

# Home Show draws a crowd

*Third annual show attracted more than 1,000 buyers*

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MT. VERNON — Michael Hayden of DeKalb came to the Jefferson County Home Show Saturday to look for items for a new house.

The best part of the event, he said, is how it features a wide variety of home improvement vendors all in one place.

"We're house-shopping down here," Hayden said. "It's very beneficial (having everything) in the same place. I mean, we're here because we're looking to buy and there's some things you just need, like something to cut the grass with and push the snow when it comes around. ... So having this all together is very, very handy."

The third annual Home Show was held Saturday and Sunday at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. More than 1,000 people attended the event, which included about 60 vendors for any stage of home building, remodeling or decoration.

The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce sponsors the show to highlight local businesses and help the public with their home improvement needs.

The event was revived by the Chamber in 2013. It was formerly sponsored by the Southern Illinois Homebuilders Association.

"Some people might not know that all of these (businesses) are available so we like to



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Arlin Kraemer, center, owner of Outdoor Energy, shows a lawnmower to Michael Hayden of DeKalb, right, during Saturday's Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Home Show at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. The two-day show, held Saturday and Sunday, included vendors for any stage of home building, remodeling or decoration.

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bring them in," said Olivia Majerchin, executive director of the Chamber. "And then the other goal is to get all these different types of vendors in one place so the people that are coming through, if they need a few different things with their house, they can find it all in one location."

The vendor booths for this year's Home Show

were spread out across two hangars at the airport, giving the public ample room to browse, Majerchin said.

"This location at the airport is great," Majerchin said. "And it's just a big open space so it's really easy to lay out, for everyone to just walk around and not run into each other."

Several of the vendors offered door prizes while others gave away samples or products to visitors.

Mary Jane Richard, owner of Furniture Mattress Outlet north of Mt. Vernon, said the Home Show is a great promotional tool for her business. 2-10-15

"We get business actually all year from it," Richard said. "I'll get somebody come in in July and say, 'I saw you at the Home Show.'"

Kathy Jones, inside sales representative for Associated Lumber in Mt. Vernon, said the event can also be a source of inspiration for residents seeking to remodel their homes.

"I think it's a great idea," Jones said. "We hope that it will give people in the area ideas on how to improve their homes, apartments, whatever they have, to give them fresh new ideas."