

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 <https://mroholdings.com/facilities/north-state-aviation/#join-the-team>

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

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.

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

Take Offs & Landings at Smith Reynolds

1 month	12 month
June 2025 3,479	June 2025 38,308
June 2026 4,448	June 2026 37,278

Learn to Fly

Contact Piedmont Flight Training
Visit flypft.com or contact 336-776-6070 or info@FlyPFT.com

ATP
atpflightschool.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.



Forsyth County Commissioners

Don Martin, Chair
Gloria D. Whisenhunt, Vice Chair
Dan Besse
Richard V. Linville
Tonya D. McDaniel
G. Gray Wilson
Shai Woodbury

Smith Reynolds Airport Board

Thomas McKim
Gayle Anderson
Alan Baker
Perry G. Hudspeth
Cynthia W. Jeffries
Clarence Lambe
Alexandria Shaw
Basil Yap
Joe Walsh
G. Gray Wilson

Contact the Airport

Mark R. Davidson, A.A.E.
Airport Director, Smith Reynolds Airport
3801 N. Liberty Street • Winston-Salem, NC 27105
ph: 336-607-6120
mark.davidson@smithreynolds.org

Contact City Council Member

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

AIRPORT BEACON REPORT

Smith Reynolds Airport

July - December 2026



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

15 Years of Jim Shaw ACE Academy Inspiring Aviators at Smith Reynolds Airport

This summer brought an exciting burst of energy to Smith Reynolds Airport as more than 75 local middle and high school students stepped into the world of aviation through the Jim Shaw Aviation Career Education (ACE) Academy. For many participants, the week concluded with an unforgettable moment: sitting in the copilot's seat of a single-engine aircraft and soaring above the city for a panoramic 10 minute flight.

Now in its 15th year, the Jim Shaw ACE Academy continues to open doors for young people who are curious about careers in aviation. Hosted this year at the Forsyth Tech Mazie Woodruff Aviation Technology Lab, the camp immersed students in hands-on activities ranging from drone flight and aircraft maintenance to simulator sessions and behind-the-scenes tours of aviation businesses.

The Airport Department is especially proud to support this program and looks forward to it each summer. Supporting the ACE Academy isn't just a partnership—it's a meaningful way for the Airport to invest in the community and help young people discover possibilities they may not have otherwise encountered. The enthusiasm and curiosity these students bring to the airport each year remind us why this work matters.

Though several ACE Academies operate across the state, the Jim Shaw ACE Academy remains one-of-a-kind. The program was founded in Forsyth County by Jim Shaw, a longtime Airport Commissioner who believed strongly in

giving local youth—particularly those from lower income households—opportunities beyond the traditional paths of sports and entertainment. Even after Shaw's passing in 2020, his legacy thrives thanks to the dedication of his family and friends. Today, his granddaughter, Alexandria Shaw, proudly

serves as executive director and continues to carry forward his mission of inspiring future aviators. Ms. Shaw also serves on the Smith Reynolds Airport Board, which plays a key role in guiding the

long-term success of the airport and strengthening its connection to the community. Board members help set strategic priorities, ensure responsible financial stewardship, and support projects that improve safety, operations, and customer experience. They also work to keep the airport engaged with local residents and businesses, making sure the airport remains a valuable economic and educational asset for the entire community.

The community is also invited to the 2nd Annual Skybound Flight Festival on Saturday, September 12 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Forsyth Tech Mazie S. Woodruff Aviation Technology Lab. This free, family-friendly event will feature aircraft displays, discovery flights, drone demonstrations, hands-on STEM activities, food trucks, live entertainment, and opportunities to explore aviation and aerospace careers for all ages.

To learn more about the Jim Shaw ACE Academy, visit www.shawaceacademy.com.

2 - Brushy Fork Creek Update

We're moving forward with Brushy Fork Creek restoration.

3 - German Soccer Team

We welcomed the World Cup team from Germany.

3 - Air Mobility Study

We're planning the future of advanced air mobility.



Airport Secures Funding for New Perimeter Fence to Reduce Wildlife Issues

The Airport is moving forward with a major safety improvement: the installation of a new perimeter fence designed to significantly reduce the wildlife intrusions that have challenged operations for years. This project marks an important step in strengthening airfield safety and protecting both aircraft and personnel.

On March 30, NCDOT Vice Chairwoman Lisa Mathis and Deputy Secretary of Multimodal Transportation Julie White visited the Airport to tour the facility and hear about current needs. County Commissioner Gray Wilson, Airport Board Chair Tom McKim, and Deputy County Manager Kyle Haney were also present. During this visit, Airport staff emphasized that wildlife concerns remain one of the airport's most persistent safety issue—and that replacing the aging fence is critical.

Shortly after the meeting, the NCDOT Division of Aviation notified the Airport that funding had been identified to begin the project.

Since then, a preliminary layout of the proposed fence line has been developed with assistance from USDA Wildlife Services and Avcon Engineers & Planners, Inc., who hold an approved Master Service Agreement with the County. The proposed fence will extend approximately 8,100 feet around the Airport. The total estimated project cost is \$1.86 million. To get the project going, the NCDOT has awarded a 90 percent grant—\$61,560—to support the design phase of the project with Avcon Engineers & Planners, Inc. The new fence will play a vital role in enhancing safety and reducing wildlife activity on and around the airfield—an improvement the Airport has needed for many years. More updates will be shared as the project moves into design and, ultimately, construction.



Brushy Fork Creek Restoration Project Update

Progress continues on the Brushy Fork Creek restoration. With financial assistance from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund and the City of Winston-Salem, Forsyth County has partnered with the Resource Institute to design improvements along the eastern edge of the Airport property. The restoration aims to stabilize the creek and improve conditions along this section of the watershed.

Since our last update, we had to revise our original design plans since a couple of landowners did not sign the easements. Although we are disappointed, we are moving forward with the project. The Resource Institute has changed the plans, and the next step is to secure permits. Once we obtain the permits, the construction opportunity will be bid to the public and the work will start.



German National Soccer Team

Winston-Salem received an extraordinary international spotlight in June as the German national soccer team arrived at Smith Reynolds Airport ahead of their World Cup stay in the United States. The team's chartered Breeze Airways touched down to a ceremonial water salute from the Forsyth County Fire Department.

Airport leaders worked closely with regional partners to coordinate the arrival, and Smith Reynolds Airport played a pivotal role in the decision for the team to base themselves in Winston-Salem. The airport's facilities, security capabilities, and capacity to accommodate high profile international operations were key factors in securing their stay, helping position the city

as a welcoming and well equipped host community.

DFB President Bernd Neuendorf was the first to step off the aircraft, followed by head coach Julian Nagelsmann.

Local officials such as the Chairman of Forsyth County and the Mayor greeted the delegation as staff and players exited the plane. After the meet and greet, the motorcade departed the airport, reaching the team's hotel in under 15 minutes, thanks to its convenient 4 mile distance



from Smith Reynolds.

The Airport is proud to have played a central role in welcoming one of the world's premier soccer teams to Winston Salem and showcasing the community's capacity to support global events.



Forsyth County Launches Advanced Air Mobility Study with Regional Partners

Smith Reynolds Airport is pleased to share that Forsyth County has officially begun work on its Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) planning study—an effort focused not on the airport itself, but on the broader region and community. On June 24, representatives from the NCDOT Division of Aviation, Forsyth County Airport Department, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Hanson, AVCON, and other AAM stakeholders met at Smith Reynolds Airport for a project kickoff meeting. This meeting marked the start of a collaborative one-year planning process that will help local partners understand how emerging AAM technologies may benefit the region in the years ahead.

Forsyth County is one of five recipients of North Carolina's first AAM Planning Grants, awarded by the NCDOT Division of Aviation to support forward-looking community-based planning. The study will explore how innovations—such as electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft and drone-based delivery systems—could integrate into existing transportation systems and serve the needs of residents, businesses, and local agencies.

Because this work is regional in scope, community input will be an important part of the process. A public meeting will be held later in the study so residents can share ideas, ask questions, and help shape how AAM services might best support the area.

Funded through the state's \$1 million AAM planning program, this study will examine transportation needs, land use considerations, infrastructure requirements, multimodal connections, and policy alignment. These efforts will help ensure the region is prepared for future technologies while maintaining safety, efficiency, and community priorities. Smith Reynolds Airport is proud to support this regional initiative and will continue to share updates as the planning process moves forward.