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Terminal Renovation Celebration

The Asheville Regional Airport Authority (ARAA) hosted the first ever Four-Chamber Business After-Hours event recently in celebration of ARAA's massive \$17-million

renovation and expansion project.

Together with the Asheville, Haywood, Henderson and Madison Chambers of Commerce, and more than a dozen local sponsors, AVL held the event and ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Bag Claim area of the terminal, where the largest part of the investment was made. Two new baggage devices were constructed, and renovations expanded the Bag Claim area to reduce congestion and to improve customer service.

Another part of the Bag Claim area contains a new Guest Services Center where passengers can accomplish a number of business tasks, including copying, faxing, shipping and postage, as well as arrange ground transportation. Visitors can also obtain maps and information about the airport and area destinations and attractions. Additional services will be added later this year.

Many of the projects centered on security improvements, including four new baggage screening devices aimed at streamlining Transportation Security Administration (TSA) practices. The sophisticated machines work largely through automation, quickly determining if a bag contains a potential threat, and make the screening process more efficient and effective.

In the B-Gate area, new Regional Boarding Ramps have been installed. These allow passengers to board aircraft without being exposed to the elements. Other investments include a new Rental Car Service and Maintenance Facility, renovated airline offices, and a new security and closed-circuit television system.



AVL Receives Grant

Asheville Regional Airport has received a grant from the State of North Carolina to improve airport property. The N.C. Department of Environmental and Natural Resources awarded \$190,000 to

AVL to replace diesel ground equipment with electric machines.

The use of electric motor vehicles will help improve air quality on and around airport property. This adds to AVL's green initiative and commitment to make choices that are good for the environment and the community.



Radio Promotions

Asheville Regional Airport has once again teamed up with local radio stations to send a few lucky WNC residents to Washington, D.C.

You can enter to win two round-trip tickets to D.C., as well as four nights' accommodations and free admission to several D.C. attractions through WWNC. Listen to Matt Mittan's show, Take a Stand, weekday afternoons from 3:00p.m. until 6:00p.m. for details, or visit www.wwnc.com for more info.

And on KISS Country, Eddie Foxx is handing out Golden Apple awards to one teacher each week, with each teacher being qualified to win a trip to Washington. To nominate a teacher or learn more, visit www.99kisscountry.com.



New Art Exhibit Open

Friday marked the opening of the newest *Art in the Airport* exhibit at Asheville Regional Airport. The show, which runs through June 30, 2009, showcases the artwork

of eleven local artists.

Passengers will be able to enjoy artwork in the dedicated gallery space, as well as after proceeding through the security checkpoint and in the newly renovated Bag Claim area.

"Displaying artwork in other areas of the terminal, in addition to the gallery, is a way that we can make local art more accessible to our passengers," says David N. Edwards, Jr. AAE, Airport Director.

On display in this exhibit are more than 40 original pieces of artwork, including wooden sculpture, oil paintings, stoneware clay, encaustics and more.

The *Art in the Airport* gallery is located in the Great Hall of the airport terminal and is open to the public during the airport's hours of operation.

Art in the Airport spotlights the work of local artists on a rotating basis, with exhibits lasting approximately 120 days. The application deadline for the next exhibit is June 5, 2009. Interested artists may visit www.flyavl.com or e-mail art@flyavl.com for more information.

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www.flyavl.com

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