

Cobb airport scores international touchdown

A change of name was not the only thing that marked Cobb County International Airport's expanded capabilities last month.

In June, Cobb County officials cut the ribbon on the numerous improvements made at the facility, including the taller air traffic control tower and the new customs inspection facility.

Two weeks later, the airport received its first international flight. Previously, international flights had to stop at other airports for customs services before continuing to the Cobb County airfield.

"We're excited about adding to the amenities that we offer to our flying public," Airport Manager Karl Von Hagel said. "And we're excited about the future as well as contributing to the regional economy more than we do already."

The airport is home to about 250 aircraft and generates an annual economic impact of \$112.4 million for the community, officials said.

Many of the recent upgrades at the airport were supported through grants. The \$2.9 million air traffic control tower, which is twice the height of the previous tower, included a \$1.25 million grant from the Federal Airport Improvement program and a \$125,000 grant from the State Division of Aviation.

The 78-foot tower has improved visibility and the work environment for air traffic control personnel. It has also incorporated FAA security standards.



A private flight coming in from Nassau, Bahamas, on June 25 was the first international flight to arrive at the newly christened Cobb County International Airport-McCollum Field.

Construction of the new \$800,000 U.S. Customs inspection building was paid for by Hawthorne Global Aviation Services, the airport's major service provider. U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff the facility.

Officials said by eliminating the need for an extra stop, it saves customers fuel costs and time. This is the first on-site U.S. Customs Inspection Facility and staffing at a metro Atlanta general aviation airport.

For more information about Cobb County International Airport, which is the second-busiest of its kind in the state, go to cobbinternationalairport.com.

Station changes label, continues public services

CobbTV, the county government access channel, has redirected its focus in the wake of changing viewer habits.

The station, formerly known as TV23, is now largely watched by residents on their computers and personal electronic devices instead of televisions.

"We still hit over 200,000 households in Cobb County but now the majority of our viewership comes from streaming online — both live and video-on-demand," Station Manager Brad Plumley said.

While CobbTV is currently still on channel 23 in homes served by the cable service Comcast, the station is expected to be moved to another slot soon. Those households served by AT&T U-Verse can find the station on channel 99, while those using Charter can watch it on channel 180.

The government access channel was founded in 1993 as a way to provide current and accurate information to Cobb County residents.

CobbTV
Government Access Channel

Its 24-hour coverage ranges from live broadcasts of public meetings to informational child safety videos. The station also produces news feature stories, which are available via video on demand.

While its most popular programming are Board of Commissioner and zoning hearings, showings of the yearly MLK celebration are "wildly popular," Plumley said. The station has also broadcast showings of Marietta's Fourth of July parade since 2002.

Go to cobbcounty.org for further information about scheduling and the availability of videos on demand.

New health annex open

State and Cobb County officials cut the ribbon for the new Cobb and Douglas Public Health Department annex on County Services Parkway Thursday, June 18.

The new Marietta Public Health Center, Building B, helps provide children's medical services such as epidemiology, health assessment and a tuberculosis clinic.

The multi-story building also houses the Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition program, a Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response, environmental health, chronic disease prevention, newborn hearing screenings and other assistance.

Cobb and Douglas Public Health Department, Building A, is located at 1650 County Services Parkway, Marietta. Building B is located next door at 1738 County Services Parkway, Marietta. Renovations to the building were paid for through the 2011 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. More information on services available can be located at cobbanddouglaspublichealth.com. Call your health center for the best times to be seen.



Gary A. Witte

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new annex was held June 18.



Free movie nights continue this month

Families can find more movie fun during the continuing "Moovies at the Mable" series this summer. The next movie screenings will be "Rio 2" on Friday, July 10, "The Jungle Book" Friday, July 17, and "How to Train Your Dragon 2" Friday, July 24. For more information, visit mablehouse.org.

Admission and parking are free. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. and the movie begins at dusk. These are a rain or shine events. Bring your own food or purchase from concessions.

Another Safety Day at the village

Families are invited to our Cobb County Safety Village to enjoy a fun-filled time of safety awareness 9 a.m.-noon, Friday, July 10. Activities will include a tour of Sparky's House, water safety games, free finger printing kits and up-close looks at emergency vehicles.

The cost will be \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family. Refreshments will be provided by Harry's Farmers Market. For group rates of 20 or more, call 770-852-3270. The Cobb County Safety Village is located at 1220 Al Bishop Drive, Marietta. For more information, go to the Safety Village page at cobbcounty.org/safetyvillage.

Step up to help your community

Meals on Wheels has a great opportunity for you to deliver meals to homebound seniors who are waiting for this needed service. Cobb Senior Services is in need of volunteer drivers in Mableton, Marietta and Smyrna. If you have some time to volunteer as a MOW driver, or if you belong to an organization or business that would like to "Adopt-A-Route," call Volunteer Services at (770) 528-5381. More information about Meals on Wheels and Cobb Senior Services is available at cobbseiors.org.



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