Read all about 45 year driver Sandy Nolan on page 3.
Can you Take Peter & Lynne’s Challenge?

Peter Schauer was a big part of forming and molding OATS Transit in the early days. He was the general manager for the company from 1973 to 1979. Even though he left the company many years ago, he continues to advocate for OATS Transit and stays involved with the transit industry. You will not find anyone more passionate about OATS Transit than Peter Schauer! Peter and his wife Lynne have taken on the challenge of raising the local match for one new bus for OATS Transit and asking you to be involved too!

The Schauer family is asking for your help. 80% of the funds to buy a bus comes from federal grants, and the remaining 20% comes from local dollars. That means we need $13,000 in local funds just to buy one new bus.

Peter and Lynne are donating $5,000 of that, but he needs your help for the remaining $8,000. If 160 employees (past or present), riders, families, agencies or interested parties donated just $50 that would mean we can buy one new bus. Will you help by making a donation to buy this bus? You can donate on our website with a credit card at: https://www.oatstransit.org/donate, call our office at 888-875-6287, or email Jill at jstedem@oatstransit.org for details.

Pictured above: Peter Schauer, Mokhtee Ahmad FTA Regon 7 Administrator; Dorothy Yeager OATS Transit Executive Director & Lynne Schauer.

Pictured left: Grace Schauer in 1974. Grace is Peter & Lynne’s daughter who loved seeing the OATS buses and spending time with her dad at work.
Sandy Nolan of High Ridge Missouri is OATS Transit’s longest tenured employee spanning 45 of OATS Transit’s 50 years in business. She started in 1976 in the Bridgeton office just as OATS turned five years old.

Over the decades she has worked in many different positions in both the office and driving, plus she has worked for both the Bridgeton office and the Festus office. According to Sandy, “I remember sitting on the office floor separating the appointment slips into driver schedules in the early days.” She added “We have grown considerably since then and I feel fortunate to have grown with the company.”

Sandy has had many titles including driver, coordinator, dispatcher, maintenance coordinator, tour escort, data entry, and then back to driver, which she said “has always been my favorite.” In 1990, Sandy was honored with the Driver of the Year Award from the (CTAA) Community Transportation Association of America. CTAA is a national organization of transit professionals based out of Washington DC and made up for members from all over the nation.

Currently she is a driver for the Jefferson County operations, which includes JC Transit, JeffCo Express and OATS Transit. “Sandy has committed the last 45 years helping our riders arrive to their destinations safely” said Operations Manager Kevin Porter. “I can always count on Sandy in any role I ask of her. She has been a great asset to us and I am extremely grateful for her many years of service,” added Porter.

“I have met and learned from a variety of wonderful people both on and off the bus,” said Nolan. From helping riders with the basics of going to the doctor or getting groceries, to working with the hospitals and other organizations, and most recently driving the JeffCo Express bus, Sandy has been involved with just about every role at OATS Transit. “I feel lucky to have a job that I’m happy to do even after 45 years,” added Nolan.

“Companies dream of hiring employees like Sandy, said Regional Director Michael Burbank. “Employees like her make the organization what it is today. My words can never be enough to praise Sandy’s actions and commitment; the work and talent she brings to the table always exceed my expectations and you set the bar high for the rest of us,” added Burbank.

Sandy has touched so many people’s lives in the 45 years she has been at OATS Transit and we hope to have her here for many years to come. Thank you Sandy for providing safe, caring and reliable transportation service.
Longtime Riders are the key to OATS Transit's Success!

Below are just a handful of the amazing and wonderful long-time riders that OATS Transit has had the honor of transporting over the last 50 years. We love hearing stories from our riders and their families!

**Shane Smith**

Shane Smith of St. Joseph has been riding the OATS Transit bus for more than 30 years. He goes everyday to United Cerebral Palsy of NW Missouri in St. Joseph. Shane likes his drivers Mike Groce and Terry Harter because “they are very nice!” In his spare time he likes to run around, play the guitar, and plays Santa’s Helper during the Christmas season.

**Susan Steeby**

Susan Steeby of St. Joseph has been riding the OATS Transit bus for more than 30 years. She goes everyday to United Cerebral Palsy of NW Missouri in St. Joseph. She likes riding the bus because she loves her drivers!

**Cleo Crosby**

Cleo Crosby of Noel has been riding with OATS Transit since 1987. She first got involved with riding the bus when caring for a rider named Kate, whom she took care of. For many years Cleo rode five days per week either to go shopping or to the senior center. She was a former OATS volunteer and served on other boards in her town. Cleo said the OATS bus was very important to her for the companionship and visiting with fellow riders.

**David Muench**

David Muench of Jefferson City has been riding the OATS bus for many years. Before moving to Jefferson City he also rode the bus in Hannibal MO. He uses the OATS bus many times each week for shopping at Walmart and HyVee, going to the doctor, or going to the YMCA. He loves visiting with the drivers and in fact one of his favorite memories is when he forgot something on the bus and his driver Dean went out of his way to bring the items back to him. David said “My drivers are all very kind to me and go out of their way to help.” His future plan is to also use the bus service to go to Columbia as well. David’s hobbies are singing southern gospel music and he loves to fish and hunt.

"The drivers and staff are all fantastic, and I appreciate all they do for me. I don’t know what I would do without OATS Transit. You are great people to work with. I appreciate how clean everyone keeps the buses during COVID. I love you all!" Norma Nations from Lee’s Summit
Nodaway County Riders

These awesome Nodaway County riders have been riding for many years together. Pictured are back row Jenevieve Talbott, Susanne Clark and Luella Dorman; front Jo Ann Russell. Jenevieve has been riding the OATS bus the longest, for more than 25 years now. She also served as an OATS volunteer when Nodaway County still had an active committee doing fundraisers. They are known as the farm ladies from Graham MO and all of them love to garden. They use the OATS bus to do their weekly shopping in Maryville. Their driver describes them as one of the kindest, sweetest groups of ladies and loves driving for them each week.

Ricky Perron

From the family of Ricky Perron: “It’s easy to overlook all the services that went into giving Ricky as much independence as possible. OATS drivers cared for Ricky and made it possible for him to get to and from work safely for so many years. Thank You OATS! And, as Ricky told his drivers every day, “Drive Carefully”.

Ricky went to Valley Industries Sheltered Workshop in St. Louis for 47 years and rode the OATS bus many of those years. Sadly, Ricky passed away in March 2021.

Arolene Crowe

Arolene Crowe is an amazing 101 years young! She lives in Chillicothe, and has ridden the OATS bus for many decades. She still makes her daily trips to the Senior Center in Chillicothe, where she participates in the exercise class and has lunch with her friends. Arolene recalls one trip to Kansas City on the OATS bus to attend a dinner theatre more than 30 years ago. The bus had an engine fire near Utica so the riders had to get off and wait in a nearby barn for another bus to come pick them up. They never did make it to the show that night, but they had a great story to share! Arolene loves working on the Joy Toys program and helping families in her community.
OATS Transit is pleased and grateful to be the recipient of numerous donations given by Missouri businesses and foundations over the past few months.

- **Community Foundation Serving West Central IL & NE MO** - $7,500 toward a new Lewis County vehicle.
- **National Interstate Insurance Co.** - $1,000 toward providing rides to Missourians.
- **Three Rivers Helping Hands Foundation** - $4,000 toward Cole & Gasconade counties & Eldon MO operations.
- **Veterans United Foundation** - $10,000 to provide free rides to Mid-Missouri veterans.

To find out how you can support public transportation in your local community, call OATS Transit Development staff at 573-443-4516, or email jstedem@oatstransit.org. Your support is important so we can continue being there for individuals who need rides to medical appointments, work and so much more!

In September, the Veterans United Foundation donated $10,000 to OATS Transit to provide rides to veterans for medical appointments and other needs. Employees presenting the check included (l to r) Michelle Benke, Brooke Berstein, Liz Harris, Lois Kay, Piper Brinnall, Brooke Frisby, Dion Knipp from OATS Transit, Luke Akers, Carolyn Flock, Jerome Larkins, and Erik Morse.

Caesars Entertainment / Caesars Foundation staff presented a check this summer to OATS Transit Cooper County operations to provide rides in Boonville MO. Pictured (l to r) are: Andrea Boggs, Kathryn Schuster, Dion Knipp (OATS), Jon Morten- Caesars Philanthropy Chair, Jill Stedem (OATS), Stephanie Chandler and Garett Richards.
Employee Anniversaries

The employees listed below celebrated an anniversary July - September 2021. Thank you to each of these employees for your hard work and dedication to OATS Transit!

**45 years:**
Sandy Nolan - Mideast Region Driver

**30 years:**
Carolyn Toney - Northwest Region Driver

**20 years:**
Rose Endsley - Midwest Operations Coord.

**15 years:**
Robert Richards - Mideast Region Driver
Clindy Hudson - Southwest Region Driver
Bill Windsor - Midwest Region Driver
Roger Walsh - Northwest Region Driver
Lee Bowers - Mideast Region Driver

**10 years:**
Alta Speak - Northeast Region Driver
David Lewis - Northeast Region Driver
Jeff Russell - Mideast Region Driver
Ron Harrison - H.O. Accounting Supervisor
Debbie Smiles - Southwest Region Driver
Kristi Rodden - MidMO Region Driver
John Portner - Mideast Region Driver

Congratulations to all!

Please note, the federal mask mandate on public buses has been extended through January 18, 2022. That means masks are required on all OATS Transit buses. Thank you for your cooperation!

Paying your bus fare is easy!

**Credit/Debit Cards**

Make payments by credit/debit card as often as you’d like by calling the OATS Transit office. A minimum of $10.00 must be paid before scheduled trip. The amount will be entered into your account and applied each time you ride when a fare is required.

1-888-875-6287 | www.oatstransit.org
Follow us at facebook.com/oatstransit
**Holiday Reminder:** OATS Transit will be closed and regular routes will not be running on Thursday and Friday, November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as Friday, December 24th due to Christmas Day.

Enjoy time with your friends and family!