

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK'S RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURED ON THE NATION'S ONLY STATEWIDE HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

SUFFOLK, VA (March 11, 2024) Six homes and gardens in Suffolk's Riverview neighborhood will open their front doors and garden gates on Saturday, April 20, 2024, raising funds to restore and preserve our Commonwealth's public gardens. These homes are included with nearly 170 of Virginia's most beautiful private properties showcased as part of the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week's annual tour. The 2024 event encompasses 29 tours organized and hosted by 48 Garden Club of Virginia member clubs, as well as additional gardens open in Charlottesville, Upperville and Gloucester. The local tour, "Riverview – A Botanical Delight," is a joint project shared by the Nansemond River Garden Club, Elizabeth River Garden Club and Franklin Garden Club members. Tour prices per person are \$35 in advance and \$45 day of tour. Tickets may be purchased online at vagardenweek.org/tickets.

"Every year the properties opened for Historic Garden Week and the tours offered are different, making each year a unique experience," according to Debbie Lewis, President of the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV).

Lynda Odom, Lead Chair of Suffolk's tour, whose home is featured on the cover of the statewide Historic Garden Week Guide Book, will be open for the tour. "Our doors will be open and we are expecting to welcome hundreds of guests to tour our homes and gardens and then stay awhile to eat and shop in Suffolk. All proceeds raised will benefit public gardens across our state for everyone to enjoy!"

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Presented by the Garden Club of Virginia since 1929, tours typically include access to both the grounds and interiors of private properties. “All properties feature spectacular flower arrangements created by GCV members emphasizing seasonal, garden-grown material and plants native to Virginia,” Lewis adds. Historic Garden Week proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of nearly 50 of Virginia’s historic public gardens. Additionally, this annual event funds a historic landscape research fellowship program that is building a comprehensive library of the Commonwealth’s important gardens and landscapes.

“Visitors can see stately manors, renovated farmhouses, city townhomes and waterfront villas,” explains Fran Carden, a Suffolk native and the Historic Garden Week’s Chairman. “Gardens range from formal 18th-century terraces to landscaped backyards with outdoor kitchens. There are boxwood mazes, charming courtyards, and cutting gardens. Historic Garden Week offers something for everyone,” Carden notes.

Regionally, there are a total of nine tour choices over seven days that feature beautiful homes with manicured landscapes and well-loved gardens. It is the perfect itinerary for the history and water view lover. Visit vagardenweek.org for a complete schedule, descriptions of each of the upcoming tours and photos of the 2024 featured properties.

The mission of the Garden Club of Virginia is to conserve the gifts of nature, to restore and preserve historic landscapes of the commonwealth, to cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening, and to lead future generations to build on this heritage. The member organization presents educational programs and makes awards to encourage community conservation and beautification projects. Most notably, the Garden Club of Virginia is recognized for its Historic Garden Week.

Discover Suffolk events, attractions, accommodations, tours and dining establishments at VisitSuffolkVa.com or via social media at [/visitsuffolkva](https://www.facebook.com/visitsuffolkva). 757.514.4130

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