

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 26, 2011



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D8*

## Happy Haunting



*The folks in Burton Valley go all out decorating their homes for halloween. This suburban graveyard is just one of many frightening facades getting dolled up for Halloween. Scores of little monsters make the annual pilgrimage to Merriewood Drive...also known as Scary-wood Drive to maximixe treats. Neighborhood kids and their parents have a sweet pre-holiday tradition, Boo burglars do a reverse burgle - ring the doorbell and leave a little basket/pumpkin of candy before running away. For homes hit by the Boo burglar, there are instructions to pay it forward, delivering sugary morsels to other unsuspecting souls.*

*Photo Cathy Tyson*

The signs are unmistakable—they appear on front yards and driveways, in doorways and windows. Everything from scarecrows to skeletons, pumpkin patches to graveyards, and all manner of creepy crawlies in between have taken up residence across Lamorinda as Halloween approaches.

Rebecca Nadauld of Orinda first created a graveyard in front her home five years ago. For her, it's all about the fun factor for her children. She describes her parents as minimalists when it came to Halloween decorations, and she wanted to do something special for her own kids, who “really get into helping with the decorations” now that they are old enough.

The Nadauld home is a popular attraction every fall – the kids’ friends start asking in late September when the decorations will go up. Last year, Nadauld even saw a car pull

over and children hop out for a photo in front of a tombstone. “We used to have a zipline – a giant bat would fly down the hill!” she recalls, adding that she feared an accident should a driver be surprised by the sight of a huge, winged creature hurtling down the hillside, so the bat was retired.

Lamorinda is a relatively safe community, but it doesn't hurt to keep a few safety tips in mind while the little monsters are out haunting on October 31:

Make sure costumes are safe, allow clear vision and are visible in the dark; “dangerous” props such as knives and scythes should be avoided or at least made of flexible material so unhappy accidents don't happen; costumes that drag on the ground and high heels can result in injury.

Stay in well-lit areas; if a home is dark, don't ring the doorbell.

If you don't accompany your trick-or-treaters make sure you know the route they are taking and remind them of safety rules regarding crossing streets, never entering the home or car of a stranger, and coming home/calling on time. Children should be well-lit with glow-accessories and flashlights, and you should be able to pick your child out in a crowd should the need arise. Unaccompanied kids should always stay in a group.

Trick-or-treaters of all ages should keep in mind the difference between a trick and vandalism.

We wish pirates, princesses and characters of every kind a safe and thrilling Halloween! *L.Borrowman*



*The Nadaulds' home on St. Stephens Drive in Orinda features a graveyard at Halloween*

*Photo Doug Kohen*



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$505,000	\$2,075,000
MORAGA	15	\$185,000	\$1,170,000
ORINDA	5	\$599,000	\$800,000

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

- 967 3rd Street, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1853 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-16-11  
 3567 Boyer Circle, \$650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 9-27-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$520,000, 01-24-02  
 3244 Camino Colorados, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1184 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-16-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$625,000, 02-12-04  
 1168 Camino Vallecito, \$2,075,000, 6 Bdrms, 5243 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-16-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 04-04-06  
 3618 Chestnut Street, \$570,000, 3 Bdrms, 2334 SqFt, 9-23-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$95,000, - -  
 37 Diablo Circle, \$1,189,000, 4 Bdrms, 2699 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-19-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 07-20-06  
 800 Mariposa Road, \$1,070,000, 5 Bdrms, 2792 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-20-11  
 25 Old Millstone Lane, \$1,515,000, 4 Bdrms, 2249 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-26-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$625,000, 04-13-98  
 2596 Pebble Beach Loop, \$505,000, 3 Bdrms, 2052 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-27-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$475,000, 03-31-08  
 12 Ruth Court, \$765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-20-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$325,000, 12-28-10  
 3419 Shangri La Road, \$880,000, 5 Bdrms, 3123 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-20-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$112,500, 03-01-74  
 3495 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3541 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-28-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$530,000, 11-10-88  
 3091 Sweetbrier Circle, \$856,500, 3 Bdrms, 1874 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-19-11  
 1 West Creek Court, \$525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-28-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-18-05  
 1080 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3082 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-15-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$900,000, 10-03-02

## MORAGA

- 798 Augusta Drive, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 2430 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-23-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$510,000, 04-08-94  
 927 Augusta Drive, \$875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 9-15-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$990,000, 01-06-05  
 11 Buckingham Drive, \$705,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-27-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$820,000, 01-12-07  
 23 Cumberland Lane, \$530,000, 3 Bdrms, 2042 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-22-11  
 151 Cypress Point Way, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-20-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$255,000, 09-01-83  
 400 Deerfield Drive, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 3041 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-16-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$515,000, 11-18-98  
 2133 Donald Drive #9, \$185,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-28-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$469,000, 04-14-06  
 56 Miramonte Drive, \$375,000, 2 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-27-11;  
 Previous Sale: \$360,000, 07-27-09

... continued on page D4

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

## LAFAYETTE

Pine Lane, 94549, Aurora Loan Services, 09-13-11, \$1,513,815, 4966 sf, 5 bd



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## Recently Sold by Vlatka



Pending

## 136 Spring Rd, Orinda

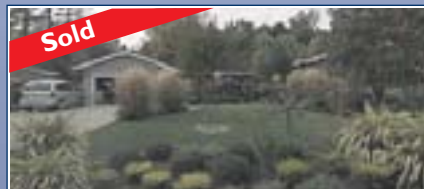
Sale Pending, Representing Seller and Buyer



Pending

## 20 Birch Ct, Orinda

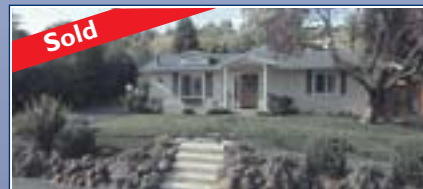
Sale Pending, Representing Seller and Buyer



Sold

## 55 Lombardy Ln, Orinda

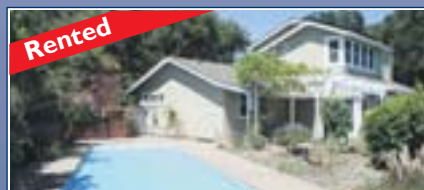
Sold for \$1,345,000, Represented Buyer



Sold

## 12 Valley View Dr, Orinda

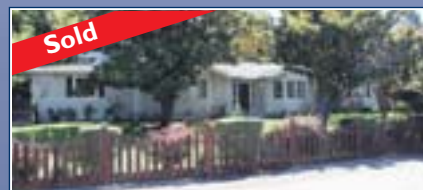
Sold for \$970,000, Represented Buyer



Rented

## 1 Culver Ct, Orinda

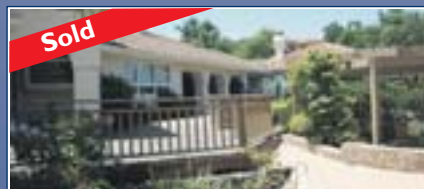
Rented for \$4,200/month  
 Represented Landlord and Tenant



Sold

## 740 Glenside Circle, Lafayette

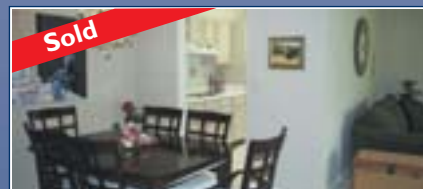
Sold at \$1,220,000, Represented Buyer



Sold

## 788 El Pintado, Danville

Sold for \$1,420,000, Represented Buyer



Sold

## 1860 Tice Creek Dr #1307

Sold at \$295,000, Represented Seller



**Patricia Battersby**

925-330-6663

pb@patriciabattersby.com

DRE# 00854469

**Ashley Battersby**

925-323-9955

ashley@patriciabattersby.com

DRE# 01407784



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4 Bedrooms Office 3.5 Baths

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Yard with Lawn and Play Area

High Quality Finishes and Detailing

*Offered at \$1,395,000*





# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

## MORAGA continued

- 107 Miramonte Drive, \$430,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-15-11;  
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 12-06-00
- 279 Rheem Boulevard, \$680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1682 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-16-11;  
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 03-18-05
- 312 Rheem Boulevard, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2096 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-23-11;  
Previous Sale: \$512,500, 06-06-03
- 1223 Rimer Drive, \$906,000, 4 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-26-11
- 336 Tharp Drive, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-23-11;  
Previous Sale: \$259,500, 05-07-87
- 12 Wandel Drive, \$620,000, 4 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-19-11
- 18 Wandel Drive, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-16-11;  
Previous Sale: \$520,000, 03-14-00

## ORINDA

- 52 Las Cascadas Road, \$599,000, 3 Bdrms, 845 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 9-26-11;  
Previous Sale: \$100,000, 10-13-86
- 9 Oak Road, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2387 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-28-11;  
Previous Sale: \$538,000, 07-12-91
- 5 Wanda Lane, \$630,000, 3 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 9-21-11;  
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 08-12-05
- 228 the Knoll, \$668,000, 2 Bdrms, 2141 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-28-11;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-13-06
- 408 Wovenwood, \$680,000, 2 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-19-11;  
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 04-21-93

## Art Lehman Proudly Presents the Best of Lamorinda...



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#### 3272 WOODVIEW DRIVE LAFAYETTE

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### Stunning Property!

#### 20 MONTICELLO COURT, LAFAYETTE

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*J. Rockcliff*



## Top 4 Opportunities in 2011

- 1) Buy foreclosures in select neighborhoods and cities in Contra Costa County, for strong rental income returns, with future appreciation.
- 2) Buy a home in Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda, in a rare buyer's market.
- 3) Sell in the under \$1,000,000 range in Lamorinda, where sales are now improving, and move up to your dream house in a higher price range where the best negotiating opportunities exist.
- 4) Downsize, and sell in Lamorinda, where the market has not dropped as much, then buy a great one-story home at a bargain price in a nice neighborhood where homes have dropped more. Keep a low property tax by transferring it to the new house within Contra Costa County.

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## Two Beautiful Moraga Homes With Fabulous New Prices



903 Augusta Drive, Moraga

Gracious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Forest Hills model with master bedroom on the main level. More than 2800 square feet. Open kitchen family room, dramatic living/formal dining room with high ceilings and views. New carpet and tile flooring, dual-paned windows, private deck, wooded setting, spacious bedrooms. Moraga Country Club amenities, top-rated schools, close to shopping, walking path and more.

**Offered at \$789,000**



3767 Via Granada, Moraga

This traditional home with a charming covered porch in front features 5 bedrooms (with a possibility for 6), 3 baths, plus an office, and a large, level yard with lawn, patio and play area. It has been updated with attention to detail throughout. The kitchen features stainless appliances & views of the yard. The bathrooms are done with granite and marble. Hardwood, dual-paned windows, 2-zone ac. Excellent commute location.

**Offered at \$999,000**

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**Alamo.** Great neighborhood tucked at the back of White Gate. 2 story 4 bdrm 3.5 bth home w/over 3100 sqft. updated throughout. Private backyard w/newly refinished pebble tech pool & outdoor kitchen. Large game rm w/pool table, plasma TV & more included in the sale. **\$1,299,000**

**Gretchen Bryce** 925.683.2477



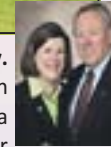
**Walnut Creek.** Almond/Shuey neighborhood, classic elegance throughout. Spacious living room w/vaulted ceilings, large family room, formal dining, parlor & 3 upstairs bedrooms. Gorgeous oak flooring, new paint & fixtures. **\$749,950**

**Rick Fiset** 925.362.0415



**Briones/Alhambra Valley.** 10 - 75 ac parcels less than 20 minutes. from Orinda and Lafayette. Build your dream home, plant a vineyard, have room for horses, or enjoy natural surroundings. Some lots are ready to build with good wells, electricity and phone lines to parcel. **\$595,000-\$2,500,000.**

**The Pereira Team** 925.297.0321



**Danville.** Custom home tucked away in mature prvt. ct on level .46 lot. 5 bed, 3.5 ba., 3 car gar. 3900sf., lrg bonus rm w/lovely foyer, formal living & dining rm. Prof. designer kitchen w/ oversized island & spacious nook. Backyard w/pool/spa & 5 burner BBQ bar. Family rm w/ built in entertainment cntr, bookshelves, fireplace & beverage bar. Add'l 200sf. walk in attic. **\$1,425,000**

**Joan Marx** 925.683.7696



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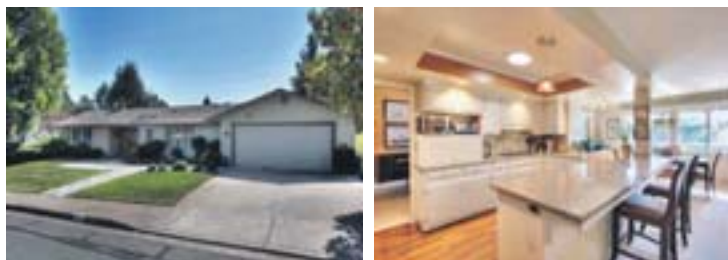
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**1825 St. Andrews Drive, Moraga**

**4 BR, 2.5 BA, 3424 sq. ft. \$979,000**

Fabulous updated Sequoyah model - Newer windows and decks, lots of hardwood, updated Kitchen and Master Bath. Great Views!



**41 Greenfield Drive, Moraga**

**3 BR, 3 BA, 2325 sq. ft., .33 Acres \$899,000**

Elegantly expanded Harold Smith home with open Kitchen/Family Room. Plus spacious formal LR, DR. Large lot with views and nice privacy.



**101 Brookline Street, Moraga**

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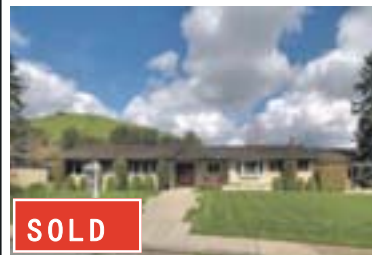
**Selection of 2011 Sellers  
Represented by The Olsen Team**



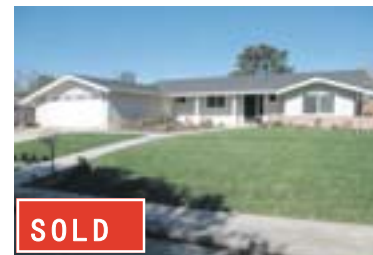
**80 Lynwood Place, Moraga**



**22 Charles Hill**



**297 Corliss Drive**



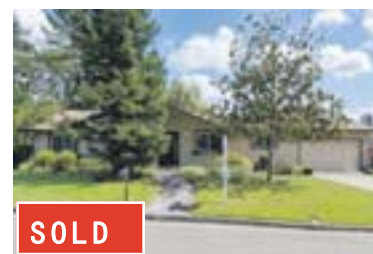
**1047 Larch Ave.**



**272 Tharp Drive**



**50 York Place**



**4 Sparrow Court**



**475 Kingsford Drive**



**1412 Camino Peral**



**116 Corliss Drive**



**900 Camino**

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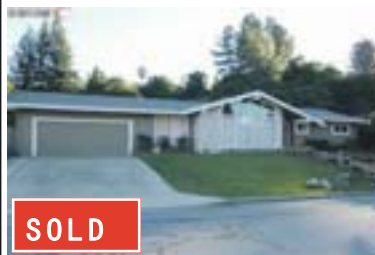
Direct: (925) 200-6000

## Selection of 2011 Buyers Represented by The Olsen Team



SOLD

30 Crest Road



SOLD

1588 Del Monte Ct.



SOLD

9 Merrill Drive



SOLD

1042 Sunnybrook



SOLD

3 Roberts Court



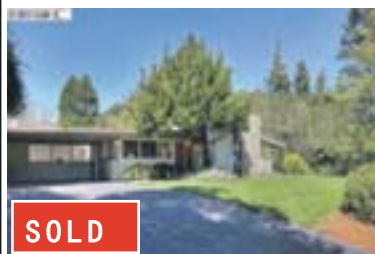
SOLD

1609 Las Trampas



SOLD

182 Ravenhill Road



SOLD

18 Lavenida



SOLD

452 Millfield Place

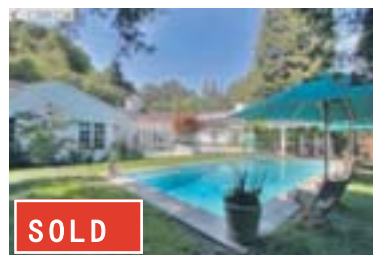


Del Rio, Lafayette



SOLD

469 Fernwood Drive



SOLD

100 Devin Drive

## Recent Praise for The Olsen Team

The Olsen Team sells houses, but we know that this is a people business. We have a long standing tradition of treating people with empathy, respect and good humor. Here is what some of our recent clients are saying:

The Olsen Team is the most knowledgeable, hard working, competent real estate team in the Lamorinda area, or for that matter - anywhere. We cannot begin to adequately express our deep appreciation.....

— Don and Dotty Miller

We have bought and sold 7 homes over the past two decades and believe The Olsen Team are the most professional and productive realtors we have ever worked with. They had a comprehensive strategic plan and executed it flawlessly in a very difficult market.

— Del and Janice Kolbe

In all respects, the Olsen Team has exceeded our expectations. They are delightful to work with, and they have been consistently responsive, knowledgeable, professional, and helpful. We have worked with other realtors, but we never expected the incredible level of service we received from the Olsen Team.

- The Erickson-King Family

The Olsen Team was easy to work with and their local expertise led to the successful sale of our family home. As an out of town seller, Sue and Ben were able to handle nearly everything for us. The inspections, updates, cleaning and staging of the home were seamless, and all were handled by professional resources that met our high standards.

- Sellers at 50 York Place

Without all your hard work, coordination of all the various contractor jobs and inspections, we never would be where we are. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all that you did for us. I am well aware of how much work you put into getting the condo sold. You were always calm and patient with me and the rest of my crew.

- Trustee of an Orinda Estate

Helping *nice* people make *smart* Real Estate decisions.

# The Olsen Team

www.TheOlsenTeam.com



## Gimme Shelter

by Andi Peterson Brown

**B**elieve it or not, quite a few communities in the Bay Area are in the midst of a housing shortage, and Lamorinda is no exception. Ok, raise your hand if you just had to reread that sentence. I know—given the negative news out there surrounding all things housing, it seems like it can't be true, right? But I assure you, it is.

In Lamorinda, our inventory is down almost 34% year to date and we've sold more homes. We are working through our inventory without replenishing it.

Because of that, the Lamorinda market currently has about 3.5 months of inventory. That means that if no new listings came on the market, at our current pace of sales we would run out of homes in 3.5 months. Conventional wisdom says that a healthy housing market has anywhere from 5-6 months of inventory, with anything less deemed a seller's market, and anything more deemed a buyer's market.

So wait a minute. Does that mean this is a seller's market? The answer is that for some sellers yes, and for some sellers, no. We are seeing homes that are well priced, well staged, and well marketed oftentimes sell within a few short weeks. But the other homes? If the market deems a home to miss the mark in price and/or condition, we are seeing that home languish. For those homes, it's truly a field day for buyers.

Moral of the story? It's ok to sell right now. In fact, we need you. Price and market your home correctly and you just might be surprised to see the buyers come flocking.



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# Thrills, Chills, Gourds, and Ghouls

By Cynthia Brian

*“From ghoulies and ghosties, And long-leggedy beasties, And things that go bump in the night.” Scottish Saying*

## THRILLS

**W**hen our children were young, October was a favorite month because of the traditional weekend we spent with three other families far from the maddening crowds on Mount St. Helena. The location was a hidden Halloween haven, miles from civilization with enough bewitching brilliance to satisfy any ghost. We stayed in a restored historic Victorian from the 1800's with a wrap around porch perched on several acres of pristine forestland dotted with fruit orchards. There was no electricity and water was pumped from nearby springs. Days were spent harvesting vegetables from the massive gardens for our meals, pressing apples into cider, hiking the hillsides, fishing in the creeks, riding horses bareback, and exploring the haunted barn where the creepy crawlies and battalions of bats burrowed.

As the six children carved hordes of pumpkins on the damp meadow, the parents transformed each of the antiquated

rooms into a wicked wonderland with ghoulish gourds, floating ghosts, and wailing witches on broomsticks. As dusk turned to darkness with only the flicker from candles, oil lamps, and a star-studded sky, a creepy eeriness permeated the pasture. Shadows terrorized the spider-webbed crevices while the costumed children chowed on spooky servings of spaghetti squash and drank magic juice potions from tombstones and rest in peace goblets. Fearsome and ferocious creatures lurked behind each squeaky door as we adults dressed to thrill our trick or treat offspring with each hesitant knock. The Montesol Halloween's were frightfully fun offering electrifying memories while being completely safe.

The ambling gardens provided the harvest collection of squash, pumpkins, and gourds as the highlight of those October experiences. You can create a comparable Halloween ritual in your own garden by planting gourds galore. Growing is easy. Plan now to directly seed out-

doors in full sun after all frost has passed next spring. We can learn from the Native Americans who planted the “Three Sisters” together—corn (maize), squash, and beans. The corn allowed stalks for the beans to climb, the beans added nitrogen to the soil, and the squash provided ground cover and shade for the roots, lessening weed growth. Since squash require large amounts of nitrogen to flourish, after this year's harvest, plant cover crops of crimson clover, hairy vetch, or fava beans to enrich the soil.

Squash has been grown for at least 8,000 years. In the 16th century, the Spanish conqueror of the Incan world, Francisco Pizarro (now that's a great Halloween costume) introduced squash to the European community. Native to South America and Mexico, there are four species of the genus *Cucurbita*. Varieties of edible squash include many zucchinis, crooknecks, spaghetti squash, pumpkins, butternuts, and “pepos” or old world melons. We call them a vegetable, but they are truly a fruit. Cucumbers and many gourds are squash relatives. The wart covered, lavishly colored gourds that decorate our autumn atmospheres are inedible “pepos”.

...continued on page D10



A smiling Jack O' Lantern and Indian corn

Photo Cynthia Brian



The saffron and burnt umber shades of the pistache tree.



## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

*No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds - November! ~Thomas Hood, "No!"*

November is not as dire as Thomas Hood writes, yet, with the falling leaves, the chilly winds, and shorter days of sun light, we understand that Mother Nature is bedding down for the upcoming winter. Whether you build a big bonfire on the driveway, play croquet on the lawn, or listen to the sighing of the soil, be a humble pilgrim while experiencing a grateful gathering with friends and family on Thanksgiving Day.

- **ATTRACT** lizards by raking leaves and brush into a pile. The shelter invites these helpful reptiles to your garden.
- **ALLOW** a smattering of spent rose blooms to develop rose hips. Excellent for tea as a vitamin C booster.
- **DEADHEAD** the rest of your roses as the petals fade to maintain a steady stream of colorful, fragrant bouquet through the New Year.
- **COLOR** your world by planting bushes that boast fall and winter berries such as cotoneaster, holly, and pyracantha. Robins may get drunk on the red berries, while migratory birds are grateful for the nutritious fuel.
- **MULCH** by shredding the raked leaves from the deciduous trees adding grass clippings, dried plants stems, and trimmings all which provide water conservation, better drainage, and nutrients to the soil.
- **DECORATE** your front door with a wreath made from gourds, tiny pumpkins, and autumn leaves. Add a witch or goblin for a spooky Halloween, then, for Thanksgiving switch to a wood cut out of pilgrims or turkeys plus Indian corn, apples, and nuts. One arrangement doubles as a star cornucopia for fall fun.
- **DISCOVER** trees that tickle your fancy with their brilliant fall foliage at your local nurseries. When you see trees dressed in their full autumn attire, it's easier to choose ones that best suit your garden. Make sure to consider size, sun, and spread when buying a tree.
- **ADD** texture, color, and all season interest to your landscape by planting low maintenance ornamental grasses such as purple fountaingrass, arching maidengrass, blue fescue, or the popular, upright feather reedgrass.
- **STAY ALERT** for brush fire danger. As you cut branches and rake leaves, keep them far from your home and other burnable structures. Despite recent rains, fires happen when the winds kick up. Clean your chimney before igniting your wood burning fireplaces. Twenty years ago at this time in 1991, the East Bay hills witnessed one of the most devastating late season fires in history.
- **PLANT** your spring blooming bulbs now including daffodils, crocus, tulips, and other favorites. You'll be able to continue planting bulbs through January. Mark the location with plant tags or wooden paint sticks.
- **PERK** up your optimism quotient with perennials that energize, soothe, and lift your mood. It's planting time for Oriental Poppies, Peonies, and Bearded Iris.
- **LOOKING** for an extravagant gift for that special someone? You can have a rose commissioned with their name for fees beginning around \$9500. Roses are registered with the International Cultivar Registration Authority. I'd love a Starstyle® rose, but it may have to wait. Darn! If you have the bucks, visit [http://paulzimmermanroses.com/?page\\_id=1141](http://paulzimmermanroses.com/?page_id=1141).
- **PICK** up acorns that fall from the oak trees before they take root. Put them in a pile outside of your garden fence to feed the deer and the squirrels.
- **ROAST** sweet potatoes with sliced garlic, chopped hazelnuts, sprigs of rosemary tossed with olive oil and balsamic for a savory sweet treat. Top with peppery arugula and nasturtium blossoms picked from your garden.
- **CLOSE** your garage and shed doors as you enter and leave to avoid unwanted intruders such as slithering serpents and rambling rodents who are anxious to bed down for a long winters nap. (Experience on this one, most certainly!)
- **PAMPER** our feathered friends with clean nesting boxes and plenty of food. As the weather changes, they appreciate a little help from humans.
- **SUBJECT** your Christmas cactus to cold temperatures in the 50's or leave pots of them in the dark for 12 hours a day to encourage holiday blooms.
- **WINTERIZE** your patio by covering or storing furniture, pads, and accessories Move frost tender plants in pots near the house for warmth.
- **BREATHE** in the chilly air on a clear day as you savor the season's final blossoms and scented flower fragrances. Winter is drawing near.
- **GRATITUDE** works. My heartfelt thank you to all of you who read my column faithfully. Wishing you a healthy holiday and terrific Thanksgiving.

Happy Gardening to YOU!

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## Thrills, Chills, Gourds, and Ghouls ...continued from page D8

The blossoms of squash are delicious, but make sure you are frying or stuffing the male blossoms and not the female ones or you won't have a crop. Although both blossoms look similar, you can tell the difference because the females have a tiny fruit at the base, which matures into the vegetable we cook, while the males are smooth. Also, don't forget to save seeds both for planting and for enjoying. Dry them for a couple of weeks and roast them for school snacks.

Are you wondering what the differences are between advertised "summer" squash and "winter" squash? Simple, you pick summer squash early, at any size, when the fruit is immature—such as very small zucchini. Winter squash is harvested at full maturity when the stem is brown and frost is looming. Store all squash varieties up to three months in a cool room of 50-60 degrees instead of in the refrigerator. Winter squash recipes abound for your Thanksgiving feast.

Squash and gourds have symbolized the autumn season for centuries because of their varied colors and harvest times in fall. Orange has become the signature color for October and November. Since the origin of the Irish myth of Stingy Jack roaming the dark night with only a piece of fiery coal to light the way, children have been carving scary faces into turnips, potatoes, and of course, pumpkins to illuminate Halloween with the Jack O'Lantern,

As Albert Camus wrote, "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." After Halloween, save those uncarved fruits, corn stalks, and hay bales for November adornment. For the Thanksgiving season, a colorful cornucopia of blue, white, and orange pumpkins combined with the multihued gourds, squash, and autumn leaves

make a welcome greeting on the doorstep.

### CHILLS

A suicide honeybee? Never would have I believed this possible had I not witnessed its desire to drown with my own eyes. In the throes of heat of our Indian summer, I always make sure to keep my garden water elements filled as a cool respite for our flying friends. This week as I filled the fountain, a bee flew into the gurgling froth. Being too deep for a bee to extricate himself (I refer to the bees as male!), I carefully lifted the bee to a nearby leaf with my hand trowel. Two minutes later, the bee dove back into the water. Again, I removed him to a nearby shrub where I watched his behavior. He shook off the dampness, flapped his fairy wings, and nose-dived into the water yet again. We repeated our dance thirteen times until I realized I couldn't save him from himself. With colony collapse syndrome a real threat to agriculture and vegetation renewal, why was this honeybee determined to die? Was his demise due to the unlucky number thirteen, or was he forecasting the arrival of ghost bees in our bonnets!

Enjoy the thrills, chills, gourds, and ghouls. Carve a pumpkin with wolves howling at the full moon, hear the churchyards yawn, and grab your broomstick for the witching hour. Happy Hallowed Eve! Boo!



*Pyranantha berries beckon the birds to dine!*



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The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season—in the fall after their leaves drop or early spring before bud breaks. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location. The proper handling during planting is essential to ensure a healthy future for new trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you find your perfect tree.

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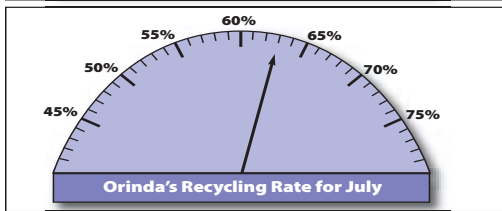
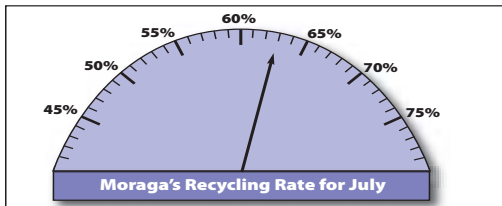
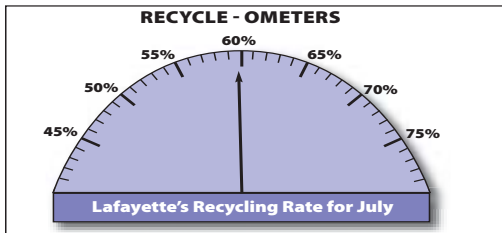




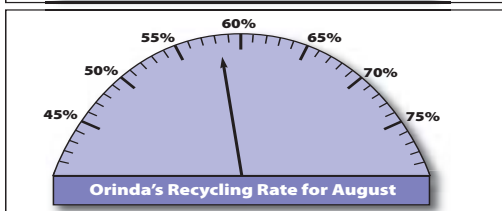
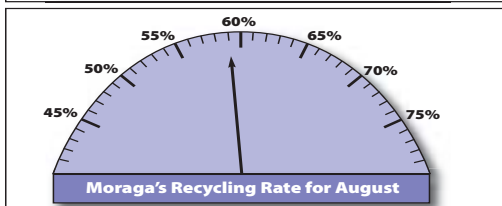
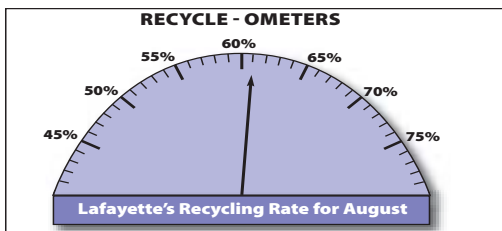
## Recycling in Lamorinda

The numbers below are provided by the Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and will be included in the Lamorinda Weekly on an ongoing basis when available.

July 2011



August 2011



### To register with Recycle Bank:

If you've lost the letter that contained your PIN number, no problem – Go online to [recyclebank.com](http://recyclebank.com) and click on 'register.' Enter your information, including your address. Get a new pin by mail or immediately with a message sent to your cell phone; now you can complete your registration.

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**345 Camino Sobrante**  
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**675 Carroll Drive**  
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**3363 St. Mary's Road**  
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**502 Silverado Drive**  
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**3286 Sweet Drive**  
Lovely large home, flexible floor plan, updated throughout, granite kitchen. Sweeping views, 2 master bedrooms plus 2 more bedrooms & 4 baths in Burton Valley.

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**3272 Woodview Drive**  
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**3217 Sharon Court**  
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**855 Mt. View Drive**  
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