

ENVIRONMENT



A new report from the group Environment Virginia examines decades of records with data on temperature, precipitation and sea level rise. Above, the James River at sunset in February. JONATHAN GRUBENKE/DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO

Generational approach to climate change

Environmental group: Virginians seeing increasing dangers

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Amid increasing accounts of climate change and projections of what's to come, one advocacy group is taking a generational approach evaluating its effects on the last five generations of Americans.

From baby boomers through today's Generation Alpha, each of the previous four generations has inherited a warmer and changed climate, Environment Virginia says. The group also looks at the many changes facing Alphas, which includes people born between 2010 and 2025, when they reach adulthood.

"Virginians are coming of age in a more dangerous climate than their parents and grandparents

did," said Sarah Bucci of Environment Virginia, based in Richmond. "It's warmer than it used to be, storms pack more of a punch, the oceans are increasingly flooding low-lying land, which is important for Virginia's coastal communities."

The group examined decades of records from the National Climate Data Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services.

On Tuesday, it issued a 45-page report on its analysis called "Dangerous Inheritance: The Hotter, More Extreme Climate That We're Passing Down to America's Young." The report focuses on three indicators — average and extreme temperatures, extreme precipitation and sea level rise — and how rapidly those indicators have changed and will change in the near future.

"I've seen it move, both in my life and people around me," said

John Deuel of Norfolk and a Hampton Roads resident since 1983. "From not even on the radar when I was growing up and when I was first in Hampton Roads, it was hardly ever discussed and addressed, to a nuisance. Now I think it's more of a constant threat and a risk. And more and more people seem to see it that way for its environmental impacts, its economic impacts and its social impacts."

Deuel was one of two local residents who spoke with reporters in a teleconference Tuesday to offer firsthand accounts of a changing environment. As a father and grandfather, he said, he worries that citizens and policymakers aren't moving quickly or aggressively enough to mitigate the damage.

"I'm seeing my grandchildren, who are now 10, 8 and 6, and I'm wondering what's going to happen," Deuel said.

Alden Cleanthes, with Moms Clean Air Force of Chesapeake,

said she and her husband are millennials concerned about what's ahead for their 3-year-old son, an Alpha.

"His life in Hampton Roads is already drastically different from mine," Cleanthes said. "In his three short years here in Hampton Roads, he's experienced a significant snowfall event every winter. Especially this winter, where we had snowfall covering the ground at least for a week. That is something my husband and I have never experienced having lived here for over 30 years. And these types of recurring extreme weather events can be directly attributed to climate change."

Among their concerns, they said, are increasing flooding impacts on transportation, infrastructure, port systems, homes and insurance costs. Rising temperatures threaten public health, the health and sustainability of crops and livestock, native wildlife, plants and trees. Stronger storms and more frequent storm

surges put groundwater supplies at risk.

"Millennials growing up in Virginia saw 10 percent more precipitation than baby boomers did when they came of age," Bucci said. To prevent the worst of the projections, she said, the group is urging action at all levels of government, including finalizing the Obama administration's ambitious Clean Power Plan that would limit carbon emissions from power plants, maximizing clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency, and reducing the global dependence on oil.

"Climate change is real," Cleanthes said. "It's impacting us now. But what's important is whether or not we're going to help our children and try to minimize the impacts they'll feel in their lifetime."

To read the report, go to environmentvirginia.org.

Dietrich can be reached by phone at 757-247-7892.

Workshop to help Southeast residents grow healthy food

Southeast Community residents living in a food desert can learn to grow their own fruits and vegetables while awaiting a grocery store.

The Southeast CARE Coalition, Greater Southeast Development Corp., All from One Inc., Hampton University, Virginia Tech and the Virginia Aquarium have partnered to bring a new alternative to Southeast Community residents seeking fresh, healthy food.

The groups provided \$10,000 for several aquaponics systems, which will be built and maintained at the Moton Community House to provide fresh fruits and vegetables year round to the community.

Aquaponics systems typically include a fish tank and planting beds. The waste from the fish fertilizes the plants, and the plants clean the water for the fish.

Southeast Community residents can attend workshops to learn how to build and maintain their own aquaponics systems.

The workshops will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18 at the Moton Community House, 2101 Jefferson Ave.

The Southeast Community has been without a grocery store since last June. The city has been working with an unnamed party to build a grocery store in the Brooks Crossing development, with the goal to open it by early next year.

City officials meet with Jefferson Lab

City and school officials got the chance to ask questions of Jefferson Lab's leaders earlier this week about its potential expansion, the Tech Center project, and the

city's involvement in it. It could be more than a couple of years before Jefferson Lab hears if it will be chosen for the new electron collider facility.

First, a national group of scientists must decide that the collider will be built at all. Then it will likely come down to a choice between Newport News and the larger Brookhaven National Lab in New York.

"That's a dream, but there's been dreams before," said Jerry Drayver, president and CEO of Southeastern Universities Research Association, which runs the lab. He told the crowd of other times when Jefferson Lab won opportunities over other national labs.

Councilwoman Pat Woodbury asked how Jefferson Lab's relationship with the 16 other national labs in the country would be affected if it was chosen for the expansion.

"My anticipation would be that if it goes to Brookhaven, we would build part of it, and if it comes here, they will be building part of it," Jefferson Lab director Hugh Montgomery said.

A Tech Center research park with office space for companies is planned in conjunction with the potential expansion. The retail component is under construction.

City selling leaf compost for gardening

The city is selling discounted leaf compost to help residents get their gardens ready for spring.

The compost is \$10 per cubic yard cheaper than retail prices, a news release said.

The sale ends April 25. If interested, contact the Department of Public Works at 757-886-7947 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Cliff can be reached by phone at 757-247-7870.

Children become citizens at Jamestown Settlement

Notes of "The Star-Spangled Banner" were especially poignant for Ghana native Emmanuel Anyetel-Anum last weekend. He watched as his 18-year-old daughter, Grace Patricia, became an American citizen

during a ceremony at Jamestown Settlement.

About 40 other children of naturalized U.S. citizens, also took the Oath of

Allegiance.

"Any time I hear the national anthem," said Emmanuel, "it sends shivers down my spine. Knowing that so many people died for us to have this chance, to have this liberty — to call this place our home — is awesome."

The ceremony formally acknowledged citizenship of the children, mostly 18 or younger — the youngest was 11. Individuals who are younger than 18 at the time their parents are naturalized are eligible for the certificate.

The group intently listened to the words of the third U.S. president, Thomas Jefferson, portrayed by veteran founding father Chespin Bill Barker. Fitted in traditional 18th century garb, Jefferson's closing remarks to the new citizens were "and rest assured, as I delight in the history of the past, I've always said I enjoy much more the dreams of our future."

Social media frustrations

A student at the College of William and Mary has started an online business based on letting people send anonymous letters to pals to resign in their obnoxious behavior.

"Some people just take



Eighteen-year-old Grace Patricia Anyetel-Anum, left, celebrated her U.S. citizenship on Saturday with her father, Emmanuel.

Instagram pictures of food all the time, or they put a bunch of lovey-dovey stuff on social media," Erica Amatori said in a phone interview. "This gives you a way to send them an anonymous tip to stop."

Hints from XXXO Hints via email are free, Amatori said. But hints via "small mail" are how the site hopes to turn a profit. Mailed hints cost \$6.99, and take the form of witty greeting cards. Currently many of them are listed as "sold out" on the website.

Amatori said she's been busy so far filling orders generated from the Kickstarter campaign. Those who donated \$40 or more were entitled to send six messages and receive an XXXO hint tank top.

Religion month

April is religion month at Colonial Williamsburg, special programming will explore the role of religion in making a new American nation. Ideas surrounding the War for Independence revolutionized the relationship between faith and government. They abolished the state's connections with any church and permitted the free exercise of religion.

That first happened in Virginia, where Thomas Jefferson's Statute of Religious Freedom laid out the map that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution would follow.

The month kicks off with "The Pious Man's Daughter, the Rebel's Wife," which follows Betsy Nicholas. She grew up in a very religious home with her father, Robert Carter Nicholas, and her upbringing prepared her for later becoming part of the Randolph family. The story examines how that affected her husband, children and her own religious journey.

"Blessed Be the Ties that Bind" explores how a mother's faith survives the British occupation and the news that her son has been taken prisoner. It recounts events in the life of Jane Vobe, owner of the King's Arms Tavern, including how she finds the strength in the teachings of her slave Gowan, a Baptist preacher.

A complete list of Religion Month events can be found at ColonialWilliamsburg.org.

Carter can be reached by phone at 757-345-2347.