On the evening of May 27, 2017, a thunderstorm approached the Springfield Park area from the west southwest coming roughly down Route 64. At 5:36 PM Glen Allen had a wind gust to 29 mph that was followed by the beginning of small hail that was approximately 0.5 inches in diameter and lasted for about one minute. At 5:38 PM large hail began to fall that was approximately 1.25 to 1.5 inches in diameter. Note the time on the radar capture image is 5:38 PM and you can see the area of hail at its maximum diameter here was bounded by Nuckols Road on the north, Springfield Road on the east, Broad Street on the south, and Innsbrook on the west. The Springfield Park Glen Allen station is located at the center of this perimeter. Some of the hailstones were flat like platelets about three quarters of an inch thick and they were even larger some upwards to 2 inches. See image three. Our area was fortunate however because the large hail soon tapered back to ½ inch in approximately 1 minute. The hail stopped by 5:40 PM and only the rain continued. The rain ended at 6:25 PM but was soon followed by a second thunderstorm giving rain from 6:35 PM and ended at 11:35 PM as the second thunderstorm was followed by general area of rain.

Pictures G1 through G3 show the distribution of hailstones during this three minutes. But all three of these images were taken approximately 5 minutes after the hail stopped. The largest hailstones were about the size of a golf ball. Number 4 was more spherical, what most people would think of when envisioning hailstones and about an inch and a half in diameter. Number 5 is also rather spherical but had jagged points and was also about 1.5 inches in diameter. Number 6 was only about 1.25 inches in diameter but was one of the more interesting disks as it had a white core, an area that was rather clear and a very clear perimeter. Number 7 was very similar to 5 but a different hailstone. Number 8 was about 1.5 inches in diameter and again seems to form from hailstones coalescing into a conglomerate. Number 9 showed the clearest premature circle of ice which meant that it had fallen through some super cooled air and water coating the stone and froze more slowly giving the clear ice. The 9 hailstones shown gives one an idea of how their shapes varied. This was the largest hail that the Glen Allen Station has recorded in its past 8 years of existence.

























