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Spotlight John Bade Regional Advisory Committee - Chair



John Bade has served as the Chairperson of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Alpine Area Agency on Aging (AAAA), a program within the NWCCOG, for 6 years. A volunteer at heart, John heard about the AAAA while he was serving on the Golden Eagle Nutrition Site Council and decided he wanted to become involved with an organization that had a regional reach. He joined the RAC as an advisor in 2009 and became chairperson in 2010, a role he relishes.

The RAC was formed in 1980 to act as the primary advisory and advocacy group for the AAAA. It is made up of volunteers with expertise and interest in aging matters from all counties served by the NWCCOG. They meet six times each year and the meetings are open to the public.

Originally from Elmhurst, Illinois, John and his family began visiting Colorado and Eagle County in 1975. He's been a permanent resident of the area since 2002 and enjoys spending time with his children and their families.

When asked what he likes best about being involved with the RAC, the AAAA, and NWCCOG, he replied, "They do so many things that significantly impact the communities they serve, all across the region. In addition to the RAC, they also have the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resources for Colorado), a volunteer program, the RTCC (Regional Transportation Coordinating Council). They deal with transportation issues, health insurance questions, Medicare services, and they provide an Ombudsman program, and material aid for dental and visual checkups. They have a caregiver program and help for the homebound." He adds, "I probably missed some things."

Since he retired for the fifth and, he says, final time in 2007, he reflects back that he doesn't know how he ever found time to work with all the volunteer activities with which he's involved. In addition to the RAC and the Golden Eagle Nutrition Site Council, he's also formed a Parkinson's disease support group that helps those, like him, in the community learn to live with the challenges of Parkinson's. And of course, he still enjoys fishing.

Spotlight Chris Vasquez Elevator Inspector

Having most recently been a Master's Electrician working for the State of Colorado, it should come as no surprise that Chris Vasquez just passed demanding certification testing as a Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI) from NAESA (National Association of Elevator Safety Authorities.) Individuals who hold this designation have gone through a rigorous background check and examination process to prove their qualifications. During the first year of Chris' employment with NWCCOG, he was gaining real world experience along with taking classes and workshops that enabled him to pass the certification.



The job of an elevator inspector is to ensure the maintenance, integrity, and safety of all conveyances including elevators, escalators, dumb-waiters, lifts, conveyor belts, etc. One of the most interesting inspections in which Chris has taken part, was the inspection of the Roberts Tunnel and hoist-way elevator. As many know, the Roberts Tunnel carries water from Lake Dillon under the Continental Divide to be used by Denver Water. From time to time, the tunnel and hoist-way elevator need to be inspected. To reach the tunnel one must use the hoist-way elevator which is under water most of the time. To complete the inspection both the elevator shaft and tunnel must be completely drained of all water. Once that has been accomplished, the inspectors take on the claustrophobic task of examination of the elevator and the very deep, dark, long, cold, winding tunnel. Not a task for the faint of heart.

Born in Albuquerque, Chris grew up in Denver. He moved to Summit County in May of 2015, when he started working with the Elevator Inspection Program at NWCCOG. The best thing about working for this organization is the people. Chris says, "I enjoy working with this great group of people, who have the same focus on giving back to the community. I also like the responsibility of maintaining public safety. It's important work. Quiet, but important."

In his off hours, Chris likes to make beer and smoke meats of all kinds. He especially likes to make his own bacon. He also enjoys shooting firearms at the range, skiing, and riding both road and mountain bikes. He enjoys helping people so is always on the lookout for opportunities to volunteer.

Employee Appreciation Day

The entire NWCCOG employee team along with contractors took a day to catch up on the each other's accomplishments for the year. In the fast-paced, diverse organization that is the NWCCOG, there are some employees who rarely see each other. Off-set shifts, remote work locations, and upstairs/downstairs - sometimes the paths just don't often cross. A big part of the meeting held June 30th, was all about celebrating successes and reconnecting with each other.

Part of the meeting was also dedicated to training, and bringing everyone up to speed on benefits changes and updates. The Summit Community and Senior Center served a delicious lunch and the team got back to work -- of course!

The hard-working NWCCOG team



Community Assessment Survey

Coming Soon - **Due Now**

Last month we talked about sending out The Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA™) a strategic evaluation tool that seeks input from adults 60 and older to gather information about their community experiences. Data from the survey will be used 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.

If you, or someone you know received a survey, please urge them to return it immediately if they have not already done so. Only with their input will we be able to make the best decisions.

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.

Know Anyone Turning 65 Soon?

Chances are you might know someone who is nearing the magic age where Medicare kicks in. If so, you may have heard just how difficult it is to wade through the information and options that will ultimately make healthcare more simple - but getting there is the tough part. And speaking of parts... there's Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D. Then there are the medi-gap (also called Medicare Supplemental) plans F, G, K, and L (and a few more, I think.) Oh, and don't forget the "doughnut hole". YIKES!

It's enough to make an MBA swoon.

The good news is that the NWCCOG has a coordinator on staff who helps people understand their options. This position is part of the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Our volunteer-based SHIP program provides non-biased FREE assistance for Medicare beneficiaries with their plan comparison, plan enrollment, billing issues, appeals, and more.

We also work to help Medicare beneficiaries prevent Medicare fraud and identify and report Medicare fraud. In fact, the Senior Medical Patrol (SMP) is the program that fights Medicare fraud.

We're lucky to have T.J. Dufresne as the SHIP/SMP Coordinator, and she can help you or a loved one successfully navigate the confusing Medicare waters -- and get all those parts and plans figured out. She can be reached at tjdufresne@nwccog.org or 970-468-0295 x 120.



[New Senior Living Community to Open in Eagle](#)



Castle Peak Senior Care Community, located in the town of Eagle on Capital and Sylvan Lake Road is scheduled to open in the fall of 2016.

In 2010, the Eagle County Board of Commissioners gathered interested community members from across the region to discuss a project that would provide a range of services to address the needs of older adults. It was obvious that as residents aged, they still had the desire to remain in

their home town. There was a strong need to build a community where people could have choices in assisted living and get the health and personal care they needed. Thus was born Castle Peak Senior Care Community.

A partnership was formed with Augustana Care, a nonprofit organization well-skilled in providing the guidance and leadership to bring just the right solution to Eagle County. Augustana Care's mission is to foster fullness of life for older adults and others in need, helping residents live the lives that most inspire them. They have vast experience providing services to approximately 11,500 people throughout the United States.

The new Castle Peak Senior Care Community is a \$25 million dollar project funded in part by the United States Department of Agricultural Rural programs initiative, Eagle County, the municipalities of Avon, Gypsum, and Eagle, and individual donations. They still have a shortfall of about \$85,000 and if you have an interest in becoming involved or learning more about how to help, [visit the website here](#).

The new life-enrichment community will be offering the following living options

- 20 assisted living rental apartments - with the conveniences, services, and health and personal care needed to maintain the highest level of independence.
- 12 memory care private suites - specially-designed for those with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia or memory loss.
- 10 short-term rehabilitation private suites - skilled nursing bridge after illness or hospitalization, giving the patient time and therapy to regain his or her best health and return home.
- 22 skilled nursing private rooms - care offers a compassionate environment for those with chronic or medically-complex needs, and for hospice care.

To find out more about contact Matt Scherr who is Castle Peak's marketing director. He helps older adults and their families who need guidance when searching for living options that best fit their needs.

You can find Matt in Castle Peak's Welcome Center at 1180 Capitol Street, Unit 101, Eagle Ranch Village in Eagle-just across the road from the site that will soon be the Castle Peak Senior Care Community. Matt will be at the Welcome Center until Castle Peak opens in 2016. He can be reached at mscherr@augustanacare.org or 970-989-2500.

2016 NWCCOG COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Full Council Meeting

Location: Walden, Mountain Parks Electric, Meeting Room, 600 3rd Street, Walden

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

Primary Agenda Items: 2015 Audit, Approval of 2017 dues

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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970.468.0295

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN NWCCOG!