

Improvements continue at airport

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SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Several long-term renovations at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport are nearing completion as new projects are entering the early stages of development, according to airport manager Chris Collins.

At this week's meeting of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority board of commissioners, Collins detailed the status of several new and old projects.

First, Collins reported that the upgrades to the Air Rescue and Fire Fighting station are nearly completed.

"The biggest part of the project was connecting a directing communication line between the terminal and the fire station and also to the fixed-based operation station. That was [a Federal Aviation Administration] mandate," Collins said Thursday.

Other improvements include cosmetic changes both inside and outside the 33-year-old ARFF station.

Collins explained, "We made a number of exterior improvements like new siding at the top and new paint

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CHRIS COLLINS,

AIRPORT MANAGER

on the rest. It looks more modern. We're proud of our relationship with the city, and we hope the Summersville residents are as excited about the new look as we are."

Another major accomplishment is the nearly completed overhaul of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system in the Koziara Terminal.

"The HVAC project is pretty much done," Collins said. "The south unit is on, and since I reported to the board, the north unit is now on. This is one we've been working on for years."

The board formalized its agreement with the American Red Cross. The Mid-Southern Illinois Chapter of the organization is located in Mt. Vernon and serves Jefferson, Washington, Hamilton and Wayne coun-

ties. As previously announced, the Red Cross chapter will move from its present location on Casey Avenue to Suite B inside the Koziara Terminal.

Collins said the remodeling of the suite to accommodate the Red Cross will begin Monday.

"We've had a couple of interested parties who have contacted us about leasing small offices in suites 109 and 131," Collins added.

With several projects nearing fruition, the board was informed that the plans to revitalize taxiways C and D to the small runway are in the early stages.

"It's sort of the first introduction to that," Collins. "The project has been let, and the bids came in at the state level. That's one project that I hope gets funded."

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