

Kutztonian News

VOLUME XV

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

WHAT THE “DTV” TRANSITION MEANS FOR YOU!

The national conversion to digital television broadcasting is scheduled to be complete on June 12, 2009, and we realize that many of you want to know how you will be affected.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The Federal Government has mandated that all broadcasters stop transmitting analog TV signals (fuzzy picture) and start transmitting digital TV signals (crisp picture). Examples of broadcasters are WFMZ – Channel 69 and KYW – Channel 3. Service providers, such as the Borough’s Hometown Utilicom (HU), receive these signals and send them to your home.

HOW WILL YOU BE AFFECTED?

If you receive your TV signal solely via antenna, while your TV set may not be obsolete, the analog signal will no longer transmit through the antenna and your TV will not work.

If you are fortunate to be an HU subscriber, you will continue to receive analog and digital signals; however, there are more options available for customers with digital-capable TV sets.

As a result of the recent HU TV upgrade that introduced a brand new channel line-up, including many more digital and High Definition (HD) channels, HU customers with digital-capable TV sets will receive all available digital and HD channels without a set-top box.

Although HU has made every effort to keep our service completely free from set-top boxes, the industry has made that endeavor impossible. Over the next few months, certain digital and HD channels will only be available if set-top boxes are implemented in the home.

This means that HU customers will still be able to see some channels on the old analog signal, but the digital and HD versions of such channels may no longer be available without the use of a set-top box. To accommodate this requirement, we will introduce a set-top box solution in the future. HU customers will only need a set-top box IF they are interested in receiving the digital channels that are affected, for example, Turner Classic Movies, ESPN, Discovery Channel, and E! Entertainment now require the encryption that make set-top boxes necessary.

Take WFMZ – Channel 69, for example...since HU will continue to send analog and digital signals, HU customers with digital-capable TV sets will see the analog, digital and HD versions of Channel 69 programming. Customers with analog TV sets will only see the analog version of Channel 69 programming.



HOW TO TELL IF YOUR TV IS DIGITAL-CAPABLE?

Most TV sets purchased after March, 2007, are required to have digital tuners. Check your TV sets for labels that say “integrated digital tuner” or “digital tuner built-in.”

Although this is a confusing transition, we hope this information helps to clarify things for you. If you still have questions, please contact the Borough of Kutztown/Hometown Utilicom at 610-683-6131 or 610-683-5722, or visit the DTV Transition Coalition Web site at www.dtvtransition.org.

Not part of the HU family yet? SIGN UP TODAY! 610-683-5722 or www.hometownutilicom.org



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MEET THE BOROUGH MANAGER

Borough Manager Gabriel Khalife joined the Borough in June, 2008, and he brought with him over twenty years of local government experience, including serving as City Director for the City of Wilkes-Barre and as Township Manager for Salisbury Township. In addition, he has served as an adjunct professor for Luzerne County Community College and Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus.

Gabriel earned his Master of Public Administration degree from Penn State University, Main Campus, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Clarion University with a double major in Political Science and Sociology. He also holds an Associate Accounting degree from Luzerne County Community College.

While working in local government, Gabriel has focused on trying to save taxpayers money while enhancing quality of life without sacrificing quality

of service. He welcomes the opportunity to utilize his experience to work with Borough employees, elected officials, local business owners, Kutztown University officials, and especially with Borough residents to advance the Borough's quality of life.

During the initial "orientation and learning curve" of the Borough's unique operations, Gabriel credits the Borough Directors and Superintendents, as well as their staffs, with keeping things running smoothly. According to Gabriel, "the Borough of Kutztown is fortunate to have retained such committed and capable employees, who welcome challenging work and utilize their skills for the benefit of the Borough to perform a number of in-house projects."

During his tenure with the Borough of Kutztown, Gabriel will strive to work in concert with Borough Council and the Mayor to promote cost efficiency



and to maintain a balance among the many interests of Borough residents. "In an economy that has slowed and a Borough that has very limited vacant land for growth, the Borough will face significant challenges," which Gabriel is eager to face.

Gabriel resides in Upper Macungie Township with his wife, Karen, and their three sons, Joseph, Gabriel and Andrew. Although his sons are very active, they particularly favor swimming, lacrosse and text messaging! In Gabriel's spare time, he is an avid sports fan, and he especially enjoys cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates and Penguins with his family. 🌸

JOE WESSNER RETIRED

First-class Electric Lineman Joe Wessner retired on January 30, 2009, after serving the Borough for 38 years.

Just like his job title, Joe was always a first-class employee, making his friendly smile and pleasant demeanor a welcome constant in the Electric Department for so many years.

Superintendent Bruce Follweiler fondly recalled many years working with Joe by saying that he was a very rare and special employee, with whom he was



proud to work, first as a peer, and later as a member of his Electric Department team. He elaborated by saying, "Joe was dedicated, honest, committed and most of all, he was a team player and a friend."

Joe really enjoyed his job, especially "serving the people in town" and the fact that every day brought about different challenges. According to Joe, "it was very rewarding to solve problems quickly, get electric service restored, and have residents comment on how fast things got done."

Since retiring, Joe's grandchildren have kept him pretty busy, but he also enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting and simply having time to do whatever the day brings.

Joe and his wife, Melanie, reside in Bowers, and they will be married 40 years in June – congratulations! They have two daughters, Amy and Jill, and two grandchildren, Seth and Meredith.

Thanks, Joe, for 38 years of devoted service to the Borough of Kutztown. We wish you a healthy and happy retirement... keep smiling! 🌸



MEET THE POLICE CHIEF

Craig Summers joined the Borough as Chief of Police in March, 2009.


His distinguished career began shortly after graduating from East Stroudsburg University in 1983, when he was hired by the Pennsylvania State Police. He completed basic training and was sent to the Patrol Section of the Ephrata Station, Lancaster County. For the next several years, many transfers and promotions followed: 1985, transferred to Region 1 Strike Force, Allentown, as Narcotics Investigator; 1992, transferred to the Internal Affairs Division and promoted to Corporal; 1995, transferred to Fogelsville Station, Lehigh County, as Patrol Unit Supervisor; 1997, transferred to the Bureau of Drug Law Enforcement, Tactical Narcotics Team; 2004, transferred to Patrol Unit, Fogelsville Station, Lehigh County; 2005, promoted to Sergeant and transferred

to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation as the Eastern Section Supervisor, where he responded to, supervised and managed the Clandestine Laboratory Response Team and the Eastern Interdiction Units; 2007, promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to Troop M, Bethlehem, assigned as the Patrol Section Commander.

In 1995, Chief Summers returned to school part-time and received his Master's Degree from West Chester University in Criminal Justice Administration. From 1997 to 2005, he served as an adjunct instructor at Northampton Community College and DeSales University, where he taught Criminal Justice-related courses.

Originally from Bucks County, Chief Summers now resides in Lehigh County with his wife, Tracy, and their two children, Amanda, 11, and Lucas, nine.

In his "off-duty time," Chief Summers enjoys hunting, boating, fishing and spending time with his family. He also volunteers his time as a coach in various sporting activities in which his children participate.

Chief Summers is excited to be working in the Borough of Kutztown, and in his short time here so far, he has found everyone to be very friendly and helpful. He looks forward to the challenges the position will bring and he hopes to be "a positive influence, not only to the members of the Police Department, but also to the citizens who live and work in the Borough." 



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED

In April, Borough Council signed an agreement with Swiftreach Networks to implement a Public Notification System that will enable the Borough to broadcast telephone, E-mail and pager messages automatically to any or all residents in the Borough of Kutztown.

This Public Notification System will allow the Borough to alert the community in a matter of minutes about problems within the Borough, such as police emergencies, water/sewer system emergencies, electric, television and Internet outages, road closings, industrial disasters and terrorist threats. The system will track each call and whether or not the call was answered, and the Borough will be able to print a report outlining who has not been contacted, so follow-up calls can be made.



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SERVICES

Public Notification Systems have been adopted by government agencies throughout the country to assist with the task of alerting citizens, but to be successful in Kutztown, your cooperation is needed. **In the near future, you will receive a questionnaire requesting your contact information. Please complete the form and return it promptly, so that you can be added to the data base.**

Questions or comments? Contact Information Technology Director Frank Caruso at 610-683-6131 or fcarus@kutztownboro.org.

ALERT SIREN TO SOUND!

The Kutztown Emergency Alert Siren will be tested **August 7 & November 6 at 12:00 noon**

In case of an actual emergency, the best sources of information are local TV & radio stations.





2009 CONCERT SERIES AT THE KUTZTOWN PARK BANDSHELL



- June 6 (Saturday), 7-9 pm The Ringgold Band
- June 16 (Tuesday), 7:30-9 pm Flag Day Concert - Kutztown Community Choir
- June 20 (Saturday), 7-9 pm The Happy Dutchmen German Band
- June 27 (Saturday), 7-9 pm Buck Wyld
- July 11 (Saturday), 7:30-9 pm The Mudflaps 
- July 18 (Saturday), 7-9 pm Swing Fever
- August 2 (Sunday), Kutztown Day, 1:30, 3, 4:30 pm Allentown Band
- August 13 (Thursday), 7-9 pm KASD Summer Band

KUTZTOWN PARK ROLLER SKATING RINK *Skating is FREE!*



- Dates:** Monday and Thursday Evenings, June 8 – August 2, 2009
- Times:** 7 pm – 10 pm
- Location:** Kutztown Park Roller Rink
- Miscellaneous:** Evening programs are geared toward all ages, with contests & prizes!
Roller blades are permitted with proper capping.
Skate rentals are NOT available — please bring your own skates.

IMPORTANT DATES AT THE PARK



Date	Event	Location
7/10 – 7/12	KYAA Jr. Boys Baseball Tournament	KYAA Baseball Fields
7/11 – 7/15	Kutztown Legion Tournament hosting Berks County Legion Playoffs	Timothy M. Breidegam Field
7/18 – 7/19	KYAA Sr. Girls 14 and Under Softball Tournament	KYAA Sr. and Softball Fields
7/25 – 7/26	KYAA Sr. Girls 16 and Under Softball Tournament	KYAA Sr. and Softball Fields
7/25 – 7/29	Kutztown Jr. Legion Baseball hosting PA State Eastern Regional Tournament	Timothy M. Breidegam Field
9/12 – 11/8	Kutztown Cougar Youth Football/Cheerleading Games held every Saturday and Sunday	Park Multi-Purpose Field



BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN SWIMMING POOL 2009 SEASON TICKET PRICES

		RESIDENTS	NON-RESIDENTS
FAMILY	Parents & children including high school seniors residing in the same household	\$165.00	\$215.00
ADULTS	Over 18 years of age	\$105.00	\$145.00
	Special Late Afternoon Ticket Option*	\$ 90.00	\$130.00
STUDENTS	Including current year high school grads & college students with valid ID	\$ 95.00	\$135.00
	Special Late Afternoon Ticket Option*	\$ 80.00	\$120.00

* SPECIAL LATE AFTERNOON SEASON TICKETS are available to *individuals* and are valid after 4 pm until closing on weekdays and any time on weekends during pool hours.

FREE ADMISSION FOR KUTZTOWN BOROUGH SENIORS (62 years of age or older)
Complimentary tickets may be obtained at the Kutztown Municipal Building.

POOL HOURS

Noon – 8 pm (May, June, July)
Noon – 7 pm (August & September)

NOTICE: Season Tickets must be purchased at the Kutztown Municipal Building and ARE NOT available at the pool.

Evening hours extended, weather permitting and at the discretion of the Borough. Swimming Pool will be open daily, subject to staff availability and weather permitting, from 5/23 through 9/7/09.

GENERAL ADMISSION

ADULTS — Over 18 years of age \$7.00
STUDENTS — Incl. high school seniors \$5.00
GENERAL ADMISSION — after 5 pm \$3.50

Children under six years old are admitted free and must be attended by an adult 18 years of age or older.

KUTZTOWN YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION CONTACTS

Park Summer Playground Program:	Brett Mayer	610-944-6515
Little League:	Kathy Schlenker	610-683-7274
Girls/Boys Soccer:	Rich Reimert	610-756-4105
T-Ball:	Mike Collins	484-256-4014
Football/Cheerleading:	Ron Stoudt	610-682-4679
Dolphins Swim Team:	Beth Stump	610-683-0159
YMCA Swim Team:	Brett Mayer	610-944-6515
Basketball:	Mike Collins	484-256-4014
Legion/Jr. Legion Baseball:	Rob Rarick	610-682-6015
Wrestling:	Steve Wehr	610-683-3831
Street Hockey:	Brett Mayer	610-944-6515

KUTZTOWN PLAYGROUND

*Managed by the Tri-Valley YMCA
Sponsored by the Borough of Kutztown*

Dates: Monday through Friday
June 15 – August 7, 2009

Times: 9 am – 1 pm

Location: The Scooter Building is the hub of activity.

Fees: \$35 (Kutztown School District)
\$45 (outside Kutztown SD)

Questions: Call the Tri-Valley YMCA office at 610-944-6515



KUTZTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission (KEAC) is a Council-appointed group dedicated to examining environmental issues and providing recommendations to Borough Council on environmental policy. In addition, KEAC has been designated to help residents, business owners, and the Borough work together to address environmental issues and to make Kutztown a greener place to live.



kutztown environmental
advisory commission

Members include Chairperson Amiee Bollinger, Jeri Colicchio, Jeffrey Henninger, Robyn Jasko and Secretary Todd Underwood. Borough Planning Commission Liaison Lisa Ladd-Kidder, Kutztown University Student Representative Emily Bellush and Kutztown Borough Liaison Kevin Snyder also advise the Commission.

Since forming in 2007, KEAC has worked to create an Environmental Stewardship Award, research local air and water quality, maintain the Sacony Trail, host community workshops and more.

The Kutztown Environmental Advisory Commission meets the third Monday of every month in the Kutztown Municipal Building, at 7:00 p.m., and the public is invited to attend. For more information, please visit www.kutztownboro.org/keac.html.



LIBRARY NOTES

KAREN HOWARD RETIRES/ JANET YOST BECOMES NEW DIRECTOR

At the end of 2008, Karen Howard retired from her position as Library Director, which she held for eight-and-a-half years. Karen says that throughout the years, she met many wonderful people and she had a great time choosing books to satisfy their individual tastes. In her retirement, Karen looks forward to traveling with her husband, Bill. She also plans to continue participating in the “Friends of the Library” projects.

Janet Yost has worked for the Library since 2004, and she became the new Library Director in 2009. Janet lives in Kutztown and is working to complete her Master’s in Library and Information Sciences from Drexel University. Although she feels that Karen’s shoes will be hard to fill, she is excited by the opportunity.

BE CREATIVE @ YOUR LIBRARY

The library’s Summer Reading Program begins June 15 and runs through August 21. “Be Creative @ your Library” all summer long while keeping track of your reading to earn prizes. Join us for weekly programs and special events, including a performance by Harmony Hill Puppet Theater on June 17, at



10:30 a.m., at the Brandywine Library. Our big finale event, a performance of “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie,” will be held in Kutztown on August 19 at 10:00 a.m.

LIBRARY PROGRAMMING ROOM

The Library Programming Room, which opened in April, will be used for children’s story time, the Summer Reading Program and events for adults. The project was made possible through a Keystone Grant and the continued generosity of the community and local businesses.

We hope you will stop by to see it!



AUDIT NOTICE FOR YEAR END 2008

Borough of Kutztown, Berks County, PA

CASH IN BANK 1/1/08 12/31/08

Operational Funds		
General	\$203,218	67,811
Refuse & Recycling	\$33,646	83,927
Water	\$1,355,099	2,055,774
Electric	\$1,080,595	1,599,068
Sewer	\$2,461,863	2,565,389
Telecommunications	\$45,615	16,703

Special Purpose Funds		
Fire Tax	\$19,994	46,615
Recreation	\$6,919	6,245
Road Tax	\$7,020	6,522
State Highway Aid	\$5,728	8,047
Unempl. Comp. Escrow	\$106,744	100,543
Total	\$5,326,441	6,556,645

Fiduciary Funds		
Police Pension Fund	\$2,930,887	2,191,446

OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Taxable real estate assessed valuation	\$186,301,000
Tax rate	2.6 Mills

EXTERNAL DEBT

G.O. Bonds	
Series of 2001A, matures 11/2031	\$1,980,000
Series of 2003, matures 8/2023	\$4,475,000
Refi. Series of 2005, matures 8/2024	\$3,610,000
Refi. Series of 2006, matures 8/2031	\$2,380,000
G.O. Note	
Series of 2008, matures 9/2019	\$400,000
Total	\$12,845,000

EXPENDITURES	General government	\$723,316
	Public safety	\$1,874,480
	Sanitation and recycling	\$2,698,638
	Highways and streets	\$1,484,794
	Water, Sewer, Elec & Telecom	\$7,684,468
	Recreation	\$421,541
	Community Development	\$8,999
	Debt service	\$1,146,118
	Miscellaneous expenses	\$51,825
	Transfers & refunds	\$1,248,500
Total	\$17,342,679	

REVENUES	Tax revenues	\$989,875
	Licenses & permits	\$144,885
	Fines	\$173,732
	Interest & rents	\$67,623
	Intergovernmental revenues	\$1,428,718
	Charges for services	\$12,634,812
	Proceeds of refinancing	\$400,000
	Miscellaneous revenue	\$74,137
	Transfers & refunds	\$1,469,433
	Total	\$17,383,215

Published in accordance with Borough Code Act No. 581, Section 1043. The annual audit and financial report for the Borough are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Kutztown Municipal Building, 45 Railroad Street, Kutztown, PA 19530.

PUBLIC WORKS: PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR MAY - JUNE 2009

- Repave the portion of College Boulevard within the Borough limits from Main Street to the 222 overpass.

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

Kutztonian News



Editors: Bonnie Bray and Gina M. Wiand

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45 Railroad Street
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Your Current Mayor and Council for the Borough of Kutztown

Mayor Sandra K. Green
Council President Malcolm A. Eidle – Finance, Electric & Telecom
Council Vice-President Edwin K. Seyler – Personnel
Council Member James F. Schlegel – Water/Wastewater
Council Member Mark R. Gangewere – Public Safety
Council Member Kevin J. Snyder – Public Works
Council Member Amy A. Bray – Community Development

Come home to Hometown Utilicom.



Affordable yet cutting-edge!

You don't have to lose options to save money with our many TV choices and super-fast broadband Internet!

Local Service!

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you're supporting your hometown.

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