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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 3 - March 2026



OperationOurTown.org

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-2026 SERIES SPONSOR-



ALTOONA-BLAIR COUNTY AIRPORT & CONTOUR AIRLINES

A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF OPERATION OUR TOWN

WITH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PETER WEEKS
Overview of Drug Trends

2026 Community
Partnership Award
Donna Gority

2026 Law Enforcement Awards

\$25 • Chamber members

\$35 • non-members

Reservations:

blairchamber.com

814-943-8151

-Speaker sponsor -



MARCH

12

7:45-9 a.m.
Blair County
Convention Center

Mission

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



Month of March - Meetings

3/2	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission
3/3	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	The Bull Pen restaurant
3/12	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	1:00pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships & Zoom
3/18	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
3/20	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom
3/26	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Marzoni's - Duncansville

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

Substance Use and Mental Health

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

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

Disorders are identified if an individual has a Blue County, abuse and/or neglect co-occurring disorder because. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the symptoms of each disorder. Substance Use Disorder (SUD), mental health symptoms interact with one another. The more severe the symptoms, the more likely the individual is to experience the symptoms of co-occurring disorders.

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Operation Our Town Grant Training



Thursday, April 9, 2026
9:00am to 10:15am
at American Legion Social Hall
(1501 N. Juniata St., Hollidaysburg)

Free to attend
Bottled water provided

Reviewing the Under \$3,000 and Over \$3,000
 Operation Our Town grant application process and
 highlighting information needed under each section

Register:
Email: oot@operationourtown.org OR
Call: (814) 296-8730

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

Grant Cycle Opens: May 1
Grant Cycle Deadline: June 5

Video Entry Deadline - April 6, 2026
Click here to view - Video Entry 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: April 6, 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!



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 April 6, 2026.

VIDEO TOPIC: The submitted video topics:

- "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
- Relevancy 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 not previously posted online or viewed in any public forum.

PRIZE:

- Winner: DelGrosso's Park basket - Valued at \$86.00 (Box of 4 raucers & 2 All Day Fun Passes; \$100 Sheetz Giftcard
- Runner-up: Altoona Curve basket - Valued at \$75.00 (Curve drawing bag with 4-Grandstand Level Ticket vouchers and 4-5 promotional items (bobbleheads, t-shirts, cups, etc), \$50 Sheetz Giftcard

HOW TO ENTER:

- Video entry mp4 files are to be a definition of 720p or higher and emailed directly to oot@operationourtown.org no later than April 6, 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 applicants 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 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)

Grant Recipient Highlight: Altoona Area Public Library Parent & Caregiver Resource Library

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town
Community Outreach Coordinator



The Parent and Caregiver Resource Library at the Altoona Area Public Library offers a valuable, no-cost service dedicated to supporting early childhood development in Blair County and surrounding areas. The program primarily serves young children under the age of 5 and their parents, caregivers, and families. It is open to all residents of the community. Resources can be used on-site at the library or borrowed for home use with any Blair County library card. Through a twice-weekly delivery system, materials can reach libraries across Blair, Bedford, and Huntingdon Counties, expanding access and potential community impact.

Education is viewed as the "great equalizer," opening doors to opportunities, skills, and thriving lives. Young children learn most effectively through natural, everyday activities and routines. The Parent and Caregiver Resource Library provides free educational materials and support to help parents and caregivers implement essential developmental strategies into daily life. By fostering strong relationships and positive early experiences, the program helps build a solid foundation for children's lifelong success.

It's these positive habits developed early on in children's lives that can have a prodigious impact on their future well-being and set them up for the long term.

Families are encouraged to stop by the Altoona Area Public Library to explore the collection and discover how everyday moments can support their child's growth. Oftentimes, the best and most convenient opportunity to do this is after attending the library's regularly scheduled children's programming. For more information about any of the services that the Altoona Area Public Library offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



Altoona Area Public Library
1600 5th Ave Altoona, PA 16602
Contact: Jennifer Knisely
Phone: 814-946-0417
Website: www.altoonalibrary.org
Email: director@altoonalibrary.org
Hours: M, T, TH 8:30am-8pm; W, F 8:30am-5pm;
Sat 9am-4pm

