

Program trains county's up-and-coming leaders

Because Carla Gribbs was born and raised in the Detroit area, she thought she knew a lot about the community. But after attending Leadership Oakland, Gribbs says she feels much more enlightened about Oakland County.

Gribbs, regional manager of the Detroit Edison Company in Southfield, is one of over 300 local community leaders who have participated in Leadership Oakland, a series of presentations, panel discussions, workshops and seminars aimed at providing leadership skills to ensure the vitality of Oakland County.

"Even though I'm from the area, I really got a lot out of the program," said Gribbs, who now chairs the media and government day sessions. "It was a wonderful networking opportunity. I think it is really critical to hear from other members of the community because they can give a lot of insight on issues that impact both individuals and organizations."

Established in 1990, the program runs from September through June and features interaction from citizens representing diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, large corporations, small businesses, human service agencies and educational, governmental, not-for-profit and community service organizations.

tions.

Economic outlooks, health care and the judicial system are some of the topics that are discussed.

Approximately 50 individuals are accepted to participate in each session.

"I was elated to get the opportunity to participate," Cranbrook Schools public relations manager Anahid Derbabian said. Derbabian is currently participating in Leadership Oakland VIII.

"Each and every month, I am learning strengths and weaknesses of the county that I can utilize to go forward in my field. I have also received essential training skills and insights to make me a better and stronger leader."

Discussions are led by previous participants.

Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce executive director Christine Winans graduated last year. She said the program is a learning experience that builds long-lasting relationships.

"The program was tremendous," said Winans, who now serves on the leadership board of directors. "I recommend the program to anyone who wants to widen their circle."

To launch this year's program, the first annual Celebration of Leadership Day will be held Tuesday, April 21 at Chrysler

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Carla Gribbs
—regional manager, Detroit Edison

World Headquarters in Auburn Hills. Current participants, alumni and supporters are expected to attend.

Lou Kasiechke, an attorney with Dykema Gossett in Bloomfield Hills, will deliver the keynote address. The former CEO of Pella Window and Door Company, Kasiechke has also worked with the University of Michigan's national championship football team.

Also as part of the kickoff, Leadership Oakland will recognize 25 Oakland County individuals highlighted in Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40." In addition, 34 CEOs from Oakland County businesses will be saluted for their achievements in revenue growth and job development in southeast Michigan.

Space for the leadership celebration is limited. For reservations or more information, call Leadership Executive Director Lucia Paparelli at (248) 608-1628.



Contractors have gotten an early start on road construction projects throughout Oakland County including the following:

drivers along 13 Mile.

■ **Novi** — Expansion of the Haggerty Connector (M-6) has closed 14 Mile Road, between Haggerty and Welch, until October 1998.

■ **Rochester Hills** — Hamlin Road is being reconstructed to a four-lane boulevard from M-59 to

■ **Farmington** — M-5 is reduced to one lane in each direction at Farmington Road. Lanes are expected to open mid-June.

■ **Farmington Hills** — Expansion of the Haggerty Connector (M-6) has closed 14 Mile Road, between Haggerty and Welch, until October. A detour routes

■ **Crooks Road**. The project, which is expected to be completed by the spring of 1999, will include the completion of the east-west link from the new M-59 ramp to various business facilities. The roadway is closed, except for local traffic, with detours across M-59 and Avon Road.

■ **Troy** — Beginning April 15, northbound I-75 will have a traffic shift at 14 Mile Road. There will also be intermittent lane closures on 14 Mile during the evening. The project to widen the I-75 exit ramps is expected to be completed by late summer.

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, detours are unknown or not planned.

Source: Local, county, city and village road officials.

OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to April 12.

BIRMINGHAM

■ **Sculptor succumbs:** Marshall Fredericks, the internationally known Birmingham sculptor whose works include "The Spirit of Detroit" and "Freedom of the Human Spirit," died at age 90 of chronic lung illness. Donations can be made to Saginaw Valley State University Foundation for the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Gallery, SVSU, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710; (517) 790-5667.

CLARKSTON

■ **Board approves paving:** Clarkston school board unanimously approved a \$1 million road improvement proposal from Independence Township that calls for the paving of Flemings Lake Road and a makeover of the Clarkston Road/Flemings Lake Road intersection, complete with a camera-oriented traffic signal in front of Clarkston's new high school.

FARMINGTON

■ **Derby scheduled:** The Farmington fishing derby will take place Saturday, April 25 in Shawansee Park. Up to 500 trout will be planted in the Rouge River tributary the previous night.

LAKE ORION

■ **Development prompts protest:** About 15 people gathered at the entrance of the former Camp Franklin site at Elizabeth and Broadway in Lake Orion to protest the development of commercial and residential property, which will eventually include a Kroger grocery store and 137 homes.

ROCHESTER HILLS

■ **Site plan approved:** The Rochester School Board unanimously approved the site plan for the district's new high school, which will be built on 72 acres at Tienken and Sheldon in Rochester Hills.

SOUTHFIELD

■ **City celebrates anniversary:** A crowd of 280 celebrated Southfield's 40th anniversary at Plum Hollow Country, raising \$41,000 goes for the Southfield Community Foundation. The party continues with an essay contest for youngsters and a May 8 concert appearance by Grammy-winning singer Lou Rawls at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. For

more information, call Southfield Community Relations at (248) 354-4854.

TROY

■ **Club plans benefit:** The Troy Newcomers Club will hold a Vegas Night fund-raiser and silent auction to benefit HAVEN, a county-based shelter for abused women and children, from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 2 at the Holiday Inn on Rochester Road and I-76 in Troy. For tickets, call (248) 334-2343, ext. 28.

WEST BLOOMFIELD

■ **Students help homeless:** Students from the sixth grade student council at Twin Beach Elementary raised over \$500 and collected 600 canned goods to donate to the Pontiac Rescue mission for the holiday weekend. The students served lunch to the needy and toured the facility as part of a council community project.



"Optimism is the human personification of spring."

Susan J. Besonette

Foster homes sought for abused children

Hundreds of abused and neglected children in metro Detroit need your family's help.

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan is responding to the needs of hundreds of children in need of temporary foster homes. Many of these children have been abused, physically, emotionally and sexually. Neglect and abandonment, which LSSM said is caused by poor parenting skills and lack of parental support,

has resulted in an increased number of children in need of out of home placements.

The number of children coming into the foster care system far outweighs the number of licensed foster homes, according to LSSM. LSSM is urging families to consider becoming licensed to provide care to one child, or more importantly, a sibling group of two or three children.

The first step is a no-obligation free orientation class. Classes are held at LSSM's office at 21700 Northwestern Highway, Suite 1300, Southfield 47076-4918.

Call Geraldine Gray, community outreach coordinator, social worker, at (248) 423-2760 for information on how you can help children reach their potential, and find safe and loving homes.

County parks looking for lifeguards

The Oakland County parks system is hiring 100 lifeguards for its two water parks and three beaches for the Memorial Day-Labor Day season. To apply, call the Oakland County Personnel Department at (248) 858-0530 or Oakland County Parks at (248) 858-0906.

Correction Notice

In our April 12 ad, we featured the DVD movie *LA Confidential* as available Tuesday, April 14. The manufacturer of this title has pushed its release date back to Tuesday, April 21. We are offering rainchecks for this title. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

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THE MEN'S STORE

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

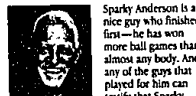
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Look who's coming to Barnes & Noble.

Sparky Anderson



Sparky Anderson is a nice guy who finished first—he has won more ball games than almost any body. And any of the guys that played for him can testify that Sparky made them a better man, on and off the field. Meet this baseball legend when he signs copies of *They Call Me Sparky*.

Wednesday, April 15th
6:00-8:00 PM
2800 South Rochester Road
Rochester Hills (248) 853-9855

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April 12th

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BIG LEAGUE EVENTS THIS WEEK AT BORDERS!!!

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 7:30 PM

MARY DORIA RUSSELL
DISCUSSING & SIGNING
CHILDREN OF GOD



Mary Doria Russell's first novel, *The Sparrows*, was called "a startling, engrossing and moral work of fiction" by *The New York Times Book Review*. Now in *Children of God* (Villard, \$23.95), Mary Doria Russell returns with a novel that is as imaginative, philosophically provocative, and engrossing as its predecessor.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1-3 PM

SPARKY ANDERSON
SIGNING
THEY CALL ME SPARKY



Sparky Anderson, accompanied by co-writer Dan Ewald, will sign copies of his book *They Call Me Sparky* (Slovene Bear, \$24.95). Winning back-to-back World Series, Sparky also penned stories about his life as a player and manager.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 7:30 PM

RICHARD CARLSON
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF



In *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*, Richard Carlson, Ph.D., showed us how to prevent the little things in life from causing big aggravations. Now in *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff With Your Family*, Carlson offers us strategies for cultivating the empathetic, kind, and gentle part of ourselves at home, for greater peace and enjoyment for our families.

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