

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments eNews August 2017



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From the Director's desk...



Managing meetings for Civility

In a recent editorial "We are neighbors not enemies," the Vail Daily praised Town of Gypsum Mayor Steve Carver, who did something quite unusual before a contentious hearing.

It was a developers' second attempt in 2017 following a hearing Carver later described as full of "hatred and unruly people that just didn't start off good." That first proposal was denied on a 3-3 split vote. Unable to attend that first meeting, Carver, as owner of Big Steve's Towing, was occupied on Vail Pass that winters night. This summer, the developer adjusted the project by reducing the density and reapplied. That this developer manages some very large rental projects in Avon from which some opponents were proud to have moved their families away from into homeownership in Gypsum, didn't help their case.

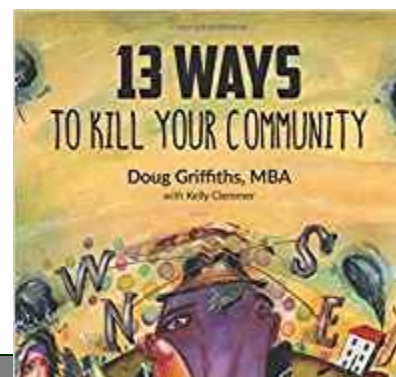
Carver, when interviewed said, "I told the crowd there would be no bad mouthing or cussing; don't address the crowd, the developer or staff, address the council."

"In short, the lines were drawn and the meeting was ripe for confrontation," noted the Daily, but before the hearing started, the 4 term Mayor did something he had never done before. He asked the crowd to **take 5 minutes, stand up up and introduce yourselves to your neighbors.**

Public hearings, the right to testify, the right to due process for an applicant in a transparent, public process are hallmarks of our civil society that get a regular workout in our local jurisdictions. Yet on many levels, we seem unable to interact without name-calling. Community leaders have a golden opportunity to facilitate that increasingly rare thing-a civil discourse.

Learning to do so can take learning from painful experiences. How do we respect each other and the process when the decision has no right or wrong answer?

The NWCCOG Council had a taste of that challenge recently in Grand Lake where they presided over a complex "208 water quality" hearing with a room filled with well-prepared residents. The attendees showed up on behalf of a single outcome-clearer water in Grand Lake - but with widely varying opinions about the course of action to best achieve that outcome.



Civility is also a question contemplated by the City of Craig Mayor Jim Ponikvar who spoke recently at the CML conference about how desperately his community needed to "change the culture and the conversation," which they did through an extended public conversation about an iconic book called *Thirteen Ways to Kill Your Community*, by Doug Griffiths and Kelly Clemmer.



Back in Gypsum, Carver's 5 Minute Method provided a *coup de grace* to incivility at one hearing. With the tone of the conversation at fever pitch in social media and in places like Charlottesville, Virginia, navigating toward civility may just be a local leaders' most important role.

Jon Stavney

Northwest Loan Fund loan helps launch Capital Creek Brewery



Bill Johnson, founding partner of Highlands Pizza Company in 2008, had a dream to open a unique brewery and restaurant in the perfectly located Willits Town Center in Basalt. He sold his share in the Highlands business and with the proceeds planned to build the 100 seat bar and restaurant called Capital Creek Brewery.

His vision for this new establishment was to specialize in brewing beer for in-house consumption and to serve traditional brew-pub food along with more unique offerings designed to tease the palate of real foodies.

Bill determined he would need additional funding to get the brew pub started and he contacted Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending for the Northwest Loan Fund. She worked with Bill to fund a

loan to obtain a combination of construction, equipment, and working capital financing to bring his vision to fruition.

Fast forward and the restaurant is now open with about 20 seats in the bar and 80 seats in the restaurant. The five garage doors on the walls of the restaurant can be opened or closed depending on the weather which can create a beer garden feel on warm days.

A look at the menu on the website <http://capitolcreekbrewery.com/> will be a feast for your palate. Traditional burgers will be found next to burgers with seared *foie gras*, local goat cheese, caramelized onions, and Capitol Creek aioli. Or you could order a traditional roasted chicken entree, but you might also be tempted by a unique pairing of seared scallops and roasted pork, served with potatoes confit.

Capitol Creek Brewery is not just a place for adults to gather, but is also family friendly for lunch

and dinner preserving the family-friendly feel of the Willits Town Center. The overall feeling of the restaurant is warm with reclaimed wood finishes on the tables and bar. They will always have plenty of styles of beer on tap, along with a variety of cocktails and wine.

If you're in the Basalt area and are looking for a friendly unique dining and drinking experience, visit the Capitol Creek Brewery.

For more information about the Northwest Loan Fund, contact Anita - anita@northwestloanfund.org

Ombudsman program staffs up



As the local entity administering the federally mandated Ombudsman Program, Alpine Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) is proud to welcome Laurie Patterson, DC, as the new Lead Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Under the federal Older Americans Act, every state is required to have an Ombudsman Program to address complaints and advocate for improvements in the long-term care system. Funded by the state of Colorado, the program is administered by AAAA which covers the 5-county region of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsmen advocates for residents of nursing homes, board and care homes, and assisted living facilities and resolves complaints made by or for residents. Erin Fisher, AAAA Director, who has played that role notes that hiring a part-time contract staffer dedicated to the program will allow the program to "educate consumers and providers about residents' rights and good care practices, promote community involvement through volunteer opportunities, provide information to the public on facilities, services, and residents' rights as well as tracking related legislative and policy changes."

"Given the expanding senior population in our region, combined with Laurie's experience with seniors and experience as a legal advocate for children, Laurie's focus as Ombudsman will be a major asset to seniors in the region," says Fisher.

Originally from Colorado Springs, Patterson now lives in Fairplay. Patterson previously practiced as a Chiropractor in Colorado Springs and Salt Lake City and has worked in Summit County since 2011. Throughout her career, she worked with senior programs, most recently as a member of the mobility management team at the NWCCOG. In addition to the lead ombudsman contract, her other part time role is as Advocate Manager for CASA of the Continental Divide which is the court appointed special advocate for children who are victims of abuse or neglect across the 5th Judicial District of Colorado.

In addition to Laurie serving as the Lead Long Term Care Ombudsman as an employee, the program has two certified volunteer Ombudsmen. Volunteer Katie Voller received her Bachelors of Arts in Biology from The Colorado College and a Master of Science in Patient Safety Leadership from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Katie is a certified Professional in Healthcare Quality and a Certified Professional in Patient Safety. Volunteer Shari Frye resides in Eagle



Katie Voller

County and was the Clinical and Nursing Director at Colorado Mountain Medical Clinic. Most recently, Shari worked at GE Healthcare as an Electronic Medical Records Consultant, assisting physician clinics with implementation and best practice workflows of their electronic software.



Shari Frye

Whether through individual contact with residents or systemic advocacy,

Ombudsmen make a difference in the lives of residents in long-term care facilities every day. Contact the Ombudsman at 970-468-0295 ext 107 or aaa12@nwccog.org.

Why be redundant?



With some things in life redundancy can become annoying, but with internet access - redundancy can be lifesaving! As reported in last month's newsletter, Project Thor lead by Nate Walowitz Broadband Coordinator for the NWCCOG, is spearheading an initiative to create a redundant system of internet connectivity throughout the region.

The reason to create a redundant network is simple, if one or more links in the chain fail, others are there waiting to pick up the slack and service is uninterrupted.

To provide examples of where this infrastructure might have helped, we've collected a series of stories where past outages caused problems for many in our communities and how they might have been averted had we had redundant systems.

As reported in the [Aspen Times](#) and on [Aspen Public Radio](#) in late May, 2015, Century Link experienced an outage impacting thousands of Roaring Fork Valley customers. The outage knocked out landlines, internet service, and cellular service for nearly 19 hours.

A third party contractor cut a cable that caused the outage. Much business came to a halt. The Pitkin county sheriff's office had to deploy deputies into outlying areas in case people needed immediate assistance. Alerts were sent out advising people to go to the nearest fire or police station if they had an emergency since the 911 dispatch team was unavailable by phone.

Luckily during the outage, there were no serious emergencies; but had there been a fire or other emergency situation, help could have been slow to arrive.

Rural communities don't often have the financial or technical wherewithal to create the redundant networks to avert situations like that described above, but through the leadership of the NWCCOG and the Strategic Broadband committee, alternative solutions are on the drawing board to provide multiple network paths in case of major outages.

For more information about Project Thor and improving redundancy in your area contact [Nate Walowitz](#).

New Micro Loan Program gives Northwest Loan Fund more lending options

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (COEDIT) published a press release August 3, from Governor John Hickenlooper introducing Microloans that are now available for start-ups and entrepreneurs.

This is a special initiative to provide loans to small businesses that are under-served by traditional debt markets.



"This program will infuse capital into markets that need it most and help businesses scale and create jobs," said Jeff Kraft, Director of Business Funding & Incentives at OEDIT. "Local lenders will administer the loans since they are embedded in the communities and know the businesses best."

Eligible businesses must be a for-profit entity that meets the following conditions:

- The recipient business can have no more than 15 employees at the time the loan is made.
- The recipient business must be documented by the lender as an "underserved small business."
- The recipient business must be located in Colorado with a majority of employees working in Colorado.
- In the judgment of the lender, the recipient business has a substantial possibility to become a long-term viable business in Colorado that can grow to employ more than its owners.
- The recipient business does not meet underwriting standards for banks and other more traditional lenders.

These loans can range between \$5,000 and \$50,000, with a maximum interest rate of 2% plus the prime rate the day the loan is made. The loan term may be up to 8 years.

The Northwest Loan Fund provided their first loan under this new program to Coulter Lake Guest Ranch to improve solar and hydro power systems and to install a water purification system.

For more information about the program, contact Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending, via email: Anita@northwestloanfund.org or <https://choosecolorado.com/colorado-microloans/>

Department Of Local Affairs Training

DOLAs Community Development Office is holding their annual, free full-day workshop for planning commissioners, staff, and elected officials. The workshop will be held in Golden on Saturday, August 26th. Please forward on to anyone who may be interested in your organization. The agenda and registration information can be found at the following link: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/planning-refresher-workshop>

Farewell to our dear friend - Sherry Rogstad



Sherry Rogstad

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to our friend, who died after her battle with cancer on August 6, 2017. She was 63.

She and her family moved to Summit County from Wisconsin in 2008, and almost immediately Sherry became the administrative assistant to the Executive Director of the NWCCOG, where she served until June, 2016.

Sherry had many interests, but especially loved spending time with family and friends. Supporting her husband and daughter was a treasured pastime, and she did so unflinchingly. She promoted events at her daughter's school through her involvement with the athletic booster club, and she was a charter member of the Cool Moms Club. After her cancer diagnosis, she counseled other breast cancer survivors. She was also active in Relay for Life and breast cancer walks.

She was always a ray of sunshine, eager to help any of her fellow workers at all times. She will truly be missed. For a complete history of Sherry's life visit [here](#).

2017 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting

Location: Gypsum Town Hall, Gypsum

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Agenda Items: Strategic Planning for 2018

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Full Council Meeting

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: Review of draft 2018 budget

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Full Council, EDD Board & Foundation Board Meeting

Location: South Branch Library Hopeful Room, Breckenridge

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Primary Agenda Items: 2017 budget revisions; approve 2018 budget; adopt 2018 meeting schedule; annual NWCCOG Foundation Board meeting.

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!

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