



OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week of August 27, 2012 to September 2, 2012

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2012

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

WEEKLY MEETING: CONVENTION CENTER – 41st STREET-Northwest corner behind the indoor Food Court

OFFICERS' MEETING: 0730hrs

CREW CHIEF MEETING: 800hrs

SEMAPHORE TEST: 0820hrs—REQUIRED TO PASS PROBATIONARY STAGE

AREA MEETING WITH SERGEANTS: 0825hrs

CREW MEETING: 0830hrs (Turn in individual stats, get schedule, assignments, and information from Crew Chief)

GENERAL MEETING: 0845hrs

LIEUTENANTS' MEETING: Cancelled

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 55th / 135th St.

Tides: High: 1656hrs

Low: 1021hrs

Special Events: None

Wear your protective
foot covering to the
meeting!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2012

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 53rd / 133rd St.

Tides: High: 1752hrs

Low: 1124hrs

Special Events: Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs

Ocean City MARP Meeting
OCBP HQ Training Room—Dorchester St.
1830hrs

Pizza Provided!

RSVP your order to Amber White at

awhite@aquar.org

See p. 6 for more info.



Please look at p. 7 for an important
community outreach opportunity!

S.R.T. Name:	Monday 8/27/2012	Tuesday 8/28/2012	Wednesday 8/29/2012	Thursday 8/30/2012	Friday 8/31/2012	Saturday 9/1/2012	Sunday 9/2/2012	CREW
Daily Assignment								
Rescues								Totals
Preventative actions								
First Aids								



Keep your feet in the sand,
until the lifeguard's in the stand!



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2012

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 51st / 131st St.

Tides: High: 1843hrs
Low: 1222hrs

Special Events: Concerts on the Beach—*Front Page News*—2000hrs—N. Division St.
Movies on the Beach— *The Zookeeper*—Carousel Hotel—2030hrs

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 49th / 129th St.

Tides: High: 0700hrs
Low: 1314hrs

Special Events: Sunset Park Party Night—*Kevin Poole*--S. Division St.—1930hrs
Beach Weddings—90th St.—2000hrs
Movies on the Beach—*Hugo*—27th St.—Princess Royale —2030hrs

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012 —Pay Day

Officer-in-Charge: Lt. Mike Stone

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 47th / 127th St.

Tides: High: 0747hrs
Low: 1402hrs

Special Events: Labor Day Weekend Art & Craft Festival—Convention Center—1000hs to 1700hrs
Beach Weddings—47th St.—1830hrs

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

OCBP 2013 Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation #2: Dorchester St. & Boardwalk—1000hrs

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 45th / 125th St.

Tides: High: 0831hrs
Low: 1446hrs

Special Events: Labor Day Weekend Art & Craft Festival—Convention Center—1000hs to 1700hrs
Beach Weddings—26th St.—0630hrs & 13th St.—1300hrs

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

OCBPSRA: None

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 43rd / 123rd St.

Tides: High: 0914hrs
Low: 1529hrs

Special Events: Labor Day Weekend Art & Craft Festival—Convention Center—1000hs to 1700hrs
Beach Weddings—101st St.—1600hrs
Beach Lights Spectacular—N. Division St.—2130hrs, 2200hrs, & 2230hrs

OCBP Weekly Bulletin 8/27/12-9/3/12

Equipment Turn in Procedure for Full Time Changing to Part-Time

If you live more than 30 miles away, you are required to turn in all equipment once you end your full-time position (available 7 days a week). If you are working part-time after this time, you will pick up equipment before you are scheduled for duty.

The Exiting Process

Reminder!

Make sure that you have completed and turned in all necessary paperwork, equipment, and/or provided the required official documentation before leaving.

Bring the following to Headquarters:

- Notification of Last Day Agreement
- Official Documentation of your Next Commitment
- All Uniforms and Equipment
- Fall Employment Agreement

Testing staff needs to report to HQ at 0900hrs!

Recruiting Opportunities

Our 2nd Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation for next season will take place on Saturday, Sept. 1st. Remember to mention this testing opportunity to potential candidates that you know or meet on the beach. Registration begins at 1000hrs and testing begins at 1100hrs on the beach at Dorchester St.

Testing staff needs to report to HQ at 0900hs!



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2012—Labor Day!

WEEKLY MEETING: CONVENTION CENTER – 41ST STREET-Northwest corner behind the indoor Food Court
OFFICERS' MEETING: 0730hrs
CREW CHIEF MEETING: 800hrs
SEMAPHORE TEST: 0820hrs—REQUIRED TO PASS PROBATIONARY STAGE—Last test for 2012!
AREA MEETING WITH SERGEANTS: 0825hrs
CREW MEETING: 0830hrs (Turn in individual stats, get schedule, assignments, and information from Crew Chief)
GENERAL MEETING: 0845hrs
LIEUTENANTS' MEETING: 0945hrs

OCBPSRA: None
Opportunity to Compete: None
Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.
Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 41st / 121st St.
Tides: High: 0956hrs
 Low: 1612hrs
Special Events: Beach Fireworks—N. Division St.—2230hrs



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Officer in Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs
FALL PATROL MEETING—HQ Training Room—0830hrs
OCBPSRA: None
Opportunity to Compete: None
Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.
Surfing Beaches: Inlet / 39th / 119th St.
Tides: High: 1037hrs
 Low: 1656hrs

Reminder
 If you are not returning to work after Labor Day, all equipment must be returned after work Monday, or it will be deducted from your last paycheck. Once deducted, you will have to wait for reimbursement, which may take an additional four weeks.

UPCOMING 2012 BEACH PATROL EVENTS

Sept. 1	OCBP Pre-Employment Physical Skills Evaluation
Sept. 4	Fall Patrol Meeting-Training Room—0830hrs
Sept. 23	Last Day of 2012 Season
Sept. 24	First Day of Extended Patrol
May 27	Memorial Day—1 st Day of 2013 Summer Season

Upcoming Town of Ocean City Special Events

Labor Day Weekend Art & Craft Festival	Aug. 31-Sept. 2	Convention Center	1000hrs to 1700hrs
9/11 Parade of Brothers	Sept. 11	27 th St. Boards to N. Division	0830hrs to 1300hrs
OC Bike Fest	Sept. 13-16	Inlet Lot	1000hrs to 1900hrs
Sunfest	Sept. 20-23	Inlet Lot	1000hrs to 2200hrs
Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show	Sept. 28-30	Convention Center	1000hrs to 1800hrs
Winefest	Sept. 28-30	Inlet Lot	1100hrs to 1900hrs
Harbor Day at the Docks	Oct. 6	West OC Harbor	1000hrs to 1600hrs
Endless Summer Cruisin'	Oct. 4-7	Inlet	1000hrs to 1600hrs
Oktoberfest	Oct. 20	N. Division St.	1100hrs to 2300hrs
Making Strides against Breast Cancer 10/5k	Oct. 20	Inlet	Reg. @ 0730hrs

<u>Stats.</u>	<u>Week 13</u> 8/13/12 to 8/19/12	<u>Week 13</u> Year-To- Date 2012	<u>Week 13</u> 8/15/11 to 8/21/11	<u>Week 13</u> Year-To- Date 2011	<u>Week 13</u> 8/16/10 to 8/22/10	<u>Week 13</u> Year-To- Date 2010
Action						
Preventions	2467	53411	3435	76630	4569	59200
Rescues	24	2306	31	1420	106	2305
Minor First Aid	104	1241	190	1881	142	1575
Ambulance Calls	16	187	25	281	14	195
Police Calls	6	110	6	67	1	60
USCG/MDNRP	1	6	0	8	0	10
Lost/Found Persons	50	467	38	507	24	519
N. Surf Beach Population	33	472	2	517	5	1175
S. Surf Beach Population	42	3435	178	2310	130	3100
Inlet Surf Beach Population	26	933	17	725	NA	1895
Beach Wheelchair Usage	38	389	44	400	32	390

DO NOT FORGET THE BEACH PATROL WHEN YOU MAKE CHANGES

If you make any changes in the contact information that you have on file with us, it is your responsibility to let us know. If this coming season is as we predict, we will not be allowing personnel to return who have missed deadlines. Having mail returned or lost in forwarding may cause you to miss an important deadline.

E-mail – With free accounts and school accounts that are often changed you need to let us know immediately. We use e-mail to keep everyone informed of events and activities as well as confirming information and to get out quick updates.

Winter address – This is used to send U.S. mail such as newsletters, incentive checks, invitations to return, and other paperwork.

Permanent address – This address is not used by the Beach Patrol but is used by the Town of Ocean City to send tax information (W-2).

OCBP Surf Rescue Association – Price List

- Whistles \$5.00
- Lanyards \$6.00
- Buoy Key Chains \$4.00
- Car window sticker Ocean City Beach Patrol \$2.00
- Grey or White Ringer T-Shirts \$10.00
- Sweatshirts Adult \$30.00
- Child \$25.00
- Long-sleeved T-shirts \$15.00
- Tie-Dyed T-shirts \$15.00
- Hats – 1 for \$6.00 or 2 for \$10.00
- Swim Caps \$5.00
- OCBP Big White Towels \$15.00
- BP Bumper Stickers 3:00 / \$2 for 5.00
- New OCBP Oval Sticker \$2.00 / 3 for \$5.00
- NEW! Mesh Tank Tops-\$20.00**



Request for Recommendations

Between seasons, I am often asked to complete references and recommendations. If you need me to provide something like this for you, I ask that you make the request in writing. In that request you should give me any information that will help me in giving you the best possible recommendation. I will need to know whom it goes to and if there is a particular format or form that is required. It will also be helpful to remind me of some of the Beach Patrol activities that you have been involved in, such as JBP, Camps, special duties, etc. I also will need a fair amount of lead-time since personnel files are secured in Ocean City while I am in La Plata. You may send your request by e-mail or if you are required to mail to a physical address, you may use:

Captain Butch Arbin
134 West Quail Lane
La Plata, Maryland 20646

Employee Evaluations – Not the Entire Picture

Although having satisfactory evaluations is very important, they are only one aspect of each person’s summative performance rating. Employee commendations, incidents, responsibility for equipment, amount of time worked, amount of time taken off, fulfilling work agreement, and last day worked are all considered by the review panel. Only once a full and complete assessment is made will a final recommendation be made to the Captain, regarding an employee’s status for the next season.

Condo For Rent - YEAR ROUND

OC Condo Oceanside 128th and Assawoman
Furnished 2BDRM , 2 Baths
1000 square feet Second floor,
2 Parking Spaces (one inside)
\$1000 a month plus utilities and security deposit
Call 301-715-5154



Important Notice

Please note the dates and times of the remaining weekly meetings and adjust your calendar accordingly.

Monday, August 27
Convention Center—0800hrs

Monday, September 3 (Labor Day)
Convention Center—0800hrs

Tuesday, September 4 (Start of Fall Patrol)
HQ Training Room—0830hrs

Beginning on Sunday, September 9, the weekly meetings will move to City Hall on Sundays.

Sunday, September 9
City Hall—0830hrs

Sunday, September 16
City Hall—0830hrs

Sunday, September 23
City Hall—0830hrs

OCBP Question-of-the-Week for The Worcester County Times

This Week's Question: I noticed that the lifeguards clear the water and then walk backwards when leaving the beach for the night. Why do they do this?

Every Surf Rescue Technician (SRT/lifeguard) on the Ocean City Beach Patrol clears the water in front of their stand every evening between 5:20 and 5:30 p.m. All SRTs covering ten miles of beach, simultaneously will blow their whistles and point toward the west with their semaphore flags as an indication that the beach patrol is no longer on duty, prior to climbing down from the lifeguard tower for the evening. As the SRTs are calling everyone out of the water, many beach patrons will approach the stand and ask, "Why are you clearing the water?" Which gives the SRT the opportunity to explain the dangers of swimming when the beach patrol is not on duty.

Our beach patrol has always made it a priority to let swimmers know when we were off duty. This includes published hours and a community supported education campaign. This procedure of clearing the ocean is to indicate to the bathers, still in the ocean, that the lifeguards are about to leave and should stop all water related activities for the day, in hopes that it will reduce the chance of after-hours drownings.

Surely before and after-duty drownings can occur on any beach. Like all beach patrols, we do everything we can to reduce these tragic occurrences. Clearly, public education is the key. We have found that both our public education efforts and the practice of calling all swimmers ashore before we get off duty has greatly reduced not only the number of off duty rescues (911 calls) but off duty drownings as well. By clearing the water prior to our departure, any swimmers who do re-enter the ocean know there is no longer a guard watching them. Clearing the water at the end of our shift may seem routine, but we must never take the goal of this policy lightly and in fact, Ocean City ordinance makes it illegal to remain in the ocean when a surf rescue technician has directed someone to leave the water. Before we started clearing the water of swimmers prior to going off duty at 5:30, it is very possible that a swimmer could have entered the water while guards were on duty, only to turn around and find the stands empty and pulled back for the night. In most cases this would not be a problem. However, if the swimmer were to become caught in a rip current, the situation could quickly take a tragic turn, despite their intentions to swim only under the watchful eyes of the beach patrol. In contrast, by pulling everyone out of the ocean before we leave the beach, we know that those who enter the water during unguarded hours are taking that risk knowingly. It is critical that we continue our efforts to educate the public, warning them of the dangers of swimming on unguarded beaches, and that we do whatever it takes to make sure people leave the ocean before we cross over the dune, leaving our beaches for the night.

As for walking backwards the SRTs are trained during Surf Rescue Academy to never turn their backs to the ocean and be aware of everything going on in their water. During this academy (which is similar to a military boot camp) all rookies are taught the necessary skills, techniques, procedures and protocols necessary to become a certified Surf Rescue Technician. The academy instructors, like drill sergeants, are constantly emphasizing and reminding the rookies of the critical importance to never turn their backs to the ocean. Returning SRTs receive the same treatment during their annual re-certification. Therefore, when you see a lifeguard walking backwards it is because they have chosen to continue what was emphasized in Surf Rescue Academy although walking backwards off the beach is not required at the end of their shift. Your SRT has probably continued this practice as a result of their pride and professionalism for their job. As you can see, the Ocean City Beach Patrol and the individual SRTs take the responsibility of guarding the beaches of Ocean City very seriously. We want you to have a safe and enjoyable stay at the beach and remember to "Keep your feet in the sand until the Lifeguard's in the stand!"

**SRT of the Week
Crew Chief Alex Desy**

Crew Chief Alex Desy has been with the OCBP for 10 years. He is in charge of Crew 5, which spans the beaches from 18th to 25th St. He participates in USLA competitions and is a member of the OCBP floor hockey team. In his free time he likes to surf and bike. Alex is a native Canadian and teaches physical education for the Commission Scolaire de Sherbrooke in the off-season. Alex's passion for the lifesaving world inspired him to start a company called Surf Rescue (www.surfrescue.ca), which sends Canadian lifeguards for training in the waters of Costa Rica every winter. Alex is also very involved in the Canadian lifesaving society (the equivalent of the USLA), training pool and waterfront lifeguards.

The lifeguard's of the Ocean City Beach Patrol are glad to answer any of your beach and water safety questions.



2012-2013 Off-Season Contact Information

The following numbers and addresses will ensure that you have all available means to communicate with the OCBP. Keep this page available for future reference.

Ocean City Beach Patrol	Captain Butch Arbin
P.O. Box 158	134 Quail Lane
Ocean City, MD 21843	La Plata, MD 20646
410-289-7556	240-349-2834
Rec. & Parks: 410-250-0125	barbin@oceancitymd.gov.com
	barbin@ococean.com

Lt. Skip Lee	slee@oceancitymd.gov	ocbp55@comcast.net
Lt. Mike Stone:	mstone@oceancitymd.gov	mystone13@hotmail.com
Lt. Ward Kovacs:	wkovacs@oceancitymd.gov	
Sgt. Ryan Cowder	rcowder@oceancitymd.gov	ryancowder@hotmail.com
Sgt. Tim Uebel:	tuebel@oceancitymd.gov	timtubal@gmail.com
Sgt. Ed Fisher:	efisher@oceancitymd.gov	Edward_Fisher@fc.mcps.k12.md.us
Sgt. Rick Cawthern:	rcawthern@oceancitymd.gov	surfrac@comcast.com
Sgt. James McVey	jmcvey@oceancitymd.gov	vwgti8181@yahoo.com
Sgt. Brent Weingard:	bweingard@oceancitymd.gov	hairear@aol.com
Sgt. Jamie Falcon	jfalcon@oceancitymd.gov	jfalcon465@yahoo.com
Sgt. Mark Muller	mmuller@oceancitymd.gov	mwmuller@gmail.com
Sgt. Colby Kauffman:	ckauffman@oceancitymd.gov	colbykauffman@yahoo.com
Sgt. Steve Fowler	sfowler@oceancitymd.gov	sfowler85@gmail.com
Sgt. Jeff Brabitz	jbrabitz@oceancitymd.gov	brabitzj@yahoo.com
Sgt. Ben Davis	bdavis@oceancitymd.gov	
Sgt. Mat Postell	mpostell@oceancitymd.gov	gpostell@aacps.org
Sgt. Jason Konyar	jkonyar@oceancitymd.gov	jkonyar32@yahoo.com
Debi Tyler	dtyler@oceancitymd.gov	debioebp@aol.com
Stella Malone	smalone@oceancitymd.gov	bystarlight@verizon.net
Kristin Joson	kjoson@oceancitymd.gov	kjoson@ccboe.com

OBBP DIVE TEAM

Tentative Winter Schedule

October 13, 14	Lake Rawlings, VA	Checkout Dives-Open Water, Adv., Rescue
October...	Eastern Bay	Oyster Dive
November 3	OCBP HQ	MARP Training (first timers)
January...	Marathon, FL	5 Days; Maybe over New Year's
TBD	National Aquarium	TBD
April, 2013	Calvert Cliffs	Fossil Dive
May 3-6	Fort Lauderdale	Air Show, Three Dives

SERGEANT FALCON SENT AN EMAIL TO THE DIVE TEAM LIST ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 18. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE IT AND YOU WANT TO BE ON THAT LIST, YOU MUST SEND HIM AN EMAIL:

jfalcon465@yahoo.com or falcon@umbc.edu.

Ocean City MARP Meeting

When: Monday, August 27

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Ocean City Beach Patrol Headquarters (109 Dorchester St, Ocean City, MD 21842)

Agenda Items: Our Media Relations Coordinator, Kate Hendrickson, will be joining us to discuss tips on talking to the public, social media updates, and brief media training. We'll also discuss new updates for the on-going seal UME, new Infectious Disease Exposure Control Plan, and a new seal outreach grant that we just received, as well as an update on a potential radio communication solution between Baltimore/OC for events. Pizza will be provided for dinner, so please RSVP with Amber White at awhite@aquia.org so we can plan dinner accordingly. Please make an attempt to join in person, as an online meeting option will not be available for this meeting.

Upcoming Outreach

1. MD Coast Day at Assateague State Park on Saturday, September 15. Event will be outdoors and rain or shine. I believe we may have enough volunteers signed up for this event already, but email Amber if you're interested.
2. DE Coast Day at University of DE (Lewes) on Sunday, October 7. Event will be outdoors and rain or shine. Email Amber if you're available to help with this event.
3. OC Autumn Home and Condo Show at the OC Convention Center from Friday, October 12 to Sunday, October 14. We'll need lots of help for this event. Event will be indoors and we'll be working with MD Coastal Bays Program.
4. Scout Day at the National Aquarium (Baltimore) on Saturday, November 10. This date had yet to be confirmed by event coordinators at the Aquarium. I will keep you posted as I know more, but I have started a list of volunteers. Event is indoors and lunch is provided.
5. Baltimore Boat Show at the Baltimore Convention Center from Thursday, February 28 to Sunday, March 3, 2013. Confirmation of this event is pending, but we'll start to compile a list of available volunteers for each date. Event is indoors.

Due to the recent award of an outreach grant, we will be increasing our participation in outreach events over the next two years in the DE/MD/VA areas. More information will be provided at the upcoming meetings.

Please read for an important community outreach opportunity!

Hi, Mr. Arbin:

My name is Crystal Leedy and I am the Community Programs Coordinator at the National MS Society – Maryland Chapter. The weekend of October 26 – 28th we are holding a program called Discovery Weekend at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City, MD. This program allows families that are affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS) to come out for a fun and relaxing weekend, meet other in similar situations, attend workshops and participate in activities.

The hotel is allowing us to have use of the pool in the morning for the children and teens as an activity option while their parents/family members are in the morning workshops. Unfortunately, they do not have a lifeguard on duty.

I am contacting you in hopes that you may be able to refer me to someone that is a certified lifeguard that may be willing to donate their time on Saturday, October 27th in the morning from approx. 9am – 12:30pm. In return, we would like to offer them breakfast (8-9am) and lunch (12:30-1:30pm) on Saturday.

I look forward to hearing from you!
Thank you!

Crystal Leedy
Community Programs Coordinator
National MS Society - Maryland Chapter

2219 York Road, Suite 302
Timonium, MD 21093
Phone (443) 641-1224
Fax (443) 641-1201

From: Steve
Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 11:11 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: 46 street

Hi I am sorry to write this note to you as I have been down to OC for over 15 years now and the beaches and patrol have been fantastic. However this week I have been pretty surprised to see that the taller of the two lifeguards on 46th today was actually sleeping on the stand today. I actually could see his eyes closed. He was also away from the stand several times during the day. This afternoon there was a slight emergency in the water and there were three people running down to the water to help a child and lady struggling before the guards saw the incident.

I typically would blow this off but I wasn't the only family on the beach noticing this. It's a real concern. Thanks for your attention! Jane
Sent from my iPad

On Aug 23, 2012, at 12:28 PM, Butch Arbin BArbin@oceancitymd.gov wrote:
I have researched this incident and wonder if it occurred in Ocean City, Maryland where I head the Patrol. The guards assigned closest to the location you indicated were both females yesterday. Also Ocean City Maryland only sits one guard per stand.

From: Jane
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 4:24 PM
To: Butch Arbin
Subject: Re: 46 street

You are absolutely right I am sorry this occurred in NJ thanks
Sent from my iPad

A letter from a Dad

It is hard to believe that the summer is coming to an end.... As I have told you on several occasions, My son's decision to join the OCBP was one of the best things that he has done to date in his young life. I have witnessed him grow up right in front of my eyes. He LOVES working with you and he has had one outstanding rookie year. He is passionate about his work and he is already talking about getting additional certifications that he can use in future years. As you can tell, I am VERY proud of him. The things that he has experienced this year were not only real life, but required real skill and training. In many ways, I feel a part of his crew as I hear all the stories and I have grown to have great respect and admiration for anyone who is an employee of OCBP. So, once again, thanks for all that you have done for my son. He has blossomed and thrived in ways that I never imagined.

Aug. 18, 2012

Mike + other lifeguards,
Thanks for doing a great job these past 2 weeks. I know your job is not easy & often you aren't respected and you should be. Hope to see you here next year.

The Sertomas

(Sorry about this paper. It's all I have.)

hand, you swim sideways to get out of a rip. I nodded and tried to say I knew that but had no more energy left to do it. Cory asked him if he had me and then he helped take the others in. Cory and another lifeguard came back for me. I don't know who he was, but I am very thankful that he came to help as well. He stayed with me until Cory came back. I have to think he was an off duty guard, as he was very calm and my family said he had been way out swimming. If you know him Cory, please express my gratitude.

My family didn't realize I was in trouble, in fact my brother-in-law said he thought I was out there keeping the others calm, not realizing I was in trouble myself. I have always wondered when I would hear that an experienced swimmer drowned, how? Well I now know.

I don't want to be overly dramatic, but I do know that without those two men helping me, I wouldn't have made it back to shore.

My kids call me "Flipper" when we are around water, well after hearing what happened, they grounded me to "Sit and watch the waves from shore". Seriously though, Cory, we watched you at work- you are very conscientious and take your job seriously, you are watching and for that I will be eternally gratefull

Thank You seems so very inadequate for someone who literally saved your life. But Thank You!

My whole family learned from this, we will never swim without a lifeguard again.

Sincerely,

Sharon Price

My name is Sharon Price. I have been married for 32 years, am the mother of 4 adult daughters, grandmother of 9, and ~~2~~ on the way! I have been employed for 19 years with the Pennsylvania, State Department of Corrections. Several years ago I survived a major episode of Pulmonary Embolism. (Several blood clots hit my heart and lungs). We still do not know why. However, few people survive. The clots traveled as far as they could go in my lungs, beyond where they stop, that part of the lung dies. As I stated, I had several. I was left with the permanent condition of shortness of breath, tiring quickly and having to take Coumadin, a blood thinner. I am not complaining, believe me.☺. Just explaining!

Having taken most vacations at the Beach from the time I was a little girl, I love playing in the waves, and thought I knew what I was doing and what to look for to stay safe! This year, July 14 thru 21st, my sister, brother-in-law, their two daughters, my husband, a granddaughter and myself, chose Ocean City instead of the Outer Banks, where we have gone for the past several years. Last year in fact, we went to the OBX "4 x 4" area in, Carova, accessible only by 4 wheel drive. There are no lifeguards and very few visitors. I can't remember seeing lifeguards anywhere we have gone in the OBX. We stayed at "Sea Watch" this year in Ocean City.

The reason I am writing is.....

To let you that I will be forever grateful to "our" Lifeguard, surf specialist- Cory. (I don't know if that's the spelling and I have no idea what his last name is), however he covered the area in front of Sea Watch for most of our stay. He was very professional, however more important- approachable. On this particular day, Cory had called everyone to his station and explained that they had been very busy due to rip currents. He took the time to explain what they were, and what to do if caught in one. I had never had a lifeguard talk to the Beach goers and explain the danger. We all listened and went back to doing whatever we were doing. My brother- in- law, his 13 year old daughter, my 15 year old granddaughter and I had been playing in the waves; I went back to shore to relax. After a while I told my sister and husband that I was going back out to join them because they were having so much fun out there. I spotted a rip current and was going to tell them to move over, I dove thru a wave to reach them and my feet never touched again. I literally went sailing by them, helpless to stop. I was caught in the rip. I stayed calm, though, I think there was a little screaming going on in my head! It happened so fast, my brother in law couldn't even grab me. I tried to swim sideways, I felt like I wasn't getting anywhere, then I got smacked with a wave, tried to ride it in but that didn't work. I looked around and saw I wasn't alone way out there, there were at least 2 other people who had been pulled out too. I looked to the shore and tried to swim sideways again and realized that I had no more strength and was struggling to breath. I looked towards Cory, put my arm up and prayed he'd get there in time. I saw him jump down and then someone swam to me and said take my