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Spotlight Deborah Shaner Frisco Town Council



After having been elected to the Frisco Town Council in April, Deborah felt like she had a natural affinity to the NWCCOG, and was happy to be appointed as the town representative on the NWCCOG Board. She's just getting started as a board member, but her career as a Fire Protection Engineer gave her an intro to the Elevator Inspection Program which is part of the NWCCOG, so she's starting with some history about the organization.

She was born in Pittsburgh and spent a good part of her childhood in Humble (silent "H"), Texas. When she was a teen her family moved to Colorado. She attended Colorado School of Mines where she earned an Engineering degree. Graduate school took her to the University of Maryland, and she worked for a short while in Indianapolis before returning to Denver, where she opened her small engineering firm.

Deborah knew she wanted to be in the mountains, so she bought a small studio condo in Frisco that served as her base-camp when she came to play. It wasn't long before she realized this was where she wanted to be full time.

She said, "I brought my small engineering business from Denver to Frisco with the hope I could find a niche in the Life Safety/Fire Protection industry and it worked!"

She is looking forward to expanding her knowledge throughout all the programs currently being undertaken by the COG staff. After a brief orientation Deborah commented, "They are a strong organization with expertise in a variety of areas. I am excited to be a part of an organization that offers so much to the great communities we live in. I was surprised to find out that NWCCOG spearheaded the Mountain Ride Transportation Resource program. I am also very impressed to learn the extent of the weatherization program."

Deborah's outside activities include anything to do with fitness: scuba diving, skiing, hiking, golfing, and working out. She loves to explore the indie micro beer culture in Colorado - tasting

the different brews and learning more about them. Traveling to the beaches of Caribbean, and watching football are also among her favorite pastimes.

Spotlight Aaron Simmons Weatherization Inspector

For the past nine years, Aaron Simmons has been working with the NWCCOG in the Weatherization Department; starting his career as an installer, then auditor, and now inspector. In the Weatherization business, when a home and home owner meet certain criteria, an auditor will visit the home to determine the work that needs to be done to make the home as energy efficient as possible. Then the NWCCOG installers come in to perform the work outlined by the auditor. Finally, the inspector arrives on the scene to make sure the work has been done according to the quality standards required by the Energy Management Program.



Aaron likes that he is constantly meeting new people, he is helping to improve the lives of the people he works with, and there is something different going on every day. On several occasions clients have said their energy bills have been drastically reduced through the efforts of the team. Aaron remarked, "They've just never seen bills so low. It really makes a difference in people's lives. They end up with a little extra money in their pockets - which is good for everyone."

When asked what surprises people by the work being done by the NWCCOG, he said, "All the services we offer. Sometimes people think we're just going to install energy efficient light bulbs, and we end up repairing or replacing a furnace, replacing a refrigerator, blowing insulation in the attic, adding weather stripping to doors, and caulking all the windows. They are amazed we do so much!"

Originally from Kingsville, Texas, Aaron's father was in the Navy and was located for a time at the Federal Center in Denver. Eventually the family moved to Summit County, and Aaron graduated from Summit High School. Like so many of those who live in the mountains, he loves being outdoors and is an avid skier, golfer and hiker. In addition, he loves spending time with his 9 year old son.

Sharpening the Saw

As Stephen Covey says in "7 Habits of Highly Effective People", the 7th habit of Sharpening the Saw is all about learning new things so you can continuously improve your overall performance. The Weatherization Team has been out sharpening their saws for the last few weeks.

In May the team attended the Energy Out West Conference in Spokane, for 4 days. This conference brings together industry experts and weatherization specialists from the western part of the United States for workshops, tutorials, key note speakers, and networking. Several thousand people attend this conference which is held every other year.

The information modules include, Installation Best Practices, Quality Assurance, Building Science, Diagnostics Assessment, Program Management and topics Beyond Weatherization. The team selected the sessions that were most applicable to their responsibilities and interests, and they were each able to create the learning track that was unique to their own personal goals. In June, they attended a 2 day Furnace Trouble-shooting course offered by Leonardi HVAC Training Center in Denver.



Doug Jones - Field Supervisor

Also in June, Doug Jones, Field Supervisor, received asbestos training at Colorado Hazard Control and passed the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) certification exam.

The team also received training at Colorado Hazard control and passed the certification test for lead paint which means they use Lead-Safe work practices throughout renovation and repair projects. They must complete refresher courses, and re-certification every few years. They are also getting brush up training on Building Performance Institute's (BPI) National Standards certification that they each must pass.

Finally, next week the Weatherization Auditors, Mike Bugielski and Neal Ashforth, will be taking online training as Quality Control Inspectors, in preparation for certification testing in July.

This consistent training, or "sharpening the saw", keeps the entire team up-to-date on all the latest information with which to help them accomplish their jobs at peak performance.

**Community Assessment Survey
Coming Soon**

The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA™) is a strategic evaluation tool that seeks input from adults 60 and older to gather information about their community experiences. Data from the survey is useful to communities and organizations to develop and modify programs specifically for an aging population. The data will also be used to evaluate current services, influence key stakeholders, empower community members and monitor overall success.

The Alpine Area Agency on Aging, a division of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), in collaboration with National Research Center, Inc, began sending the surveys on June 20th to adults who are 60+ years of age. Recipients will include residents throughout the NWCCOG region, which includes Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, and Summit Counties and the communities of Glenwood Springs, Steamboat Springs, and Carbondale.

Not all adults over 60 will receive the survey as a random sample has been selected. If you receive a survey, it is vitally important that you complete and return the survey so there is adequate data to help plan for the future of the programs serving the unique needs of aging citizens.

The assessment tool seeks to gather information about a wide range of issues faced by people as they advance in age including: community involvement, volunteer opportunities, overall affordability, access to care, access to information, a sense of community, access to transportation, costs of living and other issues.

The surveys will be completely anonymous and include a postage-paid envelope to return all completed surveys. The responses given on the surveys will help to guide future programs in your community.

A similar assessment was completed in 2011 in the NWCCOG region, and this assessment will help to measure progress and plan future improvements.

The deadline to return the surveys is mid- July. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Amanda Rens-Moon, Program Specialist, Alpine Area Agency on Aging at 970-468-0295, or noc12@nwccog.org.



UPDATES:

Caregiver Conference



The 8th Annual Caregiver Conference took place on June 14th, 2016 at the Glenwood Springs Community Center. This joint venture between Garfield County Department of Human Services, Northwest Options for Long Term Care, and Alpine Area Agency on Aging, focused on the legal, financial, and emotional challenges surrounding aging, caregiving, and end-of-life. Presentations included Legal Planning for the Future, Maintaining, Recreating, or Recovering a Sense of Self During and After Caregiving, and Estate Planning and Trusts. Vendors from across the region provided information and resources on available services

ranging from home health care to healthy meals options. Most importantly, however, the Caregiver Conference provided fatigued caregivers an opportunity to commiserate, and bond over shared experiences and complimentary pampering. Caregivers enjoyed lunch, paraffin hand treatments, massages, manicures, and Reiki.

Mountain Connect Recap

The 6th annual Mountain Connect Conference held from June 5 through June 7th, drew industry leaders from across the country for rousing discussions regarding the importance of broadband services throughout our regions and beyond.

Sessions including "The Internet of Things", "FirstNet Colorado", "Public Sector Broadband Development Panel", and a lively "Open Access Debate" were all live streamed across the country. These streams are still available at <https://www.periscope.tv/MountainConnect>. The Keynote address from Diane Mitsch Bush, Colorado State House of Representatives, are also available online.



Diane Bush- Colorado State House of Representatives

"The importance of broadband is escalating and extremely important to my constituents and myself," said Colorado State House Representative Diane Mitsch Bush; her district is comprised of two mountain counties: Eagle and Routt.

She went on to say, "We have fragmented service now which means lost economic opportunities for existing and potential new businesses, diminished educational opportunities from preschool through college, as well as, serving as a barrier to advanced medical delivery and tele-health opportunities which are critical for a region like ours that is spread out. The state of broadband in far too many Colorado communities is creating real safety issues, as emergency services in many communities don't have redundant coverage

should an outage occur - which happened twice last year. We have to find partnerships to help rural Colorado, especially in our mountain counties, achieve the broadband we all need."

Also highlighting the conference included Mountain Connect's annual Broadband Awards, given this year to "Community of the Year," Rio Blanco and to SECOM for "Provider of the Year."

As part of the Northwest Colorado Regional Broadband Strategic Plan effort, Rio Blanco County identified that broadband service in the County was inadequate to sustain 21st century economic development. Through 2014 and into 2015, the County determined it would build a fiber to the premises network in its two population centers (Meeker and Rangley) and a shared fixed wireless solution designed to reach all other addresses in the county. The project begins serving its first customers this month.

The provider of the year, SECOM has been providing competitive and innovative data transport solutions, based on high-speed fiber optic lines and fixed wireless equipment to governmental entities, businesses and residences since 1998. As more electric cooperatives and local governments ponder and/or launch broadband service offerings, SECOM is increasingly sought after to provide its testimonial and expertise.

Nate Walowitz, Regional Broadband Coordinator at the NWCCOG, said, "I thought it was a very good conference and an excellent opportunity to have quality meetings with partners, vendors and providers."

2016 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Full Council Meeting

Location: Walden, Meeting Room TBD

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Approval of 2017 dues; discussion re: Annual Planning Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 25, 2016

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Buffalo Mountain Room, Summit County Commons, Frisco

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Strategic Planning for 2017

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2017 budget

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: 2016 budget revisions; approve 2017 budget; adopt 2017 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

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