

AirportConnections

www.flygrandrapids.org

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Where Do We Grow From Here?

A MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The next 20 years promise big things for GFIA: a big increase in passengers and cargo, and the need for expanded facilities to accommodate them.

According to the FAA-approved forecasting for GFIA's Master Plan Update, the number of passengers will rise from approximately two million in 2003 to four million in 2023. The forecast also predicts cargo volume to more than double, from 74 million pounds in 2003 to 150 million pounds in 2023.

The Master Plan Update is on target for completion for this summer.

Thus far, HNTB Corporation, the consultant for the Master Plan Update project, has identified that more space is needed to accommodate security screening functions, as approximately one-quarter of the queuing area in front of the ticket counters was lost when the new baggage screening machines were installed in the lobby area. Additional needs that have been identified include expanded baggage handling space, additional aircraft gates, and expanded vehicle parking. HNTB's initial projections also indicate that the need for any additional airfield capacity will not occur until sometime following the current 20-year planning period.

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Thanks For The Memories In 2003

It was a celebration 40 years in the making, and thanks to the help of many Airport employees, tenants, and community members, GFIA's 40th anniversary festivities will be remembered for years to come.

The celebration began with Passenger Appreciation Days during the busy Spring Break season, continued with the Flyby 5K Run, Walk & Airport Expo in June, then a bronze bust of President Gerald R. Ford's likeness was unveiled in July, followed by the Plane Pull® Challenge of Michigan in August, and wrapped up with an Airport-wide employee appreciation luncheon in October.

According to James Koslosky, Aeronautics Director for the Kent County Department of Aeronautics, the Airport planned these events with three goals in mind. "We wanted to recognize and celebrate a major milestone in the Airport's history," he said. "We also wanted to invite people to experience the Airport in an exciting new



A participant shows his spirit during the Flyby 5K Run



Special Olympics Michigan Area 11 team pulls the FedEx B-727



Roy Hawkins, Planning Engineer for the Department of Aeronautics, welcomes a family during Passenger Appreciation Days

way, and, of course, to say thank you to the community for helping us thrive for the past 40 years."

The yearlong celebration was declared a success on several levels. As a fundraising effort, the Flyby 5K and the Plane Pull earned \$20,000 for charities—\$3,000 for Wings of Mercy and \$17,000 for Special Olympics Michigan. The events were also a success in terms of numbers, with thousands of spring break travelers enjoying Passenger Appreciation Days, another thousand running or walking in the Flyby 5K, and 17 teams competing in the Plane Pull. Finally, the events also helped build goodwill and enhance the Airport's relationship with the community.

Aeronautics Board Chair-

man John Van Laar concludes, "I'd like to thank everyone who joined in the celebration as a participant or a spectator. Because of community support, this Airport has been successful for the past 40 years, and we look forward to serving the community for the next 40 years and beyond." →

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GFIA Tenant Profile: The Company Jet



The Company Jet's fractional programs feature the use of Cessna Citation Bravos

Founded in 2002, The Company Jet, based at GFIA, offers fractional jet ownership programs designed specifically for business by business travel experts.

As an owner in The Company Jet, you purchase an interest in a Cessna Citation Bravo business jet. In exchange, you gain access to an entire fleet of 15 jets for the specific number of aircraft hours you need. Costs include an initial capital cost for the share, a fixed monthly management fee and an hourly charge per flight hour. Aircraft availability is guaranteed with extremely flexible guidelines,

total costs are known up front for the contract term, and liquidity is guaranteed.

Not limited to large corporations, fractional aircraft ownership is growing rapidly among companies of all sizes, as they discover its convenience, time savings, affordability and cost savings. Imagine having 20 more days per year in the office and being able to make your child's soccer games with time to spare.

The Company Jet was founded in 2002 as the third company of long-standing Airport tenants Northern Air, Inc. and Northern Jet Management. They have grown to be recognized as one of the country's leaders in full service private aviation, employing over 130 employees. Northern Jet Management is a corporate aviation management company specializing in turnkey aircraft and flight department management, fractional aircraft ownership via The Company Jet, on-demand executive charter service and aviation consulting services. Northern Air is the area's largest FBO (Fixed Based Operator), providing aircraft maintenance and parts services with FAA-certified repair station and service center authorizations including Cessna, New Piper, Diamond, Textron Lycoming, and Teledyne Continental. Northern Air handles all the commercial airline fuel requirements at GFIA. Northern Air is also a New Piper and Diamond aircraft dealer. →

Non-Stop Options

West Michigan residents and businesses enjoy non-stop service to 14 major hub destinations from GFIA, with single connection service to hundreds of global destinations.

GFIA. We are West Michigan's Gateway to the World. →



where do we grow,
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The next phase of the Master Plan Update will involve examining alternatives to determine the most effective way to expand the Airport facilities to accommodate forecasted growth. The primary focus of this phase will be the expansion of the passenger terminal. The projected phased development of the terminal for the next five-, 10-, and 20-year planning periods will be reviewed.

The Airport's goal is to schedule the planning and development of facilities so that their completion matches the timing of future demand for these facilities.

The Master Plan Update is on target for completion this summer. For more information, visit the 2003 Airport Master Plan Update pages of the Airport's Web site at www.flygrandrapids.org. →

Annual Festival Is Music To Passengers' Ears

Visitors to Gerald R. Ford International Airport noticed something beautiful in the air the week of December 15: music.

Held in the terminal's Grand Hall, this season's annual Holiday Music Festival featured performances by 13 musical groups from local schools. The festival is a treat for both spectators and those involved. Says Carol Gess, choir director at Caledonia High School, "My students love this performance. It's enjoyable for them to sing in a unique setting like the Airport. We look forward to coming every year." At GFIA, we also look forward to the Festival, and we thank all of you who filled our holidays with music this year. →

- | | |
|--|---|
| Burton Elementary | East Grand Rapids Madrigal |
| Caledonia High School Choralaires | East Grand Rapids Vocal Jazz |
| Caledonia High School Women's Choir | Grand Rapids Baptist Junior High Choir |
| Caledonia Middle School Choir | Moline Christian High School |
| Creston High School | Ottawa Hills High School |
| Cutlerville Christian Middle School | Wyoming Park High School |
| Dickinson Elementary | Sound System |



Caledonia High School Women's Choir performs during the Holiday Music Festival

Giving From The Heart

Over the past 10 years, travelers and community members passing through GFIA have donated something priceless: over 65 gallons of blood. According to Ann Lowery, recruiter from Michigan Community Blood Centers (MCBC), 523 pints of blood have been collected from GFIA blood drives since September 1993, and the last drive alone yielded 27 pints. Lowery adds, "Half of those who've participated have been first-time donors. That's awesome."

The drive draws donors from the Department of Aeronautics, airline tenants, concessions, area businesses, and even passengers waiting for their flights. Donna Thomas, Office Administrator for the

Department of Aeronautics, is the person responsible for coordinating the Airport blood drives. "We have quite a few veteran donors from around the Airport," she says, "and we also see a number of new faces at every drive."



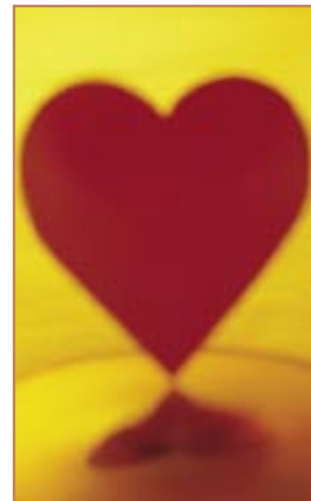
Generally, any healthy person 17 or older who weighs at least 110 pounds may donate blood every 56 days. After a brief pre-donation screening, drawing the blood takes only seven to 10 minutes, with a snack and rest period following. Each pint of blood

can be separated into different components to help many people, from cancer patients to accident victims and those undergoing surgery. Blood can be stored for only a limited time, so it must be collected continually to meet the community's ongoing needs. MCBC, which provides all of the blood used in local hospitals, collects over 90,000 pints of blood each year statewide.

523 pints of blood have been collected from GFIA blood drives since September 1993

If you'd like to serve your community in this way, please join us for our next scheduled blood drives on May 21 and

October 8, 2004. Says Lowery, "We've always enjoyed working with the Department of Aeronautics and the Airport. It's a solid relationship, and we're looking forward to coming back this year." →



Groundbreaking News At GFIA

MICHIGAN MILITARY AIR, LAND, AND SEA MUSEUM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

On September 29, 2003, the Michigan Military Preservation Society broke ground for the new Michigan Military Air, Land and Sea Museum, located at GFIA.

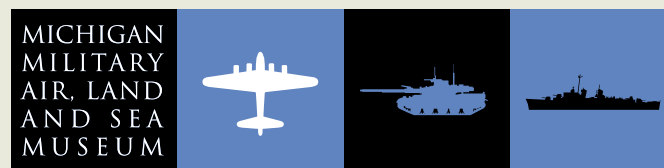
Executive Director Bill Harrison says, "It's important that we honor the men and women who have defended our democracy." The museum is designed to honor all U.S. veterans, and to help every generation understand past conflicts and learn how they apply to today.

Frank Boring, Director of Oral History, says the museum has partnered with the Library of Congress Veterans' History Project. "We're training high school and college students to interview veterans, inventory their memorabilia, and take digital photographs that are stored on our Web site and in the National Archives. The students are learning valuable history lessons, and we're preserving memories that would otherwise be lost forever."

Phase I of the project, scheduled to open this summer,

will include a 10,000-square-foot restoration hangar for the museum. The remaining 12,000-square-foot will house the Kent Intermediate School District Aviation Technology program, where each year 90 young students will prepare for certification in flight-related careers.

In 2006, Phase II will open featuring a museum theater, restaurant, and a 44,000-square-foot display hangar for



air, land, and sea artifacts.

Frank Boring concludes, "We're pleased to be a part of GFIA and appreciate their collaboration. There is more to do in making the full museum a reality, but we're confident that we can accomplish it. The

initial construction that has occurred is one visible sign of our progress, but there are many other things going on, too. Thanks to our Web site, www.mmals.org, even without the building we have a virtual museum." →



Phase I of the project will include a restoration hangar and educational facility

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ The Kent County Aeronautics Board's next three meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, February 25; Wednesday, March 31; and Wednesday, April 28. All meetings are held at 8:30 a.m. in the International Room on the first floor of the terminal building. The meetings, open to anyone who wishes to attend, generally run between 60 and 90 minutes.

■ Please join Standard Federal Bank and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Michigan for a night of high flying fun on Saturday, March 27, 2004, for the When Wishes Take Flight Gala, benefiting the Foundation. This premier family event, hosted at the Northern Air/Northern Jet East Facility at the Airport, will offer guests a magical evening filled with phenomenal food, exciting live entertainment by Michigan's own Three Men and a TENOR, and wonderful silent and live auction items. Tickets are \$100 per person and the proceeds will help make wishes come true for very special children in Michigan facing life-threatening medical conditions. For more information, please contact Sarah Spencer at 877-631-9474. →

Passenger Volumes Reach New Record

Following a steady 10-year growth trend, GFIA served a record 1,976,833 passengers in 2003. That's approximately 5,400 per day!

YEAR	PASSENGERS SERVED
1994	1,574,669
1995	1,601,566
1996	1,672,565
1997	1,759,879
1998	1,792,955
1999	1,805,287
2000	1,905,236
2001	1,829,254
2002	1,917,644
2003	1,976,833

Cargo volumes also remained strong, with a total of 73,815,488 pounds carried in 2003, or approximately 200,000 pounds per day. →

GFIA Supports Our Troops

Among our frequent guests at GFIA are the brave women and men who serve with the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. Both the 110th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard, based in Battle Creek, and the 927th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve in Mt. Clemens, use the Airport as one of their training sites. Last year alone, GFIA hosted thousands of training runs for pilots flying the A-10-A Thunderbolt and the KC-135E Stratotanker.



A-10-A Thunderbolts utilize the runways at GFIA periodically for training (Air Force file photo)

Why GFIA? Says Maj. Scott Cuel from Battle Creek, "We use this facility because of its convenient location. We also get special service from the control tower. They let us do our training without any argument, and they have all the navigational equipment we need for practice approaches."

Lt. Col. Mark Meachum of Mt. Clemens agrees, "Grand Rapids is one of the most accommodating places we've seen. The controllers are so welcoming and intuitively connected to what we're doing no matter when we show up. The first thing we hear on the radio is always, 'Thanks for serving.' Our pilots really appreciate that." →

Airport Connections, the newsletter of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA), is published quarterly by the Kent County Department of Aeronautics. We encourage GFIA tenants and all of our readers to contact us with your comments, suggestions, and submissions. Also, if you are not already receiving Airport Connections by mail and wish to be added to the mailing list, please call the Kent County Department of Aeronautics at (616) 233-6000. For additional information, be sure to visit us on the web at www.flygrandrapids.org.

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