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## Our View

# Cranberry thriving for many reasons

**C**ranberry Township will just have to learn the lessons that Bill Gates is learning — success breeds enmity.

The founder of Microsoft has been so successful that he's easy to pick on, easy to dislike and, at least in the case of the U.S. government, easy to accuse of being a monopolist.

On a much smaller scale, Cranberry has had its share of successes. It remains one of the fastest growing communities in the state and has received statewide recognition as an outstanding community. It was a state leader in charging impact fees for development, a move that didn't slow that development at all.

## Cranberry

Despite those successes, however, Cranberry has become an unintentional poster boy for "sprawl." Here's an example from a recent interview with retiring Butler County Commissioner William McCarrier, who said the county has worked hard to foster economic development. Then he added, "We don't want to see the whole county turned into something like Cranberry Township — not that there's anything wrong with Cranberry. But I think we want more open spaces than you find down there."

Excuse us? Growth in Cranberry and the southwestern Butler County communities of Seven Fields and Adams Township have fueled the growth of Butler County, enabling the county commissioners to *reduce* real estate taxes for several years.

The economic development the county commissioners seek is happening in Cranberry, which gets few benefits from the county other than the low tax rate. People continue to move into Cranberry, Seven Fields and Adams because they want to live there. Merchants build new stores because they see a market and want to do business there. Other businesses build offices and warehouses there because there's room, easy access to transportation and because they like the quality of life.

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--Sure, you can complain about traffic in Cranberry along Route 19, Route 228 and Freedom Road, but it's hardly a congested nightmare. You can complain about the lack of sidewalks, but that's changing. However, it's difficult to argue with success. Cranberry and its residents are building the community they want, and it's attracting others. One would think Mr. McCarrier might like to have a few more townships like Cranberry scattered about the county.

As for open spaces, perhaps Mr. McCarrier hasn't visited the township municipal building on Rochester Road. Across the street from the front door is a corn field.