

City has active month for building permits

Highest valued project is a \$1.9 million Mount Vernon Airport initiative

BY TRAVIS MORSE
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — It was a busy month for building activity in May, as the City of Mount Vernon had an estimated construction value of roughly \$4.1 million issued in building permits that month.

"I would say (that) it's a good month, a lot of solar permits were issued," said Tracie Meyer, administrative assistant for engineering, inspections and code enforcement for Mount Vernon. "We do more and more solar (permits) every month."

According to information provided by the Mount Vernon Building and Inspections Department,

the highest value category for permits for the month was in new business, which saw a total value of \$1.9 million. The second highest value category was business alteration, which saw a total value of roughly \$1.6 million.

The only new business project listed in the May building report was for \$1.9 million and was a permit for construction issued to Jefferson County Joint Ops Base at 500 Firebaugh Dr. This is for a project at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

The project in question is the Air Evac Joint Base Jefferson initiative. The base being constructed will house aircraft and crews from both Air Evac Lifeteam 11, currently located on Aviation Drive, and Air Evac Lifeteam 172, temporarily located at 100 Firebaugh Dr. The new base is being built at 500 Firebaugh Dr. inside the airport's Innovation Park. *6/11/21*

Please see **Permits**, Page 2A

Permits:

Continued from Page 1A

"We're 60% complete and it looks fabulous there, and we're hoping to be open sometime in late August," said Airport Director Chris Collins of the project. "It's kind of a kickoff to our Innovation Park development on that end of the airport."

Collins explained that Building 1 at 100 Firebaugh will be the first hangar that people see on the west end, while the new Air Evac base will be the fifth structure that they see at 500 Firebaugh. Eventually, in the future, there will be five modern attractive hangars in Innovation Park, all with frontal access to the runway and to Illinois Highway 15, Collins said.

"It's what aviation businesses look for when they're developing at an airport," Collins said. "Activity fuels other activity and that's what we hope for."

The second highest value permit for May was in the category of business alteration, and was an \$800,000 permit from Continental Tire the Americas LLC for a fire tank foundation and new fire pump room at 11525 Illinois Highway 142 South. Another high value

business alteration permit last month was a \$750,000 permit from Helen and Malcolm McClellan Trustees at 131 S. Davidson Ave. This is related to the new Marshalls store that will be located in the former Staples building.

Furthermore in May, there was a \$200,000 permit in the new residential category from Lorene Overbey at 14074 N. Link Lane. Also, there were a number of high value solar permits including a \$109,000 permit from Julie Quinn for 1002 Main St., a \$71,927 permit from Dharmesh Rangoonwala at 3524 Oxford Ave. and others.

Mayor John Lewis said that he was pleased with how busy May's building activity was in May.

"I just think (that) it shows (that) there's a lot of interest in our community for investors and (that) they still believe in the future or they wouldn't be putting that kind of money into investments within our community," Lewis said.

The city in May also collected a total of \$5,324 in fees. For more information on building permits and related issues, contact the Mount Vernon Building and Inspections Department or Mount Vernon City Hall.

tmorse@morningsentinel.com