



## **PALATKA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

### **Lt. Jasper Kennedy "Kay" Larkin Field (28J)**

4015 Reid Street, Highway 100  
Palatka, Florida 32177

386-329-0148 office  
386-329-0106 fax

## **NEWS LETTER**

September 15, 2006

Page 1 of 4

\*\*\* A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS HISTORY STATEMENT: Together with Passero Associates, Airport Engineers, the City of Palatka will in short term, be tossing out a *Press Release*, outlining the measures and lengths of our recent capital improvements, funding, and expenditures that has brought us forward into today. We are dedicated to our continued development. So much so that the Aviation system circle of funding has provided us a window of roughly \$ 7.6 –\$ 8.5 million capital improvement dollars over the past two years alone. The farther back we go, the bigger that moneybag grows.

To further define this circle of funding, I have mentioned in past NewsLetters about our free enterprise operating budget. Every penny you give us goes back into the continued development of this Airport. Be it as we are, a “local government”, or whether on the state level or the federal level, this Aviation system circle of funding begins with you, the aviator, who supports continued development with your purchases and rentals.

We have a very aggressive Joint Action Capital Improvement Plan (JACIP). These projects are scheduled years in advance and through the wisdom of our fearless leaders, with that advanced scheduling comes the advanced earmarks for funding.

We have maintained our position of being a gem in the rough. One day you will see the explosion in operation and ask yourself...“when did that happen?” We folks...we see it coming. It’s not about what may be happening today. It’s all about what can be beyond today, having the vision to anticipate tomorrow, and the ability make those aggressive enhancement decisions. I have said before how our founding fathers put on this path. Current and past City leaders kept us there. Together with our aggressive Airport staff and our aggressive “do-all” Passero Associates, Airport Engineers, our future path is clear. We are prime for the picking and we invite you to keep an on eye us.

\*\*\* Keeping with this Capital Improvement theme...here’s your Capital Improvement Construction Projects Update...In consistency with our “No Grass Grow” policy, we have several pans roaring in the fire. I have touched on each of these briefly in the recent past. To bring you up to speed, here’s where things appear to stand:

Let’s start with the most anticipated: the new Terminal Building: After careful consideration of various construction requirements and changes within interior configuration...we are moving right along folks. We are exiting the conceptual design phase and entering the phase of actual architectural/engineering design. The CITY OF PALATKA has given their blessing. Surveying for the site plan has begun. We are committed to \$1.0 to \$ 1.75 million preliminary dollars with more to come.

Also falling under the recent blanket of City blessings is the forward progress of Hangar Development. You have heard me tell of certain design configurations that were under review during the conceptual design phase. Well...two rows of T-hangars and two Bulk Hangars have moved into their prospective avenues for topographical surveys, geotechnical investigation, storm water permitting process, and the actual architectural/engineering design and preparations for bid. As to cost, one row of t-hangars alone is estimated to be somewhere around \$500,000. Bulk hangar cost is yet to come.

Phase III CIP Airfield Improvement: I mentioned last month that BGCO Contractors, Inc., out of Jacksonville, Florida, received the recommendation for the contract. You may recall that BGCO is the company that executed Phase I in 2004-05 and Phase II in 2005-06. BGCO has received the contract and staging has begun. Surveyors are on site.

[Palatka28J@hotmail.com](mailto:Palatka28J@hotmail.com)

Or visit us at

[www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com](http://www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com)

[www.CityofPalatka.com](http://www.CityofPalatka.com)

A new project: Security Fencing. This has been in the works for some time now and was just recently chiseled in stone. Glenn has sniffed out and received formal commitment from the Florida Department of Transportation to provide us up to \$ 44,000.00 to complete some gaps/maintenance in and to our perimeter security fencing. The details of this are still in the come together phase but I can tell you this will be 80/20-grant allocation, joint participation between the FDOT and the CITY OF PALATKA. That's 80% state and 20% local.

Timeline: The Phase III CIP is loosely beginning as we speak, pre-construction meetings coming next month and preliminary scheduling is forecasting a project completion date in February 2007. No clear timeline has yet been defined for the first three mentioned coming projects or the fencing. Rest assured that all are in forward gear. And Andrew Holesko, of Passero Associates, Airport Engineers, has intimated that the pre bid for the terminal may be ready as early as December/January with construction still projected for the coming 2007 calendar year. As developments become more clearly defined, I will, as always, keep you abreast.

\*\*\* Staying on pace... In July I first made mention of two land sales pending in the Airport's Industrial Park. I also then mentioned how it is not only the position of the Federal Aviation Administration but it is chiseled in stone policy of the CITY OF PALATKA that all monies received through Airport land sales reverts to Airport land acquisition and matching Airport grant funds. In other words, the monies are Airport exclusive. The City has made this commitment, having been affirmed by the City Manager during the June Airport Advisory Board Meeting and reaffirmed in detail during the recent September 12th meeting.

To touch on this for just a minute, this will be a sale of approximately ten (10) acres and is projected to provide the Airport with up to \$400,000.00 in matching grant funds. Earmarking is already in progress.

\*\*\* Also mentioned in the July NewsLetter was a future land use change in the Airport's present zoning of M-1, light industrial. This was in conjunction with the lease availability of the 6.4 acres fronting State Road 100, the highway running the Airport's main entrance, and lent itself to re-zoning the entire Airport.

To touch on this for just a minute, the entitlement of "AP-1" and "AP-2" is now heavily under consideration. What this proposed designation will do is dictate Airport exclusive activities only. No other zoning in the City will be similar. And any proposed activity on Airport property will have to meet the criteria set forth in one of these two zoning profiles.

This will keep our development aviation friendly and grant a spectrum for meeting future needs. A land use draft is already in circulation. The bright minds of Passero Associates, Airport Engineers, are in the process of ensuring its compatibility with our current Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan. This draft will then be passed before the Florida Department of Transportation to receive their blessing.

"AP-1" and "AP-2" is at the moment, proposed only. It will be passing under the final eyes of the Building and Zoning Planning Board. Then brought before the City Commission, revision and/or adoption to occur at a later date.

\*\*\* Mark **November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006**. We have set this date as *the* date for the next **FLY IN**. We are not opening this one to the public, per say. On this day we simply aim to provide *FIRST FLIGHT* aircraft rides to the more than fifty kids that were turned away the last time because the volunteer pilots were just slap worn out.

Anyone looking to participate should contact Glenn, Airport Manager, at 386-937-1774. Still...we invite you to come and spend the day with us.

\*\*\* Speaking of Glenn...through joint action of Jud Neufeld of the Airport Advisory Board, and Gary Armstrong of Putnam County Maintenance, it would appear these men were on some secret black ops mission and it would appear they have located us a bonafide aircraft tug. I have not yet seen this eighth wonder of the world but I have been tapped to trim a little fat off this present budget and sniff out a few spare bucks. Does the date of September 30<sup>th</sup> mean anything to anybody?

Well...we're what's called "local" government so we run on what's called a "Fiscal Year". September 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day of our fiscal year. Folks...to be blunt: there ain't a whole lot of "fat" left on this here present budget. But that's where the sniffing comes in. When properly motivated, we have been known to squeeze a nickel until the buffalo burps.

[Palatka28J@hotmail.com](mailto:Palatka28J@hotmail.com)

Or visit us at

[www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com](http://www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com)

[www.CityofPalatka.com](http://www.CityofPalatka.com)

So Glenn will be fetching this new toy shortly. I guess he'll be wanting one of those little squeak-squeak horns for the steering wheel too. I wouldn't want to be the one dropping the flag at the start line when he races David in the Golf Cart back to Jose's Maintenance Shed.

We'll let you know if this eight wonder of the world comes into its own around here. It is most certainly a piece of equipment of which we can put to consistent use.

\*\*\* The *Cheap Shameless Plug*: This month we aim to spark the interest of you die hard collectors in the crowd...and also those of you just wanting another desk top ornament. Are you ready???

Today's *Cheap Shameless Plug* is announcing the arrival of *HotWings* die cast collectable model airplanes. I first put my hands on this brand new item in July. I was able get limited numbers of limited aircraft and I expanded the collection throughout August.

Now let me tell you a little about these things. The *HotWings* is a collectable item, miniature in size, and recognized as collectibles within the collectable community. They come with connecting runway parts. If properly cared for, they will retain their value and even increase in value as time marches on.

I don't normally plug within a plug but there's a first for everything so I'll change pace and tell you what we have. When I first got the C172, the V-Bonanza, and the Cherokee...being the mass populous around here, they went quick and being a collectable, I had difficulty replacing them in timely fashion. I have since added the Bell JetRanger 206, the F4U Corsair (USN), the F/A-18 Blue Angels Hornet (USN), the F-16 Thunderbirds Falcon (USAF), the military AH-64 Apache, the WWII B-17 "Flying Fortress" and the Space Shuttle. Next came the B-2 Spirit Stealth (USAF) (under government production, only 26 were ever built), the F-14 Tomcat (USN), the F-22 Raptor (USAF), and the SR-71 Black Bird (USAF) without the drone.

This is our complete selection. We presently have fourteen to choose from. But I am on the prowl folks. By massive request, I am chasing the Piper Cub and shipment of the P-51 Mustang is expected shortly.

To touch on the value thing again, perhaps you heard me mention above that we do have the Space Shuttle. Now...that may not mean much of anything to half you but to the other half of you...the half who already knows that NASA has already announced the retirement of the Space Shuttle fleet...well, I think it's a no brainer that this particular *HotWing* will have a valuable future.

Select *HotWings* are now available at Palatka Municipal Airport. Being items worthy of true showing, I had Jose build the *HotWings* their very own platform. And we gave them a location smack on top of our operations desk. That's right folks. It isn't every day any one of us gives up an inch of space around here. But for this...we did. And each model is on crown jeweled display right over the counter. You'll see them when you walk in the door.

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

\*\*\* Phase IV of the [www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com](http://www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com) reconstruction rolled out in fashion and right on queue, before the end of August, as promised. This was the big one that now links the community, the CITY OF PALATKA and Putnam County, to the Airport. We invite you to go directly there and do not pass go or stop at Boardwalk.

Once again, we shamefully thank you for all of your wonderful comments and compliments on our web site's "new look". This has been an intensive but voluntary task that I took on here. I deem it a labor of love. And for all of you wisecrackers in the crowd...the "goofs" and "bloopers" have all been corrected. So you'll just have to find something else to poke us about.

I hope to get Phase V sent out shortly. But with the coming close of our Fiscal Year...don't hold your breath. Now *that's* an honest statement. You see...Phase V just might include the largest revision yet: the *Economical Development, Business Opportunities, Hangars & Real Estate* Navigation Button. Phew, that was a mouthful...!

Again, many thanks to the *Controller* and Sandshills Publishing Company for providing our web site. Their geniuses designed an *awesome* site and when [www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com](http://www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com) first rolled out in 2004, it was and still is one of a kind. I personally thank Tim Washburn of the *Controller* for his assistance during the original construction and this on-going reconstruction.

[Palatka28J@hotmail.com](mailto:Palatka28J@hotmail.com)

Or visit us at

[www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com](http://www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com)

[www.CityofPalatka.com](http://www.CityofPalatka.com)

\*\*\* **Hurricane Ernesto** sure gave us a spook. By the grace of a favorable weather pattern and means of divine intervention, Ernesto could not re-intensify after visiting Cuba. He exited Florida *just* south and a hair east of us and decided to swim the mighty Atlantic on his north/northeast bound track, simply waving at us from off shore on his way by. We were lucky. As a weather maker, *Tropical Storm Ernesto* provided us here with two days of overcast, scattered squalls of his feeder bands and some very much needed rain. We were spared his high winds and tornadoes. Our thoughts and prayers most certainly go out to those who suffered far worse.

To address the questions and comments we often field during our hurricane preparations, many do not understand the hoot-n-nanny that occurs with every tropical threat, the “big deal” that appears to be made out of what may turn out to be a nothing event. For the “nay sayers” in the crowd, know this: Those of us in hurricane ally take every tropical threat very seriously and we will continue to do so. The rule of thumb is to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. These storms can be very unpredictable, at best, and the ability to intensify, rapidly or not, is *always* a possibility, regardless of the best opinions of the experts. History tells us so. We heed precedence.

So we do not just prepare for the event but also for the after event, when utilities, supply lines, infrastructure, and communications may be down. Pre-staging and pre-planning on our part makes the inevitable “aftermath” and “recovery” just a little more bearable, regardless of the level of destruction. Pre-declarations of states of emergency pre-open the doors that allow multiple jurisdictions to pre-stage relief at our borders and within. We are a port of transportation. It is reasonable to consider us an inland staging location for anywhere. It is reasonable to consider us an evacuation location for aircraft in harms way. And it is reasonable to consider us a location for mass relief. As an example, those of you on Florida Power and Light...we have pre-staged their response teams right here for many years. Organizing their massive staff and their equipment in one central location aided in restoring the creature comfort of *your* electricity that much sooner.

*Ernesto* was a good exercise for what may be yet to come.

As a public service, there is a web site that every Floridian and resident of the south should keep in their “Favorites”. For your convenience, I have provided it here. We invite you to see [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for the National Hurricane Center. Technology has provided the experts with tools to more accurately forecast these devastating storms. We applaud their efforts and appreciate what they do. As unpredictable as these tropical events can be, there is something to be said for the property and life these people save by forecasting the path, including date and time of impact, to within 30 to 50 miles of actual eye wall landfall. When one considers that a hurricane can be 250 and more miles wide with an even greater wind field, that’s some pretty darn good forecasting.

\*\*\* The **Airport Advisory Board** will next meet on Tuesday, December 5th, 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 September 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*  
Business Operations Supervisor

[Palatka28J@hotmail.com](mailto:Palatka28J@hotmail.com)

Or visit us at

[www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com](http://www.PalatkaKayLarkin.com)

[www.CityofPalatka.com](http://www.CityofPalatka.com)