



# Cranberrytoday

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2006 FALL EDITION

## It's Not Just For Homeowners Anymore – Pretty Soon, Everybody In Cranberry Will Be Able To Recycle

Right from the outset in November of 2004, Cranberry's Collection Connection™ solid waste program saw a tremendous surge in the volume of material residents recycle. In just its first three months, recycling rose from nine percent of the waste collected at the curb to a whopping 41 percent, propelling the Township from a position of non-compliance with state recycling guidelines into a leadership role among Pennsylvania's municipalities.

The expanded menu of items eligible for recycling played a major role in that growth. So did the single-stream concept, where different types of recyclable items can be placed together in a single container. And, at least for those who paid for the weekly service, there was also a financial incentive: the more you recycle, the less garbage collection you have to pay for.

### Closing the Phase I gap

But the first phase of the program only applied to curbside collection for single-family homes. Multi-family structures, which account for more than a quarter of Cranberry's population, were not included. That's because, at the outset, the Collection Connection program applied only

to residential waste collection accounts – typically detached houses. Most multi-family buildings and communities were serviced as commercial accounts, operating under different rules. Yet the performance guidelines of the Township's own solid waste ordinance, which called for increased recycling, applied to everyone.

### Entering Phase II

Starting later this year, the opportunity for expanded recycling will extend to residents of the Laurelwood, Old Towne, Foxmoor, Berkley Manor, Pine Ridge, Cranberry Point, and Georgetown Square apartment complexes. Residents of gated neighborhoods, retirement villages, mobile home parks, and other multi-family

structures who are not now participating in the recycling effort will be included in a later phase of the program.

In addition to protecting the environment and keeping Cranberry in compliance with federal, state, and county regulations, increasing the share of residents' waste that is recycled will benefit the entire community by raising the performance grants it receives from the state. Those grants, which in 2005 amounted

*Starting later this year, the opportunity for expanded recycling will extend to residents of apartment complexes.*



to \$186,000 for Cranberry, are being used to help stabilize future program rates.

### Coordinating collection practices

To succeed, Cranberry's multi-family recycling initiative will require landlords to synchronize the practices of their commercial waste haulers with those of their residents, according to program coordinator Lorin Meeder. Although the details are likely to vary somewhat from one apartment complex to the next, the essential role of residents will be to

*Continued on page 3.*

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## New Ordinance Requires Commercial Customers To Remove Fats, Oil, Grease And More From Their Wastewater

Restaurants and institutional food service kitchens will now be required to obtain permits to drain their wastewater into the Township's sanitary sewer system. So will automotive service businesses and certain industrial users whose process water goes into Cranberry's wastewater treatment plant. The reason: some of the things commercial customers put down the drain can clog sewer lines, damage the treatment plant's biological processes, harm the environment, and expose workers to unsafe materials such as flammable or toxic substances.

*Some of the things commercial customers put down the drain can clog sewer lines, damage the treatment plant, harm the environment, and expose workers to unsafe materials.*

An ordinance detailing the new requirements was adopted by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors on September 7. In essence, it gives the Township greater authority to carry out its ten-year old program designed to encourage pretreatment of water before it enters the public system. Under provisions of the ordinance, an annual permit – which is only issued to non-residential customers of the sewage service – requires the applicant to demonstrate the ability to limit their discharge of specified materials to levels that the Township's system can safely handle.

### Trapped

In the case of a food service kitchen or vehicle service business, that typically requires the installation of a grease trap or oil/water separator in the facility's drain lines to take fats, oil and grease out of the wastewater before it enters Cranberry's municipal system. It also requires

normal maintenance of that interceptor or separator so it continues to work properly. If there's a problem with the device, or if it doesn't have enough capacity, the owner will be required to repair or replace it.

Enforcing those provisions is an assignment that falls to Mark Wolinsky, a wastewater specialist who joined the Township's Public Works staff this past summer.

"Most of the newer interceptors and separators here work fine, although if you go back a few years, you'll find some places out there that still don't have them," Wolinsky noted. "They weren't required to. So

those are the places we're going to look at and see what they can do in the kitchen that might help. They may not even have to put one in, although in general, most of them will have to."

However the drill for industrial customers is more challenging, and the materials they use can pose greater risks. For years, the Environmental Protection Agency has required certain categories of



industrial customers to meet federal discharge standards. And municipal wastewater treatment plants with design capacities of five million

gallons a day or greater have also been subject to specific requirements. But smaller industrial customers, and smaller treatment plants, have generally not received the same scrutiny. Cranberry's Brush Creek facility is designed to treat 4.5 million gallons a day, just below the EPA threshold. As Cranberry Township continues to grow, that is likely to change.

### Ahead of the curve

"We're not there yet, but we're going to be one of these days," Wolinsky said. "What we're doing now is anticipating that happening. So the ordinance is written in such a way that when it happens, we'd only have to make a few changes to get approved by EPA. In the meantime, there will be cost savings both in line maintenance and grease handling at the plant. And it might smell better."

Although the pretreatment ordinance applies only to commercial and institutional sewage customers, individual residents can help too, Wolinsky noted. "Residents can help by doing the proper things at home. Instead of pouring bacon grease down the drain, wiping it out with a paper towel and throwing it away would help immensely." ~



*As long as they are regularly serviced, commercial grease traps effectively remove most of the fats and oils coming into Cranberry's wastewater treatment plant from restaurants. That reduces operating costs and odors associated with plant operations.*



## Take The TRASH MASTER Challenge!

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



Drinking glasses and ceramic mugs

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

2



Styrofoam blocks and packaging material

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

3



Construction or demolition material

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

4



Large plastic toys

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

5



Steel-frame bicycle

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

6



Plastic plant pots

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

7



Auto and truck tires

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

8



Paints, stains, turpentine

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

9



Propane tanks

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

10



Motor oil

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

11



Yogurt, cottage cheese, margine tubs

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

12



Paper towels and tissue paper

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## It's not just for homeowners anymore – pretty soon, everybody in Cranberry will be able to recycle *(Continued from front cover)*

separate the designated recyclables from ordinary garbage according to guidelines developed by their landlords and to deposit those recyclables into designated containers for pickup.

Landlords will have ultimate responsibility for formulating the recycling programs at their complexes, making sure that opportunities for recycling are convenient for all residents. They will work with their contract haulers to define

collection procedures and make sure their tenants are informed about the specific recycling guidelines which apply.

The haulers, for their part, will be responsible for providing guidance regarding container selection, capacity, placement and service frequency – all of which are likely to be different than for single-family homes. They will also be barred from mingling recyclables with garbage

or disposing of them in landfills. Instead, the haulers will need to transport the recyclables to an approved facility where they can be sorted for reprocessing.

Cranberry Township will support the effort with informational publications and plastic recycling totes purchased with a state grant. The program is expected to be in full operation by next June. ~

## 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



### Drinking glasses and ceramic mugs.

# 1

*Answer: A.* Broken glass and glass used for household tumblers and wine glasses is dangerous to handle and poorly suited for recycling. Wrap them securely in bags and deposit in your garbage cart.



### Styrofoam blocks and packaging material.

# 2

*Answer: A.* Peanuts, bubble wrap, and Styrofoam blocs, although made of plastic, contain mostly air and are unsuitable for recycling. Put them in your garbage cart.



### Construction or demolition material.

# 3

*Answer: E.* Lumber, bricks, sheetrock, cinder blocks, and other building materials are considered commercial waste rather than residential waste and therefore ineligible. Call a private hauler to take them away.



### Large plastic toys.

# 4

*Answer A or D.* Plastic toys including Big Wheels, playhouses and slides, although made of plastic, are poorly suited for recycling because of their size and shape. If they can't fit in your garbage cart, attach a 65¢ tag and leave them out at the curb.



### Steel-frame bicycle.

# 5

*Answer: A or D.* The metals best suited for recycling are aluminum and bimetal (tin) cans. Larger steel items, and items containing a mix of materials such as bicycles, should be treated as ordinary trash and put out with a 65¢ tag if they can't fit inside your garbage cart.



### Plastic plant pots.

# 6

*Answer: A.* The plastic used by nurseries and mass market plant shops have a chemical composition unsuitable for recycling. So treat them as ordinary garbage.



### Auto and truck tires.

# 7

*Answer: D.* Tires are not eligible for recycling and should be treated as a special collection item with a \$4 tag for each tire. Better yet, when you replace your tires, have the dealer take your old ones, generally for about \$1 apiece.



### Paints, stains, turpentine.

# 8

*Answer: E.* Partially full cans of paint, turpentine, and stain are considered to be hazardous wastes and ineligible for normal curbside collection. Only empty cans and paint which has been solidified are eligible for pickup as garbage.



### Propane tanks.

# 9

*Answer A.* Propane tanks for torches, grilles, and other applications are not eligible for recycling because of the danger of combustion from residual fuel. Treat them as garbage or hold them for special household hazard waste collection drives.



### Motor oil.

# 10

*Answer: E.* Motor oil cannot be recycled through the Collection Connection program. However, most automotive service shops will happily accept your used oil free of charge.



### Yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine tubs.

# 11

*Answer B.* These plastic containers, if empty, are acceptable in the Township's recycling program and can be put into your blue-top recycling cart along with other eligible items.



### Paper towels and tissue paper.

# 12

*Answer A.* Although various types of paper are eligible for recycling through the Collection Connection program, used paper towels and tissues should be treated as ordinary garbage and put into your gray-top cart.

## So Far So Good For Cranberry's Clean Streams Program...

Why does Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection prefer commercial car washes to car washing done at home?

It's because dirty water from the commercial sites drains into the Township's sanitary sewer system where it is treated before being released into the stream. But on home driveways and weekend fund-raisers, soapy water runs directly into local streams, carrying detergents, road film, dirt, and any other pollutants it may have picked up along the way.

That can foul the streams, endangering wildlife as well as people living along the waterway. And car washing is only one of a number of possible contamination sources that DEP has been trying to identify and control through a statewide stormwater management program known as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, or MS4. Its goal: to restore and improve the cleanliness along countless miles of creeks, streams, and rivers that run throughout the Commonwealth.

### Trickle down

As with most other environmental programs, MS4 originated at the federal level and later cascaded down to the states and then to local governments who eventually became

responsible for implementing its provisions. These include mapping all the points where rainwater runoff enters the publicly-owned stormwater system, dividing the municipality into quadrants and then, over a four-year period, drawing water samples from each area of the system for laboratory testing. If tests show pollution, the contaminated outfall can be quickly identified.

Now in its fourth year of the program, Cranberry has both compiled maps showing the outfalls entering its system and tested runoff water from the Township's northeast and northwestern quadrants. The southeastern quadrant is being evaluated now, and next year the more highly developed southwestern portion will be studied. But at least for the time being, according to Jason Kratsas of the Township's engineering department, the program seems to be going well.

### No problem

"We haven't found any problem outfalls so far, so there are no remedial steps in place at this time," Kratsas said. "But we'll still have to map the outfalls as new developments come in and continue to monitor them in the future."

Other steps are being contemplated as well. A coordinated monitoring project involving a number of North Hills communities is currently under discussion by the area's Council of Governments. And a stream cleanup program patterned after the state's Adopt-a-Highway initiative, is also on the drawing board, he said.

Farms and smaller industrial properties, as well as gas stations where fuel can get spilled onto the pavement, have a greater potential for creating pollution than residential neighborhoods, according to Kratsas. And if future tests do turn up a problem, there are a series of best management practices available for addressing most runoff pollution issues, he said. Larger commercial sites, whose rainwater runoff drains directly into streams, bypassing the Township's catch basins and storm sewer conduits, are required to secure DEP permits and deal directly with the agency about clean water issues. ~



## ...But A Series Of Flukes Triggers A Sewage Plant Spill

A perfect storm of electrical problems and phone line failures led to an accidental spill of raw sewage into Brush Creek over a 14-hour period during a sunny summer weekend in Cranberry.

Beginning at 1:52 PM on Sunday afternoon August 20th, a rapid series of power fluctuations hit the Township's Brush Creek wastewater

treatment plant, resulting in the spill of untreated sewage into Brush Creek. The surges, which came over the high voltage lines that supply the plant's pumps, blowers, and other electrical machinery, triggered a chain of equipment shutdowns and signal failures that allowed raw sewage to back up and flow into the creek just before entering the plant's treatment process.

Although the plant's circuit breakers are designed to protect its sensitive equipment from electrical damage whenever there's a power problem, they require manual resetting. But the automatic signaling system, which should have immediately alerted off-duty personnel to return to the plant and deal with the

*Continued on page 6.*

## No Topiary Here, Thank You

For Cranberry's Public Works department, keeping plants trim is serious business.

Maintaining appearances is important. But there are more than just cosmetic reasons for trimming the bushes, trees, and other plants on your property, according to Cranberry's Public Works department. They include fire protection, traffic safety, and access to your outside water meter touch pad.

For example, bushes and tree branches growing by the sides of public roads can obscure drivers' vision – particularly along curves and at intersections. That's a violation of PennDOT safety guidelines. "We need a minimum of 150 feet of sight distance for a 25 mph road," Public Works Director Duane McKee explained. "It's a state-based regulation."

Exactly who is responsible for following that regulation? "In most cases, cutting back brush is the responsibility of the property owner. But when it grows too far, we end up just cutting them off, and we may not cut them to the resident's liking. So we prefer that they do it," he said.

"Right now, we're clearing for signs, clearing for sight distance around bends, for intersections, and for stop signs."

Fire safety is also affected by plants growing by fire hydrants. Shrubbery around hydrants can hide them from sight, making it more difficult for firefighters to identify and attach hoses in the event of a fire. The guideline recommended by Cranberry's Volunteer Fire Company is to clear five feet on either side of the hydrant, as well as two feet behind it, and to refrain from building any walls, fences, or other permanent structures within those distances.

Water meters have touch pads mounted on the outside of a house which should also be kept clear of shrubbery. Public Works employees need access to the pads in order to assure their customers of

*The tool they use is like a weed whacker on steroids.*



accurate billing. In addition to making meter readings more difficult and time consuming, flower beds or other plantings that block access to the meter pads often end up getting trampled, which makes everyone unhappy.

It's easy to understand why property owners may not care for the way Township workers trim their roadside plantings. The tool they use – a powerful mower attached to its tractor by a boom arm – is not the sort of precision trimming tool favored by homeowners and bonsai enthusiasts. It's more like a weed

whacker on steroids. "If somebody has a shrub or tree or whatever, we'll contact the resident and ask them to please cut it back," McKee noted. "But if they don't, we'll do it ourselves, although we'll try to hand-trim the street trees in residential areas."

## ...A series of flukes triggers a sewage plant spill

(Continued from page 5)

shutdown, was itself damaged by the power surge, as were two separate backup autodialer systems. As a result, the problem was not detected until plant employees began reporting for work early Monday morning.

A field crew was able to quickly determine that all the overflow had taken place at a single manhole and that most of the heavy solids in that wastewater had settled around the manhole's base without ever entering the stream.

Although rainwater quickly dissipated the sewage and some fish had returned to the affected area within days of the spill, a series of failsafe modifications to the alarm and autodialer systems were quickly put in place to make sure that similar failures would not occur again. The plant's treatment process was not affected.

Cranberry's wastewater treatment plant serves the 23 square miles of Cranberry Township, along with

portions of Marshall and Pine Townships in Allegheny County and New Sewickley Township in Beaver County. It is designed to process as much as 4.5 millions gallons a day and to discharge treated water into Brush Creek.

Brush Creek flows north into the Connoquenessing Creek which, in turn, flows into the Beaver River before entering the Ohio. ~

## Does Cranberry Really Need Another Gas Station? Not Necessarily. But that Isn't The Real Issue.

by John Skorupan, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



New development is nothing new to Cranberry. It's been going on throughout the seven years I've been on the Township's

Board of Supervisors. And I don't foresee any break in that pattern for some time to come.

In general, I consider growth to be a good thing for our community; it builds property values, it increases the revenues available to serve residents' needs, it energizes our cultural and recreational programs, and it attracts more desirable employers to locate here. But the cumulative effect is that new development is slowly changing the character of Cranberry Township, and preserving community character is a real concern to many of our residents as well as to our Board.

As a result, I am frequently approached by individuals and groups of people who live in Cranberry to hear out their concerns, and they often take this form: "Does Cranberry really need another gas station, or fast food restaurant, or drugstore, etc.?" Interesting question. But it's not one that the Board of Supervisors is empowered to either ask or answer. Instead, it's something the market will determine; if there are too many coffee shops or

supermarkets or dry cleaners, some of them will fail. So market forces, rather than local ordinances, will decide how many of any particular type of business the local economy will support. The same applies to housing.

At the same time, however, the Township has some important responsibilities to exercise when it comes to new development, and that applies to residential as well as commercial projects. For one thing, some types of development really do prompt more concern than others because of traffic or noise or safety or other potential problems that might be associated with them. So figuring out how to mitigate those concerns is part of the approval process.

Another is to stipulate reasonable requirements which will both enhance the appearance and improve the efficiency of the area the development is located in. But the key to all of that is crafting a uniform set of rules which would pertain to anyone proposing new development and then applying those rules fairly.

***Market forces, rather than local ordinances, will decide how many of any particular type of business the local economy will support.***

***Getting the rules right is the key to Cranberry's long-term success as a community.***

That's easier said than done because a number of potentially conflicting interests need to be balanced in developing land, and those interests become more difficult to reconcile as the community grows in size and density.

Even so, it is critical to get those rules right. That's because if, instead of following uniform rules, we were to decide each application on the basis of personal taste or political pressure, the developer would take us to court – and win. That would not only relinquish control of our future to judges instead of local officials, it would also end up sticking Cranberry's taxpayers with the resulting court costs.

So the challenge our Supervisors constantly face is this: how do you create a development approval process that captures the energy of the marketplace, that respects nearby properties, that creates a more desirable community, that satisfies courts tests, and that can move quickly enough to please everyone involved? Because the answer keeps evolving, development-related tasks take more of the Supervisors' attention than any other issues we address.

But getting it right is the key to Cranberry's long-term success as a community, so that is where our attention will remain. ~

*Reviewing new development proposals takes more of the Supervisors time than any other issue.*



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OCTOBER

<b>SUN 1</b>	<b>MON 2</b> YOM KIPPUR Book Discussion <i>The Kite Runner</i> , Library, 7 pm	Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>TUES 3</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>WED 4</b> Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm <i>Asthma &amp; Allergies: Exciting New Therapies*</i> Pediatric Alliance, 7 pm	Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	<b>THURS 5</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm
<b>FRI 6</b> SVSD No School Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6 pm	<b>SAT 7</b> Beginning MS Word* Library, 9 am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr - entrance to Community Park, 10 am-1 pm 4th Annual Tennis Tournament †	<b>SUN 8</b> 4th Annual Tennis Tournament †	<b>MON 9</b> COLUMBUS DAY Township offices open	<b>TUES 10</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm	<b>WED 11</b> Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	
<b>THURS 12</b> Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr - Senior Ctr, 9:30 am Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm	<b>FRI 13</b> Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6 pm Night Mayor † Parks & Recreation program, North Boundary Park, 8pm	<b>SAT 14</b> MS Word II* Library, 9 am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr - entrance to Community Park, 10 am-1 pm	<b>SUN 15</b>	<b>MON 16</b>	<b>TUES 17</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm	
<b>WED 18</b> Books & Bagels Discussion Call for title, Library, 10 am <i>Osteoporosis...How to Keep Your Bones Healthy</i> UPMC Passavant Cranberry program, Municipal Ctr - Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	<i>Women and Stroke*</i> AGH, Library, 6:30 pm Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	<b>THURS 19</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm	<b>FRI 20</b> SVSD No School Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6 pm			
<b>SAT 21</b> Troubleshooting Your Computer* Library, 9 am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr - entrance to Community Park, 10 am-1 pm	<b>SUN 22</b>	<b>MON 23</b>	<b>TUES 24</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm <i>Childrens Health</i> Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7 pm	<b>WED 25</b> Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	<b>THURS 26</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	
<b>FRI 27</b> Farmers' Market Municipal Ctr parking lot, 3:30-6 pm	<b>SAT 28</b> MS Excel I* Library, 9am Farmers' Market Mashuda Dr - entrance to Community Park, 10 am-1 pm Spookapalooza!† Parks & Recreation program, Municipal Ctr - Teen Ctr, 12 - 2 pm	<b>SUN 29</b> Daylight Savings Time ends - set clocks back one hour	<b>MON 30</b> Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	<b>TUES 31</b> HALLOWEEN Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm Trick or Treat in Cranberry Twp., 6 - 8 pm		

NOVEMBER

<b>WED 1</b> Exhibition <i>Times of Sorrow &amp; Hope: Documenting Everyday Life in PA During the Depression &amp; WWII</i> , Library thru Nov. 14 Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm	<b>THURS 2</b> Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>FRI 3</b>	<b>SAT 4</b> MS Excel II* Library, 9 am	<b>SUN 5</b>	<b>MON 6</b> Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm Book Discussion <i>Time Traveler's Wife</i> , Library, 7 pm	<b>TUES 7</b> ELECTION DAY Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm		
<b>WED 8</b> Family Pajama Time Library, 7 pm Book Discussion <i>Area Life During the Depression</i> Library, 7 pm	<b>THURS 9</b> 2007 Budget Planning Mtg Municipal Ctr, Rm 203, 6 pm SVSD No School, K-6 only Senior Ctr Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr - Senior Ctr, 9:30 am Daytime Storytime*, 3-5 years old, Library, 11 am or 1 pm	<b>FRI 10</b> SVSD No School	<b>SAT 11</b> VETERAN'S DAY Teen Dodgeball Tournament † Municipal Ctr Gym, 6 - 11 pm	<b>SUN 12</b>	<b>MON 13</b>	<b>TUES 14</b> 2007 Budget Planning Mtg <i>if Necessary</i> Municipal Ctr, Rm 203, 6 pm		
<b>TUES 14</b> Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>WED 15</b> Books & Bagels Discussion Library, 10 am <i>Diabetes Health</i> UPMC Passavant Cranberry program, Municipal Ctr - Senior Ctr, 12:30 pm	AGH Women's Health Series, Library, 6:30 pm	<b>THURS 16</b>	<b>FRI 17</b> Annual Light Up Night Municipal Ctr, 6 - 9 pm Santa arrives at 6:30 pm!	<b>SAT 18</b> Email class* Library, 9 am	<b>SUN 19</b>	<b>MON 20</b>	<b>TUES 21</b> Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm
<b>WED 22</b>	<b>THURS 23</b> THANKSGIVING DAY Township offices closed Waste Collection 1 day delay. Holiday schedule Thursday and Friday only	<b>FRI 24</b> Township offices closed	<b>SAT 25</b>	<b>SUN 26</b>	<b>MON 27</b> Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm Waste Collection - Final week for yard waste collection for 2006 (thru Dec. 1)	<b>TUES 28</b> <i>Chidrens Health</i> Bellevue Pediatrics, Library, 7 pm <i>John Makar's Harmony Short Line</i> Historical Society, Council Chambers, Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	<b>WED 29</b>	<b>THURS 30</b>

DECEMBER

<b>FRI 1</b> Friday Night Flicks presents <i>The Polar Express</i> , Municipal Ctr, 7 pm	<b>SAT 2</b> Security/Networking class* Library, 9 am Brunch with Santa † 11 am - 12:30 pm	<b>SUN 3</b>	<b>MON 4</b> Planning Commission Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>TUES 5</b> Parks & Recreation Advisory Brd Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>WED 6</b>					
<b>THURS 7</b> Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm	<b>FRI 8</b>	<b>SAT 9</b> MS Access class* Library, 9 am	<b>SUN 10</b>	<b>MON 11</b> Registration for Winter/Spring Parks & Recreation Programs Municipal Ctr, 8:30 am- in person and online only 12 pm- phone and mail accepted	<b>TUES 12</b>	<b>WED 13</b>	<b>THURS 14</b> Senior Center Monthly Birthday Party Municipal Ctr - Senior Ctr, 9:30 am Board of Supervisors Mtg Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 7 pm			
<b>FRI 15</b>	<b>SAT 16</b> Brunch with Santa † 11 am - 12:30 pm	<b>SUN 17</b>	<b>MON 18</b>	<b>TUES 19</b>	<b>WED 20</b>	<b>THURS 21</b>	<b>FRI 22</b> SVSD No School	<b>SAT 23</b>	<b>SUN 24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE	<b>MON 25</b> CHRISTMAS Township offices closed SVSD No School
<b>TUES 26</b> SVSD No School Planning Commission Meeting Municipal Ctr, Council Chambers, 5:30 pm	Waste Collection 1 day delay according to Holiday Schedule (thru Dec. 29)	<b>WED 27</b> SVSD No School	<b>THURS 28</b> SVSD No School	<b>FRI 29</b> SVSD No School	<b>SAT 30</b>	<b>SUN 31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE				



*Profile of a firefighter:***Dr. David Watkins: Handy With A Fire Drill**

Roaring down Route 19 with the air horn blasting as he transports a crew of fire fighters to the scene of a fire, dentist David “Doc” Watkins is living out a childhood dream.

“When I was a kid, I was fascinated with the fire department,” he recalls, “but I never had the opportunity to get involved in it and I didn’t want to do it as a career. So for a long time I didn’t have anything to do with firefighting.”

But that began to change in 1996, when Watkins read a newspaper article about Cranberry Township wanting to boost its fire company’s recruitment and retention. “I was intrigued by the fact that they were looking to appoint a citizens ad hoc committee, so my wife Linda and I decided to help solve their problem.”

After going through an interview, Watkins was chosen to join the committee, which studied Cranberry’s fire company as well as the policies and practices of other fire departments. “As we proceeded through our deliberations about what to do and how to do it, I thought: I’d like to follow through and really help the fire department’s recruiting,” he recalled. So he joined the fire company as a general member in 1998.

“I started out doing things for the Company like administration and family functions. But one of my goals was to join the newly-formed recruitment and retention committee whose assignment was to recruit

firefighters and keep them interested and active,” Watkins said, noting that the average volunteer firefighter stays with the Company for seven years.

Although it was never Watkins’ intention to actually fight fires, he was eventually approached by former Fire Chief Mark Nanna to become one of the department’s safety officers. That meant he would have to join the brigade. But that idea met with opposition from Linda.

“She was concerned that I would get hurt,” he explained. “Since I’m self-employed, she didn’t want my hands getting injured. Also, she knew there would be a time commitment. But Mark knew that without her support, it wouldn’t happen, so he told her that I would be responsible for watching the backs of people going into burning buildings and doing things safely – not going into burning buildings myself,” Watkins recalled. “I became a brigade member at the end of 2000. And Linda now goes with the flow; she is very active in the fire company’s ladies auxiliary.”

Around the fire station, everyone calls him “Doc,” and his professional life is something of an anomaly in the company. “Being a firefighter is typically passed down generationally,” according to Steve Mannell,



Cranberry Township’s public safety director. “It’s unusual to have someone like a doctor, lawyer, or dentist be in the fire company. But Cranberry’s volunteers reflect our demographic makeup.”

The son of a surgeon from Bradford, Watkins attended Washington and Jefferson College, where he received his undergraduate degree in chemistry in 1984 before going on to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Dental Medicine in 1988.

After many of hours of training, he qualified as a driver in 2004. “You typically have six to eight people on board. It’s my job to get them to the scene of a fire and get them home safely.”

Watkins also pointed out that Cranberry motorists are often confused when they hear, or fail to hear, a fire truck coming. “People should yield to the right or left, whichever is the safest way,” he advises. “Sometimes we come down the middle line. But either way, they should do it without getting themselves in trouble.” ~



***“It’s unusual to have someone like a doctor, lawyer, or dentist be in the fire company. But Cranberry’s volunteers reflect our demographic makeup.”***

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

## And Now A Word From Smokey: GRRRRRR!



It's not a good idea to make Smokey angry, especially during October's National Fire Prevention Week. You could really get burned. Even

so, Cranberry police have recently reported a surge of calls complaining about open fires that flout environmental regulations, endanger private property, and violate the Township's burning ordinance.

But when they respond, the person setting the fire usually pleads ignorance, according to Public Safety Director Steve Mannell. "They say 'Oh, I didn't know that'. One guy said that his neighbor told him it was okay to burn a tree that had come down. Well, it's not. Instead, you should cut the branches into small pieces and put them into your yard waste cart," he said. "And the logs? Stack them in front of your

house and put a sign on them saying 'free firewood;' someone will take them."

The confusion over burning may be understandable. That's because the ordinance also provides an exception for what it refers to as 'recreational' fires – occasional small fires which are usually enclosed in pits and used in connection with camping, cookouts, storytelling or other recreational purposes. But open fires set for disposing of household wastes, construction debris, fallen trees, leaves, or other combustible materials are prohibited. Even so, practically every year there is at least one fire in the Township which had been started in a well-controlled manner that unexpectedly morphs into a disaster.

"Recently, a recreational fire caused a house to burn down after a shed caught on fire from burning grass," Mannell recalled. "Another guy was turned in by concerned neighbors for burning a yellow jackets' nest in

the ground; he poured gas into it, lit it, and caught his yard on fire. And someone else emptied his fireplace cinders into a cardboard box in the garage and burned it down.

"The burning regulations we have in place here are state regulations, based on the National Fire Code," Mannell pointed out. In addition, federal EPA requirements, which are linked to various government grant programs, are also driving communities to enact ordinances against open burning.

However the greatest incentive to enhanced fire safety is a personal one: protecting the lives and property of local residents. But the family home also happens to be where the opportunities to prevent fires are greatest, according to Cranberry Volunteer Fire Company administrator Mark Nanna. Fire Prevention Week was created to emphasize the measures that homeowners can take to minimize these risks. ~

### To make your home more fire safe...

- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and change the batteries on a regular basis, for example, when you change your clocks from daylight savings to standard time.
- Devise a family fire escape plan and practice it. Be sure to accommodate the special needs of older adults in the household.
- Three out of ten reported home fires start in the kitchen — more than any other place in the home. Two-thirds of them start with the range or stove. Don't leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles such as potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.
- Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray burning grease around the kitchen and spread the fire.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again.
- Fireplaces or chimneys rank first in the number of fires caused by heating equipment. Most of these were caused by creosote build-up. Have your chimney checked and periodically cleaned.
- Space heaters, including wood stoves, cause a disproportionate share of home heating fire deaths. The leading cause of space heater fires is from combustibles which are placed too close to the heater. Keep them a safe distance away.
- Candles can be pretty, but they can also be pretty dangerous.
- If you are unable to extinguish a small fire in your kitchen or other room in your home, get everyone out of the house and call 911. Leave doors and windows closed as much as possible.
- Electric dryers are a frequent source of house fires. Have your dryer cleaned regularly by removing the lint which has built up around its motors and vents, and be sure to unplugging the appliance first.

### In Briefs:

*Times of Sorrow and Hope*, a traveling exhibit of 40 photos documenting Pennsylvanians' everyday life during the great depression and World War II will be on display at the Cranberry Library November 1-15.



The traveling exhibit was culled from more than 6,000 images taken in the state as part of that project.

**KDKA Radio** personalities John Shumway and Larry Richert gave a live, on the air, Hometown Salute to members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company on July 7. The Fire Company hosted the station's early morning broadcast at its Park Station fire house on Rt. 19. The program featured stories and profiles of people related to Cranberry Township and Butler County.



**Reporting for duty.** At the Board of Supervisors' July 6 meeting, four new police officers took an oath of service to Cranberry Township. They are, left to right: Mike Kramer, Rob Capezio, Nate Hill, and Vic Korol. Their swearing in brings the Township's active-duty police force to 28 full-time officers.



**Something fishy's going on here.** Approximately 350 children ages 6 through 12 brought their parents,



grandparents, friends and neighbors to the Cranberry Community WaterPark for a child-oriented Fishing Derby on September 17, two weeks after the pool's 2006 swimming season had ended. Several days earlier, the pool had been stocked with 600 full-size trout by the Laurel Hill fishery. Even after the three two-hour sessions of intense derby fishing, nearly 100 fish remained swimming in the pool. They were later netted and transferred to a tranquil pond.

#### Food fight!

Two teams of Camp Cranberry Counselors-in-Training competed in a timed event to build the best cityscape of packaged foods as part of their community service preparation this past summer. The grocery items had been collected for a food pantry drive. The ultimate winners were scores of needy families in the region who depend on food bank services.



#### The Big enchilada.

Thirty brave contestants disregarded heartburn, nutrition, and their own waistlines in an attempt to be named Burrito Eating Champion by Moe's Southwest Grill at Cranberry's 30th annual Community Day celebration. An otherwise trim and fit Bob Coon was able to scarf down three entire one-pound burritos in just over two minutes to take the winner's crown.

#### Good night, and good luck.

Cranberry's August 1 Night Out Parade may have been its last. The parade was part of the national Night Out anti-crime program. However new development along Haine School Road, the route which the parade had followed for the past 20 years, is now experiencing significant development, making it difficult to close the road for the parade's two-hour duration.



**Here's looking at you, kid.** An array of five stationary video cameras mounted on pole arms at the corner of Rt. 19 and Rochester Road will soon begin to regulate the signals controlling traffic at the newly rebuilt intersection. The unmanned video system replaces the older loop sensors embedded in the pavement, eliminating damage from potholes and the need to replace loops with each road resurfacing. Although the camera's images will not be used to issue citations or for other police work, if the system proves reliable, other Township intersections will be retrofitted with video technology as well.



#### Trudge through the sludge.

A marathon walk around a soggy North Boundary Park field starting July 22 helped to raise more than \$96,000 for cancer research,



*Continued on page 13.*

## In Briefs: *(Continued from page 12)*

education, advocacy and patient services. Altogether, 37 teams of adults and children who soldiered on despite the rain, darkness, and mud took part in the American Cancer Society's 3rd annual Cranberry Township Relay for Life.



**Gulp!** Big Mouth, the name given to this Public Works snow plow by the

art students of Haine Elementary school who painted it this past spring, will be prowling the streets of Cranberry during the coming winter season. It will be joined by seven others which were painted as a school class project in 2005. Big Mouth is one of 14 plows operated by the Township, which salts and clears 125 miles of roadway throughout the winter season. The painting project is intended to raise awareness of local snow clearing practices.



**Loose leafs.** A Collection Connection route supervisor cautions people who use yard carts that grass and leaves can stick in the bottom of overfull carts keeping them from emptying completely. He advises loading carts loosely enough so they can be emptied by the fleet's automated equipment. Or use paper yard waste bags, which will also be collected without charge. ~



## What Follows The Housing Boom? The Foreclosure Boom.

Pennsylvania's rate of home ownership is one of the highest in the country, according to Dan Egan of the Pennsylvania Department of Banking. That should be a source of real pride to residents throughout the Commonwealth. But it has a darker side as well: Pennsylvanians also suffer one of the nation's highest rates of foreclosure. And those numbers are growing.

What's behind the increase? According to the state's Department of Banking, it's high-risk, high-interest loans made to borrowers with spotty credit histories, high debt, and other serious risk factors. Today, Egan explained in the August issue of *PA Township News*, nearly 20 percent of all mortgages in the United States are of that type, compared to just five percent ten years ago. And their numbers are growing.

Between 2000 and 2004, about ten percent of all loans originated in Pennsylvania were of the higher-interest, so-called 'sub-prime' variety. Yet those same loans

represented anywhere from 60 to 75 percent of all foreclosures in the 14 counties surveyed. The practice of making sub-prime loans has also opened the door to dishonest lenders who take advantage of unsophisticated borrowers, setting them up for disaster later on, according to Egan. But ironically, nearly half of them could have qualified for lower interest rates and more favorable terms if they had only shopped around.

Sadly, Cranberry residents have not been spared the agony of foreclosure. This year alone, anywhere from two to five homes a month have been foreclosed to collect unpaid liens against the property.

But deceptive lending practices often carry telltale signs which can help prospective borrowers avoid becoming trapped

into an abusive home loan before it's too late. According to the Department of Banking, these include:

- Loans made without regard to the borrower's ability to pay
- Last-minute changes in loan terms
- Excessive fees
- Packing extra costs to the loan such as credit, life, or disability insurance
- Aggressive marketing through mail, phone, and even home visits to encourage borrowing
- Home improvement scams where mortgage brokers push overpriced repairs to the home
- Prepayment penalties against the borrower for refinancing or selling.

For more information, call the state Banking Department at 1-800-722-2657 or log onto its Web site at: [www.banking.state.pa.us](http://www.banking.state.pa.us)

~



## Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals Battles Dread Diseases – And Sometimes Big Pharma

*Cranberry-based drug maker targets specialty medical niche markets*

Contrary to popular belief, not all drug wars are fought between sinister cartels in urban back streets. Some of the most bitter and costly drug battles are actually taking place in America's courtrooms among pharmaceutical giants, generic drug makers, distributors, and others who operate in that multi-billion dollar biotechnology growth industry.

It can be a brutal business. Just ask Donald Kerrish, CEO of Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals, a specialty drug maker headquartered in Cranberry's Commerce Park, just behind the Township's Municipal Center. "A company's product patent lasts 20 years. But what they do then is to layer on other patents, process patents, capsules, packaging – anything they can think of." The result? Extensive and expensive litigation to keep competitors from introducing lower-cost generic alternatives.

### Bitter medicine

For the early-stage investors in Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals, which started up in 2000, it was a particularly bitter pill to swallow: it cost them two million dollars in legal expenses before the company ever earned a dime. "There are so many lawyers involved that the legal fees outweigh the drug development costs," Kerrish lamented. "It's a shame. It's something that has to be addressed by Congress so there can be a process that doesn't involve all this litigation."

***"There are so many lawyers involved that legal fees outweigh the drug development costs."***

But that was then. Today, Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals – a privately held company supplying vital medications to acute-care patients suffering Hepatitis C as well as those with systemic fungal invasions – has survived its early courtroom skirmishes, enjoys robust annual revenues, and is on track toward even steeper growth.

### On steroids

In fact, it is bursting at the seams, eager to double its current 6,000 square feet of office and warehouse space into a neighboring unit of the same building. "We have 20 here now. And when we move, we'll have room for 40. We are on top of each other here and I don't have any room to bring in the help I need," he said. "We need another person in accounting, we need another person in quality, two people in the warehouse, and we need to continue to grow our sales force, both for branded and generic-type products.

"Our goal is to add at least three products a year – to develop them and get them filed with the FDA. We have seven or eight people on the new product committee who are constantly sifting through data, looking to see what products are emerging, or coming off patent, that may be eligible for being made into a generic," Kerrish explained. "With 50 people, we should be able to add a number of drugs – and we will run out of warehouse space again. So our next challenge will be to get the amount of warehouse space we're going to need. We'll figure that out when we get there."



*Amphotec, Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals' brand of antifungal medication, is used to combat one of the most common side effects of organ transplants. Donald Kerrish, CEO and co-founder of the Cranberry-based company, holds up a vial of the medicine, which is delivered as a solid cake before being dissolved in sterile water and injected into the patient.*

### Cranberry connection

Although the company's drug production is carried out by contract manufacturers in Cleveland and North Carolina, all of the company's administrative, warehousing, accounting, marketing, sales, distribution, quality control, legal, and clinical supervision work takes place at its Cranberry location.

"We started in Cranberry for a couple of reasons," Kerrish recalled. "I had a business in the city, but the mercantile tax is really steep. We looked there, but we couldn't find a safe area that was centrally located for our employees and offered easy highway access. Besides that, we were all from the north – Cranberry, Mars, North Hills, Shaler, Wexford, Warrendale, Sewickley. So that's what brought us here: location, favorable taxes, and a landlord willing to help us with a startup company. We're happy here in Cranberry," he said. "We will be staying for awhile." ~

*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.*

## Seneca Valley Checks on Attendance

By Linda Andreassi, Communications Director, Seneca Valley School District

Rick Eagle is a prompt man. Call it an occupational hazard. Need a report? Have a meeting? Or maybe a deadline? He'll get it to you in a timely manner.

Eagle is the new Attendance Officer for the Seneca Valley School District, and his philosophy is a simple one: "You need to be in school to learn," he said. "My goals for this position revolve around the philosophy that every healthy student needs to be in school."



That's not a simple task, considering the district's population of 7,700 students grades K-12.

"I will work every day and every school year to achieve perfect attendance," Eagle said.

"To do this, I need to change the mindset of some parents and students. I want them to realize how important school is by helping them to understand their obligations and responsibilities."

Eagle's strategies for accomplishing these goals are to monitor school attendance on a daily basis, to work with teachers and administrators to compile methods for combating absenteeism, to follow the attendance policies adopted by the Seneca Valley School Board and to observe school law as set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

"It may become necessary to do home visits in response to excessive absence, tardiness, determinations of legal residence, or concerns for a particular student's well-being," he said. "Absenteeism will be handled with communication to parents and students by phone, letter, or in person."

As with any position dealing with laws and codes, Eagle will also have the assistance of agencies to address problems, including local District Justices. Those who disregard the compulsory attendance laws will be turned over to the area justices, who will file charges.

Call it tough love, but Eagle has strong convictions about what he does and believes deeply in the importance of his mission.

"The Seneca Valley School District provides students with a quality education and a lifelong learning experience," he said. "Students must take advantage of that opportunity."

Eagle came to Seneca Valley after holding similar positions in the Butler and Ambridge Area School Districts. A graduate of Penn State, he initially worked with adults as a probation officer, but felt a need to make a greater difference in people's lives. Hence his move into public education.

Eagle lives in Cranberry with his wife, Lynda, and three children: Shawn, a SV senior; Alyson, a SV sophomore; and Kaitlyn, an Evans City sixth grader.

The Attendance Policy of the Seneca Valley School District includes the following requirements and is strictly enforced:

- All excuses must be returned within five school days of return from absence or they will be considered as unexcused absences.
- Starting October 27, if a student has missed five or more days of school, parents will be required to provide a doctor's excuse for each absence for the remainder of the year. If a doctor's note is not provided, the absence(s) will be considered unexcused.
- After three (3) unexcused absences, a first notice of warning will be sent. Subsequent unexcused absences may result in a fine by the local District Justice.
- Educational trips while school is in session must be pre-approved. Approval of trips must meet the following requirements:
  - (1) Maintaining a C or better grade average.
  - (2) No more than 18 days of absence during the entire school year.
  - (3) May not be the first two weeks or last two weeks of the semester.
  - (4) May not take place during achievement tests.
  - (5) May occur only once a year.

For questions about the Attendance Policy, contact Rick Eagle at 724-452-6040, ext. 414.

## Motor Vehicles Aren't Really Toys, Even If They're Tiny

America has seen something of an explosion in small motorized vehicles during the past few years and Cranberry has been no exception. Go-carts, electric scooters, gas scooters, quads, trikes, and pocket bikes – miniature motorcycles selling new for as little as \$300 – are widely available and have increasingly become the toys of choice for children, including many well below the state's normal driving age.



scooters, quads, trikes, and pocket bikes – miniature motorcycles selling new for as little as \$300 – are widely

Although it is perfectly legal to buy and ride a motorized vehicle on your own property, it is against the law – and against good safety judgment – to use them on public streets or sidewalks.

In a letter circulated to local police departments throughout the state, PennDOT assistant counsel Matthew Haeckler addressed the

safety issue as well as some of the myths surrounding the use of small motorized vehicles. “Many motor scooters lack the most basic safety features to protect the operator from serious personal injury or even fatality,” he said. These shortcomings “expose the operator to the risk of immediate, unprotected impact without the benefit of safety equipment such as fenders, turn signals, a muffler, lights, or tires suitable for highway use.” Beyond that, he pointed out, many motor scooters are hard to see because of their diminutive size.

In addition to having official registration and regular state inspections, every type of motor vehicle driven on a highway must be insured, and any person operating a motor vehicle on a highway or public street has to have a valid drivers license. It doesn't matter if the vehicle is electric or gas powered, nor is there an exemption from

regulation simply because the engine is less than five horsepower. And no motor vehicles of any sort are allowed on sidewalks.

What particularly worries officials is that many of the operators are young and without enough experience to judge danger. According to Cranberry's Public Safety Director Steve Mannell, “When you tell people it is illegal to operate them on the street, they invariably tell you it must be legal since they bought it at a local store. Well, that doesn't make it legal. And there are really no trails in Cranberry you can ride a motorized vehicle on.

“There haven't been any injuries lately that I've been notified about,” Mannell continued. “But unless it was a car accident with injuries, where we'd have to be called, we might not hear about it at all. But believe me, kids are getting hurt on these bikes.” ~

For the most up-to-date information, visit us on-line at [www.cranberrytownship.org](http://www.cranberrytownship.org)



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