Northwest Colorado Council of Governments eNews May 2016



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Prestigious Certifications Awarded



David Pickett-Heaps

The National Association of Elevator Safety Authorities (NAESA) is an internationally recognized professional organization which sets the standards of safety for elevators and related equipment. It is focused on providing information, training, and certification testing to members; helping to advance the professional reputation of elevator safety specialists.

In the exercise of their role they administer two very important and difficult tests to elevator inspectors and to the supervisors of those inspectors. The first test is that of Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI). To earn that

certification, the inspector must have been employed as an inspector for at least one year under the tutelage of a QEI certified inspector. At the end of the year, the inspector must sit for an 8 hour exam. Once the exam is passed, the inspector is awarded the QEI Certification. It is a very difficult exam.

Last month, David Pickett-Heaps earned the QEI designation.

The second test, that of Inspection Supervisor, is much less common and in fact has been awarded to only two QEI professionals in the Western Region of the United States. Steve Allen, the Director of the Elevator Inspection Program (EIP) at the NWCCOG, recently passed the exam for NAESA Inspection Supervisor.

Congratulations to David and Steve. We're proud of your dedication and commitment to the EIP team.



Steve Allen

Spotlight Angie Welsh Fiscal Assistant



Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Angie Welsh has been working with the NWCCOG for about 20 months as a Fiscal Assistant, which is a contracted position through Summit Bookkeeping and Payroll. In this role, she is responsible for all accounts payable, and some accounts receivable, as well as payroll for the NWCCOG employees.

She submits fiscal reimbursement requests to the state for various programs, she prepares fiscal reports for internal and external operations, and she helps with the

Pictured here with baby goat, Bean.

annual audits. She also makes weekly deposits and weekly check runs to keep up with the bills.

Angie moved to the area in 1991 to attend college and for a change of scenery. Of the mountain community she says, "I fell in love with the natural beauty of the area, the wilderness, and the solitude. It's kept me here ever since."

The best things about working with the NWCCOG from her perspective are, "The flexibility, the people, and the chance to work with an entity that helps our communities. I love being a small part of something good. I spent several years bookkeeping for contractors who built custom homes for folks, and it's nice to know now I'm helping those who really need it." She also thinks it is amazing how well the NWCCOG operates with the amount of contract and full time staff spread out over the region - it runs so smoothly.

When asked what surprises people most about the NWCCOG she remarked that people are unaware of the programs the COG offers that can help them have better lives - at no cost to them. Like weatherization for example. She goes on to say, "I am still meeting people who don't know about this program and are amazed that there are free programs like this. I'm personally impressed with the range of services we offer to our members as well as to communities and individuals."

Angie's favorite activities include spending time in nature, making art, gardening, music, hiking, snow sports, traveling, riding dirt bikes, hanging out with animals, friends and my little family, and soaking in hot springs. She loves to learn new things and is currently learning how to farm and parent. She recently moved in with her boyfriend and his 12 year old foster son, so she's been on a fast-track for learning.

She says, "We have a small farm with goats, chickens, pigs and a large garden. Being in

Leadville the growing season is extremely short though, so we hope to build a greenhouse this summer. We are working towards self-sufficiency and I dream of being able to produce most of my own healthy, unadulterated food someday. It's a lot of work but, also a lot of fun!" Some of the most fun includes having three baby goats in the family; Bean (pictured above), Bella and Blaze.

Spotlight CJ Grove Volunteer Coordinator

CJ manages the Alpine Area RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) in Eagle County and the AAAA (Alpine Area Agency on Aging) Volunteer program for Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit Counties.

Alpine Area RSVP is a program for older adult volunteers who are age 55+ serving in many capacities throughout the community. The regional program accepts volunteers of all ages who serve as long-term care ombudsman, Medicare counselors, Caregiver Respite companions, minor home repair, and transportation volunteers.

Originally from Kentucky, CJ was



raised in Ohio, then moved to New Mexico in her senior year of high school where she lived, studied, and worked for the next twenty-plus years. She moved to Summit County to work with the NWCCOG almost a year ago.

While in New Mexico, CJ completed her Master's degree in Public Administration Human Resources at the University of NM. Her thesis research was focused on disaster response volunteer compassion satisfaction and fatigue. This research was inspired by her work as an AmeriCorps Intern for the American Red Cross in New Mexico where she was the Volunteer Coordinator for the Ready When the Time Comes program.

When asked what she likes best about working with the NWCCOG, she enthusiastically responded, "NWCCOG employees are just fantastic! I have never worked with a more dedicated and passionate group of people."

She thinks what surprises people most about the NWCCOG is that they are unacquainted with the variety of programs the organization provides. CJ remarked, "We are able to provide so many services to the community, from broadband, economic development,

elevator inspection program, weatherization, and community living services we touch so many aspects of the region."

CJ is a big sports fan and especially loves seeing events live and in person. She attended her first Bronco's game last year (and loved it), and is currently planning to attend a Rockies game in July. She also loves traveling, reading and cooking.

May is Older Americans Month -A Time to Give Special Recognition to Volunteers, Seniors, and Friends of Seniors

May is a month of fresh beginnings. Perennials bloom once again, blazing a trail of bright color. May is also when we celebrate Older Americans Month (OAM), acknowledging the perennial contributions of older adults to our nation. The 2016 OAM theme is Blaze a Trail.

The Administration for Community Living will use this opportunity to raise awareness about important issues facing older adults. We will also highlight the ways that older Americans are advocating for themselves, their peers, and their communities. The NWCCOG also uses this special month to celebrate the accomplishments of those who serve their communities so well.

Senior Awards Ceremony

At the Summit County Community and Senior Center on May 11, more than 90 people from all across the Region 12 served by NWCCOG gathered to recognize and celebrate the Seniors and Friends of Seniors from each of 5 counties: Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, and Summit. The theme for this year was *Blaze a Trail*, and the recipients were all honored for their efforts in blazing a trail and impacting the lives of those they served.



2016 Blaze a Trail Senior and Friends of Senior Award Winners

Volunteer Recognition Awards

On May 9, a Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony was hosted by the Alpine Area Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at the Colorado Mountain College campus in Edwards. The program was presided over by Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County Commissioner, and emceed by Erin Fisher, Director of the Alpine Area Agency on Aging for the NWCCOG.

Awards were given to individuals whose selflessness embodies the ideal of volunteers throughout the community. Recognition was given to volunteers who had given outstanding effort, the most number of hours reported, those who served in leadership roles, and to those who went above and beyond the call of duty.



2016 RSVP Award Winners

Count Me In!7735

Save the date for the "Count Me In" Workshop brought to you by the Colorado Fiscal Institute and NWCCOG

The Count Me In! campaign aims to educate voters on Colorado's unique direct democracy structure by tapping locally known and trusted leaders to reinforce the importance of participating in the November election, especially on initiatives. The primary focus will be to encourage voting the whole ballot (all the way to the bottom!)

Count Me In! will provide a structure and materials for local leaders and active community members to educate and shape community conversations about direct democracy.

Monday, June 27th Noon - 2 pm FREE lunch provided Eagle County Administration Building County Commissioners Room 500 Broadway St Eagle, CO 81631 RSVP to Alexis Marsh 720-364-7735 <u>alexis@countmeincolorado.com</u> 720-364-7735



SAVE the DATES:

Caregiver Conference 6/14/2016 For more information contact Erin at aaa12@nwccog.org



Free Lunch Included

June 14, 2016

Glenwood Springs Community Center 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Planning for the Future / Planning for Yourself / Planning for Your Loved Ones

2016 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 26, 2016 *Full Council & EDD Board Meeting* Location: Glenwood Springs Community Center, 100 Wulfsohn Road, Glenwood Springs Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Primary Agenda Items: Review/acceptance of 2015 audit; presentations by the City of Glenwood Springs and the State Demographer's office; program updates.

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

www.nwccog.org 970.468.0295

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!

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