

# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 11, 2023



Top tips for fall organizing

... read on Page D4

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Seasonal reset

By Cynthia Brian

*“Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own.” ~ Charles Dickens*

Monochromatic. My feature-less October garden appears unicolor. There are several shades of green, so perhaps not completely boring, but other than splashes of pink from the crape myrtles, rock purslane, roses, Jacobinia, and late-blooming Naked Ladies, as well as purple from the Princess flowers and muscari, colors are absent. I’m trying to find the beauty in this “in-between time” before autumn leaves turn brilliantly bright.

It seems like it was only last week that I was power washing my patio, setting out umbrellas, and arranging my outdoor furniture in a landscape that was filled with blooms. The summer wasn’t endless as fall arrived abruptly and with it the numerous chores in preparation for winter and spring. It’s time for my annual seasonal reset.

Because summer is so wonderfully pleasant in our community, my husband and I choose Saturday and Sunday “staycations” instead of traveling elsewhere in the warmer months. Summer is when we do our outdoor entertaining for family and friends. I’ve designed my backyard to reflect a relaxing and rejuvenating resort complete with multiple market umbrellas, lounges, tables, chairs, firepits, hammocks, games,



Fountains and ponds are especially enjoyable to the birds and wildlife.

and spa refinements. Summer is glorious, colorful, and comfortable.

When October arrives, it’s time to pack up. It takes me more than a week to clean, cover, move, and store all the furniture, cushions, umbrellas, hammocks, and more. The dozen atmospheric rivers of last winter may be an indicator of even stronger storms requiring sand bags coming this winter. I prefer to be prepared. Most of my outdoor cushions I custom sewed myself using Sunbrella® fabrics in the colors that complement my landscape. Although these fabrics are created to last years in the sunshine, rain,

and inclement elements, I choose to protect them from winter wear and tear.

Here are my recommendations for shielding your outdoor furnishings from the harsh winter to increase their longevity.

1. Wipe off all dirt from furnishings. If dirt or bird droppings are on your furniture or pads, wash them thoroughly and allow them to dry in the sunshine.
2. If you have the space, it is best to store your chair pads and lounge cushions indoors. After cleaning and drying, I place mine in plastic bags to keep them dust-free.

If you can’t store them in-

Photos Cynthia Brian



Get in the fall spirit by decorating with gourds and pumpkins.

doors, make sure to seal them in water-proof plastic bags and place them in an area that will incur minimal rain, wind, or rodent invasions.

3. Buy outdoor furniture patio covers for each of your patio chairs, tables, and chaises. Search for quality workmanship that will last longer. Most of my patio covers last an average of two years in the wind and rain. Cover your furniture and make sure to anchor the bottoms of the fabric so it doesn’t blow off.

... continued on Page D11

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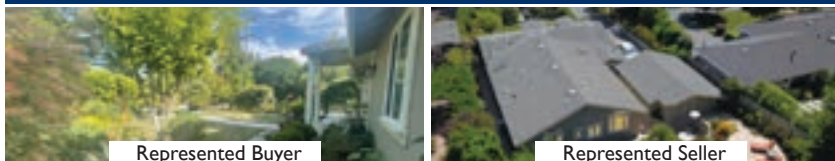


### COMING SOON

**Single story home in Del Rey neighborhood in Orinda.**  
Please call for details



### RECENT SALES IN 2023



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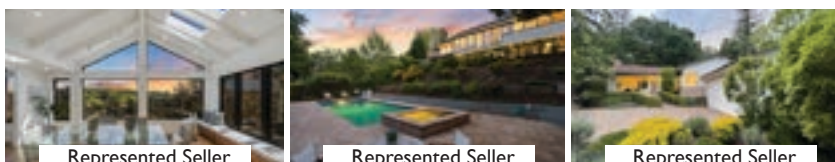
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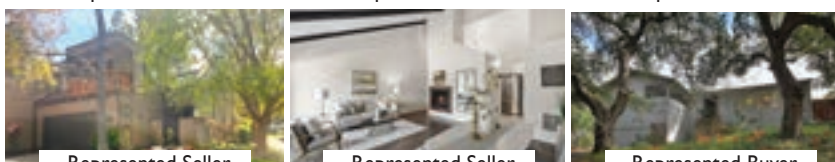
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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,651,000	\$13,690,000
MORAGA	4	\$715,000	\$3,550,000
ORINDA	9	\$1,270,000	\$2,900,000

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

3561 Brook Street, \$174,00009-08-23

1124 Garden Lane, \$2,835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 08-30-23,  
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-01-22

670 Glorietta Boulevard, \$2,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt,  
1963 YrBlt, 09-01-23, Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 05-28-13

3947 Happy Valley Road, \$13,690,000, 4 Bdrms, 5647 SqFt,  
1996 YrBlt, 08-30-23, Previous Sale: \$11,500,000, 07-14-21

3611 Lincoln Way, \$1,651,000, 3 Bdrms, 1634 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-31-23,  
Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 06-04-21

1332 Martino Road, \$1,780,000, 3 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 09-08-23

1245 Rose Lane, \$3,870,000, 2 Bdrms, 4037 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 09-08-23,  
Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 02-06-02

3402 Shangri La Road, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 09-01-23,  
Previous Sale: \$2,070,000, 05-09-13

3104 Teigland Road, \$2,195,000, 4 Bdrms, 3119 SqFt, 2022 YrBlt, 09-05-23

20 Woodbury Highlands Court #14, \$2,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 2022  
YrBlt, 09-06-23

### MORAGA

1903 Ascot Drive, \$1,050,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-29-23,  
Previous Sale: \$845,000, 03-26-18

427 Chalda Way, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1114 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-29-23,  
Previous Sale: \$688,000, 03-24-21

116 Hazelwood Place, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 08-30-23

52 Merrill Circle, \$3,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 5471 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 09-05-23,  
Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 07-31-13

### ORINDA

289 Camino Pablo, \$1,270,000, 2 Bdrms, 908 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-30-23,  
Previous Sale: \$276,500, 04-01-99

24 La Cuesta Road #A, \$2,685,000, 3 Bdrms, 2802 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 08-29-23

70 Meadow View Road, \$2,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-28-23,  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 06-29-06

24 Miner Road, \$1,895,000, 3 Bdrms, 2278 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-07-23,  
Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 04-24-23

1 Monroe Court, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1775 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-01-23

31 Normandy Lane, \$1,380,000, 2 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 09-01-23

24 Tara Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2616 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-31-23

12 Valley View Drive, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2563 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 09-08-23,  
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 06-28-11

120 Via Floreado, \$2,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3719 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-06-23,  
Previous Sale: \$1,455,000, 10-31-12

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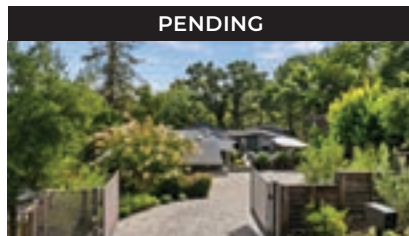


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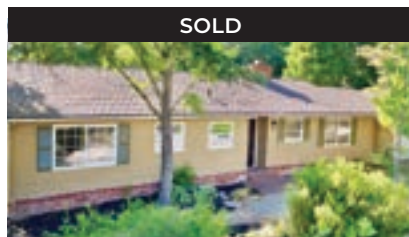
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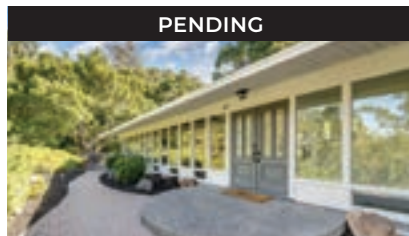
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OFFERED AT \$5,215,000  
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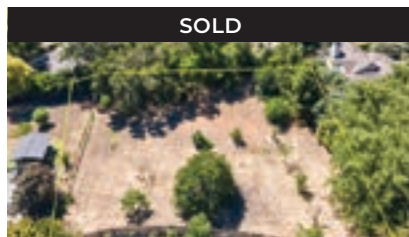
NEW PRICE

378 REDFIELD PLACE, MORAGA  
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PENDING

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SOLD

0 MARTINO ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
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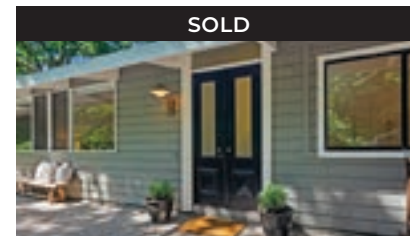
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32 CREST ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
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89 DAIRY CREEK LANE, ORINDA  
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SOLD

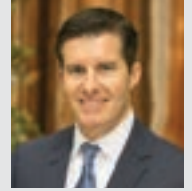
14 WHITE OAK DRIVE, LAFAYETTE  
SOLD FOR \$2,425,000  
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SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER

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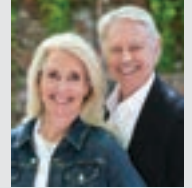
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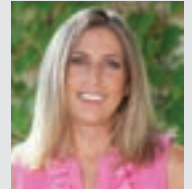
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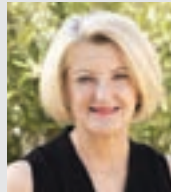
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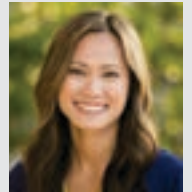
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# Top tips for fall organizing

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

Fall is definitely my favorite season. I love the changing colors, cooler weather and of course, boot season. Organizing and packing away the summer toys, swimsuits, goggles, and the million beach towels feels great!

Because I raised three kids who started back to school in the fall, it was always a reset time in my house. Even though our kids have grown up and don't live at home, I still think of fall as a time to organize and reset for the upcoming months. Of course, back to school still affects my schedule as I have to make sure I don't get caught in the school traffic. Can you relate?

Now is an ideal time to start looking ahead and organizing for the fall weather, different schedules and of course, the holidays.

Here are a few things you can organize now to stay on top of the schedule:

1) **Summer items** - Before you clean and put everything away, double check the condition of the items. Is it time to retire the swimsuit and beach towels or can you get another year out of them? Flip flops, sandals, shorts and tank tops still good to go?

2) **Wardrobe** - Even though it can stay warm through the fall, it will get colder in the mornings and you will probably need to start layering. Accessories like scarves and hats are easy to wear in the cool mornings and take off later when it gets warmer. This is a great time to check on the condition of your sweaters, jackets and boots. Taking

these clothes out of the closet and laying them out can help you better see their condition. Trust me, leaving them on the hanger in the closet won't work for a thorough closet thinning. Check the clothes for stains, pills, holes, and ask yourself ... is it still in style? Start a shopping list of all items that you are throwing away or donating so you know which pieces you need to replace.

3) **Digital clean-up** - It's always a good time to edit the space on your devices. Task yourself to set a timer for 10-15 minutes a day for a few weeks and go through your email, photos, and apps to eliminate junk. Digital clutter can be as overwhelming as physical clutter, and after eliminating the excess, you will have more storage on your devices too!

4) **Financial organization** - I recommend creating a budget before the holidays. Be sure to include the price of plane tickets for your college or out of town children and entertaining expenses (I always forget how much I spend on food and beverages when everyone comes home). If you live with a partner, it can be helpful to agree on the amounts you can budget for gifts as well as setting a budget for your annual contributions to charities. We have always made contributions only once a year so we can throw out all donation requests that are bombarding the email inbox and mailbox throughout the year.

... continued on Page D8

## Turning Up the Rock Star Treatment

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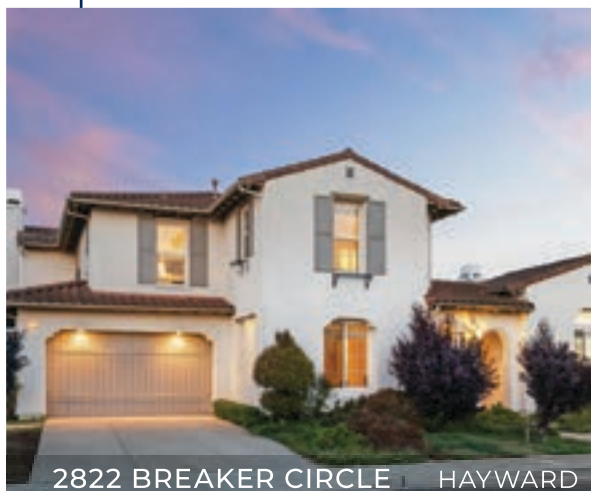
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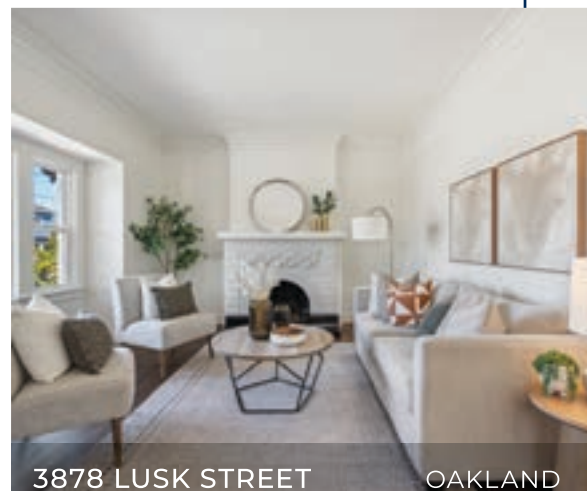
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JUST SOLD



## 26 Corte Monterey, Moraga Sold for \$1,740,000

Four bedroom, 2.5 bath updated Campolindo rancher on serene cul-de-sac.

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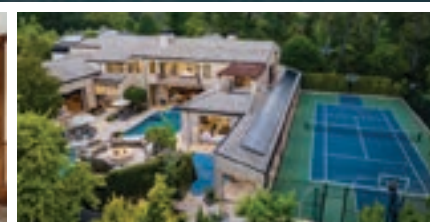
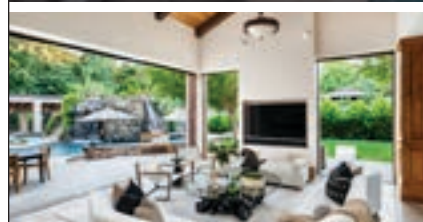


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# Top tips for fall organizing

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO(r)

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5) **Pantry** - Go through the pantry and remove the expired items and wipe down the shelves for a refresh before you begin stocking up. Again, keep a list of the items you need to replace.

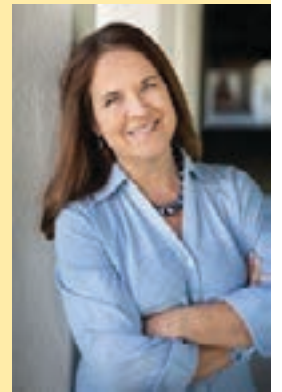
6) **Emergency Kit/Smoke Alarms/Flash Lights** - Update your emergency kit to make sure you don't have expired items. You will sleep better knowing that it is ready to go in case of an emergency. Of course, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke alarms as well as replacing old flashlight batteries.

7) **Throw blankets** - Check to see if your throw blankets need cleaning or replacing. I just examined mine to determine that many of them (some 25 years old) needed to be replaced, so I donated all of them to the animal shelter and purchased new ones.

8) **Outdoor spaces** - Luckily, in California, we are able to utilize our patio seating area well into the end of the year. Typically, when it starts raining, it is time to clean all the cushions and make sure they are very dry before storing them. Some people store the cushions inside an outdoor shed or even the garage. Again, make sure you clean them before you store them. If you don't have storage bags for the cushions, you can use a clear, dry cleaning bag. Don't forget to check on the heater lamps too!

As we embrace the beauty and charm of fall, these organizational tips will not only prepare you for the season ahead but also bring a sense of order and readiness to your life. So, take this opportunity to declutter, refresh, and set the stage for a cozy and well-prepared autumn. Whether you're navigating back-to-school chaos or simply relishing in the joys of fall, a little organization can go a long way in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable transition.

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com



**MATTHEW McLEOD**  
realtor



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## LIVING WELL IN LAMORINDA

### HIDDEN VALLEY HACIENDA



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4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3789± SQ. FT. | .77± ACRE LOT  
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000

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### CAMINO WOODS • NEW PRICE



#### 378 REDFIELD PLACE, MORAGA

5 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2452± SQ. FT. | .23± ACRE LOT  
OFFERED AT \$1,699,000

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51 Las Palomas, Orinda  
Open This House Sunday 1-4pm



51LasPalomas.com



**A light-filled home on a sun-drenched lot with views in the hills of the Orinda Country Club**

**4 beds | 2 baths | 2124 sqft | .20 acre | Sun-splashed Pool | \$1,480,000**



Listed by

**Amy Rose Smith, Shannon Conner & Molly Smith**

**For More Information Contact Amy**

**925.212.3897 | amy@amyrosesmith.com**



villageassociates.com | @villageassociates | 925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.

DRE# 01498053 | DRE# 01885058 | DRE# 01855959 All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



## Gardening Guide for October from Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

While winters are generally milder in our area, these are important steps to take to ensure the health of your garden this October:

- **PLACE** flags on sprinkler pop-up risers in lawns to make it easier to find them in the spring. Because I over-seed each year, roots in the grass form a thick carpet over the sprinkler heads, not allowing them to pop up. Without the flags, it takes hours of probing and digging to find the sprinklers.
- **BUY** colorful gourds and small pumpkins to brighten your porch. They will serve dual holidays with the simple addition of decorative spiders, skeletons, or ghouls for Halloween and a turkey, fall leaves, or pilgrims for Thanksgiving.
- **CLEAN** and cover patio furniture and cushions before storing for winter.
- **REMOVE** dead or diseased plants from your garden to prevent disease spread.
- **ADJUST** your irrigation schedule and stop watering when it rains.
- **REDUCE** lawn mowing frequency as grass growth slows.
- **ENSURE** container plants have adequate drainage to prevent waterlogging.
- **REFRIGERATE** your tulips for four to six weeks before planting. Daffodils and other spring-blooming bulbs can be planted anytime.
- **ENJOY** the soothing sounds of water with a pond or fountain.
- **TAKE** steps to protect your garden from gophers.
- **HARVEST** Asian pears at the height of their crunchiness.
- **PICK** tomatoes as they ripen or make fried green tomatoes.
- **SAVE** seeds of fennel for sowing and savory licorice flavors in recipes.

Prepare for this seasonal reset and you'll be ready to weather winter, whatever it will be.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing.



Harvest Asian pears as they are crunchy and sweet.



Tomatoes grown in a window box are still providing fruit.



Mash dried fennel seed in a mortar with a pestle to create savory licorice flavors.

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Seasonal reset

... continued from Page D1

4. Because much of my patio furniture is vintage wicker, I not only cover it, but I move it under a protected balcony. Wicker can be fragile. If you have wooden furniture, oil it or treat it to prevent moisture damage.
5. To keep the patio looking a bit tidier and to hold down the coverings, I place my potted plants around the perimeter.

6. The last thing on my list is to fold up the hammocks carefully. Again, I clean them of any bird droppings or other debris, then, return them to their cloth bags. The bags are stored in my weather-proof shed.

When spring unfolds, I uncover everything. Wipe down any dust. Take the cushions out of storage, hoist up the umbrellas, hang the hammocks, and voila! We are ready for another season of beautiful outdoor living.



**Patio furniture is covered for winter with colorful planters holding the plastic.**



**Cynthia Brian and Be the Star You Are!® charity volunteers thank you for coming to our Pear Festival booth.**

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. 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](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her newest children's picture book, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

# McDonnell Nursery

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**Also find special pricing on**  
**select garden decor.**



[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)

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# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



### 41 La Noria

Top quality 5 bd/ 4 ba home around the corner from OCC w/ an incredible layout & magical spaces indoor & out!

**\$3,795,000**

## ORINDA



### 37 & 20 La Madronal

A private sanctuary in the Orinda Hills which features two detached residences & 11 separate parcels totaling approximately 4 acres!

**\$2,995,000**

## ORINDA



### 2 Stanton Court

This open concept 4 bd/ 3 ba home feels like a brand-new build! Bright & airy w/ 2782 SF, chef's kitchen, wood oak floors & a detached office!

**\$2,250,000**

## ORINDA



### 4 Oakview Terrace

This Tuscan style 4 bd/ 3.5 ba home astounds w/ open floorplan, soaring ceilings & sweeping vista views!

**\$2,225,000**

## ORINDA



### 84 La Espiral

Located in the heart of the OCC on almost .50 acre of flat land, this well-loved 4 bd/ 2 ba home offers a perfect blend of vintage charm & modern comfort!

**\$1,195,000**

## ORINDA



### 102 Camino Don Miguel

Old World charm in a 1937 Orinda hacienda, updated w/ a chef's kitchen, wood floors throughout, private office & an open floorplan!

**\$9,800/mo.**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3445 Shangri-La Road

Desirable Reliez Valley neighborhood offers amazing privacy, stunning views, beautiful architecture on an almost 1 acre lot!

**\$1,999,000**

## LAFAYETTE

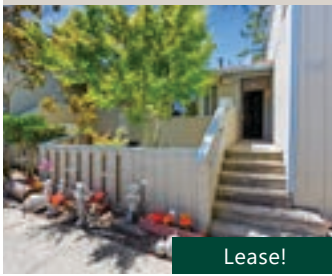


### 3152 Maryola Court

3 bd/ 2.5 ba rancher located near town/trails/freeway w/ bonus room downstairs & additional sun room!

**\$5,850/mo.**

## MORAGA



### 1944 Ascot Drive

Amazing 2 bd/ 1.5 ba 1234 sqft Moraga townhome w/ views of the hills from the upper & lower decks!

**\$3,300/mo.**

## PLEASANT HILL

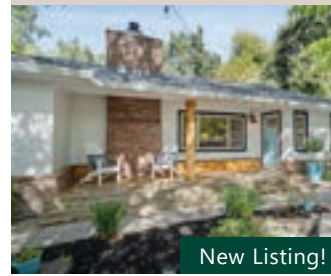


### 550 Odin Drive

Single level 4 bd/ 2 ba rancher has a great floor plan w/ wonderful indoor/outdoor flow!

**\$975,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 1160 Lindell Drive

Located on a mostly flat .35 acre lot, this 3 bd/2 ba Walnut Heights rancher is the home you've been looking for!

**\$1,475,000**

## OAKLAND



### 2014 13th Avenue

This single family home features 5 bd/ 3 ba, laminate floors & plenty of room to entertain family & friends!

**\$595,000**

## The Village Associates:

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