



# McCandless Town Crier



## Holy Trinity Opens Doors to Parishioners and Public

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church held their “Door Opening Service” on June 22, 2013 to officially mark the beginning of services in the North Hills.

“We look forward to being an integral part of the North Hills Community. We welcome people to come see our new church and to join us to worship,” said George Dickos, President of the Parish Council at Holy Trinity.

The “Door Opening Service” is a tradition the entire church community participates in. Before the service, everyone gathers outside of the building in order for the bishop to bless the church, according to Dickos. The bishop then opens the doors and parishioners enter together.

The church also welcomed the public to “Come and See,” a grand opening event on July 28. Light refreshments were provided as well as an opportunity to see the newest church in McCandless.

The 28,580-square-foot-facility is equipped with four offices, six classrooms, conference room, ‘fireside’ room, community center and two kitchens. The structure is fashioned closely to a Byzantine architectural style, with a traditional dome and facilities that are fundamental-

ly formed in the shape of a cross. Bridges Construction broke ground in January 2012 and CJK Design Group was used as the Planning and Architectural Firm.

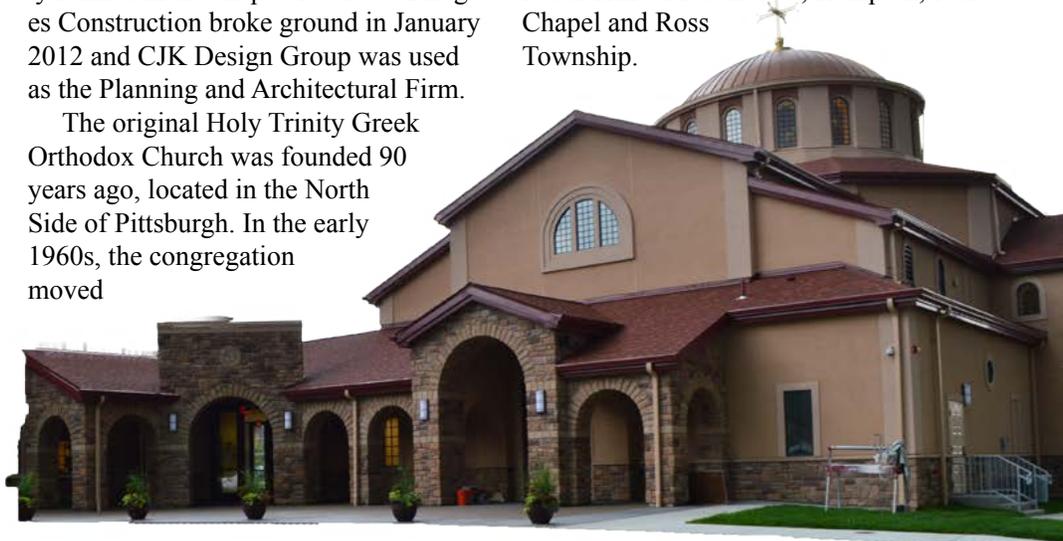
The original Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was founded 90 years ago, located in the North Side of Pittsburgh. In the early 1960s, the congregation moved

to 302 West North Avenue, where it remained until recent relocation to McCandless.

“Our goal was to provide a seven-day-a-week church. The prior location had physical constraints, pragmatic issues and was energy inefficient. We wanted classrooms, offices and more meeting space. Not to mention we wanted to bring the church closer to the homes of its parishioners. This was a perfect fit,” said Dickos.

Many of the parishioners are from the

North Hills: McCandless, Hampton, Fox Chapel and Ross Township.



The church was funded by donations raised by its own church members and from friends of the church.

At this location, the church will be able to hold its annual food festival on-site this year, which is scheduled August 28 through September 1.

For more information about the church or upcoming festivities, visit its website at [www.holytrinitypgh.org](http://www.holytrinitypgh.org) or by calling 412-366-8700. For more church photos, turn to page 13.

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### Developing News :

Turn to Page 12 to read about the grand opening of Home2 Suites by Hilton!



# RECYCLING



## Goodwill and Construction Junction Event Major Success

The electronic and construction material event sponsored by Goodwill and Construction Junction on Saturday, June 1 attracted an astounding amount of residents.

Over 200 cars made their way to the Town Hall to recycle their electronics. More than 31,000 pounds of electronics were recycled including 86 lap tops, 215 computers and computer towers, 267 monitors and 210 televisions.

Construction Junction hauled away over two truck loads of donated construction material.

Thank you to all who participated in recycling and donating your old materials. Keep up the good work and remember to always "Recycle it!"

## Reminder!

You can make your yearly payment for trash, recycling and yard waste service in advance by September 30, 2013 and receive a 5 percent discount.

A 10 percent discount will be offered to all senior citizens 65 years of age or older who are the financial head of the household and who can provide proof of identification.

Cost for Services and Cart per 4-month Billing Cycle from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2014

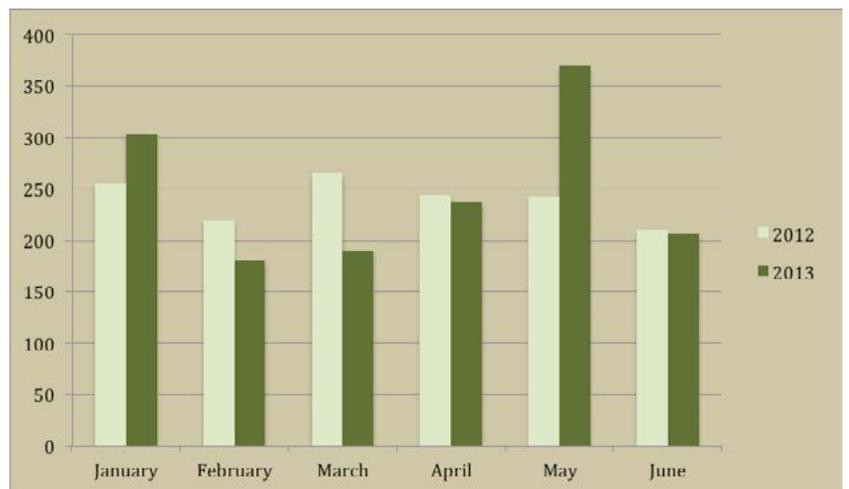
35-Gallon Carts:  
\$63.52  
\$57.40 (Senior Discount)

65-Gallon Carts:  
\$67.68  
\$61.18 (Senior Discount)

95-Gallon Carts:  
\$73.08  
\$66.08 (Senior Discount)



## Recycling Comparison: 2012 versus 2013



The chart above compares residential recycling performance in 2012 to performance in 2013. According to statistics provided by Allied Republic Services, in 2012 the Town recycled a total of 2,646.11 tons (without residue).

In 2013 we hope to continue this momentum. We have recycled approximately 1,485 tons in a six-month period. At this rate, we should surpass last year's benchmark of 2,646 tons.

Although this year in the months of February, March and April we seem to be a bit behind the curve, we still have shown a great improvement compared to 2011. Throughout the entire year of 2011, we recycled just over 1,300 tons. We more than doubled our efforts last year.

Let's keep up the good work and continue to "Recycle it!"

# Concerned Students Bring Tennis Ball Recycling to McCandless

Two Town of McCandless residents have teamed up with reBounces, a tennis ball recycling company, to start a tennis ball recycling program to revitalize and redistribute old or “dead” tennis balls.

Jennifer Hofmann, an incoming senior at North Allegheny Senior High School, and brother Richard Hofmann, an incoming eighth grader at Carson Middle School, both wanted to do something about recycling when they saw other players throwing tennis balls away.

“My brother and I believe that by initiating this local tennis ball recycling program, we are creating a positive impact in our community. We are reducing the amount of tennis ball waste around public courts, thereby keeping the environment clean and healthy,” said Jennifer.

The pair have arranged the placement of bins at the public courts in McCandless and also at North Allegheny High School. When the bins are full, the Hofmanns will collect and send the old tennis balls to reBounces. The company will either re-pressurize or distribute them to hospitals, schools and other locations that could utilize the used tennis balls.

reBounces is the first and only company to offer a free tennis ball recycling program for facilities and individuals in the continental United States who need to dispose of tennis balls responsibly.

“Because tennis plays such a large role in our lives and with the size of the tennis community quickly growing, we wanted to expand the practice of recycling to the area of tennis,” said Jennifer.

Jennifer has been a member of the varsity tennis team since her freshman year. Both Richard and Jennifer are a part of the United States Tennis Association and play in competitive tournaments throughout the year.

## Allied Waste Holiday Collection Schedule

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

If a holiday falls on a regularly scheduled work day, collections for the holiday and each day thereafter will be delayed one day and Friday's material will be collected on Saturday.

## Household Chemical Collection

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY

### South Park

Wave Pool parking lot

Saturday, September 21, 2013

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FEE: \$2/gallon - Cash Only

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:

- aerosol cans
- automotive fluids (motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, brake fluid)
- batteries
- chemistry sets
- compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)
- gasoline and kerosene
- household cleaners (ammonia, drain openers, acid cleaners, oven cleaners)
- mercury
- paint products (latex, oil based, alkyd based, arts/crafts chemicals, rust preservatives, creosote, water sealers, paint thinners, furniture strippers)
- pesticides/herbicides (rodent killers, insecticides, weed killers, mothballs, fertilizer)
- photo chemicals
- pool chemicals

### WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

- ammunition • appliances • bulk waste • commercial and industrial waste
- compressed gas cylinders (including propane tanks) • drugs • explosives
- flares • fluorescent tubes • leaking containers • medical waste (including needles) • PCBs and dioxin • radioactive materials (including smoke detectors)
- tires



reBounces™  
Green Your Game®

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## Summer Law Enforcement Review: A Message from the McCandless Police Department

### ► STEER CLEAR LAW

The Steer Clear law, which went into effect September 8, 2006, requires motorists to move into a lane that is not adjacent to an emergency response area.

An emergency response area is an area on or near a road where services are being provided by police, sheriffs, coroners, medical examiners, fire-fighters, fire police, fire marshals, rescue personnel, emergency medical service personnel, towing and recovery personnel, hazardous material response team members and/or highway construction and maintenance personnel. If drivers cannot move over because of traffic or other conditions, they must reduce their speed.

When approaching or passing an emergency response area, a person, unless otherwise directed by an emergency service responder, shall: (1) pass in a lane not adjacent to that of the emergency response area, if possible, or; (2) if passing in a

non-adjacent lane is impossible, illegal or unsafe, pass the emergency response area at a careful and prudent reduced speed reasonable for safely passing the emergency response area.

In cases where law enforcement may not be present, the law allows road workers and emergency responders to report violations by motorists. Law enforcement may issue citations based on these reports. Failure to move over or slow down can result in a summary offense that carries a fine of up to \$250. In addition, fines will be doubled for traffic violations occurring in work zone areas. If that violation leads to a worker being injured, a 90 day license suspension could result.

Please be aware of your surroundings and be mindful of those first responders who are committed to helping other people. Slow down; you could save a life.

### ► HEADLIGHT AND WINDSHIELD WIPER LAW

This law, which went into effect January 28, 2007, requires motorists to turn on their headlights anytime their vehicle wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to weather conditions. Daytime running lights are not enough. Your tail lights must be illuminated as well.

Motorists who do not comply with the law may face a fine of \$25, but with fees and other associated costs, the penalty could approach \$100.

### ► ANTI-TEXTING LAW

The Anti-Texting Law went into effect March 8, 2012 and violating the law is a primary, summary offense with convictions carrying a \$50 fine.

#### What the law does:

► Defines an Interactive Wireless Communication Device (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.

► Makes clear that this law supersedes and preempts any local ordinances restricting the use of interactive wireless devices by drivers.

The law does not authorize the seizure of an IWCD. 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.

### ► 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 his vehicle at that intersection until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated.

## Carbon Monoxide Safety

Each year in America, more than 150 people die from accidental non-fire related carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with consumer products. These products include faulty, improperly used or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces.

CO, often called “the silent killer,” is a gas you cannot see, taste or smell. It can be created when fossil fuels, such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, methane or wood do not burn properly.

CO poisoning can result from faulty furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers or cars left running in garages.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea and drowsiness. Exposure to undetected high levels of carbon monoxide can be fatal.

When choosing a CO alarm, make sure it has the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Install and maintain alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate

sleeping area, on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, have CO alarms that are interconnected throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and mounting height. Combination smoke-CO alarms must be installed in accordance with requirements for smoke alarms.

CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms and vice versa.

Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond correctly when tested. The sensors in CO alarms have a limited life. Replace the alarm according to manufacturer’s instructions or when the end-of-life signal sounds.

Know the difference between the sound of the CO alarm and the smoke alarm and their low-battery signals. If the audible low battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device. If the CO alarm still sounds, get to a fresh air location and call 9-1-1 or the fire department.\*

Any additional questions, contact the Fire Marshal at 412-364-0616.

## Winter Fires: Safety Tips

Before winter comes is the right time to have your furnace inspected. Here are some things to look for:

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, without cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house fumes.
- Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.\*

## Peebles District Volunteer Fire Company Purchases New Fire and Rescue Engine

This spring, Peebles District Volunteer Fire Company took delivery on a new fire and rescue engine. This multi-purpose piece of apparatus measures 11 ft. high and 41 ft. long and came with a price tag of \$715,000.

“We (Peebles) felt that in order help and better protect the residents of the Town of McCandless, it would be best to combine our rescue truck and engine into one unit,” said Assistant Chief Matthew Williams.

The new 2013 rescue truck is equipped with both the latest rescue system and tools, as well as firefighting equipment. The vehicle was specifically designed to be able to work on multiple vehicle extrication, handling hazardous

materials (HAZMAT) incidents and structure fires as well.

The department received a state grant to help support the cost of rescue equipment that includes a rotary and concrete saw, exhaust fans and new ventilation roof saw.

With this truck now in service, transport of multiple firefighters to the scene will improve. It will be utilized for diverse tasks; whether it be a variety of rescue calls or a fire, said Williams.

The truck committee who helped design the new rescue

vehicle consisted of Chief Bob Jeke, Deputy Chief Paul Wain, Assistant Chief Matthew Williams, Lieutenant Johnathan Happel and Firefighter Tom Liebman.

The Town of McCandless would like to congratulate and thank the members of Peebles Station 188 for their countless hours of service spent designing and now using such a state-of-the-art piece of equipment.



# Pine Creek Cleanup

On May 18, 2013 North Park Church members and local Boy Scout Troop 398 partnered with the Town of McCandless to clean up areas above and along Pine Creek, which also was part of Compassion Day at North Park Church.

“The North Park Church counts it a privilege to give back just a little to the Town of McCandless, which services our community in so many positive ways,” said Bruce Allison, director of outreach and ministry development. “We greatly value the relationship that continues to develop with the people who serve us so faithfully.”

The group cleaned up areas along Pine Creek including Blazier Drive behind Trader Horn, Rave Cinemas and along Ingomar Road.



# Summer Recreation Program Concludes 40th Year

The summer recreation program sponsored jointly by the municipalities of Bradford Woods, Franklin Park, Marshall and McCandless, in partnership with the North Allegheny School District, celebrated its 40th anniversary this summer.

The program is designed for all school-age students in the North Allegheny School District. Town of McCandless Councilman and Director of the Program, Gerard Aufman, Jr., has been a part of the project since the beginning.

“We have concluded our 40th year and the program exists because of the cooperation between the governing bodies and school district. It has expanded and grown because of that

cooperation,” said Aufman. “We have always been blessed with a very gifted and cooperative staff, and this year was no exception. The strength of the program begins with the people who run it.”

Jan Graner, Arts Director at the Franklin Elementary Center, has also been a part of the program for most of its existence. According to Aufman, except for her years away at college, she has returned every summer to help the program.

As always, the Town sends a special “thank you” to the summer recreation staff and administrative team for continuing the tradition. We look forward to seeing your children at next year’s program!



Thank You!



Public Works employee John Clifford pauses for a picture during his last day of work.



Ralph Zabel



Clyde Wolfe

## Five Public Works Employees Celebrate Retirement

The Town of McCandless recognized the retirement and many years of service given by five Public Works employees who worked for the Town for 20 or more years.

John Clifford dedicated nearly 21 years to the Town as mechanic and head mechanic.

James Byrnes contributed 28 years after being hired as a laborer and later being promoted to Traffic Control Technician.

Alfred Lunardi gave 37 years of service to the Town as a laborer, then later as the Lead Traffic Control Technician.

Ralph Zabel had been a proactive employee of the Town for 41 years. He provided service as a mechanic, inspector and most recently, a Foreman.

Clyde Wolfe retired after 42 years

of service. That's 42 winters of plowed snow and 42 summers of construction work. Wolfe was a Public Works employee for the Town.

Collectively, all five retirees gave over 169 years of service to the Town residents. Best wishes for a happy retirement!



Alfred Lunardi

Town Council poses with the retirees and Public Work colleagues.



## PUBLIC WORKS

## 2013 PAVING PROGRAM

- Casa Grande Drive
- Chickasaw Avenue
- Country Manor Lane
- Demmler Court
- Demmler Drive
- Edwood Court
- Edwood Road
- Fawn Court
- Forest Avenue
- Fox Ridge Road
- Gass Road
- Glenbrook Drive
- Haugh Drive
- Highoaks Court
- Highvue Circle
- Huron Avenue
- Iroquois Avenue
- Lindisfarne Drive
- Manor Court
- Northgate Drive
- Public Works Stockyard
- Ridge Avenue
- Ridgemont Road
- Santa Rosa Lane
- Squire Place
- Tamarack Lane
- Tanbark Drive
- Tierra Place
- Timber Trail
- West Sandle Avenue

Reminder: Nothing but a mailbox should be within three feet of the road before, during or after paving. That includes tree branches overhanging the road, portable basketball sets, rocks, planters and so forth. Thank you!

### ORDINANCE TALK:

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Town Council passed Ordinance No. 1420 on August 27, 2012 requiring a permit to perform work on any portion of a driveway that is located within a public right-of-way along any road owned or maintained by the Town of McCandless.

Contractors and utility companies serve as the applicant for the permit. After the permit has been obtained, contractors shall be required to contact the Town's Department of Public Works for inspections relating to the permitted driveway work.

Applications for driveway permits can be obtained at the Public Works Office or online at [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org).

## American Thrift Center provides Donation Box for Veterans

The Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America have teamed up with the Town of McCandless and American Thrift Stores to bring the residents of McCandless an opportunity to donate household goods to veterans in need.

A 24-hour donation box has been placed behind the Town Hall (located at 9955 Grubbs Road) against the fence, next to the cardboard and trash dumpsters. All household goods are welcomed. Accepted items include clothing, shoes, small household appliances, household goods and small furniture (living room chairs, end tables, lamps and mattresses).

American Thrift Store will also accept your donations at its store or can pick up your larger items. They are located at 1806 Homeville Road, West Mifflin, PA 15122 in the Village Shopping Center. If you need a larger item picked up, you can dial 412-469-9663

for assistance.

American Thrift Stores have distributed over 70 donation boxes in the Pittsburgh area to collect household goods to support veterans in need.

The mission of the Keystone PVA is to improve the quality of life of paralyzed veterans by:

- Encouraging and supporting spinal cord injury and disease research;
- Improving access to health care and other veterans' benefits;
- Assisting in the expansion of opportunities in wheelchair sports and recreation; and
- Advocating for the rights of disabled people, including the reduction and elimination of barriers to accessibility and mobility.

Any additional questions, visit the Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America web site at [www.kvpa.org](http://www.kvpa.org) or by calling 412-781-2474.



## Deck Safety: Check Your Deck!

The 2009 International Residential Code for decks changed significantly. The Town's role is to inspect the construction of a new deck for which a permit was obtained under this code.

After any contractor's warranty period ends, the responsibility for the condition of a deck rests on its owner after a deck is built.

So, it is important for property owners to remember to 'check their decks.'

Many older decks are still in use; they should be checked for signs of potential failure. Here is a list of items to check:

- ☞ Support posts; Check for any twisting, cracking or decay.
- ☞ Deck attachment to the house; Look at the bolts or lag screws and make sure they are one-half inch

or larger in diameter or of another approved fastening method.

- ☞ Spacing of the bolts or screws; Make sure they are no more than 16" on center.
- ☞ Bolts or screws; Look for corrosion.
- ☞ Make sure there is positive attachment and the band board is not pulling away from the house.
- ☞ Joist hangers; Make sure they are nailed and not screwed in and check for any corrosion.
- ☞ All framing connection; Look for splitting wood, separation of framing members and corrosion of fasteners.
- ☞ The railing to make sure that it is attached properly and is not loose.
- ☞ Excessive sway; Check for bounce or sagging member.

## Important Dates

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| ▶ Labor Day:                                     | September 2, 2013  |
| ▶ Last day to pay real estate at discount:       | September 3, 2013  |
| ▶ McCandless Community Day:                      | September 14, 2013 |
| ▶ Fire Prevention Week:                          | October 6-12, 2013 |
| ▶ Town Bulk Leaf Pickup begins:                  | October 21, 2013   |
| ▶ Halloween (Trick-or-Treating) 6:00- 8:00 p.m.: | October 31, 2013   |
| ▶ Last day to pay real estate at face:           | November 1, 2013   |
| ▶ Daylight Saving Time ends:                     | November 3, 2013   |
| ▶ Election Day:                                  | November 5, 2013   |
| ▶ Veterans Day:                                  | November 11, 2013  |
| ▶ Town Bulk Leaf Pickup concludes:               | November 27, 2013  |
| ▶ Thanksgiving:                                  | November 28, 2013  |
| ▶ Yard Waste Collection (Allied) concludes:      | December 6, 2013   |
| ▶ Last day to pay real estate at penalty:        | December 31, 2013  |

2013 Town of McCandless Community Day

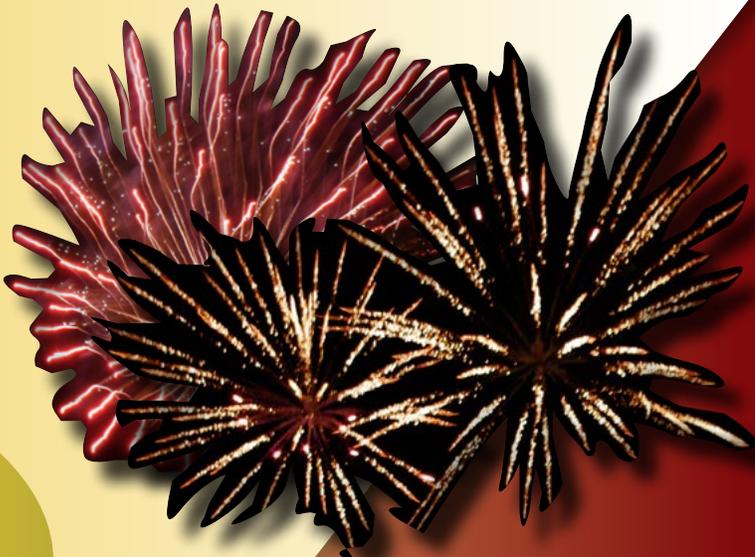


## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Parade: 12:30 p.m.
- Traveling Museum: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- Car Cruise (Trader Horn): 2:00-6:00 p.m.

## ENTERTAINMENT

- Center Stage: 1:45-2:25 p.m.
- Red Hot Ramblers: 2:30-3:15 p.m.
- Lenny Smith: 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- Joe the Juggler: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- Jazzercise: 4:15-4:45 p.m.
- Michele's Dance Center: 4:45-5:30 p.m.
- North Hills Dancers: 5:45-6:00 p.m.
- Totally 80s: 6:00-7:15 p.m.
- Mandolinisti Italiano: 7:15-8:00 p.m.
- Allegheny Brass Band: 8:00- 9: 15 p.m.



Fireworks 9:00 p.m.

# Saturday, September 14, 2013

# Playing @ Your Library

## NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



Here at Northland Public Library, we set the stage for imagination and play. We set the stage for lifelong learning. It is part of our mission statement, the commitment we make to our community. Bringing your children to the library is not only about the books on our shelves, it's about the environment we have set for learning through our many programs for children of all ages. Your child can play, learn, read and grow at the Library through our careful development of activities designed just for them. Bring your youngest children to the Playful Parenting Room, a special safe play place set aside and equipped for constructive play. School-age children will find new friends at our summer events full of fun and exploration. "Tweens and teens are invited to loiter at their Library. Our bank of computers and the young adult area of the Library provide a safe physical space for their unique brand of interaction and learning. Visit the library this summer, put it on your to do list, make it your routine. Allow time for reading and play, not only for your child, but for yourself as well. *Northland Public Library is your community resource- use it!*



photography - Pouna Gen

Perhaps you have heard the saying, 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.' There is more truth to the saying than most realize. Research indicates that without play it is hard to give your best at work or at home, it is the very thing that keeps you young and healthier and more productive. A life lived without play is at increased risk for stress related diseases and mental health issues. Adults need play. It helps them to be their best when it comes to career, parenting and marriage- even with daily casual interaction. We invite you to play at the Library through its many on-going programs- book discussions for all genres, travel and foreign films, informal discussions at our Conversation Salons, or just come together for quiet conversation or reading in one of our cozy nooks. A stunning chess/checker set is our latest feature added for your enjoyment. Handcrafted by apprentice woodworker Becky Maruca, the board of mahogany, curly maple and bird's eye maple veneer is a handsome addition. Her exquisite craftsmanship and generosity will be enjoyed by many for years to come. So come play with us at Northland, we hope to see you soon!

"As the varied rhythms of my voice lulled my children to sleep or excited them into action, little did I realize that the stories I told through the songs I sung or the books I read to them, were setting the stage for play as well as for a lifetime of learning. I now realize that by reading to them, even well into their teen years, enabled exploration, motivation and life success. Books were part of the hope chest I brought to my marriage. I had a library of children's books before I ever conceived a child. From that, you may understand why reading to my children was a natural start to my personal journey into motherhood - sharing my love of books, the places they can take you, the information they give, and the ideas they spark.

Since those early years of parenting, I have learned that it has been proven that reading to children from a very young age generally enables them to become good readers. Recent research tells us that good readers do better in school. I have also learned that reading encourages the work of children - play. In fact, as master teacher Vivian Gussin Paley puts it, play is "a child's work" (Paley, 2004). Reading to our children - and encouraging them to read on their own- stimulates imaginative play

In a 2007 report, *To Read or Not To Read*, the National Endowment for the Arts presented data associating the number of books in a home with test scores for a variety of subjects. For civics, history, science and math, 12th-graders with more books in the home did better academically. Reading builds cognitive ability in the classroom but reading also builds an imaginative foundation for play. And when it comes to cognitive development in early and middle childhood, that play can be every bit as important as classroom work. In play, our growing children can learn many things: how to manipulate physical objects, how to share experience with others, how to understand spoken language and unspoken language. Parents can do much to help that 'work' along:

- Give children a place for pretend play. Physically, this place might be a den, a bedroom or even the dining room table. Turning off the television or other electronic distractions provides the psychological space needed for young minds to attend to their 'work'.
- Set aside uninterrupted time for children to indulge in pretend play of their own making.
- Provide a variety of materials for playing and pretending with, such as crayons, paper, magazines to cut up, craft supplies. Include toys that can be used in a variety of ways and for different purposes, like building blocks, dress-up clothes or puppets.
- Allow children a certain amount of autonomy to use the provided space, time and materials as they wish. Parents may find the need to model activities to get young children going, but the less the parent is involved in their children's actual play, the more benefit that play has for the child. Step back, give a child privacy for his play, exploring without restraint, exploring with innocent exuberance!
- Let children know you value their pretend play - their work. Put pictures up on the refrigerator, watch their puppet shows, accept their invitation when invited to their play, let the block castle set up in the living room stay standing for as long as possible. This is their paycheck for their work.

Ours was and still is a home filled with books for learning and enjoyment, and I hope to continue this legacy with the next generation of our family. And as with my children, my plan is to bring their children, to this wonderful playground of the mind - our community Library."

Donna Rau  
Graphics/Public Relations Manager  
Northland Public Library



**NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

300 Cumberland Rd. | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237 | 412-366-8100 | [www.northlandlibrary.org](http://www.northlandlibrary.org)

Connecting our Communities Northland Library enables, empowers and encourages lifelong learning and discovery.

# Allegheny League of Municipalities Honors McCandless

The Town of McCandless has been named a 2013 Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities for providing effective, efficient and accountable services to its residents and businesses. The designation also acknowledges McCandless' efforts to inform and engage citizens through frequent and open communication, public events and community activities.

"The Banner Community Program recognizes municipalities that implement best practices in all aspects of their operations and that govern in an inclusive, collaborative manner," said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, who is also chairman of the Allegheny League of Municipalities. "These are cities, boroughs and townships that understand fiscal accountability, customer service, and civic responsibility."

To be recognized as a Banner Community, a municipality must demonstrate its commitment to the following best practices each year:

▶ Training and education for its elected

and/or appointed officials;

▶ Active participation in professional organizations, such as the Allegheny League of Municipalities, Allegheny County Boroughs Association, Allegheny County & Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners and Allegheny County Association of Township Officials;

▶ Active participation in its Council of Governments, as well as intergovernmental cooperation, sharing of services and other joint efforts with one or more municipalities;

▶ Sponsorship and/or promotion of community events and activities, such as a community day, parade, clean-up day, municipal open house, crime awareness effort and benefits or fundraisers; and

▶ Routine communication with residents through a newsletter, website, email or other method, as well as active participation with local elementary, middle and high school students, such as speaking to classes, sponsoring

special events, and offering internships and/or student shadow days.

McCandless Town Manager Toby Cordek said, "McCandless is pleased to be named a 2013 Banner Community. McCandless' way of doing things is based upon the cooperative wisdom, spirit and pragmatism demonstrated by its Town Council. We try to do the right thing at the right time to the best of our ability."

Some of the best practices that McCandless implements are teaming up with neighboring communities in many positive ways, such as automated recycling and e-recycling drives, holding ongoing volunteer-based litter cleanup days and a vibrant Community Day that offers lots of things for everyone.

"There is no limit on the number of municipalities that can be recognized as Banner Communities," added Fitzgerald. "In fact, we encourage all municipalities in our region to be the best they can be and to work to achieve the designation."

## McCandless Receives Award for Local Government Excellence

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has recognized the Town of McCandless with the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence for developing an intergovernmental partnership with Ohio Township to establish an automated recycling, trash and yard waste curbside collection program.

"It is an honor for the Town and its citizens to be acknowledged with our partner, Ohio Township, for our joint recycling, trash and yard waste program," said Toby Cordek, McCandless Town Manager.

The Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence recognizes local governments and officials that have found creative ways to improve their communities.

In 2007, the Town of McCandless and Ohio Township contemplated the idea of working together to create an enhanced waste collection program for each community. With approval from the Pennsylvania Department of

Environmental Protection Agency to proceed, each community applied for and was awarded a \$500,000 grant for the purchase of recycling and yard waste containers.



Prior to the partnership, McCandless threw away an average of about 800 tons of residential trash and recycled 150 tons of material per month in 2009, according to Waste Management. In October 2011, McCandless reduced trash disposal to 494.6 tons per month and increased recycling to 420.8 tons a

month. In addition, yard waste service was introduced and recorded 288 tons the first month the service was available.

Collectively, McCandless and Ohio Township also recycled 35.5 tons of old plastic trash and recycling containers that were not kept for further use by residents.

Staff from both municipalities formed a working relationship with all components of research, training, development of educational materials and administration of a true intergovernmental partnership.

"This effort could not have been possible without the fully committed teamwork of Ohio Township's and McCandless' governments," said Cordek.

Other recipients of the Governor's Award include Avalon Borough, Kilbuck Township, Fox Chapel Authority, Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company 1, Mt. Lebanon, Tarentum and Butler County Council of Governments.

## Town Council Attends Home2 Suites by Hilton Ribbon Cutting

The Town of McCandless Town Council alongside administrative staff members welcomed Home2 Suites by Hilton to the McCandless community by attending the ribbon cutting on Thursday, July 11.

“Having the first modern hotel in the Town has been a long time coming. Home2 Suites is a welcome addition to the Town’s commercial landscape,” said Toby Cordek, Town Manager.

H2S is an extended stay hotel designed to accommodate someone that needs a “longer stay, for less pay,” said Director of Sales Brittany St. John.

The new hotel has four floors with 119 rooms, all of which include one bed. The “apartment-style” living focuses on sustainability and comfort geared towards young business travelers, according to St. John.

Although there are varying levels of rooms, all suites are fitted with a 42” flat screen HDTV, a media hub, an iHome alarm clock with iPod/iPad docking system, a sleeper sofa, a fully equipped kitchen with a full-size refrigerator, freezer, microwave, dishwasher and sink.

“The goal here is to stay productive. There are ports in each room and in

the Oasis (lobby) area as well as the Inspired Table (breakfast area) in order for you to utilize every bit of your time. You even can do your laundry while you workout for ultimate optimization. The shared space is called “Spin2Cycle,” said St. John.

The “Oasis” is what an ordinary hotel would call a lobby. The Oasis features a 55” flat screen, non-traditional seating that provides tables for a place to work and a workspace that provides free copying, printing and faxing within the hotel or to any other H2S hotel.

“If you are leaving one of our other locations and do not want to carry a 100-page document, you can print to our location and we will have it here waiting for you when you arrive,” said St. John.

The hotel also makes the environment a priority when conducting business. The flooring and tables in the Oasis are made from recycled materials and dishware is used for dining instead of paper products. The only paper products used are to-go cups that are available for coffee.

For the health-conscious, there are calorie counts on the to-go breakfast items. The coffee, Rainforest Alliance

Certified Coffee, is organic.

The hotel’s pool is saline-based and the patios boast two natural gas grills and one gas fire pit.

“All of the environmentally sensitive features Home2 offers match those required by the Town and performed in the land development in which Home2 resides” said Bruce Betty, Zoning Officer.”

The rooms are fitted with a dual-flushing toilet while shampoo and body wash is offered in bulk amounts to refrain from adding materials to landfills. Recycling containers are on every floor.

Other features include a Board Meeting Room for 10-12 people with a breakfast bar and restroom, workout room that offers water and cold towels (or beach chairs for those who don’t prefer to workout on business trips) and a 24-hour market.

If you’re not here for an extended stay, H2S welcomes short-term guests, too.

Home2 Suites by Hilton in McCandless is the 18th built and one of two in Pennsylvania. Widewaters Hotels, LLC owns, manages and staffs the H2S property.



Right: Council members Ralph LeDonne, D. Lamar Oliver, III, Robert Powers and Cynthia Potter pose with General Manager Ted Hasbrouck (center) at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



## Three Restaurants Commit to McCandless Crossing

Panera Bread, Chipotle and First Watch committed in early June to joining the McCandless Crossing Project currently under construction.

“I believe we have a very nice blend of restaurants joining the project,” said Town of McCandless Zoning Officer Bruce Betty. “Vacancies are filling up as we see more businesses making commitments to McCandless Crossing.”

These restaurants will join the already-committed list of Longhorn Steakhouse, Carrabba’s Italian Grill and Bone Fish Grill.

Construction of the restaurants is expected to be completed by the end of June 2014. The entire McCandless Crossing project is not expected to be finished any earlier than 2015.



## Holy Trinity Construction: Start to Finish



Above: The altar just a week before completion.



Summer 2012



Spring 2013



June 2013



The “Fire-side” room will be used for “fire-side chats” between parishioners and the priest. It can also be used to view service.



(Above) Tile artwork on the floor outside of the reception area.  
(Right) The Door Opening Service was held on June, 22, 2013.



# Your Watershed is Recruiting YOU!

## We All Live in A Watershed

Whether you live in the city, the suburbs or on a farm, your home is located in a watershed. What is a watershed? A watershed is the area that drains to a common waterway, whether it be a stream, pond, lake, wetland or river. The individual habits we undertake on a daily basis, such as carelessly throwing garbage into storm drains and streams and the improper disposal of pet waste and toxic chemicals like oil and paint can dramatically impact the health of the watershed. These activities impact water quality, the health of aquatic organisms, recreational opportunities and ultimately the public health of your community.

## Adopt Your Watershed

The EPA's *Adopt Your Watershed Program* allows you the opportunity to volunteer in programs to directly protect and restore your watershed.

Step 1— Find your watershed here: <http://water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/index.cfm>. Click 'Surf Your Watershed' in the Quick Finder Box. All you will need to enter is your zip code. It's that simple!

Step 2—Select your watershed and a profile will be displayed of its characteristics. (Your community may encompass more than one watershed). You can then click the link of: [Select Citizen Based Groups at Work in This Watershed.](#)

Step 3—Connect with these groups to get involved in activities such as volunteer water monitoring, stream cleanups, and storm drain marking.

## How to Make a Difference Now

1. Become a volunteer and monitor water quality conditions, increase community awareness and help identify and restore problem sites.
2. Organize your own trash cleanup or join an existing cleanup program in your community.
3. Build a rain garden. Rain gardens planted with native vegetation help reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff by soaking up excess rainwater.
4. Organize a storm drain marking project, by producing flyers or door hangers or find out if your community needs volunteers to place decals on storm drains.
5. Greenscape your yard by implementing practices that help improve your lawn while conserving our resources.
6. Help spread the word! The EPA website (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/index.html>) contains numerous flyers on practices to reduce stormwater pollution. Do your research and talk to your neighbors, friends, and co-workers about what you have learned to help spread the message.



*Source information for this article provided with permission by the EPA.*



# TAX OFFICE REMINDERS

## REAL ESTATE TAX

On June 10, 2013, Town Council approved a Town millage rate of 1.296 mills (\$129.60 per \$100,000 of assessed value) for the 2013 calendar year. The North Allegheny School District set its millage rate for the 2013-14 fiscal year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) at 17.4039 mills.

The tax due dates were outlined in the 2013 Town Calendar, which was mailed to you last December and are also posted on the Town website. It is important that you pay your tax by the due date, even if you have filed an appeal with Allegheny County. Once a deadline passes, the higher amount must be paid, even if you win your appeal. In addition, failure to pay your tax by December 31 may result in a lien being placed against your property. By law, all North Allegheny School District 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% 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 23, 2013 for a Homestead Exclusion under Act 1 of 2006, also known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, then the reduction in your North Allegheny School District assessed value appears as a separate line item on your bill.
- ◆ If you qualified for a Homestead Exclusion prior to April 23, 2013, 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 listed on the bill by September 3. Payments received after September 3 will be considered timely only if they contain an official U.S. Postal Service postmark of September 3 or earlier. If any installment payment is late, you will be disqualified from the installment program for 2014 and you 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 at (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 ad-

dress 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 move to a new address.

## EARNED INCOME & NET PROFITS TAX

The Town contracted with Keystone Collections Group of Irwin, PA for the collection of this tax. They are located at 546 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642 and can be reached by phone at 724-978-0300. You can also get tax forms and other information by visiting them at [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com). The tax due dates were outlined in the 2013 Town Calendar, which was mailed to you last December and are also posted on the Town website. Please remember that you must make quarterly estimated tax payments if you are self-employed. The only exception is that anyone earning \$12,000 or less is not required to make quarterly payments.

## BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX

If you operate a business located in the Town, either out of your home or at a specific commercial location, you are required to file and pay this tax. Please check the 2013 Town Calendar, view the Town website at [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org), or call us at (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 \$10 North Allegheny School District tax. The billing procedure in 2013 is the same as that used since 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 month and year of birth 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.

## LOCAL SERVICES TAX

Any individual who works in the Town and has earned income and/or net profits over \$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. Keystone Collections Group, effective January 1, 2011, collects the Local Services Tax. They can be contacted at 724-978-0300 or online at [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com).



## Reminder:

All curbside bulk pickup items must be called in 24 hours prior to your normally scheduled pickup day by 3 p.m. Allied Republic Services can be reached at 1-800-464-2120.



## Recycling Corner

Greetings Residents! We are continuing to do a wonderful job recycling however, we need to sustain our enthusiasm about taking care of our environment. Below are some resources on how to dispose of hard-to-recycle items. Always remember: when in doubt, recycle it!

### Recycling Resource Chart

#### AUTOMOTIVE OILS

Call the DEP Recycling Hotline at 1-800-346-4242. They can provide you with used oil recycling facilities in your area. Regular hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. During non business hours, leave a message on the answering machine.

#### BATTERIES

- Batteries Plus: Ross

#### COMPACT FLUORESCENT

#### BULBS

- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Home Improvement

#### CONCRETE, BRICK, BLOCK OR ASPHALT

- Construction Junction

#### PLASTIC BAGS

- See [www.abagslife.com](http://www.abagslife.com) for local recycling locations

#### FREON

Call 1-888-GO FREON, or see the listing of appliance and/or refrigerant removal companies listed on Allegheny County's website: [www.achd.net/recycling](http://www.achd.net/recycling).

#### PACKING PEANUTS & BUB- BLE WRAP

(POLYSTYRENE LOOSE FILL)

- The UPS Store: Ross

#### PAINT

Call 412-578-8390 for collections