

From the Director's Desk: Call Domestic Terrorism What It Is

It should be no mystery now how the acrimony of national politics today impacts all levels of government. Maricopa County is one of many where election workers [“endure a daily torrent of hateful and menacing messages over email and social media.”](#) That’s with the November presidential election still 6 months out, before the intense phase of campaigning begins. “More than 80 percent of local officials say they have been threatened or harassed, according to a survey conducted in 2021 by the National League of Cities” quotes the [New York Times](#). This is not normal. It is by design.



The Colorado Municipal League’s April volume on [Civility](#), rolls out a statewide campaign calling for Civility to “strengthen our democratic process by “listening deeply, refraining from demonizing...” CML defines Civility as **“the steadfast practice of respect, even in disagreement, which fosters constructive dialogue and connection, recognizing the inherent dignity of every person.** We should expect civility from campaigning through governing at all levels of government, starting at the very top.

Arizona Secretary of State, Adrian Fontes, whose office has received bomb threats called out those who threaten election workers and local officials as [“Domestic Terrorism”](#) on NBC Meet the Press. He remarked, “Terrorism is defined as a threat of violence for political outcome” (also in [The Guardian](#)).

Be frank here. Elections in America matter, so pitched emotions, and elevated rhetoric is to be expected. Not long ago, candidates criticized, even lambasted each other, but refrained from ad-hominem attacks dehumanizing and delegitimizing their rivals. The current wave of Domestic Terrorism follows personal threats to a degree that has not occurred for many generations. Urging followers to intimidate Congress and inciting and condoning violence to impede the peaceful transfer of power would have been quickly condemned with persons involved tossed aside from further political participation into the dustbin of history. Today, a candidate with that resume leads in national polls. [Read the full article on our website.](#)

Jon Stavney

Executive Director - NWCCOG
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Welcome to our new NWCCOG Energy Outreach Assistant, AJ Wiseley!

AJ is an adventurous spirit with a passion for extreme sports and the great outdoors. He thrives on the adrenaline rush of downhill mountain biking, snowboarding, paddle boarding, and camping, always seeking new challenges and experiences. AJ shares his life with his wife and two beloved dogs, Copper, a 9-year-old bundle of wisdom, and Tesla, a 4-year-old ball of energy, who bring endless joy and companionship to his days.



A year ago, AJ and his wife made a spontaneous decision to leave the hustle and bustle of Ft. Collins behind and move to Wildernest. The move came after living in their renovated RV, driven by AJ's desire to immerse himself in the mountainous landscapes he loves so much. "I was tired of living in Ft. Collins and not being able to get to the mountains on the weekends," he explains.

Traveling is another of AJ's great passions. With a remarkable travel resume that includes over 30 countries across 5 continents, he finds joy in exploring new cultures and landscapes. "My favorite place by far has been Japan. The people there are so welcoming, the food is amazing, and it's easy to get around. I would live there if I could." His travel bucket list is ever-growing, with Peru and the iconic Machu Picchu next in his sights.

AJ is a lifelong learner, always eager to acquire new skills and knowledge. Recently, he has taken up learning Spanish, embracing the challenge with enthusiasm. His commitment to personal growth and exploration fuels his dynamic lifestyle.

Now, AJ is excited to be part of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), where he can channel his energy and passion into making a tangible difference in the community by providing valuable energy resources. His adventurous spirit, love for learning, and dedication to community service make him a valuable asset to NWCCOG and an inspiring figure in his community."

Say hi to AJ and get to know him more! awiseley@nwccog.org.

Vintage's Caregiver Conference



CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

June 25, 2024
10am-3pm
Sun Outdoors, Granby

FREE



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Compassionately helping
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Conference Speakers



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www.tinyurl.com/2024ClearTheClutter

For more information:
970-531-4087 or cpeterson@nwccog.org



Join us in person at Sun Outdoors Rocky Mountains for engaging, informative sessions full of decluttering tips for you and your loved ones, and free lunch!

Professional Organizers, Diane and Jonda, will present on topics like:

- How to live with someone living in a full or hoarded home
- Living and staying safe in a full home
- How to help someone be safe in their home
- How to stay safe if you're the one helping and what precautions you should take
- How to reduce the contents of the home
- Downsizing in-place and moving to a facility
- Slowly reduce the accumulation of things
- Providing options for the removal of excess
- Language & the power of words: how to communicate with someone living in a full home

A boxed lunch is free for those who register.

Register here!

The conference is open to all caregivers, professionals who work with older adults and caregivers or anyone who is interested in helping individuals clear their clutter.

NWCCOG Women Making a Difference in Local Government

In the rugged expanse of Northwest Colorado, where the Rocky Mountains cast long shadows over verdant valleys and swift rivers carve their paths through the land, a quiet revolution is taking place. Here, amid the scenic beauty and the challenges of rural life, a dynamic group of women is transforming local governance with resilience, innovation, and an unyielding commitment to their communities. These are the women of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG), a formidable collective dedicated to shaping the future of their towns and counties with foresight and tenacity.



In a region where the spirit of the Old West still lingers, these women are breaking new ground alongside some of their counterparts. Silverthorne's Town Council are majority women, including their mayor. Summit County's Board of County Commissioners are majority women, and the Town of Breckenridge just swore in its first female mayor. The majority of the Town of Silt's Planning and Zoning Commission are also women. These faces are the architects of change, navigating the complexities of public service with a blend of compassion and pragmatism. Their stories are woven with the threads of perseverance and progress, each chapter a testament to their unrelenting dedication to the people they serve.

Read the full profiles on Rachel, Jonnah, Dana, and Becky at our [website!](#)

COG Quirks

Once a year, tens of thousands of people gather in Nevada's Black Rock Desert to create Black Rock City, a temporary metropolis otherwise known as Burning Man, that is dedicated to community, art, self-expression, and self-reliance. In this crucible of creativity, all are welcome. Moira, our Office Manager at NWCCOG, is one of those die hard attendees and will be returning in 2024 for her 13th year in a row!

Want to see more photos of Burning Man? (we promise they're PG) Connect with Moira! mvandermeer@nwccog.org.



Upcoming Board Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024: Full Council, EDD Board

Location: Zoom Conference Call, On-Site Location Silverthorne - Lunch provided

Time: Council 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., EDD Board 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Primary Agenda Items: approve March meeting minutes, approve List of Bills,

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