

NEW LOOK for the Northampton Airport!

NEW Office Open House—November 15, 2005

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For Immediate Release

Northampton, MA. The Northampton Airport has been the setting for a lot of “buzz” lately, and we’re not just talking about the normal aircraft engine hum that can be heard on a daily basis, but rather the kind of buzz created by customers and patrons of the airport that are pleased with all the improvements being made.

Since the airport’s purchase in August of 2004 by local business associates, Robert J. Bacon of Westfield and Lisa L. Fusco of Northampton, a number of structural and organizational changes have taken place at the airport.

For starters, the airport recently finished construction on two new sets of T-hangar units, bringing in seven new based-aircraft to the Northampton Airport and increasing the number of total based aircraft to 58. These new tenants not only bring in a steady flow of income for the airport, but also contribute to creating an active pilot community.

In addition to bringing new aircraft to the Northampton Airport and thus the city of Northampton, the staff of the airport has also been working to upgrade an outdated office and pilot workspace into an efficient, professional operations center. The airport flight school, Northampton Aeronautics, Inc., recently moved into this refurbished office space that is complete with pilot classrooms, a reception area, a Computer Assisted Testing area, and conference rooms.

The airport would like to invite the general public to stop by and check out the improvements being made. We are hosting an Airport Open House on Tuesday, November 15, 2005. The open house will run from 5:30PM- 7:30PM, with refreshments provided.

Visitors of the airport will notice that in spite of many “new” things taking place, the staff feels a great responsibility to maintain and educate patrons and visitors about the historical significance of the airport. The airport reception area is decorated with an original LaFleur Airport sign dating back to the 1930’s and black and white photos that show the original layout of the airport. Likewise, the airport website has a history section that outlines the history of the airport and recalls some visits from historical figures.

“Our airport has a unique history that should be shared and enjoyed with the local community. There are still residents of Northampton that are unaware of the airport’s existence, not to mention that someone like Charles Lindbergh flew in and out of here,” said Rich MacIsaac, Airport Manager.

The airport was opened in 1929 as the LaFleur airport and was composed of dairy barns converted into hangar space and a dirt runway. Historical figures such as Charles Lindbergh and Calvin Coolidge flew into the airport frequently. *(These details and more can also be found on our website <http://www.northamptonairport.com/history.htm>.)*

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