

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week September 18, 2009

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.

THE LAND USE TEAM

Hanover's Comprehensive Plan found to be consistent with the Growth Management Act. The Hanover Comprehensive Planning Committee along with the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments are to be congratulated for their excellent job crafting the community's new comprehensive plan. Hanover held a public hearing on the plan on Thursday September 17th. Sunday September 20th will mark two years since the new Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule (Chapter 208) was enacted. The Hanover plan is the 10th plan reviewed with the new criteria. **Contact: Tom Miragliuolo at 287-3215 or tom.miragliuolo@maine.gov .**

THE MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



VISTA Lauren Kelly joins the Maine Commission for Community Service. Lauren, a native Arkansan, joined the Commission in September 2009. She has lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma for the past 14 years where she graduated from the University of Tulsa and worked at KTUL-TV as television sales Account Executive and Internet Sales Director. She was active in the Tulsa community serving on the boards of Women in Communication and The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges and volunteered for a number of local non-profit organizations. As an AmeriCorps VISTA, Lauren will work to provide extensive marketing and public relations support for the statewide VolunteerMaine.org project. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov.**



United We Serve project a success. The Governor's Office, the Maine Commission for Community Service, Park Woods Housing, and the City of Bangor planned a service project in honor of 9/11. Governor Baldacci joined us to kick off the event at 2:30 on September 11th 2009. Volunteers cleared underbrush, planted perennials, and created a picnic area. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or rochelle.runge@maine.gov.**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Floodplain staff visits Newburgh. On September 10, Brigitte Ndikum-Nyada, Floodplain Planner, Jim Bruni and Wally Smith, Disaster Assistance Employees from FEMA Joint Field Office in Augusta, traveled to Newburgh to conduct a community assistance visit, a prerequisite to rejoining the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) after suspension. The Town of Newburgh has expressed interest to rejoin the NFIP. This visit provided an opportunity to talk with local officials about the NFIP and to assist the community with entry requirements. During this visit, Brigitte, Jim and Wally toured the floodplains to make sure all the structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) were compliant. Newburgh's NFIP application was submitted to FEMA Region I office in Boston the following day. **CONTACT: Brigitte Ndikum-Nyada at 287-8932 or brigitte.m.ndikum-nyada@maine.gov.**

SPO staffer to chair work group. Joe Young, SPO's floodplain map coordinator, has been asked to chair the Geo-Library Board's geo-spatial work group. The work group is a result of the board's overall strategic planning process and is integral to its effort to provide the services mandated by the Legislature. The work group's tasks are: to review and update data standards for land use, land cover, ortho photography, high resolution topography, parcel mapping and to develop a plan, including funding sources, for data acquisition. This work will be done by calling upon the expertise of a wide variety of stakeholders across the state. Representatives from the private sector, non-profits, and state and local agencies will be involved. The goal for the group is to complete its work with in a year. **CONTACT: Joe Young at 287-8051 or joe.young@maine.gov**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Average Steady. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its off season oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.37 per gallon** unchanged from last week's survey. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$1.99 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.70 per gallon was found in the Eastern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.78 per gallon at this time. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$68.15. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or ian.burnes@maine.gov .**