



McCandless Town Crier



**Deer
management
survey inside**

**Tell us what
you think!**

- UPMC sponsors “fitness court”
- Tax Office information
- Be a volunteer!

TOWN OF McCANDLESS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
9955 Grubbs Road
Wexford, PA 15090
412-364-0616
www.townofmccandless.org

TOWN OF McCANDLESS COUNCIL

Kimberly K. Zachary, Ward 1
M. Michele Sponholz, Ward 2
Ward 3 seat currently vacant
Ward 4 seat currently vacant
Angela M. Woods, Ward 5
Carolyn L. Schweiger, Ward 6
Patricia A. Cloonan, Ward 7

Robert T. Grimm, Town Manager
Trisha A. Greathouse, Assistant Town Manager
Gavin A. Robb, Town Attorney
Ryan P. Hawk, Acting Chief of Police
Mark E. Sabina, Public Works Superintendent
R. J. Susko, Planning and Development Admin.
Daniel E. Stack, Fire Marshal
Jeffrey A. Frazier, Building Inspector
Judith M. Wagner, Tax Administrator
John S. Bojarski Jr., Communications Assistant

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Highland VFD Non-Emergency
412-366-3473
Ingomar VFC Main Station Non-Emergency
412-364-3571
Ingomar VFC North Station Non-Emergency
724-935-5131
Peebles District VFC Non-Emergency
412-364-2112
McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority
412-367-5883
McCandless Township Sewer Authority (MTSA)
412-366-2700
West View Water Authority
412-931-3292
Waste Management
1-800-866-4460
Keystone Collections Group
724-978-0300

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Meeting Schedule

*Below is a general guide for when public Town meetings take place (there are some exceptions; check the calendar on the Town website for a full listing). **All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.***

- **Meetings of the Town Council:** Second and fourth Mondays of the month
- **Planning Commission Meeting:** First Tuesday of the month
- **Zoning Hearing Board Meeting:** Fourth Wednesday of the month
- **Activities Advisory Committee:** First Monday of the month
- **Environmental Advisory Committee:** Second Wednesday of the month
- **Heritage Center FDPC:** Third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.
- **Technology Advisory Committee:** First Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

A note from the Town Manager



When you've been in a career as long as I have, you sometimes begin to feel that you've seen just about everything and not much else could surprise you or challenge you. Enter the COVID-19 pandemic, and that thought essentially flew out the window for me and many of my colleagues.

For one of the few times in a career that has spanned three decades, I felt the full weight of my responsibility for our residents and staff on my shoulders. The situation constantly was evolving as was guidance based on updated information from health officials. These changes made decision-making very difficult. We finally took the approach that we'd make the best decision we could with the information we had on hand and then make adjustments as necessary. Now that we are reopened to the public, I wanted to take a bit of time and let you all know what transpired at Town Hall during that time. First and foremost, work of the Town continued as much as was possible given the limitations we were facing.

I want to express my appreciation of our Town staff and their work during the height of the pandemic. This was not an easy time for anybody and our staff was forced to find new ways to keep Town operations going with virtually no notice. In some cases, they undertook tasks that they normally didn't perform or they worked times other than their normal hours. In short, they did their part. The staff worked in ways that we never would have imagined a few months earlier and managed to shuffle between home and the office to do their best to keep people safe. I still marvel at the work we accomplished.

Now, as I look back, there have been some very good things that came out of it all. First, our department heads, school district officials and representatives of local health care entities (McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority, UPMC Passavant and AHN McCandless) met regularly (sometime multiple times per week) to ensure that we were staying on top of the situation. Second, members of our staff met with state officials several times per week to get direct information from that level of government. Third, township and borough managers from the North Hills communities communicated regularly to see how others were handling specific issues we all faced. Fourth, Assistant Manager Trisha Greathouse and I met regularly with managers and assistant managers from communities of comparable size around Allegheny and Butler counties to compare notes on how we were approaching common issues. The communication was astounding, if not sometimes overwhelming.

Along the way, we discovered new ways of doing things that will become a part of the way we do business moving forward. Meetings through the Zoom and Teams platforms will continue to be a part of how we confer with engineers, developers and even each other when needed. We are looking to find ways to have the public attend meetings in-person as well as remotely. We will be implementing software products to enhance public engagement that we didn't know existed a few months ago. We will be doing business differently in McCandless as a result of COVID-19. It may take some time and there may be some hiccups along the way, but it is our intention to make it easier to do business with the Town and to make it more convenient for residents.

In hindsight, might I have done things differently? Perhaps. Would I have preferred to not have any of us go through what we did? Absolutely. However, we discovered what we were capable of and we saw the value of the changes we'd already begun to make. Regardless of adversity and change, we will continue to do our best for the people of McCandless.

Robert T. Grimm
Town Manager

New Town Council members sworn in Jan. 6



Following this, Councilwoman Zachary was voted to be Council President, and Councilwoman Carolyn Schweiger was voted to serve as Vice President.

Additionally, Town Manager Bob Grimm was re-appointed to serve as Town Secretary, and Councilwoman Cloonan and Assistant Town Manager Trisha Greathouse were appointed to serve as Assistant Town Secretary.

Council President Zachary made the following appointments: Schweiger to serve as chair of the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Bill Kirk as chair of the Services Committee, Woods as chair of the Public Works Committee, Cloonan as chair of the Recreation Committee, Zachary as chair of the Zoning Committee and Mazur as chair of the Finance Committee.

At Town Council's Organization Meeting on January 6, council members Chuck Mazur, Angela Woods, Kim Zachary and Trish Cloonan were sworn in by District Judge William Wagner.

Mr. Mazur, Ms. Woods and Ms. Cloonan are new council members, while Ms. Zachary was re-elected.

Councilmembers Powers and Mazur step down



Powers

Councilwoman Joan Powers, who represented Ward 4, and Councilman Chuck Mazur, who represented Ward 3, announced in June that they would resign from Town Council.



Mazur

Mrs. Powers, a Republican, announced she is stepping down because she is moving out of the Town. She had served on Town Council since 2015. A retired teacher, she has had a long connection to the Town. Among other things, she serves on the Northland Public Library Authority and has been involved in the

planning of Community Day since its inception. Her husband, Bob Powers, served on Town Council from 1974 until his death in 2015.

Mr. Mazur, a Republican, stepped down on June 22 for health reasons. He was sworn-in earlier this year.

As of press time, Town Council has not selected replacements to fill out Mrs. Powers' and Mr. Mazur's terms.

Councilman Kirk steps down, Shelly Sponholz appointed

Town Council on May 18 voted to appoint M. Michele "Shelly" Sponholz to the vacant Ward 2 seat on Council.



Sponholz



Kirk

She is filling in the unexpired term of Bill Kirk, who resigned at the end of April. Mr. Kirk, who was sworn-in to Council at the beginning of 2018, stepped down to avoid any conflict of interest after accepting a job with the North Allegheny School District. This term expires at the end of 2021.

Ms. Sponholz, a 33-year resident of McCandless, retired as the senior vice president for real estate and development for Giant Eagle in 2016 after more than 20 years with the company. Prior to that, she was a regional real estate and development manager with the McDonalds Corporation.

She was sworn-in by District Judge William Wagner on June 4.

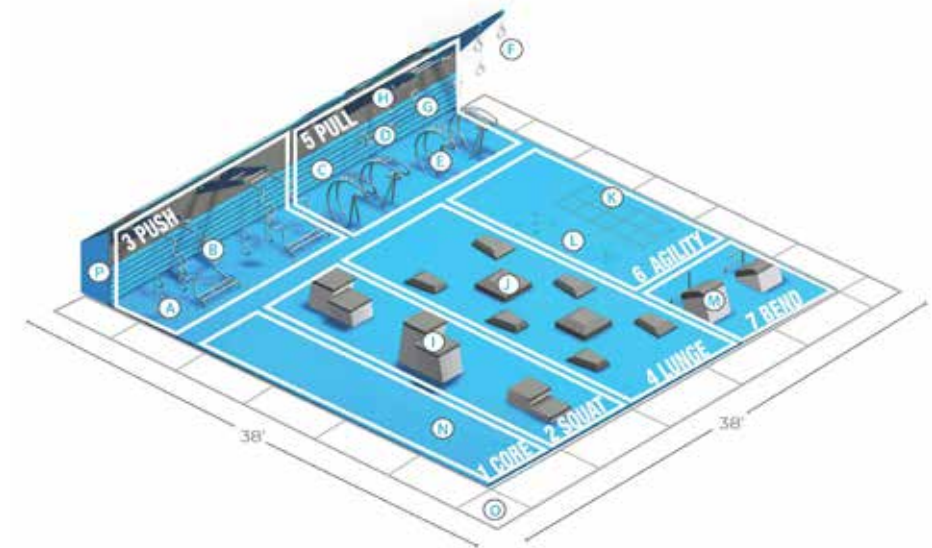
UPMC Passavant sponsors new fitness court

UPMC Passavant is a major sponsor of the new, outdoor fitness court set to open summer 2020.

The National Fitness Campaign designed the court and provided a partial grant of \$30,000. UPMC Passavant will support a significant portion of the project with the goal of making community fitness free and open to all.

"We are excited to be working with UPMC Passavant on this project," said Town Council President Kim Zachary. "We thank UPMC for its generosity and commitment to the fitness court, which will greatly benefit the local community and contribute to making fitness attainable to all."

Chronic disease management, specifically heart (cardiovascular) disease and stroke, is defined as a significant health need for North Hills communities of Allegheny County, according to UPMC's 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Exercise can be an important



measure in preventative health care for conditions like diabetes, cardiovascular disease and arthritis.

"UPMC Passavant is here to support the health and wellness of our North Hills communities," said Susan Hoolahan, president of UPMC Passavant. "Exercise is essential to a healthy lifestyle, and the new fitness court will help residents of all ages achieve their personal wellness goals."

The fitness court is located in the Town Hall Recreation Complex, adjacent to the Lorraine G. Rogers soccer fields and Ingomar Road. It is a 32-foot-by-35-foot court containing seven stations, 30 pieces of bodyweight training equipment and will have the capacity to accommodate up to 28 people at a time.

Construction on the fitness court began in late spring.

Do you own a small business?

If you do, please submit your company to the Town of McCandless Small Business Bulletin Board

To show our appreciation for small, locally-owned and operated businesses in the Town of McCandless, we invite these businesses to submit information to our Small Business Bulletin Board. Go to www.townofmccandless.org and click on **"Shop Local!"** under the Quick Links sidebar for the submission form.

Small companies make up more than 99 percent of firms in the United States, so it is crucial for us all to recognize the huge importance of our local businesses.

TALKING ABOUT 5G WITH THE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



You may have heard about 5G from the marketing campaigns of wireless carriers. They are claiming 5G is the most powerful and ultra-fast connection that will transform the future. But there is so much complicated information out there regarding 5G that we asked our new Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) to try to demystify. This will be the first in a series of informational pieces about this issue which we hope will provide you with information on why the technology is being placed in communities, how FCC regulation impacts what the Town can do and the impacts of the technology as we understand it now.

First, just a bit of background for you regarding the TAC. The Committee was established during 2019 and will work with the Council and Staff to advise on technological issues that the community may face, look for ways to bring new technologies to the Town and to provide assistance with updates and upgrades to current technology being used by the Town.

The 5G that wireless carriers such as AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon are installing is the fifth generation of communication networks (the “G” stands for “Generation”). Every decade or so, a new generation of wireless technology is developed to further enhance the capabilities of the network. AT&T, for example, already is rebranding their current network as “5G E” (Evolution), which is really still 4G and may cause some confusion. The new true standard of fifth generation is called 5G NR (“New Radio”), which encodes data more efficiently, has lower latency and can connect more devices at one time than 4G. What does that all mean? It’s true you may be able to stream Netflix quicker than ever before, but there is a lot more to it than just faster streaming and downloads.

First, we have to explain a little more about the new generation. 5G is not one specific speed or frequency, but a compilation of new technology. 5G does not require new towers on every pole throughout the town. In fact, 5G does not even require new cell towers. Carriers can begin using 5G technology on existing cellular towers and bands

to connect more devices and increase data speeds. These low-frequency 5G networks operate more efficiently than current 4G networks, generate faster speeds, and allow devices to connect over a great distance from the tower just like your current smartphone.

What about those ultra-fast speeds you’ve heard about? This requires a little further clarification. In order to achieve those multi-gigabit speeds, a higher frequency called millimeter-wave is required. These signals allow for very high-speed connections, but the signal significantly drops off faster with distance than the low-frequency 5G signals. The millimeter-waves also do not easily pass through walls of buildings, decreasing the distance they can travel. Because of these constraints, carriers would need to use many smaller, lower-power base stations rather than the fewer, more powerful cell towers currently in place. These smaller stations are already installed in some major cities in order to increase the coverage of 4G so the switch to millimeter-wave 5G would be relatively easy. Areas away from the city would rely on the low-frequency 5G from cell towers. There is also a third range of frequencies referred to as mid-band, which do not require as many base stations as millimeter-wave, but more sites than low frequency.

5G is not just about speed, either. There are a lot of other benefits to using Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency Communications (URLCC) to provide real-time communications. This has the potential for immediate critical control functions. For example, the next evolution of self-driving vehicles would be safer by allowing vehicles to communicate with other vehicles, pedestrians and smart roadways. 5G could also provide your home internet. Instead of cable or fiber optic lines run to every home, the provider could place a base station for every few houses along the street and customers would connect with wireless modems. With the number of smart home devices increasing, referred to as IoT (Internet of Things), 5G would provide the need for higher speeds with lower latency direct to your devices.

Of course, 5G is still in the early rollout phase with coverage coming to urban areas first. The 5G standard still is evolving, as well, with a new version arriving in 2020. Initially, most carriers will be touting their high-speed broadband to consumers with coverage and performance not completely consistent. Power consumption by 5G on devices will also need to improve in the years ahead to allow your smart device to remain charged at least as long as current 4G devices. Over the next few years, 5G will continue to be developed further and improve with each version, but it is going to take several more years to reach its full potential.

If you have questions on this technology, please feel free to e-mail us at Tech@townofmccandless.org.

Why I like working in local government ...

Thoughts from a newbie

R.J. Susko

Title: Planning and Development Administrator

Length of Service: 4 months

Like many local government professionals, I found myself headed towards this career before I even knew what, exactly, local governments do – I just knew what values were important to me and was looking for the best way to uphold them. There's no high school career quiz with results like "you should be a public administrator!" or "how about community development?" for all the young people who want to have a positive impact on the world around them. Thankfully, most of us make our way here with a little help from good mentors along the way.

When most of us think of government, we imagine the federal and state levels, and the ways we relate to them often feel very abstract and anonymous. But a local government impacts the lives of its residents immediately, on a day-to-day basis. One of my core values as a public official is working to make interacting with "the government" to feel personal, conversational, accessible – in other words, to feel human again.

The truth is, at the end of the day we're all people that share the common big-picture goal of seeing the communities where we live and work flourish. A successful community development strategy is a key part of that. It's what creates our favorite places to visit with family and friends, enables us to stay active and enjoy the environment around us, and connects us with others for a sense of belonging. It's what helps our homes feel like, well, home. I can't think of anything more personal than that.

I look forward to supporting the McCandless community in the years to come, building a promising future together while honoring where we've been.



POLICE PERSPECTIVE

William Grant

Title: Patrolman

Length of Service: 15 years

I have been a police officer for the Town of McCandless since 2005. Prior to working here, like many of my co-workers, I was a police officer in the City of Pittsburgh. Coming from a larger department to a smaller department I have had the unique experience of seeing the differences in the police work. With a larger department much of the police work was compartmentalized, where problems or crimes were referred to a detective or unit. With a smaller department, I'm usually able to see the problem all the way through towards its resolution. The advantage to this is that people do not get lost in different units in a large agency.

Prior to being employed here, McCandless had the reputation as a highly desired area to live. I think that still holds true today. Since being hired, I have had friends and relatives move into McCandless. In the fifteen years I have been employed here I have met many great hard-working people who are supportive of the police and are willing assist in making this a great community. Because of this I enjoy working here and do my part in maintaining the reputation of McCandless as a great to live and work.



COMMUNITY DAY 2020 CANCELED

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of McCandless regretfully is announcing the cancellation of the 20th annual Community Day event that was to be held on Saturday, September 12.

Under the Governor's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania, there are restrictions on public events in all de-escalation phases. Additionally, the Town is expecting a lower amount of revenues as a result of pandemic-related shutdowns. Because of this unpredictability, the Town felt it was best to not hold Community Day this year.

We are saddened that we have to make this announcement, but the safety of our residents and friends who traditionally attend this event must be the ultimate priority.

Here's hoping for a great Community Day in 2021!



Info from the Tax Office



Real Estate Tax Highlights

On December 16, 2019, Town Council unanimously approved the 2020 Town Budget keeping the Town millage rate of 1.236 mills (\$123.60 per \$100,000 of assessed value). The North Allegheny School District (NASD) millage is 19.1408 mills for the 2019-20 fiscal year (which runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020).

The Town of McCandless and North Allegheny School District real estate taxes are billed together and will be mailed on or about July 1. If you do not escrow and you do not receive a tax bill by July 10, 2020, please contact our office immediately at 412-364-0616 and we will send you a new bill.

All tax due dates were outlined in the 2020 Town Calendar, which was mailed to you last December, and are also posted on the Town website. Please carefully review your real estate tax bill as any extensions of these due dates resulting from the recent pandemic will be shown on your bill. If you are eligible and elect to take advantage of the installment payment plan option, you must pay your first installment amount in full by the due date stated on the bill. You will then receive two additional installment bills with the due dates for each of those payments.

Programs available that may help reduce your real estate tax taxes:

Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion

Taxpayers who have applied for and been approved for the Allegheny County Act 50 Homestead/Farmstead exclusion as of April 30th, qualify for a homestead credit on their North Allegheny School District real estate taxes. Also, these qualified homeowners may also choose to pay their Town of McCandless/North Allegheny School District real estate taxes in three installments. The 2019/20 NASD homestead credit was

\$104.63. To qualify for this exemption, you must be the owner and occupy the property as your primary residence. Contact Allegheny County or visit the Allegheny County website for the Homestead/Farmstead application and/or to check the current Homestead status of your property.

Act 77 Senior Citizen Tax Relief

Taxpayers who have applied for and been approved for the Allegheny County Act 77 Senior Citizen Tax Relief Program are also eligible for a 30% reduction in their Town assessed value. Information and applications are available through Allegheny County Real Estate for homeowners who have owned and occupied a primary residence in Allegheny County continuously for the past 10 years and who meet other age and income requirements.

PA Department of Revenue Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Pennsylvania also offers a Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program providing rebates on property tax or rent paid the previous year by income-eligible seniors and people with disabilities. Homeowners/renters must apply annually and meet certain age and income eligibility criteria. This program is handled by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. Forms and assistance are available online and at no cost from the Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, and state legislators' offices.

What is Per Capita Tax?

This is a North Allegheny School District Tax that applies to any person over the age of 21 who resides in the Town for even 1 day during the school district fiscal year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). The tax is \$10 per year. For property owners who reside at their property, this tax is a line item on your real estate tax bill that reflects the assumption that there are 2 adults residing

at your home. 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. Additional adults in each household, and renters over the age of 21 receive a separate Per Capita Tax bill. If you own rental property in the Town, you are required to provide the names of any individuals living at your property. A Landlord-Tenant Listing form can be found on the Town's website, www.townofmccandless.org or by calling 412-364-0616.

Business Privilege Tax Highlights

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. This is a Town tax, and the rate remains at 1 mill or \$1.00 per \$1,000 of gross volume of business. If you are registering a new business in the Town, please view the Town website at www.townofmccandless.org for forms and a copy of the Town's Rules and Regulations, or call us at 412-364-0616 for more information. Note that the 2020 tax filing deadline was extended from May 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. to July 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. due to the recent pandemic.

Earned Income and Net Profit Tax Highlights

Due to Covid-19, the deadline to submit your local Earned Income Tax (EIT) return to the Keystone Collections Group has been extended to July 15, 2020 consistent with State and Federal tax deadlines. Additionally, first quarter 2020 EIT payments are now also due July 15, 2020. For updated information or questions regarding local EIT, please contact Keystone Collections Group. Also, the Town is unable to accept EIT payments at Town Hall, please forward them directly to the Keystone Collections Group.



Make a difference ... Be a volunteer

Volunteers throughout the Town of McCandless enhance the quality of life for all of our residents by sharing their time and talents with our programs and events. The Activities Advisory Committee (AAC) is seeking people who are willing to volunteer and make a difference. Would you consider becoming a volunteer?

Why should I sign up to be a Town of McCandless volunteer?

- Meet and connect with new people
- Share your talents and skills with the community
- Gain experience to help advance career goals
- You can share anywhere from a few hours a year to a few hours a week
- You can share your skills in large or small groups or even behind a desk
- It's Fun AND it's Good for YOU!

If you have questions about any of the volunteer opportunities or would like to share ideas with the Activities Advisory Committee, please email Trish Cloonan (ward7@townofmccandless.org) or Sandra Bauer (sbauer@townofmccandless.org).

On the following page, there is an application for people who are interested in becoming volunteers. Cut it out, put it in an envelope, put a stamp on it and mail it to Town of McCandless, ATTN: Volunteer application, 9955 Grubbs Road, Wexford, PA 15090. Additionally, there is an online version of this application available at www.townofmccandless.org/about/webforms/make-difference-volunteer.

Prospective volunteer application

All applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disabilities or age (40 and over). All information requested on this application form is solicited for the purpose of determining abilities and skills required for the volunteer position sought by the applicant.

An electronic version is available at www.townofmccandless.org/about/webforms/make-difference-volunteer

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Preferred method of contact (phone/text/email)? _____

Are you 18 years or over? Yes ____ No ____

State Criminal History Clearance? Yes ____ No ____ Year? _____

Child Abuse History Clearance? Yes ____ No ____ Year? _____

Emergency Contact Name/Number _____

Availability: Check all that apply:

____ Weekday - Daytime

____ Weekday - Evenings

____ Weekends

Project/Activity Interests: Check all that apply:

____ Family

____ Young Children

____ Teen

____ Senior Citizens

____ Environmental

____ Fitness

____ Arts

Do you have any special skills/hobbies/training that you are willing to share with our community?

Your past volunteer experience: _____

Are you a part of a business or organization that may be interested in participating in future events?

Yes ____ No ____

Name of Group _____

Contact Name, Phone, Email _____

How did you hear about McCandless AAC? _____

May we have your position to use your image/likeness in photos that may appear in social media, press releases, town website, etc.? Yes ____ No ____

Deer management and the Town of McCandless

— a questionnaire —



The Town of McCandless is seeking feedback from residents about deer in the Town. On the back side of this page, you will find five (5) statements relating to deer population and management. Please enter a number between 1 and 5 on the line following each statement, with the number indicating:

- 1 – “I strongly disagree with this statement”
- 2 – “I somewhat disagree with this statement”
- 3 – “Neutral response”
- 4 – “I somewhat agree with this statement”
- 5 – “I strongly agree with this statement”

Participation in the questionnaire is completely voluntary. When you have completed the questionnaire, cut it out of the Town Crier, place it in an envelope, put a stamp on it, and mail it to **Town of McCandless, ATTN: Deer survey, 9955 Grubbs Road, Wexford, PA 15090.**

The deadline to return this questionnaire is **Wednesday, August 5.**

TOWN OF MCCANDLESS DEER MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE:

Respond to each statement with numbers 1 ("Strongly disagree") to 5 ("Strongly agree")

1. McCandless has an issue with deer overpopulation.

Answer: _____

2. I have experienced property damage loss or damage from deer.

Answer: _____

3. I have experienced a motor vehicle or near motor vehicle accident involving deer.

Answer: _____

4. McCandless should consider a "Do Not Feed" the deer ordinance.

Answer: _____

5. McCandless should consider a comprehensive Deer Management Program.

Answer: _____

Add any additional comments you may have in the space below.

Your name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Autism Awareness Stickers for homes and vehicles



The McCandless Police Department, McCandless Fire and Rescue Service, and the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority have produced an autism awareness sticker to alert emergency responders of the presence of a person with autism.

The sticker should be placed on the lower right side of a vehicle's back window and/or on the front door of a residence.

In order to get one of these stickers, you must fill out the **Town Resident Information Program (TRIP) form** (available at www.townofmccandless.org/police-department) and turn it in at the McCandless Police Department (9955 Grubbs Road, on the lower level). For more information, contact the department at 412-369-7992 or by e-mail at policeadministration@townofmccandless.org.

Town Council approves comprehensive plan



Town Council on Monday, August 26, 2019 voted to adopt "A McCandless Conversation" — the Town's new and updated Comprehensive Plan.

Municipalities update their comprehensive plans roughly every 10 years. The Town put

together a steering committee at the tail end of 2017 to work with consultant Pashek+MTR in the preparation of this crucial document. This plan is rooted in the notion that change happens through discussion, conversation and working together toward common goals.

For more information (and access to the full plan), check out www.townofmccandless.org/government/pages/implementable-comprehensive-plan.

COVID-19 and Town parks

Playgrounds, tennis courts and basketball courts are open under a "Use at Your Own Risk" advisory. Visitors should practice social distancing as much as possible.

The McCandless/Northern Allegheny Heritage Center reopened on June 24. A maximum of 10 visitors at a time are permitted, and all visitors and volunteers must wear a mask if physically able.

The Department of Public Works began to issue softball and soccer permits for Devlin, Wall, and Vestal Parks and is recommending the leagues follow the CDC guidelines and the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society Reopening Guidelines based on the Process to Reopen Pennsylvania.

Public Works has not begun to issue Pavilion Permits at this time. Use of the pavilions may occur on a "first-come, first-served" basis beginning immediately. The Town cannot guarantee that parks and recreation facilities will be sanitized during first-come first-served use. We ask residents to practice good hand hygiene, and encourage visitors to disinfect surfaces before using them.

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER



The Town of McCandless has achieved Gold status in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. This certification is the culmination of more than two years of discussion and assessment, and we are proud to announce this. Work will continue in order to maintain and grow on this achievement.

The Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification, managed by the Pennsylvania Municipal League in partnership with Sustainable Pittsburgh, is designed for municipalities that are working to save money, conserve resources, and serve vibrant communities.

For more info, visit www.townofmccandless.org/about/pages/sustainability-mccandless.

But, just because we've received our certification doesn't mean that work is done. Early in 2020, University of Pittsburgh students Austin Jepsy, Erin Moran, Justin Peters and Sam Winderman conducted an energy efficiency study of Town Hall. In addition to a full report and project video, the students submitted the following letter to the public:

I'm writing on behalf of a team of four Pitt students completing our "cap-stone" class for a sustainability certificate. We've partnered with McCandless representatives to work towards the implementation of collective environmental goals. The Town of McCandless currently receives gold status on the PA Sustainable Communities Certificate with an upgrade to platinum considered attainable in the near future. Our team is excited to collaborate with the citizens, schools, and civic organizations in pursuit of those goals. Our goals are very simple; we want a clean, safe, and sustainable future.

The Town has identified reducing the energy expenditure of their town hall building as one of their main concerns of our project. For the past several months, we've been completing energy audits, using IR cameras, looking at building envelope models, discussing the feasibility of 19 renewable energy, and interviewing professionals for expertise. While all of these are practical interventions, it fails to fully address the root of the issue. There is a large place in sustainability for technological solutions, but it mustn't be the only. We would be wrong to think that we can innovate our way out of a climate calamity because, truthfully, we cannot solve these issues with the

same thinking that created them. The Town has taken on our help not only to reduce their footprint, but to signal their commitment to environmental advocacy in McCandless. They want this project to be a benchmark that inspires all of you to rethink your relationship with nature.

A lot of people believe that environmental action only looks like putting solar panels on your rooftop – or driving an electric car, and while these are great projects, they're also financially exclusive. There are countless other projects you can take on that will be both friendly to the environment, and your wallet. There is no face, no archetype to environmental advocacy. You are not born an environmentalist, and there's certainly no frat party list keeping you from becoming one. Environmentalism has no face largely because those who stand to suffer the most severe effects of global warming have not yet been born. But this doesn't mean we can pretend all is well, and go about business as usual. We are on the brink of a climate crisis – which will have deep social, economic, and environmental implications throughout the world. Currently, we are beginning to see the consequences, and while milder winters might not seem like a terrible thing in Pittsburgh, it also shows

through wildfires in Australia and the Amazon, hurricanes devastating coastal cities, and island nations succumbing to rising sea levels. For us it might be an inconvenience, but to others it's their livelihoods.

Every decision you make, no matter how small or big, has an environmental impact. It can manifest itself in things as simple as what did you eat for lunch or how did you get to work. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that individual actions are meaningless in the face of a global crisis, and while what you eat for lunch may not change the world – it will change you. And as the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." We have divorced ourselves from the land – we see it for the wealth it can create, rather than the intrinsic wealth it already has. It's important to remember that the environment is not our surroundings – it's our substance. It's the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. We cannot keep distancing ourselves from the environment, because it has given us everything, but it also has the ability to take it all away.

CONTACT SHEET

Town Council

Kimberly K. Zachary – Ward 1, President
9967 Grubbs Road, Wexford, PA 15090
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412-600-6415

M. Michele “Shelly” Sponholz – Ward 2
10207 Country Manor Lane, Wexford, PA 15090
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724-799-5228

Ward 3 seat currently vacant

Ward 4 seat currently vacant

Angela M. Woods – Ward 5
533 Guenevere Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
ward5@townofmccandless.org
724-799-5620

Carolyn L. Schweiger – Ward 6, Vice Pres.
642 Perrymont Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
ward6@townofmccandless.org
724-316-7998

Patricia A. Cloonan – Ward 7
1916 Lake Marshall Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044
ward7@townofmccandless.org
412-213-8680

Town Hall Contacts

Main Number

412-364-0616
412-364-5066 (fax)

Extension list

Administration Ext. 0
Building/Fire Marshal Ext. 128
Heritage Center Ext. 118
Manager’s Office Ext. 120
Planning and Zoning Ext. 129
Public Works Ext. 184
Trash and Recycling Ext. 110
Tax Office Ext. 127

Police Administration

412-369-7992

*(Please note, if you have an emergency or require the response of an officer, you **MUST** call 911)*

E-mail addresses

administration@townofmccandless.org

For general inquiries

eac@townofmccandless.org

For the Environmental Advisory Committee

firemarshal@townofmccandless.org

Questions for the Fire Marshal

heritagecenter@townofmccandless.org

For McCandless/Northern Allegheny Heritage Center

ms4@townofmccandless.org

For Municipal Separate Storm Sewer questions

policeadministration@townofmccandless.org

For non-emergency Police questions

public.works@townofmccandless.org

For Public Works questions (i.e., plowing, paving, etc)

recycleit@townofmccandless.org

For residential recycling questions

taxoffice@townofmccandless.org

For tax-related questions

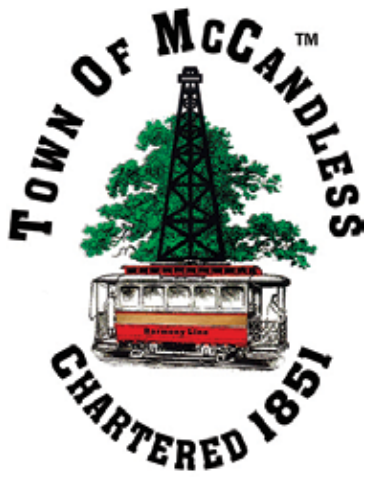
zoning@townofmccandless.org

For building and zoning questions

Web: www.townofmccandless.org

Town Hall Hours (Mon-Fri, except holidays)

Administration/Tax Office 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Building/Zoning/Fire Marshal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Public Works 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Police Administration 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(NOTE: An officer can be reached 24 hours a day)



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THE SIX SIDES OF STAYING INFORMED



The Town's website:
www.townofmccandless.org
— Features news, events, meeting agendas, minutes, helpful links, as well as a “community calendar”



The Town's Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/townofmccandless

The Police Dept. Facebook:
www.facebook.com/McCandlessPoliceDepartment



All Town Council meetings (as well as other informational videos) are available on the Town's YouTube channel. This can be found under the “Quick Links” sidebar on the home page of the Town website.



The Town Crier newsletter/magazine comes to you directly by mail in April and August, and also is available on the Town's website (some back issues are available, too)



McMail™ (e-newsletter) comes out once per month. News and events will be sent directly to your inbox! Sign up on the Town's website (look for the sign-up under the “Quick Links” sidebar of the home page).



The Savvy Citizen mobile app: Available at <https://savvycitizenapp.com> — Available for Apple and Android smartphones, as well as regular computer users. Get news and events quickly