

Mt. Vernon Soccer moves to Airport

By Tesa Glass

MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon Soccer Club will get a new home after the Airport Board approved allowing the program to use its facilities for practices and games.

Going into the eighth season for the club, which has spring and fall seasons, the club has been using the Logan Street property on 42nd Street. However, it is time to find a new venue until its permanent home is established.

“Logan Street is at a point where they are ready to take over and they are afraid they will just not have the parking space for us,” said Brian Shaw of MVSC. “We bring a crew. When we do it, we bring in a good crew. We have about 280 kids in the spring season.”

The program was created to provide soccer play for youth that emphasizes soccer play and competitiveness. Since it began four years ago, it has grown from one to nine teams in the Rec program and traveling teams. Competition includes indoor soccer play against teams in the Metro-

East area, Shaw said.

“We’ve become a very nice feeder system for the high school program,” Shaw said “I think if anyone follows the high school program much, they can say they have seen a difference in these kids. I think that’s the biggest thing we have tried to figure out is how to make Mt. Vernon as a whole, better when it comes to soccer.

“Our Rec program is called MVSC — Mt. Vernon Soccer Club,” Shaw continued. “The travel side of our world is called Mt. Vernon Lightening — MV Lightening. Whenever someone asks what delineates one versus the other. We have tryouts, usually in the spring/summer time, after our spring season finishes in July. ... We have travel kids from kindergarten to a second grade team; you have a third grade team; a fourth grade team; and a 5th through 8th grade team. That’s boys by themselves and girls by themselves. We really have come a long way in a short period of time. We have seen such a growth in our girl’s

program simply because of that. That’s what we do, even in our Rec program. Our youngest group, our 4-year-olds through 6-year-olds are co-ed. But then once out of the co-ed kindergarten group, we start splintering off into a boys group and a girls division all the way through. Rec for the oldest kids, we have had to stay co-ed. You get pulled in different directions with school sports, or they just fall off at that point. But as our kids are coming up who are in the fourth grade now, I believe you will start seeing the division of co-ed turn into boys and girls divisions as we continue to grow.”

Shaw has been involved with sports groups that play at the airport facility previously, as a flag football league was played at the airport. Shaw said MVSC would provide their own equipment, make sure the playing areas were rotated to avoid damage to the grass, and work with Airport Manager Chris Collins on scheduling. The group is expected to have their own fields in the next

few years.

“We are in the process of transitioning to our own facility, which would be down by Brennan Klein Field,” Shaw said. “We’ve got some acreage there we are going to build on. But we are probably about a year-and-a-half to two years away from being able to take that over. To do the fields right and to bring the kind of place that Mt. Vernon needs, we’re going to be trying to fund it and start a capital campaign. We’ve got all the land, we’ve got renderings. We’re at that point to start kicking it off. We need to continue to house the program and not interfere with what Logan Street is trying to do. They said we could probably keep playing there for another spring season, but they want to be able to have their programs and we don’t want to interfere with their programs and their plans for their church.”

The Club representatives have provided proof of insurance coverage and will be working out details with Collins on using the airport for the next few seasons.