



AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette

I hope everyone had a great holiday. I hate to see the holidays come to an end, as it is my favorite time of year. But as we begin a new year, it is time to look forward to the challenges and opportunities that the coming year will certainly bring. We have a lot of construction activities that will start in late spring/early summer, but more about that in the runway project update section. And of course, we have a lot of snow removal ahead of us. I always have a hard time dealing with the snow after Christmas. Oh well, only a few months of winter and it will be spring before you know it!



As a side note, I want to welcome Mike Austgen to our maintenance staff. Mike joined us just before Thanksgiving, and he brings with him years of general maintenance and construction knowledge. He has already proven to be a valuable addition to the staff. If you see him around, be sure to say "hello" and welcome him aboard.



Looking for first-class, no-hassle travel? Check out the current offers from Executive Air Transport, offering on-demand charter services to any destination you can imagine.

Call Executive Air Transport at 231-798-2126 for further details.

Charter Prices to Popular Midwest Cities

Muskegon - Chicago - Muskegon
As low as \$213.50 per passenger
\$1,067.50/5 passengers = \$213.50

Muskegon - Traverse City - Muskegon
As low as \$178.50 per passenger
\$892.50/5 passengers = \$178.50

Muskegon - Indianapolis - Muskegon
As low as \$297.50 per passenger
\$1,487.50/5 passengers = \$297.50

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Runway 14/32 Shift and Extension

Submitted by Marty Piette

If you were familiar with the Airport before the 2006 construction season, you can clearly see the changes taking shape. Grand Haven Road has been re-routed, and Ellis Road has been terminated in a cul-de-sac. The landscape has changed quite a bit, all in preparation of the runway extension beginning in 2007. As of this writing, following are the plans for 2007 and beyond:

The FAA has informed us that not as much money will be available in 2007 as originally expected. The original plan was to complete all of the remaining construction activities during 2007. Now that funding is being reduced, there will not be enough to finish everything in 2007, meaning we will have to move some items into 2008. What we do know is that Federal and State funds will be almost \$4M in 2007. That is enough money to complete the 2100' extension of the runway and build the parallel taxiway to the new approach end. There will also be enough funds to convert the existing runway 18/36 into a taxiway, upgrade airfield lighting, and relocate navigational aids. Some of the items that are being shifted to 2008 include the parallel taxiway on each side of the north end of runway 14/32, the resurfacing of the remaining portion of runway 14/32, and a new ARFF station. The good news is that the runway safety area issue will be resolved and the runway will be extended to its full 6100' length. It also splits the costs over two years, meaning that the local share of the project (2.5%) gets split over two years. The down side is that we do not get the entire project complete in one year.

More to come on this subject as things move along and we get closer to the letting of bids this spring. As always, the project timeline is subject to change based on funding. If you would like further information, there are plenty of maps and specifications at Airport Administration. Stop by, or call for an appointment, and we would be happy to go over them with you.

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County Additions

*Brookhaven Medical Care Facility
Submitted by Allison Jeske, Brookhaven*

Brookhaven MCF: A medical care facility with a mission.

Brookhaven is YOUR community-owned rehabilitation living center. The organization's mission is to provide health care and related services to you and your loved ones, while allowing you to maintain your highest level of function, in the least restrictive environment. As a fellow Muskegon County based organization, our dedication to serving you and your loved ones when the need arises, is unwavering. Your loyalty and support continues to be appreciated by all our employees who strive to make Brookhaven the best skilled nursing facility in Muskegon County.

Brookhaven is deeply rooted in the Muskegon County community and got its name from a contest held in 1969, which asked members of the community to participate in naming the new facility. The facility formerly was known as the "Convalescent Home". Through the concerns of the County Board of Commissioners and the Muskegon community, Brookhaven was built in 1970 to serve the people of Muskegon County.

The Department of Human Services, along with the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, oversee Brookhaven. Brookhaven has 186 available beds and is licensed as a skilled nursing facility to care for patients whose ages range from young adults to senior citizens. There are over 200 full and part time employees who care for all types of chronic diseases, as well as providing therapeutic and rehabilitation services to those in need.

Brookhaven's highly skilled nursing staff prides itself in offering the highest quality of complex medical care in the area. Registered Nurses are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make sure you and your loved ones receive the immediate attention you deserve. Brookhaven specializes in offering such complex services as tracheotomy care, IV antibiotics and wound care. On site radiology, EKG, and bladder scan equipment means your loved one doesn't need to leave the building when these diagnostic tests are required.

The highly successful Rehabilitation Department at Brookhaven has been in place for approximately 30 years and offers Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Language-Pathology. The team is comprised of several highly skilled therapists with great expertise and passion for the geriatric population. They are dedicated to assisting you and your loved ones to optimize your individual function and maximize independence. Whether you are planning to return to a previous living environment, or staying for long term care, the rehabilitation team will develop an individualized program that helps you realize your greatest potential.

At Brookhaven, therapy is not considered just exercise, but a holistic approach to meeting individual needs through coordination with the interdisciplinary team of nursing, dietary, social services, activities, etc. Brookhaven encourages family involvement and welcomes participation in care development.

Over the past several decades, Brookhaven has helped thousands of Muskegon area seniors. If you or your loved one is in need of skilled nursing care or rehabilitation after a hospital stay, make sure to mention Brookhaven by name to your hospital discharge planner and call Allison Jeske, Admissions Coordinator, at 231-724-3500. Additional information regarding services and amenities at Brookhaven can be found on our website at www.brookhavenlife.info.



 **Brookhaven**
filled with life.

Employee Spotlight



This month's employee spotlight is on Larry Stair. Most all of you know Larry as he has been with the Airport Maintenance Department for 31 years. Larry started at the Airport on November 7, 1975, at the age of 29, and will be retiring on February 28, 2007.

Larry has a daughter, Julie, and a wife, Regina. Regina and Larry look forward to retirement. They would like to travel and plan to go to West Virginia to help care for his mother and uncle.

Over the years, Larry has seen many changes at the Airport. He was here when the Muskegon Air Fair began, the old terminal on the north side of the Airport was torn down, and when the existing terminal was built. He also remembers when the Airport had County employees that were trained firemen and police officers, the building of t-hangars and corporate hangars, new fire trucks and ground equipment, and various property expansions. There also was an article in *Time* magazine that mentioned the dedication of our Airport employees during the terrible snowstorm in 1978. He, and the others, worked many hours of overtime to remove snow. He remembers working 80 hours of regular time, plus another 84 hours of overtime during that storm (and this was at the whopping rate of \$4.30/hour). There were 13 people in the Maintenance Department at that time; 8 permanent and 5 through the CETA program. Larry has fond memories of all the practical jokes the guys played on each other.

Larry's time at the Airport is not without a few accidents. He crushed his foot while working on a mower. But, that was nothing compared to the electrocution in 1980. He was working on some lights on Runway 32. It was damp and the power was shut off. Unknown to Larry, the power was turned back on for an incoming aircraft. Five and one-half months later, he was back to work. Larry was a very lucky man!

We will all miss Larry and wish him well in his retirement. Stop in to visit us every once in awhile!

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Charter Prices to Popular Resort Cities

Muskegon - Mackinac Island - Muskegon

As low as \$273.00 per passenger

\$1,365.00/5 passengers = \$273.00

Muskegon - Harbor Springs - Muskegon

As low as \$234.50 per passenger

\$1,172.50/5 passengers = \$234.50

Muskegon - Beaver Island - Muskegon

As low as \$252.00 per passenger

\$1,260.00/5 passengers = \$252.00

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Newsletter WOWs

Below are a couple excerpts from emails sent to the Airport.

"I was met unloading my bags by parking attendant, Trina. She was very helpful. Rolled my bags and showed my wife where to go. I parked my rental car and my wife met me with our tickets - less than 5 minutes after arrival, I was ready to go through security. Excellent!! This is a first in my years of travel."

David Dillard

"Great, friendly service. A wonderful place to accommodate us in poor weather."

Alex Menaric
(Midwest diversion flight)

Employee of the Month

October 06..... Phil Spahr, Avis

November 06..... Mark DeYoung, National/Alamo

December 06 Chanel Lardie, Midwest

Good News!

Starting March 4, it is probable that our evening flight on Midwest (1049/1413) will be moved up to a 7:25 pm departure. This will open up many connections with the late block of flights that leave Milwaukee around 7:30 Central time.



The Airport Terminal now has free wireless internet service courtesy of

The Brownstone Restaurant!

Airport Contact Info

Airport Administration

231-798-4596, x-220

Airport Maintenance

231-798-4596, x-227

Air Travel Marketing Consultant

231-798-4596, x-262

Northwest Airlines

800-225-2525

Midwest Airlines

800-452-2022

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Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Submit to:

Muskegon County Airport
99 Sinclair Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone: 231-798-4596, Fax: 231-798-7728
homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us

Interesting Facts

Did You Know?

The first control tower began operations at Muskegon County Airport in 1948 located on top of the old Kaydon Building next to the Norton Cemetery. The present control tower was constructed in 1966 and expanded with radar services in 1983.

On July 17, 1928, the first airmail plane landed in Muskegon at the Continental Airfield.

Using Muskegon County Airport's precision Instrument Landing System, pilots can land in visibilities as low as 1/2 mile.

All Gerald R. Ford Airport traffic landed in Muskegon during July and August 1971 while Gerald R. Ford Airport was closed during construction.



Muskegon County Airport

99 Sinclair Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441

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