It's Your Airport

Vital… Vibrant… Valuable
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Most people understand the importance of area highways and rail lines. But not everyone knows about the many benefits and strategic value of their own community airport. Whether it's a regional transportation center or a rural airstrip, it is your airport, serving your area's needs today… and in the future.

Multiplying jobs, incomes and economic health
Your airport has a "multiplier effect" on jobs and income. The U.S. Department of Commerce says that every $1 spent at local airports adds another $2.53 to your local economy.

Businesses actively seek locations with a community airport when locating a plant, headquarters, or distribution center. Compared to congested and expensive airline hubs, general aviation airports offer unbeatable convenience and cost-effectiveness. These benefits often come at little or no cost to the community.

Helping Neighbors and Friends in Need
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Private pilots also volunteer as “angels” by transporting patients who could not otherwise afford to travel to and from life-saving medical treatments. And they do it free of charge by donating their time, airplanes and piloting skills.

Your airport may be an important staging point for disaster relief. When calamity strikes, general aviation is often the fastest and most efficient way to get aid to those in need.

For more information and a copy of our video, Local Airports Access to America, please contact:
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)
421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701
1-800-USA-AOPA
www.aopa.org

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association has represented general aviation and its pilots since 1939.

For more information about general aviation, visit www.GAservingAmerica.org

The federal government considers airports essential elements of the national transportation system and provides much of the funding.

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While government agencies struggled after Hurricane Katrina, thousands of general aviation pilots used community airports across the United States to ferry emergency supplies to the Gulf Coast region and displaced residents to safety.

**On Ramp to the World**

Most big airports are located far from home. But your airport is at your doorstep. You can save valuable time with regional airline service or on-demand charter service. By becoming a private pilot you also can use small, state-of-the-art airplanes to reach destinations efficiently.

Time savings translate into greater productivity at the office and more time at home with your family. That’s a big reason why businesses seek the advantages of general aviation.

**Safe and Secure**

General aviation airplanes and airports are safe and have had a steadily improving safety record over the past 25 years. Consider this: motor vehicle accidents happen continually but we seldom worry about them. But aviation accidents capture attention because they are so rare.

In the post-9/11 world, the small airplanes at your airport pose little if any threat. That’s because they are far too small (lighter than an empty Honda Civic) to cause mass destruction. And your airport is a neighborhood where the residents are the employees and local pilots. With the AOPA Airport Watch program, they report suspicious activity just as you would in your own neighborhood.

**Good Neighbors**

AOPA and many local airports use “Fly Friendly” noise-abatement programs, including flight patterns that avoid noise-sensitive areas.

**It’s true what they say: “A mile of highway takes you a mile. A mile of runway takes you anywhere!”**

Aviation officials and responsible developers use sensible regulations to minimize noise and safety concerns. That’s not always the case, and sometimes homes are built too close to the airport. Thankfully, more states require ‘full disclosure’ for transactions involving property near an airport.

Psychologists say people are more sensitive to airplane sounds because they come and go. Your neighbor’s leaf blower may be louder but because it lasts longer it becomes background-level noise.

**Upward and Onward**

Exciting new developments in community-friendly aviation technologies promise even greater rewards in the future.

The federal government has begun creating the Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NGATS. NGATS envisions using small airplanes and advanced satellite navigation and communication technologies for speedy point-to-point travel between general aviation airports including yours.

Aircraft makers already are producing small airplanes with airline-style flight displays and quiet, fuel-efficient engines.

**Flight training helps pilots maintain and improve proficiency. The Civil Air Patrol and other groups may also conduct homeland security flights from your airport.**

All of that is coming soon to your airport.

Very Light Jets, or VLJs, will soon be part of the emerging air taxi industry. With their ultra-quiet jet engines, they can carry up to six people to and from small airports safely, quickly and economically.

**Ready For Takeoff**

Your airport already is a valuable asset. But with a little understanding and planning it can be a source of civic pride and future growth. It will be part of your legacy to the future.
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