

Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport

warren county, new york

443 Queensbury Ave., Rm. 201, Queensbury, New York 12804
Tel: 518-792-5995, Fax: 518-792-0783
e-mail: airport@warrencountydpw.com



AIRPORT RESTAURANT UPDATE

We still get lots of calls asking when the new restaurant will be open. While the grand opening date has not been chosen yet, lots of progress has been made and new details are evolving every day. We would like to send Sally Longo, the new manager/operator of the restaurant, a very warm welcome to the airport community. The restaurant will be dubbed the "The Aviator" and is expected to incorporate an Art Deco aviation theme in the décor. Sally's experience and reputation have surpassed most everyone's expectations for the new restaurant. The focus for the restaurant will be on lunch and dinner service and the menu promises to be very exciting. Sally will continue to provide world class catering as well. Please visit her catering website for details at auntsallyscatering.com.

Most of the exterior work on the building has been completed and includes cultured stone, heated sidewalks, landscaping, and huge glass pane windows facing the airfield with views of West Mountain.



We would like to thank Mr. Schermerhorn for his continued investment and shared vision for making our airport one of the very best in all of New York. We would also like to congratulate Carol Twiss on her continued success operating Carol's Airport Café in Hudson Falls, still the best place to get a hot breakfast in the region.



HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2015

- ✦ NEW RESTAURANT
- ✦ WHAT'S A MARL FEN?
- ✦ NATURAL GAS PROJECT
- ✦ AVIATION JOBS ACT
- ✦ COUNTY T-HANGAR GRANT APP
- ✦ AIRPORT MESSAGE BOARD

WHAT'S A MARL FEN?

The second most commonly asked question I hear these days is "What is a Marl Fen?". The short answer is that a Marl Fen is a very rare type of wetland with a lot of biological diversity. There has been much publicity and speculation regarding the Marl Fen and what impact its presence will have on the runway extension plans, and vice versa. There is a 0.9 acre Marl Fen located to the southwest of runway 1-19 and has been recognized as such since at least the mid 1980's. Our environmental and engineering consultants are revising the proposed extension plans and the Environmental Assessment to avoid negative impacts to this 0.9 acre Marl Fen. The condition of the Marl Fen was documented in 1988 as being severely degraded. More recent surveys by DEC give it an Element Occurrence rating of "D" and describe the Marl Fen as a poor quality example of a globally and state rare wetland community. The final wetland survey was conducted in June of this year, and DEC identified another 0.08 acre area that most closely resembles a Marl Fen than any other biological community, although it lacks some of the defining characteristics of a Marl Fen. Regardless of what anyone calls it, the new .08 acre Fen is currently under water due to flooding from beaver activity and it is located in the future safety area for the planned runway extension.



NATURAL GAS COMING TO AIRPORT

One of my top priorities has been to find new ways to lower the operating costs of the airport for the County. Like any airport, one of our largest cost centers are utility expenses. Many of our airport buildings are quite old and in need of upgrades in numerous areas. Heating options have been very limited in the past due to the distance from a natural gas main. Thanks to one of our new neighbors, North County Veterinary Referral Center (Welcome to the neighborhood!), the natural gas main was extended down Queensbury Avenue from the north and is right across from the airport. With the construction of the new restaurant underway, and the close proximity of the gas main, the opportunity for a public and private partnership to bring natural gas to the airport was impeccable. As of today, a 6" gas main has been installed on the airport and is ready for the installation of 2" gas main extensions and 1" service lines to provide natural gas to all heated buildings, both public and private. The map shown here depicts the location of the new gas main and soon to be installed service lines. During previous attempts to secure grant funding, our engineering consultants developed some projections for cost savings based on three years of previous billing information. The estimated savings for just the County are projected to be \$17,363/year. The County's share of the gas main costs are \$23,892. Even after factoring in conversion of heating appliances, the payback period for the County's investment for these improvements is less than three years. The addition of this natural gas distribution system will make the airport more attractive for new development opportunities as well.



AVIATION JOBS ACT

I am entering my third year serving on the Board of Directors for the New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA). For several years our top priority has been passage of the Aviation Jobs Act (AJA) by the New York State Assembly and Senate. The goal has been to enable airports and aviation businesses in New York to compete more fairly with neighboring states. The excerpt below is from a NYAMA press release.

"The State budget agreement includes language that will exempt general aviation aircraft defined as any aircraft used in civil aviation that is not a commercial aircraft from the state's sales and use tax. The budget language was championed by NYS Senator Philip Boyle (R-Bay Shore) and Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo (D-Endwell) and seeks to reform the state's aviation taxes to allow New York to better compete with neighboring states for job-creating business aircraft. Senator Boyle and Assemblywoman Lupardo are co-chairs of the bi-partisan New York Legislative Aviation Caucus which has over 119 members from both houses. In order for New York's aviation industry to be competitive, the tax structure of almost all of our surrounding states needed to be matched. Aviation is an industry that already employs well over 400,000 with an \$18 billion per year payroll in New York, and the overall economic impact of aviation will significantly improve as a result of this action," said Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, Co-Chair of the NY Legislative Aviation Caucus.

The new measure will exempt general aviation aircraft and machinery or equipment that is installed on these aircraft from the state's sales and use taxes beginning September 1, 2015. The current tax is seen as a financial barrier to aircraft locations to New York because most other surrounding states do not charge sales taxes or have more favorable tax treatment for such aircraft sales and basing's. New York lost over 700 of these planes over a ten-year period. According to the NYS Department of Transportation, each business jet, on average, means five direct on-airport jobs and \$1 million of annual economic activity.

NYAMA's efforts were joined by affiliate organizations including the National Business Aviation Association and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and many other partners and companies."

COUNTY T-HANGAR GRANT APPLICATION

The County has approved submitting for a NYS DOT Aviation Capital Grant to replace the (very old) southern T-hangars. As everyone is undoubtedly aware, those hangars have long exceeded their useful life and we have initiated efforts to replace them with the help of State funding. The plan is to construct the replacement hangars on the outer tie-down area, then demolish the old hangars and convert that area into tie-down space. The project will result in an increase of total available T-hangars from 12 existing to 20 ultimate. During construction, outer tie-down tenants will be required to temporarily relocate to the inner tie-downs. The proposal to the County Facilities Committee included a notional rental of \$315 per month, utilities included. The grant program is very popular and competitive, keep your fingers crossed!



LOCAL MESSAGE BOARD

AIRPORT STAFF

- Ross Dubarry
Airport Manager
- Brian Gereau
Sr. Maintenance Mechanic
- Derrick Blackmer
Maintenance Mechanic
- Mark Sumner
Airport Maintenance Worker
- Laura Lane
Senior Account Clerk

- WARREN COUNTY FLYING CLUB—CALL DAN
(518) 361-3432
- REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR DRIVER TRAINING EXPIRATION DATE
- SNOW REMOVAL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR PLOW TRUCKS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- IFR NIGHT—12/10
- CHRISTMAS—12/25
FBO CLOSED ALL DAY
- GFPOA MEETING—1/14
- AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE—1/26

For more information on upcoming events, or to have your event listed, call (518) 792-5995

