

Aviation-themed restaurant eyed for airport

by Heidi Fehring

Staff Writer

Airplane devotees may soon have a place to share their common interest in all things related to aviation.

The newly formed Flight Line Enterprises Ltd. is planning to open an aviation-themed restaurant, event center and gift shop facility in October of 2006 at the Anoka County Airport in Blaine.

"It's a good way for a family to be educated about aviation, have a nice meal and see some planes," said founder Craig Schiller, a Mounds View resident.

Schiller has been working on the project since March of 2004. He has worked at the Golden Wings Museum at Anoka County Airport for the past six years, where he oversees the museum's private collection. According to Schiller, the museum used to be open for corporate events, banquets and weddings, but the owner's collection grew too large.

"I'm stemming out on my own and starting this concept," he said.

Flight Line Cafe and Event Center will be housed in a 50,000-square-foot building in the southwest corner of the airport. A 200,000-square-foot parking area also is in the works.

The restaurant, which Schiller said will be comparable to an Applebee's or Green Mill, will be open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It will seat 500 people, serving food like pasta, burgers and steaks and "a little bit of everything," he said.

Schiller anticipates putting a stage and dance floor in the restaurant, complete with live music on the weekends. He also hopes to have an outside deck with an atrium.

"People from all walks now

have a place where they can dine and see aircraft," said Schiller.

The event center will be targeted for groups to rent space for corporate events, receptions and private banquets, especially aviation-themed events. The center will seat 800 people and can be broken down into thirds for smaller events. Schiller said that because of the restaurant, the center will be able to cater its own events.

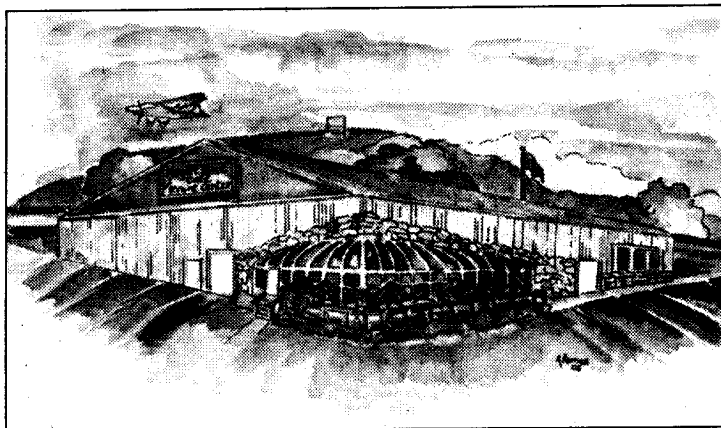
The gift shop will offer more than 500 aviation-themed products, ranging from books, videos, pictures, models, toys and clothing. Schiller hopes to fashion the gift shop so it has an entry into the restaurant.

Schiller is financing the project through a venture called SCOR, or "small company offering registration." The Minnesota Department of Commerce studied the concept and granted the company a SCOR registration, which means they can offer shares of the company's common stock for a dollar each to individuals who want to participate.

The company received a bank proposal for financing construction of the facility, but they cannot close on the proposal until 25 percent of the budget is raised, or \$925,000. Selling shares of the company's common stock, said Schiller, will allow them to reach that goal and receive the financing to begin construction.

"Once that happens, we can pull the trigger on the full project," he said. "We've got a good start since we basically just started advertising six weeks ago, but we're not yet halfway there."

The project's contractor, Marty Kiehm of Kiehm Construction, helped put together the business plan, along with the two other members of Flight Line's board. Schiller hopes to finish raising



- Submitted photo

Artist rendering of new aviation-themed restaurant proposed at the Anoka Airport.

SCOR Facts

What is it? SCOR stands for Small Company Offering Registration, a procedure designed to help small corporations raise working capital. Through SCOR, a company can raise up to \$1 million annually by selling securities directly to the public without having to go through a brokerage firm. The securities do not have to be registered with the Securities Exchange Commission, but they do need to be registered with the state.

How do you get it? Companies must file a U-7 form, or disclosure document describing the company and offering, through the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The state has to approve the project and determine that it is a viable concept before granting a SCOR registration. Filing information can be found through the North American Securities Administration Association at www.nasaa.org.

What are the benefits? Once the company receives a SCOR registration, it can sell common stock, Limited Liability Corporation units and debt securities, for at least \$1 per share. Selling shares can help a small company raise enough money to be eligible to receive other forms of financing.

funds by March and break ground as early as April, but it all depends on how much money he can gather by then.

"A huge facility costs a lot of money," he said. "I'm reaching out to the airport and the community and asking them to participate in the share offering."

Schiller said he spent a lot of time researching the highways and development around the airport.

"Blaine is exploding," he

said. "There is a lot of new business coming in. We feel that now is the time that a facility of this nature will be successful."

The project's progress is being tracked on the company's Web site, www.flightlineltd.com.

Heidi Fehring can be reached at quadpress@sherbtl.net or 651-407-1228