

**Vero Beach Lifeguard Association  
Monthly Beach Report  
For  
Jaycee Park  
Humiston Park  
South Beach Park**

**April 2017**



**Our Mission:  
To promote lifeguarding and water safety in Vero  
Beach and the surrounding communities**

**Email: [VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com](mailto:VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org)**

STATISTICS	
Total Park Attendance	83795
Preventative Actions	1715
Minor Medicals	44
Major Medicals	2
Rescues	0
Average Water Temperature	75
Beach Erosion	Minimal
Stinging Marine Life	Moderate/Severe

### **General Conditions**

A new record for attendance! April 2017 saw the most beach patrons than any other April since VBLA started tracking numbers in 2011. The previous record was 77,356 in April 2015. Persistent southeast winds have brought in large amounts of seaweed. Along with the wind-blown seaweed were thousands and thousands of pieces of plastic bottles, containers, packing material, utensils and more. Lifeguards treating patrons for Portuguese Man-O-War stings and a few major medical calls. There were no water rescues in April. The total number of swimmers rescued from rip currents in 2017 is 4. Many dog owners continue to bring their dogs into the beach parks which is a violation of City ordinances. All swimmers are advised to pay close attention to beach condition signs and flags, swim near lifeguard towers and avoid swimming during non-guarded beach hours.

### **Areas of Progress**

VBLA produced and is in the process of distributing its Beach Safety Video to hotels, schools and civic organizations. With support from the City of Vero Beach, the video can be seen

on COVB.org under the Recreation Department tab and at VBLA.org. VBLA hopes that more people will take the time to watch the video and education themselves prior to coming to the beach.

### **Areas of Concern**

Some patrons complained about the amount of seaweed on the beach, however, seaweed is healthy for the beach. It acts as a binder for seeds which develop into dunes which protect property, is a source for food for birds and crabs and is part of the nature process by which the environment stays in balance. Removing the seaweed may hinder the sea turtle nesting process and inhibit the turtle researchers to effectively do their jobs.

Dog owners continue to ignore City ordinances by bringing their dogs on to City beach parks.

Even though conditions may seem pleasant and inviting, beach patrons must realize that our ocean can be a wild and unforgiving place. Lifeguards recommend that everyone who visits the beach read the condition signs posted at each lifeguard tower, know the meaning of the condition flags that are flying and ask questions of our lifeguards to determine if venturing out into the water is prudent.

In addition, many individuals and families are on the beach far from a guarded area and/or in the water after lifeguards leave at 5pm. VBLA recommends that the City of Vero Beach extends lifeguard hours to 7pm to address this safety issue.

### **Key**

Park Attendance: includes areas immediately north and south of each park  
Preventative Actions: stopping potential incidents before they occur

Minor Medicals: a medical incident which is treated on-site by lifeguard/EMT personnel

Major Medicals: a medical incident that required Emergency Medical Services

### **About VBLA**

This report is furnished by the Vero Beach Lifeguard Association, a non-profit, 501C3 organization. Its mission is to promote water safety and lifeguarding in Vero Beach and the surrounding communities. Contact us at

[VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com](mailto:VeroBeachLA@Yahoo.com) or (908)797-8725. Visit us at [www.VBLA.org](http://www.VBLA.org).

Donations are appreciated. Monies raised are used to purchase equipment, supplies, staffing and training for the lifeguards from the city of Vero Beach.

Please send donations to: VBLA, 1351 White Heron Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32963.