Festival's fate rests in hands of the people

A tradition in this community stands at the cross-roads and it needs you help to survive.
In short, if the people of this community don't get on the ball, you may have seen your very last Parmington Founders Festival.
That's right — the last.

A Sou read this column, a Festival Committee is non-existent. Nobody is around to gather parade entries, arrange for the fireworks display or to arrange for all those social exhibit stat tens of thousands of persons enjoy seeing during that week in July.

And most drastically, a chairman has yet to be

Now you may think July is a long way off. But to plan an event as large and complex as the Farm-

ington Founders Festival, months of preparation

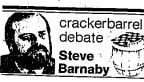
ington Founders Festival, months of preparation are required.

Usually that planning begins in January, Look at your calendar, folks. January has come and gone—no chairman, no committee.

But time still exists to save the program if we work fast. On Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Farmington Community Center a meeting will be conducted to welcome all persons who want to volunteer for this year's festivities.

The Community Center is located on Farmington Road, just north of Ten Mile. You can't miss it. It's the big old house surrounded by the stone wall.

NOW DON'T BE SHY. Nobody is going to get roped into doing something they don't want to do. This is an effort by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce to get out the talent in



this community to put together a week of good fun.
As a volunteer you can do a little or a lot. Any
effort at all will be appreciated by the community.
The Founders Festival, for those of you who are
unaware, has gone on for nearly two decades. Orig-

inally, it was a small affair which reflected the community at the time. But like the community, the Festival has grown

For many of those years the same volunteers arried on the effort. But the well is running dry. Many of those volunteers have simply burned out.

Now is the time for the newer folks in town to step forward and carry on the fine tradition which, for at least one week, puts Farmington and Farmington Hills on the map.

Thousands of persons come, some from hundreds of miles, to participate in the Festival activities. But this year, the streets of Farmington could be empty come that July week.

It's up to you. See you Thursday,

Help pours in for displaced family

Christmas night the world caved in or the Eden family of Redford Town-

stip.

Fire destroyed their rented, uninsured home and the three Eden children suffered smoke inhalation — the
middle child hospitalized in critical
condition.

condition.

But hope was restored by friends and strangers by the dozen over the next two weeks.

But bope was restored by friends and strangers by the dozen over the next two weeks.

FIRST, 10-YEAR-OLD Kenneth Eden overcame smoke inhalation, pneumonia and an eye irritation and was released from Botsford Osteopathic Hospital after a week with no permanent eye or lung damage. The other two children, Secti, 14, and Chrissy, 8, had lesser injuries and also regained their health.

And then Kenneth and JoAnn Eden and their children, scattered among family and friends in Livenia and Redford, were reunited in a two-story bungliow in north Redford — completely from the control of the region of the control of the region of the public that the control of the region of the public that the control of the region of the public.

Don Edwards was one of those people. A member of the First Church of the Nazarene in Farmington Hills, Edwards listened to Pastor James Conner's Dec. 26 piec during church services for the Eden family.

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and I know hospital administration," and Edwards, a Ford Motor Co. employer and even over to Bestord, a sister of the second of

ferred use of a house he owned on Negaunee.

"It had been for sale," his wife explained. 'It has three befrooms and a linished room in the basement. We offered to rent it at a special rate."

That accomplished, more donations began pouring in by the dozen from every direction. The FISH organization, the Westown Lions (tub and the Detroit City Rescue, Mission came through with clothes, food, furniture and financial aid.

Kenneth Eden's employers, Lee and Larry Gentry, and JoAnne Eden's em-ployer, A.J. Foland in Livonia's Wond-erland center, were quick to respond with help. Other businesses that pitched in were Adray Appliance, Michigan Bell, New York Carpet World and T&L Electronics.

Many individuals also pitched in do-nating everything from practical Christmas presents they could do with-

out, like new sels of pots and pans, to bedding and other housewares.

The effort was coordinated by Edwards so that on Jan. 8, the deliveries poured in all day. When it was over, the Edens had a completely furnished house, right down to a new washing machine and dryer.

I think it just goes to show that people do care," Edwards said.

The Edens could not be reached for comment.

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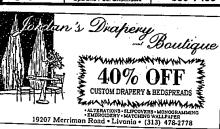
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