

# McCandless Town Crier



## What's Inside ...

Welcome, K9 Officer Joy!

Tree planting program

Tax information

Town Resident Info Program

**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

Tobias M. Cordek, Town Manager  
Regis J. Ebner Jr., 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  
Catherine A. Bratkowski, 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

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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 Thursday of the month
- **Environmental Advisory Committee:** Second Wednesday of the month
- **Heritage Center FDPC:** Third Wednesday of the month **at 4:30 p.m.**

# McCandless again named a Banner Community



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

The Banner Community program recognizes municipalities committed to professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability, and proactive communications to engage community stakeholders.

McCandless is one of 16 municipalities that has achieved this honor every year since the program began in 2012.

“While we received this recognition in the first wave of communities, we have not rested on our laurels. In particular, we’ve added elements to our resident outreach — including Facebook pages for general information and police information, Savvy Citizen for

event prompts and alerts, and the filming of Council meetings,” said Town Manager Toby Cordek.

To be recognized as a Banner Community, a municipality must demonstrate its commitment to several best practices each year related to topics such as communication, professional development and intergovernmental cooperation.

Some of the best practices implemented by McCandless include significant participation in the North Hills Council of Governments and its programs, including joint bids for road salt, regional stormwater cooperation and its leaf composting program; distributing communications to residents (through the use of the Town Crier newsletter, McMail™, the Town’s Facebook page, the Savvy Citizen app and the Town website); holding

Community Day every September; and attendance by Town Council members and staff at professional development courses (such as the LGA Newly Elected Officials Course, ALOM’s annual conference, and the Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners Fall Conference).

McCandless, along with the 54 other municipalities that were named as Banner Communities, were honored at a luncheon on March 23.

“Local government officials are critical to the success of this region. They are more likely to know what issues matter most to local residents and how resources can be used most effectively in their area,” said Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

# Welcome aboard, K9 Officer Joy!



Joy visits with Chief DiSanti on the K9's first day of duty, Nov. 13.

It was a boy named Joy who gave McCandless Police Sgt. Bryan Madden one of his ultimate career aspirations.

"This is my career-long dream — to be a K9 officer," Madden said. "Dreams do come true."

Joy (who, yes, is a male) is a 2-year-old, Hungarian-born Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd who is serving as the Town of McCandless Police Department's first K9 officer, with Madden serving as his handler.

Police Chief David R. DiSanti Sr. felt that a K9 program greatly would expand the department's capabilities — particularly in light of the ongoing opioid crisis.

"I felt the K9 would pay tremendous dividends," DiSanti said, saying a passion for such a K9 program had built up throughout the department.

The K9 program was approved by Town Council on August 25, 2017. Joy's first day on the job was November 13, and he was sworn-in by Council on November 27.

"He is doing very, very well for us. His temperament is ideal for our community. He is very

social and he is very good at interacting with the entire range of people, from small children to adults. But, then he also has that other side that we can bring out if we need it," said Madden, a 25-year veteran of the department.

Joy is what is known as a "dual purpose" K9.

"That is the patrol work — including the apprehension, the tracking, the searching — and then also he is narcotics certified," Madden said.

Specifically, Joy is trained to sniff out four different types of drugs — marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

Before starting with his duties here, Joy underwent 12 weeks of training — six with trainers at Shallow Creek Kennel and six with Madden. According to Madden, this training was intense.

"It was the most physically and mentally demanding training I have ever done. Ten hour days. We did 300 hours of training in six weeks," he said.

Just like other police officers, Joy along with Madden have to do ongoing training.

"There's actually more. We do at least an organized four-hour training session each week. They like us to do 16 hours a month," Madden said.

For this ongoing training, Madden and Joy train with K9 officers from the City of Pittsburgh Police Department and with K9 officers from North Hills police departments.

Joy lives at home with Madden. In his off-time, the K9 likes to kick back with a yummy bone and enjoy some playtime.

"In the evenings, he gets some free time to be a dog," Madden said, noting that Joy's only play restriction is that he does not interact with other dogs.

Having a dog like Joy at home is nothing new for Madden.

"I've had German Shepherds in my home for over 20 years. I've raised them from puppies, I've trained them. I'm actually an AKC Registered Evaluator and Trainer for the Canine Good Citizen Program. I teach obedience every Sunday," Madden said.

In addition to Town funds, a lot of people have pitched in for the \$14,000 start-up costs for the K-9.

The Town received \$7,000 from District Attorney Stephen Zappala's office, and also got more than \$1,500 in private cash donations for the K9.

Additionally, Joy's food is donated by Healthy Pet Products in Pine Creek Plaza. The type of food he eats is called "RAWZ," which apparently is as close to a raw food diet as is possible with a packaged dog food. His veterinary care is donated by Allegheny Veterinary Associates on Perry Highway. Joy has a ballistic vest that was donated by Spike's K9 Fund and a K9 medical/trauma kit that was donated by the K9 Defender Fund.

Since starting, Joy has been out and about visiting various schools in McCandless.

"We spend a lot of time visiting the schools and interacting with the kids. They love to ask questions about him. I try to educate them about him and what he does. It's a lot of fun to have him around," Madden said. "We'll go anywhere. We just enjoy doing it."

Madden and Joy have done visits and programs at other locations, including West View Savings Bank, Soergel's Orchards and ATA Karate. Joy also has dropped by the McCandless-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority, because the EMTs and paramedics there will be performing first aid on Joy if he is injured during a call.

German Shepherds are large dogs, and (despite being popular family dogs) sometimes have a

fearsome reputation. Naturally, some people might have some apprehension around Joy.

"We try to change that perception, especially with the young ones. We try to tell them it's OK to pet him," Madden said.

Joy also has several drug arrests to his credit.

"The first one he found had a large amount of cash mixed in with packaging materials and a small amount of drugs," Madden said. "We've found some decent amounts of marijuana."

DiSanti said the department has gotten a lot of positive feedback about Joy and the K9 program.

"He has done so many good things," DiSanti said. "I think it has been a home run."

Madden agreed.

"He's awesome. He makes me look good. He's easy to work with. He is a joy to have around," Madden said.



Sgt. Madden poses with Joy on the K9's graduation day, Nov. 10, 2017. His training with Madden began on Oct. 2, 2017.

# WHAT'S NEW IN TOWN NEWS?

## Council reorganizes, new members sworn-in



At Town Council's Organization Meeting on January 2, Councilman Bill Kirk (who represents Ward 2), Councilwoman Carolyn Schweiger (who represents Ward 6) and Councilwoman Joan Powers (who represents Ward 4) were sworn in by District Judge William Wagner.

Mr. Kirk and Ms. Schweiger are new council members, while Mrs. Powers was re-elected.

Following this, Ward 1 Councilwoman Kim Zachary received a unanimous vote to be Council President, and Ward 5 Councilman Greg Walkauskas received a unanimous vote to serve as Vice President.

Additionally, Town Manager Toby Cordek was unanimously reappointed to serve as Town Secretary, and Ward 7 Councilman Bill McKim and Assistant Town Manager Rege Ebner were unanimously appointed to serve as Assistant Town Secretary.

Council President Zachary made the following appointments: Councilmember Schweiger to serve as chair of the Public Safety Committee, Kirk as chair of the Services Committee, Steve Mertz as chair of the Public Works Committee, Powers as chair of the Recreation Committee, Walkauskas as chair of the Zoning Committee and Zachary as chair of the Finance Committee.

## Committee meetings consolidated to 2nd Mon.

Town Council on January 22 voted to hold all of its Committee meetings on the second Monday of each month.

Previously, the Public Safety, Services, Public Works and Recreation committees met on the first Monday of each month while the Zoning and Finance committees met on the second Monday of each month.

## Town gets \$135K grant for signals



McCandless has been awarded a PennDOT Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant of \$135,000.

This will fund the Town's request for 64 LED Walk/Don't Walk signal heads, 38 ADA Pedestrian Push button activators and 7 acoustic signal pre-emption systems. This work will be done at seven intersections:

- Babcock Boulevard and Cumberland Road
- Ingomar Road and Harmony Road
- Ingomar Road and Kummer Road
- Peebles Road and Duncan Avenue
- Peebles Road and Remington Road
- Peebles Road at McIntyre Square and Vincentian Academy
- Thompson Run Road and Hazlett/Redcoach Road

All will improve walkability and safety at these intersections and precludes the need for the Town to include them in future capital budgets.

# “Developing” News

Here you'll find news on projects under construction within the community:



**McCandless Crossing West:** McCandless CA Senior Living, to be located between Doodlebugs Day Care and LA Fitness, obtained a building permit. North Point Development of Riverside, Missouri continues construction on “Stonecrest of Pittsburgh,” an assisted living/memory care facility in McCandless Crossing West, on the eastern side of Duncan Avenue West near LA Fitness. Emiliano's opened in September.

**McCandless Crossing East:** AdVenture continues site work and construction on its 33,000-square-foot office building which is to contain Inpax Personal Training Academy (set to include a personal, self-defense and gun safety training facility with indoor shooting range and retail space) and up to three additional tenants. Work continues on Inpax operating procedures. Fort Pitt Pianos and Riverstone Books opened in October.

**Terrace Place at Vincentian**, a 90-unit independent senior living facility located at the intersection of Kummer Road and Babcock Boulevard on the site of the former Regency Nursing home, was issued its building permit on January 10. Work there continues.

**Bob's Sub and Delicious Donuts** (corner of Route 19 and Ingomar Road) opened in December

**EBQ Thai Ice Cream** (located at 10441 Perry Highway in the Wexford Flats) opened in October

**SSB Bank** (on Route 19 near Sheetz and CCAC North) opened in September

**Saint Alexis Church** dedicated its new sanctuary in October

**Duncan-Babcock left turn arrows** (where protected left-turn signals were placed at all four sides of the intersection) were installed in January

**Signal work and paving on McKnight Road:** Penn-DOT plans to revamp signals from Perrymont Road to Pine Creek Road so they will operate adaptively (as the systems in the Wexford Flats and Southern McKnight do). Work began March 19 and is expected to be completed in August.

# GET READY...



18th annual Community Day  
Saturday, September 8

# Sustainability around the home

*A few months ago, the Environmental Advisory Committee published a video showing some of its members practicing basic sustainability around the house, and asking for Town residents to share what they are doing. Here are a few things the Moore family of Grubbs Road (pictured below) are doing:*



- We don't keep paper towels in the house, and only use cloth rags to clean up. Also, we use vinegar, citric acid, baking soda, and essential oils for cleaners.
- We do keep regular paper tissues for guests, but we also have a box of little baby wash cloths and cut up t-shirts that can be used as tissues, washed, and reused.
- I used to cloth diaper my babies, though that has fallen to the side with four kids and homeschooling. I just can't keep up with everything!

The Environmental Advisory Committee officially recognizes that spring has sprung (really, what can we say except you're welcome?)

That means it's time to think about mowing your lawn again (if you haven't already mowed it). Service your power equipment, lawnmower, grass trimmer, and/or leaf and grass blower. Change the oil, replace the spark plugs and change the air filters. This will make your equipment run more efficiently and reduce pollutants.

If you need a general relaxation tip (and who doesn't), try watching the sun set sometime. During May, the sun sets roughly between 8:15 and 8:45 p.m. (to boost your mood, keep track and recognize that we gain nearly an hour of daylight through the month of May).

- For lawn care, we have an electric push mower that is battery powered. Our yard is 1 acre, which is larger than recommended for the mower, but we also have a leaf blower that came with a compatible battery so we start with two fully charged batteries. Once the first is depleted, we recharge it while using the second one. It doesn't fully recharge in that time but is usually enough to finish the lawn. If it is not enough, we finish the next day.
- We do not use weed killer on our lawn; only organic fertilizer (Milorganite, which has an odor but makes the grass very green). When there is poison ivy, I wear gloves and pull it by hand and use a grocery store bag to dispose of it in the garbage, using a double tying trick to "double bag" it with a single bag. So that is not terribly eco-friendly but I think it is better than using Roundup and I do try to get the whole yard cleared at once, so only one pair of gloves and bag are used until more grows in the yard.
- We try to avoid using foil and plastic wrap in the fridge, instead using paper, silicone lids, or other plates to cover our leftovers.
- We shop for secondhand items when it is practical to do so.

*Thank you to Lindsay Moore and her family for sharing their sustainability tips with us. If you want to share what you are doing, contact us at [eac@townofmccandless.org](mailto:eac@townofmccandless.org) or 412-364-0616 Ext. 118.*

# Town of McCandless Tree Planting Program

**The Town of McCandless is initiating a tree planting program in 2018 to encourage residents and businesses to report the planting of trees on their property.**

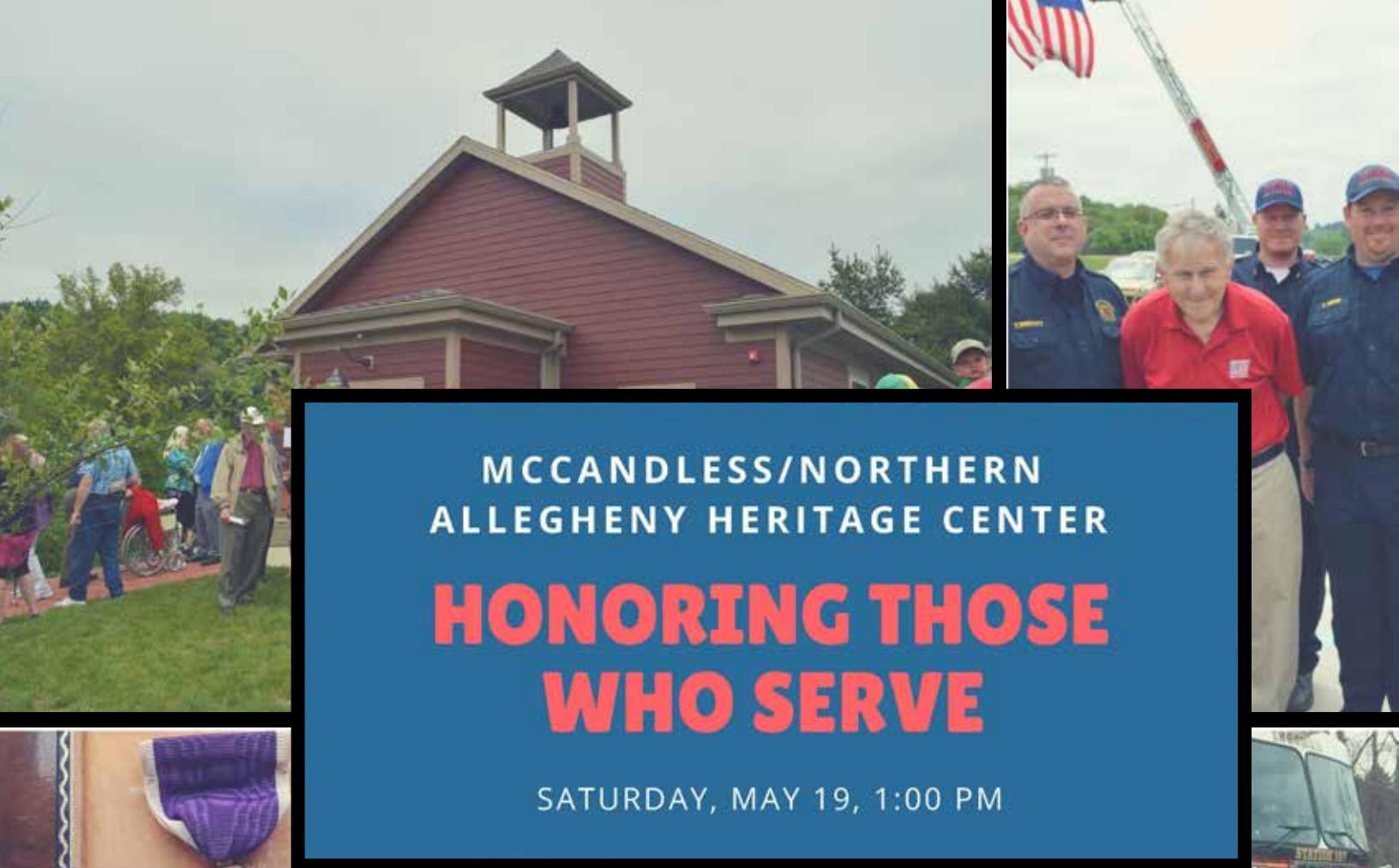
**This will allow for more tree canopy cover in the Town, helping to reduce stormwater runoff (actions like these also reduce stormwater pollution because trees take up nutrients and pollutants through their root systems).**

**The Town will tabulate the number of trees planted within a 5-year period (starting March 1, 2018) to determine how much sediment has been removed from its stormwater (with a little help from the state DEP guidelines).**

**If you plant trees during the 5-year period, send an e-mail (preferably with a photo of the tree to [ms4@townofmccandless.org](mailto:ms4@townofmccandless.org) to report your good deed.**

**This program is an important part of the Town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) plan. Untreated or uncontrolled stormwater runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our local waterways.**





MCCANDLESS/NORTHERN  
ALLEGHENY HERITAGE CENTER

# HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1:00 PM

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY, MAY 19 FROM 1 TO 4 PM FOR A FIRST ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION OF THE MCCANDLESS/NORTHERN ALLEGHENY HERITAGE CENTER.**

**MAY 19 IS ARMED FORCES DAY, AND WE ARE LOOKING TO HONOR ALL THOSE  
WHO HAVE SERVED, INCLUDING IN THE MILITARY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.**

**THE EVENT WILL INCLUDE A "TOUCH-A-TRUCK" FEATURING FIRE, POLICE,  
AMBULANCE AND CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES.**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. A BRASS QUINTET WILL PERFORM  
PATRIOTIC SONGS**

# Why I like working in local government ...

## VIEW FROM THE FRONT DESK

### Joanne Steigerwald

*Title:* Receptionist

*Years of Service:* 13

I am a lifelong resident of the Town of McCandless. My parents and five siblings and my Great Uncle Harry moved here from the City of Pittsburgh in 1950. There was one gas station, a local grocery store, a school and a church. Watching this small farming community blossom into a community of retail stores, schools and churches with many more neighbors was a true learning experience.

My husband of 45 years, Tom, and I both attended the local schools, raised our three children here, and have now expanded to four grandchildren. Our children actually had some of the same teachers we had in school.

I have worked at North Hills Passavant Hospital, a nationwide mortgage company, took care of a handicapped parent and was self-employed for a short period of time. Just as many people in this community do, I volunteered in many different capacities. In addition to caring for my family, my most rewarding job was here at the Town of McCandless.

The Town is where new residents are starting another phase of their journey in life. The Town Hall is where they turn to feel welcomed, get settled and make this community their home. My goal is to make that complicated process just a little easier.

I truly love being a part of the welcoming process to the new residents as well as helping the existing residents be proud of their community by continuing to make this place the best it can be.

### Jeff Schoeneman

*Title:* Code Enforcement Officer

*Years of Service:* 1

I have a background in project and property management and I joined the team over 8 months ago as Code Enforcement Officer. I did not have any previous experience with local government when I accepted the position, however the prospect of getting involved with the government of my own community appealed to me.

Admittedly, when I first started, I expected the government stereotype; to be run very loose, disorganized and inefficient.



## POLICE PERSPECTIVE

### Michael Bock

*Title:* Patrolman

*Years of Service:* 14



I have been a police officer for 19 years. I started my career with the Pittsburgh Police in patrol and then plain clothes working narcotics. I decided I wanted to leave the city life and raise my family in the North Hills. I have been a police officer with McCandless for 14 years in the patrol division. Working for the McCandless Police Department is a more intimate experience. It affords me the opportunity to often times see the fruition of the calls I handle, meet and see the community on a regular basis and develop relationships. I may interact daily or weekly with the Chief of Police whereas a larger department that just doesn't occur due to the population differences and call volumes.

Working in local government, specifically McCandless, affords me the opportunity to be a well-rounded officer. My work days are never the same. Rather than go call to call as in some of the larger departments, I may spend part of my time interacting with students at the schools, assisting a resident in time of need or rendering aid on a medical call or accident scene. Recently, a local church in the community honored first responders. One woman that spoke at the event stated she was in a very bad car accident and the most comforting sound she heard was the sirens coming to help her. I can tell you all of the officers in the McCandless Police Department take great pride in helping the community in any way we can. As a department, we strive to work together with all facets of government to make McCandless a safe and friendly community we can all be proud of.

## Thoughts from a newbie



I could not have been more wrong. The people that make up our local government and run our town are extremely knowledgeable, highly organized and operate at a very high level.

As the Code Enforcement Officer, my primary objective is to ensure that all properties in our community are kept in reasonable condition, maintained properly and all citizens have an outlet for their concerns. We all have a vested interest in the value of our own properties and the overall reputation of our neighborhoods. I have met and spoken with many residents already and have worked hard to be fair and accommodating to everyone while doing what is best for the common good.

Working for local government has given me the opportunity to make a difference in my community. It gives me a chance to give back and use my own skills, knowledge and experience to benefit others.



# Town Resident Information Program

## T.R.I.P.

The Town Resident Information Program allows residents to provide McCandless Police with information that may better help you in an emergency situation. Please answer the questions below and provide any additional information that you might think is helpful.

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Who may be contacted in an emergency if you are unable to be reached or incapacitated?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Secondary emergency contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you or anyone in your home have a medical condition or disability?**  Yes  No

Please provide some details that might assist emergency responders:

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**Do you regularly leave your home for long periods of time?**  Yes  No

Does this happen during specific times of the year?  Yes  No

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there someone who keeps an eye on your home when you are gone?  Yes  No

What is their name? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you own any pets?**  Yes  No

Details (species, breed, name, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there someone who can hold onto your pet(s) in the case of an emergency and you are not available?

Yes  No

What is their name? \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there any other details that you believe first responders should know (alarm codes, the number of people in your home, important family details, information about your home, etc.)?**

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Please return this form to the McCandless Police Department either by mailing it or dropping it off at the McCandless Police Department, 9955 Grubbs Road, Wexford, PA 15090, or e-mailing it to [policeadministration@townofmccandless.org](mailto:policeadministration@townofmccandless.org). If you have any questions, stop in or send an e-mail.



**Check out the Town of McCandless Police Dept. on Facebook!**

**[www.facebook.com/McCandlessPoliceDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/McCandlessPoliceDepartment)**

# TAX TIME

## Real Estate Tax Information

On Dec. 18, 2017, Town Council approved a Town millage rate of 1.236 mills (\$123.60 per \$100,000 of assessed value) for the 2018 calendar year. The North Allegheny School District (NASD) millage is 18.0011 mills for the 2017-18 fiscal year (which runs from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018).

The tax due dates were outlined in the 2018 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 December 31 may result in a lien being placed against your property. By law, all NASD real estate taxes that remain unpaid as of December 31 must be turned over to the delinquent tax collector for the school district (Maiello, Brungo & Maiello, LLP).

Town of McCandless delinquent real estate taxes are still due and payable directly to the Town.

The tax bills (Town and school district on one bill) will be mailed on or about 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, 2018 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, 2018, you are also eligible to take advantage of the installment payment plan offered by both the Town and the school district. To elect the installment payment plan option, you must pay the first installment amount stated on the bill (no other amounts accepted) by September 4. Payments received after September 4 will be considered timely only if they contain an official U.S. Postal Service postmark of September 4 or earlier. If any installment payment is late, you will be disqualified from the installment program for 2019, 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, 2018, please contact our office immediately at (412) 364-0616 and we will send you a new bill. In addition, if the billing address for your real estate tax bill changed after January 1 of this year, you need to notify us immediately. Allegheny County provides us with a billing 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.

## 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 January 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 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Please check the 2018 Town Calendar, view the Town website at [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org), or call us at 412-364-0616 for more information. In addition, you can print a copy of the Town's Rules and Regulations directly from the website.

## Drop Box Procedures

Due to concerns regarding the safety of both taxpayers and Town staff, payments placed in the drop box or any other location on the Town premises after 7 p.m. 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 15 to accept timely Business Privilege Tax payments, and on September 4 and November 2 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 2018 Per Capita Tax bill is based on the NASD fiscal year of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The billing procedure in 2018 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)

**Call 412-364-0616 or e-mail [taxoffice@townofmccandless.org](mailto:taxoffice@townofmccandless.org) with any tax questions**

# 2018 Paving Plan

*Town Council approved the following streets to be paved this year:*

- **Albemarle Drive** from Stuyvesant Road to Center Oak Drive
- **Anderson Road** from Saratoga Drive to Center Oak Drive
- **Arcadia Drive** from Perry Highway to McKnight Road
- **Blazier Drive** from Ingomar Road to McKnight Road
- **Carriage Hill Road** from Red Coach Road to the Ross Township line
- **Center Oak Drive** from Saratoga Drive to Albermarle Drive
- **Duncan Avenue** from McKnight Road to Babcock Boulevard
- **Hazlett Road** from Peebles Road to Thompson Run Road
- **Lincoln Club Drive** from Duncan Avenue to the dead end
- **Louisville Drive** from Highland Road to North Florence Road
- **North Florence Road** from Olive Street to the turn around
- **North Meadows Drive** from Route 19 to the turn around
- **Old Perry Highway #5** from Pine Creek Road to Perry Highway
- **Pebblewood Court** from Olive Street to the turn around
- **Whitley Drive** from Babcock Boulevard to Glenellen Drive

## Check out our new website!



**Our newly remodeled website is designed to be more intuitive and user-friendly, to better serve our residents**

Go to [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org) to see what's up

Calling all school-age kids in the North Allegheny School District

# **GJ Aufman Jr. Joint Recreation Program 2018**

***Games!***

**Sports!**



**FUN**

**Monday, June 18, 2018 through Friday, July 13th  
(no program July 4th from 8:45 a.m. to noon.)**

*Three program sites to choose from:*

*Knob Hill Park, McKnight Elementary, Franklin Elementary*

## **Arts & Crafts**



## **Special Activities**

- \$135 (lunch not included)
- Participants must have completed the first grade
- Registration information will be sent home with students, and also will be available at [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org)

# Town Manager's Message



Spring is here, and it is a busy time for the Town of McCandless, with lots of exciting projects taking place.

PennDOT is revamping signals along McKnight Road from Perrymont to Pine Creek Road so they will operate adaptively, as the Wexford Flats and Southern McKnight systems do. PennDOT recently reported to me that the signals at McKnight's intersection with Duncan and Cumberland will continue to operate on fixed time for each direction during completion of the adaptive signal system project which is expected to be about 2-3 more months. The adaptive signal system is designed to respond to traffic volumes and adjust by these volumes with the through road (McKnight) given priority.

With PADEP's approval of a new, five-year Pollutant Reduction and MS4 Plan in January, Andy Banfield, the Town's Stormwater Engineer, now nears completion of laying out the stream channel on the eastern side of Highland Road that will be reestablished with its banks laid back to achieve 25-year storm capacity. Winter weather, particularly rainfall, deterred survey work necessary for Andy to prepare hydrologic calculations and undertake his design. When he completes this stage we plan to meet with residents to show them the plans and obtain their release for us to perform this work prior to submittal of detailed plans to PADEP.

Our Public Works Superintendent, Mark Sabina, has met with County representatives to lay out a piping

project on the western side of Highland Road which we have offered to undertake jointly with the County. Andy Banfield and County Hydrologists are comparing their analysis of pipe sizing. Stormwater control on Harmony Drive, the third project in this area will be undertaken this year. Expansion and reconfiguration of Trolley Court stormwater basin has been designed and will be bid under the Town's annual stormwater facility update contract. The County is working on its piping repairs under Highland Road. Mark Sabina and Town engineers are planning out the relocation of piping under Oneida Avenue and down Iroquois.

Over the past several months our Town Attorney, Land Use Administrator, Chief of Police and I worked diligently with INPAX owner Sam Rosenberg and his legal counsel to document safety and operating procedures for the firing range in the INPAX Training Academy currently under construction at McCandless Crossing. This was culminated in the issuance of a permit to INPAX by Chief DiSanti in accordance with the Town Code.

Phase one of the Vincentian Recreation Complex project took place last year, and phase two work (which involves the installation of new fencing) is set for this spring. The project entails enlarging one field to accommodate upper-age level baseball, combining two smaller fields into a combination girls' varsity softball-sized and mid-level boy's field, and installing a solar-powered scoreboard.

Devlin Park's new playground is installed and will open when we complete re-landscaping and a section of sidewalk. We finished the retaining wall behind home plate on the ballfield, with an improved drainage system. Dugout construction is underway with backstop and extension of protective fencing to follow.

Speaking of parks, we have submitted an application for a grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to design a trail in the valley north of Wall Park. This trail has been identified as a great opportunity for more than a decade; we look forward to making it a possibility.

**Tobias M. Cordek**  
Town Manager

# REPORTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

**Illicit Discharge**: prohibited non-stormwater discharges that enter into a storm drain

*Examples of illicit discharges include the following:*



**Fuel/Oil**



**Grease**



**Construction**



**Carwash Soaps**



**Paint**



**Grass clippings**

According to the MS4 permit there are exceptions to what can drain into the storm sewer system. Examples of non-stormwater discharges which are not considered illicit include:

- Residential car washing without soaps
- Discharges from potable water sources
- Air conditioning condensation
- Irrigation water
- Springs
- Water from crawl space pumps
- Footing and foundation drains
- Lawn watering
- Water line flushing
- Flows from firefighting

Please report any suspected illicit discharges to  
[ms4@townofmccandless.org](mailto:ms4@townofmccandless.org)

412-364-0616

# LET'S TALK ABOUT OPEN BURNING

With nicer weather on the way, our friendly neighborhood Fire Marshal Dan Stack would like to remind everyone of the Town's rules regarding open, recreational burning.

"Open" recreational fires only are permitted with a permit issued through the Fire Marshal's office. The permit costs \$25 and must be applied for at least 24 hours in advance of the burn. These fires cannot be more than 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft, and must be at least 25 feet from any structure, house, shed, barn, fence, pedestrian or recreation area, roadway or utility.

Recreational fires that are "contained" (as in, NOT open) are allowed without a permit. These fires must be in approved, non-combustible, contained exterior fireplace. These fireplaces should not be within 15 feet of a structure.



## HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL EXAMPLES ...



This is an example of an "open" fire – it is not contained in anyway, top or the sides. **This fire requires a \$25 permit** – and is good for one time only.



ously stated to protect your property as well as your neighbors property.

This is an example of a "contained" outdoor fireplace – it has walls, as well as a mesh lid that acts as a spark arrestor to prevent embers from flying into the air. This fire does NOT require a permit – and we ask that you adhere to the safety regulations previ-



**NO PERMIT REQUIRED**



**PERMIT REQUIRED**



**Running afoul of these rules and regulations can net a person a fine of up to \$1,000.**

**The full list of open burning rules and regulations can be found at [www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org) on the Fire Marshal's page (located under the "Town Departments" tab).**

**Follow the rules, and have a fun and safe summer!**

# STEP UP AND BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER



The Town of McCandless is protected from fire and rescue emergencies by a 100 percent volunteer service that runs an average of 700 calls for service annually. The Town's fire service consists of three fire companies operating four stations located throughout the Town. Staffing of these companies is an ongoing effort, so we "fired up" a plan to recruit more firefighters to help us respond and assist our residents.

The Town of McCandless 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 has decreased. Volunteer firefighters are always needed. We are urging the public to Step Up and help your community as a firefighter or non-firefighter lending administrative support.

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

To express our appreciation for the noble service they provide, the Town of McCandless sponsors a number of events throughout the year. We treat volunteers and families to a day at Kennywood and host a golf outing. At the end of the year we hold a dinner banquet to show our volunteers and their guests how important they are to the community.

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 e-mail at [firemarshal@townofmccandless.org](mailto:firemarshal@townofmccandless.org).

## TESTIMONIALS

*I am part of a long line of firefighters. Being a firefighter has been part of my family for generations. I grew up at the fire station and have looked up to my dad and uncles ever since I can remember. Many kids have the childhood dream to become a professional athlete, superhero, etc. Mine was to become a fireman, and to live out that childhood dream is one of the greatest feelings. Now kids look up to me just like I looked up to my family.*

— Cody Monper, Highland Volunteer Fire Department

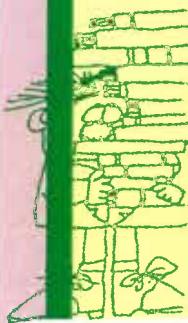
*I joined the fire services for two reasons. My son, Will, was born in January of 2001, which of course was right before the attacks of 9/11. I thought because of the events of 9/11 and having a newly born son, it would be good to do something that would help. The fire services really is a brotherhood.*

*In addition, you have help when you move, when your car breaks down, and even when you need a babysitter.*

*Joining the fire services was one of the best decisions I ever made.*

— Dan Thomas, Peebles Volunteer Fire Company

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



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.

**Friday**  
**May 4**  
**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Saturday**  
**May 5**  
**9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Sunday**  
**May 6**  
**1 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**(\$5 Bag Sale...Northland provides the bag!)**

Sale is located on the lower level of the library.



# 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 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)

## 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. 300
Manager's Office	Ext. 120
Planning and Zoning	Ext. 129
Public Works	Ext. 184
Trash and Recycling	Ext. 110 or 118
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](http://www.townofmccandless.org)



9955 Grubbs Road  
Wexford, PA 15090

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## CARE TO STAY IN TOUCH?



The Town's website:  
[www.townofmccandless.org](http://www.townofmccandless.org)  
— Features news, events, meeting agendas, minutes, helpful links



The Town's Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/townofmccandless](https://www.facebook.com/townofmccandless)  
— News, events, agendas, links, other helpful information



All Town Council meetings (as well as other informational videos) are available on the Town's [YouTube channel](#). Look for links and other info on this by clicking on "Meeting Videos" under the Popular Pages sidebar on the Town's 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, 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 on the right side of the home page).



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