



Our Town Reporter

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

Volume 1, Issue 5

May 2009

PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

Board Members:

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Phil Devorris | Ron McConnell

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Lynne Mondock, VISTA Volunteer

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William Earnest
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Honorable Jolene Kopriva
Pastor Betty Landis
Dr. Todd Negola
Judy Rosser
Dr. G. Brian Toth

Founding Members:

Altoona Regional Health System
Blair Candy Company
Blair Companies
D.C. Goodman & Sons, Inc.
Delta Health Technologies
Fiore Buick/Toyota
Grappone Law Offices
Harry Sickler & Associates
The Hite Company
Holiday Inn Express
Lawruk Realty
Lee Industries, Inc.
Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.
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

News from the Faith-based Roundtable *by* Pastor Donna Vox

Recently, the Faith-based Roundtable, in cooperation with the Bellwood Council of Churches, hosted the second educational community outreach, **Mythbusters, a Public Forum on Treatment for Substance Abuse/Addiction** at Calvary United Methodist Church in Bellwood.

Treatment professionals from the Blair County region spoke and answered questions about the different licensed drug treatment programs available in our area.

Mythbusters panelists included:

- **Renee Bambocci**, certified Addictions Registered Nurse, Home Nursing Agency
- **Gina Zabrosky**, School-based adolescent treatment services, Blair County Drug & Alcohol clinical supervisor
- **Pam Myers**, Blair County Drug & Alcohol Monitoring Coordinator, certified Addictions Counselor, certified co-occurring disorders professional
- **Robin Sanchez**, program director of Dolminus Outpatient Methadone Treatment



The panel was introduced by **Judy Rosser**, Blair County Drug & Alcohol Administrator. For the last twelve years, Judy has managed the federal, state and local funds allocated to Blair County to support prevention, intervention and treatment services. She also served as the Forum's moderator.

Each panelist outlined a "typical day" in treatment and answered questions from those in attendance. Detailed information was provided, including levels of treatment and the goals associated with that level of service. Panelists also addressed therapy approaches and licensing requirements.

Mythbusters Highlights:

- In 2000, there were 20 heroin users in recovery programs in Blair County.
- Today, there are over 800 heroin users in recovery programs in our area.
- Methadone does not give euphoria. It breaks the cycle of dependency, allowing individuals to live productive lives.
- Five Stages of Change: 1. Denial 2. Contemplative (*maybe there is a problem*) 3. Preparation (*explore changes*) 4. Action 5. Maintenance (*implementing change on a daily basis*)
- Step-down Levels of Care: Partial Hospitalization (detox), Intensive Outpatient, Outpatient. Other options: Halfway house & Pharmacotherapy (Methadone).
- Three-Phase Adolescence Referral Service: 1. Screening 2. Assessment 3. Referral to Care Levels (similar to adult program)

For more information, please attend the Forum coming to your community.

ABUSE vs. DEPENDENCE

Abuse:

- Experience of harmful consequences within a 12-month period in one or more areas
- Failure to meet obligations
- Engaging in reckless activities; i.e. DUI
- Legal troubles
- Relationship problems, such as arguing over drug/alcohol use

Dependence:

- More severe cases of above behaviors
- Plus 2 physiological factors
 1. Tolerance - the need for more of a drug/alcohol to achieve intoxication
 2. Withdrawal - mental or physical symptoms after stopping usage

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](#)

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

From **May 22nd—May 29th** Operation Our Town volunteers will be delivering the new Push Out The Pusher yard signs and window clings to founding members, contributing businesses, supporting businesses and designated distribution centers throughout Blair County.

To have volunteers deliver materials to your office **OR** to help with delivery, please email oot2@lsfiore.com no later than Thurs., May 21.

You may also pick-up materials at the Operation Our Town office Monday—Friday, 8:30a—4:30p. Call 296-8730 for directions to the office.



!! HOT NEWS !!

Operation Our Town recently awarded a \$20,000 grant to help fund the 4th Street Gateway Project. We are looking forward to seeing the results of this clean-up and blight removal program.

Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

RECURRING WEEKLY MEETINGS:

Wed.	HOPE Support Group Meeting	7:00PM	Blair Co Courthouse Jury Room
05/19	Election Day		ALL DAY
05/21	*CJAB Meeting	11:45AM	Blair County Courthouse
05/21	Neighborhood Watch Mtg (County)	6:00PM	Blair Senior Services Bldg.
05/22	Health & Welfare Annual Meeting	8:00AM	Arc of Blair County

Operation Our Town Days

at the [Altoona Curve](#)

05/22	Altoona Curve Game	7:05PM	" "
05/23	Altoona Curve Game	7:05PM	" "
05/24	Altoona Curve Game	6:05PM	" "
05/26	Altoona Curve Game	7:05PM	" "
05/27	Car Seat Safety Event	12:00PM	John Stuckey Ford Subaru
05/28	*OOT Marketing Roundtable	4:00PM	OOT Office
05/30	Trash To Treasure (United Way)	8:00AM	Adler Gym, PSU Altoona
06/01	BTW Revitalization Comm. Mtg	4:00PM	Community Action Agency
06/12	Golf: Officer's Memorial Foundation	8:00AM	Kings Valley Golf Course
06/17	UWBC's Annual Day of Caring		ALL DAY
06/17	Crime Solvers Golf Kick-off Dinner	5:00PM	To be announced
06/18	*CJAB Meeting	11:45AM	Blair County Courthouse
06/18	Neighborhood Watch Mtg (City)	6:00PM	Juniata Civic Assoc.

Blair County Ball Park

		7:05PM	" "
		7:05PM	" "
		6:05PM	" "
		7:05PM	" "
		12:00PM	John Stuckey Ford Subaru
		4:00PM	OOT Office
		8:00AM	Adler Gym, PSU Altoona
		4:00PM	Community Action Agency
		8:00AM	Kings Valley Golf Course
			ALL DAY
		5:00PM	To be announced
		11:45AM	Blair County Courthouse
		6:00PM	Juniata Civic Assoc.

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

News from the Higher-Education Roundtable by Marissa Carney

Penn State Altoona's foundation is built not only education, but on philanthropy and community outreach as well. A partnership with Housing and Urban Development and the Community Outreach Partnership Centers (HUD COPC) allows the college to get involved with the Altoona Housing Authority and provide education, health care, and neighborhood revitalization programs. Penn State Altoona accomplishes this through many programs, including two of HUD COPC's Community Academic Partnerships.

The [YELL](#) program (Youth Empowerment: Living and Learning) gets youths connected to the community in positive ways. Through field trips, sports, games, and educational activities, program coordinators work to instill a positive sense of self in the children as well as help them develop a strong peer network, a good attitude toward school, a strong link with their parents, and life skills. These traits can empower youth to make good decisions that are healthy for themselves and the community.



"Students who are actively engaged in meaningful and productive activities are less likely to engage in substance abuse," states Chancellor Lori J. Bechtel-Wherry, also a professor of bio-behavioral health and a steering committee member of Operation Our Town.

[P.A.W.S](#) (Perseverance, Ambition and the Will for Success) is a program that helps residents of government-housing complexes in Blair County apply to any accredited post-secondary institution and obtain financial aid to fund their education. Penn State Altoona volunteers assist individuals in the process of researching schools, applying online, and adjusting to the college environment. "In particular, this wonderful program targets students who are academically capable but face financial and other challenges that may preclude their ability to attend college," notes Bechtel-Wherry.

Programs like these complement the vision of Operation Our Town and Penn State Altoona is proud to support its mission.

For more information on these and other programs offered through HUD COPC, visit: www.altoona.psu.edu/hudcopc/

Upcoming Events
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Operation Our Town at The Curve!

Distribute new "Push Out The Pusher" yard signs, window clings & bumper stickers after the game!

Date—Game Time

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!
 Call 296-8730

May 22—7:05 p
May 23—7:05 p
May 24—6:05 p
May 26—7:05 p

Blair County Ball Park
 call Operation Our Town at 296-8730 to volunteer

Operation Our Town Distribution Campaign

Distribute new "Push Out The Pusher" yard signs, window clings & bumper stickers to founding members, contributing businesses, supporting businesses and designated distribution centers throughout Blair County.

May 22 — May 29, 2009

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!
 Call 296-8730

to be added to the distribution list, to pick-up materials **OR** to help with delivery, email oot2@lsfiore.com

DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

- ABCD Corporation
- Altoona Curve
- Altoona Housing Authority
- Altoona Reg. Health System
- ARC Federal Credit Union
- Blair Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Blair County Library System
- Booker T Washington Center
- Evergreen Manors
- Fairview Hills (AHA)
- Fiore True Value Hardware
- Grainger Industrial Supply
- L.S. Fiore
- Neighborhood Watch
- Pleasant Village (AHA)
- Roaring Spring Comm. Library
- The Towers (AHA)
- Williamsburg PD
- YTI Career Institute

to become a distribution center, email oot2@lsfiore.com

Push Out The Pusher Marketing Campaign 2009

The Marketing Roundtable is pleased to unveil the artwork for the new Push Out The Pusher campaign, "Not in Our Town!" This campaign encompasses the wholesome feelings we associate with our Central Pennsylvania neighborhoods and neighbors. And we all agree —

This [house...yard...neighborhood... playground...soccer field...school...church... restaurant...shopping mall...workplace... village...borough...city...township...county] is no place for Drug Dealers!

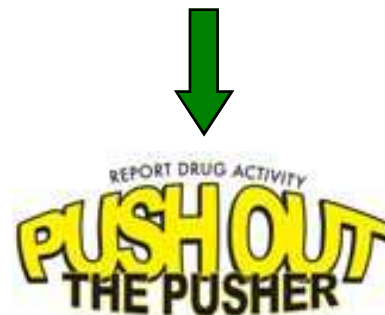
LOOK FOR THESE NEW BILLBOARDS AROUND TOWN



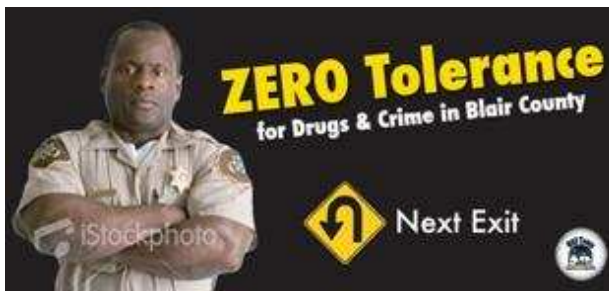
HELP "STAKE OUR TOWN" WITH THIS YARD SIGN



GREAT NEW LOGO



THIS BILLBOARD WILL BE ON HIGHWAYS LEADING INTO BLAIR COUNTY



Contact Info

Operation Our Town - PO Box 2486 - Altoona PA 16603 - 814.296.8730 - info@OperationOurTown.org - www.OperationOurTown.org

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.