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tastebudz

with Steve Cook

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

Getting An A+ From A Bee

Check out the recently opened **Honey Bee Bakery** (17 W. Hundred Road) in Chester. This fabulous bake shop is owned and operated by Jasmine Bartley. She and her husband met while both were stationed at Fort Lee. While he continues on active duty, Jasmine is devoting her time to running the bakery while home-schooling their five-year-old son.



"I've been baking since I was a kid," she explains. Following the birth of their son, Jasmine chose to be a stay-at-home mom and started baking on the side. She met with such success providing custom orders for locals as well as for farmers markets and church events, that she decided to open her own shop.

So, what makes the Honey Bee so popular? Jasmine explains, "As my momma says, 'It's quality you can taste.' We've had all positive reviews. I put my heart and soul into everything I bake."

She adds, "My personal favorite

is the maple bacon biscuit, served with a maple drizzle." That's served on Sundays only.

Jasmine also offers custom cakes for virtually any occasion.

To discover more tasty treats, visit their Facebook page. There's plenty to love, but don't take my word for it. Take Sadie's. Sadie is a young neighbor of Jasmine's who recently started working in the shop. "Everything I've had is delicious," she says.



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<<< **Belly Up to the Buffet**

Let me tell you about a great upcoming event at Powhatan's **County Seat** (3883 Old Buckingham Road). As you know, the restaurant offers delicious all-you-can-eat buffets on the weekend. But the big daddy of buffets will be served on Thanksgiving Day from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. It features such favorites as a turkey carving station, crab cakes, honey-baked ham, thin-sliced eye of round, and much, much more. Owner Tracy Ciphers advises making reservations now.

Of course, their other big draw is the live music. Check their website (TheCountySeat.com) for the full schedule.



More Than Margaritas

If you're looking for space for your end-of-year party, Lalo Macias tells me that he still has some availability at his **Two Compadres Taqueria Bar & Grill**. Located at 13830 Village Place Drive in Midlothian.

Two Compadres has elevated their bar scene, mixing up variety of craft cocktails, including a few specialties for the season such as their cinnamon apple mule, featuring Tito's Vodka, homemade apple cider, ginger beer, and topped with a smoky cinnamon stick. And, yes, if you want a Margarita, Lalo makes the best. IMHO.

Thai Boat's A-Coming

Local restaurateur Joe Kiatsuranon has recently opened **Thai Boat Restaurant** in the fan at 2301 W. Main. "We are serving the most authentic Thai food in town. Items you can't find anywhere else," he says, adding that the concept was an inspiration born from a visit to his native Thailand and the island city of Phuket.



Share your restaurant's news. Email us at info@acimonthly.com.

Thai Boat co-owner Joe Kiatsuranon (center) is flanked by business partners and chefs Wasu Sukomboon (l) and Thanit Sonsart (r) Bar Manager, "Boat" Rungpibulsapit looks on from behind the bar.

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Glass Blowing in Jamestown: America's First Industry

by Kim Amboy

As a relative newbie to Virginia, I must confess, I really love all the fascinating history right at my doorstep. Recently, some friends treated my hubby and me to our first visit to Jamestown Settlement near Williamsburg. With my limited knowledge of Jamestown, I pictured wooden fences, tobacco fields, and tales of John Smith and Pocahontas. But I learned Jamestown also holds another fascinating legacy: it was the birthplace of American industry.

In 1608, just a year after the settlers arrived, The Virginia Company of London sent German and Polish glassmakers to Jamestown to set up a glasshouse. Due to its rarity and the craftsmanship needed to produce it, their glass was regarded as valuable as gold. Using local resources, they made and shipped various articles back to England to show the colony's profitability. Unfortunately, their glassmaking efforts in the early 1600s were short-lived due to the hardships they faced, but they still hold great significance--marking one of the very first attempts at manufacturing in America.

A Living History Experience

It was thrilling to see several glassblowing artisans in action as they enthusiastically explained the history of the craft while actually creating beautiful items. One such artisan, Quave (Kwa-vay), kindly fielded all my questions as she skillfully worked red molten glass into a pretty, vase-like piece. She told me her personal glass-making journey was quite unintentional and began in college where she majored in photography and took glassmaking



as an elective. She was hooked and has been honing her skills for several years now. And for anyone interested in learning the craft, she mentioned VCU has an amazing glassblowing program. Quave and all her colleagues at the Glasshouse are very happy to share what they know. Of course, after watching the process, we also purchased a few hand-blown pieces made on site from the connected store and display area.

Why It's Worth the Visit

As window light streams through the brilliant glass mug in our kitchen, I'm reminded of my visit to Jamestown Glasshouse. The trip yielded more than just a glimpse into old world craftsmanship; it offered tremendous insight into the struggles and ambitions of America's first settlers. I now realize that the settlement wasn't only about historical characters and their survival, but also about artistic innovations, trade, and pride of workmanship, all of which can be experienced the next time you plan your own trip to this beloved piece of living history.



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From the Pantry

Southern Sweet Potato Casserole and Baked Cranberry Sauce

Everyone 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
- 1 13 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.

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Fun Things TO DO List

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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)



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 THROUGH SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

HIT THE STREETS



Run, don't walk to the streets of Richmond for the **Allianz Richmond Marathon**. The marathon, itself, kicks off at 7 a.m. sharp on Saturday. But on Thursday and Friday, over 60 exhibitors offering the latest in running equipment, nutrition, and technology will be displaying their wares at the **Health & Fitness Expo at Richmond Raceway**. Runners can pick up their packets during the expo. The race, which runs through much of the city and its surrounds, starts at 1st and Broad Streets. See the web-site for more details. (RichmondMarathon.org)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 @ 7:30 P.M. AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 @ 2:30 P.M.

GET READY FOR SOME HAPPILY EVER AFTER

The **Virginia Opera** presents **Cinderella**. The **Carpenter Theater** at the Dominion Energy Center is magically transformed into the splendor of 18th century Italy for this captivating performance. (DominionEnergyCenter.com)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 FROM 6:30 TO 9:30 P.M.

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The "B's" stand for **Bourbon Brisket & Brushes**, a delightful fundraiser for the **Perkinson Center**. Enjoy a mouthwatering dinner from the legendary ZZQ Texas Craft Barbecue. Take a guided, spirited tasting tour curated by Three Crosses Distilling Company. Watch as artist demonstrations bring creativity to life. (PerkinsonCenter.Org)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 THROUGH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

REV UP THE TIME MACHINE

Travel back to the year 1946. Radio station WMAQ is hosting a live re-enactment of the well-known classic **It's a Wonderful Life**, complete with retro sound effects, commercial jingles, and an entertaining studio environment! Your time travel takes place at the **Swift Creek Mill Theatre**. (SwiftCreekMill.com)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 FROM 11 A.M. UNTIL 3 P.M.

GET COMFY

Grab your bathrobe and head on out to **Center of the Universe Brewing** for their **Bathrobes, Eggs and Kegs!** Event. Enjoy live music from the Royal WE while feasting on some delicious brunch and beverages, including Mimosas! (Facebook.com - search Center of the Universe)



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:30 P.M.

GET THE LOWDOWN

Lowdown, **Lido Shuffle**, and **Jojo** will, no doubt, be among the tunes wafting through the **Altria Theater** when **Boz Scaggs** brings his **Rhythm Review 2025** to town. (AltriaTheater.com)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TAKE A NIGHT HIKE

Ever wonder who stays awake while you sleep? On Maymont's **Adult Night Hike** (21+) discover some of the gardens' nighttime residents and learn about their nocturnal adaptations through experiments, games and a hike of the **Maymont grounds**. (Maymont.org)



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 THROUGH SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Experience **Meadow Event Park's Illuminate Light Show**, Virginia's largest drive-thru synchronized light and music show, featuring over 3-million lights. (IlluminateLightShow.com)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 FROM NOON 'TIL 5 P.M.
GIVE'EM SOMETHING TO WINE ABOUT

Seven of the state's top wineries will be participating in the **Kiwanis Club's 14th annual Hopewell Wine-Tasting Festival**. Singer/songwriter Kyle Davis will provide the musical entertainment at this event held at the **Beacon Theatre**. (HopewellWineFestival.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)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
GET KOZY

The **Kozy Cats** come to the **County Seat Restaurant and Gathering Place** for their signature blend of smooth jazz, swing, funk, and soul. (TheCountySeat.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)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 AT 2 AND 7 P.M.
LET IT SNOW!

Let it Snow! is the theme as the Richmond Symphony joined by the Richmond Symphony Chorus presents a performance of seasonal favorites on the **Carpenter Theater Stage** at the Dominion Energy Center. (DominionEnergyCenter.com)



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 FROM 6 TO 8 P.M.

PAINT AND SIP

Or, if you prefer, you can sip and paint at the **Perkinson Center's Holiday Paint and Sip**. Enjoy an evening of creativity, conversation, and a splash of wine. It's the perfect way to relax, unwind, and enjoy a fun night out. (PerkinsonCenter.org)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4 @ 7:30
GET RHYTHM

American Southern rock band the **Atlanta Rhythm Section** appears at the **Beacon Theatre**. (BeaconTheatre.org)



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)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 @ 7:30 P.M.
WELCOME THE STRANGER



Mike Santoro brings his **Billy Joel Tribute: THE STRANGER** to the **Beacon Theatre** stage. (BeaconTheatre.com)

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