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tastebud

Tastebudz is back with all the news that's fit to eat.



Baby, Its' Warm Inside (the Igloo)

Right here in Goochland, Lola's Farmhouse Bistro (1840 Manakin Road) is being transformed into a "magical seasonal wonderland," says Marianne Trak Hess, owner of this popular restaurant with her husband Eric. Lola's will also be featuring a special "Black Friday" brunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday following Thanksgiving.

Here's the big news. The igloos are back! These unique enclosed plastic pods allow you to dine on the lovely patio regardless of how low the temperatures go. And speaking of the season, Lola's will be featuring some holiday-themed drink specials.



Making It Shacky

I was having breakfast in one of my very favorite restaurants, SB's Lakeside Love Shack (6935 Lakeside Ave.) when a good friend from Goochland and her family stroll in the door. It dawned on me that this little hidden gem has become a destination hotspot especially for breakfast. SB is Sarabeth Hagen, who opened the Love Shack in 2017.

She explains, "We take your basic breakfast items and make them shacky." My personal favorite dish is their Glitter on the Mattress, a take on biscuits and gravy but theirs features sausage and bacon gravy blanketing a mattress of Texas toast with edible glitter on top. SB says that one of the customer favorites is

the "Bang Bang On the Door" Benny - two poached eggs and Virginia ham on a grilled croissant topped with a smokey tomato hollandaise. Fans of the B52s may recognize









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that the restaurant's name and many menu items are a nod to that rock group's hit song Love Shack from their 1989 Cosmic Thing album.

The food is just a part of what makes this place so cool. SB says you can feel the vibe. "When you come here, you fill your soul while you fill your tummy."

More Than Margaritas

If you're looking for space for your end-of-year party, Lalo Macias tells me that there's still some availability in his two private rooms at **Two Compadres Taqueria Bar & Grill** (13830 Village Place Drive) Speaking of the season, the Midlothian restaurant has added some new seasonal specialties to the bar menu, such as their cinnamon apple mule, featuring Tito's Vodka, homemade apple cider, and ginger beer. And, yes, if you want a Margarita, Lalo makes one of the best around.



Thai Boat's A-Coming

Thai Boat Restaurant, in the fan at 2301 W. Main, recently opened and is serving the most authentic Thai food in town. That, according to co-owner Joe Kiatsurranon. Joe should know.



He and his family operate some of the city's most popular Thai/Asian restaurants including Mom's Siam, YaYa's Cookbook, and My Noodle and Bar. Joe was inspired by the restaurants he enjoyed during a visit to his native Thailand and the island city of Phuket. BTW, the "Boat" in the name pays homage to Joe's good friend, bar manager Narongchai Rungpibulsopit, whose nickname is "Boat."

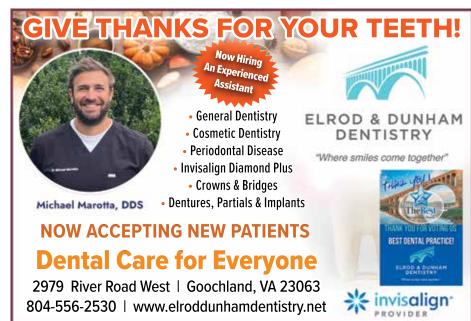
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A Winter's Drive to the Northern Neck on Cheasapeake Bay

by Kim Amboy

re you itching for a little change of scenery but don't want to drive for hours to get there? Then grab your coat and take the relatively short jaunt out to the Northern Neck communities near Chesapeake Bay. Now that the warm weather crowds have thinned, it's a wonderful time to kick around the area, do some shopping, have a meal, learn some history and savor the majestic sights along the shore. A group of us recently did just that, and it turned out to be a real morale booster! So, here are a few points of interest you might enjoy checking out.



Known for its waterfront charm and coastal lifestyle, the small, quaint community of **Irvington**, **Virginia** is not even two square miles in size. Situated on the eastern banks of Carter's Creek near the Rappahannock River, it was once a steamboat landing for ships from Baltimore, Norfolk, and elsewhere in the 1800's. Nowadays, travelers are drawn to its charming shops, inns and seafood. **The**

Office Bistro in Irvington is a popular, upscale eat-

ery with a unique and whimsical exterior--the porch pillars are toothbrushes! Its excellent food, elegant seating, and exceptional service (shout out to our charming server, Tashima) make this a must-stop along your way. You'll leave stuffed, I guarantee it!





Less than five country miles from Irvington is **Kilmarnock**, an adorable little slice of Americana on the Rappahannock River. Brimming with history and wonderfully old architecture, the community's quaint downtown and surrounding areas have much to offer winter visitors, from art galleries and museums to clothing boutiques, home decor, and gift shops. Or take in the views from the cozy atmosphere at **Good Luck Cellars** (a winery on the Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail) and enjoy a little music and wine tasting.

For a change of pace, bundle up and bring your binoculars for some fresh air and a winter's hike through the secluded forests, marshes, and shoreline at **Hughlett Point Preserve** just fifteen minutes out of town. This small peninsula on the Bay's western shore is an incredibly beautiful and peaceful spot that is sure to inspire even at this time of year. You're very likely to see



ducks, geese, and other birds gathering during the season, as well as several different species



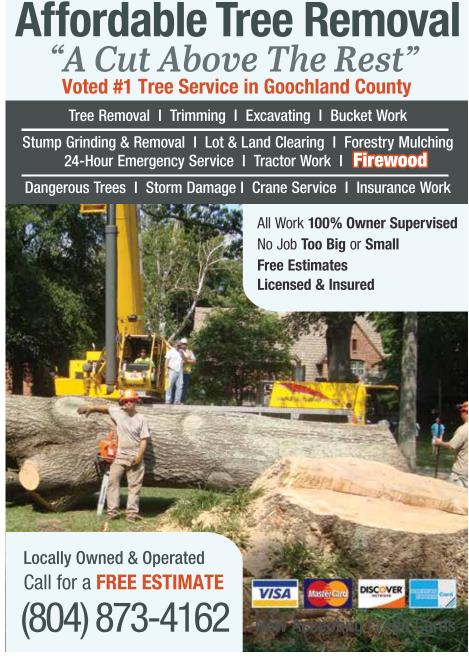
of raptors. While our group walked along the shore, we identified several different animal tracks in the sand as the waves lapped up nearby. The giant bear prints were a real thrill!

So, with the day spent and our bags full of gifts and souvenirs, we concluded our jam-packed visit to the little towns near the Bay. I must say, it was most enjoyable. Perhaps you can clear some room on the calendar, take the drive and make your own Northern Neck memories.



















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Southern Sweet Potato Casserole and Baked Cranberry Sauce

veryone has their favorite sweet potato casserole and so do I. However, Great Grandma Rawls always served hers in a cored orange half with a whole pecan on top. I prefer them crushed, but the orange presentation is stunning. Add your own twist to delight friends and family. *Cindy*

Southern Sweet Potato Casserole

INGREDIENTS:

Sweet Potatoes:

3 cups sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed 3/4 cup sugar

1/3 cup butter, melted

2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla

1 tsp cinnamon

1/2 tsp nutmeg

6 to 8 oranges, cut in half and cored 1/2 cup orange juice, freshly squeezed

1/4 cup heavy cream

Topping:

3 tbsp butter, melted

1 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup flour

1 cup chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 325 F. Mix sweet potatoes, sugar, spices, butter, eggs, vanilla, and orange juice. Beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Add heavy cream and mix well.

Mix the remaining butter, brown sugar, flour, and nuts. Put the sweet potato mixture into the cored halves of the oranges and top with the nut mixture. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.

I have been making this cranberry sauce for over 30 years and have even been asked if I would be willing to sell it. That's how different and delicious it is. I hope you enjoy this unique take on a classic dish.

Baked Cranberry Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

4 cups fresh cranberries

2 cups sugar

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

113 oz jar orange marmalade

3 tbsp lemon juice

1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts, toasted

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Wash and drain cranberries and place in a large bowl. Add sugar, cinnamon, marmalade, lemon juice, and walnuts to bowl with cranberries and mix well. Spoon into a 9-inch square pan and cover with foil. Bake for 45 minutes. Refrigerate and serve cold.







11761A West Broad St, Henrico, VA 23233 In The Shoppes at Westgate









Fun Things TO DO List

Sponsored by the Perkinson Center Looking for something fun to do? Here are a few ideas.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST @ 2 P.M

PAWTY WITH THE PUPS

Join us for our biggest pawty yet. **Pawfect Sweets GRAND OPENING** will have delicious quality handmade oven-baked dog treats! We love our fur babies and want to extend that love through treats from our

home to yours. Come out to 8906 W. Broad St. Ste. B, Glen Allen, and see all we have to offer and enjoy our giveaways. (www.pawfectsweets.com)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 7 P.M.

TAKE A STRING BAND JOURNEY

Deadgrass takes you on a string band jamgrass adventure through Jerry Garcia's musical world. Matt Turk and C Lanzbom join forces with bassist Dave Richards, banjo player Boo Reiners, and fiddler Kensuke Shoji to explore the life works of Jerry Garcia on the instruments that first inspired him. It's



an unforgettable evening at the Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen. (ArtsGlenAllen.com)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 @ 8 P.M.

COME IN FOR THE STORM

Gaelic Storm, an American Celtic band founded in Santa Monica, California, appears on stage at the **Tin Pan**. The group's musical output includes pieces from traditional Irish music, Scottish music, and original tunes in both the Celtic folk and Celtic rock genres. (TinPanRVA.com)



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 7 P.M.

HERE, TRY A SAMPLE

The Samples, an American rock band, brings their unique blend of music, which has been described as reggae influenced "rock/pop" and a cross between The Police and the Grateful Dead, to the **Tin Pan**.

The band's name came from the members' early sustenance of food samples from the local grocery store. (TinPanRVA.com)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 7 P.M.

ENJOY A HARE-RAISING ADVENTURE

Enjoy *Harvey*, as one of the greatest motion pictures of all times comes to the **Ashland Theatre**. Featuring Jimmy Stewart and his six-foot invisible puca., the film tells the heartwarming story of Elwood P. Dowd. All tickets



are just 75 cents. This is one you don't want to miss. (AshlandTheatre.org)





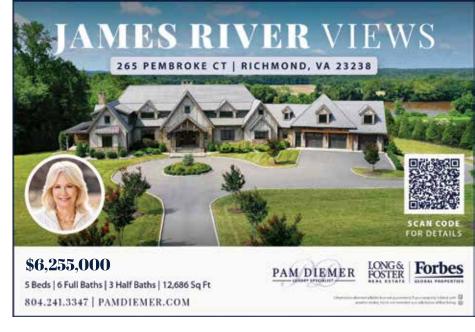


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