



10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Home and Garden Tour Historic Garden Week in Fredericksburg - Falmouth

Historic Garden Week is presented by the Garden Club of Virginia

vagardenweek.org

## A Journey Through Time, Beauty, and Heritage

# TOUR DETAILS

Founded in 1728, at the same time as neighboring Fredericksburg, Falmouth served as a bustling port town and manufacturing center, harnessing the energy of the Rappahannock River at its fall line. During the Civil War, Falmouth was occupied in 1862 and 1863 by Union forces; many enslaved



persons crossed the river from Fredericksburg to freedom at that time. With the silting of the river following the war, the town transitioned from industrial to primarily residential developing neighborhoods, enhanced by mature trees and gardens. Visitors will enjoy touring private homes, both old and new, that have witnessed the area's storied history.



Washington Heritage Museums proudly honors our nation's first mother Mary Washington Monument & Mary Washington House WashingtonHeritageMuseums.org



Hilldrup and the McDaniel family proudly support the mission of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club and Historic Garden Week.

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Cindy Hughes, Chair (540)-840-5189 Susan Moss, Co-Chair fredericksburg@vagardenweek.org

## TICKETS

Online: vagardenweek.org Ticket Price: \$45 in advance and \$55 Tour Day On Tour Day: vagardenweek.org, or at Tour Headquarters @ Gari Melchers Home and Studio, 22

### FREE ALL DAY PARKING

<u>Pratt Park</u> 120 River Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

### TROLLEY SERVICE

All aboard! Our free Trolley Shuttle Service operating from Pratt Park to Tour Headquarters and ticketed locations. There will be multiple trolleys running allday from 10am - 5pm. Limited parking will be available at Clearview, 420 Forbes Street, Fredericksburg, VA.

## HEADQUARTERS INFORMATION

#### Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont

224 Washington Street, Falmouth, VA 22405 NO PUBLIC PARKING

TROLLEY STOP TOUR INFORMATION AND TICKET TENT FACILITIES GIFT SHOP

FOOD TRUCKS FROM 11AM - 2PM



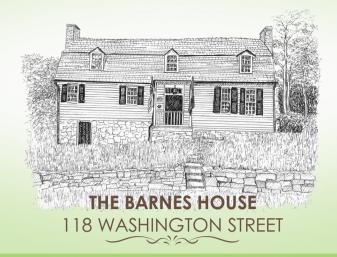
## GARI MELCHERS HOME AND STUDIO/ BELMONT

After many years abroad, the internationally-acclaimed painter, Gari Melchers and his wife Corinne, returned to the United States in 1916 and purchased a country estate, Belmont, built around 1800. The Melchers additions to the house include two floors at the north, a second-story sleeping porch and the fivesided sun porch. The studio and exhibition galleries were constructed in 1924. The surrounding lawn, parterres and pathways were expanded to include perennial beds, roses, arbors, sculpture, stone walls and a summer house. As a working farm, the site comprised a garage with loft and side sheds, a stable and cow barn, and a vegetable garden and orchards.

After Melchers' death in 1932, Corinne remained at Belmont, where she was active in the community, including as a charter member of The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. Upon her death in 1955, the house and its extensive collection of decorative and fine arts was left to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Public and private partnerships helped restore the house, studio and outbuildings and continue to maintain them. In 1991, the Garden Club of Virginia began the restoration of the gardens to their 1920s appearance, relying on photographs and garden records; the restoration partnership remains active today.

University of Mary Washington





One of the oldest structures in Falmouth, the Barnes House was built circa 1780 as a simple yeoman's cottage, with an English basement used for cooking, a parlor on the main floor, and a sleeping loft above. An addition in 1790 doubled the size of the house. Harrison Brockenbrough Barnes purchased the home in 1850 and it remained in the Barnes' family until 1920 when it was sold to Corinne and Gary Melchers, owners of Belmont. Mrs. Melchers gave Belmont and the Barnes House to the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1942. The Barnes House was occupied by the Payne Family as tenants until the late 1980s, after which the house became vacant and quickly deteriorated.

Jay Holloway purchased the house in 2006 and began part-time restoration. Full scale restoration and the construction of the 2,000 square foot addition did not begin until 2018 after extensive archaeological studies. Mr. Holloway made use of parts salvaged from historic buildings, including flooring from St. George's Church, removed when the organ was replaced, and stone steps once used at the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Holloway decorated the home, and a member of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club designed and installed the garden.

Katie and Jay Holloway, owners





This Georgian home is sited on a landscaped bluff overlooking the Fall Line of the Rappahannock River in Historic Falmouth. The land was purchased from Ingleside Farm (circa 1750) in 1951 and the original brick home was built in that same year. An addition and extensive renovations took place in 2006.

The Fall Line, separating the Tidewater from the Piedmont regions, was a trading area for indigenous tribes, including the Patawomeck, Monacans, Seacobecks, and Algonquins. It was also the terminus for Captain John Smith's exploration of the river in the early 1600s. It is reputed that he drank from the natural spring located on the property.

Near the river's edge, remnants of the stone walls built as part of the Falmouth Canal (1770s), still exist on this property. Barges in the canal containing the wares from Hunter's Iron Works upriver were towed by mule to the Port of Falmouth.

The foundation of an ice house built in the late 1700s or early 1800s can also be seen, part of the original Ingleside Farm.

During the Civil War, this bluff served as an encampment and canon placement for the Union Army during the December 11 – 13, 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd F. Moss, Jr., owners





## 899 LENDALL LANE

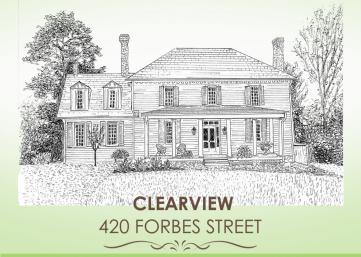
This spacious home, a Southern Living plan known as Tallaway, was built in 2017. The current owners purchased it in 2019. The open floor plan features the primary bedroom, bath and laundry room on the opposite side of the house from the guest bedrooms with ensuite baths. With ten-foot ceilings, hardwood floors, and large windows, the home blends beautifully with the extensive surrounding gardens on one acre of land. Paintings collected by the owners during their travels enhance the décor. A large screened porch serves as a segue between indoor and outdoor living spaces.

The garden design and installation process began in 2020 with the owners and a local landscape designer and Rappahannock Valley Garden Club member. The gardens feature many native species, various cultivars that ensure blooms from early spring to late fall, and an extensive Japanese garden. A pergola and stone patio were added as well. Many of the plantings were chosen to attract birds and bees to the garden, providing natural habitat. Outdoor "rooms" frame vistas of the garden and home and include a steel sculpture *Ribbons*. Mrs. Graves was a Master Gardener when living in Yorktown and takes great pleasure in planning and maintaining the gardens.

Elizabeth and Joseph Graves, owners



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This five bay, Georgian style house, with central hallway, twopile flanking rooms and hipped roof, is a good example of an eighteenth-century plantation dwelling. It was probably built shortly after the property was acquired in 1786 by Andrew Buchanan, a Major in the Caroline County Militia during the American Revolution. A rounded, interior staircase to the west of the hallway is a distinctive feature. The one-and-one-half story, dormered addition which houses a modern kitchen was added in 1918 – 1919. The guest house appears in Mutual Assurance Society policies from 1796 to 1839, referred to as a "study or dwelling."

Clearview's location on a high hill overlooking Falmouth and Fredericksburg made it an ideal location for the positioning of Federal cannon during the Battle of Fredericksburg on December 11 - 13 of 1862. Some earthwork gun pits remain on the property.

The current owners purchased the property in 2020 and embarked on a one-year renovation. Ms. Bednar, an interior designer, determined the plan for the dramatic chandeliers and sleek furnishings that complement the historic architecture.

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Mary Catherine Bednar and Joel Butterworth, owners







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# SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

FLORAL DEMONSTRATION 11am and 2pm 118 Washington Street

> BLOOMIA MARKET *11am - 4:30pm* 118 Washington Street

ALL DAY HORTICULTURE EXHIBIT 899 Lendall Lane

> BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS Clearview 420 Forbes Street



nmore Gardens

Hope to see you soon! ncerely. Stafford Wish you were here! sincerely. Stafford

# It's time to find something to write home about.



TourStaffordVA.com

## RESTORATION GARDENS

20

### Mary Washington Monument <u>1500 Washington Avenue</u>

Mary Washington was buried here in 1789. In the early 19th century, the Gordon family, who gave Kenmore its name, established their family burial ground here as well. The Garden Club of Virginia first planted the grounds in 1938 and recently renovated both the monument and grounds. Appropriate plantings were installed along the brick wall to the monument.

#### Mary Washington House 1200 Charles Street

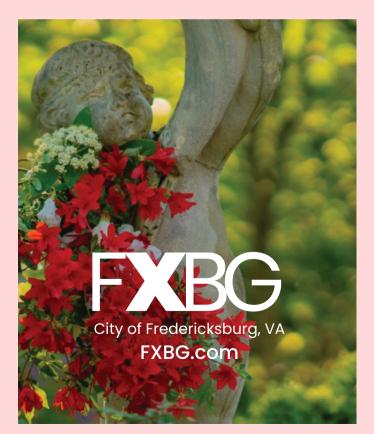
Originally purchased in 1772 by George Washington for his mother, Mary Ball Washington, who resided there until her death in 1789. The garden, designed by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1968-69, is a simple Colonial Revival filled with vegetables and flowers, and features the pedestal which once held her sundial.

#### Belmont, Gari Melchers Home and Studio 224 Washington Street, Falmouth

A National Historic Landmark, Belmont crowns a hill overlooking the falls of the Rappahannock River. The white frame house was the home of the renowned American artist Gari Melchers and his wife Corinne. In 1993, the Garden Club of Virginia restored the garden with proceeds from Historic Garden Week.

### Historic Kenmore and Gardens 1201 Washington Avenue

One of Virginia's finest 18th-century houses, Kenmore was built by patriot Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty, sister of George Washington. The house contains some of the most elaborate decorative plasterwork to survive from Colonial America, made by the same unidentified "stucco man" who worked at Mount Vernon. Two garden restorations were completed, in 1941 and 1966, first to restore Betty Lewis' flower garden and garden wall, later to renovate Betty's flower garden, install a demonstration herb garden, a wilderness walk, and restore the east terrace on the property. The grounds were the first restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia with funds from the first Historic Garden Week in 1929. Kenmore is owned and operated by The George Washington foundation, along with Ferry Farm, George Washinton's boyhood home, located across the Rappahannock River from downtown Fredericksburg.

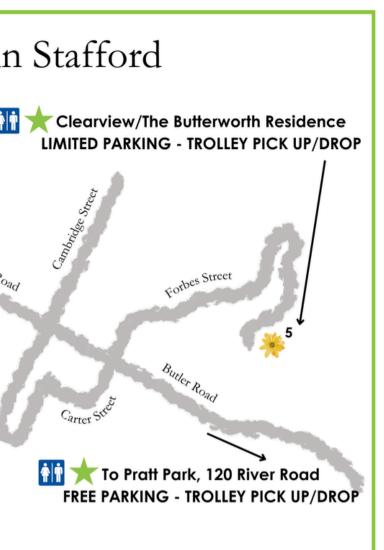




## MAP KEY

## HOMES ON TOUR

- 🌞 2 The Barnes House, 118 Washington Stre
- 🆐 **3** 215 Ingleside Drive
- - 🆐 **4** 899 Lendall Lane
- 🆐 5 Clearview, 420 Forbes Street



## TOUR HEADQUARTERS + TICKETS

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Gari Melchers Home & Studio 224 Washington Street, Falmouth

- RESTROOMS AVAILABLE
- TOUR TICKETS AND INFO



## OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN STAFFORD COUNTY

#### Chatham Manor 120 Chatham Ln., Fredericksburg

200

Chatham has stood along the banks of the Rappahannock River opposite the city of Fredericksburg for 250 years. Built in 1771 by enslaved laborers for William Fitzhugh, Chatham's history reflects the history of the American South. The interior of Chatham is currently closed for maintenance. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset. <u>www.nps.gov</u>

#### George Washington's Ferry Farm 268 George Washington Wy, Stafford

The future general and first president was six years old when his family moved to King George County (now Stafford County), Virginia, in 1738. A guided tour of the Washington House replica explores the lives of George, his mother, Mary, other Washington family members, and the enslaved community. It recounts the adversity these individuals faced after the death of Augustine Washington, George's father. Extensive grounds. <u>www.kenmore.org</u>

## Rappahannock Valley Garden Trail

The Rappahannock Valley Garden Trail invites visitors to explore Fredericksburg's public gardens, ranging from parks to 18th-century properties, showcasing the area's horticultural beauty. Established by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club in celebration of their 100th anniversary in 2024, the trail offers a unique glimpse into the region's rich gardening heritage.



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#### Roanoke | Richmond | Virginia Beach 607 William Street in Fredericksburg



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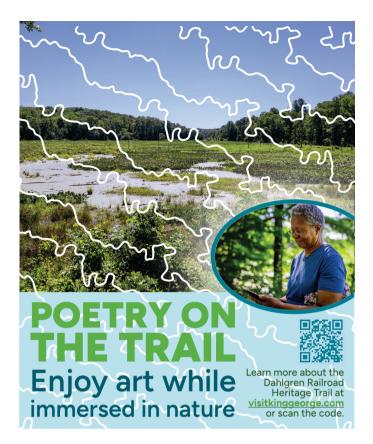
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Welcome You Historic Garden W/eek

visitors on April 29 are offered a special twocourse prix-fixe menu at lunch at FOODE

> for \$20 before tax and gratuity

> FOODE is located at 900 Princess Anne Street, Downtown FXBG

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

#### Tour Artwork by Carter Corbin

Carter Corbin, a talented member of The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, created the stunning pen-and-ink renderings for each of the tour homes. Carter holds a Master of Education from the University of Mary Washington and a Bachelor of Science from James Madison University, where she majored in Cultural Anthropology and minored in Studio Art. Her diverse academic background and artistic expertise are beautifully reflected in her work.

> Cover Photo Credit Coreopsis in Field, Donna Moulton, Garden Club of Fairfax



(Thank you

A special thank you to those who made significant contributions to the 2025 tour.

Tour Stafford VA, Stafford Parks and Recreation, Fredericksburg Trolley Services, and Stafford Printing.

## THE RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Proudly presents the 2025 Garden Day in Historic Falmouth, Stafford County - a treasured part of the Garden Club of Virginia's renowned event, fondly known as "America's Largest Open House". This annual tradition is the oldest event of its kind in the United States.

In 2024, the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club proudly celebrated its centennial, marking 100 years

of dedication to conservation, restoration, and gardening excellence.

The shared vision of the Garden Club of Virginia and the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club is to:

- Conserve the gifts of nature,
- Restore and preserve historic landscapes across the Commonwealth of Virginia,
- Cultivate knowledge and a love of gardening,
- Inspire future generations to build on this remarkable heritage.

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