



# AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

## From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette



There are many objectives of the Airport Beacon: educate airport users, tenants, and employees about services offered; provide a glimpse of the rich history at the Airport; give updates of projects, etc. We need your help to fulfill those objectives. If you know anyone that would make a good Employee Spotlight subject, please forward to us their name and where we can find the person. If you are a business that operates at the Airport, please submit a business profile so that we can include you in the Business Profile section. Or, contact us and let us interview you and we will write the profile. We want to make sure that everyone is included at some point, and it is submissions from the readers that will be critical in accomplishing that goal.

Thank you for reading, and we look forward to your submissions and/or suggestions. Send to Pam Homan at [homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us).

## Runway 14/32 Shift and Extension

Submitted by Marty Piette

As of this writing, we are waiting for the FAA Grant Offer so that we can begin construction. We will probably find out more about the status of the Grant Offer while this is being printed; but what should happen is, we receive the grant offer in the next few days and schedule a construction start date in early August, with completion in November. Following is a tentative schedule for the construction, pending receipt of the "Notice to Proceed" from FAA, and the weather.

Construction begins the first week of August with the placement of signage and barricades for safety and security. Electrical, clearing and demolition work will also commence in August. October brings paving of the runway with pavement marking in November. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of November.

Because things change daily, please feel free to call Airport Administration for updates.

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The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website is packed with travel preparation information.

The biggest mistake people make with packing their carry-on bag is placing their liquids and gels in a bag larger than permitted. One, one-quart, clear, resealable plastic bag is permitted per person in your carry-on luggage.

Place medications in your carry-on luggage. The original bottles are not necessary. You should remove the medications from your carry-on bag for security inspection.

Electronic equipment is permitted in your carry-on luggage.

Food is permitted in your carry-on luggage with some exceptions. A good rule to follow is, if it is spreadable or pourable, it is not allowed. Examples would be peanut butter, yogurt, or water.

The answers are found at the Transportation Security Administration website

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)



What Can I Take on the Plane?

What About Liquids?

Can I Take Food?

Cell Phone?

How Do I Pack Medications?

Questions or help, call  
TSA - 798-3081  
Airport Administration - 798-4596

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## *Business Profile*

*Submitted by Victor Grahn,  
Executive Air Transport*

### **Executive Air Transport Maintenance Department**

Executive Air Transport, in addition to offering on-demand air charter, aircraft sales, line service and flight school opportunities, also has an Aircraft Maintenance Department.

The Maintenance Department is fully staffed with 5 highly experienced technicians ranging in experience of several years up to 37 years working on general aviation and corporate aircraft. We also have a full-time parts department manager and an administrative assistant.

The Director of Aircraft Maintenance, **Victor Grahn**, has been involved with aircraft maintenance since 1982, primarily in corporate aircraft maintenance. He is also a multi-engine, commercial pilot.

Executive Air's longest serving employee is **William Vandenberg**. He joined Executive Air back in the 1970s and has been working on aircraft since being discharged from the Army right after Vietnam.

**JR Corley** has been with Executive Air since 2000, and has prior aviation experience in Fremont, Michigan and also working on Blackhawk helicopters in the Army.

**Fred Holmgren** has been working on aircraft since 1990. Prior to that, he had a long career working all over the United States and abroad for oil companies on their ocean oil platforms and oil field instrumentation.

**Mark Baas** recently joined the staff here at Executive and has been employed as an aircraft technician since 1995, both in Michigan and Texas.

**Ben Dusendang** also just joined the company and comes to us from Lowell, Michigan. Ben has recently started working on aircraft.

Our parts manager, **Rusty VanDerVeer**, has been with the company for over 7 years and is a long-time West Michigan resident. Prior to Executive Air, Rusty worked at Howmet in Whitehall and Neway Anchor Lock. Rusty also has an FAA Technician



*(front row L-R) Fred Holmgren, Mark Baas, Ben Dusendang,  
Lynn Ramthun, Victor Grahn  
(back row) JR Corley and Rusty VanDerVeer  
(not pictured) William Vandenberg*

license.

Interestingly, 4 of our 6 technicians are also pilots. It appears aviation runs deep here at Executive Air.

We work on many types of aircraft, ranging from small to mid-sized corporate jets and turboprops, all the way to small, single-engine aircraft with two-seat capacity.

We operate and maintain several Cessna Citations and several King Airs. Working on this class of aircraft requires that we send our technicians to specialized maintenance school on the aircraft, much the same as a pilot would be sent to school for the same aircraft. Working on aircraft like this is fairly intricate and requires a fair amount of background knowledge, and experience.

We do engine removals and repairs, heavy and light inspections for both engines and airframes, pre-buy inspections for new aircraft owners, some light painting, and even heavy composite repair on the newer style aircraft.

A part of our business that we are really excited about is that in 2001, we became a Cirrus Service Center. A Cirrus aircraft is a composite aircraft built in Duluth, Minnesota. This aircraft seats four people and can fly just under 200 miles an hour. This aircraft is being sold in greater quantities than any other certified aircraft. When you have an opportunity to see one on the ramp, it's well worth it. They have state of the art instrument panels and avionics systems. They even look fast just sitting on the ramp.

If you're interested in Maintenance for whatever reason, please feel free to stop in and chat. We'd love to show you our operation. For more information on Executive Air Transport, we invite you to visit our website at [www.ea-transport.com](http://www.ea-transport.com).



## Newsletter WOWs

On May 10, we had four diverted flights in Muskegon because the aircraft could not land in Detroit due to fog. The following excerpts are from two of those passengers.

*"The Airport personnel went out of their way to accommodate us. They were friendly, helpful, gave us free coffee and pastries, and made an unhappy diversion enjoyable. I fly a small plane and will make every effort to take an 'on-purpose' trip to Muskegon during the summer!" He goes on to say, "I must say that, even though Trina (Airport) and Stephanie (NW) were particularly helpful, they seemed to be typical of a number of Airport personnel whose names I didn't have a chance to get. Please thank them for me."*

*Dr. Robert Rosen, Charlottesville, VA*

*"Our Small Airport is a Little Jewel"*

*"I was so impressed with the staff at the Airport. They provided free doughnuts, coffee, and water to all the passengers on all the flights. The staff greeted everyone with a smile and a Welcome to Muskegon. The staff at the Airport made our little layover a wonderful and pleasant experience."*

*"It is nice to know we have such great ambassadors at our Muskegon County Airport. I always try to fly from there and highly recommend you use the Muskegon airport. You can't beat the convenience, the friendly service, and paying only \$4/day for parking."*

*"We have a jewel here in West Michigan! Kudos to the employees for handling this situation with such grace and friendliness!"*

*Rhonda Romatz, Spring Lake  
(from As Readers See It, Muskegon Chronicle, June 6, 2007)*

Here are a couple of emails received from passengers.

*"Chanelle and Eric were very friendly, helpful, and professional. We will definitely fly Midwest again. Very comfortable planes and very good service."*

*Sandra & Donald Para*

*"Debbie (NW) is always friendly and upbeat."*

*Jim Runyan*

Many thanks from Skyway/Midwest to Mesaba/Northwest employees Laura and Paula, and Executive Air's Tim Nash for the efforts they made to help get a delayed flight arrival quickly turned around for departure.

**Thank you everyone!**

**It is team work like this that keeps people "Flying Muskegon".**

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## A View from Above

The Airport's rotating beacon is used to help pilots find the airport during Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC) or at night. Because of its height of about 70', it is considered an obstruction to navigable airspace and, therefore, needs to have a red obstruction light on it. As with all lights, it burns out on occasion and the bulb needs to be changed. Pictures taken from the top of the beacon platform when the light bulb was changed a few weeks ago are shown below. As you can see, the climb to the top is not for the fainthearted (or a Kotecki).



## Employee of the Month

April 07 ..... Jeff Carney, TSA  
May 07 ..... Holly Leveille, Midwest  
June 07 ..... Christina Rodgers, TSA  
July 07 ..... Cindy Frucci, Brownstone

### 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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## Transportation Committee

Bill Gill, Chair  
Roger Wade, Vice Chair  
P. Don Aley  
Charles L. Buzzell  
Lew Collins  
James J. Derezinski  
Marvin R. Engle  
Kenneth Mahoney  
Louis A. McMurray  
Robert Scolnik  
I. John Snider II

## 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

## *Congratulations!*

**Mesaba Airlines**, operating under a code-sharing agreement with Northwest Airlines, has awarded the "Station of the Year" in the East/South region to the Muskegon County Airport.

Statistics such as Station Delays, Luggage Claims, and Budget Items were evaluated.

Muskegon is proud to have been awarded this distinction and credits Deb Nielsen, Laura Huffman, Marsha Doxey, Liz Iannuzzi, Michele Peleras, Stephanie Wezeman, Anita Seewald, Paula Lamb, Jennifer Wall, Sarah Lanore and Theresa Rowe for an awesome job!

Great news! **Midwest Airlines** has been named "Best Domestic Airline" in Travel+Leisure magazine's 2007 World's Best Awards competition coming in first with a 77.13 ranking.

They have won this title eight times in the eleven years it has been awarded -- most recently in 2005. This recognition is in addition to being named "Top Domestic Airline for Service" by Travel+Leisure this past May -- an honor Midwest has won three of the four years the award has been given.

The Muskegon station is proud of it's employees, Kevin Straley, Chanel Lardie, Eric Wezeman, Holly Leveille, Jerald Harper, Rachel Worley, Kelly Kramer, and Jason Bowler. Thanks for a job well done!



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