



OCEAN CITY BEACH PATROL

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Week of September 11, 2011 to September 17, 2011

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

GENERAL MEETING: City Hall Council Chambers—3rd St —1st Floor—0830hrs

Parking is available in the City Hall lot; enter through rear of the building.

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 48th /128th St.

Tides: High: 0721hrs and 1944hrs
Low: 0128hrs and 1335hrs

Special Events: ESA MD States Surfing Championship—Inlet or 48th—0700hrs
MD 3 Red Knights Parade of Brothers and 9/11 Memorial—27th to N. Division—0830hrs to 1300hrs

Important Notice

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

Sunday, September 11
City Hall—0830hrs

Sunday, September 18
City Hall—0830hrs

Sunday, September 25
City Hall—0830hrs



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Officer in Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 46th /126th

Tides: High: 0759hrs and 2021hrs
Low: 0201hrs and 1415hrs

Special Events: Beach Wedding—30thSt.—1830hrs

Winter Mailings

Newsletters and all return-to-work information and notifications for the 2012 season will be sent to the winter address that you provided. Updates and/or adjustments should be made through the office--either in person or by e-mail.

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. Following through with what you told us is critical and will affect your ability to return. 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.

All letters will be sent out by April 1 indicating your final evaluation and status for re-employment.

If you need to know your status before this time, you can contact HQ after November 1.

S.R.T. Name:	Monday 9/12/2011	Tuesday 9/13/2011	Wednesday 9/14/2011	Thursday 9/15/2011	Friday 9/16/2011	Saturday 9/17/2011	Sunday 9/18/2011	CREW
Daily Assignment								
Rescues								Totals
Preventative actions								
First Aids								

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Officer-in-Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 44th /124th

Tides: High: 0838hrs and 2058hrs

Low: 0233hrs and 1453hrs

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

Officer-in-Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 42nd /122nd

Tides: High: 0916hrs and 2135hrs

Low: 0306hrs and 1531hrs

Special Events: OC University begins fall semester

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Officer-in-Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: 40th /120th

Tides: High: 0955hrs and 2213hrs

Low: 0340hrs and 1611hrs

Special Events: OC Bike Fest—Inlet Lot—1100hrs to 1900hrs

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011—Pay Day

Officer-in-Charge: Lieutenant Ward Kovacs

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts

Surfing Beaches: Ordinance out of effect Sept. 15th until 2012

Tides: High: 1035hrs and 2251hrs

Low: 0416hrs and 1652hrs

Special Events: Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show—Convention Center—1200hrs to 1900hrs

OC Bike Fest—Inlet Lot—1000hrs to 1900hrs

Beach Wedding—145th St.—1500hrs

Guidelines for Modified Surfing

Note: The surfing ordinance is in effect until Sept. 15th each year.

- Surfers must still wear a leash.
- Swimmers **always** have the right of way.
- Surfers must remain no less than 50 yds. from the nearest swimmer or non-surfer.
- Surfers should be moved to the area between the stands.
- If there are too many swimmers, then the surfers must relocate or stop surfing altogether.
- The use of skimboards and other watercraft (kite surfers, windsurfers, kayaks, etc. is still prohibited
- If a surfer injures another person, he/she is responsible, and we must ID the surfer, involving the police if necessary.



Follow the Beach Patrol on Facebook

Go to www.ococean.com/ocbp

Click on



See daily updates, safety tips, and photos.

Follow the OCBP on Twitter!

If you send a text message saying "Follow OCBP_HQ" to 40404, the tweets will appear as text messages on your cell phone. Tides & surf beaches go out prior to 1000hrs daily. You can also tell beach patrons. Even if they don't really use Twitter, they can still get the messages on their cell (TXT rates apply).



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



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Swim Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Ordinance out of effect Sept. 15th until 2012

Tides: High: 1116hrs and 2331hrs
Low: 0454hrs and 1737hrs

Special Events: Beach Wedding—32nd St.—0900hrs

Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show—Convention Center—1000hrs to 1800hrs

OC Bike Fest—Inlet Lot—1000hrs to 1900hrs

2011 W-2 Forms

The Town of Ocean City will send your W-2 form to the permanent address on record for you. This is the address that is printed on your paycheck. W-2's will be sent out by January 31, 2012. If you need to make any changes and/or adjustments, you must fill out a change of address form and submit it to the City Hall Human Resources department by January 1, 2012.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

GENERAL MEETING: City Hall Council Chambers —3rd St. —1st Floor

0830hrs--Parking is available in the City Hall lot; enter through rear of the building.

OCBPSRA: Will resume in June 2012

Opportunity to Compete: None

Workout: Run Day— Crew Chief determines specific workouts.

Surfing Beaches: Ordinance out of effect Sept. 15th until 2012

Tides: High: 1200hrs
Low: 0535hrs and 1827hrs

Special Events: Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show—Convention Center—1100hrs to 1700hrs

OC Bike Fest—Inlet Lot—1100hrs to 1700hrs

UPCOMING 2011 BEACH PATROL EVENTS

Sept. 18	MSP Helicopter Training with USCG and OCFD/EMS,
Sept. 25	Last Day of 2011 Season
Sept. 26	First Day of Extended Patrol
October	Dive Team—Eastern Bay
TBD	National Aquarium Fish Feeding Dive—Baltimore
April 21-22	Two-Day Guarding Weekend/Evening Dives—Ft. Lauderdale, FL
May 28	Memorial Day—1 st Day of 2012 Summer Season

Upcoming Town of Ocean City Special Events

OC Bike Fest	Sept. 15-18	Inlet Lot	1000hrs to 1900hrs
Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show	Sept. 16-18	Convention Center	1000hrs to 1800hrs
Sunfest	Sept. 22-25	Inlet Lot	1000hrs to 2200hrs
Park Place Jewelers Beach Treasure Hunt			
Winefest	Sept. 30-Oct. 1	Inlet Lot	1100hrs to 1900hrs
Harbor Day at the Docks	Oct. 1	Sunset Ave.	1000hrs to 1700hrs
OC Coin & Currency Show	Oct. 1-2	Convention Center	1000hrs to 1700hrs
Oktoberfest	Oct. 14-15	40 th St.	1100hrs to 2300hrs
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer	Oct. 15	5 th St & Boardwalk	0900hrs

<u>Stats.</u>	<u>Week 15</u> 8/29/11 to 9/4/11	<u>Week 15</u> Year-To- Date 2011	<u>Week 16</u> 8/30/10 to 9/5/10	<u>Week 16</u> Year-To- Date 2010	<u>Week 16</u> 8/31/09 to 9/6/09	<u>Week 16</u> Year-To- Date 2009
Action						
Preventions	2057	79652	1628	73219	881	69523
Rescues	167	1524	81	3126	71	3399
Minor First Aid	26	1946	31	1937	4	1445
Ambulance Calls	6	298	18	228	11	269
Police Calls	3	75	6	72	3	80
USCG/MDNRP	0	8	0	10	0	5
Lost/Found Persons	24	555	28	588	26	695
N. Surf Beach Population	293	811	276	1459	N/A	629
S. Surf Beach Population	251	2598	133	3233	N/A	4414
Inlet Surf Beach Population	94	820	NA	1936	N/A	1046
Beach Wheelchair Usage	25	452	20	440	17	420

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

This Week's Question: I went to the beach the day after Hurricane Irene and there were no lifeguards or stands. The Beach Patrol on the four-wheelers were not allowing any swimmers in the ocean at all yet I saw surfers out in the ocean. The weather seemed like it was a great beach day and I was surprised I wasn't even allowed to go wading. Why?

After Hurricane Irene passed, the ocean was not as dangerous as we would typically expect following a tropical storm (hurricane) event and the beach was left in unbelievably great condition with a gradual slope and plenty of beach still remaining. With 85 percent of our 200 personnel living over 100 miles away and being evacuated along with all others including many lifeguards that had already returned to school, we were unable to provide adequate protection to safeguard swimmers or others wishing to venture into the ocean. As the town went into a re-entry mode after Irene, it took most of the day to get the lifeguards back into town and the stands back on the beach. All available staff members were placed on mobile vehicles to replace the stands that had been moved away and to assist with informing the public to remain out of the ocean. In this case we did not have enough surf rescue technicians to adequately protect the public on Sundry afternoon, when the weather broke, to safely guard all 10 miles of beach. We returned to normal operation for this time of year by 10 a.m. Monday.

Surfers were allowed in the ocean on that day, because a surfboard gives flotation and the people who usually have this type of equipment are generally far more experienced. The extra flotation makes it safer for these individuals to enjoy their sport while providing additional assistance should a beach patron disregard the warnings of the beach patrol and find themselves being pulled away from the beach in a rip current. Typically surfers have the experience and skills to keep themselves out of danger compared to the typical tourist who buys a boogie board at a sundry shop and has little to no knowledge of the ocean.

This is typically the time of year that Ocean City experiences an increase in the volume and size of waves due to tropical activity in the Atlantic. August and September are traditionally our large surf months, producing larger waves, dangerous rip currents and hazardous shorebreak. Larger waves bring more water into shore, which has to escape out through the rips, meaning that rip currents become larger, longer, faster moving and deadlier. This is exactly what happens this time of the year as hurricanes pass through the mid Atlantic region and is currently happening as more tropical systems develop in the Atlantic.

As these systems move closer to our coast, the impact becomes greater and the potential for dangerous conditions becomes more likely. On an occasion we will have a high tide which occurs with a 4-6 foot wave height and occasional 8-foot swells that will break right on the beach. This is the wave's impact zone and when waves break on the beach we call it shore break. As a result it can become unsafe for anyone to be in the impact zone (wading to waist deep). Additionally as the tide recedes going to low this is the perfect recipe for the most dangerous rip activity. For this reason when there is no safe area for the general public to enjoy the ocean, OCBP will limit water activity, rather than risk harm to our visitors.

Last Week's Question: I was on the beach the other day and noticed water almost like a swimming pool behind the guard stand. I have never seen this before but my kids sure loved playing in it. Does this happen often and what causes it?

We commonly refer to these as tide pools. However, they are not only formed by the outgoing tide but are also formed when large waves are driven further onto the beach by wind or during storms. Tropical activity in the Atlantic over the past several weeks has caused larger than usual waves and surf conditions. These waves bring more water onto the beach and if it becomes trapped in a low area a "tide pool" may form. These low areas on the beach are formed as waves push sand into large mounds running parallel to the shore with the area behind the mound (to the west) being lower than this newly formed retaining mound. As water is pushed over this mound, it cannot make its way back into the ocean as runoff and becomes trapped in the low lying area. Although the amount of water, the size of the low lying area and the depth of low lying area, may vary from a few inches to a few feet deep and the size may be as small as a backyard pool or as large as several city blocks, most tide pools are only a few inches deep and less than a block long. Because of the relatively small quantity of water, the sun heats it and it is much warmer than the ocean and it usually has no wave action making it very inviting. When a child comes to the beach and finds a tide pool, they become very excited. It is like having a backyard pool on the beach. However, tide pools pose their own dangers. Because a tide pool seems like the perfect place for small children to play, parents often do not give the same attention to their children as they would if they were playing in the ocean. Further complicating this is the fact that most often the tide pool ends up forming behind the guard stands. This means that the SRT (lifeguard) is only scanning this area as part of their secondary scan giving much less attention to this water hazard than the large body of water directly in front of them. Parents often have a false sense of security due to the shallow depth of most of these tide pools but those of us in water safety realize it only takes 1 inch of water to drown a toddler. A second hazard associated with this phenomenon is the risk of injuries from running and jumping into such a shallow area. Although not a safety concern another potential issue has to do with this trapped water becoming stagnant, dirty, and smelly. Therefore, the Public Works Maintenance Department sculpts the beach to facilitate the drainage of these tide pools after they have remained for a couple of days. Sometimes you might find a tide pool that behaves more like a waterslide than a pool. In this instance wave action is bringing more water into the low area while breaks in the retaining mound allow water to flow back into the ocean resulting in strong currents being formed in the tide pool. When this happens the tide pool becomes far more dangerous as people playing in the tide pool might find themselves washed into the ocean. Tide pools can be fun when enjoyed safely.

Mobile Rescue Units

- Mobile means MOVING! Do not become stationary unless your assignment requires it.
- Two or more quads should never congregate. This reduces the overall coverage of the beach.
- Your primary responsibility requires that you remain available at all times.
- Inform dispatch of "ALL" your actions.. they need to know what resources are available and where they are.
- NEVER leave the quad unattended with an SRT not authorized to operate it.. It needs to be readily available in an emergency.
- Perform Rescues if and when necessary.
- Back up SRTs making rescues in your area of responsibility or as directed by dispatch.
- Respond to medical emergencies in your area of responsibility or as directed by dispatch.
- Supervise all OCBP personnel enforcing all policies and procedures.
- Assist with moving rovers when appropriate and circumstances permit.
- Patrol in your area of responsibility assisting the SRTs especially between stands and including ordinance enforcement.

Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 10:37 AM
Subject: Mandy Done-Johnson

Dear Captain Arbin,

I am writing to you regarding one of your lifeguards, Mandy Done-Johnson. Mandy probably saved my life, for which I am extremely grateful.

I am a 55 year-old man in very good physical condition. I take my health very seriously, both in terms of exercise and diet. I also believed that I was a decent swimmer.

On the Saturday morning of September 3, 2011, the ocean looked pretty rough in front of the English Towers building at 100th street. I wasn't really worried though, as I've been coming to the ocean for 50 years and have experienced all types of waves and currents. Mandy informed me that the ocean was rough, and asked if I could swim. I assured her that I could and then went into the water.

I dove through one wave, then another, and then I just seemed to lose control. The current was pulling me, so I tried to swim along the shore line in southerly direction, but it didn't help. The waves were driving me under. I kept trying to swim out of it, but just couldn't get out of the current. I was really struggling and started to get concerned. I just tried to tread water, catch my breath, and then Mandy was there to help me.

Mandy calmly pulled me in and then helped me out of the water. She talked to me about the things I was doing right and what I could have done better to get out of the current. Once she knew I was OK, she quickly got back on the lifeguard stand.

I continued to watch her work the rest of the day, and she was quite busy helping many others in difficult situations. I even noticed that while she was talking to others, she kept her eyes out over the ocean, watching the folks in the water. It was quite obvious that Mandy takes her job seriously.

Since this incident, I have a stronger appreciation for the work that Mandy and many other lifeguards do each and every day. I also have a greater respect for the power of the ocean and have begun to learn more about rip currents and how to react accordingly.

Once again, I am really grateful to Mandy for helping me out of a pretty scary situation. I feel more secure knowing that people like Mandy are skilled lifeguards capable of helping folks that are in difficult situations. The Ocean City Beach Patrol is doing the right thing in the development of first-rate lifeguards. Good Job!

Sincerely,
Jerry Giordana

Thank you note from Linda Brittingham from Rec. & Parks to Lt. Mike Stone and the OCBP

Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2011 1:13 PM
Subject: Kudos to You and Your Staff

Just wanted to write and convey my appreciation for the professionalism of your 'guarding' staff. I've stayed at the Carousel on 118th St. for one week vacations the last four summers (end of August, first wk of Sept.). It's a fairly crowded beach with mostly vacationers having no 'water experience'. I've witnessed numerous 'saves' and seen the overall alertness of the guards. They're in the game, yet probably go under-appreciated by those on the beach. Having an 8yr old doing the sandpiper thing all day at the waters edge, I for one feel comfortable knowing the guards are there and watching.

One particular observation: the Friday after Hurricane Irene the guard @ 118 had been fairly 'busy' with some moderate but persistent riptides all day culminating in a legitimate save of 3 people at 5:30pm with help from the adjacent guards. Once he went, the other guards were there damn quick, and all were needed in the water. Kudos to them. The main observation? There was another lifeguard chair the next morning just south of 118.

Big holiday weekend.....persistent trouble spot.....an added chair Saturday morn..... Professional. Kudos to you and your staff.
Regards,
David—New York City

Dear Chief Dipino, Sergeant. Paddock, and Captain Arbin:

I am writing to thank Sgt. Paddock and officer Kobe of the Ocean City Police Department as well as the lifeguard at the 132nd Street station and many other members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol and Police Department for your swift, professional assistance and coordination with each other and the Fenwick Island Police Department on Sunday, September 4, 2011 finding my 14-year old son, JC Wright, when he got lost walking north up the beach into Delaware.

I had never been to Ocean City before this Labor Day weekend. My son, daughter and I were staying with my sister's family at a condo at the Braemar on 131st Street. On Sunday, we spent most of the day at the beach. It was delightful. Shortly after 3:00 pm, I was walking with my son and mentioned that we were close to Delaware. He got very excited and asked if he could walk by himself to Delaware and back. I told him that it was only about a mile away which I recalled because I had driven down to Ocean City through Delaware on Saturday. JC asked if there was a sign on the beach. I told him that I didn't know. I had pointed out the Welcome to Maryland sign on the Coast Highway when we had arrived the previous day. The waves intimidated him so JC had spent large chunks of the day walking up and down the beach along the water's edge by himself. I reviewed with JC the appearance of the Braemar and the buildings in the block north of the Braemar. JC has a photographic memory, so when I was confident that he knew the buildings leading to the Braemar, I gave him permission to walk up the beach to Delaware. I told him to stay on the beach and not go into the water above his knees. JC has a form of high functioning Autism. He is highly intelligent. He has been mainstreamed and is an Honor Roll student. He doesn't usually acknowledge or initiate interactions with other people. He is nervous to do so even with family, especially in public settings.

Shortly after 3:30 pm, I thought JC should be on his way back so I walked north up the beach to meet him. I didn't see JC. I didn't see a sign at the border, but recalling a dramatic change in the appearance of the buildings on the Coastal highway, I noticed a change in the architecture of the beach front buildings with more houses and fewer condo/apartment buildings. I also noticed that there was a change in the lifeguard chairs. I stopped at a chair marked with a 12 flag labeled Fenwick Island and asked the lifeguard on duty if I was in Delaware. He said that I was. I had been gathering shells as I walked up the beach so I thought that perhaps JC had walked past me without greeting me. I walked back quickly and got back to the beach in front of the Braemar a little after 4:00 pm. I asked my sister and brother-in-law if JC had returned. They said no.

My brother-in-law said that he would walk with me back north in search of JC. After 15 minutes, I realized that I had left my cell phone at our blanket. JC doesn't have his own cell phone. He didn't have any money or identification or a watch, but he knows my cell phone number. He has called me when he has questions so I thought he might call me and I wanted to have my cell phone in case he did. My brother-in-law said that he would keep walking north for another 20 minutes until 5:00 pm and then return. When I returned to the blanket to retrieve my phone, my sister said that I should ask the life guard at the 132nd Street station for assistance.

Continued on next page

Continued...

I wish I had thought to ask his name. He was wonderful. He took JC's name, age and description and his intended beach route walk to Delaware and used the flag system to notify the other Beach Patrol members. He was very calm and reassuring. After 20 minutes, there was no sign or report of JC. He reminded me that the Beach Patrol would be going off duty at 5:30 pm and advised me to ask the police for assistance. I agreed. Within five minutes, Officer Kobe arrived. He took the pertinent information about JC, including asking about any "special needs." I told him that with JC's autism, he would respond to inquiries from an officer, but he would not look at strangers who talked to him. About this time, my brother-in-law returned. He reported that he'd gone to the Delaware border and back and had not seen JC. Officer Kobe advised that my sister or brother-in-law should go to the condo in case JC returned there. JC didn't know the phone number, but he did know the way there from the beach. Officer Kobe went north on the beach to look for JC. I was really rattled and worried at this point. The life guard reassured me that every lost child has been found safely at Ocean City beach. Sgt. Paddock arrived and reviewed all of the information about JC. I told him that JC wanted to walk to Delaware. He probed more deeply about JC's habits. I reviewed JC's questions about whether there were any signs at the border. I had told him no, but that Delaware was only about a mile away. Sgt. Paddock calculated that by that time, JC might have walked through the Fenwick Island beach into Fenwick State Park. The Ocean City Beach Patrol was scheduled to go off duty, but after conferring about their subsequent commitments, two of the life guards volunteered to stay later and go up the beach with Officer Kobe in one of their dune buggies to search for JC. Officer Paddock then coordinated the search for JC with the Fenwick Island police as well as the State Park. Sgt. Paddock asked what JC would do if he had to go to the bathroom. I said that I didn't think he would go in the dunes. JC is very fastidious so I thought that might be the only case where JC would go off the beach in search of a familiar commercial restaurant, such as McDonald's, where he might go to the bathroom. Officer Paddock suggested that we drive in his SUV north along the Coast Highway in case JC had done this. As we were driving north, Sgt. Paddock received word that JC had been found in Delaware by the Ocean City Beach Patrol and Officer Kobe. We met a beach patrol of two Fenwick Island officers at the MD/DE border 146th Street beach entrance. Officer Kobe and JC arrived after that -- it was around 6:30 pm. JC was so glad to see me that he greeted and hugged me -- which he is reluctant to do as a teenager and even more so as a person with autism, particularly in public.

JC was very upset at himself. He doesn't like to draw attention to himself. He felt very badly that he had caused trouble and wasted the time of the police officers, and the Beach Patrol and family members.

Sgt. Paddock drove JC and I back to the Braemar and Officer Kobe back to his car. They were very kind and reassuring to JC while he was berating himself for all of the trouble that he caused. When we arrived, Sgt. Paddock and Officer Kobe wished JC well. JC just wanted to disappear and leapt from the SUV without acknowledging them.

People on the autism spectrum are very fact-oriented. Subtle, social, emotional, facial and vocal signals are very difficult to decipher for people on the autism spectrum. Making eye contact with other people makes them especially uncomfortable. It's hard for them to stand or sit still, especially when they are nervous. Flapping their arms is a very common self-soothing mannerism for people on the spectrum. Interacting with other people is something that people who are high functioning on the autism spectrum want to do to varying degrees, but it's very hard. JC has always found it easier to interact with adults and much younger children. Deviations from routines are usually very upsetting to people on the spectrum. Trying new things is extremely intimidating. However, JC is also extremely intellectually curious - which is true for some people with high functioning autism. JC is also very conscientious and persistent. He tries very hard to follow rules.

JC did exactly what he told me that he would do without deviation. He walked north on the beach toward Delaware. He kept looking for visual signs that he was in Delaware. He kept walking to find them. JC was so embarrassed that he didn't want to talk about any of the details of what he saw and how far he walked. He did decide at some point to turn around and walk back south. JC admitted that he should have asked someone if he was in Delaware. He wished that he could have brought himself to ask someone on the beach, but he said that he was too shy. I related that I had noticed that there was a difference in the lifeguard chairs and asked a life guard if I was in Delaware who told me that I was. I wish that I had thought to inform JC in advance that he should seek a lifeguard and ask them if he was in Delaware. I won't make the mistake again of not arming him with an authority he can seek to ask questions and to call me. I'll always have it with me when I know he'll be alone. I also wish that I had had the presence of mind to inform the officers and the Beach Patrol members how important it is to talk quietly, explain the facts in every situation and act very calmly and patiently with people who are on the autism spectrum. They just did that any way with JC.

Helping children to become independent is an incredible challenge as a parent. It's also nerve-wracking. I want to thank and commend the lifeguard at the 132nd street station, Sgt. Paddock and Officer Kobe for their outstanding, efficient, professional, courteous and sensitive assistance finding JC and reuniting him with me. This was the first time that JC wanted to explore by himself. I was SO excited for him. Then I was SO worried about him. I am SO relieved that he was found quickly and safely. I am so grateful to the Ocean City Police Department and Ocean City Beach Patrol.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I could never thank each of you enough.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wright

Dear Captain Arbin and Ocean City Beach Patrol colleagues

Thank you for your swift, helpful, complimentary and informative reply to my note. didn't say so previously, but though being a Mom is my most important and cherished responsibility, I split my time with my professional job as a press secretary for a Member of Congress. Writing and public relations is a craft. Talent is helpful, but training is required and writing skills can be acquired. Strunk and (E.B) White's "Elements of Style" is my all-time favorite instruction manual and guide.

I wanted to share one more important compliment to the life guard at the 132nd Street station from my sister. She and her family spent the whole day at the beach on Saturday, September 3. She said that @1pm, the guard gathered everyone in that area to the chair. He informed them that there had been two rescues as well as a medevac from the beach before 12 noon. He explained exactly how and why the surf conditions were dangerous for anyone except the strongest, skilled, experienced and confident ocean swimmers to be in water over their waist. As a parent of confident and exuberant 11 and 8-year old children, my sister was impressed and extremely grateful to the guard for taking the time to help everyone in his sector safely enjoy the beach. I don't recall the details, but I remember that when he was helping to keep me calm while His colleagues were searching for JC, he explained how much Hurricane Irene altered the beach and the surf.

During the media onslaught/preparation before Hurricane Irene's march north from the Bahamas, a 20-year active duty Navy Captain and personal friend explained to me that all of the caution was warranted. He simply summarized that sailors in the Navy learn fast that people must never "mess" with the ocean. It's TOO powerful and TOO unpredictable until it's TOO late. To ensure your safety, you can't wait, you have to prepare for the worst, move and get out of its way.

Thank you all again. I am so impressed by your leadership, organization, coordination and the seamless execution by so many superbly trained professionals to ensure the safety of the. Eight million people who visit Ocean City, MD each summer. The enormity of this task and accomplishment is mind-bogglingly breathtaking.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wright