e-Link

Volume 7, 3rd Quarter, 2017

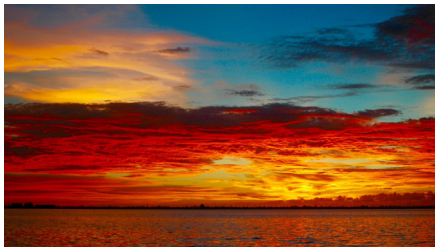
Jeff Mulder, A.A.E., Executive Director

e-Link is a quarterly newsletter for our tenants, vendors and business partners to stay linked in with the projects, accomplishments and development at Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field.

July 2017

- Ace Hardware Corporation announced their planned opening of a customer care center at Page Field in the former terminal building. The lease of the 10,000-square-foot space to Ace will bring the building to 100 percent occupancy.

- As part of the airport's *Art in Flight* program, a new photography exhibit, By the Sea, was installed in the hallways leading to concourses B & D. This stunning exhibition features the work of 10 Florida photographers, who expressed their thoughts and captured the beauty and mystery along our Florida coastline.



- Eurowings, one of the premier low-cost air carriers in Europe, announced service to Fort Myers beginning May 2018. Eurowings will begin twice weekly flights to Munich, Germany on May 1, 2018, followed by a new weekly flight to Cologne/Bonn on May 4. LCPA is very pleased to be one of the new gateway cities for their expansion into the United States.

- Frontier Airlines announced major system expansion plans in July. At RSW, they will begin nonstop service to Buffalo (BUF), Colorado Springs (COS), Islip (ISP), Kansas City (MCI), Nashville (BNA) and Providence (PVD). Frontier will also bring flights back to Chicago-O'Hare (ORD), Philadelphia (PHL) and Trenton (TTN).

- The Aldi food market at Page Field completed construction and opened for business on July 27.

August 2017

- Page Field's Primary Runway 5-23 project for full asphalt rehabilitation work was completed and the repaved runway reopened for flight activity on Aug. 4. The rehabilitation project continues, but should not impede normal aircraft operations.

- The Federal Aviation Administration awarded the Lee County Port Authority with the 2017 FAA Civil Rights Advocate and Partner Award for DBE and ACDBE programs. This national award is based on meeting or exceeding established goals of participation by minority and women-owned businesses on federally funded projects and airport concession activities.

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LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

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September 2017

Hurricane Irma @ RSW

Both Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) and Page Field (FMY) began emergency planning several days in advance of Hurricane Irma. Meetings were conducted with critical staff and airport stakeholders to review all internal storm procedures and preparations. At RSW, aircraft operations ceased on Friday night, Sept. 8, and all commercial aircraft were moved out of Southwest Florida. Jet bridges, equipment and anything that could become a projectile on the ramp were secured. At FMY, tenants secured aircraft and hangars, and our staff ensured all our equipment and buildings were as protected as possible.

RSW and FMY had dedicated and tireless staff from maintenance, operations, Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF), Airport Police Department, IT, development, communications, as well as executive leadership, who remained at both airports throughout the duration of the storm and its aftermath. Comprehensive briefings were held each day to make sure airport staff and all stakeholders had the most up-to-date information. Frequent communications about the status of the airport and flights were conveyed to the traveling public through local and social media outreach.

On Monday morning, Sept. 11, once winds had subsided below 40 mph, maintenance, operations and ARFF conducted extensive safety evaluations and determined airport damage would not jeopardize flight operations at RSW. Once power was restored, after a 30-hour outage, airlines began planning for the resumption of flights, with first arrivals on Tuesday evening, Sept. 12. Page Field sustained more damage than RSW and experienced a longer loss of power; however, it opened to general aviation traffic on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

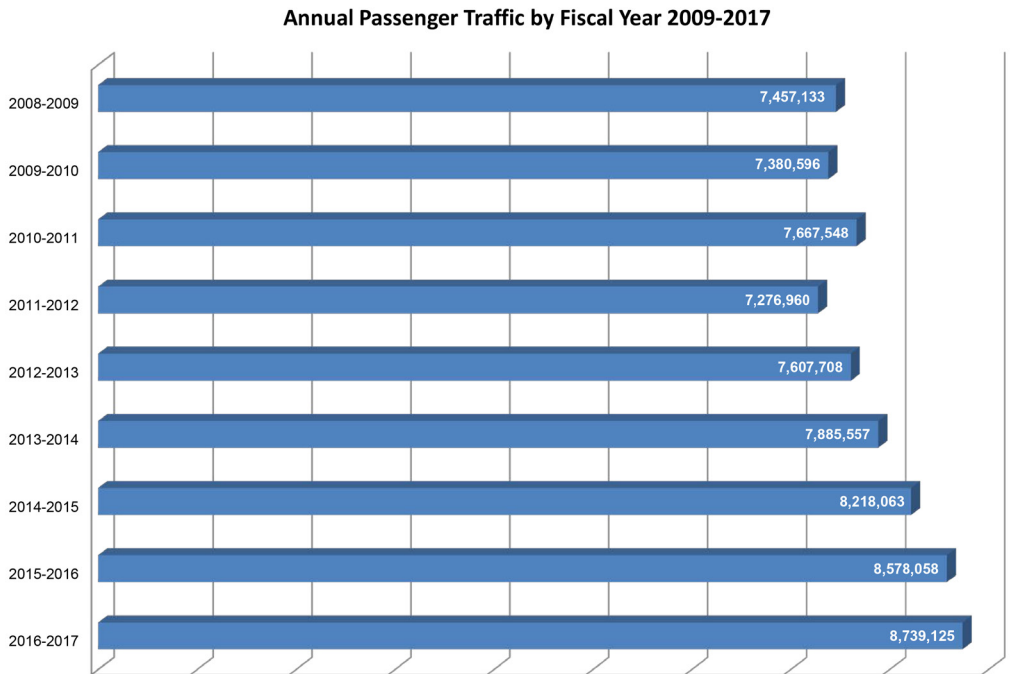
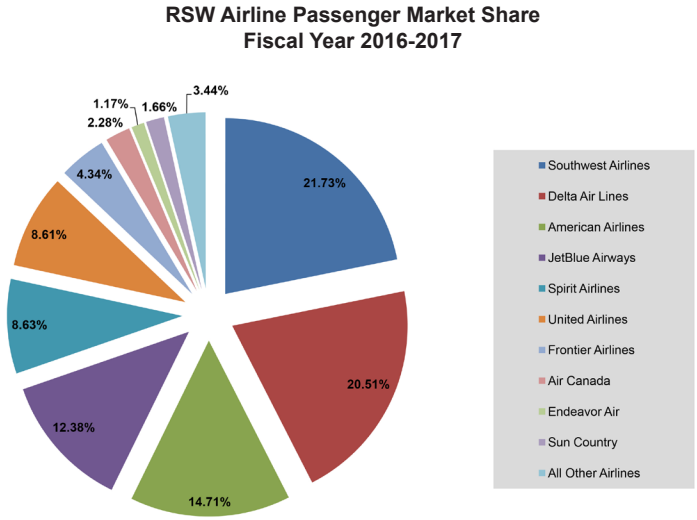
In addition to our own efforts, we had tremendous support from our airline partners, concessions, parking and cleaning personnel. TSA provided 130 local agents to staff checkpoints when RSW opened, many of whom reported from some of the hardest hit areas in Lee County. Although the FAA tower was evacuated when the winds exceeded 40 mph, personnel stayed nearby in 24-hour shifts so they could man the tower as soon as the storm passed. Florida Power & Light used RSW as a staging area. Hundreds of trucks, along with equipment, personnel and supplies were located on the north campus of RSW as part of the largest utility recovery effort in the history of the U.S.

On Sept. 14, President Trump, as well as Vice President Pence, Secretary of Energy Perry, Senator Rubio, Governor Scott and other senior leadership from local, state and federal emergency response agencies arrived at RSW to assess the damage and express their support for the citizens of Southwest Florida.

- Frontier announced more new service at RSW. They will be adding flights to Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP), Grand Rapids, Michigan (GRR) and Omaha, Nebraska (OMA). Frontier will now offer service to 20 cities for the winter season!

FRONTIER

- Southwest Florida International Airport had the best fiscal year in its 34-year history. More than 8.7 million passengers traveled through RSW, a 2 percent increase compared to the previous fiscal year.



- In Fiscal Year 2016-17, Southwest Airlines was the traffic leader at RSW with 1.9 million passengers, nearly 22 percent of the market share. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta Air Lines (1.8 million), American Airlines (1.3 million), JetBlue Airways (1.1 million) and Spirit Airlines (754,000).