

# AIRPORT BEACON REPORT

Smith Reynolds Airport  
October 2020 - January 2021



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.

**Virtual Airport Neighborhood Informational Meeting**  
Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. at <https://bit.ly/3kNcits>  
Topics include the Lansing Drive property, Aviation Lab update, capital projects and airport operations.

## 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).

**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.

**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	12 month
August 2020	3,383	2020 38,308
August 2019	3,778	2019 45,469

## 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

Scott Piper, Chairman  
James Shaw, Vice Chairman  
Thomas McKim, Secretary Treasurer  
Gayle Anderson  
Perry G. Hudspeth  
Ted Kaplan  
Nicholas Pierce  
Michael Baughan  
Jed McMillan

## 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](mailto:mark.davidson@smithreynolds.org)

## Contact City Council Member

**Morticia "Tee-Tee" Parmon**  
*Council Member*  
Northeast Ward  
Ph: 336-771-5172 (work)  
[morticiap@cityofws.org](mailto:morticiap@cityofws.org)

## County Receives Offer to Purchase Land on Lansing Drive

The County has received an offer to purchase approximately 30 acres of county-owned property at 4897 Lansing Drive for a consolidated distribution headquarters for Garner Foods.

The offer from Front Street Capital is \$1,551,059 for the property, which is already zoned General Industrial. Forsyth County Commissioners plan to consider the offer in their Oct. 8 meeting. If the commissioners accept the offer, there will be a 10 day upset bid period. Then the commissioners will vote again on whether to accept the last highest bid.

"This facility will allow Garner to continue to grow their operations and workforce into the future as they remain a key headquarters for Forsyth County," said the developer.

The property is part of the airport's layout plan, but it is not used for aeronautical purposes and is not part of the airport's long-term development plans. It can support a large, flat facility without interfering with airport operations. In compliance with federal laws and regulations on airport property sales, all sale proceeds will go to the airport.

The property is currently used by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools for school bus parking and as a base of operations for school maintenance staff. If the property is

sold, the county would remove the buses and would lease-back the maintenance complex for at least one-year, so those operations can be moved to another site.

County commissioners said this was a good opportunity for the area.

"I'm very excited to see this economic development in District A," said Commissioner Tonya McDaniel.

Commissioner Fleming El-Amin said it can be a catalyst for the area.

"This is an economic engine for future career opportunities in District A for the African-American community near Smith Reynolds Airport and the adjacent properties," he said.

The sale is subject to FAA and NCDOT approval and the remediation of any environmental conditions. The sale would have a 60-day due diligence period, which can be

waived by the buyer. There will be a commitment by the buyer to develop the land. The county has right of first refusal if the property is made available for sale in the future or the property goes dark or vacant for more than a year and the existing lease is nullified.

If the property is sold, the county will conduct outreach efforts to the surrounding community about the sale.



This conceptual art show potential plans for the property.

### 2 - Air Force One Returns

A history of presidential visits to the airport.

### 3 - Taxiway Q

New developments on the Taxiway Q project.

### 4 - The Future of Flight

Learn about the growing demand for unmanned aircraft.

## Air Force One Returns to Smith Reynolds



When Air Force One touched down at Smith Reynolds Airport in September, it was just the latest in a history of presidential visits to the airport.

President Harry Truman flew into Smith Reynolds in 1951 to attend the groundbreaking of Wake Forest University. The same goes for President Jimmy Carter when he visited Wake Forest University in 1978 and President George W. Bush when he came to the Triad in 2003. Bill Clinton,

Ronald Reagan and Lyndon Johnson also flew into Smith Reynolds prior to becoming president.

The airport has seen its share of other famous visitors, including Secretary of State Colin Powell, Vice Presidents Dick Cheney and Joe Biden, Actress Ava Gardner, Singer/Actor Frank Sinatra, Baseball Star Jackie Robinson and Singer/Actress Ethel Waters.

## Project Update - Taxiway Q



Several months ago, the Airport Department asked the FAA for a "modification to standard" in regards to moving Taxiway A approximately 30 feet to the west instead of constructing Taxiway Q. As of the date of this Newsletter, we have not received a final determination from the FAA. From our understanding the FAA is conducting additional research to ensure a safe environment for aircraft, including operations under adverse weather conditions.

If the FAA does not agree to a modification to standard, another option is to construct a new taxiway. Taxiway Q is proposed to be located on the east side of the current Runway 15-33. If that option is approved, there are 16

## Commissioners Approve Airport Maintenance Projects

On August 27, the county commissioners approved five maintenance projects for the airport totaling \$1.15 million dollars, which include the design phase for renovating the airport's terminal.

In December 2018, county commissioners appropriated \$1.15 million for airport capital maintenance as part of its Pay-Go Capital Projects Ordinance, which allocated excess funds from the previous year's budget to meet the capital needs of county facilities.

After a study was conducted determining the airport's capital needs, five projects were presented to the commissioners, who approved them. They are:

1. Emergency repair of a leaking sprinkler riser at 4001 N. Liberty St.
2. Replacing two 200 ton water-cooled chillers at 4400 Lansing Drive.
3. Conceptual Design for renovating the terminal, hangars and quonset hut.
4. Repairing/replacing corroded valves on a 300,000 gallon steel water storage tank at the Fire Pump House.
5. Repairing plaster wall finishes, and replacing a compressed air system, a 100 ton chiller system and three air compressors at 4001 N. Liberty St.



*A new chiller recently purchased for the Airport Terminal.*

This represents just some of the investment in the airport to help maintain and improve its facilities. Numerous tenants are required to provide maintenance on their facilities in their lease agreements. Airfield maintenance is covered by grants from the FAA and NCDOT. The airport also invests in its facilities using its operational revenue and is looking into economic grants to help with future projects.

The maintenance study, which looked at eight buildings at the airport totaling 568,019 square feet of floor area, found \$5.5 million in deferred maintenance needs and estimated that maintenance costs over the next ten years will exceed \$21.5 million.

## The Future of Flight: Unmanned Aircraft

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), more commonly known as drones, have seen exponential activity over the past few years. The multitude of applications for drone technology are ever-increasing; from architectural inspection, filmography, aerial inspections, traffic monitoring, disaster management, or even recreational flying. To welcome the New Year 2020, Singapore and Shanghai used multiple drones flying in formation to display an array of colorful lights in lieu of fireworks.

Other applications of UAS technology currently being researched and developed include autonomous flight vehicles capable of carrying a few passengers within busy cities. For example, Uber has plans to develop an electric vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) vehicle, capable of carrying up to 4 passengers. These vehicles will serve populated metropolitan areas, ferrying passengers between airports and/or "Skyports" throughout the city. Similar to a helipad for helicopters, Skyports will primarily be used for passenger-ferrying VTOL UAS. As a comparison, a ground vehicle may take up to 1 hour and 40 minutes to travel between San Francisco and downtown San Jose, and the Caltrain can take up to 2 hours. Whereas, Uber's electric VTOL vehicle can cover the same distance in as little as 15 minutes, according to Uber Air.

As a result of this growing use of drones, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been working hard to implement



*The Boeing Drone*

policies and regulations to ensure that drone activity does not hinder commercial, military, or general aviation flights. New rules were implemented into Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations governing the operation of drones, labeled Part 107. The civil drone industry is still in its infancy, hence the governing rules are constantly being updated. If you own or operate a drone, please check the most recent regulations available on the NC Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation website ([www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov)), and download the "B4UFLY" smartphone app. Drones are not permitted within five miles of Smith Reynolds Airport without prior authorization from the FAA.