Welcome to NewsFLLash Issue #13.

In this edition: new firefighting equipment arrives, Super Bowl LIV activity, Spirit’s new Colombian routes and Dania Beach HQ groundbreaking, new digital curbside signs, and more.
A Message From the CEO

2019 was a banner year for Broward County’s Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Our airline partners carried almost 37 million passengers to and from their destinations. What is remarkable about this figure is that our numbers continue to grow. Our domestic travelers increased by 2 percent while our international guests increased by almost 3 percent. Our numbers increased despite the fact our North Runway was closed for four months.

Regarding international traffic, we handled 8.8 million passengers. This makes us the tenth busiest airport in the nation. Five years ago, international traffic accounted for 19 percent of total traffic. Today that number has increased to 24 percent.

As we look ahead in 2020, the future remains bright with 382 average daily departures to 170 destinations handled by 31 airlines. Passenger traffic is expected to grow by 4 percent through May.

We are in the midst of a $3.2 billion Capital Improvement Program, updating all of our terminals, roadway systems and airfield. This year we have more restaurants opening that should delight travelers. Dale Earnhardt Jr.’s Whisky River opens in February in Terminal 1. Rocco’s Tacos opened in December, also in Terminal 1.

As Super Bowl Sunday approached, we prepared to host thousands of people headed for the big game at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens. We implemented a host of improvements to enhance the guest experience during what was one of our busiest times of the year. As part of the NFL host committee, we implemented a series of initiatives. We added more volunteers and employees to assist passengers. We extended concession hours so that outbound guests could grab a bite to eat. We also cleaned the airport from top to bottom. There was no detail too small, and we hope it showed.

Here’s wishing you and your families a wonderful 2020.

Mark
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The Sky's the Limit

December passenger traffic climbs

Passenger traffic climbed approximately 7 percent in December 2019 to 3,520,779 travelers, compared to the same month in 2018. Domestic passenger traffic jumped roughly 9 percent to 2,677,356 travelers. On the international side, passenger volume inched up 1 percent to 843,423 visitors from a year ago.

In 2019, FLL marked another year of passenger growth overall, with 36,747,622 travelers moving through the airport, representing a 2.2 percent increase from 2018.
Spirit Touts Growth Plans

Top airlines serving FLL are continuing to expand destination options for travelers in 2020. Leading the charge this year is Spirit Airlines, the airport’s second-largest carrier in 2019, with about 23 percent of total passenger traffic.

On January 9, Spirit officials hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new $250 million corporate headquarters in Dania Beach near FLL, which was attended by Broward County Mayor Dale Holness (pictured at podium), Gov. Ron DeSantis, and other local and state dignitaries. The airline will relocate about 1,000 employees from its current Miramar base into the new facility when it opens in 2022.

Additionally, Spirit announced plans to add two more Colombian cities from FLL: Bucaramanga and Barranquilla. The new international routes are scheduled to begin April 22 and 23, respectively, and flights will operate three times a week. Bucaramanga is the hub for Colombia’s Santander state and eastern region, which is a popular tourism market. Meanwhile, Barranquilla is the economic epicenter of the country's north coast, Spirit said.

On the domestic front, the hometown airline plans to launch daily seasonal nonstop service between Fort Lauderdale and Oakland, Calif., on April 1.
Bahamas Flights Resume

Hurricane Dorian damaged airports reopen

Bahamian carrier Bahamasair’s first flight between Freeport and FLL since Hurricane Dorian received a water-cannon salute on arrival in Fort Lauderdale on December 16. Dorian ravaged parts of the Caribbean island chain last September leaving major devastation in its wake. Silver Airways resumed flights to Freeport and Marsh Harbour on December 19. Silver also plans to restart service to Treasure Cay in February, pending the airport’s reopening.
MODERNIZING FLL

Pedestrian Crosswalk Signal System: Since FLL’s new pedestrian crosswalk signalization system went live in mid-December, early feedback suggests the project is achieving its goals of enhanced pedestrian safety and improved traffic flow. During the initial implementation phase, crossing guards remained stationed at lower-level crosswalks outside of Terminals 2, 3, and 4 to help acclimatize users to the new automated crossing system. As safety is a key priority, we’re reminding motorists and pedestrians to obey the traffic lights and crosswalk push-button signal, respectively, to ensure everyone’s well-being when using the airport’s roadways.

Wayfinding Signage Project: Some 4,100 new and updated static signs have been added across FLL’s three parking garages and terminal curbsides since fall 2019. Currently, workers are installing 27 digital airline location signs outside of the airport’s four terminals, which are expected to be completed by mid-February. The next phase of work will involve the installation of new airport roadway signs. When finished, the new signage will provide a more comprehensive wayfinding system to better assist travelers navigating the airport’s roadways, garages, and terminals. The project is anticipated to be completed by March 2020.
More dining and shopping venues will debut at FLL in 2020 as the airport expands the diversity of offerings to please every taste. Explore one or more on your next trip!

Former NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is bringing his signature North Carolina-born casual dining concept Whisky River to FLL through a partnership with airport concessionaire HMSHost. Set to officially open on February 13 in Terminal 1, Concourse B, Whisky River's menu will offer "crave-able dishes with regional flair." The new award-winning hangout will feature country & western décor, including whiskey barrel images, rustic barn wood, stone walls and cowhide seating. Local musicians will entertain diners on the Whisky River music stage.

A new Tech on the Go store opened in Terminal 1, Concourse C on January 28. The specialty retail brand from Hudson Group features technology-related gadgets and accessories from leading names such as Belkin, House of Marley, Wicked, Monster, Mophie and many others. Hudson Group describes Tech on the Go as a "visual and auditory experiential journey that will satisfy both the technophile and the tech-novice."
A CNBC news and gift store is on target to open in Terminal 3, Concourse E in the first quarter of 2020. The newsstand will offer a wide variety of news, magazines, books and travel convenience items.

The first FLL location for electronics retailer InMotion is scheduled to debut in the connector walkway between Terminals 3 and 4 by early March. The new store will offer a range of tech gadgets and accessories, as well as travel gear including, headphones, mobile power, Bluetooth speakers, tablets, cameras, and fitness bands.
New Fire Trucks Welcomed in "Push-In" Ceremony

They took more than one year to build: now two Rosenbauer Panther fire trucks stand ready to serve and protect FLL. Earlier this month, the trucks arrived with the latest technology to handle structure and aircraft incidents. Aviation Department CEO Mark Gale joined Broward County Commissioner Michael Udine; Rosenbauer CEO Christian Kleebauer; Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Airport District Captain Dave Ellwood; and Fire Chief Joseph Hernandez in the welcoming festivities.

BSO's Department of Fire Rescue's Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting District dedicated the vehicles during a traditional "push-in" ceremony. Guests and firefighters simulate pushing the trucks into the firehouse to place them in official service.

The vehicles support FLL's core mission to provide safety and security to the entire airport community. These Panthers, like their namesake, are fast, technology-laden and fully-functional. They are apparatus that any airport would proudly welcome to its fleet.
Super Bowl LIV at FLL

FLL was abuzz with activity surrounding Super Bowl LIV. The airport’s four fixed-base operators handled nearly 700 private flights arriving for the signature sporting event, which added to an already busy schedule of commercial flight activity in the days leading up to the Big Game. Top carriers such as JetBlue, Spirit, and Southwest added extra flights to FLL to get diehards to the mega game at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens.

In the week before the Super Bowl, the airport campus was blanketed with numerous game day welcome signs both inside and outside the four terminals. In addition, dozens of Miami Super Bowl Host Committee volunteers were on duty during the week welcoming and assisting fans traveling for the football extravaganza.

Airport retailers Paradies Lagardère and Hudson News began offering a range of official Super Bowl and team-specific National Football League merchandise for sale two weeks ahead of game day in select FLL stores and at pop-up kiosks. The airport stores provided an easy and convenient way for fans of the Super Bowl and the 2020 competing teams — San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs — to get their hands on coveted souvenirs upon arrival or before departing South Florida.
Census 2020

Don’t Miss Out, Get Counted!

The 2020 Census will count the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire — online, by phone or by mail.

This once-a-decade population count is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census 2020 results will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated to programs such as Medicaid, school lunch initiatives, community mental health services, and many others.

Encourage everyone you know — family, friends, coworkers and neighbors — to be counted by April 1. If you don’t participate, our communities risk losing federal funding for critical programs our residents rely on. For details, visit 2020census.gov.
Professional Development Milestones

Several BCAD employees recently achieved significant milestones in the pursuit of their higher education and professional development goals. That’s a considerable achievement given that they were working full-time jobs at FLL while studying to realize their academic dreams. Congratulations to each of you for persevering and reaching the finish line. The hard work has paid off, and we’re so very proud of you.

Recent grads include Mariana Pitiriciu (pictured) who completed a doctorate in civil engineering; Nicole Davis (bachelor’s in public administration and finance); Ria Mohammed (MBA in project management); and Sheila Desinat (bachelor’s in supervision and management).
FLL BY THE NUMBERS: DECEMBER 2019

Total traffic was 3,520,779, up 6.8% over the same time last year.

Domestic traffic: 2,677,356, up 8.8% over last year.

International traffic: 843,423, up 1% over last year.
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

- jetBlue: 23.8%
- spirit: 22.8%
- Southwest: 19.5%
- Delta: 10.1%
- United: 6%
- American Airlines: 5.3%
- Allegiant: 2.7%
- Air Canada: 2.4%
- Silver: 1%
- Alaska: 0.9%
- All other airlines: 5.5%
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NewsFLLash provides updates on airport construction, new services and initiatives, upcoming events and more.