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## News from around the Region

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### Regional News Round-Up



The Stafford County Board of Supervisors declined to consider a proposed resolution which would have expressed opposition to further expansion of **Stafford Regional Airport**. The only Supervisor who supported the resolution was its sponsor, Cord Sterling, who also had sent Stafford School Board members an unsigned letter critical of the airport, and suggesting that supervisors had been influenced by political donations. Supervisor Paul Milde responded that: "I just think you are out of line on this issue, and particularly for suggesting, for instance, that I would be swayed in my support for the airport because some of the airport members have supported me. [Sending] official looking documents looking like it came from the county office, misrepresenting the county's position on the airport to drum up anti-airport sentiment when clearly you are the minority on this."

In other Stafford news, at the most recent meeting of the **Stafford County Airport Authority**, agenda topics included the relocation of 22 graves in the path of runway expansion and a land swap with the Stafford County Economic Development Authority that will close in January; one of the conditions is that the SCEDA may use the airport terminal rent-free one day per year, for public events. Additionally, a plan for a development near the airport, George Washington Village, was submitted to the Stafford Planning Commission; all homes would be at least 3,000 feet from the airport, but the plan is expected to be carefully scrutinized.

On January 8, **Manassas Regional Airport** cut a ribbon on an exhibit officially marking its 50th birthday in its present location (the airport's complete history dates back to 1932).



The Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management held a forum regarding **Maryland Airport** and land uses near the airport. In 2014, there were 17,000 operations at the airport, but that is expected to increase. The runway is expected to be extended from 3,700 feet to 4,300 feet by 2016. Evelyn Hungerford, Chair of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee's Airport Task Force described the airport as an "economic steppingstone for the future."

The Washington County Board of Commissioners has approved the expenditure of \$60,000 for repairs to the roof of Hangar 19 at **Hagerstown Regional Airport**; the funds will come from existing airport accounts.



In the wake of last month's accident at **Montgomery County Airpark**, the *Gazette* spoke to airport officials in Prince George's County about safety issues. Stan Fetter, manager of **Hyde Field/Washington Executive Airport**, said that: "Whether it's a jet or not isn't really the issue. [The Gaithersburg crash] is a very isolated incident and it's probably going to come down to something between the pilot and the aircraft." But Fetter also expressed concern about an 11-story hotel and other buildings near the flight path for **College Park Airport**. "The question isn't 'if somebody's going to hit one of those buildings, it's 'when,' because it's in a bad spot." A meeting of the airport liaison committee is scheduled to hear public comments on January 28.



The City of Frederick has budgeted \$8 million for the demolition of buildings south of **Frederick Municipal Airport**, which will pave the way for the extension of the runway. Alderman Michael O'Connor said that: "The city has recognized for some time that we're losing some business at the airport because of the length of our runway." In other Frederick news, the airport is expected to show positive revenue from operations, but the City will be required to make payments to cover the costs of land acquisition starting in FY2016.

An article in the *Daily Progress* profiled **Gordonsville Municipal Airport** in Virginia. Articles about the history of the airport have been posted at <http://www.gordonsvilleairport.org>.

The **Loudoun County Planning Commission** recommended the approval of a private helipad on the property of Charles Kuhn - President and CEO of JK Moving Services at Egypt Farm in Purcellville, Virginia.



The **Culpeper Air Fest** has received the Silver Pinnacle Award from the International Council of Air Shows for its "Potomac Flight" event on October 12, 2014; 24 T-6 aircraft flew over Washington, DC to honor the Disabled American Veterans.

**B&B Sport Aviation**, based in Cambridge, Maryland, has announced a partnership with a Ukrainian aircraft manufacturer to market the "KievProp" propeller in the U.S.

On December 27, two aircraft collided while landing at **Carroll County Regional Airport**; no serious injuries were reported. A Beechcraft Bonanza made an emergency landing at **Frederick Municipal Airport** on December 29 without incident. As always, fly safely!

## FAA General Aviation News



The most recent edition of the FAA's newsletter for general aviation, FAA Safety Briefing, is available at [https://www.faa.gov/news/safety\\_briefing/](https://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/). The theme of the issue is "Airspace and ATC" and it includes articles on topics such as the future of the National Airspace System, avoiding special use airspace ("where NOT to go"), and behind the scenes of a TFR interception.

## Upcoming Events

**January 28:** International Aviation Club luncheon featuring Marion Blakey, President and CEO of the Aerospace Industries Association, at the City Club of Washington. For more information, please visit <http://www.iacwashington.org/Events.aspx>.

**January 30:** National Aeronautic Association luncheon featuring Richard Aboulafia of the Teal Group at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. For more information, please visit <https://naa.aero/events/upcoming-events>.

**February 4:** Virginia Aviation Business Association legislative reception in Richmond, Virginia. For more information, please visit <http://www.thevaba.org/reception>.

**February 19:** NBAA southeast regional forum in West Palm Beach. For more information, please visit <http://www.nbaa.org/events/forums/2015PBI/>.

**February 20:** ABA Air & Space Law Forum update conference at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. For more information, please visit <http://shop.americanbar.org/ebus/ABAEventsCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?productId=137207430>.

**February 26:** Aero Club of Washington luncheon featuring Christopher Hart, Acting Chair of the NTSB, at the Capital Hilton. For more information, please visit <http://www.aeroclub.org/events/>.

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## About GWBAA

GWBAA President Harry Houckes ([info@gwbaa.com](mailto:info@gwbaa.com)) and GWBAA Secretary Jol Silversmith of Zuckert, Scouff & Rasenberger, LLP ([jasilversmith@zsrllaw.com](mailto:jasilversmith@zsrllaw.com)) write and edit GWBAA News. GWBAA's success and ability to make a difference depends on the breadth of its support and your participation – so please send any ideas or comments for future newsletters, or for GWBAA, in general, to Harry or Jol.

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