

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Public Works partners with Garden Council to plant 100 Crepe Myrtles**

Suffolk, Virginia (April 25, 2009) A ride near the Route 58 bypass, the entrance into the city of Holland, or the intersection of Routes 460 and 58 will soon resemble spring. The city's Department of Public Works recently planted 100 crepe myrtles in these areas. The trees were donated by the Suffolk Council of Garden Clubs.

Debbie Chappell, a Suffolk Clean Community Commissioner and member of the Suffolk Council of Garden Clubs, is grateful to the city for planting the trees. The Virginia Department of Transportation and City of Suffolk's Department of Public Works have been planting crepe myrtles along interstates and primary roads within the city since 1998 thanks to the council's beautification project. "The Suffolk citizens make it possible by continuing to support the Crepe Myrtle Project, and it is an ongoing project," Chappell said.

The Clubs' Crepe Myrtle Project allows citizens the opportunity to make a donation of their choice for a tree to honor or memorialize a loved one or special event. Chappell chairs the project. "Lots of trees are planted in honor of birthdays, veterans, teachers, Mother's Day and Father's Day," Chappell added.

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Photo by Hattie Lester, *Litter Control Coordinator*

Cutline: Moran Billups, with the City of Suffolk Department of Public Works, puts the finishing touches on one of the 100 crepe myrtle trees the department planted donated by the Suffolk Council of Garden Clubs.