



# GNV NEWS



News and Information from Gainesville Regional Airport

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## Looking Ahead at Airport Projects

*By Jim Stringfellow, GACRAA Chair*

### *Airport Improvements*

Updating the twenty-year airport master plan was essentially completed in 2005, and several projects in the plan were completed or are now on-going. The main commercial runway was completely rebuilt, a \$6 million project that, despite terrible weather, was delivered on-time and within budget. The first phase of a \$10 million airport terminal building renovation was completed in November of 2005, which included adding three new passenger boarding bridges (covered walkways that connect the aircraft to the terminal building) and the renovation of the airside passenger waiting area and gates. The second stage of the terminal renovation, now in preconstruction, will include the enclosure of the open atrium waiting area, new restrooms, new food service and administrative areas, and the modernization of the passenger screening area to improve flow.



*Exit for Passengers in the Secured Area*

Also, now in the design and engineering stage is the relocation of the main airport entrance road to Waldo Road. This improvement, first authorized in the 1987 master plan and



*Future Airport Entrance Road*

endorsed by the FAA, FDOT, MTPO and Plan East Gainesville, is designed to separate passenger and commercial service traffic, tie into a long-range state intermodal transportation network, revamp parking and terminal traffic flow, and include a future airport business/commerce park to be located in the southeast quadrant of the airport property.

In various stages of conceptual design are a new airport maintenance service building, 24 new hangars for private aircraft, a new rental car service facility, a new air taxi terminal development project, and a new air cargo facility. The Authority continues to work with the City on long-range plans to transfer airport lands to the Authority, and to work with the County on a project to move the Alachua County Fairgrounds to a new location and redevelop that land as a business/commerce park.

## Business Development

In addition to the growth and success of existing airport tenants, the biggest news of the year was the development of the southeast regional maintenance facility for Eclipse Aviation, a new “VLJ” (Very Light Jet) aircraft manufacturer. This 65,000 square-foot, \$10 million facility will eventually employ as many as 160 employees,



the average wage representing 150 percent of the Alachua County average wage. The Eclipse facility, to be substantially completed this year, is already proving to be a magnet for additional companies interested in building on our airport. We hope for more announcements of new companies, some with sizable payrolls, to be made in the coming year.

It should be pointed out that no City or County General Fund tax dollars are used for either airport operations or capital projects at Gainesville Regional Airport. Financing is accomplished by Federal and State Aviation grants, leases and user fees. The Authority is a public entity that operates in the black.

Gainesville Regional is not yet a large airport. We struggle in many ways to compete with the large hub airports that surround us. There is no question, however, that we have a bright future, and the mission and vision of the airport authority is clear; by working together with the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and our excellent management and airport staff, we will continue to attain our goals of improving our facilities, developing new and

encouraging existing business, supporting general aviation and increasing the quantity of passenger air service for the 11-county market we serve. ♦

## UPCOMING AIRPORT EVENTS

March 4 and 5:

Airport booth at the Gainesville Home Show

March 9:

4th Annual Chili Cook-Off to Benefit the March of Dimes

March 16 - 19

Fly into Gainesville for 2006 Gatornationals at Gainesville Raceway

March 25:

WalkAmerica

April 3:

Eclipse Aviation Facility Groundbreaking Ceremony

March 31 and April 1:

Gainesville Harvest's "Canstruction"

For more information on these events, please contact the Airport at 373-0249.

## Kick-Off Meeting for the March of Dimes

The Airport kicked-off its campaign at a meeting on Monday, Feb. 6. A special thanks to Lynda Knight for attending our kick-off meeting and a congratulations to Delta on their efforts in selling shoes. They have raised \$1,200.00.

Watch out, here they come; the following people signed up to enter their chili in the Annual Chili Cook-Off on Thursday, March 9.

**Garrick Crocker**  
**LaDonna Hudson**  
**Joyce Coughlin**  
**John Kelley**

**Jake Del Rio**  
**Kendra Edmalds**  
**Rose Crowder**  
**Maria McEwen**

Raffle Tickets are now on sale for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. You have the chance to win prizes and the proceeds go to help save babies! Please contact the Airport at 373-0249 to purchase raffle tickets or to participate in the Airport's March of Dimes activities. ♦



## ***Reminders from TSA and the Airport***

**G**ainesville Regional Airport and the Transportation Security Administration offer the following tips for travelers:

1. Arrive early — Travelers should arrive at the Airport at least 1 hour before their flight departs.
2. Be prepared for the security check point. Before proceeding through the security checkpoint, travelers should remove coats, jackets, blazers and shoes. All metal objects should be placed in carry-on luggage or in the containers provided by the TSA at the checkpoint. For more information on what to pack and what not to pack visit <http://www.tsa.gov/public/>.
3. Keep boarding passes and photo IDs out and visible until you have exited the security checkpoint.

### **Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority Board Members**

James L. Stringfellow, Sr. Chair  
Marilyn L. Tubb, Vice-Chair  
Kinnon Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer  
Billy Brashear  
Joe G. Dunlap  
Peter L. Johnson  
W. E. "Mac" McEachern  
Jon D. Morris  
Colette M. Taylor

4. Beginning December 22, scissors with a cutting edge of 4 inches or less and tools such as screwdrivers, wrenches, and pliers smaller than 7 inches in length were permitted on board.
5. Lighters will continue to be banned from the cabin of an aircraft and checked baggage. ♦

## ***"Canstruction" at the Airport***

**T**he Airport is pleased to announce that it will host its first "Canstruction" event in March. Canstruction is a charitable event, organized by Gainesville Harvest, that challenges architectural and engineering firms, in partnership with agencies such as Alachua County Schools and others to build, in one evening, the most incredible, edible structure -- all out of canned and boxed foods. After the exhibition, the structures are dismantled and distributed to the needy of our community.

*If you are interested in helping donate food, supplies or proceeds to help organize this community-oriented event, please contact Michelle Danisovszky at the Airport or Frances Leslie with Gainesville Harvest at 378-FOOD. ♦*

## ***Gainesville Fine Arts Association's Art at the Airport***

**D**uring the next couple of months be sure to stop by the Airport Terminal to see the art provided by the Gainesville Fine Arts Association.

Construction of the Phase 2 Renovation is expected to begin in May, and Art at the Airport will continue until the end of April. After terminal renovations are complete, the Airport will continue Art at the Airport and review other facets of Art that could be displayed. For more information regarding Art at the Airport, please contact Ron Haase at 352-475-3910. ♦

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This Newsletter is brought to you by Gainesville Regional Airport. For comments, suggestions or article ideas related to Aviation, please contact Michelle Danisovszky, Manager, Public Relations and Governmental Affairs, at [michelle@flygainesville.com](mailto:michelle@flygainesville.com) or 373-0249.