

Milliken: Growth key to better life

Here is the text of Gov. Milliken's recent State of the State message as it relates to community development and local government issues.

Michigan needs growth and sound economic development for better lives for our residents, physically improved communities, fiscally sound governments, more jobs and increased social harmony.

Unfortunately, in cities, villages and townships, haphazard growth and duplicate development have eroded tax bases, driven up the costs of housing and threatened the future of neighborhoods, businesses and public buildings.

My community development goals are intended to improve the condition of developed areas, preserve essential land, conserve neighborhoods and strengthen local government. One of the first tasks has been to end state policies and programs which contribute to inefficient growth.

The Community Development Cabinet, formed in 1979 and chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, works to assure that my community development objectives are considered in decisions by state agencies. In December, I asked department directors to develop impact assessment procedures and to incorporate community development

goals into all departmental decision-making.

The Community Development Cabinet will monitor the progress of these assessments.

Consolidation of Community Development Activities

In November, I issued an executive order assigning certain community development activities to the Department of Commerce to assure that state fiscal, regulatory and spending policies promote sound economic and community development.

Transferred to the department were the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Boundary Commission and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The department also was assigned responsibility for overseeing subdivision control, county zoning review and land sales regulation.

These new responsibilities will complement the activities of other Commerce Department units, such as the Office of Economic Development, Travel Bureau, Job Development Authority, Public Service Commission and the Financial Institutions Bureau.

By including the Michigan Environmental Review Board (MERB) in the department, we will be assured that significant construction projects are

secondary effects on the environment. Moreover, proximity will encourage earlier MERB involvement that will strengthen its coordination role and help avoid costly delays.

Improving Conditions of Developed Areas

Sound community development requires maintaining, rebuilding and upgrading developed areas. I am directing the Commerce Department to prepare a state capital investment plan to aid distressed communities and promote the use of developed areas.

I have directed that, whenever possible, state offices be located in the downtown areas of Michigan's cities and villages. This will help stimulate the economy of those areas, better serve clients and reduce the cost of providing state services. I have directed the departments of Commerce and Management and Budget to develop a site selection procedure to implement this policy.

The Cabinet and the Department of Commerce will explore an urban jobs tax credit program to encourage job creation in urban areas and urban revitalization. I urge legislative support of this issue.

Strengthening Local Governments

Another community development objective is to strengthen local governments.

For instance, many local zoning ordinances were written when growth trends and community needs were different than now. They may hamper cities and townships in pursuing development in the 1980s. I have asked the Commerce Department to develop a program to assist communities wishing to update local zoning ordinances.

Last year, I recommended \$40 million for fiscal assistance to distressed communities based on tax effort, percent of families below the poverty level, percent of elderly, tax base growth and declining population. I regret that the Legislature failed to adopt enabling legislation during the last session. I hope the Legislature will give this program priority in 1981. We cannot afford to ignore the financial needs of areas of high unemployment and economic distress.

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coming attractions

Cooking how-to's from five famed chefs. Lots going on over the next three weeks sponsored by The Marketplace at Hudson's.

Special appearance by Jimmy Schmidt, Chef of the London Chop House, who will present seasonal cooking specialties of his restaurant. Northland, Tuesday, February 17, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Greenery restaurant at Hudson's Northland. Reservation, call 223-2404.

Special appearance by Duglass Duglass, Chef of Restaurant Duglass, who will present Dinner for Lovers for Valentine's Day at Northland, Thursday, February 12, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in The Marketplace at Hudson's.

Special appearance by Dan Hugelier, Executive Chef of the Detroit Athletic Club, member of the United States Culinary Olympic Team, winner of a gold medal in the world championship in Germany. He'll be demonstrating prize-winning recipes at Northland, Tuesday, February 10, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in The Marketplace.

Special appearance by Maria Zayda Ang, author of *Woking with Maria*. She'll present wok-stir-fry at Oakland, Friday, February 20, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Twelve Oaks, Wednesday, February 25, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Eastland, Thursday, February 26, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in The Marketplace.

Special appearance by Duglass Duglass of Restaurant Duglass, who will present glorious desserts at Fairlane, Thursday, February 19, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in The Marketplace.

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