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# Operation Our Town Reporter

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

Volume 1, Issue 7

July 2009

**PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 693-3020**



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

#### Board Members:

Michael A. Fiore | Joe Sheetz  
Phil Devorris | Ron McConnell

#### Administration:

Shawna Hoover, Exec. Coordinator  
Lynne Mondock, VISTA Volunteer

#### Steering Committee:

Dr. Lori J. Bechtel-Wherry  
Robin Beck  
Jackie Bernard  
Richard Consiglio  
JR DiAndrea  
William Earnest  
Randy Feathers  
Dr. Zane Gates  
Donna Gority  
Betsy Hurst  
Cheryl Johns  
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

## Steering Committee Notes from June 22

### Grant Committee:

- Grant award recommendations were forwarded to the board for the Spring 2009 grant requests. Organizations will be notified the week of July 6. A press conference to announce the grant recipients will be held the week of July 13.

### Faith-Based Roundtable:

- In discussions with "CONTACT Altoona" to provide a single referral source for people looking for help with drug addictions.

### Gang Roundtable:

- Three new members have joined the roundtable: Coroner Patty Ross, Lt. Dave Mooney (FCI Loretto) & Bill Kotz (Security Director, Logan Valley Mall).
- Todd Negola will conduct gang training in York and at Bellwood-Antis School District in August. SWOOP has been attending trainings in other states.

### Housing Roundtable:

- Working with the 911 Center to get all rental properties on one system.
- A roundtable meeting will be scheduled during the second week of July.

### Human Services Roundtable:

- State budget cuts have resulted in loss of capacity.
- Discovery House, the 2nd methadone treatment center in Blair Co., is open.
- A female halfway house is opening in Bald Eagle.
- A new juvenile drug court has been launched with four youths in the program.
- A Rx abuse awareness billboard campaign is being conducted in Blair County.

### Judicial Roundtable:

- Working to create a central booking center in Blair Co. Jail or the courthouse.
- Creating a dashboard report of data that will be made available to the public.

### K-12 Roundtable:

- Bellwood-Antis SD will partner with the PA State Police for an emergency drill in the Fall to identify ways to tighten security.
- Met to review Lessons Learned from Emergencies in which each district present shared an emergency situation and how it was handled.
- Keepin' it Real Video: Tyrone and Bellwood-Antis completed this anti-drug/alcohol project and will be implementing the program with PSU in the Fall.

### Law Enforcement Roundtable:

- Law Enforcement have been conducting drug raids.
- A Walk & Talk was held by police officers around the Nehemiah Project area.
- Working with the pharmacy roundtable on the Cops in Shops program.

### Marketing Roundtable:

- Touched by Our Town series is planned for the fall. Law enforcement statistics, etc. will be published in the Mirror and prevention stories will appear on WTAJ.

### Pharmacy Roundtable:

- Purdue Frederick drug company is sponsoring a fall Pharmacy Safety training and Cops in Shops presentation for pharmacists, technicians & physicians.
- Window clings for both Cops in Shops and No Hats, No Hoods have been designed by the Marketing RT to display on store doors. Mitch Cooper is creating policies and procedures for the Cops in Shops program.

### Volunteer Roundtable:

- The Nehemiah Project is doing a playground build on July 25 and is trying to get at least 30 volunteers. Landscaping and lighting donations are needed. See the last page of this newsletter for details and contact information.

## Mission

Facilitating partnerships between community and business to fight drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention

## 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

Volunteers play an important role in Operation Our Town. Volunteers participate in community events to help us reach more people. Volunteers serve on Roundtables, the Steering Committee & the Board.

Volunteers provide valuable services such as artwork & design, software development, and more.

We thank all our Operation Our Town volunteers. It is only through the support of active community members like yourselves that we will be able to take back our neighborhoods from illegal drugs and crime.

[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.

## Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Wed. HOPE Support Group Meeting (weekly meeting)

7:00pm Blair Co Courthouse Jury Room

7/16 CJAB Meeting

11:45am Blair County Courthouse

7/16 Neighborhood Watch: City-wide Mtg

6:00pm Blair Senior Services Building

7/16-7/18 Duncansville Community Days

6:00pm Duncansville Memorial Park

7/19-7/25 Probation & Parole Week

Blair County Courthouse

7/23 OOT Pharmacy Roundtable Mtg

7:15am OOT Office

7/25 African American Heritage Festival

12:00pm Penn State Altoona

7/25 Playground Build Day

9:00am The Nehemiah Project Office

7/25 Spring Dam Days

12:00pm Spring Dam, Roaring Spring

7/27 Big Bros/Big Sis 12th Golf Classic

12:30pm Iron Masters Country Club

7/29 Blair Co. for Drug Free Comm. Mtg

8:30am United Way of Blair County

8/04 National Night Out Against Crime

6:00pm Antique Depot, Duncansville

8/05 Intergenerational Fair (United Way)

4:00pm 11th St & Green Towers

8/08 Maurader Family Festival

2:00pm Bishop Guilfoyle HS

8/19 Crime Solvers Meeting

8:00am Park Hills Country Club

8/20 CJAB Meeting

11:45am Blair County Courthouse

8/20 Neighborhood Watch: County-wide

6:00pm Blair Senior Services Building

\*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.

## News from CJAB, the Criminal/Judiciary Roundtable *by Janice Meadows*

Blair County is fortunate to have an invested group of leaders that are committed to working together to address its criminal justice system. This group, called the Criminal Justice Advisory Board or CJAB, was formulated and is under the auspices of the State through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and its Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements (OCJSI). Blair County CJAB was established in 2005 and represents a collaborative approach to justice planning and innovative problem solving.

Blair County CJAB is comprised of individuals with the authority and credibility to affect the delivery of criminal justice/public safety and services on the county level.

- Judges
- District Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- County Commissioners
- Clerk of Courts
- Sheriff's Office
- Court Administration
- Magisterial District Judges
- Juvenile Probation
- IT Personnel
- Adult Probation and Parole
- Police Departments
- Blair County Prison
- Mental Health/Mental Retardation/ Drug & Alcohol (MH/MR/D&A)
- Community based organizations such as Operation Our Town
- Victim service organizations including Family Services Inc.
- Blair County Children & Youth Office



### Partial List of CJAB Committees:

- Organizational Structure & Resources
- Data Collection and Evaluation
- Specialty Courts
- Internal/External Education & Communication
- Video Conference Usage
- Ad Hoc Bench Warrant

CJAB benefits those involved and ultimately the community through improved sharing and analysis of data for better system decisions and improved communication, cooperation and coordination between agencies, departments and the Courts. Members participate in strategic planning sessions and serve on committees that tackle current system issues and work to improve the capacity and quality of programs and services.

In summary, the mission of the Blair County CJAB is to provide an ongoing forum for communication and collaboration among key decision-makers in the juvenile and adult criminal justice system. The CJAB serves simultaneously as the Criminal/Judiciary Roundtable for Operation Our Town in an effort to increase public awareness and confidence in the justice system. Blair County can be proud of its leaders both public and private who give of their time, talents and resources in an effort to make our communities safe.

Learn more at: [www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pccd\\_home/5226](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pccd_home/5226)



## Upcoming Events

**Duncansville Community Days**  
Community fun-filled event.  
Thurs—Sat, July 16—18, 2009

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

Duncansville  
Memorial Park  
Volunteers Needed  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm  
each evening.

**Playground Build Day**  
Help build a new playground near  
The Nehemiah Project.

Saturday, July 25, 2009  
9:00 am—??

Meet at The Nehemiah Project  
1533 11th Street, Altoona  
Contact: [pluciano@cvag.org](mailto:pluciano@cvag.org)

**Spring Dam Weekend**  
Information & children's activities  
Saturday, July 25, 2009  
11:30 am—5:00 pm

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

Spring Dam  
behind Roaring  
Spring Water  
Store

**African American  
Heritage Festival**

Music, food, fun for all  
Saturday, July 25, 2009

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

Noon—8:00 pm  
Penn State Altoona  
Volunteers Needed  
11 am—4 pm  
4 pm—8 pm

**Night Out Against Crime**

Have fun & let criminals know  
neighborhoods are organized and  
fighting back against crime!

Tuesday, August 4, 2009  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm

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

Antique Depot,  
Duncansville  
Near Rt 22 & Old  
Rt 220N

**Maurader Family Festival**

Family-friendly event & information  
Saturday, August 8, 2009

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

2:00—10:00 pm  
Bishop Guilfoyle HS  
Volunteers Needed  
3:00 pm—5:00 pm

## Crime Solvers Needs Your Help...

Blair County Crime Solvers is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization of citizens against crime. It offers cash rewards up to \$2,000 to anyone furnishing anonymous information that leads to the arrest of fugitives and criminals—including those committing serious felony crimes.

The program is a partnership between the **Community**, the **Media** and **Law Enforcement**.

Crime Solvers is publicized on a regular basis by **Media** outlets including print, broadcast and web-based partners.

Special attention is given to "Crimes of the Week", cold cases, narcotics activity, wanted fugitives, and suspected terrorist and gang activity. Information and leads are submitted anonymously by members of the **Community** through a secure, toll-free tip-line (800-422-8802), 24-hours a day. Local **Law Enforcement** agencies receive and process the anonymous tips, and solve the crimes. When the information provided leads to an arrest, the caller is paid up to \$2,000 for the information.



In 2008, Crime Solvers of Blair County paid \$6,500 in rewards for tips that solved 15 local crimes and resulted in 14 arrests.

### Why Do We Need Crime Solvers?

Crime Solvers is based on the principal that *someone other than the criminal has information that can solve a crime*. It was created to combat three major problems faced by law enforcement in obtaining that information:

1. Fear of REPRISAL
2. An attitude of APATHY
3. Reluctance to get INVOLVED

Crime Solvers overcomes these problems by offering ANONYMITY to people who provide information about crimes and paying REWARDS when the information supplied leads to arrest.

### How Can I Help?

- Crime Solvers is actively recruiting new members—only concerned citizens need apply! For membership information, call Crime Solvers president David Burchfield, Jr. at 814-695-8333.
- Crime Solvers receives no government funding, so donations are gratefully accepted. Please make checks payable to:  
Crime Solvers of Blair County • PO Box 206 • Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
- Have a tip? Call 800-422-8802 today!

## Blair County Night Out Against Crime

Join us at the 2009 **Night Out Against Crime** on **Tuesday, August 4** from **6:00 pm—9:00 pm** at the Antique Depot in Duncansville (near the intersection of Rt 22 & Old Rt 220N).



This event will:

- Heighten Crime & Drug Prevention
- Generate Support and Participation in Local Anti-crime Efforts
- Strengthen Community Spirit & Law Enforcement Partnership
- Send a Message to Criminals, Letting Them Know Neighborhoods are Organized and Fighting Back!

**Door prizes will be given away throughout the evening.**

**ATTENTION!!** Area Law Enforcement Agencies, Community Support Organizations and Area Business Owners:

To set up a display, distribute hand-outs and/or donate door prizes, contact Chief Ott at 696-0515 or email [duncansvillepolice@yahoo.com](mailto:duncansvillepolice@yahoo.com).



This event is sponsored by the Duncansville Police Department, Blair County Law Enforcement Agencies, and the Duncansville Area Business & Professional Association.

### Contact Info

Operation Our Town - PO Box 2486 - Altoona PA 16603 - 814.296.8730 - [info@OperationOurTown.org](mailto:info@OperationOurTown.org) - [OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

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