



CRANBERRY
• TOWNSHIP •

Cranberry today

2004 Spring EDITION

A new heart: Three unconventional projects converge along Brush Creek

A municipal heart transplant may be in the works.

The possibility of forging ties between three separate projects coming together near Cranberry's center have presented Township planners with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to create an area that would become a lasting magnet for civic, cultural, and recreational uses, as well as for new homes and small businesses, right in the heart of their community.

The three projects, which include rezoning for a new pedestrian-friendly business and civic Town Center along

Rochester Road across from the current Municipal Building, plans for a pre-WWII-style traditional residential neighborhood, or TND, further west along Rochester Road, and work on the development of recreational facilities in Graham Park next to the Turnpike, all touch the same area. Their effects on traffic, the natural environment, and the properties around them would be inextricably bound together.

To make sure the projects work together seamlessly, Township planners have begun to form a mini-comprehensive plan for the affected areas.

They are taking into account current land uses, environmental conditions, and roadways as well as projected future needs and uses. Particular attention is being paid to the anticipated mix of uses, central focal points, street networks, sidewalks, setbacks, and open spaces within the target area.

The resulting plan, known as the "Brush Creek Smart Growth Plan," will cover an area of more than 1,000 acres. It borders a number

See A new heart, on p. 2



Cranberry Area Transit Study Underway

By early morning, every business day, Port Authority's Brush Creek Park 'n Ride lot fills to capacity. If more space were available, it too would be quickly taken. The instant success of Port Authority's three-year old 13K route – originally created as a "reverse commute" service to transport Pittsburgh residents to jobs in Cranberry, has found its largest ridership going the other way. Although about 100 people commute from Pittsburgh to Cranberry, about 500 more from the Cranberry-Warrendale area take the bus south to Pittsburgh. The popularity of the 13K facility – less than a mile from the Butler-Allegheny County line – hints at the potentially explosive demand for public transportation from Cranberry to Pittsburgh.

But that may not be the only need for transit in and around Cranberry. "The Comprehensive Plan approved in 1995 focused on public transit," according to Dan Santoro, Cranberry Township's Assistant Manager. "The questions are: will PAT continue to offer service that benefits Cranberry residents? And if so, how can more Cranberry residents take advantage of that service? What additional services are needed in Cranberry and the surrounding area? And how will they be funded?"

To help find the answers, SPC – the nine county Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission – secured a federal grant to fund a Cranberry Area Transit Study. Those funds were quickly matched by funds from state, Butler County, and Township sources. The study team, a joint partnership of Cranberry Township,

see Transit study on p. 2

What's Inside...

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Community Maintenance | 7 Budget Info | 13 Public Works |
| 4 CranTech Profile | 8 Calendar Events | 14 Public Safety |
| 5 Library | 11 Cranberry Golf | 15 Engineering |

Transit Study (cont. from p. 1)

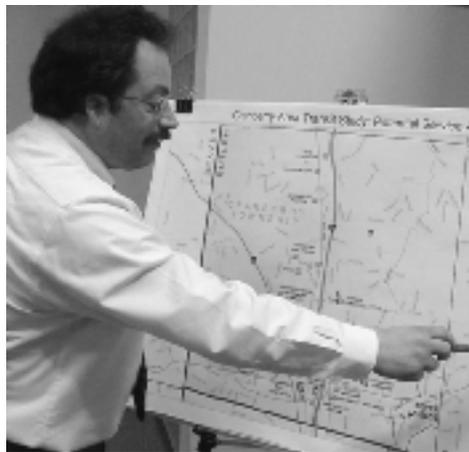
Butler County, Butler Township City Joint Municipal Transit Agency, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, along with Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, engaged the Michael Baker consulting engineers to manage the study. Its goal is to find options – including funding options – for Cranberry and the surrounding communities of southwestern Butler, Allegheny, and Beaver counties. The study team is being co-chaired by Cranberry Township Supervisor John Milius and Butler County Planner Dave Johnston.

An initial Community Open House at the Municipal Center on March 16 kicked off a series of public meetings designed to gather input from various stakeholders in the study area. Transit possibilities including more commuter bus lines, regional connections, and local circulator services – as well as a possible town center hub are all potential options. Representatives from the study team listened to ideas and encouraged those who attended to draw on a map the routes they believe will provide transit service needed in the area.

Beyond increased service to Pittsburgh, other transit needs that surfaced at the community meetings included the need for service to the Pittsburgh Airport, along the Rt. 19 and Rt. 228 corridors, to Evans City, and into the city of Butler. Other comments indicated a need for local shuttle service between specific neighborhoods and nearby shopping areas, businesses, and park

facilities, as well as transit service for kids after school and special accommodations to serve the needs of senior citizens. Questions about funding were also posed, Santoro said.

The Transit Study team will continue to hold community meetings throughout the service area during April. Meeting dates and places will be posted on the Township’s Web site, www.cranberrytownship.org. Following those meetings, the study’s Steering Committee will examine and then screen the ideas presented. By year’s end, the Committee is expected to recommend a transit plan that includes a financing plan, transportation guidelines, and types of transportation, as well as a transit timetable.



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Transportation modeling manager Chuck Imbrogiono describes the Cranberry Area Transportation Study now underway. Findings are expected by year’s end.



A new heart (cont. from p. 1)

of public places including the Municipal Center, Community Park, Haine School, and Cranberry Highlands Golf Course, in addition to various residential neighborhoods. It also abuts properties along Rt. 19 being considered for rezoning as a Business Park. A planning charette held several years ago explored environmentally-sensitive development opportunities in parts of that same area.

A special committee of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors is being formed to deal specifically with the sub-area plan where the three projects converge. Two public forums on the TND aspect of the plan have already been scheduled. On April 28, the developer will show a master plan for public review; on May 25 a final plan will be presented. Both meetings will run from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Municipal Center.

A draft land use plan and implementation strategy affecting the entire Brush Creek sub-basin is expected to be available this summer. A completed plan should be ready for final action by the Board of Supervisors in the fall. Execution of the plan, and coordination with the work of the independent Graham Park planning group, will be ongoing.

Where in the world is my Parks & Recreation Guide?

For more than ten years, Cranberry Township’s Parks & Recreation Guide was included as an insert to this newsletter. Starting this spring, the two publications are going their separate ways. A new, full-color Parks & Recreation catalogue is being jointly

published and distributed as a demonstration project by the Township and Eagle Printers, publisher of the Butler and Cranberry Eagle newspapers. It will be published three times a year and include a limited amount of advertising to help offset production costs. Cranberry Today will follow a quarterly publication cycle. There are no current plans for it to carry advertising. Extra copies of the Parks & Recreation guide,

which were mailed to every home in the Township and delivered as an insert to the weekly Cranberry Eagle, are available at the Parks & Recreation desk in the Municipal Center.



Community maintenance

Getting garbage right



New pressure from state and county officials to comply with municipal trash collection requirements has prompted Cranberry Township to re-think its entire approach to residential waste management. The results of that process, which is still underway, could become reality before the end of the year. And, if the various pieces fall into place, benefits including improved service, competitive price, and greater flexibility could make Cranberry a model community within the region. But a great deal of work remains to be done.



For years, the Township has licensed four separate haulers to operate in the community, each with its own pricing, collection schedules, and operating procedures. Some collected everything; others were more selective. Their recycling practices differed too. Beyond that, enforcement of the Township's licensing terms – which involved going before magistrates who would occasionally levy minor fines – had become largely ineffective. Then, more recently, a township's right to license haulers at all was dealt a blow by regulations

which appear to give the state, rather than the municipality, that licensing authority. As a result, municipalities are now being challenged in court by the waste industry over their right to license haulers in the first place.

But last summer, the crunch came. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection issued the Township a warning that compliance with the provisions of Act 101 – the state's 1989 Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Act – would be required and that penalties were available to enforce it. Then in February, Butler County issued its own updated Solid Waste Management Plan with strengthened requirements.

In a series of public forums held during late February and early March, Township staff members met with local residents to outline various options and hear their concerns. A summary of those forums was presented to Board of Supervisors on March 4. A more detailed outline of the options involving outside contractors was presented to the Board on March 30. Township staff was then directed to solicit bids so the Board could determine the actual costs of these options for review at their regular May 6 meeting. If the bids received are considered acceptable, a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be scheduled to further evaluate all the available options. Although they were not among the options presented for bidding, the options of requiring current haulers to collect yard waste as a condition of licensing, as well as of leaving the current arrangement in place and not participating in curbside yard waste collection, remain under active consideration.

“Residential trash is not an activity we were eager to get into,” Township Manager Jerry Andree pointed out. “A lot of people here just don't want government touching their trash. But now that we have no choice about getting involved, we've started to see that maybe this is an opportunity to do a better job for all our residents, and possibly even save them money, too.”

Here are the major objectives a reconstituted waste collection program would be designed to achieve:

1. Create a solid waste management and recycling program that would put us into compliance with Act 101 and the Butler County Solid Waste Management Plan.
2. Wherever practical, use economies of scale to provide a consistent, comprehensive solid waste management and recycling program at the lowest possible cost to the resident.
3. Maximize the resident's control over the amount they pay and services they use by using a variable rate schedule based upon the volume of solid waste they generate.
4. Increase flexibility by making it convenient for users to occasionally exceed their “purchased” rate volume, while maintaining the integrity of a variable rate system.
5. Maximize opportunities for recycling, thereby allowing users to reduce their solid waste disposal cost to the lowest possible rate.
6. Incorporate effective quality controls into the solid waste management and recycling program to maintain excellent service levels.
7. Build in opportunities for the Township to qualify for state grants that maintain the lowest possible cost to the user.
8. Incorporate user-friendly information, education, and instruction into all components of the waste management and recycling program.



crantech profile



Pharmacy robot maker experiencing sharp growth McKesson Automation, searching for room to grow, followed its workforce north to Cranberry

Shielded by its glass enclosure deep inside one of Thorn Hill Park's largest buildings, the robot's arm quickly climbs, pivots, and drops to grasp one of thousands of bar-coded plastic medicine packets hanging from the surrounding cluster of pegs. Then, just as quickly, it slips the packet into an envelope, applies an addressing bar code, and shuttles the container along to a cart for delivery to the patient's bedside.

The tireless drug-dispensing robot, which operates its phantom pharmacy with uncanny speed and accuracy, is at the core of an integrated family of automation tools serving hospitals, as well as a growing number of retail pharmacies, throughout North America. This particular one, using packets of candy to simulate the array of single-dose drugs now in clinical use, is testing new software that will enable its sister robots in more than 300 major hospitals to assure accurate storage, dispensing, restocking, and tracking of medications administered to patients.

Founded in 1992 as Automated Healthcare and acquired four years later by the giant McKesson Corporation, McKesson Automation straddles two rapidly-growing industries: robotics and health care. Its focus is on using automation and barcode technology to reduce medication errors and improve health care quality. Particularly with the current shortage of qualified health care workers, its equipment allows nurses and pharmacists to concentrate more on primary

patient care and less on routine medication dispensing and record keeping.

Several years ago, as its landlocked headquarters on Washington's Landing began to overflow, the fast-growing company realized it needed more room. From his quiet corner office in the 500 Building of Cranberry's MSA Park, Bernie Reese, McKesson's Vice President of Operations, recalled: "We looked at a couple of options. One was to stay near Washington's Landing on the North Side. We also looked at real estate in the Strip District. And we looked at combining with another division of McKesson out in Robinson Township. But we had a gut feeling that most of our employees lived north of the city. We did a zip code map of our employees and found that, in fact, we did have a large base of employees who lived in the northern suburbs.

"Combine that with the fact that we already had an assembly line plant over in Thorn Hill Park with roughly 85 people. If we were really going to make a commitment to grow in the future, we wanted to be in a place like Cranberry Township. So we went looking for real estate in Cranberry that suited our needs."

After subletting space while its own new MSA Park building was under construction, the company settled into its current quarters about a year ago; it now occupies half of the four-story 500 Building with software engineers and customer service staff. "This building houses about 300 full-time employees on a regular basis," he said. "We run our worldwide global help



On the floor of McKesson Automation's 120,000 square foot assembly plant in Thorn Hill Park, Vice President of Engineering and Manufacturing Manoj Wangu demonstrates the company's Auto-Script III robotic dispensing pharmacy system.

desk out of here. When customers in the U. S., Canada and Australia have questions, they call a toll-free number which routes them here. And we have that help desk operating around the clock, 365 days a year. There is always a McKesson presence in this building."

Locating in Cranberry provides real benefits to the company's employees, according to Reese. They include shorter commutes, an attractive workspace, and room to grow under one roof. Having that extra room will come in handy. Although McKesson does not report sales by division, its automation unit is clearly on a fast track. "One of the biggest problems I've had over the last couple years – and this is a good problem to have – is finding enough good people," he said.

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

library



Sunday library hours restored

Throughout the year, Cranberry Township's Public Library had pleaded for public support. In the end, the response was "heartwarming," says Carol Troese, Director of the library. Recent state budget cuts that reduced the allocation to public libraries across Pennsylvania had put the wide-ranging services provided by the Cranberry Library – including popular Sunday hours of operation – in jeopardy.

But thanks to the generosity of people stepping forward to support the library and its programs, the Library was able to reinstate Sunday library hours beginning February 1 and on through the end of the school year. In addition, much of this year's allocation for children's materials was also restored, according to Ms. Troese.

Following the announcement last year that libraries would have their state allocation cut by 50 percent for 2004, the library board launched an annual library-giving program aimed at making up for services that would otherwise be lost. As of March 26, the program had raised a total of \$12,440 from 288 individuals and families.

At the same time, the state also restored a portion of its funding for libraries, although below their previous level. The library actually received \$72,524 for 2004, which translates into a 36.5 percent reduction from the 2003 funding level.

Cranberry was fortunate to have been able to bring back some of its programs and Sunday hours, according to Ms. Troese, who noted that not all public libraries in the area were able to do so. Yet even with state allocations and the contributions to its annual fund, the library still anticipates a 20 percent reduction in the funds available for the purchase of new materials this year.

"Public libraries are essential to making sure that everyone – from the very young to the very old – has access to the rich resources available – including access to the Internet," according to Ms. Troese. More than 15,000 people walk through the library each month to take advantage of the services provided – including preschool children and their families, job seekers, people seeking information on health issues, students, and senior citizens.

Although libraries across the Commonwealth continue to seek additional state funds, there is no indication that previous funding levels will be restored anytime soon, she said. In anticipation of ongoing shortfalls, the Cranberry Public Library plans to continue raising funds through its annual library-giving program. Donors to the annual fund will be listed in a glass display case, just inside the library's front door.

Township logo gets a facelift

Cranberry Township's official logo has a new look. The Township's familiar red, white, and blue graphic symbol, which emerged from a community design competition in 1994, is being replaced with an updated version intended to convey the more established community Cranberry has become in recent years.

Over the next two years, as Township equipment bearing the old logo is refinished or replaced, the new red, green, and gold logo will be phased in. Cranberry vehicles, stationery, publications, uniforms, signs, and more will eventually all carry the new monogram.

While the updated logo introduces some significant design changes – including a different color scheme, a different type style, contrasting treatment of the words "Cranberry" and "Township," and separating the tag line "together toward tomorrow" from the logo itself, it also maintains elements of the earlier design. The distinctive peak-roofed spire – an architectural ornament which has become a signature feature of buildings in Cranberry – remains a prominent element of the design. So does its deep cranberry red color. Other design elements reflect an even earlier Township logo as well as its current bicentennial emblem.

One of the most prominent uses of the new logo will be on a welcoming monument, to be situated near the base of the new Turnpike Connector bridge over Rt. 19, facing northbound traffic. Another will be placed on Rt. 228 facing westbound traffic entering the Township. Installation of both monuments is planned for this spring.

The revised logo is copyrighted and can only be used with Township permission.



History in a heartbeat

What was Cranberry like in America's colonial era and even earlier? On February 12, as part of the Township's ongoing bicentennial celebration, local historian Dick Cherry – a political scientist and former legislator in his native state of Texas – served as narrator for a Cranberry Founders Day pageant in which he summarized the events leading to the formation of Cranberry Township. Before a tableau of characters costumed to represent Native Americans, British soldiers, and early settlers, Cherry offered this account:

Before there was a Cranberry Township, or a Butler County, or even a Pennsylvania, Native Americans roamed southwestern Pennsylvania for 12,000 years. In this area there were Iroquois, Delaware, and Seneca. They had major permanent settlements in places now known as New Castle, Franklin, and the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh. They had a hunting camp on Brush Creek along what is now Glen Eden Road. Two of their major trails ran throughout the



Standing guard. Re-enactor Vince Burgess of Zelienople, wearing the outfit of a Colonial-era British soldier, stood at the ready during the February 12 Founders Day pageant, part of Cranberry Township's ongoing bicentennial celebration.

Township. Cranberry was a rich source of game, fish, nuts and berries to feed everyone in the surrounding Native American settlements.

In the 1760s, the world's two most powerful nations – Britain and France – inevitably went to war over which would control North America. The Native Americans sided with France

because the French were for leaving the land in its natural state. The settlers, who wanted to cut the timber and clear and farm the land, sided with the British and thought of the British King and Parliament as their own government. The British and Colonists prevailed over the French and Indians.

Less than ten years later, it became clear to the Colonists that their British King and Parliament did not represent them and did not accord them the same rights and privileges that other Englishmen had. They declared their independence, and some of the same soldiers who had earlier fought with the British now fought against them. And the French, who were still smarting from their earlier defeat, now became the Colonists' most powerful ally and played a crucial role in the surrender of Cornwallis.

Matthew Graham was 16 years old when he first came to this area, in 1796, to hunt wolves and earn the bounty that the state paid for each wolf's head. He and his brother, William, were the sole support of their widowed mother in McKeesport. Soon, the brothers were able to buy 200 acres of land each in what would become Cranberry Township. Their mother joined them there. They would have been the second or third owners of that land – land that was once in



Bearing Witness. A resolution by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors recognizing the Township's Bicentennial and reiterating its founding principles was signed by more than 50 witnesses who were guests at the February 12 Founders Day celebration.

Benjamin Franklin's "Depreciation Land" program – a program that paid Revolutionary War veterans in land instead of worthless currency.

In 1813, Matthew Graham built the Black Bear tavern and became a successful innkeeper, as well as a farmer. In 1831, he built a sawmill, and two years later, a grist mill. In 1839, he helped Plains Church build a brick church to replace its original log building. Matthew was a founder of the Cranberry Township school system. He donated the land and built the school that Graham School Road is named for. No pioneer did more to develop Cranberry Township than Matthew Graham.

Only a dozen or so pioneer families settled here just before and just after the year 1800. This small band were the first citizens of what became Cranberry Township in 1804. Now, in its 200th year, it has grown to a municipality of some 26,000.



2004 budget includes 1.45 mill property tax increase

Embedded in the \$32 million 2004 budget adopted by Cranberry Township's Board of Supervisors on December 18 is a \$11.4 million General Fund, which pays for its police, parks, planning, public works, personnel, and related administrative functions. Up from \$10.3 million the year before and \$9.6 million in 2002, the General Fund is the budget portion that most clearly reflects the Township's recent experience with exploding insurance rates, unfunded state and federal mandates, increased pension costs, sharp cuts in state aid, and an overall increase in the costs of doing business, according to Township Manager Jerry Andree. He characterized it as 'a budget under stress.'

"We had been using the same 9.25 millage rate for the General Fund since 1993," Andree explained. "This budget includes a 1.45 mill increase, which amounts to approximately \$21 more in annual real estate tax for a home with a market value of \$150,000. At the same time, we are holding the line on water and sewer rates, as well as WaterPark memberships, daily admissions, and green fees at the golf course."

Despite the increase, Andree pointed out, the Township's relative share of the

real estate tax has actually declined over the past decade. "In 1993, of every real estate tax dollar our residents paid, 11 cents went to Cranberry Township. Even with this modest increase, eleven years later, our residents will be paying the Township just 9.3 cents," he said.

In 2003, the total real estate tax paid by Cranberry property owners was 150.59 mills, or approximately \$2,560 on a \$150,000 house, of which 113.34 mills was dedicated to the school district and 24.5 mills to the County. The Township's share was 12.75 mills, or \$214, including 2.5 mills for fire protection and 1 mill for the Library. Cranberry's 9.25 mill General Fund rate was last changed in 1993.

"This budget continues to reflect the Board's commitment to investing in the community's infrastructure," Andree noted. "Cranberry is celebrating its 200th birthday in 2004, but our community is still young in terms of its growth and infrastructure needs. The Board has consistently maintained that our goals must include building the community's infrastructure to meet future needs. That remains the guiding principle for 2004."

In his annual budget message to the

Board in mid-December, Andree listed a series of transportation, recreation, public safety, and water projects planned for 2004. Financing for each of those projects will come through one of the 17 funds that comprise the Township's budget, including its \$11.4 million General Fund.

Despite the unexpected loss of over one half million dollars of state sewer fund aid in 2003 and the second year of a 12 percent increase in price of water from West View Water, the Township's 2004 budget held the line on sewer and water rates. A one-time investment opportunity in 2003 allowed the Township to generate revenue of \$415,399, significantly offsetting the loss for 2003. "But we cannot continue to lose one half million dollars a year in state aid without consequences," Andree warned.

"This Budget continues to reflect the Board's commitment to excellence in local government, including financial accountability. It will earn high marks from the financial rating agencies, creating long-term benefits for Cranberry while supporting the service and infrastructure needs of a growing, young community," he said.

How do Cranberry's taxes measure up?

Every community is unique, and the services they provide often differ from one to another. But here's how Cranberry Township's property and earned income taxes compare with some other leading municipalities in the region: Assume in each case that the property's market value is \$200,000 and the earned income is \$75,000. Also, keep in mind that communities in Butler County, Allegheny County, and Washington County each assess property taxes differently, so that the same millage rate can result in very different tax bills from one community to another. County and school district taxes are not included here.



Community	Municipal property tax rate	Municipal property tax due	Local income tax rate	Local income tax due	Total Local Property & and Earned Income Tax	State Income Tax @3.07%	Federal Income Tax*
City of Pittsburgh	10.80	\$2,160.00	1.00%	\$750.00	\$2,910.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Borough of Sewickley	5.80	\$1,160.00	0.50%	\$375.00	\$1,535.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Mt. Lebanon	3.99	\$ 798.00	0.80%	\$600.00	\$1,398.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Upper St. Clair	2.60	\$ 520.00	0.75%	\$562.50	\$1,082.50	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Bethel Park	1.93	\$ 386.00	0.80%	\$600.00	\$ 986.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Peters Township	12.00	\$ 600.00	0.50%	\$375.00	\$ 975.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Fox Chapel	1.45	\$ 290.00	0.50%	\$375.00	\$ 665.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Cranberry Twp.	14.20	\$ 284.00	0.50%	\$375.00	\$ 659.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00
Town of McCandless	1.31	\$ 262.00	0.50%	\$375.00	\$ 637.00	\$2,302.50	\$7,291.00

*Form 10-40, family of 4, standard deduction

THU 1	Book Discussion Library at 7 p.m.	SAT 17	Registration for Parks & Recreation programs begins at 8:30 a.m. Better Backyards (and Other Outdoor Spaces) Workshop, NAEC, Shaler Area High School from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
FRI 2	Cranberry Highlands opens for the season	SUN 18	
SAT 3	Registration for aquatic programs begins for Waterpark members only at 8:30 a.m.	MON 19	
SUN 4	Daylight Savings Time Begins	TUE 20	Bicentennial Keeping in Shape Program , Substance Abuse Awareness and Signs, Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. and Council Chambers at 7 p.m.
MON 5	Registration for aquatic programs begins for general public at 8:30 a.m.	WED 21	Library Program , "Read em & Feed em" Make and Taste Recipes at 7 p.m. Steelers Basketball vs. Cranberry Twp. All-Stars , Community Gym at 8 p.m.
TUE 6		THU 22	Library Program , Fall Prevention, Physical Therapist Lee Ann Sheedy at 7 p.m.
WED 7	BCCC Transfer Day , BCCC Cranberry Center at 11:30 .m. - 1:30 p.m.	FRI 23	
THU 8		SAT 24	Youth Day of Caring , "Use Your Heart, Love Your Park" at Cranberry Community Park, United Way of Butler County
FRI 9	Good Friday Library closed	SUN 25	
SAT 10		MON 26	
SUN 11	Easter Library closed	TUE 27	Library Program , "Mothers and Daughters Growing Together," Bellevue Pediatrics at 7 p.m.
MON 12	Zoning Hearing Board , Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.	WED 28	TND Master Plan Public Forum, Municipal Center at 6 - 8 p.m. Library Program , "Butterfly Garden," Master Gardeners at 7 p.m.
TUE 13	Library Program , Raising Responsible Kids, North Hills Youth Ministry at 7 p.m.	THU 29	Library Program , "Tax-Free Investing with Municipal Bonds," Wayne Young, Financial Consultant at 7 p.m. Board of Supervisors Meeting , Council Chambers at 7 p.m.
WED 14	Library Program , Allegheny General Hospital—Women's Health at 7 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting , Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	FRI 30	Last day for 2% discount on 2004 Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate tax
THU 15			
FRI 16			

SAT	1	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day , SW Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, North Park 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Local Government Day , Park Fire Station, Rt. 19 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	MON 17
SUN	2		TUE 18
MON	3		WED 19
TUE	4		THU 20
WED	5	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board , Council Chambers at 7 p.m. Library Program , N H Youth Ministry, Fathers Really Matter at 7 pm.	FRI 21
THU	6		SAT 22
FRI	7		SUN 23
SAT	8		MON 24
SUN	9	Mothers Day	TUE 25
MON	10	Zoning Hearing Board Meeting , Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.	WED 26
TUE	11		THU 27
WED	12	Planning Commission , Council Chambers at 7 p.m.	FRI 28
THU	13		SAT 29
FRI	14	BCCC Graphic Design Tea & Art Show , BCCC Cranberry Center at 6:30 p.m.	SUN 30
SAT	15	Bicentennial Golf Outing/Dinner , Cranberry Rotary Sunshine, Cranberry Highlands at 1 p.m.	31
SUN	16		

Bicentennial Keeping in Shape Program, Women's Health Month . . .
Heart Disease, Why Me?, Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. and Council Chambers at 7 p.m.

Last Day for Sunday Library Hours for this school year

TND Final Master Plan Public Forum, Municipal Center at 6 - 8 p.m.
Library Program, Bellevue Pediatrics, Tough Toddlers at 7 p.m.

Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.

Cranberry Waterpark opens!

Memorial Day
Library Closed

THU	1				THU 17	Summer Concert Series, Salute to Summer, Donna Bailey, Rotary Amphitheater at 7 p.m.
WED	2	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.			FRI 18	Farmers Market, Behind Municipal Center at 3 - 6 p.m.
THU	3	Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.			SAT 19	Farmers Market, Behind Rt. 19 Firehall at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
FRI	4	Farmers Market open, Behind Municipal Center at 3 - 6 p.m.			SUN 20	Fathers Day Fathers Day Night Swim, Waterpark at 9 - 11 p.m.
SAT	5	Farmers Market, Behind Rt. 19 Firehall at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.			MON 21	
SUN	6				TUE 22	
MON	7				WED 23	
TUE	8	Night Swim, Totally Tubular Tuesday, Waterpark at 9 - 11 p.m.			THU 24	Summer Concert Series, Second Wind, Rotary Amphitheater at 7 p.m. Board of Supervisors Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m..
WED	9	Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers at 7 p.m.			FRI 25	Farmers Market, Behind Municipal Center at 3 - 6 p.m.
THU	10				SAT 26	Farmers Market, Behind Rt. 19 Firehall at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
FRI	11	Farmers Market, Behind Municipal Center at 3 - 6 p.m..			SUN 27	
SAT	12	Farmers Market, Behind Rt. 19 Firehall at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bicentennial Event, French & Indian War – Living History, Sample Schoolhouse at 1 p.m.			MON 28	
SUN	13				TUE 29	
MON	14	Flag Day Zoning Hearing Board Meeting, Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m.			WED 30	
TUE	15	Annual Golf Outing, Cranberry Area Chamber of Commerce, Cranberry Highlands at 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.				
WED	16	Bicentennial Keeping in Shape Program, Men's Health Month, Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. and Council Chambers at 7 p.m.				

Upcoming events

Household waste collection day scheduled at North Park

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, in cooperation with the North Hills Council of Governments, is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at North Park. All participants will be charged a minimum \$20 (cash only).

The following household hazardous waste materials will be accepted: aerosol cans, automotive fluids including motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, kerosene, and brake fluid; chemistry sets; photo chemicals; paint products including oil-based, latex, alkyl-based, arts/crafts chemicals, rust preservatives, creosote, water sealers, paint thinners, and furniture strippers; garden pesticides including rodent killers, insecticides, weed killers, mothballs, and fertilizers; pool chemicals; mercury thermometers; household and automotive batteries; and cleaners including ammonia, drain cleaners, acid cleaners, and oven cleaners. Containers must be labeled and sealed.

For specific information about the event, visit the Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force Web site at <http://www.cmu.edu/greenpractices/hhw.htm>

Workshop to help improve outdoor spaces

The North Area Environmental Council is sponsoring a Better Backyards (and other outdoor spaces) Workshop on April 17. The workshop will provide an introduction to environmental tools and methods that will help area homeowners make better use of their outdoor spaces. Registration for the day's events begins at 9 a.m. at the Shaler Area High School on Wible Run Road in Millvale. The program runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$5, payable at the door, and \$3 in advance (children under 12 are free). Call Marian Crossman at 412-366-3339 for more information.

A separate backyard composting workshop will also be held from 10 a.m. until noon at the same location. The cost of the workshop is \$20 per person, or \$30 per couple. All participants will receive a composting container. Preregistration is required. Call Chris McHenry-Glenn at 412-431-4449, ext. 325.

Race for Life

A 5K Race for Life and 1-Mile Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 16 at North Boundary Park. All proceeds will go directly to the Rick Restelli Cancer and Heart Foundation. The event is being organized by Matt Kuzma, a Seneca Valley junior who is working on his Eagle Scout Requirements.

Matt sees the event as an opportunity for Cranberry residents to come together and further develop their sense of community pride while working to raise money for a worthy cause. Rick Restelli, a 40-year old Cranberry resident, is currently undergoing treatment for a malignant brain tumor.

Race day information and packet pickup starts at 7:30 a.m. the day of the event, and the race begins at 8:30 a.m., with the 1-Mile Fun Walk immediately following. For more information, call 724-776-5971 or visit Boy Scout Troop 403 Website at www.troop403.org.

New at Cranberry Highlands

Learn to play - or improve your game



Get into the swing! This spring, Cranberry Highlands will be offering both individual and group lessons for players at all levels.

Qualified PGA-affiliated instructors will focus on the fundamentals including grip, address, stance, setup, alignment, tempo, balance, and follow-through for beginners. Golf rules and etiquette will be emphasized, along with respect for the course and other golfers. For more advanced golfers, the finer points of ball flight and in-swing positioning will be taught.

Complete golf clinics will be offered for juniors, women, and beginners. Instruction in short game tactics, rules clinics, and game management clinics will also be available for more accomplished golfers.

See the Web site cranberryhighlands.com for up-to-date information on schedules and fees.



The mice that roared: Online registration for Parks & Recreation program opens with a stampede of clicks

Their computer mice poised for action, scores of Parks and Recreation customers throughout the Township waited for the moment to pounce. At precisely 8:30 a.m. on December 8, 2003 – the first day of registration for Cranberry’s



Winter recreational programs – the launch of the Township’s new online registration system was scheduled to begin. By 9 a.m., fully two-thirds of the first 90 customers signing up for the Parks and Recreation Department offerings had registered from computers at home or at work. The rest waited patiently in line at the Municipal Center for their turn with the Customer Service staff.

The Township’s new Web-based registration service is built around technology currently used by more than 500 communities throughout North America. The system, which requires credit card payment at the time of registration, employs a high level of security encryption and requires users to first establish a family account with the Parks and Recreation Department. Access is through the Township’s official Web site, www.cranberrytownship.org.

Online registration – an extension of the Township’s ongoing e-government initiative – is designed to save time on registration, reduce service costs, streamline financial transactions, and provide residents with greater convenience when making use of Cranberry’s recreational programs. It is available to both Cranberry residents and non-residents, although Resident Discount Cards, which are offered free of charge with proof of residency, must be secured in advance of initial online registration to take advantage of savings that average 30 percent.

“We are very pleased with the results of the new registration service,” Parks and Recreation Director Michael Diehl reported. “During its first two months, more than 16 percent of all program registrations were completed online. Although a small number of program registrations were not available on line the first time around, we are continuing to work on making everything – pool memberships as well as certain programs with prerequisites – available online soon.”

Online and walk-in registration for Summer 2004 camps, events, and other programs will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 17.

For those opening new Parks and Recreation Online Accounts, Diehl offers the following tips:

1. Be sure to provide your correct e-mail address; confirmation of your registration and other important information about your programs will be sent to that address.
2. Check your computer’s firewalls. If you have personal firewalls at home, or system firewalls where you work, check to be sure they will accept the online responses.
3. Have your Visa or MasterCard handy; payment is required at the time of registration
4. When you’re done registering, **CLICK ONLY ONCE**. If you double-click, you’ll get an error message – even though your registration was successful; apparently the system interprets two clicks as meaning you have tried to register twice for the same program.
5. If you’ve forgotten the day, date, time, or program you registered for, look under “My Account” and go to the button called “History.” That will give you a full record of the registration information for each member of your household.

Adoptive roadway families mark five-year milestone

Congratulations to six local families and organizations for five years service as Adopt-a-Roadway cleanup crews. And belated congratulations to five others who reached their five-year milestone last year. From the class of 1998: The Cranberry Women’s Club for Progress Avenue; Butler County Community College at Cranberry Center for Executive and Thomson Park Drives; Ashford Manor Condominium Association for Haine School Road; Boy Scout Troop 404 for Peters Road; and Scott & Charlotte Wood for Garvin Road. In the class of 1999, kudos to: the Pindroh family for Burke Road; Oakwood Apartment Management for Darlington Road; Louis Zona, CPA for Old Route 19; the Graf family for Goehring Road; Dutilh UMC Youth Group for Graham School Road, and the Township of Cranberry employees and families for Marshall Road. Roadway adopters volunteer to pick up litter along their designated roads at least twice a year.

After 30 years, Township Public Works utility man wraps it up

Several months ago, after 30 years of faithful service, lifelong Cranberry resident Fred Kogler retired the green Ford Econoline van which had become his personal trademark. In March, the Cranberry Public Works utility laborer, now 65, retired from the Township’s workforce himself.

As a boy Kogler, who began work on his parents Dutilh Road farm when he was four years old, attended the Sample Street school – the same one-room schoolhouse which was later relocated to the Cranberry Municipal Center. A graduate of Evans City High School and an Air Force veteran, Kogler became widely known for his skill in furniture making and for his ability to repair just about anything. During his career in the Township – which saw the community’s population more than triple – Kogler’s work spanned virtually every major municipal maintenance and construction project.

Township announces 2004 waterline flushing schedule

Cranberry Township's Annual Fire Hydrant and Distribution System Flushing Program began on March 22. The program is a regular Township maintenance operation to flush sediment from the water system, check fire hydrant operation, and test chlorine levels in the water lines on each street. Flushing is conducted Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A week-by-week schedule appears below; for detailed information on the date for your own street, call the Township's Customer Service Center at 724-776-4806.

Discolored water and fluctuations in water line pressure are normal during flushing. The Township advises customers to refrain from using water as much as possible when discolored water is present. If the water does not clear or return to normal pressure within a reasonable time, or if service is interrupted, call the Customer Service Center.



Week #1 March 22

Pennwood Place, McKinney Warehouse, Keystone Drive, Commonwealth Drive, Residence Inn, Freedom Road from Commonwealth to Route 19, Old Mars Road between Route 19 and McElroy Drive, Cranberry Woods - MSA Complex, Cranberry Woods, Cranberry Mall, Dutilh Road between Freeport Road and Home Depot, UPMC Medical Center, Fairfield Inn, Norberry Court, Dutilh Road south of Route 228, Route 19 south of PA Turnpike to Bravo's Restaurant, AmeriSuites, 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

Week #2 March 29

McElroy Road, Fox Run, Buckingham Trail, Franklin Road, Franklin Ridge, Bristol Creek, St Lenorads Woods, Timberline, Peace Street, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Old Farm Road, Old Towne Apartments, Scenic Ridge, Peters Road between Franklin Road and Burke Road, Crystal Springs, Lakeview Estates, Windwood Heights, Rowan Road between Marshall Road and Old Farm Road, La Grande Drive, Rowan School, Leonberg Road, Marshall Road, Goehring Road. Preserve East and West

Week #3 April 5

Route 19 between Freedom Road and Rochester Road, Cranberry Shoppes, Wal-Mart, Cranberry Square, Doyle Equipment, Ogle Station, Boston Market, Jerry's Car Wash, Home Depot, Smith Drive, Wisconsin Avenue, Route 19 from Rochester Road north to Kenny Ross, Weigand Drive, Goehring Road from Route 19 to Marshall Road, Butler Auto Auction, Ogle View Road, TRACO, Progress Avenue, Park Road, Ernie Mashuda Drive, North Boundary Road, Marshall Woods, Cranberry WaterPark

Week #4 April 12

PineHurst, Ehrman Road, Foxmore, Grace Estates, Garvin Road, Ehrman Farms, Oakview Estates, Unionville Road, 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

Week #5 April 19

Glen Eden Phase 2, The Maples, Glenbrook, Glen Eden Townhouses, Manor Creek, Cedarbrook, Freshcorn Road, Glen Eden Road west of Powell Road, Briar Creek, Cranberry Heights, Kingsbrook

Week #6 April 26

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

Week #7 May 3

Freedom Road from Commonwealth Drive to Thorn Hill Road (RIDC), WESCO, Freedom Road from Thorn Hill Road (RIDC) to Parkwood Drive, Parkside Place, Carriage Drive, Kira Circle, Haine School Road, Haine School, Pine Ridge, Rochester Road from Robinhood Drive to Alps Avenue, Valleybrook, Deer Run, Sun Valley, Cranbrook, Woodlands Townhouses, Kirkwood Drive, Swift Homes, Woodlands Houses

Week #8 May 10

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, Creekwood Commons, Creekwood, Freedom Woods

Week #9 May 17

Forest Park, Crossings, Mystic Pine Trail, Blue Ridge Estates, Berkley Manor, Hampshire Woods, Autumn Hill

Week #10 May 24

Powell Road between Rochester Road and Glen Eden Road, Highland Village, Havenwood, Hunters Creek, Stonefield & Farmview, Greenfield Estates, Avery's Field, Woodbine Estates

PUBLIC Safety 911

Cranberry fire chief named fire administrative assistant



Mark Nanna

Mark A. Nanna, a decorated firefighter who has served as chief of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company since 2001, has been hired by the Township to serve as a full-time Public Safety Administrative Assistant assigned to the Fire Company. The position, which is designed to free fire company volunteers from the paperwork and administrative chores associated with fire company service, had formerly been held by John W. Rose III. It has been vacant since Rose's death at age 56 last November. Nanna's appointment to the post was announced at the March 4 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Nanna, who has been a member of the 65-member CTVF since 1991, is wide-

ly regarded as an innovator by his counterparts in fire companies throughout the region. He was instrumental in creating a three-county Rapid Intervention Team program designed to rescue firefighters who become trapped in structure fires. He introduced a personnel accountability program to help track firefighters on the scene of an incident. He helped to organize the Butler County Community College's Fire School. And he is certified as a staff instructor in fire training.

To accept his new paid assignment, fire company bylaws required Nanna to resign his position as Chief. However he remains eligible to hold other elected posts in the organization.

Police department to issue uniform gun

Later this month, for the first time ever, Cranberry Township's police department will be standardizing the guns carried by its officers. According to Steve Mannell, the Township's Public Safety Director, issuing the .40-caliber Glock gun to all 23 officers will take the police department to "the next step to increased professionalism."

There are a number of advantages to having a standard issue gun, according to Mannell. They include more efficient and better training, improved capability to conduct "simunition" weapon training, improved security and safety mandates, and reduced liability since weapons will be regularly inspected by a certified armorer.

Until now, Cranberry police officers bought and carried their own guns – a

remnant of earlier days when the rationale was that officers felt more comfortable carrying their own guns. As a result, according to Mannell, officers on the Cranberry police department carried seven different types of weapons, using four different types of ammunition. That created unnecessary complexity, since weapons and ammunition were not interchangeable. In addition, training had become increasingly difficult, he told the Board of Supervisors at their March 4 meeting. Police departments in surrounding areas already issue standard handguns to their officers.

Mannell recommended the .40-caliber Glock as a durable, lightweight, and easy-to-use pistol that is becoming the standard among law enforcement agencies across the country, including the

FBI. In response, the Supervisors agreed and approved a resolution to spend \$10,000 to buy two dozen duty guns for the department.

Initial response from the Township's police officers has been positive, according to Mannell. He anticipates that training exercises will be conducted in May, before officers are issued their new guns.



Cranberry covers its assets

Ben Franklin may not have been thinking about Philadelphia's rambling city hall when he made his now famous remark about an ounce of prevention, but Cranberry Township – with its own network of buildings and operating facilities – has got the message.

To avoid facing the costly pounds of cure associated with emergency building repairs and replacement, Township officials have begun taking a more disciplined approach toward maintaining municipal facilities. That represents a cultural shift for the Township, which, over the past decade, had been busy designing and building new facilities to meet the needs of a fast-growing community. But with those facilities now in daily use, they are starting to experience the sorts of normal wear and tear that require attention.

"Maintenance was not a major issue a few years ago when the Township moved into the new Municipal Center," according to Director of Public Works Duane McKee. New structures and equipment at the Municipal Center, the Public Works building, the Brush Creek

wastewater treatment plant, the two fire stations, Cranberry Waterpark, and Cranberry Highlands Golf Course were all covered under their builders' warranties. However, once those warranties expired, it became clear that to protect the Township's investment, a transition toward planned preventative maintenance had to occur.

This January, the Board of Supervisors voted to centralize maintenance and hired Gary Beltz as building maintenance director. His job is to implement a cost-effective plan of maintenance for all facilities owned by the Township. Beltz, who recently spent 12 years in a similar position at UPMC in Pittsburgh, will use his expertise in building structures, HVAC energy systems, and asset management software to recommend a plan for the Township to retain the value of its facilities.

The program will be designed to prevent unnecessary down time by taking a proactive, rather than reactive, response toward maintenance, repair and replacement plan, he said.

Beltz will also be looking for ways to trim costs. By managing major maintenance contracts himself and consolidating smaller service contracts into a master contract, he predicts significant savings. He also plans to study energy consumption to assure that heating and lighting use match the times people are actually using the buildings.



Gary Beltz is using asset management software to help develop a cost-effective maintenance plan for the Township's buildings.

Public Safety expansion stays on track

Check out the eastern side of the Municipal Center – or at least what used to be its eastern side. Over the next few months, the gaping holes now in place will become the site of Cranberry Township's future Public Safety area.

According to Michael Schneider, Director of the Township's Engineering Department, the construction on the project is proceeding on schedule. When completed in September, the 18,000 square foot, two-story addition, together with the renovated offices of the former Sewer and Water Authority situated on the ground floor, will not only house the Township's Public Safety Department, it will also provide needed space for the Township's Finance and administrative offices.

Preliminary work on the site actually

began last November, in advance of winter weather, when Township employees completed the site grading and cut in a new driveway. Nearly 50 parking spaces were temporarily lost for use as equipment staging, material storage, and project excavation. In response, additional parking accommodations were made available at the adjacent parking lot at St. Ferdinand's Church. When completed, the Municipal Center parking area will be restored and repaved, according to Project Manager Jason Kratsas.

As interior work got underway, the project's general contractor built temporary partitions to separate the construction site from the rest of the building, which has remained in constant use. They also relocated existing utilities, the old walls, ceilings, and flooring before interior



construction began. By the end of April, the steel framing for the addition is expected to be in place.

For updated information and additional photos, see the Township's Web site at www.cranberrytownship.org.

Restore the wild cranberry!

This Thanksgiving, thanks to the efforts of a determined local task force, you may be able to grow your own. Back during Washington's presidency, the earliest settlers in what is now Cranberry Township were surprised to find wild cranberries growing in the marshy areas along Brush Creek. But less than a century later, following several years of hot dry weather and with much of the Township's wetlands by then having been drained for farming, the plant's moist natural habitat was largely destroyed and wild cranberries had all but disappeared.

This year, as part of the Township's 200th anniversary celebration a Bicentennial Task Force is leading a campaign to restore the plant in its namesake community. With two demonstration plantings scheduled at

public sites by a local master gardener group, the Task Force hopes to show that the plant, which is actually an evergreen groundcover with horizontal runners supporting upright stems that carry its flowers and fruit, is still well-suited to the soil and climate of Cranberry Township.

"It is a widely held misconception that cranberries must grow in bogs," according to Dick Cherry of the Cranberry Historical Society. "Large commercial growers use flooding as a technique for efficiently harvesting large areas, but this is irrelevant to the home gardener who wants to try a single specimen or several plants in a garden plot. Cranberries will do well with the same sun, soil, and moisture conditions as azaleas or rhododendrons."

To help the community celebrate and replant its legacy, Cherry and the Bicentennial Task Force have made arrangements with Cranberry Creations of Maine, a nursery specializing in live cranberries, to help Township residents re-establish the plant from which their community takes its name. You can find their offers described on their Web site at: <http://www.cranberrycreations.com/CranberryTownshipBicentennial.html> or through a link on the Township's Web site.



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



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