

# AIRPORT BEACON REPORT

Smith Reynolds Airport

June - September 2020



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.

## United Airlines parking planes at Smith Reynolds Airport due to downturn in flights



*Numerous United Airlines passenger planes are now parked at Smith Reynolds Airport due to the downturn in air travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

United Airlines plans to park several of its aircraft at Smith Reynolds Airport due to the downturn in passenger flights during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aviation industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and Smith Reynolds Airport was not spared. Some of the airport's tenants were forced to furlough employees, while others scaled back hours to retain their workforce. The airport's largest tenant, North State Aviation (NSA), temporarily furloughed its employees on April 8, but was able to bring them back on April 27 by negotiating a plan with the airlines.

Due to the dramatic loss in passengers, the airlines needed to take aircraft out of service and park them at airports across the United States. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), reported a 96% drop in screened passengers during the month of April when compared to the same time last

year. Realizing the urgency of the situation, NSA with support from Forsyth County Government and AVCON, supplied the airlines with various parking plans to ensure the airlines that Smith Reynolds Airport had the capacity to accommodate over 40 B737s and B757s.

When United Airlines committed to Smith Reynolds Airport, the parking plan was approved by the FAA. In addition, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office stepped up to increase security.

"It has been a team approach at Smith Reynolds Airport in regards to navigating the COVID-19 crisis," said Airport Director Mark Davidson. "We are happy United Airlines recognized the Airport as a resource and we hope they will continue to come to the Airport for all their maintenance needs after the crisis ends."

### 2 - Whitaker Park Area Plan

The draft plan is now available to view.

### 3 - Piedmont Flight Training

The future of flight training is here!

### 4 - Taxiway Q

New developments on the Taxiway Q project.



# Draft Airport/Whitaker Park Area Plan available to view



*The final drop-in meeting on the strategic area plan was well attended.*

A draft of the Smith Reynolds Airport/Whitaker Park Strategic Area Plan is available to view online.

The City-County Planning Board unanimously recommended the plan at a public hearing held on March 12, 2020. Another public hearing will be held at a future Winston-Salem City Council meeting before the council votes on it.

Four community meetings were held by elected officials and planning staff with residents and business owners to produce the draft plan. It provides approximately 25 recommendations on using the assets of Smith Reynolds Airport and Whitaker Business Park (and the plan area's proximity to the Innovation Quarter) to increase economic development opportunities in the community, and how the appearance of the surrounding area can be improved through design enhancements.

The recommendations fall into six categories:

- Strengthen transportation linkages in the area
- Make Smith Reynolds Airport and its surrounding area an attractive gateway to the city
- Recruit aviation/aerospace-related businesses
- Cultivate job skills of area residents
- Publicize available business assistance programs
- Improve potential streetscape and development focus areas

The entire plan can be viewed at:

[www.cityofws.org/2348/AirportWhitaker-Park-Plan](http://www.cityofws.org/2348/AirportWhitaker-Park-Plan).

City-County Planning and Smith Reynolds Airport would like to thank everyone who came out to the meetings and submitted their feedback. Those who signed up for updates at the meetings will continue to receive update emails. You can also follow ForsythCountyNC and CityofWinstonSalem on Facebook for updates.



# Mazie S. Woodruff Aviation Technology Lab Update

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, the new 53,000 square-foot facility that is under construction at Smith Reynolds Airport is on track to be completed in September. According to the recently hired Greg Purvis, Aviation Program Coordinator, classes are scheduled to start in Spring 2021. Over the past several weeks, Purvis has been busy ordering tools, supplies, equipment, and working on program manuals, which must be approved by the FAA.





# Piedmont Flight Training modernizes traditional aviation



The future of aviation has landed at Smith Reynolds Airport. All thanks to a local visionary determined to modernize traditional aviation. David Mounts, an acclaimed and accomplished local businessman and pilot, purchased Piedmont Flight Training in the fall of 2019.

This February the school diversified their fleet by introducing five new, environmentally friendly and safe (aircraft parachute) Pipistrel Alpha Trainer light sport aircraft to ready our next generation of pilots.

The aircraft are more economical than the traditional fleet – fueled by automotive gas, and have a mix of round dial and glass avionics with touch screen GPS. The goal - attract and train future aviators with exceptional instruction and outstanding aircraft.

The flight school continues to maintain its traditional fleet of Cessna 172 models, Piper Archers, Arrow, and a Seneca Twin, in order to satisfy the needs of meeting ATP requirements.

The school offers both Part 141 and Part 61 curriculums to its

students and has a deep roster of Certified Flight Instructors. The airport environment functions like a larger airport without the airline volume. Smith Reynolds is a controlled airfield with an abundance of jet, turboprop and general aviation traffic.

In honor of Piedmont's rich history, the flight school plans to be the learning hub that reinvigorates the region's passion for innovation in aviation. It offers special discounted programs to Piedmont Airline Alumni and their family members, Military Personnel and Veterans, University and College Students, and County and City Municipal employees such as police and fire department.



The new leadership has created an exciting, positive and encouraging environment for its instructors and students. It looks forward to more growth and the opportunity to contribute to the community and those aspiring to have a future in aviation.

For any questions, scheduling or visits, call 336-776-6070 or visit [www.flypft.com](http://www.flypft.com).



## Project Update - Taxiway Q

Taxiway Q is a new taxiway, which is proposed to be located on the east side of the current Runway 15-33. If that option is approved, there are 16 parcels that the Airport may need to purchase with FAA and local funding. Please be advised that the FAA, NCDOT, and Airport Department are looking at several other options to improve safety and to minimize impacts on neighbors and the environment.

One option that is being considered is to move our existing Taxiway A approximately 30 feet to the west instead of constructing Taxiway Q. A couple months ago, the Airport Department asked for this option to be considered by submitting a "modification to standard" to the FAA. Before this option can be approved, the FAA must conduct additional research to ensure a safe environment for aircraft, including operations under adverse weather conditions. As of the date of this Newsletter, we have not received approval and do not know when or



which option will eventually be selected by the FAA.

As the Airport Director, I am sympathetic to the frustration faced by many of our neighbors. Please be assured that the Airport Department is attempting to work with the FAA to get a final determination. In addition, be advised that once a decision is made, we will continue to coordinate with the City, County, and State agencies so that all rules and requirements are followed prior to impacting or disturbing the project area. As the project progresses, information will be made available and an advertised public meeting will be held to present information and any preliminary designs to keep you informed of the project's progress.

*Mark Davidson, Airport Director*



## Smith Reynolds Airport

3801 N. Liberty Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

## 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).

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

**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.

**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.

## Take Offs & Landings at Smith Reynolds

### 1 month

April 2020 2,310  
April 2019 4,469

### 12 month

42,882  
46,311

## 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

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Ted Kaplan  
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Tonya D. McDaniel  
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## Contact the Airport

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

*Airport Director*, Smith Reynolds Airport  
3801 N. Liberty Street • Winston-Salem, NC 27105  
ph: 336-767-6361  
[mark.davidson@smithreynolds.org](mailto:mark.davidson@smithreynolds.org)



**In Memoriam**  
**Mayor Pro Tempore**  
**Vivian H. Burke**  
1934-2020