



**Commissioner Sandy Murman recognized St. Joseph Catholic School and Church and the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce for being part of the community for more than a century. On hand for the ceremony was Brenda Budd, Principal of St. Joseph Catholic School, Father Nelson, Parish Priest of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Elvin Martinez, Jr., Vice President of West Tampa Chamber, and Gil Munoz, President of West Tampa Chamber.**

#### [Assault weapons ban rejected in Hillsborough, but it may take longer to buy handguns](#)

Hillsborough County commissioners on Wednesday said no to banning the sale of assault-style weapons, but they may be willing to extend the waiting period to purchase a handgun. Commissioners also decided to review how to punish people who make threats against schools.

#### [\\$3 billion project transforming downtown Tampa](#)

Despite experiencing above-average growth and being larger and denser than its Southern peer cities—including cities like Charlotte, Austin, and Nashville—Tampa has lagged in developing its downtown. With roughly 58,000 people moving to the city of Tampa in 2016 alone, the region stands out as an example of accelerating U.S. growth.

#### [Tampa-Hillsborough in top 10 for high-paying jobs and low cost of living](#)

Choosing the ideal place to live can be hard. Most of the time, it seems like you have to pick an area that offers a low cost of living or an expensive one that's home to high-paying jobs. But in many U.S. cities, you don't have to choose. GOBankingRates crunched the numbers to find places where average annual salaries are high and the cost of living is low.

#### [Port Tampa Bay receives first banana shipment in more than 20 years](#)

More than two decades after the last bunch arrived on shore, bananas are back at Tampa's port. More than 3,900 pallets of Chiquita bananas from Ecuador arrived at the new Port Logistics Refrigerated Services warehouse. It was the first shipment of perishable products to the 135,000-square-foot refrigerated warehouse, which was built on Hookers Point specifically to attract shippers of fruit and other cargo requiring cold storage.

### **FROM THE BOARD ROOM:**

**Commissioners approved a three-year agreement** with Solar Energy Loan Fund (SELF) that will provide low- to moderate-income homeowners, including Veterans, access to favorable financing for home repairs and improvements such as sustainable improvements to reduce energy costs, hardening against storms, and remodeling.

**Hillsborough County Commissioners approved additional CSBG funding** to continue to assist low-income residents through the Social Services' empowerment programs focused on family, education, and youth development.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY**

Tuesday, March 20, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Land Use Meeting at County Center

Wednesday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Meeting at County Center

### **STAY CONNECTED**



### **WHAT'S ON THE BOCC AGENDA?**

[Click on this to see a list of BOCC Agendas](#)

