

November 2022



COOL SANDS

Newsletter for owners at Sea Shell

Season of THANKS!

Siesta Key was projected to be the spot for landfall of Category 4 Hurricane Ian the night before the massive storm hit September 28 and **THANKFULLY**, Sea Shell was spared from major damage as other areas in the south part of Sarasota County were not so lucky. Winds were sustained in some areas at 150 mph with gusts reaching 195 mph. Storm surge reached levels as high as 12 feet.

There were 3 deaths in Sarasota County attributed to the hurricane and property damage in the county is estimated to be more than \$100 million.

Sea Shell was without power and water for days but all restored by October 3. Our grounds were scattered with debris from storage units blown and busted apart as well as flying debris such as palm leaves, branches, etc. Fences were bent from strong winds and blowing items hitting against them and some units experienced minimal water damage from rain being blown through vents/openings. Again, **THANKFUL** the damage to our property was not worse!

Once I arrived on property October 22, I observed areas such as Punta Gorda, Charlotte and North Port that were not as fortunate as Siesta Key. Driving up to the Village and surrounding neighborhoods and then all the way to the end of Turtle Beach, downed trees and fences were the most common scenario along with large piles of debris all along the streets waiting for pick up.

As I spent the next two weeks on property and visiting local stores and restaurants, numerous conversations were held with complete strangers, local residents or tourists, and all were amazed at the recovery efforts to date and **THANKFUL** that Siesta Key did not get hit any worse. As many of us who shared conversation, we had all contributed monies or donated items to relief stations to assist the hurricane victims and sent up prayers in hopes that the recovery plan would not be as difficult. We noted the state of Florida was definitely reacting quickly but for many, the full recovery was not in the near future.

So as we enter this season of **THANKSGIVING**, think about how blessed we were as owners of Sea Shell that damage was minimal and we were spared of devastation from another round of hurricanes.

Be **THANKFUL** for the employees on staff that worked diligently to get things back in order after the storm hit Sea Shell with both water and power being off and dealing with their own home repairs from damage, as well as loss of power. Driving for miles to an area with electricity to be able to use their computers to notify upcoming guests of Sea Shell closure, responding to numerous voice messages on impact to our complex, arriving on property the morning after hurricane to assess damages and then preparing back up for the soft opening of Sea Shell.

Cheryl Hill

SIESTA KEY CRYSTAL CLASSIC INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTING



The Siesta Key Crystal Classic International Sand Sculpting Festival was back again this month, November 11-14, 2022. This is an annual event, which returned last year after the Covid pandemic. The event showcases professional sand sculptors from round the world working their magic with Siesta Key's famous quartz sand.

What a great opportunity to advertise and entice guests to rent at Sea Shell Condominiums and keep them coming back!

REMINDER!

FIRE ALARM & FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The installation of the NEW fire alarm panel is in progress, the estimated completing date is November 30, 2022. Testing will be performed periodically during the installation process. A notification was sent out to all owners and guests currently on property were notified in advance.

Fire extinguishers will be inspected and certified in every unit, as well as batteries replaced in smoke detectors, on December 6 throughout the day. A fire alarm may be sounded on/after 10:00 am. Notice of this also went out to owners and guests have been notified as well.

FIRE SAFETY

The installation of the new fire pump and jockey pump still in progress! The completion of this task is contingent to the installation of the new fire alarm panel.

As communicated to owners, the water was required to be shut off for a period of 3-4 hours by the County and twice they did not show up on the scheduled date.



FIRE PUMP

JOCKEY PUMP

Prior to the pump installation, the electrical panels needed to be replaced in order for pumps to function. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to Larry Thompson, owner of unit 508, Board Member extraordinaire and CEO of Thompson Electric who sent the manpower to perform this task!! His willingness to scope the job and coordinate materials and manpower to complete the job saved the association a ton of money.

NEW GROCER – CRESCENT BEACH MARKET

The old Crescent Beach Grocery closed their doors in April of this year when the owner retired and sold the building. This little grocery had been a convenient spot since the 1950's for locals and tourists to stop in for drinks, deli items, snacks, condiments and anything last minute they needed to complete a meal. New owners from Michigan, Sean and Tana Anderson, have taken on the task to refurbish the inside of the building to make it into an upscale market. They have gutted the inside, removed cumbersome columns that broke up the store's space, laid new tile floor, updated lighting installed and bathrooms are receiving a major upgrade and adding an employee break room. The exterior will be updated next along with the outdoor sign. The deli will remain but adding a new twist offering pre-packaged "grab and go" items. Another focal point will be made-to-order coffee, smoothies and juices. A beer cave will also be built inside! The Anderson's are going to focus on selling products from local growers, suppliers and vendors offering healthy and gluten-free options also, as their daughter has celiac disease and understand the challenges connected to that disease. As work is busily being done, the expected opening is anticipated by the end of the year. Can't wait to see the market open!



GATE CODE CHANGE QUARTERLY

As mentioned in our last Cool Sands Newsletter, the gate code is being changed quarterly in 2022.



The next gate code change will take place **January 7**.

The new code effective this date will be : **1845**

The change to quarterly has reduced the amount of people coming through our gates that are not rental guests; however, we still see folks coming from across the street and entering with gate code

For those owners not in the rental program, please notify your property management companies, housekeeping, maintenance and your incoming guests of the gate code change.

A reminder will be sent out in a timely manner each quarter of what the code is going to be changed to. Quarterly dates to expect gate code change are: April 2, July 2, October 1 and January 7.

PLEASE ONLY SHARE THE CODE WITH NECESSARY PERSONNEL!

NEW TIKI FOR CAPT CURT'S



Work began quickly across the street from us when Capt Curt's decided to build a tiki over the north side of their parking lot area to enhance the outdoor dining area. Within a week the tiki was built, thatched and open for customers! Was amazing to watch and see how quickly a tiki can be built once approval has been permitted! Of course, it is much easier when the construction is not being built on the beach.

MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN



As mentioned at our annual owners meeting, we will be having a fountain installed in the front of Sea Shell office as a memorial for our past President, Larry Leyser.

CONDO DECLARATION/BY-LAWS REWRITE



At the annual owners meeting of Sea Shell Condominiums on Monday, October 24, the vote for the Document Rewrite of our Condo articles, By Laws and Declaration was conducted. With insufficient amount of owners present or submitting limited proxies, the meeting was convened until October 27 to try and encourage all owners to submit a proxy. With same situation occurring on the 27th, the meeting was reconvened again until November 16.

At the November 16 reconvened meeting, we did reach the required number of votes and the Sea Shell Condominium Document Rewrite did pass.

All paperwork is being reviewed, processed and certified by our attorney prior to submitting for court recording.

SEA SHELL TIKI UPDATE

The variance application for the enlarged size of tiki has been submitted to the County and has passed its initial review by the commissioners. The public hearing, which is required by Sarasota County, will be held January 18, 2023. A mailing was required to be sent to all owners within 500 ft ratio of Sea Shell property notifying them of the public hearing date. If there is no opposition received by the County by this date, we will gain our approval to proceed with the building of the long awaited tiki. If there is opposition, we will be required to make a presentation at the hearing on the details of the building project.

As of today, we have been contacted by the property manager at the Crescent to go over our building plans and advised that if we did move forward with our plans they would be in disagreement and try to get permit denied as they feel the tiki would be obstructing the view of approximately 2-3 condos.

We will be prepared to make a presentation at the hearing on January 18!



Cheryl Hill
Board President
Sea Shell Condo Association
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