



HCAA Board members awarded the first contract for vertical construction at the new SkyCenter development site.

## HCAA awards SkyCenter site, infrastructure contract

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Board of Directors on Dec. 6 approved a \$66 million contract for construction of new facilities and site preparation of 35 acres at the Airport's new SkyCenter development area.

The approval, a major milestone in Tampa International Airport's expansion, is the first vertical construction contract related to SkyCenter – one of the centerpieces of the second phase of the airport's Master Plan, a three-phase capital program that will increase the airport's capacity to 34 million annual passengers.

Before construction of Master Plan Phase 1 began in November 2014, TPA had a maximum capacity of 23 million annual passengers. In fiscal year 2018, the Airport served 21 million passengers – an all-time record.

"The passenger growth we're experiencing at the Airport underscores the importance of the entire Master Plan," said Jeff Siddle, the Airport's Vice President of Planning and Development. "SkyCenter is a key part of it. It will help us accommodate growth for years to come by allowing us to move our existing offices away from the terminal and re-purpose that space for our passengers and guests."

The construction contract, awarded to Hensel Phelps Construction, enables the company

to develop the SkyCenter site, which is located just west of Tampa International Airport's new Rental Car Center.

The company will also build a 40,000 square-foot atrium and 230-foot long pedestrian bridge that connects it to the SkyConnect station at the Rental Car Center, a new 650-foot commercial curbside, a 230-foot extension of the Rental Car Center's remote curb that serves county buses, and reconfiguration of the Cell Phone Waiting Lot including new restrooms and Flight Information Display system.

The Hensel Phelps contract includes a goal of spending 14.9 percent with woman- and minority-owned businesses – a key priority for the Airport.

Construction is expected to begin in January 2019. The site development and construction of the atrium and walkway are expected to be complete in 2020. Future plans for SkyCenter include a hotel, retail space and at least one office building.

The Aviation Authority Board is scheduled to select a developer for a nine-story office building at SkyCenter next to the atrium early next year.

TPA employees will occupy three stories in the building, allowing the Airport to demolish its offices next to the Main Terminal and make room for more passengers. ■

### IN THIS ISSUE



#### New stores, new gift ideas!

Check out our 2018 holiday gift guide featuring tons of new gift ideas.



#### Welcome to the TPA family

Commissioner Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr. joins the HCAA Board.



#### Breakfast comes to Ulele

Ulele on Airside C now serves breakfast - and it's delicious.



### TPA BY THE NUMBERS



**6,486**

That's how many square feet make up the new Shoppes at Bayshore, which encompasses 11 concepts that include Coco Bay, BookLink, Coastal Home and Tommy Bahama.



With the recent opening of the Shoppes at Bayshore, Tampa International Airport's Main Terminal Transfer Level is complete. Behold, in all its holiday splendor.

## Holiday gift ideas for everyone

Tampa International Airport's all-new concessions program means employees and guests have an impressive assortment of all new holiday gifts to choose from this season. Whether you're looking for something sweet or savory, something for your stylish friend or a last-minute stocking stuffer, TPA has got you covered. Check out some of these ideas! ■



FOR THE BOOK LOVER: Whether they read, explore or use for coffee table décor, the book lover in your life will love the latest from our news & book shops. **BookLink, Airside E (From \$5.95 to \$40)**



FOR THE BUDDING CHEF OR FOODIE: Honey, oil, pasta and sauce! Satisfy your favorite chef at an affordable cost! Tasteful olive oils and handmade pasta will have your friends and family thinking you brought back some goodies from Italy, while travel-sized honey and spices make the perfect stocking stuffer for the kitchen dweller in your family. **Top: Shoppes at Bayshore, Main Terminal (Starting at \$7.99); Left: Shoppes at Bayshore, Main Terminal (Starting at \$25).**



**FOR THE SWEET TOOTH:** Candy and chocolate and Toffee to Go ... give your loved ones some goodies and let your sweet side show! Nothing says "I love you" quite like a giant jawbreaker or some imported chocolate. These treats make for the perfect last-minute gift that your loved ones will be sure to enjoy. Clockwise from left: **Dylan's Candy Bar, Airside A (Starting at \$8.99).** Toffee-to-Go at **Air Essentials, Airside E; Newslink, Airside C; Bay to Bay News, Airside F; Shoppes at Bayshore, Main Terminal (starting at \$12.99).** Specialty chocolate at **Air Essentials, Airside E; Newslink, Airside C; Bay to Bay News, Airside F; Shoppes at Bayshore, Main Terminal (starting at \$8.99).** Toblerone at **Tampa Duty Free, Airsides E and F (Starting at \$14).**



**FOR THE FASHIONISTA OR SPORTS FAN:** Accessories, t-shirts, team jerseys or handbags - you'll find them in our shops. **Top left: Bracelet at Shoppes at Bayshore, Main Terminal; Time Zone/Shades, Airside C (Starting at \$20).** **Top: Handbags at Corsa Collections, Airside E (Starting at \$118).** **Left: Sports T's at Tampa Bay Sports, Main Terminal (Starting at \$22)**



**FOR THE WINE LOVER:** Keep your beverages cold in one of these insulated containers by Corkcicle **BookLink, Airside E (Starting at \$26)**

## TPA welcomes a new way to West Palm Beach



On Nov. 8, TPA kicked off a new service to West Palm Beach on Southern Airways Express. The 80-minute trip is aboard a Cessna 208 Caravan, which can carry up to 9 passengers and provides a private jet experience at a commercial flight cost. The service departs three times daily Monday through Thursday and Sunday while Fridays and Saturdays offer two flights a day. Ticket prices range from \$129 to \$279 one-way and are available for booking on [iflysouthern.com](http://iflysouthern.com).

## Commissioner Miller joins HCAA Board of Directors



The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority welcomed Hillsborough County Commissioner Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr., to the board, bringing a longtime and distinguished Tampa Bay community member and politician to the five-member governing body for Tampa International Airport.

Commissioner Miller served in the United States Air Force in the 1970s and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Florida, as well as an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters from Florida A&M University.

He served as a member of the Florida Senate from 2000 to 2006 and a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1992 to 2000. During his time in the Florida Legislature, he served as the Minority Leader for both the House and the Senate. Miller also previously served as Associate Vice President and Dean of Students for the University of South Florida, and as the manager of Minority Business Development and Governmental Relations for Tampa General Hospital, and he now serves on several boards and councils that help shape our region and state.

"This is a very important board and I look forward to continuing to make this Airport the best it can possibly be," Miller said at the December meeting. "I'm very glad to be here." ■



## Rental car pros come to TPA

TPA welcomed 136 rental car industry professionals for the AAAE annual Airports and the Rental Car Industry Workshop Nov. 4-6. Conference attendees toured the Airport's new rental car center and SkyConnect system. Conference sessions focused on such hot topics as automated vehicles, finance strategies and construction approaches. ■

Some of the members of the Nov. 4-6 rental car conference during a visit to TPA's new consolidated rental car center.

## Travelers and guests can now start the day with Ulele



One of the most delicious items on the Ulele menu: The Tampa Banana French Toast, which features La Segunda Cuban Bread pan grilled to golden brown with bruléed bananas, brown-sugar rum sauce and Chantilly cream.

If you've visited Ulele on Tampa's Riverwalk, you've experienced its Native American inspired menu, open concept kitchen and, of course, unique food options. At the Airport, the restaurant parallels the atmosphere and has recently added a new concept that has early morning travelers thrilled to visit airside C – a breakfast menu.

The menu, created in collaboration with David Janecek, Director of Operations for SSP America, and the Ulele team, brings an eclectic mix of rich and trendy breakfast favorites to the Airport – such as the Tampa Banana French Toast, pictured here.

The restaurant, known for its flame-grilled oysters, keeps passengers enticed with their open kitchen where guests can watch their omelets grill while sipping on a classic Bloody Mary or craft beer. The breakfast menu is now being served from 7 to 10 a.m. daily. ■

CONCESSIONS CORNER

## Airport constructs comfy spot to stand by for your ride

Tucked behind construction walls on the west side of the bag claim level, contractors are quietly making progress on new ground transportation hold areas – scheduled to open next year.

The sleek, modern space will provide a comfortable place for passengers and guests to wait for taxis, ride-sharing and other ground transportation services.

Crews with Odyssey are in the process of demolishing and retrofitting the old space. Workers are cutting, demolishing and removing concrete floors and sidewalk sections throughout the red and blue interior and exterior space. The old glass waiting areas are now gone, and workers are preparing to place foundations for new glass walls and curb ramps.

Meanwhile, structural steel is being installed to enclose the old elevator and escalator access areas to the above quad decks. ■



Crews are building out the west side transportation hold areas - expected to open next year.

FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS



## Employee Spotlight: Freddie Maldonado



Freddie Maldonado, a longtime TPA employee, is a server at Cigar City Brewing.

*There's a good chance you were served by Freddie Maldonado if you dined at Tampa International Airport over the last few years. Or the last 15 years. Or in the '90s. Or in the '80s.*

The tall, gregarious server has been a favorite among TPA guests at various restaurants and bars all over the Airport, including the former Shula's at Airside C and

Columbia Restaurant at Airside E. He loved the Latin flair and music as he served drinks at Airside E's old Casa Bacardi. He raked in the tips at the long-ago Main Terminal restaurant Jose Gasparilla's in the late 1980s, and was a beloved bartender at the adjoining Veranda Bar throughout the '90s. He even worked at the old Airside D bar before the terminal was torn down, as well as the E bar before that terminal was replaced.

His favorite place, however, is where he is right now. He adores his managers and co-workers at Cigar City Brewing as if they were family, and he is proud of the local brand, which has Tampa-inspired flavors and its own on-site brewery at Airside C.

"How can it get better and better with each place I work?" Maldonado said. "But it does. I don't know why I'm so lucky."

The good fortune began the moment he walked through a door at TPA 30 years ago and, with a 2-month-old baby in his arms, asked the first person he saw for a job.

Born in New Jersey, but mostly raised in Puerto Rico, Maldonado married at a young age and he and his bride and newborn baby moved from New Jersey to Tampa to escape the cold winters when he was 20. He remembers driving around town with his little family in tow before steering toward the Airport, parking outside of the hotel and finding a doorway to some offices. He said he was looking for a job. HMS Host gave him an application and an interview on the spot.

That was at 11 in the morning. By 3 p.m. that day, he was bussing tables at Jose Gasparilla's. A few months after that, he began serving to make more money. A couple years after that, he started bartending at the Veranda Bar.

"From then on, my life changed forever," Maldonado said.

The money was flowing, as this was back when the dining and drinking options were far fewer and the bar was always packed. He was making such a great living on tips and having so much fun, he quit his college classes to focus on his career with Host. He was able to buy some properties around the Tampa Bay area, and he met several customers who became so close to him, they offered him places to stay in Longboat Key, Chicago and New York City when he and his family needed a getaway.

*"Who doesn't want to work at a great place like this?"*

As he's watched TPA grow and change, including the major concessions redevelopment over the last few years, Maldonado has remained a favorite Host employee and he was treated to a fancy steak dinner and a ride around in a Maserati for his 25th anniversary. Jeff Yablun, HMS Host's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and one of Maldonado's favorite people, even flew in for it.

"He is my idol," Maldonado said. "Because of his support, I've been able to have the success I have had."

When the new Cigar City Brewing restaurant opened at Airside C earlier this year, Maldonado asked to be transferred there.

"Who doesn't want to work at a great place like this?" Maldonado said, then gestured at the tall windows leading out to the Southwest gates and northeast airfield. "And who wouldn't want to work with this view?"

Despite his colorful and outgoing personality, Maldonado prefers a more quiet and simple life at home. The tiny baby brought to TPA while job hunting is now a 30-year-old wife and mother, and Maldonado has a special bond with his 5-year-old granddaughter Gianna, whom he hovered over for seven days while she was a newborn in the NICU.

When he's not waiting tables or spending time with his grandkids, he has one hobby he lists as his favorite thing to do: Mow his lawn. ■

# TPA in the World



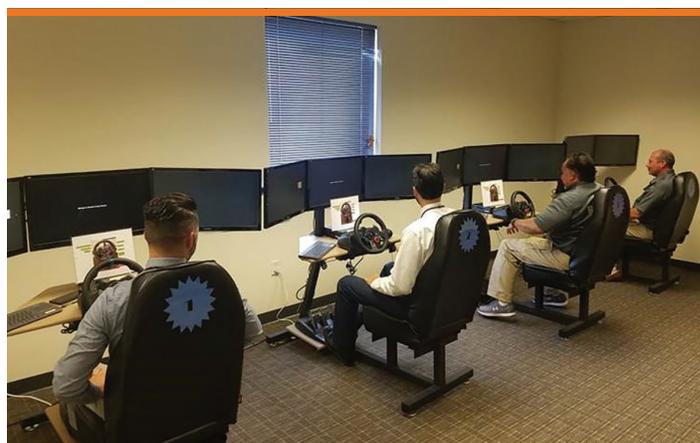
Senior Manager of Organizational Development and Training Ronald Klimley, center, speaks at MacDill on Nov. 14 on fostering a culture of innovation.



Airport Operations Manager Nevada Smith speaks to students at Randall Middle School for the Great American Teach-In on Nov. 15.



Airport Operations Specialists Myles Parris and Jade Darrell attend a FEMA training in November at the Pasco County Emergency Operations Center.



The TPA Ops team tests out the AeroDRIVE training module at Orlando Airport's training facility.



Members of TPA's Communications team, including Emily Nipps, Danny Valentine and Christine Osborn, celebrate winning three major awards at the annual ACI-NA Marketing/Communications conference in Ottawa.



Airport CEO Joe Lopano attends the ACI World Governing Board meeting in Miami.

## In the News



Fans of Tampa International Airport had the Airport's back during a recent survey of best airports.

### From the Tampa Bay Times, Nov. 21:

A recent article in the Tampa Bay Times addresses a Wall Street Journal list of favorite airports that omitted TPA because of its size. The article talks about why passengers and residents love our hometown airport. Read more in the Tampa Bay Times. ■



### From Yahoo! Finance, Nov. 26:

Tampa International Airport recently made the list of the top 10 cheapest airports in the U.S. according to GOBankingRates.com. Read more about the survey results, including the complete list and other special features at each airport on Yahoo! Finance. ■

### E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Want a digital version of the Airport newsletter? Go to TampaAirport.com and click on "Airport Newsletter" located in the popular links section. The electronic version is published twice monthly. Have a story idea? Send it to enipps@TampaAirport.com.



## WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...

### ON TWITTER



*Flew out of C concourse early Tuesday, lots of departures, very busy. Still sailed through the entire check-in process, TPA was, as they always are, ready for the holiday travelers and kept things running smooth while maintaining security and safety for all! Love my airport!*  
- Paul Sullivan, Nov. 21

*I travel all over this country but there's no travel experience like leaving or coming back to TPA. Outstanding work.*  
- Vince Albanese, Nov. 20

*Looks beautiful great job @FlyTPA thanks for making Tampa such a wonderful place to visit! #Tampa*  
- Punit Shah, Nov. 20

### ON FACEBOOK



*With the traveling I have done and people do check this out, Tampa International Airport is one of the cleanest airport I have seen! Easy with people and so helpful, Thank you TIA!*  
- Heidi Carrieri Boudin, Nov. 25

*I was so lost and this Wonderful man, Kenny G near the rental car area was so sweet and even fixed my Uber app for me! Love this airport*  
- Karen Clarke Simineri, Nov. 25

### VIA EMAIL



*I just want to compliment the team on making my recent travel experience the best that it could be. I was traveling by myself with two children under the age of 5 during the thanksgiving holiday and immediately a porter greeted me and helped me get to my airline counter. She also stayed with me to make sure we got up to counter when it was our turn in line. ...The whole team did an excellent job making this Dad's difficult experience a lot easier to manage.*  
- David Wade, Oct. 27



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