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# Operation own Keporter

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

### Volume 16, Issue 3 - March 2024



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### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

A YEAR IN REVIEW THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OPERATION OUR TOWN

BUILDE BACK OUR RELEPHORING

WITH **DISTRICT ATTORNEY PETER WEEKS Overview of Drug Trends** 

2024 Community Partnership Award **Operation Our Town Golf Committee** 

2024 Law Enforcement Awards

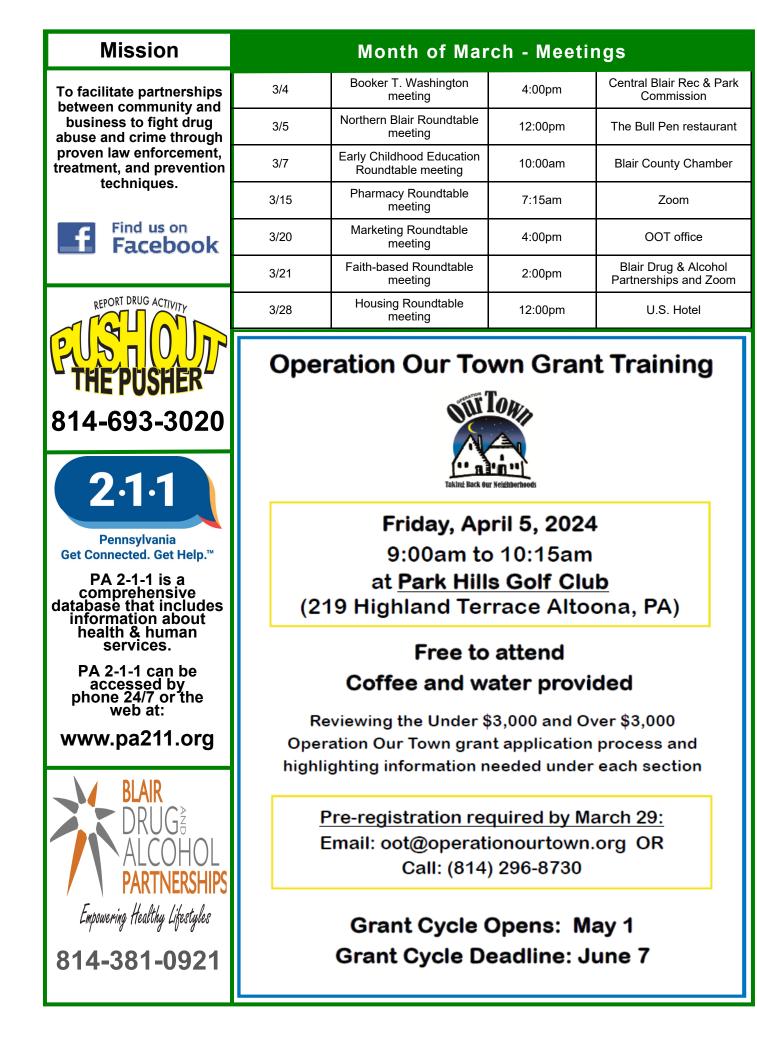
\$20 • Chamber members \$30 • non-members Reservations: call 814-943-8151 online at blairchamber.com

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## MARCH



7:45-9 a.m. The Casino at Lakemont Park



## Grant Recipient Highlight: Tyrone-Snyder Public Library Socialize Our Salute

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town Community Outreach Coordinator



Photo Courtesy of Julie White, The Daily Herald

When thinking of where veterans might gather and talk about life's experiences, a bar is often one of the most stereotypical places that comes to mind. Unfortunately, while bars do offer a social environment, they can also promote unhealthy behaviors such as substance abuse. For the Northern Blair community, this is where the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library comes into play.

Socialize Our Salute aims to provide a space for veterans to come together over shared experiences to cultivate a sense of camaraderie, community, and support in a casual and comfortable setting free from alcohol. The program meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6-8pm at the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library in the Hazel "Skip" Androski Community Room, which is equipped with comfortable chairs, calming décor, and a television for presentations or music.

This room is typically used as a meeting space for other adult clubs/activities, and sometimes programs for teens and older children. Hot and cold drinks, snacks, and baked goods are available to veterans who participate in Socialize Our Salute, free of charge.

While there are other opportunities for veterans to gather in Blair County, they either do not occur as often as some veterans would like, take place in environments with alcohol, or serve areas too distant for veterans in the Northern Blair area to reasonably attend.

Before Socialize Our Salute began, those organizing the program got feedback from local veterans and found that they preferred a more informal social gathering. With this in mind, the Tyrone Library decided to have a veteran lead the group and utilize veteran resource organizations who can work with individuals through their needs or challenges.

As of the time of writing, the next Socialize Our Salute meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024. If you are a veteran of any kind who would like to attend, the Tyrone Library would love to have you. For more information about any of the services the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library offers or to inquire about Socialize Our Salute, please reach out at the contact info below.



Photo Courtesy of Meredith Peachey, The Daily Herald

1000 Pennsylvania Ave Tyrone, PA 16686 Website: <u>tyronelibrary.org</u> Contact: Lana Conrad Phone: 814-684-1133 Email: <u>info@tyronelibrary.org</u> See Website for Hours of Operation

