



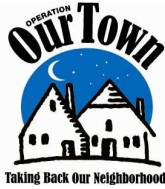
Operation Our Town Reporter

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

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2010

PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 814-693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

Board Members:

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Kathy Salyards, AmeriCorps VISTA

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Reverend Betty Landis
Jo Ann Nardelli
Dr. Todd Negola
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Blair Companies
D.C. Goodman & Sons, Inc.
Delta Health Technologies
Fiore Buick/Toyota
Grappone Law Offices
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Lawruk Realty
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M&T Bank
McLanahan Corporation
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co.
New Pig
NPC, Inc.
Reliance Bank
Sheetz, Inc.
United Way of Blair County
Ward Trucking
Wolf Furniture

Committed Businesses:

Grainger Industrial Supply
Norfolk-Southern Foundation
Small Tube Products

Steering Committee Notes from March 15

Grant Committee: The Spring 2010 grant cycle timeline is from March 1 to April 15. The grant committee provided a grant training on March 18th. The committee also made a few changes to the grant application.

Volunteer Roundtable: Betsy is putting together a policy regarding clearances for volunteers. It will be submitted to the board for approval. The roundtable was also asked to join the Altoona Police Department to adopt needy families at Christmas which was heartily accepted.

Housing Roundtable: Shawna reported on behalf of Cheryl that the next roundtable meeting is scheduled for April 28th. OOT also participated in the Altoona Housing Authority training on March 22nd.

Gang Roundtable: Todd reported that plans are underway for the Crime Clean-up Day to be held on May 15. Randy said that he would like to have law enforcement provide a captain for each team that is dispersed.

Faith-based Roundtable: Betty reported that there will be an Open House on April 22nd at the Nehemiah Project. The RT is also planning a Lunch n' Learn on May 27th at the ARC of Blair County to educate the faith-based community on co-occurring disorders and mental health issues in honor of Mental Health Month.

Marketing Roundtable: JR reported that WTAJ will be doing the Touched by Our Town series. Fox8/ABC23 will be producing content for a PSA about the upcoming Crime Clean-up Day. The roundtable is currently planning their first Public Access Channel TV Show. Shawna will contact the Curve to see if we can distribute the new Push Out the Pusher yard signs at baseball games on Memorial Day weekend.

Judicial Roundtable: Jolene reported that the county did not get any of the four grants that they applied for from the stimulus money, but they will apply again in the future. Tom Loucks is going to try to put a data dashboard together for the county.

K-12 Education Roundtable: Shawna reported on behalf of Brian that the roundtable was not able to submit the 21st Century Grant because they lost the support of Altoona, Claysburg, and Williamsburg.

Human Services Roundtable: Judy reported that the juvenile drug court is running strong. They started with two juveniles and are now up to ten. Parents are in the courtroom with the juvenile. She also mentioned that Crossroads may be going to Bucks County to observe an advanced recovery center and learn how they can improve Crossroads.

Government Roundtable: Donna is going to bring local government officials together and tell them about the Crime Clean-up Day and get their participation and support of the event.

Law Enforcement Roundtable: The RT recently held a law enforcement press conference to announce the 2010 law enforcement grant. A 21-year-old female died from a heroin overdose and the family asked for donations to be made to OOT in lieu of flowers. Randy will be scheduling a law enforcement roundtable meeting in April. He invited Steering members to be guest speakers at future meetings.

Pharmacy Roundtable: Shawna reported on behalf of Bill that they are working on planning the Interdisciplinary Panel on Drug Diversion that will occur on April 22nd at the Altoona Heritage Discovery Center.

Retail Roundtable: Jo Ann reported that they have up to 21 interested businesses. They had their first roundtable meeting in the beginning of March.

Community Revitalization Roundtable: Michael reported that the City of Altoona, the Altoona Hospital, The Nehemiah Project, and Penn State Altoona have an area targeted to clean up. They are doing strategic planning of these areas. They are trying to target grant money to demo blighted homes in Altoona.

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 Blair Co Courthouse Jury Room |
| 4/15 CJAB Meeting | 11:45am Blair County Courthouse |
| 4/17 Family Fun Blast | 10:00am Tyrone Area High School |
| 4/20 OOT Community Meeting | 6:30pm Bull Pen Restaurant Tyrone |
| 4/21 Crime Solvers Meeting | 8:00am Park Hills Country Club |
| 4/21 Marketing Roundtable | 4:00pm OOT Office |
| 4/22 Faith-Based RT Evening of Inspiration | 6:30pm The Nehemiah Project |
| 4/22 Pharmacy RT Interdisciplinary Panel | 7:00pm Altoona Heritage Discovery Ctr. |
| 4/24 United Way Week of the Young Child | 10:00am Penn State Altoona |
| 4/26 Gang Roundtable | 5:00pm OOT Office |
| 4/27 K-12 Education Roundtable | 11:30am Bellwood-Antis District Office |
| 4/28 Housing Roundtable | 1:30pm AHA Office |
| 4/29 Pharmacy Roundtable | 7:15am OOT Office |
| 5/03 Booker T. Washington Meeting | 4:00pm Community Action Agency |
| 5/10 Gang Roundtable | 5:00pm OOT Office |
| 5/13 Faith-Based Roundtable | 1:30pm Providence Presbyterian |
| 5/15 Crime Clean-Up Day | 8:30am Penn State Downtown Center |
| 5/18 SARA Summit | 8:00am Laurel Lodge—Sugar Run Road |
| 5/19 Crime Solvers Meeting | 8:00am Park Hills Country Club |
| 5/19 Marketing Roundtable | 4:00pm OOT Office |
| 5/20 CJAB Meeting | 11:45am Blair County Courthouse |

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

News from the Volunteer Roundtable by Betsy Hurst

Volunteers play an important role in Operation Our Town. They help by transforming our town for the benefit of all people. Volunteers put their hands and their minds and, most of all, their hearts for the service of Operation Our Town. The heart of the volunteers are the ideals that together we can make a better area to live in. Their motivation can be summed up in one word—sharing! Volunteers share their time, they share their skills and talents and, most importantly, they share their human experience. The volunteers know this attitude leads to the success of Operation Our Town.

Volunteers serve on roundtables, steering committees, office assistance, and the many events we attend throughout the year. Operation Our Town collaborates with the following programs: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, The ROCK Program, Evergreen Manors/Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation, Family Resource Center and the Nehemiah Project. There are 177 volunteers registered and to date they have logged 419 volunteer hours.

There will be many opportunities to volunteer at future events which include:

- April 17 Tyrone Rotary Family Fun Blast at Tyrone High School
- April 24 United Way Week of the Young Child at Penn State Altoona
- May 22 Community/Fingerprinting Event at Target
- June 14 AASD Elect Program Summer Carnival at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg

Join us—you'll be happy you did!

"I cannot know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know is that the truly happy among you will be those who have learned to serve."

--Albert Schweitzer

[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.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 18-25, 2010

We would like to take this time to thank you for your sacrifice of time and energy to Operation Our Town. The goals that have been achieved would not have happened except for your willingness to give of your talents.

We truly appreciate you, our volunteers!

Upcoming Events

Rotary Club of Tyrone
Is sponsoring the
FAMILY FUN BLAST!
At Tyrone H.S.
April 17, 2010
10:00am—2:00pm



An event to promote healthy relationships between parents, children, and community members. Come, enjoy, and interact in a safe, supportive environment!

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

Operation Our Town's Faith-Based Roundtable Evening of Inspiration

At
Hope Community Church
1520 11th St., Altoona
April 22 6:30PM—8:30PM
Everyone welcome!

Operation Our Town's Pharmacy Roundtable Will be holding an Interdisciplinary Panel on Drug Diversion

At
Altoona Heritage Discovery Center

1421-1427 Twelfth Ave., Altoona
April 22 7:00PM—9:00PM

This forum is open to pharmacists, pharmacy techs, physicians, social workers, drug treatment professionals and anyone involved in law enforcement

Week of the Young Child Celebration

At
Penn State Altoona

Sat., April 24, 2010
10am—2pm
Penn State Altoona



A celebration to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families.

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

Community/Fingerprinting Event at Target

153 Sierra Dr., Altoona
Saturday, May 22 10am—2pm

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

Operation Our Town's Gang Roundtable, in conjunction with PAGIA, invites you to help during our Crime Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 15, 2010*
Penn State Conference Center Downtown

8:30—10:30 Meet & Greet with Community Leaders about available resources in our community

10:30—? Break into work groups and go make a difference!

Everyone is welcome to come out and join our community effort to clean-up our neighborhoods! To sign up yourself or your group, please contact 814-296-8730 or e-mail us at: oot2@lsfiore.com

*Rain date is scheduled for May 22, 2010

2009 Blair County Drug/DUI Offence Statistics

| | 2009 | 2008 | % +/- |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Drug Sale/Mfg. - Opium—Cocaine | 135 | 152 | -11.18 |
| Drug Sale/Mfg. - Marijuana | 39 | 37 | 5.41 |
| Drug Sale/Mfg. - Synthetic | 16 | 5 | 220.00 |
| Drug Sale/Mfg. - Other | 75 | 64 | 17.19 |
| Total | 265 | 258 | 2.71 |
| Drug Possession - Opium - Cocaine | 24 | 53 | -54.72 |
| Drug Possession - Marijuana | 156 | 163 | -4.29 |
| Drug Possession - Synthetic | 3 | 7 | -57.14 |
| Drug Possession - Other | 94 | 81 | 16.05 |
| Total | 277 | 304 | -9.75 |
| DUI | 576 | 605 | -4.79 |