

# What happens when the Festival ends?

You might say Ken Vogras' job is picking up. And it has been that way for 23 years.

Vogras, DPW director for the city of Plymouth, has been in charge of coordinating cleanup and setup for the Plymouth Fall Festival for 23 years.

"It's a challenge," he says. "I've worked the barbecue pits before on Sunday, and Monday is the worst day. You're tired and your eyes are all smoky from the chicken pits."

He recalls the Festival's early days when some 200 visitors turned out for activities at the Hamilton Playground. Today visitors number in the thousands with some coming

from as far away as Boston and New York. "It's getting a little bit commercialized. It's not small-town anymore."

**ALL THAT ACTIVITY** invariably leaves its mark — in trash — some 150 cubic yards of debris, according to Vogras.

And how is it handled?

The four-day Festival required 237 hours of cleanup work by the DPW crews last year. Overtime pay last year alone totaled about 102 hours, partly because Sunday wages are doubletime. Last year's cost to the Fall Festival Board was \$3,088. In 1977, the cost was \$3,200.

During the day's activities three workers are stationed at all times in Kellogg Park. They run the public address system, pick up litter and run errands for club members.

**SOME OF THE** original set up duties begin as early as mid-August when signs are posted throughout the city.

When opening day arrives, crews are on the streets sweeping up at 4:30 a.m. The bandshell is attended to at about 8 a.m. This practice is continued daily.

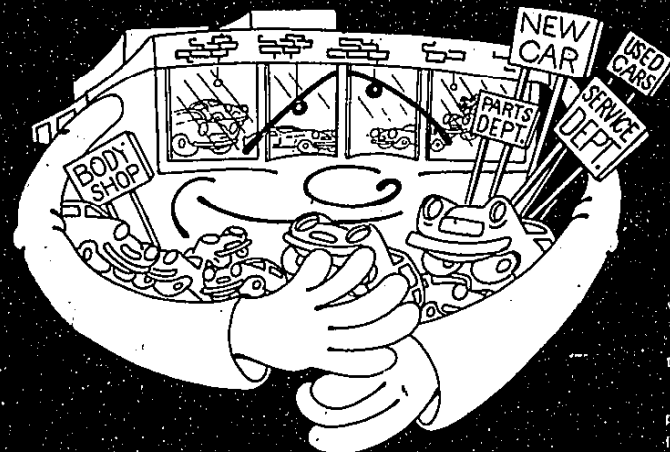
Vogras attributes a portion of last year's cost reduction to the efforts of club members. In fact, he encourages civic groups to pitch in when cleaning up. He applauds the Rotary Club and Lions Club cleanup participation in the past.

He suggests that the Fall Festival Board establish a cleanup subcommittee. Most of the debris piles up, he explains, after a club-sponsored activity such as the Rotary chicken barbecue.

Most of the trash is "just ordinary stuff," such as paper plates, cups, bottles and cans. Vogras anticipates a minor dent in the overall trash collection this year because of the ban on non-deposit cans and bottles.



Tom Wolfe, assistant DPW director for the city of Plymouth, changes the dates in the signs for the Fall Festival — one of the many jobs the DPW performs for the annual community event. (Staff photo by Gary Caskey)



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