

# Cranberry

FALL 2018

# TODAY

## FORGE AHEAD

**MAKERSPACE COMES TO CRANBERRY**

## UPDATES

**WOOD CREATIONS ONLINE AUCTION**

**POLICE ADD NEW OFFICERS**

**TOWNSHIP OPERATIONS EXAMINED**



**BUSINESS HUB NEWS INSIDE**



**CRANBERRY**  
TOWNSHIP



# Santa Claus

is coming to town

## *Santa's First Stop*

November 16 - 6:00PM

## *Milk & Cookies with Santa*

December 8 - 11:30AM, 12:45PM or 2:00PM

December 9 - 11:00AM or 12:15PM

## *Pet Photos with Santa*

December 9 - 2:00PM

## *Brunch with Santa*

December 15 - 10:00AM or 12:30PM

December 16 - 10:00AM or 12:30PM

Sign up at [Cranberry4FUN.com/Register](http://Cranberry4FUN.com/Register)



# You're Invited...

TO EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY

JOIN US THIS HOLIDAY  
SEASON AT

# Cranberry Highlands

OUR CALENDAR IS FILLING UP QUICKLY.  
BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY MEETING OR PARTY TODAY!

724-776-7372 x1214

5601 FRESHCORN ROAD, CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066







5



8

# What's INSIDE

23



13



21



24



### CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Dick Hadley
- Bruce Hezlep
- Mike Manipole
- Bruce Mazzoni
- John Skorupan

TOWNSHIP MANAGER  
Jerry Andree

CranberryTODAY is published quarterly by the Communications Team on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the Township Manager. We welcome your feedback on this edition. [CommunicationsTeam@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:CommunicationsTeam@cranberrytownship.org)

Cover: Annemarie Lamperski, Head of Youth Services, Cranberry Public Library readies the children for the Library's new MAKERSPACE.

### CranberryTODAY

- 4 Supervisor's Commentary
- 5 Wood Creations Online Auction
- 6 Police Force Grows
- 7 Next Generation Emergency Radios
- 8 Fire Safety Education Award
- 9 Firefighter Profile
- 10 EMS Subscription
- 11 Cranberry Briefs
- 12 Leaner Township Operations
- 13 2019 Project of the Year
- 21 Resident Profile
- 22 Bees May Come to Cranberry
- 23 A Place for Bicycles
- 24 North Boundary Playground
- 25 Seneca Valley
- 26 Events

### BusinessTODAY

- 17 Mission Mahi
- 18 Safety First at MSA
- 19 Now Open! / Comcast for Business
- 20 Bits of Business



# Kennywood Can Wait

By Mike Manipole, Supervisor, Cranberry Township



There's a temptation, when we lecture our children about life back in the day when we ourselves were young, to embellish a bit – to exaggerate the veneration we showed our parents, to amplify our reverence toward teachers, and to regale them with stories of our five-mile walk to school – pointing out that it was uphill in both directions.

What typically prompts these sorts of lofty parental lectures are complaints about the sorry state of youth today and hand-wringing over the decline of civic virtue. They're not necessarily wrong. Engaging children in civic life today actually is harder than it was decades ago. It results from all sorts of things including social media, video games, air conditioning, busy working parents, and much, much more. Engaging grownups is harder too.

However, the wiring of young adults has never changed, and there are still effective ways of engaging them. But we need to identify what they are. I had the opportunity to discover one last spring, and it really paid off. Here's what happened:

I'm a teacher at the Ryan Gloyer Middle School. During a staff meeting last spring, one of my colleagues suggested that a community service field trip would be a good way to wrap up the school year. We all thought it was a great idea, so I talked to some of the Township's senior staff about doing our school's community service day here in Cranberry. Everyone I spoke with was supportive. So, on June 7, a team of teachers, along with 131 seventh grade students, descended on Cranberry to spend the day working on maintenance projects at eight different locations in the Township. They included weeding, painting, stream cleanup, beautification, and more.

But while all the teachers and Township staff professionals were enthusiastic, some of the kids were hesitant. Many had never been tasked with doing chores. Some had never held a paint brush. Others were apprehensive

about working side-by-side with grownups. Although a lot of the kids lived here, they didn't necessarily feel a sense of ownership for their community's assets. All things considered, most of them would have preferred a day at Kennywood.

Still, they soldiered on, and in a very short time, started seeing things differently. In working beside Public Works employees, police officers, firefighters and others, they began to appreciate aspects of their community they hadn't realized previously. For example, most of them had assumed that municipal assets just came out of nowhere. But they quickly learned that things like parks are the results of ongoing processes – ones which now involved them personally.

They learned that some tasks can only be done with teamwork. They learned to utilize our experts who were made available, upon request, to provide guidance. They learned a few basic maintenance skills. They learned why certain jobs exist and their significance to the Township. They came to realize that caring for the community is everyone's job. And they loved seeing their own tangible contributions. By the end, there were visible signs of improvement everywhere they had gone – improvements they would later show off to their parents.

But will those realizations last? Will they transform the lives of the kids who took part? It's much too soon to say. But the examples set by the adults they were exposed to, the professional resources they shared, the teamwork they enjoyed with one another, and the satisfaction that comes with securing community ownership through hands-on work, were all high-value experiences. Of course, it wasn't Kennywood, but it's a service program we hope to repeat again next year.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE





## CHAINSAW WOOD CREATIONS

## AUCTION GOES ONLINE

If you were among the 25,000 or so who attended Cranberry's 2018 Community Days celebration in Community Park, you couldn't have missed the buzz of chainsaws wielded by a dozen sculptors from all over the eastern U.S., turning crude logs into pieces of fine art. It was a rare gathering of so many chainsaw artists in one place, and much of their work was sold to visitors on the spot or at auction on closing day. But not all of it.

Some pieces were held back by the artists for an unprecedented online auction with net proceeds going

toward CTCC's transformational library MakerSpace – its 2019 Project of the Year. That auction begins at 8:00 PM on October 8 and concludes October 22 at 9:00 PM. The sculptures, which range from tabletop artwork to full-size garden benches, will be on display in the Township's Municipal Center starting October 8. All payments are being handled through PayPal. Purchased art must be picked up in-person during normal business hours; no delivery will be available.



To see photos of the available sculptures and to participate in the online auction, visit [CranberryTownship.org/WoodCreationAuction](http://CranberryTownship.org/WoodCreationAuction)



# RIGHTSIZING CRANBERRY'S POLICE FORCE

How many police officers does it take to cover a township like Cranberry? Or, for that matter, any other municipality? Good question.

It's also a question that municipal leaders throughout the country have pondered for years, coming up with a variety of answers. It obviously has something to do with population size, but it's not just a simple ratio of residents-to-police. Cranberry, for example, has approximately one officer for every thousand residents. Pittsburgh has 2.8 per thousand. And Baltimore has 4.6.

It often has something to do with crime, or at least the perception of crime, based on the still-unproven theory that having more police will deter criminal acts because the criminals think they are more likely to get caught.

It also has something to do with traffic. As the agency tasked with day-to-day responsibility for traffic safety and movement, there have to be enough officers available to enforce laws, issue citations, direct traffic around incidents, and respond to wrecks.

But most of all, it has to do with the number of 9-1-1 calls that the department is dispatched to cover. Last year, Cranberry's police answered 19,000 calls. This year they're on track to answer more than 20,000. And the range of incidents they're expected to respond to has continued to expand. Police officers today, in addition to their traditional law enforcement duties, are expected to serve as counselors, negotiators, medics, teachers and community outreach workers, among many other roles.

The last time Cranberry calculated the proper size for its police force was 12 years ago, back in 2006, when the magic number

came up as 28 sworn officers. The only officers added to the department since then have been hired to replace others who had either retired or had left for personal reasons. Then in 2009, the Township adopted a long-range comprehensive plan. It envisioned a 50-member police department by 2030.

Earlier this year, the Township revisited the question and determined that, for the time being, a force of 32 officers would be appropriate. So in June, three new patrolmen were recruited and sworn in – bringing the department to 31 – still one officer short of the goal, but within striking range of it by the end of the year.

Doing the math accurately is important. The cost of a full-time officer in Cranberry – including wages, benefits, training, equipment and related expenses – is approximately \$200,000 a year, so overestimating the force size can be costly. There's also a broad-based workforce issue: emergency service careers are falling out of favor with job applicants nationally, although an appointment with Cranberry is still seen as a choice assignment by police officers around the tri-state area. As a result, even though the number of job applicants has declined, whenever there's a posted vacancy in Cranberry, it routinely draws between 100 and 200 candidates; earlier this year, a comparable posting for police in nearby northern Allegheny County drew just 22.

Moving from one police department to another is typical of most police officers' careers, but not in Cranberry. "We get a surge of applications when we have openings," Chief Kevin Meyer pointed out. "We're one of the premier agencies to work for. Typically, once they're here, they're here until retirement."





# TUNING IN TO NEXT GENERATION EMERGENCY RADIOS

Starting later this year, or possibly by early 2019, Butler County's public safety agencies will be dispatched using a new state-of-the-art radio system with capabilities never before available to police, fire or emergency medical professionals. But the transition will also produce at least one noteworthy change: police radio communications will become encrypted.

It is a pattern that will be repeated throughout the country over the next five years. But due to a perfect storm of developments, it will start even sooner in Butler County. Those factors involve a convergence of advancing technology, aging equipment, and changing needs. The results will include an entirely new emergency radio system and a complete overhaul of the County's Computer Aided Dispatch system, or CAD – the platform used by 911 operators to manage their data.

## Restricted messages

Monitoring EMS and fire company channels will require news organizations, radio hobbyists and families of volunteer firefighters tracking loved ones to acquire new

scanners; the new system's frequency bands are completely different than the old ones and their transmissions will be digital rather than analog. But police department transmissions won't be available to anyone without law enforcement credentials, including firefighters and ambulance operators.

At the same time, however, encryption helps police by preventing their unintentional and unauthorized release of private information. That includes the personal histories, social security numbers, dates of birth and previous arrest records of those who are stopped by police – information which is often shared over the radio when suspects are arrested. It also provides an extra layer of safety for police officers, particularly in situations like serving a warrant on someone who already knows they're in trouble and who may be scanning police radio transmissions to keep a step ahead of the law.

Butler County will pay three-quarters of the cost for its municipalities' basic fire and EMS radios. But in August, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors allocated \$350,000 toward the project,

placing orders for additional and upgraded new radio equipment as well as for their installation and programming.

## End of life

But why now? At some point, every technology wears out. "Butler 9-1-1's system is currently at the end of life," Police Chief Kevin Meyer explained. "They're not making parts for it anymore. They're at a point where it needs to be replaced, so it's going to be an all-new radio system along with the CAD system upgrade."

"Our current equipment simply isn't compatible with the system we'll be going to," added Police Sgt. Bill Ahlgren. "We've chosen to upgrade our equipment with multi-band radios to make sure there's interoperability between police, fire, EMS, public works and all the different agencies around us. Because we opted for that, we'll have to pay a bit more. But Butler 9-1-1 will be able to make better use of the new technology by replacing both its radios and CAD systems at once. It's a big change, but it's the right change."



# CARFit



Helping Mature Drivers Find Their Safest Fit

**HOSTED BY CRANBERRY POLICE, EMS,  
AAA, AARP & AOTA**

**Senior Car Fit Check: Thursday, October 11: 1 - 4 PM**

**Municipal Center Rear Parking Lot**

**Register: 724-776-5180**





# FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS HONORED



Recognizing agencies for things that don't happen can get complicated. But last month, the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association rose above that complexity and presented its First Place award for fire prevention education to the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company.

The award recognizes an extensive series of educational activities which the fire company has implemented to reduce the likelihood of fires that could cause death, injury, or property damage. Of course, combating active fires remains a core function of CTVFC. But the company puts a high priority on eliminating fire risk by educating children, adult residents and those commuting to work in the Township about dealing with the hazards around them.

Their effort appears to be working. Although the number of incidents dispatched by Butler 9-1-1 in Cranberry has continued to climb with the community's growth, the great majority of instances involve auto crashes. Structure fires and related injuries represent a very small share of the fire company's calls.

Among the company's fire safety and education programs

are its Fire Safety House – a trailer specially equipped to teach children how to report emergencies and escape in case of a fire; neighborhood visits associated with block parties; fire station tours; a pop-up three-story house simulating home fire and safety hazards; fire escape planning; fire extinguisher training; home inspections; corporate fire training; and teaching children not to be frightened of firefighters in full turnout gear. Other fire safety topics available for presentation on request include fire behavior, fire safety for senior citizens, and seasonal fire hazards.

"The best fires are the ones that never start," according to CTVFC safety education program coordinator Chris DeCree. "Naturally, we admire the heroics of firefighters who put their own safety at risk to help others escape fires, but we prefer to keep those fires from happening at all."

In August, Cranberry's program received the statewide firefighter's association's third place award in its fire prevention education category.

# FIND THE FIGHTER IN YOU

## CTVFC21.ORG

CONTACT@CTVFC21.ORG

TRAINING PROVIDED





## SEAN MORRISON HAS FIRE IN HIS BLOOD

”

“Ultimately, I picked Cranberry to live and buy a house. I’ve been here for a year and a half now and loving it.”

It’s not that firefighter Sean Morrison doesn’t care about people. He actually does. But when he’s working in his professional capacity as a risk consultant for a commercial insurance broker, the focus of his attention isn’t on risks to personal safety; it’s on property – how facilities covered by one of his insurance company clients can stay in business and generate income, despite any risks. That work involves inspecting a variety of structures. But in his own area of specialization – which focuses on the hazards faced by steelmaking plants equipped with coke-fired blast furnaces and electric arc furnaces that sometimes operate above 4,000 degrees – those risks can be considerable.

Sean’s job, which includes making safety improvement recommendations to businesses covered by his clients, has taken him all around the country and to locations as far away as Sweden. But risk consultancy wasn’t really his first choice of careers. His top preference was to become an active firefighter – following in the footsteps of his great grandfather, his dad and his stepfather.

A native of the Syracuse area, Sean’s involvement in the fire service began 17 years ago in Cicero, New York, a suburb of Syracuse about the size of Cranberry. There, an Explorer group – a branch of the Boy Scouts organization similar to Cranberry’s Junior Firefighter program – introduced Sean and other children as young as 11 to the town’s emergency services.

Following graduation from high school, Sean attended a local community college studying fire protection technology. But after failing to land a job as a career firefighter during the Great Recession, he was accepted into Oklahoma State University’s Fire Protection and Safety Engineering program,

graduating in 2014 after completing two fire department internships. It was the perfect background for his aspiration to become a career firefighter and ultimately a fire chief. There was just one problem.

“When I got out of school and saw how much student debt I had, I realized that I couldn’t afford to be a career firefighter,” he recalled. The pay just wasn’t adequate. “Most municipalities start out paying anywhere from \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year. So I decided I’d stick with volunteer fire service and then found my way into risk consulting. But I discovered that I enjoy it. So it’s actually worked out.”

“My job with Marsh Risk Consultants brought me to the Pittsburgh area,” he recalled. “They wanted to train me to be a steel expert because of lot of steel experts were retiring. Cranberry is actually my fourth location in the Pittsburgh area. When I first moved here, I lived on the South Side. Then I moved to McCandless and from there to Warrendale, where I joined the Marshall Township Volunteer Fire Department. I’m still a member there.”

“Then I did a little fire department shopping to figure out where I wanted to live, based on what I heard from the fire companies and what I could see from their stations,” he said. “That narrowed my focus to Adams and Cranberry because I liked the way both of them operated. They train a lot. Both have nice facilities and equipment. But ultimately, I picked Cranberry to live and buy a house. I’ve been here for a year and a half now and loving it.”

“Of course, you always question what could have been if you were a career firefighter versus what I’m doing now,” he recently reflected. “But it’s definitely not bad, so I’m not complaining. It’s been a good run.”



## What's the point of an ambulance subscription?

### SAVING LIVES.

An important piece of the financing for Cranberry Township's independent Emergency Medical Service involves subscriptions – where residents pay \$60 a year to cover the co-pay – the out-of-pocket costs associated with transporting household members to the hospital. Which is a bargain. But in Cranberry Township, that's still a tough sell.

The price of being transported by ambulance to an appropriate hospital emergency room can easily exceed \$1,000. That includes the medical technicians, the medications, the necessary supplies and specialized equipment in addition to the ambulance service itself. Normally, most of it is covered by the patient's insurance company; but insurance policies these days are covering less and less of that cost. Any shortfall is billed directly to the patient.

Beyond that, many families today are covered by insurance plans with very high deductibles. So, for example, if a patient has a plan with a \$3,000 deductible, the insurance company pays nothing until the patient has spent the entire deductible amount out of their own pocket. If an ambulance is needed before that deductible is satisfied, it's full cost is billed to the patient. But for subscribers, the ambulance is free. However, confusion over deductibles isn't the only concern.

"The biggest problem in this community is that the median age in Cranberry is right around 37, so people don't think they need to worry about ambulance coverage because they think it'll never happen to them," Cranberry Township EMS Executive Director Jeff Kelly explained. "They seem to think they'll never develop appendicitis, they'll never get kidney



stones, their kid will never fall out of a tree and break their arm. But the reality is, when they do use the ambulance service, they get upset when they have to pay."

Medically necessary ambulance transport for subscribers is available from the Cranberry Township EMS around the clock in Cranberry, Seven Fields and parts of New Sewickley. It also applies through reciprocal membership arrangements with 16 other EMS services throughout the greater Cranberry Township area. In addition to eliminating out-of-pocket costs to the patient, subscriptions provide a funding stream to help finance the agency's equipment and educational programs.

Three different tax-deductible subscription levels are available: \$60 a year covers all the permanent residents of a household; \$45 covers one individual; \$40 is for individuals 62 or older along with every other permanent household resident. For more information, go to [www.ctems51.org](http://www.ctems51.org).

## Yard Waste Collections End December 10-14

Remember to place items curbside in your Green Top Cart or Biodegradable Yard Waste Bag.

Bags are available for sale in the Customer Service Office.



[CranberryTownship.org/Collection](http://CranberryTownship.org/Collection)







### **Water rates going up**

Cranberry water customers are about to see a significant rate increase. The change comes in response to a 31.5 percent price increase from the West View Water Authority, Cranberry's sole supplier of fresh water, which went into effect September 1. Township water customers will see the increase reflected in their October bills for the period beginning September 27.

In a letter to the Township announcing the Authority's rate hike, West View's Executive Director explained that the increase was prompted by \$16.7 million in infrastructure investments needed over the next three years. They include money for line replacements, improvements to their Neville Island treatment plant, and storage tank maintenance. The total increase to Cranberry Township comes to approximately \$1 million a year.

To raise those revenues, the Township has increased its previous rate of 6.46¢ per 1,000 gallons to 7.47¢. In addition, the Township's base rate – the monthly fee that most homes pay for maintaining an active connection to the municipal water system – is going from \$6 per month to \$7.

However, even with those higher rates, the Township's price for water service still compares favorably to many other communities in the region. Adams, for example, charges 7.55¢ per 1,000 gallons plus a monthly base rate of \$17. Pittsburgh's water is 9.41¢ per 1,000 with \$23.25 for its base service. And, according to the PUC, Pennsylvania American Water Company charges its residential customers a whopping 12.22¢ per 1,000 gallons.



### **Don't relax with your tax**

If you haven't gotten around to paying your school district real estate tax yet, you may just have missed the two percent discount period which ended September 30. But you'll still have until November 30 to pay it at face value. However, if your Butler County/Cranberry Township real estate taxes remains unpaid, you'll need to add the penalty amount and pay it before the end of the year. Otherwise, it goes to the Butler County Tax Claim Bureau at 724-284-5326 for adjudication. If you've changed your mortgage company and are no longer using an escrow account to pay your property taxes, please call the tax collector's Municipal Center office at 724-776-1103 to make payment arrangements.

## **CRANBERRY BRIEFS**



### **Good idea!**

#### **Penn Power is giving away free light bulbs and more**

It seems counter-intuitive that a business would be helping its customers use less of the product they sell. But in the case of Penn Power and other electric suppliers in the region who operate under a state law requiring them to reduce usage and lower peak demand, it's happening.

Penn Power, for example, is offering free energy conservation kits to their Cranberry customers. They include energy saving LED light bulbs, a 3-way CFL bulb, two LED nightlights, and a whistle that lets you know when your furnace filter needs to be changed, as well as information on saving energy.

If you're a Penn Power customer, visit [www.PAenergykit.com](http://www.PAenergykit.com) or call 833-344-6899. More information is available at [www.energysavepa.com](http://www.energysavepa.com).



### **Disc Golf course nears play**

CTCC's new championship 18-hole disc golf course and six-hole Learn to Play course are on track to become available for play this fall. The North Boundary Park project, which also includes a two-mile nature trail between fairways on the course, was slated to have its concrete tee pads poured starting in September. Once the pads are dry, the course will become playable, even though some of the work is not yet complete. The project's nearby six-hole learning course recently benefitted from work on adjacent North Boundary Road. Excess fill resulting from roadway straightening was used to level the steeply sloped area where the learning course is being built. Final terms of an agreement with the Pittsburgh Flying Disc Society concerning instruction and course maintenance are currently being worked out.



# LEAN MEAN TOWNSHIP MACHINE

tools used by business to figure out an organization's optimum workspace arrangement do apply. In Cranberry's case, applying them is being driven by a growing workspace crunch – one which could be alleviated to some extent by rearranging its Municipal Center work, conference, storage, and common areas.

In September, the Township retained the services of the commercial real estate agency Jones Lang LaSalle. Working as a consultant to the Township, JLL will conduct a comprehensive review of how Cranberry's current administrative space is being used and recommend how greater efficiencies and improved collaboration can be achieved within the same space.

*Kathryn Marley, Professor of Supply Chain Management at Duquesne University*

There was a time, not all that long ago, when the primary goal of a corporate office building's layout was to telegraph the status of the people who worked there. Office size, location, even carpet color were all understood to symbolize where a worker stood in the company's hierarchy – that is, if they had an office at all.

More recently, however that mindset has undergone changes, driven both by the high cost of office space and the need to improve worker productivity. Although an organization's internal pecking order is still a factor in the layout of its workplace environment, other considerations have assumed increasing importance in office design. Key among them are how work actually gets done and how collaboration there takes place. Poor office design can effectively impede the flow of work.

In some bleeding-edge tech companies, workspace layouts have taken on novel forms. They include hot desks – unassigned workspaces which are open to everyone – mobile devices in place of landlines and desktop computers, free in-house food service, napping rooms, treadmills, ping-pong tables, guest workstations, remote work assignments, and more.

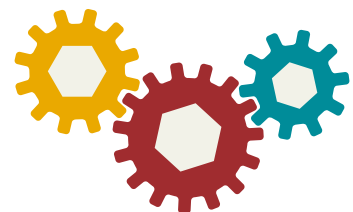
Government offices, however, have a different mission and are unlikely to go that far. But some of the analytical

## **Leaner operations**

However, office space isn't the only candidate for improved efficiency. The Township's sewer and water service, which represents a significant portion of Cranberry's workforce and cash flow, is also a candidate. In fact, no municipal service the Township offers touches more departments: Public Works, Field Operations, Finance, Customer Service, and Engineering all play significant roles in the water system.

Kathryn Marley, a professor of Supply Chain Management at Duquesne University and a resident of Zelienople, knows Cranberry quite well. During a sabbatical last year, her research involved mapping out the Township's sewer and water operations and business processes in an effort to discover redundancies and identify possible efficiencies. A team of Township department heads was assembled to implement Dr. Marley's recommendations.

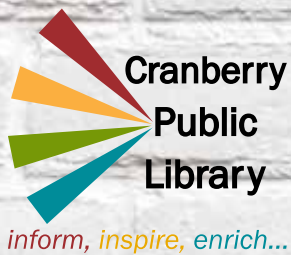
In the meantime, she has been retained as a consultant to advise the team and to examine other areas of Cranberry's operations, including its Waterpark, which could also benefit from her expertise.







# LIBRARY MAKEOVER & INNOVATION

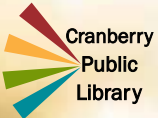


## 2019 PROJECT OF THE YEAR





**MAKERSPACE & MORE!**



**A Makerspace is coming to the  
Cranberry Public Library!**

**WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE?**

**Makerspaces are small workshops, outfitted with tools ranging from very high tech to no tech at all. They are workstations designed for collaboration and equipped to build things in a hands-on learning environment.**

*inform, inspire, enrich...*

**ACCESS**

Adaptations for disabled library patrons, including the installation of automatic sliding doors, will help make getting into and out of the library easier for everyone. In addition, specialized programming within the new makerspace will create an all-inclusive environment serving users of every ability.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Installation of a Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) system to speed check out using electronic signals to identify books and cardholders will facilitate simpler, more reliable checkouts without waiting in line.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

New energy-efficient LED lighting, light enhanced painting, environmentally friendly carpeting and improved ergonomics layouts – including updating the staff areas – will be the final part of the project.

**This is CTCC's 9th & largest  
Community Project of the Year.**

**This project will benefit everyone from 2 to 102!**



# FORGE AHEAD – LIBRARY MAKEOVER & INNOVATION

This \$750,000 project will make our Cranberry Public Library among the best in Western Pennsylvania!

## *Why should you support the Project of the Year?*

- The Library is our most popular community asset, enjoyed by people of all ages.
- This, and other Projects of the Year, add value to our community, homes, and quality of life.
- CTCC is an all-volunteer organization. Every penny goes toward the funding of Projects of the Year.
- Projects of the Year support a strong sense of community.



**WHAT WOULD OUR COMMUNITY BE LIKE...**

**WITHOUT OUR PROJECTS OF THE YEAR?**



**2018 North Boundary Park Nature Trail & Disc Golf Course**



**2017 CTCC SportCourts & Community Gardens**



**2016 Miracle League Resurfacing & New Playground**



**2015 Volunteer Firefighter Initiative**



**2014 Fitness Stations in the Parks**



**2013 Kids Castle in Community Park**



**2012 Centennial Scouting Plaza & Fishing Lake**



**2011 Cranberry Community Sign**

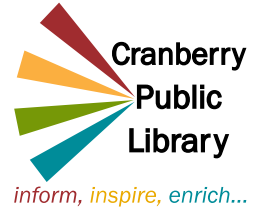


# FORGE AHEAD: LIBRARY MAKEOVER & INNOVATION

## SUPPORT RECOGNITION LEVELS

Recognition will be displayed on a printed film near or in the Cranberry Library Makerspace according to the donation level. All support will be recognized in the Project of the Year Dedication Booklet and in the 2019 CTCC Annual Report.

- \$125      ½" x 3"      Name
  - \$250      1" x 3"      2 Lines
  - \$500      2" x 3"      4 Lines
  - \$1000      3" x 4"      6 Lines or Logo
  - \$2500      6" x 4"      Message or Logo
  - \$5000      7" x 7"      Message or Logo
  - \$10,000      10" x 10"      Message or Logo
  - \$25,000      24" x 24"      Message or Logo, and Legacy Endowment
  - \$50,000      24" x 24"      Message or Logo, and Heritage Endowment
  - \$100,000      24" x 24"      Message or Logo, and Pillar Endowment
  - \$250,000      Makerspace Naming Rights and Legend Endowment
- \$25 Bronze     \$50 Silver     \$100 Gold



Thank you for your support!

Donate online at  
[www.CTCChest.org](http://www.CTCChest.org)

Donate to the CTCC Project of the Year *automatically each month* via your Sewer, Water & Trash bill!

Check this box and we will send you a form to complete to start your donation.

NAME			
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
EMAIL		PHONE	
		\$	
ITEM DESCRIPTION		DONATION AMOUNT	

**IMPORTANT:** Please complete the form, detach and return with your donation. Please use a separate sheet of paper for any inscription. Email high resolution logos to [brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net](mailto:brucemazzoni@zoominternet.net). Questions? Call 724-776-4806, ext. 1103.

**Make Check Payable To:** CTCC - Project. Mail To: CTCC, 2525 Rochester Rd., Suite 450, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. CTCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.





## MISSION MAHI SEAFOOD CAFÉ SERVES SOUL

Mission Mahi, the name that owner Jimmy Woods conferred on his Cranberry-based food truck and café business, requires a little unpacking.

Mahi-mahi is the Hawaiian name for the popular seafood that mainlanders used to call dolphinfish, even though the colorful, semi-tropical game fish has no genetic relation to the aquatic mammal from which it takes its name. Mahi-mahi, in Hawaiian dialect, means “very strong.” The fish is a staple of food services worldwide.

Mission, on the other hand, is a reference both to a higher calling and to a spiritual outpost. For Woods, Mission Mahi is both. It is, in addition to becoming an increasingly popular specialty restaurant, a form of personal therapy, both for himself and for other recovering addicts.

A 1984 graduate of Shaler High School, Woods had spent much of his adult life struggling with addictions to alcohol and prescription pain killers. He had, during much of that time, owned several other businesses, including a bar in Lawrenceville. But by 2012, following multiple hospitalizations, he had reached the end of his rope. One weekday in early 2013, he wandered into Allison Park’s evangelical Presbyterian Memorial Park Church to seek solace and ask God’s forgiveness. But as soon as he left the church, he was hit by a car, resulting in major injuries – injuries which ultimately aggravated his already arduous struggle with pills.

A court-imposed rehabilitation sentence followed, during which he experienced a major epiphany: it was

that God had given him this rocky journey to help others. And for Woods, that meant creating a support system to help other recovering addicts. Mission Mahi was the fruit of that epiphany. It is staffed by recovering addicts and decorated with their artwork, along with verses of scripture.

The restaurant, at 8034 Rowan Road, is open from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM every day but Sunday. Its signature fish tacos – the restaurant’s most expensive items – are just \$12. Everything is available for order online. Its free-spirited food truck locations, with a somewhat scaled-back menu, tend to follow major public events.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR BUSINESS TO BE FEATURED IN BUSINESS TODAY?  
Tell us your story! [BusinessHub@cranberrytownship.org](mailto:BusinessHub@cranberrytownship.org) or 724-776-9861







MSA President and CEO, Nish Vartanian

## Times change, but SAFETY always comes FIRST at MSA

Back in the mid-'80s, Cranberry Woods-based MSA rolled out a revolutionary brimless style Brigade Firefighter's Helmet at the fire service trade show in St. Louis, one of the industry's largest. But its reception, to say the least, was tepid. After all, despite its advanced features, it looked nothing like the broad brim helmets which American firefighters had worn for generations; and breaking with tradition was not something that U.S. firefighters were ready to do. That was then.

Now things have changed, and so have helmets. This year, the company once again introduced a new concept in firefighter head protection – new at least to the North American market. The design, which has been widely adopted in Europe, Latin America and

other parts of the world, resembles a fighter pilot's helmet and incorporates an integral face shield, microphone, lights, ear protection and more. And this time, its reception by U.S. firefighters has been much more enthusiastic.

"There's been a change in the fire service," MSA President and CEO Nish

Vartanian explained. "The traditional-style helmet goes back over 100 years. But now a lot of baby boomers are retiring and the millennials coming in are really focused on health and safety. It's an emotional issue for firefighters, but we've had over 100 fire departments telling us that they wanted to do an evaluation of the new helmet. We were hoping to get maybe 100 beta testers; we got over 200."

That's not the only thing that's changed during the past few years. In 2014 – the company's centennial year – it changed its name from Mine Safety Appliances to MSA Safety, an acknowledgement that protecting miners – the heart of the company's original business – today represents only about five percent of its business worldwide, and even less at home.

Instead, through research, acquisitions and organic growth, the company has expanded its product portfolio to include equipment protecting workers doing all sorts of high-risk assignments – workers whose jobs involve exposure to hazardous conditions in industrial

operations including factories, oil and gas production, utility services, firefighting and construction. In addition, the company has moved beyond personal safety gear into asset protection where its sensors are installed to monitor industrial sites 24/7 for gas leaks, flames, carbon monoxide and other hazards that could damage the facility.

But the company is also selective about its markets. Consumer products, like safety equipment for the do-it-yourself handyman and sports enthusiast, are not attractive to the company. Neither is combat protective equipment for police or armed forces. Even so, the company does supply its multi-purpose breathing apparatus to military customers worldwide, including the Navy of Thailand, whose televised rescue of young soccer players this past summer prominently displayed MSA breathing equipment.

"Our strategy is focusing on select product areas where we have market-leading technology – product areas that allow us to be a leader in the segments we serve," Vartanian said. Market segments in which the company is either number one or two currently include breathing apparatus, fire helmets, hardhats, portable and fixed gas detectors, and firefighter turnout gear.

What's next for the company, with a current market value of nearly \$4 billion and 4,800 employees worldwide? "One of the emerging areas is Internet of Things," he said. "We're able to remotely monitor a personal gas detection device from a computer in a distant office. Having centralized control is important to our customers. We see that as an opportunity going forward: tying things together using the Internet to centralize information about what the worker is seeing."



Although MSA does business in 120 countries around the world, Cranberry Township is its home. “Community is important to us,” he continued. “MSA has been part of Western Pennsylvania since 1914. Our representation here and what we do in the community and with local nonprofits is really important. A lot of our employees live right here in this area. We’re part of Cranberry Township’s fabric.”



MSA Safety Incorporated  
1100 Cranberry Woods Dr  
us.msasafety.com  
(724) 776-7700

**WE ARE OPEN!**

**Spirit Halloween**  
20111 Rt 19  
spirithalloween.com

**Hair Precision Studio**  
20710 Rt 19

**Hilliard Lyons**  
51 Dutilh Road  
hilliard.com

**Vacuum World**  
1075 Freedom Rd.  
thevacuumworld.com

**Once Upon a Child**  
1717 Rt 228  
onceuponachildcranberry.com

**Insight Treatment Services LLC**  
300 Commerce Pk Dr, Ste 322

**Big Shot Bobs**  
20455 Rt 19  
bigshotbobs.com

**NTB Tire & Service**  
20425 Rt 19  
ntb.com

**Cenk Integrated Health**  
9125 Marshall Rd, Ste B11  
cenkihsc.com

**Hand & Stone Massage & Facial Spa**  
1713 Rt 228  
handandstonecranberry.com

**Metal Supermarket**  
500 Thomson Pk Dr, Ste 505  
metalsupermarkets.com

**Sheila's Home**  
20412 Route 19;  
sheilashome.com

**ProSource**  
9018 Marshall Rd  
prosourcewholesale.com

**Burgatory**  
2080 Mackenzie Way  
burgatorybar.com

**Ari Technology**  
9515 Marshall Rd

**Johnson Controls, Inc.**  
3120 Unionville Rd

**Spooled Rotten Eyebrow Threading**  
20550 Rt 19  
spooledrotten.net

**Lucky Auto Recovery**  
20333A Rt 19

**Colorize of Pittsburgh**  
(Benjamin Moore & Co)  
20395 Rt 19  
mycolorize.com

**Birmingham Pen Co.**  
500 Thomson Pk Dr  
birminghampens.com

**True Commerce**  
210 W. Kensingers Dr  
truecommerce.com

**Barber & Hoffman**  
1659 Rt 228  
barberhoffman.com

**Hampton Inn & Suites**  
10015 Pendleton Way

**WHAT are THEY BUILDING ?** [CranberryTownship.org/Biz411](http://CranberryTownship.org/Biz411)

## Comcast is bringing fiber to Cranberry businesses

Comcast is huge and it's everywhere. Operating from its corporate headquarters in Philadelphia, Comcast has grown to become America's largest cable TV and internet provider, serving customers in 39 states and the District of Columbia. It owns NBC and Universal Studios along with multiple cable networks. And now, at last, it's coming to Cranberry – although only for business customers.

That move is already underway. Comcast Business actually started wiring Cranberry with fiber optic cable earlier this year, with some service scheduled to go live beginning in the fourth quarter. Their strategy involves running a backbone service line up and down the Rt. 19 corridor with spurs planned to the east and west serving the tenants of Thorn Hill, Cranberry Woods, and Cranberry Business Park.

Only business customers will be eligible to sign up for the company's

offerings, which involve both phone and data service. No video service is contemplated, and there are no current plans to extend its connections to private homes or to offer its Xfinity residential services. But the company maintains a broad portfolio of business services that can be scaled to any size company ranging from tiny mom and pop boutiques up to giant international corporations.

Two years ago, internet connection speeds averaged around 6 Megabits per second worldwide. Comcast's menu of broadband services offers speeds as high as 100 Gigabits per second – 15,000 times faster. It also maintains a robust offering of related business services.

“We've got products that help with wi-fi in your business, for your employees, and for your customers. We've got security cameras for your facility that you can see remotely when you're on the road,” according

to Robert Grove, Vice President of Communications for Comcast's Keystone Region. “We've got products that provide a splash page for customers so they get to see your offers when they log into the wi-fi at your place of business.” And there are no data caps; customers can upload and download as much as they please.

Cranberry isn't Comcast's only expansion in the Commonwealth. “Almost two years ago, we announced an expansion further into downtown Pittsburgh,” Grove said. “We recently completed an expansion in Jefferson County, to the north. We've done similar expansions in Harrisburg and Chambersburg. We've been providing expansions throughout our service area in Pennsylvania. And we look forward to serving them all,” now including Cranberry Township.



# BITS OF BUSINESS



## Gigliotti gives, Cranberry receives

Developer Dominic Gigliotti, whose business properties are scattered throughout the North Hills, has donated a 15.7-acre parcel of land to Cranberry Township. The property is immediately adjacent to the Township's Public Works Operations Center. Once the associated title search and environmental impact evaluations have been completed, the Township's Board of Supervisors will accept the gift with closing on October 31. The Township has not announced plans for developing the properties, which include Rt. 19 frontage and an SU-1 zoning.



## Self-Storage facility secures Rt. 19 site

A new three-story self-storage facility on a 2.23-acre lot next to the Cranberry Eagle office on Rt. 19 has received approval from Cranberry's Board of Supervisors. Its plans call for sharing driveway access with the newspaper rather than creating a new curb cut into the highway. The Township's conditional use requirements for new self-storage structures, which are officially designated as mini-warehouses, will give it more of an office building appearance than a row of garage doors which is typical of self-storage units. The building will include more than 90,000 square feet and be surrounded by an opaque 8-foot fence.

## New grocery acquires liquor license

It's hard to be competitive in the cutthroat grocery business these days without the ability to sell beer and wine. So, to keep up with the competition, Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, which has stores in 11 mostly midwestern states, recently purchased a liquor license from another business in Butler County. State law requires license transfers to take place within the same county. The grocer has leased the former H.H. Gregg space at Cranberry Commons Mall for its new store. When it opens in January, it will be the company's second in the Greater Pittsburgh area. At its September business meeting, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved the company's request for the inter-municipal liquor license transfer. Fresh Thyme's Cranberry store will include a 32-seat café where wine and beer can be consumed.



## Meeder farm development advances

The 57-acre Meeder family farm at the corner of Rochester Road and Rt. 19, with its iconic red barn and brick farmhouse, is on the cusp of becoming a major mixed-used development. On August 30, Charter Homes CEO Rob Bowman Cranberry's presented the Township's Board of Supervisors with an overview of his company's project along with its associated roadway improvements and modifications. Those changes include an expansion of Rochester Road and a realignment of Unionville Road as well as the project's own internal road network. Because of its scope, which includes 635 living units of various types plus office, restaurant and retail spaces, testimony on the developer's application for Conditional Use continued in September with possible approval in October. The Meeder farmhouse and barn would be permanently preserved as part of the sales agreement.

## PRD zoning requirements revised

Last year, Cranberry revised its requirements for Planned Residential Developments to include various amenities including streetscape enhancements, street lights and pedestrian pockets with benches. But some of those requirements have now been altered. Streetlight requirements, for example, were deemed to be redundant since most developments currently provide lamp posts on each property. In August, Cranberry's Board of Supervisors approved code amendments changing the requirements for streetlights, and removing some seating areas, as well as certain streetscape enhancements. The reason behind the revisions is to secure a distinctive, traditional look for the community and, at the same time, reduce the long-term cost of maintenance for homeowners' associations as well as for the Township.



## North Boundary Park to get new neighbors

There go the cattle. One of the few remaining farms in Cranberry is on its way to becoming a new residential neighborhood with 67 new single-family homes. According to Singer Development's plan, which was approved by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors in August, the 37.4-acre property, located right next to North Boundary Park, will have access from Goehring Road rather than North Boundary Road. The plan includes a pedestrian connection into the park's existing trail, as well as sidewalks along both its front edge and North Boundary Road. Franklin Ridge residents, immediately to the east of the new PRD, will be able to use the new plan's sidewalk to connect into the park.



”  
“I really do love Cranberry and try to be a part of our community – whether it’s working or volunteering.”



## At Home With... **JENNIFER CRANSTON**

They may not be the Crazy Rich Asians portrayed in the hit movie released this past summer, but there are, in fact, a number of Asian households with very high incomes and even higher aspirations for their children. They are typically from nations with an elite upper class, a huge working class, and essentially nothing in between. So securing their children’s place in the top echelon of society is Priority One for many Asian families.

However, to realize their family’s exalted ambitions, the child of a prosperous Asian family will need to attend a top tier university either here or abroad. And to be admitted, they will need to be fluent in English, understand western culture, and feel at home anywhere in the world.

Cranberry resident Jennifer Cranston – whose own family history includes multiple languages and ethnicities – is focused on helping the children of ambitious Asian families acquire the language and social skills needed to succeed back home in China, Korea, Vietnam or in other parts of the world. She does it by facilitating the placement of teenage students from overseas into local schools and finding them homes with host families for a semester of total immersion in American culture. This year, under the umbrella of her company, Cranston International LLC,

she is responsible for 62 students.

The work is very detail-oriented. It involves communicating with agents that an overseas child’s family may have retained to place them, a task which often entails Jennifer traveling abroad herself. It requires interviewing candidates to assess their skills, collaborating with local schools to arrange admissions, working with federal immigration authorities to secure visas, finding translators to help children transition into their lives away from home, maintaining contact with the students’ families, and identifying households in and around Cranberry who, with the child’s expenses paid by the program, are interested in serving as hosts for one or two students.

Because of residency requirements, most of the schools where Jennifer’s students get placed are private rather than public. And many of them – including Eden Christian Academy, First Baptist Christian School, and Beaver County Christian School – include a strong religious component, one that’s typically different than the exchange student’s own sectarian background. But that hasn’t been a problem.

“People ask me: isn’t that awkward?” Jennifer recalls. But it’s not. “They’re trained to be very respectful. If the child comes across as disrespectful, the whole family is disgraced. We find

that they are accepting of our culture whether you’re Christian or any other religion. They see us as good American people, as people who love their kids. So they’re willing to say ‘I don’t believe in that same religion, but my child can attend that school. He can learn about the bible and graduate from the school because he’s going to learn different western ideas, improve his English skills and get a good education.’ We see people learning about one another and building lifelong friendships.”

But managing the program can also get stressful. In Jennifer’s case, relieving stress involves teaching group fitness classes in Cranberry’s Parks & Recreation department, something she’s done since moving to the Township in 2006. “Aerobics is what keeps both sides of my brain going,” she explained. “I’ll never give it up because it recharges the creative side I can’t do on a computer. For me, part of daily living means continuing to associate with people who are maintaining healthy lifestyles.”

Beginning with her earliest years, Jennifer’s own lifestyle was shaped by repeated moves resulting from her father’s Navy and airline career. But Cranberry has now become her permanent home. “Even though I’ve only been here since 2006, I’ve been part of Cranberry Township ever since.”



# BEES MAY BE SWARMING TO CRANBERRY

Mason Miller's beehive died last winter. Miller, the Township's Pretreatment Coordinator, is the son and grandson of beekeepers from northwestern Pennsylvania, and the collapse of the hive that he keeps by the side of his home in Cheswick is something he takes personally. After all, his father's hives did just fine over the winter and grandfather was an Ag School teacher whose former students include some of the mid-Atlantic region's most successful beekeepers.

Not only that, the death of his hive came at a time when bee colonies throughout the country are experiencing tremendous stress. The reasons are still unclear, but there are lots of theories as to why America's bee population has cratered. Pesticides, climate change, predatory mites, pollution, and viruses have all been identified as threats to honey bees.

Reversing the loss of bee colonies is not some fringe cause for angry environmentalists; bees are responsible for pollinating approximately 80 percent of the food grown for human consumption. Miller likes to cite a quote from Albert Einstein who once said that if the bees go away, people will be gone in another four years.



Mason Miller, Cranberry Township Pretreatment Coordinator

When bees pollinate plants, it's a byproduct of creating honey to feed their colony. But not all bees are the same. Africanized bees, for example – which


actually originated in Brazil – are highly aggressive and widely known as Killer Bees. The hardy German bee tends to be very defensive, making hive management difficult. Unlike other bees, the honey making productivity of mite-resistant Russian bee tends to fluctuate over the course of the season. Italian bees are both productive and easy to manage, but they are also notorious for stealing honey from the hives of other bees.

In fact, it was an unexpected swarm of Italian bees to Miller's hive after he had pronounced it dead that momentarily looked as though his hive had somehow come back to life. But they were robber bees, coming to steal the nectar left behind.

Maintaining a healthy bee population is a serious issue, and it's one that Miller is looking to bring to Cranberry. It's a prospect he recently brought before the Township's Green Team where it received strong expressions of interest. Beyond that, practically every county in Pennsylvania has a beekeepers' association that offers workshops in beehive maintenance. There are grants available from the state's Department of Agriculture for community-based apiaries, as managed bee colonies are referred to in state law. There are sites around the Township that lend themselves well to apiaries. Gardens focused on attracting bees and other pollinator insects – several of which have already been planted at Cranberry Highlands – are another possibility. And ordinances governing beekeeping activity may eventually be considered by Cranberry's Board of Supervisors.

In the meantime, as fall approaches, local bee colonies are winding down their activity for the year, hoarding the season's honey for use during the lean months of winter. But next spring, if all goes well, they could be joined by one or more community-managed hives helping to keep the region's gardens growing and its bee population buzzing.



A close-up view of a car's side-view mirror. The mirror reflects a cyclist riding a road bike on a paved path that curves to the right. The cyclist is wearing a blue jersey and shorts. The background in the reflection shows green trees and a clear blue sky. The car's body is visible on the right side of the frame.

# DO BICYCLES REALLY HAVE A PLACE ON CRANBERRY'S ROADS?

**YOU BET!**

Sixty years ago, most American communities regarded bicycles as children's toys. Some still do. But in many places during that time, bicycles have emerged as a viable element of their local transportation networks. Outside of Western Pennsylvania, in regions where land is relatively flat and the weather is agreeable all year-round, they have become a major form of transportation, just as they are in many other parts of the world today.

Even in Pittsburgh, whose winter weather, hilly roads and narrow streets would seem hostile to bicycle use, a culture of biking has evolved and become a recognized part of the city's transportation network. Bike rental stands are proliferating. Bike racks in front of buildings are routine. City buses are outfitted with bike racks. Bicycle competitions have become a staple of the city's athletic scene. New state laws mandate better protection for bicyclists. And bike lanes carved out of city roadways formerly reserved for cars, trucks and parking, have

expanded rapidly – often using bollards to separate motorized from bicycle transportation.

In many Western Pennsylvania suburbs, accommodations for bicycles have also advanced, although more slowly. In Cranberry Township since 2010, they have included bicycle rider focus groups, a draft bicycle/pedestrian connection plan, a Planning Commission plan review, an updated master plan, and a series of bicycle safety rodeos. Beyond that, it has included creating a network of well-maintained and marked shoulders on designated roads and the placement of signs, both to guide cyclists and to alert motorists to the Township's shared bike-vehicle roadways. Cranberry's parks and municipal buildings now include bike racks, and several bike repair kiosks have been placed in Township parks.

More accommodations are on the way. The mixed-use project on the site of the Meeder farm at the corner of Rt. 19 and Rochester Road will include bike-

friendly routes throughout it along with a dedicated bike-pedestrian pathway parallel to Rochester. Sidewalk infill projects along Mars, Powell and Dutilh roads will be available to bicycle riders. The Rt. 228 north-south underpass linking Cranberry Woods to Cranberry Springs will include a dedicated bike lane. So will the 2020 widening of Freedom Road. And the surfaces above Cranberry's underground utility corridors are being studied as possible bike- and pedestrian-only rights of way.

Earlier this year, a planning specialist tasked with studying ways of improving Cranberry's bicycle circulation system was brought onto the Township staff. Her recommendations will be evaluated through the Township's planning, review and implementation processes over the coming months.

While much remains to be done to enhance bicycle use and to safeguard riders in Cranberry, that work is now well underway, and it will continue.





The 18-year old playground adjacent to Cranberry's Community Waterpark in North Boundary Park has been reimagined and is about to be completely rebuilt. But instead of using contractors to do the work, Cranberry is bringing in Kaboom!, an organization which has arranged and supervised community-built construction for thousands of playgrounds throughout the country, including Cranberry's own AE Ride Skatepark in 2005.

Plans for the crocodile-themed playground adjacent to the Waterpark call for three age-distinctive sections: one for children from six months to two years of age, another for children 2 to 5 years old, and a third for those 6 to 12. The focus of the single-day construction project will be the 2 to 5-year old portion. Adult volunteers from Cranberry will landscape the site and then assemble and install its play apparatus under Kaboom!'s supervision. Employees of the Township's Public Works department will have prepared the site's infrastructure, installed its playing surfaces and built the playground's two remaining segments in advance of the community-build phase.

The timing of the build was chosen to coincide with the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, an association of elected and appointed officials from boroughs, townships and small cities throughout the Commonwealth. Cranberry will be hosting the conference from October 4 to 6. Conference participants will join local residents in the construction. State matching funds to help finance the project were offered in connection with the Township's hosting duties. A separate grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was also instrumental in underwriting the project's \$400,000 cost.

Opening of the playground for public use will take place on Monday, October 8, to allow sufficient time for concrete poured during the October 4 build phase to have dried.

#### PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE MEETS IN CRANBERRY

Construction and reconstruction of playgrounds, including the playground at North Boundary Park, has become a signature project of the Pennsylvania Municipal League – a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of cities, boroughs, towns and home rule communities throughout the Commonwealth. For more than a decade, as part of the organization's annual conference, PLM has partnered with the conference's host community and the national nonprofit organization KaBOOM! to build playgrounds there. State matching funds are typically made available to help finance the construction of PLM conference playgrounds.

This year, Cranberry is hosting the association's conference – the first township in the state to do so. Playground construction takes place on October 4 – the first day of the conference.

The League was formed more than 100 years ago, in 1900, to serve as an advocate for Pennsylvania's mix of local governments at the state and federal levels. The organization, which provides a forum for exchanging information relating to municipal governance, offers programs focused on community development, comprehensive planning, sustainability, risk management, revitalization, service delivery and professional education for municipal officials.



Pennsylvania Municipal  
**League**





PROUD OF THE PAST, COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE.

SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
124 Seneca School Road Harmony, PA 16037

Hello. My name is Jeff James, and on August 20, I was approved by the Seneca Valley School Board to be the Supervisor of Safety and Security for the Seneca Valley School District. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and to talk about the security in our schools.

I was born and raised in North Versailles, Pa., and graduated from East Allegheny High School. I then went on to Clarion University where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Education. After teaching high school English for six years, a career change presented itself, and I chose to follow a new path. In September of 1996, I was commissioned as a Special Agent in the United States Secret Service. During my time in the Secret Service, 18 years of which was spent in Washington DC, I was fortunate enough to have been assigned several high-level and supervisory positions. These assignments included spending five years on the President's detail and 3 1/2 years as the Secret Service liaison to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

I served as a Secret Service agent for the past 22 years, retiring in August 2018 to accept the position here at Seneca Valley. I am incredibly excited about this mission. Protecting our students, staff, and schools is a task that I relish.

I look forward to working with the law enforcement agencies that serve the district and to create relationships that will serve to benefit Seneca Valley. These relationships are important, and I am excited that we have professional, experienced law enforcement agencies serving our community.

I would like to reassure everyone that the security plan we have in place has shown itself to be extremely effective. The combination of school resource officers and private security that Seneca Valley has in place are a great complement to each other, and they work together as a true team. We have applied for grant money from the state to upgrade our camera system throughout the district. Grant money will also be sought to improve the district's communications infrastructure and to get materials to fortify the glass on the first floor of all district buildings. I have already met with all building principals and talked about ways to make our buildings and our students safer and more secure which is, of course, our top priority.

During my time in the Secret Service, I worked with some of the finest men and women you will ever have the privilege to meet. I will tell you that I see that same integrity and dedication to mission in the people here at Seneca Valley. From administrators, to teachers, to paraprofessionals, everyone I have met in my short time here is dedicated to helping children learn and to creating an atmosphere where children can thrive. I'm thrilled to be a part of it.

One last thing that I would like to stress to the community is that you are all part of our security mechanism. If you see or hear of anything that poses a threat to our students, personnel, buildings, or buses, I urge you to contact my office or local law enforcement as soon as possible to report it. You can make a report anonymously if you wish, but the important part is to make sure that it gets reported. The "see something, say something" plan works if people are willing to stand up and speak up.

Thank you,

**Jeff James**

Seneca Valley Supervisor of Safety and Security

jamesjr@svsd.net

(724) 452-6040, ext. 1620





# GREAT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

**No tricks, just treats!**

Eat, drink and be **SCARY...** or **FUNNY...**  
or **CUTE** in your creative Halloween costumes!

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19: 6-8 PM**  
**MUNICIPAL CENTER**

Pre-registration required.  
[Cranberry4FUN.com/Register](http://Cranberry4FUN.com/Register)  
or 724-779-4FUN (4386)



## GROUP FITNESS

We offer 30, 45 or 60-minute Group Fitness classes, available by Membership or Drop-In.

[www.Cranberry4FUN.com/GroupFitness](http://www.Cranberry4FUN.com/GroupFitness)

Classes featured in our program include:

Boot Camp	Group Barbell
Fitness Lite	Zumba
Circuit Training	Pilates
Cardio Butts & Gutts	Yoga
Youth Classes	and much more!

**Your First Class is on US!**





*What's*  
**HAPPENING**

*As Needed:*

**ZONING  
HEARING BOARD**

Council Chambers: 7:30 PM  
Oct. 15, Nov. 19,  
December 17



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Council Chambers:  
6:30 PM  
October 11, 25  
November 1, 15  
December 5, 13



**PLANNING ADVISORY  
COMMISSION**

Council Chambers:  
6:00 PM  
October 1, 29  
November 5  
December 3

**More events & details: [CranberryTownship.org/Calendar](http://CranberryTownship.org/Calendar)**



**OCTOBER 2018**

11: Senior Car Fit  
13: Butler Co. Gun Licensing  
18-21: Library Book Sale  
20: CPR & First Aid  
Training- Cranberry EMS  
21: Historical Society  
31: Trick or Treat (6 - 8 PM)



**NOVEMBER 2018**

6: General Election Day  
10: Save a Life Saturday  
11: Historical Society  
16: Santa's First Stop  
19: Early Learning Center Open  
House



**DECEMBER 2018**

10-14: Final Yard Waste  
Collection  
8-9: Milk & Cookies /Santa  
15-16: Brunch/ Santa  
15: CPR & First Aid  
Training- Cranberry EMS

# Pathway to Empowerment

This program is designed to help participants effectively assess their own needs and aspirations. It will also aid in establishing connections with appropriate resource agencies, employers, and educational resources in the Cranberry area. For more information, visit

[CranberryTownship.org/CADN](http://CranberryTownship.org/CADN)

Cranberry Township Municipal Center  
Saturday, October 27, 2018  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PRESENTED BY:



**CRANBERRY  
AREA  
DIVERSITY  
NETWORK**

MENTAL HEALTH AND  
SPECIAL NEEDS COALITIONS

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP  
2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 400  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066-6499  
724-776-4806

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #25  
CRANBERRY TWP, PA

POSTAL PATRON  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066

