



## **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

*Week ending June 12, 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.

### **DIRECTORS POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**John Del Vecchio leaves State Planning Office.** After 32 years working for the State Planning Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, and Land Use Regulation Commission, John Del Vecchio will leave state government service on June 12, 2009. John's career has focused on serving Maine's 494 cities and towns through a variety of programs—Maine coastal program, community development block grant program, and growth management program. His professional responsibilities ran the gamut—from serving as lead legislative liaison to being a program manager with 22 staff and an annual budget of over \$1 million. In recent years at the State Planning Office, John has worked to create new and restore existing traditional neighborhoods across the state, thus relieving some of the development pressure on rural areas and forest resources. John currently serves clerk of the board of the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association and chair of SVCA's lands committee. He is actively involved in American Field Service and Partners of the Americans exchange programs and enjoys camping, fishing, and hunting. John lives with his family in Whitefield. We wish him well in his future endeavors. **CONTACT: Jody Harris at 287-5424 or [jody.harris@maine.gov](mailto:jody.harris@maine.gov)**

## **MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM**

**Land for Maine's Future supports key land conservation project on Vinalhaven Island.** The Land for Maine's Future program contributed \$177,000 Tuesday to the Vinalhaven Land Trust to conclude the conservation acquisition of the Strawson property on The Basin on Vinalhaven Island. This action concludes a two year effort by the VLT to raise \$800,000 for the purchase of 40 acres of spruce forest covered land and intertidal areas constituting the last link in a ten year effort to protect the outstanding habitat qualities and scenic values of The Basin. Working closely with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, VLT will develop an integrated stewardship management plan for all of the conserved properties around the Basin. **CONTACT: Jim Connors at 287-8938 or [jim.connors@maine.gov](mailto:jim.connors@maine.gov) .**

## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY**

**Heating Oil Price Averages Rising.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted it's off season oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at \$2.27 per gallon \$.12 higher than last week's survey. It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$1.95 per gallon was found in the Western & Southwestern regions. The high-end price of \$2.52 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.70 per gallon at this time. The most recent average price of natural gas delivered to Maine consumers compiled by OEIS was \$11.30 for a thousand cubic feet of gas, or equivalent to heating oil at \$1.53 a gallon. The most recent average statewide price of gasoline and diesel in Maine as posted by AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report was \$2.59 per gallon for gasoline, and \$2.55 for diesel fuel. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$68.58. The next survey is scheduled for June 15, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov) .**

## **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Elizabeth Cole joins the team.** Elizabeth is a recent graduate of Vassar College in New York, where she received a degree in history. This year, Elizabeth will be working with the Maine Commission for Community Service as an AmeriCorps VISTA. She will be

working on Project INVEST to help address the need for accessible volunteer management training in a variety of formats across Maine. She will work in partnership with York Community College to design and provide a training course for novice volunteer managers which will be presented in conjunction with an online format available across the state of Maine. Additionally, she will conduct outreach to promote volunteerism in Maine and VolunteerMaine.org. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).**

### **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Floodplain Map Meetings Scheduled for Cumberland and York.** Informational meetings will be held in York and Cumberland Counties on June 22 and 23 to discuss the recently released preliminary Floodplain Maps. These meetings are designed to provide local officials and the public an opportunity to review the maps, make comments and to learn about the process for adopting new flood plain maps. Meetings are scheduled as follows: The Scarborough Municipal Building on Monday June 22 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, the Naples Town Hall on Monday June 22 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, the Kennebunk Town Hall on Tuesday June 23 from 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM, and the Sanford Town Hall on Tuesday June 23 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. To register for any of the meetings please contact Joseph Young, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator. **CONTACT: Joseph Young at 287-8051 or [joseph.young@maine.gov](mailto:joseph.young@maine.gov) .**

**Maine Floodplain Management and Mapping News released.** In this issue read articles on LIDAR workshops, mapping meeting schedules, and the Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference. The newsletter is produced by the Floodplain Management Team which works with communities and building professionals to reduce the risk of flooding. To read the newsletter in its entirety please visit us [online](#). **CONTACT: Joseph Young at 287-8051 or [joseph.young@maine.gov](mailto:joseph.young@maine.gov) .**