

Tri Valley

Developmental Services

*Tri-Valley Developmental Services
is a nonprofit agency that blends
the best values from its past with a
progressive spirit toward its future.
From its incorporation in 1975
as a center supporting programs
for both children and adults with
developmental disabilities,
TVDS has grown to meet today's challenges.*

Administration Offices

521 W. 35 CH Pkwy. - Chanute, KS - 620-431-7401

Chanute Service Center

3602 Johnson Drive - Chanute, KS - 620-431-1088

Ft. Scott Service Center

4305 Campbell - Ft. Scott, KS - 620-223-3990

TVDS is a great place to work.



CW Tribune May School Talk



General Public Transportation
24-Hour Advance
Arrangements Necessary -
First Come, First Serve
Call 620-431-7401
between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm

Routes available from
Yates Center to Iola and
Humboldt to Iola

This project funded in part by
the KDOT Public
Transportation Program.

*Iola Register
6/3/21
pg A3*

Apartments for Rent

(First published in the Parsons Sun
on June 15, 2021)

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance to K.S.A. 72-6214
and K.S.A. 1999 Supp. 72-963,
Tri-County Special Education Inter-
local #607 is informing those indi-
viduals and/or their legal guardians
of its intent to destroy non-essential
student records for those individu-
als who participated in Tri-County

Special Notices

Tri-Valley Board
meets on June 24th
at 6:00 p.m. at
521 W. 35 CH Pkwy,
Chanute, KS.

The Newpaper

*CW Tribune
6/22/21*

Long line at county budget meeting

GREG LOWER
greg@chanute.com

ERIE – Neosho County Commissioners received budget requests from department heads and outside agencies most of the day Tuesday.

The commission began its meeting Tuesday morning and heard from the appraiser, health department, treasurer, register of deeds, maintenance director, county clerk, district court, and county attorney. They then heard from Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center, Soil Conservation District, Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging, SEK Mental Health, **Tri-Valley Developmental Services**, SEK-CAP, SEK Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Neosho County Fair Board, district coroner, Chanute Regional Development Authority, and the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum, Erie Museum and Osage Mission Museum.

Several department requests are close to what was requested for 2021. Presenters reported on progress during the past year and how the COVID-19 pan-

County: Continued from Page 1

He said Judge Daryl Ahlquist's court is back to in-person hearings. Preliminary hearings and the traffic docket are back to in-person court, but the criminal docket is a hybrid of in-person and Zoom meetings.

His \$415,144 budget includes 3.5 percent for raises. He said other county attorney offices have seen a lot of staff changes over the past year.

The juvenile detention center is requesting \$97,587 from Neosho County.

Treasurer Sydney Ball requested the same amount as last year. Her total budget is \$249,108, but after reimbursement from motor vehicle fees it comes to \$128,708 from the commission.

Commissioner Nic Galemore asked if the office will reopen its Chanute satellite office, and Ball said they are looking at options.

Maintenance Director David Burnett, who took over less than a year ago, said he has no changes to his budget, but he is waiting to see what a full year of expenses is like.

County Clerk Heather Elsworth presented budgets for her office, for elections and for the payroll and human resources department. She requests \$128,963 for her office and \$154,000 for elections, the same as last year, and \$81,200 for HR.

Cynthia Lane with the SEK Area Agency on Aging

spoke by teleconference, but representatives of the Neosho County Area Agency on Aging did not show.

SEK AAA requested \$12,533 last year and also received pandemic funds for meals. Lane said they are not seeing any decrease in demand. The Meals on Wheels program provided up to seven meals per week per individual and \$35 senior vouchers to use at the Chanute farmers market.

Dr. Doug Wright with SEK Mental Health said July is typically the highest time for crisis calls to the agency, and they expect a spike in suicides related to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and to unemployment peaks. Galemore said he has seen more mental health issues and homelessness in Chanute over the past four to five years.

Lenore Roland with the Erie Museum showed a book of newspaper clippings and said the museum desperately needs a new computer and printer.

Commissioner Paul Westhoff said Roland was his fifth-grade teacher who made him write the multiplication tables when he talked in class, and that her husband was a dentist who had pulled his tooth.

"You've been very painful in my life," he said.

Fair Board president Kathy Braze presented expenses for 2020-21. She said a dinner and auction had been the fair's primary fundraiser, but last year an online auction went well. The fairground has completed the new Neosho Valley Event Center, with a commercial kitchen and space for up to 300 people to rent for events.

Tri-Valley Developmental Services in Chanute now serves eight counties after taking over a Tri-Valley service in Wilson, Elk, Chautauqua and Woodson counties. Representative Bill Fiscus is requesting \$65,000, compared to \$65,000 from Woodson County, \$55,000 from Allen and \$10,000 from other counties.

Conrad Froehlich said the Safari Museum requested \$50,000 from the city of Chanute and half that amount from the county.

The county previously made a one-time payment from the Neosho Ridge Wind project's Payment In Lieu of Taxes.

Froehlich said attendance was 1,800 in 2020, about a third of normal, but during this month will surpass last year's total.

The pandemic also hit SEK-CAP hard. The agency that provides transportation assistance had three to four rides a day before the pan-

demic. It is requesting \$14,876.

Matt Godinez presented budget requests for CRDA and the SEK Regional Planning Commission. CRDA is requesting \$20,000, the same as last year.

Godinez said he would like to get a county representative on the CRDA board, and wants to get the message out that it is a countywide organization.

Attorney David Brake and Chief Financial Officer Katie Tinsley presented the hospital's budget, which has a different cycle than the county.

Tinsley said the figures are based on revenue for the first five months of this year and added 3 percent for salary and wages.

She projects a revenue increase of 14 percent and an expense increase of 12 percent. Brake said if sales-tax trends continue, there will be some revenue to retain for future expenses.

The Neosho Memorial Park Cemetery budget request had a slight increase, and Ken Kraxberger asked if the cemetery's circle drive could be resealed.

Deputy Coroner Rick Brock said the coroner's office has had 139 cases this year. He is requesting the same level of funding as last year, which included a \$5,000 increase.

CH Tribune 6/23/21

CH Tribune

Fort Scott Biz



BOURBON COUNTY, BUSINESS, FORT SCOTT

BARB MCCORD RETIRES FROM TRI-VALLEY

JUNE 25, 2021 | LORETTA GEORGE | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Barbara McCord, 68, retired on May 14 from Tri-Valley Developmental Services as its' horticulture therapist after 17 years.

Tri-Valley staff work with an adult population that has intellectual disabilities.

McCord developed the horticulture therapy program for Tri-Valley.

She received her bachelor of science degree in horticultural therapy at K-State in 1975.

After graduating, she worked at Melwood Farm, Maryland, for several years, she said. They worked with people with intellectual disabilities to improve their social, work, physical, and mental skills by being involved in the daily activities in a greenhouse setting.

She then worked in her family's business, the Fort Scott Greenhouse for 40 years. When the family sold the business she knew she wanted to return to horticulture therapy.

Her dream job would become a reality in 2004 when Tri-Valley wanted to develop a horticulture therapy program, she said.

"We didn't have a pot, a bag of soil, or any plant materials to start the program – really nothing at all that was related to the plant world," she said. "Funds were raised through grants and the generosity of our community to provide a state-of-the-art experience for our clients."

Her biggest challenge was to design and fund a greenhouse in 2007, she said.

"With the support of the community and the 24/7 backing of my husband, David, we were able to establish the greenhouse and plant the seed for the current horticultural therapy program," she said.

A 2,100 sq. ft. greenhouse and a patio area with raised bed gardens were created and made accessible to the clients. and also an in-ground flower and vegetable garden.

Cooking, art, and educational classes were developed through the years.

"This opened up many new opportunities for our clients," she said.

McCord said people often misunderstand people with disabilities.

“It became my mission to establish a program that would move us towards a more inclusive environment,” she said.

“Horticulture became the perfect bridge between our agency and Fort Scott,” she said. “People opened up their arms when we first started.”

They offered plant materials and supplies, supported the bi-annual Gardener’s Christmas Auction, civic groups purchased plants to use for fundraisers, provided plants for the city hanging baskets and gardens, the Fort Scott High School construction class helped build the greenhouse as well as wholesale to local retailers.

“This gave our clients a chance to become an integral part of the town,” she said. “Our community has been such a vital part in establishing our program; I cannot say thank you enough.”

“I will miss the conversations, smiles, and friendships that I have had with the clients and staff at Tri-Valley,” she said. “Many strong relationships were formed while working with the clients and I will always have a deep respect for their accomplishments and positive attitudes.”

Austin Bolinger Replaces McCord

Since last fall, McCord has mentored Austin Bolinger to take her position at Tri-Valley.

“I feel extremely fortunate to be able to hand over such a successful program and to watch Austin make it into a bigger and better program,” she said.

Community Involvement Will Keep Her Busy

McCord is involved with a local PEO chapter, co-president of the Bourbon County Garden Club, plays in the Lola Symphony, and volunteers with Special Olympics.

“My garden will now come first, along with music, as well as creative outlets like needlepoint, watercolor, building garden sculptures, etc., these will be a few items that I will enjoy filling my time with.”

Having worked her entire life, retirement is going to be an adjustment, she said, but she and her husband David are planning to travel.

“Spending time with nieces/nephews and their families will also become a priority,” she said. “I would like to continue to add color and beauty to our community through the world of plants.”

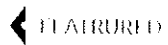
“Don’t be surprised if you see me kneeling in a flower bed somewhere around town,” she said.

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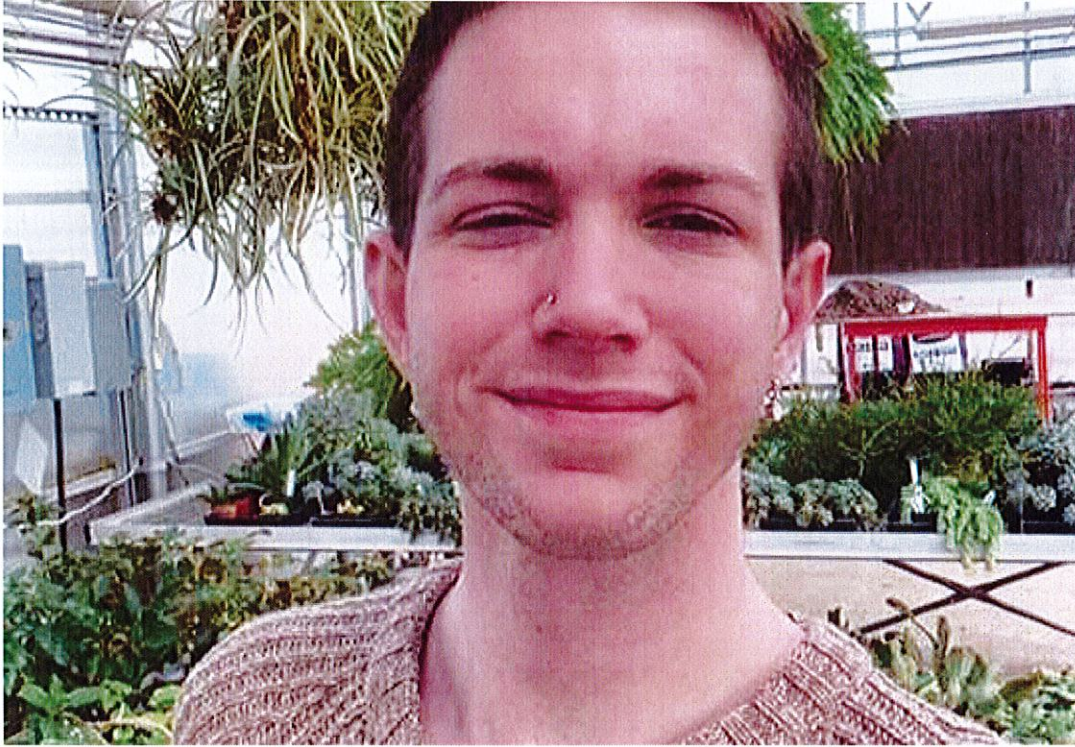


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Fort Scott Biz



BUSINESS, FORT SCOTT

NEW TRI-VALLEY HORTICULTURE SPECIALIST: AUSTIN BOLINGER

JUNE 30, 2021 | LORETTA GEORGE | [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Austin Bolinger. Submitted photo.

Austin Bolinger, 22, is the new horticulture specialist at Tri-Valley Developmental Services, replacing Barb McCord, who retired May 14.

Bolinger is a 2017 Fort Scott High School graduate.

"I started working in the floral industry five years ago, and while working in that industry I began collecting plants and learning as much as I could about them," Bolinger said. "I also worked alongside Barbara McCord for six months. During this time she taught me so much valuable information about what it means to be a horticulturist."

McCord was the person who developed the horticulture therapy program at Tri-Valley and mentored Bolinger prior to her departure.

"I chose to pursue this career because it was something that interested me, seemed like a good cause," he said. "I was trying to figure out which direction my life was headed when I saw that Barbara was retiring. I knew that I wanted a career that also gave back to the community, and would be something that I enjoyed. I feel like I found that here at Tri-Valley."

"The best part of my job is definitely those who I work with," Bolinger said. "Being able to work with the clients in the horticulture program gives me such joy to share my passion for plants with others who enjoy it as much as I do."

"With the Bourbon County Fair coming up, the clients will be entering an array of items that they have been working on," Bolinger said. "We are also experimenting with adding some new houseplants into the greenhouse, which is very exciting. We feel like everyone should have some nature in their home!"

"I was born and raised in Fort Scott," Bolinger said. "I live with my partner, Estevan, and our two dogs, Amira and Reese."

He is a member of the Fort Scott Garden Club.

About Tri-Valley

Tri-Valley Developmental Services helps people with conditions that include autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other physical and mental impairments, according to its' website

<http://www.tvds.org/getting-started>.

These conditions can result in severe chronic limitations such as:

- Self-care
- Learning and adapting
- Living independently
- Understanding and using language
- Mobility
- Economic self-sufficiency
- Self-direction in setting and accomplishing goals

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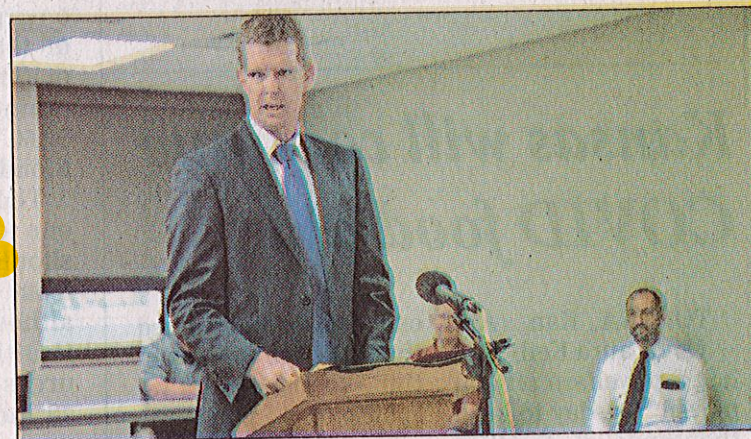
B005
TRI-VALLEY DEVELOPMENTAL SVCS 11
PO BOX 518
CHANUTE KS 66720-0518

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

By TREVOR HOAG
The Iola Register

Fiscus said his budget had remained static over the past

See COUNTY | Page A5



Nathan Fawson, director of the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center, talks with Allen County commissioners about budget requests for his agency in the upcoming year. REGISTER/TREVOR HOAG.

front of the building put up Monday,

Commissioners discuss budgets

By Nick Reynolds

The Allen County Commissioners met Tuesday, June 29, at 8:30 a.m., in the assembly room of the Allen County Courthouse.

Commission chairman Bruce Symes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners motioned for 30 minutes of executive session for attorney-client privilege, to include commissioners, Terry Call, and Chuck Apt.

No action was taken when the open meeting resumed. Chairman Symes opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

Commissioners met with Bill Fiscus, with Tri-Valley Developmental Services, for their annual budget request.

Fiscus began his presentation by informing commissioners that they would need to reappoint a member to the Tri-Valley board.

The requested amount was \$70,000, the same amount requested at last year's meeting.

Fiscus informed commissioners that they have 23 staff members working in Allen County, and serve 76 people within the county.

Commissioner Lee asked if this was the same amount other counties pay in. Fiscus said that it was not, Allen County's contribution was larger due to having more clients.

Commissioners met with Cindy Lane with the Area Agency on Aging. Lane told commissioners that Allen County was one of nine counties the agency serves.

Lane stated that the agency provides seven meals a week through Meals on Wheels, and that they saw a massive spike in need for meals during the pandemic.

The agency also provides other services to the elderly residents of the counties it serves, from meals, to legal services, to help with Medicare.

The agency also provides money to elderly residents to

spend at the local farmer's market.

Lane's request was for \$1 per meal handed out. She stated that the county usually gives the agency \$2,000 a year.

Commissioners then met with county appraiser Jami Clark. Clark reported that her budget was increased about 4.7% over last year, with most of the increases being for employee services.

Some of the increase was also to cover some new equipment purchases in the next year, such as replacing the copier in the appraiser's office.

Clark also briefly discussed the possibility of moving mailouts to again be done in the appraiser's office, instead of contracted out.

Clark believes her office to have the equipment and staff to handle it, and felt it could be a cheaper option, but needed to be studied more closely to know.

Commissioner then met with Nathan Fawson, director for the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center, for their annual budget request.

Fawson's request was for \$156,660. Fawson also informed commissioners that

the mental health center was awarded a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center grant.

This will change how the center renders its services, as well as how those services get funded.

The grant will allow the mental health center to increase and broaden the services it offers, with special attention paid to the elderly, and those under the age of five.

The center will be hiring on ten advanced practitioners as well as enhancing the training for existing therapists to better target those underserved groups.

The Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center is one of six mental health centers awarded this grant, with the eventual goal that all 26 across the state being certified.

Fawson also informed commissioners that the state Medicaid director was reformulating how the center's services would be funded.

Fawson noted that about 75% of all their revenue was Medicaid related, and that the rates they received had not increased since 2004.

Commissioners then met

with Krista Harding, Southwind Extension District. Harding presented commissioners with an updated memorandum of understanding associated with their new building.

Commissioners spoke with public works director Mitch Garner. Garner reported that they had received over nine inches of rain over the previous days, and his crews have been busy trying to keep roads repaired.

Garner also informed commissioners that one of the boom mowers was down, and would be about \$10,000 to be fixed, as part of normal wear and tear.

Garner reported that dust control had again been pushed back due to the heavy rainfall, and he would have more information next week.

Garner informed commissioners that inspections had been done on the county's above ground fuel tanks at the landfill and shop, and stated that one of the tanks needed to be replaced, estimating it to be over 40 years old.

Commissioner David Lee asked Garner for an update on the rock crusher. Garner said that it should be delivered back

(See COUNTY, Page 2)

7/1/21
Humboldt Union