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Mountain Water Works Loan



Landscape & Irrigation by Mountain Water Works

The most recent Eagle County business to take advantage of the Northwest Loan Fund is Mountain Water Works. Shawn Colby had an opportunity to buy a 15-year-old landscape and irrigation company when the original owner decided to retire and move away. Both the retiring seller and Shawn wanted the same thing - to have the current clients well cared for.

The time-frame for purchase was tight, and Shawn found that conventional loans required significant lead time, documentation, and collateral. His experience led him to believe that he might not be able to take advantage of this opportunity if he needed to rely on getting a loan through conventional means.

He contacted Anita Cameron, Director of Business Lending at the Northwest Loan Fund, and she saw how this business opportunity was a good fit for Shawn's experience and saw the same opportunities as Shawn. With Anita's guidance, Shawn was able to purchase a sizable, financially stable business, with a client base that will ultimately grow from the current four employees to a total of six. He feels it is

important that it's able to grow, but also remain small enough to control the quality of the services provided.

Shawn remarked, "Anita would look at the future opportunities - she could see the possibilities -- and it really helped that the NLF was able to make decisions based on what really makes sense. It felt like they were 'partners' in the process."

When Shawn was investigating conventional lending he felt it was a daunting task. "But with the NLF," he said, "Anita was looking at the whole picture, and she worked hard to get it done in spite of the constraints we were under. She worked to find a way."

The closing process went smoothly and now all can rest assured that the current clients of Mountain Water Works are in good hands.

To learn more about the Northwest Loan Fund, [contact Anita](#).

Board Member Spotlight Jeff Shroll

Jeff Shroll, Gypsum Town Manager, has been active on the NWCCOG Executive Board for more than 21 years - acting as Vice Chair for about half that time!

Along with the duties you'd normally expect from being Vice-Chair, Jeff also works to bring a different perspective to the organization. As one of the few non-elected officials on the NWCCOG Board, he feels an affinity for the staff members at NWCCOG and hopes that he can help represent them on some issues.

"I like to hopefully be an asset to Liz's role as Executive Director and repay NWCCOG for her service to the Region and the Town of Gypsum." Jeff goes on to say, he hopes he can also "assist the great NWCCOG staff address some of the issues that arise at the staff level."

When asked what he enjoys most about working with the NWCCOG, he replied, "I have always been a great supporter of NWCCOG as I believe strongly in regional cooperation. There are so many issues that are bigger than just one jurisdiction. NWCCOG can also be a great networking opportunity to hear from other agencies that have already successfully addressed issues my own community may be facing."

He thinks people might be surprised to learn the breadth and depth of what NWCCOG is responsible for. When he's out and about Jeff tells people that NWCCOG handles everything from, "protecting our water resources, to inspecting elevators in the region, to promoting broadband services, to assisting in providing better services for seniors in our region, and more. It is an amazing thing to be able to communicate."

Jeff's a Colorado native from Grand Junction. He has a Political Science degree from Western Colorado University and an MPA from CU-Denver. In 1993, he was selected from a very wide field of applicants to be the Town Manager in Gypsum. He's also the Head Track & Field coach at Eagle Valley High School and Assistant Cross Country Coach. It's his 18th season working with the youth and he truly enjoys his role. He also loves skiing, hunting, fly-fishing and hiking. He's only six peaks away from 'bagging' all the 14teeners in Colorado!



Staff Member Spotlight Laurie Patterson - RTCC Mobility Assistant



*Receiving Employee Excellent Award
Presented by Summit Rotary*

Having recently celebrated her one year anniversary with NWCCOG, Laurie Patterson - Mobility Assistant for the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council, has been a very busy woman.

She was responsible for helping to create, implement, and staff the Mountain Ride Transportation and Resource Center, and she assists with arranging Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) for qualified residents of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt and Summit Counties.

She thinks the best thing about working at the NWCCOG is all the fabulous people she gets to work with. "My co-workers are a fun and friendly group that are committed to making a difference in the mountain communities we serve. It's a pleasure to work in that environment."

Laurie is especially proud of the extremely large impact the NWCCOG has on the community from such a relatively small group of people. "Our mountain communities benefit from The A;pineArea Agency on Aging serving seniors in the community; our Network of Care team providing information and referrals; the Connect for Health Colorado team assisting with insurance coverage; the Weatherization team assisting to provide safe, energy efficient home improvements; the Office of Economic Development helping bring new businesses to the mountains; the Northwest Loan Fund providing assistance with capital to help businesses to grow, the Broadband team expanding internet access, and the Elevator Inspection team providing safe elevators. All this with about 25 people. It's truly amazing!"

As the daughter of a military officer, Laurie lived in many places growing up. She was introduced to Colorado in 1973 and knew this was where she would eventually put down roots. She currently lives in the quiet community of Fairplay with her daughter where she enjoys doing activities that soothe and expand her spirit. She loves to draw and paint, cook, and spend time in the beautiful mountains. She loves sharing meditation using Tibetan Singing Bowls with friends as she facilitates weekly sessions.

In closing, Laurie says, "Most of all I enjoy my family and the blessed life that I have."

Grants & Assistance Reminders

If you're looking for funding for special projects such as broadband expansion, technical assistance, a mini-grant to help older adults, or information on Property Tax Credits (PTC) don't miss the following announcements:

Broadband Access/Expansion

The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is expanding its initiative to help bolster Colorado communities' access to broadband. We all know affordable broadband access opens up an abundance of opportunities ranging from community and economic development to enhanced health care delivery and distance learning.



DOLA is committed to directing \$20 million in Energy Impact Assistance funds toward this important effort. To learn more about this program, please [click here](#) or contact your [DOLA Regional Manager](#).

NWCCOG Technical Assistance Grant Program - Second Cycle

Deadline is noon Monday, March 16, 2015.

NWCCOG is soliciting proposals for technical assistance projects from its membership. A total of \$18,500 is available to fund 2015 technical assistance projects for **NWCCOG members only**.



Funding is provided by the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program.

For more information and an application form [click here](#).

Mini-Grant Program For Programs Serving Older Adults Interests

This is a reminder that the Region 12 Regional Advisory Council Mini Grant application deadline is **May 9, 2015, 5:00 p.m. MST**. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and awards made on that same basis until the funds have been fully awarded or until the application deadline.



The purpose of the mini-grant program is to help facilitate up-front funding of innovative ideas that will serve older adult interests in local communities. It can also provide small financial awards to support professional development opportunities, to assist in emergency situations affecting aging service delivery, and other relevant aging activities in the five-county Region 12 service area.

[Click Here for additional information.](#)

Property Tax/ Rent/ Heat Credit (PTC) Rebate

Many Coloradans may be eligible for the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Credit rebate, also known as the "PTC" rebate, which is available every year. If you (or someone you know) are a full-year Colorado resident, 65 years of age or older, or a surviving spouse 58 years of age or older, OR disabled, regardless of age -- you may qualify for the PTC rebate. The actual rebate total is based on the applicant's income and expenses.



What are the eligibility requirements?

The income eligibility threshold levels for the 2015 Colorado PTC rebate are:

- For a single person: annual income less than \$ 12,720
- For a married couple: annual income less than \$ 17,146

Eligible applicants can receive a rebate of up to \$600 of their property tax paid and \$192 of their heating expenses paid during the year, either directly or as part of their rent payments.

Applicants can apply by completing the Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate Application Form 104PTC.

To claim a PTC rebate, you must also meet **all** five of the following eligibility requirements each time you apply:

- You (either husband or wife) are 65 or older by December 31, 2015, or are a surviving spouse at least 58 years old, or were disabled for the entire year, regardless of age.
- You resided in Colorado during the entire year.
- You are lawfully present in the United States.
- You are not claimed as a dependent on any other person's federal income tax return.

- You must have paid property tax, rent and/or heating expenses.

If you, or someone you know could potentially qualify for this rebate, [please click here for additional information.](#)

Steve Getz Appointed to National Committee



We are proud to announce the appointment of Energy Management Director, Steve Getz, to the national Single Family Standards Technical Committee of the Building Performance Institute (BPI). Steve, a long-time resident of Summit County, has been a NWCCOG employee for 26 years, and has been involved in the energy efficiency/renewable energy field for 35 years.

He was chosen from a nationwide search in late 2014 for one of 20 positions on the Standards Technical Committee (STC). The STC is composed of industry experts, and is responsible for the scope, development, approval, revision,

maintenance, and official interpretations of BPI Standards. The STC is also responsible for addressing public comments.

NWCCOG Board Chair Karn Stiegelmeier, a Summit County Commissioner, said "NWCCOG's member counties and municipalities are very serious about energy efficiency. The energy-efficiency interests of our region will be well-represented by Steve. He has provided many years of loyal service to NWCCOG, and his appointment to the Technical Committee recognizes his prominence and national stature in the Home Energy Performance industry."

Jeffrey Ackermann, Director of the Colorado Energy Office, says, "Steve Getz's appointment to this committee will add great value to the residential energy retrofit industry as a whole and to Colorado specifically. Having known Steve and his work in the weatherization field for more than 30 years, I know he offers both a depth of technical expertise and breadth of in-the-field experience that will serve the committee well."

The Building Performance Institute is a nationwide organization that develops standards for energy efficiency retrofit work. BPI develops professional certifications for individuals, company-wide credentials for BPI GoldStar Contractors, home energy rating systems, and quality assurance services that help raise the bar in home energy performance contracting.

Once again, we're proud of Steve and his continued commitment to our local, and now, national communities.

Special Thanks To Our Neighbors - "Way to Grow"

Recently our parking lot at NWCCOG needed to be plowed to remove the buildup of snow and ice. We were challenged to find weekend storage for our Weatherization, Elevator Inspection and motor pool vehicles - which we knew was no small task.

Enter our good neighbors "Way to Grow" who generously invited us to temporarily use their parking lot during the plowing. It was a HUGE help and we are VERY grateful.



No. Not really our lot, but you get the idea!

27th Annual Senior Awards Ceremony



2014 Awards Winners

We're already planning the 27th Annual Senior Awards Ceremony, which will take place at the Summit County Community and Senior Center on May 20, 2015.

This year we will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act and Medicare.

Each county will choose their own Senior of the Year and Friend of the Seniors. Anyone is invited to submit a nomination for the Regional Senior of the Year and Regional Friend of the Seniors award. [Regional award nomination form.](#)

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 20, 2015 - Summit County Community and Senior Center
Watch for additional information!

Workplace Wellness Award



If you've been reading our newsletter lately, you know we have instituted many workplace wellness programs, engaging our entire staff to be more aware of safety and health in our workplace and at home.

Colorado Health Links recently recognized the NWCCOG with a Healthy Business - Certified Leaders award.

This award is given to organizations that demonstrate evidence-based benchmarks for multi-component health and safety programs that reach all employees and their families.

We believe that by focusing on workplace wellness, we attract and retain great employees - which in turn gives us a competitive advantage.

The Colorado Health Links award includes the commendation that the NWCCOG is a "champion for work-site health and safety in our

industry and community."

The certification takes into consideration workplace health and safety policies and programs that have been implemented in an effective and sustainable way, as well as drive behavior for improvement. It was based on performance in six key benchmark areas:

1. Leadership commitment
2. Employee involvement
3. Health & Wellness (programs and policies)
4. Safety (programs and policies)
5. Employee engagement - incentives and communication
6. Program evaluation

When you've got your Workplace Wellness plans working, we encourage you to apply for certification as well. [Check it out here!](#)

2015 NWCCOG Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Full Council Meeting

Location: Town Hall - Minturn

Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Full Council & EDD Board Meeting

Location: Gypsum Town Hall

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

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Full Council Meeting
Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Full Council & EDD Board Annual Planning Meeting
Location: Garden Level Classroom, Eagle County Administration Building, Eagle
(tentative)
Time: 10:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Full Council & Foundation Board Meeting
Location: NWCCOG Office/Conference Call
Time: 10:00a.m.-noon

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

www.nwccog.org

970.468.0295

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