



Cranberrytoday

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2007 WINTER EDITION

Township Waits For Word On Two Mega-Projects

Final decisions on two major development projects which could lead to thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars of new investment in Cranberry are expected to be announced soon, according to local officials. The projects – a major new mixed use development by Simon Properties at the junction of Rt. 228 and I-79 and a new engineering campus for Westinghouse’s nuclear power business in the Cranberry Woods business park – are unrelated, even though they are along the same corridor.

SIMON M A L L S Simon Properties is the third developer in the past decade to attempt a major development on the largely open site across from the Marriott on Rt. 228. The primary stumbling block over the past ten years has been the ability of that developer to meet the Township’s traffic master plan for that corridor. Simon Properties has nearly overcome that hurdle and is prepared to spend nearly \$37.5 million on transportation improvements. That plan is now being reviewed by PennDot for their concurrence. Once that concurrence has been

received, Simon Properties is prepared to immediately begin the detailed engineering in support of their application for land development approval.

Following a nationwide site search, the location for a new Westinghouse engineering campus has narrowed to North Carolina and southwestern Pennsylvania. Sources close to Westinghouse have indicated that southwestern Pennsylvania is the company’s preferred location and that it has further narrowed the choice to Monroeville – where the company’s facilities are currently situated – and Cranberry Township. The new facility could eventually



house as many as 2,000 employees.

“We are flattered to be one of the finalists in Westinghouse’s site selection process, which included a number of communities all over the country,” Cranberry Township Manager Jerry Andree said. “We think that being on their short list is validation of a planning effort that

the Board of Supervisors started here more than ten years ago.

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The Community’s vision has been and continues to be for the Rt. 228 corridor to be first-class – one that could compete on a national level for the knowledge worker of the future.

Budget For 2007 Holds The Line On Taxes

Some user fees raised including sewage and waste collection



Cranberry’s budget is up by \$3 million dollars in 2007 – a direct reflection of the growth the community is experiencing.

More people, more businesses, and more traffic mean that more municipal resources are needed to address their needs. But the Township’s Board of Supervisors was able to balance increased demands with higher revenues resulting from that same growth during the new fiscal year.

More real estate tax revenue resulting from new home and business construction, combined with increased revenues from taxes paid on higher earned incomes and a rise in mercantile tax income generated by growing retail sales in the Township,

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Township waits for word on two mega-projects *(Continued from front cover)*

The Community's vision has been and continues to be for the Rt. 228 corridor to be first-class – one that could compete on a national level for the knowledge worker of the future.”

Southwestern Pennsylvania's bid for selection was coordinated by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. To create a level playing field with other states that were competing for the site, the Commonwealth created a

special tax-free Strategic Business Development designation which would become available to Westinghouse if a Pennsylvania site is ultimately chosen.

News reports that Cranberry was bidding against Monroeville for the site are misleading, according to Andree. The bidding to attract Westinghouse was actually carried out at the state and regional level; Township officials were not involved.

“The selection of either southwestern Pennsylvania site would be a major achievement for the region,” Andree said. “It would indicate that we can successfully compete to retain the knowledge workers who already live in our area and attract others from around the world to live and work here. It is also a validation of our Board's commitment to smart growth principles in managing our land use.” ~

Budget for 2007 holds the line on taxes *(Continued from front cover)*

all helped Cranberry to hold its 2007 taxes to their 2006 levels. At its December 14 meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted a \$33.4 million budget for the new year which maintains a Township real estate tax at 10.7 mils despite higher operating expenses including a 50-plus percent increase in electricity rates, a 10 percent increase in road salt pricing, an eight percent increase in health insurance premiums and the full-year salaries of four new police officers who joined the force last summer.

Cranberry's budget includes a number of separate funds, many of which represent Township-owned enterprises which are operated as stand-alone businesses and financed out of fees paid by their users, such as sewer and water service, the WaterPark, the golf course, and the Township's solid waste collection program. Others, such as road resurfacing, are largely financed out of gasoline taxes collected by the state and re-allocated to local communities.

The single largest fund in the budget is the Township's General Fund, which at \$13.7 million, represents

Cranberry's core governmental services including community development and planning, code administration, engineering, public works, and public safety. Detailed information about this fund, as well as all the others, is available in the Township's 246-page budget document, which is posted on Cranberry's website, www.cranberrytownship.org.

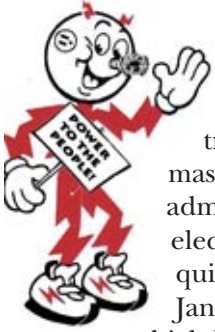
While fees for most services remain at 2006 levels, including water rates, weekday golf course greens fees, building permits, and most parks & recreation programs, several price increases were included in the budget. Quarterly rates for Collection Connection residential customers were raised an average of just under \$2 as a result both of increases provided in the Township's five-year solid waste contract with Vogel Disposal and a separate provision covering higher fuel prices. And the quarterly minimum price for connection to the Township's sewer system went up an average of \$3 for each metered customer, reflecting a sharp increase in electricity rates charged to the

Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant – the Township's single biggest consumer of electric power. For the typical home with a 5/8-inch water line, that would add another \$12 a year. However the usage fee charged to sewer customers, at \$5.17 per thousand gallons, is unchanged.

“We remain very strong financially – very healthy,” Township Finance Director Vanessa Gleason observed. “We have a strong tax base.” She also noted that a recent examination of Cranberry's physical and financial assets by Moody's Investment Services could lead to an even higher credit rating for the Township.

That would result in lower costs for the long-term financing of capital projects such as improvements to the Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant and construction of the new Graham Park. Strengths in the nation's capital and equity markets have benefited the Township as well, Gleason noted, particularly in its short-term cash investments and pension funds. ~

“We remain very strong financially – very healthy. We have a strong tax base.”



Cranberry Shocked By Electric Rate Increase

Reddy Kilowatt, the power industry's long-serving mascot, is about to administer Cranberry's electric customers quite a jolt. On January 1, the rates which PennPower had charged its customers for electricity over the past 14 years suddenly disappeared. In their place, a new schedule of rates with prices as much as 60 percent above the old ones went into effect.

For residential customers, those rates will climb by about a third, so someone used to paying \$120 a month will now be billed \$160. But for commercial customers – including Cranberry Township – the rate increase will average a whopping 40-50 percent. That has already forced up customers' sewage rates. And unless something more is done, that increase will add several hundred thousand dollars to Cranberry's operating expenses, according to Township Facilities Manager Gary Beltz. As a result, Beltz is working with Cranberry's Finance Department in crafting a master plan to hold the actual increase down to the 35-40 percent range.

It's not simple. The way commercial customers are billed is very different than what homeowners are accustomed to. For example, in addition to being billed for the power actually consumed, commercial customer bills include a "demand" charge – a charge based on supplying power for the entire month at the same rate that was needed during the customer's highest peak of use in the month. So one strategy for holding down costs is to manage peak power use more effectively. For example, staggering startup times for the

42 rooftop air conditioning units at the Municipal Center can keep the power surge way below what it would be if they all started up at once.

Then too, commercial customers pay "power factor" charges – charges based on energy typically lost during the startup phase of large electric motors – energy which is neither consumed by the motor nor available to perform any other useful work. That sort of waste is particularly characteristic of motors used in the types of heavy-duty pumps, compressors, conveyors and presses at the Township's wastewater treatment plant. As a result, variable frequency drives – demand-based controllers that allow motors to start more slowly and to run at less than full speed if that is all that's needed – are being installed at the plant, which is responsible for more than half of the Township's electrical use.

There are other commercial charges, too, depending on the specific application. And in the case of Cranberry Township, it's particularly confusing because the power company sends the Township multiple power bills, each bill tied to a specific facility, use, and meter. "The power companies won't aggregate the bills for us and treat us as one account; they look at each meter separately," Beltz said. "We have 40-50 master accounts and 108 sub-accounts."



Even so, a number of common-sense steps are also being taken to reduce the Township's power use and lower its electric bills. "We started about a year and half ago by installing lighting sensors and timers in all the bathrooms and conference rooms – places that aren't in constant use. When you come out, the lights automatically shut off," Beltz said. "We also tried to change incandescent bulbs to fluorescents which use much less power. We began stagger-start programs to bring equipment in 15-minute intervals and keep the demand down. We've gone from T-12 bulbs to T-8s which reduces our consumption. In the gym we're going from 400-watt metal halides to a T-5 bulb that uses 47-watts. We're charging our golf carts in small clusters. And we're having a consultant come in to review the bills, recommend changes to our equipment, and tell us what the payback periods will be. We're now looking at payback periods as long as five to ten years into the future." ~

More Power To You

Here are some tips to reduce your home power use – and your family's electric bills – this winter:

- *Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower; each extra degree can add 3 percent to your bill.*
- *Keep your furnace well-maintained and replace air filters as needed; dirty filters force your furnace to work harder*
- *Close registers or radiator valves in unused rooms*
- *Keep furniture and draperies from blocking the air flow from registers*
- *Seal all air drafts from around windows and doors; keep your garage door closed*
- *Open your drapes to generate a little solar heat on sunny days*

Why Not Cranadamsmarshallfields?

The siren song of consolidation is being heard throughout the Commonwealth. Ignore it.

by Dick Hadley, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



Ten years ago, our neighbors in Canada began a bold experiment. Under the banner of reducing costs, improving

services, and increasing efficiency, officials in the province of Ontario imposed a regimen of consolidation that cut its 800 local governments in half and forced outlying suburbs to merge into the city of Toronto. Hamilton, another major city about 100 miles southwest of Toronto, was forced to undergo a similar consolidation.

It wasn't a popular move; in fact, the merger decree was issued with only limited citizen input and no voter approval. But the provincial leaders, in a grand display of their certainty that the root of Ontario's malaise came from its having too many local governments, boldly marched ahead and forced the consolidations.

By now, the results of their experiment are clear: None of the goals they had hoped to achieve have been realized. Instead, it essentially eliminated civic spirit and destroyed the community character of the old towns. Their citizens suddenly found themselves embedded in large jurisdictions where they had no public role or local identity. Instead of their previous volunteerism and reliance on citizen-leaders, they found themselves dealing almost exclusively with professional bureaucrats. And the newly bureaucratized governments were even less efficient and

slower to respond to citizen needs than the old ones.

Adding insult to injury, they also ended up costing more to govern, not less, than the smaller units they replaced. For example, new union contracts tended to settle on the highest, not the lowest, of the pay rates found among the merged municipalities – a cost which more than offset any savings from eliminating duplicate services. Incompatible equipment and conflicting sets of rules about municipal functions such as parking and zoning further undermined the effort. And new expenses associated with merging computer systems, purchasing new office supplies, and securing adequate administrative space all conspired to make the expected savings disappear.

So why am I concerned about the Canadian experience? It's because there's a movement afoot in Pennsylvania to try the same experiment, but to hope for better results. In a 2003 Brookings Institution study commissioned by 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania called "Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania," a call for consolidating our way to economic health was among the fundamental recommendations. And a political-style campaign to implement those recommendations, called RenewPA, has been launched to drum up support for that measure.

But their analysis is fundamentally flawed and imposing its recommendations on the state's 2,500 cities, towns and boroughs would be a

huge setback, not a benefit, to residents of the Commonwealth. As we learned from watching the decline of civic culture in Ontario, bureaucratizing local government here would gravely undermine the community spirit which has been fundamental to the success of Cranberry and its sister municipalities across the state.

Of course there are issues such as traffic planning, watershed management, and environmental pollution, which are inherently cross-jurisdictional and require joint action by different governmental units. And there are other activities, like purchasing, which can also benefit from a common effort. But there are already a tremendous number of ways in which units of local governments here can cooperate with one another – as well as with partners in the private and nonprofit sectors – to accomplish goals which might elude them individually. In Cranberry and Western Pennsylvania, we have many such arrangements in place, and where they make sense to us and to our partners, we haven't hesitated to use them to strengthen our community and save taxpayer dollars.

And that's the key: it's choosing freely to work with others where it is mutually beneficial and not being forced into unwanted arrangements which have clearly demonstrated their failure. The township form of government has proved to be both resilient and responsive to changing needs. It has been a keystone of Pennsylvania's strength for more than 200 years. It deserves to be protected. ~

You can reach Dick Hadley at: hadleyd@cranberrytownship.org

In addition to serving on Cranberry's Board of Supervisors since 1995, Mr. Hadley is Manager of Reserve Township in Allegheny County and President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

TRASH MASTER Challenge II – The Sequel!

Just pick the right choice for disposing of each of the twelve items pictured below.

A. Garbage B. Recycling C. Yard Waste D. Tag E. Ineligible

1



Newspapers

ANSWER: _____

2



Junk mail

ANSWER: _____

3



Pizza box

ANSWER: _____

4



Leaves

ANSWER: _____

5



Auto parts

ANSWER: _____

6



Paints, stains

ANSWER: _____

7



Alkaline batteries

ANSWER: _____

8



Rechargeable batteries

ANSWER: _____

9



Pumpkins, squash

ANSWER: _____

10



Paperboard egg cartons

ANSWER: _____

11



Styrofoam egg cartons

ANSWER: _____

12



Car battery

ANSWER: _____

When completed, turn the page to find the correct answers. Then check your TQ.

Chat With A Librarian

Real-time answers to fact-based questions on just about any subject are now available at no charge, 24/7, with Pennsylvania's new statewide live reference service, Ask Here PA.

The library-based research service, which began September 6, uses an instant message-type interface to connect each questioner with one of the on-duty, online librarians located throughout the state, including in Cranberry Township. Ninety



public and academic libraries from across the Commonwealth are participating in the program. Those libraries voluntarily contribute staff time to help the service succeed.

According to news release from the Governor's office introducing the program, K-12 students and the general public reach public librarians while college students and faculty are helped by librarians from participating colleges and universities. Staff

members from those libraries provide reference assistance to patrons during the day; an international cooperative of libraries covers the overnight hours.

The system supports Internet Explorer as well as Firefox, Netscape and Macintosh Web browsers.

Ask Here PA is designed to quickly provide answers to questions sent from home, work or anywhere else the patron has Internet access.

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What's Your TQ (trash quotient)?

Check your score and rate yourself on the following scale:

12 –Trash Guru 11 –Trash Master 10 –Trash Journeyman 9 –Trash Apprentice
8 –Trash Trainee 7 –Trash Novice 6 –Trash Wannabe 5 or lower –Poor trash



1

Newspapers.

Answer: B. Newspapers and newspaper inserts as well as magazines can all be recycled in the Collection Connection program. No need to bundle or separate them out, either.



2

Junk mail.

Answer: B. Junk mail of every type and size, as well as the envelopes it may have arrived in, can all be recycled in the Collection Connection program. No special preparation required.



3

Pizza box.

Answer: A. Because they are typically soiled with grease, cheese, and the remains of other toppings, cardboard pizza boxes should be treated as garbage rather than as cardboard cartons, which are eligible for recycling.



4

Leaves.

Answer: C. You can lie your yard cart flat and rake the leaves directly into its opening. If you need more room, you can use paper yard waste bags which will be picked up at no additional cost to you. Weekly curbside yard waste collection is available from April through November.



5

Auto parts.

Answer: E. Auto parts are not eligible for pickup in the Collection Connection program. If you need to dispose of body parts, drive train components, or other major vehicle parts, contact a scrap dealer.



6

Paints, stains.

Answer: E. Containers holding paints or stains of any type are considered hazardous wastes and are not eligible for collection in the program. However, empty containers and containers whose contents have been solidified by adding kitty litter, may be disposed of as ordinary garbage.



7

Alkaline batteries.

Answer: A. Normal, non-rechargeable batteries can be tossed in the garbage. Years ago, they included mercury, which is a hazardous material. But regular batteries have been reformulated and no longer pose an environmental threat.



8

Rechargeable batteries.

Answer: A. Rechargeable batteries may be discarded as ordinary garbage. Unlike conventional batteries, rechargeable ones contain mercury. However a number of local stores recycle discarded rechargeable batteries, and we recommend using that service.



9

Pumpkins, squash.

Answer: A. Although decorative squashes can easily be mistaken for yard waste, surplus fruits and garden produce do not decompose well with grass, leaves, and other eligible yard wastes. So discard them with your garbage.



10

Paperboard egg cartons.

Answer: B. As long as they're empty, paperboard egg cartons are eligible for recycling. So put them in your blue-top cart along with your other recyclables.



11

Styrofoam egg cartons.

Answer: A. Although they are made of plastic, Styrofoam cartons, peanuts, and packaging blocks are difficult to reprocess. So treat them as ordinary garbage.



12

Car battery.

Answer: E. Auto batteries contain acid and lead, which are hazardous. So they are not eligible for pickup in the Collection Connection program. Contact an auto parts dealer to inquire about disposal.

Lights! Camera! Animation!

Cranberry studio advances the digital frontiers of moviemaking

It's not that Bryan Scibelli has anything against Hollywood stuntmen. In fact, he's actually a big movie enthusiast and loves the craft of filmmaking. But Scibelli, the president and founder of Cinemanix Productions whose advanced digital imaging studios are headquartered in Cranberry's Executive Drive Office Park, can read the handwriting on the wall.

"High-risk stuntmen will need to find another sort of business in the next few years because of the work we're doing," he told a recent visitor to his company's studio. "I can motion-capture someone performing a high-risk fall and put in a digital double of them falling off a building. With digital stunt doubles they can fall clear to the ground and you won't need to endanger a stuntman or cut the shot before impact."

And stuntmen may be only the beginning. That's because the power of digital imaging – which includes 3D, visual effects, cinema-quality high-definition video, and interactive virtual technology – has already begun to rewrite the production handbooks, as well as the budgets, of feature filmmakers. And Cinemanix, which stands at the junction of fine art and information technology, is on the cutting edge of that transition.

"We're rapidly coming to a time that the big \$150 million Hollywood movie is going to go away. No one is going to want to fund it because with theatre prices the way they are, film as we know it is really going away –

"With theatre prices the way they are, film as we know it is really going away – everything is moving toward digital now."

everything is moving toward digital now," he said.

But while digital imaging is expanding the creative horizons of the movie industry in amazing new directions, in the end, it all comes down to money. "The cost of doing business in the Pittsburgh area is much lower than it is on the West Coast or New York or Boston," Scibelli noted. "That's really what I built the company around. By staying here and helping to build a Midwest hub, we're taking the expense of doing business in Los Angeles or San Francisco or New York out of the equation."

Not long ago, a Vice President from Nickelodeon approached Cinemanix. "They said we only have a \$55,000 budget, which in New York isn't going to buy you anything," he recalled. "Yet if they brought it here, we'd be able to work with that. I don't have a bunch of six-figure artists on staff; I don't have a huge amount of overhead; my rent is not New York City rent. We're based in Cranberry

and it's very strategic to be here; it's all about the cost of doing business."

Just this past month, Cinemanix finished building the largest green screen between New York and Chicago – essentially a studio stage where live actors can be recorded and everything behind them is digitally replaced with another background – as well as an elaborate 24-camera



Cinemanix founder Bryan Scibelli, center, confers with colleagues Gary Ritchie and Jason Dexter about a scene from the movie "Far Sighted" that will premier at the Sundance Film Festival later this month. The images on screen are the final step in compositing digital renderings into the live action scenes.

motion-capture stage that generates detailed computer images of an actor's movements which, in turn, allows animated versions of that

actor to behave in more realistic ways.

But with projects in movies, commercials, TV shows, video games, product catalogues and more already in the company's pipeline, even those resources may not be enough.

"I've started looking

to see how much property is around here," he said. "Because I am definitely staying in this area, I would buy a property or building and do exactly what I want with it – a front area with nice offices, a screening room, meeting rooms, a very large motion capture stage – probably twice what I have now," he said. "And a green screen that would be two to three times bigger. And..." he continued wistfully, his eyes lifting toward the horizon, as though into a Hollywood sunset. ~

"We're based in Cranberry and it's very strategic to be here; it's all about the cost of doing business."

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

JANUARY

MON 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Township offices closed SVSD No School Waste Collection 1 day delay through 1/6 due to holiday schedule	TUES 2 SVSD No School Waste Collection Holiday tree pick up through 1/12 Board of Supervisors Organizational Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	WED 3 Schedule of Computer Classes available in Library Kids' Chapter Book Club* Grades 1-3, Library, 7:30 pm	THURS 4	FRI 5 Friday Night Flicks Cars, Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	SAT 6
SUN 7	MON 8 Book Discussion <i>P.S. I Love You</i> by Cecelia Ahern, Library, 7 pm Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 9 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Cranbery Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	WED 10 Pharmacological Aids and Behavioral Support in Smoking Cessation Management Dr. Sergei Belenky, Library, 7 pm	FRI 11 Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Kids' Chapter Book Club* Grades 1-3, Library, 7:30 pm	
THURS 11 Senior Ctr Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 9:30 am Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm CTAA Baseball/Softball Registration Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	FRI 12 SVSD Half Day of School	SAT 13	SUN 14	MON 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY SVSD No School Zoning Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm	TUES 16 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm
WED 17 Books & Bagels Book Discussion Library, 10 am Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Kids' Chapter Book Club* Grades 1-3, Library, 7:30 pm	THURS 18 Mending Broken Heart/Heart Disease Lecture/Screening Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 10:45 am Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm	FRI 19	SAT 20 CTAA Baseball/Softball Registration Municipal Ctr, 10 am	SUN 21	
MON 22 Cranberry Community Day Committee Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 23 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Raising Resilient Children Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7 pm	WED 24 Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Kids' Chapter Book Club* Grades 1-3, Library, 7:30 pm	THURS 25 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm		
FRI 26	SAT 27 SAT & Subject Test – SHS	SUN 28	MON 29 Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	TUES 30 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm	WED 31 Last Day for Waterpark Early bird Rates Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm

FEBRUARY

THURS 1 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	FRI 2 GROUNDHOG DAY Friday Night Flicks Ice Age 2, Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	SAT 3	SUN 4	MON 5 First day for picnic shelter reservations, Parks & Recreation Book Discussion <i>Snow Flower and Secret Fan</i> by Lisa See, Library, 7 pm Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 6 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm
WED 7 Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	THURS 8 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Senior Ctr Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 9:30 am	FRI 9	SAT 10 ACT Test Date – SHS	SUN 11 100 Years of the Telephone in Cranberry Historical Society, Municipal Ctr, 2 pm	MON 12 Zoning Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm
WED 14 VALENTINE'S DAY Sweetheart Bingo, Municipal Ctr, 2 pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	THURS 15 Daytime Storytime*, 4-5 years old, Library, 11 am and 1 pm	FRI 16	SAT 17	SUN 18	MON 19 PRESIDENTS DAY SVSD No School
WED 21 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 7 pm	THURS 22 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	FRI 23	SAT 24	SUN 25	MON 26 Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm Cranberry Community Day Committee Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm
WED 27 Infant Family Time, Children up to 23 months, Library, 11 am and 1 pm	TUES 28 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 7 pm	WED 21 Books & Bagels Book Discussion, Library, 10 am <i>Matters of the Heart</i> UPMC Passavant, Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm <i>Is Life Coaching for You?</i> by S. Merrie English, Library, 7 pm			

MARCH

THURS 1 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 11 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	FRI 2	SAT 3	SUN 4	MON 5 Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Book Discussion, <i>March</i> by Geraldine Brooks, Library, 7 pm	TUES 6 Infant Family Time, Children up to 23 months, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	WED 7 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 7 pm	THURS 8 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 11 am
THURS 8 Senior Ctr Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 9:30 am	FRI 9 Friday Night Flicks <i>Over The Hedge</i> , Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	SAT 10 SAT Test Date – SHS	SUN 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins – set clocks ahead 1 hour	MON 12 Zoning Hearing Board Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7:30 pm	TUES 13 Infant Family Time Children up to 23 months, Library, 11 am and 1 pm Cranbery Senior Citizen Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 1 pm <i>Hospice Care</i> by Cindy Holmquist, Gateway Health, Library, 7 pm		
WED 14 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 7 pm	THURS 15 Storytime*, 2-3 years old, Library, 7 pm	FRI 16	SAT 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	SUN 18	MON 19	TUES 20	WED 21 Books & Bagels Book Discussion, Library, 10 am <i>Oh, My Aching Legs!</i> UPMC Passavant, Municipal Ctr – Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm
SAT 24	SUN 25	MON 26 Planning Commission Work Session Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm Cranberry Community Day Committee Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	TUES 27 <i>The Overweight Child</i> Bellevue Pediatrics, Library 7 pm	WED 28	THURS 29 Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	FRI 30	SAT 31



Profile of a firefighter:

Cranberry's Father-Son Firefighting Team: Jeff And Dave Berneburg

The love of fighting fires may not actually be genetic. Then again, consider the case of the Berneburg family. For the past 16 years, fighting fires together has become a bonding experience for 73-year-old David Berneburg and his son, Jeff. David, a retired engineer from Bell Telephone, began his firefighting career in McCandless at the Peebles Volunteer Fire Department in 1960.

"Dad had been a member of the Fire Department when I was a kid," Jeff Berneburg, 49, recalled, explaining that his father moved to Cranberry Township in 1974. "My hang-out was at the fire station, and the guys were like a group of big brothers to me. I was always around, and they took me under their wing after my parents divorced."

Eager to follow in his father's footsteps, Jeff joined the neighboring Highland Volunteer Fire Department's junior firefighters program at the age of 14 and became a member of the Peebles Volunteer Fire Department four years later. "In the 18 years I was there, I held every position except chief and president," he said, noting that he served as assistant fire chief for 10 years before following his dad and moving to Cranberry with wife Diane in 1990.

It was in the Township's Volunteer Fire Company that he and his father

once again served on the same team. "Dad runs out of the Haine School station, and I run out of the Park Station," Jeff noted, but the two frequently end up at the same fire scene together.

A full-time project manager for the consulting, engineering and surveying firm of McIlvried, DiDiano and Mox LLC, Jeff is himself a father of three and serves as assistant team commander of the Butler County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. On January 1, he became assistant chief of Cranberry's Fire Company.

Over his 32 years in Cranberry, David Berneburg has witnessed the progress of the Township's Volunteer Fire Company where, in 1986, he also became Cranberry's first Fire Marshal. "Besides the size of the Township, the biggest change in the Fire Company has been in the type of equipment we use now as opposed to what we used when I first joined in 1974," he recalled, adding,

"We're as high-tech as you can get." David is currently a daytime driver for the Cranberry Fire Company and also serves as its vice president.

Both men are particularly proud of the Company's brand-new fire

training tower. "We used to have to go to Butler County Community College and use the tower there," David said, explaining that simply getting to and from the training site in Butler was a time-consuming ordeal that took firefighters away from their post.

"We're fortunate to be able to have our own training facility," Jeff pointed out. "Having an on-site facility where we can do live burns with vehicles and a building filled with smoke adds to the authenticity in training people."

But what about training the public in the intricacies of firefighting in Cranberry Township? When it comes to educating residents, David and Jeff both wish that more people realized that their fire company is staffed by volunteers, not paid professionals. "People don't always get that this is a volunteer organization," says Jeff.

"Cranberry Township has the largest fire company in Butler County," David observed, adding that they

get over 500 calls a year. "It would be nice if everyone understood that we receive no payment or anything. We do it because we love being firemen." ~



"It would be nice if everyone understood that we receive no payment or anything. We do it because we love being firemen."

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

Public Safety Volunteers All Fired Up Over New Training Complex

The scary nighttime spectacle of a wrecked car engulfed in flames while firemen struggled to contain the conflagration and rescue any trapped occupants, was among a handful of lifelike demonstrations presented as part of the formal dedication of Cranberry Township's fire training tower on October 24.

The four-story tower, which is the latest addition to the Township's emerging Public Safety training campus, allows Cranberry Fire Company volunteers to train – often in the company of their Mutual Aid colleagues from neighboring fire departments – without having to drive 45 minutes each way to the County Fire School in Butler Township.

In addition to the burning car – which took place on a specially constructed cement pad in front of the tower – fire company volunteers also demonstrated ladder work, sprinkler work, and suppressing ventilation fires during the 90-minute event. All five members of Cranberry's Board of Supervisors witnessed the demonstrations.

The training complex, which currently includes a smoke maze, a firing range, two rescue pads and the tower, is expected to be completed in 2009 with the addition of a classroom large enough to hold a vehicle in addition to its normal instructional gear. Architectural drawings for the classroom, as well as much of the complex construction itself, have been financed with the help of grants from various state entities including the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, PEMA, and the Department of Community and Economic Development, DCED.

DCED recently announced an additional grant for the project, this time for the purchase of movable partitions for the smoke maze – an enclosed space adjacent to the tower which can be arranged to simulate different room configurations. And PEMA, through its financial help with other aspects of the facility, has also endorsed the concept of a center for mutual aid training – an important show of support, according to Public Safety Director Steve Mannell.

While the tower and smoke maze were primarily designed for fire fighter training, they have already been used for at least one dramatic police training episode. In November, Cranberry Police, using simunitions – non-lethal sidearms which closely simulate the operation of the standard-issue Glock 40 pistols carried by Township police – used the space to train for several different scenarios in which armed outlaws holding out in the tower had to be apprehended.

“It's very realistic,” Lt. Jeffrey Scheuler recalled. “The guys wear masks and protective equipment on the vital parts of their bodies. And the adrenalin really gets moving. A lot of us were huffing and puffing – and it wasn't from the physical effort, it was from the scenario itself. I really had to control my breathing. Some of the young guys who had been in the department two or three years told us it's the best training they've ever had.” ~



***Baptism by fire.** The October 24 dedication of Cranberry's new four-story training tower provided members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company with the opportunity to demonstrate various lifesaving tactics including structure fire rescues and how to handle burning autos.*

In Briefs:



Odor control. Cranberry's Board of Supervisors has given the green light to solicit bids to build a new odor control unit for the Brush Creek

wastewater treatment plant. The proposed carbon-filter unit, designed by Chester Engineering, would substantially reduce the incidence of foul odors coming from the plant, located on Powell Road near the Turnpike. Preliminary cost estimates for the odor control unit are between eight and nine hundred thousand dollars.

Not so fine. The state's Department of Environmental Resources has levied a \$6,000 fine against the Township as the result of an accidental weekend sewage spill into Brush Creek last August. In addition, the Township agreed to pay a \$15,000 out-of-court settlement to the state's Fish and Boat Commission. The 14-hour spill, which occurred at a manhole just outside the Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant, was the result of a series of power line fluctuations that shut down the plant's pumps and, at the same time, shorted out the automatic signaling system as well as two backup systems designed to alert plant personnel about any pump problems. A new and more robust signaling system is now in place.



Santa's visit. Santa and Mrs. Claus paid an early-season visit to Cranberry's Municipal Center on November 17 to meet with

local children and help light the Township's front-yard Christmas tree.

A variety of crafts, family activities, and festive foods were also featured at the Township's annual Light Up Night. Upon their arrival aboard a specially decorated fire truck, the distinguished couple was welcomed by hundreds of local residents.



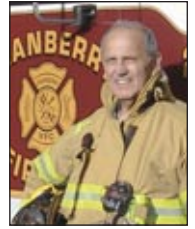
Thanks, guys. Soldiers stationed at an Army base in Iraq show off the banner created for them at Cranberry's July 4 Community Day celebration. The banner, which includes names, greetings, and personal messages from hundreds of local residents reads: "Friends, Family and Neighbors from Cranberry Township Pennsylvania Thank You for Your Service to our Country and our Community."



Fire Company officers. Members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company chose

their officers for 2007 at a meeting on November 21. Elected were: Chris DeCree, *President*; Dave Berneburg, *Vice President*; Dennis Kimmel, *Secretary*; Jim Cole, *Treasurer*; Bruce Hezlep and Lee Nanna, *Directors at Large*; Bill Speigel, *Chief*; Jeff Berneburg, *Assistant Chief*; Larry Clutter, *1st Captain*; Mark Nanna, *2nd Captain*; Dave Mack, *1st Lieutenant*; Steve Tedesco, *2nd Lieutenant*; Steve Dancisin, *Rescue Officer*; Chris Petrisek, *Fire Police Captain*; Jim Robinson, *Fire Police Lieutenant*.

Who? Chris DeCree, longtime President of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company, has been selected for inclusion in the 2006-07 Heritage Registry of Who's Who. DeCree, a Philadelphia native whose career included ten years with the Philadelphia police and twenty years with the state's Crime Control Commission before joining Allegheny Energy until his retirement in 2003, was selected for his achievements in the field of Public Order and Safety Services, according to the publisher's announcement.



Kudos. Four of the longest-serving employees of Cranberry's Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant were honored by the Western Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Association with the organization's Twenty-Year Operators Award at a luncheon this past October. The four men, each of whom has actually served 25 years or more at the plant, are Jim McConnell, Ric Melvin, Bob Cretella, and Greg Reid. Joe Corraini was recognized with the Operator's Support Award. The plant as a whole was also honored with the association's Class II Plant Safety Award.

Employment

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

Get a job. Applications for summer employment with the Township's Parks & Recreation department are now being accepted. Positions include camp counselors, lifeguards, swim instructors, guest relations attendants, concessions attendants, and maintenance attendants. Employment application forms are available online at the Township's

In briefs: *(Continued from page 12)*

web site. Send your completed application and resume by March 31 to the Human Resources Department, Cranberry Township, 2525 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township, PA 16066.



Community Day Needs You! If you've enjoyed Cranberry Township's July 4 Community Day celebration, here's

a way to make it even more fun: join the committee that plans it. The Community Day Committee is a volunteer body that meets the fourth Monday of each month. Anyone interested in sharing ideas or volunteering time is welcome. For more information about how you can participate, call the Parks & Recreation department at: 724-776-4806 x1129.

WaterPark membership discounts. Until January 31, 2007 memberships in the Cranberry WaterPark can be purchased at a substantial discount.



Early Bird rates average 20 percent below the peak season prices. For Township residents with a resident

discount card, they range from as little as \$65 for individuals 62 or older, to \$215 for families of five or more; peak season rates are \$80 and \$270 respectively. Anyone joining during the January discount period will also receive two one-day guest passes admitting the same number of guests that are included in their primary membership.



In transit. Cranberry Township has joined with several neighboring communities in pledging a total of \$350,000 to support transit service including more Park 'n Ride lots to serve southern Butler County over a five-year period beginning at some point in the future. Their pledge represents the local commitment required before seeking matching money from Harrisburg. However new legislation allowing state support for startup transit service would need to be enacted before any new funds could be allocated or used to serve the Cranberry area. "It's a major step, but you shouldn't wait at the corner for a bus just yet," according to Cranberry Township manager Jerry Andree.

Excellent. Cranberry Township was formally presented with the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence at a Municipal Center ceremony on December 19. The presentation, which was made by the Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of Governor Rendell, honored the success of Cranberry's Collection Connection program in sharply improving its rate of recycling and reducing the volume of waste disposed of in landfill.



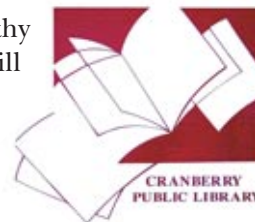
Property tax. Notices for the combined Butler County /Cranberry Township 2007 real estate tax will be mailed to property owners on March 1 and may be paid at a discount through April 30, according to Tax Collector P.J. Lynd. The 2006 combined property taxes, as well as any 2006-2007 Seneca Valley School District taxes which were not paid by December 31, have been turned over to the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau. ~

Chat with a Librarian *(Continued from page 5)*

It uses information found on the Internet as well as from proprietary databases funded by libraries and not generally available to individual Web surfers. According to the service's Web site, which can be accessed by way of a link from the Cranberry Public Library's Web site, Ask Here PA librarians will provide patrons with an answer in 15 minutes or less in most cases. If the

question involves lengthy research, the service will get you started and/or provide a referral for you or your question.

Unlike many other expert sites on the Web, there is no charge to use the Ask Here PA service. It is an extension of what public libraries have always done –



helping patrons to quickly get the accurate, unbiased information they need.

Ask Here PA is a service of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Bureau of Library

Development, and managed by HSLC/Access PA. To access Cranberry Public Library's Web site, go to www.bcfls.org/cranberry. ~



Note to bad guys...

LiveScan Has You Fingered

Hidden away in a windowless room near the holding cells of Cranberry Township's police station, two

powerful new electronic tools of 21st century law enforcement are beginning to give local police a decisive edge in their fight against crime. And it's not just the Township's own police force that benefits from their use.

Since November, when the technology was first installed, police departments across southern Butler County have been using LiveScan – an inkless, automated fingerprint system, and Digital Photomanager, its companion electronic facial recognition system – to link the people they arrest to any unsolved crimes where fingerprints have been collected, as well as to a database of wanted persons and those with criminal histories all across the country.

Instead of recording an individual's fingerprint patterns by inking them

and rolling them on paper, the system uses scanners to digitize the person's fingerprint characteristics. Then that data is transferred to central computers in Harrisburg, and from there to the U.S. Department of Justice – all in a matter of seconds. Sending hard copy fingerprint cards through the mail used to take days. And matching them to prints on file took even longer.

Fingerprinting with the new system – which collects palm prints as well as the prints of individual fingers – takes less than ten minutes. And it circumvents many of the problems associated with ink prints, such as smudging, smearing, and improper inking. In fact, the system automatically signals the operator if there's a problem with a print being taken and prompts the officer to redo the necessary steps.

“Conventional fingerprints are frequently of poor quality and are not useful in investigation work,” according to Cranberry Police Lt. Jeffrey Schueler. “They used to send back the bad prints with

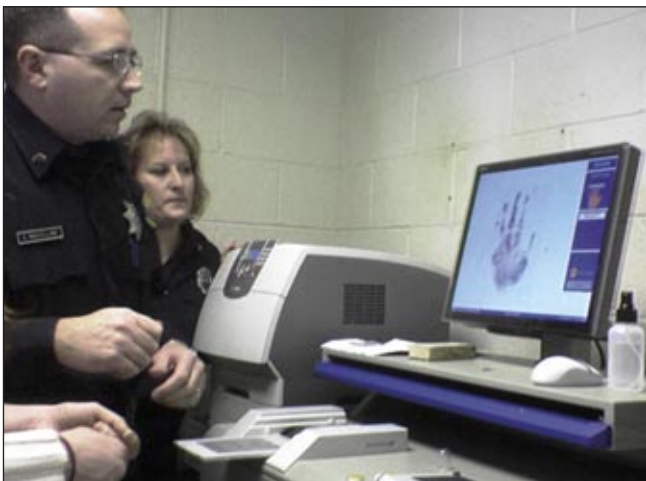
a request to redo them. But now, with so many prints being taken, they don't tell you. So there have been lots of cases where people have been fingerprinted but where it

never went into the system because the prints were bad. This way, every print you make is going to be good.”

Cranberry's new fingerprinting system, which was created through a \$152,000 state grant administered by the Pennsylvania Chiefs

of Police, is one of two in Butler County; the other will be installed at the County Jail. County officials contributed \$37,000 toward the purchase of equipment used at the two sites. Three magisterial districts in southern Butler County are served from the Cranberry facility, which is one of approximately 100 installations statewide. ~

“Conventional fingerprints are frequently of poor quality and are not useful in investigation work ...this way, every print you make is going to be good.”



Palm reading. A new electronic fingerprinting system linked to huge databases of prints on file in Harrisburg and Washington, DC, began operation in Cranberry's Police Department in November. It is one of two such systems in Butler County. In addition to collecting fingerprints, the system records and displays the full palm prints of those arrested.

Hot wheels...

Watch Out Or You Could Find Yourself Riding In One Of These Babies

Okay, so its name sounds a little fussy: Crown Victoria. But don't go looking around for any gingerbread latticework or ornamental filigree because Cranberry's nine Ford Crown Victorias – Crown Vics as they're more familiarly known – are strictly business. And, even though their basic technology is decades old, they're not your grandfather's Ford, either. They are the special Police Interceptor version of the traditional family cruiser which, in its more staid civilian version, is the roomy, two-ton, six-passenger classic car with rear wheel drive and a cavernous trunk.

But add any of the five special police packages available from the factory, and combine that with a bunch of custom features and electronics distinctive to Cranberry's patrol fleet, and you have one mean machine.

"The Police Interceptor is not the same car you buy off the lot,"

Walt Beighey of the Township's Public Works department explained. "It's designed to be a police car, so there are some things they do knowing you're going to be doing some rough and dirty driving. The Interceptor has more horsepower. A lot of times they have a different rear end in them. And then some extra suspension. Extra sway bars underneath for high speed performance. More protection underneath. We also install a brush bar on the front."

And that's not even counting the oversize brakes, rims, batteries, and cooling systems designed to withstand the punishment that

police cars typically receive. "We average 35,000 miles a year on those vehicles," Public Safety Director Steve Mannell pointed out. "We're putting the newest equipment out there with the patrolmen. We use the older cars for administrators. And Public Works keeps them well-maintained. One of the administrative vehicles we're driving has 110,000 miles; another has 106,000."

Safety is an especially big concern for the department because of the amount of time each officer normally spends in a patrol car. "Individual officers put 10-15,000 miles on a car each year, and that's a lot of exposure," Mannell explained. The findings of a test program administered by the Michigan State Highway Patrol have been particularly helpful in the department's choice of vehicles. For years, the Crown Vic's overall crash protection, stopping

distance, and ease of maintenance results have scored at the top of its class. "You want to have the safest vehicle available," he said.

"We pay about \$20,000 for a Crown Victoria. And the equipment – the computer and the consoles and the lights, and so on – can add another \$10,000. The cars themselves come with the Police Package – oversize breaks, cooling, big engine, etc," Mannell said. "They look like big vehicles, but there's not a lot of room for the driver, and it's packed full of stuff. And when you put the partition between the front and rear seats, you get even less room."

"The Police Interceptor is not the same car you buy off the lot, it's designed to be a police car. There are some things they do knowing you're going to be doing some rough and dirty driving."



Uh, oh. Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear. If this is what you see in your rear view mirror, you are looking into the teeth of one of Cranberry's new Ford Crown Victoria patrol cars, outfitted with a low-profile LED light display. Good luck.

Beighey, whose job includes buying new vehicles for the Township, is currently in the market for three new police vehicles – two Crown Vics and a Chevy Tahoe, which will be detailed to hauling around the gear used in traffic accident investigation.

Although the Crown Vic's appearance has changed very little over the years, there are two telltale signs that let you know whether you are being pulled over by a new patrol car or an old one: the rooftop lights and the driver-side spotlight. The newest patrol cars are outfitted with a low-profile LED light rig that replaces the older, taller light bars which were moved from car to car as vehicles were rotated out of service. "The LED lights don't require the same energy consumption," Mannell explained. With conventional strobe lights, the average draw is 5 to 7 amps; LED bars take 1.5 amps. When you add the laptops, auxiliary lighting, and chargers for phones and flashlights which are on all the patrol vehicles, as well as a dashboard video camera on one of them, even more power is needed. The new cars are also outfitted with a spotlight on the side, which an officer can use to illuminate the passenger area of a stopped vehicle. ~

Bring it on...

Public Works Department Is Ready For Winter's Worst

Forget about December's mild temperatures; Cranberry's Public Works staff is ready to deal with anything winter throws their way. Seven thousand tons of salt have been piled to the roof of the Township's salt shed – enough to go through a horrible winter season without needing to be re-supplied. Its 3,000 gallon tank of magnesium chloride – a liquid spray used to prevent ice from adhering to the pavement – is nearly topped out.



A dozen trucks have been outfitted with plows, spreaders, and tire chains, while a 13th is standing by as backup. And replacement plow blades and curb shoes have been stockpiled against the prospect of wear from extensive road clearing operations.

Each of Public Works' twelve drivers have been assigned a vehicle, and when a storm approaches – no matter what the hour – a call goes out in time to give each of them an opportunity to get to the Public Works building before the storm's expected arrival. It's not a perfect system – a sudden snow squall in the middle of rush hour can still create havoc – but with the Township's sophisticated arsenal of forecasting tools, the element of surprise is substantially reduced.

Other preparations for the season have already been taken care of, freeing the staff for winter road clearing. In the parks, for example, the water fountains, restrooms, and irrigation lines have all been drained and prepped for winter. The playing fields have been shut down. And the trash containers have all been removed.

Altogether, Cranberry is responsible for clearing 125 miles of roadway. Of that, 105 miles are local streets owned by the Township. The balance include parking lots and driveways within Township facilities such as its Municipal Center, as well as newly built roads that their developers plan to have the Township adopt as soon as 95 percent of their development work is complete.

But for Public Works to succeed in keeping the roads passable, residents need to follow a few simple rules:

- Avoid street parking
- Pull basketball hoops back from the street
- Shovel snow to the right side of your driveway
- Place garbage carts on the cleared edge of your driveway
- Don't bury fire hydrants in snow
- Don't shovel snow into the street
- Don't eat any yellow snow ~

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



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