



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending October 31, 2008

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

***VolunteerFare* released.** The Maine Commission for Community Service released its newsletter, *VolunteerFare*, this week. *VolunteerFare* aims to provide volunteer program managers, sponsors, and funders with a forum for exchanging news, technical information, best practices, recommendations on useful resources and more. In this issue topics included tips for using VolunteerMaine.org, information about KeepME Warm, LD 2202 an amendment to 36 MRSA 6232 and how it affects volunteers, and announced various training opportunities. **To read the newsletter in its entirety or subscribe please visit <http://www.volunteermaine.org/MVF/>. CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 207.287.8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**

The Maine Commission For Community Service announces availability of cash awards for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Awards are offered to organizations in Maine interested in developing community volunteer service projects in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Applications are now being accepted with award recipients due to be announced in mid December. Service projects are to be conducted on Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 19, 2008 or the weekend prior. Application forms and additional information are available at http://www.maineservicecommission.gov/mlk_maine/. The deadline to apply is November 23, 2008. The Martin Luther King Day of Service is an important way for Maine's people to experience the significance of service and celebrate the legacy of Dr.

King. Awards are open to all nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, schools, school districts and institutions of higher education. Recipients must plan a service project that engages a broad spectrum of community. This year recipients will be eligible to receive a bonus award to expand their projects generously provided by Time Warner Cable. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 207.287.8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov .**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Multi-issue workshop offered to code enforcement officers. SPO's Code Enforcement Officer Training Program will host the 7th annual Maine Code Official's Multi-issue Workshop on November 12-13 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. This workshop is a great opportunity for code officers statewide to meet and discuss issues that affect their profession. The two-day program will cover: gravel pit and quarry regulations; lead and asbestos laws; automobile grave yards; fire protection standards; subdivision regulations, floodplain management standards, internal plumbing code, and nonpoint source pollution, as well as an overview of Maine's new uniform building and energy code. [Click here to read the announcement and send in your registration form.](#)
CONTACT: Lana Clough at 287-8056 or lane.clough@maine.gov

Maine Recycles Week 2008 is knocking at our door. November 8-15 marks Maine Recycles Week. This is a time for communities to recognize their recycling successes and, at the same time, raise public awareness to promote greater recycling and the importance of buying items made from recycled materials. 2008 is Maine Recycles Week's 10th year. Everyone is encouraged to participate -businesses, schools, municipalities, even individuals. Municipal campaigns are a great way to get volunteers involved or to promote recycling in schools. Some successful activities by Maine communities in past years include:

- A special recycling education campaign held during Maine Recycles Week
- Displaying posters in a variety of places in the community to promote recycling (Posters are available through the Maine Recycles Campaign toolkit)
- An open house at your recycling facility or transfer station. Use refreshments and entertainment to attract people to your event.
- A special, "out of the ordinary" materials recovery drive (such as a latex paint swap or an electronics collection)
- School tours of the recycling facility or transfer station

- Public service announcements on local radio or public access TV stations
- A display in your local library or town hall

For more information:

<http://www.maine.gov/spo/recycle/mainerecyclesweek/index.htm>. CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov

Kennebec County Sheriff's Department looks to help municipalities with recycling. SPO met with the sheriff's department to discuss ways that inmates could help with municipal recycling facilities. On Wednesday, Bruce White of SPO visited as a resource person for the sheriff to discuss options and explore possibilities to increase recycling in the Capitol area. We thanked the Sheriff for his commitment to and support of recycling. CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-8053 or bruce.white@maine.gov

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating fuel prices continue to drop. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted the bi-weekly summer oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.93 per gallon** falling \$.15 since the last survey. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.35 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$3.20 per gallon was found in the Central region. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$63.26. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.52 per gallon at this time. Today's propane price survey found statewide average to be \$3.10 per gallon which is \$0.04 lower than last week. The average price for propane represents the price per gallon for a 600-800 gallon domestic heating application. The next scheduled survey will be on Monday November 3, 2008. For more information on energy prices, visit the office's web site at: <http://www.maine.gov/oeis/index.html>. CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

Right-of-way Discovery Grant Awards. The Maine Coastal Program announces the award of two right-of-way discovery grants. These grants are intended to help communities find and assert public rights-of-way to the Maine coast that are in danger of being lost by the passing of generations and changing land ownership patterns. This year grants have been awarded to:

Town of York. This \$1,500 grant will support work to re-establish the location of a section of the Cliff Walk.

Town of Old Orchard Beach. This \$2,500 grant will support continuing efforts to conform beach front property lines with the town's 1935 Beach Front Survey Line.

Right-of-way grants are offered annually. Funding is provided by the NOAA Coastal Program Grant. Funds remain available for additional projects in the current program year. **CONTACT: Jim Connors at 287-8938 or jim.connors@maine.gov**

Coastal States Organization Annual Meeting. Kathleen Leyden attended the annual meeting last week. Coastal States Organization (CSO) represents the interests of the 30 governors of ocean and coastal states regarding coastal resources and their management. The major outcome of the meeting was consensus on a draft approach to reauthorization for the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZM). CZM brings \$2.3 million (annually, based on appropriations) to Maine to help support state/federal priorities related to our coast, yet the program has not been authorized for nearly ten years. Based on a multi-year public visioning process, the approach proposes retaining states' current approved coastal programs; including a suite of "essential program services", while offering competitive funding for states' work on national priorities including climate change, coastal community development and ecosystem management and restoration. Maine's interests have been well represented in the drafting of this approach. **CONTACT: Kathleen Leyden at 287-3144 or kathleen.leyden@maine.gov .**

Land Use Planning Program

Town of Sumner's Comprehensive Plan is found consistent. The town of Sumner's comprehensive plan was found consistent with the Growth Management Act. Sumner had been working on this plan for many years prior to their original submission in October 2006 and has been working on it regularly since. The Sumner comprehensive plan is a valuable policy document. Having received limited professional assistance in preparing this plan, the Committee should be commended for their significant efforts. Establishing a vision statement for Sumner is an excellent idea. The historic and archeological resources section of the plan were well researched and the efforts of the Historical Society are clearly a valuable asset. **CONTACT: Tom Miragliuolo at 287-3215 or tom.miragliuolo@maine.gov .**