

# Glen Allen Monthly

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## “S” is for Sandwich (With Extra Cheese)

by Kim Amboy

Here's a classic bit of poetry to rival even Shakespeare: "S" is for sandwich, a staple for lunch. But you can eat one anytime—for breakfast or brunch! From Grilled Cheese to tuna, Reuben to sub, We all have our favorite...It's good, hearty grub.

Ok, it's obvious Shakespeare has nothing to worry about, but it's likely few will disagree with the sentiment included. There are so many different sandwich varieties and so little time! Let's see...open faced with gravy, pita stuffed with avocado salad, olive and cream cheese on toasted wheat bread...the list goes on for miles!

Most folks agree that part of what makes sandwiches so good



is their convenience. They're portable, customizable, and easy to eat without utensils. Enter an interesting bit of history: the concept of putting fillings in bread is ancient, but the term "sandwich" and its modern popular form come from 18th century England. For those readers who haven't already heard the story, in 1762 John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich



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was such a dedicated gambler that he requested meat tucked between bread so he could eat with one hand without leaving the card table. Soon his gambling companions were asking to have “the same as Sandwich”, and quick meals have never been the same.

While it’s true, I’m not the greatest poet, I do know a good sandwich when I taste one. See if you don’t agree by visiting any or all of the following eateries. Bon Appetit!

**Mason’s Famous Lobster Rolls** 11761 W. Broad St. Henrico or 14213 Winterview Pkwy. Ste. 105, Midlothian. If you’re hungry for traditional buttery Maine rolls packed with lobster,



crab, or shrimp, Mason’s is your go-to spot. They focus on classic ingredients like lemon, butter, and mayo, which enhance their sandwiches perfectly, and customers rave about them. Be sure to visit and try a few for yourself.

**Rise & Shine Diner** 10372 Leadbetter Rd, Ashland.

Customers say Rise & Shine serves up the best Reuben you’ll ever eat. The deli earns high marks for its delicious food, generous servings, and reasonable prices. Even when it’s busy, the staff provides quick and friendly service. Be sure to check out this local favorite soon!



**Chicken Salad Chick** 9631 W Broad St, Glen Allen. If you’re looking for a healthy, homemade option instead of fast food, Chicken Salad Chick offers delicious Southern-style sandwiches made from scratch. Try the popular “Fancy Nancy” or “Classic Carol” sandwich—both come highly recommended.

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# Virginia's 2026 Spring and Summer Festivals

by Kim Amboy

Virginia's 2026 festival season is filled with many opportunities to enjoy the Commonwealth's hospitality, delicious food, and rich cultural experiences—from spring flowers to jazz concerts and wine tastings throughout summer and fall. No matter your preferences, interests, or budget, you'll find a festival that suits you and your family. Here are some additional details:

## APRIL 24-MAY 3 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival

Celebrating its 99th year, the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival offers more than fifty events over ten days—live entertainment, dances, a carnival, meals, a wine festival, and children's activities—welcoming visitors to enjoy spring among the apple blossoms.



(<https://blueridgecountry.com/events/shenandoah-apple-blossom-festival-2026/>)

## SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 Chincoteague Seafood Festival



This annual event celebrates the local seafood industry with all-you-can-eat offerings, live music, and artisan vendors. Enjoy local seafood including little neck clams, raw oysters, clam fritters, fried fish, and clam chowder. Live entertainment and more! ([chincoteaguechamber.com](http://chincoteaguechamber.com))

## JUNE 25-28 Williamsburg Live

Music, history, and summer ambiance converge on the shaded lawn of Colonial Williamsburg's Art Museums. Guests can enjoy craft beer, regional cuisine, and performances by distinguished artists such as Melissa Etheridge, Wynonna Judd, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, and Alison Krauss & Union Station. ([vafest.org](http://vafest.org))



## JULY 17 THRU 19 Virginia Lake Fest

Lake Fest, now in its 49th year and named among the "Top 20 Festivals in the Southeast," takes place in downtown Clarksville. Highlights include dazzling fireworks, hot air balloons, a lively street fair, live performances, and plenty of music and dancing. (<https://clarksvilleva.com/events/#lakefest>)

## JULY 23 THRU 25 38th Annual Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival

Visit the Largest Indoor and Outdoor Fine Arts & Crafts event on the Eastern Shore. Commemorate blueberry season with all-day live music while savoring the old-fashioned deliciousness of fresh blueberries, muffins, pancakes, homemade blueberry pie and ice cream, and plenty more! (<https://chincoteagueislandblueberryfestival.com/>)



## AUGUST 21 & 22 Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival

The downtown waterfront in Norfolk transforms each year into the area's longest-running jazz festival. Jam to performances from renowned entertainers, as well as offerings from local food vendors, art exhibits, and engaging cultural activities. (<https://festevents.org/events/2026/jazz-fest/>)

## SEPTEMBER 26 & 27

### Smith Mountain Lake Wine Festival



Virginia's Smith Mountain Lake Wine Festival, held at Bernard's Landing in Moneta, brings visitors together to sample wines from across the state, shop for artisan crafts, listen to live music, and enjoy stunning views of the lake. Join the more than 10,000 people who attend this outdoor event every year for a weekend filled with scenery and flavor. (<https://smlwinefestival.com/>)

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RECIPE



# From the Pantry

## CRISPY POTATO CHIPS

**P**otatoes in any form are the ultimate side dish, but these homemade potato chips are salty, crunchy, and just hit the spot. We made ours with the basics: salt, pepper and olive oil, but they are easy to customize. Old Bay seasoning, fresh rosemary, or smoked paprika are some great additions. These are perfect for a quick and easy side dish all year long. *Cindy*



**INGREDIENTS:**

- 4 russet potatoes
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

**DIRECTIONS:**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees (you can also easily make these in an air fryer or toaster oven). Slice the potatoes to your desired thickness. Cover both sides of each chip with olive oil and your desired seasonings. Place them on a sheet pan without overlapping. Bake for 10-15 minutes, flipping halfway through. Enjoy while hot and fresh and with your favorite dipping sauce.



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# Fun Things TO DO List

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

THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 25

## MEET THE PUMP BOYS AT THE DINER

Get ready to enjoy a country-western style musical in which the waitresses at the Double-Cupp Diner (the Dinettes) make great music with the Pump Boys from the gas station next door. Yes, it's **Pump Boys and Dinettes** on stage at **Swift Creek Mill Theatre**. ([SwiftCreekMill.com](http://SwiftCreekMill.com))



FRIDAY, APRIL 3 THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 12

## ENJOY A GOOD MEAL

The Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce is hosting the **3rd Annual Chesterfield Restaurant Week**. Over 50 restaurants are participating in this mouth-watering event, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Chesterfield Food Bank and Outreach Center. ([ChesterfieldRestaurantWeek.com](http://ChesterfieldRestaurantWeek.com))



SATURDAY, APRIL 4 FROM NOON 'TIL 5 P.M.

## SIP INTO SOMETHING COMFORTABLE

Spend a spring day at the **Appomattox Boat Harbor** and enjoy the **Appomattox River Wine Festival**. Yes, there'll be local and regional wines, ciders, and beers, but there's much more including live music, food, and vendors. ([AppomattoxRiverWineFestival.com](http://AppomattoxRiverWineFestival.com))

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 @ 7:05 P.M.

## PLAY BALL!

It's opening night at the beautiful and brand-new **Car Max Park**. The **Flying Squirrels** take on the Altoona Curve for six straight days (through April 12). ([MILB.com/Richmond](http://MILB.com/Richmond))



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 7:30 P.M.

## SPEND AN EVENING WITH A LEGEND

Enjoy songs and stories when you spend **An Evening With John Legend** at the **Altria Theater**. ([AltriaTheater.com](http://AltriaTheater.com))

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 @ 6-9 P.M.

## PUTTING THE "FUN" IN FUNDRAISER

Girls2Women-VA presents their 3rd annual fundraiser: **2026 Spring Fling: Denim & Bling**, live at **The Hippodrome Theater** in Richmond! Come together to show your support for the girls and women in Greater Richmond. Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar to while bidding on the silent auction, travel packages, raffles and more! ([Girls2Women-VA.org/events](http://Girls2Women-VA.org/events))



SATURDAY, APRIL 11 @ 3 P.M.

## STRIKE UP THE BAND

The **Perkinson Center** will be celebrating America's 250th with **Strike Up the Band**, a special concert featuring the Chesterfield Concert Band. ([PerkinsonCenter.org](http://PerkinsonCenter.org))



SATURDAY, APRIL 11 @ 6 P.M.

## CELEBRATE A CENTENNIAL

Step back a century to a Roaring-Twenties themed **Swingin' Centennial Celebration** of **Agecroft Hall's** reestablishment on American soil. Enjoy live jazz, themed food and beverages, classic cars, lawn games, a silent auction, and the spellbinding sight of over 5,000 tulips in bloom. ([AgecroftHall.org](http://AgecroftHall.org))

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

## SHAKE IT UP

The **Soul Shakers** perform classic R&B, Southern soul, and Motown at the **County Seat Restaurant & Gathering Place**. ([TheCountySeat.com](http://TheCountySeat.com))



SATURDAY, APRIL 11

## GO BACK TO THE START

**Back To The Start: A Tribute to Coldplay** will be performing at **Uptown Alley**. Enjoy the music of one of the biggest bands in the world. ([UptownAlleyRichmond.com](http://UptownAlleyRichmond.com))



SUNDAY, APRIL 12 FROM 1 TO 4 P.M.

## SEE YOURSELF THERE

The **Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** kicks off "The Campaign for VMFA" with a special **See Yourself Here** celebration of the museum's 90th anniversary. The event promises performances, food trucks, art activities, and fun for all ages. ([VMFA.museum](http://VMFA.museum))

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FRIDAY, APRIL 17

**CELEBRATE THE EARTH**

Powhatan County's Annual Earth Day Celebration will be full of fun kid-friendly activities, educational exhibits, live music, food, and more. (Facebook.com/PowhatanEarthDay)

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 @ 7 P.M.

**GET YOUR GEEK ON**

The Richmond Symphony joins the JMU Marching Royal Dukes at the **Carpenter Center** for joyful, high-energy mash-up of symphonic sound and collegiate pride. Calling all former band geeks. **Band Geek Date Night** is especially for you. (DominionEnergyCenter.com)



TUESDAY, APRIL 21 THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 26

**FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD**

It leads to the **Altria Theater** and eight performances of **The Wiz**. Dorothy gets down with soul, gospel, rock, and 70's funk for an evening of musical, magical delight. (AltriaTheater.com)



FRIDAY, APRIL 24 @ 6 P.M.

**ESCAPE**

Escape to the tropics without leaving Goochland. Get ready for a **Night at Tucker Concert**. It'll be a laid-back evening of island vibes and live music at the beautiful **Tucker Park**, alongside the James River. (GoochlandVA.us)



SATURDAY, APRIL 25 FROM 10 A.M 'TIL 4 P.M.

**GET ON BOARD**

It's **Train Day** in **Downtown Ashland**. Come celebrate the love for trains with choo choos and chow, plus live entertainment, a Kids' Zone, model railroads, and much more. (AshlandVirginia.com)

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SATURDAY, MAY 2 FROM 4 TO 7 P.M.

**IT'S DERBY DAY!**

Enjoy live music, food trucks and some great COTU brews when the **Center of the Universe Brewing Company** celebrates **Derby Day**. They'll even have a Mint Julep brew, as well as other adult beverages. (COTUBrewing.com)

SATURDAY, MAY 2 @ 7 P.M.

**LOOK FOR THE BAT-SIGNAL**

It'll be shining over the **Altria Theater** where **Batman™ '89** will be playing on the big screen accompanied, live, by the Richmond Symphony. (AltriaTheater.com)



THURSDAY, MAY 7 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 10

**BREAK A LEG**

The Broken Leg Theatre partners up with the **Perkinson Center** for a presentation of Lionel Bart's **Oliver**. See it once and you'll be saying, "Please sir, may I have some more?" (PerkinsonCenter.org)

SATURDAY, MAY 9 FROM 11 A.M. 'TIL 3 P.M.

**SHOP AT THE MARKET**

Hosted by the Willow Collaborative, "**The Market**" will feature a variety of local artisans and vendors at **Village Park** in Powhatan. (TheWillowCollaborative.org)



**DISCOVER MORE FUN THINGS TO DO AT GLENALLENMONTHLY.COM**



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