

THE BIG SWITCH

Beginning at noon on September 8, 2008, Wilmington-area stations WWAY (ABC), WSFX-TV (FOX), WECT (NBC), WILM-LP (CBS) and W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting) will broadcast only digital signals to their viewers in New Hanover, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus and Pender counties. The rest of the nation will make the switch on February 17, 2009. The DTV transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television (through a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears”). If you watch over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you must either: (1) buy a digital to analog converter box; (2) buy a digital television; or (3) subscribe to a paid TV service.

Digital-to-analog converter boxes are in stores and have a one-time cost of \$40-\$70. To help you pay for the boxes, the U.S. Government is offering two \$40 coupons per household. For more information on the coupons, visit www.DTV2009.gov, or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Plus, you should not need a new antenna if you get good quality reception on analog channels 2-51 with your existing antenna.

The Federal Communications Commission has staff available to educate people about the switch. In Brunswick County, you may contact Jessica Przybyla at (202) 418-2721. Additionally, FCC staff will be at the following local events and locations to answer questions about the digital television transition and sign-up area residents for the converter box coupon:

- Friday, August 1 10:00 am – 12:00 pm:** St. Brendan’s Catholic Church, Hwy 17, Supply
- Saturday, August 2 5:00 pm-10:00 pm:** Leland Under the Lights Classic Car Show, Wal-mart parking lot, Leland
- Monday, August 4 9:30 am-12:30 pm:** Leland WIC Center, 1492 Village Road N.E., Leland
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm:** Brunswick Community College, Main Campus, Bolivia
- Tuesday, August 5 8:30 am-11:30 am:** Brunswick County Health Department, 25 Courthouse Drive, Bolivia
- Wednesday, August 6 8:30 am-11:30 am:** Shallotte WIC Center, Sunward Office Building, 117 Holden Beach Road, Shallotte
- Saturday, August 16 9:15 am–11:00 am:** South Brunswick Interchurch Council Food Pantry, Camp United Methodist Church, 4807 Main Street, Shallotte
- Saturday, August 23 10:00 am–4:00 pm:** Intercultural Festival, Brunswick Community College Main Campus, Bolivia

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What You Need To Know About DTV