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A publication of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns | Spring 2019

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Appreciating Arizona's Airports



Ask nearly anyone and they will tell you one of the most important jobs of government at all levels is to construct and maintain first-class infrastructure. We typically think of those items as streets and roads and utility systems such as water and sewer. But another key component of infrastructure involves our airports and their service to both commercial and general aviation sectors.

In this issue of *Arizona City & Town*, we take a closer look at municipal airports across the state. So much of our economy relies on efficient air service, and cities and towns play a crucial role in making sure this vital transportation component is available and up to date.

Sky Harbor in Phoenix is by far the most prominent airport in the state, with 43 million passengers passing through each year. But regional airports that serve smaller communities are important in the promotion of local economic development and the support of emergency transportation needs.

When wildfires break out in remote parts of the state, some of those airports are busy 24 hours a day with tankers, firefighters and other necessary support systems. Without them, the devastating effects from wildfires could be much worse. And in medical emergencies, airport facilities play a vital role in the timely transportation of patients and medicine.

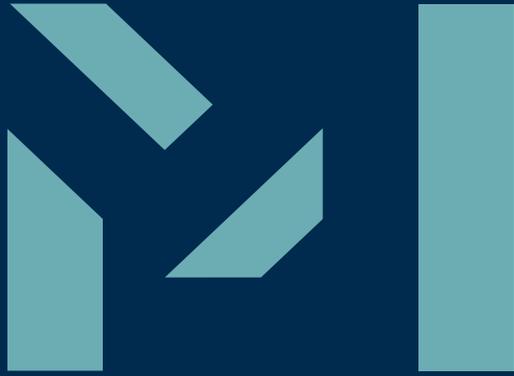
The state is fortunate to have several important military air bases — in Glendale, Yuma, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Gila Bend and other areas. The Federal Aviation Administration's complex rules keep our airspace safe, even with the large number of planes that take advantage of our good flying weather every day.

Aviation is also intertwined with our history as a state. Shortly after he completed his groundbreaking solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean, the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh came to Tucson to dedicate the new city airport. Many of our manufacturing facilities and high-tech industries are also tied to the aviation sector.

Airports are yet another dimension of the many aspects of municipal services that benefit everyone who lives and works in Arizona communities. I hope you enjoy this issue's look at how cities and towns are playing a key role in keeping us all flying high.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Strobeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Strobeck
Executive Director



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League Welcomes New President

Maricopa Mayor Christian Price was elected to a two-year term as president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns at the annual conference in August.



Left to Right: 1. The League Executive Committee Officers: President Christian Price, mayor of Maricopa; along with Vice President Cathy Carlat, mayor of Peoria; and Treasurer Doug Nicholls, mayor of Yuma
2. Mayor Price with Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, presenting Rep. Doug Coleman with a 2018 League Champion Award
3. Mayor Price at the 2018 League Resolutions Committee Meeting

I am humbled and honored to have been elected president of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns during the 2018 League Annual Conference. I promise to give it my all over this term and to serve all of you, just as we serve our citizens.

It is my firm belief that by working together we can accomplish almost anything. Cities and towns are the places where people choose to raise their families, find gainful employment and contribute to the well-being of their communities. Representing them at the state level is critical. The League has been and will continue to be the local government champion at the state capitol and in other spheres of influence.

As we move through the legislative session, the work of the League, its staff and municipal representatives is more critical than ever. We value working closely with our governor, state agencies and state legislators in ensuring Arizona remains a great place to live and thrive. We all serve the best interests of the state and our respective communities.

A new group of eager participants has joined our ranks. Early in December the League provided training to more than 100 newly elected municipal officials. I had the distinct honor of welcoming and speaking to them. These mayors and council members have committed themselves to serve their communities over their terms to make their cities and towns vibrant, safe and welcoming. I applaud them for devoting their time and energy to this endeavor.

With these fresh faces and more seasoned members, we will meet the challenges of the coming year. Legislative sessions never fail to surprise and test us. But by working together and reaching out to our legislative delegations, we can meet these challenges. Cities and towns serve the same constituents that legislators do, and by seeking that common good we can accomplish great things.

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns has been around for over 80 years. It exists to serve you. Thank you for partnering with this great organization. Our strength is in our unity. Be sure to utilize its many resources that include lobbying, training, conferences and technical assistance. I hope you will take advantage of all the League has to offer.

We are facing many challenges in this time. But at the end of the day let us also celebrate our successes! Thank you for your commitment to your community and our state!

Sincerely,

Christian Price
League President
Mayor, City of Maricopa

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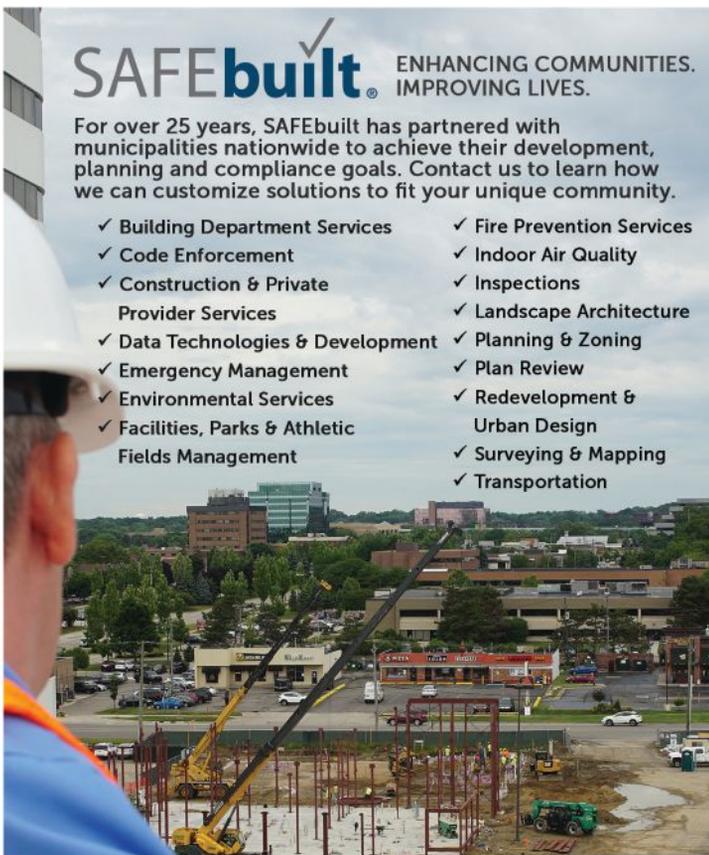


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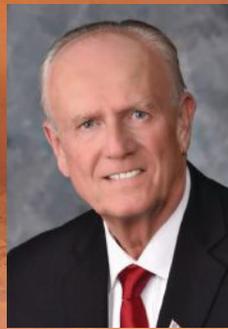
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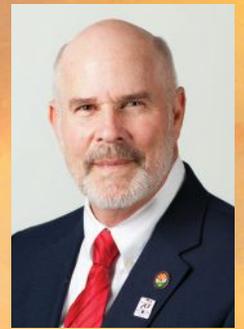
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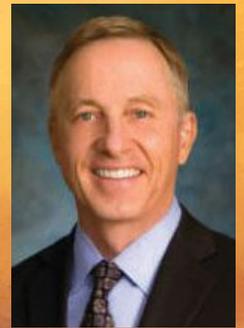
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MEET THE LEAGUE'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

League activities are directed by a 25-member Executive Committee, consisting of mayors and councilmembers from across the state.

Committee officers are elected to two-year terms. Committee members are elected to one- or two-year overlapping terms. Members and officers of the Executive Committee are determined by all League members at the League's Annual Conference through a process coordinated by a Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the League.



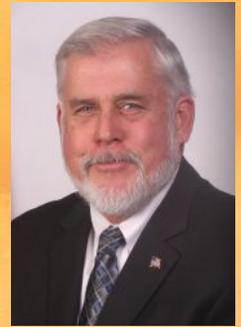
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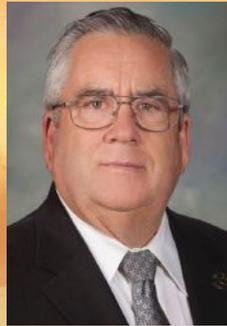
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ARIZONA MUNICIPAL

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Cities and towns operate and maintain a variety of sites, including city halls, libraries, recreation centers, parks and public works facilities.

Perhaps a bit unexpected, but still very important, is the municipal airport. Many cities and towns in Arizona manage and operate airports. Some serve as homes to commercial airlines or hubs for corporate flights. Others function as a space for military aircraft. Many are centers for economic development.

Airports across the state vary in size, function, location, number of passengers and planes that land and take off daily. Together, they contribute more than \$58 billion in economic impact to the state of Arizona.

Arizona airports see more than 45 million individuals take to the

skies through air transportation annually, and more than 680,000 tons of cargo travel through airports in the state.

Many airports have storied histories; their beginnings often stem from a need for additional space or satellite locations, and some even have significant military backgrounds. As the years propel forward, most of the airports represented in this article have experienced significant growth and expansion, adding to the many services they were already providing.

In this article, we'll highlight a few of the many Arizona municipal airports. From one of the only joint-use airports in the country to "America's Friendliest Airport" (and one of the busiest in the United States!), Arizona's airports are an integral part of Arizona's economic lifeblood.

FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT (FLG)



From student pilots, forest firefighters and astronauts, to medical flights, military training, international peace missions and commercial and corporate flights, the Flagstaff Airport offers a little bit of something to everyone.

Since 1948, when the current airport was relocated from the east side of Koch Field in Doney Park, the current facility has grown to meet each new need of northern Arizona.

Located just south of Flagstaff and at an elevation of 7,014 feet, the Flagstaff Airport is a vital asset not just for Flagstaff, but for much of northern Arizona. Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH) is supported from the Verde Valley to Utah, and from New Mexico to Seligman. Without helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft flying out of Flagstaff's airport, they would not be able to provide the same excellent service to the large swath of rural residents that they currently do.

Due to its elevation, the airport is also an excellent high-altitude training ground for military pilots to support their missions in places like Afghanistan. Very few airports in the United States can provide the unique altitude, with a first-class, fixed-base operator, and highly trained air traffic controllers to achieve this important training.

Located among the many wonders of northern Arizona, including Sedona, the Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Nation and the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff Airport is the only commercial service airport close to all of these tourist

attractions. Let's not forget the great microbreweries, restaurants, hotels and the historic downtown area of Flagstaff that are also part of the vibrant community, drawing locals and visitors. More than 5 million visitors visit Flagstaff each year from all over the world, with many flying in through the Flagstaff Airport, and 150,000 passengers flying in and out on commercial air service annually. New air carriers and destinations are expected to push passenger counts to more than 200,000 in the next two years.

More than 100 based aircraft call Flagstaff Airport home. These aircraft owners include local and national companies, DPS, Guardian Air, medical professionals, seasonal home owners, virtual workers, and local citizens that fly for leisure and business. The Flagstaff Airport is vital to the northern Arizona community and enhances the overall transportation model with quality air service for the region 365 days a year.

FLY-BY STATS

Year Constructed: 1948

Elevation: 7,014 Feet

Annual Passengers: 150,000



PHOENIX DEER VALLEY AIRPORT (DVT)

A gem located in the north valley, Phoenix Deer Valley Airport has a unique and interesting history. Founded in 1959, the primary financier of the airport was television personality Art Linkletter. The City of Phoenix purchased the airport in 1971 for use as a relief airport for Phoenix Sky Harbor International, and Deer Valley has been steadily growing ever since. A control tower and second runway were added in the mid-1970s, and the airport has slowly evolved into one of the busiest noncommercial airports in the country.

A tremendous amount of commerce takes place at the airport, making it a formidable economic engine for the region with a total

economic impact of just under \$200 million annually. Major airport stakeholders include Cutter Aviation, Westwind School of Aeronautics and AeroGuard Flight Training Center.

To keep up with the ever-changing demands on the airport, the City of Phoenix has undertaken a number of improvement projects, such as reconstructing much of the asphalt around the aircraft hangars, the addition of new taxiway connectors and the future addition of a new taxiway. Another exciting project that will be kicking off very soon is the construction of a new corporate aircraft hangar complex. This new facility will occupy a 5-acre parcel located in the southeast portion of the airport, and will provide more than 80,000 square feet of much-needed storage space for corporate aircraft.

Phoenix Deer Valley Airport also boasts a wonderful observation deck located on the terminal that provides an unobstructed view of the runways where visitors can watch the airplanes take off and land. This is a fun, no-cost place to visit that can be enjoyed by the entire family. Deer Valley hosts an outstanding restaurant which not only has delicious food, but also has great views of the airfield.

FLY-BY STATS

Year Founded: 1959

Annual Economic Impact:
\$200 Million



KINGMAN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (IGM)



What is now the Kingman Municipal Airport was constructed in 1942 as a part of the war effort. It was used as a gunnery school and was part of a system of multiple Army training airfields in northwest Arizona. At the end of WWII, approximately 5,500 surplus military aircraft were stored and later rehabilitated on-site. The airport was conveyed to Mohave County in 1948. In 1979 Mohave County and an independent agency, the Mohave County Airport Authority, obtained permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to release 1,100 acres of property for industrial development. In 1992 the airport was transferred to the City of Kingman and an airport authority was created. In 2018, operation of the airport was taken over by the city.

In today's world, the Kingman Airport is unique, as airports in Arizona go, for hosting both aviation and mainstream light manufacturing businesses, all on airport property. It is a county and city economic growth center served by major east-west Interstate 40, BNSF rail service and aviation access to the national air transportation system.

FLY-BY STATS

Year Constructed: 1942

Size: 4,000 Acres



Approximately 2,600 jobs are in evidence and about 60 companies are located on the airport premises. These businesses range from distribution centers to aircraft storage companies. The flight line houses 99 based aircraft, and approximately 200 airliner aircraft are waiting for resale or reclamation. The impact of the facility is significant; more than \$3.4 million in tax revenue was revealed in a 2012 impact study. The airport has a major positive impact on the quality of life in the Kingman community. Recently the airport hosted a fly-in and open house, AirFest, that attracted 3,500 visitors to the airport.



PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PHX)



With a \$2 billion capital improvement program underway, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, America's Friendliest Airport®, has several exciting projects designed to enhance the travel experience for customers.

Visitors to Phoenix Sky Harbor may have noticed that Terminal 3 is under construction and looks different than it has in the past. The terminal is undergoing a three-part modernization project aimed at providing a more efficient experience for travelers. In 2016, the project added a larger security checkpoint to get travelers to their gates faster, a museum gallery and new airline ticket counters. Future phases include a new south concourse, to open in early 2019, and renovated north

concourse, to be completed in 2020. Both will offer a robust local dining assortment as well as new shops and breathtaking views of the area's mountain landscape and downtown Phoenix.

FLY-BY STATS

Annual Passengers: 43 Million

Landings and Takeoffs: 430,000 per Year

Size: 3,400 Acres



Other projects underway include the extension of the PHX Sky Train® from the terminals to the rental car center, which means travelers will have quicker access to picking up and dropping off their rental cars when the project is complete in early 2022, as well as the construction of the eighth and final concourse at Terminal 4 to be occupied by Southwest Airlines and slated to open in 2022.

Phoenix Sky Harbor has also recently made improvements to its retail offerings in Terminal 4. Travelers will find two spas, a medical clinic, a variety of new shops featuring nationally

recognized brands like Tumi and Brooks Brothers and local specialty retailers like Bunky Boutique and Roosevelt Row, which offer one-of-a-kind Arizona-made items. America's Friendliest Airport® also continues to boost its international service offerings with new nonstop service to London on American Airlines and increased service to Frankfurt, Germany, on Condor Airlines. This is in addition to the more than 100 domestic destinations that are currently available from PHX, as well as more than 20 other international destinations.



GOODYEAR AIRPORT (GYR)

Before being purchased by the City of Phoenix in 1968 for use as a satellite airport for Phoenix Sky Harbor, Goodyear Airport began in 1941 as a naval air facility that built aircraft components in support of WWII. The airport has since grown, and is now an integral part of business in the West Valley. Phoenix Goodyear Airport, which encompasses 789 acres, had an economic impact of \$121 million in 2016 and is home to several large businesses, including Lufthansa Aviation Training, AerSale and Lux Air Jet Centers.

These businesses play an important role in the aviation industry by providing critical services. AerSale, a global leader in the supply of aftermarket aircraft, engines and asset management, provides aircraft maintenance and modifications for large aircraft as well as storage and disassembly. Also on-site is fixed-base operator Lux Air Jet Centers, which provides aircraft fueling and storage and houses 15 based corporate aircraft. Of course, pilots need to learn to fly, and Lufthansa Aviation Training USA provides vital flight training services for Lufthansa and other airlines.

Phoenix Goodyear Airport was busy in 2018 with the completion of the rehabilitation of the South T hangar apron that delivered a new surface for aircraft operations. The airport



also recently finished a master plan update for the future. This includes ensuring that the airport runways, taxiways and infrastructure are designed to support larger aircraft that may come into the West Valley region. Other projects underway include the rehabilitation and strengthening of Taxiway A by milling and paving asphalt and changing the design of two taxiway connectors. Lux Air has also proposed a \$10 million investment to construct six additional corporate hangars that could provide storage for another 15 to 18 corporate aircraft.

FLY-BY STATS

Size: 789 acres

Nonstop Destinations: 48



SIERRA VISTA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (FHU)



The Sierra Vista Municipal Airport is the gateway to Cochise County. Given the rural location of Cochise County, the airport serves as a vital economic asset for the city and surrounding areas. A variety of local tourist destinations are located a short drive from the airport, including Fort Huachuca, the Ramsey Canyon Preserve, Brown Canyon Ranch, the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and the Coronado National Memorial. Other destinations that are located within



FLY-BY STATS

Runway Length: 12,000 Feet

Terminal Size: 7,000 Feet

a one-hour drive include the communities of Tombstone, Bisbee and Sonoita, Kartchner Caverns and the Amerind Museum.

Speaking of Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista Municipal Airport is a joint-use facility with Libby Army Airfield, one of only 23 joint-use airports around the country. Fort Huachuca, an active U.S. Army installation that serves as headquarters to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and school and a major unmanned aerial system test center, maintains an important presence at Libby Army Airfield and shares runways and taxiways with Sierra Vista Municipal Airport. The joint-use designation and associated amenities have benefitted both the city and the Army. For example, not many rural airports can say they have a 12,000-foot main runway! The airport also benefits from an Army-operated air traffic control tower that is available Monday through Friday, 24 hours per day.

Army uses aside, the primary use on the city side of the airfield is general aviation. The airport has features such as a 7,000-square-foot terminal and 62 box hangars. The airport also enjoys an active community of local pilots who take great pride in the airport.

PHOENIX MESA-GATEWAY AIRPORT (AZA)



Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (aka Gateway Airport) is unlike any airport in the Southwest. When Williams Air Force Base was included in the Base Realignment and Closure process in 1991, there were fears that the closure would be devastating to the East Valley. In the 27 years since, the area has become one of the most significant economic engines in the state of Arizona, supporting more than 2,500 jobs and creating nearly \$1.5 billion in economic impact every year. Gateway Airport, in practice, is a 3,000-acre economic development project that just happens to have an airport.

In 2018, Gateway Airport served more than 1.5 million total passengers, the busiest year on record. In the winter of 2018, 48 nonstop destinations on five different airlines were offered to travelers. During all of this, the airport announced two new hangar projects, the first in over 10 years. These new developments will accommodate the largest-sized corporate aircraft for a growing customer base utilizing Gateway Airport.

The future development of the airport will be centered on SkyBridge Arizona. This development is a public-private partnership that will provide Gateway Airport with more than

\$25 million of airport infrastructure and allow Mesa SkyBridge to be the master developer of 360 acres of airport property. The crown jewel of the project is the Unified Cargo Processing Facility, the first of its kind. This facility houses customs officials from both the United States and Mexico, aiding the export of American goods into Mexico. This development will make Gateway Airport the hub for e-commerce and air cargo shipped to Mexico, creating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity.

Gateway Airport will continue to be an economic driver for the greater Phoenix area and the state of Arizona, and create additional opportunities for businesses to thrive and residents to travel to visit friends and families.

FLY-BY STATS

Annual Passengers: 1.5 Million

Nonstop Destinations: 48



SCOTTSDALE AIRPORT (SCF)

Scottsdale Airport's roots tie back to 1942, when it served as Thunderbird Field II, a basic training facility for World War II Army Air Corps pilots. In 1966, the city of Scottsdale acquired the airfield and has continued to own and operate it since that time.

There are currently around 400 aircraft based at Scottsdale Airport, from single-engine airplanes to corporate jets, with about 168,000 takeoffs and landings in 2017. Scottsdale Airport is one of the premier general aviation airports in the nation, offering ease of access, a convenient location, vehicle access and daily U.S. Customs inspections. There were 1,108 customs processed at the airport in the 2018 fiscal year.

Scottsdale Airpark, the 2,600-acre commercial area which surrounds the airport, has become a national model for airport-based business parks. This model has been achieved through the efforts of numerous civic and community leaders.

Several important factors have contributed to the success of the Scottsdale Airport and Airpark, and in turn they provide major economic stimulus to Scottsdale and the North Valley region. A 2014 economic benefit study indicated that aviation activity at the airport and in the airpark created \$536 million in total economic benefits for the region. Aviation activity supported 3,462 jobs and added \$25 million to local and state revenues.

The city of Scottsdale is known throughout the country as a community where quality of life and economic progress are



synonymous. The outstanding facilities of the airport and the amenities of the Scottsdale area have attracted numerous businesses that desire locations at or near the airport.

Completed this fall, a new \$27 million redevelopment project features a new Aviation Business Center, two 30,000-square-foot hangars operated by Gemini Air Group, Volanti Restaurant and Lounge, two meeting rooms with striking views of the McDowell Mountains, leased office space and a veterans



memorial. As a tribute to the airport's history and to honor service members, a historic aircraft, Stearman PT-17, similar to those flown during WWII at the airport, is on display as the centerpiece of the Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial.

These facilities and amenities draw general aviation and corporate business travelers to Scottsdale from all over the country for business and recreational purposes.

**The Arizona Airports Association provided guidance and assistance with this issue of Arizona City & Town Magazine. We'd like to thank Ed Faron from Phoenix for his coordination on this article.*



FLY-BY STATS

Year Acquired by City of Scottsdale: 1966

Landings and Takeoffs: 168,000



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