Finally! In Lamorinda Home Values and Sales are Rising

 $\begin{array}{cccc} & & April & April & \% \\ Lamorinda: & \underline{2011} & \underline{2012} & \underline{Increase} \\ Properties Sold* & 55 & 63 & 15\% \\ Average Sale Price & $884,763 & $952,799 & 8\% \\ \end{array}$

*includes town houses and condos.

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Inventory is low and it is the best time to sell in years. Go to www.Lamorinda.net, or call 925-550-2353

Special Buyer Needs:

- 1) 5 bedrooms in Happy Valley to \$1,200,000
- 2) Lamorinda 1 story, no steps to \$1,000,000

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Time to Prune - Proper pruning is essential in

developing a tree with a strong structure and desirable form. Trees that receive the appropriate pruning measures while they are young will require little corrective pruning when they mature.

Proper technique is essential. Each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree. Poor pruning can cause damage that lasts for the life of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and

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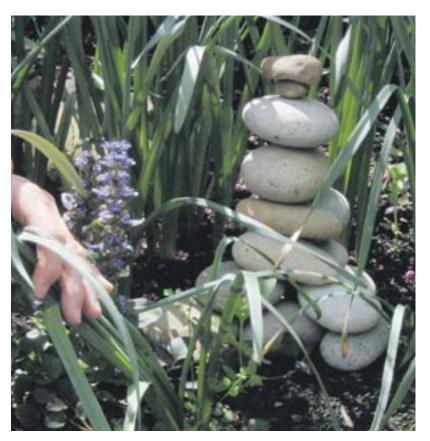
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Cairns in the Garden

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Since that afternoon, Woodbury has gained a greater appreciation for cairns on a trail. "In my youth I called them ducks, not cairns," she says. "I thought ducks were for sissies who couldn't find their own way through the wilderness. I always kicked them down. Well, nowadays I find great comfort in seeing a duck ahead of me. It reassures me that I am on the right path."

"Building the cairns was a learning experience," agrees Bob Flasher. "It is a challenge balancing round rocks, which makes you wish you had a chasm to pitch them into. But once you lower your expectations, it becomes less frustrating and more enjoyable. We gave each other creative suggestions and ended up trying lots of different shapes. It was really an enjoyable way to spend an afternoon, and Stu's garden is more unique as a result. We're hoping that the cat doesn't rub against any of the teetery ones, or its purr will turn to a yelp faster than white on rice!"

Visiting with Selland a few weeks after the party, all of the cairns were still up in the garden. "I am still discovering some of them," says Selland, showing a small three-stone cairn that someone had left for him in his studio. The biggest ones were made of about 20 stones, all quite different from one another and blending in the surrounding landscape, so discovering one is always a charming surprise. "They each used a different place in the garden that inspired them, and left their creation behind for us to enjoy," says Selland. "Creativity is inside all of us; it's about learning and paying attention."

