



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

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NEWS LETTER

January 15, 2008

Page 1 of 3

*** Last month we said good-bye to long time City Manager, Allen R. Bush. As of January 1, 2008, Mr. Bush officially retired after thirty years of dedicated service to the CITY OF PALATKA. His guidance, his wisdom...his leadership...brought this Airport into a new age, into the new millennium...as a well developed integrated multimodal port of transportation.

After an intense search that began many months ago, national and international applications from over fifty (50) plus candidates, an interview process that dwindled it down to the top six (6), the best of the best, if I may borrow a headline from our *Palatka Daily News*...two months ago the front page read, **"WOODY'S THE ONE...!"** We are proud to announce and welcome with open arms and great enthusiasm: Elwin "Woody" Boynton Jr. as our new City Manager.

Although originally from New England, Woody doesn't come to us from too terribly far. He began his career with the City of Palatka three years ago as the City engineer and our Director of Public Works. He already has an intimate knowledge of our City and its inner workings. He already has established relationships with staff in all departments. And he is already familiar with the Airport. Woody has hit the ground running. We already have had multiple discussions on Airport business and shared preliminary visionary thoughts.

It's a brand new day folks. We are turning the page into our next chapter, into our new future. Albeit difficult to say good-bye to Mr. Allen R. Bush, whom I shall always consider a Founding Father of this Airport, but together with our new City Manager, Airport staff, the Airport Advisory Board, Passero Associates (Airport Engineers), and our City Commission; we will do great things, carrying forward what was started yesterday, and most excitingly, carving out a new path to what we will start tomorrow.

*** We also say good-bye to Larry Pritchett of the Airport Advisory Board. As of December 31, 2007, he too, has retired. The Called Meeting of October 30, 2007 was his last meeting in service with us.

Larry is an original member of the Airport Advisory Board. He is our Property Appraiser of Putnam County and representing the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, property assessment and land value, he was hand picked to serve and received his appointment by the CITY OF PALATKA City Commission on February 27, 2003. This represents almost (5) years of dedicated service, having served shy of two years as our second Board Chairman.

There were too many contributions from Larry over the years to list them all here. But three things I will remember most is his level of professionalism, dedication to the Airport, and the wisdom and leadership he provided as our Chairman during the conceptual design phase of the Airport's coming new terminal building.

As an example of Larry's dedication, much to our surprise and pleasure, he showed up at the recent January 8 regular scheduled meeting of the Airport Advisory Board. He sat as a member of the audience but actively participated in multiple discussion Agenda items. His passion for this Airport just couldn't keep him away. It wouldn't surprise me to see Larry continually lurking on our horizon, wanting to see the things we started together through to their completion. No folks, that wouldn't surprise me at all. But until then...

Larry...we wish you well in your retirement and may your Florida Gators be National Champs repeatedly.

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*** **AIR RACE OVER PALATKA...!** Yup, you read that correctly. For the past month and more I have been in discussion with Spruce Creek for *your* Airport, Palatka 28J, to be the turn around apex for this year's Great Spruce Creek Air Race. On January 19th you may see all types of aircraft, racers and non-racers, participating in this event.

Wheels up at Spruce Creek is anticipated by 0800, which will put some of the aircraft classified as "Racers" over Palatka shortly thereafter with an anticipated continued flow of various other aircraft throughout the early morning hours up until about 10:00. And it is possible, as with most Racers, that they may exhibit aerial maneuvers for the benefit and delight of the crowd below.

The on the ground airfield aircraft check in location will be the on the northeast side of the Runway 09/35 intersection. Other than traffic congestion, no other impacts to airfield operations are anticipated.

We invite all those who care to watch the race as these aircraft come screaming over Palatka to join us at the Airport by 0830 on Saturday, January 19th, with your cameras and favorite lawn chairs.

*** **International Development and Foreign Trade...** During the recent January 8th regular scheduled meeting of the Airport Advisory Board, in a stimulating presentation by CITY OF PALATKA City Commissioner Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, the Airport Advisory Board considered the aspects and implications of this very subject matter.

Our Vice Mayor Brown serves on a Board with the Florida League of Cities, pursuing avenues of international affairs, tourism, trade, and economical development. With the League currently looking at municipal Airports for such a trade zone, Vice Mayor Brown is aggressively considering us for the top of their list. She and I share a passion for this Airport and the direction of its future. So when she first approached me about this in December, I read and researched the volume of the League's literature and quickly came a conclusion that this is something we should look at. And with an understanding of the possibilities, she requested to come before the Airport Advisory Board so as to gauge their opinion of Palatka as a feasible location. The idea was met with a warm reception and a recommendation to explore this further, as well as with a request to hear from the League's Affairs Liaison.

This will be a repeat future Agenda item. I'll keep you posted of continuing activity and developments.

*** **Improved Customer Service:** Well, we're sure by now that many of you have noticed a more powerful air hose service at the fuel farm. We are pleased to tell all that that old aging and falling apart air compressor that used to argue with itself and had a mind of its own and had to be kicked from time to time has been replaced. We went out and purchased a real dandy new air compressor and caution that you be aware that the air no longer comes out in a dribble like it used to.

We thank you for your kind words on this improved customer service. We wish it a long and maintenance free life.

*** **New Capital Improvement Projects (CIP):** With the final touches being completed for the new terminal building improvements and with the hangar construction inching nearer to going out for bid, we have already started the process for our next round of planned improvements. When it comes to sniffing out funding, we let no grass grow under our feet and waste no time getting our name on the list.

On November 15, 2007 we executed a Joint Participation Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for \$250,000 for a project specific airfield drainage system rehabilitation. Gene Lamp, FDOT District Two Aviation Specialist, has been wonderfully kind to us, recently giving us \$10,000 on top of that, to evaluate these specific needs for the coming construction design. We have asked the FAA for participating grant monies on the same specific project and also requested FAA funding for pavement rehabilitation and resurfacing of Taxiway Bravo, in its entirety, including attached aprons and taxi lanes. The FAA grant application was our new City Manager's first swipe of the royal pen in what we anticipate to be a long list of future grant applications. City Manager Woody also gave the nod for our Airport Master Plan Update.

These are our new CIP target projects. All three qualify for joint participation funding on all three levels, meaning the FAA, FDOT, and local. All three are in the early conceptual planning. Design and construction is not expected until after June of 2008, pending project costs and as funding may be available.

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*** **Hangar Maintenance...** The task of preventative t-hangar door maintenance...is complete...! As previously mentioned, it was that time of year for us to adjust your doors and squirt some lube sauce on your casters. All 88 doors and 176 lower wheels and all 176 upper wheels were tested and inspected for continued healthy operation with adjustments, repairs, and lubrication having occurred as needed.

The next time you visit your t-hangar and the doors push with a finger tip, I would encourage you to think of Airport staff David and Jose. Please feel free to shake their hands or smack them on the back the next time you see them. Once again, their awesome tag team efforts have served you most well. If you only knew some of the challenges that we were faced with during this particular round of hangar maintenance. Just when I think these guys can't impress me anymore, they pull something else out from under their hats. Kudos to David and Jose for maintenance well done.

This task of preventative t-hangar door maintenance was completed in December. And as always, if you ever experience a problem with your hangars, please tells us immediately so that we can take care of it for you.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*... Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing the launch of yet another line of new items. We now offer you select items of the "Remove Before Flight" insignia.

I first tested the waters of what the popularity of this industry insignia might be around here. In November, I acquired just a few quantities of limited and select items with the intent of them being a permanent addition to our Pilot Shop if it went over well. Well, it would be fair to say that it went over well. The popularity of this insignia sold us out of items in the first few days and most of the rest in just a matter of weeks.

But fear not folks, those of you that heard by mouth and have been asking when these items would be in again, well, I had another shipment on the way before New Year's and they went out on the floor on January 3rd. So come on in and pick up what you wanted before they sell out again. And for future consideration, when space allows, I'll be looking to expand this line to include additional items.

So...now available at Palatka Municipal Airport...the "Remove Before Flight" insignia items. And as with all of our merchandise, you'll find it affordably priced below the suggested retail.

This concludes the *Cheap Shameless Plug* and it didn't hurt as much as you thought it would, huh.

*** The **Airport Advisory Board** will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 5th, at 5:30 pm. This is a special meeting, called specifically to have a first reading of and discussion of the first draft of a short to long-term improvement profile, goals recently generated in a Board "brain storm" secession during the recent January 8 regular scheduled meeting. The FDOT, our engineers, our City Commission representative, Airport staff, local pilots, tenants, and Airport users were all invited to participate. Every one in the room during the meeting spoke up with ideas for this improvement profile. All ideas contributed were entertained and duly noted for inclusion. The only other Agenda item for this meeting will be an open line item for review of the coming construction improvements and related material.

All *Airport Advisory Board* meetings are open to the public. We encourage your participation and invite you to come. To my knowledge, the meeting will occur in the terminal building at the Airport.

This concludes the January *NewsLetter*. And 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