Majestic oaks, graceful pines and bewhiskered cedars beckon tour guests to the homes circling the green along Douglas Drive and Gary Road in Newport News’ Cedar Grove neighborhood. Six neighbors will open the first floors of their homes and their gardens, sharing family heirlooms and artwork with tour patrons, who will enjoy yards shaded by mature trees and blooming spring flowers. Visitors will be treated to seminars on beekeeping, butterfly gardens, cut-flower gardening and flower arranging; all included in the ticket price. The popular marketplace featuring gardening supplies and home décor items for sale, as well the “Flowers After Hours” wine and cheese reception, return again this year as part of this “Tour around the Circle.”

Tour Information

Tickets: $40 pp. Available Tuesday, April 25 and day of tour at tour headquarters at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, 101 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. Children ages 6-12 are half price and must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance Tickets: $30 pp. www.vagardenweek.org until April 24 at 5 p.m. By mail through April 8, send a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope with a check payable to: HRGC, c/o Tricia Russell, 19 Douglas Drive, Newport News, VA 23601. Tickets available until April 24 in Hampton at Barry’s for Hair, Hampton Stationery and Countryside Gardens; in Newport News at Anderson’s Home and Garden Showplace; Newport News Visitors Center; Rooms, Blooms and More; and Chaffin Interior; and in Yorktown at Ken Matthews Garden Center.
The special ticket offers listed below are only available online through April 23 at www.vagardenweek.org.

**Two-Day Combo Ticket:** $60 pp. Tour Tuesday in Williamsburg and Wednesday in Newport News.

**Three-Day Combo Ticket:** $85 pp. Tour Tuesday in Williamsburg, Wednesday in Newport News and Thursday in Norfolk.

**Peninsula Fine Arts Center (PFAC) 101 Museum Drive.** A buffet lunch of sandwiches and side salads with hand-painted box by local artists, $20; without hand-painted box, $15. Served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For reservations, contact PFAC at (757) 596-8175 or email Joan Dobson, jdobson@pfac-va.org. Prepaid reservations required by April 17.

Complimentary and served from 2 to 4 p.m. in the gardens at 1 Douglas Drive.

**Facilities:** Available at Peninsula Fine Arts Center, 101 Museum Drive. Portable pot- ties in the circle at the tour site on Douglas Drive.

**Information Centers:** Newport News Visitor Center, 13560 Jefferson Avenue, (757) 886-7777 or newport-news.org. Hampton Visitors Center, 120 Old Hampton Lane, (757) 727-1102 or visithampton.com.

**“Flowers After Hours” wine and cheese reception, 5 to 7 p.m. in the circle on Douglas Drive. Tickets available for $15 at tour headquarters at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center or in advance at hampton-newportnews@vagardenweek.org.**

**The Mariners’ Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News.** Designated by Congress as America’s National Maritime Museum, it offers a captivating look at centuries of seafaring adventures. On April 26, a speaker will talk about the park, Noland Trail and some of the plantings on the grounds. Free admission with tour ticket. (757) 596-2222.

**Peninsula Fine Arts Center, 101 Museum Drive.** An affiliate of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Center offers national traveling exhibitions and regional artworks, as well as events and studio classes for all ages. During Historic Garden Week, enjoy “Soaring: Works from NASA’s Art Program,” celebrating the centennial of nearby NASA Langley Research Center. Free admission with tour ticket.

**The Marketplace is back for the third year, featuring shop vendors selling art, garden accessories, home decor, jewelry and gift items. At the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
Speakers: “A Summer Cutting Garden” with Lisa Mason Ziegler, a cut-flower farmer, author and nationally recognized speaker on organic cut-flower gardening. Lisa will demonstrate and share the easy steps to designing and planting a cutting garden that will produce flowers all spring and summer. 11 Cedar Lane at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

“The Importance of Bees, Beekeeping and Growing Gardens to Attract Bees: Buzzworthy Tips” with beekeeper Andy Westrich from Hampton Apiary. In the circle on Douglas Drive at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

“Flower Arranging with Unique and Unusual Containers” with Allison Clock, Hampton Roads Garden Club member. In the circle on Douglas Drive at noon.

“The Basics of Flower Arranging” with BoBo Smith, Huntington Garden Club member. In the circle on Douglas Drive at 2 p.m.

“Reflections on a Coastal Garden” with Mac Houfek, author and gardener. Signed copies of her book will be for sale. Peninsula Fine Arts Center at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

“Butterflies: Wings of Wonder – The Importance of and How to Grow Gardens to Attract Butterflies,” presented by the Butterfly Society of Virginia. Peninsula Fine Arts Center at noon and 2 p.m.

Plein Air Artists will demonstrate landscape painting at several of the homes and gardens on the tour and at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center.

Available in front of the Peninsula Fine Arts Center and The Mariners’ Museum, 101 Museum Drive, Newport News, 23606. Tour visitors will take a shuttle to Douglas Drive tour location. Shuttle-bus pick-up will be in front of the Peninsula Fine Arts Center. No parking is available at the homes. Bus tours: please contact tour chairman for directions.

Directions: From I-64 East or West, take exit 258A, J. Clyde Morris Blvd. South (Rt. 17). Travel 2.5 miles to the intersection of Warwick Blvd. and J. Clyde Morris Blvd. (Avenue of the Arts). Continue straight through the intersection and take the first left onto Museum Drive. Follow signs to the parking lot of Peninsula Fine Arts Center/Mariners’ Museum.

Ticket price includes admission to the following 6 properties and 7 gardens, Peninsula Fine Arts Center, and the Mariners’ Museum as well as seminars on beekeeping, butterfly gardens, plant gardening and flower arranging:

11 Douglas Drive

Built c.1960, this two-story, red-brick Georgian sits back from Douglas Drive with loblolly pines and pin oaks fronting the street. Originally from a church, six white columns frame the front door; the structure’s a gift to previous owners. Oil and pastel paintings created by Mrs. Bryant's mother, Dorothy Freeman, hang throughout the house. Freeman’s pastel of her grandchildren, a favorite of the owners, is displayed in the study. Artist Madison Latimer’s playful painting “Courtly Chick” is prominently placed in the kitchen, along with several Mackenzie-Childs collectibles and a Schoenbach chandelier. Family pieces and antique furniture decorate the home. Den walls are adorned with scenes from the hunt while a Nancy Thomas primitive fox hangs over the fireplace. Other finishing touches include an elegant laundry room complete with cherry shelving and a small bar area where drinks are “served” by a whimsically painted butler. Outside, the owners enjoy their outdoor living room, pool, pool house and a fountain. Boxwoods, hydrangeas and a massive Japanese maple tree create a backdrop for entertaining poolside. Mature trees and shrubs line the back of the property. Mr. and Mrs. Randolph P. Bryant, owners.
One of the first four homes built on the circle, this 1940 Federal-style house remained a modest residence until it was extensively renovated and expanded by the former owners. Because of their interest in unusual plantings, the gardens feature many trees not often seen in Tidewater Virginia, such as Princeton Scholar Tree, American Yellowwood, Chinese Fringe Tree and Japanese Snowbell. The current owners have continued to expand the house and gardens, which now contain a diverse collection of shrubs, perennials and herbs. A lap pool complements the woodland setting inspired by Mariners’ Museum Park. The house contains numerous family heirlooms, including a Pennsylvania tall-case clock purchased secondhand by the family in 1849. Also of note are objects of art painted by Mrs. Elton’s mother and bird carvings by Mr. Elton’s father. Of particular interest is a downstairs family suite, which provides a haven for guests and a play space for grandchildren. Olaf and Martha Elton, owners.

Another of the original homes on the circle, this 1940 four-story Colonial has classic tan siding and Charleston green shutters. The well-appointed interior is curated with family antiques, oriental rugs and an extensive collection of original paintings with a focus on Virginia artists. The owners’ choice of Farrow and Ball paint colors create a seamless interior space that is light and inviting. Furnishings tell the family history and show a love of collecting. Of special interest are the fieldstone fireplace in the back sitting room, an 1832 sideboard and a custom-made dining room table given to the homeowners when the home was purchased. A bluestone garden pool, accented by statues from the owners’ parents’ gardens, is a highlight of the exterior. Richmond landscape architect Meg Turner worked with the owners on the design of the yard to make it visually appealing. Under the shady hedge of hollies are hosta, ferns, knockout roses and doublefile viburnum. Acuba, crepe myrtles, hydrangeas and boxwoods line the back perimeter of the yard. The west side of the house exits onto a deck with Chippendale railings and a large pergola. Dr. & Mrs. William Overton Harris III, owners.

**Garden Only** Brick pathways lined with boxwood meander through this mature back garden. A stately pine, hollies, sasanquas and camellias provide additional...
natural fencing along the edge of the property. The large veranda has plenty of space for entertaining with views of the patio and a bricked-lined, kidney-shaped pool. A live oak anchors the patio, and a large planting of yellow irises and peonies fills a sunny corner. Assorted statues and fountains punctuate various beds of liriope and small boxwood throughout the lawn. Hand-hewn benches made by Dr. Buxton’s cousin are tucked away in several of the beds. The yard is filled with many traditional plantings including oakleaf hydrangea, azalea, nandina and dogwood; there are less common specimens like Harry Lauder’s walking stick, poet’s laurel and mahonia, too.

Mrs. Ernest P. Buxton III, owner.

11 Cedar Lane

Tucked among towering pines and cedars, this 1981 Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home features a stainless steel sculpture and cedar pergola wrapped across the front of the exterior that was added during a renovation in 2008. The house’s interior stays true to the ideals of Danish Modern design, blending form and function with a collection of teak furnishings, modern art and sculpture. Bamboo floors throughout the home and an abundance of natural light keep the interior open and airy. Art and other pieces from Mrs. McFall’s missionary work in Russia and a milk-glass collection mingle with art projects made by the owner’s children. A shallow, brick-edged pool is the focal point of the backyard. Of interest is Mrs. McFall’s cutting garden where all plants are started from seed. Native ferns, hostas and other shade plants soften the borders along the fence line. Other notable plants are styrax and Kwanzan cherry trees. Mr. & Mrs. M. William McFall, Jr., owners.

4 Douglas Drive

A brick-paved walkway leads visitors to the front door of this two-story Colonial built in 1955. Mr. Spencer grew up in the house and has been witness to four additions over the past four decades. The most recent, a screened porch overlooking the garden, was added in 2008. Prominent in this outdoor living space is a stone fireplace and one-of-a-kind porch table. Crafted from a twelve-foot beech slab, the custom-made six-foot table and bench tops sit upon mahogany bases. The owners have worked with a local landscaper over the last 18 years to create a backyard garden filled with boxwoods, hydrangeas, camellias, snowball viburnum, Japanese maple and forsythia. Birds of all kinds find refuge in this peaceful setting. Inside the house, family antiques and family-made pieces of furniture add character and function to the living room, dining room and den. An antique
corner cupboard, made in Scotland in 1785, is a prominent feature in the dining room. Portrait, landscape and still-life pieces by regional artists add color and interest to the interior. Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Spencer III, owners.

12 Gary Road

This traditional brick Georgian built in 1952 is decorated with family furnishings, art and collections accumulated over many generations, including blue and white porcelain, religious artifacts and books. A Jacob Craft tall-case clock made in West Virginia graces the family’s den along with an extensive collection of mounted taxidermy from Dr. Freed’s hunting expeditions. Dual kitchens, one inside and the other outside, as well as the dining area, reflect the owners’ love of cooking and entertaining. A 50-year-old Southern magnolia stands sentinel in the front yard where green velvet boxwood and liriope beds flank the front entrance. The formal yet contemporary back gardens brim with bright perennial borders that include Margaret Sullivan daylilies, purple astilbe, hellebores and tulips. A sweeping azalea hedge, a contemplative goldfish pond, and a secret shade garden planted with native ferns are just a few of the outdoor rooms created by the homeowners. A Colonial-style smokehouse turned into a potting shed stands among a collection of unusual boxwood specimens. Bluestone paths encircle the lawn and lead from one garden room to the next. Dr. and Mrs. John D. Freed, owners.

Places of Interest:


The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, 4205 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton, 23669. Offering changing exhibitions, the Center focuses on the creations of artists living and working in Hampton Roads and Virginia. (757) 727-1490.

Lee Hall Mansion, 163 Yorktown Road, Newport News, 23603. Once owned by Richard D. Lee and now a historic house museum, this 1859 Italianate brick home features period décor and furnishings. It served as Confederate headquarters during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Funding from HGW tours provided restoration for the grounds. Receive $1 off regular admission price April 27-30 with HGW ticket. Grounds and gardens are open to the public daily. Museum closed on tour day. www.leehall.org or (757) 888-3371.
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