



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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Ward Trucking
Wolf Furniture

Committed Businesses:

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

News from the Housing Roundtable *Cheryl Johns, Chair*

The Housing RT was one of the first active roundtables started when Operation Our Town came into existence. Their mission is to discuss and implement educational techniques for renting properties to responsible tenants.

The objectives of the roundtable are to:

- Improve the quality of housing options
- Educate landlords on how to write effective leases
- Improve the screening process by including criminal background checks
- Work with local officials throughout Blair County to implement changes with the extensive screening process
- Work with the local Code Office to ensure properties are maintained
- Educate landlords on responsibilities associated with being a landlord

The first step the roundtable took was to host a Landlord Education Workshop. This workshop gave landlords good, solid information to make them aware of the problems that could be associated with their properties. This workshop is still available at our website. Go to www.operationourtown.org, click on the Resources tab on the left side and you can watch the entire workshop.

Operation Our Town also participated in a Landlord Tenant Conference that was held on March 22, 2010. The purpose of this conference was to give training to landlords on how to write leases that would protect their investment and the proper procedure when dealing with the eviction process. Approximately 30 people were in attendance for the training.

Currently, the RT is working on another educational program for landlords. To help identify issues that the landlords are facing, the Housing RT sent a survey out to local landlords asking them to name the issues they are currently dealing with. This information was then processed to find the major issues that landlords are facing in our area. This information will then be implemented into an upcoming workshop. A date for the upcoming workshop will be announced in the near future.

Family Day, *a day to eat dinner with your children*

September 27, 2010

Family Day is a national movement that reminds parents about the importance of parental engagement in their children's lives and encourages parents to have frequent family dinners with their kids as an effective way to prevent them from future risky behaviors and substance abuse. This initiative is supported by research from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. They have found that **the more often children eat dinner with their families; the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use drugs.** Family meals are the perfect time to talk to your kids and listen to what's on their minds.

If you go to www.casafamilyday.org you will find more information to explore, as well Family Day tools/ideas.



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

09/16 CJAB Meeting

09/16 Faith-Based Roundtable

09/20 Steering Committee Meeting

09/23 Pharmacy Roundtable

09/24 Health & Welfare Council

09/29 Housing RT Working Meeting

10/04 Booker T. Washington Meeting

10/05 Housing RT Meeting

10/05 Red Ribbon Week Meeting

10/07 Evergreen Manors Fall Festival

10/07 Hollidaysburg Comm. Partnership

10/16 Hollidaysburg Pumpkin Festival

10/19 Red Ribbon Proclamation Signing

10/20 Crime Solvers

10/20 Marketing Roundtable

10/21 CJAB Meeting

10/21 Faith-based Roundtable

11:45 am Blair County Courthouse

1:30 pm Family Resource Center

6:00 pm OOT Office

7:15 am OOT Office

8:00 am ARC of Blair County

12:00 pm Family Resource Center

4:00 pm Community Action Agency

1:30 pm TBA

4:00 pm OOT Office

5:00 pm Evergreen Manors

8:00 am Allegheny Crepery Hollidaysburg

10:00 am Hollidaysburg

10:00 am Blair County Courthouse

12:00 pm Allegheny Twp. Municipal Bldg.

4:00pm OOT Office

11:45 am Blair County Courthouse

1:30 pm TBA

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

NEW GRANT CYCLE ANNOUNCED

Operation Our Town is once again seeking applicants for the fall grant cycle which will run from September 1 to October 15, 2010. This cycle of grants will see up to \$100,000 being given to eligible organizations for local programs that reduce drugs and/or crime through proven treatment and prevention techniques. Any non-profit organization, school or government agency is eligible for grant consideration. Previous grant recipients are also eligible to apply.

All completed applications must be received or postmarked by October 15, 2010. Applications and complete directions are available on-line at: www.operationourtown.org/funding_partnership.htm

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK INITIATIVE

On September 25, 2010, DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. **Collection activities will take place from 10:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.** at sites established throughout the country. The National Take-Back Day provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications for destruction. These drugs are a potential source of supply for illegal use and an unacceptable risk to public health and safety. This one-day effort is intended to bring national focus to the issue of increasing pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. More information can be found at:

<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/takeback/>

- The program is anonymous.
- Prescription and over the counter solid dosage medications, i.e. tablets and capsules accepted.
- Intravenous solutions, injectables, and needles will not be accepted.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative.

LOCAL COLLECTION SITES:

Altoona Police Dept.
1106 16th St.
Altoona, PA

Hollidaysburg Police Dept.
401 Blair Street
Hollidaysburg, PA

Allegheny Twp. Police
3131 Colonial Drive
Duncansville, PA

**The pessimist
sees difficulty
in every
opportunity.
The optimist
sees the
opportunity in
every
difficulty.**

-Winston Churchill-

To register as an
Operation Our Town
Volunteer
Go to our website at:
www.operationourtown.org

Click on the volunteer tab
on the left side and follow
directions to fill out a
volunteer application.

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 at:
oot@lsfiore.com
or call 814-296-8730

Upcoming Events

Evergreen Manors Fall Festival

October 7, 2010
5PM—7PM

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

Free Fun...
Food...
Games...
Prizes...

5th Annual Hollidaysburg Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, October 16
10am—4pm

Allegheny St. between
Montgomery & Union Streets

Lots of Fall
Activities

Good Food

Great festival
atmosphere!

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

Red Ribbon Week October 23–31, 2010



The committee has started to make preparations for this event. If you would like to be a part of the committee, or if you know of an organization that would like to make a donation toward this, please contact Kathy at 814-296-8730 or oot2@lsfiore.com

K2 - THE NEW "FAKE POT"

A new "drug" has hit the scene called K2. It is labeled as an herbal blend, marketed for home incense, but it's being used for a much different purpose and could have potentially dangerous effects. The reason it is so harmful is that it is being sprayed with a synthetic compound similar to THC (found in marijuana). It looks like crushed potpourri but mimics the effects of marijuana. Blends are traditionally burned in incense pots; however, people roll it into wrappers to make joints or they smoke it in pipes. When smoked it delivers a high similar to that of marijuana. At this time, it is **LEGAL** to purchase K2; however, several states have already banned the sale and more are looking to do the same.



K2 is also sold under the following names:

- Supernova
- Spice
- Genie
- Zohai
- Spirit
- Skunk
- Yucatan



Blends include:

- Blonde
- Citron
- Summit
- Standard
- Pink
- Blue (just to name a few)

The compounds in K2 are 3 to 5 times more potent than THC in marijuana. This drug moves quickly from the lungs into the bloodstream where it is carried to other parts of the body, including vital organs.

K2 can cause:

- Rapidly increased heart rates
- Loss of consciousness
- Paranoid and occasionally psychotic episodes
- Hallucinations and delusions
- Blurry vision
- Nausea; vomiting
- Dry mouth
- Increased agitation
- Elevated blood pressure
- Seizures

(www.associatedcontent.com/article/2762799/k2_or_fake_weednew_dangerous_drug_more.html?cat=25)