



Cranberrytoday

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2011 WINTER EDITION

Budget For 2011: No Cutbacks; No Tax Hikes

Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved the Township's 2011 budget at its December 16 meeting. The budget anticipates expenses totaling \$40.2 million through the year, an increase of two percent over 2010. It also projects a 2.6 percent increase in revenues during that same period. Property taxes as well as customer rates for water, sewer and trash collection remain unchanged.

Approximately \$16.8 million of the budget finances Cranberry's General Fund, which includes such core services as police, public works, parks and recreation, engineering, debt service and administration. The balance is divided among various capital, special revenue, and enterprise funds which include the public library, volunteer

fire company operations, water service, sewage treatment, golf course and Waterpark.

The 2011 budget continues the financial practices which earned the Township an exceptionally high Aa2 rating by Moody's Investor Services, Township Manager Jerry Andree pointed out in his annual budget message to the Board of Supervisors. "This high financial rating earns the Township significant benefits, the most important of which is the ability to borrow money at the lowest possible interest rate," he said.

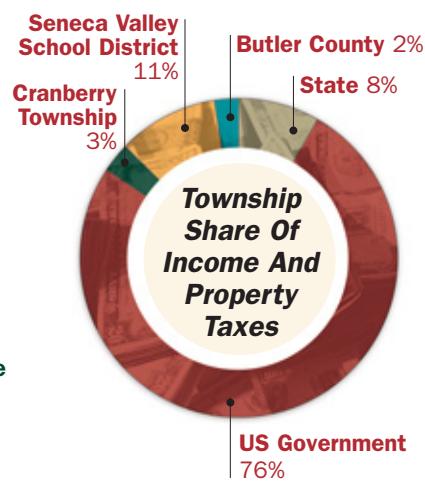
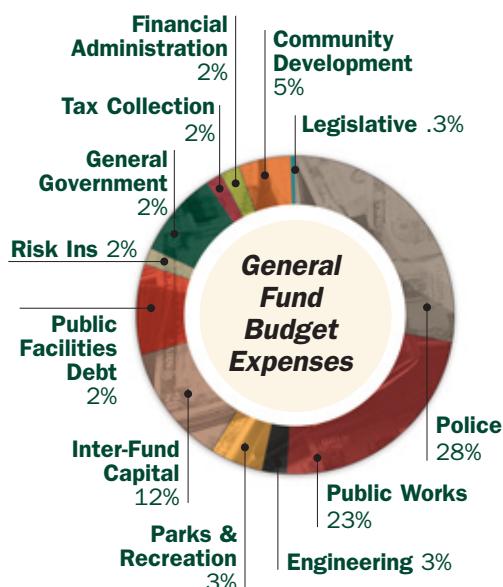
Approximately nine percent of the General Fund budget is designated for debt repayment.

"An exceptionally high Aa2 rating by Moody's Investor Services earns the Township significant benefits, the most important of which is the ability to borrow money at the lowest possible interest rate."

One of the keys to Cranberry's high credit rating stems from its ability to avoid the legacy costs associated with post-retirement health care and the unfunded liabilities resulting from defined benefit pension programs – burdens which have had a disastrous impact on many other municipal budgets. "The Township only provides one defined benefit pension program: the state-mandated police pension program, and that one is properly funded;

Continued on page 2.

2011 Budget A Glance: General fund budget total is \$16,835,202.



INSIDE *this edition*

Cranberry Builds a Database.....	2
Planning.....	3
Supervisor's Commentary.....	4
Butler County Program	5
Recycling	6
Tech Company Profile	7
Say Hi To Haiyang.....	8
Seneca Valley	9
Calendar	10
In Briefs.....	13
Fire Company	14
Public Works	15
Public Safety	19
Library	21

No silos, please

Cranberry Builds A Unified Business Database

For years, Cranberry Township has asked local business owners for different types of information: fire safety records, emergency contacts, tax data, sanitary sewer use, recycling volumes, and so on. All of it is needed to satisfy various state and local requirements.

But the management of that information has been fragmented. Different Township departments have tended to collect and store the information they need without respect to what their sister departments were doing. As a result, business proprietors find themselves repeatedly approached by Township staff, sometimes seeking the same information, and yet Township staff members have found it difficult to share that information among themselves.

Enter the Cranberry Business List – a project designed to improve Cranberry's interactions with local businesses and provide its services more efficiently. It consolidates the

Township's disjointed data collection process into a central database, reducing duplication, and enabling business owners to update their records online at their own convenience. It's a big job, and it's being undertaken in stages.

It consolidates data collection, reducing duplication, and enabling business owners to update their records online.



"In December 2009, we sent a survey to all of the businesses we had addresses for asking them to help us to begin building that database. And we've been incrementally logging that information into the system, so it's constantly being

updated in real time. For example, when the Community Development Department records a new occupancy permit, that information gets entered into the database.

"Phase II will begin to roll some of that data out to the public. The first part will be to provide public access to a searchable database. All of Cranberry's businesses will be integrated into our online property finder mapping system. So residents or visitors can search the database and find, for example, the locations and hours of all Chinese restaurants, or all cell phone stores, or any other kind of business in the Township.

“The other part of Phase II will be to provide online access to the database by the business owners so they can update their information on a real-time basis,” he said. “I expect that to roll out around the middle of this year. In the meantime, we will be sending out our hard copy business and recycling surveys, and it’s important for businesses to fill them out. Every business in the Township will get a letter that asks for accurate recycling data and other business information. But that questionnaire will eventually be replaced by the online version we’ll roll out later this year.” ~

Budget for 2011: no cutbacks; no tax hikes

Continued from front cover

all other pensions are defined contribution programs," Andree noted. In addition, the Township does not provide health care benefits to employees after they retire – another potentially huge savings.

The Township's share of the 134.278 mil tax on real estate remains at 10.65 mils, including funds dedicated to the support

of the library and fire company. For a home with a current market value of \$200,000, that translates into an annual tax of approximately \$200. Rates for water will continue at \$4.86 per thousand gallons; the sewage rate stays at \$5.67 per thousand. Garbage collection prices remain unchanged.

The budget contemplates various types of support for a series of

infrastructure improvements including a new water pump station, a major sewer line upgrade, a new connector road in the northern area of the Township, widening and signalization along Freedom Road, and ramps connecting I-79 to Rt. 228 – over \$17 million worth of improvements altogether. The specific funding provisions differ for each project. ~

Two legs, two wheels, one plan

Muscle-Powered Transportation Blazes A Trail Through Cranberry

An ambitious plan to phase in a coherent, Township-wide system of pathways for bicycles and pedestrians is now in place. The plan's recommendations, which will be implemented over a period of years, were adopted by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors on December 16.

Better pedestrian accommodations have been high on the public wish list for years, according to surveys dating back as far as the early '90s. And the idea for creating bike and pedestrian networks received a strong endorsement in Cranberry's long-range comprehensive plan, adopted last year. That plan not only considered a rational network of pathways for muscle-powered travel to be a recreational asset, but also as an integral part of the Township's transportation network.

Cranberry's new Bike/Ped plan aims to complete missing sidewalk connections, integrate PennDOT's 'smart transportation' principles into Township transportation policies, and identify connections between neighborhoods, commercial developments and local destinations which can be safely navigated by foot or bicycle.

In developing the plan, a public meeting, along with several focus group sessions of bike enthusiasts, were convened to collect information and evaluate alternative approaches to formulating a network of foot-powered connections. The Township's Planning Advisory Commission

carefully monitored their progress. Cranberry's Chief Strategic Planning Officer, John Trant, Jr., led the effort.

"We spent a lot of time taking a detailed inventory of existing facilities, trails, and sidewalks, and getting all that into our geographic information system," Trant noted. "We worked with a committee. We had a public meeting to identify missing sidewalk connections and ways we could improve accessibility for bicyclists throughout the Township. And we had staff input as well; we took a lot of the institutional knowledge that isn't recorded anywhere and got it all into the GIS network.

"We don't anticipate any zoning code changes because the Township already requires sidewalks along the edge of developments," he explained. "This was more about identifying which connections may be built by future development and which ones will need to be funded through grant applications for constructing sidewalk connections or missing trail links."

The proposed bicycle network would rely primarily on paved road shoulders, chosen for characteristics including low traffic volumes, favorable terrain features, good surface conditions, safe sight distances, and useful connections. Initially, 13 roads or road segments were identified for that use. A dozen



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future segments which still require some improvements, would be included later.

The plan's pedestrian network would involve a combination of continuing to insist on sidewalk construction where required, connecting critical gaps in the current network, identifying direct connections to neighborhood parks, and taking advantage of new opportunities presented by ongoing roadway maintenance and reconstruction. Road crossings for both bicycles and pedestrians would be improved at seven key intersections, and an expanded program of public education, encouragement and enforcement of rules for both forms of travel would be put into place.

The Township's new Bicycle/Pedestrian plan is expected to eventually become part of the joint recreational master plan that Cranberry is undertaking later this year in cooperation with Butler County. ~

Freedom, At Last. Eighteen months after Cranberry's long-range comprehensive plan was adopted, the last remaining piece of its land use component was adopted by the Township's Board of Supervisors on October 7. The zoning overlay, which affects the westernmost portion of the roadway in Cranberry, balances the interests of property owners whose parcels abut the heavily traveled roadway against those of the homeowners in adjacent Autumn Hill. The revised proposal reduces maximum heights, extends the buffering, and eliminates any minimum level of commercial development required in the affected area.

What I Learned In School

by Mike Manipole, Cranberry Township Supervisor



One of the expectations that comes with serving on Cranberry's Board of Supervisors is attending the Local Government Academy's Newly Elected Officials course. Since 1985, over 800 people have taken the course, which is a one-of-a-kind program, taught by expert practitioners in their fields. Different sessions touch on various topics which affect municipal governments in Pennsylvania, and many of them offer examples of best practices in areas like finance, personnel administration, planning, ethics and citizen communications.

As Cranberry's newest Supervisor, I had the opportunity to attend the course last spring. And it was genuinely useful, particularly in helping me understand such esoteric topics as the limits of municipal authority and how local government structure affects the way decisions are made.

What was most eye-opening, however, was how often Cranberry was held up as a model for doing things right.

Through dozens of PowerPoint presentations, I must have seen hundreds of slides with Cranberry

Township's logo on them. It's as though we've become a graduate student instruction manual. We're not just a municipality; we're an educational institution.

What was most eye-opening, was how often Cranberry was held up as a model for doing things right. We're not just a municipality; we're an educational institution.

Of course, each community is different and everyone has their own story. But what I found truly amazing was how many municipal governments are so preoccupied with internal politics that they don't really have time to govern. Instead, they keep complaining that their hands are tied, that their goals are being thwarted, that they didn't have the money they need, and so on.

And their biggest complaint, many of them told me, was that they needed to get rid of their mayor. Why? Usually it was accusations about corruption, favoritism, nepotism, or something else unsavory.

In fact many municipalities spend so much time battling internally that they don't have the energy to do battle on the outside, where the real challenges lie. I'm thinking of things like reliable infrastructure, crime prevention, traffic management and long-range finances. No one wants to take on the big issues because they're worried about their own political security. The belief seems to be that if you stay within your own confines, you'll be safe; just don't step out on the edge.

That's where Cranberry is different. Back in the early '90s, Cranberry deliberately stepped out on the edge with progressive leadership and a belief in matching its services to the growth in its community. It

initiated transportation impact fees. It rejected developer incentives. It reached out to find partners. It focused on the future. It invested prudently. And it paid off. Today



we're reaping the benefits of all that good planning while so many others remain stuck in the mud.

One of the topics the LGA instructors kept bringing up was about how municipal governments needed to start looking at replacing aging infrastructure. Well, even though Cranberry's infrastructure is relatively new, that's something the Township has been doing for years. Right now, for instance, we're planning a major new sewer line project. But look at ALCOSAN; they're crumbling below the ground. And as they continue to fall apart, you're going to see the bottom drop out.

We're reinvesting in ourselves in ways that make us a sustainable community. It's all coming back and it makes good money sense. We're managing our debt. And our bond rating is spectacular.

This past fall, I went through my first Township budget cycle as a Supervisor. And it's different here than in most municipalities, where it's almost always a painful experience. Budget time in Cranberry actually sets you at ease. It offers reassurance that good government is not only possible, it also makes a positive difference in the lives of public officials as well as local residents. And I was flattered to see how many other communities in the region recognize that and want to emulate the model Cranberry is providing. ~

You can reach Mike Manipole by email at mike.manipole@cranberrytownship.org.

Butler County Program Grooms New Leaders

After almost 20 years of cultivating community leaders in northern and central Butler County, Leadership Butler County – a professional development program affiliated with the Butler County Chamber of Commerce – has begun looking toward emerging leaders its southern tier. And they apparently like what they see.

This year's class of 23 members includes three who work in Cranberry, as well as several others in nearby Mars and Evans City. They've even instituted an official Cranberry Day, which will take place January 14. It's Cranberry's biggest representation in the program since its start in 1992.

Stan Kosciuszko is the program's director, and he explains its mission this way:

"The program was designed to give people exposure to different aspects of the community," he said. "We focus on Human Services and Volunteerism; Media and the Political Process; Government; Southern Butler County; Northern Butler County; Healthcare; Education; Quality of Life and Tourism. We also do some professional development programs: team building and public speaking/presentation skills.

"This class has a larger representation from Cranberry than we've had in the past. There used to be an imaginary wall. That's been taken down."

"We select candidates from area businesses. They're nominated by their place of business or they're self nominated. If they do business in Butler County or work for a Butler County business, they are eligible. But it's not restricted to people who live in Butler County." The program's tuition is normally paid by the candidates' employers, but scholarships are available to small businesses and nonprofit organizations that can't afford it. And the program is experience-based rather

than classroom based; the group tours institutions and meets with leaders throughout the county.

"Age is not a factor; this year's class ranges in age from mid-20s to early-60s. And a wide variety of businesses are

represented also," Kosciuszko said. "We actually have a waiting list of people who want to take the program. What happens is that the word gets out, either in professional or personal circles, that this is really a phenomenal, eye-opening experience as well as a wonderful networking experience.

"There is an alumni association with over 300 people. And we mail them information about different opportunities on nonprofit boards



The Leadership Butler County professional development program is a partnership of the Butler County Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Butler County, Slippery Rock University, Butler County Community College, and the Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau.

and fundraising events. A lot of our alumni become more involved in the community."

Every leadership class also takes on a collective community project. Last year it was marketing and fundraising for the Blind Association. The year before that, they put together emergency kits for senior citizens. This year's class project is to prepare personalized duffle bags for displaced children served by the County's Children's and Youth Service. Cranberry Township's Chief Strategic Planning Officer, John Trant, Jr, is co-chairing the class project, and community support is always welcome. Go to www.dufflebagproject.com for details.

"This class has a larger representation from Cranberry than we've had in the past," Kosciuszko pointed out. "There used to be an imaginary wall, somewhere around 228 I think. But businesses aren't seeing any boundaries now. That's been taken down." ~

Party Hardy. *Golf weather is still a few months off, but the Cranberry Highlands Clubhouse banquet room is open year-round for weddings, rehearsal dinners, holiday parties, class reunions, family functions and fundraisers. Reserve space now for up to 150 guests in a beautiful setting with a great view of the golf course. And if you're looking toward a warm-weather event, the Audubon Pavilion, behind the Clubhouse, is the perfect spot for as many as 100 guests. Call Craig Walker at 724-776-7372, ext. 1207, to discuss the wide range of food and beverage service options available.*



Cranberry Extends Recycling Incentive Offer

Most people recycle the jars, bottles and cans accumulated in their kitchens. But recyclables from other rooms often end up in the trash. Cranberry wants to raise its recycling rate, so in November, it offered Collection Connection

subscribers with the smallest recycling carts a deal: If they would swap their 35-gallon recycling cart for a larger 64- or 96-gallon one – a no-cost exchange for the customer – the Township would give them a free room-size under-counter tote or stackable bin as a thank-you gift for trading up to a larger recycling cart.

The indoor containers, at three gallons, are the perfect size for bathrooms and laundry rooms as well as for kitchens. And unlike the large rolling waste carts, which belong to the Township, these indoor totes become part of the

homeowner's personal property.

The offer was a huge success. But it's not just limited to people who want to upsize their recycling cart; anyone who wants one or more can buy them for just \$5 apiece from the Customer Service desk in the Municipal Center.

Cranberry's initiative has significant support from the state as well. A performance grant program administered by Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection to encourage local governments to promote recycling and, which has helped to fund the incentive program,

Size Matters.



Trade in your small recycling cart for a bigger one and recycle more stuff. The swap is free. Just call Cranberry's Customer Service desk.

Recycle. It's clean. It's green. It's easy.



paper boxes cans jars bottles

collection connection™
A CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PROGRAM

724-776-4806 . www.cranberrytownship.org/trash



CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
built for you.

will continue in 2011, although at a scaled-back level from previous years.

Its formula for calculating each municipality's recycling rate is based on decennial census counts, so the growth of Cranberry's population from 2000 to 2010 is expected to affect those results. However improvements in the level of participation, and increases in the volume of material recycled, could help the Township offset the new rate calculation while saving landfill space, conserving natural resources, and creating a cost-effective stream of material for manufacturers. ~



Crunch Time. The solar-powered compactor behind the Municipal Center is getting a workout. Its truck-size attached container, which holds the compressed cardboard that people bring by, has a four-ton

capacity. At the current rate of use, it gets filled up within two weeks. "We're very comfortable with this, even if we have to empty it once a week," according to Environmental Projects Coordinator Lorin Meeder. "That would simply prompt us to say we need more. People really like to deposit stuff in the drop-off site; there may be an opportunity for even more types of material."

No Street Parking.

On-street parking is prohibited in Cranberry all year long. But its enforcement priority peaks in the winter.



There are two important reasons why: one, it stops plow drivers from clearing the street and, two, it makes it harder for Collection Connection™ and fire trucks to maneuver. If you're having house guests, please inform them about Cranberry's parking policy.

Rapid Granulator Rips Into Recycling

Depending on their source, preparations for recycling plastics can involve a multitude of steps. And the more steps it takes, the costlier it is to recycle. But there is one step shared by essentially every recycling method, no matter where the plastic came from: reducing the material to strips, pellets or powder so it can be more easily melted down and formed into new products.

Since 1942, building machines with whirling blades that reduce plastic items into uniform granules has been the primary focus of Rapid Granulator, a Swedish company with factories, business offices, and customers in countries all around the world. And for the last two years, following a complex series of business maneuvers, the company's North American sales, engineering and executive offices have re-located from Rockford, Illinois to Cranberry Township, where it shares space and back-office services with its sister company, Conair, and its parent company, IPEG.

Together with IPEG-owned MPM in Michigan, which supplies manufacturing equipment for use in plastics extrusion, the Cranberry-based family of companies offers a comprehensive suite of industrial equipment for customers who mold, form, cut or otherwise shape plastic into goods of any sort. That customer base is huge and very competitive. So for the makers of plastic products, recovering discarded material at an attractive price can be a tremendous advantage.

One key to economically recycling plastics, as company president Kirk Winstead explains, is to start with 'clean' waste – usually the excess material trimmed from a product after it's been molded. Plastic of that type, which is referred to as

'post-industrial' waste, is generally recovered and prepared for reprocessing right on the plant floor. It has not, at that point, been painted, glued, or otherwise contaminated with foreign material that would need to be stripped away prior to recycling. Not only that, the composition of post-industrial plastic is uniform rather than a diverse jumble of formulations with different chemical characteristics.

"Years ago, you would simply throw that excess away because the cost of recycling really wouldn't justify regrinding it," Winstead said. "But now, because of competitive pressures, plastic material has become very expensive." The rising cost of petroleum, the basic feedstock for modern plastics, has had a major influence on the economics of plastic recycling. And those price pressures have helped to make plastics collected at curbside a viable business venture.

"On the post-consumer side, you have to deal with inks and labels and whatever product it was filled with. You have to clean it to get it to the point where you can make it back into something with more value. That cleaning process is an expensive part of the consumer side which you don't see on the industrial side. It's dirty plastic, and that's a whole different process," he pointed out.

It's a process that begins at the sorting lines in local recycling



Cut to the chase.
Rapid Granulator President Kirk Winstead exposes the cutting chamber at the heart of one of the company's smaller shredding machines on display at its Cranberry Business Park office. Different models in the global firm's lineup can reduce scrap plastic to any size from strips to powder as part of the recycling process.

centers. "What those facilities do is to take polyethylene terephthalate one way, take high-density polyethylene another way, sort out anything that's junk, create homogenous piles of material that get bailed, and then sell those bales to recycling facilities – that's where our equipment

is. When they break the bales, they run it through our machines. At that point they have to clean it and do a lot of different things with the material to turn it back into recycled plastic. The trick is not to spend so much on cleaning that the final product costs more than new plastic from the manufacturer. That's the big issue."

Years ago, you would simply throw the excess away. But now, because of competitive pressures, plastic has become very expensive. Those price pressures have helped to make plastics collected at curbside a viable business.

Dirty plastic also affects the company's grinding machinery. "If it's clean plastic, it might be a year before you have to re-sharpen a knife," he said. "In dirty plastic, I've seen customers who have to go in and sharpen the knives every 8 to 10 hours." Even so, and depending on use, with proper maintenance, customers can expect 15 to 20 years of service from their granulators. And besides, 30 percent of the company's business involves replacing blades and other worn down parts. ~

Say Hi To Haiyang

Prepare for the arrival of the rabbit! According to the traditional Chinese calendar, the coming new year, 4709 – the Year of the Rabbit – will be ushered in on February 3. And preparations are underway to observe it in Cranberry Township.

The local celebration, hosted by the Cranberry Township Sister Cities Association, will be one of the first public events sponsored by the startup organization. It is being paired with Haiyang, a coastal city on the Yellow Sea, which is also the site for two of the four power plants Westinghouse is building in China. Other events are being planned for later in the year.

Although it enjoys support from the Township government in the form of a resolution adopted by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors last fall, the Cranberry Township Sister Cities Association is an independent nonprofit organization whose members include Slippery Rock University, Westinghouse Electric, the Butler County Visitors and Tourism Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce and a growing number of individuals.

"We're also going to be talking to other Butler County companies that

have business in China, inviting them to be part of this group," Tourism Bureau head Jack Cohen said. "We have 130,000 in our county, I believe their count is almost 700,000; it's huge. But by Chinese standards, it's a small town."

Even though its the association's membership currently tilts toward Butler County people and institutions, Cohen does not rule out participation by interested parties outside the county. In fact, a number of letters inviting people both within and outside the county to join have already been sent. And it's working.

"We've had four or five new members at every meeting," according to association treasurer Michael Peuler. "We have high school students, we have young professionals, we have retirees. They're people from different

backgrounds, age groups and walks of life who share a common interest in cultural diversity, in China, and in traveling abroad."

Building ties to Haiyang has been an ongoing effort of the group, which

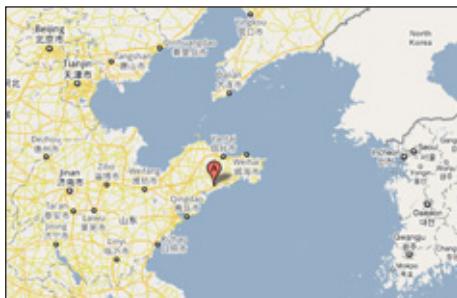
has yet to sign a formal agreement with its Chinese counterpart. Even so, a delegation from Haiyang is planning to come to Cranberry this spring. "We're planning a tour and events for them," Peuler said.

"We talk about outreach measures, how to spread the word about the association, how to reach out to the community, and about potential events we'd like to host."

As a goodwill gesture last August, the Cranberry group sent their counterpart in Haiyang a friendship gift. It included a letter in both English and Chinese as well as a glass plaque engraved with the message "In Honor of Friendship and Hospitality" written in both languages.

The Cranberry Township Sister Cities Association was formed as part of an effort to promote and embrace the community's growing cultural diversity. Its goal, according to the organization's website, is "to build bridges between Cranberry Township and other communities across the globe to achieve a greater mutual understanding of different cultures and to strengthen our municipal, economic, and cultural relationships."

Membership is open to any interested individual or organization. Dues are \$25 a year for individuals, \$15 for students. A variety of business sponsorship opportunities are also available. Learn more on the Township website, www.cranberrytownship.org. ~



Haiyang, a coastal city on the Yellow Sea, is the site for two of the four power plants Westinghouse is building in China.



¿Habla inglés? Does your child need extra practice in English? For the first time, Parks & Recreation is now offering a class for preschool children for whom English is a second language. It reinforces basic preschool concepts while giving each child a chance to practice English with other preschoolers. Preschool aide Danielle Ball, who spent much of last summer tutoring young children from homes where English is not the primary language, will be offering six one hour sessions for \$29 at two different times.

Seneca Valley Cyber Service

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District

You may not find them in the district's traditional program of studies but Seneca Valley now offers secondary courses on Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and even Strategies for Academic Success – just to name a few. Through the Seneca Valley Cyber Service Program, students can take these, other similar academic courses, work on credit recovery or even earn a career diploma. Students can set their own schedule and still attend the traditional classroom. Flexibility is the beauty of the online program.

In a national report released by the Sloan Consortium in January 2010, the online higher education enrollment growth rate increased 17 percent between fall 2007 and fall 2008 while the overall higher education student population increased just 1.2 percent.

It has become quite clear that online education is taking the world by storm and it's not limited to colleges anymore.

When you consider the diverse and unique needs of today's student body, along with busier schedules and the opportunities presented for careers, it's imperative that school districts keep up with the demand.

The Seneca Valley Cyber Service Program, developed by Seneca Valley Administrators, utilizes top-notch instruction from E2020, Penn Foster and Aventa, online courses that have proven to enhance student achievement. Most notably, Penn Foster is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools for its high school and vocational-technical programs. Students can earn a career diploma in such areas as medical, hotel and restaurant management, child care, HVAC, and more.

It's also important to note that Seneca Valley Cyber Service students will earn a Seneca Valley School District Diploma!

Plans are also underway to add new programming, increase the offerings, and even expand the program to include younger grades.

To learn more about the program, visit the Seneca Valley Cyber Service Web site at www.svsd.net. You'll find it listed under "Site Shortcuts."

If you have questions about the program, please contact Denise Manganello, Seneca Valley Cyber School and secondary assistant principal, at 724-452-6040, ext. 1015.

...FAQs...

Q. Can my student take Cyber Service classes and traditional classes?

A. Yes, each student's schedule will be customized with their guidance counselor.

Q. Can my student attend Seneca Valley School daily, but complete their courses virtually?

A. Yes, students have the opportunities to have certified teachers facilitate their needs within the school day and at after school tutoring.

Q. Can my student attend mission trips or educational trips?

A. Yes, students will have the flexibility to complete work before, during or after their trip(s). Cyber Service gives flexibility but students do have to complete an indicated amount of work for each nine weeks.



Cyber Service Points of Interest:

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

JAN

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

SAT 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY KWANZAA ENDS Municipal Ctr & Library Closed	SUN 2	Municipal Ctr & Library Closed	MON 3	Board of Supervisors Organizational Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm First Editions Book Discussion <i>The Secret Garden</i> , by Burnett, Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 4	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm
WED 5	Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Grade 1-3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7:30pm	THURS 6	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm Discussion Group Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	FRI 7		SAT 8	SUN 9
MON 10	Connection Collection—Holiday tree pick up through 1/21 on regular collection days Teen Book Club <i>Mockingjay</i> by Collins, Library, 4pm Biggest Loser weight loss program by Visone Holistic Healing Ctr, Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 11	Coffee with Twp Manager Steamers, Streets of Cranberry, 9:30am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm <i>Savvy Social Security Planning: What Baby Boomers Need to Know to Maximize Retirement Income</i> by Janet Bouma, Library, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm			WED 12	Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Grade 1-3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7:30pm
THURS 13	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30am Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 14		SAT 15	Elks Hoop Shoot Freethrow Contest † Gymnasium, 9am-12pm	SUN 16	MON 17
TUES 18	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 19	Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Half Broke Horse</i> by Walls, Library, 7pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Grade 1-3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7:30pm	THURS 20	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 21	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY Library Board Mtg Library Mtg Rm, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm
SUN 23	MON 24	Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>Three Cups of Tea</i> , by Mortenson, Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 25	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm <i>Mothers & Daughters Growing Together: Puberty from 10-13 Years of Age</i> presented by Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm		SAT 22	Cookbook Club: Prepare a <i>Rachel Ray</i> cookbook dish Library, 12-2pm
THURS 27	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ◆ Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 28	Not Just Ballroom Dance Gymnasium, 7-11pm	SAT 29	SUN 30	MON 31	Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm Grade 1-3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7:30pm
							Last Day for Waterpark Early Bird Rates 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>Three Cups of Tea</i> , by Mortenson, Library, 7pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, 5:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm

FEB

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

TUES 1	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 2	GROUND HOG DAY Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm	THURS 3	CHINESE NEW YEAR Discussion Group Library, 10am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 4	Kids Night In/Parents Night Out-Camp Out * Municipal Ctr, 7-10pm
SAT 5	SUN 6	MON 7	Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours Cranberry Center for Early Education registration begins, 8:30am First Editions Book Discussion Brooklyn, by Toibin, Library, 7pm Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 8	Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm		
WED 9	Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm	THURS 10	Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 11	Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours	SAT 12	LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours Teen Valentine's Day Cupcake Decorating Library, 1:30pm
SUN 13	Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours	MON 14	VALENTINE'S DAY Friends of the Library Valentine Book Sale during Library hours Sweetheart BINGO Senior/Teen Ctr, 2-3pm Teen Book Club Library, 4pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	TUES 15	Infant Family Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 16	Books & Bagels Discussion Life of Pi by Martel, Library, 10am 2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 7pm
THURS 17	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 18	SAT 19	Computer Class • Introduction to Computers, Library, 9am Cookbook Club: Prepare a Betty Crocker cookbook dish Library, 12-2pm	SUN 20	MON 21	PRESIDENT'S DAY Twp offices open, Library closed Library Board Mtg Library Mtg Rm, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm
TUES 22	WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY Infant Family Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Toilet Training for Parents presented by Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7pm Coffee with Twp Manager Cranberry Community UP Church, Rochester Rd, 7pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm	WED 23	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 7pm	THURS 24	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm		
FRI 25	Not Just Ballroom Dance Gymnasium, 7-11pm	SAT 26	Computer Class • Internet Library, 9am	SUN 27	Civil War Read About It Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Stowe Library, 2pm	MON 28	Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club The Firm, by Grisham, Library, 7pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, 5:30pm Open Gym Basketball (18+), 8-10pm

MAR

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

TUES 1	Infant Family Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm	WED 2	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 7pm	THURS 3	Discussion Group Library, 10am 2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	FRI 4	Kids Night In/ Parents Night Out- Mardi Gras * Municipal Ctr, 7-10pm	
SAT 5	Computer Class • <i>Internet II</i> , Library, 9am Mario WI Kart Tournament † Municipal Ctr, 9am-4pm	SUN 6	Teen Tech Week Library, March 6-12	MON 7	Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm First Editions Book Discussion <i>Little Bee</i> , by Cleave, Library, 7pm	TUES 8	Infant Family Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Mardi Gras Celebration with Dixieland music by the North Hills Symphonic Band, Library, 7pm	
WED 9	ASH WEDNESDAY 2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 7pm	THURS 10	2 and 3 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr, Senior Ctr, 9:30am Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 11	SAT 12	Computer Class • Computer Security, Library, 9am	SUN 13	Daylight Savings Time Begins
MON 14	Teen Book Club Library, 4pm HOA Neighborhood Forum Mtg Municipal Ctr, Admin Rm, 6:30pm	TUES 15	Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Wild Girl</i> by Fergus, Library, 10am	WED 16	THURS 17	ST. PATRICK'S DAY Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 18	
SAT 19	Computer Class • <i>Word I</i> , Library, 9am Library Chefs of Cranberry – prepare a dish from chef of the month, Mr. Food, Library, 12-2pm	SUN 20	First Day of Spring	MON 21	Library Board Mtg Library Mtg Rm, 6:30pm Zoning Hearing Board Mtg (if needed) Council Chambers, 7:30pm	TUES 22	Solve Your Child's Sleep Problems presented by Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7pm	
WED 23	THURS 24	Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	FRI 25	Not Just Ballroom Dance Gymnasium, 7-11pm	SAT 26	Computer Class • <i>Word II</i> Library, 9am	SUN 27	Civil War Read About It <i>Lincoln</i> , by Vidal Library, 2pm
MON 28	Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, 5:30pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>The Help</i> , by Stockett, Library, 7pm	TUES 29	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm	WED 30	Family Pajama Time Library, 7pm	THURS 31	4 and 5 Year Old Storytime • Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Open Gym Basketball (30+), 8-10pm	

In Briefs



Preschool is open.

Openings for mid-term registration of four and five year old pre-Kindergarten students are

now available for classes beginning in January as well as those starting this fall. The program offers a choice of morning or afternoon sessions that meet for two and a half hours, four days a week. The goal is to provide a more formal out-of-home setting for early socialization, physical activity, cognitive and language skills. To do so, it follows the Creative Curriculum for Preschool approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Monthly tuition is \$170 for residents, \$195 for nonresidents.

Go off the deep end.

Cranberry's Parks & Recreation department is offering



the deepest Waterpark discounts of the year in January. Membership for families, couples and individuals using the pool as little as once a week in the summer will save at least a dollar over the normal daily admission price. Use it more, and you save even more. Some members surveyed at the end of last season said they had used the pool more than 50 times in 2010; that's a huge savings. If you join in January, take a full 20 percent off the standard membership price. Contact Parks & Recreation for details on preschool, Waterpark or basketball at 724-776-4806, ext 1129.



Crying foul.

From almost the day it opened, Graham Park visitors have seen a large number of foul balls – as well

as home runs – landing outside the perimeters of baseball fields I and J. This year, there may be fewer to see. In partnership with CTA, the Board is seeking bids for the material to build a series of elevated nets around the backstop and foul lines of the two fields. The new system, which will raise the current 28-foot backstop fence height to 38 feet and raise the current 8-foot infield fence height to 28 feet, is projected to retain three quarters of the foul balls hit once it's completed.

Basketball advances

a bracket. Co-ed youth basketball in Cranberry begins for children as young as five, where they are grouped by age into two-year cohorts for instruction and play up through age ten. Starting this winter, however, the Parks & Recreation department is adding a new bracket for older players, ages eleven through thirteen. In fact, according to program coordinator Jason Mentel, the department is working to form an entire league of teams with players in that age range – many of whom will have advanced through the earlier stages of instruction in the program. Openings in all age categories are currently available and adult volunteers for coaching and officiating are always welcome.



Tax break.

Take a breather. Your joint 2011 Butler County-Cranberry Township real estate tax notice won't be mailed out until

March 1 and it can still be paid at a discount through April 30. If your home is your primary residence, you may be eligible for a homestead tax break – but only if you fill out the appropriate form. Contact tax collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or stop by his Municipal Center office to get yours. And if you've refinanced, changed your mortgage company, or are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, let him know now so you won't find yourself unpleasantly surprised later.



Free mortgage

counseling. If you're falling behind on your mortgage, it may be possible to renegotiate its terms with your lender. The Housing Authority of Butler County has a free program that provides Butler County residents with confidential counseling. The program can involve Butler County Courts in bringing lenders and borrowers together to re-negotiate agreements. Counselors can also assist first-time home buyers with analysis and advice on credit issues. Counseling sessions are by appointment in the Cranberry Public Library, Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:30. To schedule an appointment, call 724-287-6797.



Firefighter profile:



whatever its source, firefighter Dave Mack excels at compartmentalizing and balancing the different aspects of his life. That includes his life as a professional accountant, a public sector employee, a family man, a fitness enthusiast, and a volunteer. There are tradeoffs for everything, he understands, and some things are in conflict. But you have to organize your time, and you have to make choices.

Back in rural Berks County, where Mack grew up, one of his early choices was learning to fight fires. But formal training to become a firefighter was not how most people there learned their skills – at least not in the mid-'80s when he joined the Kutztown fire company. Already an Army veteran with two years of active duty behind him by age 19, Mack's education as a firefighter was mainly through hands-on experience.

"I did some training," he acknowledged, "but I didn't go to an official Essentials class back then. I went to training nights. And whenever we got calls, I'd hop in the truck. So it was On-the-Job-Training."

His more formal education, which was also underway at that time, was taking place at nearby Kutztown University where he studied accounting and met his future wife, Pittsburgh native and fellow business student Sheila Whigham. Then in 1989, following their graduation, Mack was hired by the state Auditor General's department – a position he has held for the past 21 years –

Dave Mack's Fire Compartment

Perhaps it's the accounting mindset which serves him so well on his day job. But

starting out examining the records of state-aided healthcare facilities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Graduating college with a major in accounting and becoming a Certified Public Accountant are two different things. Mack had already earned the diploma, but he badly wanted the full certification which would allow him to advance in his career. So he left the fire service and for the next three years, used his free time to prepare for the CPA exam.

Today Sheila, whose financial specialty eventually turned toward home lending, closes mortgage loans for a contractor that services various companies. But after graduating college, her Pittsburgh roots exerted a powerful pull, so in 1990, the couple relocated to Economy Borough with baby David, Jr., and then in November of 1998, to their newly-built home in Cranberry along with younger son Connor and daughter Mariah.

The following summer, the family dropped in for Cranberry's Fourth of July Community Day. The Fire Company was manning a recruitment table. By then it had been ten years since Mack had left the fire service, an experience he continued to miss as his accounting career advanced. "We walked by, and Sheila said 'no.' But I signed to join the department, and started in August of '99," he

recalled. "Less than a month later, I was doing the Essentials class."

Over the next eleven years, Mack added further qualifications to his resume: Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Local Level Instructor, in between serving as coach for his children's softball, soccer, and in-line hockey teams. Sheila, in the meantime, became active in the Ladies Auxiliary. And Connor joined the Junior Firefighters unit.

All say that they appreciate the camaraderie of the fire service as well as the opportunity to connect with others in their adopted community. But it isn't always fun, particularly when someone gets hurt in an accident.

It's not that it doesn't bother us; it does. It's just that you've got to compartmentalize. You do the best you can and get them out fast enough that they can get to the hospital.

"I don't have an accurate figure, but in the last eleven years I've been on maybe 15 fatalities, and some of them have been kids," Mack reflected. "It's not that it doesn't bother us; it does. It's just that you've got to compartmentalize. You do the best you can, and hopefully you'll get them out fast enough that they can get to the hospital and have their best chance." ~



A family affair. State auditor and firefighter Dave Mack, right, along with wife Sheila, son Connor and daughter Mariah, have found taking part in the work of Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company to be a direct route into the heart of their adopted community.

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

Salute The Officers

Members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company elected the following officers for 2011: **President**, Bruce Hezlep; **Vice President**, John Kontros; **Secretary**, Dennis Kimmel; **Treasurer**, Jim Cole; **Director**, Jim McConnell; **Director**, Tom Kingensmith; **Chief**, Brian Kovac; **Assistant Chief**, Todd Rice; **1st Captain**, Larry Clutter; **2nd Captain**, Dave Mack; **1st Lieutenant**, Jeff Gooch; **2nd Lieutenant**, Steve Tedesco; **Rescue Officer**, Tim Barch.

Thanks to all and congratulations from a grateful community.



Township Fire Hydrants To Fly The Flag

Last year, about 300 of Cranberry's 1,100 fire hydrants received color-coded paint jobs. The four-color system, used to signify the flow rating for each hydrant, helps firefighters know more about the water they have available in responding to a blaze. But even a brilliant color code is useless if the hydrant is buried in snow, which is what happened in February 2010.

So starting in December, Township hydrants became easier to spot – even in blizzard conditions. Five-foot tall fiberglass poles, sporting small red and white plastic flags, are being bolted to the top of each hydrant. The combined seven-foot height of the posts and the hydrants on which they're mounted should be enough to make their locations visible, even in near whiteout conditions.

"We're going to start with the cul de sacs where they have a hard time removing snow because there's nowhere to push it out," Fire Company assistant administrator

Mark Nanna explained. "Last year, we had front loaders go in and remove the snow, but they had nowhere to dump it. So it ended up covering the hydrants.

"Eventually, we're going to do all the fire hydrants in the Township. And our Community Development department is working it into their policy for building contractors. Today, for someone to put a new hydrant in, they have to paint it to the color of the flow and now also put a marker on. So the builders are going to pick up some of the cost.

Normally, Township Sewer & Water personnel clear snow from around the fire hydrants, but in 2010, they needed help. "After last year's snow, we had so much trouble that we had to send Public Works people and Fire Company volunteers to dig the hydrants out. Now everyone's game for it," he said.

However, locating a hydrant is only the first step; actually getting to the hydrant, attaching hoses and operating its valves are essential follow-up



The combined seven-foot height of the posts and the hydrants on which they're mounted should be enough to make their location visible, even in near whiteout conditions.

steps. So Nanna asks homeowners to share in that responsibility. "When you're out there shoveling, if you have a hydrant in your yard, if you could clean a little three-foot swath around it; we'd appreciate that," he said. ~



Winter In The Parks: Chill Out

Cranberry's three major parks are hunkered down for the season. Graham Park Drive is open to motor vehicle traffic as far as the bridge separating its baseball and soccer campuses. Its baseball campus restroom will remain open. In Community Park, Ernie Mashuda Drive is open as far as the dog park access road. The park's tennis court restroom will remain open through the winter. The North Boundary Park access road will remain open, and its soccer field restrooms will be available through the winter months.

Championship Hopes Go Down The Drain, At Least For Now

It's not an Olympic event – at least not yet. But they came from all over. And for 37 teams of crack technicians competing in the Water Environment Federation's National Operators Challenge held in October, it was just as big and even more prestigious.

The contestants, each of whom had survived their own statewide eliminations, trained and prepared themselves throughout the year for what was billed as the biggest smackdown in the wastewater treatment industry.

Brett Lester, one of Cranberry's own, put the Township's reputation on the line as his four-man team assembled to participate in five demanding events: a collection system event, a laboratory event, a maintenance event, a safety event, and process event.

Over a grueling pentathlon of speed and skill-testing challenges – including the brutal membrane filtration analysis using the Hach m-ColiBlue24 method – the teams struggled to determine who would wind up atop the hill of biosolids – the industry's Best of the Best.

"I've been involved with the Pennsylvania section of the committee that does Operators Challenge since 2005," Brush Creek plant manager Mike Sedon pointed out. "And Pennsylvania is unique. Whereas most contestants who enter this competition are all from one treatment plant, on the western



Action figures. Competitors from more than 30 states and several foreign countries in the WEFTEC Operators Challenge tested their skill and timing in New Orleans last fall. Cranberry's team placed in the Laboratory competition.

The Cure For Ailing Sewer Lines

It wasn't terribly long ago that if you needed to repair or replace a damaged sewer pipe, you had to dig it out, make your repairs, refill the trench and then landscape over it. If the pipe happened to run under your front yard, well, too bad; there go your lawn, trees, bushes and driveway.

But an alternative repair technology – the sewer system equivalent of laparoscopic surgery – is now being used to fix damaged sewer lines in Cranberry, and it's all happening underground. It's called 'cured in-place slip lining' and it's being applied to many of the main lines in Cranberry's extensive sewer system. The technique was first used in Cranberry last summer when sewer lines in the Fernway neighborhood were rehabbed.

"Last year a robotic pilot project identified which stretches of pipe needed to be relined," Sewer & Water Field Operations Manager Joe Leavens explained. "The cured in-place slip lining is what gets installed inside the sanitary or storm sewer line. They roll it out on the road and cut it, like a tube sock without a foot. Then it's folded over and sent downstream. It goes from manhole to manhole or from one catch basin to another."

"After they send it down the line, they use live steam to heat it up. Then it expands, cures in place, and adheres to the host pipe. And as it cures, it hardens and turns it into PVC pipe. Then they go back in with a cutter and open up all the laterals that tie it into the buildings. If it's leaking, they go in and grout those

side of the state, we have individuals from four separate plants.

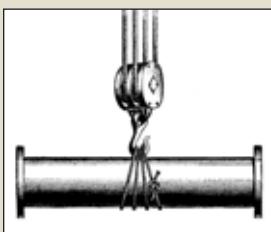
"We had somebody on the Pennsylvania team drop out this year, so our Brett Lester stepped up to the plate and participated for the first time. Out of 37 teams, they placed third overall in the lab event. So they got hardware—a plaque—which is better than nothing."

"Of course, we were hoping for a little higher placement, but as long as the Township supports Mr. Lester, I'm sure the team will make it another year. We left a lot of stuff on the table this year; we'd like to go back and see if we can't do better." ~



Fire in the hole? No, it's steam, which is being used to heat, form and cure a plastic liner inside the original sewer pipes of Fox Run. Public Works Sewer & Water field operations crew leader Rob Caughey, left, holds a sample. In November and December, a contractor used the cured-in-place process to re-line 6,800 feet of pipe throughout Cranberry. The \$300,000 project, undertaken as part of the Township's Infiltration and Inflow reduction effort, will greatly extend the service life of the pipe and reduce the load on Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant.

connections. And they do all of this remotely. That has lots of benefits," he said. ~



In The Pipeline. A series of major Township water projects are steadily advancing. A new 36-inch sanitary sewer line running from the southern boundary of Cranberry to the Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant has now progressed to the permitting stage. A new fresh water pumping station on Commonwealth Drive has gone out for bids. And a section of the water main between Freedom and Rochester Road is currently in line for an upgrade. Although water conservation efforts in Cranberry have been quite successful, peak demand is expected to grow as the Township's population expands. Together, the projects are estimated to cost \$8-9 million; applications for state matching grants have been submitted, although their outcome is far from certain.

Brush Creek Plant Tests Extreme Recycling

After wastewater has been screened, skimmed, settled, clarified, filtered, aerated and returned to the stream, what's left behind is soggy, evil-smelling sludge. And at Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant, it costs around \$7,000 a month to have it hauled away and buried in landfill. But what else can you do with it?

Toledo-based N-Viro International thinks it has an answer: use it as fuel. If they're right, Cranberry may someday be in a position to sell, or at least to spend less getting rid of its sludge, which can then be used in electric power generating stations.

A successful test of N-Viro's fuel concept at a Michigan State University power plant last year encouraged the company to take the next step – exploring the feasibility of burning biosolids commercially. To help, it trucked a mobile demonstration plant into Emlenton, a small borough along I-80 between Clarion and Venango counties. There, the sludge is dried and transformed into a material the consistency of cat litter. If it works as expected, it will augment the coal used in generating steam at the

nearby Scrubgrass Generating Company power plant.

However a full-scale bio-fueled power plant requires a steady source of material. So the company approached sewage treatment operators in Slippery Rock, Franklin, Zelienople and Cranberry about using their sludge to participate in the test and all agreed to do so.

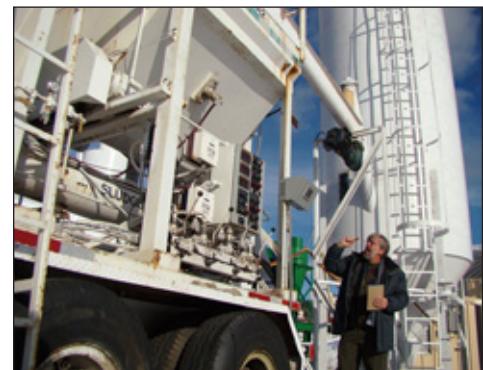
Handling sewage sludge is nothing new to N-Viro. Since it was founded in the late '80s, it has operated biosolids facilities in Canada, Ohio,

Michigan and Florida. Another plant is about to open in Israel. But those operations are different; they take the sludge and prepare it for use as a farm and garden nutrient. The Emlenton venture is about drying the sludge, mixing in fly ash, and transforming it into a granular fuel whose residual energy

can be captured in commercial-size power plants.

Cranberry may someday be in a position to sell, or at least to spend less getting rid of its sludge, which can then be used in electric power generating.

Finding environmentally beneficial uses for the Cranberry plant's residue has always been part of the Township's vision. In fact its ATAD unit, a major plant component used in stabilizing biosolids, was designed to produce 'Class A' sludge – a form



You're burning what? N-Viro Corporation process engineer David Mercer tells visitors how the company's mobile demonstration unit takes sludge from wastewater treatment plants and transforms it into an odorless material that looks like cat litter but burns like coal – only cleaner. Sludge from Cranberry's Brush Creek plant is being used in a six-month feasibility test of the concept by a power plant in Venango County.

which is relatively odorless and free of harmful pathogens. But the process was fairly expensive and no takers were ever found for its output. For burning it as a fuel, however, less costly Class B sludge would be perfectly acceptable.

Cranberry's first sludge pickup took place in December; N-Viro's pilot test is expected to run for six months. And if the Michigan test results are any indication, the harmful emissions from burning the novel material are actually below what they would have been if the plant were to run on coal alone. ~

Cranberry Opens Space-Age Traffic Operations Center

It's not the bridge of Starship Enterprise, even though it looks that way. It's actually Cranberry's Traffic Operations Center – a new nerve center for the Township's growing network of traffic signals. The new facility, which began operating inside the Public Works building in November, features leading-edge signal control and video traffic monitoring capabilities that currently regulate 35 traffic signals, primarily along Routes 19, 228 and Freedom Road.

Prior to the startup of its new centralized system, Cranberry's traffic lights were operated in four separate closed-loop zones. Each signal communicated through fiber optic cables to an on-street master control cabinet within its own zone. The architecture of the new centralized system replaces those zones and is designed to match the needs of a growing community throughout its expected 15-20 year lifespan. Its technology uses real-time data to seamlessly shift signal timing sequences and optimize conditions on the roadway. Its software integrates traffic signal control, field device monitoring, information collection and data management, which is presented in graphic displays.

Using information technologies to control transportation resources is not a new concept. 'Intelligent transportation,' as it is known in the

industry, means coupling data and communication technologies with transportation systems to optimize safety, reduce vehicle wear, shorten travel times, and cut fuel consumption. It applies to vehicles, transportation schedules, and highway design, as well as to information systems concerning traffic conditions.

PennDOT has also incorporated that concept into its funding philosophy. Instead of building more roads, adding more lanes, and generally increasing road capacity, the agency favors applying real-time information in ways that allow travelers to use the available infrastructure more efficiently.

In 2006, as part of an incentive package for Westinghouse to remain in western Pennsylvania, Governor Rendell's office offered the company a \$1.25 million grant. It was intended

to finance any public infrastructure improvements on its Cranberry Woods site. However the company was only able to use half of those funds for eligible improvements,

so it assigned the remainder to a partnership of Cranberry Township and the Butler County Community Development Corporation.

According to state officials, the balance of the grant could be used to purchase software and related traffic control technologies, provided they were part of a publicly-owned



Beam me up. A torrent of traffic information pours into Cranberry's new Traffic Operations Center around the clock, in real time. New traffic signal control architecture centralizes the sequencing of traffic lights throughout Cranberry and into several adjacent communities as well.

system with some credible connection to the Westinghouse site – including the traffic generated by its workforce. As a result, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors agreed to upgrade the Township's traffic system and approved the partnership created to utilize the unspent portion of the state's grant. It was the release of those funds which helped to finance the total replacement of Cranberry's closed-loop traffic management system.

It arrived just in time. Cranberry's comprehensive plan, adopted last year, anticipates a population of 50,000 by 2030, along with all the traffic associated with a community of that size. Although the plan contemplates a modest expansion of the Township's road network and the selective addition of safety amenities such as turning lanes over the next 20 years, Cranberry's primary focus is on making best use of the infrastructure which is already in place. ~

The Blessing Of Asphalt. Newell Drive, the access road which formerly led from Rochester Road to St. Ferdinand's church, is now permanently closed. In its place, a new and wider driveway shared by both the church and the Municipal Center officially opened in November. Plans call for the recently constructed driveway, which features new landscaping features, additional parking, and a wider carriageway, to become a signalized intersection at some point in the future.





Street Gentrification Expanded. Cranberry Township's Streetscape Enhancement Overlay District ordinance, previously adopted for major portions of Rt. 19, Rt. 228, Franklin Road and Rowan Road has taken another step. The ordinance, which would be mandatory for any properties along the designated roadways that seek land development permits involving at least 1,500 square feet or major use changes, now applies to portions of Freedom Road as well. The Future Land Use Map adopted as part of Cranberry's 2009 comprehensive plan identified corridors throughout the Township for enhancements that create a more vibrant streetscape. The ordinance regulates street trees, lighting, sidewalks, benches and 'street walls' – hedge rows that run along the corridor, and brick or wrought iron fencing at major intersections.

When Should You Call 911?

Most Americans have been schooled to believe that 911 is for emergency calls. And they're right. Crashes, thefts, break-ins, trespassers, and so on are naturals for 911. But should you use 911 only for emergencies? The answer is different in different parts of the country. And in Butler County, 911 is used for non-emergency services as well.

Police, Fire, and EMS in Cranberry Township are all dispatched by Butler 911 – a countywide service which uses radio announcements, preceded by a series of tone frequencies, to alert the various services of a need to respond. But residents frequently encounter situations which, although significant, are hard to characterize as emergencies: dead deer on the road; someone locked out of their car; sighting a speeding vehicle, or a suspicious person. So they leave phone messages or emails instead. Problem is, that's not the way it works in Butler County.

"We've got to let people know that they have to call 911 for any police services," Township Public Safety Director Jeff Schueler explained. "That's how we're dispatched. Our record management system is tied into the 911 system. Some people have gotten into the habit of calling the station and leaving a voice mail message. We come in on a Monday

morning and there are people who have called in and left messages about suspicious vehicles, but they never called 911."

The Fire Company has the same issue. "People call the fire station and say 'It's really not an emergency,'" Fire Company

Administrator Mark Nanna pointed out.

"What they don't understand is that we can't go and do anything until we're toned out by 911. We have to put in a report for every call, and we can't go out and do something without a 911 report."

The police department's reporting is even more closely tied to the 911 system. "Ours actually takes data from the 911 call and pumps it into our Response Management System," Schueler said. "So when the officers start their reports, there's already information in there.

Other communities may have a 311 system, which is for non-emergency calls for public services. And we're getting a lot of people moving in from other areas who are reluctant to call 911 because

they've always been told to use 911 just for emergencies. But Butler County doesn't work that way." ~

“People have to call 911 for any police services. That’s how we’re dispatched. Our record management system is tied into the 911 system.”



Volunteer Ambulance Corps Regrouped, Repositioned, Renamed

The Cranberry Volunteer Ambulance Corps is no more. Over a period of years, the agency had stumbled in positioning itself for managed growth, Ambulance Board Chairman Scott Smith told a meeting of Cranberry's Supervisors on November 4. Poor management coupled with ineffective financial and operating controls led to a dire situation in 2008 when the agency was forced to seek loans just to make payroll. As a result, its viability as an enterprise was very much in doubt.

To a large extent, its crisis was the result of gradual changes in the social environment which had taken place over the 41 years since the service was founded. Changes in state regulations, medical financing, training, and the 24/7 availability of volunteers in a fast-growing community all conspired to render the more relaxed procedures of the original agency obsolete.

Today, however, those deficiencies have been corrected, Smith reported. And the agency is poised for a strong future. One key to that turn

around was the appointment of its first full-time executive director, paramedic Steve Tedesco, whose leadership was instrumental in raising morale among the agency's paid staff and its volunteers.

A new Board of Directors was named. Comprised of professionals from business, medicine and law, the Board is well-positioned to address the organization's financial, operational and personnel issues. One of its earliest actions was to insist on data-driven management control systems to allow closer tracking of finances and better allocation of resources, as well as improved planning. The organization also acquired a new ambulance, featuring a more rugged design, earlier this year.

To formalize those changes in direction and attitude, the organization adopted a new mission statement



and began scouting for a more central location than its current base station on Thomson Park Drive – one which will allow an ambulance to reach anywhere in Cranberry within eight minutes. It also changed its legal name to the Cranberry Township Emergency Medical Service – a change which will be reflected in the graphics on its four ambulances.

One of the Board's earliest actions was to insist on data-driven management control systems.

Last year, the medical transport agency, which now has an annual budget approaching \$1 million, responded to 2,600 calls. Smith anticipates its call volume to grow at 1 to 1.5% a year for the foreseeable future. ~



Take Your Medicine

Drug Take-Back Day, a national program organized by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to take unused, unwanted, and expired prescription medications out of the wastewater stream and away from the hands of potential abusers, was a success, according

to Township police Lt. Kevin Meyer. In Cranberry, the four-hour drive-through event yielded more than 86 pounds of pills, tablets and capsules as well as a trash receptacle filled with items like syrups, ointments, powders and vaccines which were not officially eligible for the collection.

Mark Your Calendar...



2011
Community Days
July 7, 8, and 9



Wintertime Tips And Reminders

No bonfires. Outdoor burning is prohibited in Cranberry. After several weeks, a cut Christmas tree can burn like a torch, creating a major fire hazard. Collection Connection customers can put their trees out at the curb for free pickup on their normal collection days during the second and third weeks of January.

Clean your chimney. Chimney fires from log-burning fireplaces are a major cause of house fires. Creosote buildup inside the stack can block the chimney from properly venting smoke and sometimes cause it to ignite. A home chimney inspection by a professional chimney sweep is about \$75; inspection and cleaning together are about \$150.

Shovel out hydrants. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company

would very much appreciate your help in making it accessible by clearing snow from the area immediately around that hydrant. In case of emergency, having clear access to the hydrant would save first responders precious minutes in extinguishing a house fire.

Clear walkways. Clearing sidewalks in the right-of-way in front of your house is every homeowner's responsibility. Residents and businesses are required to shovel them within 48 hours of a snow event. Beyond that, however, Cranberry's first responders are keenly interested having clear access all the way to the door of your home so they can deliver emergency services.

Clear around space heaters. Electric and kerosene heaters are great sources of auxiliary heat. But they can also present fire hazards.

Make sure to keep the area around them clear of anything, like window curtains, which could ignite.

Oscillating electric heaters usually have bottom-mounted safety switches, but their back and forth motion can cause them to bump into nearby objects without activating that switch, so make sure the area around the heater is clear.

Dress for winter. Cold weather can be exhilarating. But it can also be dangerous. Cold temperatures put an extra strain on your heart and heavy exertion, such as shoveling snow, or pushing a car, increase the risk of a heart attack. Wear warm clothing in several layers; air trapped between the layers acts as an insulator. Always wear a hat or cap; half your body heat could be lost through an uncovered head. And keep an eye on children, who often push themselves the limits in cold weather play. ~

Ouch!

Library Trims Services, Implements Fees, To Offset Budget Shortfall

Library patronage tends to be counter-cyclical; during difficult economic times, public libraries become primary resources for job hunters seeking print and online information about employment opportunities. That has certainly been the pattern in Cranberry's public library. But job seekers, along with other patrons, will feel the sting of state and county cutbacks of support for library services starting in January.

According to Cranberry Public Library director Leslie Pallotta, state financial aid for the library, which was \$153,292 in 2007, is projected to be just \$77,535 next year. County aid, which was \$47,544 in 2008, is forecast to be \$22,490 in 2011.

Those are huge funding swings for a library with a total annual operating budget of approximately \$500,000.

Financial support from the Township government will help to soften the blow, but only a bit. Cranberry's library funding, which was \$237,891 in 2009, will rise to \$260,292 next year. But the remaining shortfall will result in shorter hours, reduced spending on books and other materials, as well as the lapse of many research database subscriptions, Ms. Pallotta told the Board of Supervisors on November 4.

In addition to cutbacks, a number of formerly free services will have fees attached starting January 1. Among them: a \$1 checkout fee for DVDs; a



\$3 fee for guest computer use; a \$20 exam proctoring fee; and a \$25 annual fee for local nonprofit organizations using the library's meeting room.

At the same time, however, Ms. Pallotta presented the Board with the Library's official 'wish list' of enhancements which includes a high-definition TV, an LCD projector, and a laptop PC with accessories. Total cost: roughly \$3,000. Private donations are always welcome. ~



CRANBERRY

TOWNSHIP

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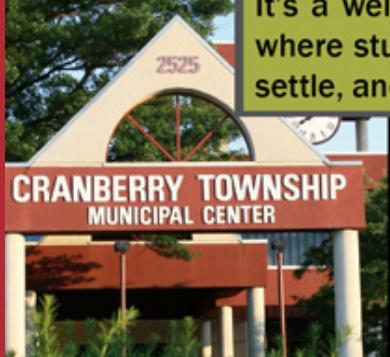
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CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
built for you.

POSTAL PATRON
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066



Who was Cranberry built for?

Cranberry Township was named for the shrub which once flourished here. For generations, the Township, like its namesake, grew organically – responding to local residents' needs and opportunities.

It still does. But today's Cranberry is also the product of people from all over – people who came to build their careers, build their families, build their savings and build better lives for themselves.

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



Maybe you.

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