

## Thank You John Rich and Peter Runyon for Your Service to NWCCOG and Your Communities



NWCCOG thanked John Rich (l), Jackson County Commissioner and NWCCOG Executive Committee member, and Peter Runyon (r), Eagle County Commissioner and NWCCOG Chair, for their service to NWCCOG at the December 6th Council meeting in Minturn. Both Peter and John will end their tenure as commissioners in December, as they are both term limited. John and Peter have served on the NWCCOG Council for 8 years. Thank you John and Peter for your service to NWCCOG!

## NWCCOG Awarded \$65,000 Grant from the Department of Local Affairs for Regional Broadband Effort

NWCCOG has been awarded \$65,000 from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for the development of a regional strategic plan for broadband capability improvement. The funding comes from DOLA's Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant Program. This project will begin in 2013 and will include all five NWCCOG counties (Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Summit) as well as Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco counties. The project will seek to build on work that has already been done, or is in the works, to establish the region's "middle mile" network by focusing on the "last mile" including: 1) an assessment of needs, both infrastructure and services, through surveys, public meetings, and asset mapping; 2) educational workshops to ensure that the participants have the information needed on regulations, economics, and technology to develop a realistic plan; 3) identification of public and private projects already underway to address these needs; 4) identification of gaps in the network and a strategy to fill these gaps; and 5) address sustainability and maintenance of the network into the future. The project involves hiring a technical consultant to help guide NWCCOG through this process. The deliverable from this project will be a regional strategic plan for broadband capability improvement complete with identification of needs, proposed construction plans, cost estimates, timelines, and suggested financing plan. This project will enhance the livability of the region because it seeks to improve one of the core needs for economic development which is improved broadband. More information will be available soon on NWCCOG's website. The project will get underway in January 2013. For more information, contact [Liz Mullen](#) or [Rachel Lunney](#).

## One Million Homes Weatherized under ARRA

September 27, 2012 was an important day in the history of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) - it marked the weatherization of the one millionth home completed since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) work began in April

2009. This achievement was made possible by the "hard work and dedication of a vast network of state weatherization agencies and energy offices, community action agencies and other community-based organizations, contractors, manufacturers, and skilled American workers." September 27th was "a day to celebrate all of them as we recognize the enormous economic, community, and environmental benefits of the Energy Department's Weatherization Assistance Program." (David Danielson, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, US Department of Energy). ARRA allocated \$5 billion for the WAP with the goal of weatherizing 600,000 homes by the end of the three year Recovery Act period (April 2009 to March 2012), which was met 3 months early in December 2011. Just 9 months later DOE announced that the WAP had weatherized one million homes since April 2009.

When ARRA was passed, supporters said that scaling up the weatherization program would be a key part of a strategy to jump start the economy through creating American jobs, supporting small businesses, saving everyday people money on their energy bills, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. President Obama explained to Katie Couric in a 2009 interview that "we're going to weatherize homes. That immediately puts people back to work. As a consequence of weatherization, their energy bills go down, and we reduce our dependence on foreign oil. What would be a more effective stimulus package than that?" The WAP eventually became the 2nd largest job creator under ARRA. More than 90 percent of the materials used to weatherize homes, such as insulation and high efficiency windows, are made in the U.S., helping support thousands of domestic manufacturing jobs. In addition, every home that is weatherized saves that family an average of up to \$400 a year on their heating and cooling bills.

A 50-minute video explaining the entire history of the Weatherization Program has been created and is available for free [HERE](#). It tells the remarkable story of the federal weatherization program, from its humble beginnings as a result of the energy crisis of the 1970's, to the state-of-the-art program now available to recipients. The WAP has been a leader and innovator in the quest to do the best possible job of improving the energy efficiency of homes, and has become a national leader in workforce training and development. The WAP is the nation's largest whole-house home energy upgrade program, and employs more residential energy efficiency professionals than anyone in the nation.

### **NWCCOG Selected by Smart Growth America for Free Technical Assistance Workshop in 2013**

NWCCOG has been selected to receive a free workshop in 2013 as part of Smart Growth America's free technical assistance program. Smart Growth America is committed to providing the tools and training to help community leaders keep their cities and towns livable, sustainable and economically prosperous places. This program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities under its Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. Each year, Smart Growth America makes a limited number of technical assistance workshops available to interested communities for zero cost. NWCCOG's workshop will be on the tool: planning for economic and fiscal health. This workshop will draw on successful private and public sector lessons to help local leaders foster smart growth communities that cost taxpayers less to build, run and maintain. It will provide the latest lessons

in how smart growth saves money for local governments, makes money for businesses, and is integral for the long-term fiscal and economic health of the community. The date and location for the workshop is to be determined. For more information contact [Rachel Lunney](#).

### **Employment Opportunity: Program Specialist for Alpine Area Agency on Aging**

NWCCOG is seeking to add a Program Specialist for its Alpine Area Agency on Aging program. The major responsibilities of the Program Specialist include developing, marketing and maintaining the region's Network of Care website, assisting consumers with direct program services, program administrative activities, and assisting with new program development and implementation of the Center for Community Living Services . A complete job description can be found on [NWCCOG's website HERE](#)

### **Alpine Area Agency on Aging Selected as an Old Age Pension Dental Assistance Provider**

The NWCCOG Alpine Area Agency on Aging has been selected as an Old Age pension Dental Assistance provider/administrator (OAP). The OAP Dental Program assists eligible and qualified low-income seniors (age 60 or older) in obtaining dental services. The Dental Care Act of 1977 initiated the OAP Dental Program. In September 2009, a reduction of general funds eliminated the program. The OAP Dental Program was reinstated on July 1, 2012 through House Bill 12-1326. The initial contract funding is \$50,000 for the project term of January-June 2013. For more information contact [Jean Hammes](#), AAAA Director, 970.468.0295 x107.