



Cranberrytoday

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AUGUST 2009 SPECIAL EDITION

Cranberry Highlands: Certified Best

It's been a good year for Cranberry Highlands. First, the golf course became certified by Audubon International as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary – a prestigious award recognizing the facility's environmental stewardship. Then in its August issue, Golf Digest Magazine named Cranberry Highlands as 2009's Best Municipal Golf Course in Pennsylvania.

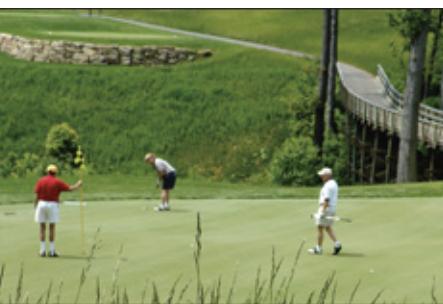
Using a combination of star ratings from the magazine's Best Places to Play and its Best in State rankings, the magazine awarded the course four stars out of a possible five. Only the Bethpage Black course in Farmingdale, New York received a five-star rating.

Built on portions of a 335-acre farm owned by the Township from a design by William R. Love Golf

Course Architects of College Park, Maryland, Cranberry Highlands was widely praised from its opening day as a first-rate golf course. With two water hazards, 95 sand traps, and 6,513 yards from its back tees, Cranberry Highlands' par 70 links-style course provides a challenge for golfers at every level of play.

At the same time, ever since its 2002 opening, the natural assets of Cranberry Highlands have been gradually enhanced under

the leadership of Golf Course Superintendent Dave Barber. The Audubon certification reflects the extensive program of wildlife preservation and environmental conservation measures now in place – many of which encompass the entire facility.



Using a combination of star ratings and Best in State rankings, the magazine awarded the course four stars out of a possible five.



To honor its new Sanctuary status, the new 2,400 square foot stone and wood open-air structure behind the Highlands' Clubhouse which was completed this spring, received its formal dedication on August 7 as the Audubon Pavilion.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program helps golf course owners protect the environment by providing guidance to them in developing

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Cranberry's Water Goes (Slightly) Over The Top In THMs

Test results are in and, according to DEP, the peak level of trihalomethanes, or THMs, in the Township's water supply is 0.082 parts per million, just above the agency's newly reduced limit of 0.080. Although Cranberry's average level is slightly below that

threshold, the new rules are based on the highest point of THMs found within the system. Until recently, that limit had been 0.100.

THMs are byproducts of chlorination and they're present in every municipal water system. But concerns about

their long-range health implications prompted the EPA, out of an abundance of caution, to lower the allowable level by 20 percent. That change order, which was issued several years ago, has put most of the

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Cranberry Highlands: certified best *Continued from front cover*

plans for enhancing the high-value natural areas and wildlife habitats of their facilities, improving their efficiency, and minimizing the potentially harmful environmental impacts of golf operations.

A local Scout troop helped Barber's grounds staff develop a nature trail in the wooded area between holes 3 and 4 of Cranberry Highlands this spring to showcase the wildlife which makes itself at home there. Guided tours are available with advance reservation by calling 724-776-7372.

Public involvement in the work of natural preservation and environ-

mental education is expected to continue playing an important role going forward.

Recertification as a Cooperative Sanctuary is required every two years to make sure that members continue upholding the organization's standards. ~



Cranberry's water goes (slightly) over the top in THMs *Continued from front cover*

communities in this area, including Cranberry, into "Tier Two" violation status, and DEP is requiring all of their water companies to notify customers about it.

Ever since EPA first announced that it was reducing the allowable level for THMs, Cranberry has been hard at work lowering the level of THMs in its water system. It has been particularly challenging since the water that Cranberry receives from West View Water Authority – the Township's sole supplier – sometimes arrives with THM levels as high as 0.070, so the margin available to further disinfect while keeping the level within the new compliance range is actually very narrow.

One of the steps that was taken earlier this summer was when West View changed the disinfectant chemical it uses to treat the Township's water supply from chlorine to chloramines. Both provide protection against harmful microorganisms in the water, but their potency, longevity, and rates of byproduct formation differ in ways that help reduce THM levels.

The other key strategy is to keep the water moving since THMs build up

over time; the more quickly the water is consumed, the less time it spends in tanks and pipelines where the byproducts can accumulate. So the system's flushing schedule has been accelerated, its tank storage levels have been reduced, a mixer has been installed in the west storage tank to keep the water moving inside, and plans for a new higher-capacity pumping station are underway to supply water to Cranberry residents in closer step with actual demand.

EPA points out that the presence of THMs in drinking water does not represent an immediate or high health risk to anyone. It is, however,

a significant water quality issue that the Township

is tracking very closely and that it wants residents to be aware of. And anyone who is currently using a dialysis machine will continue neutralizing the chloramines, just as they currently do for chlorine.

The EPA estimates that drinking a half gallon of water containing 0.100 parts per million of THMs every day for 70 years could result in three extra cases of cancer for every 10,000 people. Liver, kidney and central nervous system problems are also possible, the agency notes.

Additional information about the topic is posted on the Township's website and EPA encourages communities to disseminate that information widely. For any questions relating to Cranberry's drinking water, call Environmental Programs Coordinator Lorin Meeder at 724-776-4806 ext. 1176. ~



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Cranberry residents Jeff and Christine Rohde are not professional bounty hunters. They don't even claim to be amateur ones. But their meticulous sleuthing broke the code for the first annual Cranberry Township Community Chest Treasure Hunt right after the ninth clue, on June 25.

Altogether, the CTCC's quest for treasure – sponsored by the Cranberry Eagle and with prizes valued in the thousands of dollars – included twelve rhyming clues, one in each edition of the biweekly newspaper, and required those seeking the answers to find them in various historical markers and monuments throughout the Township as well as in the Community Chest's own annual report and website.

Christine, who by day works as a tax manager for Alcoa, was intrigued by the hunt's promotional publicity, which she had read in the Cranberry Eagle. So she began working through the first several clues. But it wasn't long before she realized that she needed to go out into the field. So she enlisted her husband, Jeff,



Local Couple Cracks The Code

a marketing manager for PNC Financial, to drive her around the Township, harvesting information from different historical plaques.

The Wednesday, June 24 edition of the Cranberry Eagle contained clue nine. By then, the couple had already discovered a number of the letters, as well as some of the words, needed to decode the final clue, offering the most detailed information about the location of the Golden Key, which would entitle its finder to prizes on July 11. One of those words was "Rotary."

"We actually went out that night after dinner, it was probably 8:00, and started looking to find the key," Jeff recalled. "We spent a lot of time at the Rotary shelter in Community Park. And we looked at the Rotary area for the Dog Park – there are a lot of Rotary signs."

But the key had actually been hidden beneath an isolated Community Park table, away from either of those locations, situated above a small bog. "It was getting kind of dark. And as we were driving through the little park area there, I noticed that picnic table," Jeff said. "I saw the tiny little Rotary emblem on it and I said maybe it's there. So we actually pulled over and looked that night, but we didn't find it.

"It was almost 9:00 by that point. We figured the key wasn't there so we drove around to different places in the town after that. I knew there's a little Rotary garden with benches by the Township building.

The key had been hidden beneath an isolated Community Park table situated above a small bog.

So we went there, because they had lights on. And then we drove through the other parks, just to scout out if there were any other Rotary signs.

"After we got back we said let's go before work the next morning and double-check Community Park. So we got up early and went into the park that Thursday morning, and walked through pretty much the whole park, but we didn't see any other tables. So we said let's go back to that one."

"I kept saying I think that would be a great place to hide it because it's not really out in the open and the emblem isn't very conspicuous," Christine recalled. So she climbed under the table, and in a slot beneath one of its benches discovered a telltale piece of tape. And attached to that tape was the key. "I've never looked under the tables like that before. So it was kind of: Oh my God! Here's the key!"

More than two weeks later, just after 3:00 at the Park's mainstage on Community Day, July 11, the couple turned in their key for the treasure. Residents, reporters and amateur photographers had the delivery well covered. "That was my five minutes of fame," Christine noted. "I've never seen so many cameras in front of me since my wedding." ~



2009 Home And Community Expo Comes To Cranberry

With the current tight economy creating difficulties for many area residents, it is reassuring to know that there are a variety of services – including many for free – available to help. An exposition to get the word out about those services has been organized for late next month.

Cranberry Township's first annual Home and Community Expo will be held in the Municipal Center on Wednesday, September 23 from 3:00 until 8:00 PM. The event, co-sponsored by the Township and the Housing Authority of the County of Butler, is expected to feature as many as 75 exhibitors. It 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.

The Authority itself administers a wide range of programs, all of which are available to Butler County 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.

However the focus of the Expo will extend beyond County agencies to include all public, private, and nonprofit resources 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.

"Cranberry has a relatively young housing inventory," Township Supervisor Richard Hadley pointed out. "But keeping those homes in good condition and redeveloping areas of the Township which fall into disrepair are important objectives of the long-range plan we adopted earlier this year. So we're partnering with the Housing Authority to raise awareness here about the services which are available to local residents."

~

"Partnering with the Housing Authority is one way Cranberry can raise awareness here about the community programs and services available to local residents," Township Supervisor and Board Chairman Richard Hadley pointed out. "A strong focus on housing, economic development and enhancing our sense of community are important objectives of the Cranberry Plan – the long-range plan we adopted earlier this year."



Want to be an exhibitor?

If you represent an organization which provides services of the type that Expo 2009 is showcasing, you can reserve a table for just \$35. Reservations are available from the Housing Authority of Butler County by contacting Resident Initiatives Coordinator Kevin Boozel at 724-287-6797 or by email at: Kevin@housingauthority.com. Expo program ads and sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information, visit the Township's website www.cranberrytownship.org/homeexpo.

Serpentine Drive...

No Snakes Yet Along Proposed Route Of Heights Drive Extension

It won't be until later this month that the final verdict will be in as to whether the elusive Massasauga Rattlesnake has actually made itself at home along the route of the proposed Heights Drive Extension.

So far, at least, there haven't been any. As a matter of fact, none have been found in any of the three projects where DEP required Cranberry to search for the endangered snake – a viper whose habitat potentially includes a broad swath of North America. But the official outcome of the hunt could affect the final design of the roadway which will link the current end of Heights Drive to Rt. 19, near the current Kenny Ross auto dealership.

It's been a long process. It started ten years ago when the Township determined that the parallel road system it had envisioned for moving local traffic as an alternative to either Rt. 19 or the Rt. 228/Freedom Road corridor, would require what became known as a Northwest Connector. Initially, Bear Run Road

was considered as a possible alignment for the connector. But property acquisition and utility relocation costs, as well as the road's peculiar topography, prompted the Township to reconsider.

That was when the Heights Drive Extension option

emerged as the preferred alternative. Part of the reason was that planning for the Cranberry Heights plan of homes was underway at the time. Design for the connector as a through road, which excluded driveways from opening onto it, was done in conjunction with the planning for the neighborhood. As a result developers, rather than taxpayers, were tasked with financing and building major parts of the connector.



Design for the connector was done in conjunction with planning for the neighborhood.

At the same time, to help manage the expected increase in traffic, a series of measures were jointly developed by affected residents and Township staff to slow the vehicles which would eventually use that connector. Those measures, which included

traffic calming islands, four-way stops, and painted crosswalks, are expected to be in place before the Township-financed connector itself is opened.

The Heights Drive Extension, like the Ehrman-Garvin Road connector which is now under construction in the Township's northeastern area, will enable local residents to navigate through Cranberry using local roads to bypass the heavily trafficked state arterial roads. ~



Work is underway to add a new traffic lane along a short eastbound stretch of Rt. 228. The new auxiliary lane will extend from where the I-79 northbound ramp meets 228 over to

Keep Moving...
Extra Traffic Lane Under Construction Along Rt. 228

the Cranberry Woods Drive entrance, by the Marriott. It is designed to help relieve traffic congestion on the I-79 north ramp by allowing eastbound traffic destined for the Cranberry Woods Business Park to flow freely.

PennDOT awarded Frank J. Zottola Construction of Valencia

the contract to build the new lane. Its anticipated completion date is early September. Although excavation and base preparation will be done during daylight hours, any operations that would restrict two lanes of eastbound traffic will be carried out at night and over weekends.

PennDOT advises motorists to slow down, anticipate traffic delays, and to be prepared to stop when traveling through work zones. Flag crews will direct traffic while work is being performed as needed. ~

The WaterPark Is Boiling Over With Late Summer Deals



Cranberry's WaterPark has been under the weather for much of the 2009 season with a lot of rain and cooler than normal temperatures.

But a surge of promotional offers through the remainder of the season have been designed to turn up the heat, particularly during weekdays.

Concession Specials: Every Tuesday features "Two for Tuesdays" specials with two personal pizzas and two 20-oz. fountain drinks for just \$6. Or you can get two pretzels and two 20-oz. drinks for \$4. And every day after 5:00, including weekends, a Family Meal Deal will be available with a 16-inch pizza and four 20-oz. fountain drinks for \$10.

Cool Days, Pool Days: If the forecast for the day's high temperature on weather.com fails to break 75 degrees, all daily admissions will be reduced

to \$5. Water temperature in the pool is always kept in the range of 78-82 degrees.

Membership Appreciation Days:

- **On Monday, August 10,** members can bring a guest for free or receive a guest pass valid through the end of the season.
- **On Tuesday, August 11,** members are admitted free to that evening's Totally Tubular Night Swim.
- **On Wednesday, August 12,** members visiting the WaterPark receive a free ice cream or a 20-oz. drink.
- **Members entering the WaterPark between August 10 and August 12** will receive an entry form for a free 2010 membership raffle drawing each time they visit. Additional



entry forms will be issued for each purchase from the concession stand.

Twofer: Two for one WaterPark admissions are available all day. **Buy One, Get One** on Saturday, August 15. Available to everyone.

For Dogs Only: On Saturday, September 12, the WaterPark will hold its 2009 Puppy Plunge featuring special competitive and novelty events. Radio Disney will join with music, games and prizes. Three 90-minute sessions will be held starting at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 1:00 PM. Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Admission fee is \$5 per dog; bring proof of your dog's current rabies vaccination. No aggressive dogs allowed. ~



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