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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 10, Issue 11 - November 2018



OperationOurTown.org

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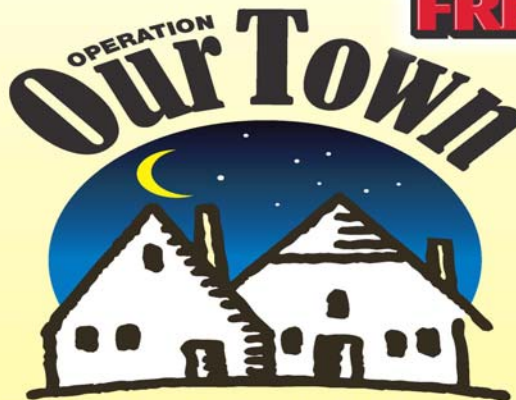
Committed Businesses:

American Eagle Paper Mills
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 Stuckey Ford & Subaru
 Value Drug Company

Why is being drug & alcohol free important to a student's success?

YOU TELL US!

The Best ME Is Drug FREE!



Taking Back Our Neighborhoods

The Altoona Mirror & Operation Our Town invite area students in 7th through 12th grade in Blair & surrounding counties who are 12 or older to enter

"Why is being drug & alcohol free important to a student's success?" contest by submitting an essay on the topic.

The local winner, selected by the Marketing Roundtable of Operation Our Town, will be awarded **\$250.00** in gift cards to The Meadows Original Frozen Custard located in Hollidaysburg, which may be used towards the purchase of frozen custard, batting cages, or miniature golf.



Submit entries to:

Operation Our Town
 5508 6th Avenue, Rear
 Altoona, PA 16602
 Attn: Essay Contest

Entry Deadline: Monday, November 12, 2018

Altoona Mirror

Making It Happen For You

ENTRY FORM

NAME _____
 AGE _____
 GRADE _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 HOME ADDRESS _____
 HOME PHONE # _____
 PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME _____
 SCHOOL _____
 SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

OPERATION OUR TOWN Essay Promotion Rules

GENERAL: No purchase is necessary. The act of entering constitutes acceptance of the rules and decisions of Operation Our Town.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to 7th through 12th grade students in Blair & surrounding counties who are 12 or older.

CONTEST: The contest begins on October 1, 2018 and ends at midnight on November 12, 2018.

ESSAY TOPIC: The submitted essay topic is to be why you believe "The Best Me is Drug Free." Essays will be judged on:

- Creativity & originality
- Persuasiveness
- Grammar & spelling
- Relevancy of response to topic
- Entries must be 500 words or less.

Applicants may opt to cite external references. All external references must be properly cited and will not be counted toward the word count. All entries must be original work of the applicant and have not been previously entered in another competition nor been previously published.

PRIZE: \$250.00 in gift cards to The Meadows Original Frozen Custard 471 Municipal Drive, Duncansville, PA 16635.

HOW TO ENTER: Entries are to be mailed directly to the Operation Our Town office - 5508 6th Avenue, Rear - Altoona, PA 16602 - Attention: Essay Contest, no later than November 12, 2018. Entries will be submitted on paper only. No electronic media will be accepted. All entries must include the applicants name, age, grade and school.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:

- All submitted entries become the exclusive intellectual property of OOT. OOT obtains all rights to use and republish all or any part of such entry upon submission.
- OOT and its members may use prizewinners' names, likeness and other identifying information (such as hometown, school or grade) in promotional materials relating to this competition.
- Winners (or their parents/guardians) will be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility, originality and compliance with the official rules, a liability release, and a publicity release as a condition to receiving their prize.
- All taxes shall be the responsibility of the winners of the competition.
- By submitting an application and/or entry to OOT, the applicant agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in these official rules.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- No entry will be given preference over any other essay on the basis of an applicant's name, school, grade, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic origin, or any legally protected status.
- No entries will be returned to the applicants.
- No notice will be given to the applicants with non-winning or non-conforming entries and applications.

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1887 Route 764
 Duncansville, PA 16635
 Phone: (814) 283-0049

Visit Us on Facebook to See Weekly Specials

Community Events

Healthy Resolutions Expo

Monday,
November 12, 2018

10:00am - 2:00pm

Logan Valley Mall

Resolution Experts
Health Tests
Door Prizes &
Giveaways

Winterfest Parade

Sunday,
November 18, 2018

2:00pm

Downtown
Hollidaysburg

13th Annual Spirit of Christmas Parade

Thursday,
November 29, 2018

6:00pm

Santa Claus
Fireworks display
Marching bands & floats
Tree lighting ceremony



Tyrone Borough Police K-9 PROGRAM

Establishing a K-9 Unit is
expensive. Estimate of projected
startup costs per canine team:

\$25,000

This amount includes:

- Cost of Canine
- Cost of handler/training
- Police Service Canine Kit
- Patrol car changes for canine

Visit us online:

TYRONEBOROPA.COM

For more information please contact:

Police Chief John R. Romeo
or Sergeant Jason Hollis
814-684-1365

HOW YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION CAN HELP!

It takes a special dog with the right personality and learning capability to serve alongside police officers. Police dogs perform a variety of different tasks within the law enforcement department like catching criminals, sniffing out drugs, and rescuing people trapped under debris. The Tyrone canine will be a dual-purpose canine, doing both drug detection and patrol duties with its handler.

Officers and their canine partners team together with the community to prevent and deter unlawful activities that leave our citizens and business owners victimized. They also serve as ambassadors to strengthen public relations and opinions of the local law enforcement community. Much of the project work is complete, though we are left with a few rather large hurdles before us, the largest of which is the question of how to finance the program.

DONATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AT:

Tyrone Borough
1100 Logan Avenue
Tyrone, PA 16686

Checks made payable to: Tyrone Borough/ K-9 Fund



ONLINE DONATIONS CAN BE MADE
THROUGH OUR GOFUNDME PAGE ON
OPERATIONOURTOWN.ORG

Mission

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



814-693-3020

Honor the Badge



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:

<https://pa211central.info>

Month of November

| | | | |
|-------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| 11/1 | Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting | 10:00am | Blair County Chamber |
| 11/5 | Booker T. Washington meeting | 4:00pm | Blair Co. Community Action Agency |
| 11/13 | Northern Blair Roundtable meeting | 12:00pm | Bull Pen Restaurant |
| 11/14 | Marketing Roundtable meeting | 4:00pm | Zach's |
| 11/15 | CJAB Roundtable meeting | 12:00pm | Blair Co. Courthouse |
| 11/15 | Faith-based Roundtable meeting | 2:00pm | 2nd Avenue United Methodist Church |
| 11/16 | Pharmacy Roundtable meeting | 7:15am | OOT office |
| 11/21 | Blair Co. Crime Solvers meeting | 8:00am | WTAJ |



5th Annual Tee Off Against Drugs Student Golf Tournament

A total of 108 students from 17 school districts in Blair and surrounding counties participated:

Altoona, Bedford, Bishop Guilfoyle, Bishop McCort, Central, Central Cambria, Chestnut Ridge, Conemaugh Township, Everett, Forest Hills, Hollidaysburg, Kiski, Mount Union, Penn Cambria, Philipsburg, Richland, Tyrone

Winning teams that received a \$2,500 grant for their schools:

- Winning Girls Team - Central Cambria
- Winning Boys Team - Tyrone

2017-2018 Grant Recipient Highlight: Hollidaysburg Area School District's Student Volunteer Drug Testing Project

By Nicholas Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps
Member with Operation Our Town



Hollidaysburg Area School District has been working to enhance communication between junior/senior high students and their parents/guardians on drug and alcohol prevention through the Student Volunteer Drug Testing Project. In addition to better communication, the project also aims to provide assistance to students who use drugs and alcohol, and deter substance abuse.

After receiving funding from Operation Our Town, this program has seen considerable growth and increased participation. Since the program is on a volunteer basis, students are randomly chosen from those that sign up, and if chosen, there is an incentive to pass. In the past two years, the program has grown from 35 to 153 participants for screenings. These screenings include a saliva alcohol test strip, and/or a 5-panel urine drug screen.

The screening process is surprisingly efficient and thorough, as students are screened for amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoid, cocaine, opiates, phencyclidine, ecstasy, and alcohol. If a student tests positive for any of these, the HASD would provide them with the help they need through the Student Assistance Program and other community resources. Also, parents/guardians are notified regardless of the results of the screenings. Furthermore, in the case that the results tested positive, the screened sample was re-screened to validate the original result.

Over time, the hope is that the conversation will continue to change and promote more positive decisions surrounding drugs and alcohol. The mailing that the school district sent out to parents, as well as the incentive to students who participate, are both ways that this program has contributed to this positive conversation. Abusing drugs and alcohol affects so many more people than the students themselves, which is one of the reasons that being proactive about this issue is so important.

Recently, in celebration of Red Ribbon week, Commissioners Terry Tomassetti, Bruce Erb, and Ted Beam met with students and advisors from the Hollidaysburg Area High School Tigers Against Alcohol & other drugs group.



While this gathering took place to kick off Red Ribbon week in the schools, the group also wants to encourage fellow citizens of Blair County to participate in drug prevention education activities, not only during Red Ribbon Week, but all year long, making a visible statement that, together, we are strongly committed to a drug-free Blair County!

