



July 2009

PATTERN'S PROGRESS

A Monthly E-Update for Members of Pattern for Progress

PATTERN'S FALL CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT TO TACKLE SEQRA ON SEPTEMBER 17

In this economy it's more critical than ever to find ways to boost the tax base while respecting the environment; it's time to revisit the NY State Environmental Quality Review Act. Pattern's third annual fall conference on government efficiency will focus on local boards' use of SEQRA in their approval processes. "The SEQRA Solution: Striking the Right Balance" will be held September 17 at SUNY New Paltz. See sponsorship opportunities [here](#).

RECRUITMENT FOR 2009-2010 FELLOWS CLASS HAS BEGUN; DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15

Pattern has begun recruitment of candidates for the third year of its Regional Fellows Program, which trains mid-career leaders from many disciplines in viewing and addressing the Hudson Valley's issues from a regional perspective. In two evening meetings each month (October through June), the Fellows interact with expert lecturers; discuss assigned readings on leadership, current events and regional planning; participate in a new debate format; and develop creative, longer-term joint projects. Pattern seeks to balance the class in representation of a wide variety of fields among corporate leaders, nonprofit executives and municipal officials, and also from a wide geography. Tuition is \$1,500 and includes all coursework materials, dinner at each meeting, a one-day orientation retreat and year-end activities. Limited scholarship funding is available. Deadline for applications is September 15. More information [here](#).

"HUDSON VALLEY BREAKFAST TABLE" CONTINUES TO ADDRESS MEMBERS' ISSUES

The July "Hudson Valley Breakfast Table" produced more lively dialogue on regional topics, with members and guests offering Pattern Chairman Dave MacFarland and President Jonathan Drapkin input on issues that bridge June's housing conference and the upcoming fall conference on government. As such, the issue commanding the most discussion was SEQRA and its impact on job creation and the future of the regional economy. To join an upcoming discussion group, email us [here](#).

BOARD ALUMNI GATHER FOR SECOND ANNUAL REUNION EVENT AT THE HOTEL THAYER

At last year's inaugural breakfast for former members of Pattern's Board of Directors, discussion was animated as participants compared past issues to current and future challenges for the Hudson Valley. Many ideas and suggestions were recorded, as was the group's enthusiastic recommendation that this continue to be an annual event.

PATTERN MOVES AHEAD ON SHARED SERVICES STUDY: ULSTER MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

Ulster County Executive Michael Hein and the Pattern consultant team have planned three local meetings to encourage new ideas on how municipalities can share resources, improve services and save taxpayers money. Community leaders and residents may attend any or all meetings: August 11, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Frank Greco Sr. Center, Saugerties; August 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Court Room, Wawarsing; August 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Town Hall, Gardiner. The meetings are part of a study begun by Pattern for Ulster early this year, called the **Countywide Shared Service Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan**, that is funded by a \$260,000 grant from the NYS Department of State and is considered the largest study of inter-municipal shared service potential ever mounted in New York. The team assembled by Pattern includes experts from SUNY New Paltz' CRREO, Fairweather Consulting, the Intergovernmental Studies Program at Rockefeller College, and Binghamton University's Center for Applied Community Research and Development.

PATTERN ON THE ROAD ...

... Pattern's Jonathan Drapkin and Charlie Murphy attended Governor Paterson's Ulster press conference July 6, where he announced a \$481,000 Local Government Efficiency grant to fund a more efficient process for the use of highway department equipment between the county and seven municipalities. ([more](#))