

## Making Connections Easier

There are now more ways to connect with the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) thanks to a new mobile app the airport recently released.

The app features real-time flight departure and arrival information, updates on parking availability, and security wait times. Amenities such as food & beverage and retail shopping locations, kids play areas, nursing rooms, and the military welcome center are also featured. Additionally, passengers can connect with airport ground transportation options available at the airport.



Passengers and guests using the app are encouraged to interact with the airport and give feedback through the app, and they can connect to the airport's social media channels.

The app is free and is available on both Android and iOS by searching "Gerald R. Ford Airport."

## Passenger GRRowth Continues

As we approach the end of 2018, the three million passengers in a single year mark is drawing within reach. Records show that the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) posted another month of record growth with a September that served 255,888 passengers – a 15.74-percent growth year-over-year. This is the first time GFIA has served more than a quarter-million passengers in the month of September.

This also marks the ninth record-breaking month in a row for 2018, and the airport has seen growth in 62 of the last 69 months. September 2018 was the busiest September ever, and this quarter marks the busiest third quarter ever.

*"Our excitement is genuine and we are thankful to have a supportive West Michigan Community."*

*~ Jim Gill  
GFIA President & CEO*

"Our excitement in record-breaking month after record-breaking month is genuine and we are so appreciative to the community for supporting and utilizing the Ford Airport throughout this

**grrowth**  
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## New Cell Phone & Ride Share Lot Now Open

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) has a new, expanded parking area for those waiting to pick up passengers. The Cell Phone & Ride Share Lot opened today and includes 30 spaces for individuals waiting for passenger arrivals, along with 30 spaces to accommodate staging for ride share providers.

*"At the Ford Airport we are all about making things easier for our passengers."*

*~ Dan Koorndyk  
GFIAA Board Chairman*

The Ford Airport board approved the construction project in April. Increased passenger and construction traffic prompted the relocation and construction of the new lot.

**new lot**  
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## ArtPrize10 in the Airport

For the second consecutive year, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport was not only a gateway for many of the artists who came to participate in ArtPrize, but it was also a venue for displaying several of this year's entries.

We had a mix of three dimensional sculptures and two dimensional art created in various mediums drawing the attention of and creating conversations amongst our airport passengers and visitors. From an oil painting of the seas, to water colors of people to photos and more, there was a type of art for nearly every taste.

In case you missed it, take a quick tour here and on page 3 of the beautiful art that was showcased at GFIA this year.



1934 | Amiri Farris



The 29 In Ellis | Christopher Gillespie



Power of Portrait: Travelers | Megan Call



New Moons | Radha Mehta



American Diversity | Lisa Sabo Brown



Semper Paratus - Always Ready  
Wanda Aikens



Anticipation | Eleonora Hayes



Selfie | Douglas Harkless



Robert F. Battles



A Child's Garden | Tim Donohoe



## new lot

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“We are excited to open this new, expanded space for our growing passenger base,” said GFIA Board Chairman Dan Koorndyk. “At the Ford Airport we are all about making things easier for our passengers so when it comes to giving them more transportation options, we are happy to make that happen.”

Other renovations in the area include new LED lighting to improve safety, and updated signage.

## GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING OPTIONS



## grrowth

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amazing year,” said Gerald R. Ford International Airport President & CEO Jim Gill. “We are thankful to have a supportive West Michigan community that is not only flying in and out of the Ford Airport, but seem to be telling their friends near and far what an easy, efficient, and customer-focused airport we have.”

Through September 2018, GFIA has already surpassed its annual totals reached in all years through 2014 with 2,432,413 passengers served in 2018.

In addition to three more months of what look to be strong passenger growth, we also have the addition of new service to Phoenix-Sky Harbor and Miami International as well as returning seasonal service to several of West Michigan's favorite Florida destinations.

Stay tuned for exciting news to come!

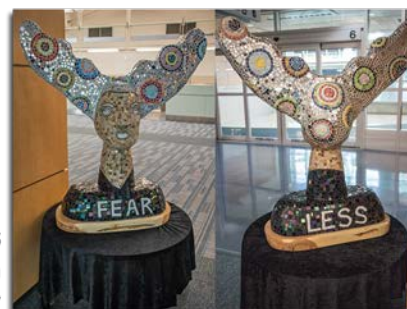
## artprize

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Path of Determination  
Billy Butski



Are You a Route 66'er  
Gary Fouts



Fear Less  
Elizabeth  
Laul Healey



Matthew's View  
Thomas Howing

# 5K on the Runway Making Wishes Come True

While runners once again battled a bit of wind and rain, spirits were soaring at our second annual 5K on the Runway on October 6. Not all 1,101 registered runners came out, but those who did enjoyed running through the tunnel underneath Runway 17/35, past the airport fire station, and wrapped around on Runway 8L/26R before heading back to the start/finish line.



## Our Sponsors

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- » Boxed Water
- » Experience Grand Rapids
- » HMS Host
- » Northern Jet
- » United Airlines

### Bronze

- » FastSigns
- » SP+
- » Steve Baldwin & Associates
- » Varnum Law

"It was exciting to see West Michigan come out and brave the elements to experience our facility like never before, plus support a wonderful charity at the same time."

~ Tara Hernandez

GFIA Marketing & Communications Director



29 volunteers donated their time and braved the elements to help with registration, cheer on the runners, hand out medals, and make sure everything ran smoothly



## Charitable Contribution

Thanks to our sponsors, combined with the profits from the registration fees, we were able to give Make-A-Wish Michigan \$13,256.

**Make-A-Wish**  
MICHIGAN

## We're Going Green!

This edition of *Airport Connections* will be the last one you receive in the mail — ever. That's right! After 26 years, 104 volumes, and countless articles, we are going DIGITAL!

Beginning with our next edition, *Airport Connections* will be published on the same quarterly schedule, but it will now be a digital publication, coming straight to your inbox. We're excited to be able to bring you a multi-media newsletter that will not

only bring stories but videos, polls and much more. This will also allow us to save a few trees along the way.

Sign up now on our website at <http://www.grr.org/publications.php>.





## For GRreat Change Makes a Positive Impact

Loose change in your pockets now has a home thanks to new donation coin containers at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA). The coin containers are in place at both the standard screening and TSA Pre-Check lines as part of the airport's new program, "For GRreat Change."

GFIA installed the new coin containers in an effort to support a local West Michigan charity, while at the same time expediting the security screening process. All donations will go to Mel Trotter Ministries with donations being matched by Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU).

"We know many travelers come to the security checkpoint with change in their pockets. Normally, they would empty their pockets and place it in a bowl before going through security, but now they can drop it before they go through security and donate to a good cause," said GFIA President & CEO Jim Gill. "This not only expedites the security lines because it is one less item to screen, but it goes toward helping to end homelessness in West Michigan. We are proud to partner with Mel Trotter Ministries and Lake Michigan Credit Union to give back to our community."

"We are grateful to the generous passengers, to the airport and to LMCU for their commitment to solving a serious community issue that affects thousands of our neighbors every year," said Abbey Sladick, VP of Communication at Mel Trotter Ministries.

"Lake Michigan Credit Union is thrilled to be a part of this creative way to make a difference benefitting Mel Trotter Ministries at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport," said Lake Michigan Credit Union SVP of Marketing Don Bratt. "We are excited to double the impact that passengers can make through the donation of their change."

GFIAA Board member Floyd Wilson, Jr. makes one of the first donations to the "For GRreat Change" Project.

## Chair of Honor Added to Military Welcome Center

On September 21, which was also National POW-MIA Recognition Day, a Chair of Honor was presented by the Rolling Thunder Michigan Chapter Four that sits in front of the Military Welcome Center. Members of Rolling Thunder, SpartanNash, and the GFIAA board and staff joined in the dedication.

The POW-MIA Chair of Honor is to remain perpetually empty to help people remember that even though the military members are not here, there is always a space for them. POW-MIA Chairs of Honor can be found in public spaces ranging from professional sports stadiums to city halls, and now – the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Military Welcome Center presented by SpartanNash.

"The Rolling Thunder Chair of Honor program is intended to support our mission that 'No Veteran shall be left behind or forgotten' should they become a Prisoner Of War or Missing In Action," said Mike Holmes, President of Rolling Thunder Michigan, Chapter Four.

National POW-MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September as a tribute to U.S. military members who were prisoners of war, those who are still missing in action, and their families.



"SpartanNash's vision is to be a best-in-class business that feels local, where relationships matter," said Meredith Gremel, SpartanNash vice president of corporate affairs and communications. "We are honored to include this POW-MIA Chair of Honor in the Military Welcome Center as a solemn reminder of those who are not here with us."

The Military Welcome Center, presented by SpartanNash, was officially opened to service members, veterans, and their families in November 2017. The center offers refreshments, snacks, charging stations, an airport arrival/departure monitor, and quiet lounging spaces for active military, veterans, and their families.





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*Getting there is better here.*



## News In Brief

- » The next two meetings of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority Board are currently scheduled to occur on November 28, and December 19. Board meetings begin at 8:30 AM and are held in the International Room in the passenger terminal building. All meetings are open to the public.
- » The airport is hosting its 23rd annual Airport Holiday Music Festival December 3 - 7, 2018. Stop by throughout the day and you just might be treated to some great holiday music by one of more than 15 area middle and high school choral groups!

## Airport Employee Information Corner

Safe wintertime air travel operations depend upon aircraft and airfield pavement deicing activities, which are regulated strictly by the Federal Aviation Administration. The GFIA Deicing Management Program facilitates these safe operations by controlling and managing spent deicing materials at the airport through the use of best management practices including collection, recycling, and other mechanisms designed to protect the environment. It includes requiring organization, teamwork, and implementation of specific structural controls, practices, and procedures to manage deicing materials, as well as requiring airport users employ only propylene glycol-based aircraft deicing products to facilitate the recycling of deicing chemicals and banning the use of nitrogen-based deicing products (e.g. urea) and reminding tenants that materials containing urea are not allowed for use anywhere at the airport.

Through constant refinement to its Deicing Management Program, the cooperation of airport tenants, and the hard work of its employees, GFIA works hard to help ensure the safety of the traveling public while also taking necessary steps to protect the local environment.

GFIA also reminds everyone that the active participation of staff and tenants is a critical part of the overall stormwater management program at the airport. If you observe any practices or situations that appear to have the potential to impact the quality of stormwater at the Airport, call Airport Communications at 616-233-6055 and report your observation(s).

**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 Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority office:

**Phone:** 616.233.6000

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

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

**Airport Board** | Dan Koorndyk\*, chair; David Slikkers; vice chair; Steve Heacock; Birgit Klohs; Roger Morgan\*; Ted Vonk\*; Floyd Wilson, Jr.

(\* County Commissioner)

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