

# AIRPORT BEACON REPORT

**Smith Reynolds Airport**  
February 2022 - May 2022



The Airport Beacon Report is published three times 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](http://nsamro.com) for more details or email us at [HR@nsamro.com](mailto: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](http://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/](http://piedmontpropulsion.com/careers/) for more details.

**EPES Transport** is hiring truck drivers and other positions for regional opportunities. Visit [epestransport.com](http://epestransport.com) for details.

**Forsyth County Government** is hiring! [www.forsyth.cc/HumanResources](http://www.forsyth.cc/HumanResources)

## Take Offs & Landings at Smith Reynolds

### 1 month

December 2021 3,449  
December 2020 3,179

### 12 month

January to December 2021 44,248  
January to December 2020 39,276

## Learn to Fly

### Contact Piedmont Flight Training

"Most Experienced Flight School in North Carolina"

Visit [flypft.com](http://flypft.com) or contact 336-776-6070 or [info@FlyPFT.com](mailto:info@FlyPFT.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](http://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/](http://forsyth.cc/CES/) for details.

### Forsyth County Commissioners

David R. Plyler, Chairman  
Don Martin, Vice Chairman  
Fleming El-Amin  
Ted Kaplan  
Richard V. Linville  
Tonya D. McDaniel  
Gloria D. Whisenhunt

### Smith Reynolds Airport Board

Thomas McKim, Chairman  
Gayle Anderson, Vice Chairman  
Perry G. Hudspeth  
Cynthia W. Jeffries  
Ted Kaplan  
Nicholas Pierce  
Clarence Lambe

## Contact the Airport

**Mark R. Davidson, A.A.E.**

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## Contact City Council Member

**Barbara Hanes Burke**

*Council Member*  
Northeast Ward  
Ph: 336-771-5172 (work)  
[bhburke@cityofws.org](mailto:bhburke@cityofws.org)

## State Budget includes major investment in Smith Reynolds Airport

### Thank You Legislators!

Last November, Governor Cooper signed the State Budget which included a \$23 million appropriation for capital improvements at Smith Reynolds Airport. In addition, \$5 million was earmarked by lawmakers for a drone program that would be based in Winston-Salem. Forsyth County would like to thank the local legislators from both sides of the aisle who were instrumental in funding the Airport.

**Senator Joyce Krawiec**

**Senator Paul Lowe**

**Representative Amber Baker**

**Representative Donny Lambeth**

**Representative Evelyn Terry**

**Representative Lee Zachary**

**Representative Jeff Zenger**

Back in June, these legislators came to Smith Reynolds Airport to see firsthand the potential for developing and creating jobs for the citizens of the County and region. Some of the airport features the lawmakers learned about included the new Forsyth Tech Mazie S. Woodruff Aviation

Technology Laboratory built at a cost of \$16 million, the planned relocation of a Garner Foods distribution facility to a site near the airport, plans for hangar development, and the renovation and modernization of the historic



terminal building. The \$23 million appropriated by lawmakers will do a lot to further projects that are designed to boost the airport's role in economic development.

The \$5 million appropriation for the drone program is separate from the grant to the Airport as such, but the program could use the airport in connection with its operations. The recipient of the aid will be AeroX, a nonprofit formed earlier in the year to create and expand unmanned aviation technology in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The group is focusing on what it

calls next-generation technologies, including the commercialization of unmanned aircraft systems and electric verticle takeoff and landing aircraft systems.

### 2 - Aviation Lab Opens

The Forsyth Tech Aviation Lab held its grand opening.

### 2 - Piedmont Advantage ATM

Piedmont Advantage dedicated its ATM at the airport.

### 3 - Santa at Smith Reynolds

Santa Claus paid a visit to the airport!

## Forsyth Tech Aviation Lab holds its Grand Opening



Members of the Forsyth County commissioners and Smith Reynolds Airport Board helped cut the ribbon on Forsyth Technical Community College's new Mazie S. Woodruff Aviation Technology Lab at Smith Reynolds Airport on October 26.

Located at 2739 Aviation Drive, the lab will prepare students for jobs in Maintenance Overhaul and Repair (MRO) needed by aerospace companies at Smith Reynolds Airport and around the state and country. It's a \$16 million project funded by a \$65 million Forsyth Tech bond package voters overwhelmingly approved in 2016 after county commissioners voted to place it on the ballot.

"It's going to add to the culture of our community, it's going to add to the culture of our state," said County Commissioner Chair Dave Plyler. "And already it's attracting people from local regional and national areas. They want to come here. They want to train. They want to be in avionics. They want to be in aircraft maintenance. They want to be in the place that makes aviation possible."

Airport Board Chair Tom McKim said Forsyth Tech is a great fit for Smith Reynolds Airport, which creates the most jobs and economic impact among the state's 62 general aviation public airports that don't offer commercial service. That impact will only grow with \$76 million in planned infrastructure improvements.

"We're very pleased to have Forsyth Tech here, joining our very tight knit aviation community," he said. "Forsyth Tech and its students will have a front seat to a lot of what will be happening at the airport over the next few years."

The Aviation Lab is a two-story, 51,962 square foot building. It has a 15,356 square foot aviation hangar that can house up to eight aircraft. It also has classrooms and components labs that include sheet metal, composite structures like fiberglass and carbon fiber, avionics/electrical, paint, aircraft welding and piston/turbine engines.

Students will be able to earn associate degrees in two programs of study: Aviation Systems Technology and Aviation Electronics (Avionics). The Aviation Lab has relationships with local, state and national employers who are in constant need of aircraft maintenance and avionics. North State Aviation, which is located at Smith Reynolds Airport, has already agreed to hire three students and pay for their tuition.

Classes are projected to begin this spring. The lab has partnered with Carver High School and other high schools to encourage students to enroll in the program and develop opportunities for them to learn there.

It also hosted the Jim Shaw ACE Academy over the summer. The aviation summer camp exposes middle and high school student to potential careers in the aviation industry. The camp is held annually at Smith Reynolds Airport and was started by the late Jim Shaw, who served on the Airport Board.

The lab is named after the late Mazie Woodruff, who became the first African-American elected as a Forsyth County commissioner in 1976. Forsyth Tech's Mazie Woodruff Center, located on Lansing Drive, is also named in her honor.

## Piedmont Advantage dedicates ATM at Smith Reynolds Airport



County commissioners and Airport staff participated in a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Oct. 26 to celebrate the relocation of Piedmont Advantage Credit Union's Liberty Street ATM to the entrance of Smith Reynolds Airport.

The ATM was relocated to the airport in November of last year, but the ribbon cutting was delayed due to weather and COVID restrictions.

"The relocation of Piedmont Advantage's ATM to our airport entrance provides conveniences for our airport staff, vendors, customers and our community neighbors," said Smith Reynolds Airport Director Mark Davidson.

Piedmont Advantage has a long history with Smith Reynolds Airport. It was originally called Piedmont Aviation Credit Union when it formed in 1949 to provide small loans and savings accounts to employees of Piedmont Airlines, which was a division of Piedmont Aviation. The credit union went on to serve all Piedmont Aviation employees.

"Piedmont Aviation and Piedmont Airlines are no longer, due to mergers and acquisition, but their legacies live on through Piedmont Advantage Credit Union," said Piedmont Advantage President & CEO Dion Williams. "A quarter of our membership is still affiliated with the aviation industry. Their loyalty is unprecedented in the financial industry. Our partnership with Smith Reynolds Airport furthers this loyalty."

County Commissioner Vice Chair Don Martin was among the speakers at the ceremony. He said the ATM was a welcome addition to the airport. He said the airport is a source of economic growth in the area, with an \$815 million impact on the local economy that supports 3,665 jobs. He said that impact will only grow with planned capital improvements at the airport and the addition of the Mazie S. Woodruff Aviation Technology Lab, which also had its ribbon cutting that morning.

## Santa Claus visits airport

Old Saint Nick paid Smith Reynolds Airport a visit on Dec. 19 during the 8th Annual Santa Fly-In. Families gathered to watch Santa Claus fly in to the airport during this free event. They got to meet Santa before he flew off to get his reindeer ready for Christmas.

