



# McCandless Town Crier



## Town of McCandless honored as Banner Community

For the fourth year in a row, the Town of McCandless has been named a Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM).

The designation acknowledges McCandless' participation in elected and appointed official training, its efforts to inform and engage residents through frequent and open communication, public and community events, mentoring, and collaboration with other communities.

"The work done, each and every day, by our elected and appointed local government officials has a profound impact on the lives of our residents — more than any other level of government. It's just one more reason to celebrate and recognize the work being done by these communities," said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

The Town was one of 43 municipalities to be named a 2016 Banner Community.

"We feel honored to be recognized with this designation, and we fulfill all of the requirements for the certifi-



Town Council Vice President William J. McKim, center, stands with Allegheny County Councilwoman Cindy Kirk, left, and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald at Banner Community ceremony on April 5.

cate," said Town Council President Gerard J. Aufman Jr.

To be recognized as a Banner Community, a municipality must demonstrate its commitment to best practices each year, including training and education for its elected and appointed officials, active participation in professional organizations, intergovernmental cooperation, sponsorship of community events and activities, communication with residents, and promotion of sustainable governing practices.

Examples of the Town engaging in these practices include:

- Attendance by council members at ALOM and other local government training conferences; enrolling incoming council members in the Local Government Academy training course for newly elected officials
- Holding an annual Community Day event
- Participating actively in the

North Hills Council of Government throughout the year

- Publishing a biannual newsletter, a monthly e-newsletter and an annual calendar; keeping the Town's website current and up to date
- Holding citizen training sessions, such as elementary classroom discussions with Fire Marshal Daniel Stack

"We are honored and humbled to be named a Banner Community for the fourth year in a row. Elected officials, employees and Town administration work to provide services to our residents and business owners, and this shows that the work we do is being recognized," said Town Council Vice President William J. McKim.

The Banner Community Program began in 2013. The Town is one of 15 municipalities that have been a part of the program since it started.

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# MS4 AND MCCANDLESS

With an ever-changing quandary of rules, regulations and requirements, stormwater management in Pennsylvania often can be confusing to understand. Hopefully, the information below will help residents of the Town of McCandless to know why these requirements are in place. As you will discover, these requirements are mandated by federal and state laws.

**What is an MS4?** An MS4, or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, is comprised of drainage systems including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ponds, ditches, manmade channels and storm pipes owned by a state, county, city, town, township, borough or other public entity. Untreated or uncontrolled stormwater runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our local waterways. Polluted runoff is often transported through municipal drainage systems until it eventually discharges untreated into streams, lakes and rivers. Most municipalities — including the Town of McCandless — are required to comply with the MS4 Program.



MS4 Programs are intended to improve our nation's surface waters by reducing the quantities of pollutants that are picked up by runoff and transported into the storm sewer systems during rainfall. As part of the MS4 Program, municipalities hold a permit to discharge stormwater into local waterways. In Pennsylvania, the MS4 Program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The MS4 Program has six elements termed "minimum control measures" that, when implemented, should result in significant reduction in pollutants discharged into receiving waters. The six minimum control measures and the actions required include:

**Public Education and Outreach** — Distribute educational materials and conduct outreach to inform citizens about the impacts that stormwater runoff has on water quality.

**Public Participation/Involvement** — Provide opportunities for residents to participate in the stormwater management program or other programs which improve water quality

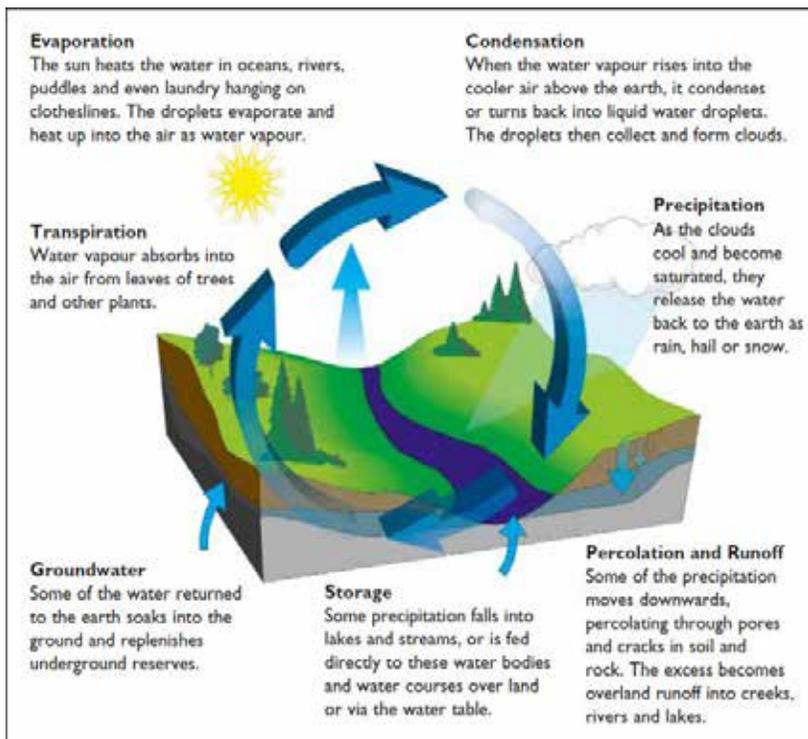


**Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination** — Develop and implement a plan to detect and eliminate non-stormwater discharges into the stormwater system.

**Construction Site Runoff Control** — Develop, implement and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction site activities that disturb one acre or greater.

**Post-Construction Runoff Control** — Develop, implement and enforce a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development or redevelopment areas.

**Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping** — Develop and implement a program that reduces or prevents pollutant runoff from municipal operations.



All municipalities should be committed to improving water quality through better management of stormwater runoff. The Town of McCandless is committed to this goal. Immediately upon the adoption of the Stormwater Management Act in 1978, McCandless embraced the implementation of stormwater management techniques. It started very simply. Since 1978, the Town has been on a quest to put into action pragmatic and constantly up-to-date best management practices in managing stormwater throughout the Town. This quest more recently, under U.S. EPA and PA DEP direction, focuses on water quality along with stormwater management techniques.

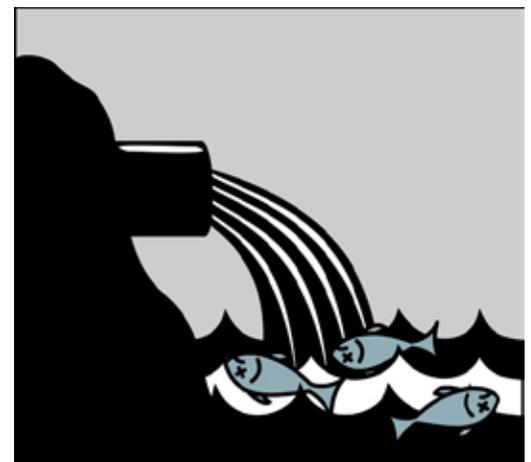
*Every resident* can participate in their municipal stormwater program by reducing or preventing pollutant runoff from their own property and by reporting any non-stormwater discharges into the town's drainage system.

There are numerous things we can do on a daily basis to keep pollution out of our waterways. The following are just a few things we all can do to help improve water quality on our streams, rivers and lakes:

- Never dump anything into storm drains, swales or streams
- Pick up litter from the street before it gets into storm drains
- Use limited amounts of fertilizer
- If you must use pesticides, search for an environmentally-friendly brand
- Recycle motor oil, paint and other hazardous chemicals. Never dump such materials down the drain or into the storm system
- Recycle glass, plastic and aluminum
- Always pick up your pet's waste, or else harmful bacteria can get into our water

## WHAT IS AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE?

An **illicit discharge** is defined as any discharge to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System that is not composed entirely of stormwater. These non-stormwater discharges occur due to illegal connections to the storm drain system from business or commercial establishments. As a result of these illicit connections, contaminated wastewater enters into storm drains or directly into streams before receiving treatment from a wastewater treatment plant. Illicit connections may be intentional or may be unknown to the business owner and often are due to the connection of floor drains to the storm sewer system. Additional sources of illicit discharges can be failing septic systems, illegal dumping practices and the improper disposal of sewage from recreational practices such as boating or camping.



Illicit discharge detection and elimination programs are designed to prevent contamination of ground and surface water supplies by monitoring, inspection and removal of these illegal non-stormwater discharges. Call 412-364-0616 Ext. 184 or e-mail [ms4@townofmccandless.org](mailto:ms4@townofmccandless.org) to report an illicit discharge.

# Tax Information

## Local Services Tax

Any individual who works in the Town and has earned income and/or net profits of 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. The Town appointed Keystone Collections Group, effective Jan. 1, 2011, to collect the local services tax.

Keystone is located at 546 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642. They can be contacted at 724-978-0300 or online at [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com).

## 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. Tax deadline is May 16, 2016 at 7 p.m. Please check the 2016 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 web site.

## Dropbox Procedures

Due to concerns regarding the safety of both tax payers and Town staff, payments placed in the drop box or any other location on the Town premises after 7 p.m. on the due date 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 16 to accept timely Business Privilege Tax payments, and on Sept. 1 and Nov. 1 to accept timely Real Estate Tax payments. Payments postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by the above due dates will continue to be considered timely.

## Earned Income and Net Profits Tax

The Town contracted with Keystone Collections Group of Irwin, PA for the collection of this tax for 2011 and future tax years. 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 [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com). 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.

## Per Capita Tax

All residents of the Town over the age of 21 are required to pay this North Allegheny School District tax. The 2016 Per Capita Tax bill is based on the NASD fiscal year of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The billing procedure in 2016 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.

### Per Capita Contact Information:

McCandless Town Hall  
9955 Grubbs Road  
Wexford, PA 15090  
412-364-0616

[taxoffice@townofmccandless.org](mailto:taxoffice@townofmccandless.org)

# Real Estate Taxes:



## What You Need to Know

**O**n Dec. 21, 2015, Town Council approved a Town millage rate of 1.296 mills (\$129.60 per \$100,000 of assessed value) for the 2016 calendar year. The North Allegheny School District (NASD) millage is 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 2016 Town Calendar, which was mailed to you last December, and are also posted on the Town web site.

Please note that failure to pay your tax by Dec. 31 may result in a lien being placed against your property. By law, all NASD real estate taxes that remain unpaid as of Dec. 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) will be 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, 2016 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, 2016, 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 Sept. 1. Payments received after Sept. 1 will be considered timely only if they contain an official U.S. Postal Service postmark of Sept. 1 or earlier. If any installment payment is late, you will be disqualified from the installment program for 2017, 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 do not receive a tax bill by July 10, 2016, 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 Jan. 1 of this year, you need to notify us immediately. Allegheny County provides us with a billing address as of Jan. 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.

# 2016 STREET PAVING PLAN

Town Council on Monday, March 28 approved the following street paving plan for this year:

- ⊙ **Ashley Court** from the turn around to Ashley Hill
- ⊙ **Ashley Hill Drive** from the turn around to Reichold
- ⊙ **Brandywine Drive** from the turn around to Post
- ⊙ **Brant Avenue** from West Ingomar to Woodland
- ⊙ **Dolphin Drive** from the Ross Township line to the Hampton Township line
- ⊙ **East Road** from West Ingomar to Woodland
- ⊙ **Fairhill Road** from Caribou to Post
- ⊙ **Fassinger Lane** from Rochester to Broad Meadow
- ⊙ **Forestvue Avenue** from Route

19 to Hillcrest

- ⊙ **Hillcrest Avenue** from Oak Ridge to Longue Vue
- ⊙ **Knollwood Drive** from Carriage Hill to the turn around
- ⊙ **Lindsay Road** from West Ingomar to Woodland
- ⊙ **Lingay Drive** from Carriage Hill to the Ross Township line
- ⊙ **Longue Vue Avenue** from Route 19 to Hillcrest
- ⊙ **McCutcheon Avenue** from West Ingomar to the dead end
- ⊙ **Parkview Drive** from Babcock to the turn around
- ⊙ **Post Road** from Ferguson to the dead end
- ⊙ **Presidential Drive** from Babcock to Peebles
- ⊙ **Reichold Road Extension** from Grubbs to Gass



- ⊙ **Rinaman Road** from Pine Creek to Grubbs
- ⊙ **Woodland Road** from Harmony to Highland
- ⊙ **Woodland Road North** from Woodland to the turn around

## Pine Creek Road construction, traffic to be detoured



Part of Pine Creek Road will be closed soon to tackle a major construction project.

The project — which began this month — will consist of widening the road from the westbound approach at Route 19 to the McKnight Road and Blazier Drive intersections with Pine Creek Road. The widening will accommodate left-turn lanes at Route 19, the replacement of the traffic signal at Route 19, turning lane access at the businesses

along Pine Creek Road, turning lanes at the intersection of Pine Creek Road and Blazier Drive, and a right-turn lane at McKnight Road.

The project includes improvements to drainage facilities and the installation of new stormwater conveyance, retention and infiltration methods. The project also includes the widening of the bridge at the westbound approach of Pine Creek Road.

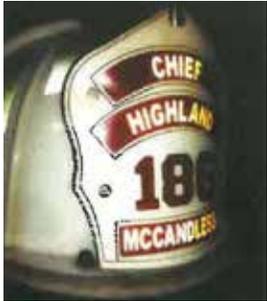


**The bridge on Pine Creek Road near Route 19 is expected to be closed from early May or June to mid-September.**

**Traffic will be detoured onto Brandt School Road, then south to Ingomar Road, then east to Route 19, then north to the intersection with Pine Creek Road.**

The project is expected to be completed by late November.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGHLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Shawn P. O'Brien of the Highland Volunteer Fire Department said, "2015 was a great year for Highland;"

and it also was the second year he served as chief.

Last year, the department had a record-high 454 calls, with 32

of them at the new McCandless Crossing development.

A total of 4,258 hours was spent on calls, training and other details in 2015. The department held 40 Tuesday night training sessions, with an average of 14 firefighters attending and dedicating hours to improving their craft.

At the conclusion of the department's smoke alarm campaign in April 2015, the department had distributed 3,000 smoke alarms

and 500 carbon monoxide alarms to members of the public over a 12-month period.

Additionally, the department — for the first time — partnered with Ingomar and Peebles volunteer fire departments, as well as the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, in a Toys for Tots collection, led by Highland Lt. Brandon McCrea. The departments collected toys throughout November, gathering a total of 1,500 toys and \$3,000.

## STEP UP, BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Staffing of the three volunteer fire departments that protect McCandless is an ongoing effort.

The Town initiated a program called Project Step-Up to create a new generation of fire service volunteers. Over the past few years, the number of fire and rescue calls have increased, while the number of new recruits strives to keep up. Volunteer firefighters are always needed.

Non-firefighters also are in demand. The fire companies need someone to type letters, help with their fund drives, balance checkbooks, perform property and vehicle maintenance, and fire prevention details.

The heat is still on! Get involved and be rewarded in the knowledge that you will be part of an elite crew that provides a vital service to the Town and its residents. We hope to see you extend a hand someday.

For more information on becoming a firefighter, contact the Fire Marshal's office at 412-364-0616 ext. 128, or by email at [firemarshal@townofmccandless.org](mailto:firemarshal@townofmccandless.org).



## A Note About the Town's Open Burning Rules from the Fire Marshal

Open burning is not allowed for the disposal of trash or of brush, leaves or branches.

Open burning recreational fires are permitted, but only with a permit from the Fire Marshal. The permit application must be filed, along with a \$25 fee, with the fire marshal at least 24 hours before the fire is started. Additionally, the local fire department must be notified.

These fires can be no bigger than 3-feet-by-3-feet-by-3-feet, and they must be at least 30 feet away from any structure, pedestrian or recreation area, fence, road or utility. When burning, a responsible person should be tending the fire at all times, and at least one fire extinguisher or other fire control method must be within reach.

Burning without a permit only is allowed for the warmth of work crews — if the weather is below 40 degrees and the burning is done in a non-combustible container that is no larger than 55 gallons — and for recreational purposes as long as an approved, non-combustible outdoor fireplace is used and all other regulations are followed.

Violations of the ordinance can be punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, so please play safely by these rules.



# Curbside Collection

Your trash and recycling collection carts are designed to be durable and well balanced with sturdy wheels, making them easy to maneuver. With general use, the carts are expected to last about 15 years. They are available in three different sizes and are specially designed to be used with automated trucks. No other type of cart can be used with this system. Instead of having workers empty your carts by hand, the trucks come equipped with mechanical arms that pick up carts and empty them into hoppers. This means faster collection, less manual labor, and fewer injuries to crew members from lifting or from passing vehicles.

But to make the system work efficiently, we need your help. Here's how:

## Follow the Color Code

Lid color distinguishes one commodity cart from another. Drivers can quickly identify which cart to empty based on the vehicles collection type. Use your **Blue-Top** cart just for recyclables, **Green-Top** cart only for yard waste, and your **Black-Top** cart for trash.

## Do Not Overload Carts

All contents must fit into each cart with the lid closed. Heavy cart loads can cause the mechanical arm to fail. A large 95-gallon cart

should not contain more than 300 pounds of waste; 200 pounds for a 65-gallon cart; 100 pounds for a 35-gallon cart. UNLIKE RECYCLABLES, TRASH SHOULD BE BAGGED BEFORE PLACING IT INTO THE CART.

## Cart Placement

Arrows on the lid show which side of the cart should face the street. When the mechanical arm picks up your cart, the lid should fall open and empty its contents into the truck's hopper. Place carts at least two feet apart from one another and at least two feet away from mailboxes, posts, trees, vehicles, or other obstructions.



## Town likely to get new trash hauler, Waste Management

McCandless Town Council was scheduled April 25 to award a contract for trash collection and recycling to Waste Management.

If approved, the contract will take effect Oct. 1 and will run through Dec. 31, 2021.

During the first year of the contract, residents can expect to pay \$14.88 per month for 35-gallon trash carts, \$17.06 for 65-gallon carts, and \$19.24 for

95-gallon carts.

The contract also contains an option for at-the-door household hazardous waste and electronics recycling. This would allow for residents to easily dispose of items such as pesticides, bleach, gasoline, non-commercial corrosive chemicals, lubricants, automotive chemicals and consumer electronics.

If approved, this option would cost residents an additional 87

cents per month for the first year of the contract.

Waste Management was the lowest qualified bidder for the contract. It was one of three bidding companies, along with Vogel Disposal and Republic Services — who is the Town's current hauler.

If approved, more information will be available later on the Town's website, [www.town-ofmccandless.org](http://www.town-ofmccandless.org).



# Recycling Reminder

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*Just a refresher about your trash, recycling and yard waste carts . . .*

## **Ownership Identification**

All carts belong to McCandless and our partner municipality, Ohio Township. The municipalities purchased the carts, in part, with a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Agency. They are available for your use as long as you remain at this address. Each cart carries a unique identification number. That number is linked to your account as well as to your home address. Be sure to keep your carts on your own property and avoid getting them mixed up with neighboring carts.

## **Color-coding**

The color-coded lids on each cart identify their contents to the truck operator. **Blue-Top** carts are for recyclables. **Green-Top** carts are for yard waste only. **Black-Top** carts are for ordinary trash and all other non-recyclable items eligible for collection in our program.

## **Ordering Carts**

Large family households may need more than one cart to handle their weekly waste. Additional carts are available upon request. There is no charge for a second **Blue-Top** recycling or **Green-Top** yard waste cart. Extra **Black-Top** trash carts are available for fees that vary with their size – 35, 65, or 95-gallon capacity. There is also an additional service fee of three dollars per month. Current pricing is available from Republic Services and the Town of McCandless.

## **Exchanging Carts**

If your initial cart selection turns out to be either too big or too small for your needs, you can exchange it for another. The contractor will charge a flat \$10 delivery fee for exchanges.

To order additional carts or to arrange for a cart exchange contact Republic Services Customer Service at [svcreq@republicservices.com](mailto:svcreq@republicservices.com) or by phone at 1-800-464-2120 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## **Cart Repair or Replacement**

Republic Services is responsible for the repair of all carts. Republic Services shall determine if the damaged cart should be repaired or removed from service. Residents will be charged for the replacement of a painted or marked cart, or a cart that has been rendered unusable from the placement of hot ashes and cannot be reassigned.

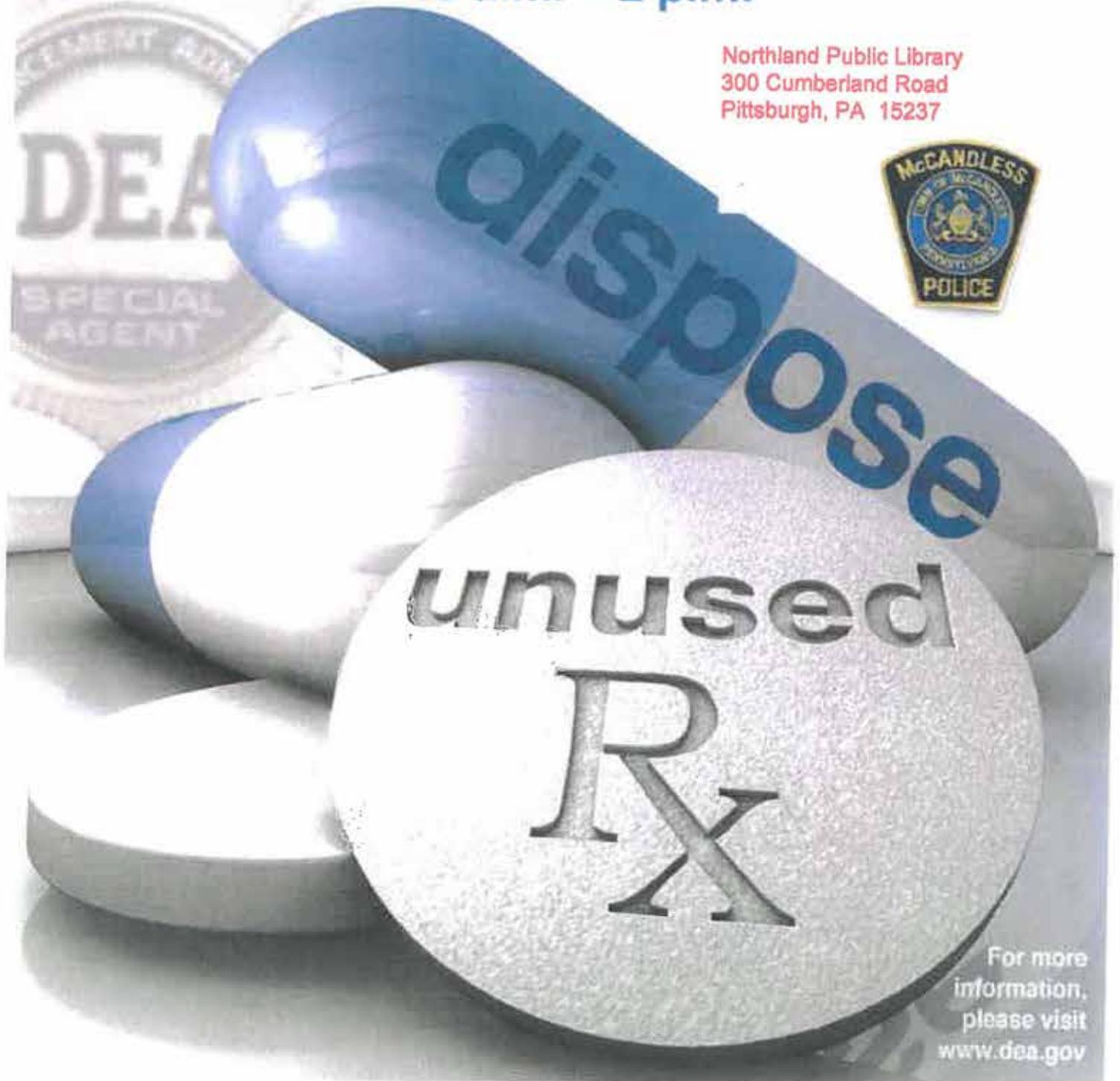
## **When You Move**

Your carts belong to the Town of McCandless and Ohio Township and are assigned to your home address. So when you move – even to another home within your current municipality – you should leave your carts for the next owner. If the carts at your new address do not suit your purposes, contact the municipality to request a change.

# Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal  
Saturday, April 30th,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Northland Public Library  
300 Cumberland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



For more information,  
please visit  
[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)

NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY'S  
SEMI-ANNUAL  
**SPRING**  
BOOK SALE

**Friday  
May 6  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Saturday  
May 7  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Sunday  
May 8  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
(\$5 Bag Sale...Northland  
provides the bag!)**

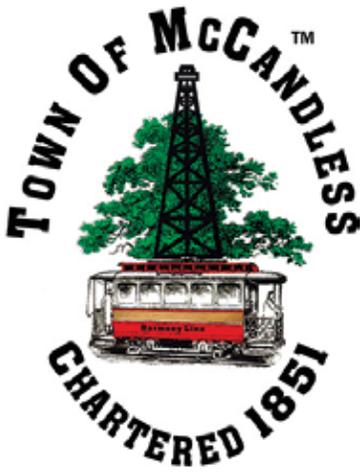
Sale is located on the lower level  
of the library.



*We* are looking for  
volunteers to assist with  
set-up, sale days and tear down,  
please visit:  
[www.northlandlibrary.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.northlandlibrary.org/volunteer-opportunities)  
for more information.



NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
300 Cumberland Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15237 | 412-366-8100 | [www.northlandlibrary.org](http://www.northlandlibrary.org)



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# STAY CONNECTED TO THE TOWN OF MCCANDLESS

[townofmccandless.org](http://townofmccandless.org)

## Submit a Question or Concern

If you have a question or concern, please contact us at 412-364-0616 or at the appropriate e-mail addresses listed below:

- [administration@townofmccandless.org](mailto:administration@townofmccandless.org)
- [policeadministration@townofmccandless.org](mailto:policeadministration@townofmccandless.org)
- [public.works@townofmccandless.org](mailto:public.works@townofmccandless.org)
- [firemarshal@townofmccandless.org](mailto:firemarshal@townofmccandless.org)
- [taxoffice@townofmccandless.org](mailto:taxoffice@townofmccandless.org)
- [zoning@townofmccandless.org](mailto:zoning@townofmccandless.org)
- [recycleit@townofmccandless.org](mailto:recycleit@townofmccandless.org)

## Sign Up For McMail

Visit our website at [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org) to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, McMail. Each month, all of the latest and greatest information will be delivered right to your inbox. The newsletter also will be available on the website under the "Publications" section.

