



Cranberrytoday

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2011 **SPRING** EDITION

Township Infrastructure a Top Priority in 2011

America's infrastructure is crumbling. And Pennsylvania is no exception; an infrastructure report card last year from the state's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers was dismal. And the Commonwealth's current budget shortfall will only make it worse.

To a great extent, the problem reflects competing claims on public spending at a time of declining revenues. But in Cranberry Township, the priorities are clear: funding the maintenance and enhancement of infrastructure belonging to taxpayers and customers remains the Board of Supervisor's top priority. This year, a number of projects will get underway in keeping with that directive. Among them:



Roadway Maintenance. Despite declining local revenue from state gasoline tax, 2011 will see the Township's largest street resurfacing program in over a decade. More than 15 lane miles of local roadway will be resurfaced. A pavement management system has been instituted to assure satisfactory ratings on all Township-owned roadways; roads suffering from deferred maintenance cost much more to repair – an option unacceptable to Cranberry's Board.

Roadway Capacity and Safety Improvements.

Although state Act 44 of 2007 sharply restricts funding for increasing the capacity of state highways, Cranberry is finding ways to advance a number of projects affecting its state highways. This year,



improvements along the Freedom Road corridor from Commonwealth Drive to Bucks Road will include new turning lanes, a new traffic light at Haldeman Drive, new sidewalks, and traffic signal upgrades. Funding comes from a federal grant matched by impact fees from developers collected by the Township.

Construction will start this spring on intersection improvements at Thomson Park and Rochester Road, also funded by developer dollars. The Township is actively involved with new north- and southbound ramps from Route 228 to I-79. It is also working on the design for additional capacity improvements on Route 228, on property acquisition providing for a connector linking Route 19 to local roads as far south as Freedom Road, and on a series

of new turning lanes at the intersection of Oglevue and Rowan Roads with Route 19. In addition to construction, the Township is implementing new traffic signal software to move traffic more efficiently along existing roadways.



Public Water Improvements.

Cranberry uses sophisticated modeling to establish current and future water needs. Ongoing efforts are in place to assure that system's

efficiency. For example, the Township loses less than 9 percent of its water –

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Low-Profile Board Provides High-Value Advice To Supervisors

The five members of Cranberry's Planning Advisory Commission typically shun the spotlight. But their recommendations concerning plans proposed by developers are taken very seriously by the Township's governing Board of Supervisors, whose approval is required for any project to move forward. In fact, for as long as anyone can recall, there have been no more than two times in the last 20 years where the Commission's advice was not accepted.

Two of its members who have been on the Commission since the mid-'90s especially embody the Commission's spirit and goals. They recently reflected on the PAC's mission.

By day, Bill Thompson works with an environmental engineering company specializing in municipal water and wastewater treatment systems. John Morgan specializes in transportation and logistics. Both are veterans of the Commission's 2006 transition from a detail-oriented, seven-member organization into today's more streamlined body with its focus on Cranberry's Big Picture.

To Thompson, a key contribution of the PAC is bringing a greater measure of uniformity to the development process. "Every development thinks they're special, that they have their own special requirements, so they should be able to have modifications or waivers to Cranberry's regulations," he said. The pressure to exempt projects from requirements is relentless, but each request needs to be carefully examined.

Following an initial Township checklist, it is the Planning Advisory Commission that gets a first look at builders' requests for exceptions. "Are they truly a hardship? Do they improve safety? Is there a special benefit from this request? Does it help blend in or tie with something that's there already?" Thompson asks. "We look at it as a committee and decide: are these legitimate and justified requests? Then we pass our decisions on to the Board of Supervisors, who act as they see fit.

For John Morgan, the central value of the PAC results from its freedom. Unlike Township staff members, whose reviews of submitted plans are constrained by the codes they are obliged to enforce, PAC members are free to go farther and look at proposed developments as an ordinary resident would.

"I think the Planning Advisory Commission's job is to look at it from a citizen's viewpoint versus a strictly ordinance and legal viewpoint," Morgan said.

"We can say to the developer 'yes, we understand you're meeting the ordinance, but we would like you to take another look at the building material you're using so that it blends in better with the buildings on either side, or could you do something about the residential area behind – maybe do a little more plantings than are called for in the ordinance.'" I think that's the role we play.

That role has evolved over time. "Early on we were looking at how we were going to manage growth in Cranberry," Morgan recalled. "Back when I first sat on the Commission, we looked at how do we prevent Cranberry from becoming a poster child for sprawl? That was my guide. Having lived all over the country, I got to see managed growth versus unmanaged growth.

"But that's gradually changing," he reflected. "Now we look at how to maintain growth in a manner that works for everybody. Cranberry's more mature than it was 12 years ago. And that changes how we look at things."

Ron Henshaw, Cranberry's Director of Community Development, is the staff liaison to the PAC. He not only understands the value it can bring to the development process, he

has also seen the individual contributions PAC members have made. "John and Bill have been at the heart of the Township's planning efforts for a long time now," he said.

"They have not only seen Cranberry grow into a vital and desirable community, they've helped to make it happen. They've asked the questions our residents would ask, and they've never been shy about pushing developers for better, safer, more attractive projects. A tremendous amount of what Cranberry is today can be credited to John and Bill's work." ~

The Planning Advisory Commission's job is to look at proposed projects from a citizen's viewpoint versus a strictly ordinance and legal viewpoint.



Inconspicuous. Sharon Beck, James Colella, William Thompson, Susan Rusnak and John Morgan work closely with Community Development Director Ron Henshaw in reviewing proposed building projects and offering recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. All of their deliberations are open to the public.

Township-County Park Plan Poised To Begin

Cranberry's 25-year long range plan, adopted in 2009, acknowledged the need for public parks and open space as part of the Township's vision for its future, but only in the broadest possible terms. The details of what that would include, what it would look like, what it would cost, and how it would be paid for were deferred until later.

Well, it's later now. And a year-long planning process to develop that detail is about to get underway. A \$125,000 grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will finance a joint planning project with Butler County Parks that looks at future needs in line with the 2030 build-out envisioned in the Cranberry Plan. It's actually three plans in one.

"It's a plan that looks at future needs for parks and programming; it's a plan that looks at greenways and open space, and it will also include the recently-adopted Bicycle-Pedestrian plan," John Skorupan, Chairman of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors, explained.

The latter plan identifies how the Township intends to move forward implementing its recommended routes for bikes and pedestrians.

But advance preparation is required. "Before you even start, you have to inventory all the assets and opportunities in the area – both public and private," according to Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl. "Then we listen to what people have to say; we develop reality plans with the Township as a whole, and then we move forward to help make those plans happen."

In the past, Cranberry had developed other ten-year plans for its parks and recreational assets. One such plan was completed in 1994 and slightly revised in 1997. It guided the Township's spending priorities through 2007. In 2002-2001, the consultant who prepared the original master plan conducted a mid-plan survey of Township households to see if the plan was still on the right path. The findings confirmed that it was going in the direction people wanted.

However, as a community of modest size, there are limits to what the Township can do. And after listening to people in the community say what they want, there's a reality check.

"After we've heard from them, we'll sit down and say: what's doable out of all these visions and dreams?" Diehl said. "If someone comes back and says I want to build a Disney theme park, well, that's not really what we're here for. We prioritize the more

realistic things based on the information we've received. And there are certainly things we may be able to do in-house to enhance what's there now or to find others who can assist us with projects like trail connections and extensions.

"You're going to hear just about everything," Diehl cautioned. "Do we need some type of indoor soccer



arena? An indoor pool? Bocce courts? More tennis courts? A bridle path? We need to sit down with the Township as a whole and create priorities, decide what we can afford, and how we want to devote Township resources to each one. Then we need to set timetables on them."

"We're expecting to make a recommendation to the County about selecting a consultant for the Cranberry Township portion of the project within the next month or so," Trant added. "There will be a committee set up to provide input to the process; there'll be lots of public meetings, there will be a survey, there'll be lots of opportunities for public involvement."

But there's also a practical side to the Township's visionary planning. "When the state considers funding local projects, they want to know that you've planned it out, that you've developed it in cooperation with your residents, and you've got a credible course of action to follow. That gives them the confidence to support it," Diehl observed. ~

Supervisors, Planning Commission Go Paperless

For years, whether at meetings, at home, or in between, the five members of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors would lug heavy three-ring binders packed with drafts of ordinances, department reports, construction plans, payment requests, and more to review and consider prior to taking official action.

The binders' contents, typically running into several hundred pages, would be updated by Township office staff for each of the Board's twice-monthly meetings. And a duplicate process applied to Cranberry's independent, five-member Planning Advisory Commission.

"We were making 15,000-plus copies a month to prepare packages for the Planning Advisory Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and staff," Township manager Jerry Andree explained. "There were 25-35 hours of staff time a month used in preparing those packets. That's a huge amount of time, and it's contrary to our sustainability principles."

While informal measures to improve efficiency and reduce costs have been practiced by the Township for years, its 2010 adoption of a formal mission statement made them matters of official policy. As a result, its decades-old, paper-based system became something of an embarrassment. It also represented a significant expense – one which could, at least in principle, be reduced through the use of new technology.

"We'd been looking for a paperless agenda system for a long time," Andree noted. "But most of them

cost somewhere around \$70,000. Then Microsoft came along and offered us Agenda.net as a promotion, and it cost us just \$19,500. Annual maintenance fees are usually 10 percent, which for a \$70,000 package is \$7,000 a year. Agenda.net is only \$1,300 a year in maintenance fees. So with the savings it allows us, the whole system will be paid for in less than 16 months."

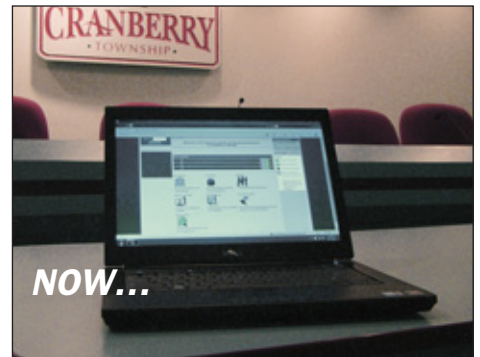
For Cranberry, the new system, introduced in March, is not only cheaper, it's better. It gives the Board more opportunity to review the data. And it's Internet-accessible – everything is online with data stored in secure network servers instead of space-hungry file cabinets. Except for sensitive personnel and property negotiation documents, everything will be available to everyone.

The new system also manages the often complex workflow required for different Board procedures. "If we put a bid out today, knowing that we've got to take this to the Board in three months, it's plugged into the system and it's managed so we don't drop anything," he said. "Legal advertisements and public hearing notices and review periods are all managed so that everything ends at the Board of Supervisors at the right time."

At their meetings, the Supervisors will each have a laptop open in front of them. Visitors at Board meetings are welcome to follow along, using the Municipal Center's free wi-fi service. Any laptop or smart phone with Internet access will work, and



Save a forest. Cranberry's new Agenda.net document management system will save the Township more than 15,000 photocopies a month and improve the transparency of Board deliberations.



the Township's Agenda.net will be linked directly from the Cranberry website home page. But you don't need to come to a meeting to see what's going on; anyone, anywhere can click on it and get access.

However, only the information delivery is automated. Board members will still have to be there in person to vote. And discussion among Supervisors, as well as with people testifying at hearings, will remain a face-to-face activity. But unlike some other communities which have moved to electronic agenda systems, Cranberry's laptops will be locked down to avoid the distraction of email and web surfing during meetings.

For traditionalists, however, hard copy agendas will still be available to pick up and follow along at the meeting site, just as they always have. ~

The decades-old, paper-based system has become something of an embarrassment. It also represented a significant expense.

Chances Are, You're Too Busy To Read This!

by Bruce Mazzoni, Cranberry Township Supervisor



We're all busy. Jobs, homework, housework, and chauffeuring kids to practices, lessons or games are just a few of

the things that keep us busy – sometimes too busy. As a result, we often fail to appreciate how things get done in our community; we only notice when the things we take for granted don't happen.

Take, for example, our municipal services. Did you know that the people who plow Cranberry's roads have been past your home more than 92 times since the first snow of last November? Our road crews are on call 24/7 and they distributed over 6,000 tons of salt during the season. But if you're like most residents, you are not aware of these facts.

The same thing applies to building a strong "Sense of Community" – a major goal of our 25-year comprehensive plan. There is a tremendous amount of benefit we receive from our fellow citizens whose contributions usually go unseen.

During our work on the Cranberry Plan, we learned what makes our residents feel real sense of ownership about their community. And it's almost never just one thing; it's usually the result of different segments of the community coming together. Among them, of course, are our local government and our schools; their work is critical to our sense of community and identity. So are the 700-plus businesses located in Cranberry and the 16,000 jobs they generate.

Even more important, however, are our faith communities and nonprofit/civic groups which provide residents with opportunities to roll up their sleeves and play an active role in making Cranberry special. They are the volunteers who provide services that would cost us millions of dollars if we ever had to duplicate them using government revenue. More likely, without their involvement, either we spend more taxpayers' money or we would simply become a community in decline.

In 2010, we identified more than 650 people, each of whom had volunteered 50 hours or more to one of our nonprofit/civic organizations. There was even one firefighter who had volunteered 2,000 hours... that's huge! And

I am sure there are thousands more who volunteer for their church and school-based projects/boosters, as well as other unpaid community activities that are not reported. For example, we had 450 volunteers just for CTCC Community Days that volunteered four hours on average.

Nothing generates a strong 'Sense of Community' more than having hands-on involvement in making Cranberry a better place to live. Rotary Amphitheater and Dog Park, Miracle League Field, Cranberry



In 2010, we identified more than 650 people, who had volunteered 50 hours or more to one of our nonprofit/civic organizations. And I am sure there are thousands more that are not reported.

CUP, CTCC Community Days, our Volunteer Fire Company, our new Community Sign, our sports associations, and many, many other Township assets were all the direct results of volunteers coming together to make things happen.

Cranberry's local government encourages these partnerships and volunteer opportunities because it's a double win: involved residents

enjoy their community more than ever, and we end up providing everyone with a better quality of life while spending little or no tax money in the process.

If you are already involved, we say "thank you." If you are not, and you're interested in becoming more involved, we would love to talk with you and see how we can connect you to one of the 40 nonprofit/civic organizations that currently help make Cranberry a great place to live. Just contact me at brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net. ~

You can reach **Bruce Mazzoni** by email at bruce.mazzoni@zoominternet.net

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTARY

*Sage takes the stage***Global Software Giant Is Raising Its Profile In Cranberry**

Back in 2009, as he scanned the job postings online, then-Nova Chemicals public and government affairs specialist Matt Groom thought he spotted a misprint in an ad soliciting applicants for a product marketing manager with Sage Software.

"I remember telling my wife when I saw the job posting: 'it's got to be a typo, honey. You've got a major software developer based in Cranberry with this flagship product. I must be reading this wrong.' I'd never heard of it. How could I not have been familiar enough with Sage to know that they have something here?"

In the world of business software, Sage – a publicly-traded company with 14,000 employees worldwide and revenues in excess of \$3 billion – really is hard to miss. But it has mostly been known for its small business accounting software – the kind you can buy starting under \$100 and install on your home PC.

What is less familiar, at least until now, has been the company's high-end enterprise resource planning software, the Sage ERP X3, a product which migrated from the company's headquarters in France during the last decade and is now poised to establish itself as a perfect fit for mid-size corporations – those with annual revenues in the \$200 million to \$1 billion range. It is designed to help them streamline, manage – and sometimes completely automate – the workflow for a number of core business functions including purchasing, inventory, finance, sales, manufacturing and customer relationships.

The arrival of Sage's ERP X3 in Cranberry Business Park officially began last May, with the company's relocation from its previous office near the I-79 Wexford exit. But that

move followed a convoluted 40-year trail of international business acquisitions, divestitures, alliances and evolutions with roots reaching all the way back to a custom software company started in 1972 by two CMU graduates above a bar in Pittsburgh's Greenfield section.

Jump ahead to 2007, when Adonix – a French developer of mid-market ERP software seeking to enhance its U.S. presence – found a buyer in Sage, which was looking to climb the customer food chain from the small entrepreneurial businesses it had built its products around and into the lucrative, but highly competitive, mid-market business space.

"It was a perfect marriage," Sage Vice President Thomas George pointed out. "It's working out very well. Sage is promoting its ERP X3 very heavily in the U.S. at this point. You're going to see a lot of good things coming out of this – lots of advertising and a lot of promotion behind it."

"Sage North America has made large investments, adding team members here in the U.S. We used to report to Europe, but now we're integrated into its North American group so we can move forward here. We're growing the support call center. We're expanding the professional training center. We used to be mainly direct sales. Now it's becoming more of a partner approach; last year we signed 14 very well-known partners who are making the investment to learn Sage ERP X3 and sell it as their solution."



Sage Business Solutions Vice President Tom George, left, and Product Marketing Manager Matt Groom display a virtual Sage ERP X3 dashboard summarizing business operations at their West Kensington Drive office. The software company, with roots in Europe, is investing heavily in building a North American presence where it currently employs almost 4,000.

As before, development of the most important features in the ERP X3 package happen in Europe. But no two countries are alike, so

in Cranberry, features get Americanized and new functions that American customers require get added.

in Cranberry, those features get Americanized and new functions that American customers require get added. Other regionally-specific

versions allow business to be transacted across multiple currencies, legislative systems, regulatory bodies and languages worldwide.

"We have 65 people here on site involved in accounting, back office, direct sales, and services who do implementations for our customers. When customers want to make changes or modifications, our technical group here does that, too," George said. "We're the Sage ERP X3 knowledge center and we've been a well-hidden secret here. People don't realize that there's a company with 4,000 North American employees tucked in right behind Fun Fore All. We've kept a low profile." ~

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.

Westinghouse Puts Down Local Roots

When it broke ground for its new engineering campus and headquarters in 2007, Westinghouse Electric announced a gift to its newly adopted community: the company pledged to donate and help plant 3,000 trees in Butler County – one representing each of the employees involved in its initial move to Cranberry Woods – a project it would implement over the following few years.

Last spring, with coordination provided by United Way of Butler County, the company began fulfilling that pledge with a planting of 750 trees. This April and May, the company will continue to work toward its promised goal with the planting of another 500 – including 100 in Community Park.

On Thursday May 5, approximately 100 Westinghouse employees will take part in a Day of Caring which will include planting white pine trees around Rotary Dog Park – creating a privacy screen for nearby homes and livestock. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to be involved in other projects throughout the park including spring cleanup and applying mulch to flower beds, planters, playground areas, and around the fire station, according to Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl.

But while Cranberry will benefit from the tree planting initiative – which the company identifies as “N-Vision a Greener Future” – the project extends beyond the Township’s boundaries to include school science teachers, scouts,

conservation district members, and other community groups located throughout Butler County.

It’s a major undertaking. “Westinghouse came to us shortly after their move and wanted to know if we had any thoughts on how they might get this done,” according to United Way Executive Director Leslie Osche.

It was a logical fit because United Way’s mission has grown to include advocacy and volunteer projects in addition to charitable giving. “There’s an increased demand by companies to do community-based projects. So in our efforts to continue bringing people to the table, we’re able to make those matches occur. And it’s important for people to be engaged,” she said.

Coincidentally, around that same time, United Way had been in talks with teachers’ groups about collaborative projects. When the Westinghouse initiative was mentioned, it struck a responsive chord. “The science teachers in the room said ‘Wow! This is a great opportunity to plant trees. Maybe we could do this as a student-community outreach project, get them into

parks – get them all over the place.’

“Some of the schools are doing outdoor classrooms,” Osche said. “In the City of Butler, they did trees and shrubs for the Wayne Street Bridge Viaduct beautification. At Seneca Valley we have students doing senior projects. Some are doing memory gardens. One was trying to put some shrubbery around the Habitat for Humanity house. And there will be 250 seedlings planted in county parks and on county properties by conservation district volunteers.”

For Westinghouse, the tree project is both practical and symbolic. “Westinghouse is pleased to make this contribution to enhance communities throughout Butler County, in partnership with the United Way and local community groups,” Tony Greco, Westinghouse Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Relations said.

“In addition to the benefits the trees will bring to our area, they also will stand as a living symbol of Westinghouse’s new roots in the county and our dedication to providing the world with clean energy.” ~



**On May 5,
approximately
100 Westinghouse
employees will
take part in a Day
of Caring which
will include
planting white
pine trees around
Rotary Dog Park.**



Say Hello To Mister Yuk

The first of ten nearby Household Hazardous Waste collections in 2011 will be held by appointment on April 30 in Evans City at the corner of Route 68 and Ash Stop Road. Automotive and household cleaning products and garden chemicals, as well as paints, pool chemicals, propane cylinders, pesticides and fluorescent bulbs, will be accepted for a disposal fee of 63¢ a pound. Discarded consumer electronics will be charged 15¢ a pound. Battery disposal is 50¢ a pound. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-866-815-0016. For more information, log onto www.cranberrytownship.org/hhw.

Waterpark Gets Decked Out For 15th Summer Season

Members and visitors to Cranberry's Community Waterpark this summer will experience some subtle but important improvements in the facility's guest operations. And if they're especially vigilant, they might also discern a number of physical refinements which have restored key parts of the compound to its original condition, when the pool first opened back in 1997.

"They may not notice, but the facility is getting a major refurbishing," Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl pointed out. "The locker rooms are being completely renovated; we repaired the roof and replaced the gutters. We've repainted the seating and light poles around the concession stand. The water slide is being repainted. The toys and fixtures in the sand play area are being rebuilt with many new parts. The pumps and motors for the pool filtration, water slide and the splash pad – have all been overhauled. The heat pumps have been completely reconditioned as have our backup units. And we're replacing the plaster walls and floor of the diving well." he said.

New service features of the 2011 Waterpark, including the introduction of Splash Cash, will be more readily noticed. "If you're a member or if you have a Resident Discount Card – or even if you're a non-resident and

have a Park & Recreation Membership Card, you'll be able to go to your online account, visit our office at the Municipal Center, or call us and say: 'I don't want to carry cash to the pool; I would like to put \$20 on my account,' he said.

"With that money in your account, you can take your card – and you must have your card because we swipe it for the bar code – and use it to pay a daily admission. Rather than carrying cash to the pool, you can use Splash Cash at the concession stand to buy drinks or food. Or you can use it to register for a swim lesson."

Another improvement concerns guest passes.

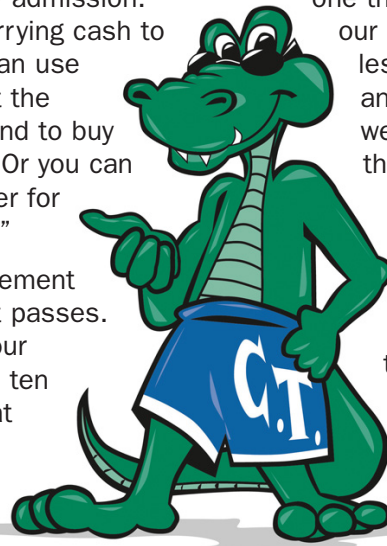
"We will offer our members up to ten guest passes at group rates," he said. "The normal daily non-resident admission is \$8. With the member, guest pass, it would be \$5. If they use all ten

guest passes during the season, they would save \$30. It's an opportunity to show the pool off to their parents, brothers, sisters, and out-of-town friends who come to visit." Guest passes are limited to ten per member, from individual memberships to families of five."

Also new this year, are private lessons. "We surveyed our customers at the end of the last season and one thing that stood out was that our customers wanted swim lessons that were individualized and private," Diehl said. "So we're offering private lessons this year, in addition to group lessons." Half-hour private lessons are sold in packages of four for \$85 – \$60 for Cranberry residents. Students meet Monday through Thursday with their private instructors.

Pool visitors will also see more deck chairs this year.

And an express line will be open at the concession stand to separate customers who only want drinks and packaged foods from those buying hot items requiring more time to prepare. ~



CT Sez: Snap 'em up!

Discounts on season memberships to Cranberry Waterpark are only available through April 30. Then they're gone. Join now and save. Full price starts May 1. Go to cranberrytownship.org/Waterpark and enjoy 101 days of summer starting May 28.



Adult Swim - For Kids

A 15-minute 'Adult Swim' takes place every hour at the Cranberry Waterpark. But its primary purpose isn't to benefit adults. Water play requires much more exertion than play on land. The Adult Swim is a safety rest period for children who might otherwise become exhausted and from continuous play in the water. It is an opportunity to break that exercise cycle and compel kids to get out of the water, take a break, refuel their bodies, and avoid putting themselves in a dangerous situation. But they don't need to get bored. While they're on break from the water, kids can play volleyball, have fun in the sand play area, splash in the spray pad, or get a snack at the concession. They can even lie down for a few minutes. It's a strategy designed to prevent fatigue in the water.

At Cranberry Highlands...



Have a ball. You don't have to be a golfer to love Cranberry Highlands. Its Clubhouse Banquet room and its fresh-air Audubon Pavilion are available for reunions, receptions, fund-raisers, and life-cycle celebrations as well as golf outings. Call 724-776-7372 to learn more about the wide range of hospitality services available.

Or, Get in the swing.

Junior golf clinics will be offered on seven different days at Cranberry Highlands during June and July. Each clinic, which is taught by the Cranberry Highlands PGA teaching professional, will run three successive sessions: one for those ages 6 to 8, one for those 9 to 11, and a third for those 12 and older.

Clinics focus on the fundamentals of golf rules, safety, etiquette and swing technique. No clinic will accept more than 15 students for each 1 hour and 15 minute session. Cost per clinic is \$60 for Cranberry residents, \$70 for non-residents. Call 724-776-7372 for dates and details.

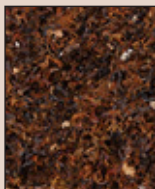


Camp Cranberry time shift. In response to requests from working parents with kids enrolled in Camp Cranberry, Parks & Recreation will be shifting the camp's start and end times of by half an hour.

Camps this year will start at 8:30 and end at 4:30 to better fit their parents' schedules. However, the option of extended days with early and late counselors will still be available.

Learn to decompose.

Two sessions of Cranberry's popular Backyard Composting class will be offered this year at 7:00 PM on April 14 and May 12 with instruction provided by the Butler County Master Gardeners Association. At the conclusion of the two-hour session each participant will receive an Earth machine backyard composting bin – a \$70 value. Enrollment is limited to Cranberry residents and advance registration is required by calling the Cranberry Township Customer Service Center at 724-776-4806. A \$10 registration fee will reserve your spot in the class.



Ready For Community Days?

Preparations are already underway for Community Days 2011, July 7-9. Friends of the Library and Cranberry Lions will be joint sponsors of the combined CTCC-Chamber 5k and 2k "Running for Your Library" events in Community Park. Race entry applications are online at the CTCC website, ctccchest.org. The Garby Recycled Art competition will be held for the second time this year; entry details will be posted on the Township website. Rotary is planning another chicken Bar-B-Que, and the Lions will be cooking up another Pancake Breakfast. Booth space reservations are now being taken for vendors and non-profit organizations. Details are available on the CTCC website.



Should Blue-Top Recycling Carts Become Gold-Topped?

Most homes that practice recycling do so in the belief that they're contributing to environmental betterment. And they are.

But, according to the state's Department of Environmental protection, DEP, there is also a major economic aspect to it representing more than \$20

billion in annual sales and over 50,000 jobs in the state's recycling and reuse businesses alone. As a result, there's a powerful state interest in promoting the culture of recycling.

To help foster that culture, DEP awards cash grants to municipalities which do a good job of it. Not all communities apply for the grants, but many do. Some of the applicant profiles are posted online showing community recycling rates – essentially the share of their total waste collection which goes to recycling rather than to landfill – ranging from less than 1 percent to more than 40, with most in the low teens. Cranberry's, however, was among the highest – 30.2 percent in 2008 – and that earned the community a tidy \$202,000, which was used to fund environmental programs associated with solid waste collection.

DEP uses a complex formula to calculate that payout – which comes from money raised by the \$2-per-ton 'tipping fees' that waste haulers pay the state to cart garbage to a

There's never a fee...
Unless we get garbage from you!
Recycling is free in Cranberry Township
 Cranberry's Collection Connection customers pay only for their garbage collection. And the bigger their gray-top garbage cart, the more they pay. But there's no charge for recycling – no matter how many or what size blue-top carts you use. And in Cranberry, you can recycle a long list of household discards, in the same cart at the same time, without separation. Need a bigger recycling cart? No problem. Just call; once a year cart exchanges are free too.
Recycle. It's clean. It's green. It's easy.

Cranberry Environmental Projects Coordinator
Lorin Meeder

paper boxes cans jars bottles

collection connection
 A CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PROGRAM
 724-776-4806 • www.cranberrytownship.org/collection

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
built for you.

landfill, rather than out of general tax revenues. And municipalities can use those funds for any public purpose. But its calculation is not based on collected waste alone; it also takes into account a community's population using figures from the last available census which, for Cranberry, was 23,625 in 2000. This year, it will be based on Cranberry's official 2010 census count of 28,098. And that will significantly affect the state's grant calculation.

So the Township is working hard to ratchet up its recycling rate and help offset the expected decline in its performance grant. Part of that effort has been to encourage people with smaller recycling carts to trade up to larger ones so that nobody has to pitch recyclables in the trash just because they ran out of room in their recycling cart.

The Township has renewed its incentive offer of a free, 3-gallon indoor recycling tote to people that upsize from 35-gallon recycling carts to larger ones through April 29. It's also working with Seneca Valley Schools to teach students about

recycling. It's continuing its advertising campaign with ads that parody familiar commercials to help build awareness. It's working with local businesses to track commercial recycling practices. And it's surveying residents to find the greatest unrealized opportunities to increase household recycling.

However, according to a recent Post-Gazette article by Michele Nestor, the consultant who helped Cranberry to devise its Collection Connection program, the system of state incentives for recycling may have reached a tipping point. And if it has, it would be a mark of success.

That's because many of the businesses that grew up in Pennsylvania around the collection, reprocessing, reuse and remanufacturing of goods from recycled materials have now matured. As a result, some of those businesses are on the threshold of becoming financially self-sustaining.

"They see recycling and its related industries as profit-making enterprises, as good businesses, not just as environmentally conscious programs requiring a line item in a government budget," she wrote. ~

SVMS Garners State And National Recognition

Seneca Valley Middle School Named a 'School to Watch'

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District



Seneca Valley Middle School has been designated one of Pennsylvania's "Schools to Watch" (STW) as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Middle School Association, Duquesne University, Edinboro University, Lehigh University and Horace Mann Service Corporation, Seneca Valley Middle School joins six other schools across the Commonwealth, and 270 across the nation, in having met the strict STW criteria.

"As an educator, this designation provides affirmation to what occurs every day in Seneca Valley Middle School," said Mr. Sean McCarty, principal. "Working among my colleagues in such a successful school is both humbling and an honor."

Seneca Valley Middle School was selected by state and national leaders for its academic excellence, its responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, and its commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels. In addition, they were noted as having strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.

"Every individual, students and staff alike, are part of a team that works together every day to achieve their personal best and strive for what will benefit us as a school community," said Andrea Peck, assistant principal. "I feel that we have great collaboration for many purposes throughout the school with students, staff, parents and outside community resources."

Selection was based on a written application that required schools to show how they met criteria developed by the National Forum. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams which observed classrooms, interviewed administrators, teachers, and parents, and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work.

Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of three years must demonstrate progress on specific goals in order to be re-designated. Unlike the Blue Ribbon recognition program, "Schools to Watch" requires schools to not just identify strengths, but to also focus on areas for continuous improvement; thus the three year re-designation.

Dr. John Harrison, past president of the National Forum stated, "We congratulate these schools for being places that do great things for all of their students. These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle grades schools are places that focus on academic growth and achievement. They are also places that recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensure that every child has access to a rigorous, high-quality education."

Launched in 1999, Schools to Watch began as a national program to identify middle-grades schools across the country that were meeting or exceeding 37 criteria developed by the National Forum.

"We are pleased that our Schools to Watch program has shown that schools can meet high academic expectations while preserving a commitment of healthy development and equity for all students," said Dr. Deborah Kasak, National Forum executive director. "These Schools to Watch are indeed special; they make education so exciting that students and teachers don't want to miss a day. These schools have proven that it is possible to overcome barriers to achieving excellence, and any middle-level school in any state can truly learn from their examples," Kasak said.

Mr. McCarty and Ms. Peck accepted the state award at the Pennsylvania Middle School Association Conference in Lancaster on March 6. They are now making plans to travel to Washington DC in the summer to accept the national award.



APRIL

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

☛ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

☛ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

* Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

☛ Seniors for Safe Driving 1-800-559-4880

† Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129

† Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

FRI 1 Reminder Yard Waste Collection Resumes	SAT 2 Summer Program Registration Begins† Municipal Ctr, 8:30am Computer Class ☛ <i>Excel I, Library, 9am</i>	SUN 3	MON 4 Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm First Editions Book Discussion <i>Skeletons at the Feast</i> by Chris Bohjalian, Library, 7pm	TUES 5 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm
WED 6 Twp Manager's Coffee Crazy Mocha, Freedom Square, 9:30–11am Housing Counseling† Library, 2:30–4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Grade 1–3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	THURS 7 Discussion Group Library, 10am 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm		FRI 8	SAT 9 Computer Class ☛ <i>Excel II, Library, 9am</i> Berkheimer Tax Assistance Council Chambers, 10am–12pm Drag & Brag All crafters welcome to display their handiwork/ideas Library, 12:30–2:30pm
SUN 10 Natnol Library Week: Create Your Own Story @ Your Library Morning with Mr. Bunny† Municipal Ctr, 10am–12pm	MON 11 Teen Book Club Library, 4pm HOA Neighborhood Forum Mtg Admin Offices, 6:30–8:30pm	TUES 12 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1pm Rain Barrel Class† Council Chambers, 7pm		WED 13 Housing Counseling† Library, 2:30–4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Grade 1–3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7pm
THURS 14 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm Backyard Composting Class† Municipal Ctr, 7pm	FRI 15 Tax Day	SAT 16 Community Electronic Recycling Drive Public Works Facility, 10am–3pm Computer Class ☛ <i>Troubleshooting Your Computer</i> , Library, 9am Shreddathon ☛ Bring up to 4 banker boxes of documents to be shredded free of charge. Held in rear parking lot, Library, 10am–2pm Panel Discussion <i>Ask The Organizer</i> , Library, 11am-12pm Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Cpl. Dan Hahn's family St. Ferdinand's Church, 3–7pm		
SUN 17 PALM SUNDAY Community Electronic Recycling Drive Public Works Facility, 10am–3pm Civil War Read About It ☛ <i>Killer Angels</i> by Shaara, Library, 2pm	MON 18 Final Day to Register to Vote for Primary Elections	TUES 19 PASSOVER 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm	WED 20 Housing Counseling† Library, 2:30–4:30pm Books & Bagels <i>Pope Joan</i> by Donna Cross, Library, 10am Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Grade 1–3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 21 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm
FRI 22 GOOD FRIDAY Twp Offices and Library Closed	SAT 23 Parks and Recreation Closed	SUN 24 EASTER Municipal Ctr including Parks and Recreation, and Library Closed	MON 25 Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm Teen Advisory Board Library, 4pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>Hunger Games</i> , by Suzanne Collins, Library, 7pm	TUES 26 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm Tough Toddlers presented by Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7pm
WED 27 Housing Counseling† Library, 2:30–4:30pm Family Pajama Time Library, 6:30pm Grade 1–3 Chapter Book Club Library, 7pm	THURS 28 4 and 5 Year Old Storytime ☛ Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 29 Not Just Ballroom Dancing † Gymnasium, 7–11:30pm	SAT 30 National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Municipal Ctr, 10am–2pm Last Day for Waterpark Membership Early Discount Computer Class☛ <i>Social Networking</i> , Library, 9am Berkheimer Tax Assistance Council Chambers, 10am–12pm

MAY

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

‡ Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

SUN
1

**North Suburban
Symphonic Band**
Library, 2–3pm

MON
2

First Editions Book Discussion
Heart and Soul, by Maeve Binchy, Library, 7pm
Planning Advisory Commission Mtg
Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm

TUES
3

WED
4

**Housing
Counseling ‡**
Library,
2:30–4:30pm

THURS
5

Book Discussion Group
Library, 10am
Board of Supervisors Mtg
Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers,
6:30pm

FRI
6

SAT
7

Computer Class ☛
Computer Security,
Library, 9am

SUN
8

**MOTHER'S
DAY**

MON
9

TUES
10

**Last day to apply for a
civilian absentee ballot
for Primary Election**
Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg
Municipal Ctr, Council
Chambers, 1pm

WED
11

**Housing
Counseling ‡**
Library,
2:30–4:30pm

THURS
12

FRI
13

SAT
14

**Breakfast
with Curious
George ☛**
Library

SUN
15

MON
16

TUES
17

**Municipal
Primary
Election**
polls open
7am–8pm

WED
18

Books & Bagels
Sarah's Key by
Tatiana deRosnay,
Library, 10am
Housing Counseling ‡
Library, 2:30–4:30pm

THURS
19

FRI
20

SAT
21

**Pennsylvania Master
Gardeners Panel and
Plant Swap**
Library, 11am

SUN
22

MON
23

**20 & 30 Somethings
Book Club**
Library, 7pm

TUES
24

WED
25

**Housing
Counseling ‡**
Library,
2:30–4:30pm

THURS
26

Board of Supervisors Mtg
Municipal Ctr, Council
Chambers, 6:30pm

FRI
27

SAT
28

**Waterpark
Opening
Day**

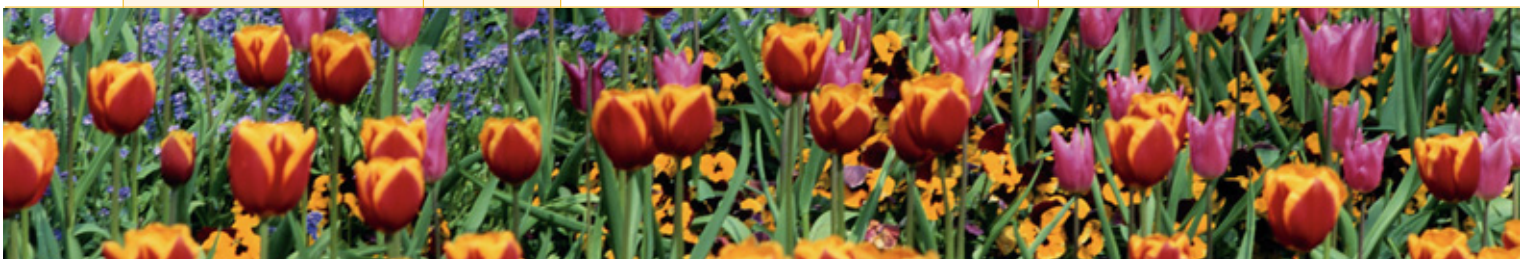
SUN
29

MON
30

MEMORIAL DAY
No waste collection
Township Offices, Parks and
Recreation, and Library
Closed

TUES
31

**Waste Collection delayed
by one day thru 6/4**
**Planning Advisory Commission
Work Session** Municipal Ctr,
Council Chambers, 5:30pm



JUNE

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

☛ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

☛ Cranberry Highlands 724-776-7372

* Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806

☛ Seniors for Safe Driving 1-800-559-4880

† Parks and Recreation 724-776-4806 ext. 1129

† Butler Housing Authority 1-800-433-6327

WED 1 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 2 Book Discussion Group Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	FRI 3 Farmers Market Rear Parking Lot of Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 4 Farmers Market Community Park Fire Station Lot, 10am–1pm Plant Swap ♣ Library, 12–3pm	
SUN 5 Library Summer Hours Begin Library closed on Sundays through Labor Day	MON 6 Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm First Editions Book Discussion The Crucible, by Arthur Miller, Library, 7pm	TUES 7	WED 8 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 9
FRI 10 Farmers Market Rear Parking Lot of Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Dinner in the Audubon Pavilion ♣ Cranberry Highlands, 6–8pm	SAT 11 Farmers Market Community Park Fire Station Lot, 10am–1pm Southern Butler County Garden Club Tour † Municipal Ctr, 10am–3pm	SUN 12	MON 13 Summer Reading Program Begins through July 22 for children, youth and adults Library	
TUES 14 FLAG DAY Cranberry Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1pm Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swims Waterpark, 9–11pm	WED 15 Books & Bagels Library, 10am Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 16	FRI 17 Farmers Market Rear Parking Lot of Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	
SAT 18 Farmers Market Community Park Fire Station Lot, 10am–1pm	SUN 19 FATHER’S DAY Father’s Day Night Swim ♣ Waterpark, 9–11pm	MON 20	TUES 21 SUMMER BEGINS Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swims Waterpark, 9–11pm	
WED 22 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 23	FRI 24 Farmers Market Rear Parking Lot of Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 25 Farmers Market Community Park Fire Station Lot, 10am–1pm	SUN 26
MON 27 Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, 5:30pm	TUES 28 Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swims Waterpark, 9–11pm	WED 29 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 30 Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	

Firefighter profile:

For Timothy Morgan, California Dreaming Is Becoming A Reality – In Cranberry

When he was just 21 and living in the Los Angeles

suburb where he grew up, a deeply religious Timothy Morgan made a vow to himself: if, by the time he turned 35, he was not already doing whatever his dreams and career ambitions had pointed toward as a younger man, he would make peace with whatever fate had dealt him.

And what, exactly, did Morgan actually dream of? To become a city fireman with a specialty in swift water rescue – a desperately-needed skill in the flash flood-prone topography of southern California. He had already gone as far as to submit an application to the Los Angeles fire department and taken their intensive qualifying exam. But before the city could reach him with news that he had passed, a department-wide hiring freeze was imposed. By the time it was lifted and they were able to contact him, his results were deemed out of date, so he had to retake the test. But then a restructuring of the fire department was announced, and once again his goal was thwarted.

So he fell back on Plan B: to start a business in commercial art – something he had studied in the Los Angeles County School for the Arts – and to prepare for a career in surgical technology, which he practiced for eight years at various southern California

hospitals, the last four of which required a 160-mile commute. It is a dual career he still pursues, only this time in the outpatient surgery center of Allegheny General Hospital and at the sites of graphic projects for business clients throughout the area.

Why here? California is beautiful. But it's not an easy place in which to live. The traffic is awful. Public institutions are under duress. Fires, floods, and earthquakes maul its scenic surroundings. And it's terribly expensive. As a result, long before their move east, Morgan and his Ohio-born wife Catrina had mused about pulling up stakes and relocating somewhere more congenial. For a few months in 2009, that yearning led Timothy to Seven Fields. Shortly thereafter, the family – now including their four sons – moved to Cranberry. But something was still missing from Morgan's life.

"After I came out here, I was driving by the fire station. It was September 11, 2009. I saw the flag raised up on the tower, and it caught my eye," he recalled. "There was also a sign that said it was a volunteer fire company.

"In California, pretty much all the firefighters are paid. So the idea of a volunteer fire company was new to me. I didn't know what needed to be done or who would qualify. So I turned

around, drove to the Park Station, and talked to one of the guys who was a Fire Company director at the time – Mike Hanks.

"He told me what was going on and when the next meeting was going to be. So I came in the night of that meeting a week or two later, and they presented my application. After a month, following a physical and a background check, they can vote you on probation for six months." And they did.

"As it turned out, my date to come off probation and into full membership was actually my 35th birthday," he said. Morgan's life dream was finally back on track. From that point on, he devoted every spare moment to catching up on the years of training he had missed. "I just continued on, finished my Essentials, vehicle rescue training, EMT, Firefighter I and Firefighter II – and I managed to get it all taken care of between January 20, when I started my Essentials training, and November, when I got my certification for Firefighter II."

It was a tremendous achievement, one which his fellow firefighters honored at the Fire Company's annual awards dinner in January where Morgan was named both Rookie of the Year and Brigade Member of the Year. "My wife says I'm pretty disciplined," Morgan

admits with a bit of understatement.

"But for me, it all boils down to the three Fs: Faith, Family, and Fire." ~



"In California, pretty much all the firefighters are paid. So the idea of a volunteer fire company was new to me. I didn't know what needed to be done or who would qualify."

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

Spring into Safety.

Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company reminds residents that the start of daylight savings time is always a good time to change your smoke detector and CO detector batteries. But if you forgot, now is still a good time to take care of it. Also, yard waste, tree branches and debris from winter should be disposed of in Township-issued yard waste containers – not burned outdoors. Finally, check your household fire extinguisher's pressure gauge and shake the unit to keep the powder inside from settling.



Get Your Butt Outta Here.

Cranberry Public Safety officials are reminding smokers to butt out their cigarettes in their vehicle's ash tray and not to throw them out the window. Last year, lighted cigarettes were responsible for more than 20 mulch fires in the planters along Rt. 228. Those fires not only required an extensive amount of emergency response time and resources, they also damaged the PVC irrigation lines in several of the traffic islands.



Park at your own risk

Cranberry Police Now Armed With Township Parking Tickets

Parking on local roads is illegal in Cranberry and it has been for years. But there can be exceptions. For example, if you're having a big party or some other private event, you can request permission from the police to allow your guests to park on the street. Most often, with only a few reasonable conditions such as keeping all the cars on one side of the street and not blocking mailboxes or hydrants, you'll receive that permission.

During warm weather months, the goal is park in such a way that fire engines, garbage trucks, ambulances and other large vehicles can make it through the street without difficulty. But in the winter, it's a different story. That's because Public Works plow trucks need to clear the roads from curb to curb, and parked cars make that impossible.

Of course, the Township's parking ordinance can be enforced through citations and fines. But while the parking fines themselves can be as little as \$5, the associated costs for

a magistrate court appearance amount to \$83.50. That's a price set by the state, whose citations have historically been the police department's only option for issuing a parking violation.

But in many cases, Cranberry's patrol officers have been reluctant to issue those parking tickets. "It's a substantial amount of money," Cranberry Police Lt. Kevin Meyer acknowledged. "When we issue citations, we're trying to get a point

across. A warning hasn't worked. But even then, we're not trying to slap those folks so hard in the wallet that it's going to be a hardship."

But now there's an alternative. Starting March 3, Cranberry police have been able to issue their own Township tickets. The fine can be paid using an envelope attached to the ticket itself. It's \$25, and no court costs are involved – unless the person who received the ticket wants to appeal it. Then it reverts

to becoming a state parking citation and

Continued on page 17.



Ouch! Township police will now have the option of issuing Cranberry's own \$25 parking tickets, which can be paid at face value to the Customer Service desk. Previous parking citations, which were issued under state law, required \$83.50 in court costs in addition to the fine itself.

Cranberry police now armed with Township parking tickets

Continued on page 16.

is handled in same way – and with the same court costs – as every other state citation.

“It’s going to be a time-saver for our officers and for the folks who would have been

issued a state citation,” Meyer said. “Typically, for that high dollar amount, they’re going to be asking for a hearing in front of the magistrate. So they’ve got time involved going in front of the judge and defending themselves, and then

“When we issue citations, we’re trying to get a point across. We’re not trying to slap those folks so hard in the wallet that it’s going to be a hardship.”

the officer also has to go over and testify. But this is a time-saver

because it eliminates the officers having to go to court – unless that person fails to pay their Township parking ticket.”

For years, part of the region’s folklore has been that traffic citations are money-makers for the municipalities that issue them. They’re not. “We only make half of whatever the fine itself is,” Meyer explained. “On a typical \$25 fine, where the court cost brings it up to \$118, the

Township only gets \$12.50. That doesn’t even pay for the officers.

“With the Township-issued tickets, Public Works employees will be able to call in problems and our officers will be able to address them either with a warning or a citation, right off the bat,” he said. It’s a \$25 flat fee, paid to the Customer Service desk, and it’s done.

“But if they fail to pay that within ten days, it would allow us to issue a state citation. Then it goes up to the next level and they’ll be dealing with the Magistrate’s office. We’ll have all the information needed to issue a state citation at that point.” ~



Township Police Officer Critically Injured

Corporal Daniel Hahn, a 21-year veteran of the Cranberry Township police department, was severely injured while pursuing a suspect on the night of February 14. Cpl. Hahn, along with officers from five other police agencies, was chasing a 22-year old Volant man, whose car had been

stopped on Interstate 79 after a 20-mile pursuit starting in Sewickley Heights. In an attempt to escape on foot, the Volant man leaped over a jersey barrier and was followed by Cpl. Hahn. Neither man realized that it was the side of an overpass, 22-feet above Tollgate road in Jackson Township.

The Cranberry Township Police Association is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner at St. Ferdinand’s Church from 3:00 to 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 16, to benefit the Hahn family. There will also be basket raffles, a 50:50 drawing, and more. Suggested donation: \$6 per person.



Drug Dump

Cranberry Township police will be working in coordination with a nationwide program sponsored by the federal DEA to

collect and dispose of unused, unwanted, unneeded and expired prescription drugs on Saturday, April 30. The drive, called Take-Back Day, will run from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM in a parking lot booth behind the Municipal Center. Cranberry participated in the first Take-Back day last year and collected more than 85 pounds of medicine. The purpose of the drive is both to remove drugs from places where they might be subject to abuse and to provide an alternative to flushing surplus pharmaceuticals into the Township’s sanitary sewer system.

Heads Up: Cranberry Is Switching Signals On You

Be forewarned: everything you know about navigating through traffic in Cranberry is about to change – for the better. Well, at least some of it. Take the intersection of Route 19 with 228-Freedom Road.

Last year, an exhaustive study financed by SPC – a regional planning organization which specializes in traffic patterns that cross county lines – took a close look at Cranberry's evolving traffic patterns. They counted vehicles, clocked travel times, measured the waits at key crossroads, and fed all that data into a computerized model to find a better way of moving traffic.

It was an outgrowth of the Township's ongoing effort to deal with surging traffic. Prior to that, as Cranberry's traffic grew, the Township – along with PennDOT's blessing – had made a number of tweaks and refinements to its patterns of traffic movement. It built new turning lanes, re-stripped roads, added traffic lights, hung directional signs, and in other ways worked to improve the safety and vehicle handling capacity of its road system. But those gains were quickly eaten up by the steady drumbeat of additional cars pouring onto the roadways.

Although adjustments had also been made to its traffic light timing plans, rising traffic affected the levels of service and the system suffered. That's when SPC presented two major recommendations based on its study. One was to change the timing on signals that gave traffic on secondary roads access to primary ones. The other was to switch

around the sequence of signals – lefts, rights, and thru traffic – in order to maximize the number of vehicles which would clear the intersection within a given signal cycle.

"We said all right, it's different, but we're running out of opportunities here," Cranberry Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee told them. "We're at a point where there's not too many things we can do; there's only so many seconds in a minute. Funding for state road improvements has dried up, traffic is increasing, so we've got to think outside the box here; we've got to come up with something."

The new timing plan SPC came up with was ambitious. It covers ten separate intersections – eight of which, including the Route 19-228-Freedom crossroad – will have their signal sequence reset. And it will not be what motorists are familiar with. For years, the pattern has been to give a green light to left-turning traffic, followed by green lights to the thru lanes. No more.

Starting April 5, the pattern will be one characterized as 'leading lefts' and 'lagging lefts.' Turning movements will follow a different sequence. So, for example, at the start of the cycle, all traffic in the northbound lanes of Rt. 19 will get a green light at once. Then just the thru traffic in both directions gets to go. Then all the traffic in the southbound lanes. It's not what



people are familiar with, according to Township Traffic Technician Marty McKinney.

"The largest hurdle we face is drivers' expectations; drivers in the Cranberry region anticipate what the signals are going to do," he said. "Our challenge with this retiming is to let the public know that you need to pay attention to what color that light is and go when it's green and stop when it's red because things are going to be different. You're going to need to learn some new patterns."

"People are going to say: why are they doing that? Well, it's because mathematically, we can move more cars through the intersection. And what we're doing here affects what happens down there since all these intersections are working together as groups."

In addition to changing the phases of signals, their sequence will also be altered. In the past, when traffic is stopped on Rt. 19, inbound traffic on 228, had the go-ahead; then Freedom Road got the green. With the new system, that order will be reversed.

"We're shaking things up," McKinney acknowledged. "These changes are cutting-edge, and the traffic model shows a very positive return." ~

SPC presented two major recommendations. One was to change the timing on signals. The other was to switch around their sequence.

For additional information, log onto www.cranberrytownship.org/trafficsignals

Responsibility For Highway Storm Water Drainage Is Shifting

PennDOT, which is facing a major financial shortfall, is putting a new policy in place: it is transferring the responsibility for maintaining its highway storm water systems – the catch basins, pipes, culverts and related structures used to drain storm water from the roads – to the local governments through which their highways pass.

Over the last decade, Cranberry has made significant investments in its storm water systems to reduce or eliminate flooding. According to John Skorupan, Chairman of the Township's Board of Supervisors, "Because of our experience with storm water management,



Cranberry understands the impact of such a shift. We will use that understanding in raising our concerns during in-depth discussions with state officials."

The transfer of responsibility for highway storm water management is expected to result in significant new costs and liabilities for the Township. The state highways within the Township subject to this new policy include Rt. 19, Freedom Road, Rt. 228, Rowan Road, Franklin Road, Glen Eden Road and Plains Church Road.

~

Spring (Tax) Break!

If you pay the combined County-Township real estate tax invoice that was sent to home owners at the beginning of March before May 1, take a two percent break. Otherwise, you can pay it at face value through to the end of June. The tax rate on property for 2011 remains unchanged from its 2010 level. Of that total, 31 percent goes to Cranberry Township; the balance goes to Butler County. The Seneca Valley School District real estate tax statements for 2011 will be mailed August 1. Questions about real estate tax payments should be directed to Tax Collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103.



Township infrastructure a top priority in 2011

far less than the national average of 21 percent. Looking ahead, construction will begin this year on a new, higher-capacity water pump station on Commonwealth Drive. And design work will continue on upgrading the water mains circling Cranberry to provide ample future capacity for residents, businesses, and fire protection.



Public Sewer Improvements. The Township also uses modeling to manage and guide the expansion of its public sewer system. A major sewer line project will begin construction this year to help move

wastewater to the Brush Creek treatment plant. We will also continue reducing rainwater flow into the sewer system, which drives up transmission and treatment costs.



Storm Water Management. State and federal regulations require Cranberry to manage 50-plus miles of storm drain lines and more than a dozen acres of land used for detention ponds. The Township is required to permit, map, and test every stormwater outlet that flows into state waters; in Cranberry, there are approximately 100 such outlets. However, the Township is meeting

Continued from front cover

or exceeding state requirements regulating the control of stormwater runoff. This year, Cranberry will rebuild over 50 storm water catch basins that carry water off of Township roads and into its streams.

Late last year, PennDOT began developing a policy that will transfer the maintenance and ownership of conduits, catch basins, and related storm water facilities along its state highways to local responsibility. This will significantly impact the costs and liabilities of local government. And Cranberry is working on strategies to manage that cost shift.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Township's infrastructure and how it is being managed is welcome to contact the Township Manager's Office to arrange for a presentation or tour. ~

Plan For Growing Grassroots Campaign Revealed

Beyond the 186 acres of exquisitely-groomed grasses in Cranberry Highlands, there are 330 more acres of green space which also belong to the Township. Most are in its three major parks. But their maintenance – particularly when it involves active playing field surfaces – requires just as much thought and attention as its golf course.

So late last year, Cranberry's Public Works department hired an experienced professional to provide the sort of systematic planning and oversight required to keep those assets in good condition. And now there's a formal plan.

When its author, Rebecca Auchter – a graduate of Ohio State with a degree in turfgrass management – arrived in Cranberry this past December as the Township's first-ever Grounds Maintenance Manager, she was impressed by the high volume of park upkeep which the Township's five-member maintenance staff had been able to provide.

But with her background, including the meticulous care of several high-end country club golf links as well as two college campuses, she saw the need for improvements in the record-keeping associated with that maintenance. As a result, her initial assignment was to develop a grounds maintenance plan, to be followed by a companion technical manual with all the details about keeping Cranberry's green spaces up to par.

That plan encompasses five key areas and attempts to apply the agronomic industry's best maintenance practices to the care of Cranberry's outdoor spaces. Turf grass management – maintaining the playing surfaces of the athletic fields in Graham, Community, and

North Boundary parks in safe and playable condition – is the plan's top priority.

Skinned infields – the term used to identify the baselines, pitchers mounds, home plates and other spaces with exposed dirt and no grass – are also covered in the plan.

Those are the maintenance responsibility of CTAA, the baseball association, rather than Public Works, although Ms. Auchter expects to provide them with guidance to improve the care of the infields.

Trees and landscaped areas of the Township, which include traffic islands, the Municipal Center, the Waterpark, the fire stations and various areas within the parks, are also addressed in the plan. Plant selection, pruning, water management, and the use of specialized agricultural chemicals are all components of that plan section.

Walking trails as well as facilities such as shelters, concession buildings, picnic tables and fencing, are addressed in the plan as well, although more briefly.

One of the major reasons for raising the maintenance bar in Cranberry's parks is that there are lots of ways people inadvertently damage sports fields and, in the process, unwittingly create dangers to themselves. "For example, when



The plan encompasses five key areas and attempts to apply the agronomic industry's best maintenance practices to the care of Cranberry's outdoor spaces.

there's a standing puddle on an infield – how do you drain it?" Public Works Director Jason Dailey asks.

"The old habit was to start brooming that puddle off the dirt. But there's actually a science to using a hand pump to get water out of the infield so you don't change its contour. Because over time, when everybody squeegees and brooms that infield, it creates lips. And when a hard-hit grounder starts rolling, that lip can flip the ball five feet into the air and someone gets cracked in the jaw," he explained.

Although some turf maintenance projects may require temporary field closures, those will be exceptions, not the rule, Auchter noted. "We're going to do rolling closures, but on a very minimal basis. Because if the fields aren't available to play on, then we're not serving our purpose." ~

Cranberry Township 2011 Water System Flushing Schedule

Cranberry Township's annual fire hydrant and distribution system flushing program gets underway on Monday, April 4. It is a routine maintenance operation designed to flush sediment from the water system, check fire hydrant operation, and test chlorine levels in the water lines throughout the Township. Flushing is conducted Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. A week-by-week schedule is provided here; for detailed information on the date for your own street, call the Township's Customer Service Center at 724-776-4806.

Here are the water line areas to be flushed during the weeks beginning:

APRIL 4TH. Pennwood Place, McKinney Warehouse, Keystone Drive, Gateway Building, Commonwealth Drive, Residence Inn, Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Route 19, Marriott, Knockout Development - Westinghouse, Cranberry Woods - MSA Complex, Cranberry Mall, Old Mars Road between Route 19 and McElroy Drive, UPMC Medical Center, Fairfield Inn, Norberry Court, Dutilh Road south of Route 228, Dutilh Road between Freeport Road and Cul-de-Sac at Turnpike, Candlewood Suites, Route 19 south of PA Turnpike to Bravo's Restaurant, Hyatt Hotel, Brush Creek Commons, Red Roof Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Marguerite Road, Emeryville Drive, Old Mars Road between McElroy Drive and Franklin Road, Cranberry Commons Mall, Grandshire, Spring Meadows, Franklin Road between Old Mars Road and Beacon Hill Drive, Hazelwood, St Killian's School.

APRIL 11TH. McElroy Road, Fox Run, Buckingham Trail, Franklin Road, Peace Street, Franklin Ridge, Shadow Creek, Bristol Creek, Washington Farms, St. Leonard's Woods, Timberline, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Old Farm Road, Redmond Place, Old Towne Apartments, Scenic Ridge, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Burke Road, Forest Knoll, Lakeview Estates, Windwood Heights, Crystal Springs, Walden Pond, Burke Road.

APRIL 18TH. Rowan Road between Marshall Road and Old Farm Road, La Grande Drive, Rowan School, Rowan Towers, Leonberg Road, Marshall Road, Goehring Road, Preserve East and West, Route 19 between Freedom Road and Rochester Road, Cranberry

Shoppes, Wal-Mart, Cranberry Square, Streets of Cranberry, Doyle Equipment, Ogle Station, Boston Market, Jerry's Car Wash, Home Depot, Smith Drive, Walgreens, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction north to Kenny Ross, Victory Family Church, Penn Detroit, YMCA, Route 19 from Butler Auto Auction south to Northland Lincoln Mercury, Wiegand Drive, Route 19 from Smith Drive north to Goehring Road, Goehring Road from Route 19 to Marshall Road, Wisconsin Avenue, Ogle View Road, TRACO, Progress Avenue, Park Road, Ernie Mashuda Drive, North Boundary Road, Marshall Woods, Marshall Heights, Pinebrook Manor, Cranberry Water Park.

APRIL 25TH. Pinehurst Estates, Ehrman Road, Grace Estates, Garvin Road, Castle Brook Drive, Foxmore, Ehrman Farms, Oakview Estates, Unionville Road, Springfield Manor, Cranberry Business Park, Winchester Lakes, Winchester Farms, Old Route 19, Settlers Grove Phase 1 & 2, Glen Eden Road, Glen Eden Phase 1, Settlers Grove 3, Antler Ridge.

MAY 2ND. The Maples, Cedarbrook, Glen Eden Phase 2, Glenbrook, Glen Eden Townhouses, Manor Creek, Freshcorn Road, Glen Eden Road west of Powell Road, Briar Creek, Cranberry Heights I & II, Kingsbrook, Madison Heights, Glen Rape Road, Wakefield Estates.

MAY 9TH. Rochester Road from Route 19 to Robinhood Drive, Thompson Park Drive, Executive Drive, Costco, Brandt Drive, Commerce Park Drive, Cranberry Corporate Center, Hampton Inn, Laurelwood, Sherwood Oaks, Fernway.



MAY 16TH. Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Thorn Hill Road (RIDC), WESCO, Rolling Road Regency Apartments, Iron Mountain, Freedom Road, Freedom Square, Freedom Road Car Wash, Haine Fire Hall, Freedom Road from Georgetown Square to Parkwood Drive, Parkside Place, Carriage Drive, Kira Circle, Haine School Road, Haine School, Pine Ridge, Rochester Road from Robinhood Drive to Alps Avenue, Bellwood Park, Graham Park, Valleybrook, Deer Run, Sun Valley, Cranbrook.

MAY 23RD. Woodlands Townhouses, Kirkwood Drive, Swift Homes, Woodlands Houses, Clearbrook, Cranberry Estates, Ashford Manor, Cranberry Pointe, Cranberry West, Rochester Road from Haine School Road to Powell Road, Kimberwicke, Harvest Drive, Holiday Drive, Powell Road from Rochester Road to Blue Ridge Drive, Orchard Park, Creekwood Commons, Creekwood, Freedom Woods.

MAY 31ST. Forest Park, The Crossings, Mystic Pine Trail, Blue Ridge Estates, Berkley Manor, Hampshire Woods, Autumn Hill

JUNE 6TH. Powell Road between Rochester Road and Glen Eden Road, Park Place, Chatham Commons Highland Village, Havenwood, Hunters Creek, Stonefield Drive, Farmview Court, Greenfield Estates, Avery's Field, Woodbine Estates.

Commuter Pools Could Help Offset Transit Loss

What do you do when the bus stops? With the termination of Port Authority's heavily-used bus service between Warrendale and Pittsburgh on March 28, answering that question became an urgent matter for the nearly 600 passengers who had come to rely on the daily service.

To prepare for the looming transit cut, approximately 100 Cranberry-area residents who commute to downtown and Oakland jammed into Council Chambers at the municipal center on February 17 to learn about alternatives to either riding the bus or driving alone. They were joined by Township and County officials who shared the commuters' concerns, along with a realization that even a modest increase in rush hour traffic would have a detrimental effect on the region's already-saturated commuting corridors.

CommuteInfo.org – a program of the ten-county Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission with lots of partner organizations, including Cranberry Township – was formed to promote different ways that commuters can get to work and back by other than solo driving. Although its mission extends to include such alternative modes as bike pooling, teleworking and walking, program developer

Lisa Kay Schweyer's presentation cut directly to the only two options which seemed to make sense for most Cranberry residents: vanpooling and carpooling. The agency offers help with both.

Vanpools, which are formed using leased vehicles to transport groups of seven to fifteen passengers with similar work schedules and destinations, were given particular emphasis. Region-wide, 43 vanpools now operate to and from Pittsburgh with almost 500 more commuters participating in officially recognized carpools. But only three of the vanpools operate anywhere near the Cranberry area, and two of them are already full. New pools would need to form in order to have any impact on local commuters. So encouraging potential pool riders to introduce themselves to one another immediately after the presentation was a key part of the meeting.

The cost of participating in a commuting pool varies with the distance, number of passengers, parking arrangements, and vehicle type. But for most, the economic advantages are powerful. For

The cost of participating in a commuting pool varies. But for most, the economic advantages are powerful.

year, according to Ms. Schweyer. For vanpool participants however, that cost averages \$1,200.

Carpools, which typically involve just two or three individuals in someone's

privately-owned car, tend to be less structured and their cost sharing arrangements are also worked out informally between participants. But, as in the case of vanpools, the key to forming a successful carpool is finding other commuters with compatible travel requirements. That's where CommuteInfo.org is poised to help with its online ride-matching questionnaire.

Beyond that, CommuteInfo.org offers an emergency ride home program – with taxi fare rebates of up to \$100 a year – to help pool participants respond to urgent situations that arise outside of their normal commuting pattern.

However, there may be another alternative. At a public hearing in Pittsburgh on March 8, a private coach operator explained his petition to the Port Authority for scheduling buses that would partially replace those slated to abandon service to Pittsburgh from Warrendale and Bladerunners. The proposed round-trip fare would be \$11.50 from Bladerunners and \$10 from Warrendale – a significant increase over Port Authority fares. Port Authority is scheduled to decide on the company's petition at its March 25 board meeting.

More information is available in the Park-n-Ride section of the organization's eponymous website: www.commuteinfo.org. ~

Cranberry commuters who drive alone and park downtown, the average cost for fuel, parking and other per-mile vehicle ownership expenses now exceeds \$6,300 a



A Sign Of Things To Come

Until 2004, Cranberry residents knew where to find out what was going on in their home town. That's because a large community information sign had been installed along Freedom Road, by the Exxon station, and everyone saw it.

Owned and maintained by the Cranberry Rotary Club, it provided basic information about upcoming events in the Township. Its prominent location gave that information very high visibility. And that, in turn, was credited with helping many of the events it publicized succeed.

Eventually, the need for more right-of-way to create new turning lanes from Freedom Road onto Route 19 meant the sign had to go down. But the need for timely information never went away. If anything, it grew. So, of course, did other media – print and electronic outlets which compete vigorously to become the primary portal for residents to get information about their community.

Yet despite the proliferation of new media – or perhaps because of it – people are more confused

than ever about where to find authoritative information. So last year, the decades-old idea of a community information board

featuring reliable, non-commercial information, came back again.

Township Supervisor Bruce Mazzoni, who was instrumental in revitalizing Cranberry Township Community Chest, CTCC, and in forming the Cranberry Legacy Endowment several years ago, spearheaded

the effort. A coalition of partners including the two Cranberry Rotary clubs, The Chamber of Commerce, the Lions, CTCC and the Township government initiated a Project of the Year and decided to make the new community sign its signature project for 2010.

Now that project has been put on a fast-track.

At the end of January, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved a contract to build the state-of-the-art sign, which will be situated on the corner of Routes 19 and 228 in front of UPMC. That means local nonprofits with events coming up as soon as this spring will be able to promote them on the sign. And it offers way more capability than a conventional hand-lettered peg board.

The sign will actually include two display panels, front and rear, which will be visible to drivers approaching the intersection from every direction. That's a lot of people – as many as 100,000 vehicles a day cross through that intersection. While they're waiting for

the light to change, they'll see 12-foot wide, full-color electronic displays which can be changed remotely as often as needed.

The actual posting of messages, which will be limited to those from approximately 40 partner agencies of CTCC, will be managed by Township



staff. Detailed procedures for developing and submitting messages are currently being formulated and will be posted on the CTCC website.

"We're shooting for late April, early May to have that sign active," according to Cranberry Supervisor of Engineering Services Tim Zinkham who is overseeing its implementation. "There's a major Lions Club function coming up in May, and the Lions are one of the participating partners in the sign project. It's moving forward, and hopefully we'll have a community sign that's functioning, in mid- to late-April. I think we're in pretty decent shape. The computer that runs the sign will be housed in the Municipal Center. And we're looking at the possibility of adding a camera so you can have a live view of the sign as you put the message up."

The sign's electronic panels are being manufactured by Illinois-based Watchfire. A contract for construction of its frame, foundation, and wiring was awarded to Shamrock – the same company that built the Dick's Sporting Goods sign in Graham Park. Anyone interested in becoming a sign sponsor should contact info@ctccchest.org. ~

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