

# Home Theater: Sound and Pictures All Around You

... continued from page D1

So why hire an audio/video consultant when you can simply buy the items from a big box store? Norleen says some folks simply "don't want the hassle" of assembling the system.

Blessing suggests those who hire a contractor verify that the company is both a licensed contractor and an authorized dealer of the audio/video products they sell. "If you buy on the internet," Blessing says, "you'll get speakers but no warranty."

Scott Curtis, owner of Eclipse Audio & Video in Walnut Creek says LED and Plasma flat screen TVs are now competitively priced. Plasma screens are generally 10 to 15 percent less expensive than a similar sized LED. A lower-end 50-inch Plasma TV can be purchased for \$650 to \$700 while a similar sized LED would sell for around \$1200 retail.

And additional home theater equipment costs quickly add up. For example, you can expect to pay \$500 and up for a mid-range quality receiver, Curtis says, and free-standing 5.1 surround sound speakers are priced from \$125 to \$2,500 apiece for the front trio alone (left, center and right channels).

Curtis suggests getting a TV "as big as the room can bear," giving the viewer full immersion for wide screen action with movies or video games, and it's a good idea to balance timbre in all five speakers. Whatever your component selection, be sure to include labor charges in your budget as well.

As today's home entertainment concept becomes an immersive experience – a sort of "smart phone" extension inside the home – with movies and games, home theater has a place for young and old alike.

Of course, even in Lamorinda, there are holdouts. Wendy Jacobs reports that she creates her own surround sound during football season: "I simply turn my stereo on with the broadcast and crank up the volume," she says, providing her family with "big screen TV with big time sound, for a lot less than a home theater."



A family room after adding a home theater system by Paradigm Integration. Photo provided

#### Contact information:

- Sound Works, Andrew Norleen (925) 209-7001 or email [soundworksandrew@hotmail.com](mailto:soundworksandrew@hotmail.com).
- Eclipse Audio-Video Inc (925) 934-4844

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

#### ORINDA ... continued

89 El Gavilan Road, \$712,000, 3 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 7-12-12;

Previous Sale: \$285,000, 09-16-94

261 Ivy Place, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 7-11-12;

Previous Sale: \$865,000, 06-30-04

18 La Cresta Road, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 7-11-12;

Previous Sale: \$912,000, 04-05-05

712 Ironbark Court, \$989,000, 3 Bdrms, 2287 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 7-13-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,149,500, 10-27-04

214 La Espiral, \$1,292,500, 4 Bdrms, 2473 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-20-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,265,000, 08-07-03

16 Mariposa Lane, \$765,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-9-12

569 Miner Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 7-19-12

120 Moraga Way, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1995 YrBl, 7-13-12;

Previous Sale: \$598,000, 12-01-98

22 Rabble Road, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2427 SqFt, 2010 YrBl, 7-16-12

91 Rheem Boulevard, \$808,000, 3 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 7-20-12;

Previous Sale: \$581,000, 03-01-02

14 Scenic Court, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 7-17-12;

Previous Sale: \$300,000, 07-24-92

84 Tara Road, \$839,000, 4 Bdrms, 2061 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 7-20-12

95 Tara Road, \$759,000, 3 Bdrms, 1691 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 7-10-12

38 Valley Drive, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 3114 SqFt, 2000 YrBl, 7-17-12

1 Via Moraga, \$829,000, 5 Bdrms, 2043 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 7-9-12;

Previous Sale: \$650,000, 05-10-00

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

#### LAFAYETTE

Moraga Road, 94549, Bank of America, 07-25-12, \$1,625,830, 5702 sf, 4 bd



Lic.: #611120



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

## What are your trees worth?

Trees are our most valuable environmental asset. While they provide us with many emotional benefits that cannot be easily quantified, they also supply measurable environmental and economic benefits. We share your passion for trees and are dedicated to helping make sure the trees we love will thrive and make our communities greener and cleaner places to live, work and play.

*Advance Tree Service*  
Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.





925-376-6528

[advancetree@sbcglobal.net](mailto:advancetree@sbcglobal.net) [www.advancetree.com](http://www.advancetree.com)

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