



RIFDA hosted our 9th annual Cliff Johnson Golf Tournament on August 29, 2022, at Kirkbrae Country Club. It was a beautiful day and a perfect day for a golf outing. As always, Kirbrae were fantastic hosts, and the course was in great shape. We would like to thank all the participated in the event by playing, donating, and sponsoring the event. This year's winner of the Men's and Ladies Low Gross were Patrick Healy and Steph Lucchetti. The winner of the Foursome Low net was the team from Bozzuto's! RIFDA greatly appreciates the support of our members, and we look forward to seeing you at the next event.



September Legislative Highlights

RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- Democratic primary candidates in Rhode Island governor's race to take stage for debate.
- Tidewater Landing Project moves forward after Commerce Board approval
- The old Route 95 exit numbers that drivers have known for years started to be replaced by new numbers, tied to the nearest mile marker.
- Primary election day falls on Sept. 13. this year. Rhode Islanders will be able to vote at polls in every city and town from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., except for New Shoreham where the polls are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

[Click here to learn more about Rhode Island Legislation.](#)

National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

The following list provides an overview of the national issues that are being followed this year by several national associations. We will attempt to provides updates on these as information becomes available.

2022 Priority Issues

- Labor: Workforce Supply and Regulatory Enforcement
- Supply Chain/Transportation
- Feeding Assistance Programs: SNAP, WIC, School Lunch
- Pharmacy: PBM Reform; DIR Fees; Vaccinations
- Inflation/Economy
- Food Safety: Traceability
- Cybersecurity: Privacy/Data Security/Ransomware
- Sustainability: Food Waste; EPR; Packaging; Recycling
- Payments: Swipe Fee Reform; Credit Competition
- Organized Retail Crime/Asset Protection

[Click here to learn more about National](#)



GIVING BACK to our community for over a century.

For more than 100 years, Stop & Shop has proudly supported our neighborhoods and the local organizations that empower them. We are proud to be a member of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association.



Industry News

3 steps to help companies pivot quickly in a crisis

Planning for every scenario -- a pandemic, climate change or supply chain disruptions -- helps companies successfully pivot while maintaining a positive corporate attitude, empowering stakeholders and going the extra mile to meet customer needs, writes Bruce McMeekin, CEO and founder of BKM Marketing. "With the right processes, crises become opportunities rather than threats, and you can confidently lead your organization to new heights during make-or-break times," McMeekin writes.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Grocer takes a fresh approach with shoppable videos

Grocery retailer The Fresh Market is creating shoppable video content that's aimed largely at growing sales among the retailer's existing fan base. In addition to promoting the content on its website, the retailer sends it to newsletter subscribers, a strategy that has boosted conversion rates, the company said.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Direct Mail Is Having a Moment

Going to the mailbox has gone from humdrum to holy cow! Direct mail has emerged as a channel shoppers can touch, feel and trust. Learn more ways to get the most from direct

mail's unique ability to appeal to shoppers and deliver value.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Stop & Shop's Campaign Raises \$1.2M For Hunger Relief

Customers can donate at checkout to support food insecure families across the Northeast, with 100 percent of donations going directly to Stop & Shop's 12 regional food bank partners.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Brick-and-mortar shopping centers attract consumers, investors

The retail sector has been experiencing success stories such as that of Lynwood, Calif.'s Plaza Mexico shopping center, which is seeing strong foot traffic. Investor interest in the asset class has also increased, with more than \$16.6 billion in deals in the second quarter, nearly double that of the same period in 2021, according to MSCI.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Insights For The 2022 Holiday Season

TWICE recently caught up with Mike French, Vice President of Partnerships at Digital River, who shared his insights into what we can expect this holiday season and what retailers can do to prepare today and thrive and survive the upcoming holidays.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Report: US port traffic to ease in the coming months

Imports at major US container ports are on track to slow down in the second half of the year, while still rising above last year's levels, per the latest Port Tracker report from NRF and Hackett Associates. "Lower volumes may help ease congestion at some ports, but others are still seeing backups and global supply chain challenges are far from over," NRF's Jonathan Gold said.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Is your leadership style focused on connection?

Leaders who make a sustained effort to connect with their team will build better relationships with employees, know about upcoming challenges and see and value their unique contributions, writes Lolly Daskal. "When you focus your leadership on connection, you create an environment that fosters loyalty and encourages retention," Daskal writes.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Navigating the shift in the grocery workforce

The role of grocery store workers changed significantly during the pandemic. In fact, 2 in 5 retail workers were considering leaving the industry as of last summer. **In this [whitepaper](#)**, Zipline explores how grocers can grow their focus on workforce communication and make communication platforms work for their business and their workers.

[Get the whitepaper](#)

Online Grocery Sales Climb To \$7.8 Billion From Year Ago

Sales for July jumped 17 percent year-over-year, driven by inflationary pressures and a strong demand for delivery and pickup services, according to a Brick Meets Click/Mercatus Grocery Shopping Survey.

[Read the Full Story](#)

USPS announces rate hike

USPS customers will pay more to ship packages this holiday season as the organization attempts to cover costs during the busy time period. Rate increases for heavy parcels could exceed \$6.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Multicultural food retailers see continued revenue boost

Grocers like Fiesta Mart, H Mart, 99 Ranch Market and Northgate Gonzalez Market are adding locations and enjoying revenue growth thanks in part to their selection of products central to multicultural cuisines. Increasing diversity and interest in global foods shown by younger consumers has contributed to a nearly 2% growth annually in the multicultural grocery market.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Slim profit margins likely to keep food prices high

Food prices are likely to remain high despite a slow decrease in input costs as retailers and manufacturers grapple with thin margins, says Andy Harig, vice president of tax, trade, sustainability and policy development at FMI -- The Food Industry Association. Profit margins have circled around 2% due to inflationary pressures and pandemic-related added costs, says Harig.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Independents' Role In Net Effective Spending Power

The government reported inflation over 9 percent in June, the highest rate in 40 years and the fastest rate of increase in modern history. Americans have more to spend but are getting less, according to IGA CEO John Ross.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Inflation nibbles at organic produce sales

Consumers' health and wellness concerns helped further fuel growth of organic produce sales during the pandemic, but now, amid rising inflation, cash-strapped consumers are rethinking some of their choices, SmartBrief's Janet Forgive writes. Sales of organic produce were up by dollar amount in the second quarter over the same period last year, but sales by volume dipped a bit, and shoppers appeared to be trading down to lower-

priced organic fruits including bananas and blackberries, according to a report by the Organic Produce Network.

[Read the Full Story](#)

6 ways for leaders to avoid problematic behavior

Bosses can cause problems at work when they aren't mentally available, haven't laid out clear objectives and fail to communicate, writes Dan Rockwell. To avoid these problems, it's important to understand how your words make people feel, admire the people on your team and allow yourself to express vulnerability, Rockwell writes.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Keep "quiet quitting" from happening in your workplace

Leaders can keep their employees from "quiet quitting" -- simply doing the bare minimum -- by encouraging workers to personalize their roles and provide feedback, writes Tianyi Jiang, CEO and co-founder AvePoint. There may be obstacles in the short run as workers' roles evolve, but "initial hiccups or failures shouldn't keep your people from pursuing their goals or raise any red flags," Jiang writes.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Shoppers' primary concerns have shifted away from COVID-19 to food accessibility, notably food prices.

In our fifth installment of *FMI's U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends 2022* series, we find that 90% of shoppers are concerned with some aspect of food access, with 61% concerned with rising prices, specifically.

[Get Your Copy](#)



Imperial
The Performance Leader

Thank you to our September Supplier of the Month - C&S Wholesale Grocers



Thank you to our September Retailer of the Month - Brigido's Market

Our Association Member Communications Sponsors





Industry Events

Store Operations Series: Two Underutilized Employee Benefits

Attend this session to explore how to implement two strategies to improve communication and enhance the engagement of your workforce by creating a people-first culture.

Seminar Objectives

- Improve communication with employees.
- Increase the effectiveness of team meetings.
- Identify strategies to create a people-first culture.
- Capture employee feedback through focus groups.
- Implement a more effective and positive employee review process

[Register Today](#)

Digital Dialogues on Racial Justice, Inclusion and Diversity

The Center for Food Integrity and FMI, the Food Industry Association, are excited to announce the next Racial Justice, Inclusion and Diversity Digital Dialogue featuring two extraordinary Diversity, Equity and Inclusion leaders – Raven Solomon and Jacquelyn Howard. Join us to hear Raven and Jacquelyn discuss generational and racial barriers in the workplace and how to replace them with empathy and synergy that fosters productive working relationships, drives business results, and prepares organizations to compete in the not-so-distant future.

[Register Today](#)

FMI Briefing - Peering into Food Inflation's Black Box

This briefing discussed some of the lesser known or little understood causes, effects, and impacts of inflationary pressures on the price of food at the grocery store. FMI's Vice President of Tax, Trade, and Sustainability Andy Harig was joined by Dr. Ricky Volpe, an Associate Professor of Agribusiness at Cal Poly who specializes in food retail and supply chain management, transportation and logistics, and food prices and data analysis.

[Watch The Webinar](#)

A FreshForward Conversation with Taylor Farms

Sustainability is increasingly on the radar of consumers and food industry companies, and the fresh foods sector is heavily focused on this topic. Areas of emphasis range from food waste to packaging and continue to expand in number. The fresh foods industry has opportunities to enhance its sustainability strategies, practices and metrics to drive more success.

[Watch The Webinar](#)

Shopper Loyalty In Inflationary Times

In this webinar, we will hear from Todd Taylor of Neighborhood Fresh and Darlene Murphy of Metcalfe's Market about why shopper loyalty is so important in this time of inflation. This webinar is presented in partnership with AppCard. AppCard is the leading personalized marketing, shopper analytics and digital coupon platform focused on independent grocers.

[Watch The Webinar](#)

The Shopper Journey: Health & Wellness

Consumers are increasingly concerned with being healthy, and at the grocery store, health and wellness means more than food and nutrition. Often built around an in-store pharmacy, health and wellness at the supermarket can include over-the-counter remedies, vitamins, nutritional supplements and other products designed to enhance body and mind. This webinar will explore expectations, decision drivers and category preferences through the eyes of shoppers focused on wellness and selfcare, offering insights on how independent grocers can capture more category sales.

[Register Here](#)

How Will Digitalization Impact Your Revenue?

Join us for an on-demand webinar, "Digitalization and the Impact on Trade Promotion Management," where Vistex will address all the pain points, areas of opportunity, and how to best navigate trade spend efficiency, accrual accuracy, and forecast accuracy.

[Watch The Webinar](#)

Coming Soon - RIFDA Events

September 2022:

- Mon. Sept.5th Office Closed; Labor Day Holiday
- ***Fri. Sept. 16th – Sun., June 18 th : RIFDA Annual Convention; @ Red Jacket Beach Resort – Cancelled for 2022 -
- ***Wed. Sept. 21 st - 2021 Sen. Reed RI Business Leaders Day in DC - TENTATIVE
- Wed. Sept. 28th Board of Directors 3 rd Quarter Meeting

October 2022:

- Mon. Oct. 10 th Office Closed; Columbus Day
- Thurs. Oct. 13 th : Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- Thurs. Oct. 20 th : WIC/SNAP Meeting (Tentative)

November 2022:

- Fri. Nov. 11 th : Office Closed; Veteran' Day Holiday Observance
- Wed. Nov. 16 th Board of Directors 4 th Quarter Meeting (at TBD)
- Thurs. Nov. 24 : Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



Satisfied Member?

Spread the Word, Tell Your Industry Friends & Vendors.

As a member, the benefit advantages such as our food safety renewal classes, WIC/EBT updates, legislative representation and updates, national industry affiliations and updates, networking events, energy programs and food industry camaraderie, as well as a number of other initiatives make RIFDA a great opportunity for new members.

Throughout each year there are exciting events as well as sponsorship and advertising opportunities. It is members like yourselves that make this all happen.

With new memberships RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the Rhode Island food community.

[Learn](#)

More



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