

Leaders view ins, outs of local government

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Participants in the Leadership Oakland program got a different view of how things work earlier this month in a day-long meeting featuring mayors, county officials and businessmen involved in the process of local government.

"The session was fantastic," said Edwin W. McGuire, a West Bloomfield Township resident who is a vice president at the Frank B. Hall & Co. of Michigan Inc. in Detroit.

"I really learned about my community and how local government works," he said. Some of the information was about nuts and bolts processes, like providing water, but it was helpful in understanding the community.

"I think I have a better understanding about how things work and who gets things done," said McGuire, who moved to the Detroit area from Lafayette, Ind., about eight years ago.

McGuire is one of about 46 participants in Leadership Oakland, a pro-

gram initiated by the Council of Chambers of Commerce of Oakland County. The goal of the program is to enable present and future leaders to more readily identify the problems and resources of Oakland County so they can exert a positive influence.

OVER A SEVEN-MONTH period, meetings have been devoted to economic development, education, health and human services and the judicial system. The final meeting, on arts and entertainment, is sched-

uled for April 17.

Last week's featured speakers included Joseph Joachim, deputy county executive, John Amberger, executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and Russell Martin, the county's director of management and budget.

It also included panel discussions with Billie Ireland, mayor of Rochester Hills, John Cassie, mayor of Berkley, and Thomas Dunleavy, supervisor of Highland Township.

Participants also took side trips to the Eagle Valley Recycle & Disposal Facility in Orion Township and the Pontiac Silverdome for lunch and a tour of the facility.

Other parts of the program included separate panel discussions on media coverage of local government and economic development and a

presentation by a research and communication consultant about what it takes to be successful in local politics.

THIS YEAR'S Leadership Oakland participants will graduate in May, about a month before next year's program kicks off at Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University. Prospective participants are

asked to call program coordinator Kerry Delaney at 443-0410.

Among those who recommend Leadership Oakland is one of this year's participants, Yvonne T. Kuczyński, a Southfield resident who is a law associate with Dykema Gossett in Detroit.

"The program is helpful in terms of personal development and networking," said Kuczyński.

Crisis center needs volunteers

Common Ground, Oakland County's 24-hour crisis center, needs volunteers to provide telephone and face-to-face crisis intervention during the daytime.

Screening is required, but no previous experience is necessary as training will be provided.

Interested people can attend an orientation session at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 3, at the crisis center's headquarters at 751 Hendrie Blvd. in Royal Oak.

No appointment is necessary. For further information, call Liz Christopher at 543-3050.

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