

## GFIA Unveils Stormwater / Glycol Treatment System

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) has completed a \$20 million Stormwater/Glycol Treatment System, the first of its kind in the state of Michigan. This system will eliminate environmental risks from aircraft deicing operations provided by the airlines that is necessary for safe winter air travel.

The airport's stormwater management will ensure the stormwater reaching the Thornapple River will be well within the State of Michigan's water quality protection standards, and provide significant improvement in the Thornapple River.

"We commend the airport on their actions to better the quality of storm water discharged from their facility, and completing such a large challenging project on time," said William Creal, Michigan DEQ



*"This was a difficult situation that the airport showed quality leadership on, and took action to put a positive solution in place."*

*~ William Creal  
Director of Water Resources Division  
Michigan Department of  
Environmental Quality*

Director of Water Resources Division. "This was a difficult situation that the airport showed quality leadership on, and took action to put a positive solution in place. We look forward to working with the airport and observing the treatment system in action this winter."

GFIA has studied and assessed these stormwater issues and has implemented progressively more sophisticated conservation, collection, and recycling activities, which has enabled the airport to minimize the amount of applied deicing fluids in the Airport's stormwater runoff.

GFIA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit required elimination of the airport's contribution to existing biofilms, and prevention of deicing runoff. Among the project design elements were re-routing stormwater from the airport's

**stormwater**  
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north detention basin to a new outfall at the Thornapple River, and reconfiguring the airport's west apron stormwater system to consolidate runoff from all major existing and future aircraft deicing areas.

"The airport is committed to environmental stewardship and continuously improving our operations," said GFIA Executive Director Brian Ryks. "The centerpiece of our new stormwater management program is a natural treatment system that will significantly strengthen the airport's environmental performance, protect and improve water quality in the Thornapple River, and help sustain the river system's water quality, aquatic life and natural beauty."

Cutting the ribbon below from left are: Brian Ryks, GFIA Executive Director, John Mayfield, Jr., Manager of FAA Airport District Office, Detroit, Roger Morgan, Chairman GFIA Board, Roy Hawkins, Airport Planning Engineer, Erv Gambee, President of the Thornapple River Watershed Council, and William Creal, Director of Water Services Division, MI DEQ.



For safety reasons, the FAA requires aircraft and pavement deicing during cold weather months. The airlines at GFIA use propylene glycol, an organic compound that's commonly used as a food additive and in personal hygiene products. Some of the applied deicing material is carried into the environment by stormwater (snowmelt, rain, and other precipitation) that flows to area waterways.

The stormwater treatment system enhances the quality of the natural environment with an innovative design for collecting and treating propylene glycol and managing stormwater. The green design uses gravity, vegetated beds, and natural organisms to treat the stormwater with essentially no power consumption or residual waste.

Airports Council International, North America (ACI-NA) has honored the Gerald R. Ford International Airport for its stormwater/glycol treatment project with an ACI-NA Environmental Achievement Award for 'Outreach, Education and Community Involvement.'

## Delta Air Lines Foundation Invests In Local Aviation Students

With a growing student population and an eagerness for flight instruction, the West Michigan Aviation Academy's (WMAA) one plane was not able to keep up with student demands. Thanks to the Delta Air Lines Foundation, student flight instruction can take off with even more hours in the sky.

With a capital-intense program like ours, it's very important to establish partnerships because we need help doing it.

~ Pat Cwayna  
WMAA CEO

The Delta Air Lines Foundation donated \$150,000 to the academy, a gift that was used to purchase a Cessna 172 for student flight instruction at the school. More than 550 students attend WMAA, and there are 18 seniors in the flight school.

Delta Air Lines chief operating officer, Gil West, and Andrea Newman, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, flew in for a special ceremony on October 1 at the school, located on-site at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.



West noted that WMAA has an excellent aviation school, and that those within the airline industry are hearing positive things about the school and its reputation.

"The airline industry will need qualified employees in the coming years, and WMAA has the capacity to produce talented future leaders," said West. "The Delta Air Lines Foundation is pleased to make this grant

foundation

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## ARFF Acquires New Equipment

The GFIA Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Division has a new fire truck in its line-up. The Rosenbauer 1500 is constructed on the Panther 4 X 4 body and is equipped with a back-up camera, forward-looking infra-red (FLIR) heat sensor, 1500-gallon water tank, and can apply water, foam, or dry chemical as needed when responding to a fire.



“Having this state-of-the-art equipment on the airfield provides our firefighters with the best tools available to complete their mission,” says GFIA Executive Director Brian Ryks. “Our firefighters do an excellent job each day and stand at the ready to help whenever they are called.”

## Looking to Relocate Your Business?

Every day, thousands of business people and travelers - your customers - pass through GFIA, providing an excellent source of exposure and potential opportunity for your business.

The airport currently has developed and undeveloped property sites, most with utilities and infrastructure in place and ready to build. Airport properties range in use from aviation-related development to non-aviation related commercial use development.

For more information contact:

Joel Burgess, Properties Administrator  
phone: 616.233.6054

email: JBurgess@grr.org

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



### foundation

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to WMAA and it is our hope that the students will follow their passion of aviation and study hard so that one day they will be Delta's future employees and customers.”

WMAA CEO Pat Cwayna and Founder Dick DeVos were also in attendance at the ceremony, along with several Delta pilots, flight attendants and local GRR Delta staff - from management to agents and ground crews.

“We can increase the capacity of the number of kids we can train,” said Cwayna. “With a capital-intense program like ours, it's very important to establish partnerships because we need help doing it.”

West Michigan Aviation Academy is a tuition-free public charter high school that provides a rigorous educational program with an aviation focus, preparing students for a career in the aviation field.

Delta's support of West Michigan Aviation Academy aligns with the airline's goal of developing future leaders and investing in the community, and the Foundation's pillar of supporting education.



## Allegiant 'Shelling for a Vacation' Contest

October isn't necessarily the best time to be at the beach in Michigan, but a special exception was made for Allegiant's "Shelling for a Vacation" contest – a partnership between the airline, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport and HOT 105.3 in Grand Rapids.



On October 8, fourteen pre-registered winners (and a guest they would take on a free vacation), were tied together and had to dig in the sand at the beach at Millennium Park to find the winning shell. One trip to Punta Gorda, Florida, and one to Fort Lauderdale, Florida were hidden in the sand. Both destinations are new nonstop routes offered by Allegiant. Punta Gorda nonstop service begins on November 4 out of Grand Rapids, and Fort Lauderdale begins on December 16.

The winners received a package for two that included round trip airfare, hotel accommodations, and waived baggage fees for their trip. Both winners said they are hoping to book their vacations in January or February – when the snow is flying in West Michigan! Congratulations to our winners and thanks to Allegiant for donating the airfare and goodies, and our friends at HOT 105.3 for helping us promote the contest!



HOT 105.3 on-air personalities Gravy and Rachel with contest winners Nikolai Gevorkyan and Laurie Venema and their guests, already dreaming of their ocean paradise.

## New Facilities for General Aviation on the Horizon

Landmark Aviation broke ground this fall on the site of a new 22,000 sq. ft. General Aviation facility. The space will be allocated for arriving and departing corporate and general aviation passengers and flight crews with an 18,000 sq. ft. hangar for aircraft storage and maintenance.

Investing in this new facility will mean they can serve larger aircraft, and better serve their current customers as well as welcome new ones. General Aviation includes both private business travelers and recreational flyers.



Pictured from left: Brian Ryks, Executive Director, GFIA, Tyson Goetz, Regional Vice President, Landmark Aviation, David Slikkers, GFIA Board member, Cheryl Bush, General Manager, Landmark Aviation, Roger Morgan, GFIA Board Chairman, and Rick Fiddler, Vice President, Amway Aviation.

## Breezing Over to the Windy City Is About to Get Easier

On October 27, Southwest Airlines announced its new schedule which includes an exciting addition for West Michigan flyers!

Beginning April 12, 2016 Southwest Airlines will be flying three daily nonstop flights from Grand Rapids to Chicago Midway. While this is good news for those heading directly to the Windy City, its GREAT news for travelers looking for more destination options! Southwest offers 265 flights per day to 69 cities across the US, the Caribbean and Central America out of Midway.



Tickets are available now for travel beginning on or after April 12, 2016. Go to Southwest.com to book your next trip!

With the addition of Chicago Midway, you can now fly nonstop to all of these destinations from GFIA:

- » Atlanta
- » Baltimore/Washington
- » Charlotte
- » Chicago-O'Hare
- » Chicago Midway (as of 4/12/16)
- » Dallas/Fort Worth
- » Denver
- » Detroit
- » Fort Lauderdale (seasonal)
- » Fort Myers (seasonal)
- » Houston
- » Las Vegas
- » Minneapolis
- » New York-LaGuardia
- » New York-Newark
- » Orlando International
- » Orlando-Sanford (seasonal)
- » Philadelphia
- » Phoenix-Mesa
- » Punta Gorda (seasonal)
- » St. Louis (through 4/11/16)
- » St. Petersburg-Clearwater
- » Tampa International
- » Washington-Dulles

## New Faces In Lead Roles



### **Lisa Belt, PHR**

Lisa's professional career comprises two-and-a-half decades of strategic Human Resource Management, organizational development, benefits and compensation management and employee relations. Her background spans a variety of industries including international manufacturing, education, finance and non-profits. She holds a Bachelors of Business Administration from Northwood University in addition to her professional Human Resource certification. As a Human Resource professional, Lisa works to implement strategies and procedures that drive efficiencies, align organizational structures to meet defined objectives, and advocates for diverse and inclusive work environments where all employees are valued.

Lisa joined Steven Baldwin and Associates as the Human Resources Manager in June of 2015 and will be managing the employee transition of the Kent County Department of Aeronautics to an independent Airport Authority. Lisa is busy setting up new HR programs and policies, and will assure a smooth and welcome transfer of Airport employees' employment status to the new Authority on July 1, 2016.

### **Lisa Carr, C.M., P.E.M.**

Lisa is the Director of Public Safety and Operations for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA). She is responsible for developing short and long range plans, policies, protocols and standard operating procedures to ensure the safe, secure and efficient operation of the airport. She ensures the airport is in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and all other federal, state and local regulations governing airport operations.

Previously, Lisa was the Director of Operations for the Capital Region International Airport. She served the Capital Region International Airport in many capacities for 20 years, beginning as an Operations Officer in 1995 and working her way up to the Director of Operations in 2013. Mrs. Carr holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University and an Associates of Arts degree from Kirkland Community College. She is a Certified Member with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and a Professional Emergency Manager with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD).

Professional affiliations include Airports Council International as a member of the Public Safety & Security Committee, the American Association of Airport Executives and the Michigan Association of Airport Executives.



### **Roger Dubuc**

Roger Dubuc is the Federal Security Director (FSD) at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA). He was appointed to this position in September 2015. In this role, Roger oversees all Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security operations at the GFIA hub and 12 spoke airports located in Western and Northern Michigan and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Roger joined TSA in August of 2002 as the Assistant FSD for Screening of the GFIA hub and spoke group. In 2004 he became the Assistant FSD for Inspections where he has served until his current assignment. Prior to joining TSA, he served for 21 years in the United States Coast Guard. After graduation from Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in 1981, he served in a variety of challenging operational sea and shore assignments. This included command of Coast Guard Group Grand Haven, Michigan from 1997 to 2001, where he was responsible for directing search and rescue, law enforcement, and marine environmental protection operations for a geographical area extending from the Indiana/Illinois border to the north end of Lake Michigan.

Roger graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He also holds a Professional Emergency Manager certificate from the State of Michigan.



## 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, 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) 233-6031 or visit the website at [www.FlyFord.org](http://www.FlyFord.org) for more information located under About Us, Newsroom.

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## News In Brief

- » The next two meetings of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Board are currently scheduled to occur on November 25 and December 16. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and are held in the International Room in the passenger terminal building. Meetings are open to the public.
- » The next two meetings of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority Board are currently scheduled to occur on November 25 and December 16. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. and are held in the International Room in the passenger terminal building. Meetings are open to the public.

## Runway 8L/26R Reopens

Friday, October 16, 2015 was notable as we reopened Runway 8L/26R following a four-month reconstruction. The primary purpose of the runway is to separate general aviation traffic from commercial airline operations. Runway 8L/26R was originally constructed in 1973 at 3,918' x 75'. In 1994 the runway was widened and extended to its current configuration of 5,000' x 100'.

The airport's investment in Runway 8L/26R represents our continued commitment to airfield safety and the importance of the general aviation industry to West Michigan.



### PROJECT FACTS:

- » 57,700 cu. yd. of excavation
- » 55,000 cu. yd. of new sand subbase
- » 14,400 cu. yd. of aggregate base (stone)
- » 14,700 tons of bituminous surface (asphalt)
- » \$4 million project

**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

**Email:** [gfainfo@grr.org](mailto:gfainfo@grr.org)

**Facebook:** [GeraldRFordInternationalAirport](https://www.facebook.com/GeraldRFordInternationalAirport)

**Airport Board** | Roger Morgan\*, chair; Dick Vander Molen\*, vice chair; Steve Heacock; Birgit Klohs; David Slikkers, Ted Vonk\*; Floyd Wilson, Jr. (\* County Commissioner)

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