

## Parents queue up to improve Amity Skate Park

More community involvement called for; police officials disagree on problems

By Greta Cuyler  
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Several parents have volunteered to brainstorm ways to improve the Amity Skate Park and provide more oversight at the facility.

The skate park needs more community involvement from both parents and kids who use it, Amity Police Officer Thomas Gauby said Thursday at a meeting of the Amity Township Crime Watch.

Donna and Mark Militano of Amity Township are among the parents who agreed to help. Their son Matt Militano, 16, uses the skate park nearly every day, his mother said.

When it snowed, Matt and his friends shoveled out the ramps and jumps so they could practice, she said.

Thursday's meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church was a chance for Brent S. Frampton, who helped launch the skate park in Lake Drive Park in 2006, to gather names and contact information of residents interested in helping with the park.

Frampton plans to hold a meeting in January.

Some preliminary ideas include holding an annual skateboarding competition, finding business sponsors, buying additional equipment and installing lights.

Gauby has said he would like to curb vandalism, drug use and some profanity-laced graffiti at the park.

On Thursday, Amity Police Chief Kent Shuebrook downplayed crime at the facility. There have been only 15 reported incidents in the area of park in the past 11 months, Shuebrook said.

The graffiti is probably the work of one person, and the drug use is no more prevalent at the park than anywhere else, he added.

There is no discussion of closing the park at any official level, the chief said. Only the township supervisors could make that decision.

Gauby is hopeful that with more community involvement, the park will be a success.

"We're trying to make it a more positive place for the kids and for families," he said. "I think it will work if everyone works together."

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Reading Eagle: Susan L. Angstadt  
**Amity Township Police Chief Kent Shuebrook at Thursday's meeting to discuss the Amity Skate Park.**