



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

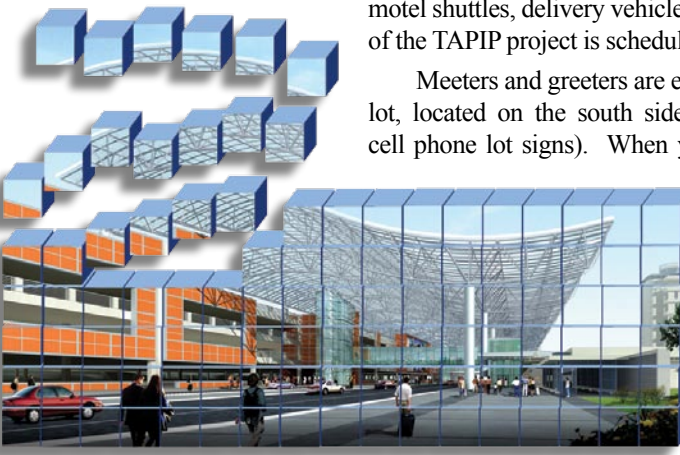
- 2 | *Tenant Profile: L-3 Avionics Systems*
- 2 | *ARFF Collects Toys*
- 2 | *2008 Parking Rates*
- 3 | *New Federal Security Director At The Helm*
- 3 | *Holiday Music Festival Receives Rave Reviews*
- 4 | *News In Brief*
- 4 | *Airport Employee Information Corner*
- 4 | *2007 Aviation Activity In Review*

## Ramp Up! Project Continues

As construction activities continue on the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program (TAPIP), there are several changes for airport patrons to be aware of. The most obvious of these changes is the temporary roadway system now in place in front of the airport's passenger terminal building.

This temporary roadway system was put in place to ensure that all types of vehicle traffic continue to be served during construction. As work begins on the new Terminal Drive, airport patrons will be using the temporary roadways and walkways to access the passenger terminal building. At all times during this construction activity, there will be two enclosed walkways available that will periodically be moved as needed to complete the project.

Airport patrons will access the passenger pick-up and drop-off area, catch a cab, use the Valet Parking service, and board and disembark all parking shuttles along this temporary roadway and curb front. A temporary commercial vehicle lane is also in place to accommodate hotel/motel shuttles, delivery vehicles, taxis, and The Rapid's buses. This phase of the TAPIP project is scheduled to be completed by December 2008.



Meeters and greeters are encouraged to use the convenient cell phone lot, located on the south side of Oostema Blvd. (just follow the blue cell phone lot signs). When your party calls you to say they are ready to be picked up, simply proceed to the temporary curb front to meet them.

For all the latest construction-related updates at GFIA, you may call (616) 233-RAMP (7267) or go to the airport's website at [www.flygrandrapids.org](http://www.flygrandrapids.org) and click on the Ramp Up! logo. You may also sign up to receive e-lets in your inbox.

## Airport Receives Excellence Award From FAA

On November 29, the Department of Aeronautics was presented with the Airport Safety Excellence Award from the Federal Aviation Administration – Great Lakes Region (FAA–GLR).

According to the FAA, "Gerald R. Ford International Airport takes a systematic approach to managing safety and maintaining compliance with FAA requirements. Amid major construction projects and extensive passenger and cargo airline activity, Gerald R. Ford International Airport has accomplished a notable record of discrepancy-free inspections for the past five years. The airport management and staff have demonstrated a laudable commitment to safety, and the airport sets itself apart as a benchmark of airport operational safety. Gerald R. Ford International Airport's continuing dedication to safety is noteworthy and deserving of our recognition."

Certificated airport operators that have made notable contributions to safety and operations are selected for this award by airport certification/safety inspection staff in the FAA's Airports Division, Safety/Standards Branch. Two airports are selected each year. This is the 7th year that the FAA–GLR has presented this award. The FAA–GLR oversees 95 FAR part 139 certificated airports.

Aeronautics Director Jim Koslosky says, "The annual Federal Airport Inspection is extensive and focuses heavily on airport operations, maintenance, fire/rescue and record keeping. This Airport Safety Excellence Award is the result of our airport team employees continuing efforts to keep Gerald R. Ford International Airport safe and secure for our customers each and every day."



# Tenant Profile: L-3 Avionics Systems

Few would argue that the goal of modern avionics is to give pilots the information they need to safely and efficiently manage their cockpits. L-3 Avionics Systems aims to lead the way into the next generation of avionics technology. L-3 Avionics Systems is focused on the technology that will enable today's pilots to fly with more sophistication, more safety and awareness, and more integration in the cockpit.



L-3 Avionics Systems, originally Learjet Avionics when founded in 1962 by Bill Lear, is a leading designer and manufacturer of advanced cockpit avionics

for general aviation, business jet, air transport, and military markets. In the past 45 years, the company has come a long way from the gyros, instruments, and autopilot systems of their origin. Two of L-3's most exciting new products are IRIS™ and SmartDeck®.

IRIS is an infrared imaging system that provides enhanced visibility of almost any object under any conditions. This revolutionary technology detects variations in heat, as opposed to the variations in color detected by other camera products and the human eye. IRIS technology produces a real-time, black-and-white image of people, animals, aircraft, ground vehicles, and terrain that is unaffected by blinding sunlight, solar glare, or nighttime darkness. The enhanced situational awareness aids the pilot during take-offs and landings.

The SmartDeck Integrated Flight Controls & Display System combines primary flight information with several of L-3's legacy technologies: SkyWatch® collision avoidance system, Stormscope® weather mapping system, and LandMark™ terrain awareness & warning system, and displays it in an easy-to-view format on large-format, flat-glass display monitors. Another advantage of the SmartDeck system is the built-in redundancy and self-monitoring that ensure the accuracy of the data being reported. Due to be FAA-certified in 2008, SmartDeck has been designed to be scalable to larger aircraft.

L-3 Avionics Systems employs more than 500 people and is a division of L-3 Communications, which is the sixth largest defense company in the United States with 2006 sales totaling more than 12.4 billion dollars. L-3 is one more way in which GFIA connects with the global economy.

The SmartDeck® Integrated Flight Controls & Display System installed in the cockpit of a Cirrus SR22.



## ARFF Collects Toys

Once again, the GFIA Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters collected donations for Toys for Tots during the recent holiday season. The collection began with an Open House on November 17 and continued through December 14. Generous donors provided dozens of toys, games, dolls, and stuffed animals, as well as two brand-new bikes — complete with safety helmets. Two airport families also appeared on WZZM, TV-13, to promote the program and deliver the toys.

The Grand Rapids Santa Claus Girls coordinate the distribution of toys to needy families throughout Kent county. Thanks to all donors for your generosity.



## 2008 Parking Rates

Effective January 1, 2008, parking rates at Gerald R. Ford International are as follows:

### Short-term Parking:

- \$2 first hour
- \$1 per additional ½ hour
- \$24 daily maximum
- no overnight parking in this lot***

### Long-term Parking:

- \$2 per hour
- \$8 daily maximum
- \$48 weekly maximum

### Express Shuttle Parking:

- \$2 per hour
- \$8 daily maximum
- \$48 weekly maximum

### Valet Parking:

- \$17 per day
- \$10 for five hours or less

*For all parking (except Valet) there is an \$8 lost-ticket fee if original parking stub is not presented when exiting the parking facility.*

For your convenience, we offer a parking calculator on the airport website to assist you in estimating your parking fees. Visit [www.flygrandrapids.org](http://www.flygrandrapids.org) for more information.



## New Federal Security Director At The Helm

On November 26, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport welcomed a new federal security director (FSD). Penny J. Anderson comes to this position after John Mumma was promoted to senior field executive with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) earlier last year.

As federal security director, Anderson will be responsible for the full range of aviation security enforcement and oversight, including the screening of all passengers and checked and carry-on luggage at GFIA and three other Michigan airports (Kalamazoo, Muskegon, and Manistee). These duties include the management of the federal screeners performing checkpoint, gate, and checked baggage screening, federal law enforcement officer activity, and regulatory inspections. Anderson oversees a workforce of 182 employees — of whom 114 work at GFIA.

Anderson, a Michigan native, has been with the TSA since 2005 and most recently served as TSA representative in Sydney, Australia. Prior to joining TSA, Anderson spent 12 years with the Federal Aviation Administration in a variety of security-related positions. She also served for two years as chief of the Aviation Security Audit Section at the International Civil Aviation Organization.



“I am excited to step into this role, and I look forward to working with the great professionals on staff with the TSA here in West Michigan, as well as the airport staff at GFIA.”

— Penny Anderson, FSD  
Transportation Security  
Administration



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

So, how does Anderson feel to be back in West Michigan? “I am glad to be returning to the West Michigan area and to be near my family once again,” said Anderson. “I am excited to step into this role, and I look forward to working with the great professionals on staff with the TSA here in West Michigan, as well as the airport staff at GFIA.”

Well, Penny, welcome aboard...and welcome home!

## Holiday Music Festival Receives Rave Reviews

For five days in December, the passenger terminal building’s Grand Hall was transformed by the sounds of holiday songs. December 3 through 7, airport patrons and employees were treated to a variety of holiday musical stylings performed by 19 area middle and high school choral groups.

For some students, this was their first time ever to visit the airport. For others who will be graduating, it was their last year to come and perform for airport patrons. But we hope that for all 800+ students, it was a performance they will never forget. 2007 was the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the airport has hosted music groups from middle schools and high schools throughout Kent and Ottawa Counties. This year, the performance schedule included five schools performing here for the first time (noted with “\*” below).

This year’s groups represented the following area schools:

- » Caledonia Middle and High Schools
- » Creston High School
- » Cross Creek Charter Academy\*
- » East Grand Rapids High School
- » East Kentwood High School
- » Freedom Baptist High School\*
- » Grand Rapids Christian High School
- » Jenison Christian Middle School\*
- » Legacy Christian Middle School
- » Moline Christian Middle School
- » NorthPointe Christian Schools
- » Ottawa Hills High School
- » South Christian High School
- » Potter’s House High School\*
- » Walker Charter Academy\*



Returning for its seventh appearance at the Airport Holiday Music Festival was the East Kentwood High School Varsity Voices. This year’s chorale was conducted by Ms. Carrie Hoeksema (shown at left).

## News In Brief

- » The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recognized the Department of Aeronautics for its 2006 annual financial report by awarding it a 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award is presented to those government agencies whose financial reporting meets the high standards established by the GFOA.
- » The next three meetings of the Kent County Aeronautics Board will take place February 27, March 26, and April 30, 2008, at 8:30 am. All meetings are held in the International Room in the passenger terminal building and are open to the public.

### Presenting...

Is your group or organization looking for a speaker for an upcoming meeting? The GFIA marketing and communications division would be happy to come to your next meeting and provide an overview of the operations of the airport, as well as updates on airport development projects. For more information, please call the marketing and communications division at (616) 233-6053.

*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; Tom O'Hare, vice chair; Dean Agee\*; Joe Jones; Dick Vander Molen\*; Ted Vonk\*

\* *County Commissioner*

**Aeronautics Director** | James Koslosky, A.A.E.

**Editor** | Bruce Schedlbauer, APR, Marketing and Communications Manager

**Associate Editor** | Susan Sherman, Community Relations Coordinator, [ssherman@grr.org](mailto:ssherman@grr.org)

## Airport Employee Information Corner

Winter at GFIA means deicing of aircraft and pavement surfaces — and that means it's time again for the Airport's Deicing Management Program to kick into gear. Most noticeable to airport employees are the Mobile Collection Units (MCUs), which are vacuum-assisted tankers operated whenever aircraft deicing is conducted. Deicing fluid that reaches the pavement surface is collected by the MCUs, transferred to storage tanks, and turned over for recycling. The field maintenance unit also maintains a series of catch basin inserts, installed in storm sewer inlets to prevent deicing fluid from entering the stormwater drainage system.

It is important to remember that any material entering the airport's storm sewer system is ultimately discharged to local surface waters, including Plaster Creek and the Thornapple River. The participation of airport employees is critical to successful compliance with the airport's stormwater permit.

Airport tenants are reminded that nitrogen-based deicing products are not allowed for use anywhere on the airfield. Tenants needing information on approved deicing products should contact Eric VanderStel, field maintenance supervisor, at (616) 233-6080 or via email at [EVanderstel@grr.org](mailto:EVanderstel@grr.org).

Any concerns related to stormwater should be reported to the airport communications center at (616) 233-6055. Situations that may warrant a call include the improper disposal of waste, improper discharge to the stormwater system, or any other activity that appears to have the potential to impact the quality of stormwater discharge at the airport.

## 2007 Aviation Activity In Review

While 2007 was yet another year of challenges for the aviation industry, commercial passenger activity at GFIA continued at near-record pace, with the airport serving 1,990,896 travelers – just 1.2% fewer than in 2006. August 2007 saw a milestone when the airport surpassed 50 million total passengers served in its history.

Cargo volumes were up for the fourth consecutive year, exceeding 91,890,660 pounds in 2007! This 5.3% increase means an average of 251,755 pounds of cargo were processed each day.

### Kent County Department of Aeronautics

Gerald R. Ford International Airport

5500 44th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49512-4055

PRSR STD MAIL  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 1



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

HOLLAND • GRAND HAVEN • MUSKOGON • GRAND RAPIDS