

Airport plans for Midwest LSA Expo

This marks the 12th year for the event

BY JOSH JONES
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners received an update on the status of this year's Midwest Light Sport Aircraft (LSA) Expo.

According to the event's website, Midwest LSA Expo, Inc. specifically created the event to educate aviators about all facets related to the LSA industry including the many different aircraft types, available engines and LSA performance; promote the

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sale of LSA's, the use of LSA aircraft for flight training and in rental fleets and promote economic development in the Southern Illinois region.

The expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting Sept. 10 through Sept. 12 at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. Airport Director Chris Collins explained that the airport has been working on making sure they are prepared for this year amid COVID-19 concerns.

"This is our signature event and we have debated this thing left and right and up and down with the pros and cons," Collins said. "The big news is we are going forward with the event. It is not a heavily attended event to begin with and with 10 acres of ramp space out there we are very confident that we can keep everyone socially distanced."

According to a statement from Midwest LSA Expo, Inc., the organization is concerned for the health and safety of all attendees, exhibitors, volunteers and airport employees. The expo will adhere to CDC, State of Illinois and Jefferson County Health Department recommendations. Social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing and the encouragement of good personal hygiene will be stressed. Expo activities will occur either outdoors on the airport's 10-acre concrete ramp or inside the airport's Corporate Hangar, Illinois

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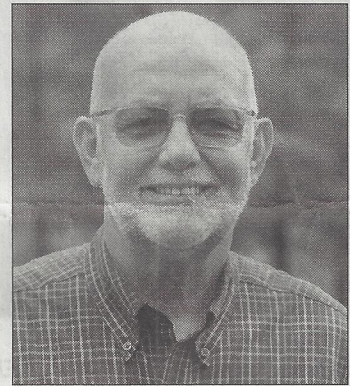
MOUNT VERNON OUTLAND AIRPORT DIRECTOR

phase four guidelines can be met or exceeded.

The Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency was recognized for providing the expo with more than enough PPE and sanitizer for all attendees, exhibitors, volunteers and airport employees.

Collins said that the airport is canceling the exhibitor party that it holds to start off the event, due to not being able to social distance in one hangar. He said that this event brings people from all across the country to shop for aircraft, brings recognition to the airport and revenue into the community.

Board Chairman Marty Cox said that Collins and every-



Marty Cox

one has worked hard to follow guidelines for the event.

"We are pleased that we are going to be able to host it, because there is a tremendous amount of interest nationwide in this, we have people coming from all over the country," Cox said. "With the size of the airport social distancing is not a problem. We are just trying to take every step we can think of to make it as safe as possible."

The public is encouraged to visit the expo to show their support as well as view various aircraft on display. Admission to the expo is free. For more information people may call the airport at 242-7016 or visit the Midwest LSA Expo website.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Jay Grafton has started as aviation program coordinator.
- Collins said after the first two weeks of being in the Corporate Aircraft Association the airport has sold an additional 2,000 gallons of fuel.
- The board approved the annual prevailing wage rate ordinance. 8-13-2020
- The board heard various project updates.

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