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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 2 - February 2026



OperationOurTown.org

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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!

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 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.
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 sauces & 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 (dollar heads, 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 entries become the exclusive intellectual property of OOT.
OOT obtains all right to use and republish all or any part of such video entry upon submission. OOT and its member may use prize winner'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 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: _____

Mission

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



Find us on
Facebook

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY
**PUSH OUT
THE PUSHER**

814-693-3020



Empowering Healthy Lifestyles

814-381-0921

Area police departments give year end review - A4

OPIOIDS: Continuing our Fight Against Addiction - A13

OUR TOWN TIMES
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Substance Use and Mental Health

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

By Amber D. Varney, NCC, LPC - UPMC Western Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies
disorder. It is crucial to community, especially within physical, verbal, and emotional...
disorders are...
disorders in which an individual has both a primary mental health and substance use disorder diagnosis...
disorders. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 21.5 million Americans live with co-occurring disorders. This is a significant public health concern, as these disorders often go undiagnosed and untreated, leading to increased risk of hospitalization, homelessness, and even death. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) reports that co-occurring disorders are the most common type of mental health problem in the United States, affecting about one in five people. The complexity of these disorders requires a comprehensive, integrated approach to treatment, addressing both the mental and physical aspects of the individual's health. This often involves collaboration between mental health professionals, medical doctors, and social workers. Early identification and intervention are key to improving outcomes for individuals with co-occurring disorders. Treatment plans should be tailored to the individual's specific needs, taking into account their medical history, current medications, and social support system. Support groups and community resources can also play a vital role in the recovery process. It is essential for individuals with co-occurring disorders to seek help and not feel ashamed. With the right support and treatment, recovery is possible, and a healthier, more fulfilling life can be achieved.

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

Month of February - Meetings

| | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|
| 2/2 | Booker T. Washington meeting | 4:00pm | Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission |
| 2/3 | Northern Blair Roundtable meeting | 12:00pm | The Bull Pen restaurant |
| 2/5 | Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting | 10:00am | Blair County Chamber & Zoom |
| 2/12 | Faith-based Roundtable meeting | 1:00pm | Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships & Zoom |
| 2/18 | Marketing Roundtable meeting | 4:00pm | OOT office |
| 2/20 | Pharmacy Roundtable meeting | 7:15am | Zoom |
| 2/26 | Housing Roundtable meeting | 12:00pm | Marzoni's - Duncansville |

16th Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction

Saturday, February 28, 2026

The Bavarian Hall 5:00 P.M.

Doors will open at 4:00

Presenting the 2026 Respected Citizen Award to:



Scott Filler

Featuring:

Chris Hoke

Presented by Beating the Odds Foundation

Beating the Odds



Tickets can be purchased at the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission Office
2101 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 and
Grandview Meats, 1544 Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602
For info call: (814) 949-2231 or visit www.cbrcparks.org



**Tickets
\$50.00**



Event Sponsor:

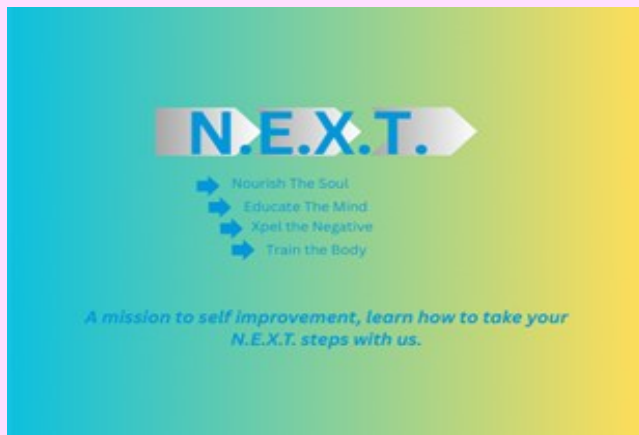
**UPMC
ALTOONA**

Grant Recipient Highlight:

Overflow Church

N.E.X.T. (Nourish, Educate, Xpel, Train)

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town
Community Outreach Coordinator



The N.E.X.T. program serves adults ages 18 and older who are ready to take intentional next steps in their lives. Whether individuals are emerging from incarceration, completing a rehabilitation program, navigating challenging life transitions, or simply feeling stuck and desiring deeper change, N.E.X.T. welcomes them all. It is specifically designed for those seeking spiritual growth, meaningful connections, practical support, and alignment with God's principles for their next season of life.

Sessions occur at Overflow Church in a welcoming, structured group environment that fosters open discussion, active learning, and genuine interaction. The program is organized into three distinct 4-week sessions, with specific meeting days and times announced well in advance to help participants register and prepare. This flexible scheduling ensures the program runs throughout the year, making it accessible to those with varied commitments.

What truly sets N.E.X.T. apart from similar programs is its gentle, realistic approach: it meets people exactly where they are and guides them forward at a practical, sustainable pace. Rather than overwhelming participants with rigid expectations, the program emphasizes encouragement, mutual accountability, and real-world application, all anchored in faith. Each 4-week block explores different facets of

essential life skills, including hands-on cooking classes, personal development exercises, and practical personal finance training. Through group sessions, mentorship opportunities, and valuable resources, participants gain the tools needed to build stability and move confidently toward a purposeful future.

N.E.X.T. is always looking for individuals passionate about faith-centered leadership to contribute by mentoring participants, facilitating groups, providing administrative assistance, or simply helping create a warm and inviting atmosphere. For more information about any of the services that Overflow Church offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



Overflow Church/N.E.X.T.
127 5th Ave Altoona, PA 16602
Contact: Aimee Burns
Phone: 814-201-1018

Website: www.lovealtoona.com
Email: aimee@lovealtoona.com

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10am – 4pm

