

Some Bright Ideas Actually Cost Less

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) was recently recognized for having one of the best and most energy-efficient airports in the region. Consumers Energy presented a rebate check for \$151,631 to the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, as part of the company's energy-efficiency program, which is saving the airport energy and money.

GFIA received the rebates for six projects totaling \$151,631 and 2,140,991 kilowatt hours in annual savings – enough electricity to power nearly 300 Michigan homes for a year. The six projects included the most recent completion of the Gateway Transformation Project Phase One, work in the Airport's parking garage, and upgrades in the Field Maintenance and Airport Rescue Fire Fighting facilities.

“Our airport is proud to receive recognition for being energy efficient, and we are grateful to have partners like Consumers Energy who help us recognize areas where we can improve and be more resourceful,” said GFIA President & CEO Jim Gill. “As we continue to expand our footprint during upcoming construction and make technology



Pictured Above: (L-R) David Zokoe and Lisa Gustafson from Consumers Energy, GFIAA Board Chairman Dan Koorndyk, and Consumers Energy Senior Public Information Director Roger Morgenstern with an energy-efficiency incentive check.

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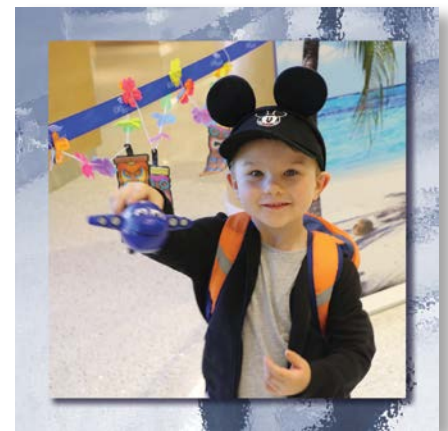
Passengers Tailgate Before Spring Break!

The Spring Break travel season is our busiest of the year, so it only makes sense that we would choose it as the time to host our annual Passenger Appreciation Days celebration; an event where we say “Thank You” to our customers. We know that West Michigan travelers have options for air travel and we appreciate their loyalty in choosing to fly through the Gerald R. Ford International Airport each and every time.

So, what makes for a great party? The atmosphere has to be perfect - so we transformed the Grand Hall with some tropical decorations, pool side party music, and a video wall with an ocean view. Next, comes food, and we had plenty of snacks and goodies for everyone!

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For fun, we had airport swag in the form of bags, luggage handle wraps, flying discs, luggage tags, squishy planes and more. One of our Gateway Transformation Project campaign sponsors, PNC Bank, came and joined in the fun bringing their game of chance for passengers to win prizes. Last, but certainly not least, we had drawings, prizes and the ubiquitous paper airplane flying game. It was the perfect party trifecta.

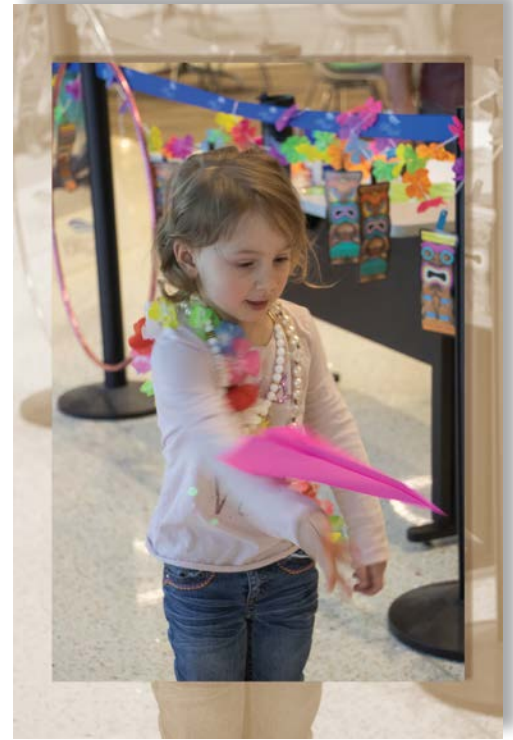


“Our Spring Break travelers who return year after year know how much fun you can have prior to your vacation with our Passenger Appreciation Days,” said GFIA President & CEO Jim Gill. “This is one of the ways we are thanking our community for supporting our airport, and our passengers will have some fun before heading out on their trips.”

Winners of this years prize drawings are: Marilou Boncher,

Caledonia, MI; Vilma Fernandez, Kalamazoo, MI; Finn Leonard, Holt, MI; Olivia Pappas; Bert Smith, Grand Rapids, MI; Tim Wiggel, Jenison, MI. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Most importantly, we want to say THANK YOU to everyone in West Michigan who chose to fly from the Ford Airport. It is our pleasure to take care of your aviation travel needs.



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upgrades and improvements, we want to be as green as possible.”

Consumers Energy has helped Michigan customers save more than \$1.5 billion through energy-efficiency projects since 2009.

“Our commitment to world class performance delivering hometown service means we work every day helping customers like GFIA with creative solutions to reduce energy consumption. This is good for the planet, and also lowers energy bills which ultimately benefits Michigan’s economy,” said Lisa Gustafson, executive director of business customer care for Consumers Energy, who presented the airport it’s check.

As the airport continues with new projects, additional energy-saving features are built into the designs (see **Apron Reconstruction Begins** on page 3) so there will be plenty more savings in the future.

Medal of Honor

Our airport sees thousands of people coming and going each day, but on March 22nd a hero returned to the Ford Airport with a welcome fit for a king.

94-year-old Al Johnson, a World War II Veteran, was flying back home to Grand Rapids from Washington, D.C. after receiving a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor in the nation. Patriot Guard Riders, family members, and airport guests donned flags and applauded as Johnson came through the exit from the concourse.



Tears filled Johnson’s eyes as he walked through the parade line, saying he never thought he would be recognized for his service because of the secrecy of the organization he was with. Johnson was a part of the Office of Strategic Services during the war, the predecessor to the CIA. Much of the information involving OSS, including who served in it, was classified until 2008.

Johnson showed off his heavy gold medal to reporters, Patriot Guard, and family members that greeted him in

hero

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Aircraft Apron Reconstruction Project

In early April, work began on the \$30.2 million aircraft apron reconstruction project. The apron is the area where aircraft are parked, unloaded, loaded, and refueled. The existing pavement was installed in piecemeal fashion over the last five decades since the airport was first developed at this location. As the airport terminal expanded, more pavement was added to accommodate new gates, new apron space, and new taxiways and runways. Runways and taxiways, which receive the heaviest usage have been rebuilt over the years, and now we are addressing the aircraft apron.

This work will be done over two construction seasons (2018 & 2019) to accommodate both the winter weather of Michigan and the need to maintain a completely functioning airfield for daily operations. The project will be completed in seven phases, with a few airline gates closed at a time when needed to accommodate the work. All flight activity will be handled at alternate gates during the temporary closures in coordination with our airline partners.

In addition to the new pavement, significant infrastructure work is included in this project that will prepare the airport for future development.



Major Features Include:

- » Removal of the existing concrete pavement (outlined in red);
- » Replacement with 153,000 square yards of new concrete for future airport development and aircraft loadings; — the amount of concrete needed to pave a 250 mile stretch of sidewalk from GFIA to the Mackinac Bridge!
- » Upgraded stormwater drainage system and underground utilities to accommodate for future airport development;
- » Installation of all new LED apron lighting to reduce energy usage.

hero

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the airport, including his wife of 70 years, Jean.

“I didn’t know I had so many friends,” he said to the crowd.

Johnson was appreciative to receive a hero’s welcome, but we were twice as thankful to have a hero walk through our halls.



COMING THIS FALL

RUNWAY 5K @ GRR

10.6.18

Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority
5500 44th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512-4055

Getting there is better here.



News In Brief

- » The next three meetings of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority Board are currently scheduled to occur on May 30, June 27, and July 25. 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.
- » Catch us SOARING! Did you spot an airport employee going above and beyond? Nominate them for our customer service awards! Find more information and a link to the nomination form on our website at www.FlyFord.org/contact-us.php.

Hot Off the Press!

The 2018 Report to the Community is hot off the press. The Report is an annual publication of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority that recaps the previous year's activities and shares information about upcoming projects and goals.

This year's Report highlights our many projects, achievements, and celebrations throughout the past year, including new air service from Frontier Airlines, our five-year trend of record-setting passenger growth and the opening and dedication of phase one of our Gateway Transformation Project. Also included is a look ahead to exciting new developments and construction plans.

The Report to the Community is available on the airport website at FlyFord.org. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the Report, please contact the Airport Authority's administrative office at (616) 233-6000.



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:

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