

Ocean City Beach Patrol provides fall coverage

While many neighborhood pools close immediately following the Labor Day weekend, the Ocean City Beach Patrol continues placing lifeguards on all 10 miles of Ocean City beach until the Sunday of Sunfest weekend (Sept. 26 this year). Although OCBP will have fewer stands on the beach, they still remain on duty from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. every day.

To aide your lifeguard or surf rescue technician, the Beach Patrol suggests taking an extra precaution by walking the short distance to swim in the vicinity of a guard stand. Never underestimate the power of the ocean, and keep yourself and your loved ones safe by checking with the SRT on duty about daily surf conditions. Being aware of the dangers that could occur in the ocean is the first step to accident prevention. SRTs are more than happy to answer any questions that beach-goers may have.

The Beach Patrol officially ends the traditional guarding of the beach at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 26. At that time it is important for everyone to realize the Beach Patrol is off duty and they should not par-

ticipate in water-related activities until the Beach Patrol is back on duty the following Memorial Day weekend. A warm, sunny day may still entice people to venture into the ocean. Please heed the OCBP's warnings. The same hazards that exist in the middle of summer are still present and could possibly be more treacherous due to tropical storm activity.

During this time of the year when the stands are pulled off the beach, the Beach Patrol will still maintain a presence for a few weeks with water rescue patrols. These patrols are mobile units that consist of one SRT (rider) acting as the primary rescue swimmer while the other SRT (driver) maintains radio communication and back-up during an emergency. The rationale behind this type of deployment is that the Beach Patrol is both trained and equipped to perform surf rescues and other water-related responses. Having these units already on the beach and mobile effectively reduces the response time from original call to victim contact and will hopefully result in a successful intervention. It is important, however, that people not depend on these



Mobile rescue units patrol the beach in the fall following Sunfest weekend.

mobile rescue units as if they are lifeguards protecting their loved ones.

OCBP strongly encourages beach patrons to restrict any water-related activities

to times when Beach Patrol personnel are on duty. Never swim alone, always stay within the limits of ability and never rely on a flotation device.

Plumbing fixtures... and how Ocean City charges for them

A simple explanation for a plumbing fixture is anything with a drain.

In a residence, a kitchen, bar, laundry or bathroom sink is a fixture. The dishwasher and garbage disposal are also counted as fixtures, since they add to the waste that the wastewater treatment must take care of. Two sinks in a bathroom would be counted as two fixtures.

A typical home has 10 fixtures, i.e., kitchen sink, garbage disposal, dishwasher, two bathroom sinks, two tub/showers, two toilets and a clothes washer. The fixture count should be the same for both the water (WF) and wastewater charges (WW) on the bill. An outdoor, cold-water, rinse-off shower with no drain, or the hose bibs are not charged as fixtures (no drain involved).

Condominium associations are typically charging condo owners for water usage based on meter readings. If the condominium has a pool or some other type of area common to all, fixtures in that area are charged to the association. Typically, a condo with a pool could be charged for

the pool and for the rinse-off shower, drinking fountain and mop sink required by the health department, and any restrooms that may be included in the common area.

Fixture charges for commercial properties are figured differently from those in residential/domestic properties. The reasoning is that properties used commercially or by the public have more usage than a typical residential property. Public restrooms are a good example. A toilet in a public restroom is charged as six fixtures. Urinals are charged as four fixtures. Public washing machines are charged as five fixtures. These numbers were originally based on a drainage fixture unit chart in the Maryland plumbing code.

Fixture counts are established by the plumbing final inspection that is done when the building is completed. A plumbing inspection report is written after the inspection, and filed for accounting purposes. If plumbing work is done without a plumbing permit, no inspection report is filed on that work and any changes in the fixture count will

not be reflected in the bill. This would include removal of any fixtures. (Any discrepancy in the fixture count can be resolved by a re-inspection of the property at any time.)

The fixture charges on your bill (WF and WW) cover the capital costs of the treatment plants, the distribution and collection systems supporting those plants, and the operating costs of the wastewater plant.

The other charge on the bill (WA) is for water usage — the actual water being used. This is calculated from reading the water meter. This covers the operating costs for producing, treating and distributing the drinking water.

The final charge on the bill is called the Bay Restoration Fund fee (RS or RC). This goes directly to the State of Maryland for funding new processes for the treatment plants to remedy some of the pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

For questions about your bill, call the Finance Department at 410-289-8833. For questions about fixtures, call the Plumbing Department at 410-524-6763.

Ocean City recognized by National Weather Service



Ocean City Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald, Bill Sammler of the National Weather Service, and Buzzy Bayles, Emergency Services, appear before the Mayor and Council.

The Town of Ocean City was recently recognized by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service as a "Maryland StormReady" community.

Bill Sammler of the National Weather Service officially presented the StormReady designation to the Mayor and Council during their June 1 work session.

Being recognized as "StormReady" means the town provides its citizens and visitors with the best possible emergency management and preparedness operation.

"Your ability to monitor weather conditions and receive NWS watches and warnings is impressive, and your ability to disseminate critical weather and non-weather related warning information through multiple channels shows Ocean City's dedication to public safety," said Anthony Siebers, Meteorologist-In-Charge at NWS's Wakefield, VA office, in a letter notifying town officials of the recognition.