

Glen Allen Monthly

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Around the Home with *Kate* Preparing for a Possible “Historic” Winter

According to the NOAA, “During the October-December 2026 season, there is a 69% chance of a historic [El Niño] event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950.” I don’t know about you, but when I hear that, I think: It’s time to be proactive and get ahead of this potentially “historic” winter.

What are some concerns? And what can we do to mitigate the risk of dangerous or expensive outcomes?

The concern: Freezing Temperatures

- **HVAC.** You don’t want to discover a heating problem on the first really cold night of the season. Schedule routine HVAC maintenance and dryer vent cleaning now to help prevent winter breakdowns and improve efficiency.
- **Chimneys.** A pre-season cleaning will not only keep your family safe from dangerous air quality and fire hazards from buildup, but can also reduce your wood consumption and extend your chimney’s life.
- **Windows & Doors.** Fixing leaky windows and doors can lower your heating costs and the strain on your HVAC system.



- **Septic Systems & Wells.** Autumn is a good time for septic maintenance or inspections since the ground is still workable. If you have a private well, consider having your water quality checked and confirm pipes and other components are prepared for freezing temperatures. >>>

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- ◀◀ • **Trees.** Have dead, damaged, or potentially dangerous trees near your home, driveway, or walkways inspected and removed before winter storms arrive.



The concern: Mold & Moisture

- **Roof and Gutters.** Roofs can have years of buildup of algae, fungus, and moss, creating a warm home for mold. Clogged gutters encourage mold growth and can even cause leaks and foundation issues. Getting your roof and gutters cleaned, along with the installation of gutter guards, can deter mold growth in your home and prevent water damage.
- **Crawlspace or Basement.** Dark, damp areas beneath and inside our homes can become breeding grounds for mold. Proper sealing, drainage, and moisture control can help keep your home drier and more comfortable.

The concern: Leaving Home

- **Driveways.** Safe access into and out of your home is important for your family, guests, and emergency responders. Address potholes, drainage problems, uneven surfaces, and other hazards before they're covered by snow or ice.
- **Vehicles.** Winter weather can be tough on our vehicles. Tires with low tread significantly increase the risk of accidents. Regular maintenance and a seasonal tune-up can keep you and others on the road safe.



We certainly don't want to imagine the worst-case scenario, but being prepared doesn't mean expecting the worst. It simply means giving ourselves a better chance of handling whatever winter brings. A little preparation now may come with some upfront expense, but the peace of mind and the money saved by avoiding a major repair or emergency can make it well worth the effort.

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ICE ICE BABY!

by Cynthia Leigh

If you are one of many who enjoy winter temperatures and snow, ice skating may be just your forte. Ice skating in Virginia can be traced back to the 1700s where outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed the fresh open air and the magic of an evening sky. As the love of ice skating grew in popularity, indoor arenas became more desirable, thus prompting the introduction of indoor rinks. No matter what the temperature outside, you can still skate on ice and find a few pop-up outdoor areas during the holiday winter months.



However, for those who want the adrenaline of year-round skating, our local indoor rinks provide access to figure skating, hockey and recreational gliding all year long.

Our first indoor facility is **RICHMOND ICE ZONE** (formerly known as Richmond Ice Forum), located at **636 Johnston Willis Dr., North Chesterfield**. It has been operating for over three decades and offers public skating sessions, figure skating classes, speed skating, and youth or adult ice hockey leagues or clinics. The arena features two regulation-size ice surfaces to accommodate simultaneous practices, lessons, and public sessions.



Their sister rink, **SKATENATION PLUS**, located at **4350 Pouncey Tract Rd., Glen Allen**, offers public skating sessions, figure skating, ice hockey leagues and clinics, skating lessons and group rentals. Visitors can also enjoy a rock-climbing wall. Their full-service pro shop and cafe are sure to please. Whether you are a beginner, a lifelong skater or somewhere in between, you will have a great time.



To help burn more winter energy, head over to our most recent rink, **RICHMOND ICE BOX**, located at **13100 Tredegar Lake Pkwy., Midlothian**. The facility brings a new era of ice sports through community events, recreation and a full range of competitive fun. They have a regulation-size ice rink suitable for hockey, figure skating, public skating, and fun experiences for skaters and players of all ages and skill levels, from



beginners to elite competitors. Skate rentals are available for youths and adults. For your next party or group event, consider their multipurpose/event room.

Whether you want to learn, compete, or just do some recreational ice skating, there are plenty of indoor local facilities offering a convenient environment for winter sports without the harsh outdoor weather. So, fuel your desire to glide across the ice with a cool breeze all year long by visiting one of our local rinks.

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OF CONSUMERS TRUST PRINT ADVERTISING

while only **25%-30%** trust the credibility of online ads (Consumer Trust in Advertising Survey)

PHYSICAL MAIL REMAINS IN A HOME FOR **17** DAYS ON AVERAGE

while digital ads are often seen for **SECONDS** (or ignored entirely) (USPS Household Diary Study)

76%

OF CONSUMERS TAKE ACTION AFTER DIRECT MAIL
(USPS Household Diary Study)

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From the Pantry

Cinnamon Orange Hot Chocolate

Making rich homemade hot chocolate takes only a few minutes and it's oh, so delicious! Homemade gives you the benefit of making the depth of creamy cocoa to your personal preference that warms the soul after just a few sips. Chocolate is scrumptious when paired with many flavors, so try this twist and be pleasantly surprised. *Cindy*

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 c. Milk
- ½ c. Sugar
- ½ c. Cocoa Powder
- Pinch of Salt
- ¼ to ½ tsp. Cinnamon

Whipped Cream:

- 2 c. Heavy Whipping Cream
- 1/2 tsp. Orange Extract
- 1/2 c. Sugar
- 1 tsp. Orange Zest
- Cinnamon Stick for Garnish

DIRECTIONS:

Warm and whisk milk, sugar, cocoa powder, salt and cinnamon until it comes to a slow boil. Take off burner and set aside.
Zest the orange and set aside. Mix heavy whipping cream, orange extract and sugar until peaks appear. Pour hot chocolate into mug and add several spoonfuls of whipped cream mixture and top with orange zest.



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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)



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

The **69th Urbanna Oyster Festival** will have plenty of oysters: prepared raw, roasted, fried, grilled and stewed from 50+ food vendors. There will also be Virginia wine tasting and craft beer tasting, art shows, crafts, local boutique shopping, and historical/marine science exhibits. (UrbannaOysterFestival.com)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

It's kind of a big dill. The **Richmond Pickle Party**, starting at the **First Friday Block Party** on the 6th, will include pickle art, a parade, live music, pickle vendors, and of course, plenty of pickle foods. (RVAMoonMarket.com)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH @ 7:30 PM

Marine veteran, former banking professional, and current country music sensation **Tony Jackson** will be at the **Perkinson Center**. Get ready to enjoy the arts in style. (PerkinsonCenter.org)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH @ 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Bourbon, Brisket, and Brushes, a fundraiser supporting the **Perkinson Center**, will include dinner from ZZQ Texas Craft Barbeque, a guided bourbon tasting, a silent auction, and live artist demonstrations. (PerkinsonCenter.org)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

The Visual Arts Center of Richmond's **CRAFT + DESIGN**

The Visual Arts Center of Richmond's **Craft + Design** is a contemporary craft show that takes place in the **Main Street Station's train shed**. This weekend-long event will feature live artist demonstrations, workshops, and local food and drink. (CraftAndDesignRVA.com)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST @ 2 PM AND 7 PM

Conflux Dance Theater, Richmond's leading contemporary dance company, performs **Interplay** at the **Perkinson Center**. They are celebrating their 5th anniversary with a performance showing their commitment to bringing exceptional, diverse, and inclusive movement to the stage. (PerkinsonCenter.org)



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST

The **Town of Ashland** will transform the trackside historic district into **Light Up the Tracks**, a mile long holiday light display featuring 10,000 lights illuminating nightly at dusk. (AshlandVirginia.com)

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or email **tony@acimonthly.com**

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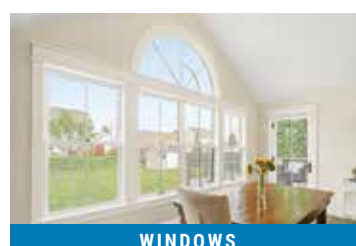
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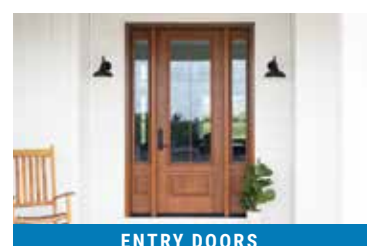


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