

# Mass. airline taking off in Westchester

By **THE JOURNAL NEWS**

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Chartering a plane for a business or leisure trip out of Westchester County Airport just got easier because a Lexington, Mass., company has expanded its service with two luxury Cessna Caravans, five pilots and a sales director.

Linear Air, a company created two summers ago, placed the second of the two planes at the airport's private terminal last week, William Herp, the company's chief executive, said yesterday.

Herp said the company previously offered service out of Westchester but the planes were based at Hanscom Field just outside Boston. That meant someone who wanted to fly from Westchester had to pay more for the flight.

A customer flying from Westchester to Washington, D.C., for instance, had to pay for the time it took to get the plane from Hanscom to Westchester to Washington and then back to Hanscom. But with the planes based in Westchester, that customer would pay just for the time it takes to get the plane from Westchester to Washington and back.

"We don't have to get the airplane to Westchester to pick you up," Herp said. "The savings can be substantial."

Herp said the company is increasing its presence at the Westchester airport because of feedback from customers. The company began serving the New York area last spring, building a customer base of people flying to homes in places like Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Many of those customers asked about the availability of business trips, he said.

The Caravans carry eight passengers and have the most modern safety equipment available, the company said. The propjet turbine-powered planes also feature plush leather seating, the company said.

The company, which announced its revenues grew 450 percent in the first quarter compared to last year, said Jeffrey M. Vasey has joined the company from CharterAuction in Quincy, Mass., to lead the sales effort in the New York area.