

The Guilford News

GUILFORDASSOCIATION.ORG

FALL 2019

Restored and Reimagined

KELLI COMBERIATE

TWO OF THE LARGEST “GRAND DAME” HOMES IN GUILFORD ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE RESTORATION AND RENOVATION.

Guilford is known for gorgeous architecture, welcoming parks, tree-lined streets, and of course, Sherwood Gardens. The homes reflect many different styles, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and French Revival, to name a few, but they’re all unique, architecturally superior homes built of fine materials and craftsmanship, located in a charming environment. While there’s no question that Guilford homes are beautiful, many may wonder what makes the largest mansion-sized homes marketable to today’s buyer? They are marketable and in demand if adapted to current lifestyles when purchased or bought by someone who wants to take on the challenge of restoration and updating. Two of the largest “grande dame” homes in the neighborhood are currently under extensive restoration and renovation.

The Architectural Guidelines set forth by Guilford’s Architectural Committee require that the original exterior of Guilford properties be preserved and the architectural integrity maintained, regardless of a buyer’s vision. The Architectural Committee works hard to preserve exteriors, retaining design

See **GUILFORD MANSIONS**, page 6



4309 N. Charles Street known as “Oak Acre” was built in 1928 and is currently undergoing a massive renovation.



GREG REASE PHOTOGRAPHY

The steeple of Second Presbyterian church stands among the fall leaves in Guilford.

It's hard to believe, particularly with the temperatures and drought in October, that summer is over and fall is here. It was a very eventful summer and the Board has been working on a number of priority projects and issues. First, I want to thank Kelly Maher and all of the volunteers that made our annual family day in Sherwood Gardens such a success. It was a great time to connect with neighbors and witness all of the families with children now resident in Guilford. Also, a thank you to Millicent Tyler for again arranging for Sunday musicals in the Gardens. Despite the drought Sherwood Gardens and the flower beds looked terrific through the summer thanks to the irrigation and bed watering by Clarke Griffin and others. The Gardens truly are a centerpiece of our community.

On the matter of issues, we are continually addressing security, traffic and architectural review as well as park maintenance.

Community Security. We were all alarmed and shocked by the crimes that occurred in Guilford this summer. As I informed the community by email in early September, the Association acted quickly and with resolve to minimize the likelihood of future

incidents. We met with local elected officials, the State's Attorney and the Police Commissioner.

We were advised by police that arrests had been made and that juveniles were involved in or responsible for the assaults. We then learned that the arrested juveniles had been released from custody. That issue was the focus of our meeting with State's Attorney Mosby in which we learned that the release actions had been taken by the State Department of Juvenile Services without consultation with the State's Attorney or notification to the community. It is our conclusion that there is a problem with the way juvenile justice is being administered in Baltimore by the Department of Juvenile Services and the circuit court, particularly when juveniles are involved in serious crimes. To better inform Guilford and members of neighboring communities of this issue we jointly sponsored with the Office of State's Attorney on October 23rd a community meeting for the purpose of discussing juvenile justice practices in Baltimore and to hear from the community concerning possible reforms. The meeting largely focused on existing practices with less discussion by the speakers on the reforms that are required.

Co-chairs of the Board's Security Committee, Curtis Campbell and Chris Lyon, Tim Chriss and I met with Police Commissioner Harrison to state our concern about the carjackings and assaults and to obtain his commitment and perspective. The Commissioner fully understands that Guilford is historically a safe community and must continue to be through actions taken to protect our community and assure a safe environment. Relations with the Northern District are good and Major Gibson attended the meeting with the Commissioner. Police coverage of Guilford was increased. The Commissioner strongly supports Guilford's employment of a private security service through the Guilford Security Patrol (GSP) and urged continued coordination of community patrols with those of the police. He also urged resident use of video cameras as well as community video. There was confirmation by the Commissioner that the actions being taken by the Association through the GSP, video monitoring and community security notices are the correct actions in our urban environment.

Regarding the use of community video, as we have previously reported, we have been undertaking a search, largely spearheaded by Curtis Campbell, to identify a cost and technologically feasible way of video surveilling key entrances to Guilford with a direct monitoring by GSP patrols. We believe that we now have identified a means of accomplishing that and we are in the final stage of preparing for implementation at two test locations.

Community security is a very high priority for the Board. The Association is allocating additional funds in the annual budget to pay for video monitoring. In addition, we will continue to urge increased support of the GSP so that the hours of patrol can be increased.

Traffic. Guilford has had a number of traffic related issues before the City Department of Transportation (DOT) in some cases for years with no response from the department. With these issues and the history summarized Traffic Committee co-chairs Carl Coscia and Doug Borg and I recently met with newly appointed DOT director Steve Sharkey and Councilwoman Clark. Our purpose was to assure that the items were understood by the director and

addressed by the department. The items are:

1. Agreement to the traffic-calming plan for 39th Street and an implementation timeframe.
2. Replacement of deteriorated sidewalks on Charles Street between Overhill Road and Stratford Road.
3. Restoration of restricted parking on St. Paul Street between University Parkway and St. Martins Road.
4. Maintenance of City-owned property between Bishops Road and St. Paul Street from the Cathedral of the Incarnation to St. Martins Road.
5. Cease installation of high intensity LED lights in Guilford and restore the lights where the bulbs have been changed or utilize warmer toned, lower intensity LED lighting.
6. Restoration of the planted traffic island at Greenway, Northway and Millbrook.
7. Improved pedestrian lane crossing designation on the Charles Street and Cold Spring Lane at Loyola University.
8. Provide better pedestrian lighting along the public walkway on the east side of St. Paul, adjacent to the Guilford owned Gateway Park.

Response will be monitored by the Board's committee chairs and DOT officials present at the meeting with Director Sharkey.

Architectural Review. Compliance with the Deed and Agreement requirement that exterior changes to properties must be reviewed and approved by the Architectural Committee is generally good. The Committee receives as many as 150 applications a year representing a significant investment in the maintenance, restoration and improvement of Guilford properties. There are cases where changes have been made without approval and where the alterations are not consistent with the Architectural Guidelines. In those cases the Association is obligated to issue a notice of covenant violation. Properties are also reviewed for covenant issues if they are listed for sale as a covenant compliance letter is requested from the Association. Usually identified issues are resolved through negotiated agreement. However, the violation notice may be recorded or in the few cases where resolution is resisted the Association will litigate. The St. Paul Street property featured in an article in this newsletter is a case where that was necessary. You may have observed the improvements and maintenance to the property at Greenway and Stratford Road. There too after years of attempted negotiation litigation was necessary.

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Guilford Association will be held Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary at Second Presbyterian Church. At that time we will review the proposed 2020 Association budget, elect new members of the Board of Managers and review the activities of the Association's committees.

Thank you for your continued support and special thanks to all of the volunteers that work on behalf of Guilford to keep our community the special place that it is. Enjoy reading this edition of The Guilford News. We welcome suggestions for articles and are always seeking writers. If you have suggestions or areas of concern please contact me or other Board members. Enjoy the fall.

Tom Hobbs

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9 CHARLCOTE PL
List Price: \$850,000
Closing Price: \$850,000



22 CHARLCOTE PL
List Price: \$433,000
Closing Price: \$433,000



4305 SAINT PAUL ST
List Price: \$700,000
Closing Price: \$700,000

403 MARLOW RD
List Price: \$487,000
Closing Price: \$487,000



Active Properties

AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

List price

4200 GREENWAY	\$2,485,000
4000 GREENWAY	\$1,465,000
4303 UNDERWOOD RD	\$1,348,500
4112 GREENWAY*	\$1,250,000
211 LAMBETH RD	\$1,125,000
10 WHITFIELD RD	\$1,100,000
3810 GREENWAY	\$999,900
41 WARRENTON RD*	\$899,000
4401 GREENWAY*	\$859,000
5 MILLBROOK RD	\$849,500
203 E 39TH ST	\$759,900
4301 GREENWAY*	\$750,000
4206 CHARLCOTE RD	\$749,900
226 E 39TH ST	\$695,000
4102 UNDERWOOD RD*	\$679,900
212 E 39TH ST*	\$499,900
3810 JUNIPER RD	\$498,000
4418 EASTWAY	\$475,000
305 NORTHWAY	\$449,900
3813 JUNIPER RD	\$369,900
319 SUFFOLK RD*	\$359,000
417 SOUTHWAY	\$339,900
307 WENDOVER RD	\$329,900
414 BRETTON PL*	\$274,900
3610 GREENMOUNT AVE	\$240,000

*Under Contract



1 STRATFORD RD
List Price: \$535,000
Closing Price: \$535,000

11 YORK CT
List Price: \$149,900
Closing Price: \$149,900



Guilford Property Sales

JULY 1, 2019 – OCTOBER 15, 2019

3811 FENCHURCH RD
List Price: \$590,000
Closing Price: \$590,000



217 CHANCERY RD
List Price: \$800,000
Closing Price: \$800,000



225 CHANCERY RD
List Price: \$520,000
Closing Price: \$520,000

320 SUFFOLK RD
List Price: \$352,000
Closing Price: \$352,000



3511 NEWLAND RD
List Price: \$369,900
Closing Price: \$369,900



201 SOUTHWAY
List Price: \$445,000
Closing Price: \$445,000



410 SOUTHWAY
List Price: \$214,800
Closing Price: \$214,800



403 SOUTHWAY
List Price: \$125,000
Closing Price: \$125,000





The facade of 4309 N. Charles Street, shown here under repair, features a colonnade of Corinthian columns.

The original capitals were deteriorated. The design was matched and they were replaced with exact replicas.



GUILFORD MANSIONS, *From page 1*

details and materials while also supporting harmonious additions. Owners are allowed to change the interior as they see fit, to ensure it suits their individual lifestyles.

4309 N. Charles Street

One of these grande dame-esque Guilford properties that is currently undergoing a massive renovation is 4309 N. Charles St. The family who purchased this one-of-a-kind home known as “Oak Acre” are intending to live in it once the extensive renovations are complete. The unique house “was built in 1928 by Clarence Harlan Hurlock, Sr. who meticulously orchestrated every detail of the home’s architectural layout, design, and landscaping,” according to family reports. It remained in his family for more than 90 years, and was occupied by Hurlock’s daughter until it was recently sold after her death.

It was designed by Mattu and White, who also designed 19 Guilford homes in total. Vince Greene, of Vincent Greene Architects, oversaw today’s current renovations, as well as alterations to many other homes in the community. With each house he takes on, one of the first things he does is a little bit of research on the house right away. He’ll look at original drawings if there are any, and find out who the original architect was. He and his team will also find out which parts of the house are original, and which have been added throughout the years.

They also like to assess which parts of the building they can save, and which parts need attention. Despite these historic homes being well constructed, top end materials do have a lifespan,

and can fall prey to rot or contain lead paint. Vince and his team prefer to evaluate the “shell” of a building. Their approach is to “start with the shell and work inwards.”

In terms of 4309 N. Charles St, they had to evaluate the windows, roof, and cornices, and figure out if they were salvageable. Their philosophy is to “try and solve the design needs of the client internally, so they don’t have to make additions where they weren’t there before.” Fortunately, every project that Vince and his team have worked on in Guilford (with the exception of one property on Greenway), has not needed an addition.

Most of the original windows have been replaced at N. Charles with mahogany, which holds up well and is similar to the original dense pine, but some of the French doors were so historically refined, they couldn’t be replaced. Instead, they restored them and kept their artistic design. Vince and his team were very respectful of the original ironwork and exterior moldings. As for the interior, the mechanical systems and electrical systems have been replaced, and the kitchen and dining areas have been modified.

Sometimes it can be challenging to combine modern amenities with historic details, but Vincent Green Architects has plenty of experience. On one of the Wendover houses they worked on (an original Lawrence Fowler design), the column capitals were very elaborate and in terrible shape. They were so complex, with so much ornament, there was no one around to hand carve them anymore. To rectify the situation, they received permission from the Architectural Committee to have Hayles and Howe form capital from gypsum plaster instead of wood. Vince believes it

was a “perfect reproduction” and it was only done because “we have such great artisans in this city”.

In general, “the interiors trend is open, flowing spaces, but most older houses have smaller rooms grouped around each other,” says Vince, “so we find ourselves doing structural changes to the interior to make room for a modern lifestyle in a historic shell.”

4304 Saint Paul Street

A second property undergoing major renovation is 4304 Saint Paul St. The property required significant repairs and restoration because of years of deferred maintenance. The Association issued notices of covenant violation after continual efforts to have the property repaired by the prior owner yielded limited result. When the current investor purchased the property the violations were disclosed but efforts to resolve violations consistent with the Architectural Guidelines continued to be unsuccessful as construction was underway. In response the Association had to litigate to assure architectural and structural integrity in compliance with the Deed and Agreement.

Raphael Cassagnol, a real estate investor, purchased the stately home located at 4304 Saint Paul St. late in 2017 to turn it into a forever home for the modern buyer. His goal is to make it livable in today’s terms without losing the architectural integrity that drew him to the house in the first place. The veranda in particular,

reminded him of his great-grandmother’s home in Haiti and it’s what sold him on the house.

While this home is currently undergoing substantial renovations, Raphael doesn’t think it will be hard to sell. With Johns Hopkins University and Under Armour being located in Baltimore, there’s not a shortage of young professionals with high-paying jobs. He states that another point to consider is that Baltimore housing is considered a steal compared to comparable homes in New York, Washington, and California as well as many other U.S. locations. A \$2 million home in Baltimore could easily be \$12 million in New York. He also believes that even millennials will be attracted to this type of house if they have a love of history and the house is deemed livable by today’s terms.

For instance, when 4304 Saint Paul St. was planned between 1914–1915 by Ellicott and Emmart, architects known for designing St. David’s Church, the Women’s Club of Roland Park, and other Guilford and Roland Park homes, only servants used the kitchen. Now, the kitchen is where most families spend the majority of their time. It also doubles as an entertaining space, and homeowners want it to be open and airy. To achieve this, Raphael opened up the small space to be inviting, removed the fireplace (there’s eight more throughout the house), and added a commercial stove, and other high-end appliances, cabinetry, and a seating area, so couples can entertain with ease.



4304 Saint Paul St. is undergoing substantial renovations. Significant architectural and structural issues are being addressed because of years of deferred maintenance.



Entrance hall at 4304 Saint Paul St. The historic details throughout the home are being preserved while making it more conducive for modern living.

Damaged columns on the home's veranda will be duplicated and replaced.



Another interesting addition is the elevator. A master bedroom did not lend itself to being situated on the first floor, and Raphael wanted to make sure this house could be a couples' "last home" when stairs aren't feasible any longer. The elevator shaft will be put in last, and will access three of the four floors of the home. He also added a house accessed garage, adding another level of convenience.

It was important to him to keep historic details though, such as the Wedgewood and original sconces in the dining room, and the original hardwood in the living room. He's added modern touches throughout, such as contemporary white in the living room, and he darkened the hardwood to make it more modern.

The basement on the other hand needed a complete makeover. When he first laid eyes on the lower level, it was a muddy swamp with cages that he envisions were used possibly for cock fights. Now, the basement will be functional and livable. One of the key features will be a beautiful wine cellar and tasting room. There will be a shelving system that can house 600–800 bottles of wine, as well as a gorgeous Tuscan door and table for tastings. The basement will also include a full bath and a garden room.

The house itself will have five bedrooms and six-and-a-half baths once it's all completed. The master bedroom will be located on the third floor with two additional bedrooms, and the fourth floor will house the final two bedrooms, baths, an open family area, and a workout/exercise room that will be accessed by barn doors. Each bedroom has its own bathroom, and there will be multiple, custom-made walk-in closets.

Raphael is working with Missy Connolley, an interior decorator at Fern Hill Designs who will ensure a modern touch throughout. Fortunately, they have similar tastes, so they work well together. Hopefully, their combined vision will attract a buyer similar to John E Greiner, the well-known Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bridge engineer, and the first owner of 4304 St. Paul St., or to a family such as the Stieffs of Stieff Pianos, the second owners of this statuesque home.

Relatively few homes in Guilford have not been updated. When found they are filled with history but may require a massive undertaking and a vision, but with the right buyer and an experienced team leading the way, they can be returned to their former glory and reinvented for today's life style.. When you also ensure that the renovations make the home livable by today's standards, the question of these works-of-art being marketable shouldn't even be a concern.

We've included photos of the homes still under construction, but plan to continue the story in our next newsletter edition once the renovations are complete, and the owners' visions have come to life.

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– Roberta H. – Baltimore, MD



Thanks to those who pay the GSP fee

We thank and wish to recognize by address those residents who in 2019 through their Guilford Security Patrol (GSP) membership have made possible the security services available to the entire Guilford community. The GSP service depends on the voluntary payment of

the GSP fee. Patrol hours are limited to what available funds can support. When reviewing the below list if there are neighbors who did not join the GSP in 2019 we urge you to seek their participation. The benefit of increased coverage cannot be overstated.

4402 Bedford Place
4403 Bedford Place
4405 Bedford Place
4406 Bedford Place
4407 Bedford Place
4409 Bedford Place
4411 Bedford Place
4413 Bedford Place
4415 Bedford Place

400 Bretton Place
402 Bretton Place
407 Bretton Place
408 Bretton Place
410 Bretton Place
415 Bretton Place

203 Chancery Road
205 Chancery Road
206 Chancery Road
209 Chancery Road
210 Chancery Road
212 Chancery Road
213 Chancery Road
214 Chancery Road
216 Chancery Road
220 Chancery Road
223 Chancery Road
227 Chancery Road
231 Chancery Road

1 Chancery Square
3 Chancery Square

2 Charlcutte Place
4 Charlcutte Place
6 Charlcutte Place
7 Charlcutte Place
8 Charlcutte Place
9 Charlcutte Place
10 Charlcutte Place
11 Charlcutte Place
12 Charlcutte Place
15 Charlcutte Place
16 Charlcutte Place
18 Charlcutte Place
22 Charlcutte Place
28 Charlcutte Place
30 Charlcutte Place
32 Charlcutte Place
34 Charlcutte Place
36 Charlcutte Place

101 Charlcutte Road
104 Charlcutte Road
105 Charlcutte Road
106 Charlcutte Road
107 Charlcutte Road
4202 Charlcutte Road
4204 Charlcutte Road
4206 Charlcutte Road

204 E. 39th
216 E. 39th
224 E. 39th

4 E. Bishops Road
6 E. Bishops Road
8 E. Bishops Road
10 E. Bishops Road
12 E. Bishops Road
14 E. Bishops Road
16 E. Bishops Road

1 E. Highfield Road
2 E. Highfield Road
3 E. Highfield Road
5 E. Highfield Road
101 E. Highfield Road
201 E. Highfield Road
203 E. Highfield Road
204 E. Highfield Road
207 E. Highfield Road
209 E. Highfield Road
210 E. Highfield Road
211 E. Highfield Road
301 E. Highfield Road
305 E. Highfield Road
307 E. Highfield Road

4402 Eastway
4406 Eastway
4410 Eastway
4412 Eastway
4414 Eastway

3801 Fenchurch Road
3802 Fenchurch Road
3803 Fenchurch Road
3805 Fenchurch Road
3806 Fenchurch Road
3808 Fenchurch Road
3810 Fenchurch Road
3812 Fenchurch Road
3813 Fenchurch Road

3514 Greenmount Ave.
3606 Greenmount Ave.
3716 Greenmount Ave.

3601 Greenway
3609 Greenway
3700 Greenway
3702 Greenway
3703 Greenway
3707 Greenway
3801 Greenway
3802 Greenway
3804 Greenway
3805 Greenway
3806 Greenway
3807 Greenway
3809 Greenway
3810 Greenway
3901 Greenway
3902 Greenway
3903 Greenway
3904 Greenway
3907 Greenway

4000 Greenway
4004 Greenway
4005 Greenway
4007 Greenway
4014 Greenway
4100 Greenway
4102 Greenway
4105 Greenway
4110 Greenway
4112 Greenway
4200 Greenway
4201 Greenway
4202 Greenway
4204 Greenway
4207 Greenway
4212 Greenway
4214 Greenway
4215 Greenway
4221 Greenway
4300 Greenway
4301 Greenway
4304 Greenway
4306 Greenway

4308 Greenway
4402 Greenway
4405 Greenway
4406 Greenway
4408 Greenway
4409 Greenway
4410 Greenway
4411 Greenway
4415 Greenway

3800 Juniper Road
3804 Juniper Road
3807 Juniper Road
3808 Juniper Road
3810 Juniper Road
3813 Juniper Road
3814 Juniper Road
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3915 Juniper Road
3923 Juniper Road

201 Kemble Road
202 Kemble Road
204 Kemble Road
206 Kemble Road
208 Kemble Road
211 Kemble Road
213 Kemble Road

202 Lambeth Road
203 Lambeth Road
204 Lambeth Road
206 Lambeth Road
207 Lambeth Road
210 Lambeth Road
212 Lambeth Road
229 Lambeth Road
237 Lambeth Road

403 Marlow Road

3 Millbrook Road
4 Millbrook Road
102 Millbrook Road
103 Millbrook Road

3516 N. Calvert
3523 N. Calvert

3703 N. Charles
3705 N. Charles
3801 N. Charles
3805 N. Charles
4001 N. Charles
4003 N. Charles
4103 N. Charles
4205 N. Charles
4303 N. Charles
4307 N. Charles
4319 N. Charles
4328 N. Charles
4330 N. Charles
4334 N. Charles
4336 N. Charles
4338 N. Charles
4405 N. Charles
4409 N. Charles
4411 N. Charles
4412 N. Charles

3503 Newland Road
3504 Newland Road
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3507 Newland Road
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3510 Newland Road
3513 Newland Road
3519 Newland Road
3521 Newland Road
3535 Newland Road
3543 Newland Road
3547 Newland Road

208 Northway
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3 Overhill Road
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3701 St. Paul Street
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3808 St. Paul Street
4003 St. Paul Street
4006 St. Paul Street
4100 St. Paul Street
4102 St. Paul Street
4103 St. Paul Street
4104 St. Paul Street
4200 St. Paul Street
4201 St. Paul Street
4203 St. Paul Street
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4306 St. Paul Street
4312 St. Paul Street
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5 Stratford Road
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Interesting Neighbors — Tina and Paco Rodriguez

In 2006, my eleven year old daughter told me that she wanted us to walk the Camino de Santiago when she got out of school. In 2015, she and I hiked 250 kilometers, wearing backpacks, from Opporto in Portugal to Santiago de Compostela in Northwest Spain. The experience changed my life. Not satisfied, I wanted to return and do the much longer route from France.

Since at least the Ninth Century, pilgrims have trekked across Europe to the city of Santiago de Compostela to visit the Cathedral and see the earthly remains of the Apostle Saint James. Charlemagne made the trek, as did Saint Francis of Assisi. During their time, the Camino was as significant a pilgrimage as Rome or Jerusalem.

This summer, after four years of lobbying and three months of training, my wife Tina and I walked the most famous of the routes, the Camino Francés. We walked close to 500 miles, crossing numerous mountain ranges and through countless villages and towns. We traversed mountain trails and old Roman roads. We dodged livestock and met pilgrims from around the world.

Our Camino started in the small French town of Saint Jean Pied de Port at the foot of the Pyrenées. Getting there involved taking a train from Madrid to Pamplona, seeing the Running of the Bulls, and taking a bus over the mountains. What took the bus a little over an hour would take us three days to traverse by foot.

Saint Jean is a picturesque town, which though popular for hiking and skiing, owes much of its existence to the Camino. Over 300,000 people a year walk the Camino de Santiago, and the French

This summer Guilford residents Paco and Tina Rodriguez walked nearly 500 miles from France to Spain.



Route is by far the most popular, in part because of the 2006 movie “The Way” starring Martin Sheen and his son Emilio Estevez.

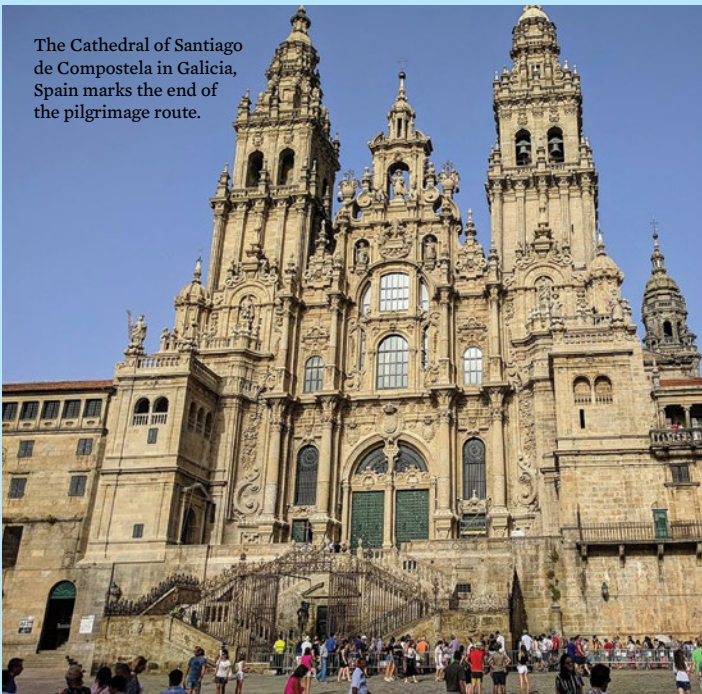
The first day of the Camino is the most challenging: as you cross the Pyrenées into Spain. Most of the injuries happen on these first days because of inadequate training. Unpredictable weather doesn’t help. We started before dawn, wearing headlamps. The excitement was palpable as we passed the lit windows of hostels where many, many pilgrims were having coffee, getting ready, gathering in the streets.

Our destination was the Spanish town of Roncesvalles, population 35. We made good time, considering that the 25 or so kilometers didn’t include the 900 meters of vertical climb. We stayed in the municipal albergue, a pilgrim’s hostel. Albergues are inexpensive. They have bunk beds, frequently in very large rooms. They usually have places to wash your clothes and shared kitchens. They almost never have air conditioning. This one had 183 beds, and before late afternoon, they were all taken.

My wife Tina, is a planner. Based on the most popular guide book, we’d budgeted 35 days to complete this trek, but she decided that we could shave a bunch of time off that. Meanwhile, Europe was undergoing a brutal heat wave, so we needed to be smart about avoiding the midday sun. We planned two rest days, unless we needed more. Our first would be in Burgos and the second in the city of Leon.

Our first week took us through Navarre, the Basque Country along the French border, then through the wine region of Rioja. We love Spanish wine, so this was a real treat. As we walked through these rural areas we were struck by two things: first, the small towns

The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain marks the end of the pilgrimage route.



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The Camino de Santiago has been a major pilgrimage since the Middle Ages.

were largely inhabited by old people, and unlike California, the vineyards we passed seldom had anybody working. Like so much of the world, rural Spain seems to be losing population to the big cities. There were lots of properties for sale.

On Day 10, we arrived in Burgos, absolutely spent after walking 42 kilometers in one day. Faced with the prospect of getting there a day later, we broke our own rules and walked during the hottest part of the day. We frequently found the last kilometer to be the hardest, but this day was the worst. When we entered the main square by the famous gothic cathedral, the thermometer read 104 degrees and there wasn't a soul outside.

The next day was both a day of rest and a day of making crucial changes for the Camino. I bought new socks in the hope that less bulky socks would lead to fewer blisters. We mailed back Tina's sandals and my old socks. The package weighed 1.1 kilograms, the better part of 2.5 pounds. There's no reason to carry that much extra weight for three more weeks. How much extra would you have to pay to buy a bike that weighed 2.5 pounds less?

The segment after Burgos is a high plain known as the Meseta that the guide book gives you eight days to cross. Characterized by endless fields of grain and little shade, it strikes fear into the hearts of pilgrims. For those who decide to walk, the Meseta is supposed to test your mettle. Many opt to take a bus and resume the trip on the far side. We didn't come all this way to take a bus!

Fortunately for us, the heat wave broke. (In fact, it even rained, no thanks to Henry Higgins!) Each day we'd start out before dawn and walk as far as we could before lunchtime. We far exceeded the prescribed distances in the book, frequently surpassing 40 kilometers, and finishing in five days. Frankly, nobody was more surprised than we were!

The prize at the end of the Meseta is the beautiful regional capital of Leon. This would be our second pit stop, and we made the most of it, visiting museums and churches and eating amazing food. (We decided that Leon deserves a return visit.) One day of R&R was enough, though. After walking for two weeks, you begin to view the Camino as your job. When you're not walking, you're thinking about walking. You dream about it. On day 18, we set out again before dawn.

Two days out of Leon, we entered the wine region of Bierzo, a region of Castilla y Leon that's surrounded by mountains. We



Paco Rodriguez approaches one of the many small towns along the Camino.



Tina Rodriguez poses in front of a vineyard in the region of Bierzo in northwestern Spain.

climbed over one range to get there, and over another to leave. The red wine there is made from a grape named Mencía that's not as full bodied as a Cabernet, but which holds up to all kinds of food. It comes in usually at 14.5% alcohol. The white wine there is made from a grape named Godello. These whites are very nice, reminiscent of Roussanne or Marsanne from the Rhône Valley. Yes, we tried them every chance we got!

We had to climb yet another range of mountains to enter our final province, Galicia. By this time, we were getting pretty good at this, but Tina's most memorable comment was "nobody said that there would be so many mountains!"

It was exciting and a little sad to be on the final phase of the walk. While we'd hiked parts with friends that we made along the way, on many other parts, it was just the two of us. The scenery literally took our breath away. Mountains, valleys, crystal clear rivers, Roman bridges and roads, it was magical. Until the last 100 kilometers.

In Spain, it's a resume builder to be able to say that you've walked the Camino, and the minimum distance you must walk to

get a certificate, is 100 kilometers. This means that on the French Route, an enormous number of people start in the city of Sarria. We had an inkling of this when we couldn't get a bed in seven straight albergues.

The first day out of Sarria was a nightmare. The road was now absolutely mobbed. Here we were in our best hiking form with three weeks under our belts, and we couldn't get around church groups, boy scouts, people pushing strollers, you name it! They were singing. Some played radios. What happened to our pilgrimage?!

At this point, Tina made a brilliant tactical decision. Consulting the guide book, she predicted that the newcomers would adhere to the prescribed daily walks. To avoid a repeat of our difficulty in Sarria, she decided that we'd always go further, on to an intermediary town beyond where the newcomers were likely to stop. It worked! We found ourselves among experienced hikers who'd decided to do the same thing. The Camino returned to normal.

Galicia is the northwest corner of the Iberian Peninsula, and the winters are rainy, just like our Pacific Northwest. It's very green. The forests are covered with lichens. It's beautiful. With climate change, though, the normally dry summers have started to have rain, as we learned on our two final days of walking. The locals asked "What's happened to Summer?"

We arrived in Santiago on Day 27, eight days ahead of schedule, in the rain. It was beautiful. It was emotional. We were hungry and cold. No more albergues, though, we booked a beautiful room in the Parador, a government run luxury hotel in a historic building across from the cathedral. We had lunch with friends that we'd made along the route and enjoyed three days of not walking before returning to Madrid by plane.

The Camino was for both of us one of the very best things that we've ever done. There's a spiritual element to it as you follow this ancient route past countless churches, monasteries, and convents. There's a cleansing aspect that comes from exerting your tired old body for day after day, focusing on the simple things in life like dry socks and a warm bed. There's something to be learned by carrying everything you need on your back—and not a single thing more.

Frankly, it was also a relief not to read the news for three weeks.

If you'd like to read more about our walk, we kept a blog. You can find it at <http://paco-tina-camino.blogspot.com>

Guilford residents Tina and Paco Rodriguez are co-founders of SAGE Dining Services

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New Pollinator Garden at Sherwood Gardens

MICHAEL ANDORSKY

Hello Guilford residents! Baltimore City Master Gardeners have created a new pollinator garden for you. Why are pollinator gardens important? They provide food and forage bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Pollinator gardens have mostly native plants since these are most adapted to the needs of the pollinators. Native plants are those that have been in Maryland before the Pilgrims came to America.

Over 250 thousand varieties of flowering plants and over 20 thousand varieties of bees inhabit the earth. What has made flowering plants and bees so prolific?

The first flower appeared on the earth 130 million years ago. The first bee appeared not long after. Both evolved together, adapted to each other's needs, and became one of nature's most successful teams. The flowering plants feed the bees with nectar and pollen. The bees impregnate the flowers with the pollen they need to produce the next generation of flowers.

As important as bees and flowers are to each other, they are also important to us. Bees are responsible for pollinating 80% of all flowering plants. Without the bees our diets would be severely limited. The world would have no almonds. There would be no wine and fewer fruits and vegetables. You would have to eat your Cheerios without blueberries or bananas.

This most successful partnership is now threatened. Honeybees and native bees have been dying in unprecedented numbers for over ten years. Over ten million honeybee hives have been lost in the past six years. Several species of bumblebees are now extinct. Because of the bee shortage, California almond growers must spend over three million dollars each year to import bees to pollinate their trees.

Global warming, mites, viruses, and pesticides have all been implicated as causative factors. Of special interest to the gardener are two other threats: invasive species and habitat fragmentation.

Invasive plants kill the native plants on which many bees depend. Loss of forests, increased pavement, and urbanization of America diminish the number of flowering plants available to bees.

The 725 species of butterflies and the eight species of hummingbirds that beautify our American gardens are also at risk. Habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change are all contributory. The Monarch butterfly population has plummeted 86% since 2017!

The Sherwood Gardens pollinator garden was begun two Springs ago by the Baltimore City Master Gardeners. Besides being a home for the pollinators, it is a beautiful space for park visitors to behold. City Master Gardeners are here to develop and maintain it. But this is your garden and you can help us. If you are interested in planting or weeding with us, let the Guilford Association office know by phone (410) 889-1717 or email officemanager@guilfordassociation.org. We will contact you whenever we have a gardening maintenance activity scheduled. And if you see anyone trampling over your pollinator garden, shoo them away. Please.

Michael Andorsky is a Baltimore City Master Gardener and an expert on bees, butterflies and other important pollinators.

A Mason bee pollinates a flower. Guilford's Sherwood Gardens is now home to a "pollinator garden" that features an array of flowering plants native to our area.



Baltimore Tree = \$57,000

Baltimore has 2.8 million trees. If we lost all our trees, it would cost \$3.4 BILLION to replace them. This does not take into account the services our trees provide, such as cleaning our air and water, improving our health, and increasing our property values.

Current value of services provided by Baltimore's trees (from treebaltimore.org):

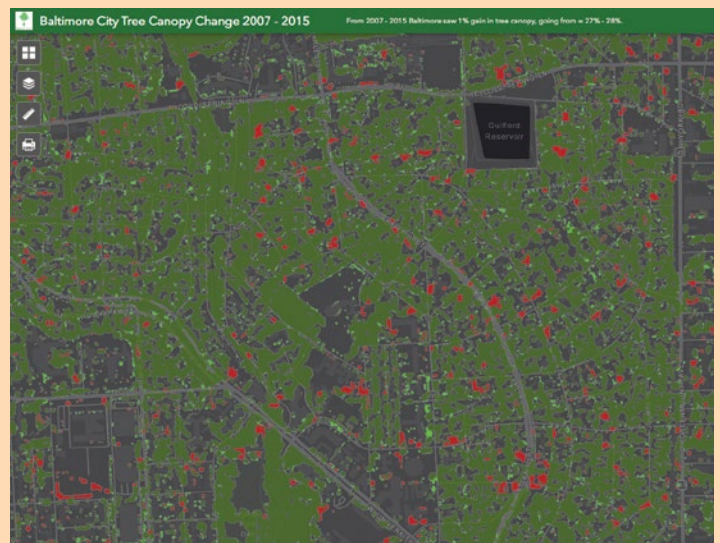
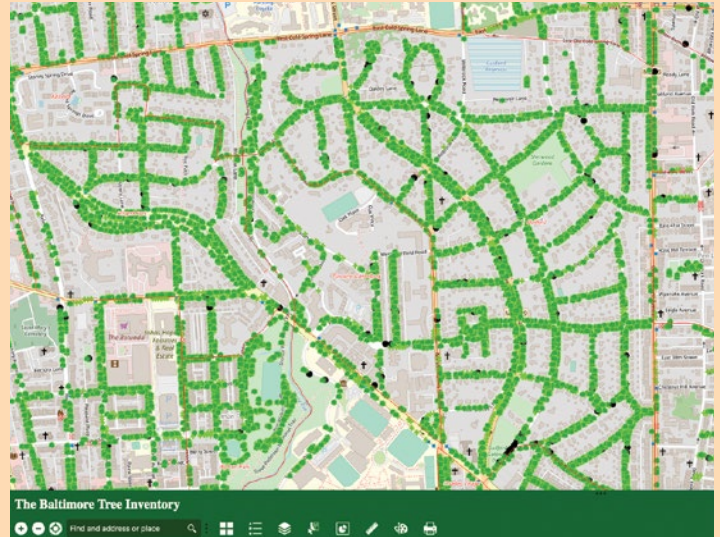
- \$3.3 million a year in energy savings by shading buildings from the summer sun and blocking winter winds.
- \$10.7 million a year storing 527 tons of carbon. Carbon dioxide greatly increases the greenhouse effect.
- \$3.8 million a year by removing 700 metric tons of air pollution (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, etc.)
- \$1.6 million a year by removing 244 metric tons of ozone. Ground level ozone is the main ingredient in smog and a leading contributing factor of asthma.

Over the life of a single tree, it is not unreasonable to conclude that \$57,000 in economic and environmental benefits is provided.

We urge you to visit the Tree Baltimore Website to learn more and to stay up to date on trees in Baltimore and in Guilford specifically.

TreeBaltimore's website provides several interactive maps — treebaltimore.org/maps which are edifying and fun to explore for both kids and adults.

TreeBaltimore strives to increase the urban tree canopy through the establishment, management and preservation of trees. To reach their goal of 40% tree canopy cover by 2037, they partner with individual homeowners as well as communities, schools, and businesses. TreeBaltimore is a mayoral initiative led by the Baltimore City of Recreation and Parks in partnership with Blue Water Baltimore, the Parks & People Foundation, Baltimore Tree Trust and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.



TreeBaltimore's website includes a link to the city's tree inventory (the location of trees, stumps, and vacant locations).

Visitor's can also track the overall tree canopy, seeing losses and gains over a period of 8 years.

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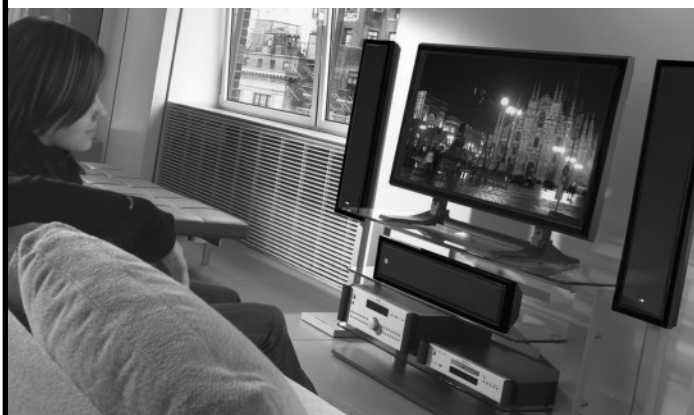
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The Guilford News

FALL 2019



Guilford's annual Family Day was held on Saturday, September 14 at Sherwood Gardens. It featured food, live music, and lots of fun and games!
