

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 13, 2014



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D13

High Tech Gadgets Help Seniors Stay Safe at Home

By Cathy Dausman



A heat sensor mounted above the oven can alert Justin Pickering if his father has left the burner on.

By all accounts Roger Pickering, 72, is an active senior who still lives on his own in the East Bay. But his son worries about his widowed father, al-

though he lives just 10 minutes away in Lafayette. Is his father awake or asleep? Did he take his medication on time? Did he leave a door open? Did he fall in his house or did he sim-

ply fall asleep watching TV?

Pickering has bad knees and his house has “a lot of steps,” says his son, Justin Pickering. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-

fatal injuries in U.S. adults over 65 (40 million), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; one out of three people in that age range falls each year.

Justin Pickering has also worried more since his mother died in 2012, leaving his father alone. “Yeah, I’m the sole caregiver [for my dad],” he said. He wasn’t actively searching for a way to keep an eye on his father, having briefly considered using a baby monitor system, but when he stumbled across the SafeinHome technology, he knew he was on to something.

SafeinHome is a smartphone app where sensors are placed unobtrusively around the senior’s home, explained company representative Shelly Gordon. She said it is just “one example of the exploding ‘aging in place’ tech market that Aging in Place magazine said will reach \$30 billion by 2018.”

High tech interfaces between the senior population and their baby boomer children allow the older generation to remain at home longer and more safely.

... continued on page D4

THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



LAFAYETTE ~ PRESTIGIOUS HAPPY VALLEY

This newly constructed estate offers a spectacular 2.91 acre lot with Mt. Diablo views, stone façade, over-the-top custom features throughout, wine cellar, artists studio, pool with spa, outdoor fireplace and so much more! \$6,500,000



ORINDA ~

Come Experience Living in Orinda's Latest Collection of Exquisitely Designed Homes.

Final phase now selling, get in early and select the finishes in your new home.

Lot 8:
330 Miller Court
\$2,995,000

Lot 3:
325 Miller Court
\$2,285,900

See more at:
OrindaOaks.com



GLENN AND KELLIE BEAUBELLE

925.254.1212

TheBeaubelleGroup.com

CABRE# 00678426, 01165322



Quinn Berg

Broker Associate

Direct: 925.765.2996

quinn.berg@camoves.com

www.quinnberg.com

CalBRE #01872891



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$583,500	\$2,450,000
MORAGA	22	\$455,000	\$1,692,000
ORINDA	28	\$478,000	\$2,650,000

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

3299 Beechwood Drive, \$810,000, 2 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-16-14;

Previous Sale: \$515,000, 05-30-02

12 Dianne Court, \$1,895,000, 5 Bdrms, 2697 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-10-14

3954 El Nido Ranch Road, \$1,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 3459 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 06-28-06

42 Knox Drive, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1657 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$805,000, 02-25-09

750 Los Palos Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1674 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-11-14;

Previous Sale: \$560,000, 01-12-12

3181 Lucas Drive, \$998,500, 4 Bdrms, 1675 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-16-14

4049 Marianne Drive, \$1,040,000, 4 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$307,500, 04-30-96

1403 Meadowlark Court, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3745 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-8-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 07-14-04

675 Moraga Road, \$1,670,000, 4 Bdrms, 4674 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$935,000, 02-20-13

3305 North Lucille Lane, \$1,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 1964 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-15-14;

Previous Sale: \$830,000, 04-03-08

1089 Oak Hill Road, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1337 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-11-14

3181 Old Tunnel Road, \$1,240,000, 3 Bdrms, 1736 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-11-14;

Previous Sale: \$425,000, 03-19-99

420 Read Drive, \$912,000, 3 Bdrms, 1476 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$317,000, 12-20-95

2 Shreve Lane, \$765,000, 7-2-14

3426 Stage Coach Drive, \$2,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 4289 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 7-8-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,979,000, 05-24-13

1903 Via Ferrari, \$1,286,000, 4 Bdrms, 2612 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 7-3-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,140,000, 03-28-08

995 Victoria Court, \$965,000, 3 Bdrms, 1509 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$260,000, 05-17-88

1208 Vacation Drive, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1450 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-17-14;

Previous Sale: \$287,000, 08-27-93

26 White Oak Drive, \$583,500, 4 Bdrms, 1874 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-9-14

... continued on page D8



KURT PIPER GROUP

Coming Soon!



3023 Rohrer Drive, Lafayette • Call for Price
The best of Burton Valley! Fabulous 3BR/2BA classic ranch style home. Walk to Rancho Swim & Tennis club, BV Elementary and trail. Call for more information.

Coming Soon!



624 Augusta Drive, Moraga • Call for Price
One of the best custom built homes in Moraga Country Club. 4BR/2.5BA nearly 2700± sq. ft. home on the 4th hole. Turn key condition. Call for more information.

Just Listed!



1082 Juanita Drive, Walnut Creek • \$949,000
Lafayette Schools! Absolutely charming, totally renovated ranch home in highly sought after Saranap neighborhood on .25± acres. Ideal location for everyday living!

Available!



555 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette • \$1,135,000
In the heart of Burton Valley. Custom built 4BR/2BA 2000± sq. ft. rancher on large .25± acre flat lot with pool and patio. Steps to school (check availability), parks and trail.

Pending!



529 Morecroft Road, Lafayette • \$1,550,000
One of a kind! Custom built 5BR/3.5BA, 3800± sq. ft. home on a .64± acre lot. Remodeled kitchen, large master suite and fabulous outdoor living spaces.

Pocket Listing!



679 Los Palos Drive, Lafayette • \$1,700,000
Pocket listing in the popular trail neighborhood. 5BR/4BA expanded ranch style home on .37± flat acre lot with pool, patio, sport court and outdoor kitchen.

Kurt Piper



925.818.8000

Christine Gallegos



415.606.2047

Leslie Piper



415.990.4929

Amy Price



925.997.6808

Scott Sans



925.216.7583



KurtPiperGroup.com

Realtors Recommended for a Reason



High Tech Gadgets Help Seniors Stay Safe at Home

... continued from page D1

The list of technologies either currently available or under development include toilets that test for urine sugar levels, body fat, and blood pressure, “smart spectacles” that aid the vision impaired to navigate their homes, beds that monitor a patient’s vital signs, video games that detect early signs of dementia, and even stoves that turn off when their owners forget to (<http://aginginplace.com/mini-2/technology-for-aging-in-place/3/>).

In the Pickering home, ceiling mounted sensors about the size of smoke alarms track Roger’s progress throughout the house and notify Justin when anything unusual happens. SafeinHome and similar technologies, including Lively and Quiet Care are passive systems, designed for a caregiver to monitor. Other systems like personal emergency response (PERS) buttons, use a pendant or wristband and require user activation. Gordon said some seniors don’t use the PERS button either because they misplace the button or “don’t want to bother anyone.”

Father and son agree their system gives them peace of mind.

“It’s cool,” Justin Pickering said. “It takes the worries off my shoulders.” Roger Pickering, who used to work in the Information Technology field, likes the system too, and reminds his son to check its operation often.

“It gives me a sense of assurance,” the older Pickering said. The possibility of falling or being immobilized without anyone knowing was a regular topic of discussion among the members of Pickering’s senior support group, but he said his research on help-in-home systems was limited to reading about them in AARP magazine. Now Roger Pickering uses his system to monitor “comings and goings” at his own house. By consulting his smart phone, for example, he can be away when the house cleaners are working, and know exactly when they leave.

“I didn’t know I needed it,” Justin Pickering said. “Now I can’t live without it.”



Roger Pickering points out the black antenna that receives wireless information from the SafeinHome sensors around his house.

High Tech Help

Technological devices and interfaces help seniors age in place, and offer a way for caregivers to monitor loved ones from afar. For example, GrandCare Systems (<https://www.grandcare.com/>) uses the Internet and the senior’s TV to communicate, with wireless sensors to monitor wellness, including motion, body temperature, door position, blood pressure, weight, and other programmed, customized variables. For information about additional resources, visit the following websites:

<http://www.safeinhome.com/>

<http://www.mylively.com/>

<http://www.careinnovations.com/about/>

Rest Assured Telecare: <http://www.rescare.com/homecare-services/rest-assured-telecare/>

For information about how a PERS works, visit:

http://www.caregiver.com/channels/tech/articles/PERS_faqs.htm.

//COMING SOON



63 Bacon Court, Lafayette

WHERE THE VALLEY AND RIDGE MEET

This incredible traditional ranch style home is move-in ready and offers room to expand as your family grows.

//OPEN - Sunday, 8/17 1 -4pm
Sunday, 8/24 1 -4pm
//OFFERED AT \$949,000

63 Bacon Court is approximately 1664 sq. ft. with four bedrooms and two full baths. Not included in the square footage is a 120 sq. ft. bonus room which has been a great office but could easily be a child's play room. Also not included in the square footage is a spacious separate laundry room with a separate entrance. The kitchen, with a stylish breakfast bar, opens to the dining area and adjacent family room with access to the large inviting level back yard. This charming home is perfect for family life, indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. Just minutes to highway 24 for an easy commute and top rated Lafayette schools. **Come live the Ridge life!**



www.63BaconCourt.com

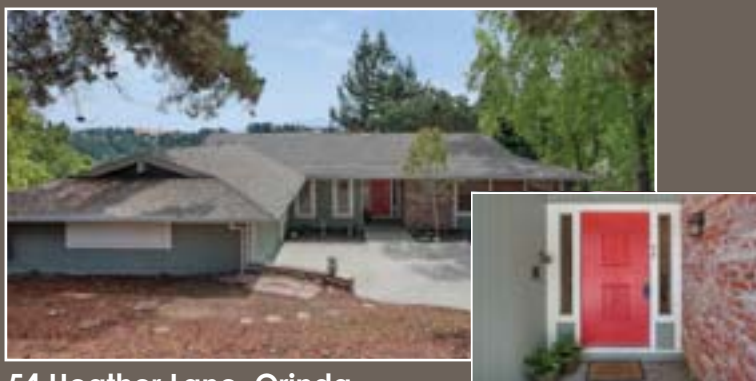
Sue Layng
REALTOR

Sue Layng
// BROKER

925.963.7189
sue@suelayng.com
www.suelayng.com
BRE# 000970956



New Listings by Alex Gailas



54 Heather Lane, Orinda

Charming house, beautifully remodeled with a wonderful floor plan, 1877 sq.ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with bonus in-law unit on .77 acre premium lot, walls of glass capturing majestic views of hills and Mt. Diablo, quiet street, just minutes to Meadow swim and Tennis club, Glorietta Elementary School, Downtown, Bart and Freeway. **\$1,150,000**



87 Loma Vista Drive, Orinda

A story book 1715 sq.ft. house on 0.50 acre lot, includes 2 formal lots of .23 and .26 of an acre, which are both combinable. The house has beautiful serene woodsy views and old world charm. Totally private with terraced areas for kids to play, relax and entertain. Large in-law unit is a bonus with living room, bedroom, kitchen and full bath. Unique opportunity to build another house or expand existing one. Great location, close to Shopping, Bart and Freeway. **\$1,049,000**

28 years Orinda
Resident
CalBR#01305545



Alex  Gailas



925.788.0229

Broker/President
Certified Residential Specialist
alex@agrealty1.com | www.agrealty.com

Skillfully connecting exceptional people
with compelling properties



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

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



Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

www.lamorindaweekly.com



Patricia Battersby

925-330-6663

pb@patriciabattersby.com

BRE# 00854469

Ashley Battersby

925-323-9955

ashley@patriciabattersby.com

BRE# 01407784



www.patriciabattersby.com



**Happy Valley
Great Style with Tradition**

1257 Panorama Drive, Lafayette



4 Bedrooms 3.5 Baths 3421* Sq Ft Single Story .8 Acre**
Gated Private Estate Setting Lovely Gardens Level Yards
Views of the Surrounding Hills



Nestled in the heart of desirable Happy Valley on almost an acre, this beautifully updated traditional home with crisp white trim and detailing has timeless style and classic design. Complete with a thoughtfully planned single story floor plan, high ceilings, walls of glass, bay and double hung windows, the home beautifully integrates light and spaciousness with seamless indoor/outdoor living. With a gated driveway entrance, this special property has a charming front entry with traditional white fence and railing, brick lined pathways to brick front porches, level yards, a patio with an outdoor used brick fireplace, and lush natural landscaping.

The location is ideally situated close to Happy Valley Elementary School, walking pathways, trail to Briones Regional Park, vibrant downtown Lafayette, and easy BART and highway access.



*Per Seller Plans **Per Tax Records



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

MORAGA

1977 Ascot Drive #4, \$630,000, 3 Bdrms, 1792 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 7-8-14
 2026 Ascot Drive, \$455,000, 3 Bdrms, 1687 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-10-14; Previous Sale: \$335,000, 06-01-09
 599 Augusta Drive, \$1,440,000, 2 Bdrms, 1991 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 7-11-14; Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 06-01-07
 613 Augusta Drive, \$710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-2-14; Previous Sale: \$409,000, 06-29-01
 720 Augusta Drive, \$730,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 7-16-14; Previous Sale: \$615,000, 06-22-12
 907 Augusta Drive, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$967,000, 07-24-09
 316 Calle La Montana, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$225,000, 10-01-85
 1392 Camino Peral, \$555,000, 3 Bdrms, 1348 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$565,000, 05-13-05
 32 Carr Drive, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2578 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-9-14; Previous Sale: \$529,000, 05-29-96
 682 Carroll Drive, \$859,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-10-14; Previous Sale: \$789,000, 07-22-04
 93 Danefield Place, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2354 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-9-14; Previous Sale: \$429,000, 01-12-95
 1701 Del Monte Way, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1863 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-8-14; Previous Sale: \$760,000, 07-15-10
 11 Del Rio Court, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2640 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-8-14
 92 Gaywood Place, \$865,000, 4 Bdrms, 1839 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-17-14; Previous Sale: \$64,000, 05-10-74
 157 Hodges Drive, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 2485 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-2-14
 6 Lamp Court, \$1,692,000, 4 Bdrms, 3732 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 7-9-14; Previous Sale: \$664,000, 12-16-87
 38 Lenelle Court, \$1,025,000, 6 Bdrms, 3360 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-15-14; Previous Sale: \$96,000, 04-01-77
 83 Lynwood Place, \$1,365,000, 4 Bdrms, 2325 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-8-14; Previous Sale: \$550,000, 01-11-90

... continued on page D11

This is just part of the picture when you buy or sell in Lafayette.



Specialists in Lafayette real estate...

Where market expertise, integrity and exceeding client expectations are our paramount objectives. We counsel clients based upon market facts, not conjecture.

**Consistently among the top in our business,
our measure of success is always Quality.**



Ron Rothenberg, MBA Marketing & Finance

Susan Rothenberg

925.286.5530

License #: 01309986 | 00857547

TeamRothenberg.com | info@TeamRothenberg.com





Knowledgeable - Professional - Reliable - Local
Committed to exceeding your expectations!



Paul & Virginia Ratto

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



655 Augusta Drive, Moraga
Moraga Country Club Townhouse



Expanded 2 Bdr (from 3 Bdr)
3 Bath, 1 Half Bath
Loft with Built-in Cabinets
2,352 Square Feet, Approx.
Exp. Bath Master Suite w/
refinished Marble, Euro Décor
Cabinets, Recessed Lighting
3 Skylights, Blackout curtains
Granite Kitchen, Extended Family
Room, Newly Painted, New Solid
Hardwood First Floor, French
Doors to Patio from Dining and
Living Rooms, Closets, Closets,
Closets, Level Lot

Offered at \$799,000



Jason Evans

Mobile: 925-788-3889
jason.evans@camoves.com
www.JasonEvansRealEstate.com
DRE#01887768



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.



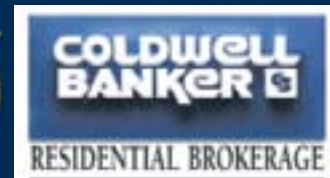
PATTI CAMRAS
REALTOR®

CalBRE# 01156248

925-899-9282

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

www.patticamras.com



The Feng Shui of Front Entrances

By Michele Duffy



The inviting front entryway of this Lamorinda home is clutter free, and invites vibrant energy into the home. Photos provided

With gardens in full bloom, late summer is a good time to step back and analyze the curb appeal of our homes, and the feng shui of the “power area” of the front entrance.

The front entrance is called the “First Pillar” or power area since it is the “mouth of Qi” or “doorway to prosperity;” it plays a huge role in the overall feng shui of the entire home by bringing abundant, healthy, vibrant energy or Qi to the front entrance, and welcoming it into your home and life. If the feng shui at the front entrance is healthy then the entire home will also have ample Qi or energy throughout to nourish the nine life areas of the Feng Shui Bagua map.

First, is the front door easily accessible? If the front door is difficult to locate, then visitors, luck, opportunities and money will also have difficulty finding us. Pretend that you are a visitor and critically analyze the ease with which you can locate your front door. Adding welcome signs with arrows pointing to your walkway leading

to the front door may do the trick, or making sure house numbers are easy to see, but there are other simple, creative feng shui solutions for those homes with hard-to-find front entranceways.

The front door in the front entranceway always resides in one of the three areas along the door wall of the Feng Shui Bagua map: the far left area (Self Knowledge and Cultivation); the middle area (Career and Money); or the far right area (Helpful People). Those three front entranceway areas are ruled by the earth, water and metal elements so having a good mix of these elements near or around the front entrance is good feng shui.

Make sure the front yard and front entrance is neat and clean, free of clutter, debris and broken items, and toss your old welcome mat, replacing it with a fresh one that is functional, clean, and attractive.

... continued on page D12

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D8

MORAGA ... continued

1056 Sanders Drive, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-14-14; Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 04-22-08

91 Shuey Drive, \$925,500, 3 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-16-14

473 Tharp Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2759 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-9-14

532 Woodminster Drive, \$581,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$240,000, 09-27-99

ORINDA

24 Altamount Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1877 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-16-14; Previous Sale: \$335,000, 05-19-94

108 Barbara Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 4116 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$180,000, 03-24-97

73 Brookwood Road #8, \$478,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$195,000, 06-12-98

3 Canyon View Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3872 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-10-14; Previous Sale: \$935,000, 11-20-96

4 Carisbrook Drive, \$1,035,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-11-14; Previous Sale: \$339,000, 01-23-97

36 Charles Hill Circle, \$2,225,000, 5 Bdrms, 4168 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-9-14; Previous Sale: \$2,250,000, 11-18-04

46 Citron Knoll, \$1,357,000, 7-8-14

100 Claremont Avenue, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1520 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$580,000, 05-20-03

134 Crestview Drive, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2999 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-3-14

45 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,115,000, 3 Bdrms, 2331 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-10-14; Previous Sale: \$410,000, 05-31-90

174 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,170,000, 4 Bdrms, 2164 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-7-14; Previous Sale: \$390,000, 02-27-98

58 Hacienda Circle, \$1,440,000, 3 Bdrms, 3617 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 7-15-14

25 Las Vegas Road, \$979,000, 4 Bdrms, 2093 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-16-14

1 Lavina Court, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 1290 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-17-14; Previous Sale: \$776,000, 05-31-06

320 Miller Court, \$2,332,000, 7-15-14

645 Miner Road, \$2,650,000, 6 Bdrms, 4741 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-15-14; Previous Sale: \$2,637,500, 06-29-05

19 Monterey Terrace, \$2,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 4597 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$190,000, 11-30-94

159 Moraga Way, \$967,500, 3 Bdrms, 1816 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-15-14; Previous Sale: \$555,000, 12-21-00

177 Moraga Way, \$945,000, 3 Bdrms, 2514 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 7-11-14; Previous Sale: \$837,000, 06-23-11

125 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,445,000, 5 Bdrms, 3492 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 01-11-10

259 Sundown Terrace, \$1,980,000, 4 Bdrms, 3241 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-1-14; Previous Sale: \$877,500, 07-31-91

528 Tahos Road, \$2,262,500, 5 Bdrms, 5050 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-2-14; Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 06-09-05

618 Tahos Road, \$1,804,000, 4 Bdrms, 3567 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 10-02-08

5 Valley View Lane, \$2,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2875 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$743,000, 07-25-01

8 Via San Inigo, \$1,120,000, 4 Bdrms, 2840 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$405,000, 07-03-97

41 Vista Del Mar, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3245 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$1,065,000, 05-04-11

1 Westwood Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2982 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 7-3-14; Previous Sale: \$375,000, 08-07-85

32 Wild Plum Way, \$1,343,000, 7-18-14

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda

Advertise with us

Lamorinda Weekly Call 925-377-0977 today



The Feng Shui of Front Entrances

... continued from page D10

Next, ensure that the front of the property is sufficiently lit, such as the walkways leading up to the front door, as well as the lights that flank the front door itself. Always make sure to replace burnt out light bulbs immediately. Lighting has obvious safety benefits but also represents the fire element in feng shui which encourages inspiration, creativity and action.

Ample healthy plants, or pots of brightly colored, flowering, and fragrant plants represent life force. Adding red or bright flowers attract positive Qi to our front entranceways. Blossoms of Myer lemon or protection orange trees, even the miniature varieties, symbolize “bearing fruit” in the specific Bagua area they are planted.

To really activate the front entranceway, consider adding a water feature; it will work to bring the healthiest life force to the First Pillar of the front entrance and en-

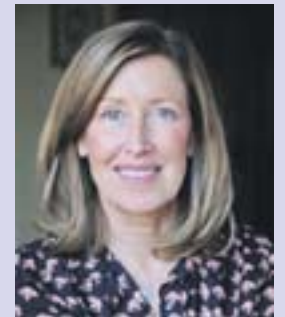
courage us to pause and reflect. While there are many options, not all fountains are good feng shui – especially if the water spout or water flow directional points downward. The feng shui water feature must include a water flow that travels upward initially and then the water cascades down over the sides of the fountain. Many local nurseries like Orchard and McDonnell are great sources for outdoor fountains, and many will deliver and set it up for you as well.

After making these changes to the front entranceway, take a moment to see if things shift in your life now that this important area of the First Pillar is addressed, adjusted and activated. Remember, feng shui isn't a one time or once a year adjustment, and tweaking is a huge part of the fun!



Enhance a specific Bagua area by planting Jasmine or a Meyer lemon tree.

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, spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. For more info, visit www.mandalafengshui.com, email spaceharmony@gmail.com, or call (520) 647-4887.





Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

Romancing the Stone

“When all the water has gone, only the largest stones will still remain in the riverbed.” –African proverb



If you want color around your river, nasturtium, dahlia, petunia, and baby roses brighten the landscape.

Fifty-eight percent of California is now experiencing exceptional drought conditions considered by experts to be worse than the droughts of 1924 and 1977. If we have learned anything from our state history, it is that water is a precious commodity. There is not enough water to subsidize our landscapes and many people are wondering how we can win the fight to minimize our usage of H₂O and still have an attractive garden. One solution is to romance the stone.

I'm not talking about replacing your landscaping with the tacky white gravel of the '70s, but instead installing an arroyo seco or dry creek which works not only as an alternative to a water feature, but becomes a useable water way when winter rains finally fall. Also called a rain garden, a dry brook will absorb and filter storm water preventing flooding, contamination, and soil erosion in winter while looking beautiful in the dry summer months.

Building a Dry Creek or Arroyo Seco

To be effective, a completed arroyo seco needs to mimic a small flowing river so that it is not only esthetically pleasing but can structurally channel run off water to an area where you need it. The finished goal is to have it look as natural as possible. In nature, streams twist, turn, and

curve, formed by a mixture of large river rocks, big boulders, smaller pebbles, driftwood, and plants.

Before you begin, ask yourself a few questions:

Why do you want an arroyo seco?

What are your expectations for the results?

Where is the optimum location?

How long and how wide will it be?

Will it work with the overall style of your home and current landscaping?

Will it have to be engineered or is this a DIY project?

How much can you budget?

Steps for DIY

Building a dry creek is remarkably simple. You may need some help with labor and lifting, but the rest is a pleasurable do-it-yourself project.

1. Observe natural creeks or streams. Take lots of photos. You'll notice that they don't follow any pattern, but meander.
2. Begin and end in an area that could realistically be a creek bed.
3. Determine the size, making sure to make some areas are wider and that the flow is sloping downhill.

... continued on page D14



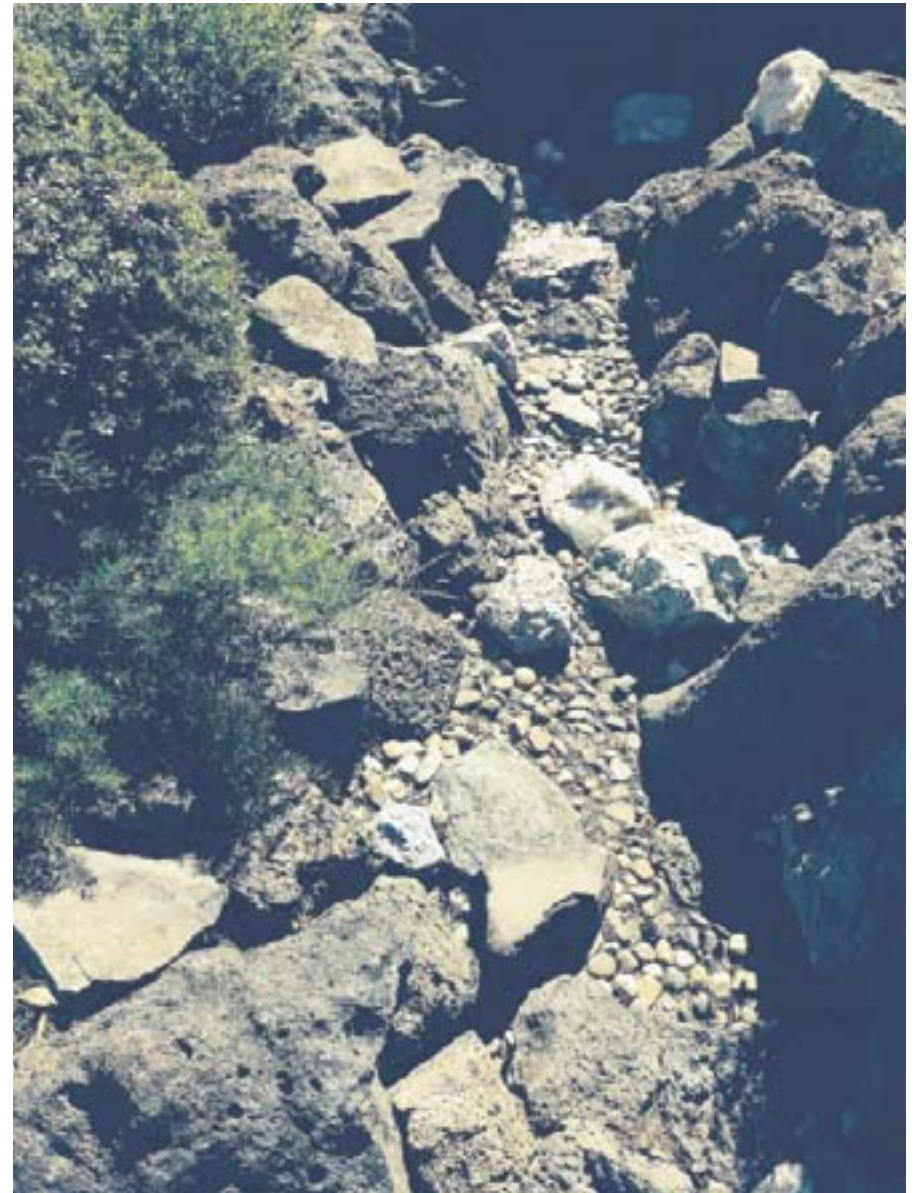
A dry creek planted with sage, lavender, and New Zealand Flax.

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

Romancing the Stone

... continued from page D13

4. Remove any lawn and other vegetation. (Check with EBMUD if you are removing grass as you may qualify for a rebate by replacing your lawn with the new dry creek.)
5. Mark your design with landscape paint, flour, or spray paint.
6. Dig the creek bed twice as deep as it is wide. It's easiest to shovel the dirt from the middle to build up the sides of the banks.
7. Tap the soil down firmly several times until it is solid.
8. Line the channel and sides with landscape cloth. You can purchase landscape cloth in rolls that are 4 feet by 50 feet for about \$30 at hardware and garden centers. Attach the cloth to the dirt with inexpensive landscape pins, which cost about \$6 a bag.
9. Cover the cloth with pea gravel and/or sand. I use sand as a base, then gravel on top as it doesn't wash away easily.
10. Visit a local quarry, masonry supplier, or landscape center that carries rocks and boulders to choose the various sizes to add to your creek. You will need to walk around and decide on the color and types of rocks you want. Again, think natural looking.
11. Order gravel, sand, rounded river rocks, lava rocks, and boulders for delivery. There is normally a delivery charge, but check around.
12. Fill the channel and sides with the various sizes of rounded river rocks. Add a few boulders randomly throughout.



Lava rocks anchor this arroyo seco while river rocks, pebbles, and quartz add interest.

13. Finish the installation with the creek ending in a spillway of gravel and rocks that segue to your landscape naturally or if you have a pond, end your creek here.
14. Tuck reeds, grasses, bulbs, and flowers into crevices on the topsides and add whatever other plants fit your design and color desires.
15. If appropriate, add a flagstone bridge, or large stepping stones to walk across the stream.
16. Solar lights are a terrific enhancement for nightscaping.



Lic.: #611120

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

Your authority on trees

"The type of pruning your tree gets is critical to the health, longevity, safety and appearance. Proper care for your tree is important."

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

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

Follow us on Twitter ([advancetree](#)) and like us on Face Book
(ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.)

Plants

The plants you choose will depend on your sun and shade exposure, water needs, size of your creek, location, and landscape design. You can make your dry creek elegant, woody, wild, or a combination. Slip a fern between the rocks and allow for cascading blossoms from lobelia or lantana to soften the system. Choose specimens of interest from this minimal selection.

Ornamental grasses	Pussy Willow
Succulents	Crocus
Iris	Cat Tails
Wild Strawberry	Mexican Bush Sage
Ferns	Calla Lilies
Hosta	Canna
Astilbe	Dahlias
Lantana	Horsetail
Lavender	Corabells
Nasturtium	Bleeding Heart
Baby roses	Lamb's Ear
Daylilies	Sago Palm
Sedum	Peony
Society Garlic	Natives
Trailing Rosemary	Annuals (petunias, zinnia, cosmos, etc)
Shasta Daisy	

Trees that complement a dry creek may include willow, Japanese maple, Birch, and Weeping Cherry.

By improving our water conservation, water use efficiency, and getting creative with our water recycling, landscaping, and runoff prevention techniques, we will be able to weather the storm. Installing an arroyo seco addresses many of these sustainable strategies while beautifying our environment.



Happy Gardening! Happy Growing!

©2014 Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

StarStyle® Productions, llc

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

Get Out & Stay Out!

In Your New Outdoor Room

Let Garden Lights Landscape Development give you good reason to "Get Out and Stay Out" this summer.



Enlarge your living area with an outdoor kitchen or entertainment space complete with a built in barbecue and the warm glow of a stone or masonry fireplace.

Garden Lights Landscape Development, Inc. is a full service landscape & pool design build firm. We design & install with just one call 925-254-4797 • www.gardenlightslandscape.com

Celebrating over 20 years of service in Lamorinda. Bonded – Licensed & Insured License# 702845 C27 & C53

DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONEWORK
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

McDonnell Nursery

redeem your McDonnell bucks in August

family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

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

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm

ORINDA



19 Mira Loma Road A delightful 3bd/2ba of apx. 1600sf built in 1940's represents traditional properties built on the knolls overlooking the Club. Naturally light & bright. Walk to town, Lake Cascade or the Club. **\$875,000**

ORINDA



56 La Vuelta Country Club Contemporary 2,472sf hm offers bright, open living spaces & gorgeous views. Well appointed 4 bdrms & 3 baths. Kitchen/fam rm layout inviting & ideal for entertaining. **\$1,028,500**

ORINDA



62 Van Tassel Lane Charm abounds in this 4bd/3.5ba, 3422sf traditional on .68ac in Sleepy Hollow. Formal LR & DR; eat-in kitchen/ family combo; master retreat w/large separate office; and den/study room. **\$1,295,000**

ORINDA



36 Linda Vista Country Club neighborhood beauty & convenience combine in this 5bd/5.5ba of over 3098sf incl. "Nanny" unit & sep. 1bd/1ba cottage. Beyond belief sunset views + incredible design style. **\$1,439,000**

ORINDA



7 La Encinal Move in ready 4bd/3ba w/large rooms + great light, abundance of windows. Vaulted ceils, hdwd flrs + updated kitchen & baths. Fam. rm off kit. opens to level area. Great deluxe master suite. **\$1,455,000**

ORINDA



2 Los Altos Road Experience living on private .27ac lush setting in sought-after Country Club area. Remodeled 4bd/2.5ba of apx. 3035sf. Vaulted ceils, kitchen/fam rm, deluxe master ste. Beautifully landscaped. **\$1,549,000**

ORINDA



81 Mossbridge Lane Beautifully updated apx. 4700sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. The home you have been waiting for! **\$2,650,000**

MORAGA



633 Augusta Drive Fabulous end unit twnhm in tranquil location adj. to lagoon yet easy walk to MCC swim, tennis & golf. Dramatic high ceiling liv.rm, formal din., great mstr + gigantic 3rd bd for ofc or playroom. **\$739,000**

MORAGA



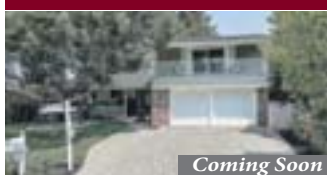
267 Paseo Bernal Spacious & sophisticated 3bd/2.5ba end-unit near shopping & restaurants. Bright & airy with vaulted ceilings & windows on three sides. Lovely private patio. **\$739,000**

MORAGA



621 Augusta Drive Moraga Country Club 3bd/2.5ba End Unit Townhome w/new carpet, fresh paint, great outdoor living space, lagoon setting & close to tennis courts & Clubhouse. **\$835,000**

MORAGA



53 Rick Court Traditional 4bd/3ba cul de sac home on a level .42 acre lot close to top K-8 schools. Amazing kitchen/great room! **Call for Price**

MORAGA



1125 Larch Avenue Light & bright fully remodeled 4bd/2.5ba, 2367sf rancher on .42ac w/serene master retreat getaway. Gourmet kitchen/family rm combo overlooking backyard. Perfect for in/outdoor living. **\$1,249,000**

MORAGA



259 Corliss Drive Incredible 4bd/2.5ba remodel on half acre w/privacy, newly landscpd yd, paver patios, storage shed. High end chef's kit., oversized master suite. Walk to town, trails, park, library, transportation. **\$1,349,000**

LAFAYETTE



1023 Windsor Drive Beautiful renovated 4+bd/3ba with incredible attention to detail! Remodeled chef's kitchen & fabulous master suite, office/ gym, gleaming hardwood floors & great outdoor living with pool. **\$1,396,000**

DANVILLE



544 El Capitan Drive Great curb appeal! Spacious traditional Danville Station home w/large master suite, formal dining room, living room w/vaulted ceilings, family room w/fireplace & wonderful patio and lawn. **\$899,000**

WALNUT CREEK



20 Rodrigues Lane Gorgeous custom contemporary 3800sf home built in 2005, on private lane on Lafayette border w/over 1400sf of decking & covered patio. Views. Fully automated communications system. **\$1,995,000**



THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby
 Patricia Battersby
 Joan Cleveland
 Shannon Conner
 Joan Eggers
 Linda Ehrlich
 Joan Evans
 Linda S. Friedman
 Marianne Greene
 Dexter Honens II
 Anne Knight
 Susan Zeh Layng
 Art Lehman
 Charles Levine
 Erin Martin
 April Matthews
 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
 Terri Bates Walker
 Ann Ward
 Dan Weil
 Margaret Zucker



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

twitter.com/villageassoc

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

Visit www.villageassociates.com Click on

Sunday Open Homes