

Airport targets online effort

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MT. VERNON — By Christmas, the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport hopes to be more appealing to the digital pilot.

The airport's Web site, www.mtvernonairport.com, is currently undergoing a complete overhaul including Google optimization, said airport manager Chris Collins.

Collins said a web designer offered to overhaul the Web site, which has been designed and operated by a volunteer since 2002.

"We need an upgrade," Collins said. "The airport is really busy for an airport of its size."

The Web site is being redesigned and geared to appear more prominently on search engine results for a cost of \$2,000, Collins said.

People seeking airport services on the Internet are a valuable market, including pilots searching on satellite-based iPads, Collins said.

"It will make us more competitive for quick-turn fuel stops, United States military operations and it will hopefully attract more flight students," Collins said.

The revamped Web site is slated to go "live" by Christmas.

The airport's Web presence isn't the only thing being upgraded, as construction continues in several areas of the property.

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The new hangar being built south of the main terminal is nearly half done, as all structural steel is in place and external sheeting has been laid for the south side and parts of the east side of the hangar.

The sliding door on the hangar is next to be completed, Collins said.

The mobile fueler project, an initiative to build a covered containment area for the airport's two mobile fuel trucks, is nearing completion as airport maintenance personnel work on building the Quonset hut-style covering for the area, Collins said.

"It's a steel Quonset hut put together in sections," Collins said. "It's quite a project, like a giant erector set."

The airport Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday to choose a bid from IPT Power Systems for \$1,350 to maintain two emergency generators that have been costly to the airport in the past.

"We have two auxiliary generators on our field, one in the electrical vault and the other one at Mt. Vernon Fire Department station 3," Collins said. "For some time, we've considered a maintenance agreement.

The generator in the electrical vault is 1993 vintage. Three times, we've had emergency outages and had to call in emergency maintenance on the generator."

The bid from IPT was not the low bid, Collins said, but it was chosen over a lower bid from another company because it's a local company, and if the airport needed to make an additional maintenance appointment, costs would be lower because of mileage costs. 11-11-10