

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A New Concern for Montgomery-Gibbs Airport

It has been brought to my attention that we have an issue with lead in aviation fuel which the E.P.A. has not enforced with a probable influence of Airline Industry lobbyists. A study by Marie Lynn Miranda of Duke University definitively states that the emissions from General Aviation airplanes are affecting children up to .6 miles of Regional Airports in Durham, N.C.

In August of 2017, a study by Pew Charitable Trusts regarding children and lead poisoning with the result that Children living .6 miles from an airport is 5.7% higher than those children living 2.5 miles from an airport.

In 2014, 28 airports were sued for violating Prop 65 (Clean Air Act), and \$500,000 is paid to the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) and are required to put up warning signs. On October 5, 2017, Governor Brown signed legislation requiring all children between 12 and 24 months of age to be tested for lead in their blood.

The FAA has been testing alternative fuels since 2013 to replace Avgas at the William J Hughs facility in Atlantic City, New Jersey. A progress report given in 2017 states that they are in Phase 2.

So far, the only action taken is signs posted adjacent to the airport. Some cure huh?

The airport is a training facility for new pilots who come from all over the world to learn to fly. That means a lot of touch and go which means more takeoffs and landings. I know this is a profitable business for flying schools but of what benefit is it to the community. Just a lot of leaded air.

Come on community leaders, who is looking after the safety of our citizens? Let's clean up this area which was cleaned up in the outlawing of leaded gas for automobiles in 1973. It seems that a lot of us are suffering for the benefit of a few.

Your comments are welcomed, please contact me at communitycouncil@serramesa.org or leave a message at 858-565-2473

Carl Demas, SMCC Board President