

Kutztonian News

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THE RESURGENCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

With a serious interest in public safety and plenty of community support, the Borough of Kutztown and Kutztown University (KU) have established a new Neighborhood Watch.

An orientation meeting and training session held in October was conducted by Officer Walter Skavinsky; Student Ambassador to the Mayor, Steve Kenney; and Student Ambassador to the Council, Carmen Bloom to familiarize the more than 100 residents and KU students in attendance with Neighborhood Watch procedures.

According to Bloom, volunteer patrol groups, containing two to five residents and students, follow color-coded Borough routes, each consisting of two separate shifts, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Groups are lead by “team captains” who report to a shift supervisor at the Neighborhood Watch headquarters located in the Community Development Office. For their safety, volunteers are instructed to keep walking at all times and to report all suspicious activity to the Kutztown Police Department.

Officer Skavinsky, whose role in Neighborhood Watch is

to act as a liaison for the Police Department, as well as to offer training to members, is pleased to be involved in the return of Neighborhood Watch. He thinks that “the resurgence of interest is exactly the formula needed to create a successful program because it is most successful and effective when interested citizens organize and operate their own



program with support and training from the police department they will be assisting.”

Steve Kenney believes that Neighborhood Watch will do more than bring safety awareness and crime prevention to the community and asserts that by working together, Neighborhood Watch will help to establish a relationship between Kutztown residents and students. According to Kenney, awareness is the key, and heightened awareness equals heightened respect for the community.

In addition to Neighborhood Watch, the Borough is finding other ways to promote public safety. At a recent community meeting held to discuss public safety issues, Senator Michael O’Pake announced that the Borough will receive \$25,000 for police overtime and KU will receive a \$25,000 grant to conduct a safety study. Additionally, State Representative Carl Mantz, former Borough Council President, announced that he is working on legislation that will require the state to provide financial assistance to the host or neighboring municipalities of the 14 schools in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, which includes KU.

Kutztown is a great place in which to live, work and get an education. Hopefully, Neighborhood Watch, as well as these other initiatives, will go a long way in helping to keep our community safe.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch or future training sessions, please contact Steve Kenney at skenn384@kutztown.edu or Carmen Bloom at cbloo080@kutztown.edu.



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



From left to right: Ron Stoudt, Carol Fegely, Tom Stauffer, Gary Aulenbach, Dan Batz, Dan Eslinger (Not pictured: Brian Klouser)

GARY AULENBACH A member of the Borough family since April, 2006, Gary is a Sewage/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator who enjoys hunting, camping and horseback riding. He is also a collector of horse-drawn memorabilia. Gary and his wife, Sherry, have a daughter, Laura.

DAN BATZ In February, 2007, Dan joined the Borough family in the role of Master Technician, maintaining over 100 pieces of equipment. Dan enjoys hunting, cars, motorcycles and spending time with his wife, Michelle, and their two daughters, Briahna and Rebecca.

DAN ESLINGER Since October, 2006, Dan has worked as the Borough's Codes Inspector for Property Maintenance and Housing. When he's not responding to citizen inquiries or inspecting rental housing, Dan likes to make people laugh, play golf and travel with his wife, Jodi.

CAROL FEGELY Carol has been on board with the Borough since January, 2007, as a Community Service Officer Coordinator. Carol likes to go camping with her husband, Barry, son, Barry, Jr., and daughter, Shannon. She also

collects wolf artifacts and has decorated her home with items from her collection.

BRIAN KLOUSER Officer Klouser joined the Kutztown Police Department as a patrol officer in November, 2002. In addition to collecting baseball and football cards, Officer Klouser enjoys spending time with his wife, Michelle, their two sons, Christopher and Joshua, and their two daughters, Rebecca and Katelyn.

TOM STAUFFER Tom joined the Borough in June, 2007, as a Refuse Laborer. Although he used to be an avid country dancer, Tom now enjoys hunting and fishing. He and his wife, Darcy, enjoy spending time playing with their three kids: three-year old Tommy, two-year old Ellie, and four-month old Kate.

RON STOUTD In July, 2007, Ron became a Telecom Technician I for the Borough. He enjoys coaching youth sports and currently serves as the president of Brandywine Girls Softball. Ron and his wife, Kim, have three children: a 12-year old daughter, Alex, and seven-year old twin boys, Dave and Luke.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE, the Borough Offers a Unique Opportunity

While the next five to ten years will present a challenge for many organizations as more and more baby boomers reach retirement age, the Borough may also face a potential shortage of skilled employees. As part of the Borough's job succession planning, the staff has already begun the process of developing ways to approach the potential employment crisis.

Because many of the affected jobs in the Borough are either of a technical or trade-oriented nature, we decided to contact a reputable local resource, the Berks Career and Technology Center in Leesport, Pennsylvania, for some assistance. Tapping into this reservoir of well-trained students has provided us with an opportunity to hire Berks Career senior Evan Muller, as a student intern in our Electric Department.

A student in the Electrical Occupations program, Evan already has the basic skills and fundamental understanding of electricity so that he can effectively shadow and

observe the Borough's highly-skilled and trained electric line workers performing their jobs and gain a deeper knowledge of the work of the Borough's line crew. As an Electric Department Intern with the Borough, Evan will receive on-the-job training for the remainder of his senior year for several hours per day in all aspects of overhead and underground electric construction, operation and maintenance.



Evan knew early on that he wanted to pursue a career as an electric line worker, following in the footsteps of his grandfather. So when his teacher announced the opportunity for an internship with the Borough, he didn't waste any

time applying for the position. Evan is very happy with the internship and especially likes learning something new every day.

In addition to school and his internship, Evan enjoys four-wheeling and working on cars. He is also a Boy Scout currently working to earn the highest level in Scouting advancement, the Eagle Scout. He has already earned the 21 required merit badges and is presently working on a community service project installing a cement floor in the garage of his church. Once the project is complete, Evan will go through a review process before achieving the Eagle Scout rank.

Upon graduation in 2008, Evan hopes to return to the Borough of Kutztown as a lineman apprentice. Congratulations on your accomplishments and good luck in all of your future endeavors, Evan!

EMPLOYEES ENDURE WRATH OF STORM

Borough employees showed their commitment and dedication to their work and to the community during the severe storm that struck the Borough with fury, downing trees and power lines, causing the entire Borough to lose electric power and phone services on July 16, 2007.


At its August meeting, Borough Council recognized Borough employees and departments for their roles during and after the storm, in appreciation of their hard work and efforts.

Dennis Follweiler, Joe Wessner, Randy Conrad, Steve Diehl, Mark Arnold, Ron Stoudt and Bruce Follweiler of the Electric/Telecom Department were recognized for responding immediately to the emergency, working diligently and swiftly around the clock to restore power to the Borough and for their exceptional performance that was outside the bounds of what is ordinarily expected of them.

All other Borough departments were recognized for providing essential support services and for their exceptional and dedicated team effort in assisting to restore public services to the Borough.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Kern also did an outstanding job leading the Emergency Management staff and coordinating response efforts.

In addition, the Kutztown Fire Company was acknowledged for providing its facility as a temporary Emergency Management Center and for its vital contributions in responding to and assisting the Borough personnel and residents to restore public services to the Borough.

Although this storm devastated our town, it didn't dampen the spirits of our employees as they went about town restoring services. We are proud of the Borough employees for upholding the Borough's Customer Bill of Rights and the Customer Service Policy Statement, both of which assert the Borough's commitment to providing high quality services. 

**THANKS TO EVERYONE
FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

Malcolm A. Eidle
Council President



KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Kutztown Community Partnership (KCP) is a community-driven non-profit organization dedicated to the economic development and preservation of downtown Kutztown. Our mission is to revitalize and reinvest in the Kutztown community, while exploring new ways to improve the quality of life, health and safety of its citizens through new and innovative economic development programs. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 8:00 a.m., in the Kutztown Municipal Building. All community members, business leaders and students are welcome and encouraged to participate.

KCP NOTES

- “Welcome to Kutztown Shopping Maps & Guides” are available at the Kutztown Municipal Building and at the Community Development Office (CDO).
- “Keep Our Community Beautiful Pocket Ashtrays” are available at the CDO.



EXCITING KCP PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

GIFT CARD PROGRAM



Kutztown has its own gift card, and you can use it at any of the 28 participating local businesses.

For more information on the program or to find out where gift cards can be purchased and redeemed, visit the KCP Web site at www.kutztownpa.org.

SOCIAL SUNDAYS



Shop, Eat & Play in Kutztown on the FIRST Sunday of every month, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Local businesses are open!

MERCHANT TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT



There is family fun and lots of treats during this event which is held the week before Halloween every year, rain or shine. Hundreds of trick-or-treaters pack Main Street for KCP's most popular event!

PLEIN AIR ART FESTIVAL



Plein Air is a term used for paintings or drawings made directly from nature and infused with a feeling of the open air. On May 17, 2008, Kutztown will host the 2nd annual Plein Air Art Festival and invite regional artists to capture the beauty of our region by painting on location throughout the Borough.

TRAILWAGGERS



Trailwaggers was developed to help the needy paws of Berks County. This three-event series includes **Putt for Paws**, a miniature golf tournament that raised over \$500 in August; the **Trailwaggers Dogwalk**, a walk through the Kutztown Park that included 100 people and 75 dogs, and raised over \$2,000 in October; and **Pet Photos with Santa**, to be held during **Christmas on Main Street**, at the Kutztown Train Station, on December 2, 2007, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The net proceeds of all three events will be divided among the Humane Society of Berks County, the Animal Rescue League of Berks County and One By One Cat Rescue. To make a donation, volunteer for events or for more information, please contact Kim Davis at 610-683-7611.

CUSTOMER-FRIENDLY PARKING PROGRAM



This new program is designed to give customers the chance to shop, eat and conduct business in the Borough without the threat of receiving a parking ticket after the limited two-hour parking time has expired. Make sure to ask your favorite merchants for a parking pass the next time you are doing business in town!

For more information about any of these KCP events, call Mayor Sandy Green at 610-683-8880.



LATE BREAKING NEWS!

The Borough recently received formal notice from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development that **KUTZTOWN WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE PENNSYLVANIA MAIN STREET PROGRAM** – a state program intended to focus resources into the revitalization of core business districts in Pennsylvania.

The Main Street Program has designated Kutztown as a Main Street Community for three years, which entitles the Borough to receive up to \$160,000 in grant funding. These funds will be used for facade improvements and to hire someone to coordinate and manage improvements in the Borough’s core business district.

The application process for this designation has taken over five years and countless volunteer hours. A special “thank you” to the Kutztown Community Partnership and to the Kutztown University Small Business Development Center for their tremendous efforts in the past year to complete the final application.

The Borough is proud of this major accomplishment, and we look forward to working with residents, business owners, students and organizations on the implementation of the Main Street Program to further improve our community.



main street
COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY’S OFF-CAMPUS ADVISORY COUNCIL



The mission of Kutztown University’s Off-Campus Advisory Council (OCAC) is to act as the liaison, through the office of Off-Campus Student Life, between KU students and community residents, to improve communication through cooperative programming, and to establish and maintain a harmonious relationship between the two groups.

So far this year, OCAC has volunteered at the **RENEWABLE ENERGY FESTIVAL** and **MERCHANT TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT**, in addition to creating **BLOCK LEADERS** in the community to assist students and year-round residents in facilitating safety plans and better means of communication. We also organized a **BLOCK PARTY** that was developed with the goals of meeting neighbors, getting to know the community and putting UNITY back in community.

We hope that by working together, these events and programs will enhance the relationship between the Borough, KU, students and residents. For more information about OCAC or to get involved, please call 610-683-1524 or 484-646-9070, or E-mail us at ocac@kutztown.edu.

OTHER OCAC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS INCLUDE:

- **OPERATION SNOWFLAKE**
A program in which student volunteers provide snow removal for elderly and disabled Borough residents. The program starts on January 1, 2008, and runs through April 1, 2008, excluding Spring Break.
- **ADOPT-A-BLOCK**
A volunteer program for student organizations to remove small trash throughout the Borough.
- **COMMUNITY-WIDE YARD SALE**
A new event in which all community members – families, residents and business owners, as well as KU students, faculty and staff are invited to participate. This event will be held May 5 - 9, 2008, and it encourages everyone to reuse, recycle and resell unwanted items.

HOMETOWN UTILICOM REACHES A MILESTONE: FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

In August, 2002, the Borough of Kutztown launched Hometown Utilicom (HU) television, high-speed Internet and telephone services with 50 customers, and today, we proudly serve over 1,000 customers in the Borough, and even a few outside of the Borough.

Continued growth during the past five years, has allowed HU to spread its wings and offer more services to Borough residents and business owners. Home Security, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Digital Television, High Definition (HD) Television and Commercial Bulk Service have been added to HU's repertoire since its inception. Look for more additions in the future, including new channels and Internet speeds up to 1,000 megabits per second!

Because of our strong commitment to customer service, several different HU television customer surveys have been distributed over the past couple of years. We take pride in discovering the likes and dislikes of our customers so we can provide them with the programming that they want to see. These survey responses have yielded such additions as Big 10 Network, Classic Arts Showcase, Comcast SportsNet, DIY Network, NFL Network, Showtime Showcase and Showtime Beyond, as well as Digital and HD Television.

Superior Internet speeds and a vast array of channel choices are just a few benefits that HU has to offer. Only HU customers can take advantage of channels 2 and 40, which provide the latest Borough news, meeting announcements, local advertising and recorded public meetings. As an HU customer, you also have the option of paying all of your Borough utility bills online.

As we look forward to the next five years, we wish to extend a big THANK YOU to all of our loyal customers, and we hope that many new customers will join the HU family.



For more info or to sign up, call 610-683-5722. Visit us online at www.hometownutilicom.org.



Kutztown University senior, Kristen Hornberger, is all smiles as she accepts her brand new iPod® Shuffle™ and iTunes® gift card!

AND THE WINNER IS...

Loyal Hometown Utilicom customer Kristen Hornberger is this year's winner in the HU iPod® Shuffle™ drawing, and when she got the news, she was thrilled because she really wanted an iPod®. Kristen also received an iTunes® gift card, courtesy of Sovereign Bank.

When asked why she signed up for HU service for the second straight year, Kristen said that she didn't even shop around for different service because HU's pre-pay option offers a "good price and the convenience of not having to pay a bill every month."

As a busy Elementary Education student, Kristen needs all of the convenience that she can get, which is why she also takes advantage of the Borough's auto pay program, which automatically pays the bills every month, without having to mail a check or pay the bills in person.

Although the Kutztown University senior will graduate this year, Kristen said that she would definitely recommend HU to her friends. In addition to enjoying the HU TV channel lineup and high-speed Internet, Kristen also appreciates the good customer service that she receives whenever she deals with the Borough.

ROUTINE REFUSE COLLECTION DAYS

North Side of Main Street:
Tuesday and Friday

South Side of Main Street:
Monday and Thursday

Please place refuse at collection points by
7:00 a.m.
on collection days.

CANCELLATION NOTE

When refuse collection is canceled, you may leave up to three extra bags at the curb on your next collection day at no additional charge.

2007-08 HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Holiday Celebrated	Borough Employees' Holiday	Collection Information
Christmas Eve 2007	Mon., 12/24/07	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>
Christmas Day 2007	Tues., 12/25/07	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>
New Year's Day 2008	Tues., 1/1/08	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>
Good Friday	Fri., 3/21/08	Fri. Route collected on Thurs. Thurs. Route collected on Wed.
Memorial Day	Mon., 5/26/08	Mon. Route collected on Tues. Tues. Route collected on Wed.
Independence Day	Fri., 7/4/08	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>
Labor Day	Mon., 9/1/08	Mon. Route collected on Tues. Tues. Route collected on Wed.
Veterans Day	Tues., 11/11/08	Tues. Route collected on Wed.
Thanksgiving Day	Thurs., 11/27/08	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i> No cardboard collection for businesses
Day after Thanksgiving (Borough Holiday)	Fri., 11/28/08	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>
Christmas Eve 2008	Wed., 12/24/08	Business collection <i>canceled</i>
Christmas 2008	Thurs., 12/25/08	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>
New Year's Day 2009	Thurs., 1/1/09	Refuse collection <i>canceled</i>

GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

In recent years, the Borough has been very aggressive in pursuing grant funding for major community improvement projects. We are always searching for appropriate community grants, but because grant programs fund very specific projects, it is often difficult to match our community needs with available funding sources. When we find a project that "fits" the funding guidelines of a specific grant program, the project is made a top priority for the Borough.

Since 2004, the Borough has been awarded over one million dollars in grant money for projects that range from recreation to water safety. Because it can take many years from grant application to project completion, several Borough projects that were funded by grants over the past few years are now coming to fruition. Installation of Pedestrian-Friendly Streetlights and Train Station Revitalization, the two largest grant projects, are currently under construction.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BOROUGH'S GRANTS,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.KUTZTOWNBORO.ORG/GRANTS.HTML**

2008 RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

	SOUTH	NORTH
January	2, 16, 30	9, 23
February	13, 27	6, 20
March	12, 26	5, 19
April	9, 23	2, 16, 30
May	7, 21	14, 28
June	4, 18	11, 25
July	2, 16, 30	9, 23
August	13, 27	6, 20
September	10, 24	3, 17
October	8, 22	1, 15, 29
November	5, 19	12, 26
December	3, 17, 31	10

The Borough recycles the following items: newspapers, magazines, computer paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, glass bottles, jars, plastic bottles, milk jugs, detergent bottles (no bleach or oil bottles, please).

do you have any
QUESTIONS?
about refuse or recycling

Please call the
Borough Garage
at 610-683-3202,
Monday through Friday,
7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

2008 SPRING TREE LIMB COLLECTION

A dump truck equipped with a chipper will collect tree limbs, at curbside, on the following dates:

North Side of Main Street:
March 31 & April 1 (Mon/Tues)

South Side of Main Street:
April 2 & 3 (Wed/Thurs)

Please, no grass or garden/yardwaste.

Kutztonian News



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YOUR CURRENT MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN

Mayor Sandra K. Green
Council President Malcolm A. Eidle – Finance & Technology
Council Vice-President Edwin K. Seyler – Personnel
Council Chairman Pro-Tem ... Brendan D. Strasser – Community Development & Public Safety
Council Member James F. Schlegel – Water/Wastewater
Council Member Mark R. Gangewere – Electric/Telecom
Council Member Kevin J. Snyder – Public Works

BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN PHONE NUMBERS

45 Railroad Street

Administrative Offices 610-683-6131
Hometown Utilicom 610-683-5722
After Hours TV Support 610-778-2088
Internet/E-mail Support 484-646-9000
Police Department
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 610-655-4911
Office Information 610-683-3545

324 W. Main Street

Community Development Office 610-683-3290
Office of the Mayor 610-683-5962

105 Railroad Street

Borough Garage 610-683-3202
After Hours Utility/Refuse Services... 610-683-3202

Industrial Avenue

Swimming Pool..... 610-683-9767

70 Bieber Alley

Louisa Gonser Community Library..... 610-683-5820

Online

www.kutztownboro.org
www.hometownutilicom.org

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