

THE ACCORD

November 2009

State of the Economy

On October 15, Governor Paterson announced his proposal (deficit reduction plan or DRP) to cut State spending by \$5 billion over 2 years. Many State programs received across the board 10% cuts. The proposal includes big ticket cuts to education and healthcare spending. Executive Director of the YMCAs of New York State, Kyle Stewart, recently submitted testimony to the New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee regarding the impact of the Governor's proposed cuts on the YMCA's State Budget Priorities.

There is currently a proposed 7% or over \$1.9 million cut to the Advantage After School program. In 2008-2009 the program served 24,000 youth at 271 different sites, employing up to 2,000 individuals. Extended Day/School Violence Prevention funds are posed to take an even more drastic cut of \$2.7 million or 10% of current funding. Extended Day/School Violence Prevention currently serves 30,000 young people throughout the state.

"Just recently, the National Afterschool Alliance named New York State a Top 10 State for Afterschool Programs affirming that 21% of New York's schoolchildren are enrolled in an after school

program. However, we must build on this trend because the majority of New York's parents who want their kids in after school programs are not able to find them due to the lack of availability or the parents simply can not afford the

to take a 5% cut of \$1.1 million. YMCAs and other organizations desperately need this funding to continue their important resident programs that serve the mentally ill, drug abuse victims and the disadvantaged.



"There is an opportunity for New York State to take better advantage of their partnerships with community based organizations such as the YMCA in order to continue to deliver essential programs and services to those in need, while avoiding continued deficits. Governments' collaboration with the YMCA and other nonprofits should be enhanced rather than diminished. We need to need to continue to prove that we are experienced and well-equipped to provide vital services that the government cannot provide." Kyle Stewart said.

fee. Mid-year budget cuts as proposed in the DRP would simply intensify this problem." stated Mr. Stewart.

Additionally, there is a proposed \$2 million (10%) cut to the Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Program and Special Delinquency Prevention Program funding that is troublesome due to the relationship between our YMCAs and Youth Bureaus.

In addition to children and youth services, several YMCAs across the State provide crucial low-income and homeless housing services. The SRO Housing Support Services Program is slated

NYS Assembly Speaker Silver stated that he agrees with Paterson's deficit projection and the Legislature is beginning to concede that the deficit is real, resulting in severe consequences if not addressed. The Governor has announced that he will convene the legislature for a Special Session on November 10th. Until then the Assembly and Senate will continue to hold hearings on the Governor's proposed Deficit Reduction Plan.

A Note from the Director



Kyle Stewart

Despite difficult economic times and the even worse State Budget situation, the YMCA continues to meet needs, serve communities and further the mission! Renovations, new facilities and new initiatives are the theme of this edition of the Y Accord.

This is truly an exciting time but more importantly, an opportunity for the YMCA. Our dedication to the spirit, mind and body has never been stronger or clearer. The result is exciting growth and revitalization of the YMCA's strength and focus!



Helping The YMCA Help Others

Inclusion at the Frost Valley YMCA



The National Inclusion Project recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Frost Valley YMCA to implement the "Let's ALL Play—Inclusion in Recreational Programs" initiative. The grant will allow children with developmental disabilities to enjoy a successful summer camp experience in an inclusive setting at the camp, which has served children with special needs for over thirty years.

The National Inclusion Project has been actively developing

its Let's ALL Play Program since the program's inception in 2004. Today, the Project supports over 35 recreational programs across the country. Providing this grant to Frost Valley YMCA is another exciting step toward the National

Inclusion Project's goal of full inclusion. Through the Let's ALL Play Program, the Project supports recreational programs in their efforts to implement inclusive camps by providing a program model, funding, and



training for those involved in this successful initiative.

Let's ALL Play helps bring an inclusive recreational experience to children with disabilities. It gives children with developmental disabilities the same experience as those without. Children with disabilities and their peers come together to participate in recreational activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, community service, physical fitness and much more.

In 2008, the organization enlisted the services of The Center for Social Development and Education at the University of Massachusetts-Boston to assess the implementation of Let's ALL Play. Overwhelming evidence showed that children with disabilities improved self-esteem, social skills, confidence to participate, and sport and motor skills. Campers of all abilities were equally likely to develop friendships with each other.

"We are very excited to work with National Inclusion Project to further open Frost Valley's Day Camp program to children with disabilities," said Dale Whittaker of Frost Valley. "This will help enable us to give more children the chance to participate in activities they and their families may have never thought possible."



Shred the Word in Broome County

The Consumer Protection Board's Shred the Word program brings together local businesses to provide free shredding services for consumers and community activists. The shredded materials are later recycled and processed into paper products.

At the Shred the Word event at the Broome County YMCA in Johnson City, *Confidential Data* brought in a shredder truck, which is able to destroy everything from credit cards to CDs.

Jorge Montalvo of the New York State Consumer Protection Board said, "The New York State Consumer Protection Board urges consumers to actually buy a cross shredder at home. This is great once a year initiative if you have a lot of things, but day to day, you should be shredding things that have your name, telephone number, social security number, anything like that."

More than 10-million Americans are victims of identity theft each year. New York is currently the largest per capita in identity theft complaints.

Information Courtesy of *WBNG Action News*

Park Partnership in Auburn

Multiple YMCA representatives of the Auburn YMCA-WEIU reported to the Auburn City Council regarding this summer's lessons, leagues and camps at the pool and indoor lacrosse field at Casey Park, stating that it was a good idea to let the private organization handle the summer programming.

The council voted earlier this year allowing the YMCA to run recreation programs at the park for one summer. However, YMCA director Kurt Kramer told the councilors the organization is interested in

continuing the arrangement. "The operation ran very smoothly and we're looking forward to an even better summer next year," Kramer said.



Auburn YMCA-WEIU director Kurt Kramer speaks to the Auburn City Council.

During the season, YMCA staff and volunteers ran swim lessons, a summer swim team and other recreational activities at the pool. They also oversaw men's and women's indoor lacrosse

leagues, who played on the artificial turf installed during the spring inside the ice rink.

Information courtesy of *The Citizen*

Reviving a Summer Tradition in the Berkshires

More than three years after Wa Wa Segowea in the Berkshire mountains closed, officials from the Capital District YMCA are working to raise \$1 million to refurbish and reopen the 555-acre camp near Great Barrington, Mass. The summer camp served generations of young people from Dutchess County, hosting 50,000 young people since it opened eight decades ago.

The camp's last summer session was held in 2005. Wa Wa Segowea was operated for years by the Poughkeepsie-based Dutchess County YMCA, which closed in January following financial problems.

"The camp became a magical place for kids to grow up in," said George Painter, executive director of the Capital District YMCA's Camp Chingachgook, near Lake George. He said the Capital District YMCA would run the camp, which could reopen in the summer of 2010. Officials said they have raised more than \$300,000 so far, and would likely need at least another \$300,000 for campers to return in July and August.

Plans call for constructing a new dining hall, kitchen and camper village at Wa Wa Segowea, along with other improvements. Officials said most of the facilities date to the late 1920s, when the camp opened in Southfield, Mass., along Harmon Pond - about an hour's drive from Poughkeepsie.

The camp was established in Columbia County in 1913 by the Poughkeepsie YMCA and moved to the Berkshires in 1928 after Poughkeepsie YMCA President William W. Smith II and Dr. James Harrington purchased the 555-acre

Foley Farm site in Massachusetts. Smith was a member of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop family. Officials said the camp property is owned by Smith Park of New York Inc.

Arthur McComb of Poughkeepsie, Smith's stepson, is helping with the campaign to reopen Wa Wa Segowea. McComb, a Smith Park principal, first visited the camp as a 12-year-old in the 1930s. "It can do so much for kids over the long run," McComb said of the camp experience.



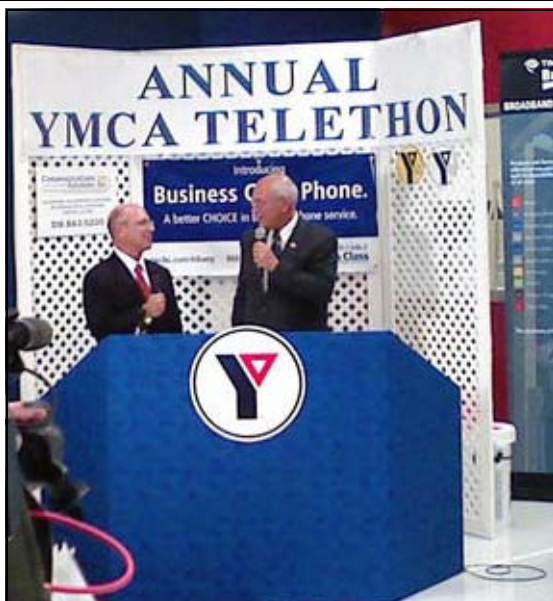
Painter said the renovated Wa Wa Segowea would draw campers from Dutchess and other areas. "It will become a regional camp," Painter said, adding he hopes for a staff of 60 to serve 150 children. Camp supporters and alumni began partnering with the Capital District YMCA last year to reopen Wa Wa Segowea.

The Friends of Segowea, an alumni group, has formed to support the camp. Since April, officials said, more than 200 volunteers have traveled to the Berkshires on weekends to help renovate and repair the facilities.

Meanwhile, the Capital District YMCA has hired a year-round facility director and a camp director to help bring Wa Wa Segowea back to life.

Painter said fundraising in the next several months will likely determine whether the camp can reopen in the summer of 2010. YMCA officials are reaching out to local civic groups and camp alumni for donations.

Information courtesy of the *Poughkeepsie Journal*



A Very Important Call

The Fulton County YMCA raised \$45,733 during its annual telethon Saturday, October 3rd. The money will be used to support scholarships to help young people take advantage of the YMCA's facilities and programs. The YMCA was even lucky enough to get a little help from their Congressman and longtime YMCA supporter. US Representative Paul Tonko spoke about the role of the YMCA in the community and worked the phones with other volunteers during the event, which was broadcast live on Time Warner Cable's Channel 16. "In all the years we've conducted a telethon, this is the first time our congressman got on the phones and called people for donations. He raised about \$500," stated Executive Director Steve Serge.

Fulton County YMCA Executive Director Steven Serge, left, speaking with U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, during the YMCA's annual telethon.