

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 20 Wednesday, November 30, 2016



December Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian. ...read on page D12

Finding That WOW Design for the Holidays

By Paula King



An elegant dining table with sequined accents highlights the Hacienda's de las Flores' great room.

Photos Andy Scheck

Christmas has always been Moraga designer Joey Chung's favorite holiday and she likes to mix holiday decorating staples with whimsical and trendy pieces to make this festive season more meaningful and memorable.

"I think everybody has a fascination with celebration," said the founder of Arcadia Designs LLC. "When I was a child, just a string of lights was fascinating to me."

Chung makes customized pieces that can accent any holiday decor and every room of the home, from sequined pillows in gold and black and silver and white to sequined table runners and tablecloths in gold, silver and more. According to Chung, those decorating their homes for holiday gatherings should select one focal color and then incorporate hints of other colors.

"Gold is my favorite color, especially for Christmas," she said. "I like a single color because it is not too busy."

... continued on page D4

Finola
FELLNER
WWW.FINOLAFELLNER.COM
925.890.7807



PENDING!
28 Calvin Court, Orinda
Offered at \$2,395,000



SOLD!
657 Montezuma Court, Walnut Creek
Offered at \$825,000



SOLD!
11 Moraga Via, Orinda
Offered at \$1,195,000



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	6	\$860,000	\$1,280,000
MORAGA	7	\$407,000	\$1,700,000
ORINDA	8	\$880,000	\$1,920,000

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

- 6 Corte Rinaldo, \$1,280,000, 3 Bdrms, 2624 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 10-27-16;
Previous Sale: \$542,000, 07-12-93
- 3134 Diablo View Road, \$930,000, 3 Bdrms, 1765 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-3-16;
Previous Sale: \$130,000, 08-02-83
- 3369 Mildred Lane, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$155,000, 12-10-84
- 3328 North Lucille Lane, \$860,000, 4 Bdrms, 1711 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$39,000, 06-16-72
- 3215 Palomares Avenue, \$930,000, 3 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 11-1-16
- 1322 Sunset Loop, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1023 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-3-16;
Previous Sale: \$535,000, 06-18-03

MORAGA

- 115 Ascot Court #A, \$407,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-27-16;
Previous Sale: \$336,000, 09-12-03
- 1382 Camino Peral, \$702,500, 3 Bdrms, 1360 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-3-16
- 816 Country Club Drive, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-27-16;
Previous Sale: \$357,000, 12-13-99
- 166 Cypress Point Way, \$775,000, 2 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$615,000, 05-17-11
- 398 Fernwood Drive, \$1,700,000, 6 Bdrms, 3928 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 12-01-05
- 1537 Moraga Way, \$616,500, 3 Bdrms, 1522 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-28-16;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 06-06-14
- 153 Westchester Street, \$765,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 11-1-16

ORINDA

- 135 Amber Valley Drive, \$1,920,000, 5 Bdrms, 3131 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 11-19-97
- 10 Darnby Court, \$1,293,500, 4 Bdrms, 2333 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-4-16
- 90 Hillcrest Drive, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$55,000, 07-29-75
- 144 Las Vegas Road, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1703 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 11-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$749,000, 09-02-04
- 44 Lucille Way, \$1,035,000, 3 Bdrms, 1877 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 09-18-12
- 11 Moraga Via, \$1,190,000, 5 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$829,000, 07-09-12
- 452 Moraga Way, \$975,000, 2 Bdrms, 1682 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-1-16
- 15 Snow Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1906 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 10-28-16;
Previous Sale: \$978,000, 12-23-14

BRE #01428834

©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC, CalBRE License #01986304





KURT PIPER GROUP

PACIFIC UNION

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

License # 0186677

UPPER HAPPY VALLEY ESTATE



OFFERED AT \$2,360,000 1005 TIMOTHY LANE, LAFAYETTE 1005TIMOTHY.COM

5+ BEDROOMS/3.5 BATHROOMS | 4,868± SQ. FT. | GOURMET CHEF'S KITCHEN | ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE
OPEN CONCEPT KITCHEN AND FAMILY ROOM | FORMAL LIVING AND DINING ROOM | OVERSIZED UPSTAIRS
GAME ROOM | 1.02± ACRE PROFESSIONALLY LANDSCAPED LOT | SPARKLING POOL AND SPA | SPORT COURT

KURT PIPER



925.818.8000
License #: 01130308

SCOTT SANS



925.216.7583
License #: 01919680

LESLIE PIPER



415.990.4929
License #: 01296053

DASHA SIENITSKY



845.798.2077
License #: 01959571

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE
KURT PIPER GROUP



925.818.8000 | Kurt@KurtPiperGroup.com | LuvLamorinda.com



Finding that WOW Design for the Holidays

... continued from page D1

To go along with her other signature sequin items, Chung also makes sequined Christmas tree skirts that are a popular item among clients. Her holiday banners that read "Be Merry" are another way to liven up the mantel or a blank wall that needs a pop of color and a statement.

Although sequined pieces are a big part of her collection, Chung also sells tree skirts, table runners and other items with a touch of natural burlap. She noted that burlap is a great decorating material for the holiday period between the fall and the start of winter.

For Lamorinda holiday entertaining, Chung likes to incorporate glittered pine cones on table settings and reindeer pieces throughout the home to bring the outdoors in. Those items are often paired with holiday staples like oversized ornaments, candles and strings of lights.

"I like the earthy, warm and natural items for Lamorinda homes. Plus, deer are like one of the family here in Lamorinda," Chung said of the area's frequent deer sightings.

When decorating a holiday table, Chung said that it is important to not forget to make the chairs look inviting and special. Her ruffled chair covers can be accented with a faux gold poinsettia attached to the back and she likes to use chairs from C&M Party Rental for special occasions and gatherings.

As a mom of a 6-year-old daughter, Chung also likes to utilize pieces that appeal to children in her decorating. Her signature crocheted bears, Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and Santa Baby, are perfect for adding that Christmas magic in the home for children.

... continued on page D6



The RE/MAX Collection

925.283.9200



Lafayette ~ Comfortable Elegance describes this 5 bedroom 4.5 bath contemporary home located on a private 3+ acres, yet minutes to downtown Lafayette. Over 5300 sq ft including large bonus room/home office with own entry. Chef's eat-in kitchen w/lg center island, bamboo cabinets, walk-in pantry. A must see. **\$2,700,000**

Gretchen Bryce ~ 925.683.2477
gretchenbryce@msn.com



Orinda ~ Great Sleepy Hollow neighborhood, 3 bed, 2 bath, 1741 sf home on half acre lot. Floor to ceiling windows that open to the brick patio and backyard, hrdwd flrs, updated kitchen & open floor plan on a single level.

Claudia Gohler ~ 925.765.8081
Claudia@PaddyKehoeTeam.com



Walnut Creek ~ Rossmoor beautifully updated spacious 2216 sf home. A freshly painted end unit with open space on 2 sides. 10 ft ceilings, 2 bd/2 ba +den & 2 car garage, the list goes on. **Listed at \$1,425,000**

Dianne & John Pereira ~ 925.297-0321
ThePereiraTeam@aol.com



RE/MAX ACCORD

With over 400 Associates in 10 offices throughout the East Bay, RE/MAX Accord is your first choice for home buying and selling.

www.remmaxaccord.com

PROSPECT
MORTGAGE®

Ready to get your home loan?

888-502-7548

www.myprospectmortgage.com

Loan inquiries and applications will be referred to a Loan Officer who is licensed in the property's state. Equal Housing Lender. Prospect Mortgage is located at 15301 Ventura Blvd., Suite D300, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Prospect Mortgage, LLC (NMLS Identifier #3296, www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) is a Delaware limited liability company, licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend.

CAL BRE #01491373

Patti Camras

I believe in the art of living well.

Whether helping first-time home buyers & move-up buyers or downsizing empty nesters & seniors, I want my clients to live well at every stage of their lives. I'll do whatever it takes to help them enjoy a seamless transition from one of life's passages to the next. This is my promise.

THE
ART
of
REAL ESTATE



PATTI CAMRAS
REALTOR®

CalBRE# 01156248

925-899-9282

patti.camras@camoves.com
5 Moraga Way, Orinda

www.patticamras.com



©2016 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304.

Finding that WOW Design for the Holidays

... continued from page D4

Chung said that Christmas decorating doesn't have to be expensive. She said that she often finds gems at craft stores and discount home supply stores.

"There are tons of items out there," said Chung. "You can have a 'wow' factor with your major pieces and add in more trendy accents."

Arcadia Designs is offering a holiday raffle for those who subscribe to their website at www.arcadia-designs.com/subscribe between now and Dec. 18. The raffle drawing date for a gold sequin table runner will be Dec. 19 and broadcasted on their Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/arcadiadesigns) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/arcadia_designs).



ROSSMOOR

DO YOU
KNOW PARADISE
EXISTS
RIGHT HERE
IN THE
EAST BAY??

SUE DIMAGGIO ADAMS
suerca@aol.com
925-207-9212
Cal. BRE# 00820932

KATHIE DIMAGGIO STEIN
kathie@kathiestein.com
925-699-6258
Cal. BRE# 01942595

55+ Community

Visit and Talk to
Your Rossmoor Specialists.

ROSSMOOR

Rossmoor Realty 1641 Tice Valley Blvd,
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Obtaining a Mortgage is Not Easy These Days!!

*Let Mark Provide The Service and Expertise You
Would Expect When Getting A Loan!!*



Mark Zinman

Mortgage Broker/Owner
MZ Financial Group

415-203-6369

Mark@mzfinancialgroup.com
35 Williams Drive, Moraga

MZ FINANCIAL GROUP

Mark has been a Lamorinda Resident and Mortgage Broker for 15 years and would love to put that experience to work in handling your mortgage needs!

MZ Financial Group handles financing up to \$3,000,000. With Interest Rates at Historic Lows give Mark a call today to talk about your specific situation!

Equal Housing Opportunity. Loan Officer Mark Zinman | mark@mzfinancialgroup.com | CA Bureau of Real Estate License #01335252 | NMLS License #248181 | Pacific Mortgage Consultants Inc. | CA Bureau of Real Estate License #01378482 | NMLS License #2131

1860 Tice Creek Drive #1434, Walnut Creek



Highly desirable top floor condo in The Waterford in the beautiful gated community of Rossmoor. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 601± square feet with peaceful views off rear balcony. Excellent location near elevator with storage unit on 1st floor and reserved parking space. HOA dues include all of Rossmoor's amenities plus one meal per day and weekly housekeeping.

Offered at \$189,000
rattoandratto.com



Paul & Virginia Ratto

925.998.9501 | vvarni@pacunion.com | rattoandratto.com | License #: 00900621 | 01361537

Call us for more information!



License # 01866771

Feng Shui

Bring Joy and Abundance Into Your Home

By Michele Duffy



This Lafayette home attracts wealth with flanking the front door with visibly stylish pots. Photos provided

So many of you have written to me about wondering how feng shui can help to you lead lives with less stress, more personal happiness, greater balance and a deeper experience of abundance & prosperity. One of my favorite quotes is “Gratitude is the doorway to Abundance,” since to truly be abundant we must acknowledge what we are already so lucky to have!

Abundance can be thought as “having the right amount of everything you

truly need to feel prosperous,” so perhaps consider trying to discover the actual wealth-spring of your life. It could be a partner, spiritual journey, career, family, friends, but whatever it is, I would suggest that we all experience that universal energetic exchange and flow of give and take. Generosity is gratitude’s companion and giving back simply magnifies the energies in of our hearts and understands that true happiness rests with serving others.

Deepak Chopra says, “The universe operates through dynamic exchange... giving and receiving are different aspects of the flow of energy in the universe, and in our willingness to give that which we seek, we keep the abundance of the universe circulating in our lives.”

Our minds and hearts create the reality we experience which is also reflected in the environments of our lives, home and office. There is a wonderful book called “Home: How Habitat Made us Human” by John S. Allen and in it he says, “Home is one of the most important cognitive, technological and cultural products of our species’ evolution.” So “Home” is both a feeling and a perception and the more you make your dwelling feel like “home” the more you will actually thrive.

So while our minds are perhaps, in some cases, more difficult to transform, evolve and change on a whole range of issues, it is easy to make changes to home that can have an immediate and lasting effect in a wide variety of ways. So looking around your own home as we prepare for a joyous and reflective holiday season, beyond the seasonal fixes, how can you energize your home to reflect the abundance you seek?

Here are some results-oriented feng shui tips:

- 1) Make the most of your surroundings and build upon your “sense of home. Does your home reflect the feeling of luxury and abundance, and, if not, make it so! If you do not “love” something, what’s it still doing in your house?
- 2) Fully energize your front entrance to include no clutter, dead bugs or cob webs. Ideally, potted red cyclamen, geraniums or the wonderful evergreen Nandina (lucky bamboo) flank the front door, as does an always fresh welcome mat and proper lighting invite abundance into your home.
- 3) Decluttering is not just removing toxic, stagnant chi or energy, it’s also about creating a sense of spaciousness at home which always looks and feels high-end. Consider if pieces actually work in the space or if you are forcing it, and that less is more when it comes to home furnishings.
- 4) The Wealth area of the Feng Shui Bagua is far left from the front entrance. Be sure to make sure you inspect thoroughly what exists in the far left area of your home, master bedroom and yard and immediately apply these handy feng shui tips to all three of these areas.
- 5) Engage all of the senses in your home with green home cleansers, fresh flowers, candles, fresh smelling laundry, fragrant hand soaps, baked cookies, essential oil diffusers, the five-elements of color and warm cozy textures.

... continued on page D10

Thankful to be helping these
pending buyers
purchase a new home
for the holidays!



90 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda
35 Candle Terrace, Orinda
6 Carey Court, Moraga
2026 Belford Drive, Walnut Creek

**Coming Soon in Orinda - A wonderful Sleepy Hollow home!
Call me for details.**

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT



AMYROSESMITH

Amy Rose Smith
Village Associates
93 Moraga Way
Suite 103
Orinda, CA 94563
Phone: 925.212.3897
Email: amy@amyrosesmith.com
Web: www.amyrosesmith.com
Web: www.iloveorinda.com
CalBRE: #01855959



Feng Shui

Bringing the Elements Inside This Season

... continued from page D8

- 6) Check your bedroom for having the best sleep possible, including removing clutter, placing a solid bedframe with a headboard, luxurious bedding, proper window coverings, various lighting options — including candles for romance — fresh flowers, and a pair of at least 100-watt reading lights on bedside tables.
- 7) Create a spa sanctuary in your master bath with essential oil bath salts, candles, fresh flowers and music.
- 8) Cultivate your personal energy through positive feng shui adjustments and be sure to make regular (seasonal changes) to your home and workplace.
- 9) Develop richer and broader social networks – have more photos of friends and family around your home. (The middle-left area, if possible.)
- 10) Love your home and have fun!

When you make changes in your environment, please also try to express gratitude on a daily basis, focus on the positive to minimize the “lack” in your life, attract abundance towards you by creating an abundant home and keep a gratitude journal.

If you make some of the changes mentioned in the tips, try to be mindful and notice what shifts in your mind and also in your life. Do you begin to feel more fortunate in your life? Do you recognize that you already enjoy or have created more financial abundance? Do you spend money more wisely? Do people, opportunity and things show up more easily when you need them? Do you consider yourself experiencing more luck?

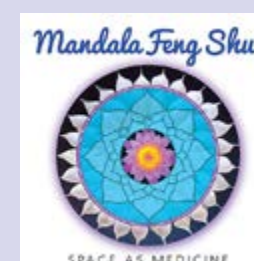
As you look around your newly energized home, indeed, life is abundant and filled with love, possibilities, wellness and happiness.



<p>WEALTH & PROSPERITY "Gratitude"</p> <p>REAR LEFT</p> <p><u>Wood</u> Blues, purple & reds</p>	<p>FAME & REPUTATION "Integrity"</p> <p>REAR MIDDLE</p> <p><u>Fire</u> Reds</p>	<p>LOVE & MARRIAGE "Receptivity"</p> <p>REAR RIGHT</p> <p><u>Earth</u> Reds, pinks, & whites</p>
<p>HEALTH & FAMILY "Strength"</p> <p>MIDDLE LEFT</p> <p><u>Wood</u> Blues & Greens</p>	<p>CENTER "Earth"</p> <p>Yellow & earth tones</p>	<p>CREATIVITY & CHILDREN "Joy"</p> <p>MIDDLE RIGHT</p> <p><u>Metal</u> White & Pastels</p>
<p>KNOWLEDGE & SELF CULTIVATION "Stillness"</p> <p>FRONT LEFT</p> <p><u>Earth</u> Black, blues & greens</p>	<p>CAREER "Depth"</p> <p>FRONT MIDDLE</p> <p><u>Water</u> Black & dark tones</p>	<p>HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL "Synchronicity"</p> <p>FRONT RIGHT</p> <p><u>Metal</u> White, grey & black</p>

The Bagua Map: Front Door

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



Save the dates!
Orinda, CA

ENVISAGE
REAL ESTATE



December 10 & 11 from 12-4 pm

Start the New Year off right in this extraordinary home!



Mark Rowson | Lori True 925.247.8735

Cathedral beamed ceilings, 2 levels of wrap-around decks, huge gourmet kitchen and great room with wood burning stone fireplace.

Over 3000 sq. 4 bd, 2.5 bths, 2 car garage

TRUE MARK
HOME TEAM

Want to learn more? www.86laespiral.com

Custom Paver Design & the Highest Quality Installation

- Pool Decks • Driveways
- Patios • Walkways
- Retaining Walls
- Synthetic Turf

FREE DEMOLITION & REMOVAL OF YOUR CONCRETE*

*Cannot be combined with other offers. Only applies to the installed area with 400 sq. ft. minimum.



FREE In-home Consultation
800.941.1014
www.vikingpavers.com

Lic. #970281



DAVID PIERCE

Helping Lamorinda Homeowners Since 1987

Direct: 925 254 5984

david.pierce@sothebysrealty.com

www.DavidPierce.net

CalBRE #00964185



Each Office is Independently Owned & Operated

W
WESTBOROUGH



For Sale Now!

14 luxury townhomes in Walnut Creek

3 bedroom • 2.5 bathrooms • Private yard • Private garage

Priced from \$885,000 - \$965,000

www.liveatwestborough.com

Tyler Hargan & Julie Fiske

(925)322-1408

branaghrealty.com

BRE #: 01852844



December Gardening Guide

Get Rid of Uninvited Guests This Season

By Cynthia Brian

“Regardless of your lot in life, build something beautiful on it.” ~ Zig Ziglar



Cotoneaster berries add sparkle to the season.

I was working in my orchard when I heard the screams. Never in my life had I seen four grown men run so quickly. “Are you okay?” I yelled. “What’s the commotion?” The men had been dismantling an old hot tub in a deck when their saws had unsettled a family of skunks who had made the warm, dark environment their cozy home. If you’ve had your dog sprayed by a skunk, you’ll understand.

With winter on the horizon, the wild things are looking for shelter. Rats, skunks, mice, raccoons, possums and other critters may decide that “su casa es me casa.”

Although we do want to attract birds and pollinators to our gardens by providing food, water and habitats, we don’t want to invite the vermin into our territory.

Rodents carry several diseases harmful to humans, including salmonellosis, leptospirosis, hantavirus, and arenavirus. They are not known to have rabies, but skunks can be carriers of rabies.

For prevention and control I consulted with vector control inspector Joe Cleope at the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. After a few hours of discussions and inspections, I came away with effective methods of management and control to share with you.

Here’s a short list of advice:

Eliminate the following plants that are considered “rat condos”:

- Ivy
- Bamboo
- Blackberries
- Juniper
- Honeysuckle
- Pampas grass
- Yucca
- Star Jasmine

... continued on next page



The best rat traps are these quick set reusable snap traps.

Trim shrubbery and trees:

- Keep palm tree fronds pruned or rats will nest in them.
- Prune climbing vegetation on your house to discourage roof rats.
- Store wood and lumber a foot away from structures and at least 18 inches above ground.
- Install rodent barriers as a prevention to climbing.

Eliminate food and water sources that attract rodents:

- Harvest your fruit and vegetables as they ripen.
- Pick up any fruit or nuts that have fallen on the ground.
- Fill pet bowls only with enough food that can be quickly consumed.
- Rid your garden of “escargot (a.k.a. snails), a favorite meal for vermin.
- Keep birdseed and pet food in metal containers.
- Repair leaky faucets.
- Empty containers of standing water.
- Secure garbage cans. Unfortunately rats will gnaw through bins and raccoons will open lids.

Rodent Proof your house:

- Check for openings larger than one-fourth inch in vents, screens, and foundation cracks. Patch the holes with one-fourth-inch galvanized hardware cloth.
- Use sheet metal collars around pipe entrances on wooden walls and use cement patch around pipes in brick, stucco or stone.
- Seal all gaps around electrical conduit.

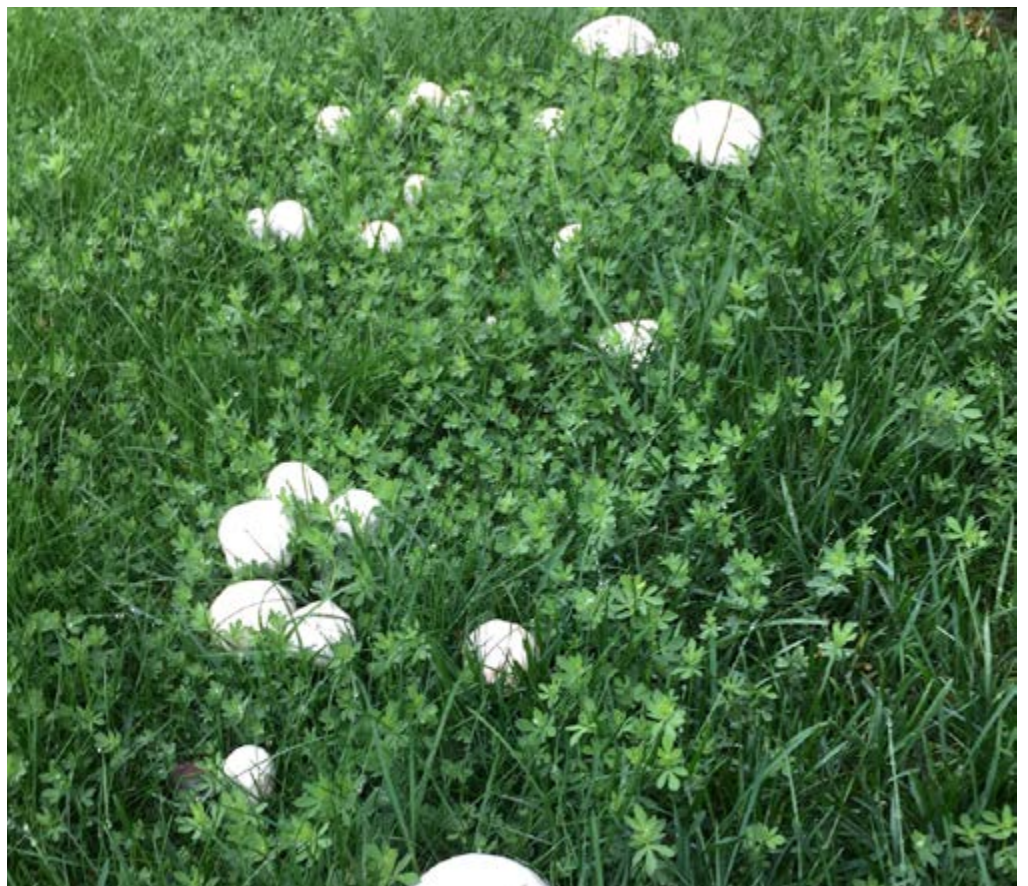
Where the Wild Things Are!

- Varmint Control: The Merriam Webster Dictionary considers “varmint” to be any animal that is considered problematic — rats, mice, skunks, raccoons, prairie dogs, etc.
- Skunks: Besides doing everything above to keep the varmint out of your home, if skunks are visiting your property you can buy skunk traps, which are specially made so that once a skunk has entered, it cannot spray. Vector Control will come to euthanize the skunk. Once skunks have been to your property, they may return. Scatter mothballs in the area and add a radio playing music to deter them.
- Rats and mice: Don't use the old fashioned wooden snap traps. They are too dangerous to humans and small pets. Available at hardware stores, power spring traps or easy, quick-set traps work best. A great way to assure that only the rodents get trapped is to set the trap with a dab of peanut butter placed under a larger plastic container. Cut a small hole in the container. I use a recycled flower pot. Place the container over the trap. Add a brick or rock to the top to keep it from toppling. You will catch the vermin.
- Raccoons: Follow all the instructions above. Add netting to ponds where raccoons will fish.

... continued on page D14



A skunk trap.



Mushrooms sprouting in the clover.

December Gardening Guide

Cleaning the Mess:

The smells associated with skunks, mice, and rats are nauseating. Their feces and nests could be a danger to your health. When we see droppings our first impulse is to grab a broom or vacuum. DON'T! Sweeping and vacuuming releases virus particles into the air. Inhalation can result in infecting the person with the viruses. Here's how to clean the feces, nesting areas, and dead animals.

- Wear gloves, a mask and goggles.
- Spray the area with Lysol or a disinfectant made with a strong solution of bleach.
- After five or minutes, wipe up the area with paper towels or rags you will toss.
- Pick up a dead rodent with a shovel.
- Spray more of the bleach solution to sanitize the area.
- Put all of the waste materials, rags, dead rodents and paper towels in a plastic bag.
- Seal the bag in another plastic bag and put in the outside garbage can.
- Wash your gloved hands thoroughly.
- Remove the gloves and mask, put in a plastic bag, seal, and put in the outside garbage can.
- Wash your un-gloved hands and your goggles with soap and warm water.
- NEVER vacuum, sweep, or blow out areas that harbor contaminants that could become airborne.

Getting Help:

If you have a problem with rodents or skunks, contact Vector Control at 925-771-6142. The service is free and you'll be able to troubleshoot your issues. They will also pick up skunks that have been trapped.

There is nothing beautiful about pests finding shelter in our homes and gardens but this month does bring beauty to our doorsteps.



Who wouldn't love these hot pink cyclamen?



Yellow mums offer a sunshine welcome.



Lic.: #611120

Family owned in
Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood
arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

WINTER TREE TIPS

Winter brings cold and rainy weather. "While many trees will be dormant in the winter, exposure to the tough conditions can cause them major stress," says Darren Edwards, Certified Arborist with Advance Tree Service. "Minimize that stress by helping your trees through the cold months. If you take care of your trees in the winter, you will be rewarded in the spring."

Winter can be a good time for pruning most trees, while they are dormant, and pines should only be pruned in the winter months. Removal of large, dead, broken, poorly positioned limbs and corrective pruning can minimize winter storm damage, and maximize optimal spring growth.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you with your winter pruning.

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

Sheltering the Beautiful

- With the rainfall our lawns and hillsides are green and growing.
- Cyclamen abounds at nurseries and garden centers in an abundance of stunning colors-red, pink, white, burgundy. Plant these perennials to add glamour to the winter beds.
- Sunflower seeds can be scattered for next summer's glory.
- A cover crop blend will choke out weeds, protect soil structure, and increase soil fertility. Sow seeds to over-winter for spring growth.
- Cotoneaster, holly, and pyracantha showcase red pomes or berries that are perfect for holiday décor.
- Watch for the unexpected growing in your garden. Perhaps a prickly pear has taken root next to a pine tree.
- A variety of mushrooms are sprouting throughout our landscapes. Unless you are an expert in mycotoxicology, enjoy these fairy houses, but don't eat them!
- The sounds and sights of fountains flowing are stress reducing and healing.



A sunflower produces seeds for scattering.

Wishing you a very healthy, happy, and beautiful December where the wild things aren't!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia Brian in a nighttime garden.

©2016
 Cynthia Brian
 The Goddess Gardener
 Starstyle® Productions, llc
 Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
 www.GoddessGardener.com
 925-377-STAR
 Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at
 www.StarStyleRadio.net
 I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

McDonnell Nursery

Free Local Delivery

family owned since 1933

Christmas Trees • Wreaths
 Garland • Ornaments • Poinsettias
 Holiday Décor • Gifts

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

DESIGN
 INSTALLATION
 IRRIGATION
 DRAINAGE
 STONEMWORK
 CONCRETE WORK
 DECKS
 FENCES
 PATIOS
 LAWNS
 PONDS
 CLEANUP &
 HAULING

BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233
 CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN
 OWNER/OPERATOR

WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM



LICENSED
 INSURED
 Lic# 818633



Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda
 Advertise in
 Lamorinda Weekly
 Call 925-377-0977 today

We print and deliver 26,000 copies every other week.

LAMORINDA
 WEEKLY
 Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm



THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby
 Patricia Battersby
 Shannon Conner
 Meara Dunsmore
 Joan Eggers
 Linda Ehrich
 Joan Evans
 Linda S. Friedman
 Marianne Greene
 Dexter Honens II
 Anne Knight
 Susan Zeh Layng
 Art Lehman
 Charles Levine
 Erin Martin
 April Matthews
 Hillary Murphy
 Karen Murphy
 Ben Olsen
 Sue Olsen
 Tara Rochlin
 Jaime Roder
 Altie Schmitt
 Judy Schoenrock
 Ann Sharf
 Amy Rose Smith
 Molly Smith
 Jeff Snell
 Lynda Snell
 Clark Thompson
 Angie Evans Traxinger
 Ignacio Vega
 Ann Ward
 Dan Weil
 Jenny Lyons Wilhite
 Margaret Zucker



[facebook.com/VillageAssociates](https://www.facebook.com/VillageAssociates)

twitter.com/villageassoc

ORINDA



For Lease

68 Loma Vista

Beautifully updated mid-century modern lease. Exceptional details throughout. Walls of glass, integrated indoor/ outdoor living. Yard features drought tolerant planting. Serene loc. close to town, BART & schools. **\$7,500/month**

ORINDA



For Lease

407 Miner Road

Contemporary Estate for lease in OCC with 3 beds, 3 baths, 4213 sq. ft. on amazing 1+ acre lot. High ceilings, spacious rooms, walls of glass. Pool/ spa, tennis court, gardens, redwoods & views! **\$8,500/month**

ORINDA



4 Quail Ridge Lane

This 2.87 acre lot enjoys spectacular valley views, filled with mature trees. Complete with approved plans to built 3276 sq. ft. home. Great loc. not far from downtown, BART & award winning schools. **\$650,000**

ORINDA



220 Camino Sobrante

Special location on the lake. Classic, wood crafted 4bd/4ba home has great use of space on two levels, ideal for comfortable living & entertaining. Bonus sports court. Alluring setting of beauty & privacy. **\$1,695,000**

ORINDA



105 Crane Terrace

Exceptional 4.87 acre gated estate traditional of incredible appeal on alluring knoll, private setting of pano views. Custom craftsmanship. Lovely grounds w/ lawns, gardens, mature trees.

\$2,950,000

ORINDA



160 Camino Don Miguel

Spectacular Spanish Mediterranean 5bd/5.5ba 5851sf home overlooks the 4th hole of OCC. Rebuilt from ground up in 1996. Resort quality pool & spa, gardens & views.

\$4,795,000

MORAGA



For Lease

1 Harrington Road

Turnkey exclusive rental with new carpet, new paint & refinished hardwood floors. Open eat-in kitchen/ family room combo. Cathedral ceilings, pool & spa. Desirable Sanders Ranch gated community. **\$6,800/month**

MORAGA



670 Augusta Drive

Updated & ready to move in! Kitchen w/ cherry cabinets, granite & Brazilian cherry flrs thruout main flr. Gardens, private patio. Rare 3 BR+ bonus rm. Close to clubhouse, facilities. Walk to town!

\$879,000

MORAGA



9 Shannon Court

Sanders Ranch estate property over 1.5 acres, 4966 sq. ft., Chef's kitchen, hardwood, new carpet, fresh paint, pool, ideal indoor/ outdoor living spaces.

\$3,125,000

OAKLAND



New Listing

2601 Chelsea Drive

Located in quiet Piedmont Pines this tastefully updated contemporary 1988 sq. ft. home on .28 acre has 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 car garage, spacious light filled rooms, beautiful master suite & epic views of the SF bay. **\$899,000**

PLEASANT HILL



20 Whitfield Court

Great parcel at top of knoll with views of Mount Diablo and ideal privacy. Truly special setting sites for development zoned R-10 & R-15. Wonderful opportunity for investment.

\$1,495,000

RICHMOND



New Listing

3507 Stewarton Drive

Great 3 bedroom home in May Valley area. Dual panes, new carpets, hardwood floors & just painted. Huge living room with brick fireplace, & 2nd fireplace in family room/ kitchen. Close to schools, parks. **\$574,900**

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on

Sunday Open Homes

