



**Commissioner Sandy Murman honored Tampa Bay Water on its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and recognizing the organization for providing sustainable drinking water to the region. On hand to accept the commendation was Matt Jordan, General Manager for Tampa Bay Water, along with board member and Commissioner Pat Kemp.**

#### **Hillsborough commissioners on board for return of ferry service**

St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman cleared another hurdle in his bid to bring back a seasonal ferry service between his city and Tampa when Hillsborough County commissioners agreed to back the project. The county has yet to finalize its 2019 budget but Commission Chairwoman Sandy Murman said she has already instructed County Administrator Mike Merrill to earmark its share of the cost of the ferry. Commissioners voted unanimously in support of that move.

#### **Commissioners approve referendum on making officers non-partisan**

The debate over whether "Rep" or "Dem" should be on the ballot alongside the name of candidates for sheriff or property appraiser is now in the hands of Hillsborough County voters. Hillsborough County commissioners voted 5-2 Wednesday to hold a referendum on making the elections for the five county constitutional officers non-partisan. If approved by a simple majority in the November general election, it would apply to the races for the offices of clerk of the court, property appraiser, tax collector, sheriff and supervisor of elections.

#### **PACE financing practices come under fire from Hillsborough Commission**

The managers of Ygrene Energy Fund, a company that finances home improvement projects in Hillsborough County, will be fired if they don't put consumer safeguards in place, county commissioners warned. "I just hope it doesn't happen again," said Hillsborough Commission Chairman Sandra Murman. "Because if it does, we're going to have to figure out a way to end this relationship."

#### **Freight trains are infrastructure that works in Tampa Bay**

Central Florida is our state's fastest-growing region. We're on track to outpace South Florida's growth 2-to-1 over the next several years. Great news for our local economy, but it necessitates a hard look at our infrastructure — the foundation on which commerce flows.

#### **Tampa Bay's job growth is second highest in the state**

The Tampa area added the second highest number of jobs among all Florida metro areas, according to the most recent numbers released by the governor's office Friday. Tampa Bay jobs jumped 31,900 over the past year. Tampa's unemployment rate is also lower than the state. At 3.3 percent, unemployment is down 0.6 percent since one year ago. The state's unemployment rate is 3.8 percent — down from 7 percent in December 2010.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COUNTY**

Friday, June 29, 8:30 a.m. – Coffee with the Commissioner at McDonald's Restaurant, 5001 US 41 North, Ruskin

Wednesday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting at County Center

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