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## Airport Growth Continues With New Hangar Opening

By Kara Clark

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Town staff, Town Council members, Airport Commission members and patrons of Leesburg Executive Airport were set to celebrate Thursday, Sept. 2, the completion of new aircraft hangars on the airport's south apron.

The South Apron Hangar project includes 10 new T-hangars and six new executive aircraft hangars. These hangars replace T-hangars that were damaged in a snowstorm in 2002 and demolished. With the completion of these hangars, the Leesburg Executive Airport now has 46 T-hangars and 11 executive aircraft hangars.

"When the town updated the Airport Master Plan in 2006, we identified the need for more hangar space," Airport Director Tim Deike stated. "The demand has been constant for aircraft hangars. Currently, we have 32 people waiting for T-hangar space and 30 people on the waiting list for tie-downs. By increasing our based aircraft population through leasing tie-downs and hangars, the airport becomes more financially sustainable."

Construction of the south apron hangars began in April 2009 and the hangars were completed in August. The total project cost was \$2.8 million. The town received \$929,568 in funding from the Virginia Department of Aviation for the project site work, which included taxiways, drainage improvements and fencing.

The hangar project is Phase 2 of the airport's overall plan for the development of the south apron. Completed in spring 2009, Phase 1 expanded the south apron by two acres and created 31 additional paved aircraft tie-down spaces. Phase 3 will expand the paved aircraft parking area again, providing additional aircraft tie-down spaces, and will relocate the existing fuel farm. Phase 3 is scheduled to begin construction in Spring 2014.

Airport Commission Chairman Dennis Boykin called "continued growth of airport capabilities" one of the town's major goals.

"Airports are about commerce, not about airplanes, and we need to continually strive to add facilities in order support economic development. As an important part of our transportation infrastructure, the Airport needs to stay ahead of demand," Boykin stated. "Adding additional hangars brings additional businesses, and with that, additional economic development."

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