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Huntington airport an asset to community

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Although the Huntington Municipal Airport does not see major airline traffic from United Airlines, Southwest Airlines and the like, the airport still has a good volume of activity, mostly from agriculture and businesspeople who use the facility.

Steve Gray, who works at the Huntington Municipal Airport as manager, said that on average, the facility has a total of 16,000 take-offs and landings, or "operations," a year. In addition, he said there are about 40 operations a day.

"We see the same, normal, general aviation activity that any airport sees," he said. "Planes can be anything from single-engine planes to business jets."

Gray outlined some of the busiest times at the Huntington airport.

"We get quite a bit of agriculture activity, usually in the month of July, and then that will go into early spring, which depends on the seasonal weather," he said.

He also pointed out that agricultural activity includes planes with crop spreaders and dusters used to spray over farm fields using fertilizer.

Gray added that even during the winter months, there is some activity at the facility.

"Some of the best flying days are in the winter," he said.

He explained there are a number of people based at



COURTESY PHOTO

THE HUNTINGTON AIRPORT HAS A TOTAL OF 40,000 TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS A YEAR.

the airport, but it's more common to see transient visitors. "They are either coming in for fuel or going on to another destination, or people that are willing to do business in the community. Those are mainly the people that use the terminal building," he said.

Gray said that over the last 10 years, the airport has had good numbers in fuel sales.

"We have sold over 72,000 gallons of fuel a year," he said.

A vital part of Gray's job

is ensuring that planes have access to fuel at the airport, so an adequate supply is readily available. At the facility, there are three 10,000-gallon storage tanks underground. Gray also said there are two trucks filled with fuel if those at the airport are waiting for fuel from a vendor to be delivered.

Gray said the facility carries two types of fuel: jet and 100 low-lead, an octane fuel.

In terms of well-known

people who've used the airport, Gray said that the governor has been there on numerous occasions. He also said that an individual from a minor-league baseball team once used the airport for his travels as well.

Mayor Brooks Fetters said the airport is vital to the Huntington area.

"The Huntington Municipal Airport is a city-owned airport, which has been around since 1960. It has served the fine needs of residents of Huntington, city

and county," Fetters said.

Fetters said that over the last few years, his administration has tried to make the hub a catalyst for economic growth and development. He also said that since more corporate executives fly private planes, the runway was extended.

The mayor said with the extension and all the ways the city has invested time and money into the airport, it has brought to town to town, such as Onward Manufacturing.