

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 11 Wednesday, July 26, 2017



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

## Home is where the hive is

By Cathy Dausman



After the wall had been opened, bees can be removed with a modified vacuum.

Photo Cathy Dausman

It's one thing to invite bees into your yard with bee-friendly flowers and trees or even host a hive or two; it's quite another to have the bees invite themselves over.

David Munson of Moraga knows firsthand what it's like to have "the girls" around (honey bees are overwhelmingly female). He jokes since they've had multiple bee hives lodged in and around their house they must be listed on some "bee B&B" vacation guide. "It started with the (front yard) olive tree," a couple years ago Munson says; and "they've been there at least two times."

This year the little stingers found a crack between the brick near the living room bay window and proceeded past the exterior wall into the insulation and built a comb up against the interior dry wall. From inside his house Munson could put his ear to the sheetrock, hear the noise, and feel a physical warmth. He called Lamorinda Weekly publisher Andy Scheck, himself a beekeeper, warning him "they're baaaaaaack!"

Munson also called a contractor who offered to take out a section of the interior wall or cut out a piece of exterior siding to access the hive, but he didn't like the cost. Instead he and Scheck devised a plan: they'd mask off the bees' various entry and exit routes and train them to inhabit a temporary hive. When the bees got used to the hive, they installed a one-way wire mesh for exit only. The box was left in place for about two weeks, while the bees made honey in the provided wax combs. Four days before its removal Munson said there was "no warmth, no buzzing" along his inside wall. ... continued on page D4





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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	18	\$590,000	\$2,875,000
MORAGA	17	\$405,000	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	20	\$875,000	\$3,400,000

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

- 160 Arbor View Lane, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3870 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 6-2-17
- 3346 Carlyle Terrace, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 1779 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 02-18-99
- 77 Carolyn Court, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3962 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$12,000, 01-28-05
- 3980 Cowan Road, \$1,445,000, 4 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$8,000, 02-17-71
- 1044 Dolores Drive, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 1963 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-13-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,110,000, 06-08-06
- 3569 East View Drive, \$1,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 6-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-09-14
- 3980 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3540 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 6-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,462,000, 07-09-10
- 3395 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1534 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 10-05-15
- 881 Mountain View Drive, \$1,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 3280 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 06-05-92
- 2525 Pebble Beach Loop, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2052 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-2-17;  
Previous Sale: \$260,000, 05-22-96
- 1855 Reliez Valley Road, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2671 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 6-13-17
- 3179 Rohrer Drive, \$590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1168 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-9-17
- 844 Santa Maria Way, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 3996 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,985,000, 03-18-08
- 3280 Sweet Drive, \$1,070,000, 3 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$807,000, 10-16-08
- 3389 Sweet Drive, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,165,000, 03-05-14
- 1070 Via Alta, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 3919 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-1-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,489,000, 01-12-06
- 680 Wee Donegal, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-12-17;  
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 11-26-14
- 3272 Withers Avenue, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2023 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-5-17;  
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 08-11-98

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# Home is where the hive is

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Mesh attached to a pipe and reduced to a half-inch at the end was used to trap bees out of Munson's home.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Scheck closed off the hive one night when the population went dormant and relocated it. Neither Scheck nor Munson found the queen bee.

With all the bee excitement, you'd think Munson might sour to these uninvited guests, but not so. He admits to having been stung, but insists he and his wife "don't hate bees." They see the value in fruit, flower and vegetable pollination bees provide to their fully landscaped backyard. Munson says he stood just feet away unsuited while the bees were being managed and was never stung. He did notice that solicitors delivering door hangers left them on the sidewalk away from the bees, and that his gardeners and a cable repairman gave the hive a wide berth.

Meanwhile in Lafayette, another homeowner called for help when his renter reported it was no longer safe to be in the garage. Bees had again invaded the detached garage and built a colony inside the wall. The renter, who did not wish to be named, watched nearby while two suited beekeepers pried off the inside wall. The bees had built an irregularly shaped four-foot-long hive in between the studs. The renter pointed out multiple holes along the garage exterior siding which he thought were drilled by woodpeckers, and suspects that is how the bees gained entry. The hillside home is regularly visited by local wildlife, most of it welcome, but when the bees discourage residents from even setting foot in the garage, things can get awkward. It took two suited beekeepers to vacuum the bees into a specially modified shop vacuum. The bees in the vacuum were transferred to a bee box. Finally, the combs were transferred into the box, and the old honeycomb was harvested for honey. Bees from both the Moraga and the Lafayette homes were preserved.

Orinda beekeeper Steve Gentry, owner of Steve's Bees, says removing bees safely and completely from homes is a complicated job which takes a lot of work.

He says bees traditionally, historically and biologically like living in wood, and in Lamorinda there are simply more opportunities for them to inhabit the wood found in houses than trees.

To rid yourself of a home bee infestation, Gentry says it is best to find a licensed contractor who understands the process, rather than an exterminator who may or may not take the job. He estimates he has moved hundreds of swarms (not all of them home invaders) over the past 30-plus years. "It is hot, sweaty work," Gentry says. "I like playing with bees."

Removing interior sheetrock is the cheapest, fastest and cleanest way to access a hive in house walls, he says. The insulation comes out, bees are vacuumed up and the honeycombs removed. Then, Gentry says, the studs need to be thoroughly cleaned, and sprayed with two coats of oil-based primer. Otherwise, says Gentry, "even though the bees are 95 percent gone," scout bees will smell the former hive and they'll move back in. "Exterminators don't know that," he says. Gentry also recommends getting three quotes and references before hiring someone to do bee removal work.

Munson's advice to other homeowners is to look for any little hole and seal it shut. He says he's sealed so many places that he ran out of caulk. Gentry suggests homeowners check for dark spots on exterior walls and overhangs in the spring (this may indicate a hole) and keep an eye out for scout bees. "These guys will find a way in," Munson says.



A beeswax comb with honey on the top and baby bees on the bottom was saved from the hive in the garage wall in a Lafayette home.





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Feng Shui

## Let there be light

By Michele Duffy



Summer is now in full swing and so is the ruling element of FIRE, so exploring lighting (fire) from a practical perspective serves a refreshingly worthy purpose.

If you find yourself squinting or drab colors reign in your environment, then consider tackling lighting solutions to change up the energy of each of your rooms in a positively thoughtful way.

For a nature-inspired, energy-rich and certainly “hygge” (Danish Feng Shui) environment, natural lighting is best.

A popular trend these days is full-spectrum lights that simulate natural daylight and add a layer of illumina-

tion for many benefits, including good reading light, low light for warm romance and juicing up a dark area of your home.

The term “full-spectrum lighting” refers to a balance of color temperature within a light source that tries to simulate daylight. All light sources have varying degrees of color from the full color spectrum. The simplest way to see the color spectrum is to use a crystal from a chandelier. Hold it up to sunlight, and as the light passes through the crystal it bends, opening up to show the spectrum, resulting in a rainbow effect on a surface.

When you purchase a light bulb which states

“Full-spectrum or Daylight,” this simply relates to the light bulb manufacturer’s opinion or their interpretation of the balance of color in the light bulb that they feel matches daylight.

This is a misleading concept as daylight changes throughout the course of the day with various color temperatures being produced naturally, showing a multitude of temperatures reflecting varying degrees of colors that make up the full spectrum of light. Color consultations and our color choices must take into account the different levels of lighting at various times of day and evening, as lighting influences almost everything.

So many of my clients cannot believe how they deeply connect to and love their bedrooms, kitchens, family rooms and outdoor patios when specific, targeted, and much improved overall lighting solutions are introduced.

Adjusting lighting (FIRE) doesn’t need to be an overwhelming task and like any other major overhaul, it’s wise to prioritize and be methodical going room by room. Having a large-scale strategy is key to pulling the various pieces together so the lighting ties into other aspects of your overall design, including colors, texture and, of course, function. All functional components must be included with the design for each room and lighting illuminates it all.

Many of us put up with 60-watt bulbs in our master bedroom bedside lamps. Those may work somewhat in a guest room, but the dinginess of low lights, especially if there are no other light sources or no natural light, ought not be tolerated, especially in a master bedroom retreat. Creating a sanctuary includes applying the lighting layer carefully.

The size of the master bedroom, amount of furniture needed and location in home (see BAGUA map) all matter if we are transforming the lighting in our environment.

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\*per Public Records

## Feng Shui

# Let there be light

... continued from page D6

Here are some tips for good Feng Shui lighting:

- The front entrance and front walkway lighting must be first, safe and might also be low-voltage landscape lighting;
- Master bedrooms require 100-watt bedside reading lights;
- Kitchens should be functional with plenty of overhead lighting, under cabinets and low lighting for evening access;
- Crystal chandeliers enhance certain bathroom placements;
- Install modern floor lamps interwoven for design jazz;
- Patio solar lighting is glamorous fun;
- Soy essential oil candles always set the mood after dark.

When lighting encourages a cozy “hygge” reading nook, a safe food prep spot on your kitchen counter or an ease of entry with a sublime entryway, then you know that your lighting is supporting all aspects of your vibrantly designed life.

For more ideas and feedback please visit my website [mandalafengshui.com](http://mandalafengshui.com) and sign up for my eZine!

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<p><b>FAMILY</b> ZHEN Wood East Green Spring</p>	<p><b>HEALTH</b> TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown</p>	<p><b>JOY &amp; COMPLETION</b> DUI Metal West White Autumn</p>
<p><b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; SELFCULTIVATION</b> GEN Earth Northeast Blue</p>	<p><b>CAREER &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> KAN Water North Black &amp; Dark Blue Winter</p>	<p><b>HELPFUL PEOPLE &amp; TRAVEL</b> QIAN Metal Northeast Grey</p>

*The Bagua Map: Front Door*

## Mandala Feng Shui



SPACE AS MEDICINE

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, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2017 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).







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## Hello Lamorinda!

My name is Erin Martin and I am a realtor at Village Associates and a third-generation Lafayette resident. My husband and I feel extremely lucky to live and raise our three kids in such an amazing community. For the last several years I have written the real estate column for the Lafayette Monthly, a newspaper that was recently discontinued. I am excited to begin writing a monthly column for the Lamorinda Weekly.

As the calendar turns to summer it is a good time to take stock and understand how Lamorinda real estate performed over the last year. Below is a summary of Multiple Listing Service ("MLS") data for Lamorinda residential detached home sales over the last twelve months from July 2016 to June 2017 (the prior-year comparison is from July 2015 to June 2016).

As most of you already know our real estate market remains strong as the spring market delivered record figures for most of Lamorinda. The Lamorinda average sales price is now \$1.54M, up 5%, and the average sales price per square foot is \$604, up 4%. The biggest gains came from homes between 2,500–3,500 square feet where the price per square foot is up 10%. Families are feeling more confident about their financial situation and are moving up into larger homes. In Lafayette, the average sales price and price per square foot were both up 4% to \$1.57M and \$620. In Moraga, the average price is up 2% to \$1.33M and the average sales price per square foot is up 1% to \$560. In Orinda, the average sales price is up 7% to \$1.61M and the average sales price per square foot is up 5% to \$608. In addition, over the last twelve months there were 88 Lamorinda transactions over \$750 a square foot compared to 56 in the year prior, a 57% increase. This is great news for all of us that live in Lamorinda.

For a more detailed analysis including a separate analysis of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda please visit the Insight section of my website at [www.erinmartinhomes.com](http://www.erinmartinhomes.com). Feel free to email or call with your real estate questions - [erin@erinmartinhomes.com](mailto:erin@erinmartinhomes.com) or (925) 951-3817.



### ERIN MARTIN

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

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### MORAGA

118 Ascot Court #A, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-14-17  
1969 Ascot Drive #A, \$405,000, 2 Bdrms, 938 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-5-17; Previous Sale: \$369,000, 05-10-06  
2129 Ascot Drive #1, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$375,000, 07-24-09  
31 Ascot Place, \$785,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$435,000, 01-21-10  
365 Birchwood Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2358 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-04-01  
97 Brookfield Drive, \$1,527,000, 4 Bdrms, 2938 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$630,000, 12-02-98  
132 Devin Drive, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1898 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-5-17  
424 Donald Drive, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-5-17; Previous Sale: \$1,092,000, 06-26-08  
19 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2691 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-9-17; Previous Sale: \$49,000, 12-08-77  
6 Irvine Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2005 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$740,000, 04-19-01  
133 Miramonte Drive, \$725,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-7-17; Previous Sale: \$247,500, 04-09-99  
135 Miramonte Drive, \$821,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$392,000, 08-15-02  
204 Moraga Road, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2438 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$695,000, 07-18-02  
130 Quintas Lane, \$1,555,000, 5 Bdrms, 2888 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-15-17; Previous Sale: \$60,000, 07-09-74  
39 Sherwood Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2850 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-6-17; Previous Sale: \$620,000, 06-26-98  
1746 Spyglass Lane, \$1,135,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$540,000, 05-23-00  
141 Westchester Street, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1867 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$700,000, 01-06-17

### ORINDA

87 Bates Boulevard, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2769 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 03-06-02  
2 Birch Court, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-2-17  
11 Charles Hill Road, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3000 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-15-17  
13 Donald Drive, \$1,720,000, 4 Bdrms, 2990 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$525,000, 04-25-96  
20 El Castillo, \$2,272,500, 4 Bdrms, 3653 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$260,000, 09-10-97  
52 Estates Drive, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1593 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-7-17; Previous Sale: \$44,000, 11-09-72  
12 Honey Hill Road, \$1,895,500, 4 Bdrms, 3484 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-2-17; Previous Sale: \$610,000, 04-26-91  
1 Kittiwake Road, \$1,344,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$900,000, 11-02-05  
21 La Noria, \$3,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 4000 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-9-17; Previous Sale: \$860,000, 06-04-99  
11 Las Palomas, \$1,365,000, 5 Bdrms, 2338 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-14-17; Previous Sale: \$855,000, 05-25-04  
Lost Valley Drive, \$1,230,000, 5 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-2-17; Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 05-19-15  
751 Miner Road, \$2,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 3797 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 6-7-17; Previous Sale: \$500,000, 10-20-99  
2 Monroe Court, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-1-17; Previous Sale: \$338,500, 10-30-92  
240 Monte Vista Ridge Road, \$2,260,000, 5 Bdrms, 4356 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 6-6-17;  
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 02-09-07  
171 Moraga Way, \$1,389,500, 4 Bdrms, 2243 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-12-17; Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 04-28-06  
662 Moraga Way, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2475 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-13-17; Previous Sale: \$605,000, 10-28-03  
10 Oak Drive, \$1,880,000, 5 Bdrms, 4907 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 6-6-17; Previous Sale: \$281,000, 01-11-88  
20 Red Coach Lane, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3204 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-9-1744  
34 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,699,000, 5 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-2-17; Previous Sale: \$1,198,000, 11-13-15  
29 Via Callados, \$1,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 2318 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-5-17; Previous Sale: \$825,000, 04-23-02



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## Gardening Guide for August

# Rats, rattles and voles!

By Cynthia Brian

*“There's a snake lurking in the grass.” Virgil*

**T**en rattles! Diamond pattern on the skin. This was no gopher snake!

I was checking my orchard on the hill agonizing over the gopher mounds when I saw the slithering snake. Excited to know that I had a friend in the rodent business, I quickly ran to get a closer look. Dang! Not a gopher snake but *crotalus oreganus oreganus*-northern Pacific rattlesnake. I was wearing my normal summer gardening gear – shorts, bathing suit top, cowboy hat and boots. Not exactly the suggested outfit for wrangling a rattler. As I was counting the number of rattles, he/she slinked into the rosemary bush bordering my vegetable garden.

It's been over five years since I've witnessed a rattlesnake on my property. According to the experts, because of the wet winter and now the dry summer, rats, mice, gophers and voles are ubiquitous, which means that their hunters are in abundance as well. This season I've had several gopher, garter, and king snakes as wanted guests. Rattlesnakes give me the shivers.

Every summer growing up on our ranch in Napa County meant a meeting with at least 50 or more rattlers. I've stepped on a few in the past and a couple snaked over the top of my boots. Fortunately neither I, nor anyone in my family has ever suffered a bite.

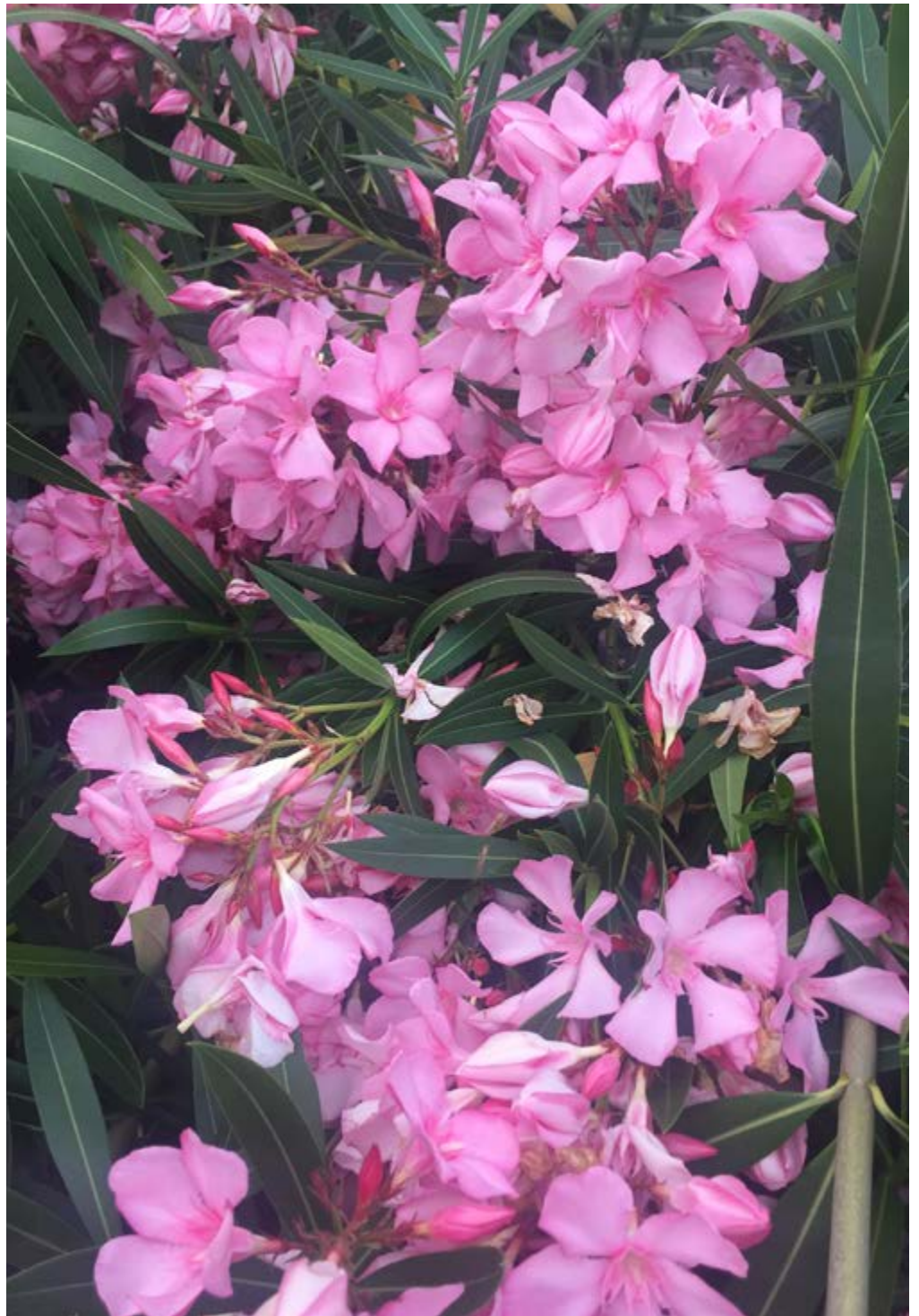
Rattlesnakes are the only pit viper found in California. All are poisonous and potentially dangerous. They kill their prey with their venom as opposed to constriction. Babies are born fully developed with one rattle and are even more potent than adults. The rattles on the end of the snake's tail are used as a warning system, alerting predators or humans to stay away. Every time the snake sheds, a new rattle is grown. Rattles can break off, and to the unaccustomed bystander, a snake without rattles may resemble a gopher snake. Without proper identification, never handle a snake in the grass. Rattlesnakes are not aggressive and don't usually strike unless provoked, however, since they seek warm-blooded prey, a human could be mistaken as food.

Rodents are inundating homes and gardens this year in search of water and food. Wherever rodents race, snakes that eat rodents follow. I discovered a terrific trap that zaps rats and mice dead. It's called The Rat Zapper and it works like a charm.

For gophers, box traps and black hole traps work best. The moles are normally looking for grubs in a lawn and don't do much damage. I just stomp down on their ridges. Voles, also called “field mice” or meadow mice” are bad news as they target the root systems of vegetable gardens, lawns and fruit orchards. They will gnaw at the trunks of trees and shrubs, chew blades and stems of grass, and eat bulbs. They often use empty mole or gopher burrows as their runways. Voles reproduce rapidly leading to mass destructions of landscapes. Snap traps are best to catch these critters when they exit their holes.

The best protection to minimize the rodent infestation is to invite their natural predators – owls, hawks, and yes, snakes. A family of barn owls will hunt and eat up to 1,000 rodents a year. Consider installing a nesting box for owls. The hawks fly with the wind currents to find the rodent restaurant.

... continued on next page



*Oleanders repel gophers and moles.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



Most snakes to visit our gardens are not venomous, yet, all snakes can bite and should not be handled. King snakes are my very favorite snake to have in a garden because they kill rattlesnakes.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife suggests the following precautions since rattlesnakes do not just reside in rural areas. We live in hill country with plenty of open space, creeks, and trails. Rattlesnakes are here. Pay attention.

- Be alert when walking in a park, golf course or riverbank.
- Wear sturdy boots and don't wear flip-flops when hiking. Stay on the trail and don't wander into the brush. Inform your children to stay with you.
- Avoid tall brush, woodpiles, and underbrush. Snakes often hide during the heat of the day; they come out at dusk and dawn to hunt.
- Check your sleeping bag when camping, step on rocks and logs instead of climbing over them.
- Watch where you step when leaving your house or a building. Rattlesnakes often stretch out at door thresholds.
- Rattlesnakes swim. Don't grab onto floating sticks or branches when swimming anywhere, including your swimming pool.
- Don't put your hand into a place you can't see. Don't weed under bushes unless you've rattled the area.
- A dead rattlesnake is still venomous. The head needs to be buried.
- If you have a dog, talk to your veterinarian about getting the canine rattlesnake vaccine. For small dogs, it doesn't always work, but for a large dog, it could be life saving.
- Hire a snake wrangler if you find an unwanted snake. Check online.

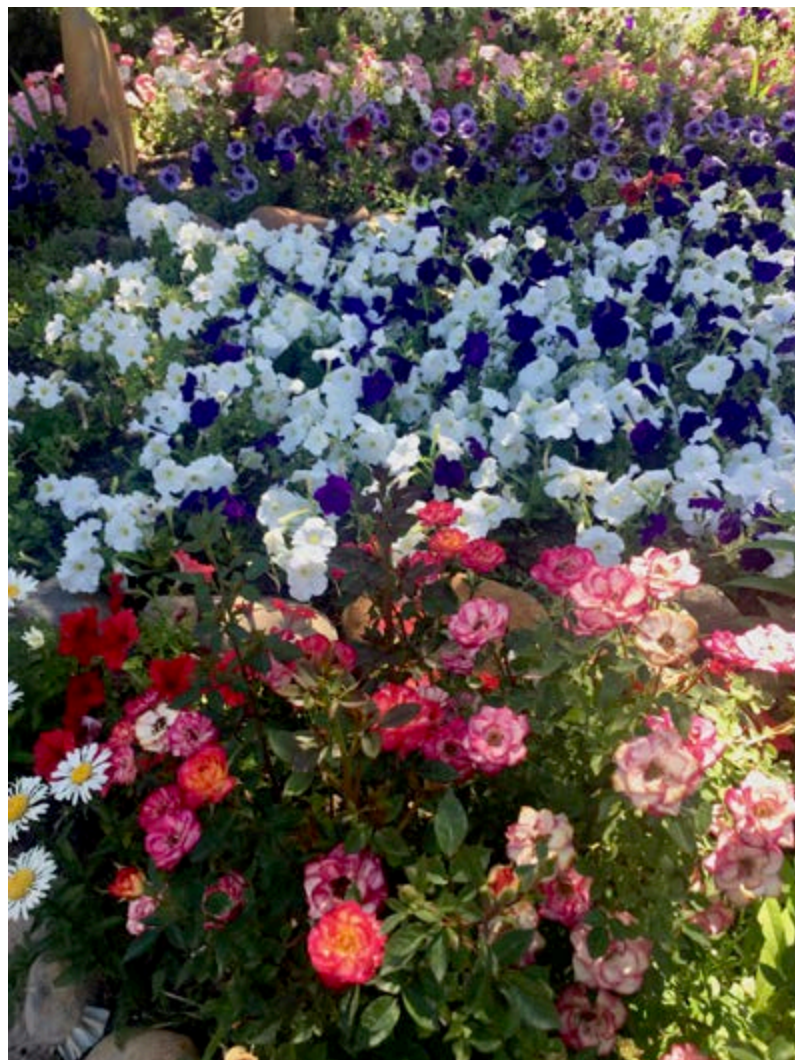
In case of a rattlesnake bite, call Poison Control immediately at 800-222-1222 and get to the nearest emergency room. Stay calm, remove rings, and don't try to suck the venom, cut the wound, tourniquet the bite or ice it. Most rattlesnake bites are accidental, but all are very dangerous, and can be fatal.

I still haven't found my rattlesnake but I am being extra cautious, especially when weeding, wearing my boots, gloves, and carrying a sharp shovel. As much as I despise rats and other rodents, a rattlesnake is not a welcome serpent in my summer paradise where I prefer to be barefoot and bikini clad!

Enjoy the summer and join me in my dance to stay clear of the rats, rattles and voles!



*Rattles from a rattlesnake.*



*Pelargoniums and petunias are a pretty combo.*



*Yellow yarrow is a medicinal herb that people use to reduce toothaches and other ailments.*



# Cynthia Brian's Summer Tips:

The following plants are repellents to gophers and moles. Plant them in areas of infestation.

Rosemary  
 Marigold  
 Oleander  
 Penstemon  
 Catmint  
 Salvia  
 Strawberry  
 Daffodil  
 Castor Bean

## Garden Events

- If you will be in Europe in September you may want to visit the spoga+gafa, the world's leading garden trade fair Sept. 3-5 in Cologne, Germany with over 2,000 exhibitors from 60 countries. <http://ow.ly/pBxP30dA88D>
- The World's Pure Food Fair and National Heirloom Expo happens in Santa Rosa Sept. 5, 6, and 7 with three-day tickets only \$25. Heritage poultry, music, seeds, fruit tastings, dahlia show, colossal pumpkins and more. <http://www.theheirloomexpo.com>
- Closer to home, Moraga Gardens Farm, a nonprofit volunteer membership garden, 1290 Moraga Way, Moraga between the fire station and School Street grows many varieties of pesticide-free, organic vegetables including tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, cucumbers, chard, fruits and herbs. Watch for demonstrations, lectures and sales. <https://moragagardensfarm.org>

## Blooming Beautiful!

Roses  
 Gladioli  
 Firecracker Plants  
 Snapdragons  
 Magnolias  
 Petunias  
 Pelargoniums  
 Geraniums  
 Daisies  
 Yarrow  
 Hollyhocks  
 Osteospermums



*Add three or four inches of mulch around plants to keep the soil moist and cool.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*A turkey hen and her baby drink from a saucer on the walkway.*

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!





A close-up of a creamy magnolia flower.



Summer is the time for a bed of petunias, mini roses and daisies.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, 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 Radio show at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com)

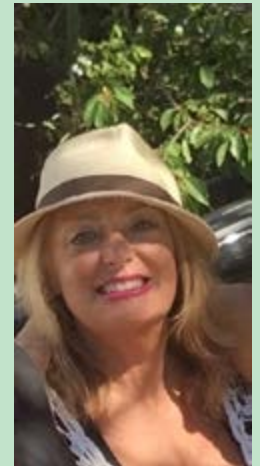
Her new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener will be available this month!

Hire Cynthia for your next project.

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Cynthia Brian in the garden.

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**ORINDA**  
**410 Wovenwood** For Lease! Orindawoods! Charming, remodeled 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome with privacy. 2 car garage. Spectacular views! Top schools!  
**\$4,500/month**



**ORINDA**  
**129 Rheem Blvd.** Great Orinda Opportunity. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, updated kitchen & baths, A/C, tankless water heater, newer carpet, new sod. Needs TLC. Close to Rheem shops, Theater. Orinda Schools & backs to Rim Trail.  
**\$899,000**



**ORINDA**  
**5 Estates Drive** Tucked behind mature oak & redwood trees, this classic home has walls of glass, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood floors, brick courtyard & .44 acres. Near downtown Orinda, BART & schools.  
**\$1,349,000**



**ORINDA**  
**15 Estabueno Drive** First time on market! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, apx. 2162 sq.ft. on premier .32 acre level lot. Spacious flr plan. park-like yard, hardwood flrs, family rm/ dining rm/ kitchen combo & separate workshop/ studio.  
**\$1,395,000**



**ORINDA**  
**54 Heather Lane** Designer quality 4 bdrm, 3 bath home of apx. 2089 sq.ft. on beautifully landscaped .8 acre w/ Mt. Diablo views. Huge 4th bdrm w/ separate entrance on lower level -perfect for in-law, au pair or large office.  
**\$1,398,000**



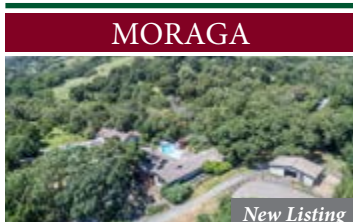
**ORINDA**  
**23 Overhill Road** Fabulous single level living in stunning totally renovated mid-century contemporary w/bonus 4th BR/family rm on lower level. Huge private deck, panoramic views. Level yard area. Walk to town.  
**\$1,475,000**



**ORINDA**  
**32 Heather Lane** Big spaces come alive in a well maintained family home w/ income producing option w/ two bedroom, one bath apartment w/ separate entrance. Abundance of windows, views & walk to Meadow Swim & Tennis.  
**\$1,790,000**



**MORAGA**  
**1954 Joseph Drive** Exceptional home at end of cul-de-sac in popular "The Bluffs" neighborhood. Ideal setting overlooking valley & views of St. Mary's in the distance. Well maintained home, super pool, privacy. Fantastic!  
**\$1,585,000**



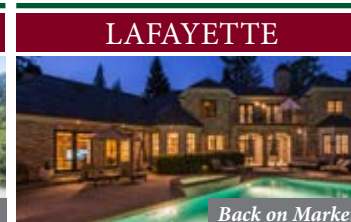
**MORAGA**  
**1031 Bollinger Canyon Rd.** Horse lover's dream home! Rancho Dos Rios is a 10.51 acre ranch w/ apx. 3,432 sq.ft., 4bd, 2.5ba home, detached 4 car gar. w/ apx. 1,018 sf in-law apt, pool, 2 stall barn w/ paddocks, arena, mare-motel, 2 pastures.  
**\$1,995,000**



**LAFAYETTE**  
**3235 Del Mar Drive** Completely Remodeled Rancher with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and a Detached Office. Apx. 2224 sq. ft. home opens to expansive yard. Easy Commute Location with Award Winning Lafayette Schools.  
**\$1,249,000**



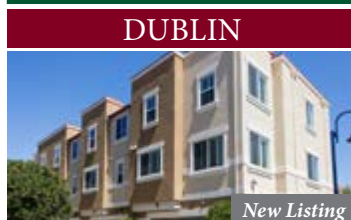
**LAFAYETTE**  
**1200 Glen Road** Happy Valley Glen contemporary with fabulous views of Reservoir & hills. Updated kitchen & baths. 5 bedrooms + library + bonus room + full apartment attached. Close to town, BART.  
**\$2,375,000**



**LAFAYETTE**  
**4015 Happy Valley Road** Rare opportunity to own elegant French Country home in prestigious Happy Valley. Classic 2 story, apx. 6,011 sq.ft., 5 beds, 5.5 baths, flat .97 acre, saltwater infinity-edge pool/spa, outr kitchen & pergola.  
**\$4,995,000**



**ALAMO**  
**212 Dorchester Lane** Incredible setting in Stonegate w/ stunning views of Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Updates throughout! Gorgeous kitchen! Spacious master suite on main level! Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & more!  
**\$2,195,000**



**DUBLIN**  
**6552 Bantry Bay Street** Luxury end unit 4bd/3.5ba townhome in desirable Tralee Village! Updated throughout w/ open floorplan & ground level bedroom w/ full bath & walk in closet. Granite countertops, hardwood floors & more!  
**\$819,000**



**WALNUT CREEK**  
**2597A Oak Road** Level in condo that backs to pool & gardens. New paint/ carpet, updated kitchen & bath, newer HVAC, spacious living room w/fireplace, dining room & private deck. 2 generous sized bedrooms. Central location.  
**\$419,000**



**WALNUT CREEK**  
**1213 Clover Lane** Fabulous Saranap home on attractive cul de sac. Walk to town w/ 3 separate units - renovated main house w/ 2 bedrooms + den, 2 baths; detached upstairs studio apt., detached cottage. All sharing .3 acre.  
**\$985,000**

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