

DANVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT

EDUCATION A KEY TO GROWTH TAKING OFF



CHARLES WILBORN, REGISTER & BEE

After posing for a photo, children depart from an airplane after taking a brief seat inside to get a feel of it on Saturday evening at Danville Regional Airport.

New training facility, hangar poised to lure other businesses

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

The infrastructure is in place and construction is expected to begin soon on a new training facility and hangar at Danville Regional Airport, something that’s expected to spur more small business development, leaders said.

The aviation training facility will be used by Danville Community College for a new aviation maintenance program and for flight instruction by Averett University. Averett will use the new hangar to store aircraft, and DCC will use one that Averett currently rents for the maintenance training.

On the other end of the airport, two new hangars — part of a separate project — are also going up.

The projects were highlighted at a Saturday open house and free flying event for children.

Coming Thursday

STARTING YOUNG: How Danville Public Schools is providing students with another career pathway with aviation class options.

Before discussing the future of the airport, Phil Hall, a member of the local airport commission and the Danville Industrial Development Authority, told the Register & Bee one must first look to the past.

“I think it’s easier to see where it’s been because of the changes and improvements under Marc Alerman’s guidance and direction,” Hall told the newspaper during an interview at the airport Saturday.

Alerman is the director of transportation for the city of Danville.

When Hall first started on the airport commission, he didn’t know anything about it. The meetings and upgrades over the years have taught the non-pilot some of the intricacies involved in aviation.

“We’ve been so fortunate under Marc’s guidance; we’ve been successful in getting grants not only from the federal government and the state, but the city has pitched in large measures,” he explained of Danville doing things like repaving the runway.

Aldeman called it an “extensive, competitive grant application process,” but he also praised efforts by Del. Danny Marshall, R-Danville, for securing state funding as well. He also pointed to local support from economic development groups.

There is \$7.6 million in federal funding for the two education-related projects.

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DANVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Dozens of children get to fly free at a special event

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

For Jase Gamman, a flying adventure at Danville Regional Airport is becoming a birthday tradition.

On Saturday, the 8-year-old went up in a plane as part of the Free Fly Day and an Airport Open House.

On Sunday, he turned nine.

His mother, Colleen, brought him out last year because it was his birthday week as something fun to do. Now she hopes it will be an annual thing.

“Another birthday tradition, he gets to do every year,” she said.

Marc Adelman, director of transportation for the city of Danville, said 191 children completed rides, which was the most ever. There were 165 flights the year before.

“This year we sent out flyers to all of the school systems within 45 minutes of Danville,” he told the Register & Bee.

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WATCH: For video of the Saturday events, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.



NEWSVU



CHARLES WILBORN, REGISTER & BEE

A family poses for a photo alongside an Averett University plane on Saturday at Danville Regional Airport, ahead of a free ride.