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# Customer Newsletter

## MARCH 2026 EDITION

### From the Owner

As I write this, sitting at my desk shivering, it's seven degrees outside. When I finish this, I'm writing yet another in a series of strongly worded letters to whoever's in charge of the weather. Thus far, my letters have fallen on deaf ears (deaf eyes??), but I'm undeterred. Further adding to my frustration – my loving sister just sent me a picture she took from her balcony in Ranchos Palos Verdes, where it's in the upper sixties and sunny. LA harbor looks amazing. She wondered if this was record cold here in VA, so I asked the Google machine. Turns out we don't have it so bad; the Mountain Lake Biological Station recorded a temp of -34° F in 1985. The 1912 cold wave saw temps in the negative teens in the DC area. And it's supposed to hit 50° tomorrow, so I'll try to be patient.



# Chow Time with Dave

## Taqueria Salsa



This salsa verde is super easy to make and is great on tons of stuff – it is the universal condiment. I'll get you started with one of my favorite uses after the recipe.

### You'll Need:

- ~1lb tomatillos, about 8 – 10.  
Remove the husks and stems and wash 'em.
- 3 serrano chiles – remove the stems
- 4 – 6 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1T, or a splash more, coarse Kosher salt
- 1 avocado, pitted and removed from the skin, cut into chunks
- Juice of half a lime

### Directions:

Cover the tomatillos and serranos with water in a saucepan, cover and bring to a boil. Remove the lid and simmer for about fifteen minutes, or until they're tender. Let 'em cool, then transfer them to a blender and add the other ingredients. Blend well, until everything is pureed nicely. Check the seasoning, and chill.

I mentioned one of my favorite uses for this salsa, so here ya go: Toast a couple of English muffins, and spread Calabrian chili and honey compound butter, or just butter if that's what ya got, on them. Fry a couple of eggs sunny side up, and put them on the muffins, then a healthy squeeze of the salsa verde, then top with bacon. But don't stop there – this is truly the universal condiment. Enjoy! Oh, and if you're wondering how to make the Calabrian chili and honey compound butter, stay tuned – that's coming up next month.

## Virginia Spotlight

Patrick Henry's famous speech, which he closed with the words "give me liberty, or give me death!", was delivered on March 23, 1775. The occasion was the Second Virginia Convention, meeting in St. John's Episcopal Church in Richmond. The Virginia Conventions consisted of delegates meeting to establish foundational constitutional principles for the Commonwealth. The focus of the famous speech was the issue of war with England, which, Henry declared, was not only inevitable, but morally necessary. In fact, he said, it had already begun. The full last sentence, according to one of Henry's early biographers, was "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" Many of those present for the speech declared it one of the most moving displays of oratory mastery they'd ever witnessed. That might not be a stretch of hyperbole, for it had the desired effect; the assembled delegates voted to prepare the Commonwealth for war. They soon saw the wisdom of their decision; a month later Lord Dunmore seized the colony's powder stores, igniting what became known as The Gunpowder Incident.

## Blast From The Past

I've shared before that I was my only employee for twenty years; obviously, not a point of pride for me, but there it is... My first mentor, one of the few people who believed in me more than I did, was a man named Allyn Ayers. He owned a chain of automotive shops in the Tampa area. I met him at a business conference an employee of his was leading with another feller; Allyn was there for moral support. Of the approximately 150 attendees, Allyn somehow decided to "adopt" me, delivering pithy sayings and encouragement. We stayed in touch, and he continued to mentor me over the next few years. Allyn succumbed suddenly to pancreatic cancer about fifteen years ago, but I remember him telling me about somebody that he was grooming to take over; her name was Ashley. I was delighted to meet her at a business conference last summer.



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