



Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by our volunteers to our volunteers about*
our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 13, Issue 5 - May 2021



OperationOurTown.org

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American Eagle Paper Mills
Grainger Industrial Supply
Norfolk-Southern Foundation
Small Tube Products
Stuckey Ford & Subaru
Value Drug Company



OPERATION OUR TOWN ANNOUNCES ANNUAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Announcement: 2021 Prevention Grant Cycle

Funding Available: Up to \$50,000 for programs aimed at preventing and/or reducing drug abuse and/or crime in Blair County.

Grant Fiscal Period: Will be from August 2021 through August 31, 2022. All funds are required to be expended during this time period.

Eligible Applicants: Non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies. Previous grant recipients are also eligible to apply.

There are two grant applications to choose from:

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

Click on the link below to view the grant applications:

- <https://operationourtown.org/grant-application/>

***** Please note that both grant applications have been revised and updated, so the updated versions (with the revised date of 4/27/2021 in the bottom right corner) must be used to apply for funding *****

Due Date: One (1) original and ten (10) copies of applications must be delivered or mailed to Operation Our Town by **June 4, 2021**. Any applications that are mailed must be postmarked by this date.

Timeline:

Grant Cycle Opens: **May 3, 2021**

Grant Deadline: **June 4, 2021**

Mission

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



Month of May

5/4	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Bull Pen Restaurant
5/19	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	TBD
5/20	Criminal Justice Advisory Board Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Zoom conference call
5/20	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	TBD
5/21	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom conference call

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY
PUSH OUT THE PUSHER
814-693-3020



Pennsylvania
 Get Connected. Get Help.™

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:

www.pa211.org

BLAIR DRUG & ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIPS
 Empowering Healthy Lifestyles

814-381-0921

Community Awareness Survey

The Blair County Overdose Prevention Task Force is collecting information about the views surrounding substance use and overdose from the Blair County Community. Please take a moment and complete our survey.

<https://tinyurl.com/BlairCounty>

For iPhones, open the camera app on your phone. It will connect you to an online survey.
 For Androids, please scan in the QR reader app.

Building partnerships to eliminate overdoses in Blair County.

Visit our website for information on local events, resources, and our strategic plan:
<https://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu/blaircountytaskforce/>

The Blair County Overdose Prevention Task Force is collecting information from Blair County residents about their views surrounding substance use and overdoses.

Please take a brief moment to complete the survey, which does not ask for your name, but does request your zip code for your residence. This assists in the data collection for the survey, so please include this data.

The Overdose Prevention Task Force would like to have surveys completed by **May 15th**.

Survey link: <https://tinyurl.com/BlairCounty>

Grant Recipient Highlight:

Growing Vertical to Help the Community

Tyrone Area School District Ag Program

By: Marlene Dancy-Murray, PMSC AmeriCorps
Member with Operation Our Town



The mission of Growing Vertical to Help the Community is to not only provide students and local youth with an afterschool enrichment activity, but to provide healthy alternatives for the Food Bank. Studies show that youth who are engaged tend to be more productive citizens and also steer clear of addictions. Currently, the project is taking place in the school's greenhouse, but the hope of Covid restrictions in the fall will allow youth to convert the Epworth Manor greenhouse into a secondary location.

The Vertical Garden Committee branched off from another committee called Tipping the Scales Committee. This Committee was a food bank that took place with all of the CTE Student Organizations. When it was realized that no fresh produce is provided by food banks, students thought of another way to provide fresh produce to the community members that are below the poverty line. This committee came to be known as The Vertical Garden Committee.

With Covid-19, the school is allowing the program to continue, with no field trips or abilities to work outside of the confinements of the school Ag area with the project. They are hoping, this fall, to be allowed to begin working in the Epworth Manor greenhouse. Growing the vertical gardens throughout the fall season and into spring when fresh vegetables and fruit are limited is the goal of the committee. The next step is to have students working on recipe books and information on healthy food, as this will help keep them in a better mindset, which could prevent addiction issues.

The committee is also working in collaboration with community organizations such as the Tyrone Food Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Epworth Manor, and Operation Our Town for funding, equipment, expertise, and location of additional growing space. Through the National FFA Year-long service grants and the Operation Our Town grant, the chapter was able to purchase the vertical garden equipment.

The students who are involved find the greenhouse work to be relaxing and a way to deal with the pressures of the day. It provides a place for students to apply skills learned in classes to work independently and be engaged before, during, and after school hours. Evidence shows that keeping students engaged in positive activities helps to reduce their chances of being engaged in negative behaviors such as drugs and alcohol.



Growing Vertical to Help the Community

Phone: (814) 684-4240

Address: 1001 Clay Avenue, Tyrone PA 16686

Website: <https://www.tyrone.k12.pa.us/Page/1145>

Contact: Tiffany Hoy

Email: tmhoy@tyrone.k12.pa.us

Operating Hours: Best to leave a message

