



Cranberrytoday

For the most current information, visit us online at www.cranberrytownship.org

2010 FALL EDITION

Almost there...

Board Enacts Two Out Of Three Freedom Road Zoning Amendments

The most time-consuming and contentious element of Cranberry's 25-year comprehensive planning process – a long-term master plan for Freedom Road – came near to seeing final resolution at the Board of Supervisors' September 2 meeting.

The Township's Board of Supervisors voted to adopt two of the three rezoning ordinances proposed for portions of Freedom Road. The proposed changes along the 2.5 mile corridor had been segmented into three study areas to correspond with differences in their property configurations and historical development. Through use of TND zoning overlays, each area included its own provisions for setbacks, buffers, building

heights, vehicle access, and specific types of mixed uses.

The proposals had grown out of a lengthy planning process involving stakeholders with properties on and near the state-owned roadway. Central to that process, which extended long past the April 2009 enactment of other parts of the plan, was a struggle to reconcile the interests of residents whose properties front on Freedom Road with those whose homes adjoin those properties.

However, testimony from a number of residents living in the Autumn Hill neighborhood near Freedom Road expressed the concern that if commercial and higher-density residential uses of properties fronting on Freedom Road were allowed along the westernmost

segment of the roadway, identified as Study Area A, their separation from Autumn Hills' single family housing would need to be strengthened in order to minimize any potentially negative impacts.

Many residents asked that the plan include greater buffering and stricter limitations

Continued on page 2.

"Zoning is always a sensitive issue. Unfortunately, this process pitted neighbor against neighbor."



Board Set To Move On Proposed Zoning For Marcellus Shale Gas Production

Nobody has filed an application for deep gas drilling in Cranberry Township, and it's conceivable no one ever will. But gas leases are being snapped up throughout the region – even in the densely populated Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh – so it could happen here. And there are no zoning ordinances restricting where it could happen in the Township.

Natural gas production from the mile-deep Marcellus shale formation that runs under most of Pennsylvania is a hot item these days with hundreds of wells already in production and thousands more in the pipeline. So

Continued on page 2.

INSIDE *this edition*

Planning	3
Supervisor's Commentary	4
Recycling	5
Cranberry Online	6
Cranberry Legacy Endowment	7
Tech Company Profile	8
Fire Company	9
Calendar	10
Cranberry Highlands	13
In Briefs	14
School District	16
Public Safety	17
Public Works	19

Board enacts two out of three Freedom Road zoning amendments

Continued from front cover

on building heights – requests which the Board decided to take into account and incorporate into a revised version of the proposal. As a result, the Board rejected the original Study Area A proposal, affecting properties along the southern side of Freedom Road west of Powell Road, and adopted a motion to hold hearings on a revised version September 29.

“Zoning is always a sensitive issue,” John Trant, Jr. acknowledged. “Unfortunately, this process has pitted neighbor against neighbor. The Board has authorized this process to find a solution that

ultimately benefits everybody, but it’s not without difficulty.”

Freedom Road itself has seen its traffic levels steadily grow over the years. A series of PennDOT proposals to improve or bypass the two-lane roadway in order to facilitate traffic from adjacent Beaver County have been advanced and subsequently withdrawn over a period of decades. The current plan visualizes Freedom Road becoming a four-lane boulevard with central planters, turning lanes, and signalized intersections. But no funds are available to implement that plan.

Cranberry Township, however, has a policy of coordinating land use policy with its transportation plans. As a result, the zoning changes along Freedom Road are designed to complement the improved roadway when funds eventually become available to build it. Although modest improvements to the roadway, including a new traffic signal at Haldeman Road will be taking place over the next year, funds to fully implement the boulevard concept are not available at this time. ~

Board set to move on proposed zoning for Marcellus Shale gas production

Continued from front cover

Cranberry's Board of Supervisors became concerned that unless they got something on the books quickly, a gas production company could come in and successfully challenge the Township's right to regulate its drilling operations at all.

Why? Because, with the exception of zoning, municipal governments have essentially no ability to regulate the activity of gas and oil extraction. That power has been pre-empted by state and federal authorities, and any municipality which doesn't zone for gas drilling is obliged to allow it anywhere.

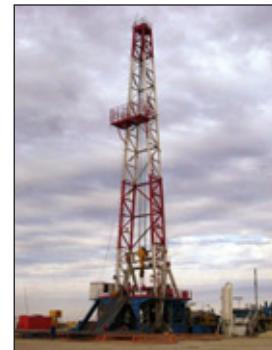
So Township staff developed a draft zoning regulation and public hearings on it were held in July and August. In essence, the ordinance would limit drilling initially to areas zoned for commercial and industrial use, primarily along Rt. 19. That

would minimize their impact on the Township's residential neighborhoods and limit their need to use Township roads, which would have to handle the heavy truck traffic associated with gas well drilling. This will also allow the Township to learn more about drilling practices and about their oversight by state and federal agencies.

The ordinance does not, in its current form, allow for drilling to take place on farmland or other large undeveloped properties zoned R1, although at the hearings, several owners of large parcels testified that they wanted to be included in the permissible use areas. Other residents testified that they were worried about the effects of drilling operations on local ground water supplies and concerned about other adverse impacts on the community and environment.

However, while the Township is barred from regulating the activities associated with drilling operations,

gas production is already having some positive, although indirect, economic effects on the Township. Several production companies including East Resources, Phillips Resources, and Talisman Energy have chosen Cranberry as the location for their front-office activities, and most are recruiting new employees. They also want to be good neighbors; in September, as a goodwill gesture, Talisman Energy presented Cranberry's Public Safety Department in September with a \$5,000 gift in support of its fire training activities. ~



With the exception of zoning, municipal governments have essentially no ability to regulate the activity of gas and oil extraction. That power has been pre-empted by state and federal authorities.

Choke point...

Bridge Replacement Is Key To Long-Range Plan For Pedestrians, Cyclists

The Powell Road bridge across Brush Creek, built in 1938, is showing its age. For a number of years now, the narrow, two-lane span has posted vehicle weight limits. Its cement piers and iron beams are disintegrating. Its ragged pavement edges crumble into the stream bed below. So earlier this year its owner, Butler County, announced it would replace the bridge, using state funds, with construction expected in 2013 or 2014. And a new bridge structure is already in the design stage. But there's a catch: foot traffic.

Widening the bridge from its current 24-foot roadway to 28-feet is a foregone conclusion; that would simply bring it into compliance with current PennDOT engineering standards. But providing an additional lane for pedestrians and bicycles, which would expand the its width by at least 20 percent and add to its cost, is not currently in the cards, and that could throw a wrench in the Township's plan to accommodate more pedestrian traffic.

Two years ago, a proposal prepared by a task force of residents working on the Township's comprehensive plan recommended creating a network of sidewalks, footpaths and bike trails linking together different parts of the Township. Their goal was both to improve access to local destinations and to increase the opportunities for recreational walking and bike riding.

This past July, a separate pedestrian advisory group of residents, which included some of the task force's original members, was brought

together. Using information previously developed by the task force, group members identified a specific series of routes for bike trails and sidewalks to better connect the community. Their list identified walking routes in all three municipal parks, along Route 19, and Freshcorn, Powell, Marshall, Peters, Rochester, and Haine School roads.

"When we built Graham Park, we built a walking trail network within it that ties into the Bellevue Park plan and all the way up to Haine School," Township engineer Jason Kratsas explained. "Our theory was to take that trail system and extend it north to Powell Road and then eventually, create a pedestrian network that runs along Powell Road, goes out to Glen Eden, and crosses Freshcorn where we already have the sidewalk system that runs past the golf course into Cranberry Heights, down to Madison Heights, and on into Winterbrook.

"Once that little bridge link is created from Graham Park to Powell Road, you've connected a big portion of our northwestern and even a little of the southwestern portion of the Township into our Brush Creek smart growth area. So we've been working with the County, showing them that this is truly on our plan, that it's something we're committed to building, and that if we have to build it sooner rather than later to



insure that we get that link across Brush Creek filled, we can do that.

"But that link, that piece where the bridge is being built, is a huge piece of our network. Right now it's a very narrow section that's really not safe to move pedestrians across. If that bridge is built without pedestrians in mind, it blocks us off."

"The bicycle-pedestrian network plan affects everyday decision-making in the Township," Chief Strategic Planning Officer John Trant, Jr. pointed out. "We need a concrete plan to integrate bicycles and pedestrian facilities into the land development process and for road projects. We've got to live with that bridge for another 50 years so we need to have sidewalks on it. The Township's philosophy is that sidewalks, and ideally bicycle lanes as well, should be part of every transportation project." ~

"That bridge is a huge piece of our network. Right now it's a very narrow section that's not safe to move pedestrians across. If that bridge is built without pedestrians in mind, it blocks us."

Get Out Of Abilene

by Dave Root, Cranberry Township Supervisor



to Abilene for ice cream. The trip was terrible. On the way back they start arguing about why they even went. Then they realize that no one enjoyed the trip, and no one really wanted to go. Problem was, no one wanted to be the lone dissenting voice, so they didn't speak up.

In Cranberry's local government, we don't want to be caught on the "road to Abilene" where people don't want to speak up about something because they think they're the only ones who think that way or that they can't effect change. Most are surprised, as was the family in the story, at the number of people who agree with what they may think is an unpopular viewpoint.

Discussion, especially when not all agree, is healthy. General Patton once said "if everybody's thinking alike, somebody isn't thinking." Simply put, if you don't agree with or understand something you see going on, please speak up. Contact the Township by phone, mail, email or come in

There's a concept called "the road to Abilene paradox." It's a story about a family that decides to travel 53 miles

person to the offices or one of our monthly meetings. You may still not agree with the answer you get, but don't let that deter you from demanding an answer.

What allows our local representative form of government to work well is when we have the involvement and input of citizens who aren't afraid to speak up. Without your input, actions would be left to the diktat of local officials.

We have good citizen involvement in our community on various boards and commissions. If you would like to learn more about these and to consider being a part of this, then please check our website and fill out an application.

I am particularly impressed with citizens that take the time to show up at Township meetings to ask

some good questions. The Township staff works hard on the various ordinances and resolutions, but no one can see or predict every eventuality.

I've seen residents' questions delay enactment of various

ordinances simply by bringing to light circumstances that we hadn't thought of and need to look further into. This shows exactly how government should work by taking into account the various viewpoints out there among our residents

before finalizing any action. While this can slow things down, we need to be mindful that government growth is insidious, getting larger a little at a time, impacting you more and more. You should always question our direction so Cranberry can grow smartly.

However, to become involved, you need to keep informed about what is going on in local government. That's a big order with all the distractions out there, but Cranberry Township is now looking at better ways to communicate with its residents.

Traditional methods have included articles in the papers, postings on the Township Website or, more recently, the use of blogs. These are called "pull" methods in marketing because someone must actively seek or "pull" the information out. Pull systems traditionally aren't efficient in getting the word out.

There are also "push" methods where people receive information sent to them. It can be sent via their PC's, mobile phones or traditional mail. Using technology, we are expanding the ability to "push" information via the use of email, text messages, Facebook, Nixle and Twitter. Right now you can sign up on our website to be sent information when various events happen in Cranberry Township. The list now includes invitations for bidding on projects, updates to our trash/recycling program, golf course events, scheduled road/sewer/water work, and new issues of our electronic magazine *Inside Cranberry*.

We are hoping to expand this list, so please tell us what you'd like to know more about so we can keep you involved with your Township. ~

We don't want to be caught on the "road to Abilene" where people don't want to speak up about something because they think they're the only ones who think that way.



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

Our Hunger For Garbage Is Huge; Our Taste For Recyclables Is Growing Too

Pennsylvania's leading import is garbage. Last year, the Commonwealth imported nearly ten million tons of it from such major trash exporting states as New York and New Jersey. All of it went to landfill operations. No other state even came close to Pennsylvania's appetite for imported garbage.

But our landfill sites are filling up and it's hard to secure permits for opening new ones. So the state has gotten tough on what can be dumped there. Armed with a series of incentives and penalties, state officials have attempted to extend the life of Pennsylvania's current landfill operations in a number of ways. They include rewarding communities for recycling certain materials, burning combustible wastes to generate power, encouraging the composting of yard waste, and imposing stiff fines on waste collectors who illegally dump recyclables into landfill.

Of course, garbage is not an exact science, and neither is recycling. But the waste collection industry has developed a number of metrics to track the flow of trash – which is referred to in the industry as

municipal solid waste, or MSW. What they show is that Cranberry has been doing amazingly well compared to most other communities. Since 2004, the number of households recycling has soared and the volume of material going to landfill has dropped as the amount being recycled has grown.

For example, the average waste per household going to landfill is 1.3 tons a year nationwide. In Cranberry, it's less than a ton. In Cranberry, the average weight of recyclables put out at the curb is 16 pounds a week. In Buffalo, New York, for example, it's just three pounds. And that's not unusual; it's actually about par for communities that don't offer people incentives to recycle.

Yet even in Cranberry, where there is a financial incentive to recycle more so you can reduce the size and cost of your garbage cart, participation could be better and there remains some confusion about what sort of preparation homeowners are

responsible for when they recycle. So the Township has launched an educational campaign to refresh residents on how the Collection Connection recycling program works and motivate them to use it more. Using parodies of well-known national advertising campaigns, the ads employ humor to deliver a serious message: that recycling eligible material in Cranberry is easy, free, and good for the environment.

As an added incentive, the Township is offering a free, under-counter indoor recycling basket to anyone exchanging their 35-gallon recycling cart for a larger 64- or 96-gallon version. And 3-gallon recycling totes for kitchen, laundry, and bathroom use will be available for \$5 apiece from the Customer Service Desk. ~

Since 2004, the number of households recycling has soared and the volume of material going to landfill has dropped as the amount being recycled has grown.

Code Update



Cranberry's Code of Ordinances – the collection of all the laws enacted by the Township's Board of Supervisors since the beginning of time – is about to get an update. The last time the Code was indexed, organized, and reformatted was five years ago. Since then a lot has happened, and that's made it hard to locate the right information. So Cranberry's Board is preparing to adopt a new online version of the Code which will fully incorporate those laws and any others that may be enacted down the road, into its Code of Ordinances. Once it goes live, the Code will be more user-friendly and much easier to navigate while searching for specific sections. General Code, the company preparing the online version, provides code and document management services to municipal governments throughout the country.

Cranberry Online

Cranberry Township's online services are continuing to expand. And so is its assortment of databases containing information that relate to many different aspects of the municipality.

The average number of individual weekday visitors to the website is now around 900 and growing. And the volume of information posted keeps expanding; it's now around 1,500 html pages with another 5,000 pages available as PDF documents. If you haven't visited the website lately, check it out. **Here's some of what you'll be able to do:**

Buy trash tags. You can order, pay for, and have tags mailed to your home whenever you like.

Sell to the Township. When Cranberry needs a contractor for a service, it gets announced online and you can get emailed whenever a new announcement is posted. Sign up at www.cranberrytownship.org/eblast.

Register for preschool. Essentially the entire program catalog of Cranberry's Parks & Recreation department can be read and registered for online.

Buy golf gift cards. Cranberry Highlands sells gift cards online with values ranging from \$25 to \$100. They never expire and can be redeemed for green fees, golf lessons, range balls, or merchandise.

Get a job. Cranberry is always looking for qualified new staff members for full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions. The only way to apply is online.

Find yourself. Using detailed aerial photos, Cranberry's graphic online Property Finder shows lot lines, owners' names, and infrastructure detail for every parcel in the Township.

Get a building permit. You can apply online for permits to build simple structures including decks, sheds, carports, greenhouses and gazebos.

Complain about something. If you are affected by odors from the Township's sewage treatment plant, file the online form to let us know about it.

Download forms. You can download and print out official forms to request lien letters, water service, public records, grading permits, building inspection, fire inspection and more.

Monitor government actions. Agendas and minutes of Board of Supervisors, Planning Advisory Commission and Zoning Hearing Board meetings are posted and archived online.

See what's coming up. A detailed home-page calendar of events, activities and programs of the Township and Library extends over a period of months.

Find out what's coming in. A link from the home page called 'What are they Building?' includes maps and lists of what just opened, what's about to open, and what's still in the works.



Be first to know. Sign up online for Cranberry's notification services using Facebook, Nixel, Twitter and RSS for emergencies, upcoming events, special offers, road closures, cancellations and more. Go to www.cranberrytownship.org/eblast.

Learn what's happening. Home page announcements are constantly updated with news about Township initiatives.

Discover what's on their minds. The Cranberry Blog, which is linked from the home page, provides a glimpse into the thinking of Cranberry's senior management.

Catch up on news. Current and past issues of the Township's official quarterly newsletter, *CranberryToday*, are archived on the website.

Crack the Code. The full text of Cranberry's Municipal Code, including ordinances enacted decades ago are indexed and available online.

Search around. Everything on the website, including PDF documents, is indexed and searchable. ~



Drop In, Turn On

Free wi-fi Internet service is now available in all public areas of the Township's Municipal Center and Library as well as in the Cranberry Highlands' Clubhouse. To access the service, open the Internet connection settings on any wireless-ready device, then highlight the appropriate place option and click 'connect.' Wi-fi service is being provided to Cranberry by Armstrong without charge to either the Township or users of the wireless service.



Virtual virtue...

Cranberry Legacy Endowment Goes Online

How do you build a stronger community? One way is to strengthen its voluntary sector – the nonprofit and civic organizations whose members want nothing more than to serve their community. A coordinated effort to accomplish that is now underway in Cranberry.

The Cranberry Legacy Endowment was started in November, 2009. It is a community foundation focused on developing financial support for nonprofit institutions in Cranberry Township. And a new website, launched in September, will help to spread the story of its work and raise awareness among prospective contributors: www.cranberrylegacyendowment.org.

A number of donor funds are already part of that endowment. And a Board of Directors has been formed to make sure distribution of the income those funds generate meet the stipulations of their creators.

“Helping people realize their passions, visions and goals for our community by matching them with the resources needed to bring them to life, is the mission of the Cranberry Endowment Legacy,”

according to founder Bruce Mazzoni, who patterned the Cranberry fund after the Centre County Community Foundation which was started in 1984 with a single \$10,000 donation.

Since then, more than 300 endowments with \$20 million in funds have been established in the Center County Foundation; it now makes grants exceeding \$1 million a year to benefit the people and communities of Centre County. “We feel that Cranberry has the potential to create a fund of similar size,” Mazzoni said. “That is the goal of the Cranberry Legacy Endowment. And with many Legacy funds already in place, we feel we’re on the right path.”

More than 700 community foundations operate throughout North America today. Like other community funds, the Cranberry Legacy Endowment was formed to receive charitable contributions from donors, establish them in permanent trusts, invest the principal to provide revenue, and then return that income to eligible local organizations,

activities and projects in the form of grants.

The Cranberry Legacy Endowment’s funds are professionally managed by the highly-respected Pittsburgh Foundation, but all proceeds from those funds are to be distributed to qualified recipients in Cranberry. Grants from Endowment

funds are either designated by their donors to support specific

programs, institutions and objectives, or left to the Endowment’s Board to award as needed.

Permanent Legacy Endowments are available beginning at \$10,000. They can be formed with initial funding of as little as \$2,500 with the goal of reaching \$10,000 or more within four years. And some employers have matching funds which can be used to help establish and build up endowments.

Anyone considering the creation of a fund within the Endowment is invited to contact Bruce Mazzoni to discuss the possibilities at 724-776-4806 ext 1103 or brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net. ~

The Center County Foundation now makes grants exceeding \$1 million a year. We feel that Cranberry has the potential to create a fund of similar size.

Honk If You Love Taxes.

Tired of preparing your own income tax return? Do someone else's.



Volunteer tax preparers are being recruited by the Internal Revenue Service to help senior citizens and lower-income individuals in the Cranberry area file their federal, state, and local tax returns. The program, called VITA, operates from February 1 through April 15, and volunteers will be provided with a minimum of 20 hours free training to prepare them for assisting others. Engineer Mike Berman is the Cranberry area's program coordinator, and he'd love to hear from you: 724-776-4343.

How BPL Global Helps Power Companies Wise Up

The basic architecture of America's electrical power grid is now about a century old, and many of its component parts are showing their age. At the same time, while the number of power plants is growing at a snail's pace, demand for energy has continued to soar and shows no signs of slowing. Something's got to give.

However, according to Cranberry-based BPL Global, that day of reckoning can be postponed, at least for a while.

Of course, a permanent solution would involve adding more power plants. But the time and cost of adding new generating capacity is huge and the related environmental issues are significant. So a faster and better way of reliably meeting customer demand would be to improve the system's efficiency – a system which, at least in theory, could be providing much higher levels of service if it weren't for the line loss, the load imbalances, and issues of effectively integrating renewable energy sources like wind and solar power into the grid – issues which were never factors in its original design.

For BPLG, with its headquarters in Cranberry Woods, the opportunity to make the grid smarter in order to increase its efficiency is enormous – \$25 billion a year in the U.S. alone and growing to \$50 billion within five years. Worldwide, where surging demand for power is even more acute, the market is closer to \$80 billion, and on its way to \$180 billion by 2015.

To serial entrepreneur Keith Schaefer and BPLG's other co-founders, at least half of the answer to narrowing that gap would involve just two elements. One would be software to greatly increase the utility operator's visibility into what's happening on the grid. The other would be sensing devices which integrate with that software, helping power plant operators do a better job of controlling the loads on their lines and protecting the system's components, like pricey substation transformers, from failing. Creating those two pieces of the solution has been the focus of BPLG's efforts.

Today BPLG, which was formed in 2004, already serves more than 100 utilities worldwide. It was one of the pioneers in the high potential smart grid market. Since that time, the company has been able to satisfy state public utility commissions that electric companies which subscribe to its software service end up saving money for themselves and their ratepayers. That PUC approval is the price of admission for selling into the power industry. As a result, BPLG has not only attracted investment from various venture capital firms, but also from strategic investors including Siemens, Morgan Stanley, and the federal contracting giant SAIC.

Today the company employs 150 including 25 based in Cranberry. Other key locations include Portland, Oregon, Columbus, Ohio, and LeMans, France. It also maintains satellite offices in the Middle East, Latin America, and China. But while

Full Power.

Keith Schaefer, President and CEO of BPL Global, is leading his company's efforts to create tools for managing the world's electrical grids more efficiently.



the company is a truly global organization addressing a global concern, it never considered locating its headquarters anywhere outside the greater Pittsburgh area.

Initially, the company began in the downtown Pittsburgh office of one of its co-founders. Then it moved to Sewickley. Its decision to relocate to Cranberry in early 2008 reflected a combination of the Cranberry Woods space itself, the skilled personnel available in the area, and the site's easy access to the airport and interstate highways.

But there is a larger reason as well. "What we're seeing take place here is what we believe is an Energy Renaissance," Steven Barto, the company's Chief Financial Officer explains. "The smart money in the venture community has moved toward this sector; that's why we're here. Big Iron-type companies have moved into this sector. And over the next couple of years, you will see many more new companies forming in this space. I would characterize BPLG not only as a leader in thinking about the solutions, but also a leader in the development of technologies to solve the problem." ~

A faster and better way of reliably meeting customer demand would be to improve the system's efficiency. The opportunity to make the grid smarter to increase its efficiency is enormous – \$25 billion a year in the U.S. alone.

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

Firefighter profile:

Firefighting Is A Kimmel Family Specialty

Fire fighting comes in different flavors. Consider the Kimmel family.

Before moving to Cranberry in 1999 to manage a production unit for the BASF specialty chemicals plant in Evans City, chemical engineer Dennis Kimmel had been part of his company's fire brigade at a Rhone Poulenc plant in Texas. There, he and his fellow volunteers learned to navigate the peculiar hazards associated with the specialized chemical products used and produced at the site.

Kimmel's brother, who works at a Remington Arms ammunition plant in Arkansas, serves on his company's industrial fire crew as well. There, the unique dangers associated with explosives used in munitions production remain a constant focus for all of its brigade members.

And for a number of years before his retirement from a career in the Air Force, Kimmel's father had been trained as a firefighter to deal with the special circumstances of fires affecting military aircraft, airport runways, fuel storage tanks, and associated structures.

But there's a problem with highly specialized firefighting: it's that in well-run industrial operations, actual fires are rare, so there are few opportunities to use the skills that volunteers are trained for. And unless they're used, those skills will erode. So when Kimmel arrived in Cranberry, he found one of the attractions of the Township's Fire Company to be the opportunity to

maintain, enhance, and apply his fire training for the benefit of his community, as well as for his new employer.

"Volunteering with the Fire Company is important for me in working on fire skills," Kimmel explained. "Otherwise it just wouldn't happen at the workplace."

Volunteering was also a way of building connections to his new hometown in a community where, at the outset, neither he nor his wife Lanell had any friends, family, or acquaintances. So two years after arriving in Cranberry, Dennis joined the Fire Company and several months later, Lanell joined its Ladies Auxiliary. Nathan, their oldest son, became a Junior Firefighter in 2007. Then last fall, after completing his Essentials training, Nathan became a full-fledged member of the Company as well. Now twelve year-old Tyler, who describes his family's community service as heroic, is also considering steps in that direction when he becomes eligible.

But despite his employer's strong safety record and its absence of authentic workplace emergencies, the appeal of being a specialized first-responder never left Kimmel, who also holds the rank of Captain in Butler County's Hazmat Team. In addition to training for emergencies involving such garden variety hazards as chemical spills resulting from railroad mishaps and tanker truck accidents, Kimmel is also trained to deal with radioactive hazards.

"With Cranberry's proximity to the Shippingport nuclear power plant, there is some concern for public



A family affair. Dennis Kimmel and older son Nathan are both Cranberry Volunteer firefighters. Wife Lanell is part of the Ladies Auxiliary, and younger son Tyler contemplates following in his family's footsteps as well. Mother Ruth, who lives in Arkansas, came north for a visit in August.

safety," he said. "Butler County participates with PEMA on Shippingport's drills to make sure we're prepared for anything that could happen over there. Butler County is an evacuation point for people in Beaver County. The hazmat team would be called to man a station in Slippery Rock and screen people coming in to make sure the radiation is not transferred away from where it was released."

But it is the personal gratification of volunteering with Cranberry's Fire Company that remains the highlight of Kimmel's emergency service. "It's a wonderful experience. Although you can choose to let it be a major time commitment, you can also choose not to, and still have an impact," Kimmel said. "But it's not about us, it's about the people in need: getting them out of that car or building and on their way so the medical people can do what they need to do. As long as we can get to people who need our assistance, we're doing our thing." ~

"Volunteering with the Fire Company is important for me in working on fire skills. Otherwise it just wouldn't happen at the workplace."

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

OCT

Registration may be required for some programs. For more information, call:

- Cranberry Library 724-776-9100
- * Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806
- † Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129

- Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372
- Seniors for Safe Driving 1-800-559-4880

FRI 1	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr Parking Lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 2	Computer Class • Internet II, Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr. entrance to Community Park, 10am-1pm	SUN 3		MON 4	Last Day to Register to Vote 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm Book Discussion <i>The Pilots Wife</i> by Shreve, Library, 7pm	TUES 5	
WED 6	WIN (Welcoming International Neighbors) Twp office, 6:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Chapter Book Club for grades 1-3 Library, 7:30pm		THURS 7		Library Discussion Group Library, 10am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Seniors for Safe Driving * Municipal Ctr, 9:30am-1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 8	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr Parking Lot, 3:30-6pm	
SAT 9	Computer Class • Computer Security, Library, 9am Teen Lunch and Discuss Library, 12pm Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr. entrance to Community Park, 10am-1pm	SUN 10	MON 11	Columbus Day Twp Offices Open, Library Closed	TUES 12	LI Wellness presentation IBS/Gluten, Library, 7pm	WED 13	Psychic Criminal Investigation and Paranormal Activity Library, 7pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Chapter Book Club for grades 1-3 Library, 7:30pm	
THURS 14	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm	FRI 15	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr Parking Lot, 3:30-6pm Halloween Celebration † 4-6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 9:45 - 11:45am	SAT 16	Computer Class • Word I, Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr. entrance to Community Park, 10am-1pm SAT Prep Workshop • by Huntington Learning Ctr, Library, 1pm Fall Hayride/Cranberry Highlands † 2-5pm Fall Picnic /Cranberry Highlands • 5-7pm		SUN 17	Fall Hayride/ Cranberry Highlands † 2-5pm	
MON 18	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm	TUES 19	Books and Bagels Discussion <i>Galileo's Daughter</i> by Sobel, Library, 10am Pumpkins in the Park † Community Park, Jaycees Shelter, 1pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Chapter Book Club for grades 1-3 Library, 7:30pm	WED 20		THURS 21	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm	FRI 22	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr Parking Lot, 3:30-6pm
SAT 23	Computer Class • Word II, Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr. entrance to Community Park, 10am-1pm	SUN 24	MON 25	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Teen Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4pm Backyard Composting * Municipal Ctr, 7pm Sister Cities Association Mtg Maridon Museum, Butler, 6pm Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, 5:30pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>Twilight</i> by Meyer, Library, 7:30pm		TUES 26	Last Day to Apply for Absentee Ballot Promoting Positive Behavior presented by Dr. David Silk of Bellevue Pediatrics, 7pm		
WED 27	Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Chapter Book Club for grades 1-3 Library, 7:30pm	THURS 28	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm	FRI 29	Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, Parking Lot, 3:30-6pm	SAT 30	Computer Class • Excel I Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr. entrance to Community Park, 10am-1pm Spookapalooza † Municipal Ctr, Senior/Teen Ctr, 12-2pm	SUN 31	Halloween Trick or Treat in Cranberry 6-8pm

NOVEMBER

MON 1	First Editions Book Discussion Ask Again Later by Davis, Library, 7pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm	TUES 2	Election Day 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11am or 1pm	WED 3	Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm	THURS 4	Library Discussion Group Library, 10am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ♀ Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm
FRI 5	SAT 6	Farkleberry Craft Show Municipal Ctr, 9:30am – 3:30pm Computer Class ♀ Excel II, Library, 9am	SUN 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends set clock back one hour after 2am	MON 8	TUES 9	Santa's Little Elves 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 12:30 – 1:30pm Holiday Treats † 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 2 – 3pm
WED 10	Book Club for 4th – 6th Graders Abel's Island by Steig, Library, 7pm	THURS 11	Veteran's Day Twp Offices Open, Library Closed	FRI 12	SAT 13	Computer Class ♀ Troubleshooting Your Computer, Library, 9am Wii Mario Kart Tournament Municipal Ctr, 9:30am Teen Lunch and Discuss National Gaming Day, Library, 12pm	SUN 14
MON 15	TUES 16	Santa's Little Elves 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 12:30 – 1:30pm Holiday Treats † 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 2 – 3pm	WED 17	Books & Bagels Discussion The Help by Stockett, Library, 10am Coffee with Twp Manager Bellevue Park, Community Ctr, 7pm	THURS 18	FRI 19	Fall Fun † 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 9:45 – 11:45am Santa's First Stop and Holiday Tree Gallery Santa arrives via fire truck, Municipal Ctr, 7pm
SAT 20	Computer Class ♀ What is Social Networking (Facebook) Library, 9am	SUN 21	MON 22	Teen Advisory Board Mtg Library, 4pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club Water for Elephants by Gruen, Library, 7:30pm	TUES 23	Santa's Little Elves 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 12:30 – 1:30pm Holiday Treats † 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 2 – 3pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	WED 24
THURS 25	Thanksgiving Day Twp Offices, Library Closed	FRI 26	Holiday Waste Collection – 1 day delay Municipal Ctr, Library and Administrative Offices Closed	SAT 27	SUN 28	MON 29	Planning Advisory Commission Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm
TUES 30	Last day to pay school tax at face value Santa's Little Elves 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 12:30 – 1:30pm Holiday Treats † 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 2 – 3pm Huntington Learning Center presentation Homework: A Parent's Survival Guide, Library, 6pm						Registration may be required for some programs. For more information, call: • Cranberry Library 724-776-9100 • Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806 † Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129 ✿ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372 ☛ Seniors for Safe Driving 1-800-559-4880

DECEMBER

WED 1	Hanukkah begins at Sundown		THURS 2	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm			FRI 3	SAT 4	SUN 5	Sunday Brunch with Santa  Cranberry Highlands, 10am – 2pm	
MON 6	First Editions Book Discussion Library, 7pm		TUES 7	Santa's Little Elves 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 12:30 – 1:30pm Holiday Escape  3–5yrs, Municipal Ctr, 9:30am – 1:30pm Holiday Treats  4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 2 – 3pm			WED 8	THURS 9	FRI 10		
SAT 11	Milk and Cookies with Santa  Senior/Teen Ctr, 10am, 12pm or 2pm		SUN 12		MON 13	TUES 14	Santa's Little Elves 4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 12:30 – 1:30pm Holiday Escape  3–5yrs, Municipal Ctr, 9:30am – 1:30pm Holiday Treats  4–6yrs, Municipal Ctr, 2 – 3pm				
WED 15	THURS 16	Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 17	SAT 18	Milk and Cookies with Santa  Senior/Teen Ctr, 10am, 12pm or 2pm		SUN 19	Milk and Cookies with Santa  Senior/Teen Ctr, 12pm or 2pm		
MON 20	TUES 21	WED 22	Books & Bagels Discussion Library, 10am		THURS 23	FRI 24	Christmas Eve Library Closed through January 1, 2011		SAT 25	Christmas Day	
SUN 26	Kwanzaa Begins	MON 27	20 & 30 Somethings Book Club Library, 7:30pm		TUES 28	WED 29	THURS 30	FRI 31	New Year's Eve Last day to pay current school/local taxes		

Registration may be required for some programs.
For more information, call:

- Cranberry Library 724-776-9100
- * Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806
- † Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129
-  Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372
- ✉ Seniors for Safe Driving 1-800-559-4880



Turf Battle: Keeping Green Under Stress

Weather patterns which were once considered extreme now appear to be the new normal for Cranberry as well as for communities throughout the world. And nowhere is their impact seen more quickly than on the carefully groomed tees, greens and fairways of Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. The delicate grasses which form its playing surface are vulnerable to a variety of weather-related stresses – some of which can be fatal if not attended to effectively.

“From the beginning of the year, we went from one extreme to the next,” golf course Superintendent Dave Barber explained, citing the heavy rains that occurred in April and May. “There were some basins in the course where it rained so much that it flooded them; they plugged up so we actually had to wade in and pull open the drain covers to unplug them.”

Cranberry wasn’t alone in adjusting to volatile weather conditions. In July, the United States Golf Association – the sport’s governing body for the U.S. and Mexico – issued a ‘Turf Loss Advisory’ message to golf course managers advising them implement defensive maintenance and management programs in response to the sharp swings in weather. “Slow grass is better than no grass,” the advisory warned.

“There are a lot of people losing grass out there,” Barber confirmed. “There are a lot of golf courses in trouble because they’re using the wrong water management practices.” In response to the rapid shifts in temperature and humidity, Cranberry Highlands’ own maintenance personnel are augmenting the course’s extensive in-ground

irrigation system with targeted sprinkling – what turf managers refer to as ‘syringing.’ But it’s not just to water the grass.

“Our goal in going out in the afternoon and syringing by hose or sprinkler is not to get the ground too wet,” he pointed out. “We’re just trying to cool off the grass and keep it alive.

“People sweat. That’s a defense mechanism to cool our bodies,” he explained. “With grass, it’s called ‘transpiration.’ The grass leaf actually sweats and if it doesn’t have enough surface moisture to allow that, it quickly starts to die because it’s a very fine-tuned type of turf. So by just shocking that grass with a little bit of water and cooling it down, it allows the grass plant to transpire.”

“Normal grass can go into a dormant state, but this grass will actually crash,” Barber noted. “It’ll go beyond the dormant state. The type of turf that’s on our tees, greens, and fairways will actually go into a state where it’ll crash and die.”

Among the defensive management methods suggested by the USGA to protect golf course turf are application of fungicides to prevent the rot which can occur as a result of over-watering; raising mowing heights and sharpening mower blades; mowing less frequently; spraying weekly with fertilizers and growth regulators; using fans to move the air around pocketed greens; aerating the greens to allow the grass to breathe; and hand-watering to cool the grass during mid-day sunshine.

These water and turf management practices are also consistent with Cranberry Highlands’ status as an



Staying Alive. Wild swings in weather moved from flooding portions of Cranberry Highlands in the spring to baking its delicate grass canopy in the summer. Maintenance personnel remain vigilant throughout the year in protecting the turf from weather-induced stresses.

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. In January of 2009, Cranberry Highlands received certification in environmental planning from Audubon International. Its provisions apply to the entire golf course and include, in addition to sound turf management, creating habitats for certain bird and wildlife species, using environmentally sensitive pest-management techniques, water conservation, chemical use reduction, and more.

Participating golf courses must be recertified every two years to assure their continuing environmental progress. ~

In July, the United States Golf Association issued a ‘Turf Loss Advisory’ message. “Slow grass is better than no grass,” the advisory warned.

In Briefs



Foxhole. Cranberry Highlands' picturesque Hole 15 is only supposed to have one cup.

But this fox had a different idea. As part of a family of pups born in nearby woods, the fox decided to create his own holes on the course's well-manicured putting green. That didn't go over well with golfers or the Highlands' own maintenance staff. After trapping the fox and placing him in a humane box cage, employees transported and released the carnivore into a remote woodland – far from the nearest golf links.



Church, state join hands.

St. Ferdinand's church and

Cranberry Township will be joining their parallel but separate Rochester Road driveways into a shared single entryway before the end of this year. Related improvements will include new concrete sidewalks, street trees, parallel parking stalls, and eventually, a traffic signal. The Township's ultimate goal is to create an internal street system which would integrate the Township's parking aisles, and potentially its Commerce Drive access ramps, into the street which the church completed last year that connects to Thomson Park Road.

Snake-free zone.

It's official now; there are no massasauga rattlesnakes along the proposed route for Heights Drive Extension in northwest Cranberry. To secure the necessary environmental permits, the Township had been obliged to hire an expert and conduct a year-long study to



determine whether the proposed 28-foot wide roadway would damage the viper's natural habitat. But no evidence surfaced that the serpents had ever lived there. DEP's declaration means that the last environmental hurdle to completing the half-mile segment of road linking Heights Drive to Rt. 19 has been cleared and that property acquisition for the \$2 million project can now move forward.



Graham Park gets a green light. Contracts have been awarded for installing a new traffic signal along Rochester Road at the entrance to Graham Park Drive. Site preparation, including a new left turn lane on Graham Park Drive, was scheduled to have been completed before the end of September. Poles to support the new signals, which are built to order, are expected to be delivered around Thanksgiving. The signalized intersection will enable traffic to enter and leave the park from every direction; the road is currently accessible only to the westbound lane of Rochester Road. Eastbound traffic entering the park, and eastbound traffic exiting the park, currently use the signalized intersection at Haine School Road and cross through the Bellevue Park plan of homes. The developers of Bellevue Park contributed toward the \$300,000 signal project.

The discount window is closed.

If you haven't paid your Seneca Valley School District real estate tax yet, you've just missed the discount period which ended September 30; however you can still pay at face value through the end of November. But if you haven't paid your 2010 County/Township real estate tax, it's overdue now and a penalty has been

added. If you've refinanced, changed your mortgage company, or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, contact P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or stop by his office weekdays in the Municipal Center building to arrange payment of property taxes.

Santa's first stop.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their annual pilgrimage to Cranberry aboard a specially decorated fire truck at 6:00 on Friday evening, November 19. Upon arrival, they will greet Township residents and illuminate the tree in front of Cranberry's Municipal Center to kick off the holiday season. Children who want an individual audience with Santa will be able to do so during his follow-up visits on December, 11, 18, and 19. Registration for Milk and Cookies with Santa may be arranged through the Parks & Recreation department. There is a program fee of \$12 – \$9 for Township residents.



What do people around here do for fun?

To find out, a joint Butler

County/Cranberry Township recreation study will kick off early next year to formulate a plan focused on local park facilities, greenways, and open space. The \$125,000 project, a follow-up to the Cranberry Plan, is being funded by a state grant awarded for a joint application between the Township and Butler County Recreation. Starting in December or January, planners will be looking for residents to become involved through surveys, focus groups and public meetings.

The process is expected to require the better part of a year. Anyone interested is invited to contact Cranberry's Chief Strategic Planning Officer, John Trant, Jr., at 724-776-4806, x1114.



Kick butt.
Need a body tune-up?
Come to a free Total Body

Conditioning class of your choice. Cranberry's Parks & Recreation Department is offering one free class per person to help spread the

word about how TBC enhances body and mind. Classes range from Basic Step, Yoga, Pilates and Kickboxing, all the way up to Peak Performance. Pay by the class – \$5 for residents – or by the month at \$30 per resident which entitles you to unlimited classes throughout that month. All you need is a good pair of cross-trainer shoes, a mat, and comfortable clothing.



Have a ball.
It's not just a dance lesson. And it's not a

normal party, either. Instead, registrants for Juliann Tasick's monthly "Just Not Ballroom Dance" start out with a lesson at 7:00 to master a fundamental move such as Swing, Cha-cha, Line Dancing, Waltz, Salsa, Foxtrot, or Free Style. The remainder of the evening, until 11:00, becomes a social dance event with drinks and snacks provided. Singles and couples are both welcome; residents pay \$10 a person. Just don't wear shoes that leave marks on the gym floor. Contact Parks & Recreation to register. ~

October Is Fun Month In Cranberry...



Pig Out! Pulled pork, kielbasa with sauerkraut, cole slaw, baked beans and brownies are all on the menu for the fall picnic at Cranberry Highlands on Saturday, October 16. It is the final picnic of the season and it is open to all. Location is the Audubon Pavilion at the Clubhouse on Freshcorn Road starting at 5:00. The price is just \$11 per person, including everything. Call ahead for reservations at 724-776-7372.



A Roll In The Hay. Cranberry Highlands Golf Course will host several rolling hayrides on Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17 from 2:00 until 5:00 PM. A registration fee of \$10 per child will include a hot dog, drink, and a caramel apple as well as a small pumpkin. Registration is available through Parks & Recreation either in person or online. Children must be accompanied by an adult; adults ride free.



It's Spooky. The Teen/Senior room of the Municipal Center will be the site of Cranberry's annual Halloween Spookapalooza celebration with games, crafts, refreshments, and ghastly stories told by Witch Hazel on Saturday, October 30 from noon until 2:00. Registration is through the Parks & Recreation department. There is a program fee of \$13 per child — \$10 for Township residents.



Trick Or Treat. Notwithstanding the protests of Steelers fans, for whom Halloween night conflicts with the season's New Orleans Saints matchup, Trick or Treat night in Cranberry will be from 6:00 to 8:00 on Sunday, October 31. Township police, Fire and EMS units will be patrolling throughout the community that evening to ensure safety. Children's costumes can make it hard for them to see and to be seen, so encourage yours to wear some sort of reflective material. If you must drive during that time, police urge you to be cautious – particularly when driving through residential areas.

What's For Lunch?

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District



This multiple choice test is one every child will love.

Call it Lunch 101, and we're pleased to say that these greater choices being offered in the cafeterias at Seneca Valley have been met with much anticipation and appreciation as the food service department introduced a host of changes this year.

The district recognizes that wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn.

"We are committed to providing a program that promotes proper nutrition, student wellness, and nutritional education at all levels which will support the total learning experience," said Food Service Director Darlene Carmack.

"In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement and assist in reducing childhood obesity and reduce the risk for diet related chronic diseases."

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE SERVING UP!

Elementary and Secondary BREAKFAST:

Make time for breakfast! According to a research article in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, eating breakfast improves learning and overall health among children, adolescents and adults.

Available daily:

- Sun Butter and Jelly Sandwiches
- Healthy Choice Breakfast items from the "Super Bakery"
- Low Fat-Low Sugar-Whole Grain Cereals
- Bagels-Cream Cheese
- Dinner Rolls
- Fresh Fruit
- Canned Fruit
- Yogurt

Elementary LUNCH:

Students have five choices daily.

In addition to the main lunch, other choices include:

- Sun Butter & Jelly Sandwich
- Raiders Tossed Salad with Roll
- Whole Chicken Nuggets with Roll
- Baked Potato with Roll

K-6 SCHOOL PRICES:

Regular lunch - \$1.60

Free & Reduced lunch - 40 cents

Regular breakfast - \$1

Free & Reduced breakfast - 30 cents

Secondary LUNCH (The following will be offered daily):

- GRAB-N-GO
 - Selection of Traditional and Premium Salads
 - Deli Sandwiches and Wraps
- THE GREENERY
 - Mixed Greens with variety of toppings and dressings
 - Meats & Cheeses
- RAIDERS GRILL HOT SANDWICH BAR

Options may include:

 - Traditional and Premium Vegetarian and Variety Burgers
 - Grilled Chicken Sandwiches
 - Fish Sandwiches and menu Specials
- PIZZERIA

Options may include:

 - Premium Selections and/or Pepperoni, Cheese, White Pizza, Sausage, Vegetable
 - Calzones
- MAIN EVENT

May Include Rotating Chef's Entrée Choice
Baked Potatoes Daily (Gluten Free Option)

SECONDARY SCHOOL PRICES:

Premium lunch - \$2.50

Regular lunch - \$1.80

Free & Reduced lunch - 40 cents

Premium breakfast - \$1.50

Regular breakfast - \$1

Free & Reduced breakfast - 30 cents

PAY STUDENT MEALS ONLINE. Seneca Valley accepts payments for school meals through the mySchoolBucks.com online payment service. There is no fee to use the mySchoolBucks Service to setup an account and view your child's meal purchases, balances, and to setup up automated email notices when your child's meal account falls below a dollar amount you specify. There is a fee if you are using mySchoolBucks Service to make an online payment. For more information or to register online, visit the website at www.mySchoolBucks.com.



For more information on Seneca Valley Food Services, visit our Web site at www.svsd.net

First Responders Target Improved School Building Security

Security at Seneca Valley schools is considered to be pretty good. Its staff is trained, it has dedicated security officers, and it has procedures in place to deal with various sorts of emergencies. But, as school officials recognize, things can always be better. So the district turned to the U.S. Department of Justice for a grant to implement improved access security. And the federal agency may actually be able to help.

Its Community Oriented Policing unit has a grant program called Secure Our Schools, officially referred to by its shorthand, COPS SOS grants. Approximately \$16 million is available this year to assist local law enforcement agencies in developing such school safety and security resources as metal detectors, locks, lighting, training, and other assets. Those grants must be matched by local funds and awards can go as high as \$500,000 over a two-year period.

But a precondition for a school system to be considered for a grant is that it needs to work hand in hand with the emergency agencies serving its district. So an alliance of police, fire, and EMS services from Zelienople, Jackson, Evans City and Cranberry has formed to work with

Seneca Valley on assessing potential risks and coordinating response procedures.

So far, there's no word on the outcome of the district's application for funds. But local emergency workers are not waiting for the result of the grant competition before taking steps to enhance school security. The first phase involves a safety assessment so that in case of an incident, every emergency service in the school district would have a working familiarity with the layout of each school building.

"We've already done safety assessments of several buildings in the district," Cranberry police Sergeant Chuck Mascellino pointed out. "We're going to do every school building in the district. There's a whole checklist – it's a thorough inspection for safety issues. This is a joint effort between all the departments, and we're doing it regardless of the outcome of the grant."

Part of the assessment involves collecting exterior photos of each



building to identify property access points, building exits, and other layout data. To get a better view, the fire company's massive tower ladder truck is being used as a tripod for high-angle aerial shots. Once they're completed, every department will have its own set of photos for each of the schools in the district. At the same time, coordinated response plans are being developed to make sure the various local police, fire, and EMS services in the district are all on the same page in case of a school emergency.

"If Cranberry's EMS and Fire department get called up to Seneca Valley's main campus, we want it to run the same way it would if it were down here, so everything will work the same way and be familiar," Mascellino said. "The school is already implementing some of things that they put into the grant application. So even if we don't get the grant money, they're already implementing security upgrades to the school." ~

Local emergency workers are not waiting for the result of the grant competition before taking steps to enhance school security. "If Cranberry's EMS and Fire department get called up to Seneca Valley's main campus, everything will work the same way and be familiar."

Thank You!

The Cranberry Ambulance Corps reports that its 2010 Residential Fund Drive was a great success. The donation drive, which had been held over the summer, was focused on raising money to reduce the debt on a new ambulance the service purchased earlier this year. More than \$10,000 was raised. The staff and volunteers of Cranberry ambulance appreciate the community's support and extend their thanks to all the donors.



Coexisting With Bicycles

You've seen the yellow road signs that show a car on one side and a bicycle on the other: 'Share the Road,' they advise. But what does that really mean and how, exactly, are you supposed to do that?

The growing interest in bicycles for both transportation and recreational use has meant there are more bikes on Cranberry's roads today than at any time in recent memory. There are also more motor vehicles. So learning to safely share the roadway requires both bike riders and motorists to be aware of their rights, to appreciate their responsibilities, and to know the etiquette of courteous behavior. Understanding the rules of the road and acting predictably are fundamental.

In Pennsylvania, that's largely a matter of law. Under the state's Vehicle Code, bicycles – which the text refers to as pedalcycles – are considered to be vehicles. Bicyclists are required to abide by the same rules as drivers do. Everyone, for example, has to stop at a stop sign. Everyone has to travel in the direction of traffic. Everyone has to signal their intention to turn or change lanes. Violators are guilty of summary offenses and can be fined.

Most of the rules in the state code concerning bicycle traffic apply to bike riders rather than to the motorists who encounter them.

For example:

- Don't carry more people than the bike is equipped for
- Don't ride more than two abreast on roadways
- Always keep at least one hand on the handlebars
- Use a headlight and rear reflector after dark
- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on sidewalks
- Bike riders under age 12 have to wear helmets
- No bicycle riding on Interstate highways

For motorists, the recommended practice is to treat bicycles as slow-moving vehicles, just as they would with horse-drawn carriages. On multi-lane roads, bikes traveling slower than motorized traffic need to stay in the right lane unless it's unsafe for them to do so. But on two-lane roads, it means that motorists need to slow down and follow the bike until there's a reasonable opportunity to pass.

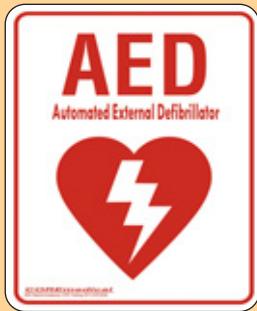
Road rights attach to the operator, not the vehicle, so motorists don't have any more right to use the road than bike riders. "It's not the responsibility of the bicyclist to move to the shoulder for people to pass them," Cranberry police sergeant Chuck Mascellino pointed out. "That vehicle behind them has to wait until they have an area available to pass." ~

Under the state's Vehicle Code, bicycles are considered to be vehicles. Bicyclists are required to abide by the same rules as drivers do.



Getting There On Two wheels

Cranberry Township planners are currently working on the design of an on-road and off-road bike path network which will enable riders to access major areas of the community while avoiding high-traffic roadways as much as possible. A tentative system of bike lanes and bike trails has been proposed for future development by an advisory committee of interested residents.



A Great Place For A Heart Attack

There's no good time for a heart attack, but if you're going to have one, Cranberry Township may be among the best places. That's because, as a result of a recommendation by the Township's Safety Committee, most Cranberry employees are now trained and certified in CPR and AED – two key lifesaving techniques that can greatly increase the survival chances for someone who has fallen victim to a heart attack.

Quick, Escape! The Hybrids Are Coming!

They're already here! In September, Cranberry Township took delivery on three new 2011 Ford Escape hybrid vehicles, and another is on its way.

The four-wheel drive SUVs, which replace four conventional small SUVs used by staff employees working in Cranberry's Codes, Engineering, and wastewater treatment areas, will be the first in the Township's fleet to use the high-efficiency hybrid engine technology. The cars' 2.5 liter, in-line four cylinder engines are rated at 177 horsepower – enough to carry five passengers and tow as much as 1,000 pounds.

The hybrids' fuel economy ratings, according to Ford, are 34 mpg in city-type driving, 31 mpg on highways. The comparable figures for its combustion version are 23 city, 25 highway. The higher city mileage of the hybrids reflects greater use of the car's electric motor in more start-and-stop traffic conditions. The resulting fuel economy improvement for Cranberry is expected to exceed 30 percent.

The timing of the hybrids purchase, as with all 100-plus vehicles in the Township's fleet, was driven by need. Each of the Township's trucks, tractors, SUVs and passenger cars are put on replacement schedules based on their service history, body condition and primary use. Although the Township's calculations use a system developed by the armed forces to evaluate their own distinctive mix of vehicles, their keep-or-trade considerations are familiar to most individual car owners.

Once the decision was finally made to trade in its older vehicles, Cranberry worked with the Westmoreland County Council of Government, which specializes in government vehicle purchases, to acquire the new cars for \$31,000 apiece.

And what are they like to drive? "When you first start the vehicle, you turn the key like you normally would, but you don't hear anything." According to Bob Howland of Cranberry's Public Works department, whose responsibilities include overseeing fleet maintenance. "It's basically like driving a golf cart. If you ease into the throttle, it's just electric. But if you really accelerate, the gas engine kicks in. So if you're going up a hill, or heavily accelerating, or going faster than 44 miles an hour, you're going to be using the gas engine. Other than that, it's quiet; you don't hear anything."

The cars are also smart – very smart. "There are four computers in the car, and all four computers are talking to each other," he explained. "As you apply the brake, the battery gets charged. And if you're sitting at a red light with your air conditioner running and the engine starts to heat up, it'll kick on the gas engine to help charge the battery."

The cars also have unique safety features. "One of the most important things we learned was never touch the battery," he said. "From the battery in the back to the front of the engine, there's a set of orange cables that run between the frame rails. It's 330 volts and if you



"When you first turn the key, you don't hear anything. It's like driving a golf cart."

touch it, it'll kill you. So there's a bunch of safety features built in. If you're in a wreck, circuit breakers in the front and rear will pop and shut down the battery so rescue workers can get to you.

Cranberry's plan to gradually replace conventional vehicles with more fuel-efficient versions reflects the recommendation to implement Environmental Preferable Purchasing – a sustainability initiative which had been part of the Township's 2009 comprehensive plan. "We're committed to moving in this direction with the hybrid type of engine," Public Work Director Jason Dailey said. "We're seeing this as proven technology, so we'll be moving more in this direction for vehicle replacements. We're anxious to hear user feedback, but we don't expect there to be any significant differences for the vehicles' drivers. We're just looking forward to getting them into our fleet." ~

Here's Looking At You, Kid. Be sure to smile next time you're in a traffic jam, because chances are that one of nine newly installed video cameras will be looking at you, helping Cranberry's traffic control operations staff figure out how to get you on your way. The cameras, with full pan, tilt and zoom capability, are mounted at key intersections including Rochester at Graham Park Road, Route 228, Freedom Road, and a number of points along Route 19. However no images will be recorded. The video feed will only be used for traffic management – not for enforcement.





a gray plastic shell. But this new generation of water meters, which is on the cusp of being put to a year-long test in a dozen Township homes, is smarter, more accurate, more reliable, and less expensive to use than the traditional brass units they will be replacing.

Not only that, using the two-watt radio transmitters they're hard-wired to on the home's outside wall, the units will also be able to talk with, and listen to, computers in Cranberry's sewer and water division. And their water consumption readings – taken anywhere from four to 24 times a day – will become available to the homeowner online just as soon as they're posted.

For homeowners, that means the new meters will provide a quick and easy way to check for water leaks. For one thing, they're super-accurate, showing readings down to 1/100 of a gallon – essentially a drip. "If you want to measure your consumption, you can go online, pull up your account, and it will give you almost real-time data," Public Works Director Jason Dailey pointed out. "If you see it shows water running at 2:00 in the morning and you're not running water then, you should start looking for leaks. You can also monitor water

The Attack Of The Robo-Meters

They're smaller than a football, contain no moving parts, and come discretely wrapped in

consumption for your irrigation sprinkler system or for filling your pool. We currently bill quarterly, so by the time the resident finds out they have a leak, they've already got a \$200-plus bill."

Conventional water meters, which are currently installed in every Township home, last a long time. Manufacturers typically guarantee their accuracy – plus or minus three percent – for the first ten years. But after that, their readings become degraded. "With any meter that's 20 years or older, the readings become inaccurate for both the customer and the Township," Dailey said.

So far, no decision has been made to undertake a massive meter changeout in Cranberry – a project which normally takes three to five years. And it can get expensive. But if Cranberry's field test shows the technology is as good as expected, the meters will start being phased in. "All new installs will be this type of technology – no matter which manufacturer we go with," Dailey noted. "All replacements for failures will also be of this new type technology. Then we will start in the older neighborhoods and change that whole neighborhood out."

But the benefit to Cranberry goes beyond getting more accurate water use readings. "We will be able to

make better use of our resources with this new technology – no longer sending out people to get final readings. Those resources can be devoted to system maintenance and customer service," he said.

"We will be able to make better use of our resources with this new technology. Those resources can be devoted to system maintenance and customer service."

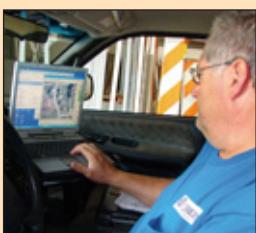
"Also with this new system, you'll get none of the slips, trips and falls that happen due to bad weather. And no

estimated readings. The meters do their own calibration and failure analysis. There's a battery inside with a 20-year warranty. The meters have a 90-day memory and the transmitter holds 35 days of data. And because it's a two-way system, it opens up the possibility of doing shutoffs, which are very uncomfortable for our operators; now you can shut these off remotely."

Sewer and Water Field Manager Joe Leavens, who was one of a handful of professionals consulted in the design of the meter, cites the experience of other communities which have switched to the new technology. "They can pick up readings three or four miles away with this device," he said. "The transmitter will send a signal to either a walk-by unit, a drive-by unit, or a fixed tower unit to capture the reading. Here in Cranberry, we would only need two fixed-base units to cover the entire Township." ~

That's Tough.

Until now, when Public Works employees went out on assignment, it required a fair amount of paperwork: work orders, status reports, blueprints, One-Call notices, and more. And it didn't always happen in the best of working conditions; dust, noise, weather extremes, and caustic material all took their toll. But now the technology is catching up, and field personnel are beginning to carry Toughbooks – ruggedized laptops from Panasonic. Crew leader Rick Cook's laptop is set up wirelessly to handle what had formerly been tedious handwritten memos. If it works as expected, other wireless installations will follow.



What's Hot? If It's At The Brush Creek Plant, It Could Mean Bad News

Different organizations take different approaches to maintenance. One is breakdown maintenance, where you fix something when it's broken. Another is preventive maintenance, where you service the unit at regular intervals to keep it running smoothly.

But then there's predictive maintenance, where you look for telltale signs of potential failure and then take steps to prevent it from actually taking place.

However, doing so requires advanced diagnostic tools and interpretations of temperature, radiation, vibration, acoustic and chemical data which can only be collected with sophisticated sensing devices.

At Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant, where an assortment of heavy electrical equipment moves water in, around, and through a series of purification steps, all three techniques are used. But since 2001, it has relied heavily on annual checkups using thermographics – in essence, pictures which show images based on the heat they emit rather than the light they reflect.

If the picture shows something glowing or emitting a rainbow of

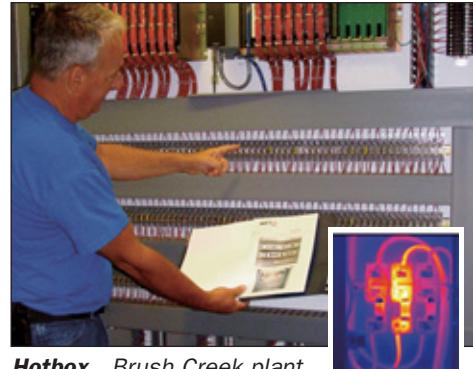
color, it's hot, and a sign of trouble. In electrical systems, excessive heat signifies impending problems. High temperatures indicate excessive electrical resistance, failing components, ground faults, short circuits or other common problems in electric equipment. The goal of thermographic inspection is to detect abnormal or excessive heat caused by insulation breakdown, loose connections, low-level overloading, and aging or worn electrical components – before they cause a breakdown.

So for the past nine years, the plant's operations staff has relied on infrared images to pinpoint and repair electrical problems before they happen. It is an approach which plant manager Mike Sedon credits with reducing the plant's downtime and limiting its equipment damage. Even more important, it has helped

to prevent potentially disastrous failures which, in addition to being costly, can lead to serious environmental consequences.

Each year, a contractor using special thermographic camera equipment

inspects all the major electrical equipment in Cranberry's fresh water system, in its wastewater treatment plant, and in their outlying facilities. As a general rule, hotspots can be detected long



Hotbox. Brush Creek plant operator Joe Corraini checks the electrical cabinet in which a recent report identified a handful of circuits which were seen glowing in thermal images taken by an outside contractor. The heat-based images are used to pinpoint potential equipment failures.

before actual problems occur. So operators seeing the hotspots can record them for further analysis and make any needed repairs before the equipment fails.

When the Brush Creek plant first started using thermal imaging to diagnose potential issues, the reports coming back showed a number of problems. But that's changing. "What we've found is that over time, we have fewer and fewer problems because we now look every year," plant manager Mike Sedon noted. "It's like going to the doctor for a checkup. If you don't do it for 20 years, they'll probably find a bunch of things wrong with you. But if you go every year, they'll find less wrong with you – hopefully."

"We're trying to avoid catastrophic failures," he said. "Serious environmental problems could happen if the wrong thing blows up. We're just nipping away at things, small bites at a time." ~



Find The Hidden Hydrant. Flowers, shrubs, and other landscaping treatments can be beautiful. But when they obscure a fire hydrant, they become a public safety hazard as well as a water system maintenance problem. Cranberry's Public Works department has been mailing letters to the owners of homes whose plantings hide the hydrants on their property. Their letters inform the homeowners that they need to remove or cut back the plantings or work out a solution with the Township's manager of field operations.



CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP

724-776-4806

www.cranberrytownship.org

2525 Rochester Rd, Ste. 400
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

Board of Supervisors

John Skorupan, *Chairman*

Bruce Mazzoni, *Vice Chairman*

Richard Hadley / Mike Manipole / David Root

Jerry Andree, *TOWNSHIP MANAGER*

Cindy Marzock *Communications Assistant*

Larry Warner *Contributing Photographer*

Shelley Notaro *Layout and Design*

Peter Longini *Editor*

POSTAL PATRON
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
built for you.

Who was Cranberry built for?

Cranberry Township was formed over 200 years ago. Its pioneering families' names now grace road signs throughout the community.

But today's Cranberry was fashioned by people from all over – people who moved here to build their careers, build their families, build their savings and build better lives for themselves.

It's a planned community where visitors come to shop, where students come to learn, where families come to settle, and where businesses come to prosper.

Maybe you.

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
built for you.

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #25
Cranberry Twp., PA