

OCCK Inc. Spotlight

81 Connection Passes Now Available

Monthly passes, punch cards and tickets are now available for purchase for the new fixed route bus service from Belleville to Salina, 81 Connection, for use by passengers .

Additional fare options are available for frequent riders. A six trip ticket strip (6 tickets worth \$1.00 each) will be available for \$5.00. A punch card with 24 punches worth \$1.00 each can be purchased for \$20.00. A monthly pass for unlimited rides during the current month can be purchased for \$50.00.

Locations to purchase these options include OCCK Transportation, 340 N. Santa Fe, and OCCK, Inc., 1710 W. Schilling, both in Salina; Ottawa County Transportation at 817 Argyle, Minneapolis; and the Concordia Senior Center at 109 W. 7th, Concordia. At this time, drivers will not be able to sell these additional fare options.

The Salina locations will take cash, checks or credit and debit cards. The Minneapolis and Concordia locations will only take cash or checks.

Starting January 2, 2018, regular fares will apply. Basically one-way fares are \$1.00 from town to town. A trip from Belleville to Salina will cost \$4.00. Passengers will be able to pay a one time fare in cash each time they ride.

Passengers will pay the exact fare to the fare box on the bus. The driver will not make change.

A Salina CityGo bus pass is included in the

Salina fare.

The 81 Connection bus service has three bi-directional trips each day, Monday through Friday. The first route starts in Belleville at 6:45 a.m., then heads south on Highway 81 to three stops in Concordia, a stop at the Highway 24/Highway 81 junction, a stop in Minneapolis and stops at 7th and Walnut and Wal-Mart in Salina and then heads back to north to the same stops. The bus runs this loop twice and finishes in Belleville around 5:40 p.m. each day.

New Buses Purchased

OCCK, Inc. Transportation is excited to announce the addition of two brand new vehicles for the 81 Connection fixed route from Belleville to Salina.

With the support of the Kansas Department of Transportation, OCCK Transportation has received two 2017 EIDorado Advantage Ford F450 cutaway buses that will be used exclusively for the 81 Connection routes.

“Replacing our older fleet is key to keeping our service efficient and more comfortable for our riders,” said Michelle Griffin, Mobility Manager for north central Kansas. “These new buses have more

comfortable seats, with less overall rattling and highway noise to have a better interstate ride. We are excited to get these vehicles on the road.”

For more information about OCCK, Inc., visit www.occk.com. For more information about CityGo and OCCK Transportation, visit www.salinacitygo.com. For more information about 81 Connection, visit www.ksrides.org. Or, contact the OCCK Transportation Center at [785-826-1583](tel:785-826-1583).



KS Rides Website Provides Statewide Information about Public Transportation

There's a new website in town. Kansas Rides, which can be found online at www.ksrides.org, was created to support the efforts of public transportation agencies across the state to provide more information to current and prospective customers about service options.

Transit services across rural Kansas are provided by a multitude of local providers. It is necessary to have a unifying theme or identity for all public transit services to increase coordination and public awareness. Kansas Rides was developed as just that. Transportation resources representing about 80 counties are listed on the website. Counties will continue to be added as information becomes available.

"We're very pleased with the new website and trust the public will be to," said Michelle Griffin, Mobility Manager for north central Kansas. "We hope it provides users with a positive and informative channel through which they can learn more about public transit in Kansas and how we can help them improve their public transportation experience."

The idea behind this new resource is to provide a one-stop shop for people needing to know about public

transportation services in their area. On the website, you can do the following:

Get help finding a ride - organized by county

Sign up for news and updates

Learn about regional transportation options

Find social media links

Learn about possible employment opportunities

Meet regional Mobility Managers

This website does not take the place of local transportation websites, but just adds to the information that can be accessed by people across the state.

For more information about Kansas Rides, visit www.ksrides.org.



Bulletin Board and Bench added at Walmart

OCCK, Inc. Transportation is pleased to announce the addition of a bulletin board and bench at the CityGo and 81 Connection stop at the Salina Walmart, 2900 S. 9th.

The bulletin board has the CityGo brochure with both the full Salina map and the time table for all 5 routes. It also has the full 81 Connection brochure that lists the time table and stops for the 3 routes that run each day Monday through Friday. The only other stop in Salina with a bulletin board is 7th and Walnut.

Walmart is the 2nd largest transfer point in Salina. The Red, Yellow and Purple routes all meet here. Walmart is also a stop for 81 Connection.

Adding this new resource provides an opportunity for more people to access and use CityGo and 81 Connection by making route information more accessible.

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Shelia Nelson-Stout, *President/CEO*
Jan Pfannenstiel, *Editor*

A community partner
strengthening the quality of life
and independence of persons
with disabilities since 1970

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Give a gift and make it **greater** at... Match Madness 2018

This one-day event is designed to generate new gifts to our endowed fund at Greater Salina Community Foundation (GSCF) for long-term support, as well as current gifts to help us meet immediate needs— It's a win-win!

Come by Salina Fieldhouse from 7 a.m.– 7 p.m. on March 15 and “fill out a bracket” to donate to us and other favorite charities, or make an online donation at www.gscf.org from 12:00 a.m.– 11:59 p.m. Every new endowed donation* will receive a cash match! Donations will be matched proportionally up to 50%.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Donations from out of town may mail their donations to OCCK, Inc. at P.O. Box 1160, Salina, KS 67402-1160 and we will hand deliver your donation for you. Please make check out to GSCF.

More Info...

- **At least \$75,000 match pool available!**
- ***Free Throw Contest minute-to-win-it - Come cheer on Andre Favors who is shooting free throws for our organization at 8:30 a.m.***
- ***Stopping by over lunch? Food Trucks will be on site for your convenience.***
- ***Stop by our booth in the fieldhouse lobby***
- **Go to www.gscf.org for more information.**

**maximum of \$2,000 per charity per donor*

What is Eye Gaze Technology?

It is an electronic device that allows a person to control a computer or tablet by looking at words or commands on a video screen. A very low intensity light shines into one of the user's eyes. A television camera picks up reflections from the cornea and retina. As the direction of the person's gaze moves, the relative position of the two reflections changes, and the computer uses this information to determine the area at which the person is looking. The computer then executes the selected command.

This technology is used for people who cannot control a computer or a tablet by standard methods such as a keyboard or a mouse. The staff at the Solution Outreach Center at OCCK, Inc. have used this technology with people as young as 9 months to senior citizens. Our customers are using it for communication, educational programs, email, Facebook, reading a book, exploring the Internet and turning on their TV. Currently we have the PCEye Mini, and myGaze Eye Tracker. Information on these two devices is below, other companies also have eye gaze technology.

If you would like more information on this technology or would like to request a demonstration, please call the Solution Outreach Center at OCCK, Inc. 785-827-9383 or 1-800-526-9731 or your nearest Assistive Technology Access Site 1-800-526-3648.

PCEye Mini



The PCEye Mini replaces the standard keyboard and mouse, allowing you to navigate and control your laptop or small screen desktop computer using only your eyes.

<https://www.tobiidynavox.com>



myGaze Eye Tracker

With simple USB connection to your device, myGaze Eye Tracker provides accurate eye tracking and cursor control. An elegant but robust solution for all individuals, whether learning early eye gaze skills or accessing all areas of the computer.

<https://enablemart.com/mygaze-eye-tracker>

Workforce Solutions Expanding Temporary Assistance for Needy Family Services

Earlier this month, Shanna Sowers, Workforce Solutions Director, was contacted by Erma Wolfe, Employment Services Provider Manager for Department for Children & Families (DCF); she was asked if Workforce Solutions would consider expanding coverage in Barton County with their TANF agreement. After careful consideration, we agreed and are now meeting clients in Great Bend to provide Job Club and assist individuals with gaining employment. DCF has previously asked Workforce Solutions to expand coverage to Clay, Pawnee and Geary counties and stated they are very happy with the quality of service OCCK has provided.



Congratulations to our 2017 Driver Safety Awardees

OCCK Transportation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2017 Driver Safety Recognition Awards.

The OCCK Transportation Division Safe Driver Recognition and Award Program is designed to distinguish and honor OCCK Transportation drivers who have proven their skill in avoiding accidents and consistently perform their jobs in a safe and efficient manner. Recipients exemplify professional driver standards and a commitment to safety.

One Year Awards went to John Greenwood, Tawnie Heard, Trudy Morton, Michael Nicholson and Stanley Oaks. Two Year Awards went to William Arehart, Paula Downie, Terrell Green, Shelley Hanchett, Ricky Levin, Stephanie Mayer and Kenny Waldman.

Jaimie Wintholz received a Three Year Award. Those receiving Four Year Awards were Debbie Dragoo, Richard Holmgren and Susan McMahan. Jason

Tieking received his Five Year Award.

Rena Bishop, Joseph Dickinson, Timothy Dickinson, Chris Ducharme and Daniele Whitaker received Six Year Awards. Two drivers received Seven Year Awards: Larry Holmgren and Paula Stark.

This program was created as authorized by the National Safety Council (NSC) Safe Driver Program. The NSC Safe Driver Awards are the recognized trademark of professional drivers who have proven their skills in avoiding accidents. They are the highest honor for professional safe driving performance. This program recognizes the number of years each eligible driver has worked without incident.

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Year 2 begins for End-Dependence Contract

Now in year two of the five-year End-Dependence Kansas (EDK) contract awarded by Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS), OCCK continues securing community-integrated work experiences and job placements for individuals with disabilities. The progressive employment model we have implemented enables us to prioritize the employer's needs as well as the individual's.

Under this contract KRS pays the individual's wages, liability, and worker's comp insurance during short-term internships customized with the business. This allows both the employer and the individual to see if the employment match will be successful before any hiring decisions are made and leads to more rewarding long-term jobs for Kansans with disabilities.

End-Dependence Kansas is funded through Title I - Vocational Rehabilitation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act). Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education (CFDA 84.126A). A total of 78.7% of the project funds are federal dollars referenced above. There are no non-government sources of funds.



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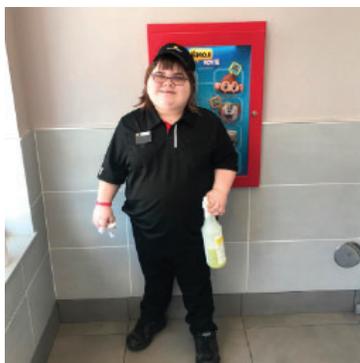
Success Stories

Jeff Rome



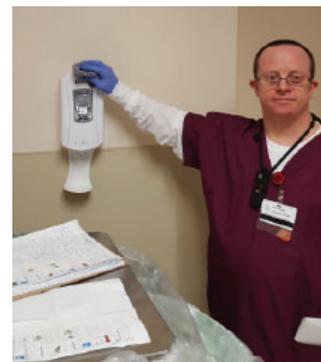
Jeff started working at Menard's in August of 2017. Jeff is a Morning Stock Associate in the plumbing department. Jeff's supervisors tell us that Jeff provides great customer service to all customers and he always has a smile on his face. Jeff is responsible for stocking product onto the shelves accurately. This isn't always easy right now as the store is undergoing a remodel, but Jeff has adapted and has proven he can be effective with his work in an ever changing environment. Congratulations Jeff and your ongoing success.

Heidi Pudge



Heidi Pudge has gained employment with McDonald's in Concordia. Heidi began working as a Lobby Attendant in August of 2017. Workforce Solutions has assisted Heidi with job coaching and follow along services to assist with developing employment skills. Heidi has plans to obtain her driver's license so that she can transport herself to and from her place of employment independently.

Employee of the Quarter



Brett Wallace

Brett Wallace began working at Salina Regional Health Center in December. As a graduate of Project SEARCH and having worked at QCS for several years, Brett's knowledge, experience, and maturity shined during the interview process. Brett is a 2nd Shift Environmental Services Associate in the Emergency Department. He is responsible for cleaning and sanitizing trauma rooms, imaging rooms, the ED lobby, and other areas of the Emergency Department. Brett works 32 hours a week at a wage well above minimum wage with full benefits. Workforce Solutions has provided their expertise in setting up custom task lists, and has provided Job Coaching. Congratulations Brett on your success!

Employers of the Quarter

Solomon Corporation

Martin Luther King Jr Child
Care Center

Goodwill Retail

Dillon's

Super 8

Food Mart of Bellville

Salina Regional Health Center

Concordia Town and Country

Mitchell County Hospital

Thank you for your partnership!

Contributors

OCCK continues to receive gifts of service, products, consultations, and funds from individuals, businesses, and groups. We are grateful for your confidence and support.

Ted & Doris Harder, Salina
Ann Jett, Salina
Knights of Columbus, Tipton
Concordia Gymnastics Center
Zach Garst, Concordia
United Bank & Trust, Concordia
Bergkamp, Salina
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Holy Family Church, Fort Worth, TX

In Honor of Robert Phillips

Evelyn Phillips, Lindsborg

Now Hiring Drivers

Take your job on the road!
If you love people and you love to drive, we need you!

Apply online at www.occk.com

Give & Go Event Held



Pictured: Richard Holmgren, CityGo Supervisor, Michelle Griffin, Mobility Manager, and Bill Fekas, community volunteer

As a result of our great ridership and community support, OCCK Transportation was able to present Bill Fekas with a \$700 check for his annual holiday dinner. The money was raised as a result of the 2017 Give & Go program. Thanks to all of our donors! We are excited to support Bill and all that he does for Salina.



InMyHome provides in-home services that support your choice to stay in your home and community. **Home care** is our state licensed agency that offers services for people of your community who need assistance with personal care, homemaking, companionship, and/or transitional living skills to maintain their personal independent lifestyle in a safe home environment. **Home Health** is our Medicare certified and accredited agency that offers skilled services guided by the person and their physician while recovering from a serious illness, struggling with a chronic illness, and/or following an injury or a complicated surgery. For more information, please call 785-823-2025.

Christmas Tree Lane

Concordia staff members decorated a Christmas tree again this year for



the annual Christmas Tree Lane event hosted by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This event gives an opportunity to Cloud County area residents to get to

know the not-for-profit organizations in the area. Each organization decorated a four foot tree, provided free to each participating organization through a grant from the community foundation for Cloud County. This year our tree earned one of the top three highest paid amounts. Each organization's tree is auctioned and sold to the highest bidder with the sales going to that organization. Congratulations to all who helped make this event successful!



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Please contact Jan Pfannenstiel 827-9383 at ext. 148 if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

March

March 19 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

April

April 16 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

May

May 21 Brain Injury Support Group
1710 W. Schilling Rd, Salina
4:30 p.m.

Alternate Formats

Spotlight and all other printed material produced by OCCK, Inc. are available in large type, electronically, or alternative languages. Please let us know if you'd like to receive this newsletter or any other document in one of these alternate formats. Call us at 785/827-9383 or 1-800-526-9731.