

# Celebration

## He helps plan state's birthday

Russ Tuttle, Botsford General Hospital's community relations director, is one of 20 gubernatorial appointments to the Michigan Sesqui-centennial Commission.

Since last July, the commission has been planning the massive celebration saluting Michigan's 150th birthday, Jan. 26, 1987 — the 150th anniversary of Michigan's statehood — is planned as the big kick-off for a year's worth of events designed to celebrate the state.

"All commissioners have certain responsibilities. Mine is Wayne County," Tuttle said. His job is to involve as many Wayne County communities as possible in the anniversary celebration.

Communities throughout the state are already planning their involvement in the state's birthday. For example, next year's Farmington Founders Festival will be dedicated to the state's sesqui-centennial, Tuttle said.

For starters, the commission has established a foundation charged with raising money for the year's worth of activities, Tuttle said.

The state celebration will also be a time to remind Michigan residents of what their state offers. Quoting Gov. James Blanchard, Tuttle said the sesqui-centennial will be a time for looking back at the state's history as well as for looking ahead into the state's future.

ALTHOUGH MICHIGAN is known for the auto industry, there's more to the state than manufacturing plants, Tuttle said. "We're also big in tourism and agriculture. We produce a majority of the world's navy beans, apples and cherries. And our wines

are becoming more well known."

The beauty and diversity of the state will also be stressed. "These are the kind of things we want to remind people of."

To capture residents' interest in the celebration, a big publicity campaign is under way. "We have to start publicity now because we need a head start," Tuttle said. "This is obviously a once in a lifetime affair."

The commission's publicity plans revolve around the theme, "Come Home to Michigan." Flyers and notices will be issued to the media to begin promoting the theme, Tuttle said.

A commemorative stamp has been commissioned for the state's 150th birthday. Although the stamp will be designed by a Michigan artist, the U.S. Postal Service will not identify the artist, Tuttle said.

While Michigan is gearing up for its celebration, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. is planning a big exhibit about the state, Tuttle said.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE state's celebration** include a tall ships regatta, ending at Traverse City next summer to coincide with the close of the National Governor's Conference at Grand Traverse Resort. President Reagan is expected to attend the conference, Tuttle said.

Other events include the unveiling of the Heritage Center, which will house the state museum, archives and library. Other museums are planned for opening, including an Iron Industry Museum in the Upper Peninsula, the Afro-American History Museum in Detroit and the Michigan Women's Historical Center in Lansing.

Tuttle is nominated to the state commission by state Sen. William Faust, D-Westland. His nomination was accepted by Blanchard in June 1985.

"The hospital (Botsford) is very supportive of these activities. One of my jobs is to do this kind of thing (serve on commission)," Tuttle said.

Tuttle has served as Botsford community relations director for the last eight years. Prior to that, he worked for the Peoples Community Hospital Authority — representing eight Wayne County hospitals — also for eight years. Tuttle also worked as executive assistant in the Michigan Senate as well as head of the editorial department of the former Bendix Corp.

A former Westland city councilman, Tuttle is also the past president of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Southeast Michigan Public Relations Association.

## Blood donors are needed

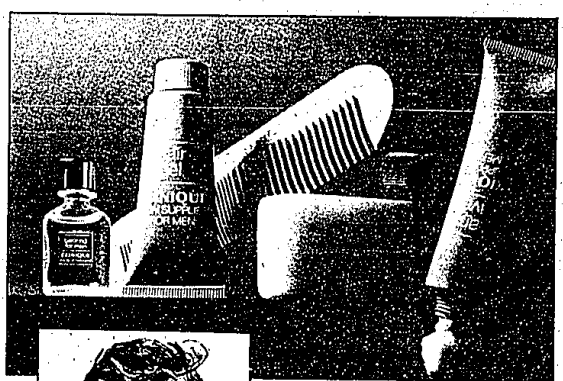
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Most healthy people between 17 and 70 are eligible to donate blood every eight weeks and up to five times in 12 months. The donation, from self-administered health history to post-donation snack, takes less than an hour. The actual donation takes less than 10 minutes.

There is no risk to the donor of contracting any infectious diseases. American Red Cross officials say. A new, sterile needle is used for each donor, then discarded.

A bloodmobile will be at the Holiday Inn, 38123 10 Mile, Farmington Hills, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, July 7. Call Shirley Samp, 477-1911, for an appointment.



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