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Forum takes aim at youth drain

BY JENNY LEE-ADRIAN • POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL • OCTOBER 2, 2008

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Young professionals, like many others in the Hudson Valley, are worried about the availability of affordable housing, increasing property taxes and the cost and quality of education.

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"The prices of homes has gone up," said Joy Young, who works at NXP Semiconductors in the Town of East Fishkill.

Young was among the roughly 35 members of The Hub who attended a Wednesday forum hosted by Assembly members Marc Molinaro, R-Tivoli, and Jack Quinn, R-Hamburg.

"Our goal is to listen to young professionals and find the key to keeping you here," Molinaro said.

Molinaro and Quinn are vice-chairmen of RemaiNY, a group of Assembly members who want to find ways to keep young New Yorkers in the state. They have held meetings across the state to talk to young professionals about the

problems they face.

The Hub is part of The Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce's attempt to keep those young professionals in the region. The organization for twenty- and thirtysomethings is focused on networking, professional development and community outreach.

About 22 percent of New Yorkers age 20 to 34 moved out of the state between 1990 and 2000, according to Census data.

Christopher Short, chairman of the professional development committee for The Hub and the education coordinator for NXP, said a lot of people he knows go to schools in the Hudson Valley, but end up moving out of state because housing costs are high.

Michael Taylor, of Hyde Park, is also concerned about increases in property taxes - particularly how much goes toward public education.

Taylor, who works in educational lending for Key Bank, has a 1-year-old son and said he was leaning toward a private school education for him.

"I don't feel the (public school) education is up to par at this point," Taylor said.

In addition to their concerns about home prices, Short and Young also have a more immediate concern.

NXP announced this month the plant will close next year if the company does not find a buyer.

"I'm going to stay in the Hudson Valley," Short said. "I'm optimistic and hopeful things will work out."



Assemblymen Marc Molinaro, far right, and Jack Quinn, on Molinaro's right, speak with members of the Young Professionals of the Hudson Valley, also known as The Hub, at the Holiday Inn-Fishkill Hotel & Conference Center on Wednesday. (Darryl Bautista/Poughkeepsie Journal)

RESOURCES

For information or to join The Hub, visit www.thehubhv.com or call the chamber at 845-296-0001.

PHOTO GALLERIES

[PJ PHOTOS: The Hub](#)

Molinaro said he and state Sen. Steve Saland, R-Poughkeepsie, want to make sure the state assists.

Young said many NXP employees hope the plant will be bought.

If not, she said, locally "there's not a lot of jobs out there."

Reach Jenny Lee-Adrian at leeja@poughkeepsiejournal.com or 845-437-4835.

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