

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CITY OF OLEAN LITTER CONTROL PROGRAM

This season marks the ninth year that the formal Litter Control Program has been in effect. Primary focus of all the volunteers is to address the overabundance of litter that scars our city. This letter is intended to address the litter issue which exists in our city.

This challenge has been quite successful and we feel the efforts put forth by our wonderful volunteers makes a significant difference in the overall cleanliness of our city during the spring/summer months. Suffice it to say that this is no easy task, for no matter how much any street or area becomes free of litter through the hard work of volunteers, cleanliness on the streets is, unfortunately, all too short-lived. I think it's safe to acknowledge that if we don't keep on top of this horrendous problem, our fair city is going to turn into a veritable landfill. There have become too many abusers who choose to use the sidewalks, subways and streets as their personal trash receptacle – not to mention food containers, papers, cans, bottles and Styrofoam cups that are all too often found stuffed into bushes and shrubs. And, don't forget the hundreds of plastic bags hanging from trees! It is hoped that the good people who have taken on the commitment to become involved with litter control will not become discouraged and will continue to stay the course.

The reality is, in order for this program to continue to survive, it is imperative to garner more volunteers. If you wish to become a volunteer for this important endeavor, please feel free to contact me (Lila Ervay) at 716-373-0677 or email [lilalee43@twc.com](mailto:lilalee43@twc.com). For the immediate future, I will remain your contact person for this cleanup effort so please feel free to call upon me if you wish to join forces with the rest of us. The program typically runs from May 1 through Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. As explained in the past, volunteers can adopt a street or area of their choice and can pick up litter at their own convenience. Some pick up once a week, some twice a month, some once a month. Whatever you can do will very much appreciated and makes a significant difference in the overall appearance of the city.

Large orange bags and vinyl gloves are available at the Mayor's office and can be obtained during normal business hours. There are written guidelines for this program and the current volunteers received this document in the past along with a listing of "adopted streets". For those of you who may wish to join on as new volunteers, this information will be given to you as well.

Please – do not turn your head away to this problem and convince yourself that "the other guy will do it". If we cannot acquire more volunteers, the program will cease to exist. Please commit a small portion of your time and help keep the cleanup effort alive and functioning. Also, we ask that you please rake the leaves and pick up the debris that has landed on your own property in order to help the volunteers who are out there trying to make a difference. Everyone needs to become responsible and accountable. Let's be proud to say that we live in a clean city.

Respectfully,

Lila Ervay  
Olean Resident