Crews install the giant Airline Flight Display Board Friday on the new Cell Phone Lot just east of Cypress on Lambert International Boulevard. The new lot features more than 150 spaces for motorists picking up passengers. It opened for the rush during Thanksgiving week with great success. Construction crews must still install fencing, lighting and landscaping before the lot is completely renovated.

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Presidential visits are nothing new for Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. On Friday, President Bush arrived in St. Louis aboard “Air Force One,” landing for the first time on Lambert’s newest runway, 11-29. The runway was completed in 2006. Previous “Air Force One” operations used Lambert’s two main parallel runways with parking on the north side of the airfield. Lambert and the President’s team worked to move the operation to the west side of the airfield so other flight operations would be less impacted on the other runways. The only glitch was a morning rain storm, but the skies dried up just in time for the President’s arrival.
“Honored Visit”

A local delegation bids farewell to China’s Vice Premier at Lambert on Monday.

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport welcomed China’s top economic minister who landed Sunday afternoon on an Air China Boeing 767. Vice Premier Wang Qishan arrived with a large delegation of economic and trade leaders from China for trade talks and signing ceremonies in St. Louis. Less than 24 hours later, the Vice Premier Qishan was back in the air heading to Washington. The high level visit finalized more than $5 billion in export deals with several Missouri companies and industries.
“Lambert Rocks Again”

The new “Saint Louis Rocks” art chair is already getting a lot of attention at the “Music Spot.”

It’s fun, it’s whimsical, it’s a really cool Rock-n Chair. To celebrate the one year anniversary of the “Music Spot,” Lambert asked local artist Rich Brooks to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art that also celebrates our standing as “Home of Lambert Rocks.” The chair features a guitar back, a piano seat, a set of airplane wings and the St. Louis Arch. Lambert also added another 60 rocking chairs in the concourses for passengers because the first 70 are constantly occupied. The chair is now on display at the “Music Spot” in the Main Terminal Ticketing Hall.

(Courtesy U.S. Air Force, 131st Fighter Wing, Senior Airman Jessica Donnelly)

The familiar roar of Air National Guard F-15 Eagles over Lambert was ceremonially quieted on June 13. A final fighter jet fly-by marked the end of more than eight decades of military flying operations by the 131st Fighter Wing. A crowd of 2,000 was on hand for the “End of an Era” departure ceremony. The Missouri Air National Guard base at Lambert has roots back to the 1920s when the airport was just a “Field.” The ceremony included the closing of the 131st Firehouse. A 2005 military base consolidation plan led to the Fighter Wing’s move. Manpower, missions and jets tied to the 131st have now been officially transferred to other bases.
“Tall Task”

It takes a super lift to reach the upper reaches of Lambert’s Air Traffic Control Tower.

There’s no way getting around it. You can’t be afraid of heights when it comes to maintaining Lambert’s Air Traffic Control Tower. This week airport visitors and highway motorists have seen a crane extended to the upper reaches of the tower, more than 200 feet high. A single worker secured safely in a crane bucket has been re-sealing the joints between the tower’s large concrete panels. The FAA celebrated the tower’s 10th anniversary this past May.
Lambert – St. Louis International Airport firefighters doused flames as they made their way inside the 50 foot mock aircraft to practice search and rescue. All three fire houses at Lambert participated in the training exercises that were provided by the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires annual aircraft rescue and firefighting training with live fires for airport emergency response personnel.
Sign crews install a new sign on Lambert International Boulevard that displays the airlines serving Terminal 2.

After months of planning and production, Lambert’s new roadway signs are finally being hoisted in place. In the next few months, sign crews will be installing more than 200 individual sign panels at 75 different locations along two miles of Lambert International Boulevard. The signs have improved messaging and are easier to read with uniform text and symbols. This week, crews began installing ground mounted signage, which includes airline information and the new Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 designations. The sign program also improves messaging for all Super Park locations.
A crane skies above Lambert’s Air Traffic Control Tower to deliver a new radar antenna.

May 18 was Radar Raising Day at Lambert. Crews replaced the antenna array (horizontal white cylinder) atop the air traffic control tower that had been rotating continuously for seven years. The antenna is part of the Federal Aviation Agency’s Airport Surface Detection Equipment (ASDE-X) Radar. ASDE-X enables air traffic controllers to detect potential runway conflicts by providing radar coverage of all movement on runways and taxiways, especially at night and when visibility is poor. Lambert was one of the first airports in the country to use ASDE-X technology. It’s now in operation in more than 30 U.S. airports.
Photo of the Week

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport
Jan. 21, 2011

Blowing Snow

For the second week in a row, mother nature dumped a blanket of snow on the area. In fact, it was the biggest snowstorm in three years. Officially, Lambert-St. Louis International Airport recorded 9.6 inches of snow from Wednesday night through Thursday. Lambert’s snow crews successfully battled the elements to keep the runways and taxiways operational. At times, snow was falling at a rate of more than an inch an hour. By Thursday afternoon, the skies cleared and the sun broke out which enhanced this great shot of unit 230 clearing runway 6-24 with the control tower peaking just above the blowing snow.
An F-4 tornado system directly hit Lambert Airport on Good Friday shattering windows, tearing roofs and causing widespread damage across the complex. But in the end, no one was seriously hurt. The C Concourse was closed because of extensive damage. Amazingly, the Airport only closed for 24 hours and all airlines were operating again within a few days. Credit goes out to all Airport employees and partners, emergency responders and teams of contractors who rushed to clean up and seal up facilities after they were left battered, bruised and open to mother nature.
No one is complaining about the extra breeze flowing through Lambert’s Terminal 1 these days. That’s a positive sign of progress in the restoration of the terminal following the April 22 tornado. After weeks of setting new windows on the base level of metal framing in each dome, crews are now pushing to the top. This week, passengers could see four mechanical lifts in operation as workers removed damaged windows and plywood, while preparing the framing for the new panes of glass. Along with a temporary breeze...a lot more sunlight.
Photo of the Week
Lambert-St. Louis International Airport
February 17, 2012

Tuskegee History

Lambert’s famed “Black Americans in Flight” mural was showcased this week for a re-dedication event that recognized the artist and those who championed the remembrance to the Tuskegee Airmen. Artist Solomon Thurman paid tribute to his painting partner, the late Spencer Taylor, with a new addition to the mural exhibit. Thurman contributed a painting of Taylor working on the mural which was originally dedicated in 1990. The event also featured 89-year-old Christopher Newman, one of two dozen St. Louis area Tuskegee Airmen who are featured on the 51-ft long painting in the Terminal 1 Bag Claim.
St. Louis’ famous pro mascots dropped by Lambert this week for fun and mayhem as part of the Airport’s Customer Appreciation Week. This was a prideful posed picture of the famed bird, ram and bear. The three had their way roaming Terminal 1 surprising passengers and guests in countless ways. They even tried to check-in a few passengers. There were beak kisses and bear hugs. A few babies were held; some cried. Children cheered. So did adults. Most of all, lots of pictures were taken with our favorite furry and feathered friends. It was also a great way to say, “Hello to St. Louis.”
History departed this week with the takeoff of Solar Impulse early Friday morning. The revolutionary aircraft, which can fly day and night without a drop of fuel, had an extended 10-day stay at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport as part of its “Across America” campaign. More than 8,000 people got to see the plane upclose during open house exhibitions at the Airport. Solar Impulse is a flying aviation lab of new technologies which is helping to promote science, engineering and environmental causes. The plane departed on it’s fourth leg of its cross-country mission bound for Cincinatti (pilot change) and then Washington, DC. Solar Impulse will end its U.S. trek in New York City in the next few weeks.
You could find plenty of horse play from passengers and visitors when Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale Levi appeared in Terminal 2. His visit was in conjunction with the celebration of the opening of EIGHTEEN|76, Tuesday, September 24th. The new restaurant located at Gate E10 attracted a lot of attention with its trendy look, premiere beer and tasty food. In honor of the opening, Budweiser Clydesdale Levi was on hand from 1-3pm for passengers and visitors. Levi was a big hit too! Passengers lined up one after the other to take a picture or to pet the celebrity horse. EIGHTEEN|76 pays homage to the founding year of Budweiser. It’s the first airport location with this concept.
After nearly 60 years, the Airport’s original iconic copper roof on Terminal 1 is being scrapped and recycled. Crews with CMT Roofing began the major demolition job on the first quadrant of the far east dome-facing the south. This is no ordinary roof job because of the steep pitch of the domes. Roofers are harnessed to safety cables as they remove the copper and sublayers of the roof. As old material is removed, new roof coatings and insulation will be laid down to keep the terminal protected from the elements. Within a few weeks, additional crews will begin installing the first sections of the new copper roof. The process will be repeated on all sections until the project is completed at the end of the year.
After one of the harshest winters in decades, St. Louis is finally being able to embrace a change of seasons. The debut of spring has battled the out-going winter through much of April. But in the last week, spring has begun to put on a show across the region. At Lambert, blooms are in full force as they soak in warmer temperatures. Flowering trees, bushes and plants signal the Airport’s busy summer travel season is fast approaching.
Southwest Airlines Captains Randy Hansen (left) and Rusty Jensen (right) wave to the crowd as the Missouri One arrives at Lambert.

After 30 years of service in Missouri, Southwest Airlines surprised St. Louis with a gesture of dedication by unveiling the Missouri One Boeing 737-700 aircraft. Nearly two weeks of painting done in secret in Kansas City paid off, as the big reveal was made at both Kansas City International Airport (MCI), and later at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport Thursday afternoon. Missouri One is detailed with images of the Missouri State flag, and is one of only ten planes with state flagship liveries in the Southwest fleet. Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelly was aboard the debut flight and gave a brief presentation, followed by words from City of St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay. “Kansas City and St. Louis have been vital cities in our network for more than 30 years,” Kelly said. “I couldn’t think of a better way to show our love to our employees, customers and friends in the great state of Missouri than by dedicating this high-flying salute to them.”
Although we are certainly rooting for the Cardinals as Red October begins in St. Louis, Lambert-St. Louis International Airport has another set of cards to celebrate this week. In September 2014, Lambert Airport led the campaign, and was part of the original launch of the North American Airports Collectors Series which featured trading cards from 17 airports. On Monday, Lambert led the national debut of second edition in the series, which now has more than 60 participating airports. Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) kicked off the second year of the program on Monday at the 2015 ACI-NA Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA. The airport trading card series offers aviation enthusiasts a new collectible opportunity to commemorate their travels through U.S. and Canadian airports. Lambert’s second card features an iconic image of its new copper roof on Terminal 1, which was installed in 2014.
Lambert loves being a pet-friendly airport for our travelers. But did you know that there are special dogs that work at the airport every day? Abel (left) and Orkan (right) are two of nine pups that make up the St. Louis Airport Police K-9 Unit. Not only do these happy faces help keep the airport safe, they love to greet travelers and make new friends while out on their rounds. Orkan, a three-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer, “absolutely loves kids,” said his Officer. Specially trained and certified through the Department of Homeland Security, the dogs in Lambert’s K-9 Unit have had some pretty neat travels, too; like being called to work V.I.P. detail for Super Bowl games and Presidential inaugurations.
More than 20 WWII and Korean War veterans returned to St. Louis after a whirlwind day trip to the nation’s capitol. When they arrived back home, hundreds of family members, supporters and volunteers with the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight organization welcomed them home in Terminal 2. Honor Flight is a national program that pays tribute to our country’s aging war veterans with all-inclusive trips to Washington DC to visit memorials built in their honor. 88-year-old James Estep, a Fireman First Class in the Navy during WWII, was overjoyed to arrive and share a hug with his wife, Sandy. The two have been married 41 years. She says seeing his return brought on powerful emotions, as it did for so many area families. The veterans and their volunteer trip escorts started their day before sunrise to fly to DC on Southwest Airlines. More Honor Flight trips from St. Louis are scheduled throughout the year.
Photo of the Week

A portion of Spectroplexus rises overnight Sunday into early Monday morning in Terminal 2 with the assistance of two mechanized lifts.

Over the last four months, eight graduate architecture students from the Sam Fox School of Art & Visual Design at Washington University in St. Louis digitally designed, modeled and constructed the newest (and largest) artwork ever displayed STL: Spectroplexus. In a delicate, overnight installation process that spanned ten days, five large sections of the piece were raised in a coordinated effort between the students and Airport staff. Nearly 1,500 handmade carbon fiber rhomboid-shaped modules with colorful translucent polycarbonate sheets were linked together on-site and lifted 13 to 17 feet above the floor using two mechanized lifts, strategically positioned 30-ft apart to keep the sections of the piece level. As a whole, the 100 ft.-long sculpture, with hues of purples and greens, takes on the appearance of a murmuration—the effect of a mass of birds twisting and turning in tight formation.
This week in St. Louis it wasn’t hard to argue that it felt like we were living in a furnace. Temperatures throughout the area hovered in the triple digits all week and surface temps on the airfield soared as high as 140 degrees. For glass artists, however, heat is part of their life. Our Art of Travel artists at Third Degree Glass Factory have been working this summer turning molten glass into incredible works of art. This highly skilled group spends their day working in front of open furnaces with internal temperatures above two-thousand degrees. These artists must keep each creation twirling, otherwise the liquid glass will melt to the ground. They also finish elements of their pieces with butane torches, which produce a considerable amount of heat themselves. The phrase, “Don’t sweat the small stuff” doesn’t apply to these artists. Getting every curve, every shape, every detail just right is definitely worth sweating (a lot!) for. Shop their one-of-a-kind creations at the 7th annual Art of Travel on October 5th. Details at www.ArtofTravelSTL.com
As Gateway to the West, St. Louis has a treasured travel history of transportation on land, water and in the air. The St. Louis Mercantile Library has archived much of that history. This week, it’s showcasing several of its iconic images of travel. Varying modes of transportation helped St. Louis become a hub for settlers, merchants, and adventure seekers. The exhibition is titled *Traveling Through Time: Photographs from the Collections of the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UMSL*. One of the images shows a river man “throwing the leadline” on the Mississippi, better known as Marking Twain. A slight twist to that term became the pen-name for one of America’s most celebrated authors, born Samuel Clemens ---before he gave us tales of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. The images are enlarged and installed in light display boxes in Terminal 1’s lower level passages to baggage claim.
It’s one of our best events of the year. This past week we celebrated the achievement of more than 500 airport employees being nominated in 2017 for great customer service through our Catch Us Giving program. More than 1,000 nominations were submitted last year from passengers, visitors, customers and even from fellow employees. Some employees solved really complex travel issues while others were nominated for great service and attention and really brightening the day for our travelers and guests. Pearletta Malone-Evans with Information & Paging was awarded Ambassador of the Year. She helped a worried mom and made sure her young son, flying solo for the first time, would be alright after he was stranded due to a cancelled flight.
Passengers exiting Terminal 2 at St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL) are being getting a warmer welcome these days, just as warmer temperatures start to arrive. New and highly visible red signage now helps passengers locate the exit more easily along with a new welcome message. Terminal 2 is STL’s busiest terminal serving 56 percent of all passengers. From January to February 2018, the Airport welcomed more than a million passenger arrivals - a 3.9 percent increase from the same time period in 2017. Passenger departures were also up 4.4 percent from last year. The new STL messaging is carried out in other locations throughout the Airport. For latest passenger statistics, click here.
With a burst of color, WOW air has officially begun operations at St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL). Non-stop service between Keflavik International Airport (KEF) to STL began on Thursday, May 17, as passengers got the first view of the bright, purple planes at STL. STL hopes to build off of 31 straight months of passenger growth with the launch of WOW air service. Service is currently scheduled for four non-stop flights per week to KEF, with a fifth being added on June 3. Passengers may also continue on to many other European destinations such as Amsterdam, Barcelona, Dublin, Paris, and London. WOW air recently announced new service to New Delhi, India via a connection at KEF beginning in December 2018.
St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL) held its first STL Aviation Day on Saturday, June 15th. The event catered to aviation enthusiasts in the greater St. Louis area and beyond, drawing attendees from as far away as Texas. Attendees were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Airport Operations Center, STL’s baggage system, STL’s Mobile Command bus, and the North Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) house before heading to the Echo Pad for the opportunity to “plane spot” on the airfield. After the tour, Airport Director Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge gave a presentation regarding current and future projects, both landside and airside. Attendees were then able to talk one-on-one with the Airport Director or other members of the STL staff. All attendees received a swag bag full of STL-branded merchandise and a free 30-day subscription to JetTip!
Photo of the Week

St. Louis Lambert International Airport
January 3, 2020

Family Reunited

Mirna Matias of St. John, Missouri rushes to hug her two daughters, who she had not seen in 10 years, until this moment after they arrived at St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

The clues of a very heartwarming moment danced in the air, tethered to a young girl and boy in the Terminal 1 Bag Claim at St. Louis Lambert International Airport. The brother and sister held to unicorn balloons while their parents held flowers. They gathered at the flight screen to see when the exact moment would happen. That moment was the arrival of their half-sisters from Guatemala, 16-year-old Arely and 11-year-old Melissa, at noon on Friday, January 4. These were sisters the boy had never met in person. The boy’s mom, Mirna Matias, had not seen her daughters in 10 years before she left Guatemala. Quite simply, it’s a complicated story of long distance journeys and separation. But for no longer. Mirna was at a loss for words as she and her husband, Jose Gomez, nervously waited alongside other relatives to see the girls walk down the ramp, where they could not just see, but embrace, again. The two daughters rushed into their mother’s open arms. Smiles. Tears. Hugs. Joy. A new year. A new decade. And for one St. Louis family, together at last. Reunited.
The St. Louis Lambert International Airport is open during the impact of COVID-10 pandemic. It’s an essential operation locally, and as part of the national transportation system. Other airports around the U.S. are also operational, while many regions and communities, like St. Louis, are following “Stay at Home” orders. The Airport continues to serve customers who have essential jobs and functions through this difficult time for government, health, education, or other operations. There are many personal reasons why people need to still travel. It all means there are thousands of employees with all of our Airport partners who continue to work to serve the flying public and all airport customers. That includes our cleaning teams and janitors. Weeks ago, the Airport adopted more stringent cleaning protocols based on the latest industry and health expert recommendations. Our janitors have always been an essential part of our operations. They remain focused on frequent and critical cleaning of all public spaces to maintain a safe and comfortable facility for all of our users.