



Issue 9 | October 2024

Demolition of Former Sheraton Hotel Underway at CLE



Demolition of the former Sheraton Hotel officially kicked off on October 2 at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) and continued throughout the month. Contractor Baumann Enterprises, Inc., will now work to remove all debris from the building site.

The former hotel, which was built in 1959, had been closed since June 2022. When open, it was a popular layover location for passengers and airline crews looking for a place to spend the night, particularly when there were weather-related flight delays and cancellations. Originally, the hotel housed 60 rooms before expanding to 243 in 1972. The decision was made to demolish the building due to its current condition and the lack of demand for an on-site hotel.

In the short term, the site will be turned into surface parking, adding to CLE's inventory of on-site parking options. The hotel itself had nearly 500 spots, which CLE has been utilizing since acquiring the building.

"To see and make way for the future, sometimes you must break through walls -- figuratively and literally. So today, let's break through the wall," said Bryant L. Francis, C.M., Director of Port Control.

The demolition portion of the project is scheduled to be fully completed by early 2025.



Sheraton Demolition: Before & After

Honoring Hispanic Heritage at CLE

On October 9, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) hosted a Lunch & Learn event to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, an annual celebration of the history and culture of the U.S. Latino and Hispanic communities.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Felix Muniz, a proud native of Puerto Rico who has dedicated his life to community service since moving to the U.S. in 1968. Felix has served with the Hispanic UMADAOP for over a decade, focusing on drug and alcohol intervention, and directed El Centro, a center for high-risk youth. He currently serves as Pastor of Nueva Luz Community Church in Cleveland. We thank Dr. Muniz for sharing many invaluable insights and enriching our lives with a brief history of Latinos in Cleveland.



We were also grateful to have Councilwoman Jasmin Santana provide the event's closing remarks. Representing Cleveland's Ward 14, Councilwoman Santana is the first Latina council member in our city's history. Councilwoman Santana continues to be a dedicated advocate for her constituents and a leader in promoting community empowerment.

A big "thank you" to Christopher Martinez, our Hispanic liaison for the City of Cleveland, for facilitating the important connections with Dr. Felix Muniz and Councilwoman Santana. Overall, our event was a great opportunity for CLE employees to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Together, we're building a stronger community!

Special Olympics Ohio's Annual Plane Pull Raises \$80,000



On September 28, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) hosted Special Olympics Ohio's (SOOH) Annual Plane Pull event, raising over \$80,000! Over three dozen teams of 15 competed to see who could pull a United 737 the fastest! Despite starting off soggy, this year's Plane Pull ended up treating participants to a beautiful fall day.

"We are grateful to once again host this amazing event for the Special Olympics," said Michele Dynia, Communications Specialist and event planner. "There is something so heartwarming about seeing so many people come together for a great cause."

The Special Olympics is a global sports movement involving people who are creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability.

Event sponsors included United Airlines, Sheetz, the I-X Center, Swagelok, Friedman, Domiano & Smith, Meaden & Moore, Recess Creative, Technoform, and Atlantic Aviation.

CLE Hosts Annual Snow Symposium to Prepare for Winter Operations

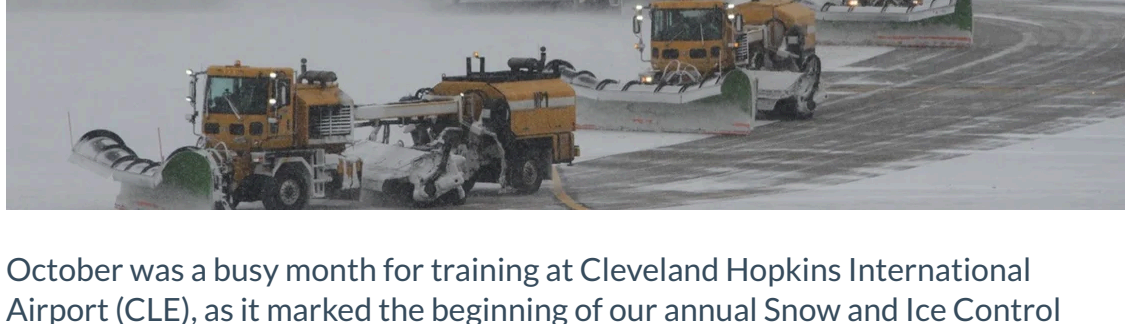


Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) hosted its annual Snow Symposium on October 15. Every year, Airport Operations, Field Maintenance, Environmental, Vehicle Maintenance, and AeroMag team up to inform airport stakeholders on upcoming strategies, challenges, and methods for tackling the inevitable hazards that Mother Nature unleashes upon our airfield each winter.

All the presenters are seasoned veterans who take great pride in conducting their work efficiently. Our special guest weather expert this year was none other than Channel 19 Meteorologist Jeff Tanchak, who provided participants with a detailed outlook on what to expect this coming winter.

CLE has made significant progress in streamlining its snow removal process in recent years, resulting in positive feedback from airlines, the FAA, and various other stakeholders.

CLE Staff Trains for Winter Operations in Annual Snow & Ice Control Training Session



October was a busy month for training at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE), as it marked the beginning of our annual Snow and Ice Control Training Season along with the arrival of our 2024 - 2025 team of Seasonal Snow Removal Vehicle Operators (SSRVO).

As the SSRVOs arrive, they will participate in Snow and Ice Control Training, which is required for all full-time Field Maintenance Employees in order to remain in compliance with FAA Part 139 regulations. Topics included CLE's Snow and Ice Control Plan, Building Maintenance Winter Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Field Maintenance Winter SOP, Airport Operations Winter SOP, and Snow Routes.

"Snow and Ice Control Training provides a great opportunity to discuss past practices," said Lisa Polsley, Ground Vehicle Operator Training Coordinator. "This allows snow removal operators the chance to offer suggestions to make for a more successful snow season."

Polsley is in her third year as the Training Coordinator for CLE's Snow and Ice Control Plan, which begins each July.

Our snow routes are pre-planned routes designed by Air Traffic Control (ATC), Field Maintenance, and Airport Operations to ensure the least amount of impact for all involved. The snow routes are designed to maximize efficiency and assist ATC in directing aircraft on the airfield to minimize disruption. Consistent snow routes also help to increase safety on the airfield by increasing the snow team's familiarity with the airfield while allowing the teams to stay together.

Another key component that we have added to our Snow and Ice Control Training is Environmental Awareness. During the winter season, we SSRVOs treat our airfield with thousands of gallons of chemicals formulated to provide the safest environment possible for all airport users. While it is important to provide the safest environment for the traveling public, we also need to protect the environment surrounding the airport. Our Environmental Awareness training stresses that if you would not want your family or friends drinking it or swimming in it, do not allow it into CLE storm sewers.

"We have seen marked improvements and believe it is a combination of management and training," said Beau Williams, Airport Environmental Compliance Coordinator.

October also included a Part 139 training refresher for all Department of Port Control Ground Vehicle Operators who work in our movement area as required annually by the FAA. The Department has chosen to go above the minimum requirements to increase our airport safety and situational awareness by providing classes for Department employees every six (6) months. A modified version of April's required training, October's Part 139 refresher training reinforced Air Operations Area (AOA) Safety Rules, Airport Familiarization, and Airport Communication procedures.

We look forward to a safe and successful snow season!

Watch for more stories like these that share information about DPC and our airports. The stories in this issue of *The Hopkins Approach* demonstrate how we are working together to fulfill the Department of Port Control's Mission, Vision, and Values, including our RESPECT Model and Strategic Priorities.

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