

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

Outdoor living, great schools and accessibility keep Lamorinda real estate hot

By Diane Claytor



The easy flow, open concept style in this new contemporary Lafayette house is what homebuyers seem to be hoping for.

Photo provided

Lamorinda high schools ranked in the top 100 – out of more than 2,300. A recent report that another big plus for Lamorinda is the convenience – convenience to public transportation, proximity to the freeway, employment opportunities, retail centers and a good variety of excellent restaurants. It's the old adage realtors have been repeating forever: location, location, location.

... continued on page D4

No one has to tell those of us lucky enough to live here: Lamorinda is a very desirable place to be. According to the Contra Costa Association of Realtors, home sales continued their fast pace

of activity in the first quarter of 2017 with 67 of the 90 homes sold going for more than their asking price and spending an average of only 27 days on the market. Looking at the current number of "sold" or "pending" signs

throughout the community, it appears that the second quarter, often the busiest in the real estate world, will be even better.

We know the schools in our area are outstanding. (In fact, the three



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- 659 Byrdee Way, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 2122 SqFt, 1967 YrBlit, 5-10-17;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-09-15
- 4122 Canyon Road, \$1,670,000, 4 Bdrms, 2536 SqFt, 1948 YrBlit, 5-16-17
- 1061 Carol Lane, \$1,428,000, 4 Bdrms, 2678 SqFt, 1955 YrBlit, 5-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,049,000, 05-19-11
- 60 Carolyn Court, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1951 YrBlit, 5-8-17;
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 05-29-09
- 3451 Echo Springs Road, \$1,362,000, 2 Bdrms, 2216 SqFt, 1945
YrBlit, 5-9-17; Previous Sale: \$1,249,500, 07-26-06
- 1109 Glen Road, \$2,605,000, 3 Bdrms, 2955 SqFt, 1951 YrBlit, 5-16-17919
Hawthorne Drive, \$1,970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 2002 YrBlit, 5-10-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 11-19-03
- 2115 Hidden Pond Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1996
YrBlit, 5-17-17; Previous Sale: \$441,000, 03-14-97
- 17 Kelly Ann Court, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1888 SqFt, 1979 YrBlit, 5-9-17;
Previous Sale: \$55,000, 04-12-78
- 3324 Las Huertas Road, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2384 SqFt, 1937 YrBlit, 5-8-17;
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 05-10-01
- 660 Los Palos Drive, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3388 SqFt, 1953 YrBlit, 5-12-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 05-23-13
- 3156 Somerset Place, \$1,440,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1964 YrBlit, 5-8-17
- 1757 Springbrook Road, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1955
YrBlit, 5-10-17
- 3332 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 3127 SqFt, 1984
YrBlit, 5-10-17; Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 10-16-13

... continued on page D9



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... continued from page D1



Photos provided

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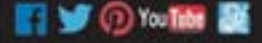
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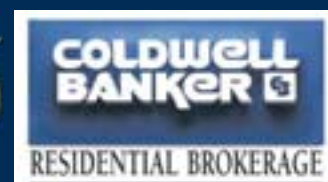
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At Home with Amanda

Moving doesn't mean tossing design aesthetic

By Amanda Eck



The TV room before.

Happy summer! For some of us it's the time of year for getting away with family and friends for some much needed R&R. For others it's all about packing up and moving into a new home.

It's a dilemma I totally understand. My husband and I have moved 10 times in our 18 years of marriage.

One of the challenges we faced when moving was how to incorporate our existing furnishings into our new space. Do you toss everything and start over from scratch? Do you just use what you have and "make it work"? After much trial and error, I believe you do a bit of both.

Let's look at how we used my hard-won experience to help a recent client who moved from Texas to Lafayette. Above is how the space looked like before we started.

Our clients wanted to use their space for watching TV, entertaining friends for cocktails and as an area for family game night. The existing club chairs, upholstered ottoman, and game table were pieces they

wanted to keep but needed help with space planning and ideas for new pieces of furniture to help pull everything together. They also wanted to select a new paint color for the bar area.

Working together through the options we decided on warm toned Functional Gray by Sherwin Williams for the bar area.

After our in-home session we sent this design board.

As you can see we were able to create three separate areas for entertaining while still maintaining an overall cohesive feel. (See below.)

Moving into a new home can be daunting. Adding the task of creating a cohesive space can feel downright overwhelming. If you are up for the challenge, here are some tips on how to make moving in easier.

... continued on next page

Photos Amanda Eck

• Once you have placed everything, walk through and make notes of empty spaces that need to be filled. Measure those spaces and make notes of the colors in

settling in you can then start thinking about “decorating.” I suggest setting aside a full day of unpacking all your accessories and wall décor and laying them in one room. This will enable you to take inventory of what you have. You can then start “shopping” your items and placing them in rooms.

just purchasing on impulse.

• Last but not least, take time to live in your new space. Don't feel you have to pull it together all at once. Maybe just work on your entry first (refer to my May article on Making an Entrance, www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1106/At-Home-with-Amanda-



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

117 Brookline Street, \$1,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1984 YrBlit, 5-16-17;

Previous Sale: \$345,000, 02-23-84

143 Calle La Mesa, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 2592 SqFt, 1974 YrBlit, 5-17-17;

Previous Sale: \$989,500, 07-30-10

7 Carr Drive, \$1,161,000, 4 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1961 YrBlit, 5-17-17;

Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-29-16

133 Danefeld Place, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 2320 SqFt, 1972 YrBlit, 5-11-17;

Previous Sale: \$167,500, 09-19-78

101 Hodges Drive, \$1,019,000, 4 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1963 YrBlit, 5-9-17

5 Josefa Place, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlit, 5-9-17;

Previous Sale: \$332,000, 11-02-99

303 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1662 SqFt, 1957 YrBlit, 5-16-17

22 Torndale Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1812 SqFt, 1963 YrBlit, 5-16-17

9 Meadow Park Court, \$1,976,000, 4 Bdrms, 3124 SqFt, 1955 YrBlit, 5-17-17;

Previous Sale: \$659,000, 07-21-95

17 Shadow Creek Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3284 SqFt, 1982 YrBlit, 5-16-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,240,000, 11-20-08

17 Tarry Lane, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2804 SqFt, 1947 YrBlit, 5-17-17

38 Whitehall Drive, \$1,455,000, 3 Bdrms, 2077 SqFt, 1960 YrBlit, 5-11-17



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July Gardening Guide

Be a Flower Child

By Cynthia Brian

"If you're going to San Francisco... Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair" – written by John Phillips of The Mamas & the Papas, sung by Scott McKenzie

In the summer of 1967 over 100,000 young people descended upon San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, and the Haight-Ashbury area to experience a season of love, peace, sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. The Summer of Love, as this counterculture revolution was called, celebrated with free concerts, performances, protests and flowers. I was never a hippie, but I've always been a flower child.

This month as we reminisce about 50 years of the "make love, not war" movement, I put on my beads, headband, rose-colored granny glasses, and wore flowers in my hair as I planned the July Gardening Guide. No drugs are necessary to enjoy a euphoric trip down memory lane when the garden is brimming with colorful and edible specimens ... magic mushrooms excluded. A romp on the wild side was a fun diversion as I plucked my first juicy tomatoes while watching the iridescent wings of the yellow swallowtails flutter between the violet blossoms of thyme and the budding tomatillos. Bees are swarming the lavender and rosemary gathering nectar for their honeycombs. Because of the heat, I continue to rescue bees and ladybugs that have landed in my fountains. My clematis is chock full of large deep amethyst-hued blooms glistening in the sunlight. Pink and white striped morning glory zigs and zags through the golden euphorbia, opening with the sunrise and closing at sunset. Not to be outdone, deep pink sword lilies, commonly known as gladioli, have unfurled their ruled one-sided spikes amidst the blush Bonica and Dolly Parton roses. The kaleidoscope combination of forms, textures, shades and scents throughout the landscape add a mesmerizing jolt of joy to each moment.

When I'm ready to relax, I only have to venture into my orchard where the daisy-like florets of the chamomile make for a calming tea, especially enhanced with a squirt of juice from my tangelos. Another excellent medicinal tea is made from foraging for red clover, a wild perennial rich in magnesium, potassium, vitamin C and calcium. The red or pink flowers have a mildly sweet flavor and are often used to ease stomach discomfort or menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes. The leaves taste like alfalfa sprouts and can be tossed into salads along with dandelions, sautéed, or added to soups. If I'm in the mood for something a bit stronger, it's always fun to muddle the mint into a mojito or mint julep!

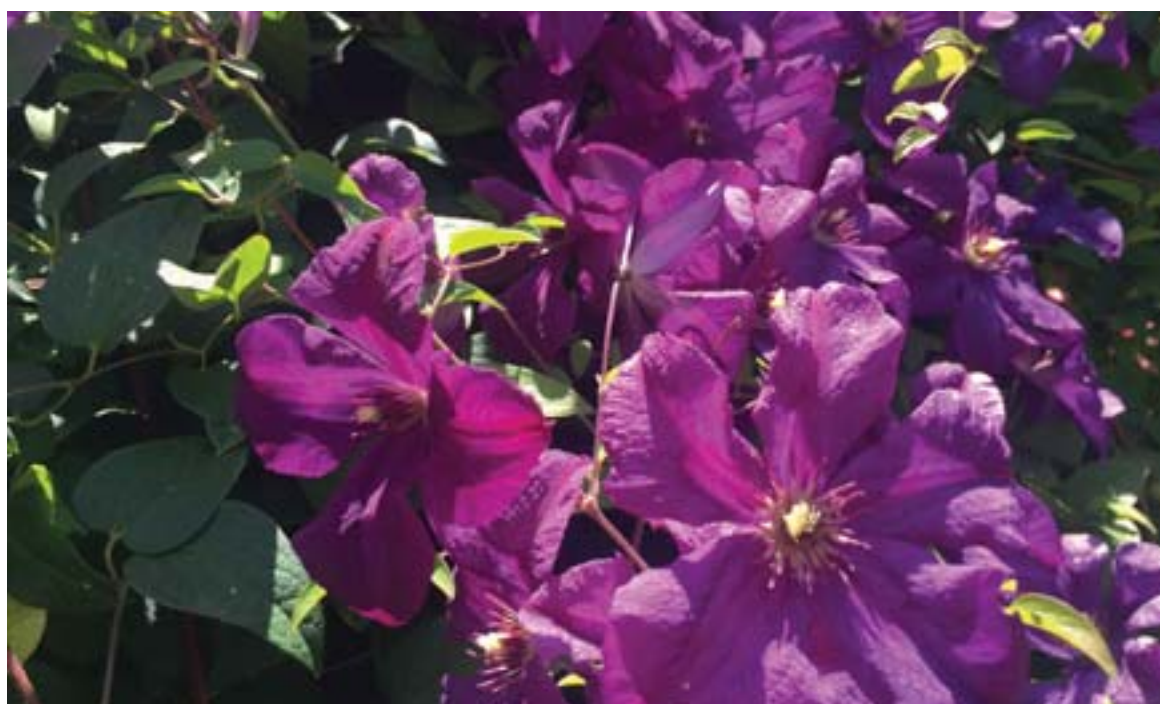
Soon the fireworks of the Fourth of July will be lighting the night sky with the exploding whirls and swirls circa a 1960s acid-dropping experience. Go into your garden, pick a few blooms, and wear flowers in your hair. If you are a gardener, you are a flower child. Welcome to a beautiful summer of love!

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Red clover blossoms are nutritious and some say pain relieving.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Clematis, a prolific bloomer, lasts about two weeks as a cut flower.



Gladioli spikes add drama to the Bonica rose garden.



Chamomile flowers make a calming tea. Dry, store, use.



Bees and deer resistant lavender are best buddies.



This potager is planted with perennial thyme, tomatillos, peppers, kale and calendula (poor man's saffron), making it a favorite habitat for butterflies and pollinators.





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