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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 3 - March 2018



OperationOurTown.org

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NPC, Inc.
Reliance Bank
Sheetz, Inc.
Thompson Pharmacy
United Way of Blair County
UPMC Altoona
Ward Trucking
Wolf Furniture

Committed Businesses:

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



BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DEFYING the Odds



Operation Our Town has effectively addressed the many challenges that substance abuse has brought to our community and it continues to fight with the help of a committed business community.

- Presentation of -

COMMUNITY 2018 PARTNERSHIP AWARD

The Nehemiah Project

LAW 2018 ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

March 8

7:45 - 9 a.m.

The Casino at Lakemont Park

\$20 per person

Includes breakfast buffet

-Sponsored by-



Reservations:

Call the Chamber at 943-8151 / online at www.blairchamber.com



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



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 March

3/1	Early Childhood Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair Co. Chamber
3/5	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Blair Co. Community Action Agency
3/6	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Northern Blair Rec Center
3/15	Criminal Justice Advisory Board meeting	12:00pm	Blair Co. Courthouse
3/15	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	2nd Avenue United Methodist Church
3/21	Blair Co. Crime Solvers meeting	8:00am	WTAJ
3/21	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
3/23	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	OOT office

Northern Blair Landlord Workshop

Friday, April 13, 2018

8:00am - 12:00pm

Bull Pen Restaurant

Washington Avenue & 1st Street, Tyrone

Free to attend!

Please register to:
oot@operationourtown.org



Sponsored by the Northern Blair Roundtable of Operation Our Town

Community Events

Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday,
March 17, 2018
2:00pm

Downtown Tyrone

Easter Bunny Brunch

Saturday,
March 24, 2018
11:30am - 1:30pm
Hollidaysburg Area
YMCA

Kids Cops & Cones Event

Saturday,
April 7, 2018
2:00-4:00pm

The Meadows Original
Frozen Custard of
Hollidaysburg

Week of the Young Child Celebration

Saturday,
April 21, 2018
11:00am - 2:00pm
Penn State Altoona
Adler Gym

Tyrone Community-wide Clean-up Day

Volunteer to help clean-up our neighborhoods!

Saturday, April 28, 2018

7:30am-11:30am

Meet at Joshua House Armory

(926 Logan Avenue, Tyrone)

At 7:30am for breakfast (breaking into groups will follow)

A picnic lunch will be provided at
11:30am at Reservoir Park (Pavilion #1)

If you would like to participate, please
pre-register at:

<http://tinyurl.com/TyroneCleanUp2018>

(814) 684-5016 or

pastorajeffery@gmail.com



Sponsored by:

Northern Blair County Roundtable
of Operation Our Town, Tyrone Borough,
& Tyrone Area Cooperative Ministries

2017-2018 Grant Recipient Highlight: Altoona Area School District's ELECT Program

By Nicholas Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps
Member with Operation Our Town



The Altoona Area School District's ELECT Program primarily serves teen parents and parents-to-be by offering a workshop, a meal, and time to socialize each month. Workshops often include guest speakers who will come in and present on a practical topic relevant to the students and their choices.

When I visited the program, Heather Eckels of Pennsylvania Highlands Community College presented on the topic of planning for the future and considering how college can play a role in entering into adulthood, as well as taking responsibility for their choices.

The importance of developing and refining a plan really hit home with me. Early on in my own high school education, I had to make decisions about my future... decisions that are affecting me even today. As someone who has many interests and passions, I struggled to settle on a specific career path, so to speak.

Since I was not entirely sure about what specific job I might want out of high school, I instead shifted my focus on something much more important. Rather than thinking only about what I wanted to be doing on any given day, I concentrated on who I was, who I wanted to become, and why my decisions mattered.

In doing so, I laid a foundation through which I could better process and understand the decisions I would make. Having goals or a mission to strive toward provide the ambition that we all need to encourage us to accomplish our dreams and overcome obstacles.

While I, myself, am not a parent or a teenager, I spend a lot of time working with high school and college students, stepping into their world and trying to understand the issues that they deal with on a day to day basis. Even over the course of a few years, many aspects of the "high school" experience can change, though many things remain the same as well.

There is a great team of teachers and staff at the Altoona Area School District that are committed to helping students prepare for and succeed in life. Oftentimes, teachers can be overlooked, but to many students, a teacher



who actually cares is all it takes to inspire lasting change. A positive role model can lead to positive changes, and positive changes will lead to a better future for these students and our community. I would encourage others to follow their lead and pay more attention to the youth here in our community. In doing so, we can contribute to continued growth and success and raise the standard.

