

# Annual Report 2024-2025

## Year in Review

### Aviation Maintenance Technician School at SBY

Our collective FAA Part 147 Certified Aviation Maintenance Technician school at SBY officially opened its doors. Operated by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the school will offer students the opportunity to attain Airframe and Power Plant (A&P) certification, a highly valued credential in the aviation industry. Teaming with the State Maryland, Wicomico County and Piedmont Airlines, the 12-month program will create a pipeline of mechanics for the aviation industry, offer great jobs and enhance the aviation and aeronautics sector for our region for years to come.

### Site Readiness

SWED began the process of developing five 'Shovel-Ready' sites this past year. Two of the sites are located in Westwood Commerce Park with planned industrial buildings of 200,000 sf each. Three sites are located on the grounds of the Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport. The process of addressing permitting requirements upfront can mitigate the time to construction by eliminating the twelve to eighteen months of the site approval process. Ultimately, this allows us to better compete for large-scale economic development projects.



SWED was successful in applying for and receiving \$450,000 and \$10,000 in grant form for MEDCO's Site Improvement and Site Characterization grants, respectively. The Site Improvement grant is to assist Wicomico County in relocating two small hangars at SBY to make space for a larger hangar complex. The Site Characterization grant is to assist SWED in identifying additional infrastructure and associated costs to reach a full-service, 232-acre industrial park at SBY.

## Year in Review

### Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport



Breeze Airways, HopFlyt and Azure Flight Support began or located operations at SBY this past year. Breeze, beginning in October 2025 will offer scheduled airline service to Orlando (MCO).

HopFlyt located operations to the Autonomous Innovation Hangar at SBY. The company operates within the rapidly evolving Advanced Air Mobility industry and designs and manufactures eVTOL's (electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicles). HopFlyt has both unmanned and manned models.

Azure Flight Support began as SBY's new Fixed Based Operator. The company has seasoned aviation personnel, a strong business plan and a keen desire to grow both the corporate and general aviation sectors. Azure will offer fueling services, flight instruction, maintenance, aircraft sales and much more in the coming years.



SWED was pleased to further assist SBY in renewing several leases including those with Piedmont Airlines, Perdue Farms and the Maryland State Police.



## Year in Review

### New Industry

Both Amazon and St. John Properties began construction on new facilities in Westwood Commerce Park totaling 150,000 sf and representing an investment exceeding \$70 million.



*St. John Properties breaks ground on their first development project on Maryland's Eastern Shore.*

SWED was please to host Maryland Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks and Maryland Commerce Secretary Harry Coker during visits to Wicomico.



*Wright's Market, Mardela Springs, MD*

We continued our long-standing practice of calling on resident businesses, inclusive of those firms with offices outside of Wicomico's jurisdictional border. Calling on our existing customers allows us to better understand the needs of our business community and to tailor programs and services to meet those needs. At the same time, we recognize that attrition will occur and attraction of new businesses and jobs to our community is an important component to our program.

## Year in Review

### SWED

Public speaking engagements enhance collaboration among many partners throughout our region. We were pleased to present at this year's Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce' Economic Forecast event, Wicomico Rotary Club and SVN's Annual Economic Summit and Conference.

Our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held at Green Hill Yacht & Country Club and featured Richmond Federal Reserve President Tom Barkin as the keynote speaker.



*Tom Barkin, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond*

## Our Strategy Forward

Our strategy for the coming year is to capitalize on our assets, develop additional and innovative programs to target job growth and work collaboratively with our many partners for the betterment of all.

### Targeted Economic Sectors

Agribusiness, Health Care  
Higher Education, Manufacturing  
Aviation & Aeronautics  
Distribution

### Infrastructure Investments

### Entrepreneurship

### Industry Diversification

### Strengthened Partnerships





# 2024 Annual Meeting





# 2024 Annual Meeting



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Dave Detrick  
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