Pattern Hosts Housing Conference on June 11

“Housing the Hudson Valley” Event Continues Work on Affordable/Workforce Housing

Last year Pattern for Progress focused for the first time on the issue of affordable and workforce housing in its spring conference, and it clearly struck a nerve in the region. The event attracted 250 attendees and widespread media attention.

This year Pattern expects a larger audience for the “Housing the Hudson Valley” conference, which will take place June 11 at Marist College in Poughkeepsie.

Since last spring, Pattern has advanced several issues from that conference with the help of the new Regional Housing Committee, comprised of many of the region’s planning and housing officials most recognized for their expertise. One of their efforts is the new bi-monthly Housing the Hudson Valley e-bulletin that is aimed at assisting local planning and zoning officials with updates and resources from across the region.

“Working together we can substantially improve our ability to provide this critically needed area of housing in the Hudson Valley,” said Kevin O’Connor, Executive Director of Rural Ulster Preservation Corporation, who is on Pattern’s Regional Housing Committee. “This year the issues have more urgency than ever.”

Regional Transportation Study Launched At Hudson Valley Economic Summit

As opening speaker at the third Hudson Valley Regional Economic Summit March 18, Jonathan Drapkin, president and CEO of Pattern for Progress articulated a set of transportation priorities for the Hudson Valley region as a prelude to releasing a full study later this year.

The Summit is an annual seven-county effort to explore local, national and global economic issues as a region. This year the event focused on transportation and was held at SUNY Rockland Community College in Suffern. In addition to Drapkin as opening speaker, the event featured as keynote speaker former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, and speakers and panelists including NYS Commissioner of Transportation Astrid Glynn, MTA Metro-North Railroad President Peter Cannito, Executive Director of the NYS Thruway Authority Michael Fleischer and Diannae Ehler, Manager of Stewart Airport-Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

“This was an ideal forum to begin the dialogue on a regional approach to transportation issues,” said Drapkin. “For weeks we’ve consulted with the experts to update the data and draft the priority issues, and now it’s time to engage others around the Hudson Valley to help finalize the study and then create the path from recommendations to action.”

Drapkin referred to the potential conflict for limited dollars that can result from multiple plans offered by different transportation agencies that serve Pattern’s nine counties. He said, “It is critical that we bring together the leaders in transportation policy from across the region to agree on a set of priorities that puts the Hudson Valley first.”

2007 panelists included Larry Regan, Regan Development; John Feingold, Allee King Rosen & Fleming; and Gail Webster, Hudson River Housing.

To see inside for list of Pattern’s 15 Transportation Priorities

Annual Breakfast Breaks Attendance Records

Pattern’s annual President’s Day Breakfast drew more than 360 Hudson Valley leaders to hear the 2008 Work Plan presented by President and CEO Jonathan Drapkin, and to hear keynote speaker Elliot “Lee” Sander, CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), share his perspective on future transportation needs of the Hudson Valley.

To see a copy of the speech on Pattern’s plans for 2008, go to the Reports tab at www.pattern-for-progress.org.
Westchester Medical Center has formed the Task Force on the Future of Westchester Medical Center to examine its role in a "regional healthcare perspective." Chaired by Richard A. Berman, president of Manhattanville College, the task force will comprise four committees.

Pattern’s President and CEO, Jonathan Drapkin, has been selected to chair the Research/Economic Development Committee, which will develop strategies for using medical research and other medically-related commerce as an engine for job creation and economic development to benefit the entire Hudson Valley.

First Class of Pattern Fellows to Graduate in June

Nineteen business, nonprofit and civic leaders from throughout the Hudson Valley will finish the first year of the Pattern for Progress Fellows program with graduation events in June, when they will present their individual projects to the Pattern Board. They will also host a breakfast to bring together members of five individual county chamber leadership programs for the first time.

The Fellows program was designed to train leaders from many disciplines in viewing and addressing the Hudson Valley's issues from a regional perspective. According to Pattern President and CEO Jonathan Drapkin, “These individuals are already acknowledged as leaders in their respective communities and disciplines, and we appreciate their desire to embrace a regional approach to their work.”

Since their orientation retreat last October, the Fellows have participated in two meetings each month where they met with expert lecturers in a wide range of disciplines and also worked on special projects meant to inspire innovations within each participant’s area of expertise.

For a list of this year’s Fellows, and information on the 2008-2009 program, go to Fellows at: www.pattern-for-progress.org

Welcome New Members

Jacob R. Billig, Esq.
Rock Hill, Sullivan County

Holt Construction
Pearl River, Rockland County

Prudential Serls
Offices in Dutchess and Putnam Counties

Pyramid Brokerage
Albany, NY

Phil Subey
New Paltz, Ulster County

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Fishkill, Dutchess County

Walden Federal Savings
Walden, Orange County

And Returning Members...

Walden Federal Savings
Walden, Orange County

Three Join Pattern Board

Glenn Hoagland is Executive Director of the Mohonk Preserve, and for 24 years has worked to save important landscapes and advocate for their balanced use. He was Land Preservation Director for Scenic Hudson, Executive Director of the Dutchess Land Conservancy, and Director of the Citizen Action Program of the Open Space Institute. He chairs the Citizen Advisory Committee for the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan, the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership Steering Committee, the Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, and the Hudson Valley Climate Change Advisory Network. He lives with his wife and daughter in Red Hook, where he enjoys biking, boating, camping, and day trips throughout the Hudson River Valley National Heritage area.
A Draft of Priorities: Transportation in the Valley

The following 15 priorities were presented in the opening address at the Hudson Valley Regional Economic Summit on Transportation March 18 (see page one).

- Create Regional Transportation Consortium
- Move Toward Solution to the Tappan Zee Bridge, including Potential Capacity for Multi-Modal
- Maximize Connections to Stewart by Bus & Train - both within Region and from Metro Area
- Increase use of Transit Oriented Development (TOD’s), including use as Catalyst for Smart-Growth/Economic Development
- Unite Hudson Valley to Move Up Ladder for Priority Attention in Albany
- Insure the Hudson Valley’s “Fare” Share
- Increase Voting Power for Region’s Representatives on MTA Board Create Hudson Valley Development Strategy to “Triage” Transportation Funding
- Develop Program for Infrastructure Investment to Help Rebuild Municipalities, Big and Small
- Advocate for Federal Support for DOT’s $150B Investment Program
- Explore Alternate Forms of Financing
- The Transit Wish List
- Analyze Potential for Increased Ferry Usage in the Valley
- Influence Consumer Behavior to Begin Solving Transportation Issues
- Create Ways to Retain More of the 200,000 Commuters Going to NYC, NJ and CT

To see the full presentation, go to Reports at: www.pattern-for-progress.org.

Rockland Business Leaders Give Input to Pattern

In an effort to engage more business leaders in regional work on quality of life issues, Pattern brought together some of Rockland County’s largest employers at an informal event that featured a short presentation by Pattern President and CEO Jonathan Drapkin followed by dialogue on issues in a regional context.

The event was hosted by Pattern Board members Steve Dormer, executive VP of Provident Bank in Montebello, and Howard Hellman, president of All Bright Electric in West Nyack.

"Housing The Hudson Valley"

Thank you to our sponsors. Gold sponsors for this event include Citi, Jacobowitz & Gubits, TD Banknorth and Westchester Medical Center. Silver sponsors are Community Preservation Corporation, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, Key Bank, St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers, and Ulster Savings Bank. Bronze Sponsors are Cannon Heyman & Weiss, First Sterling Financial, KOW Building Consultants, LeylandAlliance, Local 17 LECET, Mohonk Preserve, Regan Development and Rhinebeck Savings.

Registrations Accepted Through June 6. Contact Robin DeGroat at 565-4900 rdegroat@pfprogress.org

New Housing E-Bulletin Distributed in April

Last month Pattern for Progress distributed the April issue – third in the bi-monthly schedule – of “Housing the Hudson Valley”, the new E-Bulletin tracking news and trends in housing in the region. It is produced with the input of Pattern’s Regional Housing Committee, comprised of planners and housing officials from across the Valley. To be added to this e-mail list, e-mail rdegroat@pfprogress.org, or call 565-4900. Back issues may be seen on the Committee page at www.pattern-for-progress.org.

LETIN BOARD

Phil Dropkin has for seven years been of counsel to Granite Associates, the Gerry Foundation, The Bethel Performing Arts Center, and related entities. He was General Counsel to Cablevision Industries Corporation and its related entities, and also to the NYS Legislative Commission on Science and Technology. He currently serves the Town of Goshen on the Environmental Review Board and the Telecommunications Advisory Board, and chairs the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals. Phil is president of the Arden and Horton LDC’s, helping develop the proposed new Orange Regional Medical Center. He also is a trustee of the Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism. He runs marathons and enjoys skiing, tennis, golf and travelling; he and his wife live in Goshen and have a son in NYC.

Dr. Elmore Alexander is Dean of the School of Management at Marist College. Previously he has served in faculty and administration at Philadelphia University, Johns Hopkins University, American University and the University of Memphis.

Dr. Alexander’s research interests include organizational communication and verbal and sexual harassment in the workplace, and he has served as a consultant for such organizations as the Army Research Institute, Federal Express, Hunt-Wesson Foods and the U.S. Postal Service. His wife, Dr. Pamela Alexander, is Senior Research Scientist at Wellesley Center for Women in Massachusetts.
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