

December 2015

Glen Allen

December was the warmest and second wettest on record at Glen Allen as the monthly mean temperature was 52.8 °F, a +11.2 °F departure from the seven-year average. December had its highest maximum of 76.2 °F on December 12th and had 8 days of $\geq 70^{\circ}\text{F}$ and 12 days of $\geq 65^{\circ}\text{F}$ both being new records. On only 6 days did the minimum reach freezing or below which was a new record for December. The lowest temperature was 25°F occurring on the 20th; only 2011 equaled this high minimum and no other Decembers had a higher value. The highest barometric pressure of the month was 30.74 inches recorded on the 5th. Almost all of the records for warmth were broken at Glen Allen in its short 7-year database. December didn't even record a trace of snow. The precipitation total for the month was 6.15 inches; only 2009 was higher with 8.44 inches. There were 14 days with measurable precipitation in December, tying the record. The total precipitation for the year was 50.93 inches. This was a +5.78 inch surplus. This was also one of the cloudiest Decembers with the last ten days of the month being cloudy. This month also had the highest average relative humidity of 80.2%, a new record not just for December but for all months. This was a factor in giving this month the lowest daily average temperature range for December of 18.1°F.

Richmond International Airport

The mean temperature for the Richmond International Airport was 52.1 °F which was the warmest in the past 135 years (Records since 1880). The previous record was 51.2 °F in 1889. The minimum temperature of 65°F on the 24th set a new high minimum for December; the previous record was 63 °F on Dec 8, 1951. Christmas day was the warmest on record for the date with a daily mean of 69.5°F. Only three December days have been warmer Dec 6th & 7th of 1998 and Dec 16th of 1971. The lowest maximum temperature of 46 °F for December occurred on the 19th which is now the warmest December low maximum temperature on record; the previous record was 45 °F recorded in 2012. Richmond's December minimum temperature was 25°F and tied the record set in 2011 & 1994. Richmond's lowest daily mean temperature for December was 36.0°F which was the 2nd highest recorded in the past 118 years; only 2011 was higher with 36.5 °F.

December didn't even have a trace of snow which has happened approximately 15 times before 2015 since 1880. The 30-year average snowfall for December is 2.1 inches. The 5.94 inches of precipitation for December made it the 8th wettest December in the past 128 years. The total precipitation for the year was 49.21 inches which was a +5.61 inch surplus for 2015. The Airport also set 4 daily maximum temperature records and two high minimum temperature records.