

# The Wheel

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEWS



*Operating Above the Standard*

The Wheel is published quarterly & mailed/emailed to active OATS Transit riders, legislators, current funding sources & other interested people in the 87 county service area. It is mailed third class bulk postage paid at Columbia. If your name is misspelled or address has changed, please call your local OATS Transit office or email the editor.

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OATS, Inc. (dba OATS Transit) is a private, not-for-profit transportation provider serving 87 Missouri counties. Transportation is available to the general public in rural areas. In urban areas (Columbia, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Springfield, Kansas City) service is limited & not available to the general public. Contact your local OATS Transit office for service available to you, or to enter into an agreement to pay for services. Individuals and agencies may contract with OATS Transit for transportation.

OATS Transit operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. We are an equal opportunity employer M/F/H/V.

**Relay Missouri** is available to individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, and/or speech impaired. Use the Relay Missouri service by calling 711 to talk with an OATS representative or to schedule your trip.

**OATS Transit Board of Directors**  
**President: Mel Sundermeyer**  
**Vice President: Krissy Sinor**  
**Secretary/Treasurer: Scott Kosky**

**Members: Angie Crowder, Darleen Rapp, Edna Foster, Jeff Leeman, John Griesheimer, Julie Rodgers, Patricia Mefford, Rachel Baskerville, Rex Scott, Stacey Steffens and Tammy Nadler**

Board Meetings are held at the Home Office in Columbia and are open to the public. Contact the Home Office for meeting dates.

**Bus schedules & fare information can be found at:**  
**[www.oatstransit.org/schedules](http://www.oatstransit.org/schedules)**

**Development Office:**  
**888-875-6287**

**Follow us on social media:**  
**@oatstransit**



**Pictured: Cover - Macon area Veteran Rider Tom Lewis.**

# Face Mask

## REQUIRED



## Face mask required on the bus

OATS Transit will no longer limit the number of riders on a vehicle provided all riders wear face mask/face covering to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

In those instances where riders cannot wear a mask, we must continue practicing physical distancing. This new requirement is the only way we are able to return to regular service and allowing more passengers on the bus at the same time.

Office staff will inform persons of this requirement as they schedule trips.

**Pictured:** Bottom - Riders demonstrate proper usage of masks on our OATS vehicles.





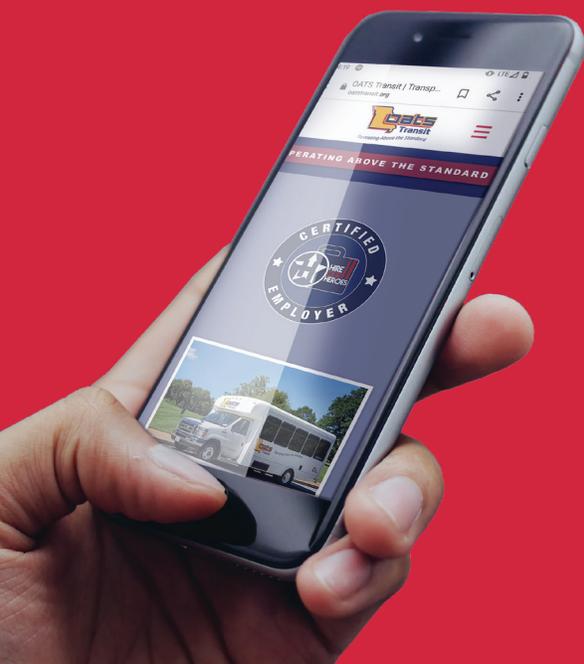
# PAYING BUS FARES JUST GOT EASIER!



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## 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](http://www.oatstransit.org)**

Follow us at [facebook.com/oatstransit](https://facebook.com/oatstransit)



# Take **RESPONSIBILITY** for **YOUR** health

As flu season begins, many people worry about a looming double threat to public health. While COVID-19 cases continue to rise, we want to remind everyone not to let their guard down. We urge everyone to continue to take responsibility for their own health and to protect others onboard the bus. Keeping you and our drivers safe and healthy is our top priority.

***Our plea to you is simple***

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**Please do not ride the bus if you have any flu, or COVID-like symptoms, or are running a temperature!**

If you wake up ill please call and cancel your ride. The coronavirus outbreak has had a major impact on our personal lives and unfortunately, there is not an end in sight. For the foreseeable future we will continue requiring riders to wear face mask while onboard the buses. To lessen the spread of germs we want to encourage you to use our cashless payment method when paying your fare. (See graph on page X)

The virus continues to make a negative impact on our level of service. Whether it be agencies, schools and workplaces who remain closed, or businesses with reduced hours, or people choosing to remain isolated, these are challenges we will eventually overcome, or learn to adapt to the new environment.

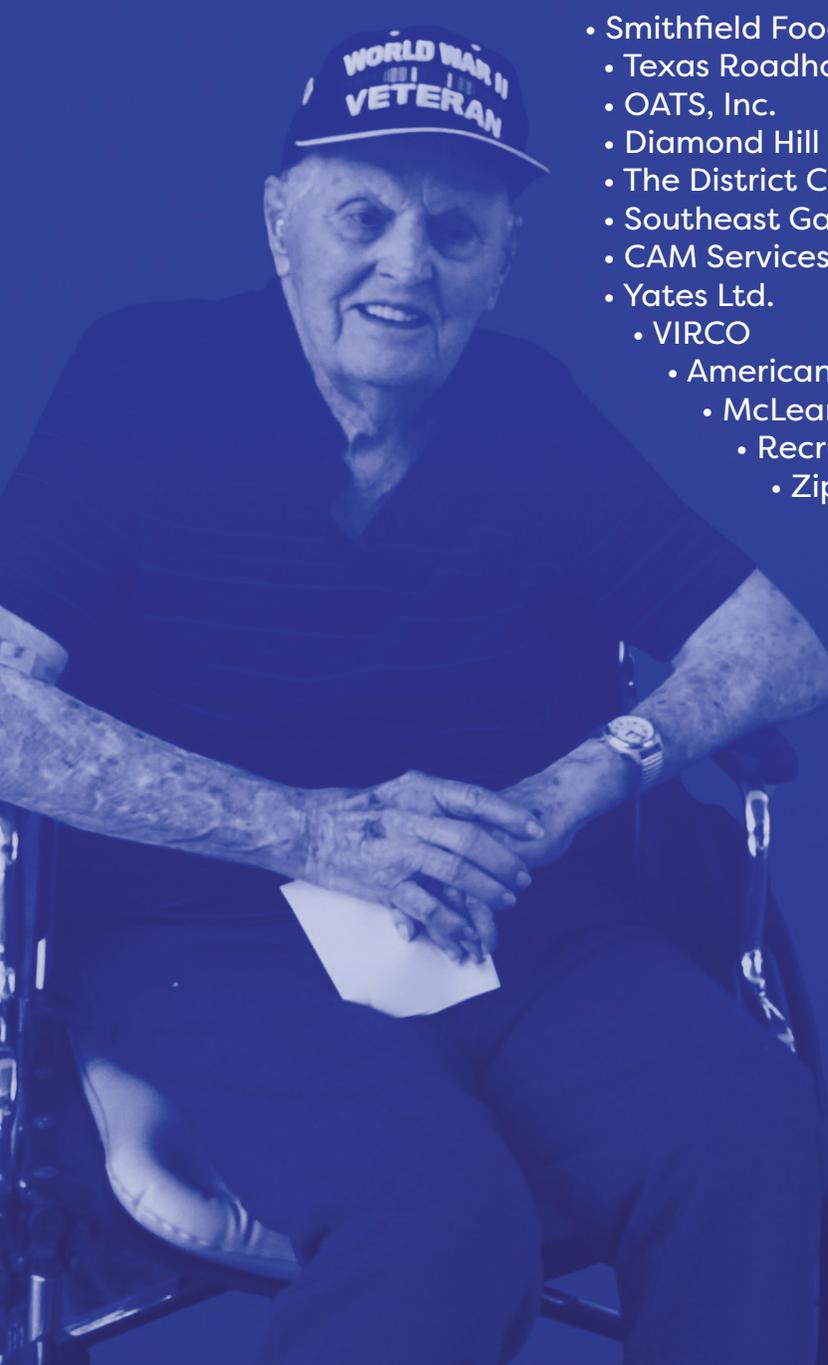
For up to date information on COVID-19 get the facts about coronavirus by visiting [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). If you have symptoms, please take steps to take care of yourself and others in your home and community. We want you to be here for many future rides with us!

# Hire Our Heroes recognized OATS Transit

In July, OATS Transit was among several highly recognizable companies that received the honors of “Certified Employer.” National Hire a Veteran Day was founded by HireOurHeroes.com, which was celebrated on July 25th. Every day, hundreds of our military personnel leave the service in search of civilian employment. Hire Our Heroes helps Veterans find careers when they leave the military.



## The following employers have earned the prestigious designation as “Hire Our Heroes Certified Employers”:



- Smithfield Foods
- Texas Roadhouse Inc.
- OATS, Inc.
- Diamond Hill Capital Management Inc.
- The District Communications Group
- Southeast Gas
- CAM Services
- Yates Ltd.
  - VIRCO
  - American National Insurance
  - McLean Family Restaurant
  - Recruitology
  - Zip Recruiter

According to the release: “These employers have demonstrated the value Veterans bring to the workforce and the positive impact hiring Veterans brings to the community and their customers. Their commitment proves Veterans continue to play an essential role in building of a competent and successful workforce. Hire Our Heroes Veteran Job Board is the #1 destination for Veterans looking for employment. The best way to honor a Veteran is to hire one!”

We are honored to be recognized for our efforts by Hire Our Heroes. More than 17% of our workforce are Veterans and we are thankful for their service to our Country.

*Pictured: Left - Boone County veteran rider.*

# Missouri Foundations & Businesses Supporting Public Transit!

OATS Transit is pleased and grateful to be the recipient of numerous donations and grants given by Missouri businesses, agencies and foundations over the last few months.



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](mailto: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!



**Pictured:** East region office staff Amanda Brinker and Mitzi Steele showcase a Delta Dental donation check.



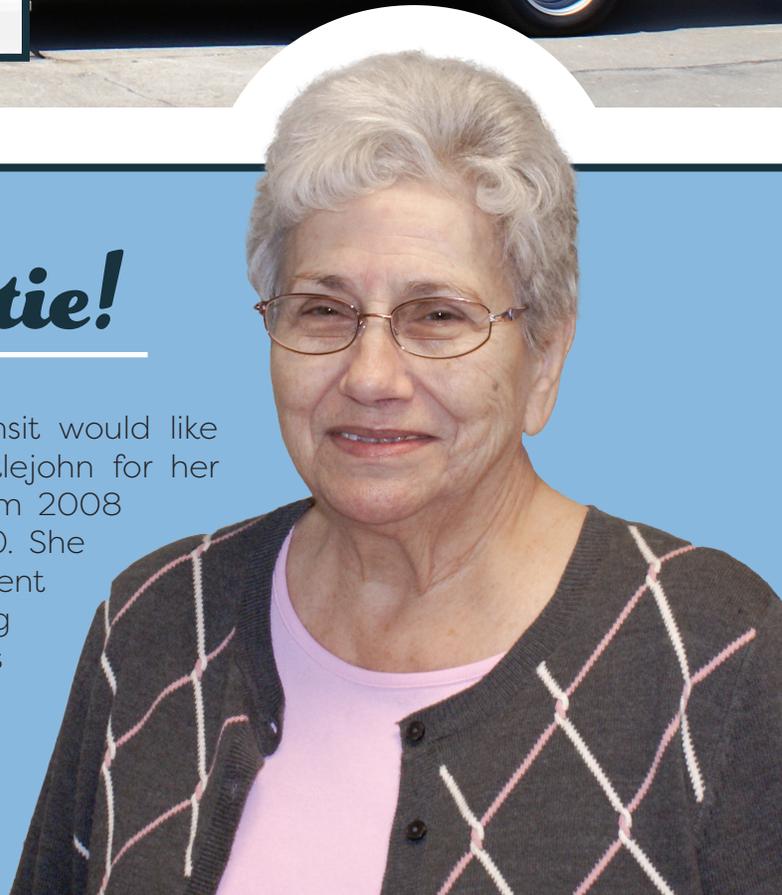
*A special*

# THANK YOU

to **Veterans United Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Veterans United Home Loans, for their \$10,000 donation this summer. These funds allow for Mid-Missouri Veterans to ride for zero fare to the VA Hospital in Columbia and five VA Clinics in neighboring cities. Veterans United Home Loans is based in Columbia.

## *Thank you Dottie!*

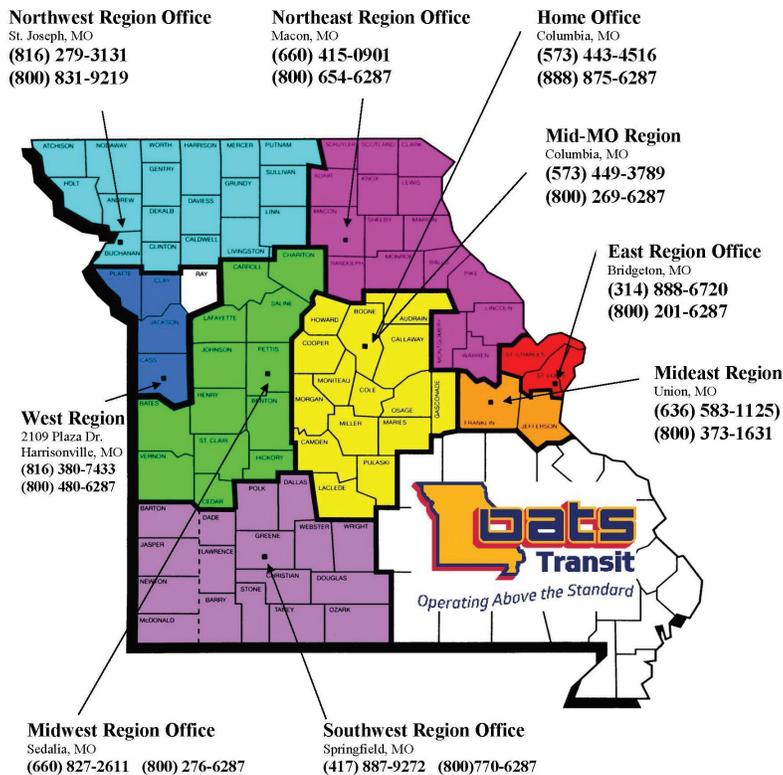
The Board of Directors & staff at OATS Transit would like to extend a sincere thank you to Dottie Littlejohn for her dedication to our company. Dottie served from 2008 until she retired from the Board in June 2020. She represented our West region operations and spent many hours attending meetings and advocating for public transportation in Missouri. She was always a regular at the annual Transportation Day at the Capital in Jefferson City. The Board presented Dottie with a resolution and a gift to honor her time.



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# OATS Transit Service Area



**Holiday Reminder:** OATS Transit will be closed and most regular routes will not be running on Thursday and Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Day.