

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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*November Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian. ...read on Page D12*

## Button up your home for fall

By Cathy Dausman



*Photo Cathy Dausman*

As the enticing tang of fall hits the air, leaves change color and temperatures drop. Even in Lamorinda, where winter temperatures rarely remain below freezing, residents reach for sweaters and scarves. When you button up outside, it's time to button up your home as well.

While we may be saying goodbye to pool time, don't forget about pool care. Cris Pacheco of Pacheco Landscape and Pool Construction says true pool winterizing is done only in areas where the climate changes drastically and temperatures remain below 56 degrees.

That said, he strongly recommends continuous chemical testing (at least every other week) plus surface brushing and filtration work. Homeowners using an older single speed pump can reduce their filter pump run time during winter to about four hours per day, he says, but newer variable speed pumps need to run longer "in order to turn over the water properly through the filters" and to keep the pool water clear. ... continued on Page D4