

Town Crier

The Biannual Newsletter of the Town of McCandless



Inside this issue ...

Town Museum Takes Shape

Community Day

Rain Barrels: 5 Things to Consider

Tax Information

Back to School Safety

News Around Town

... and more!

TOWN OF McCANDLESS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

9955 Grubbs Road

Wexford, PA 15090

412-364-0616

Administration@townofmccandless.org

townofmccandless.org

TOWN OF McCANDLESS COUNCIL

Cynthia N. Potter, Ward 1

Gerard J. Aufman, Jr., Ward 2

Roger H. Krey, Ward 3

Robert J. Powers, Ward 4

D. Lamar Oliver III, Ward 5

Ralph J. LeDonne, Ward 6

William J. McKim, Ward 7

Tobias M. Cordek, Town Manager

Regis J. Ebner, Jr., Assistant Town Manager

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

McCandless Police Department

412-369-7992

McCandless Fire Marshal

412-364-0616, ext. 128

Highland Non-Emergency

412-366-3473

Ingomar Main Station Non-Emergency

412-364-3571

Ingomar North Station Non-Emergency

724-935-5131

Peebles Non-Emergency

412-364-2112

McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority

412-367-5883

McCandless Township Sewer Authority (MTSA)

412-366-2700

Read this issue and other past issues of the *Town Crier* at townofmccandless.org.

Town Crier Editor, Pam Greer

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Town Museum Takes Shape | 3 |
| E-Waste Collection Wrap-up | 4 |
| Leaf & Yard Waste Reminder | 5 |
| Community Day | 6 |
| Rain Barrels: 5 Things to Consider | 7 |
| Tax Information | 8 |
| Recycle It! Hard to Recycle Events | 10 |
| Summer Rec Wrap-up | 11 |
| Back to School Safety | 12 |
| News Around Town | 13 |
| Fire Prevention Week | 14 |
| Northland Public Library | 15 |
| Stay Connected | 16 |

On the Cover

Photograph by Pam Greer

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Replica One-Room Schoolhouse Museum Takes Shape

There's excitement in the air as, more than ever, the Town's museum is looking more like a one-room schoolhouse, with its dark red siding going up and the school bell hanging from the cupola. If you've traveled on Ingomar Road lately, you've witnessed the rapid pace at which the project is moving along. As you know, the museum will be home to historian Joseph Bullick's extensive collection. A resident of Pine Township, Joe was raised in McCandless. He has spent a lifetime amassing a collection that includes thousands of artifacts from a bygone era. When the doors open in Spring 2016, many of the items will spark fond memories for the older crowd, and for the younger generation, they'll learn how times were much simpler then. When asked how he feels when he sees his dream coming to fruition, Joe says, "I'm so happy to see how things are progressing. I can't thank the Town or the Beattie students enough for all their help in making this happen."

The museum will also feature the *Pathway to the Past*, a unique walkway leading to the entrance of the museum that will feature engraved bricks. The *Pathway to the Past* donor brick program is for those who wish to make their mark—an engraved mark—on the project. To purchase your \$50 brick, please visit townofmccandless.org for an application, or call 412-364-0616. Brick supply is limited, so be sure to order yours today!



Historian Joe Bullick

E-Waste Collection Wrap-up

On Saturday, May 30, the Town of McCandless and its partner Ohio Township worked with Goodwill to collect tons of e-waste—16.79 tons, to be exact, which equals 33,538 pounds. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., 497 cars came through the gates loaded down with almost everything but the kitchen sink! Computers, laptops, monitors, printers, hard drives, DVD players, stereos, cell phones, miscellaneous wires, and small appliances filled 71 Galords (pictured at right).

Tom Evans and his Goodwill crew have the collection down to a science. His team of four (Phil, Cierra, John, and Walter) worked tirelessly in the hot sun, unloading the cars as they came through and calling out the items to Tom, who tracked each piece that was brought to the collection. Not even the thunderstorm that began with only 20 minutes left to go deterred their efforts in packing up the trailers for delivery to Goodwill. Dennis Lane, of the Town's Public Works Department, was also on hand to forklift all the pallets onto the Goodwill trailers.

Thanks to Tom and his crew, the McCandless Public Works Department, and everyone who made a donation—you helped to make this another successful collection!

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's e-waste collection, which will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2016. [K](#)



Open Your Heart to a Senior

Orientation/Information Sessions

To register, visit OpenYourHeartToASenior.org (get involved/events)

August 11 – Shaler Eat-N-Park, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

September 15– Lighthouse Pointe, Aspinwall, 10:30–noon



For Volunteer Opportunities ...

Contact Patti Ferraro at 412-408-3830, ext. 3204, or pmferraro@nhco.org.

Special Saturday Donation Hours

If you can't make it to NHCO Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., NHCO Allison Park accepts food and sharing project items at the following times: **August 8** (*food*), **September 19** (*coats and food*), 9 a.m. to noon. Please drive around back of the main building to the pantry for dropoff.

For more information about North Hills Community Outreach, visit nhco.org or call 412-487-6316.

Leaf and Yard Waste Reminder

Although the warm days of summer are still in full swing, it'll soon be time to think about fall leaves and yard waste.

This year's Town leaf pickup begins Monday, October 12, and continues through Wednesday, November 25; yard waste collection, provided by Republic Services, continues through Friday, December 5.

A detailed postcard reminder will be mailed in September.

15th Annual

Town of McCandless

Community Day

Where:
**McCandless
Town Hall**

When:
**Saturday,
September 12**

Time:
12:30–9:00
**Concluding
with
fireworks**

Join us for a day of family fun!

Festivities include:

- ◆ Amusement Rides
- ◆ Stage Performances, featuring the 50th Anniversary Show of The Vogues, with Chuck Blasko
- ◆ Great Food
- ◆ Merchant Vendors
- ◆ Frank J. Farina, Jr. Memorial Car Cruise
- ◆ Fireworks by Pyrotechnico!

For more information, visit
townofmccandless.org
or call 412-364-0616

RAIN Barrels: 5 Things to Consider

Rain barrels are an environmentally friendly way to minimize water usage (and reduce a homeowner's water costs) during warmer months. An effective stormwater management solution, rain barrels collect runoff from rooftops that can be used for other things, such as watering the lawn, flowers, or washing patio furniture.

Using a rain barrel reduces the volume of water that needs to be treated through storm drains, minimizing localized flooding and erosions. Reusing this harvested rain water for home use eliminates 100 percent of the toxins, solids, metals, and pathogens that would have reached downstream water bodies through the storm sewer.

Attached to a home's downspout, rain barrels work by delivering water through the force of gravity. Rain water from the roof's surface collects in the rain barrel. A hose attached to a nozzle in the barrel allows this water to be reused for outdoor watering needs.

Want to install a rain barrel? Visit HarvestH2O.com to learn how. [K](#)

Source information for this article provided with permission by the EPA

1 Locate your rain barrel on level and stable ground

2 Ensure your rain barrel is watertight and has a smooth interior surface

3 Empty the water in your rain barrel weekly to eliminate the chances of attracting mosquitoes and other bugs

4 Disconnect your rain barrel to prevent freezing during the winter months

5 DO NOT collect the run-off from tar and gravel, asbestos shingle, or treated cedar shake rooftops



Everything You Need To Know about Taxes in McCandless!

Real Estate Taxes

On December 15, 2014, Town Council approved a Town millage rate of 1.296 mills (\$129.60 per \$100,000 of assessed value) for the 2015 calendar year. The North Allegheny School District (NASD) has set its millage at 18.0011 mills for the 2015–16 fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

The tax due dates were outlined in the 2015 Town calendar, mailed last December, and are also posted on the Town's website.

Failure to pay your tax by December 31 may result in a lien being placed against your property. By law, all NASD real estate taxes that remain unpaid as of December 31 must be turned over to the delinquent tax collector for the school district (Maiello, Brungo & Maiello, LLP). Town of McCandless delinquent real estate taxes are still due and payable directly to the Town.

The tax bills (Town and school district on one bill) were mailed on July 1. When reviewing your bill, please note the following:

- If you have been approved by Allegheny County for an Act 77 Senior Citizen Abatement, the 30 percent reduction in your Town assessed value has already been factored into the tax amount that appears on your bill.
- If you were approved by Allegheny County prior to April 30, 2015, for a Homestead Exclusion under Act 1 of 2006, also known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, then the reduction in your NASD assessed value appears as a separate line item on your bill.
- If you qualified for a Homestead Exclusion prior to April 30, 2015, you are also eligible to take advantage of the installment payment plan offered by both the Town and the school district. To elect the installment payment plan option, you must pay the first installment amount stated on the bill (no other amounts accepted) by



September 1. Payments received after September 1 will be considered timely only if they contain an official U.S. Postal Service postmark of September 1 or earlier. If any installment payment is late, you will be disqualified from the installment program for 2015 and will be subject to payment of your entire tax bill in full, subject to the standard deadlines and terms.

- If you choose the installment payment plan option and make your first payment in a timely manner, you will then receive two additional installment bills with due dates for those two payments. Payments received after either of these due dates, subject again to the official postmark, will be charged a penalty of 10 percent. If your payment is more than 10 days late for either of these installments, or if your payments for both of these installments are late for any period of time, you will not be eligible for the installment plan the following year.
- If you have not received a tax bill, please contact our office immediately (412-364-0616) and we will send you a new bill. In addition, if the billing address for your real estate tax bill changed after January 1 of this year, you need to notify us immediately. Allegheny County provides us with a billing address as of January 1, but they do not provide us with updates if there is a change after this date. Your billing address may change because you paid off your mortgage and no longer have your taxes escrowed, your mortgage was sold and you have a new escrow agent, or you are the owner but not the occupant of a property and you moved to a new address.

Business Privilege Tax

If you operate a business located in McCandless, either out of your home or at a specific commercial location, you are required to file and pay this tax. The tax deadline is May 15 each year, by 7 p.m. Please check the 2015 Town calendar, visit townofmccandless.org, or call 412-364-0616 for more information. In addition, you can print a copy of the Town's Rules and Regulations directly from the website.

Per Capita Tax

All residents of the Town over the age of 21 are required to pay this North Allegheny School District (NASD) tax. The 2015 per capita tax bill is based on the NASD fiscal year of July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. The billing procedure in 2015 is the same as that used in 2006. Unless you have contacted us previously, each residential property will have \$20 added to the real estate tax bill to account for two individuals in the household over the age of 21. Additional residents in each household and renters over the age of 21 will be sent a separate bill. If you have only one resident in your household over the age of 21, please contact us immediately so that the adjustment can be made.

If you have more than two residents and do not receive an additional bill, please contact us so that we can add those individuals. If you receive a bill but are not yet 21, please write your birth month and year on the bill, sign and date it, and return it to us.

Owners of rental properties are required to notify the Town of the move in and move out dates of all tenants.

For more information, visit Town Hall at 9955 Grubbs Road in Wexford, call 412-364-0616, or email taxoffice@townofmccandless.org.

Local Services Tax

Any individual who works in the Town and has earned income and/or net profits of more than \$12,000 within the Town is required to pay this tax. The tax rate is \$52 per year, but employees are only liable for the tax for pay periods in which they are employed. Employers are required to withhold the tax on a pro-rata basis, based on the number of pay periods in a calendar year (26 if you are paid every two weeks; 24 if you are paid twice a month, etc.).

Self-employed individuals are required to pay the full \$52 in quarterly installments. The Town appointed Keystone Collections Group in January 2011 to collect the local services tax. They are located at 546 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642. Call them at 724-978-0300 or visit them online at keystonecollects.com.

Drop Box Procedures

To ensure the safety of both taxpayers and Town staff, payments placed in the drop box or any other location on the Town premises after 7 p.m. will be considered late and will be subject to the appropriate penalties and interest. The Town tax office will remain open until 7 p.m. on May 15 to accept timely business privilege tax payments; it will remain open until 7 p.m. on September 1 and November 2 to accept timely real estate tax payments. Payments postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by the noted due dates herein will be considered timely.

Earned Income & Net Profits Tax

The Town contracted with Keystone Collections Group in Irwin, Pa., for the collection of earned income tax beginning in 2011 and for future years. (See Local Services Tax for Keystone contact information.) Please remember that you must make quarterly estimated tax payments if you are self-employed. You are not required to make quarterly payments if you earn \$12,000 or less per year.

For all your tax questions, call 412-364-0616 or email taxoffice@townofmccandless.org

recycle it!

Hard to Recycle Collections

August 22

Allegheny County Airport, West Mifflin

October 3

Mall at Robinson, Robinson Township

Collections are from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Accepted Items (free of charge):

- Computers and peripheral equipment
- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)
- Stereos
- Ink and toner cartridges
- Cell phones, home phones
- Microwave ovens
- VCRs, DVD players, and cable boxes

Fees apply for the following items:

Televisions, batteries, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, fluorescent tubes, small Freon-containing appliances, small kitchen appliances, large stereo speakers and vacuum cleaners, tires

For questions, directions, or a detailed list of items and fees, visit prc.org or call 412-488-7490, ext. 236.

Household Chemical Collections

August 15

Boyce Park Ski Lodge parking lot

September 12

South Park Wave Pool parking lot

October 10

Bradys Run Park Recycling Center

Collections are from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Accepted Items:

- Aerosol cans
- Automotive fluids
- Batteries
- Chemistry sets
- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)
- Gasoline and kerosene
- Household cleaners
- Paint products
- Pesticides/herbicides

For questions, directions, or a detailed list of items and fees, visit prc.org or call the Household Chemicals Hotline at 412-488-7452.



Collections Presented by the Pennsylvania Resources Council

Summer Rec Wrap-up!



Top row, McKnight Elementary;
middle row, Franklin Elementary;
bottom row, Knob Hill Park

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's Summer Rec Program such a huge success!
We look forward to seeing you again next year!

The Summer Rec Program is supported and substantially funded by the Joint Recreation Board of Bradford Woods, Franklin Park, Marshall, and McCandless.

Back to School Safety



With the new school year fast approaching, those familiar yellow buses will soon be everywhere! Keeping children out of harm's way is paramount, so please heed the following when it comes to school bus safety:

Meeting or Overtaking a School Bus

The driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking any school bus stopped on a highway or traffic way shall stop at least 10 feet before reaching the school bus when the red signal lights on the school bus are flashing and the side stop signal arms are activated. The driver shall not proceed until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated. In no event shall a

driver of a vehicle resume motion of the vehicle until the school children who may have alighted from the school bus have reached a place of safety. The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection at which a school bus is stopped shall stop the vehicle at that intersection until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated.

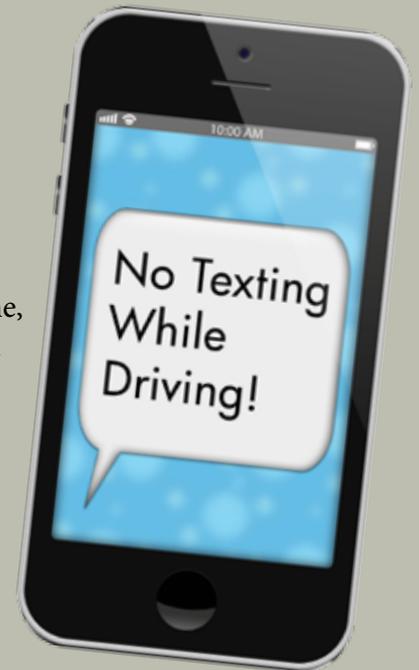
Thanks! And have a great school year!

Anti-Texting Law Facts

Pennsylvania's anti-texting law encourages motorists to put their full focus on driving. The law does the following:

- Prohibits as a primary offense any driver from using an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (IWCD) to send, read, or write a text-based communication while his or her vehicle is in motion.
- Defines an IWCD as a wireless phone, personal digital assistant, smart phone, portable or mobile computer, or similar devices that can be used for texting, instant messaging, emailing, or browsing the Internet.
- Defines a text-based communication as a text message, instant message, email, or other written communication composed or received on an IWCD.
- Institutes a \$50 fine for convictions under this section.
- Makes clear that this law supersedes and preempts any local ordinances restricting the use of interactive wireless devices by drivers.

The penalty is a summary offense with a \$50 fine, plus court costs and other fees. The violation carries no points as a penalty and will not be recorded on the driver record for non-commercial drivers. It *will* be recorded on commercial drivers' records as a non-sanction violation. The texting ban does NOT include the use of a GPS device, a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle, or a communications device that is affixed to a mass transit vehicle, bus, or school bus. The law does not authorize the seizure of an IWCD.



News Around Town

The governing body of the Town of McCandless believes that our community should be well-informed. It is our goal to provide residents with the latest and most important news around Town.

On April 28, 2015, Crown Castle Tower submitted an application for construction of a communications tower in North Park, along Babcock Boulevard. As the nation's largest provider of shared wireless infrastructure, Crown Castle Tower enables the essential wireless services that people rely on to stay in touch, conduct business, and live their lives every day.

As noted on the Town's website, at present, attorneys for Crown Castle Tower and Verizon Wireless have requested a continuance for the Special Exception Hearing and approval required for their Special Exception Application on Babcock Boulevard. The new hearing date will be posted on the website and published in the newspaper when it becomes available.

A Special Exception is a zoning procedure permitted by Pennsylvania enabling legislation. The Town is permitted to establish zoning criteria for cell towers; we did so in 1996. The Town is not permitted to regulate the health effects of cell towers or mobile phones. The ordinance was upheld through a court challenge. State and Federal legislation required us to amend the ordinance, done so on May 18, 2015, whereby additional requirements for cell towers were added. The Town has hired experts to closely examine Crown Castle's application to determine compliance with our regulations. Under our ordinance, the applicant is required to reimburse the Town for such costs.

Recently adopted Ordinance 1449 Wireless Facilities, posted on the Town's website, sets forth the following guidance:

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish uniform standards for the siting, design, permitting, maintenance, and use of wireless communications facilities in the Town of McCandless. While the Town recognizes the importance of wireless communications facilities in providing high quality communications service to its residents and business[es], the Town also recognizes that it has an obligation to protect public safety and to minimize the adverse visual effects of such facilities.

To read the ordinance in its entirety, please visit townofmccandless.org.



Fire Prevention Week

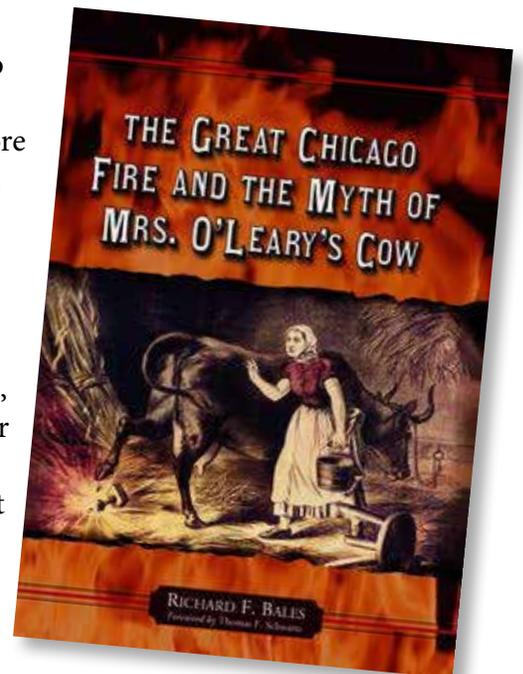
October 4–10

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9—always marked as Fire Prevention Day—falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into, and did most of its damage on, October 9, 1871.

Popular legend has long held that a cow being milked by Mrs. Catherine O'Leary kicked over a kerosene lantern and started a fire in a barn that spread into the Great Chicago Fire. Was Mrs. O'Leary's cow really the culprit? No. The real blame for the enormous fire that began on October 8, 1871, lies with perilous conditions: a long drought over a very hot summer and loosely enforced fire codes in a sprawling city built almost entirely of wood. Yet Mrs. O'Leary and her cow took the blame, and the legend about them being the cause of the fire endures to the present day.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is *Hear The Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!*



Did you know that roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep?

Smoke alarms save lives. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. In fact, having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half!

When it comes to smoke alarms, it's about *location, location, location.*

The key message of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

Sources: about.com; nfpa.org



Electronic Resources & Offerings

If you haven't visited Northland Public Library in a while because of your busy schedule, don't worry; you can still enjoy the many benefits of your local library right at home, on your Kindle, Nook, or iPad. Stop paying for e-books and start borrowing them from Northland for free! Simply download a few free apps to take advantage of these resources, including no late fees! After an item is downloaded to your device, it automatically expires and the files are removed on the material due date. For downloading instructions and a list of apps, visit northlandlibrary.org/E-Resources.

Free music downloads! Freegal® is a free music service that allows five free downloads (songs) per week, per library card—and once you download the music, it's yours to keep on your device.

Lucky Day Collection. We're pleased to offer this program, which gives you access to the latest bestselling books and newly released movies, including blu-ray. No more waiting on a hold list for a popular new item—we have them available each



day. The Lucky Day Collection is located in the upper level of the library, across from the Book Nook—our very own used book store. Stop in and see if it's your lucky day!

Fall/Winter Programs

There's always plenty going on *inside* at Northland Public Library, but we have a number of great outdoor activities too. **Tai Chi** classes will resume at Franklin Park's Blueberry Park Activity Center in the fall, and our **Wise Walkers** will again meet each Tuesday morning at Pie Traynor Field in North Park.

The **Fall Book Sale** takes place the first weekend of October. Stop by the library on Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3, between 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; and on Sunday, October 4, our \$5 bag sale runs from 1–4 p.m.

On October 17, the library is co-hosting a **shredding event** with the Better Business Bureau of Western Pennsylvania in the library's lower level parking lot.

This winter, the library will resume its adult reading club, **Cabin Fever**. The more books you read, the more chances you have to win prizes!

For more information on these and other Northland Library programs, visit northlandlibrary.org.



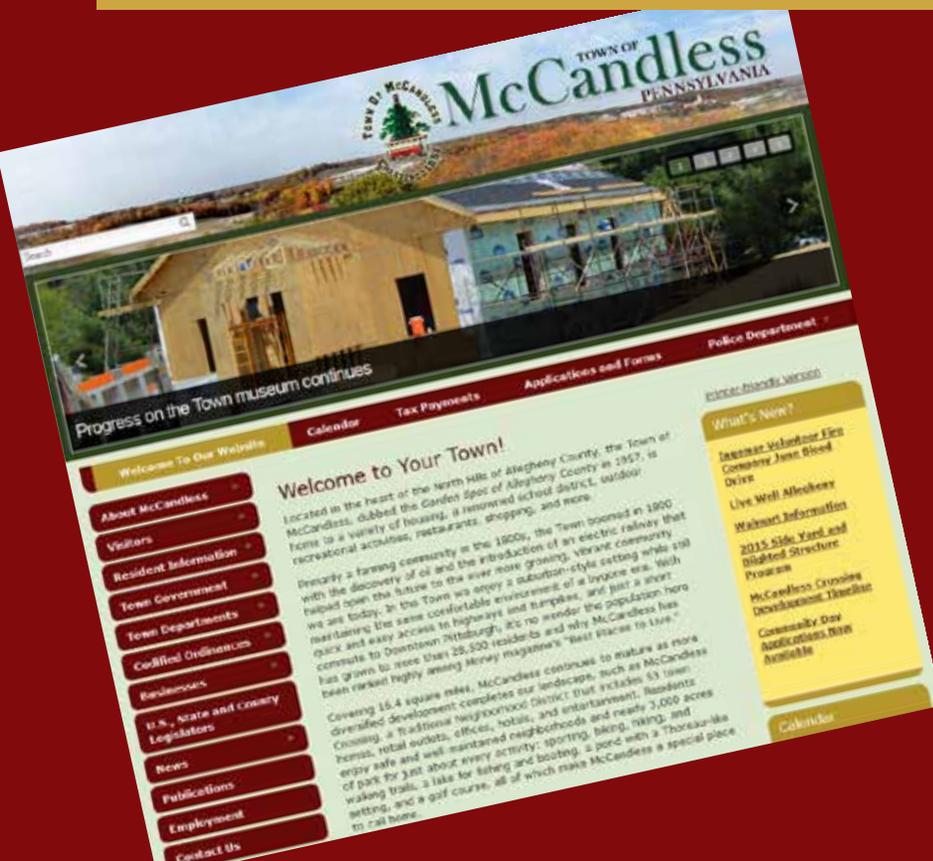


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STAY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN OF MCCANDLESS

townofmccandless.org



Submit a Question or Concern

We want to hear what you have to say. If you have a question or concern, please contact us at administration@townofmccandless.org or 412-364-0616.

Visit Our Website

Read about the latest Town news, area development, and upcoming events.

McCandless in Print

The Publications archives has information on trash, recycling, and yard waste, past issues of the *Town Crier*, the Town calendar, and the latest Census.

You've Got McCMail!

Receive monthly updates on news and events going on in the Town of McCandless with our monthly E-newsletter. Sign up at townofmccandless.org.