Lamorinda

OURHOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 17

Issue 7 Wednesday, May 24, 2023



Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Plant this. Don't plant that!



Sweet-smelling jasmine climbs the arbor.

By Cynthia Brian

"Kings and cabbages go back to compost, but good deeds stay green forever."

~ Rick De Marinis

Have you ever thought good deeds may be planted? So many of the flowers, bushes, trees, and vines that we use in our gardens can be both good and bad. Some plants that are excellent in one yard are a disaster in someone else's landscape. Most of these plants are sold at nurseries and garden centers. The key is knowing what will be best for your garden.

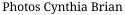
In this article, I will share what has worked for me and what has not. I call my hypothesis,



Ivy continues to proliferate through the fence.

"Plant this, but don't plant that!" **Jasmine**

As I open my living room doors, the sweet fragrance of jasmine fills the room. If you want a fast-growing vine to cover an arbor, pergola, or fence, jasmine fills the bill. Every spring, the pink-tinged white clusters of delicious smelling blossoms will perfume your yard. Taking cuttings for bouquets will perfume your bathrooms and other areas without the use of any chemical sprays. As much as I love jasmine, I must also caution you that it can be an aggressive grower if not managed. Jasmine climbs trees and can also suffocate other plants. I am forever pulling strands from boxwoods and cutting vines that have climbed over azaleas.





Does anything say spring more than the luxurious lilac?

However, for me, the beauty, blooms, and heady scent throughout my garden pushes the positive check marks. Should you plant jasmine? My verdict: Only you can decide.

Ivy

Three decades ago, a new neighbor wanted an instant green, easy-maintenance ground cover. Against my ardent appeals to not plant an invasive species, they chose ivy. Those neighbors are long gone, yet 30 years later, I am still battling that ivy that crawled under and over fences. I'm sure other neighbors are also attempting to eradicate it. Ivy boasts glossy-green leaves, creates beautiful topiaries, and in many parts of the country, ivy is welcome, even coveted. Yet here in California, this rapidly growing species harbors rats, strangles trees, damages structures, and is almost impossible to completely contain. My verdict: DON'T PLANT IVY! Lilac

When lilacs bloom, spring has arrived. Lilacs are known for their beautiful, fragrant flowers in colors of white, pink, lavender, purple, and blue, which add an attractive touch to any landscape. ... continued on Page D10

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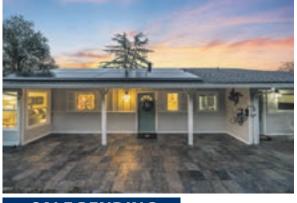
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Page: D2 OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	3	\$1,748,000	\$4,250,000
MORAGA	4	\$2,005,000	\$2,950,000
ORINDA	2	\$1,500,000	\$2,450,000

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

210 Lafayette Circle #203, \$1,748,000, 2 Bdrms, 1706 SqFt, 2021 YrBlt, 04-21-23

1547 Rancho View Drive, \$4,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4312 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 04-17-23, Previous Sale: \$675,000, 03-21-07

1281 Summit Road, \$3,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 3438 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 04-19-23, Previous Sale: \$3,800,000, 05-26-22

MORAGA

427 Donald Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2663 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-17-23

205 Fernwood Drive, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2609 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-20-23, Previous Sale: \$1,335,000, 03-25-08

3 Hastings Court, \$2,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3743 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-18-23, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 04-03-14

29 Sullivan Drive, \$2,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1856 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 04-20-23, Previous Sale: \$1,940,000, 07-09-21

ORINDA

27 Dos Posos, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2405 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 04-17-23 237 Glorietta Boulevard, \$2,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 3013 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 04-18-23

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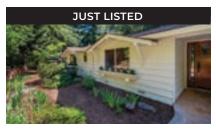
9 RANCHO DIABLO ROAD, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$2,495,000 LAUREN DEAL | 925.876.4671

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3 UNIQUE HOMES IN UPPER HAPPY VALLEY CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049

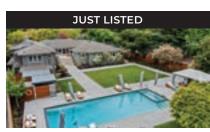


3270 THERESA LANE, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1.595,000 RACHEL DREYER | 415.990.1672



345 SAN PABLO AVENUE, MILLBRAE SOLD FOR \$1,230,000 COLOMBANA GROUP | 925.878.8047

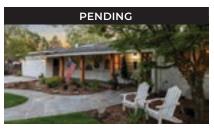
COLOMBANA



3666 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$7,250,000 J. DEL SANTO / L. TICHENOR | 925.285.1093



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Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour showcased incredible remodels

The Lafayette Juniors' Lifestyle Tour was its most successful yet, allowing the Juniors to distribute over \$80,000 among their

beneficiaries.



This Happy Valley estate in Lafayette (pictured left) is the pinnacle of luxury entertaining and year-round family interaction. The home pays tribute to California modernism and boasts an incredible indoor-outdoor flow, with countless full-length windows that showcase the homeowner's crown jewel: a beautiful backvard filled with greenery and foliage. Here, the wine storage features the same floor to ceiling glass, allowing an uninterrupted view from any angle.

Sports Courts (lower left): This backyard in Happy Valley



Photos Sora O'Doherty



swim-in-place option when a rigorous workout at home is desired. **Outdoor dining (lower right)**:

This Gloria Terrace home in Lafayette was built in 2021 by Reliez Valley Builders and boasts a sprawling 1.1 acre terraced lot. The kitchen opens seamlessly to the natural beauty of the backyard, where an outdoor kitchen is perfect for entertaining. A variety of materials are used to filter water through the permeable areas, including compacted decomposed granite, pebbles and gravel. The result is a patio that is able to keep generally free of debris, and is also varied and provides a minimalistic foundation for the surrounding garden and terraces. -S. O'Doherty

was designed by landscape architect Randy Thueme. The 1.5-acre estate features a large pool, accompanied by a pool bath, shower and shaded fire pit area. Play areas include the sports court, bocce court, and a large expansive lawn for soccer and football. The grounds also house a large vegetable garden and a detached guest house and studio.

Outdoor Oasis (upper right):

This Old Jonas Road home is owned by the founder of the Lafayette Juniors Lifestyle Tour. The exterior landscape was recently reimagined and designed by the homeowners with Ecliptic Landscapes and Aqua Pool. The family finds themselves increasingly drawn to dining in the all-season loggia and enjoying wine around their fire pit. Custom swim jet pool provides the family with a



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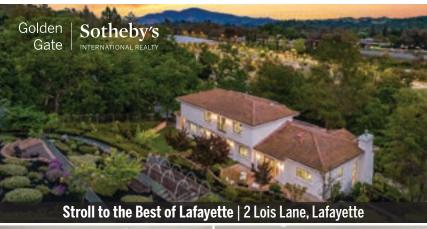
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OUR HOMES







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Immaculate single-story home with stunning views above a cul-de-sac in Orinda's Glorietta neighborhood near top-rated schools. Gorgeous garden and flat, inviting backyard.

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the living and
dining rooms with
access to a newly
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Primary bath has
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walk-in shower and
sliding barn door.



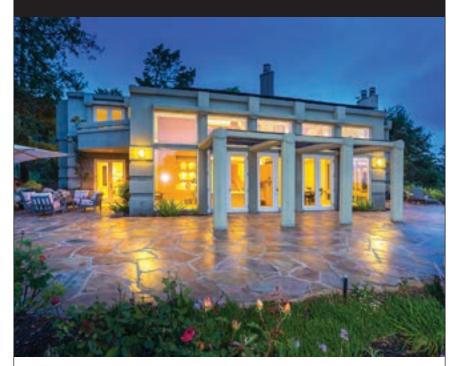
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Plant this. Don't plant that!



The petals of euphorbia are intricate and fascinating, but don't be fooled!

... continued from Page D1

My mother grew the most spectacular lilacs and I am continuing the tradition. Lilacs are low-maintenance plants that thrive in a variety of soil conditions and climates, making them a versatile choice for gardeners. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, lilacs provide valuable ecosystem services. Bees and hummingbirds are attracted to the delicious and substantial nectar produced by lilacs. Some studies suggest that the scent of lilacs may have a calming effect on the human nervous system, making them a great choice for creating a relaxing outdoor environment. My verdict: Plant this.

Euphorbia

While euphorbia may be a beautiful and eye-catching addition to a garden because of the chartreuse-colored blooms, it is important to exercise caution when considering planting this species. Euphorbia contains a toxic sap that can cause skin irritation, and in some cases, severe allergic reactions. In addition, euphorbia self-



Mock orange attracts bees and smells delightful.

seeds and spread quickly, making it difficult to control and invasive. Seeds from euphorbia blew into my garden from the surrounding hill-side. At first, I was thrilled because I had seen this specimen in the nursery and thought the color was so unique. A single plant multiplied the following year to hundreds, then thousands, suffocating and killing most of my other plants as the roots strangled other roots. For the past five years, I have been pulling plants by hand and discarding them into the garbage bin. Despite my earnest efforts, euphorbia still invades my orchard and attempts to creep into my garden beds. My verdict: DON'T PLANT EUPHORBIA.

Mock Orange

The mock orange tree, also known as Philadelphus, is a beautiful flowering shrub that produces fragrant, white, or cream-colored blooms that attract butterflies and humming-birds. This shrub is relatively low-maintenance and easy to grow, making it an ideal choice for novice gardeners. It is often used as a natural screen or hedge, providing privacy, and adding



Photos Cynthia Brian

The crimson streaks on the stalks of poison hemlock make it easy to identify.

aesthetic value to your outdoor space. I planted my two trees next to a brick stairway to enjoy the soothing and relaxing fragrance as I passed. Prune and shape the way you wish. My verdict: Plant this.

Poisonous Hemlock

Despite being highly toxic to humans and animals, poisonous hemlock was introduced to the United States from Europe as a decorative plant in the 1800s. All parts of the plant are poisonous. It contains a toxin called coniine, which can cause respiratory failure, paralysis, convulsions, and ultimately death if ingested in large amounts. (Remember Socrates?) Poison hemlock is a member of the carrot family and resembles Queen Anne's lace. Hemlock is easy to identify by the crimson streaks on the stems. The leaves are fern-like and the white flowers delicate, but beware, this invasive plant grows to 12 feet or more and is very difficult to eradicate with its long tap roots. Wear protective clothing when pulling or mowing. Do not put the plant in the compost pile. Dispose of the entire plant in the garbage and make sure that the seeds have not spread. Like euphorbia, poison hemlock seeds blew in from the adjacent open space and began to take over my hillside. Euphorbia and hemlock often grow in tandem. Both are extremely difficult to control. Every year I get a bit closer to extermination, but plants still find their way to grow. My verdict: DON'T PLANT HEMLOCK!

... continued on next Page

925-377-0977

... continued from Page D10

Roses

Many people believe that roses are challenging to grow and not worth the effort. The thorns are also a major turn-off. Despite my many scratches, I find roses to be one of the most rewarding plants in my garden with a blooming time that lasts nine or 10 months. Although I'll plant a rose from any breeder that captures my fancy, most of my roses are David Austin English roses which were hybridized to combine the characteristics of old-fashioned roses with the repeat flowering of modern roses, resulting in a stunning range of colors, shapes, and sizes. They are also highly fragrant, producing a delightful scent that fills the air and lifts my spirits. I grow climbing, rambling, tea, shrub, and more. Deadhead as flowers fade to encourage continuous blooms. My verdict: Plant this.

As you probably deciphered, I adore plants that supply flowers, fragrance, pollinator benefits, and beauty to my garden. I'm willing to do a bit of extra work to experience the specimens on my "plant this" list, but I do not recommend any of the "do not plant" groups.



This mauve rose is fragrant and makes excellent bouquets.

We will all return to compost one day but meanwhile, what good deeds will stay green in your garden?

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

PS: Don't forget the Be the Star You Are!® Shoe Drive. Shoes may be dropped off at Moraga schools through May 25 and through June 30 at https://5aspace.com/, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or www.TeamHoogs.com, 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive



Sassy Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian with succulents.

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. Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, 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

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PLEASANT HILL



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ORINDA



78 Estates Drive

Located in the beloved Glorietta neighborhood, this expansive 5 bd/ 4.5 ba home features seamless flow for indoor & outdoor living!

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ORINDA



73 Brookwood Road, #29 Delightful 1 bd/ 1 ba residence

offers a cozy & serene living space, ideal for those seeking comfort & tranquility!

\$495,000

MORAGA



30 Ascot Place

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CONCORD



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ORINDA



70 Rheem Blvd

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MORAGA



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