



Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by our volunteers to our volunteers about*
our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

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PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 814-693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

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Norfolk-Southern Foundation
Small Tube Products

Methamphetamine Use On The Rise In Blair County

Methamphetamine, or meth, has received a lot of attention in Blair County lately as there have been several labs busted in the past few weeks. Meth is a highly addictive drug that acts as a stimulant and can be snorted, smoked, injected, or swallowed. Users of methamphetamine can expect to experience increased respiration and heart rate, irregular heartbeat, hyperthermia (overheating of the body), weight loss, severe dental problems, mood disturbances, and aggressive behavior. Meth has also been known to cause paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations, and psychotic episodes.

At least five separate meth labs were discovered in the past weeks in the Altoona/Duncansville area. Several were in private homes and at least one was on state game lands. Synthesizing meth is a highly dangerous process using many volatile and dangerous chemicals, including paint thinner, acetone, anhydrous ammonia, drain cleaner, battery acid, and Red Devil Lye. The presence of a combination of these things, as well as coffee filters, rubber hoses, camping stoves, and large quantities of batteries and cold medicine could indicate the presence of a meth lab.

Meth labs pose a serious health and environmental risk not only to those responsible for making meth (known as cooks) but to the people in the vicinity of the lab as well as the surrounding environment. The chemical vapors produced during meth production permeate the surrounding air and buildings and can cause serious lung and upper respiratory damage. Most places that were once used as meth labs are now uninhabitable. The by-products from meth production are often dumped into nearby rivers and fields and contaminate the land and kill livestock.

If you suspect that there is a meth lab in your vicinity, you are strongly encouraged to contact local law enforcement and to not enter the premises under any circumstances. Meth labs are extremely dangerous and pose great hazards to human health.

As always, you are encouraged to talk to your children and family about the dangers of meth, as well as places they can turn to for help if they suspect meth use in their school or neighborhood.

For more information or resources about meth, please contact your local police department, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America at www.drugfree.org or Citizens Against Meth at www.citizensagainstmeth.org.

Mission

Facilitating partnerships between community and business to fight drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.

Our Partners & Friends

[Blair Countians for Drug Free Communities](#)

[Crime Solvers of Blair County](#)

[Pennsylvania Gang Investigators Association](#)

[United Way of Blair County](#)

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

[CLICK HERE to register as an Operation Our Town Volunteer](#)



To serve on an Operation Our Town Roundtable, to become a Committed Business or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact Shawna Hoover by email or call 814-296-8730.

Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Wed.	HOPE Support Group Meeting (weekly meeting)	7:00pm	Crossroads in Altoona
1/19	Crime Solvers	8:00 am	WTAJ
1/19	Marketing Roundtable	4:00 pm	OOT Office
1/20	Pharmacy Roundtable	7:15 am	OOT Office
1/20	CJAB	11:45 am	Blair County Courthouse
1/24	OOT Steering Committee	6:00 pm	OOT Office
1/26	Housing RT	1:00 pm	TBA
1/28	Health & Welfare Council	8:00 am	ARC of Blair County
2/7	Booker T. Washington Mtg	4:00 pm	Community Action Agency
2/9	Northern Blair County RT	7:00 am	Bull Pen Restaurant

*OOT Meetings: For more information about Operation Our Town meetings, contact Shawna Hoover at oot@lsfiore.com or call 296-8730.

Operation Our Town Announces Donor Event

Operation Our Town is pleased to announce plans to hold a mix and mingle event with donors, grant recipients, law enforcement, volunteers and potential donors to showcase all of the great work everyone has done since Operation Our Town's inception. This gathering will also provide an opportunity for donors and grant recipients to meet and review what has been done with the grant money. This event is planned for March 22nd, 2011 starting at 5:15pm. It will be held at 5506 6th Ave, Altoona-the blue building located behind Fiore True Value Hardware.

Planning for this event started because the Operation Our Town board felt it was important for donors to see what projects their money had gone toward funding and for the grant recipients to have an opportunity to highlight their programs and the positive impact they have made in the community. Law enforcement officials will also be in attendance to talk about the improvements made with the assistance of the law enforcement grants and to highlight the decrease in drug related crime since the creation of Operation Our Town.

For questions or more information, or if you are interested in attending or volunteering at this event, please feel free to contact us at 814-296-8730 or at oot2@lsfiore.com.

2010 4th Quarter Crime Statistics

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Drug Sale/Mfg: Opium/Cocaine	10	2	5
Drug Sale/Mfg: Marijuana	4	5	3
Drug Sale/Mfg: Synthetic	1	2	0
Drug Sale/Mfg: Other	9	0	5
Drug Possession: Opium/Cocaine	3	1	1
Drug Possession: Marijuana	12	7	6
Drug Possession: Synthetic	5	2	1
Drug Possession: Other	6	0	2
DUI	44	19	42

Upcoming Events

Tune In!



To Operation Our Town's Cable Access show, "Treatment", running Fridays at 6pm and Saturdays at 11am, now through January!

March 5th

Family Health & Safety Fair

Bellwood-Antis Library

10am-1pm

More info coming soon!

Operation Our Town
**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**
Call 296-8730

Feb. 10th



Operation Our Town
Year In Review

At Blair County's Chamber of
Commerce Breakfast Club

The Casino at Lakemont Park
7:45 am

Feb. 26th

Community Classic Dinner &
Auction

Bavarian Hall
6:30 pm

Special Guest: Rocky Bleier!

Sponsored by the Booker T.
Washington Community
Revitalization Project

Call 814-949-2231 for tickets

Salvia Gets National Media Attention

A Youtube video of Miley Cyrus smoking a bong full of salvia has garnered this little-known drug national media attention and raised questions and concerns among parents, teenagers, and concerned citizens. Some things you should know about salvia are:

- It has a long tradition of being used by Mazatec shamans who use it for healing purposes.
- It is a psychoactive which can induce "visions" and other hallucinogenic effects.
- It can be smoked in a cigarette, bong or pipe or chewed
- It is legal in most states, and some states have a ban on it only if it is sold or possessed by minors.
- Some scientists believe that this plant may have medicinal purposes in the treatment of Alzheimer's, chronic pain, and drug addiction.

There has not yet been a lot of reported use of salvia locally or regionally, but because of the media attention it has received, use is predicted to increase.

Operation Our Town Partners With Penn State

Operation Our Town recently partnered with Penn State Altoona to create videos capturing the mission and goals of Operation Our Town and their grant recipients and partners. Students in an introductory course in video production met with several organizations to talk about what they do and how it benefits the community and then captured them in action on video. These video clips will be used in a variety of ways and have absolutely captured the spirit of Operation Our Town and it's partners. We are very pleased with their work and would like to extend a heartfelt thanks for all their hard work.

These videos are available for viewing on Youtube, and we encourage you to take a look and admire their hard work!

Booker T. Washington Community Revitalization Project:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXXIwaDFULM>

Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation-Evergreen Manors After-School Program:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK8wQIZT-UQ>

The R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out To Community Kids)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgK25JFKigk>

4th Quarter 2010 Push Out the Pusher Calls

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Calls to Voicemail	83	61	58	Total 4th Quarter Calls: 274
Live Calls	27	27	18	
Total Calls	110	88	76	