

The Montgomery County Airpark to Celebrate 50 Years of Safe and Reliable Air Transportation Services

Saturday, October 9, 2010

The Montgomery County Airpark will celebrate 50 years of safe and reliable air transportation services to the Washington, D.C. area at a special open house to be held at the Airpark on Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Highlights of the day will include flight demonstrations by local pilots of various types of aircraft, dozens of aircraft on display, children's activities, presentations by nationally recognized aviation safety experts, an "Ask a Pilot" booth staffed by local pilots, and a limited number of free airplane rides will also be available at select times throughout the day.

Over the last half of a century, the Montgomery County Airpark has served as a base of operations for flight training, air charter services, medical transportation, and many other community service activities. The celebration will kick off with a multimedia presentation of the Airpark's history, followed by a presentation by Bruce Landsberg, president of the Frederick, Maryland based Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Air Safety Foundation.

In addition to the many modern aircraft on display, the Collings Foundation, known for painstakingly recovering and restoring World War II aircraft, will have three large aircraft from that period on display – the B17, the B24, and the P51. The planes will also be available for rides beginning at 9 a.m. (There is a fee for these rides. Visit www.collingsfoundation.org for more information.)

Guest speakers will include Jane Gardner Birch, award winner of the 2007 Combs Gates Award, and honored by the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Ms. Birch is the author of the well-recognized novel, "They Flew Proud," a history spotlighting the Civilian Pilot Training Program which was the backbone for World War II's military aviation.

This event is being jointly sponsored by the Montgomery County Revenue Authority (MCRA), the Montgomery County Airpark Association (MCAA), and Montgomery County Airpark, LLC.

MCRA, created in 1957, owns and operates the Montgomery County Airpark. MCRA is a public corporation established to construct, improve, equip, furnish, maintain, acquire, operate, and finance projects devoted wholly or partially for public good, use, or general welfare.

MCAA is a not-for-profit organization established in 1986 to preserve, protect, and promote the Airpark's long tradition of service to the citizens of Montgomery County. The association promotes the safe use and enjoyment of the Airpark by educating the community and our local government officials about the various types of flight operations conducted at the Airpark.

Montgomery County Airpark LLC was formed in 1960 by Bill Richardson, Jim Richardson, and Dick Kreuzburg as the fixed base operator (FBO) for the Airpark under a lease with Montgomery Aviation, LLC, which will expire on December 31, 2010. Beginning in 2011, the FBO will be known as D.C. Metro Aviation Services (formerly Freestate Aviation, Inc.), which will offer or sublease all customary FBO services to Airpark patrons including fuel sales and hangar rental.

For updates, please visit www.MontgomeryCountyAirpark.com.