child car seat safety inspection event was held at the Park Fire Station on May 17 under the supervision of the Cranberry Police Department. Altogether, 37 car seat installations, inspections and instructional sessions were conducted that day. State Farm Insurance provided financial support for the



program, which involved technical support from Safe Kids USA – a nonprofit organization formed to prevent accidental injury to children.

Run/Walk/Eat.

The Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for two of its signature annual events: its scholarship foundation's Thorn Hill 5K Run/Walk on July 20, and the restaurant sampling Taste of Cranberry celebration on September 10. Race applications are available from the Chamber's web site. Restaurateurs and food service companies wanting to participate in the Taste event should contact the Chamber at 724-776-4949. ~



Mister Yuk's Open House...

Hazardous Household Waste Collection At Auto Auction Site On August 16

Getting rid of unwanted, hard-to-dispose of household chemicals will be a little easier this year. That's because the Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force – a coalition of nonprofit groups whose mission is to minimize such wastes and assist in their proper disposal – will be holding its annual Butler County collection in Cranberry this year.

Wastes eligible for collection in the program include paint products, pool chemicals, pesticides, household cleaning materials, automotive fluids, chemistry sets, photo chemicals and other liquids which should neither be disposed of as ordinary trash nor emptied into drains. A cash fee of \$2 per gallon of waste is collected at the site.

Solid items which are considered to be environmental hazards including mercury-bearing batteries and thermometers, compact fluorescent bulbs and aerosol cans are also eligible for collection. But others including ammunition, drugs, compressed gas cylinders,

explosives, medical wastes, and tires, are not. Check the Task Force's website, www.swpahhw.org, for more details.

Disposal of the collected waste is managed by a private contractor. Once collected, the items are separated by type and either recycled, incinerated, or buried in specially-designed hazardous waste landfills. Each step in the process is carried out in keeping with state EPA standards.

The Cranberry collection will take place from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Rt. 19 site of the Auto Auction on Saturday, August 16. Other collections in the region are also scheduled including: Westmoreland County Fairgrounds on September 20, the site of the old amphitheatre near Station Square in Pittsburgh on September 27, and Brady's Run Park in Beaver County on October 4. ~



Abraham Lincoln's Long Journey Makes A Stop In Cranberry



A traveling exhibition about Lincoln's quest to restore a Union shattered by Civil War opens at the Cranberry

Public Library on August 8 for a six-week stopover.

"Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation," tells how Lincoln's beliefs about freeing slaves were transformed by wartime developments. The exhibit provides an opportunity to learn how Lincoln decided to emancipate the slaves, even as he tried to hold a fragile

coalition of states together. It is a revealing insight into the values, principles and ideals that guided one of America's greatest presidents.

Organized by the Huntington Library of San Marino, California and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York City, together with the American Library Association, this free exhibition, which was funded with grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is part of a national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday.

The library will also present a number of related events in connection with the exhibition, beginning with an opening reception on Friday, August 8, featuring an Abraham Lincoln impersonator and a woman

in period dress performing songs of the Civil War. On Monday evening, August 11, Thomas Jolin, a musician and instrument maker, will present 'Civil War Era Music.' On Saturday, August 23, members of 78th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Company F, based in Freeport will present 'Living History.' And on Thursday, August 28, Prof. David Dixon of Slippery Rock University will speak on 'Lincoln and the Road to Freedom.'

Other programs, which appear on the center calendar of this newsletter, will continue through the exhibit's conclusion on September 19. More events will be announced and posted on the library's website: www.bclfs.org/cranberry.htm. ~

Library Patrons Grow Younger, More Web Savy, More Diverse

Now that Internet service is almost as common as television, do public libraries really matter anymore? After all, aren't kids growing up today so Internet-dependent that they'd never think of going to the library to find something out? Not exactly, according to a recent study sponsored by the Pew Foundation.

If anything, according to the survey, it's just the opposite: Generation Y library patrons – those between 18 and 30 – are actually the heaviest library users. Not only that, overall library patronage and circulation figures are going up and have been steadily climbing ever since the World Wide Web's popularity exploded in the mid '90s – almost as though, rather than satisfying people's appetite for information, it triggered a hunger for more.

That same pattern has also been reflected in the way people are using Cranberry Township's Public Library,

according to head librarian Carol Troese. "As far as young people using the library are concerned, they might not be doing it in traditional ways, but they're coming in here and sitting down at our computers instead of going to the shelves and picking out a book."

But young people aren't the only demographic that's growing at the library. Cranberry library is now seeing more and more patrons of every age who are recent U.S. arrivals, coming from countries all over the world. "If anyone is using this library, it's our immigrants coming in with English as a second language," Troese said. "The people coming in here are very well-educated, they know the value of a library. Come to Storytime and you'll see



children of many different lands here. We were surprised at that."

Even though recent arrivals are making greater use of the library's programs, those programs were neither created for, nor specially adapted to immigrants, Troese pointed out. "We welcome everyone through our doors – young and old, different cultures, different religious orientations. Most of them are professionals. They might not be familiar with our customs, but they're willing to ask and learn. We've got a lot of tutors coming in and teaching English as a Second Language. They're not even our programs; the tutors just come in here and use our space. But sometimes they'll ask us to show a student around the library." ~



Board of Supervisors Honors School District Achievement

On June 5, Cranberry's governing Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing the improvements demonstrated by the Seneca Valley School District during the previous year. That resolution is reproduced here.



CRANBERRY
•TOWNSHIP•

RESOLUTION 2008-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANBERRY, BUTLER COUNTY, RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, the quality of life in any community is significantly impacted by the quality of its public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Valley School System is responsible for educating the vast majority of children who reside in Cranberry Township; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Valley School System has worked diligently to deliver excellence in its educational programs to elevate the achievement of its students; and

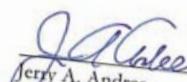
WHEREAS, the ranking of the Seneca Valley School District's achievement, as measured by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment exams, has risen from 24th to 18th out of 105 districts in the region for the year 2007; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Cranberry Township commends the School Board, the administrators, the faculty and the support staff of the Seneca Valley School District for their outstanding efforts to enhance the level of public education and improve the quality of life for Cranberry Township residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the School District as a way to express our sincere appreciation to the dedicated employees of the Seneca Valley School District.

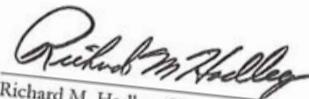
Adopted by the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors this 5th Day of June, 2008.

ATTEST:



Jerry A. Andree
Township Manager

TOWNSHIP OF CRANBERRY



Richard M. Hadley, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Gas pains...

Township Strives To Improve Energy Management

Soaring fuel prices are taking a bite out of everyone's budget, including Cranberry's. So Township officials are taking steps to manage the pain, which is in some respects more acute than it is for individual homeowners.

Last year, for example, Township vehicles used 56,000 gallons of regular-grade gasoline and 27,000 of diesel fuel to power the approximately 100 on- and off-road vehicles in Cranberry's fleet. Add to that \$742,507 in electric power, used for everything from office machines to traffic signals, as well as another \$77,145 in natural gas, and Cranberry's energy bills came to more than a million dollars for the year – and that was *before* gas blew past the \$4 mark.

As a result, energy conservation and management, which had already been priorities for Township operations, have taken on an even greater measure of urgency. Here are some of the measures currently underway:

Cooperative purchasing.

Cranberry is buying its fuel in tandem with a number of other municipalities through the South Hills Area Council of Governments, or SHACOG. The Township's requirements are pooled with those of other SHACOG members in soliciting bids from interested vendors. As a result, when local gas station prices were averaging \$3.79 a gallon for regular in May, Cranberry was paying \$3.14. Even when 49.5¢ in state and federal taxes are added in – taxes from which Cranberry is exempt – the savings are still significant.

Municipal station. Instead of contracting with local gas stations for fueling, Cranberry maintains its own fuel station at its Public Works Operations Center. In addition to benefitting from the cost savings of an unmanned facility without the restrooms and other amenities of a normal gas station, Cranberry's

fueling post is equipped with emergency backup electrical power. It avoids having to co-mingle its heavy equipment with motorists' family cars at filling stations. And its gas and diesel tanks only dispense fuel when data is keyed into its touchpad that identifies the driver, the vehicle, and its mileage. That information is then fed into an automated log which tracks the maintenance record of every Township vehicle.

Preventive maintenance. Taking care of your car improves its mileage. Cranberry's Public Works staff takes exceptional care of the Township's fleet – changing oil, filters, fluids, maintaining tire pressure and performing all the other factory-recommended maintenance measures on schedule to keep its vehicles at peak fuel efficiency. Enterprise software, linked to the Township fueling pumps, flags each vehicle as its regular maintenance falls due.

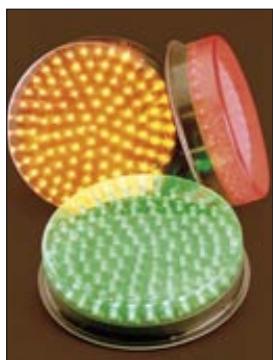
Energy audits. As part of Cranberry's commitment to sustainability, an

independent energy audit of Township operations, facilities and energy use is currently underway. Its goal is to quantify the information needed to recommend modifications to equipment and practices for improved energy efficiency. Among them is an evaluation of the total cost of ownership for hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles. Its goal: to determine when or whether it would be cost-effective to add them to Cranberry's fleet.

Smart electric use. During the past year, electric power prices have risen almost as sharply as gasoline. Cranberry's wastewater treatment plant uses a lot – more than half a million dollars worth a year. As a result, the Township has made energy efficiency a top priority in new construction, and retrofitted older facilities with high-efficiency components. In addition to installing small improvements like motion detectors to operate room lights and replacing incandescent bulbs with high-efficiency fluorescent and LED fixtures, larger improvements including sophisticated controllers for furnaces, chillers, blowers, and pumps have also been added. ~



Fuel control. Everyone on staff has to enter various data codes into the terminal at Cranberry's Public Works station before refueling any Township vehicle. That information is automatically logged into the vehicle's maintenance record.



Bright idea...

Getting The LED Out On The Streets

There are thirty-three signalized intersections in Cranberry, a number which grows a little larger

every year. Most of them have at least eight signal heads which are mounted on posts, attached to masts, or suspended from cables. And each of them holds at least one red, yellow and green lamp. Add them all together, and you've got a whole lot of traffic lights operating, 24/7, every day of the year.

If they all used the special industrial-strength 135-watt bulbs which are sold for that purpose, the electric cost alone would exceed \$12,500 a year. But in Cranberry, the bill comes in at less than \$2,000. The reason: 85-90 percent of the traffic signals in Cranberry use Light Emitting Diodes, or LEDs instead of incandescent bulbs.

"LED technology is a whole new genre in lighting," according to Marty McKinney, whose responsibilities include maintaining the Township's traffic signals. "It's been used in different capacities for years. And because of the high cost of energy, they're now working on ways to make it more viable for the average consumer."

For the time being, however, most home uses for LEDs are still on the horizon, McKinney noted.

"Room lights are still being refined. Right now they're usable, but not practical."

But household LEDs on their way.

Consumers can already buy LED flashlights and drive cars equipped with LED taillights – which have the added advantage of lasting for years without burning out.

For the Township and its growing collection of traffic signals, that translates into much lower costs for maintenance personnel as well as smaller electric bills since all traffic lights in Pennsylvania are owned and maintained by local municipalities.

Those same economic benefits have not been lost on Congress, which last year passed the Energy Independence

and Security Act of 2007. Among other things, it mandated the transition away from most incandescent bulbs starting in 2012. Lighting, according to the Alliance to Save Energy – a coalition of light bulb makers,

electric utilities and conservation groups – accounts for 22 percent of all U.S. electricity use. Eliminating incandescent bulbs completely would save \$18 billion per year – equivalent to the output of 80 coal-fired power plants. ~

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 mandated the transition away from most incandescent bulbs starting in 2012.

Brush Creek Odor Control Unit Gets Tweaked

You used to be able to spot the location of Cranberry's wastewater treatment plant with your eyes closed. But no more.

The telltale odors that used to emanate from Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant along Powell Road have now been significantly reduced. A Siemens carbon adsorption unit, installed during the winter, cut the concentration of odor-causing molecules from 2,400 D/T last year to just 40 during its initial performance evaluation. Zero D/T on this scale, which stands for 'dilutions to threshold,' represents the lower limit of human detection.

At the same time, however, unexpectedly high levels of moisture began building up in the unit's main chamber, degrading the carbon filter which stands at the heart of the adsorption process. That prompted the plant's staff to shut the entire unit down until a strategy for pinpointing the cause and cure for that moisture could be developed.

Working closely with representatives of the manufacturer and carbon supplier, plant technicians experimented with a series of tweaks to the temperature, pressure, humidity and other variables affecting the adsorption process.

Today, the unit is once again online, with a recent test reading of 190 D/T. "It's in



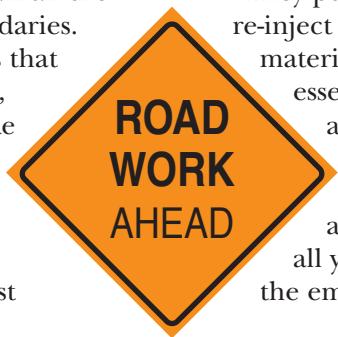
operation and working pretty well," reports Public Works Director Jason Dailey. "But we're still in the R&D mode and results are pending. We're moving toward a solution; we're not 100 percent sure what the optimum performance is going to be. Right now we're adjusting its performance settings and operating at only a fraction of its capability. But we're seeing tremendous results while we work through the challenges." ~

Township Tests Novel Resurfacing Technology

Cranberry doesn't own all the roads inside its boundaries. But for the 110 miles that do fall under its care, the Township – unlike PennDOT – has a certain amount of latitude in deciding which methods of maintenance are most appropriate.

So this year, it's hoping to try something different – at least on a trial basis. It's called FDR, but it has less to do with the venerated president than with the trade shorthand for Full Depth Reclamation. And if it works as well here as it has in other parts of the country, it could produce huge savings as well as a better, longer-lasting roadway.

How does it work? "It's where they mill your road surface down approximately 6-8 inches deep and pulverize all the materials that make it up, including its top surface," explains Public Works Director Jason Dailey.



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"They pulverize it into a fine dust, re-inject oil, and lay the exact same material down as they go. So they essentially re-energize the road and put all this material down at a fraction of the cost because you're not adding any new material – all you're doing is injecting the emulsion."

That stands in sharp contrast to the standard method used in Pennsylvania where only the top inch or two of surface asphalt is milled off and then replaced with new material.

But roads vary in their construction, and FDR technology – where road material can be milled down to bare soil – may not be suited to every roadway. So the Township is experimenting with different types of roads. "We're looking at three candidates: Burke Road, Hope Road, and Bear Run Road," Dailey said. "We already did some 4-inch core tests for samples so we know what's in the road."

Only a handful of companies use FDR technology right now. But Dailey is optimistic about the method's prospects. "It's a very good reuse of the product," he said. "It mills, grinds, pulverizes, re-injects, paves, and puts it all down in one pass. One giant machine can do 8- or 10 feet widths. They can go all the way down into the stone base and grind it into the mix if need be."

Although the technique hasn't been used in Pennsylvania before, FDR is not experimental. "It's been used out west, but it's not our standard way of resurfacing here," Dailey explained. "It has been approved by the U.S. DOT and it's something we want look at."

Therefore the pilot program. "We need to evaluate how we're going to apply it," he said, "It's a lot cheaper than having it done the conventional way where we'd have one company do the milling, and then another company comes in and lays down the material and does all the additional work that's needed. With FDR, a machine comes in and does everything all at once so the inconvenience of paving is drastically reduced, which makes it even more positive."

But even the pilot test may have to wait. A recent court case concerning the requirement that municipalities pay significantly higher wages for reconstruction projects than for maintenance ones appears to have concluded that road resurfacing now qualifies as reconstruction. That would add at least 15 percent to the cost of the work, or about \$140,000 according to Dailey. "And that's going to mean less roads getting done, for sure." ~



Public Works @ Work



Water bills too high? Maybe there's a leak somewhere in your home plumbing. Cranberry's Public

Works department will perform a free pressure regulator check and leak detection for Township water customers. You can also get a free dye kit to test for any seepage from your toilet tank. Contact the Customer Service Department to schedule a checkup or pick up your dye kit.



Township's network of underground pipes serving Cranberry's sanitary

Whack those weeds. Manholes provide strategic access to the

sewers, stormwater conduits, fresh water mains, communication cables, and more. But if their covers get buried under mulch or covered with shrubbery or weeds, Public Works personnel can't get in to service the lines beneath. So be sure to clear any vegetation away from the manholes on your property.



Boom town. Public Works crews are using a tractor-mounted boom mower to clear vegetation along Township roads. The mower, which is specifically made for right-of-way clearing, roadside brush management, and grounds maintenance, is being used to improve sight distances, not to enhance the appearance of

private shrubbery which may need to be trimmed back, according to department staff.

Cranberry after dark.

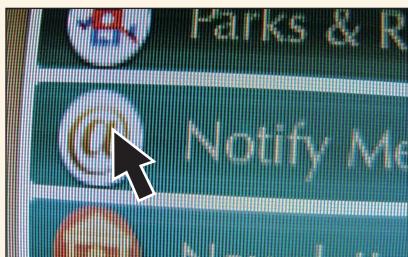
If there was ever any doubt, motorists traveling at night along



Rt. 228 – as well as visitors to nearby stores and hotels – can now tell their friends exactly where they are. Cranberry's south water storage tank, perched high on a ridge above Cranberry Woods and bearing the Township's name, has recently been illuminated for all to see. At the beginning of June, Public Works staffers worked with several contractors to upgrade the lighting and make sure the Township's identity will have a bright future. ~

Why didn't anybody tell me??!

Join Those In The Know With A Few Quick Clicks



How do residents learn about up-to-the-minute developments in Cranberry? And how can vendors find

out quickly about projects for which Cranberry is seeking contractors? By signing up for either or both of these free services at the Township's website, www.cranberrytownship.org.

Inside Cranberry is the name of the Township's online publication, which is issued whenever local developments warrant it. More than 1,400 residents currently subscribe.

"Bid Notification" provides vendors of goods and services with descriptions of the Township's specifications for construction, maintenance, and office equipment as well as other projects authorized for bids by the Board of Supervisors.

But that's just the beginning. As the system evolves, other more targeted notifications are expected to be added. For example, announcements affecting residents in one particular area of Cranberry, or information that is only of interest to those involved in athletic programs, or with student-age children, may become part of the system.

To sign up, click on the "Notify Me" link at the left side of the Township's Internet home page, then follow the steps outlined there. And be among the first to know. ~

Profile of a firefighter:



Lady Recruit Joins the Fire Crew

Several years ago Carolyn Nelson, a civil engineer and ten-year resident of the

area, started seeing her heavy travel schedule wind down and her new employer, Siemens Environmental Systems, keeping her in town. A single woman, she decided to devote some of her new-found free time to community service. But after a short stint helping out in other volunteer organizations, she realized she didn't have the skills required to be genuinely valuable. It wasn't until she drove by the Cranberry Fire Company's Park Station and saw a sign seeking volunteers that she found an activity which, in retrospect, matched her education, skills, work experience and temperament.

Sort of.

At first, she signed on for Fire Company duties including pre-planning, which gathers and organizes emergency contacts and reviews potential fire hazards of commercial buildings in the Township. She also joined the fire company's Fire Education and Fire Safety Programs committee. It was an assignment that required her to speak before children and adults – an activity the self-described introvert found to be nerve-racking. But she soldiered on, eventually graduating to chair the committee and, with practice, to overcome some of her misgivings about public speaking.

Still, she watched the Company's brigade firefighters respond to emergencies with a certain amount of awe. But she wasn't sure that her own limited strength would allow

her to move to the side of the Company where she could actually respond to emergency calls. Although three other women active in the Fire Company have mastered the strenuous task of firefighting, she couldn't shake her doubts that donning 90-plus pounds of equipment, for hours at a time, was beyond her ability.

But last fall, with the encouragement of Fire Company veterans Chris DeCree and Mark Nanna, she changed her mind.

"Before that, I didn't think I was capable of being a firefighter," Nelson said. "I'm older, and I didn't really think I could do it. But I was always encouraged by the other members to believe that I would be capable, and if it hadn't been for that, I probably wouldn't have tried. So after watching the guys and the other women firefighters, I decided to sign-up and began the training myself."

Today, with training in the basic essentials of firefighting behind her, Nelson spends two Tuesdays a month in the Company's newly-developed 'rookie class.' The other two Tuesdays are spent at meetings and working at the station. And when 911 calls, she takes action – although, as she points out, many of the Fire Company's daytime alarms are difficult to respond to and some

of those calls get canceled while she and her fellow firefighters are still en route. Even so, she dons the heavy bunker gear and functions as part of the team once they arrive at the scene.

"The first few times you get nervous, because you don't know what to do," she said. "But over time, and with training specific to CTVFD procedures, that uneasiness goes away. The training is key."

Even so, she has managed to settle comfortably into the fire company's culture. Being a woman in an organization dominated by men is something she calls a 'non-issue' – an outcome she credits to the quality of the volunteers involved in the company. "This is a great group to be part of," she said.

So has she set her sights set on becoming chief or captain?

"I don't think so," she said matter of factly. "Becoming part of CTVFD's Safety Officers group is my long-term goal. As a safety officer, you are supporting and maintaining the safety of individual firefighters – watching out for them and monitoring their safety." ~



Wardrobe at the ready.

Cranberry Township Volunteer Firefighter Carolyn Nelson stands by the 90-plus pounds of gear she wears whenever Butler 911 sounds the alarm.

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

To Firefighters, New Auto Technologies Can Mean New Risks

Hybrid cars and innovative fuel systems for all sorts of vehicles are showing up everywhere – especially now that gasoline prices have gone ballistic. But to Cranberry's firefighters and their counterparts across the country – the people who are typically first to respond to traffic mishaps – those same new technologies can also pose a series of unprecedented hazards.

Take the case of electric or hybrid electric vehicles. If they don't know what's under the skin of a vehicle, a rescuer struggling to free a trapped motorist could cut into danger.

"On the electric vehicles out there, there's high voltage wiring that runs through different parts of the car – roofs, rocker panels, undercarriage, and so on," Cranberry Fire Chief Bill Spiegel points out. "You have to watch where you're cutting; you don't want to cut into a high-voltage wire. You don't want to create a hazard or cause a battery to explode."

Other propulsion systems pose their own unique hazards. LPG-powered vehicles, using compressed natural gas stored in pressurized tanks, have been used in commercial fleets for years. Some of the Port Authority buses in Pittsburgh use LPG. But so do Schwann's ice cream trucks, which are based here in Cranberry.

"Every one of those trucks has at least an 80-100-pound compressed gas cylinder that the fuel is stored in," Spiegel notes. "What it means is that we have to take a different approach because now we have a vehicle out there that potentially has an explosion risk. In a wreck, depending on where the impact occurred, you could have a ruptured line and not even realize it until it's too late."

Even the newer gasoline-powered cars pose novel risks. Airbag canisters, side curtain airbags, and associated inflation devices filled with compressed gas, are tucked away in pockets all around the passenger compartment. "If they discharge while you're cutting the vehicle apart, they could injure the rescuer as well as the occupant," Spiegel said. "You have to know where you're cutting and be cognizant of what there is in the vehicle. For us to be able to access a victim, we've got to watch where we're cutting."

Just as new automotive technologies emerge, so do critical equipment differences from one automaker to the next – differences that could become matters of life or death to rescue crews. And knowing those differences involves extensive training, an activity which remains a top priority for Spiegel and his crew of dedicated volunteers.

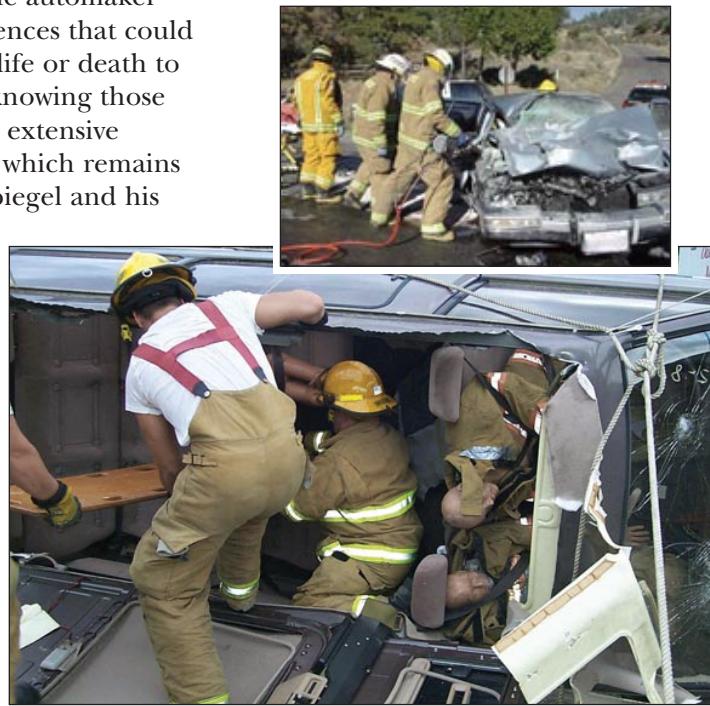
They're not alone; the automakers themselves have also been helpful in supporting that training with specialized materials and know-how, according to Spiegel.

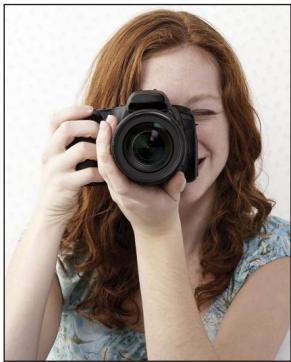


"You have to watch where you're cutting; you don't want to cut into a high-voltage wire that could injure the rescuer as well as the occupant."

But the situation is likely to get a lot more complicated before any new set of standards emerges. Right now, diesel fuel, ethanol and gasoline all have different burn characteristics. But hydrogen fuel cells, as well as other, even more exotic vehicle power plants, are looming on the horizon.

"Everything starts off as experimental, and then companies and organizations like the Turnpike Commission begin using them," Spiegel observed. "With the costs of crude oil increasing, every manufacturer is experimenting with new technologies. So we never know what's going to be there; we don't know what's going to come out tomorrow. So we're constantly trying to stay on top of things in an ever-changing world." ~





Attention photo buffs: Picture Cranberry

Paris has the Eiffel Tower. New York has the Statue of Liberty. Pittsburgh

has the Point. But what comes to mind when you think of Cranberry Township? Is there an iconic image that could become our signature graphic? Perhaps you've already taken it. And if you have, we'd love to see it.

That's because, for some time now, Cranberry has been building an image bank of photos to illustrate

its various publications and web sites concerning all aspects of life in the Township today. But we're also looking for photos of Old Cranberry – pre-1980 – to create an archive showing where we've been and how we looked before development really started taking off.

We'd like to use those photos in different ways which could include publicizing them through displays, on our Web site, in our newsletter, and in other Township publications. So if you make your photos available, it would include giving us a release for those sorts of non-commercial uses. And if you have a picture in mind that you

haven't taken yet, go ahead and take it. We'd love to see what Cranberry looks like to you.

For recent photos, we prefer digital files. But if you have a great print – or photos in an album that were taken years ago – we can digitize them for you.

We're setting up an online system for submitting pictures, and we'll use our Web site to let you know when it's ready. But in the meantime, if you burn your photos onto a CD and bring them into the Township office, marked to the attention of the Communications Department, we could get started right away. ~

Cranberry's 2008 Farmers' Market Is Open

*Locally grown, fresh produce is being sold
every **Friday from 3:30 to 6:00 PM** behind the Municipal Center and
each **Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM** behind the Rt. 19 fire station.*



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



724-776-4806

www.cranberrytownship.org

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