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Montgomery & Warren  
Counties in  
East-Central Missouri

BRPC Bulletin

June-July 2021

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111 Steinhagen  
PO Box 429  
Warrenton, MO 63383  
Phone: 636.456.3473  
Fax: 636.456.2329  
www.boonslick.org

## Warren County Handicapped Services Facility Nears Completion



A new home for Warren County Handicapped Services (WCHS) is getting closer to becoming a reality. Work is progressing and the new facility should be completed and move-in ready in the first few weeks of July 2021.

WCHS is a not-for-profit organization which provides a variety of services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Limited space made it a challenge to provide these services and educational activities in the most effective way; and kept some people who desired to attend the organization's Day Program on a waiting list.

Having outgrown its location, WCHS searched for another building in the area, but was unable to find something that would meet the needs of the clientele. The decision was made to construct a new facility and the organization was able to purchase property located on State Highway 47 and the southern edge of the City of Warrenton.

Boonslick Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) worked with Warren County to submit a grant application through the Community Development Block Grant program. In December 2019, WCHS was awarded grant funds in the amount of \$500,000.

Grant funds were used for the construction of an approximately 5,000 sq. ft. ADA accessible facility. The building will allow for space to provide a variety of programs for clients, potential for expansion, much needed office and meeting space, and adequate parking.

Because grant funds did not cover the total cost of the project, WCHS is raising money in various ways. Missouri based business owners can receive a 70% tax credit with their donation to the building campaign. Individuals/businesses can also purchase an engraved brick or bench which will be displayed in the WCHS Donor Recognition Plaza & Garden.

Congratulations to Warren County Handicapped Services! The new facility will improve the organization's ability to deliver the important services they provide for residents in the region.



## Director's Update

Summertime and in-person events are back! We are excited about the upcoming county fair season and the opportunity to safely get back out to local community events. Several towns including Wright City, Moscow Mills, Warrenton, and Jonesburg have had successful events in the past month and more are on the way. We hope that everyone takes time to enjoy all that the Boonslick (aka BRPC) region has to offer with local events, festivals, fairs, and gatherings.

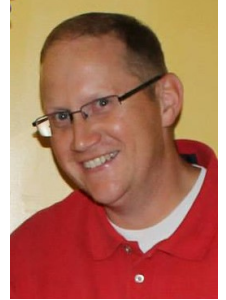
As for Boonslick staff, we have been working on planning projects including Hazard Mitigation plans for Warren and Lincoln counties, Montgomery County Master Plan update, and comprehensive plans in Winfield, Elsberry, and Pendleton. These plans allow communities and local districts to be part of a process that also allows them to be eligible for grant funding. Two recent examples are the new Safe Room in Truesdale, Warning Sirens in Moscow Mills, and a generator in Middletown.

Another emphasis area in the region is **workforce development and training**. Boonslick staff have been involved in the new **Ranken Technical College** under construction in Lincoln County. This partnership with Lincoln County R-III School District, the County, Ranken, and the planning commission has been a model that is being replicated in other parts of the state. Also, workforce staff members at the Job Center have been assisting individuals and employers with job fairs, employer visits, hiring events, and contacts with educational institutions on work experiences for students. **Please contact Janet at the Job Center with any questions** or if you want us to come out to your community.

Financing is available with our EDA Revolving Loan Funds and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for COVID-19 and Long Term Recovery categories.

New grant projects on the horizon are a new website for our regional initiative **Missouri River Country**, Homeland Security funding, **MO Rides** projects, and **Watershed Planning** for the Cuivre River as well as regular programs of GIS mapping, transportation planning, economic development, solid waste management, community development, wastewater projects, grant writing, and capital improvement planning. As a reminder, we have a speed trailer and traffic counters for use in the community too! If you have need of any of these services, then please contact us.

In late July, we will send out the annual membership dues invoices. These funds support the planning and technical assistance that we provide to you, our members. This investment allows Boonslick to provide staff to support project development and to leverage much needed state and federal funding.



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## Upcoming BRPC General Membership Meeting on June 28



*Brandon Alexander*

Boonslick Regional Planning Commission will hold its general membership meeting on Monday, June 28, 2021. In an effort to provide more space for people attending, the meeting will be held at First State Community Bank, 1022 State Highway 47, Warrenton, Missouri.

We are very pleased that Brandon Alexander, Chief of Staff for the Missouri State Treasurer, will be joining us as a guest presenter. Mr. Alexander will be providing information about the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This plan will deliver \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and bring back jobs.

American Rescue Plan Funds for state and local governments will provide flexibility for governments to meet local needs including necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Bring your questions to this forum. Mr. Alexander will provide a "how to" guide regarding this funding package, including how to submit reports. We look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

## BRPC Bids Farewell to Long-time Employee JoAnn Toerper



*JoAnn Toerper, BRPC  
Business Outreach Coordinator*

BRPC Business Outreach Coordinator JoAnn Toerper has made the decision to retire. Her last day with the organization will be June 30.

JoAnn joined the BRPC team in June of 2004 to work with the Youth program delivered through the Missouri Job Center. New to this type of position, JoAnn set about to learn everything she could and was soon knowledgeable about every aspect of the program. Most importantly, she demonstrated a passion for helping customers address barriers they faced, reach personal and professional goals, and achieve success.

When an opening as the job center program administrator came about in late 2006, JoAnn was the obvious choice to fill the role. Again, she demonstrated her strong work ethic and immersed herself in learning about all workforce programs and keeping up with ever-changing rules, issuances, guidelines, and requirements.

The next several years proved to be extremely busy in the job center. BRPC began delivering the Community Assistance Program and hired several more staff members to help individuals find employment. A recession which began in 2007 brought in many individuals who were seeking assistance. Unemployment rates rose and the job center in Warrenton became a reporting location, filled with customers and the ringing of phones. Through these busy times, JoAnn worked tirelessly and served as a role model for fellow employees in providing excellent customer service. When CertainTeed Corporation came to the region, she set up hiring events to help the company meet staffing needs.

In 2016, more changes came about for JoAnn's tenure at BRPC. She was asked if she would be interested in working with some of the local government programs and decided to do so. This challenged her to once again commit to learning whole new sets of information. As Business Outreach Coordinator, she worked with the EDA Revolving Loan Fund to help finance local businesses, put together Community Development Block Grant applications for member communities, assisted in the administration of awarded grants, and was the lead in delivering the On-Site Septic Loan/Grant program.

JoAnn was instrumental in spearheading the efforts of BRPC's member counties to achieve designation as Certified Work Ready Communities. She brought together leaders from local government, education, and the business community to provide information; and helped each entity go through the steps required to achieve certification by the Missouri Department of Economic Development. It is no doubt that her recognition of the importance of this designation, along with her personal desire to help each county achieve it, were invaluable to this positive outcome in the region.

Over the past 17 years, I have had the privilege and honor to work at BRPC with so many community-minded individuals and have learned a great deal. This includes employees within the three county area, Workforce Development staff and board members, chamber of commerce boards/members, as well as local, county and state elected officials. All of these individuals were working towards the betterment of our local communities. I am thankful for the many opportunities I have experienced working on different projects, grants, business/community projects, and with job seekers working to improve the livelihood of themselves and their families. It has been an enriching experience for which I am forever grateful. —JoAnn Toerper

Those who have had the pleasure of working with JoAnn know first hand the value she brought to Boonslick Regional Planning Commission and the communities it serves. In short—she cares. She always wanted each customer to be served, each question to be answered, each problem to be resolved, and each success to be celebrated. BRPC has been fortunate to have had JoAnn as an employee for the past 17 years and she will be missed. Our appreciation goes to her for all she has contributed, along with our sincere wishes for a future filled with much happiness.

**BRPC Staff****Chad Eggen**

Executive Director  
ceggen@boonslick.org

**Chuck Eichmeyer**

Project Coordinator  
chucke@boonslick.org

**Jane Cale**

Office Manager  
janecale@boonslick.org

**JoAnn Toerper**

Business Outreach Coord.  
jtoerper@boonslick.org

**Krishna Kunapareddy**

Planner  
krishna@boonslick.org

**Tim Churchill**

Planner  
tchurchill@boonslick.org

**Kim Meyer**

Fiscal Officer  
kmeyer@boonslick.org

**Angela Scott**

Mobility Coordinator  
ascott@boonslick.org

**Christine Zika**

Economic Dev. Specialist  
czika@boonslick.org

**Hattie Portell**

Economic Recovery Specialist  
hportell@boonslick.org

**Janet Hickey**

Workforce Development Dir.  
jhickey@boonslick.org

**Cindy Schwada**

Workforce Specialist  
cschwada@boonslick.org

**Debbie Haverkamp**

Workforce Specialist  
dhaverkamp@boonslick.org

**Julie Prouhet**

Workforce Specialist  
jprouhet@boonslick.org

**Matt Niswonger**

Recycling Center Manager  
recycle@boonslick.org

**Pre-Apprenticeship Program to Help Both Local Employers & Job Seekers**

The Northeast Missouri Workforce Development Board wrote a grant which resulted in funding for a Pre-Apprenticeship program. This program will help both employers and job seekers. It will be paired with Registered Apprenticeships and other WIOA opportunities with goals of increasing the talent pipeline and leading to sustainable employment.

Pre-apprenticeship programs train, screen, and coach applicants so that those who get hired into the apprenticeship program become productive employees more quickly than those sourced through traditional recruitment methods. They are also more likely to stay with the company for the long term because they have a good understanding of company culture and expectations from the outset. Participants will attend a 2 week training through St. Charles Community College (either in person or virtually) which will include safety training. They then receive on-the-job training with the employer.



Two Registered Apprenticeships in the area to which job seekers in the Pre-Apprenticeship program can be referred include Landesign in Moscow Mills and the Northeast

Community Action Corporation (NECAC). Landesign would like to hire approximately 40 people immediately, and NECAC is going to hire around 40 people for weatherization jobs.

The role of Missouri Job Center-Warrenton is to market the Pre-Apprenticeship program and to refer individuals who are interested. In addition, the job center will be able to pay for supportive services for eligible participants through the WIOA program.



Staff hosted a hiring event on June 4 at St. Stephens Church in Troy, Missouri. More events will be coming. If you are interested in additional information, please contact the Job Center by calling (636) 456-9467.

**Calendar of Events - Contact us for More Information****June**

- 14 Warren County Municipal Team meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Community Agency Partnership meeting (virtual), 9:30 a.m.
- 17 BRPC Executive Board work session/meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 21 N.E. Missouri Workforce Development Board meeting (Virtual), 1:00 p.m.
- 28 BRPC General Membership meeting, First State Community Bank, 12:00 p.m.

**July**

- 5 BRPC closed in observance of Independence Day
- 13 Montgomery County Master Plan meeting, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 20 Montgomery County Job Fair, VFW Post 4436, Montgomery City, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 21 Community Agency Partnership meeting (virtual), 9:30 a.m.
- 22 City of Warrenton Career Fair, Annex Building, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.