



Cranberrytoday

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2011 SUMMER EDITION

Monthly Water, Sewer And Trash Billing Starts In September

For years, it's been one of the top requests that Cranberry's Customer Service representatives have heard from residents: Stop the quarterly billing for water, sewer and trash service. Do it once a month, just like every other utility. And instead of billing one service in advance and another behind, get all three services onto the same cycle. So, starting in September, they'll get their way.

Quarterly billing isn't that unusual, but it complicates household budgeting for many people. By accumulating charges over a longer period, it turns what might otherwise be a manageable \$100 statement into a much heavier \$300 tab. Plus, it is a better business practice for the Township to bill closer to the time when service is rendered.

So at their May meeting, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved the steps needed to begin a transition from quarterly to monthly billing for any or all of the three municipal services that a resident subscribes to. The change will also see additional ways that customers

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can pay their bills including online payments through the Township's website in addition to current online banking options. And plans are being considered for emailing bills to customers who request it, as well as for the use of credit cards, although no final decisions have yet been made.

The monthly bills will also have a new look. "We are redesigning the bill to separate out the services more clearly," according to Township Finance Director Vanessa Gleason. "There's a place for your water service, your trash service, your sewer service – as well as a space for other services, primarily for commercial customers who have fire lines, pretreatment permit fees and other special services.

"After about three months, once we collect the data, there's also going to be a bar graph on the bill showing water usage," she said.

Currently, water meters – which are also the basis for calculating sewage charges – are read only once every three months. With the new monthly billing cycle in effect, meters will be read every

Continued on page 5.



Community Days 2011: Bigger, Better, Bolder

Preparations are nearly complete for Community Days 2011 – the Township's biggest annual celebration which opens Thursday, July 7. Led by Cranberry Township Community Chest with support from a number of sponsors from the local business community, the three-day event is designed to raise public awareness and support for Cranberry's civic and nonprofit organizations.

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Cranberry's Economy Defies Gravity

Job growth nationally may be tepid. But in Cranberry, it's gangbusters.

The Township subscribes to several data services which track employment, investment, and other key economic indicators. One such report, in May, provided an exceptionally upbeat assessment of Cranberry's economy.

First, it found that the number of new jobs created in the Township since 2002 has hit 11,500 – a stunning 92 percent increase in just nine years. There's also been a bonanza in commercial development, with a number of new offices, hotels, and retail stores – many constructed in the past year alone. March saw over \$11 million in new commercial construction – approximately half of which was for Talisman Energy's expanded headquarters in Thorn Hill Park. And April's figures were the largest for that month in the past five years.

The Township's own building permit records show residential development moving along nicely as well. In addition to conventional subdivisions, it includes apartments, traditional neighborhood developments, townhomes and retirement communities.

All three of those indicators – jobs, commercial construction, and new

housing – are closely related with new employment driving the need for new work space, and new employees requiring new homes.

There is however, an explanation for why, at a time when America's economy has been under tremendous stress with high unemployment, that Cranberry could have such huge economic growth, according to Township Supervisor Dick Hadley.

"Local economic health is heavily influenced by local laws, local taxes, local policies, and local investment – and every locality is different," Hadley said. "I'm convinced that Cranberry's success reflects the vision, priorities and actions that our Board has advocated for as long as I've been on it, which is nearly 20 years. Our goal has been to create an environment where private investment can succeed."

To achieve that, Hadley cited a handful of strategic practices which have guided the Township's governance. They include maintaining low taxes, investing in a strong public



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infrastructure, listening carefully to constituents, creating an attractive place to live, looking beyond immediate needs, and seeking strong partners to collaborate on community projects.

"There are lots of examples," he said. "Our municipal taxes are among the region's lowest. We're making major investments in our

water distribution and wastewater collection systems. We have one of Pennsylvania's most transparent units of government. And companies gladly pay impact fees to come to Cranberry because it's such a great place for them to do business.

"Instead of focusing solely on immediate needs and day-to-day issues, our Board's planning and investment horizon is measured in decades," he said. "And practically everything we do – from Graham Park to Rt. 228 improvements – is the result of creative public-private partnerships. It's a novel approach to local governance, at least in this part of the country. And the numbers confirm that it's working." ~



Wake Up And Smell The Coffee. *Informal meetings over coffee with Township Manager Jerry Andree will continue through 2011 – only this time with a twist. Instead of meeting at a conventional coffee shop or conference room, the meetings will held on five Wednesdays, at seldom-seen locations behind the scenes in Cranberry, accompanied by personal tours. Pre-registration, by calling Customer Service in advance, is required because of space limitations. The schedule: **August 10 at the Waterpark**, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. **September 7 at the Brush Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant**, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. **October 12 at the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course Turf Grass Center** to walk the Audubon Nature Trail, 10:00 to 11:30 AM. **November 9 at the Township Police Department** from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM and from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. **December 7 at the Public Works Traffic Operations Center**, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Call 724-776-4806 to register.*

The Roar Of The Ballot, The Stench Of The Capitol

by John Skorupan, Chairman, Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors



Cranberry does not elect its dog catcher. These days, very few communities do. But politicizing local service

jobs is not unheard of.

During the Vietnam War, for example, a Pitt psychology professor ran for the office of County Surveyor, campaigning on an anti-war manifesto. The fact that he had never used a surveyor's transit was of no consequence. The election was simply a platform for propagating his opposition to the war. Had he been voted into office, I doubt that he would have taken whatever solemn oath is administered to County Surveyors.

Candidates whose campaigns are totally unrelated to the duties of the office they seek are not the norm, but they're not as rare as you'd think, either. It's not unusual for state or local candidates to thump for issues that have little or no relationship to the constituents they hope to serve. And I'm convinced the confusion which results is one of the major reasons behind low voter turnout.

So I really do have sympathy for conscientious local voters, especially in primary elections, who find the large number of local offices – many of which they may not even recognize – accompanied by a field of unfamiliar candidates' names and generic slogans, to be offputting. All

too often, those voters end up making choices based on the slenderest shreds of information: Does the candidate live in my neighborhood? Is the candidate male or female? Does the candidate's name suggest anything meaningful about his or her ethnic background? Does the candidate's slogan, if they have one, resonate at all with me? Very flimsy stuff.

Combine that with the political odor that emanates from Harrisburg and Washington. The level of decorum in state and national politics today makes the smack talk I recall from my days as a football player seem positively civil by comparison. So the public esteem in which politicians are held – and for that matter, the institution of government itself – are both extremely low. Even though local governments are generally held in higher regard than either their state or federal counterparts, that malodorous scent affects everyone in public life, all the way down to the proverbial dog catcher.

As a result, particularly in local primary contests, most registered voters simply shrug and stay home. During the May primary here, only 17 percent made it to the polls; the other 83 percent took a pass.

But at least here in Cranberry, the conventional perceptions of government and politics don't really offer a good fit. We operate as little like a traditional government as possible.

We're citizens. We're here every day. No elected Supervisor in Cranberry makes a living from holding office. There's really nothing political about being a Supervisor in Cranberry. It's just five of your neighbors trying to do the right thing. In Harrisburg and D.C., decisions are generally the

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result of a complex calculus of deal making, but that doesn't happen here. Although you can find that pattern in some other municipalities whose officials are always fighting one another, they're also the ones that don't achieve much.

Here, we like getting things done. But it's not just five Supervisors huddling together in a back room deciding what to do. It's a transparent process which requires public input, public understanding, and public buy-in. When we were formulating our Comprehensive Plan, it took us more than two years. And we had great input from our residents, from the surveys we put out, from business leaders, and from a Citizens Advisory Panel. This is their township, and our Board works for them. The more input we get from them, the more we know which direction they want to go. We do our best to keep our citizens informed. We want to hear from them – from you – about the good, the bad, the unexpected, and ways that we can do things better.

It's your Township. We're its stewards, and we're striving to do what's best for our 28,000 people. You're more than welcome to lend us a hand. ~



You can reach John Skorupan by email at john.skorupan@cranberrytownship.org

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTARY

Local Income Tax Collection System Is About To Change

If you have earned income and live in Cranberry Township, you pay a one percent income tax, regardless of where you work. That money is collected by the Township's contractor, Berkheimer Tax Administrator, and split evenly between Cranberry and the Seneca Valley School District. It's been that way for more than 15 years, and at least for Cranberry, it's worked pretty well.

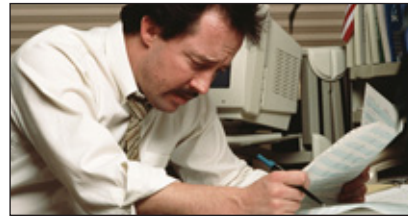
But not all municipalities in the state have been that fortunate. Tax rates, filing dates, reporting requirements, and employer withholding patterns all vary from town to town. That's resulted in a crazy-quilt pattern of tax collection in Pennsylvania with hundreds of appointed tax collection entities – some for counties, a few for public authorities, others for school districts, still more for local governments, and a number of larger agencies which serve multiple government subdivisions. But in most parts of the state, instead of professional services, they're more like mom-and-pop type operations.

As a result, according to the Pennsylvania Economy League, many municipal governments don't receive the revenues they're supposed to be getting. And a number of business owners who do withhold local taxes have complained about the lack of uniformity in administering them. So in 2008, the state legislature enacted Act 32, consolidating local tax collecting

agencies down from 560 to just 67, and outlining the responsibilities of both employers and employees in complying with the law. Those changes take effect starting next year.

For employers, it means you will be required to withhold earned income tax from all employees at the rate that applies wherever they live, as long as they live in Pennsylvania. So, for example, if an employee lives in Cranberry, you will have to withhold 1 percent. If that employee lives in Bethel Park, you withhold 1.4 percent. For Pittsburgh residents, it would be 3 percent. And so on. Then, at the end of each quarter, you send that money to the tax collection agency which serves your county; for Butler County, that's Berkheimer. Then Berkheimer distributes it to the appropriate municipalities.

But how does an employer really know where their employees live? Under the new law, every employee will now be required to complete an official Local Earned Income Tax Residency Certification Form for their employer. If they move to a



Tax rates, filing dates, reporting requirements, and employer withholding patterns all vary. That's resulted in a crazy-quilt pattern of tax collection in Pennsylvania.

different jurisdiction, they'll have to fill out a new Certificate so their employer can withhold at the right rate. And every political subdivision will be assigned a unique code corresponding to their local tax rate; for Cranberry Township, the code is 100802.

Even so, it can get confusing. In most communities north of Pittsburgh,

people refer to where they live by their post office name. But most postal districts don't correspond to political jurisdictions and many of them – Wexford, Allison Park, Ingomar, and Gibsonia for example – aren't incorporated places at all. So identifying the proper jurisdiction can be more complicated than it seems.

If you're self-employed, you presumably know where you live, so no certification is needed. But you still have to file quarterly returns, make quarterly payments, and then file a final return at the end of the tax year. Information and forms are available on the Township website. ~



Enter The Penalty Box. You've had the bill for months, and now it's too late to pay your County/Township real estate tax at face value. That ended June 30. From now until the end of the year, you'll have to step into the penalty box and pay it at a premium. But your school district tax statement, which won't be sent out until the beginning of

August, can be paid at a two percent discount through September 30. If you have any questions or if you've made any changes in your mortgage lately, contact tax collector P.J. Lynd at 724-776-1103 or visit his office in the Municipal Center to settle any outstanding property tax issues.

Monthly water, sewer and trash billing starts in September

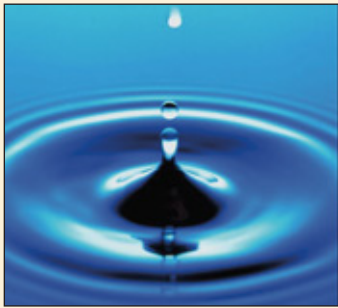
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other month. One monthly bill will be based on actual usage; the next will be an estimate. Increased frequency of readings can also help customers identify leaks more quickly.

“With a three month window to catch leaks – because people only

got their bills quarterly – if they had a bad leak with really high usage, we weren’t able to catch it for three months,” Gleason said. “We inform you if you’ve got unusual usage. But this way, we can do it in a two-month span.”

Cranberry’s postage costs will rise as a result of the transition, but special postal certifying software is expected to help offset that increase. ~

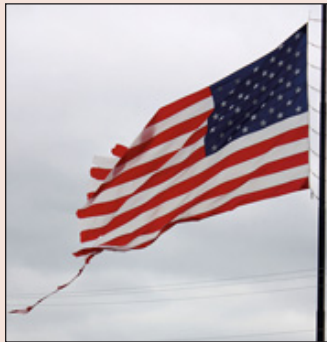


Water price to rise 4.7 percent

In May, the West View Water Authority – Cranberry’s sole supplier of fresh water – announced that due to rising costs of water treatment and tighter government regulation of drinking water, it would raise the price to its residential customers a by an average of 5.3¢ a day starting July 1. As its single largest customer, Cranberry Township will experience an increase of approximately 4.7 percent beginning at that time. The Board of Supervisors has approved raising the rate that Cranberry charges its water customers to cover these cost increases, but not until September.

Home For Retired Flags.

Even when they’re faded, worn, and tattered, American flags still carry the full freight of symbolic value. So their disposal methods need to



respect that symbolism. But until lately, that was hard to do in Cranberry. Now, thanks to the efforts of resident Denise Etter, a local marketing consultant, it’s become a whole lot easier. Her project, “Retire Old Glory,” involves placing bins for receiving old flags in prominent places, including public buildings, which are then emptied and respectfully disposed of by Scout, American Legion, and VFW members. There is no charge for use of the bins, one of which is situated in Cranberry’s Municipal Center building hallway. Go to www.cranberrytownship.org/RetireOldGlory for more details.

Grease Talk. When most public officials inspect restaurants, they focus on the food handling, storage, preparation and customer service. So do restaurant owners. But when Cranberry Pretreatment Coordinator Rhonda Zellhart makes the rounds, her focus is on the back end of the process – how dishes get cleaned, how food waste is handled, and how cooking oils are disposed of. This summer, Rhonda is holding a series of one-on-one meetings with the owners and managers of 85 local restaurants to explain the importance of this important aspect of food service operation. She reports being impressed by the quality of the kitchens she’s seen, by the receptiveness of managers to her visits, and by the resulting improvements in communication between the Township and local businesses concerning Cranberry’s sanitary sewer system.



Cranberry's Neighborhood Governments

If Cranberry Township or any other unit of government were to tell its residents what sorts of vehicles they could park on their own driveways, what type of pool they could install, when they had to take down their Christmas lights, whether they can build a picket fence, or what color they're required to use in painting their front door, there would be a flood of protests – brimming with indignation over the intrusion of government into people's private lives.

But precisely that sort of system is alive and well and enforcing regulations on two-thirds of Cranberry's residents every day – and very few ever complain about it. They are Cranberry's HOAs, or Homeowners Associations – 67 legally incorporated neighborhood organizations whose bylaws, covenants, and regulations were created at the time their housing subdivisions were first approved.

Formed to maintain common areas within the housing plan and uphold property values for its residents, HOAs have the power to assess

dues, levy fines, take violators to court, and require all homeowners to comply with their rules – rules which extend far beyond what any unit of government would dare to implement. And every homeowner in the plan is a member, whether they want to or not,

because it's a permanent stipulation of their property's deed and it's part of what they agree to when they buy their home.

Like any public unit of government, HOAs have elected board members

and officers whose legal responsibilities are defined by the organization's charter documents. But many take on assignments which go beyond their obligatory duties. For example, some initiate social activities – block parties, picnics, Easter egg hunts, garage sales, tournaments, dinner clubs, and other programs that help create social cohesion. Others build neighborhood websites, publish local newsletters, organize neighborhood vandalism watches, and retain professionals to negotiate with utility companies on their behalf.

Although, at least in theory, there is the potential for an overzealous HOA to get out of hand, as a practical matter, the greater risk comes from an HOA failing to enforce its rules and neglecting the maintenance of the common areas of its plan – areas which can make up as much as 40 percent of the neighborhood's acreage. Their residents are often too busy to spend time in the administrative and hands-on work of their HOA. And besides, people are often reluctant to become recipients of

neighbors' complaints or obliged to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions.

It is essentially impossible to dissolve an HOA which has fallen into decline. Even amendments to the association's bylaws can require as many as 90 percent of the residents to support that change.

So more and more neighborhoods are outsourcing the work. For a fee, a management company will come in and handle essentially all of the HOAs burdensome tasks – inspecting for rule violations, writing letters of reprimand, recording minutes,



The Homeowners' Forum, a quarterly meeting of Cranberry's HOA presidents, is convened by the Township to share information, concerns, and initiatives affecting local residents.

collecting dues, maintaining common areas, negotiating dispute resolutions, organizing social events, and more.

But there's also self-help for the officers of HOAs. More than ten years ago, Cranberry began to convene quarterly meetings of officers from Township HOAs so they could discuss issues and share approaches to problems that many of the neighborhood associations faced, like maintaining their common grounds or dealing with people who refuse to pay their dues.

"We're not the center of the circle in these meetings," Assistant Township Manager Duane McKee points out. "We simply create a space and the time and try to be the organizer to remind all the HOAs that there's an opportunity for you to talk to someone just like yourself, about the same issues. They share information and experiences. They exchange email addresses. They exchange the attorneys they use, the contractors they use, and things like that."

"We create the agenda from information collected from the previous meeting and information that comes in the door throughout that quarter. Then at each meeting, there's a volunteer from the HOA that chairs the meeting and goes through the agenda."

More about HOAs is available on the Township's Website, www.cranberrytownship.org/HOA. ~

SV Drug Testing Proves Positive

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District



Seneca Valley takes great pride in our efforts to encourage and maintain an alcohol and drug-free setting in our schools. As such, we have been recognized by state and national organizations for our efforts to do so through the implementation of a grade 7-12 drug testing policy for athletics, extracurricular activities and driving to school. This policy, in place now for eight years, has served as an excellent example and template for other districts across the country, and this year's results give us another reason to laud this program.

The results from the 2010-11 school year indicate that district averages fall well below the national average.

The random positive testing rate for 2010-2011 was .43 percent, a fraction of the national average, which according to Sports Safe Testing Service, is 2.5 percent.

"The Seneca Valley numbers are exceptional and certainly show what a long term program can provide in terms of positive rate reduction," said Matt Franz, owner of Sports Safe, the Ohio-based drug testing service that serves as the vendor for the Seneca Valley program.

In 2008-2009, the positive rate was .72 percent. In 2009-2010, the positive rate was .69 percent. The continued decline in the 2010-11 school year was even accomplished after the introduction of a new 80-hour test for alcohol.

While the positive rate is certainly a great sign, what pleases Seneca Valley officials the most is the follow-up rate. Any student who has a positive test must complete five follow-up tests. The new software allows the testing company to track this information better so district officials can see if students are responding to intervention. Of the 74 follow-up tests, only one student had a repeat offense.

"That is fantastic, and it shows that the methods of handling a positive test are effective," said Franz.



Seneca Valley continues to be a model for schools all across the nation as drug and alcohol abuse is a challenge in every high school. The district has been contacted not only by other districts in the state and nation, but by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as well as CBS Evening News, so they may learn about the District's efforts. The need for such a program exists, which is why the Seneca Valley School Board and Administration will continue to proactively address the challenge.

Of course, any program's success is largely dependent on the integrity of the test, and not only in the collection of it, but in the identification of those students who participate. The process begins at the testing company where student identification numbers only (no names) are chosen in a lottery format. Those numbers are submitted to the school administration, who matches them with the corresponding student name. Those students are immediately tested through the collection of a urine sample, which continues to be the industry standard. Each collection is sent to a certified laboratory for screening and confirmation, and each result is then verified by a medical review officer. In the case of a positive result, the first call is made to the home.

"There are consequences associated with the policy, but the purpose of the program has never been punitive," said Dr. Matthew McKinley, assistant superintendent. "The program has given and continues to give families the gift of early detection."

The entire Seneca Valley Drug Testing Policy (#227.1) can be found on the policies page under the school board heading of the district's Web site at www.svsd.net.

"Kids need to hear clear and consistent messages of the behavior that is expected. It is extremely important that we provide our kids a reason to say 'no,' while providing early intervention to those who can't," said Franz.

Pitch bottles, get points

Automated Recycling Machine Comes To Town

There's a certain irony in the success of Cranberry's residential recycling program: it's that while recycling is now routinely practiced by the vast majority of Township households, those same individuals find, when they're on the road or in public places, that there's no place to recycle their empty bottles or cans. So they end up throwing them in the trash.

As a result, places like cafeterias, counter-service restaurants, gas stations, stadiums and convenience stores frequently end up pitching a large volume of customer waste that could easily and profitably be recycled. In fact, only about a third of the beverage containers sold ever get recycled.

Now that may be starting to change. On Flag Day, June 14, a novel program – already active in 20 other states – was

rolled out at the Handee Marts Seven-Eleven store on Route 19 at Glen Eden Road. Called The Dream Machine recycling initiative, it involved the installation of a 400-pound kiosk that looks a lot like a beverage vending machine with a touch screen. But



instead of dispensing bottles and cans, it collects them as empties from customers, issuing coupons and reward points in return which can be redeemed for travel, discounts, and free merchandise from participating vendors – or as donations to charities.

At the dedication, Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Bruce Mazzoni acknowledged that the recycling idea has clearly been embraced by Cranberry residents. "However, a truly comprehensive recycling program is a work in progress, and some gaps still remain," he said. "One of them is that, until now, most convenience stores have not made recycling particularly easy for their customers. This Dream Machine initiative changes that. And it's a great fit with the other elements of our Collection Connection program."

Frequent users of Dream Machines are invited to apply online for key fob cards which can be swiped and used to track their accumulated incentives. But you don't need to be a card-carrying program member to participate; it

accepts cans and bottles from anyone – with or without ID. And when it's almost full, the machine automatically sends an email instructing the person responsible for the machine to empty its container.

The project, a brainchild of PepsiCo in partnership with Waste Management and Keep America Beautiful, also generates funds, primarily from PepsiCo, supporting a program of entrepreneurship training for disabled post-9/11 veterans – an outcome which made its local rollout on Flag Day particularly significant.

Cranberry Township is the site of the first Dream Machine installation in western Pennsylvania. Over time, its partners contemplate a network of 3,000 units nationwide, at high-traffic locations, designed to conveniently capture a larger portion of the cans and bottles generated on site. Their ultimate goal: to raise the proportion of beverage containers recycled from its current 34 percent to 50 percent by 2018.

According to PepsiCo, only 12 percent of all public places are currently outfitted with recycling receptacles of any kind. If its program succeeds, that percentage could continue

creeping upward, helping to narrow the gaps in today's recycling efforts. ~

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The Fine Art Of Recycling. Recycling can be beautiful as well as practical. Just ask the participants in last year's Garby Awards competition, who created original artworks from material eligible for collection in Cranberry Township's residential recycling program. That competition resumes this year with three top cash prizes. It is open to groups and individuals, regardless of their residency. Entry forms and detailed rules are available online at the CTCC website, www.ctccchest.org. All entries will be displayed in the Municipal Center lobby between June 15 and final judging on July 8. Proceeds from the competition will benefit the future Cranberry Arts Society.



Recycle the good times!



Backyard bashes, graduation gatherings, championship celebrations, street fairs, holiday blowouts, block parties, reunion revelry...

Now it's easier than ever to recycle all the beverage cans, bottles and plastic containers your guests can generate.

Cranberry Township will lend you – free of charge – a recycling rack with bags for recyclables and another rack for the party trash.

Planning an event?

Call Cranberry Customer Service 724-776-4806 for more information.



cranberrytownship.org/collection

**collection
connection™**
A CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP PROGRAM

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
built for you.

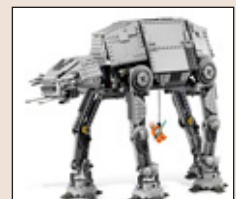
Putting Down Roots. If you haven't looked around the Dog Park lately, you're in for a pleasant surprise. On May 5, two dozen Westinghouse employees showed up for a community service Day of Caring in the Township's Community Park. The company's contribution: buying and planting approximately 100 white pine trees around the Rotary Dog Park. Most of the trees are concentrated toward the Dog Park's back side; in time, they will create a barrier screening the dog park from nearby neighbors. The Westinghouse donation is part of a larger effort to reforest public areas county-wide.



Spike That Field. Field A, at the northernmost point of the Graham Park Football Campus, can get pretty soggy. And because of its geology – a layer of soil over a rock ledge – it's been hard to drain. But playing ball on a wet field can wreck it. So Cranberry Grounds Maintenance Manager Rebecca Auchter came up with a plan – one she had used successfully on a previous employer's ballfield. In effect, it involved injecting the field's clay-like soil to speed its drainage after rain storms. Altogether, 200 tons of sand was layered and repeatedly pounded into the field using long spikes to increase its porous qualities, and positive results are already evident. Other Township athletic fields are being evaluated for a similar treatment.



T-Rex Meets Fairy Princess. It was bound to happen. Young adventurers up to 11 years of age in Camp Cranberry's Snapology session this summer at the Township Municipal Center will be using mechanical and motorized Legos to build and then animate battling robots, dinosaurs, and other creatures of a child's wild imagination under the watchful eye of a local school teacher. At the same time, at Camp Cranberry's Fairy Tale camp in Community Park, young girls will dress up as princesses, wear crowns, host teas, and throw imaginary balls while dressed in character. Their interaction promises to be very special. Registration for both, as well as for the two-week Deep Space Camp, is available through Parks & Recreation.



Community days 2011: bigger, better, bolder *Continued from front cover.*

But it does so in an atmosphere supercharged with food, fun and festivity.

At 4:00 on Thursday, following an invitational kickoff luncheon, the Nonprofit Midway will open in Community Park with an assortment of games involving both skill and chance. The Second Annual CTCC Car and Motorcycle Cruise also starts at 4:00 in Community Park as does the Bartlebaugh's Amusements Carnival, which continues until 11:00 that night.

More than 70 informational and craft booths will be open for all three days, beginning Thursday afternoon. Another 100 will open

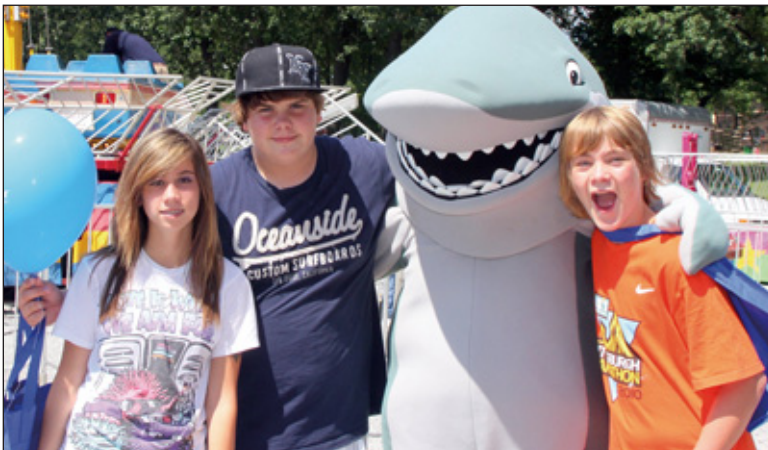
The three-day event is designed to raise public awareness and support for Cranberry's civic and nonprofit organizations in an atmosphere supercharged with food, fun and festivity.

for business on Saturday, the final day of the event. And softball teams from CTAA will compete against visiting teams in a tournament scheduled to continue throughout the three day celebration.

Every evening of Community Days will feature a different musical performer on the Rotary Amphitheater Stage. Thursday is Tom Watt's Jimmy Buffett tribute, Margaritaville in Cranberry. The Corbin/Hanner

Country Band will appear at 7:00 on Friday evening. And an 8:00 concert by Johnny Angel and the Halos will conclude the series Saturday night.

Starting at 11:00 Friday morning at the Municipal Center, the Cranberry Rotary Chicken Barbeque will open for business and will continue selling hot meals for \$10 apiece well into the evening. Final judging of the Recycled Art Contest entries and presentation of the winners' prizes, including the coveted Garby Award, will take place at 4:00 in the Municipal Center. And at 6:00 the



American Heart Association will open its Bean Bag Toss competition to anyone 18 and older. Its \$20 entrance fee will be used to

fund research and education into stroke and heart disease.

The Lions Club will start the day Saturday serving its renowned \$7 pancake breakfast beginning at 8:00 in the Jaycees Shelter of Community Park – just \$3 for those ages nine and under. At 8:30, the Run for Your Library 5k race and 1-mile Fun Run begin; entry fees vary but all include food and keepsake items. Starting at 4:00, different fire companies will duke it out for honors in the Battle of the Barrels. Visits by Kimba the Face Painter, Spangles the Clown, Caleb the 14 year old Juggler/Unicyclist and Santa Claus, as well as contests sponsored by Moe's Southwest Grill, will also take place that afternoon.

Radio Disney will be on hand, entertaining on the main stage and engaging children with giveaways, games and prizes. A petting zoo, pony rides, food booths, inflatables, the Gymagic Bus, and a trackless train will all be open at the Community Park site Saturday afternoon. Parking will be free except for Saturday from 2:00 until 7:00, when the entire proceeds of a \$5 donation will be used to benefit the Violence Outreach Intervention Center, VOICe, in Cranberry. Army Reserve unit 475, based on Marshall Road, will assist in the parking operation. Tractor-pulled people movers, a trackless train and golf carts for assisting those in need will help pedestrian circulation within the park.

At the conclusion of Community Days, beginning at 9:30 Saturday night, a fireworks spectacular by Pyrotechnico of New Castle will begin. The company, which also provided fireworks last year, has been in business for more than 100 years. ~

In Cranberry, Summer Concerts Rock

The North Hills will be alive with the sound of music this summer – at least in Cranberry Township. Two evening music series featuring eight different performing groups will take the stage at the Community Park Rotary Amphitheater; a third series, at noon, will be held at the Municipal Center's Rotary gazebo. All twelve concerts are free.

CTCC COMMUNITY DAYS SERIES:

Three free evening concerts, featuring some of Cranberry's favorite performers, will highlight Cranberry Township Community Chest's 2011 Community Days celebration, July 7-9. Thursday and Friday concerts start at 7:00 PM, Saturday begins at 8:00PM leading into the Fireworks Display. All are hosted at the open-air Rotary Amphitheatre.

Thursday, July 7. Jimmy Buffett impersonator **Tom Watt** performs his tribute to the music and spirit of the Jimmy Buffett concert experience. Watt, a dead ringer for Buffett, has been performing his tribute concert throughout the country since 1998 as "The Buffettman and his Fruitcakes Band."

Friday, July 8. Country-rock musicians Bob Corbin and Dave Hanner will perform along with **The Corbin/Hanner Band**, which includes keyboardist Al Snyder, bass guitarist Curt Erickson, and drummer Joe Waslousky.

Saturday, July 9. **Johnny Angel and the Halos** take the stage for the Community Days finale. Their concerts are more than a salute to music of the '50s, '60s and '70s – they are also part of the band's personal history, having performed with many of the original artists from that era.

THURSDAYS IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES:

Five free evening concerts will be featured in Cranberry Township's Thursdays in the Park music series beginning July 14. Each concert starts at 7:00 PM at the Rotary Amphitheatre.

July 14. The repertoire of the 30-member **East Winds Symphonic Band**, under the baton of conductor Susan Sands includes, in addition to serious concert music: Dixieland, Broadway show medleys, and marches.

July 21. The five-piece **Mahajibee Blues** ensemble describes its music as "not your mama's blues." The band's high-energy renditions of its own blues compositions have been proven audience pleasers.

July 28. **Softwinds**, originally formed in 1960, performs in a variety of musical styles. But it has remained true to the doo-wop genre including such classics such as "I Only Have Eyes for You," "In the Still of the Night," "Runaround Sue," and "Barbara Ann."

August 4. The 30-member **Allegheny Brass Band** is an all-brass ensemble with a distinct British accent, using

a different mix of instruments than its American counterparts.



August 11. The eight-member **No Bad JuJu** band, with its eclectic mix of music including R&B, Soul, and Funk, delivers a performance of energized dance music driven by its rhythm and horn section.

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES:

Four Friday Lunchtime Concerts will be held at the Municipal Center's front lawn Gazebo starting at noon, July 22.

July 22. **Randy Shoup**, "The Singing DJ," sings a short set imitating the work of such legendary artists as Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, and Frank Sinatra in addition to playing recorded music.

July 29. **The Pittsburgh Banjo Club**, a Cranberry favorite, includes trumpets, tubas and bass in addition to banjos. Its extensive repertoire includes what many feel is the happiest music in the world.

August 5. **Sandy Lusco**, a singer, songwriter, and guitarist whose performances include traditional and contemporary gospel and country music, bluegrass, oldies, show tunes pop, and folk as well as her own original music.

August 12. **The Butler Notables Barbershop Chorus** includes 24 members performing in a four-part a cappella harmony style. The group plays events throughout the year in Butler County.

The 2011 Community Days and Thursday concert series are sponsored by PNC Financial, Armstrong, UPMC, Sherwood Oaks, Cranberry Township's Parks & Recreation Department, and the Cranberry Township Community Chest, CTCC. The 2011 Lunchtime concert series is sponsored by Monte Cello's of Cranberry and Westinghouse Electric.

Cranberry Rotary will be offering a limited selection of food for sale at the Thursdays in the Park series concert site. Parking is free and there is no admission charge. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs to the site. ~

JULY

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 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Firecracker Family Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9–11pm	SAT 2 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm	SUN 3	MON 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Race for Virginia and Friends 5K Run/Walk Community Park, 7:30am Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Cancelled	TUES 5 Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1pm Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9pm
WED 6 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 7 Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Little Linguists <i>Stories from India</i> , Library, 10:30am CTCC Community Days – DAY ONE Cruisin Cranberry, Carnival, Community Park 3–11pm The Buffett Man Concert, Community Park 7pm Board of Supervisors Mtg cancelled		FRI 8 Senior Center Birthday Party Senior Ctr, 9:30am CTCC Community Day – DAY TWO Cranberry Rotary Chicken BBQ at Municipal Ctr 11am–7pm, AHA Bean Bag, CTAA Tournaments, Carnival, Corbin Hanner Country Band Concert, Community Park, 3–11pm	
FRI 8 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Harry Potter After Hours Party Library, 6–8pm	SAT 9 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm CTCC Community Days – DAY THREE Lions Pancake Breakfast, Run For Your Library 5K, Carnival, Booths, Johnny Angel and The Halos Concert, Fireworks, Community Park 8am–11pm Library opens at 12pm today		SUN 10	MON 11 Teen Online Trivia Contest through July 15, Library Register for Senior Center Breakfast Fundraiser * First Editions Book Discussion <i>FDR or Eleanor Roosevelt</i> , Library, 7pm
TUES 12 Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9pm Choose a Cruise Discussion Library, 6:30pm	WED 13 Senior Center Breakfast Fundraiser Municipal Ctr, 9:30–11am Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 14 Harry Potter Read-in Library, 10am–4:30pm Concerts in the Park <i>East Winds Symphonic Band</i> , Community Park, 7pm	FRI 15 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 16 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm SUN 17
MON 18 Preschool Program with Jack Norton Library, 10am Zoning Hearing Board Mtg as needed Municipal Ctr, 7:30pm	TUES 19 Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9pm	WED 20 Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Swan Thieves</i> by Kostava, Library, 10am Knee Treatments UPMC Wellness Series, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 21 Concerts in the Park <i>Mahajibee Blues</i> , Community Park, 7pm	FRI 22 Lunchtime Concert Series <i>Randy Shoup</i> Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm
SAT 23 Relay For Life North Boundary Park, 10am–10am Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm Rooney: A Sporting Life authors' presentation, Library, 12–2pm	SUN 24 Relay For Life North Boundary Park, until 10am	MON 25 Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>Rope Walk</i> by Brown, Library, 7pm		TUES 26 Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9pm Destinations: Shore Excursions Discussion Library, 6:30pm
WED 27 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 28 Concerts in the Park <i>Softwinds</i> , Community Park, 7pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	FRI 29 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm Lunchtime Concert Series <i>Pittsburgh Banjo Club</i> Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm	SAT 30 Q&A with Berkheimer Tax Associates Municipal Ctr, 10am–12pm Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm End of Summer Reading Program Party Library, 1:30–3pm	SUN 31

AUG

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☛ Cranberry Library 724-776-9100

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* 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

MON 1 First Editions Book Discussion <i>Song Yet Sung</i> , by McBride, Library, 7pm Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm	TUES 2 First Editions Book Club Field Trip Underground Railroad, 10am–4pm Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9pm	WED 3 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 4 Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm Concerts in the Park <i>Allegheny Brass Band</i> , Community Park, 7pm
FRI 5 Cranberry CUP Neighborhood Golf Outing Cranberry Highlands, 8am Kick-Off Party, 6:30pm Lunchtime Concert Series <i>Sandy Lusco</i> Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 6 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Community Park	SUN 7 Cranberry CUP Softball Tournament Community Park	MON 8
TUES 9 Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1pm Totally Tubular Tuesdays Night Swim Community Waterpark, 9pm	WED 10 Behind the Scenes in Cranberry Twp * with Twp Mgr Jerry Andree, Waterpark, 11am Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm	THURS 11 Concerts in the Park <i>No Bad Ju Ju</i> , Community Park, 7pm	FRI 12 Senior Center Birthday Party Senior Ctr, 9:30am Lunchtime Concert Series <i>Butler Notables</i> Municipal Ctr Gazebo, 12pm Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm
SAT 13 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm	SUN 14	MON 15 Parks and Recreation Fall Program Registration † Zoning Hearing Board Mtg as needed, Municipal Ctr, 7:30pm	TUES 16 WED 17 Books & Bagels Discussion <i>Piano Teacher</i> by Lee, Library, 10am How's Your Hearing? UPMC Wellness Series, Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm Family Game Night Library, 6:30pm
THURS 18	FRI 19 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 20 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm Aquathon 5K Run/Walk North Boundary Park, 8:30am	SUN 21 MON 22 TUES 23 Infant Family Time Library, 11am or 1pm
WED 24 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm 2–3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7pm	THURS 25 2–3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm	FRI 26 Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30–6pm	SAT 27 Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am–1pm
SUN 28	MON 29 Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club <i>Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> by Larsson, Library, 7pm	TUES 30 Infant Family Time Library, 11am or 1pm	WED 31 Housing Counseling † Library, 2:30–4:30pm 2–3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7pm

SEPT

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* 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

THURS 12-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm		FRI 2Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm		SAT 3Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm		SUN 4		MON 5LABOR DAY all Twp Offices Closed	
TUES 6Planning Advisory Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7pm Infant Family Time Library, 11am or 1pm		WED 7Behind the Scenes in Cranberry Twp * with Twp Mgr Jerry Andree, Brush Creek Water Treatment Plant, 10-11:30am Housing Counseling† Library, 2:30-4:30pm 2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7pm						THURS 8Adult Discussion Group Library, 10am 2-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11am	
FRI 9Senior Center Birthday Party Senior Ctr, 9:30am Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm		SAT 10Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm Puppy Plunge † Waterpark, 3 sessions, 9am-2:30pm			SUN 11		MON 12Registration begins 4 & 5 Year Old Storytime * Library First Editions Book Discussion Title TBA, Library, 7pm		
TUES 13Infant Family Time Library, 11am or 1pm Cranberry Seniors Mtg Municipal Ctr, 1pm		WED 142-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 7pm THE CHAMBER Taste of Cranberry Municipal Ctr, 5-7pm			THURS 152-3 Year Old Storytime Library, 11am		FRI 16Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm		
SAT 17Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm Electronic Recycling Drive Public Works Operations Facility, 10am-3pm		SUN 18		MON 19Zoning Hearing Board Mtg as needed, Municipal Ctr, 7:30pm		TUES 20		WED 21Books & Bagels Discussion Title TBA, Library, 10am UPMC Wellness Series Sr/Teen Ctr, 12:30pm	
THURS 22	FRI 23AUTUMN BEGINS Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm			SAT 24Farmers' Market Rt. 19 Fire Station parking lot, 10am-1pm		SUN 25		MON 26Planning Advisory Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30pm 20 & 30 Somethings Book Club The Road by McCarthy, Library, 7pm	
TUES 274 & 5 Year Old Storytime * Library, 11am or 1pm		WED 28Family Pajama Storytime * Library, 7pm		THURS 29ROSH HASHANAH 4 & 5 Year Old Storytime * Library, 11am or 1pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 6:30pm			FRI 30Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr, 3:30-6pm Final Day to Pay SVSD Real Estate Tax at 2% Disocunt		



The weather on Memorial Day weekend was perfect. And Cranberry's Community Waterpark, now entering its 15th season, was ready.

"Opening weekend was very well scripted for our first day of operation on Saturday May 28," Parks & Recreation Director Mike Diehl noted. "We had a nice warm day approaching 90 degrees, slightly overcast, which gave us a more manageable crowd. It gave us a soft start, which is good for a staff starting a season, getting re-familiar with their duties.

"We built on that for Sunday; before opening at 11:30, there was a line of probably 100 people, all waiting to get in. We had a very good day, a nice steady crowd, nice numbers. And all of that lead up to

Waterpark Opens With A Splash

a perfect convergence of 90-plus temperatures on Monday, Memorial Day. In fact, May 30 may have been the biggest day the pool has ever experienced. There were more than 2,000 swimmers."

Guests returning to the Waterpark for the 2011 season saw a

number of subtle changes in its appearance and operation. More and better lounge chairs. Exterior poster frames. Cash-free bar code scanning accounts for poolside spending on food, drink and other purchases. Refurbished sand play toys. A large and prominent new clock. New menu choices. And completely refinished dressing rooms and shower stall floors.

Other changes – less apparent to the eye – also contributed to the improvement. At the end of last year, every pump that either drives, cleans, or circulates water at the pool was removed, overhauled and prepped for a new season. So were the backup pumps. Half the filter tank filters were replaced; the rest were taken out and completely

cleaned in preparation for the season. And repairs to the roofs, gutters, and other features of the Waterpark's buildings were also completed.

Pool water temperature is maintained between 78 and 82 degrees throughout the season; tempera-

tures of 84 degrees or higher can lead to hyperthermia – a potentially serious condition leading to heat exhaustion, a particular danger for young children. Chlorine levels in the 440,000 gallon pool are maintained at a level sufficient to destroy the body bacteria associated with swimmers, while hidden filters work to capture the lotions, sunblock and ointments that wash off while they're in the water.

In addition to daily swimming from 11:30 to 8:00 PM, except in bad weather, the Waterpark offers private deck rentals, birthday party services, and swimming lessons for groups as well as individuals of every age throughout the summer. For more details, visit www.cranberrytownship.org/Waterpark. ~

"In fact, May 30 may have been the biggest day the pool has ever experienced. There were more than 2,000 swimmers."

Cpl. Dan Hahn: Amazing Progress

Cranberry police corporal Daniel Hahn, who was critically injured in the nighttime pursuit of an escaping suspect on February 14, has now returned home. Hahn, who followed the suspect on foot as he jumped over a jersey barrier which turned out to be the edge of a bridge in Jackson Township, fell 22 feet onto a roadway below and suffered multiple fractures, including a broken back.



Following weeks of acute care and months of in-patient therapy, Hahn was released to continue treatment from home in late May. In April, he attended a spaghetti fund-raising dinner held to help his family; the event drew more than 1,300 supporters.

"He has this great sense of humor and drive," Lt. Kevin Meyer explained. "When you talk to him, he'll joke and he'll stress to you his desire to come back to work. That motivation is what's driving him to get better. And his therapist says that he was a big motivator for other patients down at the rehabilitation center."

Cranberry Dedicates Park Bridge In Memory Of Ralph Mashuda

Ralph Mashuda – CEO of the heavy construction/excavation company that carries his name as well as owner of the Indian Motorcycle franchise on Rt. 19 across from the YMCA – was a generous benefactor to Cranberry Township as well as a unique business leader. On February 19 of last year, Mashuda died unexpectedly of a stroke at age 60.

On May 5, a ceremonial unveiling of a plaque dedicating the bridge over Brush Creek in Graham Park to his memory was held at the park site, attended by local officials, family members, business associates and local sports teams. The dedication honors the generosity of the Mashuda family, whose Cranberry-based earthmoving company donated the grading of Graham Park for only the cost of the fuel – a gift valued at a million dollars.

John Skorupan, Chairman of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors, led the brief ceremony. Dolores, Mashuda's widow, together with their daughter, unveiled the plaque which reads: "Dedicated to the memory of Ralph Mashuda – earthmover, motorcycle enthusiast, community benefactor, Cranberry business owner of the year – who continued his family's legacy of generosity and was instrumental in the construction of Graham Park."

During his lifetime, Mashuda had little use for conventional business rituals. He was openly excited about the heavy machinery that defined his earthmoving business. He was an enthusiastic collector of exotic cars – a collection he maintained on the lower level of the building which housed his business office. And long before acquiring the Pittsburgh franchise for Indian Motorcycles – pricey touring bikes with a pedigree tracing back to 1901 – he had been a dedicated motorcycle buff.

Even his office building was unconventional. Built during the peak of cold war tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union, it was constructed to withstand everything short of a direct nuclear strike. It still contains a bunkhouse shelter, circa 1961, with all the provisions then believed to be necessary for survivors to wait out a thermonuclear apocalypse.

But notwithstanding his long ponytail, exotic collecting interests, and biker lifestyle, he was a respected business leader, having been named Cranberry's 2009 Business Leader of the Year by the local Chamber of Commerce and Community Chest.

"According to local legend, Ralph Mashuda's family picked up and moved to Cranberry from the Midwest in the late 1940s to build the Pennsylvania Turnpike," Supervisor Bruce Mazzoni told those attending. "Apparently they liked it here. And as long as they were in the building business, they helped

build Cranberry, too. Ernie Mashuda Drive in Community Park is an early example.

"Ralph Mashuda carried on that family legacy, and much of what you see around you today was the result of his gift to Cranberry. His employees and equipment transformed the Graham family's west farm field into this great, tournament-level park. And for that we are very grateful. In fact, a few years ago, we took out an ad in the Pittsburgh Business Times which thanked the Mashuda Corporation for creating a level playing field for Cranberry Township.

"We remember Ralph Mashuda with great respect and fondness. And we thank all of his family, as well as those who worked alongside him in his business and community ventures. Your generosity and enterprise are greatly appreciated. So we are pleased to dedicate this bridge in his honor and, with this plaque, to officially designate it as the Ralph Mashuda Bridge." ~

Ralph Mashuda – earthmover, motorcycle enthusiast, community benefactor, Cranberry business owner of the year.



Ambulance Service Changes Leaders, Continues Advancing

An exhausted Cranberry paramedic crew chief, Ted Fessides, had just come home from working a 24-hour shift and attending classes at Community College, when the phone rang. It was Scott Smith, the Chairman of the EMS's Board of Directors. His message to Fessides: you're now in charge of running the ambulance service.

What prompted the Chairman's surprise call had been the unexpected news that the Executive Director of Cranberry's EMS had been suspended from his duties with the agency.

The sudden transition came at a time which had seen a series of major improvements in the ambulance company's operations. Its finances had stabilized. Its equipment had improved. Its service levels had risen. And its staff morale was better than ever. But changes were needed.

Soon after Fessides' appointment as Acting Executive Director, the EMS Board concluded that it needed to reorganize the service's management into a two-tiered structure. Fessides was named Permanent

Deputy Director, responsible for the organization's operations side. Jeff Kelly of UPMC, a former operations supervisor with the Ross West View EMS, was named Executive Director with a primary focus on the service's administrative

"We're still on a solid path and improving."

functions. However the change didn't impede the agency's progress.

"We're still on a solid path and improving," Fessides acknowledged. "In fact, we just had a meeting with the Township to discuss a new ambulance building location because our current structure, which was built 20 years ago, no longer meets our needs. Also, we will be having our business fundraiser within the next few weeks to help secure another ambulance for our newly-added day shift."

In 2010 alone the ambulance service – founded by the Fire Company more than 40 years ago as the Cranberry Volunteer

Ambulance Corps – responded to nearly 3,000 calls. Now fully independent and renamed the Cranberry Township Emergency Medical Service, the agency recently added a third crew to cover its busiest hours – between 11:00 AM and 11:00 PM Monday through Friday. Neighboring ambulance companies had previously been needed to cover almost one out of every seven calls from its home service area in Cranberry, Seven Fields, and parts of New Sewickley during those hours.

In addition to serving as Cranberry's EMS of record for 911 calls affecting the Township and its designated neighbors, the ambulance service is also offering quarterly CPR and first aid training. On Saturday, July 9 from 9:00 AM until noon and Saturday, October 8, also from 9:00 AM until noon, anyone can receive instruction in this important life-saving technique for a fee of \$20. The EMS can also arrange to do private CPR classes of four or more persons at any convenient location and time. Call 724-776-4480. ~



We Got Drugs, Man

The Township's second annual Drug Take Back collection on April 30 hit the jackpot. Over a four hour period, the program – part of an initiative by local police departments led by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to allow residents to safely dispose of unused, unneeded and expired prescription medications – received 189.75 lbs of drugs which were deposited in containers behind the Municipal Center; it was a 119 percent increase above last year's results. In addition to keeping dangerous drugs out of the wrong hands, the program is also designed to keep unwanted medications out of the Township's sanitary sewer lines, which eventually drain into local rivers and streams.

Whole-House Cookout

Placing a charcoal grill too close to your house can melt off your siding – which has actually happened here. And dumping hot coals too close to a shed or similar structure can set it on fire and spread flames to your house – which has also happened. These and other examples of local cookouts gone wild have prompted Cranberry's Fire Company to advise homeowners to keep their grills away from the house and off of wooden decks – preferably on concrete pads.



Firefighter profile:

In The Fire Service, Mike Hanks Found, You Grow Up Quickly

Things are changing fast for firefighter Mike Hanks

and his fiancée, Cassandra Pickett, now both in their early 20s.

It wasn't all that long ago when, as Seneca Valley High School seniors in 2007, they were scarcely on speaking terms. They were each living at their respective parents' homes, with little personal responsibility other than looking toward additional schooling – she at Edinboro State University, he at Pittsburgh Technical Institute.

That was then. Today, the couple's relationship has turned 180 degrees. They're settling into a newly acquired home of their own in Cranberry – with Mike working from 4:30 AM until 1:00 PM as Assistant Operations Manager for NexTier Armored Services, and Cassandra working three weekly 12-hour shifts as a cardio-vascular ICU nurse on staff at Mercy Hospital – all the while planning for their future wedding.

One byproduct of their unconventional work schedules is that both have significant blocks of daylight hours off work. So, in their free time, both have assumed increased responsibility as volunteers with the Township's emergency services – Mike as a Second Lieutenant in the fire brigade, Cassandra as a Board member of the Ladies Auxiliary, as well as an occasional EMS volunteer.

Daytime is always the most difficult period for Fire Companies to respond to emergencies. Most volunteers in the service are at their day jobs until early evening – often many miles

away. So Hanks' availability to be at the station most afternoons has been a huge asset to the Fire Company's active duty coverage. It is an opportunity he has embraced with enthusiasm. And each year, in CTCC's annual report salute to volunteers, Hanks has been listed among Cranberry's most generous residents in hours of devoted to community service.

Hanks' availability to be at the station most afternoons has been a huge asset to the Fire Company's active duty coverage. It is an opportunity he has embraced with enthusiasm.

But it is the training in firefighting skills and specialties – particularly those involving the challenging circumstances around vehicle rescues – that especially appeal to him. And that training frequently consumes entire weekends, not only within the Township's Fire Company, but at Butler County Community College, Allegheny County Fire Academy, and the Pittsburgh Bureau Fire Academy.

In addition to the Essentials class, he has taken a Vehicle Rescue Technician class, a Trench Rescue class, Rapid Intervention Team training, Truck Company Operations I & II, and more. Just last month, he was on track to take the Firefighter I exam. And this fall he plans to attend the state fire academy's Instructors class, which will give him the credentials to teach his fellow firefighters.

Meanwhile, as time allows, Hanks participates in the Fire Company's extensive program of fire prevention outreach to schools, businesses and neighborhoods. But he also takes time to reflect on how he became involved with the Company

Taking Heat.

Second Lieutenant Mike Hanks and his fiancée, ICU nurse Cassandra

Pickett – herself an officer of the Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary – are hard at work settling into their new life together while volunteering hundreds of hours a year to keep Cranberry safe.



in the first place – something which grew out of a chance encounter on a school bus.

"My family lived in Fox Run and we moved to a new neighborhood my senior year, so I got a different school bus. There was another kid who was in the Fire Company, Sean Hayden, and we talked about it. It was something I had wanted to do for a long time, and he's the one that helped me progress to becoming a member," he said.

"The cool thing is that between us and some friends I have in Zelienople and the Adams Area Fire District, we've all progressed at the same pace. We were all ranked Firefighter up until this year, now we're all Lieutenants. So it's been fun. And since May of '06, I'm up here pretty much every day.

"The only problem with this job is that when there's a vehicle crash or some other emergency, you never know what you're pulling up on. It could be family or close friends – it could be anyone. You just never know." ~

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

9/11 Ground-breaking Planned For Local Monument To Fallen First Responders

The tenth anniversary of the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 will be marked in Cranberry by ground-breaking for a new monument at the Rt. 19 Park Fire Station. It will include an 832-pound piece of steel taken from the ruins of World Trade Center in New York. The monument is intended to serve as a memorial to all of the first responders – fire fighters, police and EMS personnel alike – who lost their lives that day.

In October 2009, when Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company learned that The National September 11 Memorial and Museum was offering local fire companies the opportunity to secure a piece of steel from the fallen World Trade Center for use in public memorials, firefighter Jeff Berneburg volunteered to chair a committee and, with assistance from Fire Company president Bruce Hezlep, immediately began the application process to obtain an artifact from Ground Zero.

After several years, the artifact that Cranberry's Fire Company was offered came from an inventory of WTC building remains which the Museum

houses in a hangar at JFK International Airport. The painfully twisted beam, with the rivets still in place that once

attached it to an adjoining structural member, captures the overwhelming sense of loss and destruction which the attacks represented.

On the evening of April 21, the two men returned from JFK to the Park fire station with the beam secured to a trailer behind the Fire Company's



Incident Command Vehicle. There they were greeted by dozens of firefighters wearing full dress uniforms. Their trip had been financed by donations from local business and residents.

By day, Berneburg works as a Project Manager for McIlvried, DiDiano & Mox, LLC – a planning, engineering and surveying partnership in Warrendale. Along with fellow fire company members and his firm's

General Manager, Carmen DiDiano, Berneburg developed a design for the Memorial. Mr. Hezlep's employer, L. B. Foster in Greentree, PA, also made a financial contribution to the planned memorial.

"The layout is actually a scaled-down image of the World Trade Center site

showing where all the streets and buildings were located," Berneburg said. "The memorial's north-south orientation is also close to the way it was in New York. Its concrete is stamped with the names of the buildings and streets. The Twin Towers rise approximately 30-inches from the floor plan in granite; they will serve as mounts for the steel artifact. To the left, a granite stone will explain the timeline of events, together with the FDNY, NYPD and PAPD unit patches and the number of first responders who lost their lives. To the rear, toward the fire station, a 15-foot pole will be installed for the Fire Company Flag."

Any individual or business that wants to help with cost of the memorial's construction is invited to go to the Fire Company's web site, www.ctvfc21.org. A main menu listing on the left of the page, identified as '9/11 Memorial,' provides details regarding donations. ~

The painfully twisted beam, with the rivets still in place that once attached it to an adjoining structural member, captures the overwhelming sense of loss and destruction.

Dancing In The Dark

Just as fans of Pittsburgh Steelers' Hines Ward were settling in to watch the final installment of his "Dancing with the Stars," routine on May 24, the power went out. It had been a perfect Tuesday evening, with neither electrical storms nor air conditioning overloads on hand to trigger an outage. But somehow, two of Penn Power's high-tension lines had collapsed at a substation in Beaver County.

Altogether, more than 40,000 customers throughout southern Butler County and the North Hills of Allegheny County were affected. Traffic signals in many locations went dark. Cable Internet failed. Stores closed for the duration. Evening classes were cancelled, and some schools rescheduled their Wednesday calendars in anticipation of a long blackout.

Out on the street, a handful of Cranberry's 39 traffic lights are outfitted with battery backup systems, enough to maintain normal signal operation for as long as six hours. At its most heavily trafficked intersections, however, portable generators are quickly delivered and attached to the control boxes whenever a failure lasting more than a few moments takes place. At least in principle, those generators are

capable of running the signal system for days at a time without interruption.

But many traffic lights – especially those outside of Cranberry – simply stop operating when a power failure occurs. If you're a driver, what should you do? "If the lights are out, you have to treat them as stop signs,"

Public Safety Director Jeff Schueler warns. "That means all three or all four directions – whatever it may be. We just can't have people thinking they have the right of way." However if someone is out directing traffic, their instructions take priority.

Here's how the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code puts it: "Except when directed to proceed by a police officer or appropriately attired persons authorized to direct, control, or regulate traffic, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line or, if no stop line is present, before entering a crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if

no crosswalk is present, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a clear view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering.

"If, after stopping at a crosswalk or clearly marked stop line, a driver does not have a clear



"If the lights are out, you have to treat them as stop signs, that means all three or all four directions."

view of approaching traffic, the driver shall, after yielding the right-of-way to any pedestrian in the crosswalk, slowly pull forward from the stopped position to a point where the driver has a clear view of approaching traffic. The driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to

constitute a hazard during the time when the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways and enter the intersection when it is safe to do so." Got that?

Meanwhile, for residents back at home, the unexpected outage served as a blunt reminder of the need for advance emergency preparedness. "You have to have flashlights and batteries on hand," Schueler advises. "If your home is equipped with outdoor solar-powered lights, bring them in; they'll provide up to eight hours of light. But refrain from using candles; they can create a fire hazard," he cautions.

In the case of the May 24-25 outage, electrical service was restored in stages; most of Cranberry's came back after six or seven hours. Other areas didn't come back on line until as much as 12 hours later. But as homes and businesses everywhere come to depend more and more on electronic devices, lapses in electrical service become increasingly disruptive to activities of every sort. And it makes the importance of personal emergency planning and preparation that much more apparent. ~



Sign Language

Cranberry is reflecting on its street signs

Street name signs in Cranberry, in case you haven't noticed, are becoming more standardized, more attractive, more informative, and easier to read. Part of it is cosmetic, including better color use and the addition of the Township's logo. But there is another, more mundane reason for swapping out older signs: federal law.

Back in 2003, the U.S. Department of Transportation published a manual with guidance regarding sign maintenance, along with a timetable for compliance. In essence, it says that any public agency which has installed traffic signs is responsible for maintaining them. In addition to restoring signs that have been knocked down, it means replacing those which have been rendered unreadable from exposure to sun, by weathering, or by vandalism.

The compliance guidelines start with the signs most immediately related to safety: the regulatory, warning, and directional signs posted along roadways. Cranberry alone has several thousand. And programs for assuring their legibility are required to be in place by next January.

Then, by the beginning of 2015, all of those safety-related signs will have to comply with DOT's reflectivity requirements – a measure of their brightness when illuminated by a vehicle's headlights. And by the beginning of 2018, signs of all sorts – route markers, informational signs, overhead guides, cultural designation signage and

street names – must also comply with the new minimum reflectivity requirements.

And if they don't? There's no provision in the code for a municipality to be fined or to jail its officials. But there's a vigorous tort industry which has grown up around blaming everyone else when someone gets hurt. So defending against the possibility of being held liable for negligence, or in some other way contributing to the conditions associated with someone's injury, occupies a huge part of the mind-space among local government officials.

If a warning sign can't be read, or someone can't make out a speed limit sign, or if someone doesn't see the sign telling them the route they're on takes a sharp turn up ahead, they can get into serious trouble. And it's worse at night, when visibility is poor – especially for older drivers whose vision may already be diminished. And that sort of trouble can lead to legal problems as well.

But how do you know when a sign is faded enough to qualify for replacement? The Feds offer several methods, including deputizing elderly drivers to go around pointing out which signs are hard to read. But

there's another, more sophisticated approach, and it's one that Cranberry is taking – well ahead of the federal deadline.

A device known as a retroreflector, which looks like an oversize power



drill, reads the reflectance of signs as they would be seen under a vehicle's headlights. Its measurements are then matched against a scale from DOT to see if the sign meets requirements or needs to be replaced. The Council of Governments representing a group of Butler County communities banded together to buy one of the meters, which they share. The results provide an inventory of which signs need to be replaced.

Workers from Cranberry's Public Works department are currently using it to make the rounds, with plans to inspect all Township-owned signs west of Rt. 19 by the end of this year; the rest are scheduled for 2012. And, as an added bonus, each sign is getting its exact GPS coordinates read. So if somebody runs off the road and whacks a sign, Public Works will know exactly where to replace it.

A Township training video about the program, which is also being used by public works departments as far away as Texas, is posted on the Township's website at www.cranberrytownship.org/retro. ~

By the beginning of 2015, all safety-related signs will have to comply with DOT's reflectivity requirements – a measure of their brightness when illuminated by a vehicle's headlights.

Key Development Project Updates

Land development projects in Cranberry are in different phases with some advancing, others scaling back, and still more in the concept stage. Here's a rundown of some major ones:

Cranberry Promenade. This 216,500 square foot retail development along the west side of Rt. 19, just north of Ogle View Road, was recently given approval to move ahead with construction. Aldi's supermarket will be its anchor tenant; other business and office space will also be built in a TND-like atmosphere with a decorative park at its center. Construction is expected to begin later this year.

Cranberry Crossroads. Along the westbound side of Rt. 228, immediately across from the entrance to Cranberry Woods and the Marriott hotel, a retail center which would include a two-story Dick's Sporting Goods store, is currently in the planning phase. The developer, which works as the real estate arm of Giant Eagle, has the advantage of building on a site that already has direct access to 228 at the signalized intersection which formerly led to a now-dormant KOA campground.

North Catholic High School. Although no formal application has been received, discussions have been held with North Catholic for the possible construction of a

new school, to be located east of Franklin Road and north at Rt. 228 and west of Highpoint Road, in Seven Fields Borough.

Village of Cranberry Woods. The first phase of this project, which is adjacent to the Westinghouse campus and east along Long Tree to Franklin Road, is being built under the provisions of a TND zoning overlay. It includes a 135-room hotel as well as retail and restaurant space on 10 acres of the project's 57 acre site.

Northwest Connector. Engineering and environmental clearances are now in place for this long-planned \$1.4 million extension of Heights Drive to Rt. 19. The link would provide local motorists with an alternative north-south route through the western side of Cranberry. Major work on construction is anticipated next year although some initial ground work could take place as soon as this year.

Highway Flyover. Contrary to rumor, the massive heap of soil that's being accumulated just east of the I-79 North exit ramp onto Rt. 228 is not a burial mound; it will become



the foundation for an as-yet neither designed nor funded flyover bridge that would carry traffic from I-79 over 228 to the undeveloped property on its eastbound side. Preliminary discussions are underway to coordinate its construction with three other development projects affecting 228 between I-79 and Franklin Road.

Sheetz. The Sheetz gas station and convenience store now on Freedom Road is planning to move to a larger site, just down the street, where a beer distributor's building formerly stood.

Chatham Commons. Leasing is going well in Chatham Commons, a complex of three four-story apartment buildings, now under construction across the street from the Powell Road entrance to Park Place. Once completed, the 13-acre site will house 128 apartment units, a community center and a swimming pool.

Check out "What Are They Building" on the Township homepage. ~



See Something? Say Something!

Cranberry's Public Works employees are always on the lookout for maintenance issues. But they can't be everywhere, all the time, so they want your help. If someone's hurt, most people know to call 911. But for non-emergency sightings of things that are lost, found or broken and require Township attention, the reporting process has been less clear – until now. Today, in all of Cranberry's parks and public spaces, new signs are being posted that ask people who spot something irregular to call

724-776-4806 Ext. 1005. It's a special Township number for anyone to leave a message detailing what they saw. Those messages are monitored 24/7 and, depending on the urgency and time it was phoned in, a Township employee will be on site to correct it within 24 hours, all week long.

Paved With Good Intentions

Road resurfacing is not an exact science, but it's getting there. So for Cranberry's 2011 resurfacing program, which covers 18 lane miles, it has involved hiring inspectors to measure exactly how much of each local road's surface is being picked up by the milling machines that strip away old material, and precisely how much of the new asphalt is actually going down.

"Size matters," Public Works Director Jason Dailey pointed out. "For a mile-long roadway, if your estimate was 25 feet wide and the road ends up averaging 26 feet, the six inches on either side can make a huge difference in your budget. So keeping daily tabs on what's being brought up, what's being put back down – that's critical to a million dollar contract because one road can blow your whole budget, even if it's just off a couple inches here and there."

Depth matters, too. "We're able to make adjustments on the fly, telling the milling machine to come up a half inch, or go down an inch, and keep track of the totals. After the machine's first 100 feet or so, we're able to get a good cross-section of the roadway and determine what depth to strip away. We keep a master spreadsheet and we balance it out at the end of every day. So we're able to keep projects in line, in budget, and make adjustments as needed throughout the contract."

But what do you do with the old material that gets stripped off? You reuse it. "The stuff that's taken up here belongs to us," Dailey said. "It's a valuable commodity to contractors and to communities." So, for example, a new 60-car parking lot near the Dog Park was topped with material taken from Alps Avenue this year. And another new parking area – adjacent to the

Graham Park football campus – is being built with material from Powell Road.

Cranberry's 2011 paving program began several months earlier than usual, which helped to lock in more favorable pricing. But deciding which roads to include can get tricky if you're seeking bids in the middle of January, before a full assessment of the winter's freeze-thaw cycle can be made.

So part of that determination is made using the Township's standard resurfacing program in which every road is evaluated at least once every 12 years.

"The challenge is that sometimes you don't know," Dailey said. "We put our preliminary road list together based on inspections we did in 2010. But over the winter, roads will heave and damage will be done that may not have been visible last year. So in the spring, we swap in roads that may have blown apart. And sometimes we find that a road on the list needs more work before we can pave – damaged catch basins, collapsed pipes, those kinds of things.

"We're able to bring in roads from our alternate list to make up for that. So you've got to have a contingency plan and you develop it as you go," he said. "Of course, we're always up against a temperature deadline in the fall when the asphalt plants start shutting down. And you also have to have a cutoff in time to get ready for normal winter maintenance."



Deciding which roads to include can get tricky if you're seeking bids in the middle of January, before a full assessment of the winter's freeze-thaw cycle can be made.

But deciding what's normal isn't as easy as it used to be. Different temperature and precipitation patterns over the past few years have had unpredictable impacts on road damage, crew hours, salt consumption, and equipment use. "Last winter, we had a lot of nuisance snows, where we had to throw salt after every event," he said. "So we were above our average of 4,500 tons; we've been in the 5,500-ton range for the last two winters. But nuisance snow events don't directly translate into road damage you're going to see in the spring or the types of repairs you'll need to make."

At the same time, however, a new tool has been added to Cranberry's roadway maintenance arsenal to help extend the roadway life: crack sealing. "The Butler County COG has a crack sealer, and we use it a few weeks each year. On average, it extends the life of a 12-year road by another three to five years; that's a pretty good return on investment for a week's worth of crack sealing," he said. ~



724-776-4806
www.cranberrytownship.org

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

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If fireworks are illegal in Cranberry, what are all the tents that spring up selling fireworks doing here? Even some mainstream stores are stocking them.

What's Up With Fireworks In Cranberry?

The answer is that you can't set off fireworks which go up in the air and explode unless you have a special permit, and those permits are issued very sparingly. However, what are called Class C novelty items, which include sparklers, caps, ground spinners, cone fountains and illuminating torches, actually are legal, even though they, too, can pose a danger. And nobody needs a license to either buy or sell them. Although some Pennsylvania

residents go over to Ohio to buy commercial-grade fireworks and bring them home, those are considered illegal explosives in Pennsylvania and Cranberry police enforce that law.

Cranberry Township's municipal fireworks display will be held this year on the night of Saturday, July 9 at 9:30 as part of CTCC Community Days; there will be no Cranberry fireworks show on July 4. ~

We're Hot On The Trail. Cranberry Highlands is more than just a challenging golf course with pleasant banquet service. It is also a certified Audubon Nature Sanctuary in a setting rich with local wildlife, and the facility's maintenance staff is very excited about it. Now you can see that part of Cranberry Highlands for yourself. Hour-long guided tours along the facility's half-mile Audubon Nature Trail will leave from the golf course's Turfgrass Center on Tuesday mornings, July 19, August 16 and September 20. Saturday morning tours starting at 9:00 on July 23, August 20, and September 24 have also been scheduled. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required by calling the Parks & Recreation desk at 724-776-4806 ext. 1129.

