



## Tortuga seeks to expand services

By Cindy Lane | sun staff writer

**BRADENTON BEACH** – Anna Maria Island Resorts owner and manager David Teitelbaum will be seeking city permission this month to expand services at Tortuga Inn Beach Resort to include food, storage and laundry space and construct a chickee hut on the beach across the street.

In a letter to Tortuga and Tradewinds room owners last week, he said after working with Bradenton Beach Building Official Stephen Gilbert, it is now cleared to request approval from the city to install a takeout café and gift shop in the office area, increase its laundry and storage facility in the Gardens building and install a chickee (or porgola) on the beach that the resort owns.

According to his letter, the Bradenton Beach Planning and Zoning Board will hear the request, and if it recommends approval, the city commission will also consider it later this month. He said if all goes well, construction could begin by Oct. 1.

Teitelbaum acquired Tortuga Inn and Tradewinds in 2003 and refurbished them from beach rentals to condominium owned resort units. The Tortuga was named Catalina at that time, and it had a Cuban restaurant in the building, which was closed and converted to rooms shortly before Teitelbaum bought it. Katie and Gil Pierola owned the Catalina at the time. Katie Pierola served as mayor of Bradenton Beach in the early 1990s and was responsible for spearheading the Island's first beach renourishment project. She was also instrumental in the city getting a grant to refurbish Bridge Street into the anchor of the city's commercial district.

Teitelbaim expanded the number of rooms at Tortuga in 2006 by adding a sixth building with parking underneath and an indoor pool. He recently purchased and refurbished Sea-Side Inn Beach Resort, near the S curve on Gulf Drive in Bradenton Beach.