

The Flight Line

Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field Newsletter Jackson, Michigan

Editor: Julie Williams

March 2018

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Jackson County Airport Board

| | |
|---|----------------|
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Visit our Website!

www.co.jackson.mi.us/airport

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From the Airport Board Chair

It is time again to present the 2017 Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field annual report for your review. This past year was momentous for JXN as it marked the year that new runway 7-25 was completed and opened. As you might expect, much of the following report discusses key aspects of the multi-year and multi-million dollar Runway Safety Project. It is rare that brand new runways are constructed and Runway 7-25 was the only new runway completed during 2017 in the United States. The sustained political, technical and funding support for this project has truly been off of the charts.

It is an honor to serve on the Airport Board as its Chair because it gives me the opportunity to work with so many talented people at the Federal, State and local level. Please enjoy the following report.

*John Feldvary, Chair
Airport Board*

The Airport Business Plan

The Airport completed its first ever business plan during 2017. This plan was created for three primary purposes: memorialize a brief history of the Airport; identify the Airport's current state of affairs from a business and operations standpoint; and, create a blueprint for future planning priorities. A secondary purpose of the Business Plan is to assist in the transition of airport management in the immediate future and whenever transition of staff, Airport Board members or Advisory Council members might occur later on.

The Business Plan was written by the Airport management team with significant input and review by the Airport Advisory Council, Airport business owners and of course, the Airport Staff. The Plan was reviewed and approved by the Airport Board with an overview presented to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. The following quote from Wiley Reynolds at the Reynolds Field dedication event in 1928 reveals the important role that that airports play in the overall economy.

Click on the link below to view the Airport Business Plan

<https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/DocumentCenter/View/6026>



“It has been my sincerest hope that after the completion of this airport that it might have a great influence in bringing new industries to our home town that are connected with aviation for we all realize that if Jackson is to grow we must have new industries that are founded on a firm financial footing and that will employ a high class of citizens who will help to support our stores and help make Jackson a larger and better town to live in.”

*Wiley R. Reynolds
June 2, 1928*

JXN Air Traffic Controllers

Midwest Air Traffic Control Services, Inc. contracts with the FAA to operate the Jackson County-Reynolds Field Airport air traffic control tower from 7:00 am until 9:00 pm daily. Midwest's current controllers assigned to JXN are retired FAA or military personnel and many are also pilots. Throughout the years, all branches of service have been represented in the tower. JXN air traffic controllers provide our airport and its pilots a combined 150+ years of air traffic control and flight experience! This experience is vital since JXN is known as a pilot training destination and is home to Jackson College Flight School.

Similar to pilots, the controllers start their day with a safety check to make sure everything is properly working. Weather updates are recorded hourly during airport operating hours and broadcasted to pilots. Winter presents another set of challenges. They must monitor the runway conditions and relay the information from the pilots to the airport staff to help keep the runways safe and clear for traffic. Once an airplane approaches, controllers provide the necessary information to make sure pilots have safe landings and take-offs as they continue on their journey.

JXN air traffic controllers are helpful and welcoming to the pilots, and set the tone and “personality” for the airport. We are fortunate to have these particular individuals at the air traffic controls and appreciate their many talents.

Airport Board Presents Annual Awards

The Airport Board continued its decade long practice of recognizing those individuals, businesses, and support groups that have contributed to the success of the Airport in some manner. These awards are presented at the annual combined meeting of the Airport Advisory Council and Jackson County Airport Board held in December of each year. Many of this year's awards were related to the Runway 7-25 Safety construction project.

Airport Contributor Award Recipients

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Representing</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|
| David Flynn | Midwest Air Traffic Control Services (Retired) |
| Pat Flynn | Jackson County Airport Admin Clerk (Retired) |
| Hoffman Brothers Excavating Inc. | Construction Prime Contractor |
| Michigan Paving | Paving Contractor |
| Rauhorn Electric Inc. | Electrical Contractor |
| SOMAT Engineering | Environmental/Testing Contractor |
| Bill Ladd | FAA |
| Harold Burke | Airport Advisory Council, 15 years |
| Alan McCardell | Airport Advisory Council, 15 years |
| Jack Koch | Airport Advisory Council, 15 years and Airport Joint Zoning Board, 10 years |
| Skyway Aviation | Airport Based Business, since 1961, Self-Fueling System 2017 |
| Dan Kehoe, Lead Project Engineer | Meade and Hunt (Design and Construction) |
| Craig Draper, Engineering Tech. | Mead and Hunt |
| Al Romero, Electrical Engineer | Mead and Hunt |
| Tom Ward, Surveyor and Arborist | Mead and Hunt |
| Amanda Hopper, Project Manager | MDOT-Aeronautics |
| Amy Torres | Airport Advisory Council Chairperson and Member, 10 years |
| John Worden | Joint Airport Zoning Chair and Member, 10 years |
| Tom Davis | Joint Airport Zoning Member, 10 years |
| Lynn Smith, MDOT Aeronautics | Joint Airport Zoning Member, 10 years |



2017 Reynolds Field Corporate Citizen of the Year

The firm of **Mead and Hunt** has provided a wide range of airport planning, engineering, architectural and construction management services to the Jackson County Airport for more than 16 years. The Runway Safety Project spanned that entire time period. Mead and Hunt's staff has been outstanding and completed a multi-decade project in a professional manner and provided leadership through the multitude of political, technical and construction challenges.



Ron Engel of Mead and Hunt with the Corporate Citizen of the Year Award

Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award

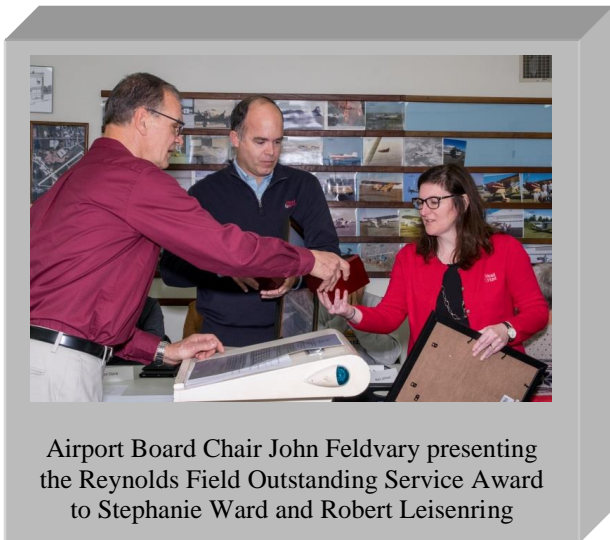
Each year the Airport Board identifies an individual, business or civic group that has made a significant contribution to the success of the Airport in the form of contributions of time or resources that have a marked impact on the success of the airport.

For the first time in the history of this award there were co-recipients of the 2017 Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award, **Robert Leisenring** and **Stephanie Ward**. Bob and Stephanie are employed by Mead and Hunt and have made significant contributions to the Runway Safety Projects spanning 15 years. The following excerpts from the Resolution chronicle the significant impact the Bob and Stephanie have had on the Jackson County Airport.

. . . WHEREAS, Bob and Stephanie have provided expert planning and engineering services for JXN for approximately two decades, employing a highly professional, yet personal approach to their duties and responsibilities; and

. . . WHEREAS, Airport projects in which Bob and Stephanie navigated include; property and easement acquisitions, FAA land releases, taxiway rehabilitation, lengthening and construction of runway 14-32, construction of a new airport maintenance building, facilitation of community and runway safety ad hoc committees, landfill relocation, obstruction removals, construction of new runway 7-25, airport layout plan updates, airport zoning, environmental planning, and coordination with State and Federal aviation organizations; and

. . . NOW; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Jackson County Airport Board does hereby award the 2017 “Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award” jointly to Robert Leisenring and Stephanie Ward for significant contributions to the success of Jackson County Airport – Reynolds Field.



Airport Board Chair John Feldvary presenting the Reynolds Field Outstanding Service Award to Stephanie Ward and Robert Leisenring

Ray Strong – Dedicated Airport Volunteer Passes

On December 31st, 2017, the Airport Community lost a dedicated volunteer and airport advocate. Ray Strong had a long association with the Jackson County Airport fueled by his love of aviation. Ray was the most frequent volunteer for Airport Watch duty during Michigan International Speedway NASCAR weekends. Airport Watch volunteers were extra eyes and ears during the overnight period and also acted as a welcoming presence for late NASCAR aircraft arrivals. Ray for many years was a regular attendee at Airport Board meetings and frequently was the only person in attendance other than the Airport Board and staff. Ray was 84 years young.

Ray was previously recognized by the Airport Board with an Airport Contributor Award. Ray will be missed.

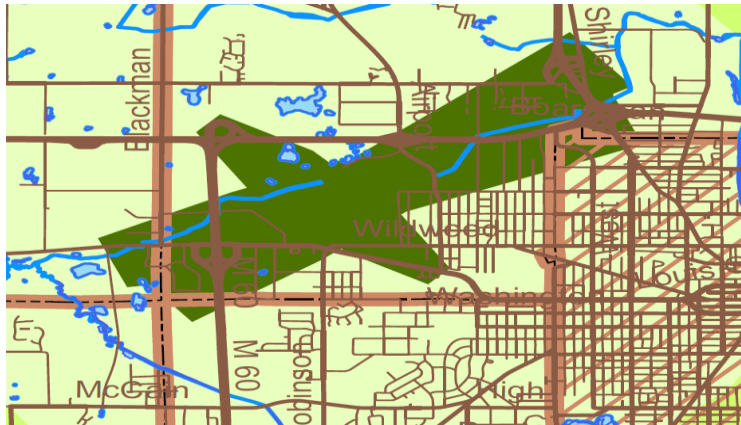
Airport Zoning – Protecting the Airport’s Flight Approaches

Quietly at work behind the scenes at JXN are the Joint Airport Zoning Board and Airport Zoning Board of Appeals members. Armed with the authority and controls granted in the Jackson County Joint Airport Zoning Ordinance, these two boards ensure that structures, lighting, and radio frequencies do not interfere with aircraft arriving and departing from the Jackson County Airport.

The Airport Zoning Ordinance controls the height of structures within a ten-mile radius of the Airport with the tightest restrictions occurring in close proximity to the airport and/or in line with the runways. The ordinance also covers the type of land usage near the airport from a safety and noise creation standpoint. The Airport Manager serves as the Zoning Administrator and works closely with MDOT-Aeronautics and FAA agencies that share airport zoning and regulatory authority. Together these agencies and boards guard the Airport’s airspace from hazards.

The 2017 Joint Zoning Board members were: **Jack Koch** (Jackson County Board of Commissioners Appointee and Chairperson) **Tom Davis** (Airport Board Representative and Vice-Chairperson), **John Worden** (Jackson County Board of Commissioners Appointee and Secretary), **Thomas Schaffner** (Jackson County Board of Commissioners Appointee), and **Linn Smith** (Michigan Aeronautics Appointee).

The 2017 Joint Airport Zoning Board of Appeals were: **Michael Brunk** (Chairperson), **Robert Smith** (Vice-Chairperson), **David Flynn**, **Heath Beasley** and **Diane Derby** (appointed to fulfill the term vacated by George Race due to personal reasons).



Trivia Question:

In 1942 the War Department and Army Corps of Engineers constructed new runways #5-23 and #13-31. For a period of time after these runways were constructed there were two other active runways at JXN: #18-36 and #9-27.

What current taxiway is in the footprint of former runway # 18-36 circa 1942?

(The Answer is located somewhere in this newsletter.)

2018 Airport Events Calendar

APRIL

Friday, April 20th
& Saturday, April 21st

Jackson County
Annual Tree Sale

MAY

Sunday, May 27th
Thursday, May 31st

EAA Pancake Breakfast
Blues Festival

JUNE

Friday, June 1st
Saturday, June 2nd

Blues Festival
“

JXN Aviation Services Directory

Food and Catering

Airport Restaurant and Spirits
517-783-3616

Aircraft Maintenance and Repair

Jackson Aero
517-780-0343
<http://www.freewebs.com/jacksonaero/index.htm>

Aircraft Fueling and Ramp Services

Skyway Aviation
517-787-2460
<http://www.skywayjxn.com/>

Car Rental

AVIS-Budget
517-782-8218
<http://www.avis.com/car-rental/avisHome/home.ac>

Pilot Training and Education

JCC Flight School
517-787-7012
<http://www.jccmi.edu/FlightCenter/>

Aviation Clubs

EAA Chapter #304
<http://eaa304.com/>

Aero Investors Flying Club
<http://www.aeroinvestorslc.com/>

2017 Airport Board



Members from left to right: seated are John Feldvary, Carl Rice, Jr. and standing are James Shotwell, Jr., Tom Davis and Rodney Walz. Not pictured: Mike Overton, County Administrator.

Meet the 2017 Airport Advisory Council

The Airport Advisory Council (AC) is charged by the Airport Board to assist the Airport Manager and Airport Board with research and feedback on new proposals or periodic review of existing policies, rules, and standards. Airport Advisory Council members are appointed by the Airport Board and meet in a public meeting forum with a published agenda. Recent topics reviewed by the Advisory Council include; Aviation Heritage Park display proposals; update of Airport Policies, Rules, and Standards; and, formation and review of the Airport Business Plan. The 2017 Advisory Council members are from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. The 2017 Advisory Council members were:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Amy Torres, Chair | Community Member |
| Heath Beasley, Vice-Chair | Community Member, Pilot |
| Robert W. Smith, Secretary | Community Member |
| James Aiello | Community Member Pilot |
| Carl Boylan | Community Member Corporate pilot |
| Harold Burke | Co-founder Jackson Aero Investors Flying Club & pilot |
| Tom Cubberly | Community Member Pilot |
| David Flynn | Midwest Air Traffic – JXN Tower Manager |
| Mark Johnson | Corporate pilot |
| Jack Koch | Community Member |
| Alan McCardell | Community Member Pilot |
| George Race | Community Member Pilot |
| Steve Wellman | Community Member Pilot |
| Chad Zeller | Jackson College Flight Center/Solo Aviation |

The Airport Advisory Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Airport Administration Conference room. The group of volunteers greatly enhances accomplishment of the Airport's goals and objectives.

RWY 7-25 Construction

Construction Challenges Presented by Muck Soils

Muck soils are highly organic soils that can present construction challenges because of the instability of such soils. Significant muck deposits impacted design and construction during the RWY 7-25 Safety Project, particularly in the runway #25 approach areas along and east of Airport Road where the runway 7-25 approach crosses. The installation of approach lighting towers required the use of helical piles in order to provide structural strength and stability for these towers. Normal concrete foundations were cost prohibitive. Piles were screwed into the ground approximately 35' until more stable soils were encountered. The piles were driven on various angles for lateral strength and then connected to the other adjacent piles with prefabricated brackets. The photos below show (1) the helical piles; (2) the process of screwing the piles into the ground; (3) the installed bracket that locks all of the piles together; and, (4) the completed light installation.



The Helical Piles



Drilling the piles



(5) Piles connected to a bracket



Installed light

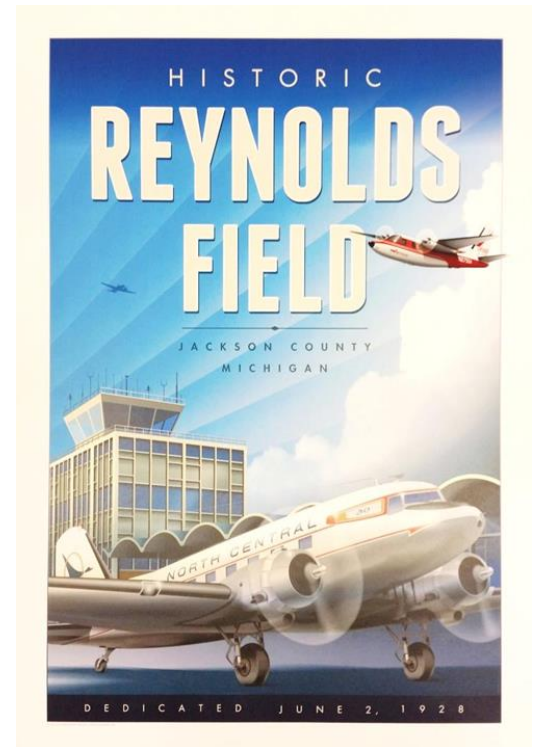
Runway 7-25 Safety Project Construction Management

Construction management of any large construction project is art and science in motion, and that certainly was true for the Runway 7-25 safety project completed in September of 2017. The construction started in the fall of 2015 and ended in September of 2017 when Runway 7-25 was opened for use.

The first consideration for the RWY 25 Safety Project was to do it safely considering that during construction the airport was open for business with aircraft landing and taking off. An official FAA safety phasing plan was required, followed by regular safety briefings including all contractors, sub-contractors, airport staff, air traffic control and our project engineers and consultants.

During construction, weekly project update meetings were held with representatives from the FAA, MDOT-Aeronautics, Airport staff, air traffic control, National Weather Service, and all construction contractors. Many aspects of the construction required coordination with State, County and Township officials, and regulators to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The photo depicts a weekly construction update meeting at the Mead and Hunt on site office. The construction manager for this project was Dan Kehoe (front right) along with the Mead and Hunt team. Dan and his team did a spectacular job at keeping this project safe and on schedule.

Historic Reynolds Field Poster Created



This 14" x 20" poster was commissioned and donated by Anthony P. Hurst, President of the Hurst Foundation. Tony Hurst has a long history with Jackson County – Reynolds Field as a long time hangar and aircraft owner based at JXN. Additionally, Aeroquip, the company founded by his father Peter F. Hurst, had a corporate aviation presence for many years.

In 2017, Tony Hurst commissioned and funded creation and printing of this poster created by Ann Arbor artist Chris Bidlack. Mr. Hurst has donated a large quantity of these posters to the Airport with all proceeds to be donated to the Aviation Heritage Park fund. Prints can be obtained by contacting the Airport Administrative office at 517-788-4225. The cost is \$20 for the standard poster and \$30 for an artist signed poster. Many thanks go to Tony Hurst for his generous poster donation and creative idea to commission this project for the Airport.



“It’s done!”

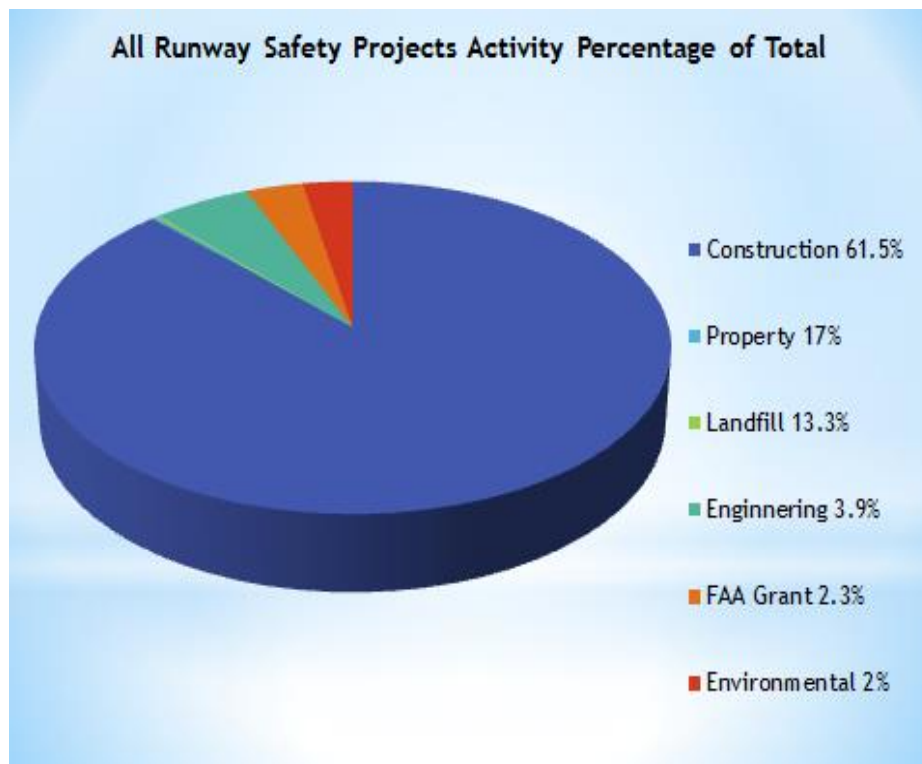
The Runway Safety Project by the Numbers

“It’s done!” was the entire Runway 7-25 update report given by Airport Manager Kent Maurer at the December, 2017 Combined Airport Board/Airport Advisory Council meeting. While some construction activity is expected in early 2018, the Runway 7-25 Safety Construction project was 99% complete, complete enough to warrant the rather cryptic report “It’s done!”

The RWY 7-25 Safety Project started in the year 2000-2001 when an ad hoc committee studied a number of alternatives intended to correct the runway safety area deficiencies on runways 14-32 and 6-24. \$50,000,000 and eighteen years later here are the “numbers”:

Total Costs Runway 14-32 & 7-25 Safety Projects

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Federal Discretionary Funds | \$13,056,505 |
| (Federal) State Apportionment | \$23,223,765* |
| (Federal) Non-Primary Entitlement | \$ 2,475,552* |
| State of Michigan Grant Match | \$ 2,622,274 |
| County of Jackson Grant Match | \$ 1,185,595 |
| Landfill Relocation (County of Jackson) | <u>\$ 6,500,000</u> |
| TOTAL | \$49,063,691 |



*Managed by MDOT Office of Aeronautics

Airport Transition

Pat Flynn (formerly Mills) retired from the Airport Administrative Clerk position in October of 2017 after almost seven years in that position. Pat brought a strong HR background coupled with other administrative and accounting skills to that position. Pat's positive personality and professional style were also evident. Pat did a great job of organizing the Airport administrative procedures and successfully oriented her replacement, Julie Williams, to the position. We wish Pat, with gratitude, a long and happy retirement for serving the Airport so well.



Amy Torres presents the Airport Contributor Award to Pat Flynn. Dave Flynn is pictured at the right.

(Below: Runway 7-25 at JXN – 2017)



What is Next?

It is a logical question after completing a comprehensive runway safety project spanning fifteen years. Before giving the answer it is beneficial to describe how “next” is determined. Each year the Airport submits project proposals to MDOT-Aeronautics through our consultant Mead and Hunt. Last fall representatives from MDOT-Aeronautics, Mead and Hunt, and the Airport met in Lansing to discuss the five-year capital plan that is funded by various combinations of Federal, State and Local funds. Once approved that plan becomes the guidance for what comes next in the way of projects related to runways, taxiways, and associated infrastructure.

Rehabilitation of the main aircraft parking ramp and smaller corporate aircraft parking ramp is the next priority for this airport. This project is programmed to span five years and will cost approximately \$3.5 million dollars. The main aircraft ramp will be reconstructed of concrete while the corporate ramp will be repaved with asphalt. Other work will include bringing the surfaces to proper drainage grades so that storm water is handled in compliance with DEQ regulations. The project spans five years because of funding requirements. Stay tuned for “next”.

(Trivia answer: Taxiway Bravo is in the footprint of former runway #18-36)

A promotional poster for the 90th anniversary of Reynolds Field and a new runway dedication. The poster features a blue background with a white border. On the left, there is a graphic of a vintage airplane flying over a landscape. The text on the right reads: "PLEASE JOIN US FOR JXN/Reynolds Field 90TH ANNIVERSARY AND NEW RUNWAY DEDICATION Friday, April 27th, 2018 • 10:00am LOCATION: Jackson County Airport Richmond Brothers Hangar 3568 Wildwood Ave., Jackson, MI 49202 QUESTIONS: Kent Maurer/Julie Williams - (517) 788-4225 Be a part of history and enjoy music, food, and vintage aircraft!".

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
JXN/Reynolds Field
90TH
ANNIVERSARY
AND
NEW RUNWAY
DEDICATION
Friday, April 27th, 2018 • 10:00am
LOCATION:
Jackson County Airport
Richmond Brothers Hangar
3568 Wildwood Ave., Jackson, MI 49202
QUESTIONS:
Kent Maurer/Julie Williams - (517) 788-4225
Be a part of history and enjoy music, food, and vintage aircraft!

Plan to join us at this celebration!