



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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AOG Staff Welcomes Bryan Thiriot as the Executive Director



Bryan Thiriot was appointed as the Executive Director of Five County Association of Governments on May 01, 2013. Bryan is a native of St. George, and graduated with an Associate of

Arts degree from Dixie College. He then transferred to Weber State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors majoring in Political Science with a minor in Communications. At Weber State, Bryan was elected and served in student government his senior year. Bryan continued his education at the University of Utah where he earned a Master's of Public Administration graduate degree. His research project focused on the then proposed annexation of Wendover, Utah into West Wendover, Nevada; or "Line Dancing: Municipal Unification Across State Borders." This research was presented to the Western Political Science Association in Oregon, and in Chicago, Illinois.

Professionally, Bryan has over 15 years of experience working in the congressional arena. He worked for Senators' Orrin G. Hatch and Robert F. Bennett spending time in Washington D.C. on Capitol Hill, and in the Northern and Southern regions of Utah.

Bryan is married to Kathy Bischoff of Ogden, Utah, and they have three children. "I look forward to serving in this position with a great team and in the area of southern Utah that I call home; and working with everyone involved with the Five County Association of Governments," Thiriot said.

The staff is excited to welcome Bryan in his new role!

Five County Area Agency on Aging Events

Training and education are a large part of the services offered by the Five County Area Agency on Aging. Throughout the year, staff strives to meet the needs of the community and support the local senior centers and support groups.

This past spring the Area Agency on Aging hosted two successful events. In April, the "Live Life in Full Color" conference was held to assist the companies and their staff who contract to provide services for the Five County seniors through in-home services programs. Topics of discussion included Aging programs, the role of case managers, and how to best utilize the skills of the professional staff in meeting the needs of the frail elderly and disabled. Part of the conference focused on taking care of the caregivers.



Canyon View High School Men's Volume Choir Performing at the Area Agency on Aging Annual Seniors' Conference

The second event was the annual seniors' conference, "Be An Incredible Senior", held in Cedar City on May 3, 2013. The 144 seniors in attendance enjoyed the keynote speaker Dr. Eric Maxwell of the Advanced Hearing and Balance Specialists. Three breakout sessions were provided on various topics. A special thanks to Connie Lloyd of the Iron County Senior Citizens for the wonderful meal and for 11 years of service on the committee. The Iron County business community supported the conference by donating door prizes for local services and events.

Mark your calendar! We are already planning next year's conference for May 2, 2014.

Ken Sizemore Retirement Celebration



Friends, family and associates recently met at an open house honoring retiring Executive Director, Kenneth L. Sizemore. Ken was selected to serve as Executive Director after the 2006 retirement of former Executive Director, John S. Williams, who also was in attendance. Prior to his appointment, Ken served since 1986 as Deputy Director and Director of Community & Economic Development. The open house was held in the afternoon of May 23rd at the Santa Clara City Town Hall. Co-“Masters of Ceremony” for the presentation portion of the event were recent retirees Bob Rasmussen, former Chief Financial Officer and Beth Cottam, former Area Agency on Aging Director/Human Services Director. Poignant written comments about Ken, provided by his children, were read aloud by Bob, who also made some remarks. He was followed by Beth, who as she commonly did to lighten meetings when employed here, provided a humorous element to the celebration.

Program Specialist, Doni Pack, presented Ken with several desk accessories, including a 3-hole punch and scissors, that Ken had used throughout his 27 years here, faux “gilded” in “gold”. Current CFO, Scott Leavitt, presented Ken with a Samsung tablet as a retirement gift



from the staff and Association. Deputy Director and current Director of Community & Economic Development, Gary Zabriskie, presented Ken with a plaque, wherein the lengthy inscription chronicles many of the significant accomplishments during Ken’s career. A duplicate plaque is displayed in the lobby of the Association’s Tonaquint Center office.

A slide show was projected throughout the open house providing a fitting time-line of changes, both through clothing styles and hair lengths. Common throughout the slides was the emphasis on family. Live music and singing was provided throughout the open house by talented members of Ken’s family that were in attendance.

We wish Ken the best of everything in his retirement.

Five County Launches Travel Training Program



Individual with special needs receiving travel instructions

The Five County AOG Transportation Planning Organization, in cooperation with the volunteer center, SunTran, and local human service agencies is launching a travel training program. The purpose of the program is to instruct seniors and people with

disabilities how to utilize the local bus system to travel confidently and independently. Levi Roberts, community planner and mobility manager for the AOG, will administer the program, working with the Washington County Volunteer Center to recruit and manage volunteer trainers.

Travel training was identified in the Dixie Coordinated Implementation Tool, which aims to coordinate efforts of several human service and transportation providers in the Region. In addition to increasing the mobility of people in the community, the program also has significant fiscal benefits to the transit system. Providing a ride on para-transit, which is door-to-door service, for people with a disability that prevents them from riding the conventional fixed-route bus, is very expensive compared to the fixed-route service. For example, a trip on a fixed-route SunTran bus costs \$2.55 to provide, while a para-transit trip costs \$47.85. If individuals feel sufficiently confident to ride fixed-route buses, this could result in a savings of over \$45 per trip to SunTran. Riding the fixed route bus also offers riders flexibility with travel, as they do not have to call ahead for a ride, but can simply walk to the bus stop at specified times to make a trip.

As part of the program, volunteers will conduct one-on-one training with “trainees” on how to navigate the bus system. This personal atmosphere will allow volunteers to cater to the individual’s needs, setting and achieving goals to travel independently. Travel training methods have been integrated in school settings and this program will help expand the program to meet the needs of other individuals in the community.

Levi Roberts is working with SunTran, TURN Community Services, and other local human service agencies to recruit trainees for the program that will be connected to the volunteer travel trainers. The initial training for the travel trainers is set to take place at the Five County Association of Governments building on June 20th at 2:00 p.m.

If you would like to know more about this program, please contact Levi Roberts at 435-673-3548 or lroberts@fivecounty.utah.gov.

Minersville Library Expansion Project

The Minersville Library has been an asset to the community for many years. The facility has grown from a small one room library in their Town Hall to a building next door that has been expanded with a beautiful new addition. Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant program, which is funneled through the State of Utah Housing and Community Development Division.



Newly expanded Minersville Library

The library was running out of room and the Town was unable to expand their book collection and other services offered to residents of the community. The original

building was approximately 1,786 square feet before construction of the new addition which added another 1,600 square feet of space. The library now totals 3,386 square feet. The new addition will allow the community to expand their stack area an additional 896 square feet.

The 704 square foot multi-purpose room will be used for the Summer Reading Program. Prior to completion of this expansion, the Summer Reading Program was held in other places to be able to fit all the youth that participate. It is also hoped that the multi-purpose room will benefit the community by providing a place to hold meetings, clubs, training events, and much more.



Minersville Library with New Expansion

Many patrons have come to see the new building and are very impressed and excited for it. A Grand Opening Celebration was held on May 30th which included a

ribbon cutting ceremony. Minersville Town is very grateful to have been given this opportunity to expand their library and will enjoy it for many years to come.

Cedar City Housing Authority Completes Mountain View Suites II Project



Mountain View Suites II Project

The Cedar City Housing Authority is proud and excited to have completed their most recent project, Mountain View Suites II, a 20- one bedroom apartment complex for elderly and disabled persons. Completion of this newest project means that those waiting sometimes years for a one bedroom subsidized apartment can at last be housed.

The Mountain View Suites II project was made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. The CDBG program funds are funneled through the Utah Department of Workforce Services, Housing and Community Development Division to the Five County Association of Governments.

A key factor in building units to house elderly and disabled persons is securing long term rental assistance allowing all tenants to pay only 30% of their adjusted income for monthly rental costs. Another important factor is location. Many applicants/clients do not have access or transportation. With a location on 100 East in Cedar, many services are within walking distance and the facility is only blocks away from several CATS stops.

The ribbon cutting for Mountain View Suites II has been scheduled for June 14th at 3:00 p.m. Please come see the new facility at 334 South 100 East, Cedar City, Utah.

In other news, the Cedar City Housing Authority would like to welcome their newest employee. Whitney Mosdell joined the housing authority's small team on May 1. Although originally from North Carolina, Whitney has made her home in Cedar City with her husband, Travis Mosdell, and two young sons, Kline and Quinn. Whitney will be the new leasing specialist, meeting with applicants and clients to determine eligibility as well as performing annual recertifications. She will assume a lead role in managing their nearly 100 low-income units.

FY 2013 CDBG FUNDS ALLOCATED

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is funneled through the state of Utah, Department of Workforce Services, Housing and Community Development Division. The Five County AOG received a total of \$700,403 for allocation to projects throughout the region. CDBG funds are typically utilized to leverage funding from various other state and federal agencies.

The Five County AOG approved FY 2013 funding for the following projects: **1) Five County Association of Governments, \$90,000--** To provide program administration, update the Region's Consolidated Plan, housing and economic development program delivery, and housing planning; **2) Washington City on behalf of Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation, \$150,000--** Transitional housing project rehabilitation; **3) Milford City on behalf of Beaver City Housing Authority, \$150,000--** LMI housing acquisition in Milford; **4) Panguitch City, \$150,000--** Acquisition of new fire truck; and **5) Cedar City on behalf of Cedar City Housing Authority, \$160,403--** Multi-year project to acquire property acquisition for LMI housing.

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail dlamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550.

For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://fivecounty.utah.gov>

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