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## Cleanup crews leave park Vibe-rant

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BRIDGEPORT — As if looking for a lost contact lens, a group of about 30 volunteers began scouring Seaside Park on Monday for items left behind by the thousands of music fans and campers who attended the Gathering of the Vibes event over the weekend.

The bulk of the trash was drink bottles, plastic bags and beer cans. But there also was the occasional tent peg or rotting pork chop.

The cleanup crew is part of Clean Vibes, the company contracted by Gathering of the Vibes to keep the park looking tidy during the four-day music event that ended Sunday. Despite their similar names, the two are not affiliated, according to Anna Borofsky of Marion, N.C., who owns the cleanup company.

She said the Clean Vibes volunteers get reimbursed for the price of their concert tickets after working on cleanup duty. The company is contracted by a number of similar festivals nationwide.

"We've been busy the last few weeks — Baltimore, West Virginia and, in a few weeks, we'll be in California."

But one Clean Vibes recruit, Austin Koontz, 26, of New Mexico, his arms wallpapered with tattoos, said he was out \$100 because of a paperwork foul-up.

"We only had \$40 when we started out — and I really need that money to get back home.



Phil Noel/Connecticut Post

**Alisha Pully, of Wake Forest, N.C., relaxes while her son Payton, 8, plays with a ball Monday morning after the Gathering of the Vibes festival at Seaside Park, Bridgeport. A company hired by the festival spent Monday cleaning up the park.**

Now they tell me that they can't find my name on the list."

"We had a lot of hard work to do yesterday in the sun," said Maggie Clifford of Rochester, N.Y., her pink skin telling the rest of the story. "And there's more to do today."

They were joined by about 50 or so workers who were busy taking down the stages, tents and all of the other rented and leased equipment and gear needed for the music festival.

► Please see **FINAL** on A4

# Final report on Vibes festival to be given tonight

Continued from A1

"We'll have three-and-a-half miles of fencing to take down," said George Wheeler, of Terryville, an employee of the Eagle Fence and Guardrail Co. of Plainville. "We'll be here through tomorrow."

"The next stop for this stage will be the Norwalk Oyster Fest," said Like Lohnes, who supervised a union crew of 10 in dismantling the largest of the portable stages set up for the event. "After that, it's up to Canada with it."

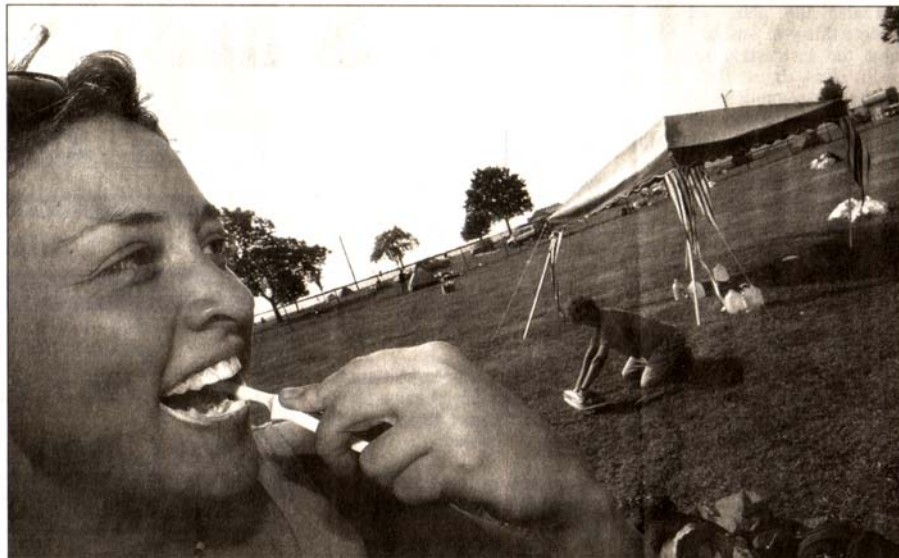
"The park will be immaculate by tomorrow," said Ken Hays, the Vibes executive director. "The attendees were proactive in helping to keep the site clean."

Hays added that he hopes it will happen again in 2008. "We're certainly hopeful that we'll be invited back next year."

He underscored a series of dividends for Bridgeport that should be an incentive for the city to bring the Vibes back next year.

"We donated more than a ton of food, I think it was close to 3,500 pounds of food, to a local food bank," he said. "It's always nice to be able to give back to the community."

"And we spent a couple



Phil Noel/Connecticut Post

**Lisa Santini, left, a senior at Pennsylvania State University, brushes her teeth before packing up and leaving Seaside Park in Bridgeport after the Gathering of the Vibes festival. Above, Becky Rotelli, a teacher from Bronx, N.Y., leads a Clean Vibes cleanup crew through one of the ballfields used during the festival.**

hundred thousand dollars in the city of Bridgeport and that's just ourselves. That's not counting what all of our attendees spent in the city limits."

Hays is scheduled to give his official wrap-up report on this year's Vibes at a meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners at

6:30 p.m. today in the North Branch Library, 3455 Madison Ave.

City Parks and Recreation Supt. Charles M. Carroll said Monday that he, too, believes that Gathering of the Vibes will be back in Bridgeport next year.

"The concert-goers were some of the nicest people," Carroll said.

"I was there every day and night — there are only a few minor issues that we'd have to address. I would certainly think that they will be back next year — I know the mayor wants them back. We've had much smaller events there that generated much more of a mess."

Carroll said that next time, he

would like to see fencing erected to protect the infields at Seaside's ballfields.

He also said that this year's event had nowhere near the traffic problems experienced in the last Vibes festival in 2000.

"The last time, the cars were backed up onto I-95, because it didn't open until Friday night. This

time we opened up on Thursday."

Police reported eight arrests at Seaside during the festival for crimes running from assault on a police officer to possession of narcotics. "There was really nothing much of substance considering the number of people who were there," police Lt. James Viadero said Monday.