

## ***Progressive Lunch Tour Ideal for Medium to Large Groups Interested in the History of Newport News***

**Newport News, VA, August 1, 2018** – Give your groups a tour that feeds the mind, body, and soul with “*A Taste of Historic Warwick County*,” a customizable progressive lunch tour that takes visitors through three historic homes in northwest Newport News.

Located on the northern bank of the James River, Warwick County was the successor to Warwick River Shire, one of eight jurisdictions created in 1634 by the Virginia Colony. The shire became Warwick County in 1643, the City of Warwick in 1952, and part of the City of Newport News in 1958.

On this tour, your group will be served one course of a three-course meal at three of the most distinctive and stately homes in Newport News: Endview Plantation, The Boxwood Inn, and Lee Hall Mansion. All three homes are located in a section of the city that was formerly called Warwick County, an area of the city that has retained its quaint, rural atmosphere – probably due to its proximity to the expansive 7,700-acre Newport News Park.

You’ll start your visit with a tour of and appetizers at Endview Plantation, an 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation built in 1769. The home was used briefly as a Confederate hospital in the spring of 1862. After the Peninsula Campaign, Union forces at various times occupied Endview until the end of the Civil War. Endview Plantation, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been restored and furnished to reflect both civilian and military use. One room has been interpreted as a Confederate hospital room, while a second depicts Endview under Union occupation. The parlor and family bedroom have also been restored to their wartime appearance.

The main course will be served at the Historic Boxwood Inn. Completed in 1894, the house was built by Simon Reid Curtis, who was a businessman, landowner, political figure, and tax collector for Warwick County. The 10,500-square-foot mansion, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, once contained a dry goods store, post office, boarding house, and tax assessor’s office. The Curtis family owned the house until 1996 when it was sold and converted to a bed-and-breakfast.

Homemade desserts served by docents in period attire will be on the menu at Lee Hall Mansion. This elegant plantation house is the only large mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate structure remaining on Virginia's Lower Peninsula. Lee Hall was completed in 1859 by Richard D. Lee, one of Warwick County's leading landowners. The home was later used as the headquarters for two Confederate generals, John B. Magruder and Joseph E. Johnston, during the 1862 Peninsula Campaign. Lee Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, offers visitors a step back to the mid-Victorian period with its authentically furnished rooms. A formal dining room, music room, ladies' parlor and two bedrooms have been restored, as has the gentlemen's parlor. An exhibit gallery features artifacts from the Peninsula Campaign, including a tablecloth from the USS *Monitor*.

Because food is one of the best ways to sample an area's culture, bring your group to Newport News for “*A Taste of Historic Warwick County*” to get the locals’ perspective on our culture, history and architecture. To create a customized itinerary for your group, discuss lodging needs, and to learn more about additional attractions in Newport News, contact Barb Kleiss, Group Marketing Manager, at 757-926-1442, toll-free at 888-493-7386, or by email at [bkleiss@nvva.gov](mailto:bkleiss@nvva.gov).

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**Newport News**  
Virginia

702 Town Center Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

757-926-1440 • 888-493-7386  
[newport-news.org](http://newport-news.org)