



Cranberrytoday

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2009 SPRING EDITION

Freedom, At Last

Badly-needed improvements to Freedom Road, which some had despaired of ever seeing after the state's General Assembly passed Act 44 two years ago, got a recent shot in the arm.

Pennsylvania's senior U.S. Senator, Arlen Specter, came to Cranberry on February 19 to announce \$1.75 million in federal funding for Phase II in a series of upgrades designed to relieve congestion and improve safety along Freedom Road. The grant will enable the segment of Freedom Road between Haine School Road and the Turnpike bridge to be widened, to have a traffic light added at its intersection with Haldeman Road, and to synchronize all of Freedom Road's traffic signals west of the Turnpike bridge. Work is expected to begin next year.

Funds for the project, which the Township had requested more than a year ago, were approved through the normal Congressional authorization process. However, Senator Specter pointed out, "this is part of an expanded effort by the federal government to help the state of Pennsylvania on highways and bridges and infrastructure with the new stimulus program providing as much as \$1.2 billion."

Subsequent phases of the Freedom Road improvement project will include building a wider bridge over the Turnpike, expanding the roadway to four lanes throughout



Congress comes through. U.S. Senator Arlen Specter made a brief visit to Cranberry on February 19 to announce funding for Phase II in a series of projected improvements to Freedom Road. Construction is expected to begin next year.

its length, and addressing a series of sight-line, shoulder, and safety issues – particularly toward the Beaver County line. Those follow-up phases will cost significantly more than the award for Phase II, and their final appearance will be largely influenced by the work of the Freedom Road Master Planning Committees, which have been holding meetings on the issue since last December to identify long-term, sustainable solutions to the land use and transportation issues facing the corridor.

Although enhanced safety and congestion relief were offered as primary goals for the recent grant, improvements to the roadway also have important economic significance. In his introduction to Senator Specter, Cranberry Township Supervisor Dick Hadley

Continued on page 3.

Now Here's The Plan...

Cranberry's Board of Supervisors is scheduled to formally adopt the Township's new long-range comprehensive plan on April 2, following a final public hearing on March 24.

The plan, which contains a series of recommendations for Cranberry's land use and development strategies through 2030, was created over a period of several years with extensive public engagement as well as technical support from Township staff and outside consultants. It succeeds a previous plan which Cranberry's Board adopted in 1995.

Continued on page 2.



INSIDE *this edition*

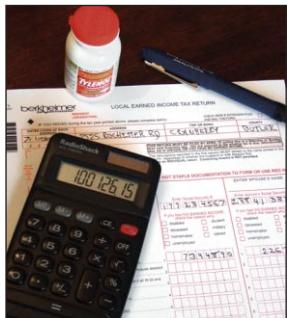
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Spring Is In The Air. That Must Mean Taxes Are Due

What's with the tax forms you got in the mail from Berkheimer? And who is Berkheimer, anyway?

Berkheimer is a private company which has contracts with hundreds of municipalities to administer their earned income taxes; Cranberry is one of its clients. Cranberry's tax amounts to one percent of a resident's earned income, or one percent of a business's net profits if that person is self-employed. The revenues from that tax are split evenly between the Township and Seneca Valley School District.

Any resident of Cranberry Township, whether they own their home or rent, is liable for the earned income tax. There are no exceptions because of age or limited earnings. Income subject to the tax includes, but is not limited to: wages, salaries, commissions, bonuses, incentive payments, fees, tips, and other compensation. Self-employed residents are subject to the tax based on net profits from the operation of their business or profession.



Whether or not your employer currently withholds that tax, you'll have to file your local return, just as you do for state and federal income tax. You'll also have to file if you're self-employed. Returns are due April 15 along with their supporting schedules. Business owners need to file their Mercantile/Business Privilege tax returns by May 15.

If you live here but work outside of Cranberry, you'll still need to pay Cranberry's Township's earned income tax because, by state law, that tax is payable to the community in which you live.

In case you misplaced or never received your Local Earned Income Tax forms, you can get them from the Berkheimer website, www.habinc.com, or from take-one racks in front of the Municipal Center library. The company's nearest local office is at 305 Grandview Avenue in Zelienople, and you can also get the forms from there weekdays between 9:00 and 4:30, although they are closed between noon and 1:00. Their phone number is: 724-453-5060.

The company also offers online services, including filing returns and payments, from the same website. Follow the links and you will be asked to create a new password-protected account to complete your filing.

Real estate taxes are another story. The joint County/ Township real estate tax notification that was mailed to you on March 1 can be paid at a two percent discount through the end of April. It can be paid at face value from May 1 to June 30. Then penalties start to apply. If your taxes are included as part of your mortgage payment, you may never have received that notification and you don't need to worry about it. But if you've refinanced, changed your mortgage company, or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact the tax collector's office.

Real estate taxes are handled by P.J. Lynd, Cranberry's elected tax collector, whose office is in the Cranberry Township Municipal Center. You can reach him at 724-776-1103 or by email at: pj.lynd@cranberrytownship.org. ~

Now here's the plan...

Continued from front cover

The overriding goal of the new Cranberry plan, as explained in its introduction, is both to sustain the community characteristics that its residents and businesses currently enjoy and for it to continue to grow and thrive twenty-five years from now. The Township's transition from a rural community into a regional hub over the previous 20 years resulted from careful growth management and will require prudent planning to sustain going forward.

One key outcome of the planning

process was the identification of a preferred future growth scenario – a composite of recommended land use, traffic, and infrastructure investment policies that would guide the Township toward full build-out. That scenario visualizes a population of 50,000 by 2030; Cranberry's population today is around 28,000.

The plan also includes a series of recommended actions to implement its provisions. Among them are items involving transportation, housing, economic development, culture,

civic involvement, parks, open spaces, governance, regionalism and sustainability. Their implementation will require, in addition to policy actions by elected officials: public support, financial support, volunteer efforts, and cooperation from other units of government.

Printed copies of the full 260-plus page document are available at both the Township office and Library. A PDF version of the plan is also available online at the Township's website, www.cranberrytownship.org. ~

Simon Mulls Mall, Pulls Plug

There won't be a Simon mall or lifestyle center in Cranberry anytime soon. That was the final outcome of a seven-year effort by the Township and the developer to find an acceptable way to handle the traffic that the company's proposed mixed-use project, and the ancillary development it would have triggered, was going to create. The proposed development, a mix of retail, office and residential development, was to have been situated on 80 acres of undeveloped land at the intersection of 228 and I-79.

The price of the only option that PennDOT would accept for improvements and connections to Rt. 228 – \$85 million and counting – was at least \$20 million more than the combined state, Township, and company funds would have allowed. So on January 22, Simon announced that even though it would like to be in the Cranberry market, it was withdrawing its ambitious proposal for the project it had named The Summit at Cranberry.

The only option that PennDOT would accept was at least \$20 million more than the combined state, Township, and company funds would have allowed.

At the same time, PennDOT District 10 reported that it has been working on a plan to spend the \$20 million on incremental improvements to 228 which were previously allocated in its transportation improvement program. PennDOT didn't want to lose that money and wants to get it spent. The improvements they agreed to build include a northbound ramp from 228 to I-79 and a southbound ramp onto I-79 that goes around and under, instead of the current left turn, across 228. Construction would likely start in 2012.

"We were disappointed, but not surprised, to learn that Simon

Properties has decided not to move forward with its mixed-use development project at this time," Township Manager Jerry Andree said. "They are an astute business organization, we found them to be very professional."

What soured the deal was that the extensive road improvements which PennDOT had tied to the project went far beyond what is customary for developments of that



size in Pennsylvania. Those improvements were layered on top of an earlier series of improvements which PennDOT had already committed to. The combination ultimately reached a point where financing became unfeasible. Beyond that, State Act 44, which was passed in 2007, made the funding of road projects designed to add capacity, rather than to repair crumbling roads and bridges, even more difficult to justify.

"The problem, as we see it, is not that Simon is turning its back on Cranberry," Andree said. "Simon still recognizes the attraction of locating here. And the company has indicated that they would renew their interest and involvement once a workable solution has been identified. Rt. 228 remains an exceptionally attractive place for economic development."

~

Freedom, at last

Continued from front cover

noted that Freedom Road forms an essential part of a business corridor which serves the entire region.

"What's important to remember is the reason for all this traffic," Hadley said. "It's that we're at the heart of where much of our region's economic growth has taken place. Unemployment here is just

3.6 percent – half the national rate. Cranberry has become a major employment center and Freedom Road is a key corridor for much of that employment and commerce."

Among those welcoming the Senator's announcement, which was held at the Methodist Center on Freedom Road, were representatives

of the Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce, UPMC Passavant, Westinghouse Electric, and Butler County. Several protestors, upset over the Senator's support of the stimulus package, were also on hand. ~

Safety and congestion relief were offered as primary goals for the recent grant, but improvements to the roadway also have important economic significance.

Snakes In The Grass, Part Deux

Last fall, construction for the new connector road linking Cranberry Heights Drive with Rt. 19 was put on hold. Its planned alignment, which crosses a small area of wetlands, required a permit from the state Fish and Boat Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection, DEP. As part of its permit application, the Township needed to determine whether an endangered species – the elusive Massasauga Rattlesnake – had made itself at home in that upscale area of the Township. If it has, the project might have to be modified to keep the endangered snakes from being disturbed.

As it turned out, no snakes were found, but in cold weather, any self-respecting serpent would be hibernating anyway. So the hunt resumes this spring. “We’re now into the second phase of the process to determine if that species is in our project area,” according to Township Engineer Jason Kratsas. “We had an environmental consultant do a habitat assessment which came back saying that snakes could live there and that if snakes really are present, this would be an area they would like. But there have been no sightings or physical evidence of the snakes actually being here.”

However liking a property and actually moving into it are two different things, as every homeowner knows. “Even though we’re not seeing any evidence that these snakes are actually out there, DEP and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat

Commission regulations say we have to go through this phase where you put down plywood ‘attractors’ that give the snakes something to live under,” Kratsas said. “Then once a month you go out there and check to see if any snakes are actually living under them.”

It’s not the first time specialists have had to be called in to ascertain whether that particular snake species was present. It was also part of the federal and state environmental permitting process for several earlier Cranberry projects that crossed streams, including the Route 19-Rochester Road intersection improvement which was done three years ago.

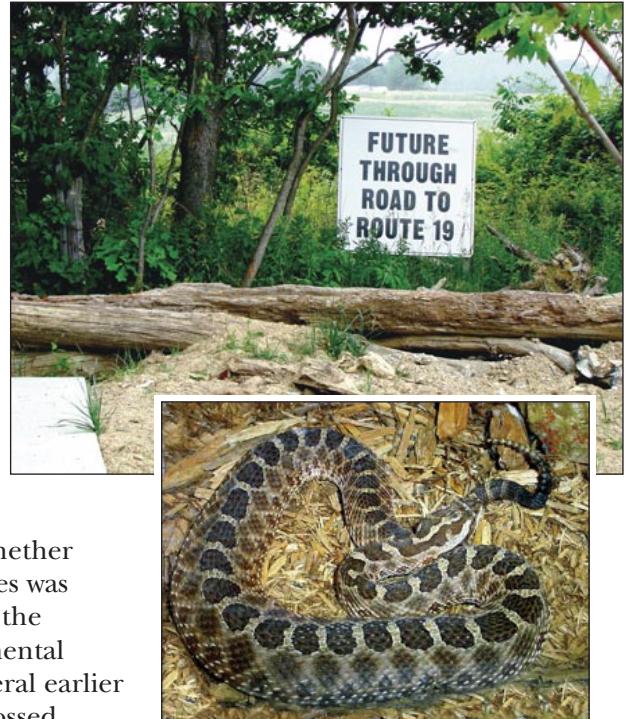
“Cranberry is included in a broad swath on a map that shows the original habitat of the snake,” assistant Township Manager Duane McKee explained. “All projects that cross streams in that

area have to look for the species. We’ve had to search for it several times now and we haven’t found any.”

There is, however, a shorter, but much more expensive

alternative. “The Fish and Boat Commission told us that if we wanted to keep moving forward with the connector project right now, we could go ahead and start building bridges across the wetlands –

“Snakes could live there. But, there have been no sightings or physical evidence of the snakes actually being here.”



The invisible serpent. Massasauga rattlesnakes, an endangered species, would really enjoy living around Cranberry Heights, according to the DEP. But have they actually moved in? While no one has seen them, the answer could affect the design of the connector road to Rt. 19.

essentially acting as if the snakes were actually there,” Kratsas said. “But it’s cost-prohibitive to build a viaduct just in case a snake – particularly one that may not be there at all – wants to get from one side of the road to the other.”

But there’s also some good news: no ancient human civilizations will be disturbed by building the new connector road. “We’re past the archeological artifact stage,” Kratsas noted. “We did our phase one evaluation and we passed. So we don’t have to go any further.”

The consultant’s final report on rattlesnakes is expected this summer.

~



GOING GREEN

Circle Your Mowers: The Carnegie Takes On Suburbia

by Richard Hadley, Chairman, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors



As much as we like it here, it seems odd to think of Cranberry Township as an *object d'art*. But in case you missed it, there

was a fascinating exhibit that closed in January at the Carnegie Museum of Art which focused on suburbia – its residents, architecture, lifestyles, commerce and more.

The title of the exhibition – which was a joint effort of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Heinz Architectural Center at Carnegie Museum of Art – was “Worlds Away: New Suburban Landscapes.” As western Pennsylvania’s fastest-growing suburb, Cranberry was invited to become a stand-in for real-life suburbia during several panel discussions associated with the display, and it was my privilege to represent the Township there.

What I found particularly refreshing was that instead of starting with the condescending view of suburbia which affects so many architecture critics and social commentators, this exhibit decided to explore an aspect of America most artists overlook. Instead of seeing suburbia as some sort of temporary aberration, unworthy of being taken seriously, the exhibit’s organizers began with the point of view that more than half the U.S. population today lives in the suburbs, that there are good reasons people want to live there, and that those suburbs aren’t going away.

The fact is that very few of suburbia’s more outspoken critics actually live there, according to Reid Frazier’s

thoughtful introduction to the exhibit in Carnegie Magazine. “A lot of post-World War II criticism of suburbia was by city dwellers imagining what life in the suburbs was like,” he quotes the Walker Art Center’s curator as saying. The problem is, their imagination – shaped by Norman Rockwell paintings, 1950s TV sitcoms and urban folklore – was frequently way off the mark.

Suburban mythology tended toward one-dimensional ideas: the suburb as a uniformly white-bread paradise, or as a cluster of car-bound commuters linked by shopping malls, or as a cultural wasteland of empty souls, and so forth. But this exhibit offered a much more sympathetic, diverse and complex view of suburban life. And as our

real-time panel discussions made clear, each suburb has its own distinctive history, identity issues and challenges, including problems that were once considered unique to center cities: crime, drugs, abandoned properties, and so forth.

What I learned is common among the diverse group of suburban communities that form Greater Pittsburgh is that they are almost all concerned about being misperceived and about how the municipal services they offer are routinely confused with other units of government. Oakmont, for example, is thought of as an oasis of affluence because of the exclusive country club that shares its name; but it is actually a struggling community of modest

means. And Greentree, whose northern and eastern boundaries are contiguous with Pittsburgh, finds that many residents there are puzzled about where they actually live and who to call for service.

I can sympathize. Until the early ‘90s, when Cranberry got its own post office, people routinely referred to us as Mars or Ogle or Crider’s Corner. Even today, a lot of roadmaps don’t identify us properly. And the complex layering of state, county, municipal, and school district responsibilities here frequently throws people off the scent when it comes to giving credit, or assigning blame, for their response to service requests.

So I want to applaud Tracy Myers and Andrew Blauvelt, the curators of the World’s Away exhibit which has now

moved on to Yale University, for taking on this huge but largely neglected aspect of American life and treating it with the respect it deserves, but seldom gets. ~



Cut it out. This iconic image of suburbia by Arizona photographer Greg Stimac was displayed in the Carnegie Art Museum’s recent exhibit, ‘Worlds Away.’ The show actually took a more nuanced and balanced look at suburban life than most of us have come to expect.

You can reach Richard Hadley at: dick.hadley@cranberrytownship.org

Wellington Energy: Enabling Smarter Power Grids

Bruce Sisson, Vice President of privately-held Wellington Energy, Inc. in Cranberry's RIDC Park, keeps his watch set to Pacific Time, no matter where he happens to be. That's because 300 of the 350 company employees he manages are actually based at nine different locations up and down the west coast. Their mission: installing next generation digital electric meters in homes and businesses – normally around 13,000 a day – which allow the power companies there to run their utilities cleaner, cheaper, and smarter.

Until the last four or five years, most homes and businesses were outfitted with traditional electromechanical electric meters – the kind with a disk turning under a glass dome. It's a very old technology and it's reliable. But it's also labor intensive, requiring human meter readers to inspect each unit, record where its arrows are pointing, and bring that data back to the billing office.

Not only that, traditional meters are dumb – that is, they don't show when the power they recorded was consumed. And that matters, because power is often more abundant, and therefore cheaper, at night than the power consumed at peak times of day. But you can't bill someone based on their time of use unless you have a metering system to record it. That's where digital technology comes in.

A digital meter outfitted with a communications chip can serve as the gateway to a much smarter, more efficient electric grid that allows utilities to extend the capacity of their existing infrastructure, Sisson explained. "It measures your consumption in 5, 15 or 60-minute intervals and reports directly back to the utility. If it's a peak use period

where they need to trim back the load on the network, with your advance permission they could cycle your air conditioner off for five minutes out of every hour. You won't see the difference in your home or building, but if they cycle everybody's off at staggered five minute intervals, they can recover enough capacity to eliminate a potential brownout."

Smart meters would enable electric companies to charge home owners different rates at different times of day – enabling customers, for example, to have smart appliances that turn themselves on late at night, when power is cheapest. By leveling out the demand for electric power throughout the day, it would reduce the need to continue building new power plants and transmission lines – typically an expensive and difficult undertaking for power companies. And it could quickly alert the utility to local outages, voltage drops, spikes, or other quality issues with the power they deliver.

Although much of Wellington Energy's business is on the west coast today, its origins are distinctly local. Its parent company, Wellington Power Corporation, has been based in Lawrenceville since 1985. Strong Wellington Energy Inc. growth led the company to select Cranberry as an easy commute when it outgrew its Lawrenceville roots. Staff members from east, west and south of Pittsburgh all work at the Cranberry location.

"This is our headquarters; this is our network operations center," Sisson

said of the Commonwealth Drive building it bought in 2005. "We plan, schedule and dispatch work here every day to our field workforce of over 300 people who can be anywhere the Internet can be accessed. They show up for work, get assigned their routes of meters to install in the form of electronic work orders on a small handheld computer. They physically exchange 40 to 50 meters per day, record the information related to their work orders, and then in the evening, they bring their handhelds back, push a button, and all that data comes back here."

Leveling out the demand for electric power throughout the day would reduce the need to continue building new power plants and transmission lines.

"We actually use the west coast time difference to our benefit for planning and scheduling because there are some things which are best not decided until the next morning. So in a lot of circumstances, it helps that we're offset by three hours. We also have a small call center here that works whatever hours are required to support our various projects across the country." ~



California calling. Detailed data related to each electric meter installed by Wellington Energy's 300 west coast field technicians is keyed into handheld units and uploaded each night to the company's servers at its Cranberry headquarters. Wellington's current project for Pacific Gas & Electric alone involves installing 10 million new meters. Company Vice President Bruce Sisson oversees the entire operation.

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.

Do you Tweet?

Getting Caught Up In Web 2.0

While 2008 will be remembered for a number of major developments, both good and bad, one of the more enduring may turn out to be a watershed change in the way we communicate with one another. At least that's what a lot of people seem to believe, and they're scrambling for ways to take advantage of it. So what does that mean for Cranberry?

Consider the case of Facebook. In January 2008, the Internet-based social networking website, which was started four years earlier, had 60 million members. By February 12 of this year, that number had swollen to 175 million. The volume of traffic on the site and the amount of time people spent logged in there, showed a corresponding rise.

Not only that, much of the explosive growth this past year came from adults – not the school and college aged enthusiasts who had populated the site's earlier phase. And the users of Facebook today also include a growing number of businesses, associations, political candidates, churches and other organizations which were never part of the original social networking concept.

Just this March, an unscientific survey of subscribers to *Inside Cranberry* – the Township's e-blast newsletter – revealed that 93 percent had Facebook accounts. One-third had an account on LinkedIn, a professional networking site, and one out of seven had accounts on Twitter, a service that enables groups to exchange brief text messages and

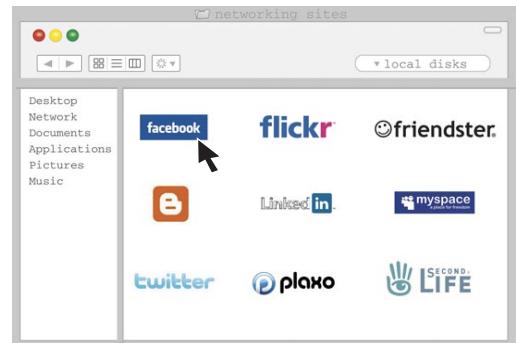
email. Twitter's 2008 growth rate has variously been reported as anywhere from 343 to 752 percent.

One of the reasons it matters is because all across the country, newspaper circulation is in a tailspin, magazines are folding, broadcast revenues are down, and companies that advertise are trying to connect with customers through various electronic media – particularly Internet-based services such as search engines and social networking sites.

Those trends have not been lost on Township officials who are keenly aware that Cranberry's demographic makeup favors the expanded use of non-traditional media. So this summer, Cranberry's WaterPark will have a Facebook presence, enabling patrons to exchange information, photos and comments with one another.

Cranberry's police department, which has traditionally recruited new officers through newspaper ads, will be using Craig's List and other websites to help offset the decline in police applicants. The Fire Company, which relies on a variety of traditional information tools, is having a second look at the way it communicates with its members.

"We have set up a Facebook group to communicate with the younger guys because they're comfortable



with that technology," Fire Company President Bruce Hezlep noted recently. "We used to post things at the station. But not every member stops there to check out what's going on. So one of the other things our Computer Committee is working on is a members-only part of our website."

Creating a web log, or blog – essentially an Internet-based, two-way diary – is another interactive

Township officials are keenly aware that Cranberry's demographic makeup favors the expanded use of non-traditional media.

communication tool that the Township is examining. But the time required to maintain a blog and to keep it fresh, have given officials pause.

However the opportunities presented by new media to learn from and interact with residents and to quicken the pace of local government's response to their concerns seem genuine. As a result, communities all across the country are looking to find useful ways of harnessing their powers.

To register your own ideas, go to the Township's home page, click on 'Survey,' and let us know. ~



Pending approval of the Butler County Commissioners on April 8, Cranberry residents in the East III district – which is generally situated east of I-79 and south of Rowan Road in the Township's southeastern portion – will vote in the Cranberry Township Municipal Center Senior/Teen Center rather than the Dutilh United Methodist Church, as they did in the 2008 General Election. Official notification from the County's election bureau will be sent to affected residents confirming whether the site shift was approved.

Seneca Valley Earns High Marks

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District

It's rather common today.

Doctors rely on it to determine pain; businesses utilize it as a way to prioritize, and late-night talk show hosts depend on it as a form of entertainment.

It's the scale of one to 10, and Seneca Valley is at the top of it.

Neighborhoodscout.com recently revealed state statistics on their Web site, identifying every school district's ranking from 1 to 10; and Seneca Valley scored a 9 in the state and a ten nationally.

Based on several factors, including student/teacher ratios (Seneca Valley is 15:1), educational expenditures (Seneca Valley spends approximately \$10,125 per student) and Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) test scores (Seneca Valley has 83 percent of student proficient or advanced in reading and math; the state is at 68 percent), Seneca Valley scores in the 90th percentile of all schools both state and nationally.

Specifically, Seneca Valley earned a national ranking of 10 (10 is considered best) and ranked better than 96 percent of school districts across the United States.

Dawn Abbate, a Cranberry Township parent, stated she was pleased but not surprised by the latest figures and facts.

"It seems that there is a wide range of course selection to challenge the students, along with opportunities for enrichment that help to motivate kids," she said.

In addition to the low student/teacher ratio, Mrs. Abbate believes it's the character and skill strength of teachers that really makes a difference in elevating the success of the district to even greater heights.



"I would have to say that my children have had some outstanding teachers at Seneca Valley – teachers who really have gone above and beyond to prepare and deliver meaningful instruction," she said. "In my opinion, a caring teacher is the foundation for success in any classroom, and having been in the district now for 15 years, my children have been fortunate to have had many wonderful teachers over the years."

NeighborhoodScout.com hopes to change the way consumers select residential real estate and make relocation decisions. The online company boasts that it houses one of the largest databases of neighborhood statistics, providing insights on the public schools, family and financial demographics and home appreciation rates.

As part of these site details, Seneca Valley has a state-wide ranking of nine (remember, 10 is best) and is better than 89 percent of other Pennsylvania School Districts.

Another Cranberry Township parent, Pam Steinle, feels strongly that the care and concern for students trickles down into academics and activities

"I know Seneca Valley is a top school district because the principals, teachers and staff are easily accessible to parents. This shows me they care a great deal about our community's children."

Karen Daley agrees. This Cranberry Township mother feels strongly that the staff provides positive grade level transitions and supports students who have emotional and physical needs.

"No matter what learning style your child possesses, Seneca Valley teachers incorporate a variety of teaching methods to help your child succeed to the best of their ability."



In Briefs

Count me in.
By next year, according to the U.S. Census

United States Census 2010

Bureau, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Almost 30,000 of them will live in Cranberry Township. Counting each person is one of the federal government's largest operations, so the Bureau will be hiring about 1.4 million temporary employees to undertake the decennial project. This fall, recruitment will begin for census-takers to work during the peak period in 2010. Achieving a full count is a key priority for Cranberry officials.



It's a gas.
Cranberry Township has been awarded a \$20,000 state grant to identify the sources, and to plan

for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases in the Township. It is one of just 15 municipalities in Pennsylvania to receive the DEP grant. The inventory of emissions will help establish a baseline for reduction targets. Cranberry is

committed to the practice of energy savings, sound environmental stewardship, attracting knowledge-based industries, and fostering environmentally-friendly business enterprises.

Town and gown. An innovative 'Run for the Gowns' fund-raising



sale at the Municipal Center in March drew more than 300 shoppers, eager to find never-worn formal gowns and wedding dresses, originally priced as high as \$3,500, for just \$50 apiece. All proceeds from the sale went to the Cranberry Township Community Chest, CTCC, which supports local volunteer and nonprofit organizations. For each of the remaining four days of the sale, prices were reduced by another \$10. By the final day, nearly \$4,000 had been raised. The unsold dresses were donated to a local church.



Tee up. Cranberry Highlands is a longer drive these days. New back tees on holes 5, 8, and 12 – scheduled to

become available by mid-June – will be adding more than 50 yards to the formerly 6,444 yard, par-70 course. After completing their rounds, golfers are invited to relax in the new wood and stone pavilion next to the clubhouse back patio. The new structure, completed earlier this year, will also allow events to be held outdoors during the warm weather months without the need to erect a tent or canopy in case of rain.

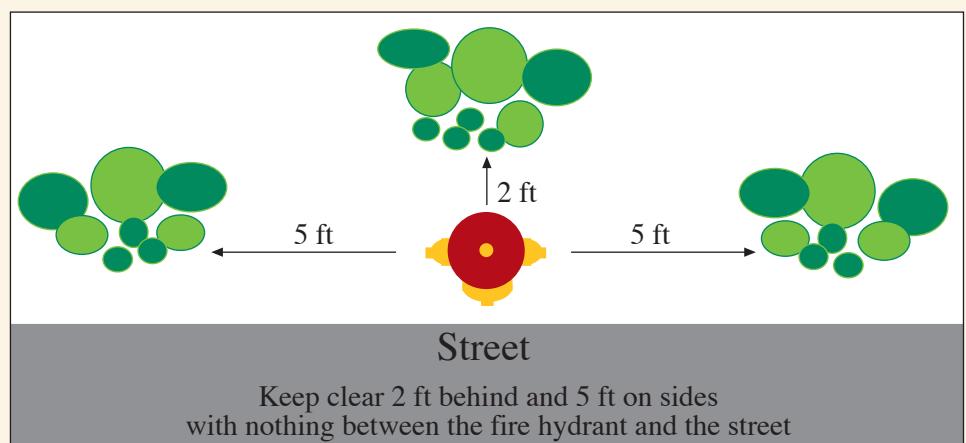
Caring Place cares for Cranberry.



The Highmark Caring Place, a center for grieving children, adolescents and their families, is about to open a new facility on Warrendale-Bayne Road in Marshall Township. Children and their families get support from one another, facilitated by professionals and trained volunteers as well as other children and adults who have also experienced the death of a loved one. In addition to peer support groups, the Caring Place provides referral services, adult telephone support, educational programs and resources for grieving children and families. Their services are free of charge. ~

Keep It Clear

Cranberry's Public Works department, which is responsible for reading outdoor household water meters and servicing the Township's water and sewer systems, reminds homeowners to keep shrubbery away from fire hydrants, avoid covering manholes with mulch, and to cut back plants that block access to meter pads on the sides of their homes.



Summer Vacation, Plan B

Planning a vacation this year? A lot of people who were looking forward to a week at the beach are now pulling back, victims of a deepening recession. Even though Cranberry's economy remains strong and its unemployment levels low, the ripple effects of the global financial crisis are affecting everyone. At the same time, the Parks & Recreation Department's catalog of summer offerings may also provide a low-cost alternative to the beach for many families.

"People may not be taking vacations this year," program coordinator Christine Border speculated.

"Last year it was because of time – particularly with the extended school schedule – and this year it's because of the economy. We could see a boost in our WaterPark membership and our camp programs because people are still going to find a place for their kids. I also think you're going to see more people at the region's other attractions this summer. People are going to look for little things to do with their family in lieu of that vacation."



They may also be doing more things which involve only the children. "With our week-long day camp format, when we have a family that's not going on vacation, they can send their child to camp for a tenth the cost and the child will have a great vacation by coming to a theme week – Pirates of the Caribbean, for example, or Harry Potter, or the outdoor camp for boating and archery and so on."

"What we provide is affordable," Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl said. "It's something for the whole family. Whether it's simply going out and having a picnic on the lawn with your family, or going golfing, or swimming, or participating in CTAA, or soccer, or junior football,

or lacrosse at one of our Community Park fields, we provide facilities that are inexpensive assets to the community."

"We see the summer camp as a high-quality, low-cost daycare option for families during the



A family that's not going on vacation can send their child to camp for a tenth the cost and the child will have a great vacation.

summer, particularly where the mom is going back to work," Border continued.

"If we see that, we're going to do everything we can to accommodate them.

"We have a lot of two-income families who use Camp Cranberry. It's emerged as a vital part of their family structure; they know their kids can come here and that they're safe. And they have

a little window to get from work to here and from here to work in the morning.

"It's a structured program, but it's not so overly structured that kids can't enjoy themselves, and that's the most important thing."

Catalogues detailing more than 100 Parks & Recreation summer programs were mailed to local households in March. They are also available online at the Township website. Registration for summer programs begins April 4. ~



Cranberry Highlands: Certified Green

Cranberry Highlands Golf Course sits on a 331 acre site owned by the Township. But the golf course itself uses only 186 of those acres. So what about the other 145? The answer: they've become a wildlife sanctuary. And now, after seven years of work toward becoming a sustainably green and environmentally-friendly facility, there's official certification of the results.

For the past 20 years or so, Audubon International, an organization that promotes responsible land, water and wildlife management practices for various types of developments, has operated its Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Program guidelines are lengthy and detailed, but by following them, and documenting the results, a golf course can earn recognition as an Audubon-level facility.

Golf Course Superintendent Dave Barber has been leading the effort to reach that goal, which began with the initial concept of Cranberry Highlands by architect Bill Love back in 2000. Love's philosophy of design – to create a golf course with a minimum of earth movement – was a good fit for Barber's approach of reducing the amount of area that required fertilizing, mowing, and other intensive maintenance activities to the greatest extent possible.

"It is a philosophy that was in place from the outset of the golf course," Barber said. "It affects what's planted, what's disturbed, what's left alone. Bill Love is president of an association that likes to naturalize a lot of golf courses. We've had a lot of golfers come from other clubs asking 'why can't we do this at our course?'

Cranberry's operational expenses are down, and ours are up. Why?"

The answer, according to Barber: "Take these naturalized areas that I don't have to mow every day, and look at the man-hours I save. And it's more than just man-hours. We're saving fuel. We've cut back on fertilizer. We irrigate with recycled water."

Seemingly small steps in the management of the golf course are also tracked: how equipment is washed down, how fertilizer is spread, and when herbicides are used, for example.

There is also a lot of attention to attracting birds and other wildlife which contribute to the Cranberry Highlands experience. Look closely at the 150-yard markers along each fairway. "Instead of putting in regular 150 yard markers, we have bird houses at the 150 – bluebird houses. Bluebirds like to be in an open range, so they represent the 150-yard markers," Barber said.

They have plenty of company. In addition to providing bluebird nesting and congregation sites for year-round use, wildflowers have been planted to attract finches – little yellow canaries that dart in and out among the flowers. There is a hawk's nest. There's a majestic blue heron that fishes in the early morning hours from the ponds at holes 3 and 12. There's a honey



A nature trail, together with appropriate signage will help visitors accompanied by staff guides to access the Highlands' natural attractions.

bee colony, a bat house, deer, and butterflies. Wrens, sparrows, owls, bluejays, hummingbirds, cardinals and turkeys also make themselves at home there, as do several ground-nesting species.

With so much wildlife already in residence, what's the next step? One of the first moves, Barber says, will be to develop a nature trail, together with appropriate signage, to help visitors accompanied by staff guides access the Highlands' natural attractions. That trail will be available this summer.

"We're forming an advisory board to meet four or five times a year and think of things we can do," he said. "Maybe enhance the wetlands without disturbing it. Maybe add some wood duck houses. We will have some outside community activity, we'll have tours – the sky's the limit. This thing can grow as big as we want it to as long as it fits the budget." ~

GOING GREEN



APRIL

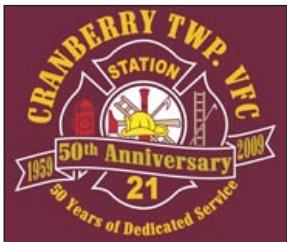
WED 1	April Fool's Day Yard Waste Collection Resumes Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm	Waterpark Members may register for summer Aquatic Programs online at 8:30 am †	THURS 2	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 3	SAT 4	Summer Program registration begins, Municipal Ctr, 8:30 am †	SUN 5	Palm Sunday			
MON 6	Walk-in AARP Tax Preparation Library, 10 am - 2 pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Book Discussion <i>Plague of Doves</i> , Louise Erdrich, Library, 7 pm	TUES 7	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm	WED 8	Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	THURS 9	Passover 4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm		Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am - 2 pm			
FRI 10	Good Friday Twp Offices, Municipal Ctr including Parks & Recreation, and Library Closed Bridgestone Golf Ball Fitting Challenge †† Cranberry Highlands, 10 am - 3 pm SVSD holiday vacation	SAT 11	Parks & Recreation Closed	SUN 12	Easter Municipal Ctr including Parks & Recreation, and Library Closed	MON 13	National Library Week SVSD holiday vacation	TUES 14	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm First Person Interpretation <i>Turtle, Delaware Warrior</i> , Library, 7 pm			
WED 15	Deadline for filing an individual tax return Book Discussion <i>Water for Elephants</i> , Sara Gruen, Library, 10 am Dealing With IBS UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm		Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm <i>Who were the Native Americans of this Area?</i> presented by Dr. Carl Robertson, Library, 7 pm	THURS 16	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm	FRI 17	SAT 18	SUN 19	MON 20	TUES 21	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm	
WED 22	Earth Day Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 23	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm <i>High School Sports Injuries: Prevention and Treatment</i> AGH, Library, 6:30 pm	Backyard Composting Class * Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	FRI 24	Arbor Day, US	SAT 25	SUN 26	MON 27	Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	TUES 28	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm Balance & Fall Prevention Freedom Rehabilitation, Library, 7 pm
WED 29	Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm Toilet Training Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7 pm	THURS 30	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm Last Day for Property Tax at a 2% discount			Last Day to receive Early Registration Discount for Community WaterPark †	FRI 1	SAT 2		Household Hazardous Waste Disposal North Park, 9 am - 1 pm	SUN 3	

MAY

MON 4	Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Book Discussion <i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i> by Barbara Kingsolver, Library, 7 pm	TUES 5	Cinco De Mayo 4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm	WED 6	Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 7	4-5 Year Old's Storytime • Library, 11 am or 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 8	SAT 9	Seneca Valley Senior Prom Grand March, SVHigh, 6 pm	SUN 10	Mothers Day	MON 11	
TUES 12	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm	WED 13	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	THURS 14	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am - 2 pm 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am	FRI 15	SAT 16	Armed Forces Day Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex at Graham Park Grand Opening 10 am Ping Demo Day Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, 11:30 am - 3 pm	SUN 17					
MON 18	TUES 19 Primary Election Day polls open 7 am - 8 pm Friends of the Public Library Election Day Coffee and Donuts Municipal Ctr, 7 am - 8 pm	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am and 1 pm	WED 20	Book Discussion <i>The Double Bind</i> , Chris Bohjalian, Library, 10 am <i>Sleep Hygiene - Hints to Help You Sleep</i> UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 21	SVSD - Act 80 Day 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Backyard Composting Class * Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	FRI 22	SAT 23	SVSD - Act 80 Day	SAT 23				
SUN 24	Veterans' Memorial Day Ceremony North Boundary Park, 1 pm	MON 25	MEMORIAL DAY Twp Offices, Municipal Ctr including Parks & Recreation, and Library Closed SVSD holiday vacation	TUES 26	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am and 1 pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm		Helping Your Child Breathe Easy: <i>An Asthma Update</i> Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7 pm	WED 27	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 28	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	SUN 23		
FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 31	MON 1	Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 2	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am and 1 pm	WED 3	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 4	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 5	SVSD Graduation	SAT 6	Tire Recycling Day BASF Parking Lot, Evans City, 10 am - 1 pm

JUNE

SUN 7	MON 8	TUES 9	WED 10	SVSD last day of school, early dismissal Parks and Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	Last day of School Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9-11 pm	THURS 11	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am - 2 pm	FRI 12	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 - 6 pm Ride, Rock, and Roll with Radio Disney Skate Park, 6 - 8 pm	SAT 13	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am - 1 pm					
SUN 14	Flag Day	MON 15	TUES 16	WED 17	Spine and Back Pain UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	THURS 18	Butler County Night at the Symphony Orchestra Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh, 7:30 pm Tickets 724-234-4619	FRI 19	SVSD Kennywood Day Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 - 6 pm	SAT 20	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 21	Father's Day Summer Begins Father's Day Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 - 11 pm	MON 22	TUES 23	WED 24
THURS 25	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm		FRI 26	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 - 6 pm	SAT 27	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am - 1 pm	SUN 28	MON 29	Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	TUES 30	Last day to pay Property Tax at face value					



Volunteer Fire Company Marks Its 50th Anniversary

Cranberry Township's Volunteer Fire Company takes understandable pride in its professionalism, its training, its equipment, and its roster of volunteers. But it wasn't always the well-oiled machine that it is today, and this year, CTVFC members are taking time to reflect on the distance they've traveled.

Startup

It was in January of 1959, after several failed starts, that the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company finally gained traction. Formed as an independent body, and started from scratch by a handful of determined local residents, it was a rough but resolute organization. Several pioneering members recently reflected on those early days.

"We started with nothing – nothing at all," recalled charter member Andrew Hack. "Until then we had no fire protection. Evans City and Zelienople usually covered the northern part and Warrendale would come out to the southern part. We used to have a lot of brush fires; back then it was all farms and woods." But the distances, combined with meandering roads and limited resources, made the response painfully slow.

"So we had a raffle," Hack said. "We wanted to buy the piece of ground where the beer distributor is now on old Rt. 19, Dutilh Road. We sold raffle tickets for a '59 Pontiac. We paid \$3,000 for it. We sold them right out there at the truck stop – across the road from the new Walgreen's, where Hartner's used to be. We used to flag people down on 19 to buy tickets. If you did that today, you'd get run over."

Hack, who at the time was working in construction, had the cold weather seasons off. Once the property had been acquired, he worked throughout the winter alongside some of the Company's other early volunteers – many of whom were tradesmen themselves – to build the cinder block structure that was



to become the Company's first permanent home.

But even after it was finished, the fire house was rarely staffed, according to Chuck Beattie, another early Fire Company member. "When we finally got into operation, the fire calls went first to Hartner's truck stop, across the street. There was nobody at the fire station and there was no police station at the time. So you had a number to call the truck stop and they would hit a button to set the siren off in the fire house. And when the firemen responded

to the fire station, the first one there would get the information from Hartner's of where the fire call came from."

Pass the boot

Raising money was a huge part of the fire service back then. "We had carnivals once a year and we'd usually buy something we needed for the fire company," Hack recalled. "We'd work the carnival for a week and hope to get enough money to buy 500 feet of fire hose. We had bingo every week once we established a building. And then we had a fund drive once a year, usually in May. We'd go around to all the people in the Township, knock on doors, and ask for donations."

The cold war, and the threat of tensions escalating into nuclear war at any time, also played an important role in the Fire Company's earliest

The fire calls went first to Hartner's truck stop. The truck stop would hit a button to set the siren off in the fire house. The first one there would get the information from Hartner's.



Fighting a fire in the Rt. 19 Motel 6, under construction in May 1963.

"We had a fund drive once a year, usually in May. We'd go around to all the people in the Township, knock on doors, and ask for donations."

days. "The Township had a very active Civil Defense group," Beattie pointed out. "That group actually formed the nucleus of the fire company and, in my opinion, they got the fire company going. The first vehicle they had, an old Chevy van,



This tanker built onto a military truck chassis was part of the Fire Company's early fleet.

truck, which was an old army vehicle. But their involvement didn't go on for that long."

Just for the record, Cranberry's very first fire vehicle – actually acquired by the Township a year or two before the Fire Company was formally organized – was a 30 year old Pirsch pumper, which has since been restored for use as a parade vehicle. "It was an old fire engine and we got it for a couple hundred bucks," Hack noted. "And we just worked on it and built up from there."

Learning curve

Before entering active service, today's volunteer firefighters undergo extensive training, both to become effective in combating fires and to protect their own safety. But 50 years ago, things were different. "We didn't have any training," Hack recalled. "We went to Butler Fire School once a year. If somebody wanted an old building burned down, we'd go burn it down and practice putting it out until there was nothing left. Back then, we used an old barn for our smoke class, putting masks on – the same type they used in World War I. We'd put smoke in

the barn and then practice going through, taking a hose in with you."

Beattie's remembers it a little bit differently – that there had been at least some training – and that their firefighter's skills were equal to any other fire department in the area. But it still wasn't extensive.

So it may have been fortunate that the company didn't actually have to fight its first fire until the fall of 1960. Although he wasn't personally in position to respond, Beattie remembers that incident. "The first fire call they had was a TV set that caught on fire on Glen Eden Road," he said. "The only reason I remember that was because my sister-in-law lived there. The first really big fire I remember was a barn fire off of Haine School Road."

But brush fires remained a problem. "I remember one brush fire we had; it burned for about a week; we couldn't get it out," Hack recalled, citing one especially persistent fire in the wooded area where the Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA is today. "All we had were those Indian fighters that you'd put on your back to carry in five gallons of water. It was all labor. We didn't have a brush truck until we bought the International, which went into service in 1961."

Shifting gears

Another enterprise of the Fire Company was its ambulance service. "The ambulance corps began in 1969," Beattie pointed out. "When the corps was first started, everyone was a member of the Fire Company." However by 1981, when the Fire Company transitioned into a publicly financed service, their business models had become incompatible; the ambulance had subscriptions, Medicare and insurance company income as well as user fees; the Fire



Newly formed Ambulance Corps in 1969 surround their 1963 Cadillac ambulance.

Company was financed by a dedicated property tax. So in 1982, the two parted ways.

Although the specifics of the deal were somewhat complex, the final resolution – which was decided by a vote of the Fire Company Board – was that the Township would pay most Fire Company bills, acquire its heavy equipment, and build its stations. In return, Fire Company members would concentrate on recruiting, training and responding to emergencies. Although the transition involved some loss of independence, the consensus supported change.

"I'm quite sure it's been a positive effect," Beattie observed. "They get a lot of the younger fellows and of course today it's a lot tougher – in some ways. But it was a positive effect, there's no doubt about that."

The contributions of the Fire Company's pioneers and their significance to the organization hasn't been lost on its current officers.

"We wouldn't be where we are today without those guys," Fire Company President Bruce Hezlep acknowledged. "Our own members need to appreciate these guys sitting in the room; they were the ones who got us to where we are. Fish fries. Car washes. Bingos. These guys spent hours upon hours fundraising. Their work has helped position us to meet the needs of the next 50 years." ~

Profile of a firefighter:



veteran of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company, likes about his time as a firefighter. But last year's delivery of the Township's newest fire truck— a custom-built, thirty-five-foot, Heavy Rescue vehicle, was clearly a high point. Dancisin, whose day job is as a Senior Database Administrator for Highmark, had spent two years working together with other Company members on selecting every nut and bolt in the truck that delivers personnel and rescue tools to traffic accident scenes.

"I was on the committee that helped design the specifications," he said. "I went out and walked through the assembly line with the manufacturer. I also helped to manage the build process. And after we took delivery, I helped transfer and mount all the equipment onto it.

"This was the first time I'd ever been involved in something like that from start to finish for the Fire Company.

I can't tell you how many hours that consumed," he said, shaking his head. "I should have listened more closely when everybody told me that you have to specify every single nut and bolt. At the time, I laughed.

But it's true; you absolutely have to do that because there are so many different options for every aspect of the truck and we always want to pick

Rescue Officer Got Down To Details On Cranberry's New Rescue Truck

There's a lot that Steve Dancisin, a nine-year

what's best for the Fire Company. It's a very detailed process."

As a result, Dancisin acknowledges, it was a truly great day when Cranberry finally took delivery. "Through pure coincidence, I got to be the first one to drive it on a call," he explained. Although the truck isn't stationed where he normally reports for duty, Dancisin just happened to be where it was parked when the first call came in.

Dancisin first joined the Fire Company in 2000. For three years, he served as Training Officer – an appointed position that involves considerable paperwork, planning, and organizing of the Fire Company's training program. But after three years, he felt ready to move on. So in 2006, he ran for Rescue Officer, was elected, and has held that position ever since.

The Fire Company's Rescue Officer is responsible for organizing and planning the operations at Rescue incidents, including finding the safest and fastest way to extract people who are trapped in a vehicle crash.

You have to specify every single nut and bolt because there are so many different options for every aspect of the truck.

A collision involving three tractor-trailers on the Pennsylvania Turnpike last year was among the most challenging incidents he has had to respond to in that capacity. "We had people who were heavily entrapped inside two separate tractors," he recalled. "The tractor-trailers were about a quarter of a mile apart. And the people inside were so entrapped, it took us an hour to get them each of them out of their vehicles.



Power tools. Rescue Officer Steve Dancisin explains the operation of the cutting and spreading tools carried on the Fire Company's rescue truck used to extricate trapped passengers. Dancisin was part of a committee that specified every detail of the new rescue truck, which was delivered last year.

"The guy I was working on had crashed into the back of a trailer in front of him, and the trailer had wrapped around his tractor's cab. So we had to cut through the bottom of the trailer and then lift up on the dashboard to disentangle his legs from the wreckage.

Like all volunteer firefighters, Dancisin is frequently faced with the dilemma of either answering a call or going to work; or, alternatively, of going to work after answering a call on just a couple hours of sleep. But he claims to have grown accustomed to working with little sleep. And Highmark encourages its employees to serve their communities – a contribution that their CEO calls part of the company's social mission to give back to its communities through volunteerism.

"When you see that your neighbor is outside doing something and needs help, you pitch in and help," he said. "This is basically the same thing, just on a much bigger scale." ~

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

Who's in charge here?

Emergency Service Cooperation Is The Rule In Cranberry

There's a video posted on YouTube which has been viewed hundreds of thousands of times showing a policeman arresting a fire captain in Missouri during a dispute over where he parked his fire truck at the scene of a car crash rescue.

Surprisingly, temper flare-ups between emergency services at the scene of an incident aren't that rare, especially in smaller towns. What made this one unusual is that it was captured on the police cruiser's dashboard camera and shown to the world at large.

But in Cranberry, that type of conflict almost never happens. That's because, unless you have close coordination of first responder operations and training, more than tempers can get lost; people's lives are at risk and so is the integrity of any evidence left at the scene.

"Unified command is the key to effective emergency scene operations," according to Fire Company Administrative Assistant Mark Nanna. "When we're at a structure fire, the fire department is in charge. When we're at a vehicle accident, a lot of times it's the fire company or EMS."

In many cases, command shifts from one service to another as the incident unfolds. "It changes in the middle of the game," Fire Company Chief Bill Spiegel explained. "In a vehicle accident, the police, fire and ambulance are all alerted. If there are people trapped in the vehicle, it becomes a fire department scene because we're the ones responsible for getting the people out.

"Once the people are extricated, the ambulance takes over. So it shifts from being a fire focus to an ambulance focus, for patient care. Then once the patient has left the scene, it becomes a Police Department

situation to do accident reconstruction or whatever they have to do.

"And once we get to that point, I generally ask the officers on the scene 'what do you need from us?' Now they're in command and they tell us: we need this truck moved over here, we need lighting here, and so on. So we assist them."

That wasn't always the case, however.

"Thirty years ago, when I was a patrolman, I got yelled at for pulling hose off a fire truck in my off-duty time," Jeff Schueler, now Cranberry's Director of Public Safety, recalled. "It was a fireman's home burning and I went up there on my free time and was pulling hose and I got chewed out for helping." But that was then.

"What's nice about the way we work together now is the fact that we're not in a power struggle. Usually when the police department is at a scene, they are there just assessing and giving us incoming updates," Spiegel said. "That's the concept of unified command. There's also a high level of respect from all the organizations which has a lot to do with it. We're not competing. Nobody's looking for glory. It's just getting the job done.

"Our biggest asset is the fact that we now have a Public Safety Director," Nanna added. "We have somebody that all the departments report to.

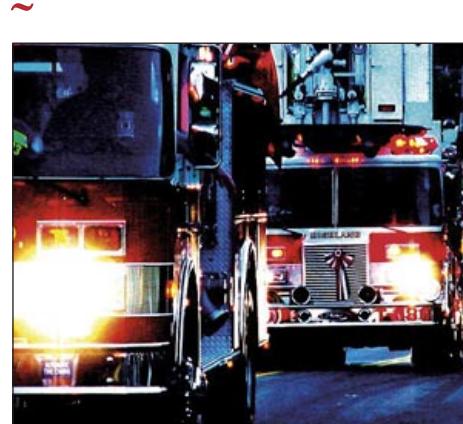
In most communities, the police department reports to the mayor. The EMS has its own command system. And the fire department is off doing something else.

"We have a Public Safety meeting once a month between Fire, Police, EMS and Emergency Management,"

Nanna pointed out. "We're continually upgrading the safety factors here. Each department

gets together with the Public Safety director to talk about how we can make Cranberry better and safer for everybody."

This summer, however, Cranberry's police and fire departments are gearing up for a different sort of field control: a flag football or softball matchup. "I participated in a similar thing 20 years ago and it got pretty intense," Schueler recalled. "You're dealing with two organizations with Type A personalities on both ends."



Life flight...

Ambulance Corps Undergoes Leadership Transfusion

Despite several major financial and management challenges, the Cranberry Township Volunteer Ambulance Corps – which had been serving Township residents ever since it was formed in 1969 as part of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company – continued providing 911 response and patient care as an independent organization with a mostly paid staff.

Then there was the crash.

Early in the morning of September 23, 2007, on a trip south along Rt. 19, the ambulance ran through an intersection in Marshall Township, crashing into another vehicle, killing its driver and a passenger. Criminal charges were filed against the operator and it wasn't until February of this year that they were resolved.

"There were concerns that the Ambulance Corps might not be a viable entity anymore," Cranberry's Public Safety Director Jeff Schueler acknowledged. "I had an RFP to search for a new ambulance company sitting on my desk. But now it's over and done with; now they can really get to work making the organization stronger."

Although the Ambulance Corps is both legally and operationally separate from the Township, every municipality in Pennsylvania is now obliged, under legislation enacted last year, to provide its residents with EMS as well as fire service – whether by using its own employees or by appointing an

outside entity. As a result, the Township has worked closely with the Ambulance Corps to help revitalize the organization.

"The Township funded an outside consultant to come in, look at their policies and procedures, how they operate, and look at their billing issues," Schueler said. "We began working closely with the management, meeting with them regularly, trying to figure out what we were going to do and what they needed to do. A lot of it involved the consultant's recommendations; they began to immediately incorporate those recommendations. At the same time, they were also looking at their Board of Directors – how it could best function, who they needed in those positions.

"Then late last year they decided to reorganize the board and bring in new leadership," he said. "The Township offered to step in and help them and pay for their fuel. And now they're



The Township funded an outside consultant to come in to figure out what they needed to do. They began to immediately incorporate those recommendations.

in a national search to bring in a permanent executive director.

Steve Tedesco, the interim director, is doing an excellent job. He's also a volunteer fireman."

Already, there have been extensive changes.

"They have improved their billing practices, they now have good accounting practices, they've updated their bylaws, and they've adjusted their resource management," Schueler said. "They began actively attending our Public Safety Meetings. They've stepped up the information sharing,

quality assurance programs, added committees to deal with finance and audit and safety and their physical plant.

"Cranberry Ambulance now has a bright future. We are so pleased that they're meeting their obligations, and each month they're getting better and better," he said. "They've made great strides. They've done a lot." ~



AAA Award Validates Township's Safety Efforts

Cpl. Daniel Hahn runs the Cranberry Township police department's traffic division and becomes passionate when he talks about safety. Maybe it's because his job includes some seriously unpleasant chores. For example, whenever there's a fatal accident in the Township, it becomes Hahn's responsibility to meticulously reconstruct just how it happened so the legal complications which flow from traffic deaths can have the benefit of a professional investigation.

But largely as a result of Hahn's work, together with that of his fellow patrol officers and colleagues in Cranberry's Public Works and Engineering divisions, statistics show that driving in Cranberry has gradually become safer. As a result, in December, Hahn accepted the AAA Platinum Traffic Safety Award – the Automobile Association's highest award – on behalf of the Township in recognition of the work involved in achieving those improvements. It was the second year in a row that Cranberry received the Association's award.

At the same time, however, improving traffic safety has proved to be an uphill struggle on a number of fronts. For one thing, the engineering of both roads and vehicles has improved over the years, which is good. But it has a serious down side: people tend to be less cautious. "The design of cars and roads have definitely helped save people's lives," Hahn explained, noting today's wider curves, clearer signals, breakaway lamp poles and wider shoulders as well as more crash-resistant auto designs. "But sometimes you get a false sense of security thinking you've got extra

protection," he said. "For example, people say 'why do I need to wear my seatbelt when I have an airbag?' Well, for the airbag to work properly, you've got to wear a seatbelt."

Those gradual safety improvements have contributed to a subtle cultural shift and, along with it, changes in driving habits. "Over the last 40 years, people's attention has changed, their attitudes have changed. They're more aggressive today. People are faster-paced today than they were before," he noted. They also tend to multi-task on the road.

"I don't know how many times I've seen somebody texting a message," he said. "And one day, when I was sitting at a red light, I saw a motorist in the car next to me eating a bowl of soup. Then the light turns green and she's holding the bowl with one hand and the spoon with the other and starts moving forward with no hands on the steering wheel. In her mind, she didn't do anything wrong."

"But we shouldn't be doing that; we need to pay more attention to driving. And we need to slow down a little," Hahn reflected.

"I don't know the answer except to keep advertising that we're out there enforcing," he said. "Every time a police car pulls somebody over, it tells people passing by 'hey, we're out here.'

The engineering of both roads and vehicles has improved over the years, but sometimes you get a false sense of security thinking you've got extra protection.



People are creatures of habit; if they've come through here a couple of times and haven't had any problem, the next day they'll come through a little faster. They're trying to get to work, they're trying to get to the doctor's, they're trying to get their kids somewhere – whatever their next appointment is – and they're not thinking about what they're doing on the road."

In addition to routine and targeted traffic patrols, Cranberry participates in a variety of traffic safety programs including a campaign directed against aggressive driving, a bicycle rodeo, a child safety seat inspection, sobriety checkpoints, truck safety checks, seatbelt enforcement, driving instruction for teens and senior citizens, work zone safety, sidewalk extensions, and more. Cranberry's Fire Company also has a dedicated fire police unit to protect firefighters and motorists as well as onlookers. The AAA award is intended to recognize their combined efforts. ~



Cranberry Police Lt. Kevin Meyer Graduates From FBI National Academy

Every semester, the prestigious FBI National Academy boasts that the 250-odd police officers who have just completed its demanding curriculum lost an aggregate of 400 pounds or more over their ten-week session. But Cranberry Township

police Lt. Kevin Meyer apparently broke his class curve, returning home in December with a gain of 3.8 pounds. And it wasn't from kicking back, either.

Meyer, whose physique is a testament to personal fitness, actually got a rigorous workout. "I thought I was in shape before I went down there," he said. "But they worked me over pretty good. It was great stuff they showed us. Wednesdays were physical challenge days where you competed in the Yellow Brick Road Challenge to determine your fitness level and give you a goal."

According to the Academy's official welcome video, the brutal outdoor course – whose wooded route is marked by occasional yellow painted stones – includes sprints, rope ladders, wall climbs, barbed wire obstacles, mud crawls and swims. "You're training throughout your ten weeks," Meyer said. "You're building up, you're learning new techniques, you're working on your pushups. And at the end, they do another fitness assessment."

Meyer's fitness goals, which included core strength, body weight and body



fat index measures, were each meticulously tracked – right down to the tenth of a point. "They did a lot of things that just made a lot of sense. They changed my whole idea as to what's needed to get a good workout," Meyer said. "It was very interesting – stuff I'll be able to share with our guys now that I'm back."

Throughout its storied history, the National Academy has graduated nearly 40,000 officers, including 3,000 from outside the United States. Upon completion, its students receive graduate credits from the highly-respected University of Virginia, and many go on to take advanced degrees.

Back in the mid-1930s, when prohibition led to widespread bootlegging and organized crime across America, pressure mounted to create a national police force. Instead, the FBI proposed forming a national academy where police officers from state and local law enforcement agencies across the country could come to learn the best methods and practices in criminal justice.

Today, the Academy has expanded its mission and extended its reach to include some of the most experienced leaders from police agencies throughout the world. Over a ten-week period, the applicants who are chosen for that session come to a secure campus at

Quantico, Virginia, which they share with the FBI's own new recruits. Each selects a five-course curriculum out of the more than 40 programs the Academy offers. And all of them include the rigorous fitness component.

In addition to Fitness in Law Enforcement, as the physical training course is known, Meyer also completed courses in Labor Relations, Executive Leadership, Stress Management, and Interviewing Strategies – most of them taught by FBI Special Agents whom Meyer characterized as highly skilled, knowledgeable, and impressive.

Last spring Meyer, who runs Cranberry's day-to-day police operations, received word that he was among the chosen few invited to attend the elite academy's fall 2008 session. He is the first municipal police officer to be selected from Butler County to have attended the National Academy in its 74-year history. And its global network of 15,000 alumni – N.A. Associates, as they prefer to be known – now offer Meyer and his fellow graduates a source of expertise and support that is without equal anywhere in the world.

"I'll be able to take what I've learned in Quantico and apply it here for sure," Meyer said recently. "I have some changes in mind right now and there are some things I've already done to make positive changes. We have a great department here, but we're changing. And change is good." ~

Meyer is the first municipal police officer to be selected from Butler County to have attended the National Academy in its 74-year history.

Equipment Replacement Schedule Gets A Second Look

There's an optimum time to replace the family car. Exactly what that time is differs considerably, depending on who you ask. Some people prize minimum maintenance and up-to-date features. Others boast about squeezing hundreds of thousands of miles from their cars. Most people fall somewhere in between, torn by conflicting considerations of trade-in values, maintenance costs, down time, appearances, and replacement prices.

It's the same with Cranberry. "We're being very conservative right now," Streets and Properties Maintenance Manager Walt Beighey observed in light of the current economic climate. "We don't know what's going to come up. Our vehicle replacement program is being scrutinized right now. We're looking at redesigning that whole program."

Part of it involves consultation from vehicle and equipment specialists who advise the Township on its replacement program. "Right now, our vehicle

replacement program has very specific, simple parameters that we follow," Public Works Director Jason Dailey added. "We have over 100 vehicles and pieces of equipment that fall under this replacement policy. So a tractor would have to have over so many hours or be a certain age. A police car would have to be three years old or have 75,000 to 100,000 miles on it and so forth.

"We have over 100 vehicles and pieces of equipment that fall under this replacement policy."



"But we're looking at getting into some detailed parameters that would help us develop a more comprehensive replacement schedule," he continued. "Maybe we start looking at how many man-hours a mechanic has spent on a piece of equipment to keep it going instead of just the age requirement in our current replacement schedule. A good example is our boom mower – the mower that's used to cut back brush from right-of-ways. For the amount of mechanics' time that's required to keep that thing on the road, it could probably be replaced every year.

"It'll be on the road from April through November and running every single day. Its blades are constantly moving – a lot of moving parts, a lot of wearable parts, all stress-related. Although its replacement parameters are set up like a tractor's, it gets old a lot faster than a tractor with the same number of hours. That's just one example; we're looking to make the replacement schedule a little more workable.

"Every year we work with consultants, show them our data, and they come back and tell us we should spend, say, \$3.5 million this year to get our vehicle

replacement plan in line with our policy. Well, that's not practical for us. We have a lot of vehicles that reach the policy limit and we either have to somehow extend the life or do with



Time to trade? This 1985 Mack has been in continuous service for nearly 25 years. But how do you know the best time to replace it? Public Works personnel are grappling with that question for all the Township's vehicles and heavy equipment.

what we have, because the money just isn't there to have a 4.6 year life expectancy on a piece of equipment. So we're trying to make it more workable."

"We've already broken it down somewhat," Beighey noted. "Police cars are obviously way different than back hoes. But there are other factors: attaching snow removal equipment makes us replace a truck a lot quicker than you would for just a pickup without a plow, or a vehicle that's just used for transportation. We have to go in a little deeper with every one of those parameters.

"We're looking at hybrids all the time. We're looking at different types of vehicles and at buying diesel as compared to gas engines," he said. "I think we're going to continue refining that policy, just as we have for the past 20 years. Right now, we're sitting with 1996 Jeep in the garage that should have been gone a long time ago, but you need somebody to have a vehicle when they're going out to read a meter, and they don't need to have a brand-new car." ~

Cranberry Township 2009 Water System Flushing Schedule



Cranberry Township's annual fire hydrant and distribution system flushing program gets underway on Monday, April 20. It is a regular maintenance operation designed to flush sediment from the water system, check fire hydrant operation, and test chlorine levels in the water lines throughout the Township. Flushing is conducted Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 4:30 PM. A week-by-week schedule is provided here; for detailed information on the date for your own street, call the Township's Customer Service Center at 724-776-4806.

Here are the water line areas to be flushed during the weeks beginning:

April 20

Pennwood Place, McKinney Warehouse, Keystone Drive, Gateway Bldg, Commonwealth Drive, Residence Inn, Freedom Road from Commonwealth to Route 19, Marriott, Knockout Development Westinghouse, Cranberry Woods - MSA Complex, Cranberry Mall, Old Mars Road between Route 19 and McElroy Drive, UPMC Medical Center, Fairfield Inn, Norberry Court, Dutilh Road south of Route 228, Dutilh Road between Freeport Road and Turnpike Ramp, Route 19 south of PA Turnpike to Bravo's Restaurant, Hyatt, Brush Creek Commons, Red Roof Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Marguerite Road, Emeryville Drive, Old Mars Road between McElroy Drive and Franklin Road, Cranberry Commons Mall, Grandshire, Spring Meadows, Franklin Road between Old Mars Road and Beacon Hill Drive, Hazelwood, St. Killians

April 27

McElroy Road, Fox Run, Buckingham Trail, Franklin Road and Peace Street, Franklin Ridge, Shadow Creek, Bristol Creek, St. Leonard's Woods, Timberline, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Old Farm Road, Redmond Place, Old Towne Apartments, Scenic Ridge, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Burke Road, Forest Knoll, Lakeview Estates, Windwood Heights, Crystal Springs, Walden Pond and Burke Road

May 4

Rowan Road between Marshall Road and Old Farm Road, La Grande Drive, Rowan School, Rowan Towers, Leonberg Road, Marshall Road, Geohring Road, Preserve East and West, Route 19 between Freedom Road

and Rochester Road, Cranberry Shoppes, Walmart, Cranberry Square, Streets of Cranberry, Doyle Equipment, Ogle Station, Boston Market, Jerry's Car Wash, Home Depot, Smith Drive, Walgreens, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction north to Kenny Ross, Victory Family Church, Penn Detroit, YMCA, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction south to Lincoln Mercury. Wiegand Drive, Route 19 from Smith Drive north to Goehring Rd, Goehring Road from Route 19 to Marshall Road, Wisconsin Avenue, Ogle View Road, TRACO, Progress Avenue, Park Road, Ernie Mashuda Drive, North Boundary Road, Marshall Woods, Marshall Heights, On a Roll, Pine Brook, Cranberry WaterPark

May 11

Pine Hurst, Ehrman Road, Grace Estates, Garvin Road, Foxmore, Ehrman Farms, Oakview Estates, Unionville Road, Springfield Manor, Cranberry Business Park, Winchester Lakes, Winchester Farms, Old Route 19, Settlers Grove Phase 1 & 2, Glen Eden Road, Glen Eden Phase 1, Settlers Grove 3, Antler Ridge

May 18

The Maples, Cedarbrook, Glen Eden Phase 2, Glenbrook, Glen Eden Townhouses, Manor Creek, Freshcorn Road, Glen Eden Road west of Powell Road, Briar Creek, Cranberry Heights I, Cranberry Heights II, Kingsbrook, Madison Heights, Glen Rape Road, Wakefield Estates

May 26

Rochester Road from Route 19 to Robinhood Drive, Thompson Park Drive, Executive Drive, Costco, Brandt Drive, Commerce Park Drive,

Cranberry Corporate Center, Hampton Inn, Laurelwood, Sherwood Oaks, Fernway

June 1

Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Thorn Hill Road (RIDC), WESCO, Rolling Road Regency Apartments, Freedom Square, Iron Mountain, Freedom Road, Freedom Square, Car Wash, Haine Fire Hall, Freedom Road from Georgetown Square to Parkwood Drive, Parkside Place, Carriage Drive, Kira Circle, Haine School Road, Haine School, Pine Ridge, Rochester Road from Robinhood Drive to Alps Avenue, Bellwood Park, Graham Park, Valleybrook, Deer Run, Sun Valley, Cranbrook

June 8

Woodlands Townhouses, Kirkwood Drive, Swift Homes, Woodlands Houses, Clearbrook, Cranberry Estates, Ashford Manor, Cranberry Pointe, Cranberry West, Rochester Road from Haine School Road to Powell Road, Kimberwicke, Harvest Drive, Holiday Drive, Powell Road from Rochester Road to Blue Ridge Drive, Orchard Park, Creekwood Commons, Creekwood, Freedom Woods

June 15

Forest Park, Crossings, Mystic Pine Trail, Blue Ridge Estates, Berkley Manor, Hampshire Woods, Autumn Hill

June 22

Powell Road between Rochester Road and Glen Eden Road, Park Place, Highland Village, Havenwood, Hunters Creek, Stonefield & Farmview, Greenfield Estates, Avery's Field, Woodbine Estates ~

Abstain From Stains

Discolored water and fluctuations in water line pressure are normal during flushing. But discolored clothes are not. So if you plan on doing laundry the day your street's water lines are scheduled to be flushed, the Township advises you to change your plans and refrain from using water as much as possible – and particularly from doing laundry – when discolored water is present. However if your laundry somehow does end up getting stained, take the following steps:

1. Keep the laundry items damp until the water clears and returns to normal.
2. Once the water has cleared, soak the stained items for an extended period of time in a solution of **NON CHLORINE BLEACH** and water. Soak time will depend on the severity of the stains. **DO NOT** use chlorine bleach as it will make the stains harder to remove.
3. After soaking, run the laundry through a normal washer cycle, but without detergent.
4. Run it through the washer cycle again, but this time add detergent and non-chlorine bleach.

If the water does not clear or return to normal pressure within a reasonable time, or if service is interrupted, call the Customer Service Center.

Cranberry To Change Water Disinfection Procedure

The West View Water Authority – Cranberry Township's supplier of drinking water – has announced that it will be using chloramines instead of chlorine to disinfectant the water it supplies from mid-May to late autumn. The switch, which has also been made by a number of other fresh water suppliers across the country, is in response to new federal EPA standards. Their purpose is to reduce the formation of potentially harmful byproducts of disinfection.

Disinfection is routinely used to protect public health against micro-organisms which can cause typhoid, hepatitis, cholera and other serious diseases to spread through untreated water. Other available measures include filtration, ozone gas, and ultraviolet light. But they are almost always used in combination with some form of chlorination.

While chlorine and chloramines are chemically related, chloramines, although weaker, last longer. The practical result is that any water treated with chloramines which may linger in the Township's storage tanks, water mains, or other parts of its distribution system for days or even weeks before being used, will still be largely free of byproducts.

Cranberry's water system is tested regularly for an assortment of organic and inorganic material. The results of those tests consistently fall below federally mandated limits, so the Township's water supply is in compliance. But chlorine disinfection byproducts, collectively referred to as THMs, have been detected.

In response, the Township has either planned or already begun a series of measures to manage its water supply to minimize byproducts, which tend to be more heavily concentrated in the outer reaches of the distribution system, particularly during warmer weather. Among them: adding mixers to move the water in its storage tanks, increasing the capacity of its main lines, and upgrading the Township's pumping capacity.

The change in treatment chemistry is not expected to affect the taste of the water or diminish its cleansing properties. In fact, according the Pennsylvania DEP, many of the water systems which switch to chloramines experience fewer taste and odor complaints. The agency also points out that chloramines are

among the less expensive disinfectant alternatives to chlorine.

But there are potential trade-offs. One is that, unless their levels are carefully regulated, chloramines can be more corrosive to copper plumbing, lead pipes, and natural rubber toilet tank flapper valves. However West View has control measures in place to reduce such corrosion. Another is that unlike chlorine, chloramines will not evaporate quickly when the water is left standing. As a result, owners of aquariums and fish ponds will need to use commercial tablets or conditioners to clear the chloramines from their water instead of just letting it evaporate naturally, because fish cannot tolerate the chemical.

As in the case of chlorine, dialysis centers will have to remove the chloramines prior to treating patients. Home dialysis users should consult their physician or dialysis machine maker for guidance.



Save the fish! Owners of home aquariums and fish ponds will need to use tablets or conditioners to neutralize chloramines when they change or add water. Chloramines, like chlorine, can kill fish, but they last longer, so they won't evaporate just by letting the water stand around.

Graham Park Preps For Grand Opening

After six years, \$9 million, and countless hours of hard work, the new Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex at Graham Park is about to become reality. Its Grand Opening will take place Saturday morning, May 16, beginning at 10:00. Everyone is invited.

Plans for the opening were still being formulated at press time. But they will include a parade, introductory remarks, music, and demonstration games as well as individual events led by the respective sports associations for each of the three main campuses: soccer, baseball/softball, and football/lacrosse. Details will be posted on the Township's website.



*Grand Opening
will take place
Saturday morning,
May 16,
beginning at 10:00.
Everyone is invited.*

Access to the new Park will be from two points along Rochester Road through the new BelleVue residential development: at Graham Park Road and at Haine School Road. Shuttle buses to offsite parking at Haine School will be available in addition to a limited amount of parking within the park itself.

Construction of the new park, which is built on farm land purchased by the Township from the Graham family in 2003, began two years ago. Its master plan includes three distinct campuses, each focused on a different family of sports. The plan anticipated that the Park would be built out over a period of 8 to 10 years. The May 16 ceremony represents the completion of the athletic fields.

Approximately half of each campus is active space; the remainder is combined open space and infrastructure. Each campus includes parking, concession, restroom, and maintenance facilities. Trails and walkways connect the entire Park.

Development of Graham Park is a partnership of Cranberry Township, three major athletic associations serving the Cranberry area – Cranberry Township Athletic Association, Seneca Valley Junior Football Association, and the Seneca Valley Soccer Association – Mashuda Corporation, the Pirates Charities, Butler County Visitors and Tourism Bureau, Armstrong Cable, the Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Dick's Sporting Goods, whose \$2.2 million investment secured naming rights to the entire sports complex for a ten-year period.

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



724-776-4806
www.cranberrytownship.org

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