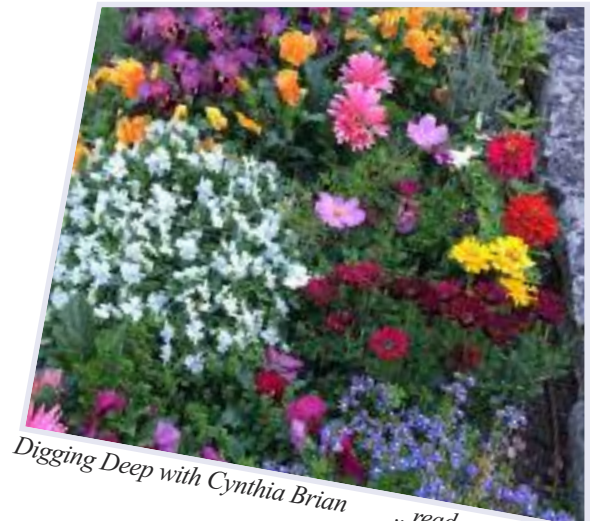


Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 17, 2015



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D13

Rats and Mice and Varmints, Oh My!

Drought causing more infestations in Lamorinda homes

By Chris Lavin



Michael Rochette of Canyon proudly displays a wood rat he caught in the lower level of his house, using a live trap. He gave the credit to Sylvester the Cat. The rat was released far, far away. Photo Chris Lavin

Mario Martinez started his own pest-control business about four years ago. He now has 10 employees, and the phone hasn't stopped ringing. Lately it's been worse. (Or better, if one looks at it from his perspective.) On a recent day, he pulled his white truck full of traps and other apparatus to a one-story home in Lafayette that had an understory and unfortunately an infested attic, and knocked on the door.

"I am so glad to see you," the bare-footed homeowner said when he opened the door. "I've waited too long."

Martinez knew exactly what he meant. Martinez has had more calls than ever, because this year's drought has caused a plethora of our usually docile resident rodent creatures that we feel should and will continue to live only in the adjacent areas to our houses – over there out there, somewhere.

Now more rats and mice and other creatures are looking for water and are coming into houses at a high rate, especially in places that border creeks.

"Does your house sound like this?" Martinez asked when he stepped into the Lafayette foyer, and scabbled his fingers against the wall. "Oh, yeah," the homeowner said. "They're in the walls, the attic. They're everywhere."

"Kitchens are the main destination," said Martinez, of All N One Pest Control. He has seen an increase in rats, especially Norway rats, and mice. "Laundry rooms, too. Anywhere there is a pipe leading into the house usually means there is an opening bigger than the pipe. That's what has to be fixed."

The biggest problem homeowners face, according to Bill Snider at Ace Hardware in Moraga, is "they see a rat," he says. "One rat. So they think they have one rat. If you see a rat, it's not a sole rat. It has family. One trap isn't going to do it. People don't want to do what it takes, and check the perimeter of their houses, to find out where they are getting in."

Martinez completely agrees. He is an expert in walking the perimeter. On his visit to the Lafayette house on Quail Run, he started by walking around and under the house. He found several holes where invaders even the size of a raccoon could go in, set up shop, start a family, and install cable TV.

"This place needs a lot of cement work," he said. When he broke the news to the homeowner, the owner nodded knowingly.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$680,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	12	\$500,000	\$2,460,500
ORINDA	17	\$877,500	\$3,750,000

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

- 624 Burton Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1882 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-24-15; Previous Sale: \$437,000, 03-26-98
 3939 Canyon Road, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2696 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-6-15;
 Previous Sale: \$799,000, 02-26-99
 3378 Deer Hill Road, \$755,000, 3 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-30-15
 901 Dewing Avenue, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 3240 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-30-15;
 Previous Sale: \$180,000, 12-21-87
 3719 Highland Court, \$1,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 2835 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$960,000, 02-15-05
 3229 La Canada, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 941 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$845,000, 12-31-07
 637 Laird Lane, \$839,500, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 4-23-15; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 12-14-06
 4011 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2689 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-30-15;
 Previous Sale: \$549,000, 02-07-96
 734 Los Palos Drive, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 2724 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-30-15;
 Previous Sale: \$325,000, 06-27-86
 3187 Lucas Circle, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$384,000, 03-03-99
 7 Olde Creek Place, \$1,175,000, 5 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 5-7-15;
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 03-10-99
 1590 Sharon Circle, \$680,000, 2 Bdrms, 996 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-24-15; Previous Sale: \$200,000, 09-22-04
 360 Shire Oaks Court, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 1545 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-22-15;
 Previous Sale: \$831,000, 06-08-04
 3301 South Lucille Lane, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-4-15
 3336 Springhill Road, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 3064 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-1-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,399,000, 03-28-06
 948 Stow Lane, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 4053 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-7-15; Previous Sale: \$725,000, 03-22-00
 1247 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 4-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,189,500, 08-07-02
 3354 Sweet Drive, \$1,112,500, 3 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-21-15;
 Previous Sale: \$687,000, 05-11-11
 1025 Timothy Lane, \$2,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 3505 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-22-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 08-10-12
 1059 Via Alta, \$1,439,000, 4 Bdrms, 3181 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-5-15; Previous Sale: \$1,090,000, 12-21-06

MORAGA

- 16 Benedita Place, \$839,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-30-15; Previous Sale: \$55,000, 04-30-15
 196 Calle La Montana, \$1,405,000, 4 Bdrms, 2415 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-23-15;
 Previous Sale: \$57,000, 04-12-76
 427 Chalda Way, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1114 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-29-15;
 Previous Sale: \$158,000, 10-29-04
 740 Country Club Drive, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-7-15
 29 Kazar Court, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 2418 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-29-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 06-10-05
 176 Miramonte Drive, \$675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-7-15;
 Previous Sale: \$400,000, 07-06-12
 5 Newberry Place, \$1,655,000, 5 Bdrms, 2795 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-22-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 11-16-04
 12 Quail Crossing, \$2,460,500, 4175 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 4-30-15
 127 Shuey Drive, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3934 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-23-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 07-25-12
 148 Shuey Drive, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 1900 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-7-15;
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 07-14-99
 544 Woodminster Drive, \$575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-6-15;
 Previous Sale: \$480,000, 07-18-12
 49 York Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2372 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-30-15

... continued on page D8

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1036 Sunnybrook Drive, Lafayette



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Rats and Mice and Varmints, Oh My!

... continued from page D1



Mario Martinez of All N One Pest Eliminators looks for rodent entry points at a house in Lafayette, where the owners have been experiencing more mice and rat problems than usual. Photo Chris Lavin

“When we bought this house seven years ago, we had a contractor shore up the concrete foundation,” he said. Martinez nodded. “Well, it didn’t go down far enough,” Martinez said. The answer from the homeowner was: “Obviously.”

With the drought, the problem has gotten only worse. Any trap the homeowner sets in his utility room gets snapped that night, he said.

“We just had to call in the troops,” he said. Recently the homeowner got called out of town on a business trip, and couldn’t check the traps the next morning. That, he said, led to a situation he could not describe for print. It involved larval things.

Now that rodents and other critters are looking for cooler places and more water, more homeowners are turning to pest control companies for help. Yet there are many things a homeowner can do him or herself.

- 1) Get under the sink and refrigerator, if you have an ice machine, and block up the gaps with steel wool between the water and gas pipes where rats and mice can get up into the cabinets.
- 2) Walk the perimeter of your house, checking where the foundation meets the house itself. If there are gaps, pour concrete to fill them or have a contractor do it for you.
- 3) Set traps and check them daily after resolving the perimeter issue until the rodents don’t visit.

When shown a photo of a trapped wood rat in a live-trap cage, Martinez shook his head. “You’re one of those people, eh?” he asked, referring to forced relocation efforts of small mammals that should be allowed to exist, in some people’s opinions. After all, rodents could consider the influx of human habitation into their territory an infestation problem, not the other way around.

“Yeah, I guess it’s all how you look at it,” Martinez said.

Drought Causes Rise in Feral Cat Populations

By Chris Lavin



An unusual spike in abandoned kittens has Pet Food Express volunteers bottle-feeding kittens such as these until they are ready for adoption. Photo provided

Maybe it’s a yin and yang thing, but the drought that is causing more rodents to come into houses has also caused a rise in feral cat populations. That’s according to Mike Murray of Pet Food Express, who is the director of community outreach for all the Bay Area locations of the store.

“People are finding a lot of kittens out there,” Murray said. “Kitten season should be done by now. But kitten season is getting longer and longer. We’re still getting kittens. It’s going to go to the end of August.”

The influx of abandoned kittens brought into stores has increased this year, Murray said. “We don’t know if it’s because people find a kitten and the mother has just gone out to find food, or whether it’s abandoned. But the drought is definitely a factor, one way or another.”

In response, Pet Food Express outlets accept abandoned kittens, but is in need of bottle-feeder volunteers who can accept a kitten that has not been weaned. One former employee came up with a pre-weaned-kitten-bottle-feeder kit, which is a big seller, Murray said. “It gets the kitten to the point where it’s eligible age for adoption. Shelters can’t handle them until they are weaned.” He notes that only a few kits sold in the first weeks they were available, and now the stores have recently been selling hundreds.

“We don’t know if it’s the warm weather or the drought,” Murray said. “We just have a lot of kittens out there.”

To become a home-bottle volunteer visit www.eastbayspca.org/fostering or www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/839/Foster-Program.

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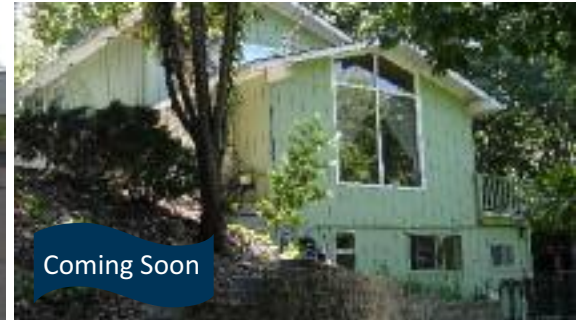


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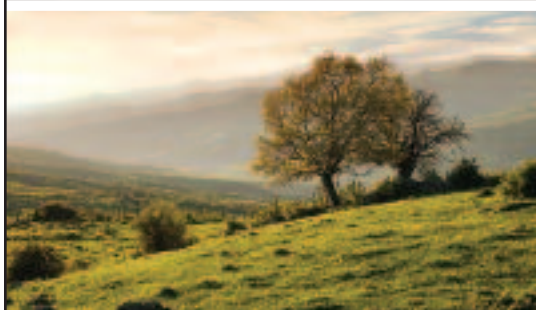
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

ORINDA

116 Ardith Drive, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 2376 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-22-15;

Previous Sale: \$620,000, 12-22-98

64 Bates Boulevard, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2741 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$52,500, 10-02-72

70 Bates Boulevard, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 3431 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 5-5-15

18 Bobolink Road, \$1,910,000, 5 Bdrms, 2804 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-1-15;

Previous Sale: \$60,000, 06-24-71

150 Crestview Drive, \$1,658,000, 5 Bdrms, 3985 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-1-15;

Previous Sale: \$235,000, 06-10-87

588 Dalewood Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 3489 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$685,000, 03-20-92

649 Ironbark Circle, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2335 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 07-12-13

41 Irving Lane, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1706 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-4-15

80 La Encinal, \$1,778,000, 5 Bdrms, 3421 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 4-27-15;

Previous Sale: \$590,000, 11-30-95

15 Linda Vista, \$1,168,000, 5 Bdrms, 1948 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 5-6-15;

Previous Sale: \$620,000, 02-25-00

62 Meadow View Road, \$1,465,000, 3 Bdrms, 2198 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-20-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 01-10-08

653 Miner Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-7-15

169 Overhill Road, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1894 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$630,000, 05-09-00

37 Parkway Court, \$3,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 5768 SqFt, 2009 YrBlt, 4-23-15;

Previous Sale: \$545,000, 06-17-99

3 Risa Court, \$877,500, 3 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-29-15; Previous Sale: \$88,000, 04-17-78

9 Sunrise Hill Road, \$1,495,000, 5 Bdrms, 3865 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-28-15;

Previous Sale: \$1,395,000, 05-06-04

27 Whitehall Drive, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 2537 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-24-15;

Previous Sale: \$998,000, 05-04-10

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Feng Shui

Health and the Tai Chi Area for Balance, Wellness and Longevity

By Michele Duffy



Orange zinnias in this Lafayette home helps Health bloom. Photos provided



Decorative metal cranes are ideal for the Health sector; like in this Orinda home, and remind us of a long healthy life.

When we have good health we truly do have it all. Health and well-being is not just related to physical health but also to mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Finding balance in our lives is healthy and is what is desired by so many, yet it eludes the vast majority of us. Just as we attain balance in one area of our lives, another area goes haywire.

In our homes and businesses, the health sector is found in the middle of our spaces. And it is no wonder, since health *is* central to all other areas of our lives. Without it the other areas certainly suffer. This area of the Feng Shui Bagua (see image on page D12) is unique and unlike other bagua areas in that it is not represented by an *I Ching* trigram, like all the other areas of the bagua, but instead, by what represents balance in feng shui – the yin-yang or tai chi symbolism.

The yin, or white side of the symbol, represents the feminine, moon/nighttime, winter, cold and the unseen. The yang, or dark side of the symbol, represents masculine, sun/daytime, summer and the physical/seen. Balance is all about opposites being present and coexisting together. Every component is an important and necessary part of the cycle, akin to how we cannot appreciate good times without facing life's chal-

lenges.

The second important aspect of the Health area of our homes or businesses is that it is in the center for a reason. All of the other areas are connected to this area, so if the Health/Tai Chi area is strong and activated, then all the areas of your home or your business receive an energetic bump. Conversely, if Health/Tai Chi is compromised or has negative feng shui, then all of the other bagua areas are also drained, stagnant, or otherwise negatively affected. It's a critically significant area energetically, so make sure you are aware of what exists in the center of your space.

Third, the Health/Tai Chi area is governed by the Earth element so items that are crystal, ceramic, clay, stone or cement work here. Feng shui borrows the Five Element Theory from Chinese culture and medicine – water creates wood, wood creates fire, fire creates earth, earth creates metal, metal creates water. Since fire creates earth, fire symbolism also works well in this area. For any one area of the Feng Shui Bagua to achieve true yin-yang balance, all five elements must certainly be present in actual elemental form, or with representative colors or shapes.

... continued on page D12



Multi-colored pieces represent all five elements in tai chi and help achieve yin-yang of the Health sector. Metal art is appropriate indoors or out.

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Sought-After Corliss Drive Neighborhood

773 Crossbrook Drive, Moraga



Offered at \$1,299,000

Situated in one of the most desirable areas in Moraga, you can walk to 12 years of school, the park, and go shopping! This bright, spacious home is over 2,900 square feet, has 5 bedrooms, and 3 baths, there is room for everyone! The lush back yard is furnished with a pool, patio, and lovely landscaping—it embraces the indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Add to all this a 3.5 car garage, and what more could you want?



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It's Not Easy Being Green

By Andi Peterson Brown

Along with family road trips and outings for ice cream, summer is synonymous with home improvement time. If you want to do some value-add projects to your home this summer but tearing up your dated bathrooms sounds way too intense, you might want to consider doing a little bit of “greening” instead. Compared to other house-related projects, greening your home can be much easier, can immediately lead to utility savings, and can still create some long term value. Below are a few ways to easily go green.

- Switch to low flow showerheads and dual-flush toilets.
- Replace lights with CFLs or LEDs.
- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors and install weather stripping where necessary.
- Install solar landscaping lights and motion sensor porch lights.
- If possible, replace some grass square footage with native landscaping/low water plants.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Plant your own vegetable and herb garden.
 - Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- Replace an outdated HVAC system with a newer, more energy efficient model.



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Feng Shui

Health and the Tai Chi Area for Balance, Wellness and Longevity

... continued from page D10

Do be careful to minimize metal, however, as metal drains earth.

One client in Moraga has a bathroom in the Health/Tai Chi area of their home. Everyone in the home had been suffering symptoms of lethargy, low energy and constant colds. Bathrooms all have draining energy, but a bathroom in the center of a home is the worst possible placement. Fortunately, this is a classic example of how feng shui can help adjust for poor placement without major remodeling.

We mirrored the entire outside of the offending bathroom door so, physically, the area disappeared, but also energetically, the area no longer existed as its former draining location. We activated the Earth element that rules this area with several specific longevity symbols such as turtles, lotuses, cranes, deer, and evergreens. We also made other improvements in all of the bedrooms, beginning with the master bedroom, and addressed the clutter in the yard. The household recovered, and shifted into wellbeing.

Remember to fully activate or adjust any area of the Feng Shui Bagua, attention should be paid to that area of the home, master bedroom and yard.

If your home has an untidy garden or is at an energetic dead end, on cul-de-sac, below the road, has an uneven shape or lot, is on a narrow windy street or has a narrow front walkway, a clearing and healing followed by individualized, personalized, and specific feng shui adjustments or “cures” can be beneficial.

So before summer gets into full swing, take a moment to consider your health goals for the year and reflect on your progress – and take a peek at what is happening in the center of your home.

The feng shui energy of your home is connected to a total of nine energetic areas of your life, including your health and the health of your household. Checking in with your space and specifically addressing the Health/Tai Chi area will certainly bring new focus, new energy, and integrated alignment with your goals for health and wellbeing.

Remember, when you have your health you truly have it all!



Red represents fire, and fire creates earth, so this red rug placed in the Health area of a Moraga home generates healthy energy.



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 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"The most beautiful view is the one I share with you." ~ Source unknown

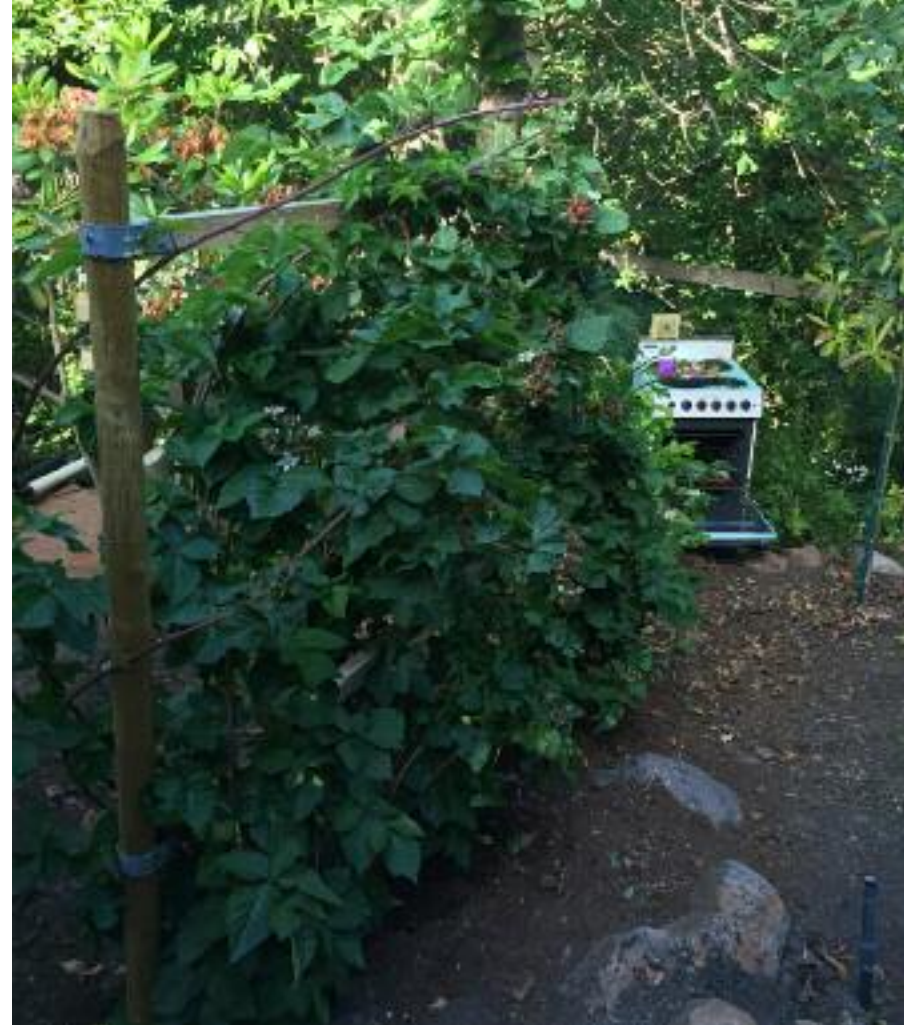


Baskets of geraniums grace an old bicycle.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Two decades ago, a San Francisco family made their way across the Bay Bridge in search of a quiet neighborhood, warm weather, and good schools within easy access of the freeway. At the top of a private drive in Lamorinda, Pam's instinct encouraged her to place a bid on the first house she saw – a stylish Cape Cod backed up to a hill of majestic oaks with plenty of privacy on three-fourths of an acre. When Bob saw the property, though it was overgrown with poison oak, blackberry bushes, and brush, he could visualize the garden of his dreams. Together they envisioned a landscape that would look like it had always existed in nature, albeit with a little help from a professional. The property was cleared of weeds and debris, deer fencing was erected, new topsoil was delivered, and the design was executed.

The family wanted a babbling brook that cascaded into a pond. Forty tons of boulders were trucked in from a Napa quarry and lifted by crane over the house since there was no access to the backyard. The stream springs from the top of the hill property, flowing over river rocks surrounded by ferns, hellebores, trailing gera-



A 1950s stove is a surprise at the end of the berry patch.

niums, grasses, and a plethora of lush specimens until it splashes into the pool where friendly koi gather and a turtle named Flash sleeps beneath the water lilies.

Off the master bedroom, they planted a formal rose garden in the French chateau style, bordered by a clipped boxwood hedge. They kept the original brick patio and outdoor fireplace near the house while creating meandering paths that wind up and down the hill opening unto unexpected garden rooms. Three spectacular Japanese maples and three madrones anchor the design, offering year-round form, structure and color. Drifts of hydrangea, rhododendrons, azaleas, agapanthus, hostas, daisies, carnations and various ground covers fill the background. The gardener in the family, Bob, enjoys experimenting with a variety of specimens. He has created a berry patch with raspberries, blueberries, boysenberries and blackberries. Around another bend, he grows citrus, including a healthy kefir lime plus trees of apple, plum and fig. At the top of the hill, beans, tomatoes, horseradish, herbs, pumpkins, potatoes, asparagus and peppers thrive.

... continued on page D14

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

... continued from page D13



The home-built compost bin

An underground spring augments their watering system. Bob's efficient home-built compost bin resides outside the fence, ready to nourish the garden organically.

I met Pam, a retired flight attendant currently enjoying a second career as an actor, when she worked as an assistant on my TV series, "StarStyle-Live Your Dreams," and I've been privileged since to coach her as on-camera talent. An avid fan of flea markets, Pam taps into her artistic power discovering interesting tossed treasures that she creatively displays throughout the plot. Culminating at the end of the raspberry row, a 1950s oven opens featuring plants in a pan. Around a turn, an old bicycle bears baskets of pink geraniums. Walk up the path a bit further, and a rusted children's pedal car is stranded on a boulder. Rock cairns are piled on an overhang at the pond. Restful seating areas and sweet surprises delight the senses throughout the backyard. My personal favorite is the mystical gravel and river rock topped table set with glasses and a bottle of wine reserved for two. Behind the wire fence with twining vines and ivy, ceramic birds perch on a branch ready to break into song.

A few years ago, Bob decided to plant a vineyard. One hundred and twenty vines of Syrah grow on a side hill above the stacked stone retaining wall. Roses bloom at the end of each row, succulents and pots of cacti climb the stairway. Pam's whimsical contribution to the vineyard includes an antique children's tractor parked between the vines, and a collection of whirly birds to keep the flying birds from devouring the grapes. Sal Captain of Captain Vineyards helps with the management of the crops while Bob does his own bottling and labeling, winning awards in the process.

The gardens and vineyards are beautiful, bountiful and bucolic. It's obvious that Bob and Pam take great pride and joy in their voluptuous, unique garden. With all the stone, wood, water and living greenery, this outdoor oasis claims a natural structure and feeling of security and protection. Although they both love "the city," they are thrilled that they took that drive through the tunnel 20 years ago to discover their own personal nirvana.

Their dream of a secret garden has been realized as they share the view together, toasting Father's Day with a glass of their private label Turtle Crossing wine.



The brook ends with a cascading waterfall into a natural looking pond with koi and Flash, the turtle.

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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders



The Syrah blossoms on the vines.

ROTATE crops. Don't plant vegetables in the same spot as last year.

BUY summer annuals for containers to add color to your patio.

PINCH petunias and dahlias to keep them blooming.

RAISE the blades on lawnmowers to offer more sun protection and moisture retention to your grass.

PROVIDE abodes for toads by placing broken clay pots throughout the garden. By inviting toads into your garden, you'll be getting free insect control.

RESCUE thirsty bees and ladybugs that dive into your swimming pool during the heat. Use a net to capture and release to avoid unnecessary stings.

HELP reverse the decline of pollinating insects, honey bees, native bees, birds, bats and monarch butterflies by joining the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. For information, visit <http://millionpollinatorgardens.org>.

BEWARE of ticks hitchhiking in your hair after hiking or working outside. If you get bit in the neck, call your physician or go to urgent care immediately. I know the dangers from a recent experience!

A salute and thanks to all the Lamorinda dads, especially the ones who garden and dream!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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in Dad's Garden*



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ORINDA



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83 Rheem Blvd. Amazing opportunity! Charming storybook home of 4bd/2ba in 1763sf, sits on a beautiful .98 acre lot backing up to the Lafayette Reservoir Rim Trail. Fab. central location, yet private & peaceful. **\$995,000**

ORINDA



33 Sanborn Road Peaceful contemporary home nestled in the trees. 3bd/2ba + bonus room. 2030 sq ft. Large master suite with views. Open floor plan. Great commute location. **\$1,099,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

212 Crescent Drive Artful midcentury modern, designed by renowned architect David Boone. Airy, open, 3BD/3BA with walls of windows. This home delivers privacy, views & 2 adjoining legal parcels! **\$1,100,000**

ORINDA



31 Crestview Drive Enjoy incredible views from this remodeled & renovated contemp. 5bd/3+ba, 3275sf home on .49ac lot. Hdwd flrs, Marvin windows, large fam rm & master. Drought tolerant gardens. Top schools. **\$1,795,000**

ORINDA



New Price

531 Miner Road Not your typical Orinda rancher! Stunning two story 4+ bedroom, 4.5 bath modern home with walls of glass and high vaulted ceilings. Large .78 acre yard with pool, flat grass & covered patios. **\$2,499,000**

ORINDA



1 Hartford Road North Orinda beauty, built in 2007, this custom 5031 square foot, 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with 3 car garage is situated on a secluded level 1.06 acre lot. **\$2,650,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

25 Rustic Way Impressive property w/top-of-the-hill privacy, fab. views & custom built 6bd/5.5ba home of apx. 8514sf on 8.14 acres. Racquetball ct, pool w/unique waterslide, tennis ct. Mins to top-rated schools. **\$3,695,000**

MORAGA



5 Paseo Linares New Construction...Quality throughout all 4142 sf, 5bd/4.5ba, 'Chef's' Kitchen, 'Great Room' opens to covered Lanai & level yard. Fabulous floor plan for family & entertaining. **\$2,695,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

21 Ruth Court Breathtaking views from private 2/3 acre knoll site at end of quiet cul de sac. Stunning mid century contemporary, beautifully renovated thruout. Great floor plan for multi generational families. **\$1,189,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

20 Iverson Drive Fabulous newer 4bd/3ba classic trad. on prime cul de sac within easy walking distance of shopping & BART. Gorgeous master, Chef's delight kitchen, lovely yard w/expansive lawn & patio. **\$1,489,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3827 Quail Ridge Road Completely remodeled Spanish style home with views of Mt. Diablo. 5bd/3.5ba single story home, Au pair unit, flat yard space, pool. Walking path to Happy Valley Elementary School. **\$2,395,000**

LAFAYETTE



4038 Happy Valley Road Premium Happy Valley loc, 2+ac gated estate. Stylish 3bd + 2 Offices, soaring ceilings, walls of glass, spectacular views from every room. Beautiful updates, Resort pool/spa, great schools. **\$2,495,000**

LAFAYETTE



3921 Happy Vally Road Fabulous gated estate in coveted Happy Valley. Custom home w/beaut. Indscp, pool w/waterfall & patios. Views! Hdwd & marble flrs. Cherry cbnts. Chef's Kit/ FR. Au pair set-up. Walk to HV School. **\$2,595,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Price

1155 Camino Vallecito Happy Valley masterpiece by architect Joseph Esherick. Exquisite sophisticated style, high ceilings, French drs, walls of glass. Priv. 2 ac w/views, guest quarters, beaut. grounds, pool. **\$4,150,000**

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6 Paddock Court Entertainers Delight in Saddle Ridge. 2883 sqft, 5bd/2.5ba, Large Bonus, Mud Room. Gourmet Kitchen w/built-in Dacor Appliances. All Hardwd Flrs on 1st floor. Pool. Move In Ready. **\$995,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

172 Rudgear Drive Amazing priv. setting in desirable South W.C. w/spectacular views of Mt Diablo & Shell Ridge. Open Kit/Fam rm combo, Liv rm with vaulted ceilings, formal dining & Bonus 2nd family room! **\$1,495,000**



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