

## MAY MEETING - 2002 REPORT

We are ready. — But I have a favor to ask of all of you. If what we are trying do this year works, it will save you thousands of dollars each year for years to come and will almost assure a ready source of future lifeguards. This year two former junior guards were ready to become full-time lifeguards. Two will be ready next year. We had no spots available this year for the two that were ready. Next year, we anticipate only 3-4 spots opening. We want to hold onto these four young people. Each has had at least four years of lifeguard training in our junior guard program. Each has substituted as a lifeguard, and each one is a superior young person. What's more. they are all local young adults who do not need housing.

Knowing of the security situation, (or lack thereof), which we have endured for several years, and at a very high cost, I suggested to the Board that we could do much better in the daytime, and at the same time have the privacy of our beach enforced, by employing these four young adults to conduct daytime security on and off the beach. There will be two on duty per day. Each will work a 40-hour week. They will get one hour each separately, as actual lifeguards on the guard stand, giving a lunch hour to a full-time lifeguard. They will workout with the lifeguards, have CPR training and will be on duty from 10-5 each day, seven days a week. Someone will always be at the guard house from 10-5, every day, Memorial Day to Labor Day to check people in. Twice a day both the parking and the beach will be checked for uninvited trespassers. Then, next year, at least one of them will become a full-time lifeguard, or continue as a security patrol.

Colin Crandell and Chris Adams, our senior lifeguard captains, will supervise and schedule them during the week. I will supervise on the weekends and the numerous other days I am on duty. All will be linked by small walkie-talkies, and any difficulties will be handled by our lifeguard captains, or me. Wilgus will be on call as they always are and have been. Jack Woods has offered to help train and oversee as well. Jack lives immediately across from the guard house. I am very grateful to Jack for volunteering for this. The security committee headed by Jay Foreman will oversee the process.

Nineteen years ago I told the Board that with your help and hard work, we could turn our beach patrol, which was always a good one, anyway, into one of the very best in the Nation... translating into even more safety and a more relaxed beach despite a growing beach population. I believe it is recognized that with your considerable help and for at least the last 10 years your beach patrol has been so recognized.

Now the favor I want to ask of you. With your help, once again, I believe we can fully perform the needed daytime security duties, and maintain the privacy of our beach, with the same degree of excellence that the lifeguards have achieved. Everyone of these four guards have been under our training, three days a week for at least four years. They have already substituted as lifeguards. And at the same time, this new process will assure us of a source of new lifeguards each year. Moreover, there is a savings of several thousands of dollars to the budget. But I want to stress, it will take your help to do this.

The first year will undoubtedly be an experimental year. People will have to get comfortable with it. We will have to earn a reputation of excellence. In this respect, I have no doubt that we will have one or two people who will complain or try to "sandbag" the program with "I've been coming here for 20 years...your not going to tell me what to do!" That's why we want these four people to act like lifeguards, be dressed like them, and be, in fact, lifeguards...not teenage traffic directors. Experience has demonstrated that even nasty people or intimidators tend to behave better when lifeguards ask them to do something. But courtesy and cooperation will be vital. Intimidation cannot be tolerated. That's why a senior lifeguard captain, or I, will be available at all times on the beach.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the beach and at the picnics. Sorry I couldn't be here but teaching and litigation depositions have forced me to be elsewhere. Let's make it work. The benefits are substantial if it does.

Respectfully submitted,

Geof Myers  
Commander, Middlesex Beach Patrol