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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 13, Issue 11 - November 2021



Taking Back Our Neighborhoods

[OperationOurTown.org](http://OperationOurTown.org)

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**Founding Members & Committed Businesses:**

Blair Candy Company  
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Grappone Law Offices  
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Small Tube Products  
Stuckey Automotive  
The Hite Company  
Thompson Pharmacy  
UPMC Altoona  
Value Drug Company  
Ward Trucking  
Wolf Furniture

Essay Entry Deadline - November 5th!

See link below to view essay contest form:

<https://operationourtown.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Essay-Contest-Form-9-22-21.pdf>

**Why do people give in to peer pressure from those who use drugs? What are some of the best ways to avoid giving in to peer pressure?**

**YOU TELL US!**

**The Best ME Is Drug FREE!**



**Taking Back Our Neighborhoods**

The Altoona Mirror & Operation Our Town invite area students in 6th through 12th grade in Blair & surrounding counties who are 11 or older to enter

**"Why do people give in to peer pressure from those who use drugs? What are some of the best ways to avoid giving in to peer pressure?"**

contest by submitting an essay on the topic.

The local winner, selected by the Marketing Roundtable of Operation Our Town, will be awarded **\$250.00** in gift cards to

The Meadows Original Frozen Custard located in Hollidaysburg, which may be used towards the purchase of frozen custard, batting cages, or miniature golf.



Hollidaysburg, PA

Submit entries to:  
[oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org)

OR  
Operation Our Town  
5508 6th Avenue, Rear  
Altoona, PA 16602  
Attn: Essay Contest

Entry Deadline: Friday, November 5, 2021

**Altoona Mirror**

*Making It Happen For You*

**ENTRY FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

OPERATION OUR TOWN  
Essay 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 October 1, 2021 and ends at midnight on November 5, 2021.

**ESSAY TOPIC:**

The submitted essay topic is "Why do people give in to peer pressure from those who use drugs? What are some of the best ways to avoid giving in to peer pressure?" Essays will be judged on:

- Creativity & originality
- Persuasiveness
- Grammar & spelling
- Relevancy of response to topic
- Entries must be 500 words or less.

Applicants may opt to cite external references. All external references must be properly cited and will not be counted toward the word count. All entries must be original work of the applicant and have not been previously entered in another competition nor been previously published.

**PRIZE:** \$250.00 in gift cards to The Meadows Original Frozen Custard 471 Municipal Drive, Duncansville, PA 16635.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Entries are to be mailed directly to the Operation Our Town office - 5508 6th Avenue, Rear - Altoona, PA 16602 - Attention: Essay Contest, or emailed to [oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org) no later than Nov. 5th. All entries must include the applicant's name, age, grade and school.

**CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

- All submitted entries become the exclusive intellectual property of OOT. OOT obtains all rights to use and republish all or any part of such entry upon submission.
- OOT and its members may use prizewinners' names, likeness and other identifying information (such as hometown, school or grade) in promotional materials relating to this competition.
- Winners (or their parents/guardians) will be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility, originality and compliance with the official rules, a liability release, and a publicity release as a condition to receiving their prize.
- All taxes shall be the responsibility of the winners of the competition.
- By submitting an application and/or entry to OOT, the applicant agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in these official rules.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- No entry will be given preference over any other essay on the basis of an applicant's name, school, grade, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic origin, or any legally protected status.
- No entries will be returned to the applicants.
- No notice will be given to the applicants with non-winning or non-conforming entries and applications.

## Mission

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



## Month of November - Meetings

11/1	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission
11/4	Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair County Chamber
11/9	Northern Blair Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Bull Pen Restaurant
11/17	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	Zach's
11/18	Criminal Justice Advisory Board Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Blair Co. Courthouse
11/18	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Family Services, Inc.
11/19	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom

REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY  
**PUSH OUT THE PUSHER**

814-693-3020

**2-1-1**

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](http://www.pa211.org)



BLAIR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIPS PRESENTS

# Lessons Learned in Legalized States

Today's marijuana is much more potent than in the past – with pot edibles, candies, cookies, ice creams, and waxes being up to 99% THC. In comparison, marijuana in the Woodstock era contained 5% THC. William Jones will take participants through the latest facts and figures on what is really happening in legalized states and the overall goal of the legalization movement.

**Objectives:**

- Examine the impact of marijuana on communities – ranging from drugged driving and youth marijuana use to law enforcement concerns and public health costs.
- Discuss the facts the media have ignored as the United States rushes to legalize marijuana.
- Explore the complex concerns surrounding social justice issues.

**Marijuana Education Town Hall**

**Free & Open to the Public**



814-381-0921

**Monday November 15, 2021**

6:00 PM  
Penn State Altoona  
Downtown Devorris Center

**Speaker:**



**WILLIAM JONES III, MPA**

Smart Approaches to Marijuana  
Director of Community Engagement & Outreach

For More Information: **Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships- 814-381-0921**





# Grant Recipient Highlight: Tyrone Area School District Summer Reading Bookmobile

By: Nick Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps Member  
with Operation Our Town



For students and teachers across the country, summertime is a much needed break from the stress that comes alongside learning and teaching. However, many students lose access to resources that schools provide, such as school lunches and libraries. While some kids regularly have ice cream or snow cone trucks coming to their houses and many students have access to a summer meal program, most do not have the same accessibility to books that keep their minds engaged throughout the summer.

Luckily for the Tyrone community, they have a Summer Reading Bookmobile, which is literally a school bus that has been transformed into a library on wheels that can stop at hot spots in the community to reach students. In the summer months when school is not in session, a certified teacher drives the Bookmobile around to locations such as the park, housing communities, and local daycare facilities, reading to students and providing an activity at each stop.

It may seem obvious to some, but I would have never thought of such an innovative way to reach the youth of the community. The provided books range from reading levels of Pre-K to around twelve years old, and thanks to the grant funding provided by Operation Our Town, they have been able to expand their selection of books to cater to the interests of older students as well.

When asked about the overall purpose of Tyrone Area School District's Summer Reading Bookmobile, Kristin Musselman stated that the program exists to provide students with opportunities to locate books to read and improve their learning during the summer months. In the same vein, this offers a fun and safe activity for students and children, without the need for parents to go out of their way to accommodate. Overall, the program is easily accessible and free for the community.

The summer of 2021 marked the third year of operation of the bookmobile. The program began in the summer of 2018, but due to COVID concerns, they were unable to operate in the summer of 2020. Thankfully, they were able to make the necessary adjustments this summer, reaching over a hundred students ranging from just three years old to thirteen years of age, the program is stronger than ever.

For more information and to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below:



601 Clay Avenue Tyrone, PA 16686

Website: [www.tyrone.k12.pa.us](http://www.tyrone.k12.pa.us)

Contact: Kristin Musselman

Phone: 814-684-1342

Email: [knmusselman@tyrone.k12.pa.us](mailto:knmusselman@tyrone.k12.pa.us)

Monday-Friday 7:00am – 4:15pm

