

Airport joins CAA program

The program gives negotiated Jet A Fuel pricing to pilots

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — A new program Mount Vernon Outland Airport has joined could mean more air traffic and more revenue for both the airport and the community.

Administrative Assistant Shelia Jolly-Scrivner said that Mount Vernon Outland Airport was approved for a program by the Corporate Aircraft Association (CAA), which gives

negotiated Jet A Fuel pricing to pilots.

"If you are a part of this group you get negotiated pricing as a pilot and that is more advantageous for you stopping at the airport," Jolly-Scrivner said. "It is something Chris (Collins, airport director), has been working on for some time. We finally got the congratulatory letter and that is something that is hopefully going to increase our traffic."

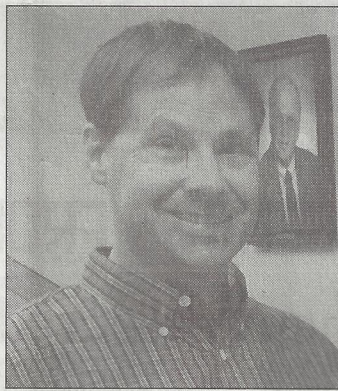
Collins said that the CAA has 9,000 members and makes up 60 percent of the country's turbo propeller and jet airplanes. He said that there is a big gap for participating airports in the Southern Illinois area, with other competitive airports being further away.

Board Chairman Marty Cox said with how easy it is to get in and out of the airport as well as joining this program, has made the airport more attractive to pilots flying in close by. He said the airport has also been striving to be competitive with their fuel prices.

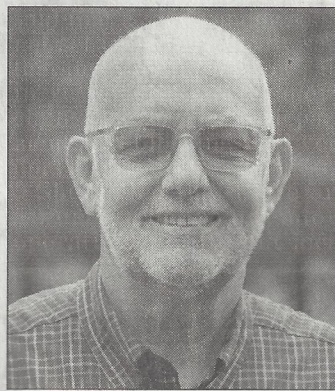
"We have been the lowest around for quite some time, we continue to be competitive," Collins said. "This (program) puts us above everywhere around us."

Board Commissioner Ryan Wellmaker asked how the airport includes the program into its advertising.

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Chris Collins



Marty Cox



Ryan Wellmaker

Airport:

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"They do it for us, because it is real time pricing on their computer screens in the airplanes. They see the prices while flying along and they divert 15/20 degrees left or right of the course to capture the best pricing," Collins said.

Cox said that in the aviation field things can change rapidly and it is always important to look for other avenues.

"The airports that just remain status quo and don't go out of their way to look for other avenues, they can feel a big negative effect," Cox said. "I am really pleased that you go out of your way to try and find new revenue and look for innovative things."

Collins shared his thoughts on the program.

"It is all about bringing revenue to Mount Vernon, that is the bottom line," Collins said. "Whether it is fuel sales, flight training, cargo, anything we can do to

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SHELIA JOLLY-SCRIVNER

OUTLAND AIRPORT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- The board held a public budget hearing and later approved the 2020-21 annual budget ordinance and the 2020-21 annual tax levy. Collins said this budget marks the sixth consecutive year having a frozen tax levy.

- The board discussed insurance and replacing a backhoe that caught fire.

- Collins said that cur-

rently the airport's portion of the personal property replacement tax has been tracking well, despite the impact of COVID-19.

- The board recognized the visit from the C130 Hercules and crew from Marine Ariel Refueling Transport Squadron 452 earlier this month.

- The next regular board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Aug. 11 at the airport.

jjones@morningsentinel.com

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