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## What's happening, Pennsylvania? APRIL, 2017

[www.unitedhomeowners-pa.org](http://www.unitedhomeowners-pa.org)

### UHOP NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW!

Edward Smith, UHoP Chairman

UHOP NEEDS YOUR HELP. The United Homeowners of Pennsylvania works to empower homeowners – people like you who are invested in their communities and who pay the bills – for schools, roads, police, and health services, etc. Empowering homeowners means shifting power from the vested interests that control state government in Harrisburg to YOU. Empowering homeowners restores some of our cherished democratic principles lost to vested interests who use money to buy influence. Speaking with an informed, united, voice, homeowners are a powerful force in protecting their homes from punitive taxes and utility rates, in demanding better, more transparent, government, better funded and higher quality education, clean air and protected drinking water, and more security for homeowners. (Why can't your home be free of tax liens by the time you retire? Why can't Pennsylvanians, by initiative, put issues on the ballot?)

UHOP is non-profit, non-partisan, and tax-exempt. Membership is free. (A voluntary donation is requested for the second year and after.) Our newsletter, My Pennsylvania Home, which circulates to 40,000 homeowners - is free. (We now accept advertisements on our newsletter and website ([www.UnitedHomeowners-PA.org](http://www.UnitedHomeowners-PA.org)) – the cost of which are tax-deductible.)

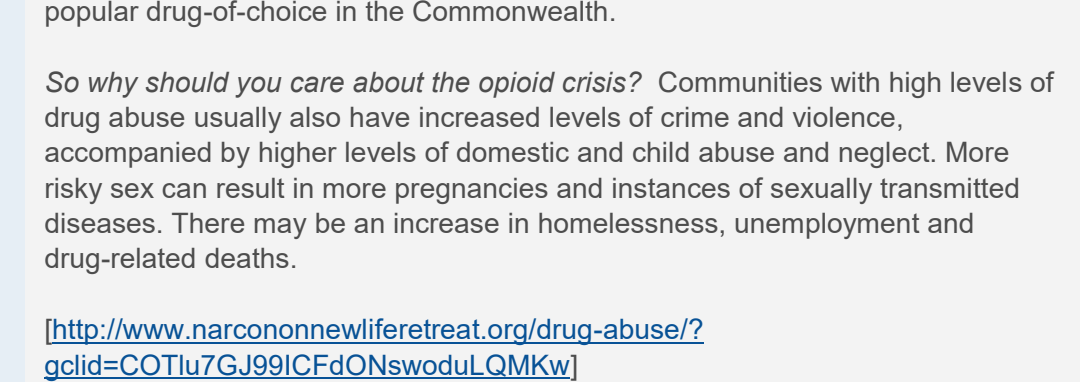
No one on our Board of Directors profits or benefits in any monetary way and, thus far, UHOP has been totally supported by private donations from board members. Now we ask you, as a homeowner, to help support the organization that works to support you and to protect your investment in your home. Please donate what you can - \$100, \$10, or \$5 are all welcome and we thank you. We will provide a receipt for your use as a tax deductible donation to this important charity.

We also need YOU to represent UHOP in your community. Serve as a Field Director who attends public meetings, speaks for UHOP, and reports on issues of importance in your community. Be a contributing Writer to My Pennsylvania Home, researching and reporting on homeowner issues or authoring opinion pieces as a Columnist. Open a field office in your community or volunteer to work at home helping UHOP contact homeowners and public officials. Be our Legislative Ambassador to committee meetings of the General Assembly in Harrisburg. Tell us what you do best and we'll provide important work that needs done. Call me at 814-322-8884.

Make your check out to UHOP and send to UHOP, 64 Harmony Drive, Johnstown, PA 15909. You can go to [www.UnitedHomeowners-PA.org](http://www.UnitedHomeowners-PA.org), click on donate and pay by credit card or Pay Pal. Join as a supporting member. Thank you for your support.

Are you aware of Pennsylvania's criminal trespassing laws? PA defines trespassing as when "a person commits an offense if, knowing that he is not licensed or privileged to do so," enters and remains on property.

Get up to speed on PA's laws by visiting here: <http://law.justia.com/codes/pennsylvania/2010/title-18/chapter-35/3503>



### Opioid Crisis: What YOU Need to Know... and What YOU Can Do

By UHoP & PHA Wellness Foundation

Okay, so maybe you have been fortunate enough to not know loved ones or friends who may be addicted... Or perhaps your neighborhood has yet to be inundated with the drug epidemic. Opioid abuse is on the rise in Pennsylvania and it's just a matter of time before it sneaks into *your neighborhood*.

Opioids are substances that act on opioid receptors to produce morphine-like effects. Opioids are most often used medically to relieve pain. In the news, we often hear about heroin (which is an opioid); heroin has recently become the most popular drug-of-choice in the Commonwealth.

So why should you care about the opioid crisis? Communities with high levels of drug abuse usually also have increased levels of crime and violence, accompanied by higher levels of domestic and child abuse and neglect. More risky sex can result in more pregnancies and instances of sexually transmitted diseases. There may be an increase in homelessness, unemployment and drug-related deaths.

[<http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/drug-abuse/?gclid=COTlu7GJ99ICFdONswduLQMkw>]

These unfortunate consequences of drug abuse put safety for you and your family at risk while the deterioration of neighborhoods can also affect the value of your home and property.

Governor Tom Wolf has taken steps to address the drug epidemic in Pennsylvania:

[Excerpt below taken from <http://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Health-Details.aspx?newsid=408>]

*The administration of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf holds the fight against heroin and prescription opioids as a top priority. In order to continue the battle against the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth, Governor Wolf included the following proposals in his 2017-18 budget:*

*Expanding access to life-saving naloxone by providing \$10 million through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to first responders and law enforcement across the state;*

*Maximizing federal Cures Act funding, which includes \$26.5 million in each of the next two years for Pennsylvania, to expand access to treatment services, particularly for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured; and*

*Providing \$3.4 million to expand specialty drug courts to expand treatment strategies that divert offenders into more meaningful treatment and recovery.*

But the Governor, legislators and law enforcement can't do it alone. As homeowners and property owners, we need to team up with our local and county law enforcement to identify drug dealers. We need to be resources for those who are addicted to drugs by learning about drug abuse, recognizing the signs of drug abuse and providing accurate information about where they can find treatment.

UHOP & PHA Wellness Foundation can help, too. *Join us!* Together, we can help overcome this crisis. We can help to save lives and to secure the safety and well-being of our communities.

### Natural Gas Glut Deepens

Edward Smith, UHoP Chairman

is the headline for an article written by Timothy Puko which appeared in The Wall Street Journal, March 15, 2017. According to Puko, a flood of natural gas is rushing into the U.S., is turning into a global glut, and is dimming hopes of American producers to export their way out of an over-supplied domestic market. **But is exporting natural gas a good thing?** For years the U.S. pursued the elusive goal of being energy independent. Everyone knows that natural gas, and all fossil fuels, are non-renewable, irreplaceable, finite, valuable natural resources. Once gone, they are gone forever. The nations that have remaining supplies when other nations have none will hold all the good cards. **Will the current policy of allowing gas companies to seek short-term profits by exporting to world markets doom the U.S. to a weakened national security?**

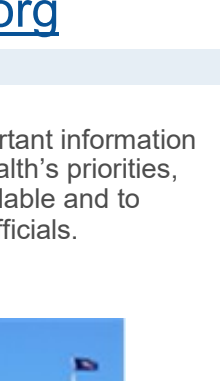
Global prices for natural gas have plummeted and the shares of gas-production companies are among the year's worst performers. A Houston stock analyst says, "Investors right now across the board just hate natural gas." Energy experts are saying that the oversupply could weigh on the market for years. **However, historically low prices for energy supply have not stopped utility companies that sell gas for home heating and that produce electricity with natural gas from raising rates against homeowners who are defenseless against utility controlled regulators. With rates fixed to offset higher supply costs and those supply costs now at a historic low – regulators should be resisting utility company rate increase requests.**

The U.S. Energy Information Administration says that the U.S. is expected to be a net exporter of natural gas by 2018. It has been nearly 60 years since the U.S. shipped out more natural gas than it brought in annually. Is that a good thing? We don't think so. In fact, it very much looks like a national disaster of epic proportion. By the time policy changes – if it ever does - it may be too late and the U.S., now concerned about an energy glut, will be forever energy impoverished.

There are fears and concerns about exporting the bounty of new-found natural gas, mostly from fracking. Ironically, however, the concerns have not been coming from consumers or environmentalists but from major industrial consumers who lobbied against export approvals out of fear that reducing the supply would increase prices and hurt their profits. (That hasn't happened and prices for all rate classes have remained at decade lows despite the exports.) Yes, it is time for the ultimate stakeholders of the U.S., its citizens and homeowners, to be concerned and empowered.

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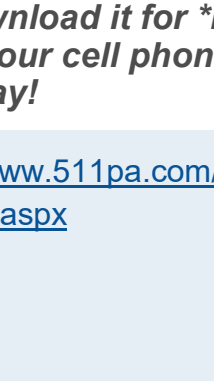
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Contact UHOP (814) 322-8884

### A responsible voice for nearly 4 million homeowners!

[www.unitedhomeowners-pa.org](http://www.unitedhomeowners-pa.org)



### PA Travel & Weather Information

511PA is a new, trapped traveler emergency communications tool that allows incident response teams to communicate via automated phone or text message directly with motorists who are trapped in a roadway backup. It also provides information about weather, road conditions and closures.

**Download it for \*FREE\* to your cell phone today!**

<http://www.511pa.com/default.aspx>

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*An informed and engaged citizen is a powerful citizen. Tell your elected officials how they're doing!*

"If you think you are too small to make an impact, try sleeping in a room with a few mosquitoes."

–West African proverb

