



PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
Lt. Jasper Kennedy "Kay" Larkin Field (28J)

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NEWS LETTER

May 15, 2006

***** History Statement:**

"WHEREAS, Kay Larkin, one of the City's outstanding young men, and a Lieutenant in the United States Army and a pilot in the Army's Air Corp, was the first young man that we know from this locality to have given his life for his country, and..."

"**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the City Commissioners at their regular meeting held on July 21st, 1942 that the Municipal Airport above mentioned be and the same is hereby given the name and designation of "Kay Larkin Field", and the same shall be hereafter known by said name.

"...So the resolution was adopted as read."

(Excerpts from a City Resolution, 1942)

Kay Larkin Field, is graced by the presence of a bona fide WW II entity, the only military structure remaining on this Airport, the only visible sign of our roots: the **Quonset Hut**. We suspect it once housed artillery and munitions.

The "Q-Hut", now affectionately termed, has been vacant for several years and still being a viable structure, it was our desire to clean it up and give its due attention. Rest assured that we realize its value as a piece of our history and NO, we are NOT tearing it down. We are returning the Q-Hut to its original personality, as best we reasonably can, and all alterations and repairs are being done in such a manner that blends into the existing military landscape of its immediate premises.

We have added electricity and modern utilities. The demolition you see is the removal of certain "handyman specials" that were added by tenants over the years. These tenant improvements are shall we say "less than structurally sound", and were not very appealing to the eye.

Our efforts surrounding the Quonset Hut are indicative of our commitment to recognize our history and wave it proudly in a salute to the men and women who have served this great nation in one conflict or another, generation after generation, including Kay Larkin himself. And although it's a military monument to some while significant in meaning or sentimental to others, its inclusion for enhancement is just a small part of the big picture in our facility wide re-beautification efforts in whole.

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*** Speaking of our re-beautification efforts...**Available Immediately...6.4 acres of prime Airport real estate for lease.** The relocation of the Highway 100 fence line east allowed us to clean up the State Road 100 highway frontage and realize its potential for commercial development. Present zoning is M-1, light industrial, with a future land use change under consideration. We will recognize this land as a single opportunity or divided for shared enjoyment.

This 6.4 acres of *prime* Highway 100 frontage might not remain available for long. With an estimated 1200 employees immediately north of us at Georgia Pacific, 500 employees next door at St. Johns River Water Management District and the medical community and college just over the tree line to our south, it is in an ideal location, bursting with possibilities.

*** We welcome the *Jolly Green Giant* to the fuel farm area. Although this is not quite the rest room facility we had in mind, it will serve its desired purpose on the interim.

*** To touch on an issue raised at the head of last month's NewsLetter, Airport Security, allow me to elaborate further on the replacement of the t-hanger locks.

We *will* protect our tenants from any possible breach in security, either known or suspect. I won't negotiate that statement. If we did not feel certain that a possibility existed, we would not be expending the \$2000 to eliminate that possibility and protect you. Believe me. There are other things upon which we can expend those monies. But your security and well being are a priority to us. And this expenditure is being fully absorbed by us, at zero cost to you. Your only out of pocket, as previously mentioned, will be the 100% refundable deposit required and whatever additional keys you may request.

On the matter of multi-party t-hanger entry...we *do not* enter your t-hanger and have *no* intent on doing so unless the following conditions exist:

- Routine preventative maintenance as required, which is usually announced in these NewsLetters...
- An inspection of structural reasons due to storm damage or tenant request...
- Or unless the Fire Marshal shows up and says, "Let's go take a look". In that case, we are bound by the same laws as are you. And in all my years out here, that has happened just once, the summer of 2001, as the long-term tenants amongst us may remember. If you don't remember, allow me two words to remind you: fire extinguisher.

We believe in your rights to privacy, but keep in mind if a hazard exists, no matter how it came about, we will take measures to eliminate the hazard in efforts to provide a safe environment for all. The preventative maintenance will ensure continued hangar life and the continued safe environment thereof. And with your t-hanger connected to another, it not unreasonable to expect that particular repairs to your hangar might affect your neighbor. If your door falls off, the sheer structural stress of that occurrence will impact the door track way beyond yours, thus extending the maintenance required to effect repairs. We thank you for the kind words from the majority of our tenants who have expressed pleasure about the renewed condition of your t-hanger. I pass full credit to where it belongs: our Chief of Maintenance, Jose. I'd really like to have ten of that guy around here. And rest assured that the presence of our Master Key comes more in handy when you have forgotten to bring your key and you request passage from us. Yes, you know who you are.

I hope I have put at ease any concerns surrounding these issues. If any further arise, no matter the concern, please...always feel free to come to me.

The new locks have arrived. They will be distributed when security registration and security assignment is complete and we can ensure additional key copy upon distribution. A future announcement will inform you of such.

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*** Ok...here's a call I may be sorry for sending. Every time I send out a call, you folks always respond in fashion. That's just another thing we love about you. This goes out to our Airport Bums, the Ramp Rats, the historians, and the photo snappers in the crowd.

I am looking for images captured here at this Airport. I have maintained a photo library for years and Glenn now helps me with additions. He's burnt a hole in our new camera. However, we see many of you snapping shots and pictures of events and aircraft and we know somebody out there has a wad of images, perhaps captured some Kodak moments that we have not. I don't care how far back they go, historical right up to the present day.

I don't care if they are of events, aircraft, construction projects, wildlife, goofy flight training moments, a pile of toothpicks that used to be a prop, the early years, old landscape before improvements, aerials, whatever you have...even if it's a bird perched up on an aircraft tail at sunset. I would be interested in seeing any moment captured out here. If you have some dandy shots...I am asking you to share them with us. We want to see what you've got. Bring us your Airport Kodak moments.

I would prefer the modern digital files. Please send them to the Airport's email address: Palatka28J@hotmail.com. Or if you have a pile of prints, bring 'em on. Come see me and together we'll sit down and take a look. And who knows? Maybe it'll be your shot that will be *the* one, *the* image of them all, and it'll be so darn momentous that I'll just have to hang it on the wall.

*** The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is being pre-empted to bring **Florida residents an important announcement from the Florida Department of Revenue.**

Hurricane Preparedness: For the period beginning 12:01 a.m., May 21, 2006 and ending at midnight, June 1, 2006, the 2006 Florida Legislature enacted and the Governor approved a tax-free period directing that: No sales tax shall be collected on specific items related to hurricane preparedness.

This is the State of Florida's annual state wide pre-hurricane relief effort and we, the CITY OF PALATKA together in whole, urge you take advantage of this tax relief to acquire the supplies that will aid your family during and after a hurricane event. Do not wait for the named storm. For more information visit www.MyFlorida.com.

*** Reminder folks... Palatka's *18th Annual Blue Crab Festival*. I first mentioned this event last month. And again, you don't know what you are missing if you aren't in downtown Palatka over this Memorial Weekend. That's May 26, 27, 28, 29. That's right folks: kick off with fireworks over the river Friday night then three more full days of this riverfront special event.

From the Arts & Crafts to Ski Shows to the Midway to the seafood and more seafood and into the late night Entertainment Tent with such past headliners as country music's award winning *LoneStar* and 80's rockers *Starship*...we have a reputation for our string of festivals and this Blue Crab thing...it's the biggest and the best. And what better backdrop than our beautiful American Heritage St. Johns River. Crowds top over 200,000. That ought to tell you something but...go ahead...ask around...go ahead...we want you to. Visit www.bluecrabfestival.com.

Put it on your calendar people...*The Blue Crab Festival*...in downtown Palatka, *always* on Memorial Weekend.

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*** Phase II of the field rehabilitation Capital Improvement Project (CIP) is *still* in progress. As we have discussed in the past few NewsLetters, the project was delayed by the revelation of structural deficiencies in the subsurface drainage system underneath Taxiway Alpha. We were seeking funding for drainage structures replacement and shortly thereafter, we went “go again construction”.

The drainage improvement inclusion is already construction complete and Passero Associates, our engineers, have forecasted a new contraction completion date. Baring any other “glitch” in the plan, Phase II will be complete by June 30, yes, of *this* year.

Again, I ask you to be aware of barricades and construction vehicles on or in the vicinity of active pavement. I urge you to keep abreast of activities and check for NOTAMs daily. Portions of pavement *will be* in and out of closure.

This Phase II CIP is a \$1.6 million dollar capital improvement, joint participation between the Federal Aviation Administration, The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA.

*** Guess what’s next folks...Phase III. That’s right. I have been leading into this for a few NewsLetters now and we are at a point in the design stage where I can release a few details.

It is my understanding that Phase III of the field rehabilitation Capital Improvement will include rehabilitation of Taxiway Charley lighting south of the 09/27 Runway *and* the design consideration of the anticipated recovery of the abandoned portion; complete lighting rehabilitation of Runway 17/35 *with* design consideration of the runway’s anticipated thresholds relocation; replacement of all around airfield ground directional signage, replacement of a Runway 35 subsurface drainage structure and improvements to the 35 and Charlie’s safety areas; rehabilitation of a Runway 17 approach storm water outfall drainage structure; and installation of a Federal Automated Weather Observation Station with Thunder & Lightning detection (AWOS III-T).

The grant funding of this Phase III is still under consideration but joint participation can be expected between the Federal Aviation Administration, The Florida Department of Transportation, and the CITY OF PALATKA.

*** The ***Airport Advisory Board*** will next meet on Tuesday, June 27th, at 5:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public. We encourage your participation and invite you to come. To my knowledge, the meeting will occur at the Airport.

This concludes the May 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

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