

veterans village may be built

Sean McDonnell
The Chronicle-Telegram

CARLISLE TWP. — A veterans group is looking to build a small, tiny-home village for veterans, and it is working to do it in Lorain County.

Robert Swan, the commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, said the plan is to build a small collection of tiny homes and other amenities for veterans. The homes eventually will be open to a range of veterans, but Swan said initially they will be for homeless and transient veterans in the area.

"We'd like to get them out of being homeless," Swan said. "So we'd like to start with them."

There would be two types of homes, Swan said. Smaller 100- to 200-square-foot houses would be for single veterans, while larger 500- to 600-square-foot models would be for families.

The veterans village also would have a large building for organizations bringing in medical services for veterans, as well as places for recreational activities like yoga and tai chi. Other amenities could include a community garden, along with outbuildings for wood shops and other activities.

He said the amenities would be open to veterans in the area.

"That would be open to everybody," Swan said. "Not just the people in the homes."

Polish Legion of American Veterans National Treasurer Stephen Bansek, who lives in Lorain, is working to bring the village to Lorain County. He said one possible location under consideration is AMVETS Post 32 in Carlisle Township, which he says owns

VETERANS

From A1

107 acres of potential land to use for the project.

Bansek said the Polish Legion of American Veterans is meeting soon with the AMVETS executive board to

discuss the possibility. He said according to 2010 census data, there are about 26,000 veterans in the county.

A representative from AMVETS Post 32 couldn't be reached for comment Friday.

"Being a lifelong resident of Lorain County, I'd love to have it in Lorain County," Bansek

said.

Swan said the village would start off with 10 to 15 of each type of home, and then expand from there. He said the group has talked with a developer and grant writer for the project. He said in the best-case scenario, the village would start construction in

the spring.

The Polish Legion of American Veterans has about 5,000 members across eight states. He said the group is open to any veterans, not just those who are Polish.

Contact Sean McDonnell at 329-7148 or smcdonnell@chronicle.com.