



# KUTZTONIAN NEWS

*A publication of the Borough of Kutztown, Pennsylvania*

ISSUE XXXI  
SUMMER 2022

## Honoring Brothers and Sisters in War KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY VETERANS HERITAGE PROJECT

By now, you have probably noticed the military banners adorning the light poles that wind through the Kutztown Park on the newly named Veterans Way, as well as on other Borough streets. The wonderful Hometown Heroes Banner Program is officially presented by the Kutztown Vietnam Veterans Breakfast Club; however, the initial spark was ignited by a man who wants no credit at all — Edwin “Eddie” Gehringer.

Humble as could be, Mr. Gehringer is a Vietnam War veteran who rightfully (and finally) received his Combat Medic Badge, in May 2017, after a series of events led to the realization that he was in fact a documented Combat Medic in Vietnam. News of this revelation received local attention, which led to several inquiries to Mr. Gehringer about why the Borough does not have military banners “like Fleetwood and Hamburg.” When he responded that he did not know, he was told to use his “clout” (their word, not his!) to get it done. He became intrigued by the idea, and a labor of love ensued to honor his “brothers and sisters in war.”



First, Mr. Gehringer asked around about how to begin, and Mayor Jim Schlegel pointed him in the right direction. He attended a Borough Public Works Committee meeting to discuss the idea, and while the Committee was eager to help, it ultimately had to go through Borough Council, who unanimously approved the project and agreed to facilitate the labor involved with hanging the banners.

Upon hearing about the project, the Kutztown Community Partnership offered to help by collecting orders and marketing the program to residents...and it took off immediately!

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### Borough Info

**Borough Administration & Community Development Office**

Monday-Friday\*  
8:00am-4:30pm

\*Except holidays (listed on Web site)

**Borough Council Meetings**

Third Tuesday of each month  
7:30pm in the Train Station

All other meetings listed on Web site

Veterans Way Memorial in the Kutztown Park  
Photo credit: Brian Bailey

## Honoring Brothers and Sisters in War: Kutztown Community Veterans Heritage Project (continued)

With close to 100 contributors to the project and 319 banners sold at the time of this publication, the Hometown Heroes Banner Program became a quick success!

Excited by the success, the Kutztown Vietnam Veterans Breakfast Club decided they shouldn't stop at the banner program. Now known as the Kutztown Community Veterans Heritage Project, other initiatives include the new memorial in the Park, a book, videos and a logo that is currently being designed. Be on the lookout for great things to come from this dedicated group.

The Kutztown Vietnam Veterans Breakfast Club wishes to thank the Borough's Public Works and Electric departments for all of their help in facilitating their projects. They also want to acknowledge Dennis Krumanocker for beautifully enhancing the photos that appear on the Hometown Heroes banners.

*The Borough of Kutztown thanks all of our hometown veterans!*

**TO FIND A BANNER, visit:**



**[www.kutztownboro.org/community/banner-program/](http://www.kutztownboro.org/community/banner-program/)**  
or **[www.kutztownpartnership.org](http://www.kutztownpartnership.org)**

## Rare Keith Haring Fitness Court Coming to KU Campus

Kutztown University is partnering with the Kutztown Community Partnership to bring a world-class, one-of-a-kind Keith Haring Fitness Court to campus to help promote health and wellness in the Kutztown community. The interactive fitness court will be located on the corner of Baldy Street and Normal Avenue, where Haring's art will be integrated into every element.

Haring, a Kutztown native, was a legendary activist and artist who revolutionized pop art through his graffiti-like pieces full of abstract lines and colorful flairs. His 1980s illustrations grew out of the New York street culture and have become a widely recognized visual language to many.

The Keith Haring Fitness Collection is a limited edition, outdoor, public art collaboration with the Keith Haring Foundation in New York, Outdoor Fitness Court, and the National Fitness Campaign. The fitness court will feature a 32'x35' outdoor bodyweight circuit training system with 30 pieces of body-weight fitness elements, including seven full-body circuit training stations and a body-weight training wall.

"We are proud and excited that Keith's hometown, Kutztown, was one of 10 nationally chosen sites for the project," said Sandy Green, Kutztown University Community Liaison and Government Relations Assistant. "We have an amazing opportunity to transform one of Kutztown's highly visible locations into an iconic destination point. The Keith Haring Outdoor Fitness Court will be part art gallery, part outdoor gym and a point of pride for Kutztown." →

### BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN CONTACT NUMBERS

#### 45 Railroad Street

Administrative Offices .....	610-683-6131
Public Works/Utility Services .....	610-683-6131
Internet/Digital Phone Services .....	610-683-5722
Television Service (via yondoo).....	877-309-4462
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 .....	610-587-3298

#### After Hours Support

Choose a department option .....	610-683-6131
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#### 171 Industrial Avenue

Swimming Pool .....	610-683-9177
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#### 70 Bieber Alley

Kutztown Community Library, Inc...	610-683-5820
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Approved Keith Haring Artwork Selection for City of Kutztown Fitness Court®

# Oceans of Possibilities

## AT THE KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY LIBRARY

### Beyond Kutztown:

#### Rainbow Paint Party | Wednesday, June 22 at 10 am

Join Susan from Sunshine Signs to paint a rainbow decoration. Sign up at the library before Tuesday, June 21. Most enjoyed by elementary school ages.

#### Keith Haring Appreciation | Tuesday, June 28 at 6 pm

Listen to Keith's sister, Kay, read her book *The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing* at the library. First 15 families to sign up will receive a free book. Great for families. Sign up at the library.

#### Family Yoga | Wednesday, July 27 at 10 am

Explore how yoga improves balance, strength and flexibility. Practice breathing techniques to feel calm and relaxed. Register by emailing [kutztownlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:kutztownlibrary@gmail.com).



## Summer III Quest



#### Summer Quest Starts! | Monday, June 13

This summer, it's not just about reading. Stop by the library to pick up Activity Trackers and work your way toward earning prizes! Anyone can participate (babies - adults). No library card required.

#### Rainbow Fish Play | Wednesday, July 13 at 2 pm

The Yocum Institute Teen Ensemble presents the play, *Rainbow Fish*. Entertaining for families.

#### Reptiles at the Park | Thursday, July 21 at 10 am

Join Jesse the Reptile Guy to learn about reptiles and meet them in real life! Perfect for families. Held at the Kutztown Park Bandshell.

#### Under the Sea Dance Party | Wed., August 3 at 10 am

Play and dance to songs with colorful scarves, a parachute, and a playlist of family friendly music. Best for preschool and young elementary.

#### Magic Show | Thursday, August 11 at 4 pm

Join Eddy Ray the Magician for a magical afternoon!  
All ages will be entranced.

**If You're Going to Fly, Get Your Passport in Time!**

Kutztown Community Library is ready to help you reach your destinations. The library has been processing passport applications and taking photos for several years, so travelers can get their passports in time for any upcoming vacations.

Call our experienced agents to inquire about documentation needed to apply. Applications must be completed prior to your appointment. If you simply need a photo for a passport renewal, the library can do that too!

Check [www.kutztownlibrary.org](http://www.kutztownlibrary.org) for times or call 610-683-5820 to schedule a date and time.

## Town Twinning with Altrip, Germany

In 2021, Borough Council adopted a Resolution forging a relationship with Altrip, a municipality in Germany, through programming to exchange historical and cultural information in an effort to participate in town twinning.

Town twinning, also known as partnering towns or sister cities, refers to the concept of pairing cities across the globe as a way to foster human and cultural links among nations.

Located in the Rhine River Valley of Germany, Altrip is home to many long-time Kutztown residents' ancestors. Town twinning allows both towns to explore, encourage and promote opportunities for shared cultural exchanges, visits and experiences between the two communities and their broader regions, to build understanding and nurture transatlantic friendship between the United States and Germany.

In addition, a pen pal program was created by the Kutztown Community Library to help members of the two communities get to know each other.



**KUTZTOWN DAY RETURNS THIS SUMMER!**



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022**  
IN THE KUTZTOWN PARK

*Fun for the Whole Family!*



**Saucony Creek Grille and Catering**  
**SNACK BAR IN THE PARK**

For more information, call 484-648-2813 or visit [www.sauconycreekgrille.com](http://www.sauconycreekgrille.com).

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

**Dates:** Monday – Friday, June 20 – August 12, 2022  
**Times:** 9am – 1pm  
**Location:** The Scooter Building is the hub of activity  
**Fees:** \$65 (in Borough of Kutztown)  
\$130 (outside Borough)  
**Questions:** Call the Tri-Valley YMCA office at 610-944-6515

## Park Facility Reservations

2022 reservations will be accepted any time and 2023 reservations will be accepted on or after October 3, 2022.

A letter of request must be submitted to the Public Works Committee, at least 30 days in advance, for consideration of special events in the parks, Scooter Building or Band Shell. Contact Brian Bailey at [bbailey@kutztownboro.org](mailto:bbailey@kutztownboro.org) or mail your request to him at 45 Railroad Street, Kutztown, PA 19530.

Fees must be paid to the Borough no later than five days after the reservation is made, except for reservations made less than fifteen days prior to the event, which must be paid on the day the reservation is made.

## 2022 CONCERT SERIES IN THE KUTZTOWN PARK BANDSHELL

Thank you to all our sponsors of this year's Concert Series!

Find the full list at [www.kutztownboro.org](http://www.kutztownboro.org)

wed 5/18 6:30-8:30PM  
KASD Jazz Bands

sat 6/4 7-9PM  
The Dave Mell Band

tues 6/14 7:30-9PM  
Community Choir Flag Day Concert

sat 6/18 7-9PM  
Ben Mauger's Dixieland Band

mon 6/20 6-8PM  
The Ringgold Band

sat 6/25 7-9PM  
The Cramer Brothers

wed 7/6 7-9PM  
KU Summer Music Festival  
"Summer Night Dreams"

sat 7/9 7-9PM  
The Mudflaps

sat 7/16 7-9PM  
Frog Holler

sat 7/23 7-9PM  
TimeWhys

sat 7/30 6-8PM  
The Fabulous Greaseband

sun 8/7 KUTZTOWN DAY  
1-3PM Swing Fever Band  
3-6PM The Happy Dutchmen Strolling  
6-8PM Flamin' Dick & The Hot Rods

thurs 8/11 7-9PM  
KASD Summer Band



### The following buildings are available for rental:

<u>KUTZTOWN PARK</u>	<u>CAPACITY</u>
Band Shell*	100
Scooter Building*	130
Brick Pavilion	50-100
Ceres Pavilion*	50-60
Flora Pavilion	50-60
Pomone Pavilion	50-60

\* Not available for rent on first Sunday in August (Kutztown Day).

**North Park is CLOSED until further notice.**  
Do not attempt to cross the bridge or the stream.

# BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN SWIMMING POOL 2022 SEASON TICKET PRICES

	Borough Residents	Non-Borough Residents
<b>FAMILY</b> Parents & children incl. high school seniors residing in the same household	<b>\$ 200</b>	<b>\$ 275</b>
<b>ADULTS</b> Over 18 years of age	<b>\$ 125</b>	<b>\$ 175</b>
Special Late Afternoon Season Ticket Option*	\$ 95	\$ 140
<b>STUDENTS</b> Incl. current year high school graduates & college students with valid ID	<b>\$ 100</b>	<b>\$ 145</b>
Special Late Afternoon Season Ticket Option*	\$ 85	\$ 130
* Special Late Afternoon Season Tickets are available to individuals and are valid after 4pm until closing on weekdays and any time on weekends during pool hours.		
<b>SENIOR CITIZENS</b> 62 years of age or older		
<b>BOROUGH RESIDENT</b> w/complimentary ticket at Municipal Building	<b>FREE</b>	
<b>INSIDE KUTZTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>		<b>\$ 65</b>
<b>OUTSIDE KUTZTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT</b>		<b>\$ 95</b>

## SEASON PASSES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE.

There will be a charge of \$25/pass for lost season passes — no exceptions.

### POOL HOURS

12 – 8pm (May 28 - July) ♦ 12 – 7pm (Aug. - Sept. 5)

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,  
through September 5, 2022.

♦ NO SEASON TICKETS SOLD AT THE POOL ♦

### GENERAL ADMISSION

	Kutztown Area School District (KASD) Resident	Non-KASD Resident
<b>ADULTS</b> Over 18 years of age (including Senior Citizens)	<b>\$8</b>	<b>\$12</b>
<b>STUDENTS/CHILDREN</b> Incl. ages 3 through high school seniors & KU students with valid ID	<b>\$6</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>CHILDREN UNDER THREE</b> with paid ticket holder	<b>FREE</b>	<b>\$5</b>
<b>GENERAL ADM. AFTER 5pm</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>\$7</b>

Should the Borough of Kutztown, its employees and/or elected officials have to limit the attendance capacity at the Kutztown Pool, at any time, or close the pool for periods of time to be in compliance with COVID-19 regulations and requirements by the CDC, State of Pennsylvania or the County of Berks, **there will be no Season Pass refunds available under any circumstance**, and the Purchaser/Holder of the Season Pass must acknowledge that risk upon purchase, and accept that risk as indicated by signing a disclaimer on the Season Pass application.

## Ride the Rails in Kutztown!

The Allentown & Auburn Railroad operates a four mile track between Kutztown and Topton, and offers seasonal excursions as well as special events throughout the year, including Summer Days Train Rides, the evening Firefly Express, the Library Express, an Autumn Wine Tasting, and holiday events with Santa Claus.



Visit [www.allentownandauburnrr.com](http://www.allentownandauburnrr.com)  
for more information.



## Pool Snack Bar Managed by the Kutztown Community Partnership

Enjoy lunch with your family at the pool or grab a quick snack to cool down in the heat! Kutztown Community Partnership is a community non-profit organization.

# Borough of Kutztown Departments Receive National Awards

## WATER TREATMENT PLANT RECOGNIZED FOR DRINKING WATER CLEANLINESS AND PERFORMANCE

For the tenth consecutive year, the Borough of Kutztown Water Treatment Plant has received the prestigious Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award from the Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP). To highlight this achievement, the Water Plant will receive a personalized crystal "10 Year AWOP Award" at the annual WWOAP conference in October.

AWOP is a national filter plant optimization effort toward optimizing filter plant turbidity, or drinking water cleanliness, and performance. It is a joint effort among numerous states, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

and the water operators. The top performing filter plants that submitted their 2021 turbidity data will receive an AWOP Award this year; 16 large filter plants (serving >10,000 people) will be presented with AWOP Awards; and only three of those plants, which includes the Borough of Kutztown, will receive the crystal award.

"This is only possible due to the hard work and dedication of our operators as well as Borough Council's support," said Troy Smith, the Borough's Water Plant Manager.



For more information on the Borough of Kutztown's water system and its commitment to clean water, visit [www.kutztownboro.org/departments/water/](http://www.kutztownboro.org/departments/water/).

## ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR RELIABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

For a third consecutive year, the Borough of Kutztown has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2021. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

"Once again, public power utilities have demonstrated their commitment to providing highly reliable power to their customers," said Alex Hofmann, APPA's Vice President of Technical and Operations Services. "We commend these utilities for their hard work when it comes to keeping the lights on in their communities."

Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the amount of time that customers of other types of utilities do.

"We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that we keep Kutztown powered," said Steve Diehl, the Borough's Electric Superintendent.

Compared to the national reliability data collected by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the Borough's reliability data compiled through the eReliability Tracker is in the top 25% of utilities for System Average Interruption Duration Index.



For more information on the Borough of Kutztown's electric system and its commitment to reliability, visit [www.kutztownboro.org/departments/electric/](http://www.kutztownboro.org/departments/electric/).





## E-bike Offers Options to the Police Department

With a donation from Saucony Cross, the Kutztown Police Department purchased a new electric bike, which will be used for patrol when weather and operational needs permit. It will give officers the ability to respond to incidents as quickly as a vehicle in most instances and provide the ability to patrol in areas that can't be reached while in a vehicle. It is much more environmentally friendly than a patrol car, moreover, the officer will be more accessible to the community. Police Chief Craig Summers believes that Kutztown is the first municipality in Berks County to employ the use of an e-bike.



Officer Charles Lawson with the new e-bike Photo credit: Craig Summers

## Retirement News

Congratulations to **Deb Loy**, who retired after 37 plus years with the Borough! Deb joined the Borough staff, in early 1985, as a part-time clerical helper in the Code Office and a data entry clerk, and she became a full-time Borough employee on October 1, 1985, continuing her position in the Code Office. She transferred from her position in the Code Office to become a Borough Hall Office Clerk, with a primary focus on utility billing, in 1992, and she loyally filled that role through June 10, 2022. The Borough recognizes and commends Deb for her dedication and contributions to the Borough of Kutztown and wishes her a wonderful retirement!

## Life Saving Awards

Congratulations and thank you to officers **Karl Schemberg**, **Matthew Yerger** and **Robert Hriczko**, who were all recipients of the Life Saving Award for their heroic actions!



### Electronics Recycling Day

Join the Borough and RRS on  
August 20 from 9 to 11 am.



More details and a list of items accepted are available online at [www.kutztownboro.org](http://www.kutztownboro.org).

### A Pharmaceutical/Medication Drop Box is located at Borough Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



Unused or unwanted medication can be disposed of at this secure location, Monday-Friday, from 8:00am-4:30pm. Visit our Web site for details.

### The Borough of Kutztown and Kutztown Municipal Authority 2021 Drinking Water Quality Report

is available online at

[www.kutztownboro.org/departments/water/water-report/](http://www.kutztownboro.org/departments/water/water-report/)

To receive a paper copy, please visit the Kutztown Municipal Building or call a Borough representative at 610-683-6131.

**We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets federal and state requirements.**

### WATER TREATMENT PLANT HIGHLY RATED BY PA DEP

At the end of 2021, the PA Department of Environmental Protection inspected the Borough's Water Treatment Plant and gave it a "Commendable" performance rating for its ability to remove and inactivate waterborne pathogens through optimized filter plant performance. Only 15% of the water plants in Pennsylvania receive this rating, and the Borough has received this rating at every three-year inspection since the plant went online in 2003. Superintendent Troy Smith attributes the commendable record to the "crew's knowledge and dedication to plant performance and maintenance, as well as Borough Council providing us with the equipment and support that we need to keep everything optimized."



Visit [www.kutztownboro.org/departments/water/](http://www.kutztownboro.org/departments/water/) to read the full report.



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Writer/Editor: Gina M. Wiand  
Graphic Designer: Sheila M. Sacks  
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45 Railroad Street, Kutztown, PA 19530-1112

## **Your Current Mayor and Council for the Borough of Kutztown**

Mayor	James F. Schlegel
Council President	Kevin J. Snyder
Council Vice President	Derek D. Mace
Council President Pro Tem	Lisa Ladd-Kidder
Council Member	Edwin K. Seyler
Council Member	George Kusterer
Council Member	Frederick Engelhardt

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[www.kutztownboro.org](http://www.kutztownboro.org)



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Upload data just  
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**Reliable**  
Now with  
redundant circuits  
for system backup.

**Affordable**  
Pay for exactly  
what you need.

15x15Mb for \$32. <sup>50</sup>
30x30Mb for \$47. <sup>50</sup>
75x75Mb for \$80. <sup>00</sup>
150x150Mb for \$95. <sup>00</sup>

**610-683-5722**

Visit [www.huHomeNet.com](http://www.huHomeNet.com) or Like us on Facebook

Pricing and content subject to change. Where service is available. Equipment conditions may apply.  
An additional charge and franchise fee apply to Maxatawny Township customers.

**Did you know?** In 2021, the Borough of Kutztown recycled almost 9 tons of electronic waste.