We love our visitors! It’s national travel and tourism week and we are celebrating this week with our passengers. Our partners, Visit St. Pete-Clearwater and our local Chambers of Commerce, hosted a travel rally at PIE showcasing the beaches, arts & culture, and the “gulp” coast. We have so much to be grateful for in Pinellas County and at the top of the list is tourism. Thank you!

This week also marked a significant development for PIE as we selected SSP-Hudson Group (Hudson) for our new Master Concessionaire, entering a 10-year agreement for our food, beverage and retail. With PIE’s significant growth this past decade, we were in the position to attract interest of major airport concessionaires to invest in the airport. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Hudson, providing a mix of national brands, like Dunkin Donuts, as well as local favorites, Mazzaro’s Italian Market and 3 Daughters Brewing. All new concessions will open by the end of 2019.

Also, ahead are significant challenges with our Internal Roadway and Parking Improvement Project. While our Short-term Parking Lot remains closed, we will begin terminal curbside utility work and close portions of our sidewalks in phases. It will not be easy on our customers and we apologize for the inconveniences this construction has created. We wish there was an easier path to undertake this project, but the good news is it will be completed in 2019. Our Airport Master Plan is also nearing completion, providing a blueprint for the next 20 years.

Onward and upward...your Airport Director, Tom Jewsbury

Coming Soon ...New Master Concessionaire

Congratulations to the Hudson Group! SSP-Hudson PIE Concessions, LLC was awarded the Master Concessionaire agreement for 10 years at PIE and will be taking over all Food & Beverage and Retail Concessions. The airport had separate agreements with Stellar Partners operating our News & Gifts since 2000 and they have been truly stellar partners! Our Food & Beverage concessionaire was operated by First Class Concessions since 2008 and we appreciate their years of service to the airport.

As we begin this new era, we are excited about Hudson’s national and local partnerships. In Gates 7-11, we are delighted to have local favorite, Mazzaro’s Italian Market, and in Gates 2-6, 3 Daughters Brewing, to serve our passengers. Dunkin Donuts will be in Gate 2-6 and Pre-Security and Hudson will have specially branded retail stores throughout the airport with beach themed branding. Open to the public in our pre-security restaurant and lounge on the 2nd floor will be The District Pub.
PIE has a number of projects underway to accommodate the rapid growth we are experiencing. We will do our best to minimize the impacts as we look forward to making improvements for our customers.

Airport Landside and Parking Lot Improvements
This project is a complete reconstruction of the landside area of the airport. Work on this important project started in December 2017. This $16 million project, when completed in December 2019, will provide over 1,156 parking spaces for short and long term parking and 224 spaces for rental cars. Combined with the two economy parking lots (Key Lime and Strawberry) and the cell phone lot, the total parking available to airport passengers will be 3,096 spaces. The Florida Department of Transportation is constructing a new expressway adjacent to PIE which initiated the airport project. For more information about the Gateway Expressway Project, visit http://www.tampabaynext.com/projects/gateway-expressway/.

Customs and Border Protection Facility Improvements - This $8 million project is a complete reconstruction of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility to bring the station up to current standards. The facility will be modernized and upgraded to allow for processing of 300 international passengers per hour. Completion is expected in late 2019.

Ticketing “A” Checked Baggage Inspection System
This $12.5 million project involves the installation of a new checked baggage inspection station (CBIS) to allow TSA officers to better screen and inspect baggage at faster rates. Consisting of two Explosive Detection Systems (EDS) and a system of conveyors, the airport will have the capability of screening over 1,300 bags per hour. The project will be completed by the end of 2019.

New Airport Maintenance Facility - The new Maintenance Facility will provide approximately 9,000 square feet for airport maintenance personnel to store and maintain equipment and provide office space. This $3 million project will place the facility closer to the terminal building and airfield for more efficient maintenance operations. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2019.

Airport Master Plan - The Master Plan Study, which began in fall of 2017, will be completed in the summer of 2019. This major airport planning study will provide a pathway for future airport development to meet passenger and airport needs. Draft versions of this document can be found on the Airport Master Plan website (www.piemasterplan.com).
Airport Operations

Airport Security System Improvements – This $3 million project will upgrade the access control system of the terminal building to better secure the facility and protect passengers. A closed-circuit TV system is also included in this project to allow for video surveillance of the entire airport property. When completed in the summer of 2019, PIE will have a state-of-the-art security system.

New Badging Office – As part of the Security System Improvement project, a new Operations Badging Office opened this spring. Additionally, the office has extended its hours and is now open Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. For new or renewal badges, contact 453-7816 for an appointment. Badges may be renewed up to 60 days in advance and expire on your birthday each year.

TSA Presents Flag to PIE

TSA honored PIE with a signed, framed U.S. flag to thank the airport, businesses, and community during the federal government shutdown. Many contributed to a food pantry and brought meals to local TSA staff who reported to duty for weeks without receiving paychecks. The flag is proudly displayed in the Airport Operations Office. Thank you to TSA for continuing your duties with genuine care for our passengers at PIE.

P(E) Day – The airport received a proclamation from the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) celebrating PIE for international PI Day on 3.14. Airport staff enjoyed serving pie to the crowd gathered at the BCC meeting and received a proclamation recognizing the important economic impact of our airport.

Air Service News

Welcome aboard Frank Sorci, the new Allegiant General Manager at PIE.

April Passengers were up 4% over 2018. Sunwing Airlines ends its seasonal service this week. We appreciate our Canadian visitors and the great service to/from Toronto and Halifax on Sunwing and look forward to their return.

Noise Affairs Update

For information, contact the Noise Affairs Office at (727) 453-7877 or email airportnoise@fly2pie.com. Airport Noise Abatement Task Force Meetings are held quarterly to discuss noise affairs at PIE. Meetings are held at 3:00 PM in Airport Conference Room #234. 2019 Dates: July 17 and October 2.

Deputy Airport Director Mark Sprague presented at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Regional Conference in Atlanta this past April. Sprague’s presentation concerned Vehicle/Pedestrian deviations at airports and highlighted the importance of communication and accountability.

Staff News

Welcome Aboard! Dan Smith, Airport Electrician in Facilities and Kevin Hamilton, Airport Traffic Assistant

Retirements - We wish some of our long-term employees at PIE well as they begin their retirements. Best wishes to Grady McCall retiring the end of May after 16 years of service, IT Coordinator John McCoy retiring in June after 20 years with PIE, and Albert “Geno” Green retiring the end of summer after 35 years of service to the citizens of Pinellas County. Thank you for serving PIE!

PI(E) Day

PI(E) Day – The airport received a proclamation from the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) celebrating PIE for international PI Day on 3.14. Airport staff enjoyed serving pie to the crowd gathered at the BCC meeting and received a proclamation recognizing the important economic impact of our airport.

Deputy Airport Director Mark Sprague presented at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Regional Conference in Atlanta this past April. Sprague’s presentation concerned Vehicle/Pedestrian deviations at airports and highlighted the importance of communication and accountability.

Air Service News

Welcome aboard Frank Sorci, the new Allegiant General Manager at PIE.

April Passengers were up 4% over 2018. Sunwing Airlines ends its seasonal service this week. We appreciate our Canadian visitors and the great service to/from Toronto and Halifax on Sunwing and look forward to their return.

Noise Affairs Update

For information, contact the Noise Affairs Office at (727) 453-7877 or email airportnoise@fly2pie.com. Airport Noise Abatement Task Force Meetings are held quarterly to discuss noise affairs at PIE. Meetings are held at 3:00 PM in Airport Conference Room #234. 2019 Dates: July 17 and October 2.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Fly2PIE News

Veterans Honor Flights

Our 35th Honor Flight at PIE on May 7th was another great success. We are proud to partner with Honor Flight of West Central to thank our Veterans with this community celebration. The next Honor Flights are June 11, September 10 and October 22. Join us at 8 pm for the Welcome Home Receptions. For more information, visit Honorflightwcf.org.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Workplace Mentor Program with Clearwater High School

Employees of the Airport, TSA, Signature Flight Support (SFS) and Stellar Partners serve as mentors “Bigs” to Clearwater High School Students “Littles”. The program matches a high school junior that meets monthly with their mentor at PIE and continues through their senior year. PIE is just completing its third year in the program. SFS is a strong advocate and again provided $2,000 in scholarship awards for BBBS 2019 graduates.

Pictured: BBBS - Dallas Jackson, Berny Jacques, SFS - Jeff Gillquist, Bane Shepherd

Community Presentation & Education Tours -

The airport provides presentations and tours to schools, scouts, and leadership/civic groups. For more info, see our website: fly2pie.com/about-pie/airport-tours or contact: Michele Routh at mrouth@fly2pie.com or 727-453-7879. Upcoming groups coming to PIE include: Women in Aviation, Plato Academy students, Southeastern Guide Dog Puppies in Training, Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired, Write Start Learning Elementary School Summer Camp, City of Clearwater Engineering Summer Camp, and the Family Center on Deafness high school students group.

PIE Interns - PIE is participating in a new program offered in Pinellas County Schools this summer matching students to summer internships. Students are paid through a grant received by the Pinellas Education Foundation. We are excited to welcome George Hages, a rising senior at Pinellas Park High School’s First Responder program. George is an aviation enthusiast and plans to become a pilot.

PIE is also hiring an Airport Operations Intern college student enrolled in an aviation degree program to work in PIE Operations this summer and funded by the Florida Airports Council. Interested applicants may apply by May 17th at pinellascounty.org/hr.

We look forward to our customers’ comments and ideas. Please email us at info@fly2pie.com, tweet @flypie, or find us on facebook.com/Fly2PIE

Pinellas County Commissioner Dave Eggers greets Veterans at the May 7th Honor Flight

Northeast High School IT Program visits PIE