

The cicadas are coming

By Crystal Vandegrift
The K-V Dispatch

With warm temperatures and thawing ground, ready or not, the Brood X cicadas are coming.

After spending 17 years underground, the Brood X periodical cicadas will emerge this spring and swarm parts of Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region.

There will be no mistake when the Brood X cicadas arrive as they climb to the treetops and begin to make a loud sound.

“Those teenagers have been underground

for 17 years, and, hey, in May, they’re coming up,” Michael Raupp, professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, said. “It’s going to be a big boy band up in the treetops as the males try to attract their mates.”

Cicadas are not harmful to humans but can cause damage to a variety of plants, trees and shrubs as they feed off of trees.

According to the Virginia Cooperative Extension office, the 17-year cicada may damage many ornamental and hardwood trees. Oaks are commonly attacked, but the most seriously

damaged are newly planted fruit and ornamental trees such as apple, dogwood, peach, hickory, cherry and pear. Pines and other conifers are not commonly attacked.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent Kirsten Ann Conrad says it’s important to plan accordingly to protect trees and gardens from the six-week life span of the annoying arthropods.

During mating, male cicadas will fill the air with their mating songs. Afterwards, females will cut slits in tree branches to lay clutches of about 25 eggs, producing up to

400 to 600 in total.

“Young, newly planted trees can be vulnerable to severe damage from periodical cicadas and should not be planted this year until the fall,” Conrad said. “Egg laying activity can result in the death of tree branches that are a quarter to a half inch in diameter. Insecticides are not particularly effective, and not recommended as many birds and animals feed on the cicada larva and adults.”

When it comes to the noise that the male cicadas sing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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(CDC), sounds up to 90 decibels could be measured standing directly under a tree filled with cicadas.

A motorcycle, by

comparison, can put out sounds up to 95 decibels, which can damage hearing after about 50 minutes of continuous exposure.

SOLAR: Hearing to determine if solar facilities request is in compliance

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withdrew the request in July after there were more topics the company wanted to build upon, according to Jaci Friedley, director of public engagement with Apex Clean Energy.

During the March 16 public hearing on the Red Brick Solar, members voted 3 to 3 during a vote to determine if Red Brick’s request complies with the Lunenburg-Kenbridge-Victoria Comprehensive Plan.

SolUnesco CEO Francis Hodsoll said the project would place a solar photovoltaic power plant across 935 acres situated in north-central Lunenburg County, about four miles southwest of Victoria.

According to Hodsoll, the project would benefit the county and provide a key source of revenue for the county.

“This project does not impact county services,” Hodsoll said. “There will be no new road to be built, and we will utilize the natural layout of the land to reduce the amount of grading that will be done.”

Hodsoll said the project would increase local tax revenues by an additional \$205,000 annually throughout the project’s life.

“Right now, that land provides the county \$12,000 in taxes annually,” he said. “With this project, it will provide the county \$217,000 a year in tax revenue.”

According to Hodsoll, the Red Brick Project would be selling its electricity to a third party.

MARIJUANA: ‘Exceeding the limit of 1 ounce would be trivial with a single plant’

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“It’s about time,” Minnix said. “We need to get rid of the inmates in jail for that, and the government can put the money for more important things.”

Cheyenne Yates said she felt it should be legalized for recreational use, but the same laws should apply as they have for alcohol.

“Marijuana has a lot of benefits such as helping with pain, anxiety, depression, seizures and cancer,” Yates said.

The new law would prohibit smoking while driving, including operating a school bus, and possession on school grounds.

The amendments would also allow households to grow up to four marijuana plants

beginning July 1 as long as the plants are labeled with identification information, they are out of sight from public view and are out of range of individuals under the age of 21.

“I think whoever drafted this really doesn’t understand just how much usable product a mature plant can produce with even amateur levels of horticultural knowledge,” Morgan Copenhaver said. “Exceeding the limit of 1 ounce would be trivial with a single plant, let alone four.”

“It’s nice we’re making very, very tiny steps in the right direction, but this also needs to bring prison release and record expungements with it. Otherwise, it’s a slap in the face to everyone incarcerated for marijuana.”

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