Rosalie Fain
1923 - 2015
Grow Smart mourns the August 27th passing of longtime friend and supporter Rosalie Fain, a dynamic civic leader and philanthropist.

Rosalie gave generously of herself to many worthwhile causes that strengthen our Rhode Island community, including Grow Smart RI.

More about Rosalie Here

Greetings!

You're among the 6,152 civic leaders, state & local officials, development professionals, investors, decision-makers and visionary citizens getting the latest news, happenings and trends in the local smart growth movement.

We're Grow Smart Rhode Island. Partner with us. Support us with a tax deductible contribution. Let's make Rhode Island a better place together by playing to our strengths.

Wolf joins Yorke to discuss outlook on Rhode Island’s future

State poised to use new economic development tools approved by General Assembly to leverage its assets, says Wolf

Grow Smart RI's Scott Wolf was a recent guest of Dan Yorke on his television program State of Mind to discuss a recap of the 2015 legislative session, the Raimondo Administration's approach to economic development, truck tolls, tourism and the Pawsox stadium proposal.

View clips below and leave your comments
History, impact of Rhode Island’s State Historic Tax Credit is featured in RI Monthly’s October Issue

Scott Wolf: Our large and diverse selection of historic buildings is a significant economic development asset

RI Monthly reporter Ellen Liberman delves into the history, rationale and performance of Rhode Island’s State Historic Tax Credit program since it debuted in 2002.

Chronicling its on-again off-again status, she profiles reaction from developers, municipal officials and from longtime advocate and champion Scott Wolf of Grow Smart RI.

Pick up a copy on newstands today or get a sneak peak HERE
Grow Smart Rhode Island

Mission

Grow Smart RI provides statewide leadership for diverse public and private interests seeking sustainable and equitable economic growth. We promote such growth by advocating for compact development in revitalized urban, town and village centers balanced with responsible stewardship of our region's natural assets—farmland, forests, the coastline and the Bay. We inform leaders, decision makers and concerned citizens about the many benefits of compact development and asset stewardship and provide research and training on proven smart growth strategies. We build broad coalitions that advocate policy reforms and specific projects designed to build communities where all people and businesses can thrive.

Wolf-Baudouin Op-Ed draws attention to national report about employer migration back to cities, a trend that bodes well for Rhode Island

As the 2nd most urbanized state in U.S., RI well-suited to leverage this advantage

Companies such as Hasbro and IGT (formerly GTech) have established major operations downtown, while others such as Moran Shipping's corporate headquarters, Forensic Risk Alliance and MojoTech have moved to downtown Providence from the suburbs as their companies have expanded.

At the same time, a downtown residential boom is also in progress, led by millennials and baby boomers. Between 2000 and 2010, for example, the population of downtown Providence increased by 70 percent, from 2,678 to 4,569. We expect the growth to continue, as vacancy rates remain low, waiting lists grow, and new units are added. If the young, creative, well-educated segment of the workforce continues moving to downtowns in increasing numbers, as anticipated by many demographers, more companies are likely to follow.

Fortunately, Rhode Island's newly adopted economic incentive package encourages activities that further boost downtown revitalization such as transit-oriented development, new investments in the former Route 195 land, and the rehabilitation of historic buildings and new construction on vacant lots.

More on the report
Meeting Facilitation trainings offered October 6, 7, & 8

Back by popular demand, full-day free workshops presented by trainers from NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management to take place in Smithfield, RI

Learn to design meetings that enhance problem solving and minimize conflict. Collaboration can be complicated, requiring a systematic approach. This course provides the skills and tools to design and implement collaborative approaches. The skills will be useful even when attending, but not running, meetings.

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Determine if a collaborative process is appropriate
- Select people with the skill sets needed to fill each meeting role
- Learn and practice facilitation skills
- Use appropriate process tools and techniques to address the meeting objectives
- Manage conflict in meetings by understanding group dynamics
- Identify disruptive behaviors in group processes and practice strategies to deal with them

Meals and snacks will be provided. AICP credits available.

Register here by 9/28.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer West at 401-222-4700, x 7413.

'Complete Streets' News

Building walkable bikeable communities essential to America’s health says U.S. Surgeon General

The Surgeon General issued a call-to-action this month - only the sixth in the last 10 years - that highlighted how walkable, transit-connected communities can help combat chronic diseases like diabetes and obesity. Communities of all sizes that make walkability a priority give people the ability to easily and safely incorporate walking into their daily routines; getting them to work, running errands, and accessing health care. The Surgeon General's announcement acknowledges the negative consequences of leaving walking out of the equation when planning our cities, suburbs and towns and tells us that we must do better.

Cities around the nation are already taking steps to do just that. For example, ten cities and towns in Rhode Island (Cranston, Middletown, Newport, North Kingstown, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Portsmouth, Providence, South Kingstown and Woonsocket) have passed municipal resolutions calling attention to the economic, community and public health benefits of improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and the opportunities for taking action.

Officials dedicate George Redman Linear Park on Washington Bridge
September 21st

Newport takes on first plan for Parks, Open Space since 1913

Five Newport-based organizations have formed a partnership to develop a comprehensive master plan for the city’s trees, parks and open space.

Project leaders seek public participation as the key element in planning the future public use and enjoyment of Newport’s invaluable environmental and recreational assets.

The first open meeting on the project took place before a packed crowd on Monday, September 14 at the Pell School in Newport and Grow Smart RI was there.

The project partners are the City of Newport, the Newport Tree and Open Space Commission, the Aquidneck Land Trust, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission and the Newport Tree Society and Arboretum.

According to Newport Tree Society president Lilly Dick, “The Newport community has not had such an opportunity since 1913, when Frederick Law Olmsted produced an open space plan called “Proposed Improvements for Newport.” More than one hundred years later, we expect to produce a master plan that rivals Olmsted's work.”

More on the project HERE

Speaking of Newport ....

Grow Smart opens a "Newport Desk" on Broadway
In response to growing interest among community partners on Aquidneck Island, Grow Smart has opened a "Newport Desk". The desk is staffed on a part-time basis (every 10-14 days) by Deputy Director John Flaherty.

Our new desk is located in the offices of the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission which also houses the offices of Bike Newport. According to Grow Smart RI Executive Director Scott Wolf, "the purpose of establishing a base in Newport is to collaborate more closely with our Aquidneck Island community partners to advance a range of land-use, economic development, transportation and agricultural initiatives that strengthen the economy and quality of life on Aquidneck Island."

If you would like to schedule an appointment to collaborate, email John Flaherty or call him at 401.273, 5711, Ext. 5.

The connection between placemaking and resilient cities

Thriving places have a direct impact on our ability to address major societal changes, says NYC-based Project for Public Spaces

A community's connection to place is at the very heart of resilience. In fact, resilience on its own has limited value if residents feel little attachment to, or investment in, a place. Placemaking is the process of building and nurturing this relationship between people and their environment. Through a broad focus on creating quality places, Placemaking builds the shared value, community capacity, and cross-sector collaboration that is the bedrock of resilient cities and thriving communities.

Read more from Project for Public Spaces

UNPACKING AUTHENTIC PLACEMAKING at AS220: OCTOBER 6TH
Providence
Join AS220 on Tuesday, October 6th at 5:30pm at the Atrium of the Peerless Lofts (150 Union Street), Providence for *Unpacking Authentic Placemaking*, a panel discussion featuring Rick Lowe, Myrna Breitbart, Andrés Duany, and Umberto Crenca, moderated by Marc-Joel Levitt of Action Speaks!

**More**

### PVD ped bridge gets renewed attention in wake of foiled stadium proposal

Construction was expected to begin this past spring.

![PVD Ped Bridge](image.png)

The state DOT has previously stated that it is re-evaluating the pedestrian bridge project, as part of a process being undertaken for all bridges in the state, but I-195 Commission Chairman says the pedestrian bridge crossing the Providence River is "critically important" for development of cleared land on either side of the river.

[Read more in Providence Business News](https://www.providencebusinessnews.com)