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Questions and
comments about airport
issues can be sent to
The Hangar editor at
rmark@palwaukee.org or
847-537-2580, ext 160.

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Airport Open House August 23rd



Ever wondered what takes place on the other side of the fence at Palwaukee Municipal Airport? On Saturday, August 23rd, you'll have a chance to find out for certain. That's when the airport invites everyone from Wheeling and Prospect Heights to the annual Airport Open house. The day's events begin at 10 am and continue until 2 pm.

Visitors can walk the flight line at various spots around the airport to get an up-close look at everything from sleek new corporate jets capable of carrying a dozen people to London direct from Palwaukee, to small twin-seat propeller-driven training airplanes used day in and day out to teach people how to fly. Guests will also see a wide range of antique aircraft on display such as the open-cockpit Stearman biplane or the world famous North American P-51 fighter plane that flew cover for bombers of the mighty Eighth Air Force over the skies of Europe during World War II.

And this year something extra special for kids between the ages of seven and 17. The Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program will offer free rides to kids for their first experience of flight. Seats are

limited, so parents must call the hotline number - 847-883-8388 - to reserve a spot. FAA licensed pilots will conduct all flights.

There will also be plenty of food and games for everyone, not to mention a raffle for two aircraft band radios that offer the winner a chance to listen in on conversations between air traffic control and the aircraft in the local area. The exhibit tent includes displays by the Palwaukee Airport Pilots Association, The Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council, the Wheeling / Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce, the Palwaukee Wings flight school, and Wild Goose Chase, whose border collies regularly patrol the airport grounds to keep Canadian geese from mixing it up with the airplanes and much, much more.

Plenty of free parking is available in the lots near the airport control tower just off Milwaukee Avenue, as well as at the north-west corner of the airport near the Wolf Road hangars of North American Jet.

But no matter which side of the airport you park on, you'll have a chance to see it all thanks to the free trolley buses that will be in operation all day. Come out and bring the entire family on August 23rd.





It is my privilege to welcome you to this inaugural issue of the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Hangar. Whenever I have the opportunity to connect with local residents at city or village meetings and events, I'm often asked about the purpose of the airport, the kind of people and airplanes that use the facility and just what the future might hold for these 412 acres. One of the most important items on my August agenda will be our airport Open House. Please join us on August 23rd, from 10 am to 2 pm.

In the coming months too, you'll read stories focused, not simply on the important work of a reliever airport like ours, but also on the people who work here and how their efforts tie our airport into the national air transportation system.

In this first issue, you'll read what I expect to be a regular part of each of our newsletters (they'll be published every other month), the "The Answer is," where we'll answer your questions or address your comments about the airport. Check out the column from our PACE Council, the citizens group we formed last year to address some of the issues of common concern to both airport users and local residents. Better yet, why not join the group. They meet the first Thursday of every month at the airport office at 7 pm.

I've spent the past 13 years of my career at this airport and I'm very proud of what we've accomplished to date. But I also know that everyone in the neighborhood is not as fond of Palwaukee as I am. It's my goal to find the right balance toward offering an airport that works for our users and also fits well within its role of being a good neighbor.

If you have questions about anything that happens at Palwaukee Municipal Airport, feel free to contact our Community Relations coordinator Robert Mark at 847-537-2580, ext. 160 or call me directly at that same number. I'm at extension 114. And don't forget to check out our web site at www.palwaukee.org

Dennis G. Rouleau, C.M.
Airport Manager

Airport Community Group Continues Efforts

Early last year, Palwaukee's Airport Manager, Dennis G. Rouleau took a bold step to better relations between the airport and the surrounding residential communities by organizing a community outreach effort designed to offer everyone with an interest, the opportunity to make their concerns about the airport known.

The result was PACE, the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Community Engagement Council, a group of volunteers from all walks of life, both on the airport and off. Members include airport employees such as pilots, air traffic controllers and representatives from the two airport fixed base operators. From the community, members include a computer consultant, a printer, an alderman and the executive director of the chamber of commerce.

Their mission is clear ... "To build knowledge, trust and cooperation between the Palwaukee Airport community and its neighbors." The PACE Council communicates their suggestions directly to the Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission each month.

On the first Thursday of each month, the PACE Council gathers in an open public meeting to discuss issues relevant to the community. One of the first concerns the group began to tackle last year was the issue of airport noise. Very quickly, the noise committee that six PACE Councilors organized offered 10 common sense recommendations to the airport manager, to help reduce airport noise. Almost all were quickly adopted, like the suggestion to send more of the jet departures east of the airport over the forest preserve when possible.

PACE is always searching for new members who have an interest in helping shape the future of the airport. Experience in the aviation industry is not a requirement, simply the desire to problem solve.

The PACE Council meetings begin at 7 pm at the airport office just off Industrial Lane. For more information, call or e-mail the PACE Coordinator, Robert Mark at 847-537-2580, ext. 160 or at rmark@palwaukee.org

THE ANSWER IS...

Q: Why do so many aircraft take off over Prospect Heights and not over Wheeling?



A: The choice of the runway is normally determined by the direction of the wind. If more aircraft seem to be taking off over Prospect Heights, it's probably because the wind is from the south-southwest.

Ribbon Cutting Final Step in Runway Reconstruction

After years of planning and over a year of construction, Palwaukee Municipal Airport recently finished its largest building project since becoming municipally owned in 1986, on schedule and within budget. Completion of the runway was celebrated with a formal ribbon cutting attended by Illinois' senior Senator Dick Durbin, Prospect Heights Mayor Rodney Pace, Village of Wheeling President Greg Klatecki and dozens of other invited guests.

Unique planning on behalf of airport management, an award winning contractor and a cooperative airport community, made raising the airport's primary jet runway – Runway 16-34 – out of its hazardous flood plane, along



with the addition of pavement grooving to improve an aircraft's stopping ability, light grading and drainage improvements a complete success. The runway was not extended during this work and remains 5001 feet in length.



To maintain the airport's role as an O'Hare reliever facility, Palwaukee's management developed a plan to close the long runway solely on weekends and complete the work between 10 p.m. Friday night and 6 a.m. Monday morning when 16-34 would reopen to regular air traffic.

Ninety percent of the \$9.5 million project was funded by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant, with five percent paid by the State of Illinois and the remaining five percent contributed from Palwaukee's capital improvement budget. No local tax dollars were used to complete the work.

"Without the high level of communication and cooperation between all of the construction companies involved, as well as the airport users, including pilots and air traffic controllers, a project of this magnitude could never have been completed on time or on budget," said Dennis Rouleau, Palwaukee Municipal Airport Manager. "The improvements completed here demonstrate again, that keeping this airport safe is our number one priority."

The runway reconstruction won Palwaukee Municipal Airport the American Public Works Association (Chicago Metropolitan Suburban chapter) Local Project of the Year, as well as an Honorable Mention from the group's Chicago chapter. The project consumed over 36,000 tons of aggregate base course (crushed stone), laid over 63,000 tons of asphalt material and installed over 7,000-feet of new storm sewer.

Plote Construction Inc., the general contractor on the runway project, was recently selected as Contractor of the Year by the Illinois Department of Transportation for this assignment. The American Public Works Association (Illinois chapter) also nominated Plote for Project of the Year for their utilization of fast-track paving techniques, with two asphalt plants and four pavers on high-productivity weekends.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Commission Meeting Dates for 2003

August 20, 2003
September 17, 2003
October 15, 2003
November 19, 2003
December 17, 2003

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Community Engagement Council (PACE) Meeting Dates for 2003

August 7, 2003
September 4, 2003
October 2, 2003
November 6, 2003
December 4, 2003

Palwaukee Municipal Airport Pilots Association Meeting Dates (PAPA)

August 27, 2003
September 24, 2003
November 12, 2003
December 3, 2003



DID YOU KNOW?

Palwaukee Municipal Airport is completely self sufficient and uses absolutely no local tax dollars to fund its operations.

PACE Looks at Airport History



The Palwaukee Airport Community Engagement Council's (PACE) Communications committee recently began exploring the history of the airport thanks to council members who have begun to double as aviation sleuths.

Over the past year, as the airport's community relations group began to make progress on searching out airport problems and developing solutions, PACE members met more and more people with history of the field that they wanted to share. The group has begun collecting old photos, documents, airport related objects and even some old videos of what life at Palwaukee looked like 30, 40 and even 50 years ago.

The committee is beginning to organize a traveling display of airport history that will soon be available at the Wheeling and Indian Trails libraries, as well as at the village halls.

But the work has just begun. If you, or anyone you know, have mementos of Palwaukee Airport to donate, please call PACE Coordinator Robert Mark at 847-537-2580, ext. 160 or e-mail him at rmark@palwaukee.org. Since many of the items the group has already gathered are personally precious to local residents, the opportunity to make copies of photographs and documents is greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to learn more about this airport history project, please join us for the August 7th PACE meeting at the airport office just off Industrial Lane at 7 pm.



**Palwaukee Municipal Airport
Noise Hotline**
847-537-2580, ext. 159
Help reduce airport noise
24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Your questions and comments about airport issues can be sent to The Hangar editor at rmark@palwaukee.org or 847-537-2580, ext 160.



Control Tower Manager Says So Long

Stan Estes has been the acting Air Traffic Manager of the control tower at Palwaukee Municipal Airport since early 2001. Estes was at the helm of this busy FAA facility during some of the most difficult times the airport has experienced to date, namely the reconstruction of the long runway, as well as the security nightmare that followed the terrorist attacks of September 11th.

Another highlight of Estes' career at Palwaukee was the recent nomination of the airport control tower for the FAA's Runway Safety award, a commendation offered when a facility exceeds the norms in preventing deadly runway incursions, incidents when airplanes and vehicles get dangerously close to one another.

"There has been a significant reduction in surface incidents in the past two and a half years," Estes said. "There were six errors in 2001, a number that dropped to just one in 2002. That's an 83% reduction." He added, "Although the possibilities for ground collisions climbed astronomically in the past year with all the construction vehicles on the field, everyone on the airport displayed an incredibly heightened awareness of ground safety issues. The outstanding cooperation I received from the 14 air traffic controller professionals who staff the tower, as well as from airport users and the airport manager, allowed us to accomplish the work with only minimal delays to traffic as well."

Estes, a veteran controller of nearly 38 years with the FAA, leaves his position at Palwaukee to return to a facility he's spent the better part of his career working at...Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Estes also controlled traffic at Los Angeles International and Burbank CA towers. A replacement manager for Estes has not yet been named.

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The Palwaukee Municipal Airport
1020 South Plant Rd., Wheeling, IL 60090

Dennis G. Rouleau, C.M., Airport Manager
drouleau@palwaukee.org
847-537-2580 ext. 114

Robert P. Mark, Editor, mark@palwaukee.org
847-537-2580 ext. 160

Also available online at www.palwaukee.org