



# LEE'S SUMMIT MISSOURI

Date: October 3, 2016  
To: Stephen A. Arbo, City Manager  
From: Dena Mezger, Director of Public Works *DEM*  
Sub: Lee's Summit Municipal Airport October 2016 Staff Report

## **New Hangar Development**

Hangar "T" construction began in early March, and completion is now expected in late October. At this time, all sheet metal is on the building and the bi-fold door has been installed, plumbing is completed and electrical work is underway.

## **Runway 18-36 Pre-Grading Project**

The earthwork project being performed by Emery Sapp & Sons was substantially complete in late July. A walk-through of the project was performed with City staff, the contractor, the Airport's engineering firm Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), along with individuals from the State Aviation Department, Army Corp of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. All parties involved have found the work, except for seeding, to be satisfactory. The contractor moved equipment onto the Airport the week of September 12, and final seeding and ditch stabilization was underway the week of September 19. This work will complete all elements of the project.

## **New Flight School**

The Legacy Aviation lease agreement was approved by City Council on September 15. The operators of Legacy Aviation are currently taking the steps necessary to begin operation at the Airport.

## **Airport Incidents**

On Sept. 20, 2016, at approximately 6:10 p.m., emergency crews responded to the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport after receiving a call regarding an aircraft accident on the Airport.

When crews arrived, they found a single engine plane that had come to rest on the west side of the airport on the tarmac. Both persons on board the aircraft were killed in the crash. Investigators with the Lee's Summit Police Department and Federal investigators worked to determine where the flight originated and what may have lead to the crash. The Lee's Summit Airport remained open for operations at all times since the accident wasn't in the immediate area of either of the runways.

The aircraft flown was a 1964 Piper PA-28-235 which has four seats and is a low wing and fixed gear aircraft. The initial investigation found that the flight originated in Des Moines and the occupants were travelling to Lee's Summit to meet family when the crash occurred.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will release a preliminary report within 15-days of the accident. The final report won't be complete for six to eight months.

## **Airport Inquiries & Noise Complaints**

In September, the Airport received several inquiries regarding aircraft flying over their neighborhood. There were repeated references to the Airport's fly friendly program brochure, which is designed to provide users of the airport information about areas the Airport considers noise sensitive areas. Federal law prevents the City from denying or limiting access to any aircraft that can safely use the airport on a 24-hour basis. Although the City



cannot impose noise-related regulations, curfews or penalties, airport staff does work actively to communicate to pilots and flight instructors the need to be good neighbors and encourage the usage of quiet flying techniques when applicable, and the need to avoid residential area over flights whenever safely possible. This is why the brochure was developed The City of Lee's Summit and the airport staff take complaints seriously. Several of the most recent inquires received are from citizens who live under the flight paths of one of the runways. Unfortunately, some citizens may have read the brochure to mean the areas shaded in red to mean these areas are "NO FLY ZONES" and aircraft shouldn't be flying over their neighborhoods.

#### **Public Outreach**

On September 1, the local MoDOT Highway Department conducted testing at the Airport of the Truck Mounted Attenuator (TMA). This is the big square box like device on the back of a vehicle used by MoDOT to warn drivers of construction activities ahead. The testing was performed late in the evening when it was dark. The purpose of the testing was to try a variety of different light arrangements on the TMA to find an arrangement that provided the best lighting system to alert traffic of the work zone ahead, with the goal is to warn drivers to move over well in advance of reaching the work zone. The testing was performed on taxi way Charlie and involved the TMA truck and several MoDOT vehicles used to simulate motorist traveling at highway speeds approaching the TMA truck.

On September 6, several City staff members met with members of the new St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School. This high school, located northwest of the airport, is under construction and is expected to open in the fall of 2017. The school will have an Introduction to Aviation in their curriculum and wanted to share their interest in exploring opportunities to partner with the Airport to expand their aviation program. Staff was able to share information on programs such as the Young Eagles programs, a new flight school starting operations in October, and the availability to provide tours of the airport. The school held an open house at the site of the new school on September 18, and a member of the Airport staff was in attendance providing information about the Airport to attendees.

The City's Public Works Department held their annual snow rodeo at the Airport during the week of September 12. This event provided an opportunity for snow removal operators to hone their skills prior to the winter activities and provided other city employees and officials the opportunity to operate a snowplow. Several airport staff were able to compete in the event and one staff member did well enough to qualify for the final round of completion. The activity was held on the East apron area.

The R-7 School District has a new Aerospace Engineering program being offered through their Project Lead the Way Program at the Summit Tech Center. Students from this program explore fundamentals of flight in air and space flight. As part of this program they toured the Airport on September 20. In addition to the tour the group was provided with information on the Young Eagles Program as an opportunity to take an introduction to flight. The Airport staff anticipates further opportunities will come available to provide assistance in this program similar to the new Catholic high school.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> Airport staff participated in meet the new teacher program at the Mason Elementary school as part of the Lee's Summit School District's Partners in Education (PIE) Program.