

COMMUNITY

Who Needs Instructions



By Dorothy Rosby

I've never been a gadget person. Oh sure, I have a stapler. But mostly I avoid gadgets in general and kitchen gadgets in particular. That's partly because I don't want any more clutter in my kitchen. There's already a toaster, a radio and three weeks' worth of junk mail on my kitchen counter. I need to keep some space clear for preparing food and stacking dirty dishes. I also avoid gizmos and gadgets because they can be so complicated. At least electronic and electrical ones can be. I know my way around a spatula and a wooden spoon. And I get along fine with pizza cutters and carrot peelers. But if there are a lot of buttons to push and multiple settings to choose

from, I get so overwhelmed. I have to stop and rest and dinner never gets finished.

It doesn't help that I have issues with instruction manuals, the main one being I hate to read them. They're boring and confusing and written in type the size of ant feet.

Knowing how I feel you'll be surprised to learn that I recently purchased a brand new, fancy air fryer. For those unfamiliar with them, let me explain. Air fryers are like those hair dryers at the beauty shop, except they're way hotter and you won't find anyone's hair in them, which is a plus.

Cooking with air fryers is quick and healthful because it doesn't require oil. Still it had never occurred to me to get one despite the recommendations of several friends. I figured it was just another fad. They'd been equally excited about multi-cookers, bread makers and slushie machines that now sit gathering dust in their pantries.

But then fate intervened. One of my brothers and his wife had decided to get a new air fryer and were passing their old one on to another of my siblings. They left it with me because I would see the new owner before they would.

It sat on my counter taking up space for a few days. And then one day in a rare bout of culinary daring I decided to try it out. The instruction manual was long gone but that was okay. I wouldn't have read it anyway.

I still managed to make some chicken using a recipe I found online. And it only took me one frantic phone call to the fryer's former owner to do it.

The next day I tried some potatoes and later some steaks. And by the time the air fryer's new owner came to pick it up, I was considering hiding it and telling him we'd never received it.

Instead, my husband and I went shopping. And just like that we joined the estimated 60 percent of American households that are now frying with air. And we didn't just get an air fryer. No, we got a Cadillac of an air fryer because my husband is not intimidated by buttons and instruction manuals. Unfortunately, he doesn't do the cooking.

Our air fryer is complicated. It has two baskets so I can cook chicken and potatoes at the same time. Or destroy them at the same time.

And it not only fries, it dehydrates, warms, roasts, bakes, reheats and broils—theoretically anyway. I haven't tried any of those settings yet because that would require reading the instruction manual.

But I have managed to air fry all sorts of things and, with the exception of some pork chops that resembled used kitchen sponges when they were done, it's all been edible. Just think what I could do if I read the instructions.

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ORDINANCE NO 1739

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS.

WHEREAS the budget for the year 2026 was adopted as an appropriation for each of the city's funds on August 26, 2025, and

WHEREAS the governing body now desires to give the mayor authority to make payment of claims in accordance with the adopted budget.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: The Governing Body of the City of Minneapolis hereby authorizes the Mayor of the City of Minneapolis to make payments for all claims arising in accordance with the adopted budget for the year 2026.

SECTION 2: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force after its publication in the official newspaper of said city.

Passed by the City Council this 12th day of January 2026.

Approved by the Mayor on this 12th day of January 2026.

OCCK, Inc. Leader Announces Retirement

OCCK, Inc. announces the retirement of Patrick Wallerius, Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, after more than 33 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his career, Patrick has been a key leader in guiding OCCK's financial stability and organizational growth. His leadership in budgeting and long-range planning helped ensure OCCK's ongoing success, while his mentorship supported the development of many of today's leaders.

Patrick's impact extends far beyond his financial role. He played an essential part in establishing transportation services across North Central Kansas—starting in Salina he helped launch the CityGo Red, Blue, and Yellow routes in 2008, the Purple Route in 2010, and later helping secure funding that allowed the Green Route to be added in 2015. His work also supported the expansion of regional transportation options, including the launch of the Abilene and Concordia bus systems and the 81 Connection in 2017.

Under his guidance, OCCK Transportation earned multiple recognitions at the local, state, and federal levels, including

back-to-back Federal Transit Administration "Excellence in Service" awards. Additional environmental awards included the Environmental Hall of Fame Award for his commitment to environmentally responsible transportation solutions. Most recently, he helped celebrate the opening of OCCK's Transportation Expansion Building in 2022, which marked a major milestone in improving accessibility, innovation, and service capacity across the region.

"Patrick's vision, leadership, and drive have been a cornerstone of OCCK's success," said Shelia Nelson-Stout, CEO of OCCK, Inc. "His impact will be felt for many years to come."

OCCK is grateful for Patrick's many years of service and for the lasting impact he has made on the organization and our community.

OCCK will host a retirement recognition ceremony for Patrick Wallerius on Tuesday, February 3 at 9:30 a.m. with formal remarks beginning at 10:00, held at OCCK Transportation, 340 N. Santa Fe Ave., Salina, KS. The public is encouraged to attend and join OCCK in celebrating Patrick's years of service and leadership.

One team working together for your heart.



The Heart Center at Salina Regional Health Center is one team working together for your heart. It's for one simple reason: patients throughout north-central Kansas deserve comprehensive heart care, close to home. You can trust the skill and expertise of our cardiovascular surgeons and cardiologists, and the care and compassion of our nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and staff.

The Heart Center is an accredited Chest Pain Center by the American College of Cardiology, providing early, accurate, and life-saving diagnoses, as well as procedures such as bypass surgery, stents and angioplasty; TAVR (transcatheter aortic valve replacement); treatment for atrial fibrillation with the minimally invasive WATCHMAN™ procedure; and cardiac rehabilitation.

Whether you need general cardiac care provided in our clinic or a surgical procedure at Salina Regional Health Center, we are one team working together for your heart. For an appointment or more information, please visit heartcenter.srhc.com.



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