# Jamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 17

Issue 1 Wednesday, March 1, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

# Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# March In



The blooms of flowering Bradford pear trees are ubiquitous.

## By Cynthia Brian

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden." — Thomas Jefferson

Throw open your windows! Inhale the sweet smells of the blossoms. Bradford pears, cherry plums, crabapple, peach, and tulip magnolias are in full bloom. Flocks of doves have begun their annual aerial acrobats, raptors are kettling in the warmer thermals, cows are happily grazing on the green grass, and bees are buzzing and pollinating. The hills are emerald, the creeks are flowing, and sunny daffodils brighten our roadways. Spring is in the air!

As excited as I am to start sowing summer veggies, it is still too early. March is a month to peruse catalogs and groom our beds as nature's winter slumber awakens. This is a month of garden transition with unpredictable weather, chilly mornings, warm afternoons, and frosty nights. Additional rain is necessary and anticipated.

With preparation and care, we can give our gardens a boost for spring



Fragrant Peter Pan daffodils.

Photos Cynthia Brian

by cleaning our garden beds. Remove dead leaves, branches, and debris that have accumulated over winter. By doing so we'll prevent pests and diseases from invading while making our gardens tidier and ready for planting in April and May.

It seems that overnight my garden burst into bloom. The Amaryllis that I've been carefully tending opened its eyes to my delight. Bright pink Bergenia is bigger and fuller this year and even the yellow shamrocks are already on display, pre-St. Patrick's Day. Many gardeners find oxalis to be a noxious weed, but I welcome it in my landscape. It covers the barren soil with electric yellow flowers and delicate clover-like leaves. I find it very pretty, and I've been growing it for several years without it invading unwanted locations. Purple bearded iris don't last long in bouquets, yet they are stunning and fragrant in the garden. Poor man's saffron, more commonly known as calendula, has self-seeded on my hillside in blooms of orange and yellow. Red, pink, and white cyclamen are stretching their buds between the ferns while azaleas transform the garden from dull to dazzling. Winter is waning. The garden is marching on. ... continued on Page D9

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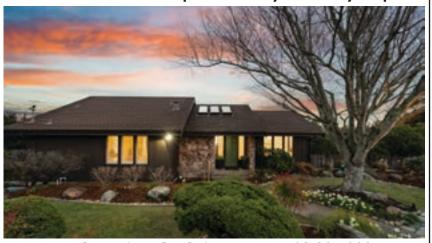


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OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Page: D2 Wednesday, March 1, 2023

## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	4	\$1,275,000	\$2,800,000
MORAGA	3	\$1,300,000	\$1,825,000
ORINDA	4	\$1,079,000	\$2,350,000

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

828 Avalon Avenue, \$1,275,000, 2 Bdrms, 1613 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-20-23 3169 Diablo View Road, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2448 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 01-13-23 1456 Rancho View Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3141 SqFt,

1973 YrBlt, 01-13-23, Previous Sale: \$42,500, 06-01-92

1336 San Reliez Court, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4098 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 01-11-23

#### **MORAGA**

370 Calle La Montana, \$1,720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2216 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 01-11-23, Previous Sale: \$337,000, 06-01-88

603 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 1419 SgFt, 1955 YrBlt, 01-13-23 92 Warfield Drive, \$1,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 2527 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-09-23, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 03-11-04

#### ORINDA

13 Carmen Court, \$1,079,000, 4 Bdrms, 2035 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 01-12-23 5 De Soto Court, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 01-12-23, Previous Sale: \$1,430,000, 03-13-17

332 Village View Court, \$2,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 2203 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 01-18-23, Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 08-25-22

619 Watchwood Road, \$1,650,000, 2 Bdrms, 2014 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 01-09-23, Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 07-28-20



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FERNWOOD DRIVE, MORAGA CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500

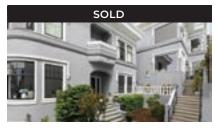


61 MORAGA VIA, ORINDA OFFERED AT \$2,050,000 TINA FRECHMAN | 925.915.0851

#### **ACTIVE**



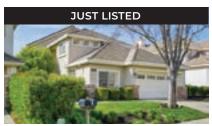
1935 CACTUS COURT, #4, ROSSMOOR OFFERED AT \$649,000 L. LEGLER & C. HATA | 925.286.1244



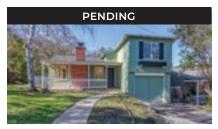
2782 JACKSON STREET, SAN FRANCISCO SOLD FOR \$2,050,000 S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.212.7617

# OFF MARKET

1225 TULANE DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK OFFERED AT \$1,750,000 COLOMBANA GROUP | 925.878.8047



25 VOLTERRA COURT, DANVILLE OFFERED AT \$2,049,000 BRYAN HURLBUT | 925.383.5500



951 YORKSHIRE COURT, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1.520,000 K. BRICKMAN & K. WOOD | 925.351.5049

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370 CALLE LA MONTANA, MORAGA SOLD FOR 1,720,000 SMITH HOMES TEAM | 925.998.1914

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3369 N. LUCILLE LANE, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1,550,000 K. BRICKMAN & K. WOOD | 925.351.5049

# PENDING

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# New tax credits increase appeal of heat pumps for homeowners



bigstock images

#### Outdoor air conditioning and heat pump unit system

(StatePoint) More and more people are turning to heat pumps to heat and cool their homes. It is estimated that 18 million American households already use them. With new energy incentives being offered, and more homeowners choosing greener technologies, that number is expected to rise dramatically.

What is a heat pump? Heat pumps are powered by electricity and transfer heat using refrigerant. Heat pump technology moves heat outside your home in warmer months and is able to pull heat into your home during cooler months. Here are three reasons to consider one for your home:

- 1. Sustainability. Heat pumps are electric and don't burn fossil fuels like furnaces do, making them more environmentally friendly. In fact, heat pumps are becoming the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry go-to for reducing consumers' carbon footprints.
- 2. Control. Newer two-stage and variable speed heat pumps offer high- and low-stage heating to warm your space when outdoor weather changes; they operate more efficiently for longer periods of time at lower speeds and use less energy. They provide more precise temperature controls and more consistent comfort. Both options con-

tribute to managing humidity levels too.

3. Technology. Heat pumps today are more advanced than ever and handle both heating and cooling by redistributing air. Carrier's Infinity 24 Heat Pump with Greenspeed Intelligence operates at temperatures down to -15 degrees Fahrenheit, making heat pumps an advanced solution for mild and colder climates. Does your region get colder than that? Heat pumps can be combined with a gas furnace for a dual fuel system that is energy efficient and cost effective. Looking ahead, heat pumps that work in colder temperature are in development and will be available soon.

#### Get the Right Size

There are several factors that go into picking your ideal heat pump. The size of your home, climate, sun exposure, desired features and ductwork all play into the size of heat pump. An undersized unit will work overtime to hit target temperatures. A unit that is too large will achieve the desired temperature before its cycle is complete and waste energy. It is best to work with a professional dealer in choosing the heat pump that is best for your home.

#### **Money-Saving Tips**

Heat pumps, including installation, can range anywhere from \$3,000 to \$15,000 or more. Thankfully, there are many cost-saving options for homeowners.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 includes federal tax credits that reward homeowners for purchasing certain high-efficiency HVAC equipment, including many of Carrier's line of heat pumps. Up to \$8,000 in tax credits are available for all-electric heat pumps.

Lower energy consumption means energy bill savings, up to \$500 on energy bills every year in some cases. Look for Energy Star certification and Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) ratings. The SEER rating is like your car's mileage per gallon – the higher the number, the greater the potential for savings.

Many manufacturers and utility companies also offer rebates and low-rate financing. For example, Carrier's heat pump rebate offerings are listed on their website. At the time of this publication, up to \$1,300 in rebates are being offered for most units.

Beyond the basics, today's heat pumps offer new comfortenhancing, energy-saving features that could help you reduce your heating costs.



Lenox Homes is now showcasing the finest luxury collection in the heartbeat of Downtown Lafayette! The one-of-a-kind single-level residences offer a relaxed luxury that is a piece of art within itself. The dramatic light-filled homes are designed to maximize space and functionality.

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- UPGRADED DESIGNER-SELECTED FINISHES

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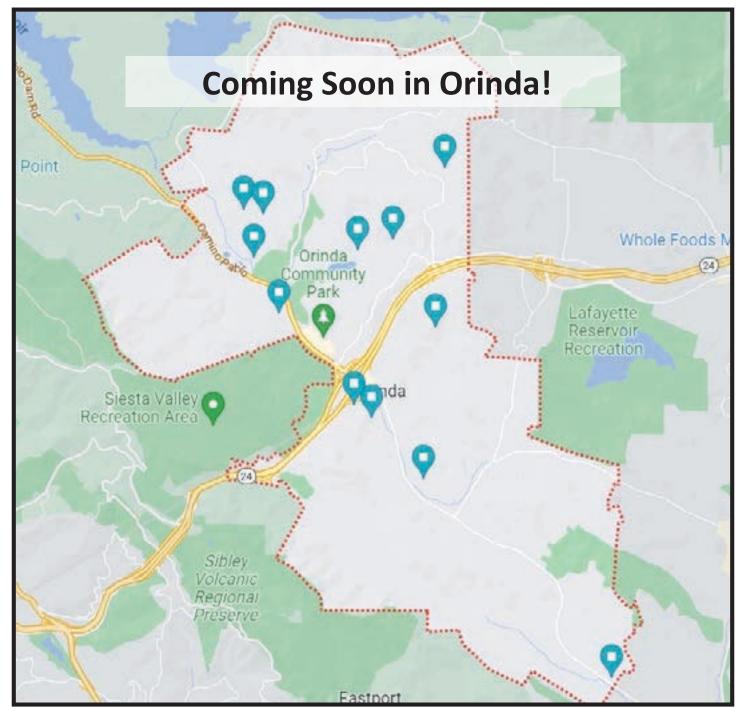
Specifications could subsequently change due to the unavailability of certain materials, which in that case, would be replaced with materials of equal or better value. Lenox Homes reserves the right to modify colors, alter floor plans, and change specifications or prices without prior notice or obligation. Renderings are the artist's conception and are not precise representations of the final building and residence interiors. All room dimensions and square footage has shown are approximate and will vary slightly from home to home and from the approved set of plans. The selection of options and upgrades is limited according to the stage of construction at the time of purchase.



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# Mid Century With Incredible Views in Orinda 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2372 ± sq ft | .67 ± ac | \$2,595,000 | **133ElToyonal.com**

There is simply nothing else like it. This single story mid-century home, with views from nearly every room and from the flat, expansive, park-like garden, was re-imagined by architects David Kotzebue & Garden Nest. Every detail and every high end finish flows seamlessly into the next to create a sense of awe and wonder that is truly unique.



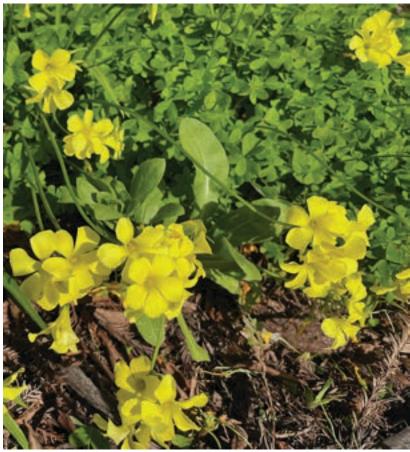
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# Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# March In



low oxalis is also called shamrock.



A red amaryllis flower.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Don't believe the news. This is a great time to sell in Lamorinda. There is limited inventory and there are lots of buyers wanting to move to the area.



Please reach out so we can make a plan to get you where you want to be.

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# The Goddess Gardener's March Gardening Guide

**AMEND** your soil with compost to add the nutrients necessary.

MAKE compost by combining green (nitrogen) and brown (carbon) materials. To a bucket, bin, or pile, add coffee grinds, tea bags, chicken and rabbit droppings, grass clippings, vegetable scraps, straw, leaves, shredded newspaper, hay, dead plants, cardboard, and paper. Keep moist and turn. Do not use the animal waste from any carnivorous animals, including dogs and cats, and do not add diseased plants to the bin or pile.

**CHECK** irrigation systems. Repair leaks, clogs, and broken sprinkler heads.

**START** seeds indoors if you want a head start on growing your favorite vegetables. You will have to harden them off before planting in the garden.

**FORAGE** for wild greens including Miner's lettuce, mustard, creek watercress, and wild strawberries. The young leaves are delicious in salads and sautées.

**ORDER** tubers and root starters from Renees Garden for the best selection of horseradish, potatoes, onions, and asparagus for spring planting.

**FERTILIZE** trees, shrubs, and ground covers with organic feed.

**APPLY** snail bait around plants most susceptible to snail and slug damage or handpick the mollusks.

**SPRAY** roses, boxwoods, viburnum, iris, fruit trees, citrus trees, and crape myrtle trees with dormant oil to protect them from overwintering insects and fungal disease.

**HARVEST** lemons, limes, and oranges. The extra vitamin C will boost your immunity during this cold and flu season.

**SHARPEN** and clean tools.

**AERATE** lawns while the nights are still cool. Leave the plugs on the grass to feed the grass.

**PULL** weeds as they sprout.

**CUT** bouquets of daffodils, narcissus, viburnum, flowering quince, and Bergenia to brighten any room.

**DIVIDE** perennials including daylilies, agapanthus, yarrow, and phlox while they are semi-dormant.

**FLOAT** camellias in a pretty bowl and dispose of all fallen camellias from bushes.

**KILL** aphids with a strong spray of water or spray with a mixture of water and dishwashing detergent. Make sure to spray all sides of foliage and flowers.

**LEARN** what to do in your garden every month with the book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," available at http://starstylestore.net

**PLANT** bare root roses, vines, and berry bushes.

**PRUNE** a branch of peach, plum, or pear and place the cutting in a tall vase to force the blooms for an enticing indoor arrangement.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. March in. March on.



Peach blossoms.



Pick wild mustard greens while they are tender, small, and spicey.



Harvest citrus, including naval oranges.



Black cows on the hill munch on grass underneath the flowering pear tree.

925-377-0977

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

A Cynthia Brian selfie in the garden.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and exclusive experiences, buy StarStyle® NFTs at https://StarStyleCommunity.com Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com http://www.GoddessGardener.com



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2 Orchard Court Home sweet home! 3 bd/ 2 ba home needs lots of TLC now & is awaiting the next generation!

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0 Camino Del Monte Come see this desirable lot located minutes from Hwy 24/BART, top rated schools, downtown, regional parks & views!

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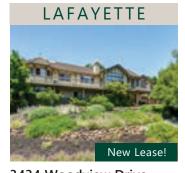
88 Starkville Court Vacant land .015 acre on the border of Orinda/Oakland hills.

\$70,000



3015 Bradbury Drive Nestled among majestic oaks 3 bd/ 2.5 ba plus loft sits on 3.2 acres w/ panoramic views, multiple decks & pool!

\$1,695,000



3434 Woodview Drive Fabulous open floor plan includes 5 bd/3.5 ba, 5062 sqft on 3.08 acres. Beautiful country setting just minutes to downtown Lafayette!

\$8,995/mo.

# MORAGA



61 Hardie Drive Great floor plan w/ a huge backyard. This single level home features 4 bd/2.5 ba & 2,449 sqft w/ views of the Orinda/Moraga hills.

\$5,700/mo.



3802 Randolph Avenue Beautifully updated home providing all level living w/ 3 bd/ 2 ba, an open floor plan, & a peek of San Francisco!

\$1,098,000

# OAKLAND

6061 Westover Drive Stellar Bay views from this spacious 4 bd/ 3 ba home in the lovely Piedmont Pines neighborhood!

\$5,950/mo.



2110 Buena Vista Duplex in Central Alameda, walking distance to Park Street! Unit A: 2bd/ 1.5 ba, Unit B: 2 bd/ 2 ba. Easy access off and on the island!

\$1,110,000

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