

The Sun Virginia Beach Sun Shines in All 10 Virginia Beach Public Libraries

Enjoy The Sun in each library's Periodical Section; almost 2 million total visitors annually.



Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard, circulation - (757) 385-0120, reference/information - (757) 385-0150, municipal reference - (757) 385-4644; manager, Sasha Matthews, Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., open Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (first Sunday after Labor Day to Sunday before Memorial Day weekend).



Bayside Special Services Library, 936 Independence Boulevard, (757) 385-2680, library manager, Susan Paddock, open Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Great Neck Area Library, 1251 Bayne Drive, (757) 385-2606, manager, Matthew Lighthart, open Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Kempsville Area Library, 832 Kempsville Road, (757) 385-2627, library manager, Denise Walker, open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Joint-Use Library (TCC/City of VB Joint-Use Library), 1700 College Crescent, TCC Campus, Building L, (757) 822-7800, community services manager, Neva White, open Monday to Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday. Holiday hours may vary along with the TCC campus; view the library's website for more information about holiday hours.



Oceanfront Area Library, 700 Virginia Beach Boulevard, (757) 385-2640, library manager, Kellye Carter, open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Princess Anne Area Library, 1444 Nimmo Parkway, (757) 385-2610, library manager, Terri Tresp, open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (first Sunday after Labor Day to Sunday before Memorial Day weekend).



Pungo-Blackwater Library, 916 Princess Anne Road, (757) 385-7790, library manager, Sarah Bell, open Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Wahab Public Law Library, 2425 Nimmo Parkway, Judicial Center, Building 10B, (757) 385-4419, library manager, Jean Tancredi, open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday.



Windsor Woods Area Library, 3612 South Plaza Trail, (757) 385-2630, library manager, Tamara Sarg, open Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Opinion - Sunnyside Up!

A hopeful new year: despite 2016 stress, world is on the up-and-up

Data points to most peaceful era in human history

By Jazlyn Williams
Virginia Beach Sun

2016 proved an exhausting year for many. Whether it was coverage from civil wars overseas, U.S. election tensions, controversial protests or deaths of beloved entertainers, stressful news remained pressed to the forefront of the American consciousness.

Those frustrated with the confluence of last year's events probably look to 2017 with a mixture of relief and dread. What looked like an unusually frustrating year has come to an end, but where does that leave the world for the future? It's easy to look at the news that surrounds everyday life and feel like, with the continuing conflicts and tragedies, this is a society ready to fall apart at the seams.

But it's not. A quick look around outside of the gloomy cloud of troubling news demonstrates that all is actually not as doomed as it seems.

In fact, this is the most peaceful period of time in all of human history.

Looking at trends from over the past century alone, there have been drastic drops in every category of human tragedy. Rapes and sexual assaults per 100,000 women have dropped by more than half since 1992 alone. Battle deaths have dropped to a fraction of what they were a mere 50 years ago. Mortality rates for children aged five and under have dropped by more than half on a worldwide scale.

All things numerically considered, humanity is progressing in a positive direction.

Naturally, however, this does not negate the validity of the distress felt when tragedies and conflicts do happen.

Suffering is still real. The friction between contrasting opinions is still strong.

Hatred and fear between humans are still parts of the struggle of daily living.

So, what exactly is the truth? How does one find hope in the overall progression toward peace when the smaller-scale signs still seem to add up to a world in turmoil?

Civil Rights Movement leader and activist Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday will be celebrated Jan. 17 this year, once wisely stated, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

King understood that any struggle for peace, for equality, for happiness did not come easily.

Hearts do not change overnight. Stability does not come about in only a day. The road to any kind of goodness in this world is often paved with obstacles, frustration and sadness.

But it is still a road to goodness.

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2017 is the beginning of another chapter of history for Virginia Beach, for the U.S. and for the whole world. Like 2016, it will surely have both its triumphs and its trials. In the unknown challenges ahead, there will be opportunities for growth-- for contributions to the upward trend toward a better world.

Resolve, perhaps, to make the most of those opportunities.

Every act of kindness, no matter how small, is a step toward a more peaceful humanity. Hopefully, with time, the changes shown in the broader statistics will become more and more evident in the world experienced in daily life.

