



Cranberrytoday

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2009 SUMMER EDITION

Waste Bidding Yields New Collector

Competitive bidding for the Township's second five-year Collection Connection contract, which begins this November, has produced a new supplier. Waste Management, the giant Texas-based company with 2008 revenues in excess of \$13 billion, was the successful bidder for managing Cranberry's residential waste collection program through the fall of 2014.

"Waste Management certainly bid good numbers – a very competitive bid," Cranberry Assistant Manager Duane McKee observed. "And the reason they did was because we have such a great program. It's already set up; they just have to move in and help us manage that

program. They see that as a bonus. The only thing that's going to change is who's picking up the trash on those days. The carts will be the same. And we're going to try to keep the pickups on the same day if at all possible. So you won't see anything different on the street except for the trucks. Tag prices will remain the same; details of the transition from the previous contractor are being worked out and will be announced later this summer. The Township will still do the billing."

However the pricing of Cranberry's weekly collection service remains to be determined. That price will

be affected by the scheduled 2011 end of a state program that awards performance grants to communities who increase their recycling rates and reduce the volume of solid waste they direct to landfill. Since the inception of the program, Cranberry has earned \$165,000 in performance grants which were directly applied to reducing the cost to solid waste collection customers.

"By the end of this contract, the majority of our carts will be ten years old and out of warranty," McKee said. "It's not that the carts will be worthless after ten years," he said. "It's just that after ten years we have to assume responsibility for replacing hinge pins, lids and wheels – those are really the

issues coming up now. And we anticipate they will continue.

"We have to start saving and figuring how we're going to manage cart replacement on our own at that time. So there's a lot of things to consider in setting the rate structure."

Vogel Disposal of nearby Mars, helped the Township introduce the automated collection program in 2004. Since that time they collected over 12,800 tons of recyclables and 10,120 tons of yard waste which substantially reduced the volume of material headed for landfill. ~



Community Daze

Three Days Of Food, Fun, And Festivity Kick Off July 9

Noon on Thursday July 9th marks the start of 2009's three-day blowout celebrating Cranberry Township's volunteer organizations. Throughout Community Days, Cranberry Township Community Chest, CTCC, will be hosting a series of attractions that conclude on Saturday night.

Continued on page 2.

INSIDE *this edition*

Community Chest	2
Parks & Recreation	3
Cranberry Highlands	6
Supervisor's Commentary	7
Planning	8
Fire Company	9
Calendar	10
School District	12
In Briefs	13
Environment	14
Public Works.....	15
Twp To Host Home and Community Expo 2009	20

Three days of food, fun, and festivity kick off July 9

A carnival at Community Park featuring eight rides priced between \$2 and \$4 apiece will begin at 3:00 each day, however discount ticket books will be available. The 2009 CTAA All-Star Softball Tournament will also be played on all three days.

On-site parking will be available Saturday for a \$5 donation; parking is free on Thursday and Friday. All parking proceeds benefit the Victims Outreach Intervention Center, VOIce. Free shuttles will run all day Saturday between Community Park and the Cranberry Business Park parking lots off Unionville Road and continue through the conclusion of the evening's events.

Thursday's highlights, following a noon ribbon-cutting, feature a Car & Motorcycle Cruise, which is both free to visit and free to enter a vehicle, although exhibit space is limited. A Habitat for Humanity fund-raising dinner co-hosted by Grace



Community Church of Cranberry will be available for \$10 – \$7.50 for children. A free 1950's & '60s-themed concert by Renewed Memories starts at 7:00.

Friday's festivities begin with a Rotary Chicken BBQ starting at 11:00 AM at the Jaycee Shelter in Community Park. They will continue serving \$10 dinners until 7:00 PM. The American Heart Association holds a \$10 beanbag pitching tournament, and the evening concludes with a free concert featuring Common Cause in Community Park, beginning at 7:00.

Saturday is the biggest day of all, beginning with an 8:00 AM Chamber of Commerce 5k run/walk and a \$6 Lion's All-You-Can-Eat Pancake breakfast from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM – \$3 for children. A free concert by The Kiger Band, selected as the best local Country Band by listeners of Y108, starts at 3:30. A petting zoo,

three free inflatable play attractions, and more than 120 booths featuring

Continued from front cover

great foods, merchandise, and representatives of local nonprofit organizations, will be situated throughout Community Park. The popular Fire Company Battle of the Barrels, the Gymagic Bus, a bingo benefitting the Food Bank, a Nonprofit Olympic Challenge, a rare summertime visit from Santa, and a 7:00 Jimmy Buffet Tribute concert will all take place on Saturday. At 9:30, Community Days culminates with a free fireworks spectacular. ~



Treasure Hunt To Yield Unimagined Riches

It isn't buried, but it is the key to treasure – real treasure.

As part of its celebration of Community Days, CTCC is holding its first Community Treasure Hunt with prize donations worth thousands of dollars. Clues containing the letters which form a sentence revealing the location of the Golden Key have been running in issues of the Cranberry Eagle since early June. Most of them require

participants to visit different locations within the Township to find the needed information. Whoever presents the key at the Community Stage in Community Park at 3:10 PM on Saturday July 11th will be declared the winner. If you missed any of the newspaper issues and still want to join in the hunt, you'll find them on the Community Chest website: www.ctcchest.org.

Get Out...

It's Peak Season For Cranberry's Outdoor Programs

Summer is when Cranberry Township's outdoor programs kick into high gear. There's something for everyone.

The **5K run/walk Race for Virginia and Friends** will be held Saturday, July 4 in memory of Virginia Clark of Seven Fields. Race begins at 8:00 AM from the Jaycee Shelter in Community Park. Registration information is available online at www.raceforvirginia.org.

The three days of **Cranberry Township's Community Chest Community Days celebration** begin on Thursday, July 9. See the related story in this issue.



Thursdays in the Park, Cranberry's popular evening concert series in

Community Park which began on June 25, will continue with Renewed Memories on July 9, Joe Negri & Friends on July 16, Donna Bailey on July 23, the East Winds Symphonic Band on July 30 and Sarah Marinco on August 13. All concerts begin at 7:00 PM.

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life – a 24-hour team fundraising event in North Boundary Park – will run from 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 18 until 10:00 the following morning. For more information, contact kacie.jankoski@cancer.org.



Wednesday afternoon, July 22, is the **WaterPark's Summer**

Soakin' Celebration from 1:00 to 4:00 PM with music, games and prizes, hosted by the road crew of Radio Disney, AM 540. Cranberry WaterPark is now on Facebook. Check it out.



The free **Friday Lunchtime Concert series** at the Municipal

Center Gazebo will feature Randy Shoup on July 24, The Pittsburgh Banjo Club on July 31, Greater Cranberry Bogmeister Chorus on August 7, and Jay Hitt on August 14. All concerts begin at noon.

The **Cranberry CUP charity softball tournament** marks its 10th anniversary this year. More than 40 neighborhood and business teams will compete for the championship with proceeds to benefit this year's inspirational family. A Friday, July 31 golf outing kicks off the weekend-long event. Contact organizer Cathy Cortazzo at softball@zbzoom.net.

The Penn State Master Gardeners of Cranberry Township will hold an **Open Garden Day** on Wednesday, August 12 at the Demonstration Garden on the Municipal Center

grounds adjacent to the Sample School House. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

A benefit **Aquathon and 5K run in memory of Jackie Kalleel** will be held on Saturday, August 22 in North Boundary Park benefitting the Southwest Butler County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The race begins at 8:30 AM.

Take pooch for a swim. **Cranberry WaterPark's annual Puppy Plunge** for dogs 6 months and older with certificates of current vaccinations will hold three swim sessions on Saturday, September 12. The entrance fee is just \$5; advance registration is strongly recommended. And this year, the program will partner with Paws Across Pittsburgh and its sponsor, Nemacolin Woodlands, to benefit animal welfare organizations.



Up to four members of any qualifying Cranberry-based businesses are now eligible for **weekday discounts on golf at Cranberry Highlands**.

Tee times for company members can be reserved as much as two weeks in advance. Golf parties of participating businesses can include guests, although the discount applies only to the company's four designated business members. Contact Golf Operations Director Jon Shuster for details. ~



Tiptoe Through The Tulips

A self-guided tour of six beautiful private gardens in and around Cranberry Township will be held on Saturday, July 18, from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Advance reservations are required. Registrants will be mailed a map, garden history, and description along with a chance for a door prize. Mail a check for \$10 to Southern Butler County Garden Club to Toni Matson, 714 Sir Barton Court, Cranberry Township and include a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

Graham Park Opens

Contractors and Township Public Works employees are still applying a few finishing touches to the landscape, but after six years, nearly ten million dollars, and countless thousands of staff and volunteer hours, the Dick's Sporting Goods Sportsplex at Graham Park Graham Park is open for play. Dedication ceremonies for the new park in the heart of Cranberry were held on May 16.

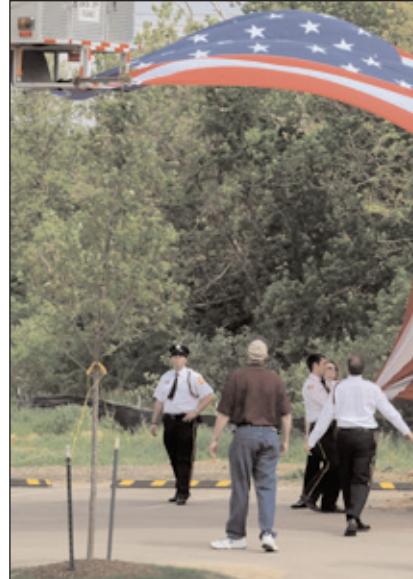
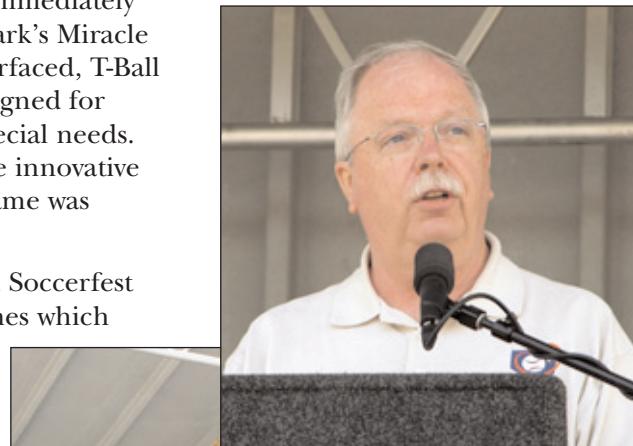
Approximately 1,000 spectators were on hand to witness a parade of local athletic association and Seneca Valley High School Band members, led by the Volunteer Fire Company's restored 1928 fire engine following

a Junior ROTC color guard, all marching to a temporary stage on the baseball campus of the 115-acre park for an opening ceremony that concluded with a fusillade of fireworks.

A second ceremony, immediately after, dedicated the park's Miracle League field, a soft-surfaced, T-Ball size baseball field designed for young players with special needs. Media attention to the innovative ball field's opening game was extensive.

The day also included Soccerfest 2009 – exhibition games which included 800 players

of every age and proficiency level – as well as sports demonstrations and displays by the local athletic associations on each of the park's three campuses – baseball/softball, football/lacrosse, and soccer. ~





Cranberry Highlands Opens Nature Trail

A combined building dedication and celebration of the final step in certifying Cranberry Highlands as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary will be held at the new pavilion behind the Clubhouse patio on Friday evening, August 7. In addition to officially opening the 2,400 square foot open-air stone and wood structure, the event will mark the inauguration of the new Cranberry Highlands Nature Trail in a wooded grove between Holes 3 and 4 of the golf course.

Cranberry Highlands' January receipt of a certificate in Environmental Planning from Audubon International validated six years of work led by Golf Course Superintendent David Barber. The Audubon program offered guidance which helped Barber develop an effective conservation and wildlife enhancement program.

That program encompassed the entire golf course. Projects included placing nesting boxes for certain bird species, environmentally sensitive pest-management techniques,

water quality management and conservation, maintaining food and protective cover for wildlife, reducing the use of chemicals, educational outreach, and more.

As a result of that work, Cranberry Highlands has become an environment where golfers and wildlife

live and play in harmony. Insect control, for example, is accomplished by providing homes to birds for whom insects are a diet staple. A growing variety of owls, butterflies, bats, hawks, deer, amphibians, fish and small animals now live in a natural ecosystem where wildlife thrives and golfers flourish.

Right from the outset, Cranberry Highlands was designed to highlight the natural landscape of Western Pennsylvania's terrain. Designed by W. R. Love Golf Course Architects of College Park, Maryland, Cranberry

Highlands was built to showcase the area's four-season ecosystem and its rugged topography. But of the 332 acres in the Cranberry Highlands site, only 186 have been developed as a golf course. Much of the remaining space has been dedicated to natural preservation, enhancement and educational purposes.

To make those natural assets more accessible, Barber, together with other Cranberry Highlands staff members and a Boy Scout troop, built a half-mile long nature trail in a wooded area between holes three and four this spring. Most of the man-made features along the trail were created from natural materials which are indigenous to the area or made from recycled manufactured items including golf cart windows, pipe, and scrap lumber.

Guided tours are available by appointment. A complete tour takes approximately one hour. A limited number of tour guides are available, so advance booking – which is separate from tee time golf reservations – is essential. Call 724-776-7372 to arrange a time for your group to walk the trail with a staff member as your guide.

Attendance at the August 7 dedication is open to everyone. For details, go to the Cranberry Highlands website, cranberryhighlands.com. ~



***Guided tours are available by appointment.
A complete tour takes approximately one hour.***

Government Transparency: A Citizen's Primer

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



I've had some residents ask me recently if the Board of Supervisors is having secret meetings and making backroom deals. Well, not that I know of. All municipal governing boards, including ours, are required to follow the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act of 1998. Although that Act is full of "legalese," I'll try to summarize it here as it applies to Cranberry.

Any time a quorum of the Supervisors gets together – which is three or more in Cranberry – the law considers it a "meeting," regardless of where it happens – at the municipal building, over lunch, or out on the golf course. The most confusing part is that these meetings aren't always open to the public. However, any meeting where there is deliberation and "official action" must be open. Official action is any activity that includes making recommendations, decisions, creating policy, and voting on an issue. These meetings must be advertised, allow for public participation, and have minutes taken. Simply put, it is illegal for your Board of Supervisors to vote in secret or

to make "private deals." The public must be informed of, and invited to, any meetings where the Board makes decisions that affect your Township. You may, though, occasionally hear that the Board met in "executive session." These meetings are usually for the Board to hear sensitive information on issues that need to initially stay private such as hiring, firing, disciplining, or collective bargaining agreements with employees. They cannot be used for decision making, because that must always be done in a public forum. Executive sessions can also deal with legal issues, such as lawsuits, where the Supervisors consult with the Township's attorney.

In these cases the substance of what is discussed is considered confidential or "privileged" under the law.

The aspect of executive sessions that seems to raise the most eyebrows is that they can be used to discuss the purchase, lease, or sale of property by the Township. That's true, but any final deal or agreement must be done in a public forum. So no final decision can be made in private; it must be made in an open public forum where residents can comment on the deal. And whenever the Board has met in executive

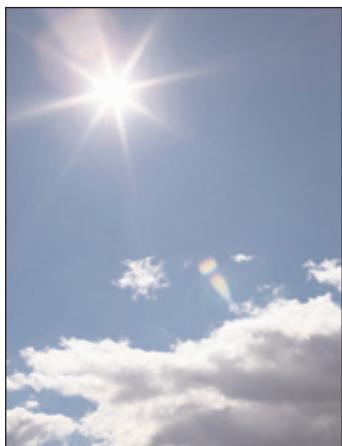
session, they need to publicly state the general subject of that meeting, such as pending litigation or personnel actions. So if we have

met in executive session, the Board Chairman will announce it at the start of a regular meeting.

Any final deal or agreement must be done in a public forum. No final decision can be made in private; it must be made in an open public forum

Where can you go to find out more about what your Supervisors are doing? One way is to simply attend those meetings. We meet twice monthly, usually on the first and last Thursday of the month. The last Thursday meetings set the agenda for the meeting the following week – the first Thursday of the next month. This schedule occasionally changes due to holidays or other events, so check with the Township to verify meeting times. Those meetings are advertised in the Cranberry Eagle and on the Township's website. Or you can simply call the Township office to find out when the next meeting is. The agendas are available online too, but they can change right up to the start of the meeting.

While most people don't have time to attend Supervisors meetings, you can find the minutes of past meetings online, although they are usually a month behind since they first need to be approved by the Supervisors before being posted. If you have any questions about what the Township is doing and what has been discussed, feel free to contact us at any time. ~





The Cranberry Plan... What's In It For You?

On April 4, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors unanimously

adopted The Cranberry Plan as the Township's official comprehensive plan. With its horizon stretching all the way out to 2030 – when planners expect the Township to be fully built out – and a strategy of sustainable development woven throughout its fabric, the plan is intended to advise Cranberry's investment and administrative policies for decades to come. As a result, it carries major implications for current as well as future residents. Exactly what it means to you, however, will depend to a great extent on your connection to the Township.



If you're a resident: You will have more neighbors; the plan anticipates a population of 50,000 by 2030. You will be able to walk and bicycle between more places in Cranberry. Mobility by auto and transit will also improve. You will have a wider choice of housing types and neighborhoods in the Township. You'll see better-looking public spaces and streetscapes. More cultural opportunities will be available locally. Your property value will continue to increase. You will find it even easier to become engaged in community-based volunteer activities.

If you're a developer: You will be able to create residential neighborhoods with more mixed housing types and with comingled housing and business

projects. You'll need to set aside more open space in some areas. You'll find it easier and less costly to develop around pockets of core infrastructure. Redevelopment in designated parts of the community will take higher priority. Form-based building codes will increase design flexibility.

If you have a business in Cranberry: Your retail business will be clustered more closely with other retailers into a defined business district. In certain areas of the Township, you may be able to maintain a living unit above a street-level business. More of Cranberry's business-to-business community will be technology and knowledge-based. A more diverse business base will help Cranberry withstand economic fluctuations. A more diverse workforce will be available locally. ~



PA's New Home Improvement Contractor Hotline

If you're thinking about having someone come in

to fix up your home but worried about ending up as a fraud victim, you can now breathe a bit easier; one phone call can tell you a lot of what you'll need to know.

Pennsylvania's new Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act went into effect July 1. It requires contractors who perform all sorts of home improvements in the state to register. It also establishes minimum insurance requirements, prohibits unfair business practices, and creates criminal penalties for home improvement fraud. Contractors have to include their registration number in any ads or contract forms.

The law applies to any home improvement for which the total price is more than \$500 including

construction, repair, replacement, remodeling, installation, or rehabilitation. Contractors performing work on pools, porches, garages, roofs, siding, insulation, solar energy systems, security systems, flooring, patios, fences, auxiliary buildings, painting, doors, windows and waterproofing, as well as most landscaping work, all fall under the provisions of the act.

Except for the smallest contractors – those who do less than \$5,000 of work a year – and the largest home improvement retailers, the requirements apply to anyone who offers to undertake any home improvement, including subcontractors. The information they

***The Bureau of
Consumer Protection
has created a toll-free
number you can
use to find out
about a contractor.***

are required to submit includes their contact information, business ownership, licenses held, legal background disclosures, and insurance coverage.

The Bureau of Consumer Protection in the State Attorney General's office has created a toll-free number –

1-888-520-6680 – which you can use to find out about a contractor. Under state law, consumers have three business days to reject a home improvement contract they may have signed, giving them an opportunity to learn more about the contractor. The new law stipulates fines for contractors who misrepresent their information and provides for suspension of state licensure for those who attempt to defraud a customer. ~

Profile of a firefighter:



The cover of their wedding album shows the newlyweds – she in a flowing white gown, he in a crisp black tuxedo – riding into the sunset on the back of a bright red fire engine. Minutes earlier, at their service in St. Ferdinand's, the wedding party had included a total of five firefighters. Among them: the Company's current Chief, its current President, and one of its female firefighters who served as a bridesmaid.

“Members of the fire company not only attended the wedding, they also helped us move into our new home,” the bride added.

But the wedding of Tim and Karalee Barch wasn't some sort of themed wedding package; it was an authentic reflection of who they were and where they had come from, as well as how they had met. And when they refer to members of Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company as being like one big family – a sentiment both of them readily express – it is more than just a figure of speech.

Tim, whose family relocated to Cranberry from Texas ten years earlier, had followed his father's footsteps in becoming a firefighter. “When I came home from college, I just started tagging along with him. I came up here one day and haven't left yet,” he reflected.

Karalee, who has lived most of her life in Cranberry, also inherited the fire gene. “My grandfather was chief in 1979 and he got my uncle involved,” she said. “I decided that I wanted to do it too, so my uncle

brought me the application, and I was in.”

It wasn't until 2005, when Karalee joined, that the couple actually met. Tim, at the time, was a Second Lieutenant in the Fire Brigade – the side of the organization responsible for firefighting operations in the field. “Because I was new, I was on probation,” Karalee recalled. “So I was the one who would get kicked off the trucks. Tim would always be the one to kick me off so he could put on the more experienced guys who were available.”

But after about a year, the couple started dating. And it wasn't long before they married. Eventually they bought a house, and Karalee began teaching at a preschool immediately across the street from the Haine School Fire Station. That was when, following two and a half years of active service in the Brigade, she began scaling back her involvement to focus on the Company side of the organization – the one mainly responsible for its administrative functions and ceremonial events like the August 1st fire truck cruise.

Even so, the excitement of responding to emergencies is something that continues to energize the couple. Tim – who by day installs home theatre systems for Best Buy – is a big fan of movies and video games at home. Karalee enjoys the quieter pleasures of reading. And when free time is available, the couple enjoys working on their home, barbecuing



with friends, picnics with family, and playing with their dog, Gracie.

Cranberry's Fire Company gets only four or five actual building fire calls a year. The great majority of its emergencies involve vehicle accidents, where firefighters help to free entrapped passengers, manage traffic around the site, and coordinate with police, ambulance, and tow truck personnel. For Company volunteers, it's a rewarding experience, made all the richer by the sense of friendship and family involvement in the fire service. ***But when a serious accident occurs, the fun stops.***

“You can't take anything for granted,” Karalee observed, reflecting back on a fatal wreck she had responded to. “It really puts things in perspective – how precious every moment is. We're there to do good for others, and it brings a real sense of achievement. Running with the fire company carries a full-time commitment to saving lives. But there are times where there's nothing we can give. It's rough; there's no two ways about it.” ~

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

JULY

WED 1	THURS 2	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 3	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm Red, White and Blue Beach Blast Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	SAT 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY Race for Virginia and Friends 5K Run/Walk Community Park, 7:30 am Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 5	MON 6	Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Monday Book Discussion Pillars of the Earth, Ken Follett, Library, 7 pm	TUES 7	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm Teen Program: Marble Magnets Library, 2 pm
WED 8	THURS 9	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am CTCC Community Days Ribbon Cutting, Municipal Ctr, 12 pm; Cruisin Cranberry, Carnival, Habitat for Humanity Dinner, Community Park, 3 – 11 pm		Thursdays in the Park 50's Concert – Renewed Memories, Community Park, 7 pm Songs of the Labor Movement presented by Bruce Young, Library, 7 pm	FRI 10	Teen Photography Contest* Last day for teens to submit photos, Library CTCC Community Days Cranberry Rotary Chicken BBQ, AHA Cornhole, CTAA Tournaments, Carnival, Concert, Community Park 3 – 11 pm			Farmers Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot 3:30 – 6 pm		
SAT 11	CTCC Community Days Lions Pancake Breakfast, Cranberry Area Chamber Chase 5K, Carnival, Booths, Concert, Fireworks, Community Park, 8 am – 11 pm Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 12	MON 13	Technology Fair Library, 7 pm	TUES 14	Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm Teen Program: Cake Decorating Contest Library, 2 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 15	Family Game Night Library, 7:30 – 9 pm Tackling Osteoarthritis of the Hand UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	THURS 16	Thursdays in the Park Joe Negri and Friends, Community Park, 7 pm	
FRI 17	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm Last Day for Adults to record books as part of the Summer Reading Program* Library	SAT 18	Cranberry Twp Relay for Life North Boundary Park, 10 am – 10 am Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 19	Cranberry Twp Relay for Life North Boundary Park, until 10 am	MON 20	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg as needed Municipal Ctr, 7:30 pm	TUES 21	Family Program: Be Creative Magic Show – Steve Haberman Library, 11 am Teen Program: Karaoke/Guitar Hero Gaming Library, 2 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 22	Planning Commission Work Session
THURS 23	Thursdays in the Park Donna Bailey, Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 24	Last Day for Children and Teens to record books as part of the Summer Reading Program* Library Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Randy Shoup, Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 25	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm Teen Photography Contest Reception* Library	SUN 26	MON 27	20 & 30 Something Book Club The Glass Castle, Janette Walls, Library, 7 pm			Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm
TUES 28	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 29	THURS 30	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm Thursdays in the Park East Winds Symphonic Band, Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 31	Cranberry CUP Neighborhood Golf Outing Cranberry Highlands Golf Course Cranberry CUP Kick-Off Party Cranberry Highlands, 7 pm	Farmers Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo The Pittsburgh Banjo Club, Municipal Ctr, Noon	SAT 1	Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Community Park, 10 am Fire Truck Cruise Victory Family Church, 10 am - 2 pm Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 2	Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm

AUGUST

MON 3	Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Monday Book Discussion Nine Parts of Desire by Geraldine Brooks, Library, 7 pm	TUES 4	Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm	WED 5	THURS 6	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 7	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Greater Cranberry Bogmeisters, Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm Audubon Pavilion Dedication Cranberry Highlands, evening	SAT 8	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 9	MON 10	TUES 11	Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm Night Swim Community WaterPark, 9 pm
WED 12	Open Garden Day Municipal Ctr, 6:30 – 8:30 pm	THURS 13	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am Thursdays in the Park Sarah Marince, Community Park, 7 pm	FRI 14	Lunchtime Concerts in the Rotary Gazebo Jay Hitt, Municipal Ctr, Noon Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 15	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 16	MON 17	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg * – as needed Municipal Ctr, 7:30 pm	TUES 18	WED 19	Eye Care and Disease Prevention UPMC Wellness Series, Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	
THURS 20	FRI 21	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 22	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm Household Hazardous Waste Collection Manheim (formerly Butler Auto Auction), 10 am – 2 pm Cranberry Twp – Jackie Kalleel Memorial Aquathon & 5K North Boundary Park, 8 am	SUN 23	MON 24	TUES 25	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am or 1 pm	WED 26	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 27	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm		
FRI 28	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 29	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 30	MON 31	Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm 20 & 30 Something Book Club TBA, Library, 7 pm	TUES 1	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am and 1 pm	WED 2	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	THURS 3	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm		

SEPTEMBER

FRI 4	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 5	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 6	MON 7	LABOR DAY All Twp Offices Closed	TUES 8	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am or 1 pm Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1 pm Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm		First Impressions Count Darlene Baverso, Mary Kay consultant, Library, 7 pm	WED 9	Parks and Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm	
THURS 10	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am – 2 pm 2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am	FRI 11	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 12	Puppy Plunge† Community WaterPark 3 sessions, 9 am – 2:30 pm Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 13	Grandparents Day	MON 14	Monday Book Discussion Nine Parts of Desire by Geraldine Brooks, Library, 7 pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg as needed* Municipal Ctr, 7:30 pm	TUES 15	Infant Family Time with children under 2 years Library, 11 am or 1 pm	WED 16	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 7 pm Storytime Library, 7 pm
WED 16	Book Discussion* Call for title, Library, 10 am UPMC Wellness Series, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm Cranberry Area Chamber Taste of Cranberry Municipal Ctr, 5 – 7 pm	THURS 17	2-3 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am	FRI 18	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 19	Rosh Hashanah Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 20	MON 21	TUES 22	Bellevue Pediatric Program, Library, 7 pm	WED 23	Home and Community Expo Municipal Ctr, 3 – 8 pm
THURS 24	Being an Educated Consumer in Today's Growing Health Care Industry Dr. Ian Bulow of Upper Cervical Health Centers of America, Library, 7 pm	FRI 25	Farmer's Market Municipal Ctr, rear parking lot, 3:30 – 6 pm	SAT 26	Farmer's Market Rt 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10 am – 1 pm	SUN 27	MON 28	Yom Kippur Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	20 & 30 Something Book Club Devil in the White City by Erik Larson, Library, 7 pm	TUES 29	4 & 5 Year Old's Storytime Library, 11 am or 1 pm	WED 30	Final day to pay SVSD Real Estate Tax at 2% discount Family Pajama Storytime Library, 7 pm

SV Offers Virtual Education Opportunity

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District



The Seneca Valley School District is pleased to present a ground-breaking effort to combine cyber service courses and quality Seneca Valley instruction.

The Seneca Valley Cyber Service Program, developed by Seneca Valley Administrators, utilizes top-notch instruction from E2020 and Penn Foster, online courses that have proven to enhance student achievement. Most notably, Penn Foster is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools for its high school and vocational-technical programs.

"Without taking my health class online, I would not have had the opportunity to participate in an AP Chemistry class, which will ultimately assist me in my major of chemical engineering at Michigan State University," said Mackenzie Jones, a 2009 Seneca Valley graduate. "So, for this, I am extremely grateful ... I feel that cyber school is a positive and useful tool."

Students can utilize this virtual education to create a more flexible schedule, explore career options and ultimately earn credits toward graduation.

In fact, we're pleased to announce that Seneca Valley Cyber Service students will earn a Seneca Valley School District Diploma!

If you have questions about the program, please contact Denise Manganello, Seneca Valley Cyber School and secondary assistant principal, at (724) 452-6040, ext. 246.

FAQs:

Q. Can my student take Cyber Service classes and traditional classes? Yes, each student's schedule will be customized with their guidance counselor.

Q. Can my student attend Seneca Valley School daily, but complete their courses virtually? Yes, students have the opportunities to have certified teachers facilitate their needs within the school day and at after school tutoring.

Q. Can my student attend mission trips or educational trips? Yes, students will have the flexibility to complete work before, during or after their trip(s). Cyber Service gives flexibility but students do have to complete an indicated amount of work for each nine weeks.

BENEFITS

- Flexibility of scheduling, traveling and exploring career options
- Expanding career-related courses beyond those previously offered in the traditional Seneca Valley Curriculum
- Learning responsibility, time management, self discipline, dedication and independence

LOCATIONS

On the Seneca Valley Secondary Campus: Collaboration Center, SAVE- Alternative Ed, Support Study Halls, Special Ed, After-School Tutoring

At Home: Anywhere Internet is accessible

STUDENT ACCESS

24/7 – anytime a student has time, although students must complete pre-determined assignments for every subject during each nine-week grading period. Teachers are available during school hours.

Cyber Service Points of Interest

1. Upon the completion of all graduation requirements, cyber students will graduate with a Seneca Valley Diploma.
2. The curriculum is aligned to the Seneca Valley School District Curriculum.
3. Students will earn letter grades on report cards and transcripts.
4. QPA will not be calculated with virtual education classes, which could impact class rank.
5. Students can participate in all Seneca Valley-sponsored events, including homecoming, prom, graduation, athletics and activities.
6. Physical education can be completed at a local gym as a pass/fail course with appropriate supervision.
7. Health screenings are offered at school.
8. Students in grades 7, 8 and 11 must report to school and take the Pa. System of School Assessment (PSSA).
9. Seniors must complete all graduation requirements, including senior project, PSSA/SVAA, and may order cap and gown if they choose to participate in graduation ceremonies.

In Briefs



This isn't Marlboro country. Much of the mulch placed along the Rt. 228 planter

islands in May has gone up in smoke. Within its first ten days, there were a record 27 fires along the highway's garden strips, caused by burning cigarettes tossed from passing cars. On one of the islands, which had been outfitted with an underground irrigation system, 16 sprinkler heads melted from the heat, rendering them inoperable. Throwing cigarettes from a car is littering, which carries a \$300 fine.

Taxes schmaxes. The chance to pay your 2009 Cranberry Township/Butler County real estate tax at face value lapsed at the end of June; from now until the end of the year, it's due at the penalty rate. Your 2009/2010 Seneca Valley School District real estate tax bill will be mailed at the beginning of August. It can be paid at a two percent discount until the end of September, or at face value from October through November. If you changed your mortgage company or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact tax collector PJ. Lynd at 724-776-1103.



Plowing ahead. For more than a month before the Stanley Cup

playoffs, fourth graders at Rowan Elementary School, under the supervision of art teacher Mary Jane Hadley, designed and executed paintings on three of the plows used by Cranberry's Public Works Department, including this "Win the Cup" edition. Altogether 140 Rowan

students participated in the project, as did their counterparts at Haine Elementary School. Cranberry Plow painting, which was also done in 2005, is a way to increase awareness of municipal street clearing activities among school-age children.

Census 2010. How many people live in Cranberry? Nobody's really sure. But the more complete the count of residents in next year's census, the better. That's because so many government funding programs, as well as the political district lines that determine political influence in Washington, are driven by census results. One estimate is that each individual counted is worth \$1,000 a year for each of the next ten years. As a result, Township officials are working closely with the Census Bureau to ensure a complete count on Census Day, April 1, 2010.



Fire truck cruise. The Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company has invited

40 other fire companies from the region to join it in celebrating 50 years of community service with a Fire Truck Cruise on Saturday, August 1, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Victory Family Church on Rt. 19. Rain date is Sunday, August 2 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM, same location. In addition to fire truck displays and demonstrations, the event features food vendors, games, entertainment, and prizes for the whole family. Admission is free.

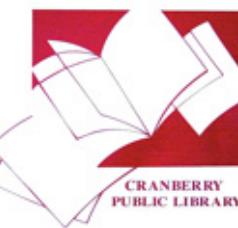
Recess is over. On June 5, exactly 58 years after its last class was dismissed in 1951, the restored Sample One-Room Schoolhouse in front of the Township's Municipal

Center once again served as an active classroom, this time for teacher Nancy Lintelman's third-graders. Her students, normally based at Haine Elementary School, dressed in period outfits and learned to master such unfamiliar technologies as chalk slates and manual pencil sharpeners.



Robot takes a dive. What's up with Cranberry's north water storage tank? To find out, Klear Blue Tek –

an underwater inspection contractor staffed by experienced Navy divers – brought along a camera mounted on a small remote-controlled submarine to take a closer look. What they found was good news: minimum sediment on the tank's bottom, no structural problems with its containment walls, and a perfect fit for the new mixing unit which will be installed later this summer.



Teen expressions. The Cranberry Public Library is running a program designed solely

for teenagers in grades seven through twelve. It includes online summer reading, digital photography and an opportunity to win valuable prizes. Express Yourself, which is entirely separate from any school-based summer programs, concludes July 24. Call 724-776-9100 for registration details. ~



Beetles Continue Bugging Cranberry

You may not find the purple boxes hanging from ash trees around Graham Park to be very attractive. But if you were an Emerald Ash Borer beetle, you probably would, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Particularly when the glue-covered boxes have been perfumed with a chemical whose scent mimics a white ash tree in distress, any of the small beetles who might be in the neighborhood would likely follow their instincts and fly into the traps. That allows inspectors to check on the spread and intensity of the infestation, which was confirmed in Cranberry two years ago, after having already killed millions of white ash trees in the upper Midwest.

Although the precise date of the beetle's initial arrival in western Pennsylvania is difficult to pinpoint, judging from the extent of their damage to some of the ash trees in Cranberry, experts place the Emerald Ash Borer's first presence in the area at around 2000-2001 – likely the result of infested nursery stock and firewood being transported along the Turnpike. As home to one of the Turnpike's busiest interchanges, that puts Cranberry at the epicenter of the beetle's arrival in the Keystone state.

Pennsylvania's hardwood industry is valued at \$17 billion, with more than 2,500 companies employing 85,000 people. Because of the threat that an unchecked spread of the beetles represents to the Commonwealth's woodlands, a number of state and federal agencies, in collaboration with Penn

State Cooperative Extension, are working to get a handle on the extent of the infestation. Fifteen two-person survey crews have been dispatched by Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture to conduct surveys around the five counties that have confirmed beetle infestations, as well as fifteen others in the western part of the state.

An infestation in Mifflin County – just south of State College – has also been confirmed, most likely the result of ash imported by a manufacturer there to create wood handles for his company's garden tools.

The Emerald Ash Borer, which is native to southeast Asia, has no natural predators in North America nor do the white ash trees on which its larvae feed have any native resistance to the insect. As a result, the damage to infested trees, if left unchecked, will often prove fatal after several seasons of progressively greater damage.

Infestation typically begins at the topmost branches of affected white ash trees, and with each successive

generation, works further down the trunk. By the time their small, telltale holes in the bark become visible at eye level, it is often too late to save the tree. So in addition to counting the beetles caught in the purple traps, surveyors look for woodpecker holes higher up, indicating that the insect-loving birds have spotted beetles burrowing under the bark.

If an ash tree is either healthy or at an early stage of infestation, treatments are available to repel the insect and allow the tree to flourish. But they are expensive. As a result, only property owners who want to save trees for ornamental purposes are likely to justify the cost. However there are measures now in place to slow the pace of infestation.

The state has imposed several quarantines under the authority of Pennsylvania's Plant Pest Act, one of which is directed against Emerald Ash Borers. It restricts the movement of any other ash material, including nursery stock, logs, stumps, roots, branches, and wood chips either into or outside of the area which includes Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties. However, due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood, all hardwood firewood – including ash, oak, maple and hickory – also fall under the quarantine, which is enforced by state authorities. ~



Entrapment. State Forestry inspector Zack Kane and Cranberry Environmental Projects Coordinator Lorin Meeder examine a glue trap taken from a white ash tree in Graham Park as part of a three-year, 20-county study of Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Dam It

Yard Waste Clogging Streams Triggers Trouble

The Timberline plan of homes off Peters Road has a stream running through it. It also has an in-line detention basin to regulate the release of water following a rain storm. It's a simple design, but it works – usually.

Problem is, when people push their yard waste and other debris to the back of their properties, whenever the stream rises, that waste gets picked up and transported to the detention pond where it dams up the flow, creating problems for others.

"The trouble with putting yard waste into stream beds is that it creates



flooding dangers downstream," Township Engineer Jason Kratsas explained. "What ends up happening is that debris washes down and when it clogs the outlet, the stream can't go any further."

At Timberline, it hasn't yet reached the point of completely clogging the outlet. But that's largely because one Timberline resident on whose property the outlet is located, has gone down there after every storm

and cleaned it out. If he didn't, the pond would

eventually fill up and create a hazard for the entire plan.

"There's a public health and safety aspect to it," Kratsas said. "We have an ordinance that's pretty comprehensive about protecting our waterways in Cranberry Township. It's a DEP-mandated program. Each municipality passes an ordinance and enforces what is essentially the Clean Water Act. So not only is it rude to push debris into streams, it's potentially dangerous and illegal. That's why we have our Collection Connection yard waste program."

~

Putting yard waste into stream beds creates flooding dangers downstream. Not only is it rude to push debris into streams, it's potentially dangerous and illegal.

Lateral Pass

No Rainwater Here, Please

Rain is always welcome on Cranberry's lawns, gardens, and woods. But it's not appreciated in the Township's sanitary sewers. That's because Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant has a certain capacity which is linked to the volume of fresh water its customers use. If enough rainwater gets into the sanitary sewer system, the plant could exceed its design capacity and end up compromising its treatment effectiveness.

That's a serious no-no, so Township Public Works employees have been

inspecting and rehabilitating the Township's sanitary sewer lines. But those repairs only address the public part of the system. More than half the rainwater that infiltrates sanitary sewers enters the system through laterals – the privately-owned pipes that connect each customer to the Township's collector lines. As a result, the balance of the job is a task that homeowners need to help with.

"We're going to try to eliminate as much water as we can coming in through that part of the system,"



Down the drain. Every home connected to the Township's sanitary sewer system has a fresh air vent and a cleanout port, like these. If they're blocked, broken, missing, or too low to the ground, they can act like storm drains, leading to serious capacity problems for the sewage treatment plant.

Cranberry Pretreatment Administrator Mark Wolinsky said. "We're talking *Continued on page 16.*

More than half the rainwater that infiltrates sanitary sewers enters the system through laterals – the privately-owned pipes that connect each customer to the Township's collector lines.

The Fiber Of Our People...

Cranberry Goes Underground

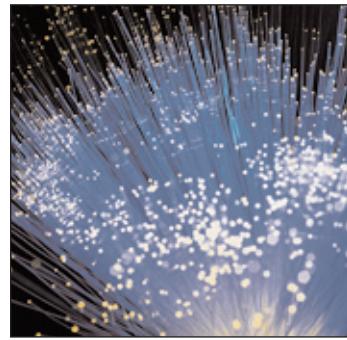
Except for one or two intersections where it goes aerial, you'll never see it, and even then you'd have to know exactly what to look for. But over the past few years, Cranberry has been steadily expanding its own private underground communications network on Township-owned properties and rights of way. Over time, that fiber optic circuit will link all of the Township's scattered facilities, allowing for faster, more reliable, and less expensive connections between them.

The need for dependable, 24/7 communications between Township assets has grown along with the rapid increase in automated energy management, phone and computer data, traffic signal controls and intersection monitoring. And it has been intensified by the need to coordinate formerly isolated, stand-alone devices into an efficient, integrated system.

"There are telephone lines, radio links, and fiber optic links," Cranberry's Public Works electrician Marty McKinney explains. "We've exhausted the copper; we've

exhausted the radio, and now we're leasing fiber from Armstrong to facilitate those links. So we are putting in our own fiber optic links to save money. But that also allows us to have a communications infrastructure in Graham Park for access control, irrigation, lighting, security, building controls – and most importantly, tying telephones and data from our Public Works facilities into a dependable, maintainable, viable system. Then, once the fiber optic infrastructure's been installed, the sky's the limit based on what you can afford."

However the pace of the network's installation is not entirely under the Township's control. "Like many other infrastructure improvements in Cranberry, it's developer driven,"



"We've exhausted the copper; we've exhausted the radio, and now we're leasing fiber. So we are putting in our own fiber optic links to save money."

Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee explained. "The funds to install it are going to be derived from developer funds as they put in new traffic signals.

"The idea has always been to have fiber run to the Sewage Treatment plant, through Graham Park from Rochester and back to the Municipal Center to complete a partial loop. The rest of it's going to run out Freshcorn, the new Northwest Connector, Route 19, and the Public Works Operations Center, all the way around and back. Later, as we get the Freedom Road project running, we could get fiber all the way down Freedom to Haine School Road; then it would be a just short jump to the fire station." ~

No rainwater here, please

Continued from page 15

about local rehabilitation on a house-by-house basis."

Every sewer/water customer has a fresh air vent somewhere in their lateral. It typically has a slotted circular cap about six inches in diameter, which is designed to allow sewer gas and fumes to escape so the sewer can drain properly. There's also a cleanout port coming out from the line which allows you to put a plumber's snake down the drain in case there's a clog. If the cleanout cap is flush with the ground and broken off, whenever it rains,

the water goes right into the sanitary line. And if the fresh air vent is too close to the ground, it also works like a drain when it rains.

"We're trying to eliminate those as much as possible because we don't want rainwater in the system," Wolinsky said. "Inflow is the main thing we're looking at. Private lines represent 50 to 60 percent of the total inflow. If you find that one of the caps is missing, it should be fixed. If you identify a problem, call the Township and we'll advise you."

The same is true for driveway and stairwell drains which, like downspouts, are supposed to empty into storm sewers instead of sanitary sewer lines. "If someone comes in and says 'I've got this drain out here and I don't know where it goes,' we can check it out, let them know where it goes, and whether they have to remedy it," Wolinsky noted. "We are going to be doing more testing out there and if we find something like that, we're going to let the owner know. But for broken or missing caps, they can always go out and look for themselves." ~

Electric Shock

More Users Jump Into Power Pool

Two years ago, in an effort to hold the line on its rapidly-rising energy expenses, the City of Pittsburgh bit the bullet and locked into a long-term electricity purchasing contract. As a major power consumer, the money at stake was significant and escalating power costs could only worsen an already-difficult budget situation.

Unfortunately, as it turned out, they were wrong. Electric costs at that point had spiked, and the city ended up buying all of its power just as the market peaked.

Cranberry took a different path, which turned out to be more fortunate: It climbed into a pool. “We keep buying lower and lower,”

Public Works Director Jason Dailey reported. “We are paying less per kilowatt now than we did when we first got into the pool. In a downward market like we have right now, it really pays big dividends for us.”

How big? Cranberry’s annual savings at this point amount to more than \$60,000 a year.

“The strategy involves pooling different local companies and towns. A lot of people go into making this account, so it’s not just one company; it’s a bunch of companies,” he explained. “Our particular pool is being touted as the model across Pennsylvania. Right now the company that set up this pool – On Demand – is out in the State College area and in the northeastern part of the state. Because of the way the energy market is deregulated, those areas are coming off of regulations first, and then they’ll work their way back to the north-central part of Butler County, which comes off in 2010.”

Zelienople is now part of the same pool that Cranberry is in; so are some local restaurants and businesses like The McGinnis Sisters in Seven Fields.

But buying its power through a pool is only one part of the Township’s energy savings strategy. The other is to consume less. “We have automatic setbacks for the Public Works building,

Facilities Manager Gary Beltz explained. “If you come in there at 5:00, the building is going to



be a little warmer because we close the air conditioners back. And in the garage, the lights go down. It’s load management.”

In different ways, that same strategy is being applied to all of the Township’s buildings, including the Cranberry Highlands Clubhouse and the Municipal Center tenant offices where a temperature zoning system has been added.

Another potential energy-saving opportunity is powering down electronic devices. “A lot of equipment uses small amounts of electricity even in the ‘off’ mode,” Beltz pointed out. “A phone charger uses power even when it’s not charging a phone; it might be a minute amount, but it’s still using electricity. Your computer screen will go into suspension after it times out, but if it’s plugged in, it’s still actually on. So if you put together all the Township’s computers, it adds up. When you keep these things plugged in, they really do use energy.” ~

“We are paying less per kilowat than we did when we first go into the pool. In a downward market like we have right now, it really pays big dividends for us.”



Hartners Drive Opens.

A new road linking Rt. 19 to Dutilh, adjacent to the new Walgreens drugstore, was dedicated at a brief ceremony on June 9. The road, which carries the name Hartners Drive, honors the family whose restaurant occupied the site of the new road for decades prior to its sale in 2007. The sign identifying Hartners Drive is the first to use a new design which will eventually be used to designate all Township-owned roads. Amelia Hartner and her family attended the dedication, which also marked her 89th birthday.

Timing Is Everything

Signals Reprogrammed To Accommodate New Traffic

The much-anticipated employee move into Building One of the new Westinghouse headquarters, which began in June, has prompted Cranberry to change its traffic signal timing along access points to the company's new Cranberry Woods campus. And the transfer of its remaining Monroeville-based employees into Buildings Two and Three next year will trigger even more.

But changes in traffic signal management are not just limited to one segment of Rt. 228, nor is the cost solely being borne by the Township. A \$109,300 federal matching grant to support traffic studies and improved coordination of signals in and near the Township was announced recently with Cranberry, Adams, Seven Fields and Marshall Township each sharing in the 20 percent match.

"We've programmed new timings into 27 interconnected traffic signals, six of which are actually located in other municipalities," Cranberry traffic signal guru

Marty McKinney reported. "We're retiming sooner rather than later because we're still in a growth mode. Nationally, the interval for retiming is normally seven to eight years. We're trying to stay under five years because things here are changing so fast."

Even so, a lot of people have concerns about getting around in Cranberry. "What everybody's worried about is that when they're sitting there waiting on a green light, all they see is the short green interval they're accustomed to and they're wondering what's going to happen when we open floodgates for Westinghouse," McKinney said.

"We try to anticipate when people will need to use these roadways and make allowances for those times as best we can. A lot of people think we should keep the green lights on for the side streets until everybody

We constantly try to balance the scale of side street traffic with the mainline traffic by modeling different traffic conditions on a computer.



dumps out. But that's not practical for the rest of the system; it impacts everything else.

So we constantly try to balance the scale of side street traffic with the mainline traffic."

One way is by modeling different traffic conditions

on a computer. "We have a program that runs a traffic simulation using our roadways, our configurations, and our traffic volumes," he said. "We can actually run signal timing plans in the computer before we put them into the street. If you make a change somewhere and the computer says 'oh no, don't do that,' we generally avoid doing that. We would much rather try it in a simulation that uses real data than try it in the street using real traffic."

Even so, it's a tough balancing act. "Our problem relates to the fact that there are only 60 seconds in a minute," McKinney explained. "Our timing sequences revolve around a piece of roadway X wide and Y long which can only accommodate a certain amount of cars in a given amount of time. So we're constantly trying to balance loading with people's need to be in a hurry and the fact that they're inevitably going to run into some red lights. Our job is to minimize the wait time."

"When people are sitting at red lights, it affects fuel efficiency, pollution, time away from work. So we're doing our best to keep everybody moving throughout the whole system. But the busier we get, the more cars there are, the harder the job becomes, and the more likely you are to wait." ~



Road Improvements Continue

Times are tough. The economy is sick. Budgets are lean. And deficits are fat. But through it all, Cranberry's vision for a high-quality local road network is continuing to advance. This year alone, more than a dozen improvements to the Township's roadway system are either underway, in the pipeline, or already completed.

Part of the reason is that some funds are coming from sources which haven't always been part of the Township's funding stream. "We got our first earmark from Congress for Freedom Road," Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee pointed out, recalling

Senator Specter's February visit to the Township. "There are also the recent proposals from Representative Altmire about funding for final design of the Turnpike overpass. Those are funding streams we hadn't seen much of in Cranberry. Typically road projects are funded from Township Impact Fee funds or private funds and PennDOT."

Seventeen different road projects are currently underway within Township boundaries. Those projects, which are all fully funded, include resurfacing, signal upgrades, new ramps, sidewalks and connector roads. Some will be completed this year while others are at different stages of development with construction anticipated starting in 2010 or 2011.

Projects in progress include:

Franklin-Peters intersection upgrade.

Improvements to the intersection of Peters and Franklin Roads, which had been identified as one of the Township's top safety priorities, will move forward this fall as a result of a PennDOT grant which will cover nearly half of the project's estimated \$650,000 construction cost.

Street resurfacing and repair.

Nineteen Township-owned residential roads and seven collector roads will, by this fall, have either segments or their entire lengths resurfaced. Public Works has been keeping a step ahead of the paving contractor with basic repairs and sub-base work to increase the integrity of the roadway, and resolve drainage issues.

Traffic signal upgrades. New timing algorithms have been uploaded into the signal control boxes at each of the Township's 27 interconnected intersections. A new traffic signal at the intersection of Ehrman Road and Rt. 19 is currently in the design stage.

Northwest Connector. Work on an extension of Heights Drive to Rt. 19 through the Deener Farm will begin once a state-mandated rattlesnake search has concluded this summer. The project is being undertaken by the Township to offer residents a way

of traveling in Cranberry without using congested arterial roads.

Sidewalks. The federal 'Safe Routes to School' project, designed to increase the opportunities for children to walk safely to school, is helping to fund a sidewalk and crosswalks along parts of Freedom and Haine School Road.

Rochester Road signals. A new traffic signal at the Rochester Road intersection of Graham Park Drive, opposite Dover Drive, as well as improvements to the intersection of Rochester and Thomson Park Drive, are currently under design.

Combined driveway. Creating a common signalized driveway for St. Ferdinand's Catholic Church and the Township's Municipal Center onto Rochester Road is expected to get underway later this year. The combined roadway could extend as far north as Unionville Road.

Interstate ramps. PennDOT funding for the construction of new ramps linking I-79 to Rt. 228 was announced in February. Design and engineering will begin this year; construction is expected to start by 2012. A slip ramp from the northbound side of I-79 onto eastbound Rt. 228 may be completed as early as this fall.

Freedom Road. A federal grant will finance the installation next year of a new traffic signal at the Haldeman Road entrance to the Clearbrook plan of homes on Freedom Road along with an extension of traffic signal control technology west along Freedom to Haine School Road.

Franklin Road. Long Tree Way, which currently provides access to the row of restaurants along the south side of Rt. 228, will be extended eastward to connect with Franklin Road as part of the CREDCO Village at Cranberry mixed use project.

Hartners Drive. A new Township road by the Walgreens pharmacy linking Dutilh to Rt. 19 opposite Cranberry Square Drive is now complete and open to traffic.

Graham School Road. Improvements along the portion of Graham School Road adjacent to Sherwood Oaks, including a new sidewalk, are being undertaken in connection with the retirement community's expansion.

Norman Drive. Also included with the Sherwood Oaks expansion are walkways and enhancements to pedestrian circulation at the opposite end of Sherwood Oaks, by the Laurelwood Apartments, which are also underway. ~

Township To Host Home And Community Expo 2009

Cranberry's Municipal Center will be the site of the first annual Home and Community Expo on Wednesday, September 23 from 3:00 until 8:00 PM – co-sponsored by the Township and the Housing Authority of the County of Butler. The free exposition, which is expected to feature 75 exhibitors, will offer workshops on topics of importance to local homeowners and showcase some of the many home and social services available to residents of southwestern Butler County. Door prizes, refreshments, and an assortment of giveaway items will also be available.

A particular focus of the event will be on public, private, and nonprofit resources which are available to help area homeowners live better and remain in their homes through difficult economic times. Among them: First-time home buyer grant programs; Subsidized apartment living opportunities for older residents; Housing programs for

veterans; Matching grant savings accounts; Mortgage Assistance programs; United Way agency services; Child care services; Utility Assistance programs; Smoke and carbon monoxide detector installation programs; Educational and training programs; Legal services; Financial services; Property maintenance and improvement services, and more.

Experts from the county's Housing Authority will be happy to answer visitor's questions relating to all aspects of property ownership and financing including tax incentives, home equity loans, reverse mortgages, government loan programs, credit counseling, selling a home, and foreclosure prevention.

The Authority itself administers a wide range of programs, all of which are available to Cranberry Township residents. They include grants to make properties accessible to disabled residents; a variety of

senior citizen residences and family housing communities; emergency and home repair programs; housing for homeless persons, and other initiatives to help secure family self-sufficiency. All of those programs are in keeping with the goals of the Township's recently-adopted comprehensive plan. See www.cranberryplan.org for more information.

"Redevelopment, neighborhood renewal, and maintaining property values are top priorities of The Cranberry Plan," according to John Trant, Jr., the Township's chief planning strategist. "Implementation of the Plan's recommendations includes identifying strategies to maintain a vital and healthy housing stock in the Township and make sure that property values are sustained. Partnering with the Butler county Housing Authority is a great way to make Cranberry Township residents aware of services that the Authority and other area agencies offer." ~

A focus of the event will be on public, private, and nonprofit resources which are available to help area homeowners live better and remain in their homes through difficult economic times.

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



724-776-4806
www.cranberrytownship.org

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