



# Operation Our Town Reporter

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

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2011



## [OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

### **Board Members:**

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Jo Ann Nardelli  
Dr. Todd Negola  
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Dr. G. Brian Toth

### **Founding Members:**

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New Pig  
NPC, Inc.  
Reliance Bank  
Sheetz, Inc.  
United Way of Blair County  
Ward Trucking  
Wolf Furniture

### **Committed Businesses:**

American Eagle Paper Mills  
Grainger Industrial Supply  
Norfolk-Southern Foundation  
Small Tube Products

## Steering Committee Notes from Jan. 24th

**Law Enforcement Roundtable:** Randy Feathers reported that they recently held a meeting with doctors, care providers, prosecutors, and law enforcement from Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, and Centre counties to address the problem of doctors over-prescribing pain medication. He also reported that they have conducted numerous Operation Our Town Law Enforcement operations including raids, search warrants & meth labs.

**Faith Based Roundtable:** Evie Madison reported that the Faith-Based RT is encouraging members to provide information about any community services they are providing (day care, after-school programs, free meals, etc.) to the agencies compiling the Child & Family Services Directory for Blair County and the PA 211 system.

**K-12 Education Roundtable:** Brian Toth reported they are in the process of piloting the MakeMySchoolsSafe.com program. They also discussed school safety materials to be presented by Dr. Tim Brungart from the PSU Research Lab. They are also planning on nominating an assistant chairperson.

**Retail Roundtable:** JoAnn Nardelli reported that she is planning to have Judge Kopriva attend a roundtable meeting to discuss the issue of K2 and other legal drugs with retailers. She is waiting to hear from the Logan Valley Mall Merchants and is planning on having a meeting in February.

**Gang Roundtable:** Todd Negola reported that Crime Clean-Up Day is planned for May 14th. He also announced that the Gangs, Drugs, & Crime Prevention Symposium will be held at the Blair County Convention Center from Aug. 17-19th. He has many trainers on board for this event. There will be a \$25 registration fee and the target audience is law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, education professionals, and social service professionals. They are tentatively planning on having a free community forum on one or several evenings.

## Operation Our Town @ The Altoona Curve

Operation Our Town is looking forward once again to having a presence at the Altoona Curve for the summer 2011 season. The Curve has announced that they will donate a portion of ticket sales to Operation Our Town on the following dates:

- April 18th
- May 2nd
- May 23rd
- June 27th
- August 22nd
- September 5th

Two dollars from every ticket will benefit Operation Our Town. To purchase tickets online, go to [www.altoonacurve.com](http://www.altoonacurve.com) and click "Tickets". Then click the "Charity Mondays" link and then click the Operation Our Town logo. We will also be distributing a flyer that can be presented at the box office for ticket purchases to go toward Operation Our Town. Thanks in advance for your support!

## 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](#)

## Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Wed.	HOPE Support Group Meeting (weekly meeting)	7:00pm	Crossroads in Altoona
2/16	Crime Solvers	8:00 am	WTAJ
2/16	Marketing Roundtable	4:00 pm	OOT Office
2/17	CJAB	11:45 am	Blair County Courthouse
2/17	Faith-Based Roundtable	2:00 pm	Providence Presbyterian Church
2/22	K-12 Education Roundtable	11:00 am	Bellwood-Antis District Offices
2/24	Pharmacy Roundtable	7:15 am	OOT Office
2/26	Community Classic Dinner	6:30 pm	Bavarian Hall
3/7	Booker T. Washington Mtg	4:00 pm	Community Action Agency

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

## Northern Blair Roundtable Unveils Community Campaign

**“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it’s indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it’s indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it’s indifference.”**

**-Elie Weisel**

[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.**

Building off the recent success of the movie “Unstoppable”, the Northern Blair roundtable kicked off a campaign to solicit ideas for community improvement from Tyrone residents.

The campaign, called “Tyrone: Our Unstoppable Town” asks those who live or work in the Tyrone School District to submit their best ideas to improve the Tyrone community. Entry forms can be found at Kopp Drug (Tyrone location), the Tyrone-Snyder Library, Tyrone Area School District schools, and the Tyrone Hospital. Entry forms were also distributed in the Jan. 29th edition of the Tyrone Herald.

All positive entries will be entered into a random drawing for prizes, which will take place a Tyrone Irish Heritage Days. These ideas will also be incorporated into an action plan to be implemented in the spring.

“Tyrone is a significant town; we love it, but there’s always areas to improve and areas to make it a better place,” said Jim Kilmartin, Northern Blair Roundtable chairperson, at a Jan. 27th press conference.

All of us at Operation Our Town are pleased with the efforts of the Northern Blair roundtable and hope we can continue to be a positive influence in the Tyrone area and all of Blair County.

## New Operation Our Town Cable Access Show To Air

The newest edition of Operation Our Town’s cable access show “Taking Back Our Neighborhoods” is scheduled to air February & March every Friday at 6 pm and every Saturday at 11 am. The new show focuses on education and the guests are Dr. David Crumrine of the Spring Cove school district and Dr. Thomas Otto of the Bellwood-Antis school district. Both guests brought a wealth of knowledge to Operation Our Town and discuss topics relevant to both parents & children such as personal safety, bullying, drug prevention, and how both schools and parents can stay positively involved in children’s lives. Our moderator, Dean McKnight, brings great energy and charisma to the show and we are very pleased to have him on board. We strongly encourage you to tune in!



## Upcoming Events

**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**

**March 5th**

**Family Health & Safety Fair**

**Bellwood-Antis Library**

**10am-1pm**

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

**March 22nd**

**Operation Our Town Donor/Grant Recipient Event**  
**5:15 pm**  
**The Blue Building Behind Fiore True Value Hardware**

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

**April 16th**

**Week of the Young Child Celebration**  
**Penn State Altoona Campus**  
**More details to be announced!**

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

## Operation Our Town Announces Fall 2010 Grant Recipients

Operation Our Town is pleased to announce the grant recipients from the Fall 2010 grant cycle. We appreciate all the hard work these programs do and their dedication to Operation Our Town's mission to fight drugs and crime. The recipients are:

- Altoona Area Public Library: Living Across the Ages program
- Altoona Area School District: Project SOAR (Study, Overcome, Achieve, Reward)
- Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program, Inc: Student Assistance Training Program
- Child Advocates of Blair County: Parent-Child Home Program
- Claysburg-Kimmel Cares: Strengthening Families Program
- Family Services, Inc: SWOOP (Street Wise Outreach Opportunity Program)
- Garver Memorial YMCA: After-School Program
- IDA Community Development Corp: Evergreen Manors Supportive Services
- The Family Resource Center @ The United Way of Blair County: Altoona Community Garden
- The Nehemiah Project: 11th Street After-School Program
- The ROCK: After-School Program
- Tyrone Area School District: Tyrone Tackles Tobacco & Truancy

We are particularly pleased with the geographical scope of the grant recipients this cycle, and look forward to expanding our efforts and influence throughout all of Blair County.

Our next grant cycle will be for Spring 2011, and applications will be accepted March 1st through April 15th. We encourage any non-profit, school, or government agency residing in Blair County to apply. We will also be offering a grant-writing training in March, with more details to come shortly.



Pictured: Representatives from our Fall 2010 grant recipient programs.

## Operation Our Town Recognizes Community Partners & Law Enforcement

At the Feb. 10th Operation Our Town chamber breakfast, awards were given to the 2011 OOT Community Partner as well as several outstanding law enforcement officials for their dedication to fighting drugs & crime in Blair County. We are very grateful for all the effort and support these individuals have given through the year and we look forward to continuing to work with them. The award recipients were:

Community Partnership Award: Blair County Chamber of Commerce

Law Enforcement Awards:

- Assistant Chief Jeremy Hetrick
- Patrolman Timothy Gearhart
- Trooper Charles Chaney
- Patrolman Christopher Moser
- ADA Peter Weeks
- ADA Derek Elensky
- Trooper Charles Schaefer
- Agent Mark Sinisi
- Agent Norman Young