

Gilles will Speak Saturday At Oxford School Benefit

Chrysler Group's Ralph Gilles is set to be the keynote speaker at a Drive to Benefit Schools and Community fundraiser.

The event is raising money to benefit the Oxford Blue Turf Committee. The dinner is set for Saturday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at Boulder Pointe Golf & Banquet Center in Oxford.

Born in New York City to Haitian immigrants, Gilles started drawing cars as a toddler. He joined the former Chrysler Corporation right out of college and rose quickly to Chrysler Group's top product design spot.

During his rise within the company, he managed the team that designed a notable bestseller, the Chrysler 300C (a.k.a. the baby Bentley). Gilles is currently president and CEO of the Street and Racing Technology Brand & Motorsports as well as senior vice president - Product Design, Chrysler Group LLC.

As a well-recognized personality within the automotive industry, attendees will have the chance to speak candidly with Gilles and to hear his insight on the future of the industry.

"This is such an exciting event for Oxford," said Jim Reis, chairman of the Oxford Blue Turf Committee. "Ralph is a resident of Oxford who has already given generously to the Oxford Blue Turf Fund. Now he is stepping up again and offering us his fame

and his time for this once-off event."

Each dinner guest will receive a gift and enjoy free wine tasting sponsored by Oxford Wine & Beverage Company. In addition, guests will have the chance to win door prizes and bid on silent auction items, such as an autographed Barry Sanders Lions jersey valued at \$1,800 and a Boulder Pointe golf membership valued at \$4,000.

Live entertainment will be provided by Motor City Soul, an acclaimed Michigan ensemble.

"Boulder Pointe Banquet Center has graciously offered to host this event," said event organizer Maria Martin. "I am certain our guests will really enjoy the atmosphere and the three-course meal we have planned."

Space is limited with a fixed number of tickets available for this one-time event.

For tickets or info, contact Maria Martin at 248-210-0919, or visit www.oxfordblueturfevents.com.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Oxford Blue Turf Committee, which is helping pay off the expense of installing artificial turf on the Oxford High School football field.

Got News?

If you have solid business news for this paper, please contact us at News@OaklandTechNews.com.

Stan Ovshinsky Dies at 89

A private burial service will be held in Akron, Ohio, for Bloomfield Hills resident and entrepreneur Stanford R. Ovshinsky, who died at his home on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, of complications from prostate cancer.

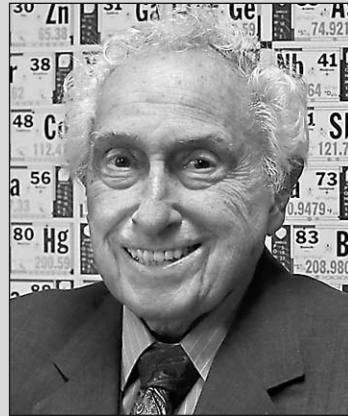
Ovshinsky, 89, was born in Akron, Ohio, on Nov. 24, 1922. Known as an innovator in the automotive industry, Ovshinsky was this year nominated as a finalist for the prestigious European Inventor Award, according to the European Patent Office in Munich, Germany.

The award was the first European prize to distinguish inventors who have made outstanding contributions to innovation, the economy and society.

Ovshinsky's nomination came in the category of "non-European countries," for the invention of the nickel-metal hydride batteries (NiMH), which enabled the hybrid and electric car industries to take off and is considered important to solving the problems of CO2 and minimizing the use of gasoline.

Ovshinsky was the developer of more than 400 patents and was president and CEO of Ovshinsky Innovation LLC and Ovshinsky Solar LLC, both based in Bloomfield Hills.

Before founding those companies, Ovshinsky started Energy Conversion Devices in Detroit with his late wife Iris in



Stanford R. Ovshinsky

1960. His work has been used in the development of cell phones and other portable devices that work on rechargeable batteries.

Through its wholly owned subsidiary United Solar Ovonic, LLC (also called Uni-Solar) located in Auburn Hills, Energy Conversion Devices was the world's largest producer of flexible solar panels.

On Feb. 14, 2012, Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. and its subsidiaries, United Solar Ovonic LLC and Solar Integrated Technologies, Inc. filed for bankruptcy.

A strong advocate of maintaining the United States' industrial base, Ovshinsky said in an interview earlier this year, that how a country could remain strong economically and provide middle class jobs without a

powerful manufacturing base.

In the 1990s, he teamed up with then-General Motors chairman Robert Stempel to use his batteries in the second-generation GM EV1 electric vehicle, which was the car that kicked off the modern EV industry.

Ovshinsky, who was self-educated, was also credited with discovering in the 1960s what became known as the Ovshinsky Effect - the principle that described how glass can be engineered to conduct electricity. He predicted at the time that the effect could be used to produce smaller and cheaper electronic devices, including computers and television sets.

After leaving Energy Conversion Devices, Ovshinsky founded Ovshinsky Innovation and Ovshinsky Solar, which operate out of a retired elementary school building near Square Lake and Squirrel roads in Bloomfield Hills.

Ovshinsky was predeceased by his wife Iris. He is survived by his brother Herbert, his longtime partner at ECD; his wife at the time of his death, Rosa, a former scientist at ECD; seven children; and six grandchildren.

Contributions in his honor may be made to the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Ovshinsky Student Scholarship Fund of the American Physical Society.

Auburn Hills Chamber Launches Its First-Ever Membership Drive

October is Chamber of Commerce Month, and the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce has launched the first membership drive in the organization's 20-year history.

The membership drive aims to add 50 new members to the chamber even though, post-recession, the chamber is growing at a rate of 30 percent a year.

Ten teams of Board members and ambassadors have assembled to reach this benchmark.

Membership drive winners will be recognized for their achievement at the chamber's Silver & Gold Awards on Dec. 5.

Chamber of Commerce Month is supported by the Michigan Association of Chamber Profession-

als (MACP), an organization supporting the state's 276 chambers.

The initiative was established to promote chambers' contribution to the Michigan economy.

"Chamber of Commerce Month is an opportunity for our organizations to discuss the importance of chambers and why membership is so important in helping businesses improve and grow," says Bob Thomas, director of the MACP.

"It's great to see our ambassador team, board members and chamber membership all working together to support the Auburn Hills Community," said Kathryn Baker, Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce Board member.

Bullseye Conference Set for Thursday

The Bullseye Business Conference draws more than 100 area business owners, professionals and entrepreneurs looking for information and inspiration in marketing and business development.

Speakers include Biggby Coffee president Mike McFall, Fox 2 reporter Murray Feldman and the Radio Disney 910 AM Road Crew.

McFall will share his success story; Feldman will talk about the state's business issues, trends and forecasts; and the Radio Disney Road Crew will present "Marketing Magic: The Disney Experience."

Hawk Woods Festival

About 250 people turned out for the Hawk Woods Fall Festival held Oct. 13 in Auburn Hills.

"Although the weather was rough, people came out to enjoy," said Brian Marzolf, City of Auburn Hills Recreation director.

Marzolf expressed his appreciation to those who helped with the event.

For info and tickets, contact the Auburn Hills, Clarkston Area, Orion Area, Pontiac Regional or Waterford Area Chambers of Commerce. The event is Oct. 25 at Oakland Schools in Waterford from 8:15 a.m. until noon.

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