

# The Guilford News

GUILFORDASSOCIATION.ORG

SUMMER 2017

## Guilford's Hopkins Notables

FOUR JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICAL AND  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERS LIVED IN  
WITHIN BLOCKS OF EACH OTHER DURING  
THE 1930'S AND 1940'S

Since its founding, Guilford has been the preferred residence of many of Baltimore's business, professional, education and medical leaders. Among them have been the medical and educational notables of The Johns Hopkins University and Hospital. Four of the giants associated with Hopkins, John Staige Davis, Joseph Sweetman Ames, William Holland Wilmer and Alfred Blalock, lived in Guilford within blocks of each other in the 1930's and 1940's.

**John Staige Davis**, lived at 215 Wendover Road. He was one of the pioneers among American plastic surgeons and served as the first Chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery and was also a founder-member of the American College of Surgeons and was elected to the Board of Regents just before his death.

Dr. Davis was born in Norfolk, Virginia and became the third generation of doctors in the family. "Staige Davis," as he was called, was the first surgeon to devote his entire practice to plastic surgery and worked exclusively for its recognition as a specialty. He wrote the first American text on plastic surgery, "Plastic Surgery: Its Principles and Practice," long regarded as an authoritative work.

See **HOPKINS NOTABLES**, page 8



Summer is upon us with faint memories of winter and a spring too quickly past. This is the time of year for vacations that break the routine, outdoor activities, walks through Guilford and the renewal of relationships that were limited in the winter.

I hope you made the time to stroll through Sherwood Gardens this spring where despite the erratic weather changes the tulips and azaleas were in stunning bloom and that you also took the time to admire the beauty and uniqueness of the entire community. Sherwood Gardens/Stratford Green is hosting Project Olmsted once more and summer flowers have been planted in all the beds providing yet more bloom pleasure throughout the summer.

It takes continual diligent effort to sustain and improve Guilford and to address the issues that are priority to our residents. The volunteer members of the Board of Managers, with the help from residents, are very focused on matters of concern that could impact us. Below I've outlined some highlights of our extensive agenda.

### **Community Safety**

Community safety is always of the highest priority to the Board. The Board's Security Committee consists of three members — Angela Hamilton, Chris Lyon and Curtis Campbell. They maintain close contact with the Northern District of the Baltimore police, oversee the Guilford Security Patrol (GSP), monitor security incidents that occur in Guilford and propose actions to address security issues. Guilford is a safe community, but any criminal or threatening incident is concerning. Recently there have been several encounters with groups of youth confronting residents. Both the GSP and the police are alerted to these happenings and are attentive

to any suspicious street activity. The Security Committee and I will meet with our City Council representatives to request that they take action to assure that there is more consistent police presence in Guilford and the periphery of the community.

The presence of the GSP is a deterrent to criminal activity, but they can exercise only limited intervention and are not a police substitute. Homeland and other nearby Baltimore communities are evaluating the possibility of engaging a private security presence similar to the GSP as it is generally recognized that the presence of a patrol does have a deterrent affect. We would like to increase the hours of GSP coverage but that depends on your membership support. If you have thoughts about improvements that might be made to community security I urge you to contact one of our Security Committee members.

### **Community Parks**

Sherwood Gardens and our other community parks are unique assets to Guilford that very much establish our community's character. We encourage you to visit each of them: the Gateway Park that provides a broad expanse of green at the southern entrance to Guilford, the wonderful Little Park located behind the twin houses at the north side of Gateway Park and extends from St. Paul Street to Greenway and the Sunken Park at the northwest corner of Charles Street and Overhill Road. Then too there are planted islands and, of course, the St. Paul median and N. Charles St. bump outs — all maintained by the Guilford Association under the direction and care of Margaret Alton, the Board's Vice President.

When you tour the Sunken Park you will see extensive new landscaping donated by the owners of the adjacent property at

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1 Whitfield Road. Their generous contribution of plantings has greatly enhanced the northern edge of the park and helped renew the original amphitheater setting that Olmsted designed.

The maintenance of the parks including the care of the majestic trees and plantings requires careful oversight and direction. Margaret is always looking for community volunteers, particularly for Sherwood Gardens. Many residents think that Stratford Green and Sherwood Gardens are owned by the Guilford Association. They are not. Stratford Green which hosts Sherwood Gardens, is a stand alone non-profit corporation — a 501(c)3, with its own Board of Trustees. The funds to support the Green or park and Sherwood Gardens principally come from private donations. We hope that you will respond to the request for support recently sent by the Stratford Green Trustees.

All of these wonderful green preserves are the result of Olmsted's planning and our continual effort to restore and renew elements of the Olmsted plans where they have been altered or lost over the years.

### **Architectural Review**

There is much investment being made in Guilford — a great indicator of the desirability of the community. Two new houses are under construction on St. Paul Street, several houses are undergoing complete renovation and restoration, major additions have been made to other properties and many other projects less extensive, but significant, are proposed. As required by the Deed and Agreement, all of the construction that involves exterior alteration, including window alterations and paint changes, must be submitted to the Architectural Committee for review and approval.

The Architectural Committee meets once per month but the volunteer members also spend many hours responding to resident questions and providing guidance. If applications are complete and follow the Architectural Guidelines review is quick with guidance given if a proposal requires improvement. The committee has received over 50 applications in the first 4 months of the year.

There are locations where changes were made without the required review and in violation of architectural requirements. In those cases covenant violation notices are issued. Attempts are always made to negotiate a solution, but without resolution a notice of violation may be recorded. The Association has pursued litigation where necessary to bring about compliance. In a number of cases litigation was required in part because of the number of properties with violations taken back by lenders or foreclosed in the past real estate downturn or non-compliant actions taken by investor buyers. In addition in a few cases litigation was required because of clearly intended non-compliance with community standards by a property owner. In all cases the court has confirmed the requirements of the Deed and Agreement, supported the Association's complaint and required corrective action by the property owner.

The architectural review has helped sustain and improve property values while preserving the architectural integrity of Guilford homes. Guilford is a community that residents and potential residents know will continue to retain homes of superior architectural quality in a uniquely attractive environment.

### **Traffic**

The Traffic Committee is working with affected residents in an effort to have the City Department of Transportation (DOT) make some changes on 39th Street that will result in traffic calming in the area between Greenmount Avenue and N. Charles Street. DOT has studied the traffic on the street and determined that calming measures are justified and we are waiting for recommendations to be made.

Paving priorities and a requested expansion of a Residential Parking Permit area are also part of the agenda.

### **Greenmount/York Road**

Having prepared pattern books for both York Courts and the properties on Greenmount Avenue south of 39th Street, members of the Architectural Committee met with a representative group of property owners south of 39th Street to discuss both the pattern book and financial assistance available through Healthy Neighborhoods. The committee is working with several property owners making renovations to Greenmount Avenue homes in an effort to demonstrate how the design and material guidance can assist in the work and meet the Architectural Guidelines.

Two other matters that impact the corridor are the construction of the Airs/Empire Homes housing for homeless youth on the corner of York Road and 43rd Street. As we previously have reported the State approved the project and construction will be underway shortly. Design modifications were made after review by the Architectural Committee and nearby residents.

Another significant effect on the area could be the planned closure of the Guilford Elementary/Middle School. Members of the Board and other interested members of the community are monitoring the School Department and City's intentions. The tentative closing is June 2019. The City has not indicated plans for the site and the property could be sold as surplus real estate. The site is within Guilford and is currently zoned R1 — low density single family detached homes. The community and the Association intend to be involved in any decision about the future use of the site.

### **Guilford Association Office**

We are pleased that Michelle Trousdale has rejoined the Association office. Laurie Fick and Michelle will be working together to extend office hours and handle the increased workload of your Homeowner's Association. Either Michelle or Laurie can be reached at [officemanager@guilfordassociation.org](mailto:officemanager@guilfordassociation.org) or by phone at 410-889-1717.

Thank you for your continued support and care of the Guilford community.

Tom Hobbs



*The Second Presbyterian Church has stood in the center of the Guilford community for close to 100 years. Designed by Palmer and Lamdin, the building is an important example of classic revival church architecture. The complex is the only non-residential construction within Guilford other than a few commercial structures on Greenmount Avenue. It is not only a*

*recognized community structure but serves as the location for a number of community support offices and activities, including the Guilford Association.*

*Below is a letter from Tom Blair that we share with you as Second nears the beginning of its second century.*

Dear Guilford Neighbors:

Second Presbyterian Church has sat in the midst of your Guilford neighborhood for nearly 100 years. Actually, the church's Guilford connection dates back over 200 years because a founding member of Second was General William McDonald, a Revolutionary War and War of 1812 officer whose 19th century Guilford estate later became the neighborhood in which you now reside.

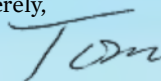
In addition to being a home for an active congregation of nearly 500 people, Second Church is an anchor in the community. Through our Community Concerts at Second, we have opened our doors for the past thirty years for lovers of music to enjoy free concerts. Boy Scouts from Troop 5 have roamed our halls for decades. And a number of non-profit organizations maintain offices here or use our facilities: the Guilford Association, AA, Acts for Youth (a mentoring organization for at-risk youth in Baltimore City), the Baltimore School of Music, Inspirit Counseling, the Handel Choir of Baltimore, the Junior League's Larks Choir, Baltimore Youth Alliance (a six-week summer SAT prep program for City youth) and REACH Tutoring.

Our beautiful Palmer-Lambdin designed building (our third in the church's 214-year history) is nearly 100 years old. Not surprisingly, its systems are aging and maintenance costs are growing rapidly. To preserve the church as a safe worship space and community center in Guilford for future generations, Second Presbyterian has launched a "Building Faith in the Future" campaign to raise \$3 million. We ask for the Guilford community's help in contributing to the success of this campaign. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Second Presbyterian Church.

Additionally, 10 percent of all funds raised will be shared with Acts4Youth that offers afterschool, summer and one-on-one mentoring programs for at-risk boys and girls in several nearby Baltimore City public schools.

My heartfelt thanks for your help.

Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Tom Blair, Pastor



GREG PEASE PHOTOGRAPHY

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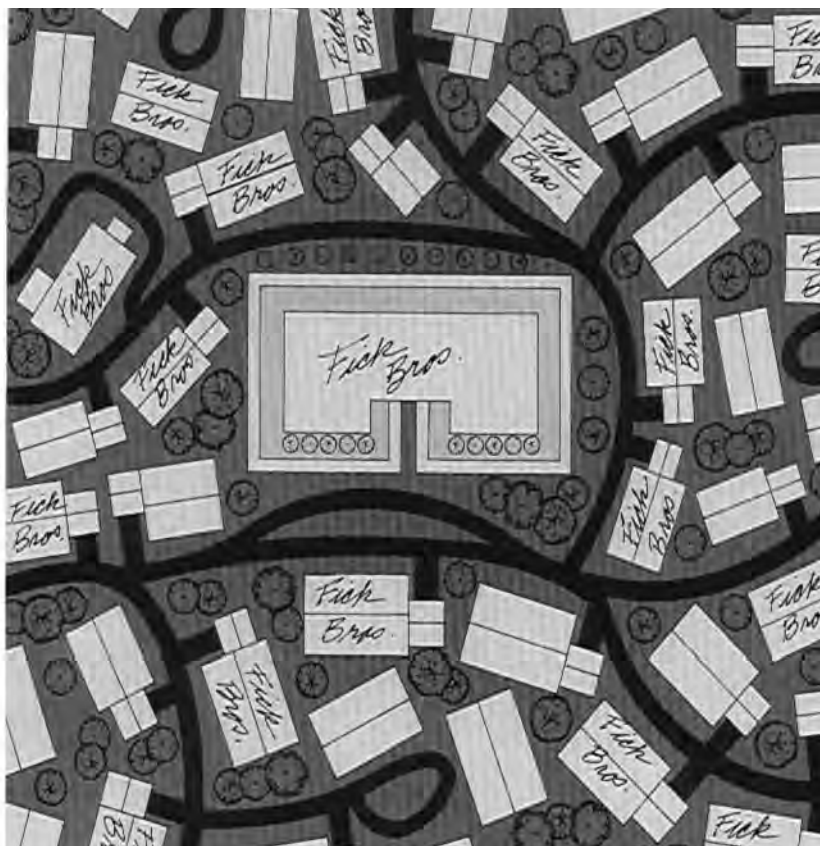
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**11 COLDSRING LN**  
List Price: \$699,900  
Closing Price: \$700,000



**4413 CHARLES ST**  
List Price: \$448,000  
Closing Price: \$435,000



**4417 NORWOOD RD**  
List Price: \$425,000  
Closing Price: \$395,000



**400 NORTHWAY**  
List Price: \$610,000  
Closing Price: \$610,000



**4304 GREENWAY**  
List Price: \$635,000  
Closing Price: \$620,000



**303 NORTHWAY**  
List Price: \$725,000  
Closing Price: \$725,000



**4307 NORWOOD RD**  
List Price: \$549,000  
Closing Price: \$542,000



**305 HIGHFIELD RD**  
List Price: \$534,500  
Closing Price: \$534,500



**207 HIGHFIELD RD**  
List Price: \$2,495,000  
Closing Price: \$2,350,000



**308 WENDOVER RD**  
List Price: \$514,900  
Closing Price: \$500,000



**225 WENDOVER RD**  
List Price: \$724,000  
Closing Price: \$724,000



**101 HIGHFIELD RD**  
List Price: \$695,000  
Closing Price: \$650,000



**3909 JUNIPER RD**  
List Price: \$325,000  
Closing Price: \$290,000



**205 WENDOVER RD**  
List Price: \$885,000  
Closing Price: \$845,000



**3905 JUNIPER RD**  
List Price: \$524,900  
Closing Price: \$508,000



**201 KEMBLE RD**  
List Price: \$499,000  
Closing Price: \$484,000



**226 39TH ST**  
List Price: \$589,000  
Closing Price: \$595,000

## Active Properties

AS OF JULY 10, 2017

List price

<b>4001 GREENWAY</b>	\$2,150,000
<b>4001 CHARLES ST N</b>	\$1,450,000
<b>4204 GREENWAY</b>	\$1,219,000
<b>101 STRATFORD RD*</b>	\$1,150,000
<b>100 OVERHILL RD</b>	\$1,049,500
<b>6 SAINT MARTINS RD</b>	\$989,900
<b>9 WHITFIELD RD</b>	\$945,000
<b>3901 GREENWAY</b>	\$825,000
<b>3801 CHARLES ST</b>	\$810,000
<b>4304 SAINT PAUL ST</b>	\$779,000
<b>1 STRATFORD RD</b>	\$750,000
<b>301 NORTHWAY</b>	\$649,500
<b>205 KEMBLE RD</b>	\$624,900
<b>8 WENDOVER RD*</b>	\$600,000
<b>119 OVERHILL RD</b>	\$589,000
<b>211 CHANCERY RD*</b>	\$562,500
<b>4400 NORWOOD RD</b>	\$489,000
<b>307 NORTHWAY</b>	\$474,900
<b>209 KEMBLE RD</b>	\$469,000
<b>3919 1/2 JUNIPER RD*</b>	\$464,900
<b>4303 NORWOOD RD*</b>	\$389,900
<b>3523 NEWLAND RD*</b>	\$379,000
<b>4412 EASTWAY</b>	\$349,900
<b>414 BRETTON PL</b>	\$299,000
<b>18 YORK COURT</b>	\$239,900
<b>3610 GREENMOUNT AV</b>	\$200,000
<b>403 39TH ST</b>	\$190,000
<b>3518 GREENMOUNT AV</b>	\$109,900

\*Under Contract

# Guilford Property Sales

MARCH 1, 2017 – JULY 10, 2017



**204 SAINT MARTINS RD**  
List Price: \$550,000  
Closing Price: \$525,000



**3800 FENCHURCH RD**  
List Price: \$595,000  
Closing Price: \$551,000



**3525 NEWLAND RD**  
List Price: \$364,500  
Closing Price: \$350,000



**306 SOUTHWAY**  
List Price: \$460,000  
Closing Price: \$460,000



**311 SOUTHWAY**  
List Price: \$499,900  
Closing Price: \$435,000

# Hopkins Notables call Guilford Home.

## HOPKINS NOTABLES, *From page 1*

He published 78 papers on a wide range of subjects in plastic surgery and was the first to establish a formal training program in plastic surgery in 1924.

Dr. Davis graduated from the Yale University in 1895 and The John Hopkins Medical School in the class of 1899. After 1899, he remained in Baltimore to practice surgery. In 1907, he married Kathleen Gordon Bowdoin.

He expressed the desire to write a book on plastic surgery while working under Dr. Halsted; however, Dr. Halsted was not interested. Staige Davis began publishing papers on reconstructive surgery as early as 1907. His book, *Plastic Surgery*, was published in 1919, and copies were given to each of the Hopkins “Big Four,” Doctors Halsted, Welch, Kelly, and Osler. He never received a word from Dr. Halsted acknowledging the book. He continued to produce numerous papers on skin grafting and the use of the z-plasty until his death on December 23, 1946, at the age of 74.

“Thus, he was somewhat of a prophet in this country in that his own medical school, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, for many years offered no support commensurate with the unique place of Dr. Davis in this special field of surgery. As a result, the training of plastic surgeons at The Hopkins was delayed and undeveloped in comparison with that of other schools which early recognized the need for such training. John Staige Davis remained as Associated Professor of Surgery at Hopkins until his death in 1946. In addition to this work, he participated actively in the affairs of the Union Memorial Hospital where for many years he was first a member and later Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Staff.” *History of Our Maryland Society for Plastic Surgeons*

Staige Davis had served during the First World War as a captain in the medical corps of the United States Army and was a member of the committee appointed by the Surgeon General to organize plastic surgery units for the Army Medical Corps.

*Sources: The Life of John Staige Davis, MD by Bowdoin Davis; John Staige Davis by Edward Richardson*

**Alfred Blalock**, lived at 4204 Underwood Road. Dr. Blalock was surgeon most noted for his research on the medical condition of shock as well as Tetralogy of Fallot — commonly known as Blue baby syndrome. He developed the Blalock-Thomas-Taussig Shunt, a surgical procedure he developed together with surgical technician Vivien Thomas and pediatric cardiologist Helen Taussig to relieve the cyanosis from blue baby syndrome. This operation ushered in the modern era of cardiac surgery.

Blalock worked at both Vanderbilt University and the Johns Hopkins University, where he studied both as an undergraduate and worked as chief of surgery. He is known as a medical pioneer who won various awards, including Albert Lasker Clinical Medical Research Award. Blalock was also nominated several times for the prestigious Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Blalock attended the University of Georgia as a sophomore undergraduate, skipping his freshman year. After graduating with an B.A. in 1918 at the age of 19, he entered the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he roomed with and began a lifelong friendship with Tinsley Harrison, a student who would go on to specialize in cardiovascular medicine. In September 1925, Blalock joined Tinsley Harrison at Vanderbilt University in Nashville to complete his residency. During his Vanderbilt years, Blalock spent much of his time in the surgical research laboratory and he became interested and began studying the nature and treatment of hemorrhagic and traumatic shock.

In 1941 Alfred Blalock was asked to return to the Johns Hopkins hospital to work as chief of surgery, professor, and director of the department of surgery of the medical school. He immediately requested that his assistant Vivien Thomas come with him. While working together at Hopkins, Blalock and Thomas developed a shunt technique to bypass coarctation of the aorta and later collaborated on the blue baby surgery, a procedure that saved thousands of lives.

In teaching and in research Alfred Blalock paved the way for a new generation of surgeons. As chief of surgery at Hopkins, he trained 38 chief residents, as well as 9 chairmen of departments, 10 division chiefs, and many others. Many of Blalock’s students went on to become cardiovascular surgeons themselves and rose to high levels of importance in the surgical world. In 1955, Blalock became chairman of the Medical Board of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and held that position until his retirement in 1964.

Blalock married Mary Chambers O’Bryan in 1930. The two had met while he was at Vanderbilt and she worked for the Vanderbilt admissions office. After returning to Baltimore they lived in their Guilford home until Mary’s death in 1958. A year later, he married Alice Waters, who was a close neighbor that Blalock had known for many years.

*Sources: Alfred Blalock, Wikipedia; Alfred Blalock, The Famous People; The History of Heart Medicine at Johns Hopkins*





Dr. John Staige Davis resided at 215 Wendover Road. He is considered a pioneer among American plastic surgeons and served as the first Chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

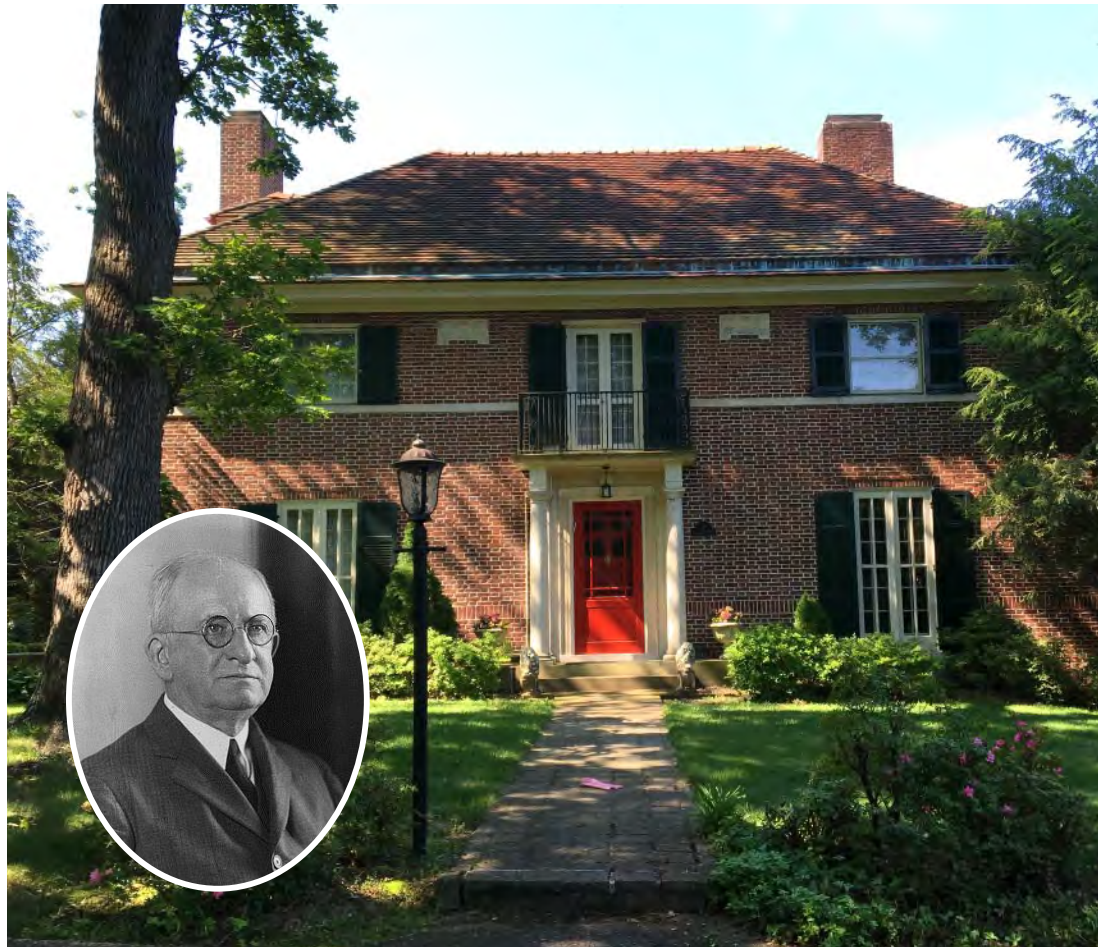


Dr. Alfred Blalock lived at 4204 Underwood Road. He served as the chief of surgery and was also chairman of the Medical Board of The Johns Hopkins Hospital. His medical research ushered in the modern era of cardiac surgery.



Joseph Sweetman Ames lived at 2 Charlote Place. Ames was a renowned physicist, professor at Johns Hopkins University and provost of the university. He also served as the university president. He was one of founding members of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics — the predecessor of NASA.

William Holland Wilmer resided at 207 E. Highfield Road. Dr. Wilmer was one of the most renowned practitioners in the field of ophthalmology. He established the Wilmer Institute of Ophthalmology at The Johns Hopkins University.





**Joseph Sweetman Ames** lived at 2 Charlcote Place. Ames was a renowned physicist, professor at Johns Hopkins University, provost of the university from 1926 until 1929, and university president from 1929 until 1935. He is best remembered as one of the founding members of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA, the predecessor of NASA) and its longtime chairman (1919–1939). NASA Ames Research Center is named after him. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1911 and was the 1935 recipient of the Langley Gold Medal from the Smithsonian Institution.

Ames was a Vermont native. When he arrived at Hopkins as a freshman in 1883, he began a lifelong affiliation of sixty years. He studied physics under Henry A. Rowland and earned his PhD in 1890. In 1893 he became associate professor, and Professor of Physics in 1898. Upon Rowland's death in 1901, he was appointed Director of the Physics Laboratory. It was during this time that he met his future wife, Mary B. Harrison. They married in 1899, and later established their home in Guilford.

Dr. Ames contributed to his field by publishing four textbooks, serving on the editorial staff of the *Astrophysical Journal* and *Harper's Scientific Monthly*, delivering Northwestern University's Harris Lectures on "The Constitution of Matter," co-authoring a book, *Theoretical Mechanics*, and holding the office of president of the American Physical Society, of which he was a charter member. He was called to chair the Foreign Service Committee of the National Research Council, to direct the educational work of the United States Bureau of Standards, to lead a wartime scientific mission to France, and to head the executive committee of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

He was one of twelve members appointed to the NACA at its inception in 1915 by President Wilson and would, in the words of United States Navy Admiral Ernest J. King, "[lay] the modern foundations for the science of aeronautics." His involvement in the NACA was twofold in that his technical background allowed him to contribute significantly to the organization's research initiatives and that his diligence made him a natural choice for an administrative leader as well. Ames became chairman of the executive committee in 1919, a role that handled concerns essential for the NACA's internal operations, such as managing the various aspects of the budget, overseeing the construction of facilities, and deciding upon specific research initiatives. In overlap with his leadership of the executive committee, he also became chairman of the NACA's main committee in 1927. This position gave him great influence over research priorities, and also made him the key player in the NACA's relationship with other agencies of the federal government. Ames' influence long outlived him. By handpicking and mentoring young, promising engineers and scientists, like Hugh Dryden (who would later head the NACA) Ames defined the future of the NACA. Under his guidance in these roles, the NACA became a world-renowned, pioneering institution in aeronautics research.

As a faculty member, Dr. Ames was considered an excellent teacher, able to explain complex principles of physics in terms a lay person could understand. At Hopkins, his gift for administration led to his becoming secretary of the Academic Council in 1915, Dean of

the College Faculty in 1924, and Provost in 1926. In 1929, when the University searched for a new president, Ames was appointed. When the Second World War began, as chair of the Foreign Service Committee of the National Research Council, Ames toured Europe studying scientific developments. Upon his return, he criticized the United States' isolationist foreign policy.

Towards the end of his life, Ames' work in aviation gained further recognition. In 1935, he was made an honorary fellow of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences and received from the Smithsonian Institution the Langley Gold Medal for Aerodynamics. Perhaps the greatest honor bestowed on him was the naming of the Ames Aeronautical Laboratory in California.

*Sources: Wikipedia; Biographical Memoir of Joseph Sweetman Ames, National Academy of Sciences; NASA News, March 2013*

**William Holland Wilmer** lived at 207 E. Highfield Road. Dr. Wilmer established the Wilmer Institute of Ophthalmology at The Johns Hopkins University where he served as director for nine years. Among his contributions to the field of ophthalmology is his "Atlas Fundus Oculi" illustrating the normal variations and pathologic changes in the fundus (back of the eye). Dr. Wilmer was one of the most renowned practitioners in his field. He was one of the founders of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Medical Association and a member of the American Ophthalmological Society, serving as president in 1923.

Dr. Wilmer was the son of the Right Reverend Richard Wilmer, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Alabama, and of Margaret Brown Wilmer. He attended the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, and received his MD from the University of Virginia in 1885. After studying at the New York Polyclinic Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital, he practiced ophthalmology in Washington, DC. He was Professor of Ophthalmology at Georgetown University from 1904-1925. In 1925 at age 61 he came to Baltimore to establish Wilmer Institute of Ophthalmology at Hopkins. After heading the Institute for nine years he returned to Washington to resume his private practice.

During World War I, Dr. Wilmer served in the US Air Service and was a pioneer in the establishment of visual requirements and ocular conditions for aviators. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and the French Legion of Honor. He was honorably discharged in 1919 as a colonel and was promoted to brigadier general in the Army Medical Reserve Corps.

Dr. Wilmer was awarded honorary degrees by Princeton College, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, and Georgetown University.

The Wilmer Eye Institute became internationally renowned, specializing in the diagnosis and management of complex medical and surgical eye disease and is now the largest research and clinical ophthalmic center in the United States.

*Sources: Wikipedia; Transcripts for the American Ophthalmological Society; JAMA Ophthalmology*

# The Roots of Sherwood Gardens

RYAN MATTOX

The Sherwood Gardens remain a centerpiece of the Guilford's seasonal gardening efforts. America fell in love with the beauty of blooming azaleas and flowering cherries to name two of a dozen Spring celebrities. 80,000 tulips steal the show as a testament to the yearly work of the garden caretakers. The vibrant colors burst in memory of John Sherwood. The of history Sherwood Gardens was an area of research for resident author Ann Giroux. She provided much of the information used to create this article.

John Sherwood was one of many self-made men settling into the Roland Park Company's communities. Sherwood was a pioneer in the petroleum industry and laid groundwork for the industry. His business reflected an era of rapid change that saw stables being replaced with multi-car garages and carriage drivers retrained as chauffeurs. Despite this, many new homeowners built to, as Ann put it "integrate into the natural setting," of their lots.

Leisure activities were primarily out of doors and the architecture of the Guilford Community reflected that fact. Sunrooms, outdoor porches, and garden rooms can still be seen in the older homes. Men and women were enamored with golf, tennis, and other outdoor sports. Gardening was a chance to beautify the grounds that the residents wanted to keep close to nature and the Roland Park Company actively encouraged them. Their Nursery made a tidy profit selling boxwoods and other shrubberies to the locals.

In 1927 John Sherwood employed Howard Sill to construct a Georgian Revival home. This mansion, based on a colonial home in Virginia's Charles City, sat next the commonly owned Stratford Green. Ten years before the Olmstead brothers, who helped create Central Park, designed this space in the English style with crisscrossing walkways and a walled off man-made lake. Sherwood's gardening endeavors were at first contained to the several lots he'd purchased but ultimately grew into this space and elsewhere. Ultimately, this created Sherwood Gardens

The plants that John Sherwood used were dependent on the market. He lived in the middle of a two decade gardening boom that saw an increased demand for plants as the American suburbs took shape. Sherwood enjoyed foreign trees and flowers especially, which drew him to azaleas, rhododendrons, and of course Dutch tulips. It was his good fortune, and by extension ours, that the 1920s brought the tulip bulbs and daffodil bulbs to American consumers.

The sprawling gardens we enjoy each Spring began with Sherwood's personal design, "according to color," and physical labor. He lead his staff in turning over, mulching, mowing, and planting to a visually spectacular plan. Wisteria hanging down over purple bulbs today mirrors the "chromatically similar" imagery that John Sherwood wanted for his gardens.

The success of his gardens was almost instantaneous. His property began to receive unexpected visitors drawn in by the colorful displays. Sherwood, rather than forcing them to leave or charging them an entrance fee, welcomed the public to enjoy the results of his green thumb and artistic eye. He didn't even rope off the flowerbeds until it became clear that the visitors didn't understand the fragility of the tulip bulbs.

The labor-intensive plants began in the hundreds but rapidly grew to thousands over the years and drew his neighbors out each Spring. The homeowners who left at the end of Spring, avoiding Baltimore's humid summers, came for the seasonal display. John Sherwood's gardens were likened to Holland for many visitors. In fact, several flowers made their American debuts in the gardens: the Violet Blue Boris Van Amstel Tulip in 1948 and the White Triumphator in 1953.

Sherwood's orders for tulips increased each year and his suppliers met the growing demand up to May 10th, 1940. This date marks the German invasion of Holland and the coming of World War II to the tulip fields that brought the world so much color each Spring. Bombs, mines, and the machinery of war devastated the vulnerable bulbs in the thousands. Starvation drove the suppliers to cut off the toxic portion of their bulbs and eat their own flowers. For John Sherwood this went beyond the loss of flowers as he worried for his friends living under the Nazis.

He leapt at the opportunity to help the beleaguered nation heal after the war ended. The tulips were regrown and Sherwood doubled his orders from 20,000 to 40,000 to support the suppliers who had brought him the bulbs that made the gardens famous. A connection between the country and the Guilford community bloomed with the new tulips. One of Sherwood's suppliers, a man named Dominicus, remarked that the display in Guilford was the most beautiful he'd ever seen.

The Royal General Association of Bulb Growers named a "soft rose colored bloom with white-flame edging" after the gardens that helped them rebuild. Although it is not commercially available, the Sherwood Garden Tulip grows as a reminder of the connection between communities.

The Guilford Community's gardens are described by Ann Giroux as more "ephemeral than its architecture. The designs of the old gardens can be more difficult to maintain than the houses. The Sherwood Gardens are special for their dedication to the efforts of John Sherwood. The Gardens are rooted in an appreciation for nature, a passion for beautiful creations, and a friendship that spans oceans all symbolized by a fragile, vibrant bulb.

*Ryan Mattox is a Loyola University student who worked with The Guilford News as an intern.*





In view of the former Sherwood house  
azaleas and tulips bloom in color  
harmony as John Sherwood envisioned.

Thousands of visitors continue to come  
annually to view the spectacular tulip  
display now planned and planted by  
Stratford Green, Inc.







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## *Y Achievers add Summer Beauty to Sherwood Gardens*

This summer Sherwood Gardens' Project Olmsted has a new entry, the Y Achievers from the Weinberg Y in Waverly. With support from the Y Volunteer and Community Development Program, University of Maryland Master Gardeners, and other volunteers, the Y Achievers learned about flower bed design, bed prep and plant installation. The two beds the Achievers designed look fantastic! The Achievers even included a bench in one of the beds so visitors can sit down and soak up the surroundings. Other Project Olmsted participants are Bob Jackson Landscaping, and Beechfield Landscaping, HMD Landscaping. We hope you enjoy this year's summer flowers.



Y Achievers work with the University of Maryland Master Gardeners and other volunteers to create two summer flower beds in Sherwood Gardens.





# Annual Tulip Dig



The annual tulip dig saw hundreds of visitors at Sherwood Gardens. Held on May 27, it raised nearly \$4,000 for Sherwood Gardens.

The Tulip Dig is the place to meet terrific folks who really enjoy digging for tulip bulbs. Here is a link to an article and video in *The Baltimore Sun* where people tell us why they come.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-tulip-dig-20170527-story.html>



# *Dinner at Dusk*



Guilford's annual Dinner at Dusk was held in Sherwood Gardens on June 4th. Residents and guests enjoyed picnics on the lawn on a weather perfect evening while listening to the music of Guilford's own Ken and Brad Kolodner Trio. There was a moon bounce for children and games for all ages.





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## Community Calendar of Events

### Sherwood Gardens Events

#### June – October

Project Olmsted and a gorgeous summer flower display for your enjoyment.  
Vote for your favorite on Family Day!

#### September 16, 10am–1pm

#### Family Day

Fun activities and treats for the entire family  
*free*

#### September 16, 10:00 – 10:45am

#### “Music in the Gardens”

A Classical Music concert by the Baltimore School of Music  
*free*

#### October 14, 10:00am

#### “Music in the Gardens”

A Classical Music concert by the Baltimore School of Music and Yoga!  
*free*

### Evergreen House and Museum

#### July 6, 2017 – August 13, 2017

#### Shakespeare in the Meadow

Performances Friday, Saturday, and Sunday by the Baltimore Shakespeare Factory  
More information: [www.museums.jhu.edu/calendar.php](http://www.museums.jhu.edu/calendar.php)

### Baltimore Museum of Art

#### July 16, 23, 30 and August 9, 13, 20

#### Free Family Sundays

Explore your creative side with hands-on art-making workshops in response to works on view.

More information: <http://www.artbma.org/events/all.html>



This year's Family Day in Sherwood Gardens will be held on September 16 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

#### Guilford Association Board

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**The Guilford Association, Inc.**

4200 Saint Paul Street

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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# The Guilford News

SUMMER 2017

## Help, we need somebody!

The Guilford Neighborhood Events/Social Committee is seeking volunteers to help coordinate our family fun events (e.g., spring egg hunt, summer picnic, Halloween parade, and winter holiday gathering). The time commitment is fairly nominal, but the payoff is great: these events are what strengthen the bonds of our community. Volunteers can contact Francie Spahn at [GuilfordSocialCommittee@yahoo.com](mailto:GuilfordSocialCommittee@yahoo.com).

Children race through Sherwood Gardens at this year's annual Dinner at Dusk held on June 4.

