

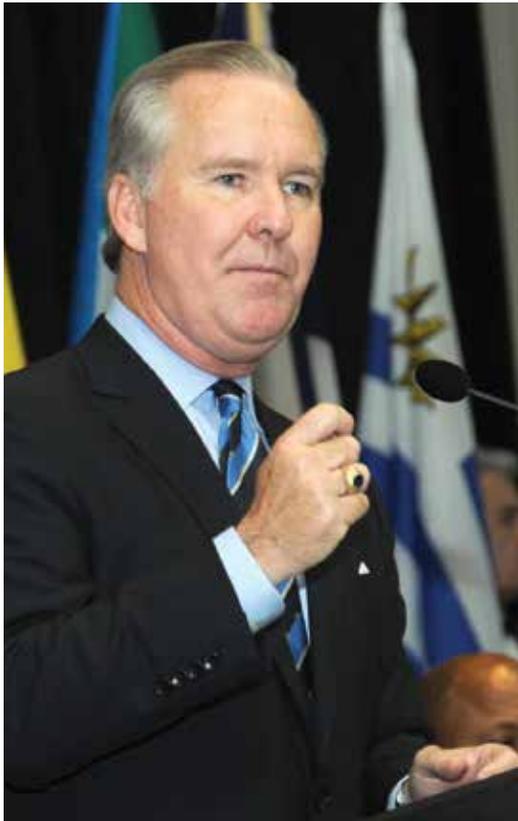
# CHANNEL DISTRICT



VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2016

## Mayor Bob Buckhorn



With the addition of nearly 1,000 new apartments, the Channel District continues to evolve into an even more lively and dynamic urban neighborhood.

Skyhouse Channelside is open, and we're looking forward to next year when the Channel Club at the corner of Twiggs and Meridian – complete with a Publix – and The Fitzgerald at Kennedy Boulevard and North 12th Street plan to open for new residents. That's 943 new apartments in three towers. Plus major property owners like Tampa Lightning owner Jeff Vinik and the Port of Tampa may have future plans for condos and apartments in this area.

With all of this exciting growth, it's vital that we address downtown's traffic and parking issues with innovative, nimble solutions.

Beginning in August, a free, on-demand shuttle service will be whisking passengers around the Channel District and the downtown area. A dozen electric vehicles, each able to hold six passengers, will be shuttling passengers from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends.

These shuttles are designed for short hops, not long rides. It's a way to solve the "last mile" issue – helping commuters reach their destination from transit centers and remote



Electric vehicles will shuttle passengers around the Channel District and the downtown area.

parking lots. Funding from the Channel District and Downtown Community Redevelopment Areas is helping to make the shuttle possible.

The bottom line: If you live in the Channel District, a shuttle can pick you up at home and drop you off anywhere downtown or on Harbour Island, then return you home later. No more hunting for a parking space!

Thank you,

Bob Buckhorn

### INSIDE

Florida Aquarium expands . . . . .	2
Zipcar debuts in Tampa . . . . .	2
Stageworks Theatre new season . . . . .	2
Music in the Park . . . . .	2
Community names new building . . . . .	3
Port and developer partnering . . . . .	3
Murals provide new destinations . . . . .	3
Coming to 12th Street . . . . .	4
Infrastructure work begins . . . . .	4

## Florida Aquarium expands



The Florida Aquarium will wrap up the final phase of a \$15 million expansion project early next year when it opens the Mosaic Center, a 7,500-square-foot event center.

While the aquarium routinely hosts catered receptions for up to 2,000 people, its current venue has been limited to only 150 guests at a time for a seated meal. The Mosaic Center will increase that capacity to 600, allowing the aquarium to book more conferences and large events and weddings. The increased revenue will help fund the aquarium's mission: education, conservation, and the rehabilitation of marine animals.

The new event center will be named Mosaic Center after the Mosaic Company, a longtime sponsor of the aquarium. The Mosaic Company has a \$2.5 million contribution towards the expansion. It is the largest gift in the aquarium's history.

The Mosaic Center is the final piece of the aquarium's "Rising Tides" expansion campaign, which kicked off in 2011 and has added 45,000 square feet of new and renovated space. That includes a hands-on education center and new guest experiences such as Stingray Beach, Horseshoe Crab Lagoon and a new water splash play area.

## Music in the Park returns in the fall

Music in the Park at Washington Street Park is taking a break during the summer, but you can join us in the fall for good tunes in the park!

Starting again in October, bring your dog to the dog park for Yappy Hour and spend the evening listening to free live music on the second Thursday of each month.

## Zipcar debuts in Tampa

The world's largest car-sharing network has moved into the Channel District.



Zipcar, which describes its service as "wheels when you want them," has been operating in Tampa since April. The company is stationing vehicles at Skyhouse at Channelside as well as the Tampa Convention Center and the Barrymore Hotel Tampa Riverwalk which is convenient for Channel District and downtown area residents.

Zipcar's vehicles are reserved by the hour, unlike traditional rental cars. Customers pay \$70 per year or \$7 per month for a membership, then pay an additional fee to rent a car. Rental rates start at \$8.25 an hour, which includes the cost of gas and insurance. Drivers can make use of the car for a predetermined period of time before returning it to its original location.

The Zipcar service plus the free downtown shuttle service launching in August could enable a number of Channel District residents to live comfortably as one-car or no-car families.

## Stageworks Theatre announces new season



Stageworks Theatre's 2016-2017 season features "Psycho Beach Party," "The Great Gatsby," "The Aliens," "Avenue Q," and "The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity." Channel District residents who purchase season passes before Aug. 15 will receive a 10

percent discount. Call (813) 374-2416 to purchase passes.

Join Stageworks each month for The Speak! Tank: Spoken Work Sundays, with a workshop at 6 p.m. and slam at 8 p.m. Upcoming dates are July 3 and Aug. 7. Admission is \$5 at the door.

See a staged reading of "Medusa Undone" by Bella Poynton on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door.

## Community names new apartment building



The new Art Deco-inspired apartment complex under construction on East Kennedy Boulevard now has a name: The Fitzgerald.

The complex is named for both F. Scott Fitzgerald, acclaimed author of *The Great Gatsby*, and President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, recognizing the complex's location on Kennedy Boulevard.

South Florida developer FCI Residential asked for the community's input and vote on possible names. The public was asked to choose between six names, each representing a person from the Art Deco era that has inspired the design of the new apartment house.

The Fitzgerald includes a two-story amenities building, an infinity edge resort-style pool with cabanas and a sundeck, and a dog park. The eight-story apartment building has 300 units with 12 different floor plans ranging from studios to three bedrooms.

Street construction is complete, and construction of a parking garage is nearly complete. An offsite preleasing office is slated to open in September in the Grand Central courtyard, with units ready for move-in January 2017. A 3D walk-through video will be available this summer prior to the opening of the leasing office.

## Port Tampa Bay and Tampa developer partnering on new storage facility

Port Tampa Bay announced recently that they are partnering with Tampa developer Richard Corbett to finance an on-dock cold storage facility at the port.

The facility will receive, label, package and distribute temperature-controlled food products, and employ 50 full-time and 200 part-time workers, according to a recent story in the Tampa Bay Times.

"I am extremely excited to partner with Port Tampa Bay on this critical project. This facility will ensure that Central Florida will be the hub for the importing and exporting of refrigerated products," Corbett said.

President and CEO of Port Tampa Bay Paul Anderson said the port is excited to partner with Corbett, who shares their vision of Port Tampa Bay as a center for the growing food distribution market.

"As in all our projects at the port, this will be a model public-private partnership that supports our strategic and master plan for our growth and continued diversification to ensure that we will continue as the largest economic engine in West Central Florida for years to come," Anderson said.

The project is expected to be operational in fall 2017.

Last summer, Port Tampa Bay unveiled its vision plan to transform the industrial waterfront into a dynamic community centerpiece. Plans feature a mix of private development and public amenities, including residential, retail, office and hotel space, a central park, marina and multipurpose cruise ship terminal, and two landmark towers.



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## Murals provide new destinations in the Channel District

The Channel District Community Alliance, Inc., in cooperation with the Grand Central at Kennedy homeowner's association, is sponsoring art in the Channel District. The first installment features the mural "Waves of Change" by artists Meaghan Farrell Scalise and Rebekah Lazaridis.

"We are a walkable community so we want to provide people with beautiful surroundings, but we also want to give people a destination to walk to," Channel District Community Alliance President Vance Arnett told 83 Degrees Media.

See "Waves of Change" at Grand Central at Kennedy, 1120 E. Kennedy Blvd.



## Coming to 12th Street

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Construction crews will soon kick off the next phase of a streetscape improvement project along 12th Street in the Channel District.

Crews will install wide, decorative sidewalks adorned with benches along 12th Street between Kennedy Boulevard and Washington Street. Trees will be planted down the length of the block.

Work on the beautification project will likely begin in January and last about six months.

Streetscape improvement projects have already been completed on two adjoining blocks of 12th Street from Washington Street down to Cumberland Avenue.

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## Did you know...? Infrastructure work begins Downtown

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Kimmins Contracting Corporation will start the first major construction work on Downtown's Waterfront District, a 40-acre urban mixed-use development project.

Strategic Property Partners, founded by Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik, has hired Kimmins Contracting Corp. for the job. Kimmins will reconfigure streets and upgrade infrastructure in preparation for the \$2 billion development project. Kimmins' work includes:

- Converting one-way Channelside Drive into a two-way street from Meridian Avenue to Jefferson Street;
- Creating a new north-south road through the development by extending Old Water Street north from Channelside Drive to Cumberland Avenue;
- Adding on-street parking, street lights, storm drains, landscaping and wide sidewalks suitable for outdoor dining.

The \$35 million infrastructure project should begin by the end of summer and will continue for two years.

## Important Phone Numbers

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### Police

District III Crime Prevention Team

Officer Jarda Bradford  
(813) 242-3859

Community Service Officer  
Kinnette Scallo  
(813) 242-3867

Non-Emergency Dispatch  
(813) 231-6130

### Fire

Information - (813) 232-6800

### Code Enforcement

(813) 274-5545

### Comments or Concerns

Rob Rosner, RLA, FRA-RA  
Urban Development Manager  
(813) 274-8812  
[Rob.Rosner@TampaGov.net](mailto:Rob.Rosner@TampaGov.net)

Economic & Urban Development Department, 306 East Jackson Street, Floor 2N, Tampa, Florida 33602

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## Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

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### Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board

Yvonne Yolie Capin, *Chairperson*

Lisa Montelione, *Vice Chairperson*

Harry Cohen

Guido Maniscalco

Charlie Miranda

Frank Reddick

Mike Suarez

### CRA Board Meeting dates:

July 21, Aug. 11, Sept. 8

**Location:** Tampa Council Chambers,  
City Hall

315 East Kennedy Boulevard

**Time:** 9:00 am

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### Community Advisory Committee

Edward Busansky, *Vice Chairperson*

Nick Buchanan

Jim Englert

John Muller

Katherine O'Donniley, *Ex-Officio*

Lane Ramsfield, *Ex-Officio*

Kevin Riley

Meaghan Scalise

*Vacant Seat*

### CAC Meeting dates:

July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7

**Location:** Port Authority Board Room,  
1101 Channelside Drive

**Time:** 5:30 pm