

October 2026

Glen Allen Monthly

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It's Taco Tuesday!

by Taylor Armstrong

Mark your calendars! Back in 2024, National Taco Day was permanently moved to the first Tuesday in October. This year it falls on October 6th and we are ready to celebrate. Be on the lookout for deals on this extra special Taco Tuesday. Whether you like your tacos inside flour or corn tortillas, with extra cilantro and onion, just meat and cheese, extra spicy, or something with a vegetarian option, there is a taco out there for everyone.



Los Panchos - 3532 Pump Rd., Henrico; 1517 N Parham Rd., Henrico; 1940-D Sandy Hook Rd., Goochland. There are three locations in the area and they are all known for their large portions and friendly staff. They have some delicious taco options, including ribeye, quesabirria, and tacos panchos (shrimp and tilapia), as well as more adventurous taco choices, like tripa (gut) and lengua (tongue). >>>

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Plaza Azteca - 10099 Brook Rd, Glen Allen; 6623 W Broad St., Richmond; 8100 Creighton Pkwy, Mechanicsville. All three locations are delicious and have their own special flair. "Your shortcut to Mexico" is known for their tableside guacamole (I like mine with a little heat and extra lime) and fresh salsa. Their seafood dishes, especially the chimichangas and enchiladas, are very popular. Popular tacos include tiger shrimp, rib-eye, and pork carnitas. Their birria tacos are also a huge hit. Keep an eye out for the automated robot food runner at select locations!



Mi Jalisco - 1390 Broad St Rd., Oilville. They are applauded for their extensive menu and full bar. They have multiple delicious taco options, including chicken avocado, seafood tacos, and Freddie Tacos, which are filled with shrimp and bacon along with a mango chipotle sauce.



Casa Herradura - 428 England St., Ashland. They recently released their ice cream margaritas, and they are a delicious and refreshing treat. They also have a dog-friendly outdoor patio for those cozy autumn nights. They offer many taco options, including seafood tacos, alambre tacos (beef, bacon, and chorizo), and Tacos Tahona (chicken and steak topped with onions, cilantro, and guacamole).



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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

Cottage Cheese Chicken Enchiladas

Imagine the aroma of sizzling peppers and onions, the Mexican spices that flavor your favorite meat, or fresh cilantro and lime that pairs perfectly with a smooth or chunky guacamole. Don't let the name of this lighter take on an enchilada fool you. For many years it has been a popular family dish for my friend Valusia. It's cheesy and flavorful with just a little kick. So, if you can't make it to your favorite Mexican restaurant, hopefully this will tide you over.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 c. Shredded Chicken
- 1 tbsp. Olive Oil
- ½ c. Chopped Onion
- 1 (7 oz.) Can Chopped Green Chili Peppers
- 1 (1 oz.) Package Taco Seasoning Mix
- ½ c. Sour Cream
- 2 c. Cottage Cheese
- ½ tsp. Salt
- Pinch of Pepper
- 2 c. Shredded Monterey Jack and Colby Cheese Blend
- 1 (10 oz.) Can Red Enchilada Sauce
- 12 (6 inch) Corn Tortillas



DIRECTIONS:

Sauté onions and chili peppers in oil. Add chicken and prepare taco seasoning according to package directions and pour over chicken mixture. Simmer for a few minutes until water has evaporated and set aside. Mix sour cream with cottage cheese and season with salt and pepper. In each tortilla place a spoonful of meat mixture and a spoonful of cheese mixture with a bit of shredded cheese. Place each rolled tortilla in a greased 9x13 baking dish. Top with remaining meat and cheese mixture, enchilada sauce and remaining shredded cheese. Bake at 350 for 20-30 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly.



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FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH – 11TH

The **Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival**, a three-day long festival that celebrates the heritage and history of Appomattox County, will have live bands, a parade, arts and crafts, train exhibits, fireworks, and much more. (AppomattoxRRFest.org)



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH @ 10 AM – 6 PM

Visit **Downtown Front Royal** for the **54th Annual Festival of Leaves**, featuring 250+ vendors, 3 music stages, beer garden, car show, kids zone and much more. (FestivalofLeaves.org)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH @ 11 AM – 3 PM

Head to the **3rd Annual Fall Pet Fair** at **Crump Park** for games, contests, food, and vendor booths for both pets and owners.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH @ 7:30 PM

Celebrate six decades of music and storytelling with **Steve Bassett: 60 Years in Music** and the **Perkinson Center**. This live experience blends candid conversation, behind-the-scenes industry insight, and live musical performances. (PerkinsonCenter.org)

WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH – 17TH

Want a weekend getaway? The **OBX Bluegrass Festival** at **Roanoke Island Festival Park** is a four-day festival featuring the best names in Bluegrass, as well as food, drinks, and local vendors. (BluegrassIsland.com)



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH AND 18TH

The **Rassawek Autumn Festival** at **Rassawek Vineyard** will include live music, trade demonstrations, kids activities, a pro rodeo, market vendors, and more. (Rassawek.com)

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH AND 17TH

The **56th Annual Richmond Oktoberfest**, the only authentic German Oktoberfest in Central Virginia, will be held at the **Richmond Raceway Complex**, featuring live music, traditional Bavarian folk dances, and of course, food and drink. (RichmondOktoberfestInc.com)



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

The **Whispers of Eden Farm Annual Pumpkin Recycling Drive** will start at the beginning of November and continue through Christmas. They accept all pumpkins/squash that do not have ink or decorations on them and are not moldy. You can drop off at the farm at any time if you have less than 30 items. If you or your neighbors have more than 30, you can call/email and arrange pick-up. (804-598-3163)

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