

OUR VIEW

A chance to help

As reported in Thursday's newspaper, the Mt. Vernon Airport is seeking volunteers to help welcome more than 1,000 light sport aircraft enthusiasts to the third annual Plane & Pilot Midwest LSA Expo next weekend in the King City.

"We want people coming from out of town to see our community at its best," said Airport Manager Chris Collins. "We simply can't put this event on without volunteer help. It's too big, and there are too many roles."

Those roles, which will number about 50, will include gatekeepers to take \$8 admission to the main exhibitor hall and spotters to prevent attendees from wandering into the path of test flights. Each volunteer will be given a red polo shirt with airport insignia to keep.

Collins said finding quality volunteers will be especially crucial to the success of this year's Expo, projected to be the largest yet thanks to a new partnership between the event and Los Angeles-based Plane & Pilot magazine.

"Plane & Pilot has a subscriber base of about 100,000, and we've had a half-page ad in there all year leading up to the event," he said.

Collins said keeping the Expo well-stocked with volunteers will not only keep the event running smoothly but also encourage attendees to return to Mt. Vernon, both for future Expos and other tourism.

Collins said he anticipates continued growth in attendance at the expo, pointing out that 750 people attended the first event at Mt. Vernon the first year and 1,000 attended last year.

This sounds like a great way to pull together to help with a community project. If you are interested in helping and are available to do so, call the airport office at 242-7016 to volunteer.