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Board Member Spotlight Alyssa Shenk Town Council Member - Snowmass Village



No one would ever guess that for the first 22 years of her life, Alyssa Shenk really hated skiing. When her folks brought her to Colorado to learn to ski as a child, she couldn't imagine how anyone could possibly love the cold and the feeling of slipping down a mountain out of control.

Fast forward to today, and you'll find someone who has been a volunteer Ambassador on the Mountain for more than 10 years, whose entire family loves skiing, and who lives in the heart of ski country Colorado.

Having been appointed to the Snowmass Village town council slightly less than a year ago, she was selected as the representative to the Northwest Colorado

Council of Governments in January 2015. She's spent a good deal of time this first year learning about the organization, and is struck by how much we do for the communities we serve. From making loans to small businesses, to the work we do with the aging population, to the coordination of transportation services, to weatherization and elevator inspections. "They do an amazing number of things with a relatively small staff - they have a big impact in the region!"

One of the things she'd like to see is more information about what the NWCCOG does for the areas they represent. In her view, "People really have not even heard about the NWCCOG, and it would be good to have more publicity about it in the community."

When asked what she like best about being on the board she replied, "Having a broader exposure to others in the region and seeing how others come together to solve common

problems. There is a lot to learn from what others are doing. There are so many untapped resources and it's a great way to connect with other towns."

Originally from Columbus Ohio, Alyssa and her husband decided to move to Colorado for ski patrol opportunities after they completed law school. They've been here for 12 years and while Alyssa no longer practices law, she is actively involved in the Parent Teachers Association at the elementary school and she is heavily involved in the community. Her two young children keep her pretty busy and the family loves all things outdoors including hiking and skiing.

Staff Member Spotlight Susan Juergensmeier

As Mobility Manager for the seven county region of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt and Summit, Susan has been responsible for the establishment of the Mountain Ride Transportation Resource Center and for setting up a regional Non-Emergency Medical Transportation billing program for the region. She has also been instrumental in organizing the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council, which is the advisory group providing over-site and guidance to the team.

In a nutshell, the Mountain Ride Transportation Resource Center was designed to assist veterans, older adults, persons with disabilities, and Medicaid qualified individuals with essential transportation. Susan's been working with the NWCCOG team since July 2012.



From Susan's perspective the best thing about working for this organization is, "The people. Not only my colleagues at the office, but also the transportation and human services staff with whom I've worked with at the various agencies in our region and at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)."

She thinks many people would be surprised to learn about all the services being offered by NWCCOG. "From Weatherization, to the Alpine Agency on Aging, to Economic Development to providing small loans to businesses - that's just a sample of the work going on here."

Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, she received a BA degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and an MA from Ohio State. As a child, her family came to the western slope of Colorado for camping vacations and she fell in love with the beauty of the mountains. Fittingly, she met her husband, Bill, on a ski trip in Canada. Their joint love for skiing kept the pull to the mountains strong. When her husband retired, it took about two seconds to decide to move to Summit County. They moved here in 1998 and she's never looked back!

When she's not at work, she's often still working. As a very part time employee for Vail Resorts for nearly 17 years, she can be found at the Nordic Ski Center in Keystone where she leads snow show tours. In the winter she is an active alpine skier. In the summer she loves to hike. And she loves to travel anytime.

Official Weatherization Day!



Fall is definitely in the air and thoughts are turning to winter preparation. Now is the perfect time to make sure your home is as energy efficient as it can be - to keep your family warm and to save money on your heating bills. In fact, October 30 has been designated by Governor Hickenlooper as Weatherization Day. The designation is intended to raise the awareness about the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), instituted in 1976, to provide assistance to low-income families for making energy efficient improvements to their homes.

Created by the US Department of Energy, the mission of the WAP is to reduce costs and reduce energy usage for low income families, particularly seniors, people with disabilities, and families with young children.

In our area, the Weatherization program is administered by the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), under contract to the Colorado Energy Office (CEO). Doug Jones, Weatherization Field Supervisor at the NWCCOG puts it this way, "Our job is to help people save energy, save money, and save the environment, by making homes more energy efficient and safer."

It's an important task and one the NWCCOG Weatherization Team takes seriously. With offices in Silverthorne and New Castle, the team completed energy efficiency improvements to 155 homes in 13 counties in northwestern Colorado in 2014.

Once a home has been selected for the program, a qualified weatherization professional tests for gas leaks and carbon monoxide levels, followed by a comprehensive energy audit to find out what energy conservation services would be most



beneficial to the home. Services may include installing insulation to bring levels up to current standards, sealing major air leaks, caulking windows and doors, adding weather-stripping, installing storm windows, and perhaps even installing new high-efficiency furnaces and refrigerators. Once the work is complete, the team then retests for gas leaks and carbon monoxide. The result is a home that is much more energy efficient and also safe for its inhabitants.



Beyond the efficiencies in energy consumption, weatherization also contributes to the economy. By reducing a household's energy use and heating costs, these families have more income available to spend within their local communities. Additionally, the weatherization process has helped to preserve precious affordable housing units in our area.

The best part about this program is that there is no cost to the recipients. Funding for weatherization services is provided by the Colorado Energy Office, the U.S. Department of Energy, the US Department of Health and Human Services Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), and local utility companies.

Eligibility for the program is based on income levels. If you think you, or someone you know might qualify for

Weatherization services, please call 1-800-332-3669 or check out our website: www.nwccog.org - Weatherization. The Weatherization team is still actively seeking eligible homes in Summit County for the program.

Four New Loans for the Northwest Loan Fund

Anita Cameron, Director of Business Development, and the Northwest Loan Fund have been extremely busy lately - as have the recipients of the new loans. Businesses in Eagle, Garfield, and Moffat Counties have received new loans to help with start-up activities. These business owners have been so busy getting their businesses up and running, we've not been able to get detailed stories - but here are some highlights:

7 Hermits Brewing Company



7 Hermits Brewing Company is a new Brewery located in beautiful Eagle Colorado. A place where you can kick back after work or an adventurous day in the mountains and enjoy hand-crafted beer, signature cocktails and flat breads.

With a large selection of their own beer brewed on premises, and rotating specialty beer from other great craft breweries, they are sure to have something for everyone. Healthy and robust flavors from their kitchen will include fantastic pizza, hot sandwiches, salads and a seasonal menu.

They are open every day from 4:00 to 10:00 PM, they're located at 717 Sylvan Lake Road, Unit B-1, and you can call them at 970-328-6220.

Rocky Mountain Pizza Company



Doug and Jess Jacobson are opening a family friendly pizzeria and tap room focused on clean ingredients sourced from the greater Rocky Mountains. Rocky Mountain Pizza Company is located in Glenwood Springs, CO, and they are currently hiring staff.

Look for them at 205 8th Street, in Glenwood Springs or call them at 970-230-9695.

Integrated Health and Wellness



Also in Glenwood Springs is Integrated Health and Wellness owned by Dr. Michael Bartell. Dr. Bartell is a 1993 graduate of the National College of Chiropractic and a Certified Functional Medicine Practitioner. With over 21 years of practice experience, Dr. Bartell has seen patients from all over the United States and overseas. His unique approach to healthcare (which puts the patient at the center of care, not symptoms) is what differentiates him from the crowd when it comes for helping his patients achieve optimal health.

Dr. Bartell is a well-respected lecturer on natural approaches to chronic illness and currently is completing his Masters of Science degree in Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine (MSHNFM).

His offices are located at 100 Midland Avenue in Glenwood, and he can be reached at 970-945-4400. Or you can view his website at <http://www.integratedhealthcolorado.com/>

Double H Outfitters - Moffat County



Double H Outfitters in Craig, owned and operated by Casey Herod and Camie Haskins is one of the greatest destinations for any sportsmen! NW Colorado has a vast variety of land and animals.

They offer mountain lion, elk, deer, and antelope hunts. With mountain ranges in viewing distance, rolling hills and prairies NW Colorado has an advantage to most states. From Craig, they are only minutes away from being at the base of the mountains and minutes away from being in the rolling hills and prairies. They offer some of the best hunting around with more than 50 years of experience in the hunting world they know what their clients expect and want.

If you chose to hunt with Double H Outfitters, you can expect a life time memory, quality food, great accommodations, knowledgeable guides, quality hunt, laughs, and a desire to come back. To get more information check out their website at <http://www.herodinc.com/double-h-outfitters/>

MORE NLF NEWS

Since its inception in 2013, the NLF has initiated a total of 18 loans resulting in an additional 44 new employment opportunities in our communities.

VBC - Crowd Funding!



One business, the Vail Brewing Company in Eagle is hoping to raise additional capital to begin canning their product. They are hosting a kickoff party for a Crowd Funding campaign on Saturday, October 24th. This party is an opportunity for their fans to help take them to the next level! They plan on having a 50/50 raffle, beer specials, a roast pig, and live music. For more information, [check out their Facebook page.](#)

Signs of the Times - Two of the NLF Loan Recipient Companies have their own advertising on I-70!

Olive Ridley Coffee and Tea in Rifle at Exit 90 & Vail Brewing Company off Exit 171



"Like" Our FB Page for Colorado Gives Day!

Give where
you live



Remember us on Colorado Gives Day
Tuesday, December 8

online at ColoradoGives.org
\$1 Million Incentive Fund



Mountain Ride Wants You!

Well, what they are really hoping for is your donations. On average, it costs about \$160 per trip to help our riders get to and from their medical appointments. Our focus is on helping veterans, aging adults, people with disabilities, and low-income qualified individuals get to and from essential appointments.

While some of the ride are part of a fee-based program, others are not. We need your help to help us offset some costs. We've arranged to be part of Colorado Gives Day which is on December 8th. On this day, all credit card fees for donations made at the website are waived -- so ALL of your donation comes directly to us.

We'll have more information about this program as we get closer to the date, but in the meantime -- PLEASE "like" us on our new Facebook page!

[Check it out here!](#)

6th Annual Colorado Women's Small Business Conference another Great Success!



Over 300 attendees joined the Colorado Small Business Development (SBDC) Network for the 6th Annual Northwest Colorado Women's Small Business Conference in beautiful Vail, Colorado on Friday, October 9. Over 300 women in business joined together for an exciting, interactive day packed with hands-on business training seminars, free one-on-one consulting, exhibitor tables featuring area resources, and plenty of networking opportunities. Attendees left the conference feeling refreshed and rejuvenated, with plenty of action items, connections and inspiration to take their businesses to the next level of success!

2015 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

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