



# McCandless Town Crier



Thank you to Dave Hochendoner for the photo

## 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  
William C. Kirk, Ward 2  
Steven E. Mertz, Ward 3  
Joan D. Powers, Ward 4  
Gregory W. Walkauskas, Ward 5  
Carolyn L. Schweiger, Ward 6  
William J. McKim, Ward 7

Robert T. Grimm, Town Manager  
Trisha Greathouse, Assistant Town Manager  
Gavin A. Robb, Town Attorney  
David R. DiSanti Sr., Chief of Police  
Mark E. Sabina, Public Works Superintendent  
Bruce G. Betty, Zoning Officer  
Daniel E. Stack, Fire Marshal  
Jeffrey A. Frazier, Building Inspector  
Judith M. Wagner, Tax Administrator  
John S. Bojarski, 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

# Table of Contents

A Note from the Town Manager .....	1
Heritage Center .....	2
Roadside Cleanup and Leaf Pickup .....	3
Community Day .....	4
Why I Like Working in Local Government .....	5
What's New in Town News .....	6
The State of Recycling .....	7
Tax Information .....	8 and 9
Police Notes and tree planting .....	10
Stormwater Updates .....	11
On the Fire Side .....	12
Contact Sheet .....	13
Six Sides of Staying Informed .....	Back cover

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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.*

- **Council's Committee Meetings:** Second Monday of the month
- **Council's Agenda Review Meeting:** Third Monday of the month
- **Council's Regular Business Meeting:** Fourth Monday of the month
- **Planning Commission Meeting:** First Tuesday of the month
- **Zoning Hearing Board Meeting:** Fourth Wednesday 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



It's hard to believe that it has been 4 months since I started working as the Town Manager. It has been a whirlwind in many ways, getting to know the Council members, staff and as many of the committee members as time has allowed thus far. There are still folks to meet and I will continue to do just that. I am continuing to get out into the Town and learn the neighborhoods.

While there are differences in how things are done here from my former position, one thing remains constant — we are here to serve you to the best of our ability. Day in and day out, there are challenges that we face. Whether it is storm damage to issues with our traffic signals, the employees of the

Town go out into the streets to work for you. The combined efforts of our public works crew, police department and administrative staff along with our volunteer firefighters strive to provide a safe community for you to live, work and travel in. That will continue to be our goal moving forward.

When I started, Community Day seemed like such a long way away and now it is right around the corner. My wife and I are looking forward to being a part of the day and being with you at this fun event. It is a time to meet up with old friends and get to know other residents of the community as well as see a bit of what McCandless has to offer. Don't miss the fun, the food and the music. From attending the planning meetings, it sounds as if there will be plenty to do.

Please enjoy the good weather that the late summer and fall have to offer whether you are in one of our parks or shopping areas. Please take in all the McCandless has to offer.

*Bob Grimm started as Town Manager in April. He replaced Toby Cordek, who retired this year after nearly 35 years as manager. Before coming here, Bob was the manager at North Fayette Township for 20 years. He also worked at Beaver Falls, Bellevue, Oil City and Fairmount, W.Va. If you see him out and about, offer him a warm welcome.*

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND U.S., STATE, COUNTY LEGISLATOR INFO

**Northland Public Library**  
300 Cumberland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-8100  
[www.northlandlibrary.org](http://www.northlandlibrary.org)

**North Hills Community Outreach**  
1975 Ferguson Road  
Allison Park, PA 15101  
412-487-6317  
<https://nhco.org>

**North Allegheny School District**  
200 Hillvue Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-2100  
[www.northallegheny.org](http://www.northallegheny.org)

**CCAC North Campus**  
8701 Perry Highway  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-366-7000  
[www.ccac.edu/North\\_Campus](http://www.ccac.edu/North_Campus)

**McCandless Community Association**  
P.O. Box 376  
Ingomar, PA 15127  
724-759-6080  
[www.mccandlesscommunityassociation.org](http://www.mccandlesscommunityassociation.org)

**U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb**  
504 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
412-344-5583  
<https://lamb.house.gov>

**State Rep. Mike Turzai**  
125 Hillvue Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-369-2230  
[www.repturzai.com](http://www.repturzai.com)

**State Sen. Lindsay Williams**  
5000 McKnight Road, Suite 405  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-364-0469  
[www.senatorlindseywilliams.com](http://www.senatorlindseywilliams.com)

**County Councilwoman Cindy Kirk**  
436 Grant Street, Room 119  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-350-6490  
<https://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/CouncilRep.asp?dist=2>

# The McCandless/Northern Allegheny Heritage Center

## Hours of Operation

The Center's operating hours are:

Wednesday: 10 am to 4 pm

Thursday: 10 am to 4 pm

Friday: 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday: 1 pm to 4 pm

Sunday: 1 pm to 4 pm

*Office hours available by appointment*



## Upcoming Events

Community Day (September 14) — The Center will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Community Day. To remember local historian Joe Bullick (who passed away in May), we will feature pottery demonstrations by his friend, Harry Price, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. A ceremony to honor Joe will take place at 3 p.m. Irish music will play afterwards. A memory book will be available for guests to sign and leave stories about Joe.

Nike Missile Site (September 19 at 7 p.m.) — Did you know that a bunker hidden in the woods near Hosack Elementary School once served as the location for “the last line of defense” against a Soviet aerial attack? Learn more about this fascinating history at this presentation.

The Notorious North Hills (October 17 at 7 p.m.) — Have you heard about the Biddle Boys run through Perrysville following their daring prison escape? What about the strange rampage of Toots the Bear or the myths about what allegedly happens on Blue Mist Road? Find out at this 21-and-over fundraising event to be held at the Rose Barn in North Park (located on Pearce Mill Road). Food and adult beverages will be served. Ticket price is \$25. Contact [heritagecenter@townofmccandless.org](mailto:heritagecenter@townofmccandless.org) or 412-364-0616 Ext. 118 for more information.



“Down the Drain” Art Installation (November 15-23) — The first of two found-object installations from artist Meg Dooley explores how life, though rich and complex, ultimately ends, “leaving only traces.” An opening reception will be held November 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.. Meg will speak on the exhibit on November 16 at 2 p.m. The exhibit will run through November 23.



# The Town of McCandless WANTS YOU

## Roadside cleanup Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, as well as long sleeves and long pants. Child volunteers must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should meet at Town Hall (9955 Grubbs Road) by 9:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served before everyone breaks out.



If you are interested in volunteering and helping out that day, please contact 412-364-0616 Ext. 118 or [eac@townofmccandless.org](mailto:eac@townofmccandless.org).

## LEAF AND YARD WASTE PICKUP REMINDER

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

This year's Town leaf pickup begins Monday, October 21, and continues through Wednesday, November 27. Additionally, yard waste collection will continue through Friday, December 6.

A detailed postcard reminder will be mailed in fall.

**THE 19TH ANNUAL TOWN OF MCCANDLESS ...**

# **COMMUNITY DAY**



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**  
**NOON TO 9 PM**

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**FIREWORKS @ 9 PM**

**PARADE AT NOON @**  
**BLAZIER/INGOMAR**

*Food*

*Rides*

*Games*

**FREE STUFF FOR KIDS !!!**

**FREE ACTIVITIES FROM LOWES  
AND NORTHLAND LIBRARY**

**FACE PAINTERS FROM 3 TO 5 PM**

**BALLOON ARTIST FROM 4 TO 6 PM**

**AND, THE FAMOUS JUNIOR  
FIREFIGHTER COMBAT  
CHALLENGE FROM 2 TO 8 PM**

**PERFORMING ACTS INCLUDE:**

**CHRIS JAMISON OF  
TV'S "THE VOICE"  
AT 7 PM**



**ALLEGHENY BRASS BAND  
AT 8:30 PM**

**KARDAZ AT 2 PM**

**PLUS MORE MUSIC AND LOCAL  
DANCE ACTS!**

*Don't miss  
the fun!*



# Why I like working in local government ...

## Thoughts from a newbie

### Christine Billmann

*Title:* Tax Associate

*Length of Service:* 1 year



I have been fortunate to work in McCandless Town Hall in the Real Estate Tax Department for the past year. Because I also live in the North Hills area, I am really enjoying the opportunity to connect with and do my part in servicing a neighboring community. It has been a pleasure to be able to meet some of the residents, and I very much appreciate the opportunity to work with all of you.

Though my primary responsibilities relate to real estate taxes, my days are very diverse. Along with my fellow Town Hall co-workers, we take part in answering many resident questions, assisting in informing them about local resources, addressing general concerns, and taking part in community events. The staff here at Town Hall all share a passion for helping our residents in any way that we can, and are always working to do our best for our neighbors.

I have been very impressed with the town events and activities that are offered here in McCandless, which has resulted in such a positive sense of community. I have also developed an appreciation for the wonderful communications offered to residents, such as the community calendar, Town Crier Magazine, and the [townofmccandless.org](http://townofmccandless.org) website.

I look forward to many years to come working in this flourishing town.

## INTERN INFERENCES

### Macy Holloway

*Title:* Summer intern

*Length of Service:* 3 months



When I was first hired to begin my internship in McCandless, I wasn't sure quite what to expect. I've never worked in local government before, so from an outsider's perspective I imagined it somewhere between dull, cubicle shenanigans like on "The Office" or endless and ridiculous citizen activism like on "Parks and Recreation." I've found it actually has the best of both worlds.

The McCandless municipal building is filled with people dedicated to their work and to the people they serve. There

## POLICE PERSPECTIVE

### David Martin Jr.

*Title:* Patrolman

*Length of Service:* 18 years



I have been in law enforcement for the past 25 years, starting with the Pittsburgh Police. Working in the Hill District for seven years, I gained a lot of experience due to the high volume and wide variety of calls. But I knew something was missing working in such a large department. I felt — with my vast experience, knowledge and personality — I could excel in a smaller department. I grew up in Mercer and have a love for the intimacy of smaller communities. I felt that the Town of McCandless would be a perfect fit.

Once I started with the Town, I quickly learned that I had made the best decision of my career. The people of this community are wonderful and I have come to know many on both a professional and personal level. The highlight of my career has been becoming a firearms instructor and rangemaster for our department. I am also very proud of my accomplishment of, after a police supervisory exam, I was a finalist for a sergeant position within the department.

I believe in this community. I also believe that this community believes in us and respects the difficult job that we have to do each and every day. I trust in Chief DiSanti's vision to make this the best police department that we can be. I will forever be grateful to serve for a local government who treats its police department with dignity and respect.

are folks here that've been working for local government as long as I've been alive and some that just started, each as passionate about public service as the next.

I'm a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh and I've already decided to dedicate my life to public service, so it's absolutely thrilling to be around a staff that inspire me in simple ways every single day. When people come in with concerns however small or large, they're given personal attention and care because McCandless is a community that has the time and values its residents.

It was important to me to have a gratifying experience this summer, indicative of what a life as a public servant would be like, and McCandless gave me the perfect opportunity.



# WHAT'S NEW IN TOWN NEWS?

## Assistant Manager hired



Town Council on May 20 ratified the Town Manager's appointment of Trisha Greathouse to serve as the Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director.

She has a background as an auditor and worked in finance/accounting in the private sector. For the past 12 years, she has worked for the Town of Bluffton, S.C., most recently as the Director of Finance and Administration.

"We look forward to Trisha being a valuable member of our staff. I feel as people get to know her, they will see what an outgoing and warm person she is," said Town Manager Bob Grimm.

She started June 17.

Trisha replaced Rege Ebner, who started as assistant manager in 1999 and left last fall to become the borough manager at Franklin Park.

## Tech and activities committees created

Town Council on April 22, 2019 unanimously approved the formation of the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC), to help develop and recommend policies and programs to Town Council to preserve and enhance aspects of the character of the Town of McCandless and to address technology issues in the Town.

The TAC consists of five members who are Town residents appointed by Town Council serving staggered four-year terms.

Members of the TAC (appointed by Town Council on June 24) are:

- Joseph Beirele
- André Lessa
- Marcy Pearson
- Craig Schenker
- Joseph Seidel

On July 22, Town Council unanimously approved the creation of the Activities Advisory Committee (AAC).

The AAC was created with the goal of providing opportunities for community engagement (including, but not limited to, active recreation, passive recreation, the arts, music, educational and social gatherings) to promote health and welfare of the residents of McCandless thereby enhancing the quality of life for the residents, those working in the Town and those visiting. These opportunities will assist in creating an environment to attract potential residents, retains existing residents and to entice businesses to move into the Town.

Town Council will appoint members to the AAC in September.

The formation of both committees came out of the discussions related to the the Town's Implementable Comprehensive Plan.

## QUICK QUTS

Want to send a Code Enforcement complaint, traffic complaint or Public Works service request? Check out [www.townofmccandless.org/home/webforms/contact-us](http://www.townofmccandless.org/home/webforms/contact-us) to find links to forms where you can submit these requests online.

Are you a resident or non-profit and want to submit an event to be placed on the Town calendar through Savvy Citizen? Go to [www.townofmccandless.org/resident-info/pages/community-calendar](http://www.townofmccandless.org/resident-info/pages/community-calendar) to learn more about this.

Are you a locally-owned business and want to appear on our Small Business Bulletin Board? Go to [www.townofmccandless.org/resident-info/pages/small-business-bulletin-board-0](http://www.townofmccandless.org/resident-info/pages/small-business-bulletin-board-0) to submit your business.



# The state of recycling

A lot has been said about the state of recycling and the recycling industry over the past two years.

Some communities in the Pittsburgh area (and nationwide) have greatly reduced the amount of items that are being accepted for recycling — eliminating products such as all plastics except for #1 and #2, and glass.

This is due not to indifference to the environment, but out of necessity.

When single-stream recycling (as in, all recyclable materials go in the same bin and are separated at the processing plant) first came about roughly 20 years ago, the processing and recovery plants needed vast quantities of items to make money to operate. This led to catchphrases such as “When in doubt, recycle it” being popular. It also has led to what some term “wishcycling” — throwing stuff out in recycling bins hoping that they are recyclable.

In large part due to this, nearly **25 percent** of items in recycling containers in the region is made up of what the industry calls “contamination” or “residue” — items that do not belong in the recycling stream (plastic bags, pizza boxes, lower-quality plastics, items contaminated with food or grease). The presence of this contamination effectively has led to the bottom dropping out of the recycling industry. Stories abound of buyers forcing processors to take back contaminated materials (at the processor’s expense) and of loads of recyclables going to the landfill due to excess residue.

China (who previously bought large amounts of recyclables from U.S. processors) has banned the import of different types of recyclable materials and has introduced stringent contamination standards. Meanwhile, the Chinese have been working hard to increase the amount of recyclables they recover domestically — suggesting that these policies will be long-term.

Going along with this, the cost of processing recyclables is going up (since plants are hiring new employees and slowing down their lines in an effort to reduce contamination), the cost of transporting is going up (there are fewer people interested in being commercial drivers, and a new federal Electronic Logging Device law has lowered the number hours drivers are driving) and the cost of shipping is going up (shipping to China was inexpensive because the U.S. imports so much stuff from there and it was simple to send recovered commodities

back on boats returning to China).

Additionally, the value of recovered materials has helped lead to these changes.

At single-stream processing plants, glass is separated out from other materials and crushed up along with any labels on the glass. The value of this type of glass is very low. Plastics #3 through #7 are hard to process and market. On the other hand, plastics #1 and #2 are amongst the most valuable recovered materials (along with aluminum/tin cans).

Long-story-short, the remaining markets for recovered recyclables are looking for high-quality materials that they actually can use.

**Here in McCandless, Waste Management will continue to accept plastics #3, 4, 5, and 7, as well as glass for the foreseeable future.** Although there may be concerns about these items being separated at the recycling plant and sent to a landfill, Waste Management has assured us that they are taking the effort to properly market these difficult-to-market items (often at their financial loss) so as to honor the contract the Town has with them. The Town’s contract with Waste Management **expires December 31, 2021**. If the market does not change by then, it is almost a certainty that a new contract with a waste hauler (whether Waste Management or not) will eliminate these items from the recycling program.

Although our recycling program is not changing right now, residents can assist in reducing contamination as much as possible and help the market.

From our end, we can work to make sure we are providing materials — clean and dry bottles, jugs, cans and cardboard (preferably flattened and compacted, especially now that so many people frequently are ordering items online) — that easily can be processed and put to market.

As always, items such as food-contaminated cardboard (i.e., pizza boxes), Styrofoam and plastic bags should not be disposed of in recycling bins or recycling dumpsters.



# Info on 2019 real estate taxes

The Town real estate tax rate for the 2019 calendar year is 1.236 mills (\$123.60 per \$100,000 of assessed value), the same rate as in 2018 and the second lowest tax rate in Allegheny County.

The North Allegheny School District tax rate for the 2019-20 fiscal year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) is 19.1408 mills (\$1,914.08 per \$100,000 of assessed value), an increase of 3.7% over the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The combined Town/NASD tax bills were mailed July 1, 2019, with the following deadlines:

- **September 3, 2019** to take advantage of the 2% discount. Payment must be delivered in person by 5 pm or post-marked by the US Postal Service by this date to be considered timely.
- **November 1, 2019** to avoid the 10% penalty. The same terms as above apply regarding receipt of payment.
- **December 31, 2019** to avoid additional collection fees and the possibility of a lien being placed against the property.

If you have been approved by Allegheny County for an Act 77

Senior Citizen Abatement, the 30% reduction in the assessed value of your Town only taxes has been calculated in your bill.

If you were approved by Allegheny County for an Act 1 Homestead Exclusion as of April 30, 2019, then the reduction in the assessed value of your NASD only taxes appears as a separate line item on your bill.

## Installment Payment Plan –

If you have qualified for the Homestead Exclusion as of April 30, 2019, then you are also eligible to take advantage of the 3-payment installment plan offered by both the Town and NASD. Your tax bill will show the amount and due date of the first installment. Payment must be made subject to the same terms as above regarding receipt of payment. If your first payment is made in a timely manner, you will receive 2 additional bills with the amounts and due dates for your second and third payments. If your second or third installment payment is made after the deadline, subject to the same payment terms as above, you will be charged a 10% penalty. In addition, if either the second or third payment is more than 10 days late, or both payments

are late for any period, you will be disqualified from the Installment Payment Plan for 2020.

Payment of delinquent real estate taxes – If your taxes are not paid in full by December 31, 2019, you may be subject to a lien against your property. In addition, we are required to send your delinquent NASD taxes to their delinquent collector, Maiello, Brungo and Maiello, for collection. Your delinquent Town taxes will continue to be due and payable to the Town.

If you do not escrow your taxes and have not yet received a 2019 tax bill, please contact our office at 412-364-0616. In addition, if the billing address for your real estate tax bill changed after January 1 of this year, you need to notify us immediately. Allegheny County provides us with a billing address as of January 1, but they do not provide us with updates if there is a change after this date. Your billing address may change because you paid off your mortgage and no longer have your taxes escrowed, your mortgage was sold and you have a new escrow agent, or you are the owner but not the occupant of a property and you move to a new address.

# **OTHER TAX HIGHLIGHTS**

## **PER CAPITA TAX**

- This is an NASD tax, and the rate remains at \$10 per year.
- The tax applies to any person over the age of 21 who resided in the Town for even 1 day during the school district fiscal year (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020).
- For property owners who reside at their property, there 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 contacted us previously in writing to notify us that there is only 1 adult residing at your home, then your real estate tax bill will reflect only 1 adult.
- Additional adults in each household, and renters over the age of 21, receive a separate bill for their per capita tax. If you happen to receive a bill and are not over the age of 21, please note your date of birth on your bill and return it to us.
- If you own a rental property, you are required to provide the Town with 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](http://www.townofmccandless.org).

## **EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS TAX**

- The Town and NASD tax rates for 2019 remained at 0.5% each.
- Your employer is required by law to withhold this tax on your behalf and forward it to the collector appointed by the Town and NASD. If you are self-employed and have earned income or net profits greater than \$12,000, you must make quarterly payments yourself.
- The appointed collector for the Town and NASD continues to be Keystone Collections Group. Their contact information is as follows:
  - o 546 Wendel Road, Irwin, PA 15642
  - o 724-978-0300
  - o [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com)
- Please direct any questions regarding this tax to Keystone Collections Group.

## **LOCAL SERVICES TAX**

- This is a Town tax, and the rate remains at \$52 per year (\$1 per week for each week you work in the Town).
- Your employer is required by law to withhold this tax on your behalf on a pro-rata basis and forward it to the collector appointed by the Town. Self-employed individuals are required to pay the tax in quarterly installments.
- The appointed collector for the Town continues to be Keystone Collections Group.

## **BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX**

- This is a Town tax, and the rate remains at 1 mill (\$1.00 per \$1,000 gross volume of business).
- The tax applies to anyone who has a business located in the Town, whether at your home or at a specific commercial location.
- New businesses must register with the Town by completing a Business Profile form. This form, as well as the Business Privilege Tax Rules and Regulations, can be found on the Town's website, [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org).

## **TAX PAYMENT DROP BOX**

For your convenience, there is a drop box located in a pillar outside the main entrance to Town Hall. This drop box is emptied on a daily basis. You can utilize this drop box at any time. Payments made on a due date for any tax must be placed in the drop box prior to 5 pm on that date. Town staff empties the drop box at that time, and any payments received after that time are considered late.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

You can find additional information on the above taxes at:

- [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org) or 412-364-0616
- [www.keystonecollects.com](http://www.keystonecollects.com) or 724-978-0300
- [www.dced.pa.gov](http://www.dced.pa.gov)



# Police Chief's Corner



Every morning and at the end of the day, I say a prayer and give thanks for the many blessings of the day. I begin each day with the hope that every interaction I have is a lasting one with the citizens I serve.

I feel it is easy being in this town. I have met so many wonderful people during my 40+ year career in law enforcement and over 30 years here in this Town. I consider it a blessing in my day to interact with as many people as I can. I can't count the number of times I have had people thank me for my service and it truly touches my heart. I convey to my officers that it is a privilege to serve here and it is easy to be motivated and go above and beyond for this community because everyone is genuinely appreciative of our service. My happiest times are when I am out and about getting to know all of you.

One of the many programs we offer is educating our citizens to prevent themselves and their venues from harm. Sgt. Egli and I present programs

to identify and prepare members of the community to respond and react in critical incidents and keep themselves and those around them safe. Recently, I attended a safety and security training seminar on protection of faith venues. I was very pleased to see many of our community members attending and focused on keeping their venues as safe as possible.

Any organization or business in Town may contact us to schedule a safety and security training program. We can assist you in identifying issues, and developing and implementing an action plan. As your police chief, I put the citizens of this community first — which I find very easy to do.

Thank you for your continued support.

My best,  
Chief DiSanti

## Care to plant a tree?

The Town of McCandless is in the midst of its **tree planting program** to encourage residents and businesses to report the planting of trees on their property.

This will allow for more tree canopy cover in the Town, helping to reduce stormwater runoff (this also reduces stormwater pollution because trees take up nutrients and pollutants through their root systems).

The Town will tabulate the number of trees planted within a 5-year period (starting in March 2018) to determine how much sediment has been removed from its stormwater (with a little help from the state DEP guidelines).

If you have planted a tree, please send an e-mail to [ms4@townofmccandless.org](mailto:ms4@townofmccandless.org) to report your planting (be sure to include your address and the date you planted the tree).



# Stormwater/Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) News

*Below is an ongoing status of the projects on which we are working to improve stormwater management to the Highland Valley watershed (headwaters of Lowries Run):*

**Streambank Restoration Project** — The project was completed, however some additional damage occurred during the July 11 storm event. PVE assessed the stream in July, updated photos and sent the info back to the contractor. The contractor called July 12 to discuss the last plan PVE sent, and discussed the additional repairs. The contractor said he should be able to get adjusted numbers to me quickly and then return to the site in 1 to 2 weeks to do the work if we accept the his bid.

**Harmony Drive Stormwater Control System** — PVE is preparing easements for check dams which will bring stormwater from Harmony Drive to Highland Road in a much more controlled fashion. This work will link the Harmony Drive stormwater collection system upstream and the Highland Road storm sewer

system downstream that will run parallel to Allegheny County's Highland Road

**Highland Road Storm Sewer** — An agreement between Allegheny County and the Town stipulating responsibilities of each party for this project now has been approved and signed by the county. The start date for this project was August 15.

**Harmony Drive Drainage** — In-street retention work and drainage pipe installation are complete. Paving was completed in July.

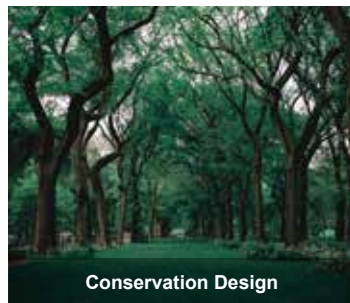
**Wall Park Drainage (and other areas)** — The staff, PVE and the Town Attorney are working with the developer on a public/private partnership agreement to undertake the work along Wall Park, on Highland Road and in the Public Works area of Town Hall. We also will be working to firm up the scope of work for these projects in an effort to keep them moving forward.

## LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

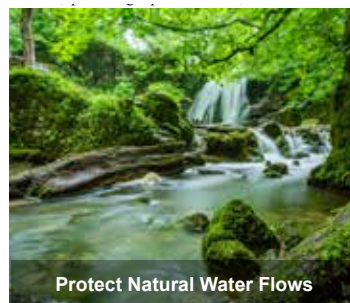
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Source information for this article  
provided with permission by the EPA

# ON THE FIRE SIDE

Since the beginning of the year, the McCandless Fire and Rescue Service has been publishing a monthly article titled “On the Fire Side,” detailing information about the Town’s three fire companies, the volunteers that staff them and other helpful facts. The article is published in McMail, Facebook and the Town website. Below is a recent article about how crucial volunteers are:



Hello neighbors — I hope you and yours are doing well!

In this edition of the On the Fire Side, I want to focus on the importance of the value of our volunteer firefighters that serve your community.

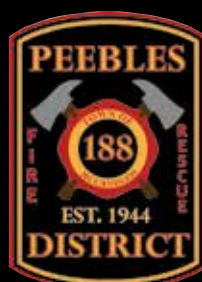
You may of seen signs pop up throughout the community in an effort to recruit more volunteers — both firefighters as well as non-firefighters.

Some residents of the Town are unaware that your fire and rescue service is made up of a 100% volunteer department. These dedicated men and women give hundreds of hours every year protecting our properties and protecting our neighbor’s lives answering the 700-plus calls for service each year as well as the ongoing and continuous training to keep our skills sharp and learn the most up to date skills of the trade.

We have a very solid corps of firefighters and non-firefighters — but our numbers of active volunteers have started to dwindle.

You may have heard of the large fire that occurred at the Durham Court Apartments on April 10, 2019. That incident required a large amount of manpower to control the large blaze and required the assistance of 22 outside fire companies from area municipalities. The fire was successfully extinguished and no injuries occurred. But the message that needs to be relayed is that there is a need for more dedicated volunteers to help serve your neighbors and the community.

**If you are interested in volunteering (or just want more information), contact the office of McCandless Fire Marshal Dan Stack at 412-364-0616 Ext. 128 or [firemarshal@townofmccandless.org](mailto:firemarshal@townofmccandless.org).**



*Thank you to all  
those who serve our  
fire departments!*



# CONTACT SHEET

## *Town Council*

**Kimberly K. Zachary, President – Ward 1**  
9967 Grubbs Road, Wexford, PA 15090  
ward1@townofmccandless.org  
412-600-6415

**William C. Kirk – Ward 2**  
198 Ridgeview Drive, Wexford, PA 15090  
ward2@townofmccandless.org  
724-935-0596

**Steven E. Mertz – Ward 3**  
180 Ridge Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
ward3@townofmccandless.org  
412-969-2326

**Joan D. Powers – Ward 4**  
8756 Breezewood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
ward4@townofmccandless.org  
412-366-2093

**Gregory W. Walkauskas, Vice Pres. – Ward 5**  
8040 Edwood Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
ward5@townofmccandless.org  
412-913-1553

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

**William J. McKim – Ward 7**  
1815 South Villa Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044  
ward7@townofmccandless.org  
724-443-7598

## *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*

### **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)*

**Web:** [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org)



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## THE SIX SIDES OF STAYING INFORMED



**The Town's website:**  
**[www.townofmccandless.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/townofmccandless)**

**The Police Dept. Facebook:**  
**[www.facebook.com/McCandlessPoliceDepartment](http://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**