

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 24 Wednesday, January 30, 2013



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D8

Wild Kingdom Close to Home

By Cathy Dausman



Displays create a museum-like atmosphere in expansive Lamorinda trophy room.



Photos Cathy Dausman

John Doe's is the house that big game built, whose trophies once walked the earth. In fact Doe designed his house several years ago specifically to accommodate what he calls his "passion" for wild game hunting.

Doe is not his real name – he is sensitive that animal activists might take offense. But the Lamorinda man who shared his story, and his very photogenic trophy room, speaks like a naturalist with a reverence for animals both living and dead.

A tour of Doe's trophy room reveals the depth of his passion. A moose head, nicknamed "Morris," and "Jeffrey," the 8-foot-tall giraffe head, dominate one wall. The remaining animals are preserved whole and seemingly poised to take flight momentarily.

An impala, bush buck, stein buck

and klipspringer sniff the air for predators. A jackal jumps and claws at a small game bird, while a tahr (Himalayan mountain goat) and a pair of Dall sheep literally climb the walls.

A menacing Cape buffalo – "a dangerous animal," said Doe – locks eyes with visitors. Doe said there are actually more "closet hunters" in the East Bay than one would think. Just how did a local city boy raised in Oakland, whose father "never hunted a day in his life" become the globe-trotting hunter of today?

"I think it's genetic," he said simply. Doe's fascination began "out of the blue" watching Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom as a boy. He started fishing with his best friend, whose mother took them on trips. He learned fire arm safety and target shooting with .22 rifles as a Boy Scout. ...continued on page D4

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Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle *present...*

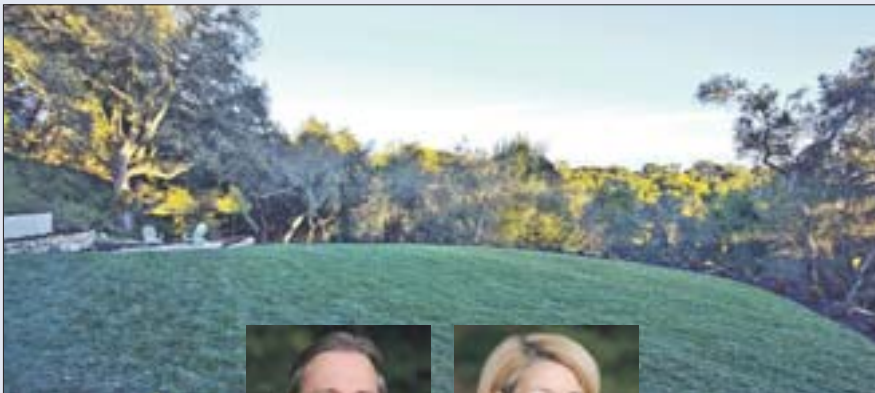
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 9 | \$515,000 | \$2,950,000 |
| MORAGA | 3 | \$800,000 | \$1,155,000 |
| ORINDA | 8 | \$195,500 | \$1,357,500 |

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

3934 Canyon Road, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2505 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 12-28-12;

Previous Sale: \$570,000, 08-02-94

2436 Cherry Hills Drive, \$680,000, 4 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 12-19-12;

Previous Sale: \$500,000, 11-29-00

1061 Glen Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2032 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 12-28-12

3230 Gloria Terrace, \$515,000, 1 Bdrms, 752 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 12-28-12;

Previous Sale: \$167,000, 09-08-98

670 Moraga Road, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4111 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 12-27-12;

Previous Sale: \$520,000, 05-18-95

3687 Nordstrom Lane, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4381 SqFt, 2009 YrBlt, 12-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,390,000, 12-11-08

1364 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,218,000, 4 Bdrms, 2522 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 12-19-12

747 Solana Drive, \$640,000, 4 Bdrms, 1861 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-28-12

1702 Toyon Road, \$585,000, 4 Bdrms, 2811 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 12-19-12

MORAGA

8 Berkshire Street, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1696 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-20-12;

Previous Sale: \$625,000, 08-12-04

905 Camino Ricardo, \$995,000, 5 Bdrms, 2026 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 12-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,010,000, 08-09-07

1894 School Street, \$1,155,000, 5 Bdrms, 3164 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 12-20-12

ORINDA

67 Brookwood Road #18, \$195,500, 1 Bdrms, 764 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 12-18-12

71 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 12-27-12;

Previous Sale: \$952,000, 02-04-04

116 Coral Drive, \$805,000, 6 Bdrms, 3041 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 12-27-12;

Previous Sale: \$590,000, 05-12-94

34 Daryl Drive, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 1471 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-18-12;

Previous Sale: \$859,000, 07-01-04

6 Easton Court, \$728,000, 3 Bdrms, 1895 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 12-18-12

23 La Fond Lane, \$1,357,500, 5 Bdrms, 4267 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 12-18-12;

Previous Sale: \$525,000, 12-02-94

23 North Lane, \$525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1597 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 12-20-12

12 Spring Road, \$520,000, 3 Bdrms, 1181 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 12-18-12;

Previous Sale: \$593,500, 08-27-04

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815 LAS TRAMPAS ROAD, LAFAYETTE

Originally constructed in 1948 and lovingly maintained by the Moulthrop family for the past 53 years, this stately ranch-style home has **three bedrooms** (plus a large study) and **three full baths** with a fabulous **3388± sq. ft.** single level floor plan. There is also a large 912± sq. ft. guest quarters offering excellent spaces.

If you are looking for land, **815 Las Trampas Road** is a rare property indeed. The **1.37± acre** lot actually feels larger as the property is adjacent to the Las Trampas creek which creates a greenbelt with its native trees and natural setting. The front and back yards are simply gorgeous with a long list of flowering plants, mature trees and lush green lawns. The rear yard is an entertainer's delight offering a sparkling pool and two covered patios all looking out to stunning grounds... a great setting to gather with friends!

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Wild Kingdom Close to Home

...continued from page D1

"I had to wait until I was old enough to do it [hunting] myself," he said, "then [came] this passion."

An Eagle Scout as well as the father of Eagle Scouts, Doe has imparted the importance and culture of hunting to his sons. Hunters like Doe seek only mature male animals, those which can no longer breed and would likely die of natural causes within a year. "You don't kill anything you are going to waste," he said, which means the meat is always consumed.

One look at his collection shows that Doe has sampled zebra, giraffe, Cape buffalo, and sheep.

Why taxidermy the animal? "Why let its carcass rot?" he replied.

In 40 years Doe's passion has taken him on trips as far away as New Zealand, Siberia, Alaska, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and across the country to Texas, Montana and Arizona. He buys lottery permits to hunt out of state. "I keep supporting fish and game," he said.

He explained the lack of available game compared with the number of hunters in California makes this state "no place to hunt."

"I've been out four times [in California] duck hunting, and three times I didn't even shoot," Doe said. "Same thing with deer."

African safaris appeal to Doe because of the availability of multiple species to hunt, and puts its cost on par with a paid trip to someplace as close as Montana. A hunting broker handles the required game permits abroad. His overseas party always includes a guide or "professional" hunter, two trackers, and a government official. A portion of the hunting fees go to prevent poaching.



Cape buffalo

Photo Cathy Dausman

Although the house is relatively new, Doe's trophy room is already full, and the display has spilled into the family room, where a zebra and three pronghorn antelope heads peer from the wall.

"My [taxidermied] deer are downstairs," Doe said. "My Cape buffalo would look great – at least to me – up high on the fireplace," Doe said, "but I'll have to ask my wife."

From Wild Game to Wall Mount

A taxidermist explains the process

Taking an animal from habitat to wall mount is nothing if not time consuming. Taxidermist Forrest Farnsworth of Sebastopol's International Big Game Studio has prepared many of John Doe's collection – a job part art, part science.

It takes three months just to prepare the hide, something Farnsworth jobs out to a tannery in Modesto. After the hide is shaved and salted, and it returns to the taxidermist, it can still take up to eight more months to build what he calls an "anatomically correct" model.

Farnsworth said thanks to quantum improvements in wildlife photography, animal taxidermy has also improved greatly, down to how head and neck veins stand out. Animal forms come pre-positioned looking left or right, and in various sizes.

Once a full body animal is mounted over its mannequin, the musculature is enhanced with clay, and a seam is sewn down its backbone. Glass eyes are hand painted and set in modeling clay by Farnsworth's work partner, daughter Laura Stinson.

Stinson completes the animal makeup around the eyes and nose, even air-brush painting the inside of the ears. She also constructs a small habitat to surround free-standing animals.

Where older taxidermy forms were made of plaster, today's are made of foam and polystyrene – materials similar to those found in furniture. Sunlight, moisture and smoke can affect the look and condition of taxidermy animals. Every five years or so, each animal needs to be dusted and wiped down using a mild cleaning agent and conditioner. That can be done as a house call.

Doe's giraffe is not the only one Farnsworth has prepared, but Farnsworth said because Doe has hunted on other continents, his collection represents "some unusual stuff." *C. Dausman*



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LISA SHAFFER PRESENTS...

7 Carr Drive, Moraga | \$800,000



Located in one of the most desirable neighborhoods of Moraga, this beautifully maintained 1624 square foot Ranch home features four bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, dual paned windows and patio doors. It has a functional floor plan with open and illuminated living spaces.



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A quiet street provides the idyllic location for this homes flat .18 acre lot. The immaculate landscaping that adorns the homes front yard invites you in. The rear yard includes a spacious patio and lawn area that provides ample space for entertaining. Ideally located near downtown Moraga, shopping and dining options abound. It offers the opportunity to attend 12 years of Moraga's top rated schools.

For additional photos, please go to www.7carr.com.



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Offered at \$1,075,000



3980 Paseo Grande, Moraga

Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, single-story home. Granite kitchen, large living, dining and family rooms. Hardwood flooring, dual-paned windows, updated baths. Yard with garden and patio.

Offered at \$939,000



343 Calle La Mesa, Moraga

Pristinely maintained rancher. Kitchen open to family room and dinette. Gracious living and formal dining rooms. Hardwood flooring, dual-paned windows. Private yard with patio, lawn and hillside.

Offered at \$875,000



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The Pereira Team



Lafayette ~ This charming home near the Lafayette Reservoir boasts a recently updated spacious kitchen, updated baths and refinished hardwood floors throughout. An unfinished bonus room provides an area for a workshop, office, or play area. The spacious level yard provides room for your garden ideas to evolve. **\$749,000**

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Love Potions for the Garden

By Cynthia Brian

"Where there's love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong." Ella Fitzgerald

Thank goodness Valentine's Day is celebrated in February otherwise these could be considered the most miserable 28 days of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Statistically in our area, the month of February is cold, wet, grey, damp, and dreary, sporadically warmed by welcome surprise eruptions of fragrant narcissus and cautious crocus. Of course if we had no winter, spring would not be so delicious. With optimism as our guide this annum, I've mixed a love potion of ideas to inspire and fan the flames of your February fatigue.

Planning a landscape demands patience yet the wait is worth the struggle. With a cup of hot cocoa in hand, push your pencil from your project, unplug the tech toys, and let your dreams design. Create flowerbeds with a diverse cast of edibles, fragrance, bouquets, creepers, and climbers. Cast offs become playful art, trash turns into treasure, and simple embellishments develop into eye candy for the garden. If you are ready for a romp with romance and an infusion of fab from drab, adopt or adapt any of the Baker's dozen-plus one of Cupid potions.

1. Have your kids flown the coop yet the swing set sways rusting in the side yard? Turn it into a hanging basket arbor with your favorite fragrant flowers.
2. Is that claw foot tub you pulled out of the remodel taking up space in the garage? Paint it a vibrant hue and fill with your favorite annuals or perennials for a splash of color.

...continued on next page



Claw foot tub becomes a container garden.

Photo Cynthia Brian

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3. Do you only have a patio or balcony and want to plant edibles? A decorative container or even a wine box is enough to get you started. When it comes to food gardening, national trends indicate a growing public interest up from 58 percent in 2011 to 61 percent in 2012. People want to know what they are eating and are finding that fresh is feasible and family friendly.

4. Are your water bills sky high yet your lawn looks dry and brown? Maybe it's time to pull out the grass, spread the gravel, plant succulents, and install eye-catching wine barrels as rain gutter saving devices! Raise your glass to ingenuity!

5. Frigidaire will be happy to know that there is life after oven demise. That 1950s Leave it to Beaver stove/oven combo is reborn as a plant tool shed and potting stand. If only the washtub could talk!

6. Time has run out on the meter and a quarter isn't enough to get the wine press working again. These unique items add a charm and conversation starter to any home exterior. The raccoon hiding behind the spider plants agree.

7. Instead of installing a gate to enter into another garden room, what about using an old door? The creeping ivy adds to the mystery behind the portals.

... continued on page D10



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D8



Wine barrel is converted to save rain run off.

Photos Cynthia Brian

8. Gazing balls evoke images of magic, séances, and the supernatural. Reflecting the wardrobe of blooming azaleas, the garden sparkles in the dappled sunshine. He loves me, he loves me not ... he loves me.

9. When someone special has died, creating a memory garden to commemorate the life of your loved one helps with the healing. When my beloved Daddy died, I planted a garden with seedlings from the farm he had so carefully tended and added statuary that reflected his journey on this earth.

10. Looking for architecture that serves flying architects? Birdhouses beckon new life to our sanctuaries. Search for unique perches to provide our feathered friends with a love nest worth inhabiting. Our gardens will reap the benefits many times over from their nesting.

11. Small spaces come alive with fun, fanciful furniture. A vintage iron monkey chair shares the stage in an apart-

ment yard with the screen lovers, Gnomeo and Juliet, mooning under a birdbath.

12. What is a garden without a water feature? The sound of a babbling brook or gurgling fountain relaxes and soothes souls overdosed on technology.

13. Put a smile on the faces of your visitors when they encounter your happy tree!

14. If you want to play it safe with fresh Valentine colors that will ignite bright light in your February, pick up a flat of heart-shaped ruby red cyclamen at your favorite nursery or garden center. Pair the red plants with white and you'll have a vibrant display with staying power.

A dull lackluster winter garden turns into second chances and new romances with a little imagination, ingenuity, and a shovel of soil. Lift your spirits and steep your landscape with love potion frivolity. Happy Valentine's Day!



Add a splash of white to brighten the night skies.



A water feature is a must for every romantic interlude.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

"Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms, you would not see the beauty of their carvings." Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

January blessed us with several days of sunny weather that piqued our garden instincts reminding us that we must endure the rain if we want to witness the rainbow. My readers in Norway and Alaska write me that they envy our mild Lamorinda winters and wonder why we whine so much over so little. Yes, we are spoiled and I am grateful to live amidst our rolling hills in an area where just about everything grows and the sun shines often. As dreary as February may seem, there is work-a-plenty in the garden. Grab a warm hat, put on your gloves and mud boots, and get outside for energizing exercise. Look on the bright side ... at least we are not shoveling snow!

- **DAYDREAM** about spring by perusing seed catalogs circling your favorite edibles and ornamentals.
- **PLAN** your garden by pinning on Pinterest. Find the newest gerbera, begonia, or celosia to share with friends.
- **ENROLL** in a gardening class at our local community centers.
- **ADD** passion to your parlor with a bouquet of radiant roses from your local florist.
- **PLANT** mophead hydrangeas in moist, well-drained soil in a shady location. Add soil sulfur to make soil more acidic to produce blue flowers, add lime (alkaline) if you want pink flowers.
- **BUY** amaryllis bulbs on sale now. Arrange three in a large container for a spectacular display next year.
- **KEEP** Valentine bouquets fresher longer by removing all lower leaves from stems and adding a drop of bleach to the water.
- **SPARK** your children's interest in gardening by giving them seed packets of radishes, peas, and beans to start indoors. Get your school on board too!
- **LAST** chance to prune roses, crepe myrtle, butterfly bush, wisteria, and fruit trees before buds break.
- **GET** your blueberry bushes planted in February for bushels of antioxidant fruit next year.
- **WASH** the leaves of your houseplants with a damp cloth. For fuzzy leaves like African violets, stroke the top with a soft hairbrush to remove dust and grime.
- **SOW** hardy color spots of pansies, cyclamen, and primroses to liven up the scene. Contrary to popular belief, these plants are perennials in our area so do not pull them out after blooming. Cut back and plant around them to be rewarded with blooms next winter.
- **START** sweet peas indoors to get a head start on fragrance and beauty.
- **ORGANIZE** your garden shed, shelf, or garage this month in anticipation of a busy season to come.
- **SHARPEN** and clean your tools now. Make any repairs or replacements before spring springs.
- **DIVIDE** bulbs such as snowdrops and plant in other desired areas.
- **CUT** back deciduous grasses.
- **FILL** your bird feeders and bird baths weekly to keep our feathered friends in your garden during the cold season.
- **READ** your garden journal from last February and make note of any changes. Make sure to continue taking photographs.
- **COVER** birds of paradise and other frost tender plants with sheets or blankets.
- **COOK** a hearty winter soup with your harvest of cabbage, kale, Swiss chard, and spinach.
- **PERFUME** your outdoor spaces by including the skyrocketing popularity of fragrant specimens such as dianthus, gardenia, nicotiana, phlox, hyacinth, lilac, iris, and of course, roses.

Be optimistic. There is no failure in the garden. Everything is fertilizer. Love is in the air. Spring is around the bend. Enjoy a warm, heartfelt Valentine's Day.

Happy gardening to you!

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Cynthia Brian
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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.





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ORINDA



50 Camino Don Miguel

Special Country Club location amidst expensive homes. Lush setting with building site knoll and towering oaks, filtered views & total privacy.

Offered at \$545,000

ORINDA



40 Dos Osos

Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo views + abundance of nature surrounds this supersized parcel bordering EBMUD land. Exceptional beauty. Once in a lifetime opportunity raw land sale.

Offered at \$545,000

ORINDA



1 Snowberry Lane

Beautiful updated mid-century 4bd/3.5ba, 3439 sf, on .75 ac park-like setting in premium Sleepy Hollow location. New eat-in kit.w/stainless Viking appliances, granite counters & new hwd flrs; porcelain tile in entry & dining & much more!

Offered at \$1,365,000

ORINDA



New Listing

121 La Espiral

Gated Mediterranean 4bd/3.5ba villa w/pano views features chef's kitchen/fam rm w/old world charm; covered tiled veranda; hwd & marble tiled flrs; formal Lr & Dr; 2nd fam. rm; office & spacious master suite w/fplc; AC; custom details & amenities.

Offered at \$1,595,000

ORINDA



New Price

251 Monte Vista Ridge Rd.

Incredible 5000 sq ft gated estate home on gorgeous 1 acre view knoll on exclusive cul-de-sac. Fabulous expansive terraces, amazing out door kitchen. Stunning romantic master with views of Briones from private terraces.

Offered at \$1,939,000

ORINDA



65 La Espiral

Updated 4bd/4ba w/beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/ privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambiance, European flair.

Offered at \$2,195,000

MORAGA



3 Peralta Court

Absolutely beautiful single-level home in Sanders Ranch. Eat-in kit. w/ double ovens, gas range, island w/ counter seating & more. Hdwd flrs, spacious bedrooms, indoor laundry room & great storage. Level yard w/ slate patio. Cul-de-sac location.

Offered at \$1,125,000

LAFAYETTE



1690 Reliez Valley Rd.

Fab 1+ acre ridgeline property w/ spectacular views of Mt. Diablo etc. Paved driveway to building site w/utilities & sewer at property. Includes preliminary plans for 4900+ sq ft home.

Offered at \$650,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

810 Acalanes Road

Exquisite 5271 sf, 6Br/4Ba custom trad. blt in 2008 on 1.13 ac view lot features exceptional workmanship & quality; Lr & Dr; grmt kit w/granite, stainless & hwd flrs open to Fam Rm; lrg bedrooms; mast w/ lux bath; media rm; 2 fam rms, lvl play yd & 3-car gar.

Offered at \$2,595,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

11 Leslyn Lane

Spectacular 4bd/5.5ba on apx. 4.37 acres. High ceilings, two family rooms, master with fireplace, spa tub, heated floors and private deck. Wine room, office, media center, organic garden with raised beds, salt water pool and cozy cabana.

Offered at \$2,650,000

WALNUT CREEK



3706 Waterford Lane

Gorgeous Traditional 4bd/3.5ba Northgate home. Many upgrades! New carpet, paint, refinished hdwd flrs. Huge eat-in kit/FR. Formal dining & LR. Professionally landscaped back yard. Grand master w/ adjoining den.

Offered at \$1,370,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

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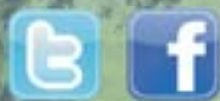
Margaret Zucker

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