

AIRPORT BEACON REPORT

Smith Reynolds Airport
July - December 2023



The Airport Beacon Report is published twice a year to improve the communication between the airport and its tenants with the community around it.

Employment Opportunities

North State Aviation in Winston-Salem, NC is looking for experienced licensed **A&P Mechanics** and other positions. Please visit our website at nsamro.com for more details or email us at HR@nsamro.com.

Love kids? Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools is now hiring. **Full-time, Part-time & Substitute School Bus Drivers.** Visit wsfcs.k12.nc.us/Page/1188 for more info.

Piedmont Propulsion in Winston-Salem, NC is looking for various positions. Please visit our website at piedmontpropulsion.com/careers/ for more details.

EPES Transport is hiring truck drivers and other positions for regional opportunities. Visit epestransport.com for details.

Forsyth County Government is hiring! www.forsyth.cc/HumanResources

Take Offs & Landings at Smith Reynolds

1 month

April 2022 3,740
April 2023 4,009

12 month

April 2022 47,554
April 2023 42,465

Learn to Fly

Contact Piedmont Flight Training

Visit flypft.com or contact 336-776-6070 or info@FlyPFT.com

LookUp Aviation

www.lookupaviation.com

Other County Resources in Your Area

Carver School Road Branch Library, 4915 Lansing Drive, offers a variety of programs and resources. For more information, visit forsyth.cc/library/Carver.

N.C. Cooperative Extension Forsyth County Center, 1450 Fairchild Road, offers resources and workshops related to farming, gardening and the 4-H youth program. Visit forsyth.cc/CES/ for details.

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Contact the Airport

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Contact City Council Member

Barbara Hanes Burke
Council Member
Northeast Ward
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bhburke@cityofws.org

Being a Good Neighbor - Brushy Fork Creek

A lot of media attention has surrounded the erosion along the banks of Brushy Fork Creek. In fact, the issue has been on the front page of the Winston-Salem Journal eight times in the last year. Although a few neighbors blame the Airport for the problem, it is important to understand that there may be other factors to consider.

In 2016, the Airport Commission of Forsyth County (ACFC) cleared several acres of land for a timber harvest. The ACFC needed the revenue and wanted to reduce wildlife impacts at the Airport. Prior to the removal of the trees, the ACFC acquired all necessary permits for the agricultural tree harvest. In addition, the ACFC doubled the recommended buffer along the banks of the creek by establishing a 100-foot setback from the creek, which is adjacent to the neighboring community. The contract with the timber company included language to ensure best management practices were followed.

Since the the vegetation has grown back except for a small area, situated much farther from the creek, that is less than 4 acres which the County is working with the NCDEQ to correct.

At this time, it is unknown if the Airport contributed to the acceleration of erosion along the creek. The neighborhood north of the creek has no sediment control and water feeds directly into the creek after a rain event. There's nothing to slow down the flow

of stormwater from the streets and other impervious surfaces. In addition, residential backyards typically don't have a good root system with grass lawns to slow down the flow of water.

Instead of ignoring the problem and waiting for others to do something, the Airport Department took action by meeting with the neighbors and working with the County's North Carolina Cooperative Extension Department. With their assistance, the



Airport applied for a \$320,000 grant from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund with a \$80,000 local match. There are several creeks around the city, county, and state that suffer from erosion and the personnel with the NC Cooperative Extension Department are experts in the field. The County also expedited the process by issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design services prior to grant

award and addressing individual concerns from the five neighbors that live on the creek that border the Airport's property.

No matter the reason for the erosion, the County is taking measures to fix the problem. We are using local money from the Airport to match the grant, and we hope the City of Winston-Salem will use some of the stormwater money that has been collected. Over the past 10 years, the City has collected over \$1.4 million in stormwater fees from the Airport.

2 - Flight Training Academy

Read about what LookUp has done at Smith Reynolds Airport.

3 - Terminal Building Construction

Get an update on this important project.

3 - Corporate Hangars Update

Progress is being made on our new hangars.

Business Spotlight - LookUp Flight Training Academy Sets Course for Success

In aviation, sometimes you have to change your course and that is exactly what LookUp has done at Smith Reynolds Airport. Back in 2019, LookUp Aviation entered into a lease for a large portion of the hangar located at 3820 North Liberty Street. The original business plan was to become the east coast distributor of the Sling Aircraft, which is manufactured in South Africa. During the first couple years of operation, the owners decided to branch into flight training utilizing the Sling Aircraft. Fast forward to 2023, a new company has been

formed and LookUp Flight Training Academy has TAKEN OFF!

Mike Ojo, one of the owners, said, "LookUp Flight Academy is where the modern-day pilot starts. Our students fly in new, modern aircraft that are equipped with glass touch-screen cockpit displays and bubble canopies for greater visibility. Our aircrafts are perfect for the professional minded pilot and makes for the perfect transition for airline training". Mr. Ojo also advised that



they currently have 31 students enrolled in the program, and they operate a fleet of four aircraft with five full-time FAA certified flight instructors.

Now that the new company is committed to flight



instruction, students can expect total aviation immersion by flying five days a week and attending daily group ground sessions. Mr. Ojo said that they are not your average flying academy. "We cultivate a lively, yet structured environment to enhance learning and listening to the needs of our students."

If you are interested in learning more, please contact them at 336-800-4696 or email them at info@lookupflightacademy.com. You can also visit their web site at www.lookupflightacademy.com.

LookUp is one of the three flight schools at Smith Reynolds Airport. The other two are Piedmont Flight Training (www.flypft.com) and ATP Flight School (www.atpflightschool.com).

Construction to Start in August on the Terminal Building

On June 29, the Forsyth County Commissioners approved a construction contract with I. L. Long Construction Company for the Airport Terminal Renovation Project. The project was formally bid through City/County Purchasing with bidders having been prequalified prior to the bid advertisement. Five bids were received on May 17, 2023, with I. L. Long Construction Company as the apparent low bidder with a total bid, including accepted add alternates, of \$11,153,000.

Once the renovations are completed, Signature Flight Support will relocate its fixed based operation (FBO) to the



terminal building. They will lease the majority of the first floor to accommodate customers flying to Winston-Salem

for business and pleasure. Other space in the terminal will be leased to rental car companies and other aeronautical and non-aeronautical businesses. After the renovations we hope the community will come to the Terminal to see the improvements. In addition to establishing areas for the

public to watch airplanes, one of the new features we hope you will come see is a 1931 Savoia Marchetti S-56 aircraft which will be hung from the ceiling in the main lobby. We are hopeful that the improvements will be done by next summer.

Corporate Hangars Update



If you haven't noticed, the Forsyth County Commissioners are investing in the future of the Airport by adding new infrastructure. Over a year ago, local firm Shelco was selected to design and build two new 20,000 square foot hangars north of the main terminal building. If you drive by the Airport on North Liberty Street you can't miss the new hangars which are scheduled to be completed in August. The new hangars will be able to accommodate a number of different types aircraft including some of the largest corporate jets. In preparation for the new hangars, a number of old buildings were demolished, which will make the landscape more usable and aesthetically pleasing for the Northeast Ward.