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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 4 - April 2018



[OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

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**Founding Members:**

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Delta Health Technologies  
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New Pig  
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

## Northern Blair Landlord Workshop

**Friday, April 13, 2018**

**8:00am-12:00pm**

**at Bull Pen Restaurant**

**(Old Rte. 220 Tyrone, PA 16686)**

### Topics:

Landlord/Tenant Responsibilities & Lease Enforcement  
Property Maintenance  
How to File for Possession of a Property  
Running a Criminal and Credit Check Prior to a Lease  
Having a Solid Lease with Correct Language  
Warning Signs of Illegal Activity

Reserve your spot by contacting:

[oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org)

**Reservations preferred, but walk-ins accepted**

**Free to attend**



Sponsored by:  
**Northern Blair Roundtable  
of Operation Our Town**

## 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](http://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 April

4/2	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Blair Co. Community Action Agency
4/3	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Bull Pen Restaurant
4/5	Early Childhood Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair Co. Chamber
4/5	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern
4/18	Blair Co. Crime Solvers meeting	8:00am	WTAJ
4/18	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
4/19	Criminal Justice Advisory Board meeting	12:00pm	Blair Co. Courthouse
4/19	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	2nd Avenue United Methodist Church
4/27	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	OOT office

## Operation Our Town 2018 Grant Cycle

Grant Cycle Opens: **May 1**

Deadline for Applications: **June 8**

Funding available: \$50,000 for prevention programs aimed at reducing drugs and/or crime.

Please note, you will have two grant applications to choose from:

- Funding requests under \$3,000 or
- Funding requests over \$3,000

To access the grant applications, go to:

[www.operationourtown.org](http://www.operationourtown.org) and click on the "Grants" tab

## Community Events

### Kids, Cops & Cones Event

Saturday,  
April 14, 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

### stART here

Revitalizing  
neighborhoods through  
beautification,  
creativity, health, and  
a super fun block party

Saturday,  
April 28, 2018

12:00-6:00pm

North 4th Avenue  
Juniata, Altoona

# 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](mailto: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 Project SOAR

By Nicholas Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps  
Member with Operation Our Town



The Altoona Area School District initiated Project SOAR almost a decade ago in an effort to mentor ninth through twelfth grade students to success. The "SOAR" acronym stands for Study, Overcome, Achieve, and Reward. The initiative aims to provide post-secondary education opportunities to students who otherwise might struggle financially, or due to other circumstances, to take the next steps after graduating from high school.

Eighth grade teams at the Altoona Area Junior High School nominate students who meet certain qualifying criteria for the program. These criteria include: academic potential and a strong work ethic, exceptional grades and attendance, as well as motivation to learn and willingness to participate, among others. SOAR gives preferential treatment to first generation college entrants in an attempt to help to impact generations to come and provide assistance to those who need it most.

Upon entrance into the program, each student is paired up with an adult mentor. Providing positive role models for the student serves to complement the academic achievement factors quite nicely. During after school hours, mentors meet with the students on a bi-monthly basis. Over the years, the students have continually

stated that the relationships they build with their mentors are one of their favorite aspects of the program.

In addition to the mentorship aspect of Project SOAR, the program also helps students arrange visits with post-secondary institutions and provides a considerable amount of tuition assistance to celebrate student successes, encouraging them along the way.

In looking at the structure of the program, the importance of accountability in relation to a student's success really stands out. Parents, teachers, and mentors work together to hold students accountable for their actions and



guide them along in the process of growing up and making important decisions.

Our young people need more things to get excited about and look forward to in life. As we consider the ways in which our own actions are impacting the lives of others, thinking about how we encourage and empower others can make all the difference.

