



Joe Bullick with his family.





Local History Finds a Home

McCandless Northern Allegheny Heritage Center celebrates grand opening.

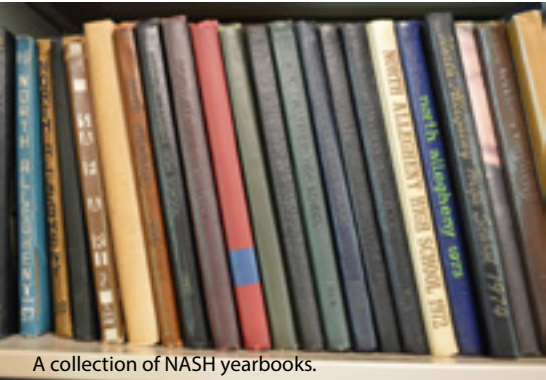
BY JENNIFER BROZAK

For more than 20 years, local history buff and retired North Allegheny School District employee Joe Bullick collected bits and pieces of North Hills history. Now, thanks to a collaborative effort between the Town of McCandless and North Allegheny School District, those artifacts have a permanent home.

On May 20, local residents celebrated the opening of the McCandless Northern Allegheny Heritage Center, a replica of a one-room schoolhouse located at 830 Pump Lane. The celebration included speeches from Town Council President Gerard Aufman Jr., Bullick and WQED personality Rick Sebak. City Councilwoman Cindy Kirk read an Allegheny County Proclamation, and Aufman recited the Town Proclamation. Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, light refreshments were served. All attendees received a copy of the town's sesquicentennial history book and a limited edition commemorative token.

"I've only been with the town for a year, but it was a joyful time," says John Bojarski, assistant to the town manager, of the opening. "It was great to see several hundred people who were so enthusiastic about the display of our heritage."

Continued on next page >



A collection of NASH yearbooks.

Bullick's collection includes a myriad of pieces, including North Allegheny School District photographs, documents and sports memorabilia, as well as toys, household items and tools that were popular during the 20th century. Research materials and photos from the surrounding communities of Bradford Woods, Ross, Franklin Park, and Marshall and Pine townships are also included. Prior to the opening of the center, Bullick's collection was on display at the North Allegheny History Museum at McKnight Elementary School.

"I couldn't be happier, knowing that my collection will be on permanent display for everyone to see, for generations to come," he said in a statement. Bullick, of Pine, retired from his position as head of custodial services for North Allegheny School District in 1996, after a 40-year career with the district.

Bojarski says certain pieces stand out, such as an operational jukebox from 1954 and an early tabletop pinball machine allegedly from a speakeasy. The collection also includes



nearly every North Allegheny High School yearbook, as well as yearbooks from surrounding communities. There's also a collection of original Harmony Short Line tickets and a logbook of McCandless police reports from the 1950s and 1960s.

"A couple of weeks ago, Joe dropped off a 1960 World Series souvenir program book," says Bojarski. "That's plenty fun, but stapled to one of the pages inside was a ticket from game 6 of the 1960 World Series. It turns out, a good seat for the World Series cost less than \$8 at the time."


Following its groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 13, 2014, the heritage center took two years to build. A "sneak preview" was held during Community Day on Sept. 10, 2016. Students from the A.W. Beattie Career Center contributed 10,200 hours to the project, gaining experience in framing walls, wiring, HVAC, window installation and more. The building features a 2,140-square-foot upper level and a 2,060-square-foot basement.

The McCandless Northern Allegheny Heritage Center is open Wednesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Other hours are available by appointment.

"People who stop in can look forward to an educational experience for all, bringing back memories for several generations," says Bojarski. ■



>> For more information about the Heritage Center, visit townofmccandless.org or call 412.364.0616.



Drake Church scoring a try in the team's win at Moon this season (14 to 7).

OLD SPORT,

NORTH PITT UNITED RUGBY CLUB INTRODUCES YOUNG ATHLETES TO CLASSIC GAME.

BY JENNIFER BROZAK

While rugby football has been around since the 19th century, young athletes in Pittsburgh's north suburbs have had little opportunity to play the sport—until now.

Now in its second season, the North Pitt United Rugby Football Club is flourishing at the varsity boys level, with hopes to add a junior varsity boys team in the near future. This also is the inaugural season for the varsity girls team.

The club's mission is to introduce the centuries-old sport to young athletes, says organization founder and varsity boys coach Jesse Danka.

"The goal is to introduce the younger generation to the amazing sport of rugby and teach them valuable life lessons through the sport, both on and off the pitch," explains Danka. "We're trying to develop respectful ladies and gentlemen who will give back to their communities."

The club's motto—"Live Like a Gentleman (Lady), Train Like a Warrior, Play Like a Champion, Conquer the Day"—is reflected in that purpose, he notes.

"We're always working on our players as individuals, as well as rugby players," Danka says, pointing out that the club is currently running a curriculum called "Coaching Boys into Men," which focuses on education about domestic violence.

Players from numerous schools throughout northern Allegheny County are invited to participate. Current members include players from Northgate, Avonworth, North Hills, Shaler Area, Hampton, Deer Lakes, North Allegheny, Pine-Richland, North Catholic, Seneca Valley and Mars. The team currently has 27 varsity boys and 14 varsity girls.

Interested athletes are invited to join the club at any point in the year. The club competes within the state-sponsored

organization called Rugby PA, which includes a mix of single schools and club teams throughout western Pennsylvania.

As a sport, rugby football has a reputation for being dangerous—a stereotype that Danka hopes North Pitt United can overcome through basic education.

“Rugby is viewed as being too rough due to the fact that there are no pads. Because there are no pads, we have to be even more careful with the way we instruct players in the contact zone. Everything is controlled,” he explains, adding that there are no “shoulder charges” or hitting a player without “wrapping,” like in football.

“Many football programs have looked to rugby-style tackling for safer alternatives to the contact zone in football,” Danka says. Leading this movement, according to him, is the

head coach of the Seattle Seahawks, Pete Carroll.

The sport also requires a high level of respect between players, coaches and referees.

“We live in a society with a lot of screaming from the sidelines and stands,” notes Danka. “In rugby, everything is about respect. Only one person speaks to the sir [referee], and that is the on-field captain. Everything must be funneled through that player when emotions arise.”

In addition, after every match, players from both teams meet for a post-match meal with the referee, coaches and parents.

“The post-match meal is always a hard habit to break for players, since many sports would not even think about sharing a meal with their opponent after battling for 70 minutes,” Danka

says. “Our players have been extremely respectful on and off the pitch.”

Athletes interested in learning more about the sport can participate in a youth co-ed program this summer. The program will take place on Thursday evenings in June and July at St. Ursula Church on Duncan Avenue in Allison Park. The cost is \$50 per person, and each player receives a T-shirt and rugby ball.

For more information about North Pitt United RFC, call 724.882.3131 or send an email to northpittunited@gmail.com. You can also find information about the club on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching @NorthPittUnited. ■

North Allegheny Varsity Girls

Makenna Tuman
Jocelyn Tellez
Brittany Groom
Mia Giuliani

NEW CLUB



Ellie Hall fighting her way through a defender to solidify a 50-meter try down the sideline against Moo.



Christian Henning looking to offload in traffic during the team's Kiski Valley match.



Mya Orgovan getting through a defender during a match this season at Moon.