



February 2009

PATTERN'S PROGRESS

A Monthly E-Update for Members of Pattern for Progress

PRESIDENT'S DAY BREAKFAST FEATURES MID-HUDSON COUNTY EXECS, DRAWS 350

Another capacity crowd filled the Poughkeepsie Grand's ballroom February 26 to hear five county heads discuss "How County Government can Innovate for Tough Times". Pattern thanks sponsors Riverside Bank, Clough Harbour & Associates, Construction Contractors Association of the Hudson Valley, EmblemHealth, Leprechaun Lines, Local 17 LECET, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, Mohonk Preserve and the Port Authority of NY & NJ. (See coverage in [Dutchess](#), [Orange](#) and [Ulster](#) dailies.)

PATTERN URGES STATE SENATE TO HOLD MID-HUDSON HEARING ON MTA PAYROLL TAX

In addition to other local hearings, Jonathan Drapkin testified February 19 at the State Senate hearing on MTA financial remedies in Manhattan, calling the proposed "mobility tax" inequitable for the Mid-Hudson region that has limited access to mass transit (see testimony [here](#)). He called on the Senate to hold a hearing in the region, *and to travel to the hearing via mass transit*.

SHERIFFS MEET WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE ON JAILS

Pattern filled a meeting room in Poughkeepsie with 30 county sheriffs, chief elected officials, jail administrators and other experts immediately after the President's Day Breakfast, to discuss a collaboration of eight counties on a regional jails system. Dr. Gerald Benjamin of CRREO at SUNY New Paltz led a thought provoking discussion on potential cost savings and improvements. Orange, Ulster and Sullivan Counties have applied for a \$55,000 State grant to complete the study. See more on Pattern's Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee [here](#).

LAND USE ADVOCACY MEETS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Pattern spoke out in favor of the Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) housing campus at Woodstock Commons February 6 as 52 units of senior, family and artists rental housing went to public hearing. Jonathan Drapkin said, "To the credit of the planning board and the community, this is one of the most reviewed projects in the region." ([More](#))

PATTERN FELLOWS LEARN ABOUT REGIONAL GREEN ECONOMY

The February 3 meeting of Pattern's Fellows Program featured a discussion with Dr. Ann Davis of Marist College on the subject of a regional economy, focusing on new green enterprises.

MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SIGN UP FOR MUNICIPAL ENERGY SAVINGS

As a result of Pattern's Local Government Energy Conference last fall, the list of municipalities signing up for savings via group energy purchases continues to grow... as does the list of communities discussing the four day work week. For more information, [email](#) Charlie Murphy at Pattern.

PATTERN CONVENES MEETING OF HUDSON VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

County planners met on February 27 for their quarterly forum on regional issues. Discussion covered the Tappan Zee Bridge and transportation input for Pattern's upcoming regional report, as well as alternative approaches to streamlining the environmental review process in Hudson Valley communities.

PATTERN ON THE ROAD ...

... Jonathan Drapkin participated in the Poughkeepsie Journal's economic development roundtable Feb. 19. See excerpts of the discussion [here](#), and Drapkin's March 1 "Valley Views" column [here](#).

... Pattern was invited by the Governor's office to attend a briefing February 23 that provided local leaders with a snapshot of the Stimulus package and what the program could mean to our region.