

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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September 2009

PUSH OUT THE PUSHER 693-3020



OperationOurTown.org

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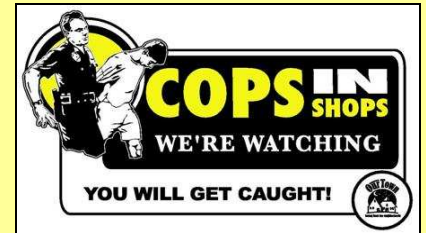
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Committed Businesses:

Grainger Industrial Supply
Norfolk-Southern Foundation
Small Tube Products

News from the Pharmacy Roundtable

Operation Our Town's Pharmacy Roundtable, comprised of representatives from pharmacies around Blair County as well as representatives from local law enforcement, Blair County Drug & Alcohol, PA Attorney General's office, Blair County District Attorney's office and others, have announced the launch of the **Cops in Shops** program at local pharmacies. This Cops In Shops program, a cooperative effort between law enforcement and area pharmacies, places undercover police officers inside pharmacies as a deterrent to criminal activity.



"The Pharmacy Roundtable launched this program in light of the increased targeting of pharmacies for illegal access to controlled substances. These undercover operations have allowed law enforcement to see first hand the security and safety challenges pharmacies face every day," says **Randy Feathers**, regional director for the AG's office. "While officers work hard to blend in, they also take the time to review security procedures and make suggestions to management for improvement. In fact, as part of this program, the PA State Police are working with Pharmacy Roundtable members to provide security reviews of members' stores. We feel the Cops in Shops effort will discourage the presentation of forged prescription forms and deter those individuals that might otherwise target a pharmacy for robbery or burglary."

A proven law enforcement technique, this undercover program is funded through grants from Operation Our Town. To help efforts, Operation Our



Town has produced signs to be posted at the front doors of participating pharmacies, advising customers that an undercover operation may be in progress. Pharmacies are also encouraging customers to assist with the program by removing hats and sunglasses prior to entering the store.

Bill Earnest, Kopp Drug chief operating officer and pharmacist as well as roundtable chairperson, is an enthusiastic advocate of this collaborative effort. "Kopp Drug is pleased to take an active role in deterring illegal activities at pharmacies in our area," informs Bill. "Pharmacists are an important line of defense in the fight to end drug abuse. We've long been trained to identify forged and altered scripts. With the in-store support of undercover officers and security recommendations from the State Police, we can help to ensure the safety of our customers and employees."

The Pharmacy Roundtable is open to pharmacists and pharmacy owners throughout Blair County. **To become a member or to request free Cops In Shops window clings**, contact Operation Our Town at 814.296.8730. Operation Our Town also provides "**No hats, hoods or sunglasses**" **window clings** to Blair County pharmacies, banks and retailers in addition to Push Out the Pusher yard signs, window clings, magnets and other materials. **Materials are available from Operation Our Town at no cost.**

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](#)

[Blair County Crime Solvers](#)

[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

Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Wed. HOPE Support Group Meeting (weekly meeting)	7:00pm	Blair Co Courthouse Jury Room
09/21 OOT Steering Committee Meeting	6:00pm	OOT Office
09/23 OOT Gang Roundtable	5:00pm	OOT Office
09/24 OOT Marketing Roundtable	3:00pm	OOT Office
09/25 Golf Tourn.: FOP#51/Crime Solvers	10:00am	Sinking Valley Country Club
09/30 Red Ribbon Week Committee Mtg	5:00pm	OOT Office
10/05 Booker T Washington Meeting	4:00pm	Community Action Agency
10/08 Faith-based Roundtable	1:30pm	Family Resource Center
10/09 4th Annual Fall Fest	5:00pm	Evergreen Manors
10/10 Pumpkin Festival	10:00am	Downtown Hollidaysburg
10/15 OOT Pharmacy Roundtable	7:15am	OOT Office
10/15 CJAB Meeting	11:45am	Blair County Courthouse
10/17 Williamsburg Octoberfest	10:00am	Riverside Park, Williamsburg
10/18 12th Ward Fall Festival/Cruise-In	12:00pm	2900-3034 S.10th Ave, Altoona
10/21 Blair County Crime Solvers Mtg	8:00am	Park Hills Country Club

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

Everything You Really Didn't Want To Know About... ECSTASY

Excerpts from *The Partnership for a Drug-Free America*. www.drugfree.org/portal/drug_guide/Ecstasy

What is Ecstasy?

MDMA or Ecstasy (3-4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), is a synthetic drug with amphetamine-like and hallucinogenic properties. It is classified as a stimulant.

What are the street names/slang terms for Ecstasy?

Adam, E, Roll, X, XTC.

What does it look like?

Ecstasy comes in a tablet form that is often branded, e.g. Playboy bunnies, Nike swoosh, CK (see picture for other examples)



How is it used?

Taken in pill form, users often take Ecstasy at clubs, "raves", and other parties to keep on dancing and for mood enhancement.

What are its short-term effects?

Users report that Ecstasy produces intensely pleasurable effects – including an enhanced sense of self-confidence and energy. Effects include feelings of peacefulness, acceptance and empathy. Users say they experience feelings of closeness with others and a desire to touch others.

Other effects can include involuntary teeth clenching, a loss of inhibitions, transfixion on sights and sounds, nausea, blurred vision, chills and/or sweating. Increases in heart rate and blood pressure, as well as seizures, are also possible.

The stimulant effects of the drug enable users to dance for extended periods, which when combined with the hot crowded conditions usually found at raves and dance clubs, can lead to severe dehydration and hyperthermia or dramatic increases in body temperature. This can lead to muscle breakdown and kidney, liver and cardiovascular failure. Cardiovascular failure has been reported in some of the Ecstasy-related fatalities.

After-effects can include sleep problems, anxiety and depression in addition to the emotional and physical results of risky behavior undertaken while under the influence.

What are its long-term effects?

Repeated use of Ecstasy can damage the cells that produce serotonin, which has an important role in the regulation of mood, appetite, pain and learning. Ecstasy use can also disrupt or interfere with memory.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Upcoming Events
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5th Annual Golf Tournament
 FOP Bald Eagle Lodge #51 &
 Blair County Crime Solvers
Friday, September 25
Tee Time: 10 am
 Sinking Valley Golf Course

- Entry fees \$300—\$350 per foursome. Hole and cart sponsorships available.
- Contact Chief Jim Ott at duncansvillepolice@yahoo.com

4th Annual Fall Fest
 Fun, activity-filled family event.
Friday, October 9
5 pm - 7 pm

Evergreen Manors,
 Eldorado area of Altoona

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
 Call 296-8730

Pumpkin Festival
 Community street festival.
Saturday, October 10
10 am—4 pm

Downtown Hollidaysburg at the Diamond

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
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Williamsburg Octoberfest
 3rd Annual fall celebration.
Saturday, October 17
10 am—2 pm

Riverside Park, Williamsburg

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
 Call 296-8730

We need someone to be Mc Gruff!

12th Ward Fall Festival and Cruise-In
 Food, crafts, kids activities & all make/all model cruise-in.
Sunday, October 18
12 pm—5 pm

2900-3034 S.10th Ave,
 Altoona

Operation Our Town
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
 Call 296-8730

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.

FAMILY DAY is Monday, September 28!

Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™

is a national movement to inform parents that the parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep America's kids substance free.



Operation Our Town's Faith-based Communities Roundtable and the [Ecumenical Conference of Greater Altoona](#) ask you to schedule a family dinner on **Monday, September 28th**. Take the time to eat together on this day, sharing stories from your day and supporting one another.

To insure every family can participate and to increase awareness of this family-focused program, the [Blair County Human Services Office](#) and [Communities That Care](#) are hosting eight dinners in municipalities around Blair County.

FREE FAMILY DINNER LOCATIONS

- Altoona:** Pleasant Valley Assembly of God & 2nd Avenue United Methodist Church
- Bellwood:** Calvary United Methodist Church
- Claysburg:** Location to be announced
- Hollidaysburg:** First United Methodist Church
- Roaring Spring:** First Church of the Brethren & Trinity United Methodist Church
- Tyrone:** Joshua House
- Williamsburg:** Crossroads

The times of each dinner will vary based on the preference of each site. Please contact the site for dinner times and other activities. There is no cost to attend any of the dinners.

family dinners



throughout the year.

For more information about **Family Day 2009**, contact Cathy Crum (Blair County Human Services Office) at 693-3112, or Susanna Tomlinson (Family Resource Center) at 941-7711. For scheduled times for the Free Family Dinners, contact the individual dinner site.



Whether at home, on a picnic or in a restaurant, children whose families dine together are less likely to experiment with drugs and alcohol. So gather the family around your dinner table or join your neighbors for a wonderful meal and great company. Continue the tradition by scheduling regular



Hollidaysburg Pumpkin Festival

Volunteers are needed at the Hollidaysburg Pumpkin Festival on **Saturday, October 10** from **10 am—4 pm** to spread the word about Operation Our Town.

The festival has an old-fashioned "church bazaar" atmosphere, where local community groups offer pumpkin-themed food or provide a child's activity for free or as a fundraiser. Families also enjoy free live music, story-book reading and other live entertainment—not to mention pumpkin bowling and seed spitting contests! Operation Our Town's "grab-bag" activity will be free for children. We will also provide Push Out The Pusher materials and Child ID Kits from Blair County Crime Solvers. Join us as a volunteer or bring the family to this fun, kid-focused event. Entry to the festival is free and open to the public.

For more information about the Pumpkin Festival contact Sarah Piper, Main Street Manager, [Hollidaysburg Community Partnership](#) at 696-0544 or email to partnership@hollidaysburg.org.

