



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 5

May 2010

PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

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Ward Trucking
Wolf Furniture

Committed Businesses:

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

News from the Retail Roundtable by JoAnn Nardelli, Chair

The U.S. national motto is often "shop 'til you drop."
In times like these, the corollary becomes "steal it and deal it".

Retailers attribute one third of the increase in shoplifting to the economic recession. A higher percentage of thieves are looking to make a fast buck by reselling the stolen goods. Did you know a National Retail Federation survey found that 92 percent of retailers said they'd been the victims of organized retail theft? Organized retail thieves swipe between \$15 billion and \$30 billion in goods a year. Favorite targets include razor blades, infant formula, teeth whiteners, cough syrup, Oil of Olay, diabetes-related supplies, branded apparel, & consumer electronics. Also, retailers have the problem of internal employee theft.

These statistics are only a few concerns of the local retailers & their inability to control retail theft losses. Unfortunately the reality is that the costs of these losses are eventually passed on to the consumers.

Local retailers have finally joined forces to work together on our Retail Roundtable. There are approximately 23 concerned retail establishments who have signed on to support the efforts of Operation Our Town. What makes it so different and interesting is retail may include grocery markets, department stores, and restaurants to name a few. All of these businesses "sell" something, which brings in the opportunity for theft!

The first roundtable meeting was held in April. Ten businesses were represented and Jo Ann presented them with a mission, goals, Crime Clean-Up Day flyers, minutes, newsletters, and items of discussion for future meetings. We were very fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Randy Feathers, who discussed his involvement with Operation Our Town. He emphasized how important it is for saturation patrols for busier times of the year—such as Back-To-School, holidays, etc.

The second meeting was held in May and once again the group was very participative in questions with District Attorney Rich Consiglio. He enlightened our group with awareness in discussion on court process, robberies, etc. Also he was informed with some good questions that he would take back to his meetings.

Summer is approaching and soon the department stores will have to deal with "Back-To-School" situations: which means more kids, gangs, and problems. We will do the best to target interests of retail businesses. Naturally, the supermarkets and smaller stores have different concerns compared to the larger stores such as WalMart, Target, Kohl's, & J. C. Penney. However, they are ALL victims of the same problems!

One thing that all agreed on is the need to make known that Operation Our Town is out there and working with all these businesses. The roundtable is working on a plan that will showcase Operation Our Town to help move our agenda forward in these areas.

Next meeting is tentatively set for June 2nd.

Mission **Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events**

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](#)

We must always remember that America is a great nation today not because of what government did for people but because of what people did for themselves and for one another.

~ Richard Nixon ~



Wed. HOPE Support Group Meeting (weekly meeting)	7:00 pm	Crossroads in Altoona* ~~ NEW LOCATION ~~
5/15 Crime Clean-Up Day	8:30 am	Penn State Downtown Center
5/17 Steering Committee Meeting	6:00 pm	OOT Office
5/18 SARA Summit	8:00 am	Laurel Lodge—Sugar Run Road
5/19 Crime Solvers Meeting	8:00 am	Park Hills Country Club
5/19 Marketing Roundtable	4:00 pm	OOT Office
5/20 Pharmacy RT	7:15 am	OOT Office
5/20 CJAB Meeting	11:45 am	Blair County Courthouse
5/22 Community Fingerprinting Event	10:00 am	Target Store in Altoona
5/26 Car Seat Safety Event	11:00 am	John Stuckey Ford/Subaru
5/27 Faith Based RT Lunch 'n Learn	12:00 pm	Becky Sheetz Building Blair County Ball Park
Operation Our Town Days at the Altoona Curve		
5/28 Altoona Curve Game	6:30 pm	“ “
5/29 Altoona Curve Game	6:30 pm	“ “
6/02 Retail Roundtable	8:00 am	OOT Office
6/05 Night at the Races (Blair Co. Chamber)	6:00 pm	Bavarian Hall, Altoona
6/07 Booker T. Washington Meeting	4:00 pm	Community Action Agency
6/14 AASD ELECT Program Carnival	4:00 pm	Legion Park—Hollidaysburg
6/16 Crime Solvers Meeting	8:00 am	Park Hills Country Club
6/16 Marketing Roundtable	4:00 pm	OOT Office
6/17 CJAB Meeting	11:45 am	Blair County Courthouse
6/19 Blair Countians Family Day	11:00 am	Kohl's—Logan Town Center
6/22 Housing Roundtable	1:30 pm	Altoona Housing Auth. Office
6/25 All American Festival	6:00 pm	Evergreen Manor

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

***HOPE Support Group Meeting has changed locations. They are meeting at:**
Crossroads in Altoona
827 19th Street (Across from Driver's License Center)
If you have any questions, please call 693-3023

Operation Our Town On the Cable Access Channel

Starting in June, the show will air several times a week. The first show featured our Board Members discussing how OOT came into being, what we are doing now, and where they feel the organization is headed. The moderator for the show was Kevin Flanigan from WTAJ.

This show is the first in a series highlighting Operation Our Town!

Lunch 'n Learn on Dealing With Mental Health Issues

Thursday, May 27, 2010
 12 Noon—3PM
 The ARC of Blair County
 Becky Sheetz Recreation Center
 431 Jackson St., Altoona, PA

*Target Audience:
 Clergy / Staff*

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 20, 2010
 Register by calling (814) 296-8730 or
 E-mail response to: oot2@lsfiore.com

[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.

<u>2010 First Quarter Crime Statistics</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>
Drug Sale/Mfg. - Opium - Cocaine	1	8	14
Drug Sale/Mfg. - Marijuana	5	2	5
Drug Sale/Mfg. - Synthetic	0	1	2
Drug Sale/Mfg. - Other	0	1	1
Drug Possession - Opium - Cocaine	0	1	0
Drug Possession - Marijuana	27	16	14
Drug Possession - Synthetic	0	0	0
Drug Possession - Other	5	5	5
DUI	41	35	45

Upcoming Events



Community Fingerprinting Event at Target
153 Sierra Drive Altoona

Saturday, May 22
10am—2pm

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

New Push Out the Pusher Material is here!!!

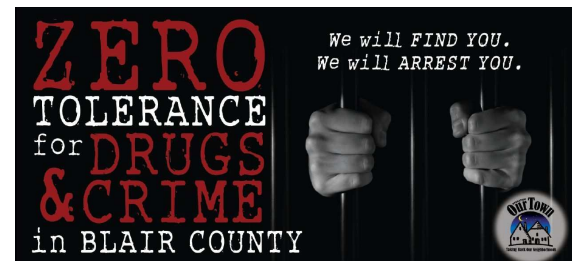
In-Town Billboard



The Marketing Roundtable has worked very hard to design the new Push Out The Pusher Campaign for 2010. As you will see, it is very impressive!

Out-of-Town Billboard

The campaign focuses on the idea that we are: **“Taking Back Our Neighborhoods!”**



Blair County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Blair County Class of 2010 presents
A Night at the Races
Horse Races - Auction Items
Saturday, June 5, 2010
Bavarian Hall, Altoona
Dinner at 6PM - Races begin at 7PM
Doors Open at 5:30PM
\$25 per Ticket - Cash Bar
Proceeds benefit Booker T. Washington Revitalization Project
Small Games of Chance Permit #2010-61



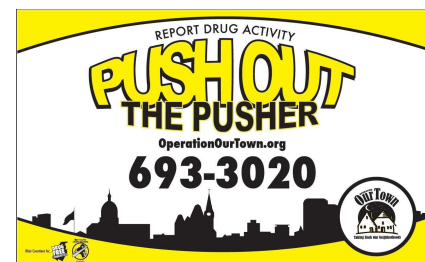
Bumper Sticker

Altoona Area School District ELECT Program Carnival
Monday, June 14, 2010
Legion Park in Hollidaysburg
4PM—6:30PM
Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

First Quarter 2010
Push Out the Pusher Calls

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Calls to Voice Mail	70	74	104
Live Calls	35	30	42
Total Calls	105	104	146

Total First Quarter Calls: 355



Yard Sign & Window Cling

Blair Countians for Drug Free Communities is sponsoring
Family Day
Saturday, June 19 11AM—3PM
In the Kohl's parking lot at Logan Town Center
Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

Operation Our Town at The Curve!

We need volunteers to help distribute **Push Out The Pusher** yard signs, clings and bumper stickers after the game.

All American Festival At Evergreen Manor
Friday, June 25 6PM—8PM
Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Call 296-8730

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Date	Game Time
May 28	6:30 pm
May 29	6:30 pm

Blair County Ball Park

Contact Info

Operation Our Town - PO Box 2486 - Altoona PA 16603 - 814.296.8730 - info@OperationOurTown.org - OperationOurTown.org
You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.