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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 9, Issue 12 - December 2017



OperationOurTown.org

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American Eagle Paper Mills
Grainger Industrial Supply
Norfolk-Southern Foundation
Small Tube Products
Stuckey Ford & Subaru
Value Drug Company



Logan Township Police Department New Drug K9 - Freddy!

Logan Township Police Department, together with Operation Our Town and the Blair County District Attorney's Office, are pleased to announce the addition of Freddy, Logan Township Police Department's new drug K9! Freddy is a one year old Belgian Malinois, who will serve the community with his handler, Logan Township Police Officer Alex Vazquez.

Freddy was made possible through the assistance of Operation Our Town, the Blair County District Attorney's Office, and the generosity of individuals, businesses, and organizations that donated to Operation K9, which has raised over \$4,900 towards the purchase of the new drug K9!

If you would still like to support Operation K9, please see the link below:

https://www.gofundme.com/OperationK9?utm_medium=wdgt

Mission

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

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY
PUSH OUT THE PUSHER

814-693-3020

PENNSYLVANIA
2-1-1
Central
Powered by United Way

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>



To register as an Operation Our Town volunteer go to our website at: www.operationourtown.org Click on the volunteer tab on the homepage and follow directions to fill out a volunteer application.



Upcoming Operation Our Town & Partner Meetings and Events

Weekly

Wednesday's	HOPE Support Group Meeting	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships
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Monthly

2nd Saturday of every month	Breaking the Chains Recovery Service	7:00pm	Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
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Month of December

12/5	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Wesley United Methodist Church, Tyrone
12/7	Early Childhood Education Roundtable	10:00am	Blair Co. Chamber of Commerce
12/7	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern
12/20	Blair Co. Crime Solvers meeting	8:00am	WTAJ



Pictured from left to right: Randy Feathers (OOT Board Member), Matthew Fownes (Owner, Dairy Queen Blair County), Ella Strawmier (Essay Contest Winner), Clyde Monahan (General Manager, Imler's Poultry), Melissa Farabaugh (Director of Operations, DQ Grill & Chill)

Altoona Mirror & Operation Our Town Essay Contest Winner

Congratulations to **Ella Strawmier**, an 8th grader at Altoona Area Junior High School, whose essay was chosen out of 233 entries as the winner of the Altoona Mirror and Operation Our Town Essay Contest!

Ella received over \$250 in gift cards to DQ Grill & Chill located in Duncansville, Logan Town Centre Altoona, and Valley View Blvd. Altoona. Co-sponsors of the Essay Contest were the Altoona Mirror, Imler's Poultry, and DQ Grill & Chill.

To view Ella's essay on why being drug & alcohol free is important to a student's success, click on the link below:

<http://www.operationourtown.org/winning-essay-2017>

Community Events

Tyrone Christmas Parade

Friday,
December 1, 2017

6:15pm

Downtown Tyrone

Understanding Addiction

Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships is providing a free 1-hour training for any community member

Friday,
December 8, 2017
5:00pm

Registration preferred:

(814) 381-0921 or
sneely@blairdap.org

Holiday Party & Santa

Saturday,
December 9, 2017

11:30am - 1:30pm

Hollidaysburg Area
YMCA



Our Town Times

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

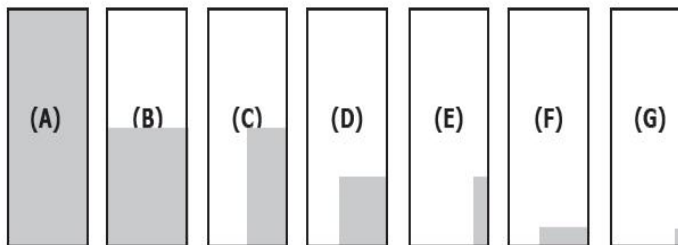


Distributed at the Annual Blair County Chamber Operation Our Town Breakfast and throughout the year to local business and community organizations!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PRIDE!

The 2018 report will include the opioid crisis in our community, combating bullying and other efforts in our community. Additional articles will highlight prevention efforts by Operation Our Town and its partners, including the new K9 Officer. Hear first-hand from children in our community, organizational leaders and law enforcement officials on the successful impact of our programs this year. Readers will gain insight on our future and ongoing efforts to help continue the fight!

Please help us...



Ad sizes	Width	Height	Cost
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(B) Half Page	10"	10.66"	\$650
(C) 1/4 Page Vertical	5"	10.66"	\$450
(D) 1/3 Page Square	6.633"	6.633"	\$400
(E) 1/6 Page Vertical	1.833"	6.633"	\$200
(F) 1/6 Page Horizontal	6.633"	1.833"	\$200
(G) Block ad	2"	1.667"	\$50

All images or 4 color ads must be submitted as final, high-resolution (300 DPI) CMYK files, preferably in PDF format. High-resolution JPEGs are also acceptable. Please convert all text to outlines. Please do not submit ads generated in word processing applications such as Microsoft Word. Ad design can be provided for a nominal fee of \$115 per ad. Space is limited. All ads are admitted to the publication on a first-come-first-serve basis.

All ads and pre-payment MUST be received by February 5, 2018.

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2017 Grant Recipient Highlight: Evolution Expressions' "Kids Arts for Healing" Group

By Nicholas Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps
Member with Operation Our Town



The mission, vision, and values of Evolution Expressions were formed on the basis that a change needed to be made in our community, and a change for the better at that. In response to this community need, Evolution Expressions strives to impact the lives of youth and families throughout the community in such a way that they are truly meeting the needs of the populations they serve. They focus on strengthening and empowering families through nurturing and compassionate behavioral and mental health counseling. Evolution Expressions' mission is: *"To assist healthy youth development through strengthening families."*

Led by program director Ashleigh Nearhoof, their "Kids Arts for Healing" Group aims to contribute to this mission by offering a fun and safe environment for youth to enjoy creating and imagining together. This program meets bi-weekly and offers youth an opportunity to express themselves by tangibly bringing the creativity that lives within their imagination into reality. In doing so, youth can learn the value of imagining a better future, as well as loving and caring for each other. In doing so, they are living as a part of the community instead of living apart from the community.

As a result of Evolution Expressions' desire to positively impact youth and families in Blair County, Operation Our Town has awarded

them a grant to fund program costs. These costs include supplies and equipment to help the "Kids Arts for Healing" Group continue to have a greater impact on local youth and families.

In response to the recent Summit on Connecting Youth in Blair County, an initiative organized by the Healthy Blair County Coalition and led by members throughout the community in order to foster engagement and activity within our youth, Evolution Expressions has chosen to take action by encouraging youth in



their "Kids Arts for Healing" Group to participate in a Community Connections Challenge. This initiative incentivizes community engagement by utilizing a point system in which youth can attend any number of events throughout the community over the course of the month and receive signatures on their monthly calendar, increasing their total points for the month. At the end of the month, the kids with the most points receive a gift card.

EVOLUTION
Counseling Services, LLC

