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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 14, Issue 5 - May 2022



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

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#### Founding Members & Committed Businesses:

Blair Candy Company  
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## OPERATION OUR TOWN ANNOUNCES ANNUAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Funding Announcement: 2022 Prevention Grant Cycle

**Funding Available:** Up to \$60,000 for programs aimed at preventing and/or reducing drug abuse and/or crime in Blair County.

**Grant Fiscal Period:** Will be from August 2022 through August 31, 2023. 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 3, 2022**. Any applications that are mailed must be postmarked by this date.

#### Timeline:

Grant Cycle Opens: **May 2, 2022**

Grant Deadline: **June 3, 2022**

## 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 - Meetings

5/2	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Rec & Park Commission
5/5	Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair County Chamber & Zoom
5/19	Criminal Justice Advisory Board Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Blair County Courthouse
5/19	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships & Zoom
5/20	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom
5/26	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern

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

## Understanding Addiction, Mental Health & Co-occurring Disorders

**Thursday, May 5, 2022**

**Session 1: 9:00am - 12:00pm OR  
 Session 2: 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

**at The Bull Pen Restaurant  
 (207 Jefferson Ave Tyrone, PA 16686)**

**Free to attend**

Reserve your spot by contacting:  
 (814) 296-8730 or [oot@operationourtown.org](mailto:oot@operationourtown.org)  
 Reservations preferred, but walk-ins accepted  
**\*\*Please Register by Friday, April 29\*\***

Sponsored by:



**814-381-0921**

# Grant Recipient Highlight: Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corp. Iuzzolino Park

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



The Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corporation's mission is to support and enhance the building of parks and recreational places of the 21st Century in Central Blair County. As they do so, they keep four guiding principles in mind: protect the environment, promote health and wellness, use parks and recreational places as a vehicle for community and economic development, and honor Central Blair's recreational history.

Iuzzolino Park is located between Oak and Maple Avenues, three blocks from the Jaffa Shrine. In 2017 (Phase I), the neighborhood Iuzzolino Park Restoration Group placed fencing along Maple Avenue to keep small children off the street and resealed/stripped the basketball court through the City's Goodman Trust Recreation Grant. In 2019 (Phase II), the City of Altoona funded a beautiful new collection of playground equipment, and that same year, the Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corp., through assistance from Operation Our Town, made repairs to the existing pavilion and installed a new bench.

With the 2020 round of grant assistance from Operation Our Town, the BTWRC was able to install a new Merry Go All at the park. The Merry Go All is similar to a traditional spinning merry go round but features seated and standing positions for additional inclusivity.

The Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corp. has prioritized the installation of inclusive equipment such as the Merry Go All at existing parks across Altoona. They hope that this work at Iuzzolino Park will create a safe space for children to play, for parents to mingle, and for neighbors to have a gathering space, all close to home.

As for this year's improvements, they'll be connecting the street, the Merry-Go-All, and the pavilion with accessible concrete sidewalks. They have also added permanent cornhole boards, similar to the ones at the Juniata spray park. For more information about any of the services Booker T. Washington Revitalization Corporation offers, or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.

This summer, the organization is hosting a series of block parties in four Altoona neighborhoods, one of which will be held at Iuzzolino Park on July 30. Please see the link below to a survey, and share it with other people in the East End, Curtin, Fifth Ward and Dutch Hill neighborhoods for input and feedback:

<https://forms.gle/GPT3L7sN3EXZaaY67>



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Website: [www.cbrcparks.org](http://www.cbrcparks.org)

Contact: Dave Cunningham, President

Phone: 814-949-2231

Email: [dcunningham@keller-engineers.com](mailto:dcunningham@keller-engineers.com)

Monday-Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm