

Airport renovates for office suites

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MT. VERNON — Work on renovating the Kozaria Terminal at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is underway to create office space for the American Red Cross of Mid-Southern Illinois.

"There's a certain amount of demolition that has to be done, then early next week it looks like they'll start construction on the walls," airport manager Chris Collins said.

The local Red Cross chapter announced in June it would be leasing office space at the terminal once the office suite is completed, leaving its headquarters at the corner of South 12th Street and Casey Avenue. Since the Red Cross announced plans to vacate the building, its owners have been negotiating with the city to purchase the building and surrounding property.

Renovating the terminal to create office suites is an idea the airport board brought

see AIRPORT/Page 5A

AIRPORT

continued from 1A

forward in 2005, and an HVAC project to allow for the office spaces to be completed got underway in June.

Construction on the project was let in July, with Rex Brieseacher Construction being awarded the bid, Collins said.

Collins previously reported that once the renovations are complete, visitors to the airport terminal will see a wall that will partition off the Red Cross suite and the organization sign as they enter the front doors into the main lobby. The ARC will be leasing approximately 1,344 square feet in the southwest portion of the building.

Collins said the renovations should be completed and the office space ready for the Red Cross by November 1.