

Downtown is the key for cities

By Casey Hane
Staff writer

With 15 years of planning experience, and his current activities promoting downtown areas for the Michigan Department of Commerce, Robert Terry believes in the downtown concept.

"I was not born in a mall, or in Fairlane Plaza," the boyhood Royal Oak resident and coordinator for the Michigan Main Street/Downtown Revitalization Assistance programs said. "Too many communities have moved away from their downtowns. They lie back, and attrition follows."

Revitalizing a downtown means working "all together — it's a commitment program," he added.

More than 30 Redford residents and business leaders attended an "intensive" three-day seminar given by Terry at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills last week. Representatives from public and private sectors trained in urban revitalization with others visiting from the Greater Milwaukee area of Chicago.

THE SEMINAR was presented specially for the two cities — working on their own within the National Main

Street Program guidelines — to help them learn revitalization techniques for small parts of their cities.

"When you come away from this, you have almost unlimited experience," Terry said about the seminar and downtown revitalization in general. Communities with a population from 5,000 to 50,000 can apply each year to be one of five communities named as a Michigan Main Street.

Michigan joined the technical assistance program in 1983, developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which originally developed the Main Street approach.

"This is not a grant program," Terry stressed. His staff works to train and consult with civic leaders in strengthening their downtowns.

The process builds on a downtown's total image, including four key areas of organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring.

TODAY, THERE are eight "urban demonstration" pilot projects across the country, through the National Main Street program. Redford was ninth on the list, just missing out on the program, but the Michigan Department of Commerce is training the city's group anyway.

"They were stubborn enough to make it go," Terry said of the group. "That's why we're helping."

Farmington leaders consulted with Terry about their downtown revitalization during the past year. Many communities use similar concepts to those promoted through the Main Street Program, according to Robert Schultz, administrative assistant for Farmington.

The Main Street Program was discussed by Farmington city leaders, who decided against it. Farmington used city-hired consultants, and recently formed a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the city's central business district.

"I doubt we will ever be a Main Street community," he added.

ROCHESTER is the only Main Street community in Oakland County, and one of 14 throughout the state — including two in the Upper Peninsula. "The Main Street approach is incremental," according to information from the National Trust. "It means many small changes taking place over a period of several years; it means strengthening local leadership and local commitment to care for and manage the area over the long haul."

In addition to working with the 14

Michigan Main Street communities, Terry also helps about 80 other communities working individually to renovate downtown areas. They question items from financing to beautification. Revitalizing a downtown, or a small part of a large city, takes the right mix of the needed concepts, Terry added.

The Michigan Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the national program, is developing programs for cities with populations under 5,000 and more than 50,000, Terry said.

"This year we're broadening the pro-

gram to deal with other parts of the range."

He estimates 80 percent of Michigan communities — most with downtown areas — fall into the "under 5,000 population" category.

Will federal and state budget cuts affect his program? Probably not directly, Terry said. Since program money is raised in each individual community, he foresees continuing to help groups with creative financing methods, so they won't have to rely on government money.

Challenger crewman honored with fund

The Onizuka 4-H Fund for Excellence has been established as a National 4-H tribute to Lt. Col. Ellison S. Onizuka, a member of the ill-fated space shuttle Challenger crew. The fund will provide science and technology scholarships to 4-H members and support 4-H leadership development initiatives in the 50 states.

Col. Onizuka was a 4-H member and he credited 4-H with giving him the values and character traits that helped him succeed in his professional and personal life. On his first space mission, in January 1985, he took three 4-H

flags aboard the shuttle.

He presented one to the Hawaii state 4-H program, one to the Texas state 4-H program, and was scheduled to present one to the national 4-H leadership in February. He had recently participated in the production of a new 4-H educational television series, "Blue Sky Below My Feet — Adventures in Space Technology."

Contributions to the fund are tax-deductible and may be sent to Ellison Onizuka Memorial, c/o the Michigan 4-H Foundation, 1407 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.

THE BONE YARD BAR • B

CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

Call ahead and we'll have it waiting for you!

427-6500
427-6509
427-6563

Credit Cards Not Acceptable

RIBS • CHICKEN • SEAFOOD • STEAKS COCKTAILS

Grand Opening MON., TUES., WED.

INTRODUCTORY COUPON

Only One Item, Please!

SLAB OF RIBS FOR 2 \$10.95

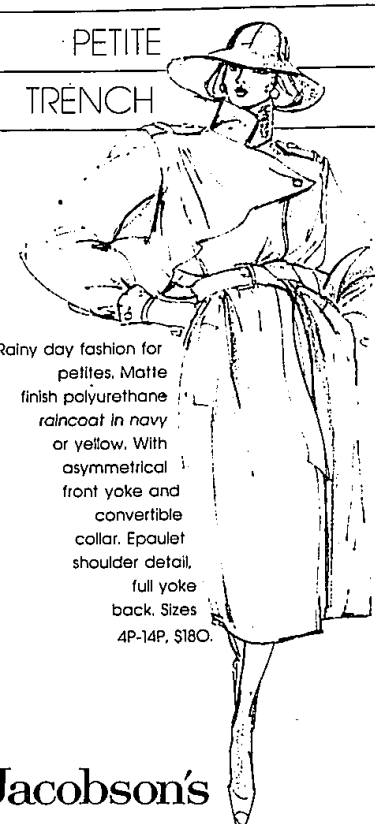
Whole CHICKEN FOR 2 \$6.70

Donors include: Cole Bros. Cottage Free and Carls Drive. Must Present Coupon One Coupon Per Family. Other good Feb. 24-26-28 Only.

38043 PLYMOUTH ROAD (Between Martin and Grosse Pointe) LIVONIA • 427-6500

HOURS: SUN. THRU THURS. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. FR. AND SAT. 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.

PETITE
TRENCH



Rainy day fashion for petites. Matte finish polyurethane raincoat in navy or yellow. With asymmetrical front yoke and convertible collar. Epaulet shoulder detail, full yoke back. Sizes 4P-14P, \$180.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday
Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK... Fitness Empire NOW OPEN!



Winter blahs getting you down? Join Fitness Empire and fight the blahs with invigorating aerobics, exhilarating swims, intense weight training, body building, aerobicycling, and much more! You'll look and feel terrific... year 'round!

Visit Fitness Empire Today. Our new \$2 million complex gives you Nautilus, Universal, Body Master, Aerobicycle, challenging aerobic exercises, heated indoor swimming pool, Finnish steam bath, private tanning booths, Arizona dry sauna, oriental-style whirlpool, oriental martial arts, co-ed facilities for men and women every day.

SPECIAL OFFER!

JOIN NOW!

2 FOR 1



COMPLETE
CO-ED
FACILITIES



Fitness Empire is open for your convenience 7 days a week.

17235 Middle Belt,
just one block north of 6 Mile Road

Monday-Friday 9-9, Saturday-Sunday 9-6.
PHONE 427-7300

SAVE UP TO 40%

HURRY FINAL DAYS
OFFER ENDS SOON!