

## Umbrella Tree Press Release

10.5.23



The historic Umbrella Tree that has stood along the Woodmont seashore since the 19th century has been given a terminal diagnosis by several licensed arborists. The process began about 5 years ago when I was sitting on my back porch and noticed the needles were beginning to turn yellow in mid-summer. Several of us on The Board sprang into action hiring an arborist who came out and began a regiment of what looked like 6 or 8 mini hospital intravenous bottles around the tree base providing nutrients. That process continued for several years but it really didn't stop the deterioration.

The Board began discussing both short- and long-term solutions for the Umbrella Tree: 1) continue to watch the deterioration as half of the tree is needleless and a hazard/liability if a citizen is injured by fallen branches or the latter option, 2) recommendation by the arborist to replace with another pine during this optimal time of year for assimilation. After getting second and third opinions from tree specialists, we contracted Northeast Horticulture to find a mature tree as a replacement.

Something we discovered during this process is the fact that the current Umbrella Tree is not the same one we see in those 1890's black and white photos going around social media. We found out, it is most likely the second or third tree in the same spot. This species of tree has only a 25-to-30-year life expectancy and contrary to popular belief, the current tree was planted sometime in the mid 1950's which means we have gotten many more years of enjoyment from this one than expected!

As an icon to Woodmont and its historical significance weathering natural and figurative storms, the Umbrella Tree will always have a place in our hearts and memories. The countless pictures it has stood for, the marriages and proposals it witnessed, the shade (prior to deterioration) to our daily walkers during our amazing summer days and albeit, the occasional vandals, nonetheless it has stood the test of time...

Thank You Umbrella Tree.

Ed Bonessi, Jr. - Warden