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Operation Our Town Reporter

A monthly newsletter about our efforts to help prevent
and reduce drug abuse and crime in Blair County

Volume 18, Issue 1 - January 2026



OperationOurTown.org

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Thompson Pharmacy
UPMC Altoona
Value Drug Company
Ward Transport & Logistics Corp.

Video Entry Deadline - March 2, 2026

Click here to view - Video Contest form

"I Don't Do Drugs, I..."

YOU SHOW US!



Operation Our Town Video Contest

**Middle & High School Students —
Show Us How YOU Stay Drug-Free!**

Video Topic:

"I don't do drugs, I..."
Tell us what you do to stay active, positive,
and away from drugs—and inspire others to do
the same!

Entry Deadline: March 2, 2026

Video Length: 30–90 seconds
**Who Can Enter: Students in grades 6–12 (ages 11+) in
Blair & surrounding counties**

Awesome Prizes:

Winner: DelGrosso's Park Basket & \$100 Sheetz gift card
(\$186 value)

Runner-Up: Altoona Curve Fan Pack & \$50 Sheetz gift card
(\$125 value)

Email your mp4 video (720p+) to:

oot@operationourtown.org
Include your name, age, grade, school + a signed parent consent form.

*No public posting before May 18, 2026
*Must be your own original work

Let your voice be heard—and your message be seen.

Lights. Camera. Positive Action!



Sponsored By:

**DelGrosso's Park &
LAGUNA Splash**



ENTRY FORM

NAME _____

AGE _____

GRADE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE # _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

Video Contest 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 6th through 12th grade
students in Blair & surrounding counties who are
11 or older.

CONTEST: The contest begins on January 5, 2026 and
ends at midnight on March 2, 2026.

VIDEO TOPIC: The submitted video topic is:
"I don't do drugs, I..."
Communicate what you do to occupy your time and/or
to avoid situations where there is drug use.
The subject of the video is to inspire others to do like
activities to be productive and remain drug-free.

Video entries will be judged on:
• Creativity and originality
• Relevance of response to topic
• Video entries must be between
30–90 seconds in length.
All video entries must be original work of the applicant
and have not been previously entered in another
competition nor previously posted online or viewed in
any public forum.

PRIZE:
• Winner: DelGrosso's Park Basket – Valued at \$86.00
Box of 4 saucers, 8 1/2 All Day Fun Parkey, \$100 Sheetz Giftcard
• Runner-up: Altoona Curve basket – Valued at \$75.00
Curve drawing bag with 4-Grandstand Level Ticket
coupons, and 4-5 promotional items
(bobbleheads, t-shirts, cups, etc.), \$50 Sheetz Giftcard

HOW TO ENTER:
• Video entry mp4 file are to be a definition of 720p or
higher and emailed directly to
oot@operationourtown.org no later than March 2, 2026.
• All entries must include the applicant's name, age, grade,
and school.
• Completed parental consent form below is required to
participate in the contest.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:
• OOT reserves the right to accept or reject
any video submission.
• Video entry cannot be broadcast or
displayed on any social media or any other
public forum until winners are announced
on May 18, 2026, otherwise it will be
disqualified for contest consideration.
• All submitted video entries become the
exclusive intellectual property of OOT.
• OOT obtains all rights to use and republish
all or any part of such video entry upon
submission. OOT and its members may use
prizewinner's names, likeness, and other identifying
information (such as hometown, school, or grade)
in promotional materials relating to this competition.
• By submitting a video entry to OOT, the applicant
agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in
these official rules.

MORALS & STANDARDS:
• Video entry should be positive in nature.
• No vulgar language, profanity, or lewd images will
be accepted.

• Video entry should not reference any
real third party person by name (living or deceased).

MISCELLANEOUS:
• No video submissions entered after the deadline
date will be accepted. No notice will be given to the
applicant with non-winning or non-conforming
video entries. No video entry will be given
preference over any other video on the basis of an
applicant's name, school, grade, gender, race,
ethnicity, geographic origin, or any legally protected
status. No video entry will be returned to applicants.

Parental Consent

I, the undersigned, authorize Operation Our Town,
Inc. to use my name, image, likeness, photograph
and/or video OR the name, image, likeness,
photograph and/or video of my child, as designated
below, in conjunction with the publication or
advertisement of activities, which Operation Our
Town, Inc. sponsors and/or participates.

By signing this form on behalf of a minor or child,
I further certify that I am the parent or guardian of
said child with the proper authority to grant this
written permission.

Date: _____

Sign Name _____

Print Name _____

If a child, print name of child _____

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

BLAIR DRUG & ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIPS
Empowering Healthy Lifestyles
814-381-0921

Area police departments give year end review - A4

OPIOIDS: Continuing our Fight Against Addiction - A13

OUR TOWN TIMES
2025 ANNUAL REPORT | VOL. XIV

DRUGS • NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH • COMMUNITY SUPPORT • EDUCATION • LAW ENFORCEMENT • VOLUNTEERS

Our Biggest Challenges Require Multi-Faceted Solutions

Substance Use and Mental Health CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

By Amber D. Varner, NCC, LPC - LPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies

It is crucial to community, especially within physical, verbal, and emotional health outcomes, and social mental health outcomes. These long-term negative impacts are not only a burden on the community but also a burden on the individual. The need to address co-occurring disorders is not a new one. It is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach. The need to address co-occurring disorders is not a new one. It is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach. The need to address co-occurring disorders is not a new one. It is a complex issue that requires a multi-faceted approach.

Click on the image above to view the 2025 OOT Annual Report

Month of January - Meetings

1/5	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission
1/6	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	The Bull Pen restaurant
1/8	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	1:00pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships & Zoom
1/16	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom
1/21	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office



Our Town Times 2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Distributed at the Annual Blair County Chamber Operation Our Town Breakfast and throughout the year to local businesses and community organizations!
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PRIDE!

The 2026 report will provide an update to the readers from this past calendar year. We will hear from law enforcement, treatment providers, healthcare professionals, business leaders and others in our community about the impact Operation Our Town has made over the past 19 years and the importance of prevention.

Get the inside scoop from Operation Our Town Roundtables on their projects and efforts to help keep our community safe!

Please help us...



Ad sizes	Width	Height	Cost
(A) Full Page	10"	21.33"	\$900
(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 January 31, 2026.

Published by
DiAndrea Media

For advertising information, please contact
Angelyn Creek at (814) 944-5678 or email: Angelyn@DiAndreaMedia.com • 2431 6th Avenue • Altoona, PA 16602

Please Check One:

- ☐ (A) Full Page (\$900)
☐ (B) Half Page (\$650)
☐ (C) 1/4 Page Vertical (\$450)
☐ (D) 1/3 Page Square (\$400)
☐ (E) 1/6 Page Vertical (\$200)
☐ (F) 1/6 Page Horizontal (\$200)
☐ (G) Block ad (\$50)

Please print and return this portion with your payment (checks only—do not send cash).

Checks to be made out to Operation Our Town and mailed to Operation Our Town
5508 6th Avenue • Altoona, PA 16602 - Email Ad Artwork to Angelyn@DiAndreaMedia.com

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Will you be submitting final artwork? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Use the same artwork from last year? (no charge) Yes ☐ No ☐

Grant Recipient Highlight:

H.O.P.E. Drop-In Center

Improved Audio-Visual Equipment

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town
Community Outreach Coordinator



In many communities, adults facing mental health challenges, substance dependency, or homelessness often struggle to find welcoming, non-judgmental spaces where they can simply belong. The H.O.P.E. Drop-In Center steps in to fill that gap, offering a vital resource dedicated to promoting Health, Opportunity, Purpose, and Empowerment for those in recovery.

The H.O.P.E. Drop-In Center operates Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., year-round. As a true drop-in center, it requires no referrals, appointments, or commitments. Guests, ages 18 and older, are free to come and go as they please, making it one of the most flexible and approachable programs of its kind.

The center provides comfortable indoor spaces designed for relaxation, connection, and growth, including: a dining room and main hang-out area, a dedicated game room, an art room for creative expression, and a classroom for educational activities.

Unlike many similar programs that may require formal intake processes, H.O.P.E. Drop-In stands out as peer-driven and peer-run. Guests actively shape the center's activities by suggesting ideas and helping decide what happens there. This collaborative approach fosters genuine ownership and empowerment among participants.

With the equipment they purchased through a prevention grant from Operation Our Town, the center now offers indoor movie screenings, Friday karaoke nights, clearer sound for classes and resource meetings, and is planning to host outdoor movie nights during the summer.

Anyone with a talent or expertise to share is encouraged to reach out and volunteer their time. They also accept volunteers to assist with cooking and cleaning at their facility. For more information about any of the services that the H.O.P.E. Drop-In Center offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



H.O.P.E. Drop-In Center
711 9th Ave Altoona, PA 16602
Contact: Sean Burns
Phone: 814-515-1175
Website: www.hopedropin.org
Email: sburns@hopedropin.org
Monday-Friday 9:30am – 3pm

