

# Midlothian SOUTH Monthly

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## tastebudz

with Steve Cook

### Where Can You Find a Great Dish Around Here?

Do you ever get a hankering for a particular dish? Perhaps you already have your favorites in mind. I'm going to share a few of mine. I also asked, Kat, an old (meaning long-time) friend of mine who lives in the Brandermill area, to lend her thoughts on local favorites.

**Barbecue** - I'm not going to be seduced into a debate as to who has the best barbecue in the area. That's too subjective. But when I'm in the mood for an excellent pulled pork sandwich with my choice of delicious sauces or a succulent slice of oak-smoked brisket, I head to **Mission BBQ** (13439 Hull Street Road). The food is great. But to be totally honest, I primarily go for the corn bread. It may be the best in town.



**Comfort Food** - For this one, Kat had her favorite and I had mine. She tells me that the **Southern Taste Diner** (9951 Hull Street Road) serves really large portions. "You would enjoy it," she says. I guess she knows my love for food. Kat raves about their brunch and recommends the chicken and waffles. She also told me that she'd heard their pork chops are delicious as well.



When I'm in the mood for the comfort that only good food can bring, I head to **The Grill at Waterford** (13548 Waterford Pl.). This family-run business offers a welcoming, comforting environment. On a cold evening, the roaring fireplace is very comforting. The menu offers a huge variety, but my favorite is the meatloaf. This Angus beef loaf is served over mashed potatoes and smothered with brown gravy. >>>

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«« Pizza - Who has the best pizza in town is another game I'm not gonna play. I love pizza. I love it virtually anywhere. But through the years, especially when my office was nearby, I was too often found at **Maggio's Pizza** in Hancock Village (7220 Hancock



Village Dr.). They say they serve "A slice of New York." I believe it. Their pizza dough is made in house daily. The toppings are top quality. It's a perfect slice every time. And when they opened their taproom with the 28-tap beer wall, it made this perfect spot even perfecter.

**Ice Cream** - With summer coming on, I'm always looking for a great cone, or a sundae, or perhaps a banana split. Kat tells me she's found just the spot out in Moseley. It's **Jimer's Frozen Custard** (20800 Hull Street Road), which is located at Skinquarter Market. Okay, it's not ice cream. It's frozen custard. I don't discriminate. Kat says that this place is the "absolute best reason to go out after dinner and get some frozen custard, bar none."



So, these are a few of our favorites. Care to share yours?

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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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# From the Pantry

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### BASE INGREDIENTS:

- 1½ oz tequila
- Juice of one lime
- ½ oz simple syrup
- Sugar or salt, for rims

### PINEAPPLE JALAPENO:

- ¼ jalapeno, seeds removed
- 1 cup pineapple, cut into small chunks

### BLACKBERRY BASIL:

- 1 cup blackberries
- 4 large basil leaves

### RED RASPBERRY:

- 1 cup raspberries

### DIRECTIONS:

Muddle the lime juice and additional ingredients in the bottom of a shaker for about 10 seconds. Add ice, tequila, and simple syrup. Shake hard for 30 seconds and pour into a margarita glass. Add a lime wedge garnish and enjoy with friends!



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**Fun Things TO DO List**

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**THURSDAY, MAY 7 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 10**

**DISCOVER WHAT THE DICKENS IS GOING ON**

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

**SATURDAY, MAY 9 STARTING AT 8 A.M.**

**BUCKLE UP**

Here's your chance to drive a real racecar at **Richmond Raceway**. Enjoy an honest-to-goodness **NASCAR Driving Experience**. It's just you behind the wheel for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. For the slightly less daring, ride shotgun at high speed with a professional race car driver behind the wheel. (NascarExperience.com)



**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)

**TUESDAY, MAY 12 THROUGH SUNDAY MAY 17**

**FIND OUT WHAT IF**

What if Juliet really didn't end it all over Romeo? What if she ditched her famous ending for a fresh beginning? Find out what if when the hit Broadway musical "**& Juliet**" takes to the **Altria Theater** stage. (AltriaTheater.com)



**FRIDAY, MAY 15 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 17**

**GET READY FOR THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN**

That's what the promoters are calling this year's **Powhatan County Fair**. There'll be midway rides, pro-wrestling, helicopter rides, pony rides, magic shows, and so much more. It all happens at the **Powhatan County Fairgrounds**. (PowhatanFair.org)



**FRIDAY, MAY 15 @ 6:30**

**GO CRAZY**

Head to the **Crazy Rooster Brewery** for the feel-good music of the **Biologics** along with some fantastic fresh brews. (CrazyRoosterBrewing.com)



**FRIDAY, MAY 15 @ 7:30 P.M.**

**BOOGIE BACK TO TEXAS**

It's Texas Swing at its best. **Asleep at the Wheel** hits the **Beacon Theatre** stage with their unique blend of Western Swing and Honky Tonk Country. (BeaconTheatreVA.com)



**SATURDAY, MAY 16 @ 10 A.M.**

**CELEBRATE CREATIVITY**

It's the **Art Factory's Spring Festival** bringing together talented local artisans, makers, and young creatives for a lively day of shopping, exploring, and connecting. You can connect at **4810 Market Square Lane in Midlothian**. (ArtFactoryVA.com)

**SATURDAY, MAY 16 FROM 11 A.M. 'TIL 2 P.M.**

**HAVE A FIELD DAY**

**Meadow Farm** presents its 4th annual **Farm Field Day**. Learn about agricultural practices, trades, and crafts of days past. Local craftsmen and businesses will be demonstrating their trades and selling wares. Create crafts, enjoy food trucks, and learn about farm practices. (Henrico.Gov/calendar)



**SATURDAY, MAY 16**

**MEET AT THE PLAYGROUND**

**The Generational Playground** will be playing the classic hits of the 70s, 80s, and 90s at the **County Seat Restaurant & Gathering Place** (TheCountySeat.com)

**SATURDAY, MAY 16 @ 8 P.M.**

**RIDE THE RANGE**

The 2018 International Bluegrass Music Association's Entertainer of the Year, **Balsam Range** appears on stage at the **Ashland Theatre**. (AshlandTheatre.com)



**FRIDAY, MAY 22 AND SATURDAY, MAY 23 @ 7:30 P.M. BOTH EVENINGS**

**ENJOY SOME ROPING AND RIDING**

There'll be plenty of bull riding, cowgirl barrel racing, team roping, and much more when all the cowpokes from **Longbranch Rodeo** perform at **2693 Rocky Oak Road in Powhatan**. (LongbranchRodeo.com)

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**MONDAY, MAY 25 @ 8 P.M.**

**GET STUNG**

Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner, better known as Sting, is joined by guitarist Dominic Miller and drummer Chris Maas at the **Allianz Amphitheater** for the Richmond stop on their **Sting 3.0 Tour**. (AllianzAmphitheater.com)



**FRIDAY, MAY 29 @ 6 P.M.**

**PLAY DEAD**

The Richmond-based **Suggesting Rhythm Band** brings the music of the Grateful Dead to Life at **Hidden Wit Brewing Company**. (HiddenWit.beer)



**FRIDAY, MAY 29 @ 6 P.M.**

**ENJOY LIVE MUSIC IN THE PARK**

Goochland County's Parks and Recreation's continues their **Concert in the Park** series with the local group **Gone Country** performing at the **Old GES Field**.(GoochlandVA.us)

**SATURDAY, MAY 30 FROM NOON 'TIL 5 P.M.**

**GATHER DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE**

Good friends and great wine on the banks of the Appomattox River. Sounds like fun, eh? There'll also be live music and food vendors. Gather at the Appomattox Boat Harbor. (AppomattoxRiverWineFestival.com)



**SATURDAY, MAY 30**

**GET KOZY**

Enjoy soul and classic pop when the **Kozy Cats** appear at the **County Seat Restaurant & Gathering Place**. (TheCountySeat.com)

**SUNDAY, MAY 31 AT 3 AND 7 P.M.**

**SWING**

Jazz it up when one of America's greatest bands, **The Glenn Miller Orchestra**, appears at the **Cultural Arts Center** for two swinging shows. (ArtsGlenAllen.com)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5 @ 7:30 P.M.**

**FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD**

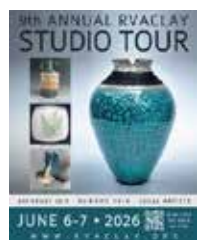
**Yellow Brick Road** presents **A Tribute To Elton John** at the **Beacon Theatre**. (BeaconTheatreVA.com)



**FRIDAY, JUNE 5 @ 8 P.M.**

**RELIVE THOSE DIAMOND YEARS**

**Neil Forever** performs the music of Neil Diamond. Spending an evening at the **Carpenter Theatre** listening to this 14 -piece ensemble perform so many of those great hits from the past is sure to bring back many special memories. (DominionEnergyCenter.com)



**SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - SUNDAY JUNE 7**

**DISCOVER RICHMOND'S CLAY COMMUNITY!**

Join Us For the **9th Annual RVA Clay Tour**. This self-guided weekend tour opens local ceramic studios to the public. Meet artists, watch demonstrations, explore creative spaces, and shop handcrafted pottery directly from the makers. Plan your route and discover beautiful art made right here at home. Learn more at rvaclay.org

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6 FROM 10 A.M. 'TIL 5 P.M.**

**JUICE IT UP!**

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