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## More Than Bricks And Mortar Convenience, Security, And Natural Beauty Are All Included In The Design

With the snow piles melted away and the grass greening up, progress continues on the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program project at Gerald R. Ford International Airport. With work well underway on the southern portion of the parking deck (and the northern portion already finished), airport visitors can now get an idea of the overall scope of the project.

In addition to the new levels of the parking deck being poured, progress continues on many other elements of the project. As you drive onto the airport campus, you may notice that the northern half of the gateway entrance plaza is taking shape. Crews will soon begin interior work on both sides of the plaza. A bit north and east of the entrance plaza, exterior finishes are being installed on the parking ramp entry helix.



Work continues on the gateway entrance plaza along Oostema Blvd.



With the roof in place, installation of the terra cotta panels begins on the exterior of the parking ramp entry helix.

Continuing to the terminal, visitors may notice workers on the roadway canopy 60 feet overhead. Now that the winter season is behind us, workers continue to construct the canopy structure. At the terminal curb front, visitors will note areas of continuing work. Security bollards are being installed along the front sidewalk. These bollards will provide an additional layer of safety and security to the passenger terminal facility. Installation will be done in phases to allow the majority of the

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## Airport Profile 2009 Now Available

The 2009 Airport Profile is hot off the press. The Profile is an annual publication of the Kent County Department of Aeronautics that recaps last year's activities and shares information about the coming year's projects and goals.

This year's Profile, titled "eXcerpts," will bring you up to speed on what's new at the airport and give you a sense of how we are working to continually improve our service to West Michigan. Updates on our Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program project will recap the progress made to date, and outline those portions of the project still to be completed.

The Airport Profile is available on the website at [flygrandrapids.org](http://flygrandrapids.org). If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Profile, please contact the Department of Aeronautics offices at (616) 233-6000.



## Airport Welcomes New Police Chief

Monday, February 16, brought a change to the Airport Police at Gerald R. Ford International Airport, as David Wills was promoted to the position of Chief Airport Law Enforcement Officer. He joined the law enforcement team at GFIA in September 2008 as an Airport Law Enforcement Supervisor.

Chief Wills brings 33 years of airport law enforcement experience to his new position. Prior to joining the GFIA staff, Dave was the manager of the Michigan City Municipal Airport in Indiana, and he had retired from the Capital Region International Airport in Lansing in 2007, where he was the Director of Public Safety and Operations.

In addition to his years of experience, Chief Wills holds both Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Michigan State University. He is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives, and is certified by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

When asked about the future of airport law enforcement, Chief Wills states, "The key for airport law enforcement over the foreseeable future is adaptability. No area of law enforcement has changed more in the last eight years than airport law enforcement, which was already specialized. This trend will continue, and the challenge will be for airport law enforcement agencies to maintain their customer service orientation under the demands of increasingly sophisticated systems for airport security."



Executive Director Jim Koslosky (right) administers the Oath of Office to Chief Dave Wills.

## Presenting...

Is your group looking for a speaker for an upcoming meeting? Would your organization like to learn more about the airport?

The GFIA Marketing and Communications division would welcome the opportunity to come to your next meeting and provide an overview of the airport, as well as updates on ongoing airport

development projects and the state of the aviation industry. Presentations can be timed to fit nicely into a breakfast or lunchtime meeting.

For more information, or to request a speaker for your next meeting, please call the Marketing and Communications division at (616) 233-6053 or visit the website at [www.flygrandrapids.org](http://www.flygrandrapids.org) for more information located under About Us, Newsroom.



## Passenger Appreciation Days Launch Another Spring Break Season

The Spring Break travel time has historically been the busiest travel season at Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA). Each year, the Kent County Department of Aeronautics (KCDA) sets aside three days of this season to say thank you to our airport patrons. This year's Passenger Appreciation Days celebration was held April 1, 2, & 3.

Tropical decorations and beach tunes set a festive mood for travelers as they arrived at the airport. The hospitality station located in the Grand Hall offered a variety of treats and give-aways. Behind the hospitality station, the perennial favorite paper airplane flying contest saw participants of all ages flying their aircraft in hopes of landing in the drawing for a mall gift certificate (one drawing was held each day). Winners of this year's contest — and a \$100 gift card to Rivertown Crossings Mall — are Ashley Bingle of Wyoming, MI, Bill Demarse of Grand Haven, and Selena Edgar of Grand Ledge. Winners of the daily prize drawing — a \$150 travel voucher — are Martin Balk of Rockford, Janae Schultz of Muskegon, and Ronald Rickli of Kalamazoo. Congratulations to all our winners!

KCDA would like to thank airport tenants Delta Air Lines, the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Metro Cab, Universal Forest Products, and U.S. Customs & Border Protection for their generous donations of give-away items, as well as food and beverage concessionaire HMS Host for its coordination of refreshments.

Most of all, we offer our sincere thanks to all our passengers who include Gerald R. Ford International Airport in their travel plans throughout the year. We know you have choices for your air travel arrangements, and we thank you for choosing GFIA!



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curb front to remain open at all times. Phasing is being coordinated with the finish work on the interior of the elevator/escalator lobbies to minimize disruption to airport patrons. Bollard installation work will continue through September 2009.

As the weather improves, streetscape work will continue along several roadway areas, around the parking and entrance gateway structures, and in the planters along the terminal roadway. In addition to the planting of grasses, shrubs, flowers, and trees, irrigation system installation will also be occurring to ensure the plantings will thrive.

Progress continues for an on-time completion in October 2009. For the latest updates on the parking status at GFIA, you may visit our website at [www.flygrandrapids.org/RampUp.php](http://www.flygrandrapids.org/RampUp.php). You may also sign up to receive e-lets in your inbox.

Throughout the project, we thank you for your patience and your patronage of Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

## For Your Convenience...

From its inception, the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program has been designed with the customer in mind. Many amenities and design features have been incorporated into the project to enhance the airport users' experience. These include:

- » 4,900 close-in parking spaces
- » Covered parking
- » Rental car facilities — all customer service counters and ready-return spaces within the parking structure
- » Ramp-to-terminal roadway canopy for weather protection
- » Pedestrian sky bridges and elevators/escalators
- » Transit Station
- » Vehicle entrance plaza
- » Landscaping/streetscaping
- » Enhanced security and call boxes
- » Car count system/revenue control

“We are the first and last impression many people have of Grand Rapids and Michigan’s West Coast, and we work hard to make sure that impression is a good one,” states Jim Koslosky, executive director with the Kent County Department of Aeronautics.

**Aerial photo taken from 750 ft. above ground level looking NE on 4/24/09. Oostema Boulevard is seen in the foreground, while the North Parallel runway (8L/26R) is in the background.**



## News In Brief

- » Allegiant Air's nonstop flights to Las Vegas started May 1. This twice-weekly service departs GFIA on Mondays and Fridays. For more information, or to make your reservations, visit their website at [www.allegiantair.com](http://www.allegiantair.com).
- » GFIA Aircraft Rescue Firefighters Kirk Smith and Tony Gutierrez were recently recognized as Certified Firefighters (CF) by the American Association of Airport Executives. In order to earn the CF designation, firefighters must pass a 150-question exam covering a wide variety of topics relevant to the airport firefighting profession. All 15 members of the aircraft rescue firefighting unit at GRR are Certified Firefighters.
- » GFIA will be partnering with Michigan Community Blood Centers to host a community blood drive on Friday, May 15, 2009, in the International Room in the passenger terminal building. You may pre-register for a time on our website at [www.flygrandrapids.org/BloodDrive.php](http://www.flygrandrapids.org/BloodDrive.php) or by contacting Donna Thomas, Office Administrator, at (616) 233-6046. Walk-ins are also welcome.
- » The next three meetings of the Kent County Aeronautics Board will take place May 27, June 24, and July 29, 2009, at 8:30 am. All meetings are held in the International Room in the passenger terminal building and are open to the public.

## Questions About the Delta/Northwest Airlines Merger? Answers Are Just A Click Away!



Many passengers have questions about how the merger of Delta and Northwest Airlines will effect their travel plans. The good news is that answers are available on the Delta Air Lines website! Just go to [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) and click on the link at the top of the page called Delta & Northwest Merger FAQs. There you will find answers to the most commonly asked questions, conveniently sorted into several general categories. They also provide an email form for those questions not listed on their site. Of course you may always contact Delta customer service centers as well.

Consolidation of facilities (ticket counter and gates) at GFIA is expected by July. For complete contact information, and links to these and other important sites, visit our website at [www.flygrandrapids.org](http://www.flygrandrapids.org).

**Airport Connections** is the quarterly newsletter of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. We encourage our readers to contact us with comments, suggestions, and submissions. If you wish to be added to the mailing list for *Airport Connections*, please contact the Kent County Department of Aeronautics:

**Phone:** 616.233.6000

**Fax:** 616.233.6025

**Web:** [www.flygrandrapids.org](http://www.flygrandrapids.org)

Kent County Aeronautics Board | John Van Laar, chair; Ted Vonk, vice chair; Dean Agee; Joe Tomaselli; Dick Vander Molen; Floyd Wilson, Jr.

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The World's Gateway to... Michigan's West Coast

## Looking To Expand Or Relocate Your Business?

Is your business looking for property with convenient access to the airport and/or surrounding transportation infrastructure? Gerald R. Ford International Airport currently has developed and undeveloped properties available for lease.

For more information about available properties, land use restrictions, or the airport's aeronautical minimum standards, contact:

Joel Burgess, Properties Administrator  
Kent County Dept. of Aeronautics  
5500 44th Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-4055  
phone: (616) 233-6054  
email: [JBurgess@grr.org](mailto:JBurgess@grr.org)

For a sampling of available properties, go to the airport's website at [www.flygrandrapids.org/Property.php](http://www.flygrandrapids.org/Property.php).



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