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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 9 - September 2018



OperationOurTown.org

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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



Tuesday, September 18, 2018



Schedule of Activities

Monday, September 17th:

12:00pm - Tee Off Against Drugs Student Golf Tournament
5:00pm - US Foods Neighborhood BBQ

Tuesday, September 18th:

7:00am - Morning registration & breakfast provided by Sheetz
8:00am - AM Shotgun start
11:00am - Afternoon registration & lunch provided by Sheetz
12:45pm - AM putting contest for \$5,000
1:00pm - PM Shotgun start
6:00pm - PM putting contest for \$5,000
Cocktail reception following afternoon golf



**\$5,000 PUTTING
CONTEST**



A \$5,000 cash prize donation from
Park Hills Golf Club will be awarded
to the winners of the AM & PM
putting contests!



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 September

9/4	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Iron Bridge Dinner Theatre
9/6	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern
9/10	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Blair County Community Action Agency
9/19	Blair Co. Crime Solvers meeting	8:00am	WTAJ
9/20	CJAB Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Blair Co. Courthouse
9/20	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	2nd Avenue United Methodist Church
9/26	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
9/28	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	OOT office

ALTOONA COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

We are looking for volunteers to participate in our Community Clean Up Day to help beautify our city. We are asking volunteers to bring items such as brooms, paint brushes, hedge trimmers, etc. We will be cleaning the blocks listed below and doing projects like painting fences and porch railings, cleaning up garbage and debris from the streets and sidewalks, pulling weeds from sidewalks, and trimming bushes and trees that are overgrown and in the way of pedestrians. If you're looking for a way to give back to your community, the clean up day is the perfect opportunity!

To volunteer please visit www.unitedwayofblaircounty.org/volunteer and click the "VOLUNTEER NOW" button.

Deadline for volunteers to sign up is Friday, September 21, 2018



Organized by :

City of Altoona

United Way of Blair County

Operation Our Town

Altoona Blair County Development Corporation

Blair Companies

Date : October 6, 2018—8a.m.— 12p.m.

Location: 18th Street to 24th Street from 11th Avenue to 15th Avenue &

7th Street to Kettle Street between 1st Avenue to 6th Avenue



Community Events

**Big Brothers Big Sisters
In Step for Kids
5K Run/Walk**

Sunday,
September 9, 2018
2:00pm

**Rails to Trails
Alexandria**

**United Way of
Blair County
Dodge for a Cause
Dodgeball
Tournament**

Saturday,
September 22, 2018

2:00 - 8:00pm

**Northern Blair
County Rec Center**

**CommUNITY
Resources Fair**

Thursday,
October 4, 2018

12:00 - 3:00pm

Jaffa Shrine

Free to attend



Operation Our Town - 2018 Grant Recipients

A total of over \$53,000 in grants were awarded by Operation Our Town during the 2018 grant cycle to the following programs:

Altoona Area Public Library: De-tangle with Zentangle

Altoona Area School District: A.A.S.D. C.H.O.I.C.E.S. (Choosing Healthy Options In Character, Education, and Sports)

Altoona Area School District ELECT Program: ELECT Program Workshops & Groups

Altoona Area School District Foundation: Project SOAR (Study, Overcome, Achieve, Reward)

Blair Regional YMCA: Family Y-Nite

Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corporation: Iuzzolino Park Revitalization

Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission: Youth Sports Program Supplies & Equipment

Child Advocates of Blair County: CHOICES Summer Program

Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation: After School & Summer Program

Hollidaysburg Area School District: Safe Schools Hotline

Joshua House: Cross-town Basketball

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church: Taking Control

N.E.W.S. Worthy Network: FAITH Foundation Recovery House Work Services Program

Refuge Youth Network: Wild Ones (Outdoor Adventure Trips)

The Door Student Services: The Door Gamers & Programmers Club

The Nehemiah Project: Hope Community Redevelopment & Renewal

The ROCK: Reaching Out to Community Kids

United Way of Blair County's Family Resource Center: Parents as Teachers Program and Make Parenting a Pleasure Parenting Class

2017-2018 Grant Recipient Highlight: Child Advocates of Blair County's CHOICES Summer Program

By Nicholas Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps
Member with Operation Our Town



On August 15, the Child Advocates of Blair County's CHOICES Summer Program finished up for the year, with an off grounds field trip. The program typically meets in the Supportive Services Office at Evergreen Manors on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer. They serve teenage girls age 12 to 16 who are residents at Evergreen Manors.

An integral component of this program is that the girls learn not only what good choices are and how to make them, but also why making good choices is important. Getting excited about what the future might hold is one of the best ways to inspire young people, though a goal in itself is not enough. At CHOICES, the teens have adult role models that can help them to understand how to plan for a bright future and encourage them along the way.

In addition to guiding these girls through the program, CHOICES also partners with other organizations to educate the teens about their choices and their community. For example, Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships is an active partner of the program, bringing snacks and fun activities that are geared towards teaching these young people and preparing them to handle difficult situations.



Two weeks after the program concluded to the day, Elizabeth Montgomery accepted another grant from Operation Our Town that will support the program for the 2018-2019 grant cycle. Upon accepting the award, Elizabeth talked briefly about her dream for the program. "It's an opportunity for them to come together and to develop relationships with positive role models in their life. It's an opportunity for them to develop more of a self esteem, and the opportunity to look at the positive futures that they could have for themselves and what they can do now to build towards that positive future."

