

Pattern seeks housing solutions **Annual conference also will cover lending, refinancing**

BY CRAIG WOLF • POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL • MAY 26, 2009

Pattern for Progress has scheduled its third annual Housing Conference for June 12 at Marist College in Poughkeepsie to tackle "the next generation" of housing issues and develop ideas toward solutions.

"While continuing to address the need for affordable and work-force housing, our panels will also examine credit, lending and refinancing practices; trends in the rental market and discussions of 'who's buying what now,' " Pattern Vice President Barbara Murphy said.

Other topics will include community land trusts, housing the baby boom generation, the relationship between job retention and housing development, stimulants for private investment and ways to avert another wave of mortgage foreclosures.

Speakers include Deborah VanAmerongen, commissioner of the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal; Judith Calogero, CEO of the New York Housing Conference, and Robert Burchell, co-director of the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University.

In a news release announcing the conference, Todd Diorio, business manager of Laborers Local 17, said his union's efforts to build housing in Newburgh for members came from last year's conference. The union thought of work force housing "as a way to attract and retain the best workers," he said.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. with breakfast and agenda at 9 a.m. It will run through 1 p.m., ending with lunch and a keynote speaker to be named.

The gathering will be at the Student Center at Marist, with most presentations in the Nelly Goletti Theater.

Registration is \$55 for Pattern members and \$70 for nonmembers, but members of municipal boards can attend for \$30.