

March 2023 SPECIAL EDITION



# COOL SANDS

*Newsletter for owners at Sea Shell*

## ***Our new TIKI HUT has been built!***

This is a special edition of COOL SANDS to provide photos of the building of our new Tiki Hut at Sea Shell Condos and have some history documented after the long wait after Covid for this project to be complete.

Hope you enjoy it!

Cheryl Hill

President Sea Shell Condominiums

## PUBLIC HEARING COUNTY APPROVAL



A notice of a public hearing to be held on January 18, 2023 was mailed out to all residences and businesses within 500 ft of Sea Shell Condos for the approval of the construction of our 24x24 tiki hut. Two “neighbors” expressed concern which were from Crescent Breakers and the Crescent. The President of the Crescent was present the day of the hearing and spoke; however, our consultant, Dr. Weiqi had prepared an extensive presentation and the County Commissioners voted unanimously to provide approval for moving forward. We had already taken steps to get things in order for the approval and the propane tank required for the gas grills was installed the very day of approval!

## BIG DAY ARRIVES

Right after the hearing, my first call was to Big Kahuna, construction contractor for our tiki. I advised them the approval had been granted and we were eager to get on their schedule. Materials had to be ordered and delivered and then project fit into their schedule for installation with an expectation that it would take at least 6 weeks to begin. I received a phone call on Monday, February 20 from Big Kahuna saying they had an opening for the tiki build the next day and wanted to know if they could build that day. My response of “Absolutely” was given without even checking with Maria, our Property Manager, as this has been a long time coming!

At 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21, ‘Five Men and a Truck’ from Big Kahuna showed up to begin the construction!



# CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS OF NEW TIKI

There were four men and a manager all in one truck who arrived to build the tiki, thus my phrase of Five Men and a Truck.



Precise measuring took place first and then each pole had to be hand carried to the work location. The first pole was inserted after drilling over 4 ft deep.



## TIKI POLE REMNANTS



As the poles were being measured and cut to size, there were several remnants left that we requested to be saved.

Stay tuned for ideas we have to utilize the extra cypress.

To be communicated prior to Sea Shell Owners Annual Meeting.

## EARLY MORNING WORK



There was no let up as the men each had their role to accomplish, drilling holes, help placing poles and burying them in proper holes.



**Precise measures were made constantly along the way as the first pole is inspected again.**

## DETAILS TO CYPRESS POLES

Each pole is carved and then blow torched to give it the “tiki” look.





## AFTERNOON PROGRESS

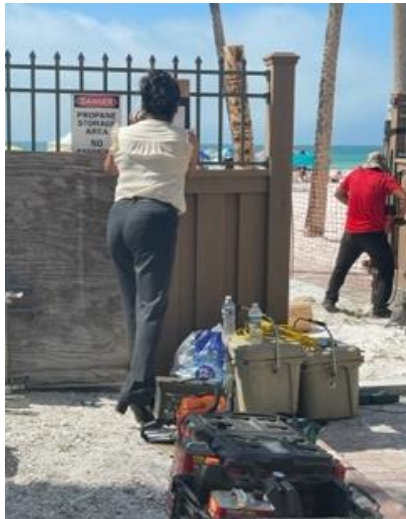
Workers climbed, lifted, hammered and scurried all day to build the tiki in a day!





## WHAT'S GOING ON?

Everyone was anxious to watch the tiki being built...



Maria wasn't watching...she was ensuring the project approval paperwork and plans were posted!

## AS THE NIGHT FALLS

Work continued on the tiki until the very last pole was cut on top of tiki at 7:15 pm. The truck was loaded and Five Men and a Truck drove the 3 hours back home after a full day of steady work .



## THATCH WORK BEGINS

Another crew from Big Kahuna arrives to begin the thatch work. It is another looong day of steady work!





## PAVING THE WAY!

The next step is prepping and laying down the pavers. Work began early morning. Our consultant, Dr. Weiqi came on property and ensured our measurements and pitch were correct. A team photo was taken (Cheryl Hill, Maria Mitchell, Dennis Palmer, Dr. Weiqi, Danny White and paver worker) to commemorate the occasion.



## KITCHEN ISLAND

A kitchen island was built by Sarasota Kitchens that will hold two gas grills and prep table. The area will have an extended counter so that guests can sit at four bar stools and watch the grilling, have a drink or watch activity on the beach. New picnic tables will be added to the tiki as well.





## FENCING

The next step of project was to fence the tiki in so that we have a separate gate access to enter. This is for preventative measures to ensure only guests use the tiki and random people from beach cannot just walk up and have a picnic under our tiki. There will be a separate gate code for the tiki access in addition to beach gate code.





I hope you enjoy this special edition of Cool Sands that shares a few photos of Sea Shell's new tiki being built day-by-day. As we still have minor steps to complete before the tiki and grills can be utilized, i.e., gas hook up, electrical work, gate lock box install, granite countertop, grills installed and picnic tables and bar stools procured, the major portion of our project is now complete. The existing area with the two charcoal grills will continue to be in use as another BBQ grill out space for our guests. The new tiki definitely adds to our property value and will provide an awesome area to relax and enjoy the view of our beautiful Siesta Key beach!



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