



Cranberrytoday

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2010 WINTER EDITION

Cranberry's 2010 Budget Holds The Line On Taxes – Again

What a difference a year makes.

In November of 2008, when Cranberry's 2009 budget was being drafted, the nation's economy was in a free fall. The stock market had tanked. Home prices collapsed. Jobs vanished. Banks failed. And it looked like the start of a new depression. So Township officials were very conservative in their estimates of revenue and expenses for the new fiscal year.

But as 2009 went on, Cranberry's finances turned out better than expected. Construction continued, although at a somewhat slower pace. Home prices dipped a bit, but then rebounded. And when several companies headquartered in the Township had to cut staff, they ended up consolidating "their out-of-town operations

into Cranberry, which largely offset the loss of jobs here.

"Compared with our earlier expectations of how we would be doing at this point in the year, we're doing wonderfully," Township Finance Director Vanessa Gleason pointed out in November. "Earned income, business privilege, and local services tax have all come in exceeding expectations."

Even so, for fiscal 2010, Township officials remain hesitant about launching major new spending initiatives. "The proposed 2010 Budget continues a very conserva-

tive projection of revenue and holds the General Fund operating expenses to a

2.1 percent increase over 2009 levels while maintaining and enhancing key service areas," Township Manager Jerry Andree noted in his budget message to the Board of Supervisors.

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2.5 to 3.5 percent, the pension costs alone account for nearly 50 percent of the actual dollar increase, and we absorbed insurance increases of

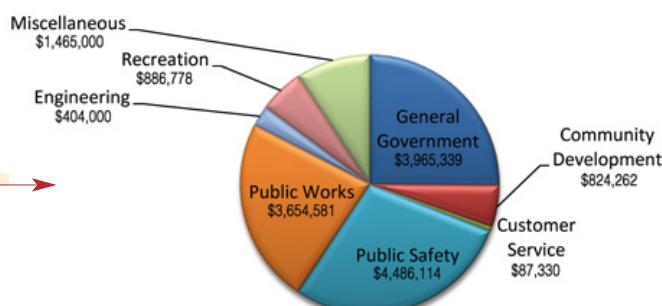
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General Fund

Revenue

and

Expenditures



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Freedom Road Recommendations Presented To Planning Body

Cranberry's long-range plan still shows a hole in the part of town where Freedom Road passes through. But despite the sometimes conflicting interests among its residents, neighbors and business stakeholders, there has been real progress in filling in that hole. And the strategy for formulating a plan has now reached the fourth stage of its five-step process.

"Lost in the shuffle is the fact that there's been compromise," Chief Strategic Planning officer John Trant, Jr. pointed out. "Ten years ago, the folks from Sun Valley were vehemently opposed to any land use change along Freedom Road. So this process has brought together the stakeholders on Freedom Road who would like to advance a zoning change, with those who live near Freedom who originally didn't want to see any."

"We now have residents standing at the podium in front of the Planning Advisory Commission seeking clarification of a particular recommendation, as opposed to saying 'there's no way you're going to get me to support any kind of change at all!' That's huge."

On December 7, an informational presentation which included draft land use and transportation recommendations for three separate areas along Freedom Road based on the stakeholders' input, was given

to Cranberry's Planning Advisory Commission, or PAC. It culminated a series of lengthy stakeholder meetings dating back to December of 2008.

The affected residents had met regularly to generate input for the PAC to consider regarding development recommen-

ations for properties along the heavily trafficked two-lane roadway, which is currently zoned residential. The PAC's recommendations, in turn, would go to the Board of Supervisors. And if the Board were then inclined to consider any zoning changes, additional public hearings and meetings would have to be held prior to adoption.

Development along Freedom Road had easily been the most contentious issue over the past ten-plus years and in the comprehensive planning process which concluded this past April. To help break this cycle, and recognizing the importance of stakeholder involvement, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved a separate process in September of 2008 – one that went well beyond what it was legally required to do find a solution.

That process was designed to allow Freedom Road residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide detailed input about how they thought properties along the roadway should develop to assure the corridor's long term health and viability. That included identifying



potential uses, necessary improvements to the transportation network, and strategies for mitigating the impacts of any new development. It's what PennDOT calls 'smart transportation.'

At the December 7 PAC meeting, Trant presented the Commission with a list of draft recommendations and observations gleaned from the previous stakeholder group meetings. "The PAC is considering a recommendation on whether the Cranberry Plan should be amended to change the future land use map, fill in the gap, and then refine the draft recommendations related to land use and transportation using the stakeholder groups' input as well as their own familiarity and expertise.

"We're now at the fourth stage in the process, which is the Planning Commission's review of the information we've gathered to date. We've collected all this input; now it's time for the PAC to chew on it. They will then, in turn, consider advancing a package of draft recommendations for the Board's review and consideration. Hopefully, in the spring, we'll have a set of recommendations for the Board to consider." ~

How Cranberry Guides Its Growth

Ask any builder and they'll tell you: land development doesn't just happen in Cranberry. It's a carefully regulated process which begins with its comprehensive plan and implemented through the land use ordinances and requirements that flow from it. The Township's Community Development Department is responsible for overseeing it every step of the way.

There are compelling reasons for regulating new development. They have to do with the public interest in managing congestion, traffic safety, drainage, aesthetics, pedestrian access, financing road improvements, and being compatible with adjacent properties throughout their community.

For Community Development Director Ron Henshaw, Freedom Square – a new retail development at the corner of Freedom and Haine School Roads – offers a perfect example of how the Township works with developers, in this case

Langholz Wilson Ellis, to make sure their projects are consistent with Cranberry's long-term objectives. In the case of Freedom Square, its 15-acre property fell into two

Freedom Square offers a perfect example of how the Township works with developers to make sure their projects are consistent with Cranberry's long-term objectives.



adjacent zoning districts: C1, Convenience Commercial, and SP1, Special Growth.

Avoiding 19. A major goal of C1 zoning is to serve people in or near their own neighborhoods. "Convenience commercial keeps people from running out onto our main roads, particularly Route 19, to get the things they need," Henshaw explained. "They can get what they need in their own part of town, and then go home." Banks, drugstores, cleaners, salons and coffee shops are examples of convenience commercial retail services. A supermarket on Freedom Square's SP1 side also makes it convenient for people to get their groceries without getting onto main roads.

Controlled Access. For decades, commercial development involved every single property having its own access onto the highway. The resulting maze of curb cuts became a safety nightmare. So limiting and controlling the points of highway access for multi-tenant commercial

centers became a priority for Cranberry planners. Freedom Square's developer made a series of significant improvements to the intersection of Freedom and Haine School Roads and consolidated its Haine School Road portal with the fire company's adjacent

driveway, to provide for safer access points.

Aesthetics. All commercial projects in Cranberry have extensive landscaping and planting requirements. But projects in a C1 zone also have strict aesthetic rules. For example, big cinder blocks are not allowed. Masonry has to be colorized. Minimum glass areas are specified. Upgraded light fixtures are required. C1 zones usually abut residential neighborhoods, so materials similar to those found in homes, as well as smaller buildings which offer a more gradual transition between uses, is called for.

Drainage. Stormwater management is another key Township priority. And at the intersection of Haine School and Freedom Roads, with their history of flooding, it was paramount. "We drastically improved it by requiring the developer to install major stormwater control functions," Henshaw said. "Half the stormwater goes toward a detention pond that releases to the east; the rest drains into underground tanks that release into the storm system through pipes under Freedom Road."

Walkways. Freedom Square is pedestrian-oriented by design, both internally and around its perimeter. It provides safer crosswalks and sidewalk connections to adjacent properties as they develop. Already, people are walking to the pharmacy, picking up their items, and walking home.

Impact fees. Every development creates new traffic. Projected trip generation becomes the basis for assessing impact fees – money paid by the developer which Cranberry uses to make road improvements that mitigate the development's traffic impact. The combined cash and in-kind contribution to road improvements for Freedom Square exceeded \$800,000. ~

Conservative Fiscal Principles In Action...Not Talk!

by Bruce Mazzoni, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



Okay, so banks are failing, property prices are falling, the GDP has tumbled, unemployment is skyrocketing, and the national

debt is soaring. So a lot of people are concerned. Some of the most vocal – the Ditto Heads, Tea Party Patriots, 9/12 ers and other talk-show inspired conservatives – insist that the problem is irresponsible government spending. Cranberry Township is a certainly a unit of government, so how well do we fit that profile?

Not very well. The notion that Cranberry is inefficient and out of touch just doesn't square with the facts. Cranberry has retained its property values, seen its employment grow, and offered exceptional levels of service, all while holding the line on taxes.

It begins with Cranberry's policy-making body, the Board of Supervisors. Our five elected Supervisors are residents, just like you. Nobody makes a living as a Supervisor. All of us have day jobs or are retired.

Supervisors are paid \$4,100 a year. We used to get healthcare, but last year we voted 5-0 to eliminate it for all new supervisors, setting an example of holding

costs down. And most of our Supervisors give some or all of their stipend back to charity. Also,

choose to run day-to-day operations themselves, we hire professionals to accomplish the goals we set and to keep down costs.

That's reflected in our tax rates. Cranberry collects one half of one percent of earned income and a real estate tax that's one of the lowest in the region. Even though we're getting more and better service, after you take inflation into account, residents today actually pay less in local taxes than they did in 1990! Just for reference, compare this with Pennsylvania's state taxes; in 1990 we were paying 2.1 percent Earned Income Tax; today we're paying 3.07 percent! And if you look at federal taxes, there's an even bigger difference.

When you combine our income and property taxes, a Cranberry resident with a home valued at \$200,000 and a family income of \$75,000 pays \$659 a year. Compare that to other nearby communities near like McCandless: \$685, Middlesex: \$725, Saxonburg: \$795, Mars: \$825, or Butler: \$1,500. And most of those communities don't have the assets we do like three major parks, a full-time police department, a library, swimming

pool, golf course, or a fully-funded volunteer fire department. If you compare Cranberry to similar communities around the region, the difference in taxes is even more pronounced; Peters

Township: \$975, Upper St. Clair: \$1,242, Mt Lebanon: \$1,578, or Sewickley: \$1,783.

The same applies to Township-provided utilities like water,

sewage and trash collection. Unlike communities that have independent authorities or private, for-profit companies operating them, Cranberry uses innovative technologies, economies of scale, and shared overhead expenses to hold down its costs.

At the same time, we invest heavily in maintaining and expanding our municipal assets. It's easy for a community to cut expenses by letting its infrastructure deteriorate. But Cranberry doesn't do that. We lead the way in making sure our roads, water lines, and sewage treatment facilities are kept in the best possible condition so that they can operate at peak efficiency. That's one reason Cranberry's bond rating is among the best in the state.

But we're not resting on our laurels; we plan to keep taxes low while continuing to improve our infrastructure well into the future. Look at the award-winning 25-year comprehensive plan we adopted last April for details.

Of course, it's understandable that frustrations are high with career politicians in Washington and Harrisburg "talking" about reducing taxes and deficits. But you can feel proud that here in Cranberry, your local government and elected officials are actually implementing the conservative principles that keep taxes low and quality of life high. At the same time, though, we are always open to improvement. So if you know of a community that does it better than Cranberry, or if you disagree with my comments, let's meet. I'd love to hear from you. ~



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Study Examines Local Energy Use And Conservation

Greenhouse gases – particularly carbon dioxide and other emissions now circulating in the atmosphere as the result of fossil fuel combustion – have been widely blamed for affecting climate change on earth. But you don't need to believe in global warming to appreciate the cost savings that reducing energy use can mean for governments, businesses and individual households.

In 2008 alone, for example, Cranberry's municipal government spent about \$1.2 million on electricity, fuel and natural gas – or nearly \$50 for every resident. And the Township has been methodically chipping away at those costs. But, according to a study now underway, that figure represents less than five percent of the energy consumed by businesses, residents and motorists operating in or passing through the Township. Add those together and the number jumps to \$1,000 per resident each year.

Finding ways to reduce America's energy consumption has become a national priority, but actually implementing energy savings begins at home. In fact, local actions can have the greatest impact because they can be tailored to the specific circumstances of each area. For example, in western Pennsylvania, most electricity is generated from coal. So an all-electric car here would simply shift its emissions to a nearby power plant for no net savings. As a result, for

Cranberry, the first step in developing a local action plan is to take stock of how much energy is actually being used.

Establishing that baseline was the initial goal of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory study conducted by Cranberry's planning staff in cooperation with Sustainable Pittsburgh and energy consultant Greg Wozniak. Ben Flath, a civil engineer and 2008 Carnegie-Mellon graduate, coordinated the six-month study, which was funded by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Flath's earlier work included a carbon footprinting project for UPMC.

Using software specifically designed for municipal CO₂ inventories, Flath collected data from Township records, vehicle maintenance logs, and utility companies, then ran a series of calculations to fit the pieces together into a coherent representation of Cranberry's operations.

But it got complicated. "The report has different Tiers of emissions, Flath explained. "Tier I are the emissions coming from the gasoline and natural gas actually used Cranberry. Tier II emissions are emissions associated with the Township but that don't actually occur here, like electricity generation or the emissions from our part of the waste in landfill. Tier III is anything that doesn't fall into the first two tiers



but can be influenced through policy. In this study, it was the commute to work by employees who don't live here."

And then there's the counter-intuitive use of tons as the metric to express the volume of gaseous emissions in the air resulting from combustion.

Even so, the study's final goal is to come up with a series of recommendations by February for reducing the energy use and emissions associated with Cranberry. To help validate those recommendations, a Sustainability Action Team of nine citizens representing local businesses, academia, and industry have been meeting to serve as a sounding board for elements of an energy action plan.

"We're using them to make sure we're keeping the project grounded in reality," Flath said. "We're saying: if we did this, or offered some sort of incentive, or had a class on how to be more energy conscious, would you come? Would you use it? Would you do this to help the Township become a more sustainable community? And they've been great about providing us with ideas and reading over reports to help make sure we're involving the community." ~

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Westinghouse Earns High Marks For Corporate Citizenship



It seemed inevitable that Westinghouse Electric Company, which became Cranberry's largest employer during 2009, would leave a distinctive mark on its adopted community. And in a variety of small and not-so-small ways, the company has already had a constructive impact. Consider these:

Building Four. When Westinghouse first submitted building plans for its Cranberry Woods campus, it included three buildings. With nuclear power now enjoying a huge renaissance around the world, the company's workload has grown faster than even its most optimistic projections. In response, the company announced a few months ago that would construct Building Four. Work is now underway and when it's ready next year, Cranberry will host more than 4,000, or about 30 percent of the company's total workforce.

Increased value. The huge success of Westinghouse has had a dramatic impact on the value of other office buildings in Cranberry Woods. Earlier this year, four of those buildings were sold for close to a billion dollars – which translates into a little more than \$185 per square

foot. Compare that with an average price per square foot for suburban Class A office space in western Pennsylvania of just \$90, and \$67 in downtown Pittsburgh.

School booster.

Before announcing its

relocation to Cranberry, the company said that if it were to come here, it would be a significant contributor to, and supporter of, excellence in our public schools. This past year, as part of its good neighbor strategy, Westinghouse, partnered with the Seneca Valley School District to create an Engineering Certification program that includes field trips, internships, job shadowing, career days, mentoring and donated technology, as well as other approaches to honor its pledge of support for school excellence.

Traffic movement. Last August, PennDOT added a new lane to the segment of Rt. 228 between the northbound exit of I-79 and Cranberry Woods Drive, which greatly improved traffic flow. It also announced two more ramps connecting those highways which will be built over the next few years. Then in November, Cranberry received word of a \$512,000 grant to upgrade the computers and software that control traffic signals throughout the Cranberry area. The award was part of a state incentive package created to retain Westinghouse in Pennsylvania.

Employment. The Westinghouse Electric workforce in and around Cranberry will exceed 4,000 by the end of this year. Many of them are new positions for which people are being recruited from all over the country. However the company's secondary impact on local employment is even greater. Each Westinghouse job is expected to generate four or five others in service, supply and support roles ranging from consulting professionals to hospitality workers.

Land development. Properties close to the Westinghouse campus have seen their value skyrocket and attracted developers to propose ambitious projects, such as Creative Real Estate Development Company's 57-acre Village of Cranberry Woods, which includes a mix of office, retail, residential and recreational venues. The development of these projects will help the Township implement its long range plan goal of creating an attractive, walkable and prosperous mixed use corridor.

Cultural training. Westinghouse invited Township staff to sit side-by-side with company employees to learn about the culture of the new employees, visitors, and residents who will be coming into Cranberry Township as a result of Westinghouse's place in the global technology market.

Public safety. Westinghouse has reached out to Cranberry's Public Safety department to build long-term beneficial relationships involving all of its emergency services. For example, the company's in-house security staff is now working closely with the Township's Police Department. And a volunteer from the company now sits on the board of the Cranberry Ambulance Corps. ~

Vector Is Feeling Pretty Secure These Days

When times are good, Vector Security – which offers a variety of surveillance and safety monitoring services – tends to do very well. That's because residents and businesses feel comfortable investing in its high-tech security systems. But in harsh economic times, when people worry about safeguarding the things they value most, they feel a particularly strong impulse to surround themselves with the keypads, sensors, detectors, sirens and communication devices that go into a fully monitored security system. As a result, crime, recession and lifestyle changes have all been pluses for the company's business.

"We're having a great year," Vector General Manager Bob Bronder observed in November. Bronder, a 17-year veteran of the company, is responsible for most of the services Vector provides in the Pittsburgh area including electronic security, fire alarm, access control, video surveillance, personal emergency response, GPS fleet management and more. He works out of the company's 80-person Thorn Hill Industrial Park site along with Vector's sales, installation, and marketing personnel – about 15 minutes north of its 60-person combined headquarters and central response station near Ross Park Mall. Vector's privately-held parent company, a venerable insurance company which still operates by its original name, The Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance

of Houses from Loss by Fire, traces its roots all the way back to 1752 and its parentage to Benjamin Franklin.

But while burglar alarms and devices to detect intruders remain an important part of Vector's offerings to its 200,000-plus customers, the company's range of services is expanding rapidly. That's because many of the same wireless technologies it now uses to alert its Central Station operators of break-ins can just as easily summon aid, sound alarms, track deliveries, notify fire departments, reassure working parents, or remotely operate home appliances and HVAC systems.

In commercial and institutional buildings, electronic alternatives to traditional key and lock entry have also become an important growth area for the company. These access technologies come in several varieties. "There's access control and there's door control," Bronder explained. "Door control eliminates keys and instead uses a card to gain entrance. Access control is when you also want to specify the hours and areas that people can enter or exit."

More sophisticated identity systems are also available from the company, including retinal scanners and

thumbprint readers, although they currently form only a small part of the company's business. "It's good technology; it's high-end, and in some areas, it's really cost effective," Bronder noted. "But it doesn't make economic sense for most applications. If you're trying to control who's going in and out of a room,

Many of the same wireless technologies it now uses to alert operators of break-ins can just as easily summon aid, sound alarms, track deliveries, notify fire departments, reassure working parents, or remotely operate home appliances and HVAC systems.



Sense Of Alarm. Vector Security General Manager Bob Bronder, standing, oversees the company's Pittsburgh-area operations from its 24/7 Central Station where operators respond to signals from sensors installed in the homes and businesses of subscribers. Vector, a privately-held company with corporate services in Ross, employs 1,200 people throughout the eastern seaboard.

a simple card reader is sufficient. But if you have really high security areas or very sensitive material, then biometrics may be appropriate."

The decline of landline phone service – which once formed the backbone of Vector's communication system – and the rise of wireless technologies, now represents one of the company's biggest opportunities.

"Wireless technologies and wireless communications are really hot today," Bronder said. "At some point, the industry is going to do away with the old telephone services to the point where everything is going to be wireless. We're seeing a lot of that now; a lot of people are opting to go with wireless alarm systems because they all have cell phones and they don't have home phone lines like they did in years past."

Although the company's service footprint now extends across much of North America, its key business operations continue to find themselves right at home in the North Hills. "We like being here. Our people like living in the area. Travel to Thorn Hill is easy with Route 19, the Turnpike and I-79. And we're proud to be part of the technology community which has made Cranberry its home," he said. ~



Seneca Valley Program Recognized as Environmental Stewardship Award Winner

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District

For saving enough energy in one year to effectively plant more than 47,112 trees, the Seneca Valley School District was recently presented with The Award for Energy Stewardship from Energy Education.

The Award for Energy Stewardship recognizes an organization's efforts to implement an innovative people-oriented energy conservation and management program. The program is administered through a strategic alliance with Energy Education, a national company whose energy conservation programs have saved more than \$1.9 billion for educational and ministerial organizations since 1986.

"The Seneca Valley School District, Superintendent Dr. Donald Tylinski, the board members and administration are demonstrating wise fiscal and environmental stewardship by implementing this unique people-oriented energy conservation program," said Dr. William S. Spears, CEO and Founder of Energy Education. "Using human resources to reduce energy use saves natural and financial resources for the organization and the community."

The program delivers an environmental benefit from reduced carbon footprint. Energy not used prevents the emission of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

According to EPA/EGrid figures, in the first 12 months of the program, Seneca Valley School District saved 15,543 MMBTU, the equivalent of 1,842 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions being prevented, 331 cars removed from the road, or 47,112 pine trees grown for 10 years.

"This energy program is an excellent vehicle to assist our district personnel in practicing good stewardship of our resources," said Dr. Tylinski. "The willing participation of virtually every staff person – teachers, administrators, food service, maintenance and custodial people – adds to our success."

District Energy Education Specialist Mr. Rick Lapishka receives intensive training from Energy Education energy specialists to implement conservation procedures in all of the system's facilities. He conducts energy audits to ensure that students and teachers are comfortable during class times and scheduled activities, and that energy is used only as necessary. He works hard to motivate everyone in the district to use energy wisely, keep classrooms comfortable, and practice smart energy strategies.

As an extension of those efforts, this past fall the school district announced the availability of a free online energy tracking tool called GreenQuest. It is a personal energy dashboard that enables community members to track and analyze the energy use for their home or place of business. The district is providing GreenQuest to its community to educate, raise awareness, and promote energy conservation.

At mygreenquest.com/svdsda, district residents can track their energy use and cost; compare their building with its peers; evaluate energy saving projects; track their carbon footprint, and analyze energy use with AccuWeather weather data.

"We use an energy management software program to track the utility bills for all district buildings and have found it to be invaluable," Mr. Lapishka said. "When you want to save energy and reduce your carbon emissions, the first step is to track your usage. With GreenQuest, we're giving every household and business in the district a powerful tool to do the same thing."

Why The Census Matters

This is the year that counts.

At the beginning of every decade since 1790, as mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the federal government has conducted a census of the population. Its original purpose was to determine the number of Congressional representatives for each state and to apportion taxes according to their numbers. Except for certain Indian tribes, everyone was to be counted.

Today, Native Americans are counted along with everyone else and the census continues to serve as the basis for determining legislative representation. In fact, the Constitution requires electoral districts to be adjusted or redrawn every ten years to account for population shifts. In Pennsylvania, it is the state legislature which uses census data to draw those lines.

But the applications for census findings extend well beyond voting districts. A great deal of federal

United States Census 2010

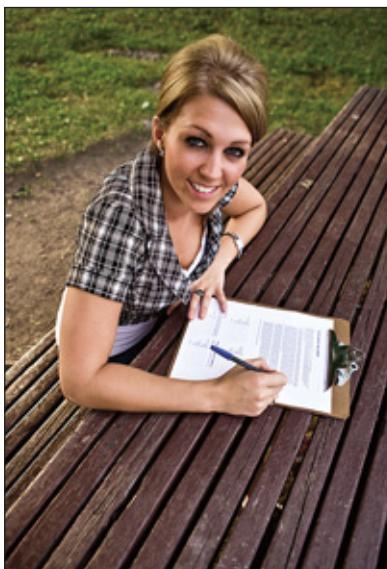
spending, for example, is determined by population-based formulas. According to the Census Bureau, over \$400 billion a year – more than \$1,000 for every person in the country – is allocated that way for projects like roads, hospitals, and job training programs.

Throughout the country, individuals and advocacy groups have used census data to support or oppose causes such as environmental legislation, quality-of-life issues, and consumer protection laws. Beyond that, private businesses of every sort have relied on census data to help design products, devise services, and locate promising sites for expansion.

The 2010 Census findings will reveal the extent to which the U.S. has become a multicultural nation, where its population is moving, what an aging America signifies, which demographic groups have money to spend, and why the composition of households is shifting away from the traditional family model.

Just as the answers to these questions affect federal policies and business prospects, they also affect individual communities. Cranberry Township officials are keenly interested in the findings of the 2010 census and are doing whatever they can to make sure every Township resident is counted. It not only helps the Township set priorities in spending and in developing programs that benefit its dynamic resident population, it will also help secure a larger share of the formula-based federal spending which is driven by census findings.

Census data is collected using paper forms which will be mailed to every residential address starting in February. The forms ask for information about household composition as of April 1, 2010. Households which do not mail back their forms may be visited by a census taker to collect that information. Information about individuals collected during a Census is regarded as confidential data and is not shared with anyone else, including other federal agencies. ~



The census not only helps the Township set priorities in developing programs that benefit its resident population, it will also help secure a larger share of the formula-based federal spending which is driven by census findings.

More information about Census 2010 is available on the Township website, www.cranberrytownship.org/census.

JANUARY

FRI 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY / KAWANZAA ENDS Twp offices and Municipal Ctr Closed No School SVSD Waste Collection 1 day delay through January 2	SAT 2	SUN 3	MON 4	Board of Supervisors Organizational Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm First Editions Book Discussion <i>Year of the Fog</i> , Richmond, Library, 7 pm	TUES 5	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	WED 6	Homework Helpers Library, 5 pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Chapter Book Club grades 1–3, Library, 7:30 pm			
THURS 7	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm	FRI 8	HIN1 Free Flu Clinic * Manheim Pittsburgh Auto Auction, 8 am – 4 pm	SAT 9	HIN1 Free Flu Clinic * Manheim Pittsburgh Auto Auction, 8 am – 4 pm	SUN 10	MON 11	Waste Collection Holiday Tree Pick Up through January 22 on regular collection days	TUES 12	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Huntington SAT Prep Workshop Library, 6 pm	WED 13	Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Chapter Book Club grades 1–3, Library, 7:30 pm
WED 13	Homework Helpers Library, 5 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm Dr. Ian Bulow <i>Upper Cervical Health</i> Library, 7 pm	THURS 14	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm	FRI 15	SAT 16	Teen Island Escape Party Library, 2 pm	SUN 17	MON 18	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm	TUES 19	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm	
WED 20	Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Skeletons of the Zahara</i> , by King, Library, 10 am Homework Helpers Library, 5 pm	Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Chapter Book Club grades 1–3, Library, 7:30 pm	THURS 21	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24	MON 25	Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club Discussion <i>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress</i> , by Dai, Library, 7:30 pm			
TUES 26	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm	Dr. Dittie Karlovits of Bellevue Pediatrics <i>Conquering the Food Pyramid: Good Nutrition is Possible</i> Library, 7 pm	WED 27	Homework Helpers Library, 5 pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Chapter Book Club grades 1–3, Library, 7:30 pm	THURS 28	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Dr. Kathy Yeo <i>Women's Health</i> Library, 7 pm	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 29				
SAT 30	SUN 31	Last Day For WaterPark Early Bird Rates <i>Souper Bowl</i> Homemade Soup Cooking Contest Library, 1 pm	MON 1	First Editions Book Discussion Call for title, Library, 7 pm Planning Advisory Commission Regular Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 2	Ground Hog Day 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm	WED 3	Tales & Tail Wags Library, 5 pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm				

FEBRUARY

THURS 4	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 5	SAT 6	Computer Basics Class Library, 9 am	SUN 7	Registration begins for Cranberry Preschool †	MON 8	TUES 9	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Huntington Homework Survival Guide Library, 6 pm	WED 10	Tales & Tail Wags Library, 5 pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	
THURS 11	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm	FRI 12	Lincoln's Birthday	SAT 13	Computer Protection & Maintenance Class Library, 9 am Teen Program <i>Making Valentine Chocolates</i> Library, 2 pm	SUN 14	Valentine's Day Armchair Adventures <i>Journey to China</i> Library, 1:30 pm	MON 15	President's Day Twp offices open, Library closed Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm	TUES 16	Infant Family Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Teen Mardi Gras Party Library, 3 pm	
WED 17	Ash Wednesday Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Twenty Chickens for a Saddle</i> , by Scott, Library, 10 am	UPMC Passavant Wellness Series <i>Taking Care of Your Heart</i> , Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	THURS 18	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am	FRI 19	SAT 20	Internet I Class Library, 9 am	SUN 21	MON 22	Washington's Birthday Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, 5:30 pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club Discussion <i>Perfect Storm</i> , by Junger, Library, 7:30 pm		
TUES 23	Infant Family Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	Dr. Kasia Sudol, Bellevue Pediatrics <i>Mothers & Daughters Growing Together, Puberty from 10-13 Years of Age</i> , Library, 7 pm	WED 24	Tales & Tail Wags Library, 5 pm 2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 7 pm	THURS 25	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am Alternative Energy Solutions presented by Vox Energy, Library, 7 pm	FRI 26	SAT 27	Internet II Class Library, 9 am	SUN 28		

MARCH

MON 1	First Editions Book Discussion Call for title, Library, 7 pm Planning Advisory Commission Regular Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 2	Infant Family Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm	WED 3	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 7 pm	THURS 4	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 5	SAT 6	Job Hunting on the Internet Class Library, 9 am	SUN 7	MON 8		
TUES 9	Infant Family Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Huntington SAT Prep Workshop Library, 6 pm	WED 10	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 7 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	THURS 11	Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30 am 2 and 3 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am	FRI 12	SAT 13	Microsoft Word I Class Library, 9 am Teen Paperback Book & CD Swap Library, 1 pm	SUN 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins set clocks ahead 1 hour Armchair Adventures <i>Journey to Italy</i> , Library, 1:30 pm	MON 15	Registration begins for Spring 4 & 5 Year Old Storytime Library		
MON 15	Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm	TUES 16	Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm	WED 17	Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Story of Edgar Sawtelle</i> , by Wroblewski, Library, 10 am UPMC Passavant Wellness Seires <i>Colorectal Cancer – What You Need to Know</i> , Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	THURS 18	Family Game Night Library, 7 pm	THURS 18	St. Patrick's Day	FRI 19	SAT 20	Spring Begins Microsoft Word II Class Library, 9 am Morning with Mr. Bunny † Municipal Ctr, 10 am	SUN 21	MON 22
MON 22	20 & 30 Somethings Book Club Discussion <i>Thirteenth Tale</i> , by Setterfield, Library, 7:30 pm	TUES 23	Playtime Pals † Municipal Ctr, 11 am – 1 pm Dr. Meghan Kilpatrick, Bellevue Pediatrics <i>Helping Your Child Breathe Easy: An Asthma Update</i> , Library, 7 pm	WED 24	THURS 25	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30 pm	FRI 26	SAT 27	Troubleshooting Your PC Class Library, 9 am	SUN 28	MON 29	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11 am or 1 pm Palm Sunday	TUES 30	MON 31

In Briefs

Who's got the power?

Penn Power



Penn Power has announced a January 15 closing on the purchase of a 13.5 acre site for its new electrical substation at the corner of Marshall and North Boundary Roads. The property had previously been the site of On a Roll, a roller skating rink. The substation – the fourth in Cranberry – will draw power from Allegheny Power's 500 kV transmission line which crosses the site, then step down its voltage and redistribute it to customers in the Township. The company had previously offered to purchase land in the north part of Community Park for their substation; that proposal has now been withdrawn.



Cranberry's prize-winning plan.

Cranberry Township's 25-year comprehensive

community plan which was adopted in April, was selected as the winner of the state's Daniel Burnham Award. The Burnham award, the most prestigious award of the American Planning Association's Pennsylvania Chapter, was presented October 6 at the organization's annual conference in King of Prussia, near Philadelphia. In his letter announcing the award, Alexander Graziani, president of the Chapter, said "The PA Chapter Awards Committee believes your work exemplifies the best and brightest in Pennsylvania planning in 2009."

H1N1 Vaccine.

A free, two day, drive-thru mass inoculation clinic for H1N1 flu is scheduled to be held on Friday, January 8 and



Saturday, January 9 from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM at the Manheim Pittsburgh Auto Auction, 21095 Route 19. It is part of a statewide network of clinics being organized by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Dozens of volunteers will be needed to handle the logistical, administrative and support aspects of the flu clinic and to serve as possible backup personnel for the staff paramedics. Visit the Township website www.cranberrytownship.org/fluclinic, for more information.

What's your sign? Now

you can decorate your den, dorm, or bedroom with an official Cranberry street sign, and it's all perfectly legal. More than 200 street signs carrying Cranberry Township road names are now available for sale by the Township. The Public Works Department is replacing some of its older street signs – particularly those which have been damaged, defaced, or replaced following roadwork. A list of signs and their conditions is posted on the Township Website, www.cranberrytownship.org/signsale. All retired street signs are \$25 plus sales tax at the Township's Municipal Center Customer Service Desk.



Gift of golf.

Golf may be out of season now, but a gift of private golf lessons is always welcome.

Cranberry Highlands gift cards can also be used to pay for green fees, range balls, and merchandise. Use them to thank valued clients, employees and favorite co-workers, or use them for family gift occasions. Gift cards are available in increments of \$25 and never expire. Golfers and

non-golfers alike should also consider the year-round Cranberry Highlands banquet and event center as the perfect site for any business, social, or charity events. Go to www.cranberryhighlands.com for details.

Congratulations, Michelle! Former Cranberry Public Library board member and Pine Richland math teacher Michelle Switala has been



named Pennsylvania's outstanding teacher of year. More than 100 teachers were nominated in the 15th-annual Teacher of the Year competition, co-sponsored by the state Department of Education and the Pennsylvania chapter of the National State Teachers of the Year Organization. This is the fourth consecutive year that a teacher from Western Pennsylvania has won the award.



Safety Third.

For the third year in a row, Cranberry Township has won the Platinum Award

for Traffic Safety from the Western Pennsylvania chapter of the American Automobile Association, the organization's highest award. It is awarded to communities for undertaking multiple projects and activities to increase traffic safety. In addition to police enforcement of traffic regulations, they include re-engineering local roads to reduce accidents, participating in DUI checkpoints, teaching bicycle safety, motor carrier safety enforcement, seat belt instruction, improved accommodations for pedestrians, and more. But, according to Cpl.

Dan Hahn, who prepared the Township's award application, Cranberry had no programs for railroad crossings.



Together again for the first time. The long-awaited road linking Ehrman Road to Garvin Road in the

Township's northeastern quadrant, is now complete and open for business. The new connector runs from the intersection of Ehrman Road and Gate Dancer Drive to Garvin Road, 8/10 of a mile west of Franklin Road. Approximately 1,500 feet of new roadway was built in a partnership between Cranberry Township and Singer Construction, the developer of Mystic Ridge. The roadway is one of a series of new road segments and realignments designed to help residents navigate more easily through the Township without having to use its heavily-traveled main arteries.

It's too late. If you didn't pay your 2009 Butler County/Cranberry Township or 2009/2010 Seneca Valley School District real estate taxes by the end of last year, tough noogies. Now you'll have to contact the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau at 724-284-5326 to arrange payment. Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate tax notices for the year will be mailed on March 1, and can be paid at the discount rate until April 30. If you have changed your mortgage company or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact the tax collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or stop by his office in the Municipal Center.

Moving up the ranks.

Congratulations to Chuck Mascellino on his promotion to police sergeant!

A Penn State graduate, Mascellino has been with the Cranberry police department for 14 years, the last



eight as a corporal. He is the department's lead firearms instructor. And congratulations to Mike Marshall, also a 14-year veteran of the department, who was promoted to the rank of corporal. Marshall received a bachelor's degree from Geneva College in Human Resource Management while serving on the Township's police force. Both promotions were prompted by the retirement of Sgt. Dave Kovach from the department to become District Judge.



Winter weather advisory. Shovel snow to the right side of your driveway so that

a passing plow doesn't push it back where it came from. Don't block fire hydrants with snow; in an emergency, firefighters need to see them. Don't box your water meter into an unheated space; it can freeze. Pull basketball hoops back at least ten feet from the curb. And ask your guests not to park on the street when it's snowing; they'll block the plows.

Don't Miss The Excitement...



Learn Latin! Not the language, the dance moves. In just ten weeks, dance instructor Julianne Tasick – who also holds a masters degree in health and physical education – can guide you well along your way toward fluency in Meringue, Rumba, Cha Cha and several flavors of Salsa. Classes are offered through Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Department and held in the Senior/Teen area of the Municipal Center. A companion class, with a more classic ballroom dance curriculum, is also available. You do not need a partner to enroll.



Have A Ball (Gown). With spring prom season only weeks away, Cranberry Township Community Chest will hold its second annual 'Run for the Gowns Sale' on Sunday, January 31 at the Senior/Teen Center in the Township's Municipal Center. More than 100 gowns in a variety of colors, styles and sizes will be available from noon until 4:00 for just \$50 apiece. These tried-on-but-never-worn gowns originally retailed for \$250 to \$3,500 each. Unsold gowns will be marked down to \$40 on Tuesday, February 2. All sales are final; only cash will be accepted.

There Goes Santa Claus

A local appearance by one of the world's best-loved figures took place at the Cranberry Township Municipal Center on November 20, officially launching the 2009 holiday season. However, the event formerly identified as 'Light Up Night' will take place this coming November under a new name. In a novel twist on the spirit of the season, attorneys for the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, which registered a copyright on the name 'Light Up Night' in 2003, is sending cease-and-desist letters to other communities, enjoining them from using it to identify their own celebrations. ~



Cranberry's 2010 budget holds the line on taxes – again

12 percent from 2009," he said, citing the Township's contracts with bargaining units representing its police and public works employees, all of whom are paid out of the Township's \$15.52 million 2010 general fund.

Property tax rates for 2010 will remain unchanged for the fifth consecutive year. Earned income tax and mercantile/business privilege tax rates will also remain the same. Water and sewer rates, however, will rise by a combined annual average of \$88 in 2010 to offset the collective effects of rising prices for water purchased from the West View Water

Authority, increased capital expenses to upgrade the main pump station and higher operating costs for the wastewater treatment plant due to new permitting processes which the Brush Creek facility is currently undergoing.

2009, however, was a disappointing year for people with investments. "It was terrible," Gleason said. "The best interest we could get on CDs was 0.75 percent. A couple years ago we were making 4.5 percent; now we can't even get one percent. Our pension monies didn't do well last year either – nobody's did. So we had a fairly significant increase

Continued from front cover

in our police pension contribution; it went up about \$115,000 from last year, to offset the lower income from investments."

State pension aid went down slightly in 2009 and Gleason anticipates it will go down again in 2010, although not by very much. State Liquid Fuels money – the portion of Pennsylvania's gasoline tax which is returned to municipalities to help repave their local roads – was also down about 4 percent from 2008, largely the result of reduced driving and fuel consumption. ~

Profile of a firefighter:



It was a traumatic event and Fire Police Captain Jim Robinson recalls it as

clearly as if it were yesterday. On November 22, 1999, just as he was waiting on Rochester Road to make a left turn into Robinhood Drive, Robinson's Oldsmobile Cutlass got rear-ended. A school bus driver, approaching him from behind, had been looking in the mirror at her students. Robinson's car, which was stopped in the road dead ahead, didn't register with her until it was too late.

The impact sent him hurtling into the oncoming lane and headlong into the van he had been waiting to let pass. The force of that second collision then spun his car another 180 degrees, where he hit the bus once again. "I got absolutely crushed," he recalled. "I was lying on the side of the road and remember thinking, as I was coming in and out of consciousness, that the response had been incredibly quick. I was overwhelmed with the first responders and the reaction of the Cranberry Fire Company. So a year later, I started inquiring whether there was anything I could do for them."

The problem was, as a result of the accident, Robinson had suffered lasting damage. "I received a head injury and a significant back injury to the point where I would never be able to be a firefighter," he pointed out. Even so, there was at least one Fire Company assignment which required neither the lifting nor the balance needed by firefighters in attacking a blaze. "It led me right

Meet The Robinsons

over to the Fire Police, and I've been there ever since."

Fire Police, a specialized unit of the fire company, are charged with diverting traffic around the site of fires or wrecks in order to secure the scene, protect emergency workers, and keep motorists from entering potentially dangerous areas. It is a function enshrined in state law which empowers sworn fire police officers to detain and hold motorists if necessary. But unlike municipal police officers, fire police are not authorized to handcuff or arrest people.

Giving drivers brief but polite responses to protests or questions about why they need to change direction is a skill that members of Cranberry's nine-member Fire Police unit acquire over time. But, as Robinson found, it can be difficult to restrain distraught people – particularly when they are relatives of the injured.

"You have to have all your faculties and not raise your voice or lose your self-control," he said. "But you try to tell them, quickly and succinctly, that they can't go up there; it's a potential crime scene, it's an emergency scene. And even if they did get there, there's nothing they can do."

Colin Robinson, now 16 and a junior at Seneca Valley High School as well as a seasonal Township employee, sometimes accompanies his father on calls and has witnessed the abuse that fire police officers take from very close range. But as a Junior Firefighter, whose on-scene duties are limited to observation, he has not yet been the personal target of their wrath.



Calm Down, Son. Diverting traffic from the scene of an active emergency invites a fair amount of ire from motorists who only see the inconvenience it causes them. Junior Firefighter Colin Robinson and his dad, Fire Police Captain Jim Robinson, have heard an earful while performing this frequently misunderstood function.

State law empowers fire police officers to detain and hold motorists if necessary

Like his dad, Colin – who is training in heavy equipment maintenance – carries a full load of road rescue gear

wherever he goes, reducing his four passenger personal vehicle to seating just one or two. And for Fire Police officers like Jim, the State Uniform Traffic Control rules passed in November of 2008 raised the gear requirement even more.

"If we had a fatality on I-79, the law mandates that we have a minimum number of cones and 48-inch signs placed at prescribed intervals for warnings and safety," he said. "We need to deliver cones, barricades, flares, lights, and a directional bar." And then when you add in coats, hats, gloves and radios, pretty soon, there's no room for anything else.

But help is on the way. A retired police car is currently being outfitted by Cranberry's Public Works department as a dedicated Fire Police vehicle, whose cavernous trunk and back seat area would be devoted to hauling the growing volume of Fire Police traffic control gear now required to do the job. ~

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

Keeping The Home Fires Burning

The trouble with being a firefighter, as any volunteer will tell you, isn't so much the danger of being hurt in a fire or explosion. Those are manageable hazards. The greatest risks come from the time it takes away from your family. And for a predominantly male organization, like Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company, that means leaving wives and children to fend for themselves, often for large blocks of time.

That can be a serious problem because, in most families, even the best of times are affected by stress related to jobs, money, kids, parents, and jam-packed personal schedules. So when you overlay that with the time taken away for meetings, training, and responding to emergencies – all of which are obligations of Fire Company volunteers – the stability of the family unit itself is put at risk.

Enter the Ladies Auxiliary. Its mission: turning volunteer fire service from being a pastime for men into a genuine family and community activity. And it is an assignment that the Auxiliary expresses in a variety of ways. One of the most appreciated is serving food to firefighters who have been at the scene of an incident for extended periods of time.

The Ladies Auxiliary.

Mission: turning volunteer fire service from being a pastime for men into a true family and community activity.



"When the gentlemen are out on a fire call – especially with structure fires and long-time calls – we usually go up to the station," explained Ladies Auxiliary President Angie Angeloni, wife of former fire chief Todd Rice. "We serve them food and we'll give them coffee and drinks so that when the guys come back, they have something at the station after being out for a long period of time.

"Ninety-nine percent of us have scanners on in the home," she said, referring to her members. "We usually listen to the scanners and see if it's a full-flame structure fire. We wait maybe half an hour to an hour. And if we feel the guys are going to be out there for a long time, I'll call a couple of the women and say okay, the guys are out there for this period of time, let's meet at the station and get some stuff together for them. We play it by ear."

The Auxiliary is also instrumental in organizing the Fire Company's gala annual dinners at which new officers are installed – handling planning, invitations, gift bags and party favors. "They help us to be a first class organization in the public's eye," According to Fire Company President Bruce Hezlep. "But they

also help us be a first class organization in taking care of our families."

Much of that care comes from attending to the children and grandchildren

of firefighters on call, orchestrating Easter Egg Hunts, and hosting Christmas parties featuring a live appearance by Santa. In fact, for most young children of firefighters, there is a unique connection between Santa and the Fire Company. "My kids know that because dad's a fireman, that's how he knows Santa," Hezlep said. "On Light-Up Night, they get to see him at the fire station before they bring him out to the Municipal Center. Right now, with my own young kids, it's the greatest thing in the world for me.

"There have been a couple times where I've had my kids at the station and we needed to run a call and some of the ladies were there.

They're like family. I leave my kids there," he said. "You don't have to worry about your kids at the station because it's family and the ladies say 'I'll watch your children; don't worry about it.' And you don't. You can go out on a call, serve the public, come back, and kids have had a great time hanging out at the fire station. It's a real family atmosphere."

There are currently 26 women in the Ladies Auxiliary. Most are either married, engaged, or otherwise closely related to a firefighter. But that's not required. "It makes them part of that closer-knit circle of family," Hezlep explained. "They want to support us and it gives them an outlet to help – a way to be involved for women who don't want to be fire fighters themselves; it's how they can give to the fire company." ~

Santa's Helpers. Ladies Auxiliary president Angie Angeloni, standing center, and 17 of her organization's 26 members, organized a special appearance by Santa Claus at the Haine School Fire Station on December 5. The Auxiliary supports firefighters with a series of family-strengthening activities throughout the year.

The First Lady Of The Fire Brigade

Betsy Tedesco's life is full of emergencies, and she loves it. An advance practice nurse who by day works the emergency rooms of both UPMC Passavant hospitals, Tedesco, on her own time, volunteers to run with the Cranberry Ambulance Corps – an Emergency Medical Service where her husband, Steve, is currently Executive Director. And when she's not doing that, she serves with the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company – her twelfth year in the fire service which began as a somewhat frightened 16-year old junior firefighter in Zelienople, where she was raised.

"My father handed me the application one day," she recalled. "With both his and my mother's support, they said 'we would like to see you try this'."

Volunteer fire service was nothing new to her family. Her father had been a firefighter starting at age 18 and had worked his way up to chief at one point. Her brother had also become a fire company volunteer. As a result, Betsy grew up surrounded by fire trucks and scanners. But at the time, women in the fire service were rare. It went against years of tradition which would not change quickly. And besides, the life of a 16-year old is already filled with turmoil: learning to drive, starting to date, applying to college, and more. So she credits the gentle nudge from her parents as being a turning point in her life. And it has since grown into an all-consuming passion.

Even though women are still comparatively rare in the fire service, at least in Tedesco's experience, their resistance to involvement is not really from pushback by other firefighters. "I really can't say that there was ever a horrible moment. If anything, it's been internal; it's hard picking up heavy stuff and

moving heavy things and doing hard tasks," she said. "And, not having upper body strength, I might not be able to do them as easily as my husband. But there was never any external 'you can't do it' or 'you shouldn't do it.' It's been a group effort. It's been 100 percent support from everybody. Even in the early days."

This past November, in appreciation of her resolve to assume even greater responsibility with the Fire Company, Tedesco was elected Rescue Officer – the first woman to ever hold a line officer's position with the Company. It was her third attempt at becoming Rescue Officer – the person responsible for coordinating life-saving rescues from wrecks, fires and falls. But in light of her determination to take on that critical role, this year, no one wanted to run against her.

When describing her work in the fire service, Tedesco frequently relies on musical metaphors. But conducting, orchestration, and harmony are not just figures of speech to describe Fire Company operations; they are also a reflection of her background in music – an interest which continues with her involvement in Bugles Across America – an organization of volunteer buglers who perform taps at the request of veteran's families for burial services.

Because her experience as a Junior Firefighter in Zelienople had been a



To The Rescue. Betsy Tedesco, an advance practice emergency room nurse as well as a volunteer for both Cranberry's ambulance service and fire company, was elected Rescue Officer for 2010 by her fellow firefighters – the first woman to ever hold a line officer's post in fire company.

pivotal event in her life, Tedesco has taken a special interest in Cranberry's Junior Firefighters – a group of eight high school students that currently

"I did 'Females in the Fire Service' as my senior project at Seneca Valley High School. And I didn't even look at it as a project for school; I looked at it as fun."

includes one young woman. "I started as a Junior Firefighter and that was a tremendous experience for me," she reflected. "I did 'Females in the Fire Service' as my senior project at Seneca Valley High School. And one day I ran a 12-hour shift with the City of Pittsburgh Fire Department, alongside

a captain at the time, Colleen Walz. I didn't even look at it as a project for school; I looked at it as fun. And I got an A-plus."

Tedesco offers this suggestion to any women who may have considered volunteering. "If you have some doubt in your mind, at least try it. If you do enjoy it, if you can do it, then do it. I didn't join the fire service to say 'hey, I'm a female and I can do this.' I joined to say to my community 'I really want to help you.' But I'm very proud to say that I can do it, because that is very rare." ~

Doctor On Board

Very few doctors make house calls these days. But, in the case of Cranberry Ambulance Corps board vice president and volunteer Dr. Richard Wadas, there are exceptions.

When he is not at Shadyside Hospital, where he serves as the Chairman of Emergency Medicine, or teaching at the University of Pittsburgh's Medical School, Wadas is frequently on standby at his home just across the line in Adams, where he is available to rendezvous in minutes with Cranberry ambulance crew members at the site of a medical emergency.

It is highly unusual for physicians to accompany an ambulance to the scene of an accident, illness, or injury. Their first encounter is typically in the hospital emergency room. So patients are usually surprised to hear a Cranberry ambulance crew member tell them 'Oh, the doc is here; we're going to have you talk to our doctor.' But it's a mission that Wadas loves, and which his hospital's administrators support, even though he does it as an unpaid volunteer.

It's also a familiar drill. Twenty years ago, while still living in his native New Jersey, Wadas worked his way through Rutgers University's college and medical school by serving as a paid member of his local EMS. His medical residency was then served at Pitt. However, following his return to New Jersey, Wadas concluded the environment there simply wasn't conducive to the sorts of innovative thinking he had been exposed to in Pittsburgh, so he returned and joined the staff of Passavant Hospital in McCandless.

While there, Wadas came to know Steve Tedesco, who was a Passavant Emergency Room technician and, by 2003, also a certified EMT

paramedic and volunteer firefighter. Over time, Tedesco suggested that the Cranberry ambulance corps – of which he is now Executive Director – would like to have a physician involved in a mentoring, education, oversight capacity, and the idea intrigued Wadas.

"They wanted two things at that point," he recalled. "One was administrative guidance on a volunteer board. The other was a clinical role for on-the-job education – what we refer to as 'bedside teaching'.

"So I came on as a volunteer and starting functioning in both those roles," he said. "At the board level, on the administrative side, I tried to help with policies and protocols and operational things – mostly related to patient care, but also from a financial standpoint."

There was plenty to do. At the time, the Ambulance Corps had no paid manager. Its board was tiny. Its finances were chaotic. And its relationship with the Township government was strained.

On the clinical side, Wadas maintained contact with the ambulance service through a pager, a cell phone, and a two-way emergency radio he keeps on in his home. "There are times I'm available in a clinical capacity where they can call me either through the dispatch center, which pages me, or they can just call my cell phone," he said. "They might have a unique problem, like a very sick patient they need help with. They can call me and I will meet them pretty much wherever they are. Or, I'll meet them half way

between where they are and the hospital. Then I can jump on the ambulance and go with them. A lot of times, I just start out on my way before anybody even asks."

Wherever he goes, Wadas carries his own bag of medicines and instruments – advanced clinical tools which paramedics are not permitted to use. As a fully credentialed physician, he also has the authority

to perform fluid resuscitation, call in helicopter rescue, and to give other directions which ambulance crew members are normally required to request from higher officials.

Emergency physicians are often challenged to operate without the benefit of a

complete patient history. But they are trained to make prompt, life-saving decisions with the limited information they have. "Do what's best for the patient first and foremost," he advises, "and you are likely to achieve the best outcome."

~



Bedside Manner. When his schedule at Shadyside Hospital allows, physician Richard Wadas, who serves as vice president of the Cranberry Ambulance Corps' Board of Directors, volunteers for emergency runs and provides on-the-job education to the life support technicians he serves with.

Cranberry Police Sgt. David Kovach Elected Judge Kovach

Sergeant David Kovach – Cranberry's longest serving police officer – is about to become Justice Kovach. His election to the post of magisterial district judge in November, and his formal retirement from uniformed service at the end of 2009, capped a long and distinguished career with the Township police force. It was also the culmination of an extended personal quest which involved two election campaigns over four years with eight weeks of accumulated vacation time spent securing state accreditation for his new assignment.

Back when Kovach joined the police force as a patrolman in 1978, things were a bit different in Cranberry. "Where Denny's restaurant currently sits, there was a working oil well," he recalled. "When you tap an oil well, you need ventilation and they would periodically burn off fumes from their ventilation tube. So I'd be riding on patrol and see this flame shooting 100 feet into the air."

Lone Pine Trailer Park was situated where Wal-Mart now stands. A truck stop flourished across Dutilh Road from Hartner's Restaurant – now the site of Walgreens Pharmacy. A grass median ran for miles up and down Route 19; you frequently had to drive a mile or more to find a crossover. And the technology of police work, compared with today's, was positively primitive.

For example, following an arrest, the suspect would have to be driven up to Chicora – more than 30 miles away – to see the magistrate for a preliminary hearing about filing formal charges, setting bail, accepting a plea, or otherwise disposing of the case. Today, using the Internet, a district judge can conduct a video arraignment from home, in the middle of the night, with the suspect no farther away than the Cranberry police station. Dashboard mounted

cameras automatically collect definitive evidence to support traffic citations. And handheld scanners in every police car read drivers license bar codes, check them against a statewide database, and immediately report back whether there's an outstanding warrant for the operator.

One of the determinations a district judge has to make is whether a suspect brought before them was properly arrested – if all the required procedures were followed. If not, that person is entitled to walk away. Kovach's first-hand familiarity with those procedures gives him an upper hand in making those calls. "At one point or another, all 27 officers on the Cranberry police department have been under my supervision," Kovach observed. "They know where my standard of professionalism lies. I expect the Cranberry Township police officers to function at the highest level of professionalism and I won't accept anything less than that."

The court where Kovach presides covers a district which was created 12 years ago to serve Cranberry and Seven Fields. Like Butler County's other six magisterial district courts, it is the first rung in the ladder of

Pennsylvania's justice system. It is both broader in its scope and less formal in its procedures than the criminal courts, courts of common pleas, and appellate courts further up in the justice hierarchy. It has some similarities to the judicial role played on TV with such gusto by Judy Sheindlin. But her program is not the model that Justice Kovach aspires to.

"I think Judge Judy does a magnificent job of entertainment," he admitted. "But it's not a realistic portrayal of what occurs. It's strictly entertainment. It parallels the minor judiciary to some degree. But there's acting that goes into it, like the scolding of defendants, which is a bit of showmanship on Judge Judy's part. I don't use Judge Judy as a

reference source; I count more on my experience as a police officer, my knowledge of the law from 31 years in police work."

Still, certain telltale signs of his new role, including the liberal use of terms like

'forthwith' and 'per se,' began slipping into Kovach's vocabulary even before his transition to Judge was complete. And he looked forward with pleasure to his first

official duty: swearing in Cranberry Township's Board of Supervisors for whom he had previously worked over more than three decades. ~

Dispensing Justice. Shortly before retiring after 31 years in uniform, Cranberry police Sergeant Dave Kovach prepared to transition into his new role as Magisterial District Judge for Cranberry Township and Seven Fields.



A Changing Environment Presses Brush Creek Plant Lab To Keep Up

The standards for wastewater treatment in Pennsylvania are strict. And they're expected to grow even tighter as more is learned about pharmaceuticals and drilling minerals in the state's waterways. So to keep ahead of the curve, Cranberry has quietly beefed up its lab capabilities at the Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant and, this past summer, added an experienced lab technician, Larissa Hoover.

Hoover, a graduate of Kutztown University with a degree in biology, had previously worked at several commercial laboratories in central Pennsylvania, becoming familiar with the quality assurance, process management and auditing procedures that the state is now imposing on its municipal wastewater labs. That's because the biology of wastewater treatment is complicated and, without a lot of credible testing, it's impossible to know if it's working right.

For example, you want to make sure the tiny organisms which digest the wastewater's organic material are kept happy and healthy. And you need to make sure that when the treated water is released back into the environment, it won't hurt the ecology of the receiving waterway. That's why just about every wastewater treatment plant, including Cranberry's Brush Creek operation, has a lab attached to it. But not all treatment plants are created equal, and neither are their labs.

Some treatment plants outsource their laboratory work in the belief that it's more cost effective

than doing it themselves, plant manager Mike Sedon explained. Others do it for operational reasons. But the unique characteristics of Cranberry's Brush Creek plant environment argue for a more rigorous approach to on-site lab work. Cranberry's plant technicians need the data right away instead of waiting the two or three weeks it might take to come back from a commercial lab.

At the Brush Creek facility, most of the data its lab generates is used internally – to signal potential problems and guide operators in managing the plant's complex system of tanks, pipes, pumps, and treatment chemicals on a daily basis. Other lab results are periodically sent to the U.S. EPA and to Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to verify compliance with regulations concerning ammonia, phosphorous, suspended solids, and more.

But for DEP's environmental safeguards to work, that data needs to be accurate, so the agency certifies plant labs and maintains a crime division to make sure they're doing things right. Sometimes they find fraud. Fraudulent lab reports can have serious public health consequences, particularly if they are used to mislead people about the quality of the water they discharge.

And several newly emerging environmental threats really do have the potential to seriously degrade the

The unique characteristics of Cranberry's Brush Creek plant environment argue for a more rigorous approach to on-site lab work; Cranberry's plant technicians need the data right away.



It's Alive! It's Alive! An important part of Brush Creek wastewater plant lab technician Larissa Hoover's job is to make sure the tiny organisms which make the treatment biology work are kept alive and well. She routinely tests for a variety of chemicals, minerals, solvents and wastes which can disturb the plant's fragile ecology.

Commonwealth's waterways and aquifers. The most recent is the high level of minerals and synthetic drilling compounds dissolved in the water used to hydraulically fracture rock and release natural gas from Pennsylvania's massive Marcellus shale formation. Those solids and chemical agents are not removed by the wastewater treatment process used in municipal sewage systems and they can badly damage any stream they are discharged into. So DEP is now trying to figure out a strategy for dealing with it.

"The purpose of the lab and hiring Larissa was to look into the future and say, maybe some day we're going to get a limit for total dissolved solids, or some day we're going to get a lower phosphorus limit," Public Works Director Jason Dailey explained. "Larissa will be instrumental in helping us develop new test methods before they're required by the DEP and EPA. So let's generate data on the front end and start learning how to run the plant for the time when limits actually come. That way, when they do come, we're not scrambling and pulling out our hair; we're being proactive." ~



Back To The Salt Mines

As recently as two years ago, there was a general balance between supply and demand for road salt. For local governments in this area, the delivered price for rock salt, which is mined most intensively in northern Ohio, had been about \$48 a ton.

To benefit from economies of scale, most communities, including Cranberry, aggregated their purchasing and bought salt through Councils of Government. So the prices varied somewhat from contract to contract and year to year, but they generally fell within a fairly narrow band of pricing. And then to supplement contracted supplies, there was also a spot market for salt, which tended to be somewhat more expensive.

But last winter, there was a price spike which caught a lot of communities off guard. Dry weather meant the rivers were low, so salt barges had trouble moving. Fuel costs for mining operations had skyrocketed. The previous winter had been bad and depleted the companies' salt inventories. It was a perfect storm and, as a result, supply fell below demand

and prices went through the roof. If a community was lucky enough to get a delivery at all, they paid the spot market price of \$155 a ton. So a lot of municipalities made due with cinders and stone.

However in the case of salt, just as with every other commodity, as soon as the price tripled, lots of

people threw themselves into the production act. So by fall, there was a glut with prices crashing back to their old levels.

It was a perfect storm; supply fell below demand and prices went through the roof. If a community was lucky enough to get a delivery at all, they paid the spot market price of \$155 a ton.

Cranberry was fortunate. Prior to the spike, it had been able to buy enough at \$42 a ton to hold its Public Works department through the bubble and into the next winter season. But just to make sure it lasts, all of the Township trucks' salt spreaders have been newly recalibrated and Public Works personnel

are keeping a close eye on the volume of material being used on the 115 lane miles of roadway maintained by the Township.

By the end of 2009, Cranberry's salt shed was bursting at the seams with nearly 6,500 tons on hand – more than enough for an average winter – and with plenty left to spare. ~

In 2009, Public Works Lived Up To Its Name



Last year was huge for Cranberry's Public Works department. In addition to its normal tasks – snow clearing, lawn mowing, building maintenance, sewer plant operation, and so on – the year also saw a number of special projects, including some which became major undertakings. They included:

Graham Park.

Graham Park was a huge project. Phase

One opened in May. But getting to that point was a full department effort and a lot of work was required after the opening as well.

Bear Run Road. This serpentine road needed to be resealed and resurfaced, but before that could happen, several issues affecting its base and shoulder had to be addressed.

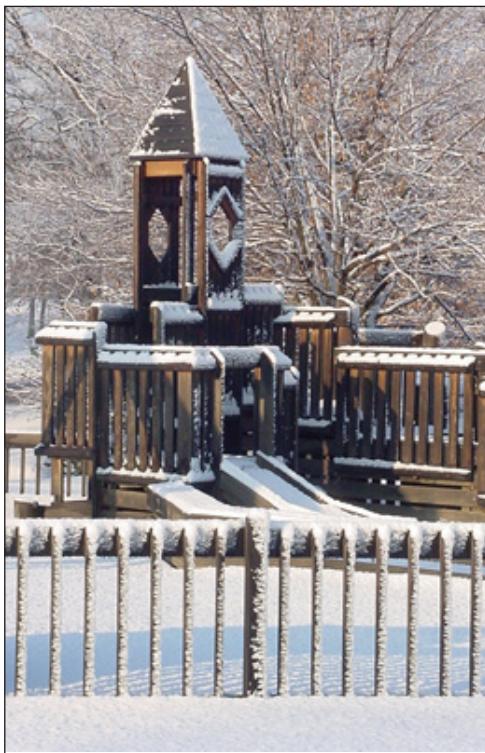
Burke Road. To fill in for an absentee developer, Public Works widened and totally reconstructed 1,100 feet of roadway.

Marshall Road. While the road was being paved, workers discovered and repaired a catch basin which was falling apart and causing drainage problems for the residents there.

Community Park. Public Works built a small pond, a 60-100 space parking area, and 7-foot wide gravel walking trail around the perimeter of Rotary Dog Park, all on the old Lindner Farm.

St. Ferdinand Driveway. In cooperation with St. Ferdinand's, a new connection between the Municipal Center and church now leads directly to Thomson Park Drive without ever touching Rochester Road. ~

Township Parks Hunker Down For The Season



Cranberry's three major parks are still in operation this winter, but only within limits. Graham Park is open to pedestrians, cross-country skiers and bicyclists, but not to vehicular traffic beyond the baseball complex parking areas; parking is limited to the first lot of the baseball campus. The park's maintenance building will operate throughout the season, but its football and soccer buildings are closed for the winter; only the baseball building and restroom remains open.

The Rotary Dog Park at Community Park, along with its parking lot and access road, will stay open through the winter, but the road to the concession stand, ball fields, and picnic groves at the top is closed. Playtime Palace as well as the park's basketball and tennis courts will remain available throughout the season as will parking at the Jaycee lot, across from the amphitheatre.

In North Boundary Park, the roadway will remain open, but Public Works will only plow as far as the soccer field parking lot. The restroom attached to the pool bathhouse near the playground is closed this year because of the high cost to heat it, reaching as much as \$2,500 to \$3,500 per winter month. "That's too expensive," Parks and Recreation Director Mike Diehl said. "The only one we keep heated and allow people to use during the winter is the one at the soccer fields because people sled ride on that hill. We shut down the rest and blow out the water lines in fountains and bathrooms and buildings to keep them from freezing," he said. ~

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



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