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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 15, Issue 4 - April 2023



OperationOurTown.org

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Stuckey Automotive
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UPMC Altoona
Value Drug Company
Ward Trucking

Operation Our Town Grant Training



Friday, April 14, 2023

9:00am

at Park Hills Golf Club
(219 Highland Terrace Altoona, PA)

Free to attend

Coffee and water provided

**Reviewing the Under \$3,000 and Over \$3,000
OOT grant applications and highlighting information
needed under each section**

Pre-registration required by April 7:

Email: oot@operationourtown.org OR

Call: (814) 296-8730

Grant Cycle Opens: May 1
Grant Cycle Deadline: June 2

Mission

To facilitate partnerships between community and business to fight drug abuse and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.



Month of April - Meetings

4/3	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Rec & Park Commission
4/4	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	The Bull Pen Restaurant
4/6	Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair County Chamber
4/19	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
4/20	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships and Zoom
4/27	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern
4/28	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY
PUSH OUT THE PUSHER

814-693-3020

Area police departments give year end review - A4

OOT: NEW AMTRAN BUS DESIGN - A16



OUR TOWN TIMES

2023 ANNUAL REPORT | VOL. XII

DRUG USE • NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH • COMMUNITY SUPPORT • EDUCATION • LAW ENFORCEMENT • VOLUNTEERISM



Pennsylvania
Get Connected. Get Help.™

PA 2-1-1 is a comprehensive database that includes information about health & human services.

PA 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone 24/7 or the web at:

www.pa211.org

Fighting the Opioid Epidemic Will Take All of Us

By John Joyce, M.D., Member of Congress

Over the past several years, synthetic opioids like fentanyl analogs have found their way to every city, town, and neighborhood in our country. What began as a revolutionary pain management medication in 1959 has now spiraled out of control - becoming the infamous face of our nation's opioid epidemic.

While there is not one single cause nor one single solution to the fentanyl crisis, we must find ways to work together in order to fight addiction and save lives.

Now the leading cause of death among Americans between the ages of 18 and 49, fentanyl overdoses have become a far too common occurrence here in central Pennsylvania.

As a Member of Congress, I am working to keep these deadly drugs off of our streets.

WHITTLE AWAY

METHAMPHETAMINE: THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS

By Shawna Hoover, OOT Executive Coordinator

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Methamphetamine is a stimulant drug usually used as a white, bitter-tasting powder or a pill. Crystal methamphetamine is a form of the drug that looks like glass fragments or shiny, bluish-white rocks. It is chemically similar to amphetamine (a drug used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy, a sleep disorder). Other common names for methamphetamine include chalk, crank, crystal, ice, meth, and speed. Crystal Meth, "ice," or "glass" is a man-made stimulant that includes the drug pseudoephedrine. Methamphetamine is highly addictive and has no legal use. While methamphetamine can be made in small amounts by an individual, it most commonly enters the United States in large quantities via Mexico. Crystal Methamphetamine affects the central nervous system, causing a flood of dopamine which enhances pleasure and causes euphoria. Eventually, as with most drugs, the user builds a tolerance and requires larger amounts or more frequent use to reach the same amount of pleasure.

How do manufacturers make methamphetamine?

Currently, most methamphetamine in the United States is produced by See Whittle/Page A22



Empowering Healthy Lifestyles

814-381-0921

The 2023 Annual Report is now available!
To view the full report, click on the link below:

[2023 Annual Report](#)

Grant Recipient Highlight: Overflow Church Jefferson Park Neighborhood Outreach

By: Nick Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps Member
with Operation Our Town



Jefferson Park is conveniently located adjacent to Overflow Church on 2nd Street between 4th and 5th Avenue in Altoona. As such, the church utilizes the park for their neighborhood outreach efforts, serving people of all ages in the surrounding community. The services they provide typically occur year-round, with most activities taking place on Wednesday evenings starting at 5:00pm. Other activities take place seasonally, such as Trunk or Treat, a Thanksgiving meal, breakfast with Santa, or the upcoming annual Easter Egg Hunt taking place on Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00pm.

Having a church building right next to a park has its advantages when considering that the church can offer services independent of seasonal weather conditions. For example, fall and winter community meals take place inside the church, while spring and summer cookouts and the annual Easter Egg Hunt take place outside at Jefferson Park. Access to 2nd Street is also convenient as this is where Trunk or Treat takes place, as seen in the image on the right.

This leads nicely into the mission of Overflow Church's Jefferson Park Outreach, which is to provide a safe, judgement-free place for our community to come together and grow together. They also aim to build relationships, be a place of restoration, and create an environment that feels like home.

If you are reading this article around the time of

releasing, then there are quite a few upcoming events that Overflow Church is organizing in accordance with the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Outreach that may be of interest or value to you, so be sure to save the dates. First, the last community meal of the season will take place at Overflow Church on April 26, from 5:00 to 6:00pm. Then, each Wednesday during the month of May (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th) leading up to May 31, they will be hosting a Community Clean Up from 5:00 to 8:00pm.

To kick off their Community Cookouts, Overflow is partnering with the Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corp to host a Block Party at Jefferson Park from 5:00 to 7:00pm on May 31. This will be the first of many block parties planned throughout the summer at various parks. For more information about any of the services Overflow Church offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



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Monday–Friday, 8:00am–4:00 pm

