



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

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NEWS LETTER

August 15, 2008

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...Greetings All... We thank you for continued interest in the NewsLetter and the many inquiries regarding its recent absence. I do apologize for not having published one since May. But man, oh man, have we been busy...! Spare time to extend the information highway here just simply has not lent itself to me. Having said that, we have a lot to tell you about, so here we go-- I'll start with the big bang, two in fact:

***** Welcome John Youell, our new Airport Manager.** Please, do allow me to make the introductions.

John joined our staff just days ago but he is already home. He grew up in Palatka, graduated from Palatka South High School, and was first introduced to Aviation in 1981. He took his first solo here, from this very Airport, before joining the United States Air Force. Having served our country for fifteen years and then continuing his Aviation career in the private sector, he now comes home to where it all began for him, ah, the irony, and brings with him more than twenty-six years experience in General Aviation that includes logistical support, aircraft operations, and also flight instruction, instruction most recently as the Assistant Chief Instructor at Auburn University. Now, don't let that Auburn thing scare you folks. We'll have him turned back into a member of the Gator Nation before too long.

He is our new Airport Manager, John Youell. He comes to us in a time of great change. I am very excited about having him. I, together with Airport staff and the CITY OF PALATKA in whole, invite you to join us in extending a big warm welcome. We look forward to our future and are pleased that John will help take us there.

***** Big Bang #2...Joint Action Capital Improvement Projects Update...**For some time now we have been sharing with you the details of upcoming projects. May to date has been very busy for us. We've had all sorts of meetings for each of these projects, including pre-bid meetings, bid openings, bid reviews, and design reviews. I've had contractors running around all over out here and been loving every minute of it. The final touches are coming together and in late July we added yet another improvement project: Phase I and Phase II Security Fencing. Let's take these projects one at a time, shall we?

- The anticipated MPU and ALP Update: The *Master Plan Update* and *Airport Layout Plan* will carve out our future development for the next twenty (20) years. As a part of our grant assurances, we are required to update these documents every five years. We are soooooo looking forward to this particular update. We have come a long way since the existing Plan was adopted. Passero Associates, our Airport engineers and consultant firm, has already begun this tedious task. Team Passero has an intimate knowledge of the inner and outer workings of 28J Palatka. They have been a vital part of this operation since 2004, sharing in taking us to new heights with improvements and advisements. I anticipate review of the first draft of their new MPU will be no less professional than any other past project.
- We welcome Hashman Construction of Jacksonville. They received the recommendation of bid award and were awarded the contract to construct our new Hangars. We are proposing to build two (2) new hangar buildings consisting of ten (10) nested t-hangar units, one (1) attached bulk hangar, and various other amenities. Both buildings will be dually accessible via taxi lanes attached to both the east access road and Taxiway Bravo. Notice to Proceed is projected to be issued September 2nd. The previously proposed Corporate Hangars are excluded. No further information is available on the corporate hangars at this time.

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- Welcome to Anderson Columbia of Lake City. They received the recommendation and were awarded the contract to rehabilitate Taxiway Bravo. Here's what's included in this project: all of Taxiway Bravo, every inch from the previously rehabbed union at Rwy 27 all the way westward to just past Rwy 17. This project also includes improvements to adjoining specific aprons, various drainage improvements, and the improvement I've been most adamant about for the past four to five years: the AWOS III-P/T. You may recall that the AWOS was in a previous airfield lighting project but had to be dropped when unforeseen complications that absorbed its funding arose within that project. I couldn't possibly express my pleasure of having the AWOS in this TXY "B" rehab project and will continue to be adamant that it remains included. Notice to Proceed is anticipated to be issued September 15th.
- Phase I & Phase II Security Fencing: will include removing approximately 978 feet of existing fencing and erecting approximately 1,320 feet of new vinyl coated fencing and relocating the existing east access road gate operating equipment. This project is directly related to our continuing re-beautification efforts but also includes components that will serve the new terminal building improvements. Being as budget conscience as we are, approximately 900 feet of the fence to be removed, plus gates, will be re-erected and re-set off site at our NDB location, thus saving additional monies while providing additional security at this off-site location. We welcome Crawford Fence Company of the Starke/Waldo area. They received the bid recommendation and were awarded the contract to construct these fencing needs. Notice to Proceed was issued in mid July. Phase I is in progress. Construction has begun.
- Welcome JAX 18 Construction of St. Augustine. You may recall that they received the recommendation and were awarded the contract to construct the pavement considerations for the new terminal building, including the new vehicle parking lot, access road, drop off loop, landscaping, drainage improvements, and the aircraft apron that will adjoin the new terminal building. Notice to Proceed is projected to be issued August 25th.
- And finally, Welcome AJAX Construction, Inc., out of Ocala. As you also may remember, AJAX received the nod for the new terminal building itself, design and construction. This project includes the all inclusive, state-of-the-art, new 4,035 square foot building, landscaping, the new highway road sign, and a fixed rest room facility at the fuel farm. Notice to Proceed has been issued.

There you go folks...fourteen (14) projects, all embedded within each other, all that more than likely will be happening simultaneously, in whole or in part. This is going to be our biggest single capital improvement endeavor to date and requires multi-contractor coordination, which has already begun. The pre-construction meeting with all contractors was held just days ago. Once things get full blown underway, there will be some impacts with regards to vehicle and aircraft easement and access. A traffic management plan, already formulated, will be released in advance of its necessity.

All of these projects, carrying an estimated capital improvement price tag of \$5.5 million dollars, are 100% funded, joint participation by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA. Over the last ten-plus years we have made the not-so-noticeable improvements to infrastructure, such as drainage, runway and taxiway pavement rehab, NAVAID rehab, and the replacement of every edgeway light fixture on the airfield, just to name a few. Now you are going to see some very noticeable improvements. These projects, which have been long in the planning, will put a new face on 28J Palatka and allow us to expand our customer services.

In preparation for the new terminal improvements, that old landmark known for years as the white house has come down. It took some time to get the pre-demo prep completed. It was the location hub of many utilities that branched off and served & supported other Airport Operations, including many ATT FCC FAA data circuits that supported NAVAIDS and terminal ops. All had to be relocated. You may have noticed that I turned us into a flag nation as every color of the rainbow was represented in regard to utility locates. We were "GO" for demolition in the first week of July, and on July 15th, she came down in all her glory, and with her, a piece of our history.

My many thanks to two fellow Department Heads, Mr. Ed Chandler of CITY OF PALATKA Streets and Sanitation, and Mr. Rhett McCamey of CITY OF PALATKA Water & Sewer Distribution. Rhett and his staff were of great assistance in disconnecting their respective interests and re-routing what had to be re-routed. Ed brought a crew out and performed the demolition for us. These gestures not only saved the Airport budget a heap of expenditure, but also indicates what you have heard me say before about interdepartmental cooperation enhancing the CITY OF PALATKA in whole. And all I had to do was ask them. Thanks Ed...! Thanks Rhett...! And additional thanks to your staff.

I have one more announcement for you folks...the one most awaited and the one most inquired about. As to the much anticipated official launch of these projects, many of you have commented on the "Coming Soon" construction signage recently placed in strategic locations on the Airport. Well folks, here you go...

...the Airport Improvements Ground Breaking Ceremony has been set for August 27th at 10:30 AM...

We encourage your presence, so *please accept this notice as your standing invitation to participate in this monumental and historic event.*

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*** **Improved Customer Service...**In the May NewsLetter I mentioned that coming soon will be the illumination of both the SHELL branding POS at the fuel farm and the adjacent SHELL price signage. This project was completed in June and is anticipated to serve our after hours customers by more precisely pinpointing the location of our fuel farm at night. We thank the many of you who have noticed and offered compliments of gratitude for this expanded customer service of after hours illumination.

*** **Hangar Inspection:** All are aware that I, accompanied by the Fire Marshall and Building Inspector, conducted a facility-wide hangar inspection on June 16th, 2008. Remarkably, it was completed in one day, which speaks volumes to the level of compliance from our tenants. We certainly thank you for your diligence. Specific follow up letters to each tenant will be forthcoming, on a date to be announced.

*** **Coming Soon...**a new beautification project. The highway frontage has been targeted. This has also been in the planning and scheduling stages for a few months now. You may have already noticed its improved appearance; however, we're gonna go a little farther and do some stumping, grubbing, and grading -- preventative maintenance, if you will -- that may prove fruitful in assisting with its future upkeep and continued beautification. This area, too, will be turned into a flag nation as utility location progresses. This project has begun.

*** **Coming Soon...**Sometime in June I think it was, I completed and submitted to the City, a complete, very detailed and specific evaluation on hangar maintenance needs of every hangar on the field. This huge task took some time to complete and I thank all the tenants who participated in providing us your perspective as to what you felt were the needs of your hangars. City Manager Woody Boynton and I have held discussions. No time frame has been identified to render a decision, but we wanted you to know that it is on our list. The proposal for recommended action is under consideration.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is being pre-empted to bring you an important Public Safety Message.

Mother Nature, Mother Nature: We have been the victim of her electrifying touch over the past few months. Lightening is bi-partisan and shows no mercy, favoritism, or preferential treatment. Nothing is exempt. We can prove it. We caution you to be aware that we are in our summer weather pattern of violent thunder storms and remind you that Florida is the lightening capital of the Country. If you notice any storm damage or experience any operational difficulty with your hangars, please advise us immediately so that we may take care of it for you immediately. Please consider your safety and take shelter when these storms rapidly, and often suddenly, form without much warning.

*** The *Airport Advisory Board* will hold its next **regularly scheduled meeting** on Wednesday, September 3rd, at 12:00 noon in the terminal building at the Airport. As a reminder, the *Board* meets on the first Wednesday of *every month* at 12:00 noon. This is the regular schedule.

All *Airport Advisory Board* meetings are open to the public. We encourage your participation and invite you to come.

This concludes the August *NewsLetter*. As always, if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do for you, please feel free to call.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Donna S. Franklin
Airport Business Operations Supervisor

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*The City of Palatka
City Commission and Staff*

Request the honor of your presence at

*The Palatka Municipal Airport
New Terminal Building
Ground Breaking Ceremony*

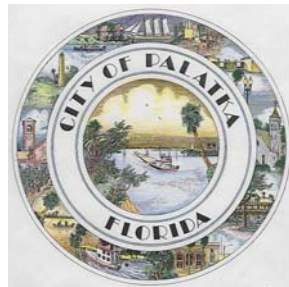
Wednesday, August 27, 2008

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

The Palatka Municipal Airport Grounds

4015 Reid Street (Hwy. 100 West)

Palatka FL 32177



*Refreshments
Following Ceremony
at
Terminal Building*