



THE OFFICIAL WINTER 2018 – 2019

**** UPDATED ****

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LONG-RANGE WEATHER FORECAST
FOR THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY

ROCKLAND, WESTCHESTER

PUTNAM & ORANGE COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 2018

Temperatures: above normal

Precipitation: normal

After all the unusually wet weather during the summer and early autumn, desert-like dryness is the story during the first ten days of November - classic Indian Summer on the 1st through 6th with unlimited sunshine, cold nights and mild days - lows in the teens and highs in the 50's but near 70 degrees by the 10th.

The wind will become the theme this month beginning on the 11th-12th as a powerful Great Lakes storm moves north of Lake Ontario. Ahead of the low, southerly winds will gust over 50 MPH on the 14th-15th. Along with high winds, the bands of heavy rain will develop ahead of a cold front - even a rare November thunderstorm. Much colder air will follow, and the rain will quickly change over to wet snow. Any significant snow accumulations will be limited to far northern and western areas. As the low moves northward to Quebec, even colder air will arrive on a northwesterly. Skies will be sunny to partly sunny and windy right on through the 20th.

On Thanksgiving Day, a low-pressure system will track eastward from Tennessee to the North Carolina coast bringing a narrow band of heavy snow from the central Appalachians and Ohio Valley to southern Virginia. The lower Hudson Valley will get only 1"-3" of snow. On the 23rd-26th another western Great Lakes storm will move to western New York and Pennsylvania - northern New York could get 3 to 4 feet of snow while the lower Hudson Valley gets all rain and winds from 50 to 60 mph. Then much colder air will wrap around the storm, with occasional snow showers and in westerly winds gusting to 40 mph. To end the month, a rapidly intensifying storm well to the southeast of Nantucket and could bring one to two feet of snow to Cape Cod.

December 2018

Temperatures: below normal

Precipitation: normal

The month will begin with a rapidly intensifying Nor'easter along the Carolina coast. Very cold air will be in place - the coldest air so early in the winter in 42 years - high temperatures in the low teens. Higher elevations in northern Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange Counties could get two feet of snow on the 2nd and 3rd as the storm moves inland pulling in warmer air, only a few inches of snow in southern areas with mostly rain.

Very windy with gusts over 50 MPH on the 4th and 5th. Thanks to the wind, dry weather will return and continue during the second week with cold air in place then a gradual warming trend. A fast-moving Alberta Clipper will move to the eastern Great Lakes during the third week, with light snow. Arctic air will follow the storm on strong northerly winds on the 17th - 20th. Then a significant warming trend on the 21st through Christmas Eve with highs near 60 degrees. A strong cold front will bring windy, colder weather on Christmas Day. Another Alberta Clipper on the 27th - 29th with light snow then sunny and milder to end the year.

January 2019

Temperatures: above normal

Precipitation: above normal

The brand-new year will begin with another major storm system from the upper Midwest to the Western Great Lakes bringing milder air to the lower Hudson Valley with spring-like rain showers and highs in the 50s. On the 5th-9th, colder air will wrap around the storm as it lifts northeastward to Labrador with highs in the 20s. Then a fast-moving storm system over the mid-Atlantic states will bring heavy snow just to the south and 2-4" to our region. A classic January thaw will arrive earlier than usual with windswept, torrential rains as low pressure moves to western New York.

As the storm pulls away, it will be windy, partly sunny and spring-like on the 17th-21st with highs 60 to 70 degrees. Sharply colder air and strong winds will take over on the 22nd-26th then a coastal low will bring heavy snow changing to rain. Sunny and temperatures slightly above normal on the 29th-31st.

February 2019

Temperatures: below normal

Precipitation: below normal

It's a fine February weather pattern to start the month with the jet stream way up in central Canada. Highs in the 50's then much colder air on a strong northwest flow around an intensifying storm over northern New England. An unusually fast jet stream will take over, diving down from northern Canada, bringing day after day of bright sunshine, very windy and very cold, extremely dry air. A re-enforcing cold front on Valentine's Day, followed by sunny, windy, very cold conditions, with highs in the teens, even with bright sunshine.

A major coastal storm will develop unusually far south on the 17th-21st with heavy snow as far south as the South Carolina coast and an inch of snow even in northern Florida. A low will race southeastward on the 25th - 27th with 2 to 4" of snow in our area - the only exception to a very dry weather pattern.