

October 2018

## From the Associate Director

Has it been a month already? It seems like yesterday when I last put pen to paper...err fingers to keyboard to send you all a message. It's October, a month of fading warmth, shortening days, golden sunshine, fall colors, and pumpkin spice everything. I mean absolutely everything: Cheerios? Pretzel pieces? Cottage cheese? Rum? Seriously, there are other scents I associate with autumn. My favorites are crackling fires on cold, crisp, cloudless nights; wet, fallen leaves; baking pies.

Speaking of favorites, could you reach out and let me know about your favorite places throughout Rhode Island? In your communities? Places you visited and thought "Wow, that's neat!" Restaurants, or beaches, or cluster subdivisions, or monuments, or a really unique or historic house.

Once I get back from a short vacation (a trip to Dewey Beach, DE for a retired greyhound dog gathering), October will be all about getting to know you and parts of the state where I don't live, where I didn't grow up. You'd be amazed how much of the state has areas on my mental map marked "Here Be Dragons", the way in which old maps delineated unexplored lands.

Thank you all for the warm welcome to my new role here at Statewide Planning. I'd particularly like to thank my staff for their time, effort, commitment, and persistence. Don't hesitate to e-mail [Meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov) or call me at (401) 222-6496 and I'll do my best to respond as soon as possible.

## 2018 Planning Director's Round Table

The RI Division of Statewide Planning is holding our third annual round table discussion for planning directors to talk about various topics of interest to planners in the State. Associate Director Meredith Brady says, "We want to encourage discussion about planning issues in Rhode Island and discover how Statewide Planning can best assist Rhode Island's municipal planners." It takes place on Thursday, November 1 from 2:30-4PM at the Cranston Public Library, so watch for your email invitation! For more information, please contact Assistant Chief Roberta Groch at [Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov).

## 2020 Census Preparation

As we gear up for the 2020 US Census, Division of Planning staff are reviewing and updating the Census Bureau's residential address list with the most recent RIGIS E911 residential addresses: this is known as "LUCA" (Local Update of Census Addresses). We have focused on the twenty municipalities that did not participate in the program and, more specifically, group quarters such as dormitories, nursing homes and group housing, which are the types of homes that are most likely to be overlooked.



This process is important for making the 2020 Census as accurate as possible. It is the only opportunity to review and comment on the Census Master Address File prior to the 2020 Census and is relied upon to distribute the Census forms and for non-response follow-up. Under counting the population will have impacts on how the more than \$200 billion in Federal grant funding gets distributed to states and local governments, as well as the number of Congressional seats that Rhode Island will have. For more information on LUCA and US Census information, please contact Supervising Planner Vin Flood at [Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov).

## TIP News



In September, the Division of Statewide Planning hosted a two-day peer exchange in Providence, with the theme of "Exploring a Transition to an Electronic Statewide Transportation Improvement Program ("e-STIP") and Improving the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program." The Rhode Island participants learned a great deal from peer agencies during the exchange, especially about the ways in which an e-STIP is implemented and managed, how an online STIP project application intake tool may be utilized, and how they select, manage, and fund projects in the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). In the coming months, the Division of Statewide Planning (along with RIPTA and RIDOT) will be working to

restructure the STIP, including many of its processes and software applications, allowing Rhode Island to use best practices, particularly with regard to the application and solicitation process, project prioritization and selection, and project funding. The Division will also be working with the GIS software company ESRI, and hopes to adopt a series of STIP software applications and solutions.

Because of these upcoming changes, there will be no STIP project solicitation this year. We will instead focus our efforts on modifying and improving the way the STIP works to ensure that future solicitations will be more inclusive and effective. Please stay tuned for further information regarding changes to the STIP schedule, criteria, process, requirements and tools. For more information, please contact Assistant Chief Linsey

## Planning Employee Spotlight



**Catherine Pitassi** has been the Executive Assistant to the Associate Director for the RI Division of Planning since July of 2016. Cathy assists with the administrative and supportive tasks involved in the Division's operations, projects and programs. Cathy began her State service twenty-six years ago at the Department of Children, Youth and Families before working for the Training Division at the School of Social Work at Rhode Island College.

Outside of work, Cathy enjoys listening to music and talk radio, and reading romance novels. She especially enjoys cooking and baking for her family and friends and spending time at her condo in sunny Boca Raton. She has also served as a member of the RI Chapter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Cathy resides in North Providence with her husband Steve and speaks of her daughter Stephanie with pride. Contact Cathy at [Catherine.Pitassi@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Catherine.Pitassi@doa.ri.gov).

## Upcoming Meetings

### State Planning Council

**October 11 at 9AM**

DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### RIGIS Executive Committee Meeting

**October 18 at 2PM**

USDA-NRC Offices  
60 Quaker Lane, Warwick

### Transportation Advisory Committee

**October 25 at 5:30PM**

DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### Technical Committee

**November 2 at 9AM**

*The October 5 meeting has been canceled.*

DOA Conference Room 2A  
One Capitol Hill, Providence

### PHOTO TRIVIA:

Do you know where in RI this building is located? See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter.



## Upcoming Events

**October 11 Leadership Panel on Sustainability**. The panel will examine how corporate

social responsibility (CSR) goals, environmental-social-governance (ESG) investment strategies, and finances drive business decisions and will focus on how the intersection of academic research, the work of non-governmental organizations, and the power of private industry can create synergies that help organizations build a long-term, sustainable future. Location: Providence College, Ruane Room, 1 Cunningham Square, Providence. Post-event networking at McPhail's Pub. For more information, contact [Info@FountainHeadRI.org](mailto:Info@FountainHeadRI.org).

**October 11** "Power Plants and New Energy in the Age of Climate Change." 6PM. A panel discussion featuring Armond Cohen of the Clean Air Task Force; Erika Niedowski of The Acadia Center; and Curt Spaulding, former administrator for the EPA's New England region. Location: Cranston Public Library/William Hall Library, 1825 Broad Street. Free, but [registration](#) is requested.

#### **URI Landscape Architecture Lectures:**

- **October 11** Martha Schwartz, Principal- Martha Schwartz Partners, Brooklyn, NY.
- **November 1** Laura Solano, Principal- Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Cambridge, MA.

Lectures begin at 7PM and will be held in the [URI Beupre Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences Center](#), Room 105, 140 Flagg Road, on the Kingston Campus.

**October 13** [TEDx Providence](#). 10AM. TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. Location: Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence. Tickets are [here](#).

**October 16** Solar Siting public meeting #12 presented by the RI Office of Energy Resources and RI Division of Statewide Planning. CHANGE IN MEETING START TIME TO 6PM. Location: RI Public Utilities Commission Office, 89 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick. Presentation and public comments on 3rd Solar Siting Policy Information Power Point and 2nd draft of Model Ordinance Template. See the OER [website](#) for more information.

**October 18-19** [SNEAPA 2018](#) Hartford. The Southern New England American Planning Association Conference is an annual two-day event hosted jointly by the Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts chapters of APA. Join nearly seven hundred planners, landscape architects, architects, engineers, academics, students and others at the Hartford Convention Center. See the [SNEAPA website](#) for information. Online registration closes on October 5, but walk-in registrations will be accepted at the Conference.

**October 29** ["Books and Beer" Planning Book Club](#) Location TBD. 5:30PM - 7:30PM. Book: *The Last Good Chance* by Tom Barbash. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Thom Deller: [tdeller@centralfallsri.us](mailto:tdeller@centralfallsri.us).

**January 10** Save the date for the APA-RI Post-Holiday and Awards Party. 6-9PM. Location: Pump House Music Works, South Kingstown. More details coming soon!

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## Grant Opportunities

**October 8** Deadline for the National Park Service's "[African American Civil Rights Grant Program](#)". Grants will help document, interpret, and preserve the sites related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century and will fund a broad range of preservation projects for historic sites including: architectural

services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and physical preservation to structures. Funding opportunity #P18AS00485.

**November 1** Deadline for "[Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Underrepresented Communities](#)." Department of the Interior/National Park Service grants will support the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. Funding opportunity #P18AS00554.

**December 31** Deadline for [Home Depot Foundation Community Impact Grants](#) The Home Depot Foundation offers grant awards up to \$5,000 to 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services and are required to be complete within six months of approval date.

**December 31** Deadline for [Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program](#). Grants range from \$250 to \$5,000. Organizations applying must be an organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) or (19) organizations; a recognized government entity: state, county, or city agency, including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes; and others. See the [grant guidelines](#) for more details.

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## Planning Articles of Interest

[US Census Bureau's test of high-tech in RI a success, director says](#)

[Can Toronto's plans for kid-friendly urban design keep parents from moving to the suburbs?](#)

[What can explain the ongoing "re-crowding" of U.S. households?](#)

[Lorraine Fabrics project receives approval](#)

[New York's Vision Zero program is saving pedestrians' lives](#)

[So you want to change zoning to allow for more housing...](#)

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Check out our website for plans, maps, publications, and more:

[www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov)

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## PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

Adamsville "spite tower"

Little Compton (Built 1905)

Photo: Wikipedia