



# 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 4

April 2011

**PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 814-693-3020**



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

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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  
Folcarelli Supply  
Grainger Industrial Supply  
Norfolk-Southern Foundation  
Small Tube Products

## Steering Committee Notes from March 29th

**Grant Committee:** Approximately ten people attended the grant training that was held in March. Grant applications for the Spring 2011 grant cycle are due on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Gang Roundtable:** Bill Kotz reported on behalf of Todd Negola that the planning for the Gangs, Drugs & Crime Symposium was well underway. Speakers have been lined up from across the country to present at the symposium, to be held August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Invitations have been sent to law enforcement personnel, education professionals, and emergency responders across the state. Cost for attendance is \$80 for PAGIA members and \$100 for non-members. There will be sessions in the evening for no cost and open to the public. It was suggested to try and get corporate sponsors for the event. He also reported that Crime Clean-Up Day will be held May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CJAB:** Judge Jolene Kopriva reported that the data dashboard is picking up. She also reported that there was a Mentoring Ex-Offenders seminar held in March to address how churches can be involved in the re-entry process. Todd Negola will present at the April CJAB meeting about veterans.

**Faith-Based Roundtable:** Reverend Evie Madison reported that the Faith-Based Roundtable will be hosting a luncheon on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Arc for the faith community. The focus will be on how to access services in Blair County. She also reported that some pastors are having trouble getting into the prison to visit with inmates.

**Northern Blair County Roundtable:** Jim Kilmartin reported that the "Tyrone: Our Unstoppable Town" campaign received 176 entries. 22 were randomly selected to receive prizes at the Tyrone Irish Heritage Days on March 19<sup>th</sup>. A press release will be sent out shortly with a summary of all the positive suggestions, and a focus group will be implemented to decide upon a course of action based upon those suggestions. He also reported that the next Northern Blair Roundtable meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am at the Bull Pen Restaurant. The Roundtable will also be holding a community meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Bull Pen to discuss the future plans of the Northern Blair Roundtable. He also reported that Tyrone will also be having its own Crime Clean-Up Day on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Human Services Roundtable:** Judy Rosser reported that they have started an adolescent recovery group, held at the Hope Community Church (Nehemiah Project). She also reported that they have started three-quarter houses in conjunction with Pyramid Healthcare for people coming out of halfway houses. Their rent is paid for the first 90 days, after which time they are expected to be working and paying rent on their own.

## 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
4/13	Northern Blair RT Meeting	7:00am	Bull Pen Restaurant
4/18	Altoona Curve Charity Monday	6:00pm	Curve Stadium
4/20	Crime Solvers Meeting	8:00am	WTAJ
4/20	Marketing RT Meeting	4:00pm	OOT Office
4/21	Pharmacy RT Meeting	7:15am	OOT Office
4/21	CJAB	11:45am	Blair County Courthouse
4/28	Faith-Based RT Meeting	2:00pm	Pyramid Corporate Office
4/28	Tyrone Area Community Meeting	6:00pm	Bull Pen Restaurant
5/2	Booker T. Washington Meeting	4:00pm	Community Action Agency
5/2	Altoona Curve Charity Monday	6:00pm	Curve Stadium
5/14	Crime Clean-Up Day	8:30am	Penn State Altoona Devorris Downtown Center

**\*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.

## Second Annual Crime Clean-Up Day Set For May 14th

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”**

-Mohandas Gandhi

[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](mailto:oot@lsfiore.com) or call 814-296-8730.

Operation Our Town will be holding its second annual Crime Clean-Up Day on May 14th. Last year's Crime Clean-Up Day was a huge success, with over 150 volunteers coming to help clean up 8 Altoona city parks.

This year's Crime Clean-Up Day will start at 8:30am at the Penn State Altoona Devorris Downtown Center where volunteers will check in and be divided into working groups for each park. After a brief overview of the day, each team of volunteers will head out to clean up graffiti at a local park.

If you are interested in helping with Crime Clean-Up Day or would like more information, please contact us at the Operation Our Town office by calling 814-296-8730 or by e-mailing [OOT2@lsfiore.com](mailto:OOT2@lsfiore.com). Volunteers for Crime Clean-Up Day must pre-register by calling or e-mailing by May 9th!

In conjunction with Operation Our Town, the Tyrone area will be hosting their own Crime Clean-Up Day on May 14th to help get rid of graffiti and clean up public areas in the Tyrone area. The clean up will start at 10am and end around 1pm at Reservoir Park. If you are interested in helping with the Crime Clean-Up Day in the Tyrone area, please contact Jim Kilmartin at [jim@joshuahousetyrone.org](mailto:jim@joshuahousetyrone.org).

## 2011 First Quarter Crime Statistics

	January	February	March
Drug Sale/Mfg: Opium/Cocaine	17	21	3
Drug Sale/ Mfg: Marijuana	5	4	0
Drug Sale/ Mfg: Synthetic	4	0	0
Drug Sale/ Mfg: Other	10	9	1
Drug Possession: Opium/Cocaine	3	0	0
Drug Possession: Marijuana	13	10	4
Drug Possession: Synthetic	7	3	3
Drug Possession: Other	7	8	1
DUI	28	43	28

## Upcoming Events

**April 15th**

Don't Forget!

### Operation Our Town Grant Applications Due!

Visit  
[www.operationourtown.org](http://www.operationourtown.org)  
for an application!

**April 16th**

Week of the Young Child  
Celebration  
Penn State Altoona Campus

10:00 am-2:00 pm



**April 16th**

Kid's Day

Logan Valley Mall

10:00am-4:00 pm



**May 14th**

Crime Clean-Up Day!

Coming to a park near you!

Call 814-29-8730 for more  
info or to register as a  
volunteer!



**Tune In!**



To Operation Our Town's  
Cable Access Show "Crime  
Clean-Up Day" running  
April & May Fridays at  
6:00pm and Saturdays at  
11:00am

## Second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day April 30th

The National Take Back Initiative, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency and local law enforcement agencies throughout the country, is holding their second annual National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 30th. The purpose of this day is to help curb prescription drug abuse by providing people a safe way to dispose of unwanted or unused prescription drugs. On April 30th, anyone in Blair County who wishes to dispose of prescription drugs may bring them to the Pennsylvania State Police Department in Hollidaysburg, located at 1510 N. Juniata Street. If you need to dispose of prescription drugs in your home, it is highly recommended that you take them out of their original containers and mix them with an undesirable substance, such as kitty litter or coffee grounds. Put the mix in a separate bag or container to ensure they aren't found by anyone. Do not flush drugs down the toilet unless the label specifically tells you to. For more information about the National Take Back Initiative, please visit:  
[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/index.html](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html)

## Faith-Based Roundtable to Hold Informational Luncheon

The Faith-Based Roundtable of Operation Our Town will be hosting an informational luncheon on Thursday, May 19th from 12:00pm-3:00pm at the Arc of Blair County. The luncheon, entitled "Who To Call When They Call You: Helping the Faith-Based Community Access Services in Blair County" is open to all clergy and church employees. Topics will include an overview of the Pennsylvania 211 system as well as speakers from several Blair County agencies to talk about what services they provide and how to help people access or enroll in these services. There will also be a discussion on what services may be lacking in Blair county and how the faith community can help to fill those voids. Lunch from the Olive Garden will be provided at no cost.

Those wishing to attend must pre-register by May 12th by calling Operation Our Town at 814-296-8730 or e-mailing [OOT2@lsfiore.com](mailto:OOT2@lsfiore.com)

## Tyrone Community Meeting Planned For April 28th

The Northern Blair Roundtable will be hosting a community meeting for all members of Northern Blair County on April 28th at 6:00pm at the Bull Pen Restaurant. This meeting, held in response to all the wonderful input from the "Tyrone: Our Unstoppable Town" campaign, will focus on creating a community plan for improvements and projects in the northern Blair County area. Everyone in northern Blair County is encouraged to attend with ideas and input on how to improve their community. The ideas selected will be implemented in the coming year.

This meeting is open to the public and light refreshments will be provided. Please come with your best ideas on how to improve your community and an open mind! For questions or more information, please contact Jim Kilmartin at [jim@joshuahousetyrone.org](mailto:jim@joshuahousetyrone.org).

## Push Out The Pusher Calls First Quarter 2011

	January	February	March	Total First Quarter Calls:
Live Calls	19	17	37	247
Voicemails	50	53	71	
Total	69	70	108	