

October 2026

# Powhatan Monthly

Published by Advertising Connections, Inc. | 804.925.5760 | Find More at [PowhatanMonthly.com](http://PowhatanMonthly.com)

## Taco Day, Hip Hip Hooray!

by Kim Amboy

All hail the lowly taco! Each is stuffed with humble fillings wrapped in soft corn or flour tortillas, or even a hard, crunchy shell. While not fancy, they always deliver big taste and limitless variety with every bite, making them affordably addictive. Fill them with savory meats, cheese, and whatever else your heart desires, and you've got an amazingly delicious, handheld meal that needs no utensils—who needs a fork anyway? And everybody knows tacos are a great morale booster, too. Think of the stuff that drips down your arm as essential oils, right? Well...maybe. What prompts me to broach this mouthwatering subject? Let's "taco" about it...



The word "taco" likely comes from Mexican silver miners in the 18th century who used paper-wrapped gunpowder charges that looked a lot like the food in their lunches. By 1914, recipes for tacos appeared in a U.S. cookbook, helping launch their rise as an



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《 American favorite.  
 Personally, I'm part of the crowd that only eats tacos on days that end in "Y". So, knowing the first Tuesday of every October is appointed National Taco Day, is great news! Keep an eye out for restaurant deals and app drops offering special discounts in honor of this favorite south-of-the-border treat.  
 Now that you've been properly schooled on this mouthwatering subject, it's got to be time to eat! So, always remember: When life gives you lemons, give them back--you deserve tacos! Gather your friends and order some today.



**El Cerro Azul - 2650 Anderson Hwy., Powhatan.** With its festive décor and cozy atmosphere, El Cerro Azul is a Powhatan favorite. Guests receive the royal treatment and enjoy attentive service, authentic food, and standout menu items like birria tacos, street tacos, and more. Pair your meal with a refreshing margarita, and Azul might quickly become a weekly tradition.

**El Jinete - 1795 S Creek One, Powhatan.** This clean, casual hangout serves traditional and authentic eats and refreshing drinks and has become a regular haunt for families and friends who love large portions of delicious "comida Mexicana!" All your favorite tacos are on their extensive menu, offering excellent value whether you dine in or order takeout. Bring the family and satisfy your taco craving at El Jinete.



**Plaza Azteca - 11500 Busy St., North Chesterfield.** "Your shortcut to Mexico!" Plaza Azteca is a laidback spot for south-of-the-border eats, including tacos, drinks, and fun. Its extensive taco menu includes tacos de Camaron stuffed with grilled shrimp, plus fantastic fish, pollo, or carne asada tacos. Everything is always delicious and generously portioned, and the service can't be beat.

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# Powhatan of Yesterday – A Brief Journey Through Time

by Kim Amboy

What mental picture does your hometown evoke? Certainly, the Village and rural surrounds of Powhatan County conjures a pleasant image. But, just for fun, let's turn the clock back and take a brief walk through time to view a very different picture of the people and events that shaped the present.

Should you have wandered these grounds in the 1600s, you'd have rubbed elbows with enterprising native Americans from the Monacan and Mannahoac tribes who lived in villages protected by palisaded walls with dome-shaped homes made from bark and reed mats. They mined copper for necklaces that were highly valued by the Powhatans, who bore the name of their influential Algonquian leader and father of Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan.

Around 1700, you might have met Protestant Huguenots fleeing religious persecution in France. They were given 10,000 acres of land along the James River (near 288 and Huguenot Trail) by the English government and founded Manakintown near former Monacan villages. As a nod to their culture and influence, quite a few places today bear the name Huguenot.



Suppose you were thirsty for a good ale around 1740. A gentleman named Benjamin Mosby would've hosted you in his tavern--a raucous center of community life (near Anderson Highway and Trenholm) that later served as a militia rendezvous during the American Revolution. It also served as the county's courthouse and jail until 1779, when the county seat moved to a newly built courthouse in Scottville. Today, the original building still stands as a private residence, and, as of this writing, the 22-acre Mosby Tavern Farm is currently listed for sale, offering a rare opportunity for local enthusiasts to actually own a tangible part of Powhatan's history.

As a resident here in the 1770s, your mailing address would have been "Scottville." But at that time, there were two Virginia towns bearing that name--this county and also in Albemarle County. Thus, to avoid postal confusion, our modern-day hamlet was changed to the name we know today: "Powhatan".



In 1849, you would have proudly gazed upon the newly completed 18th-century Greek Revival courthouse designed by famous New York architect Alexander Jackson Davis, which still presides over the Village Historic District today. During the Civil War's final days, you might have seen retreating Confederate troops passing through the Courthouse District. And afterward, during the summer of 1865, the news that General Robert E. Lee and his family were staying in town for the summer at a nearby country estate would have dominated the local chatter.

Alas, time and space fail us, so our brief stroll through the ages must come to an end. Along the way, we've seen much that has shaped what Powhatan residents know and love today. Hopefully, we've enhanced YOUR mental picture of home.

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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, OCTOBER 23RD @ 10 AM – 12 PM**

Visit the **Wellness & Active Aging Expo** by Community Matters at the **Pocahontas Landmark Center**, where organizations, professionals, community partners, and volunteers come together to celebrate and support aging well. There will be free activity demos, food and beverages, giveaways, door prize drawings, and valuable resource information. Admission is free, but tickets are required. (PowhatanVA.MyRec.com)



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**SALE! Up to 50% Off Deck Installation**

**SALE!**  
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