



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D8

Prepping for a perfect Thanksgiving



Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

Can you believe we are just weeks away from the holidays? This year I am in charge of cooking for Thanksgiving. God help us! But with these great tips I am hoping to pull off a successful and satisfying holiday feast. (But I'm buying some frozen pizzas just in case!)

Decorating a beautiful Thanksgiving table is only part of the equation for a festive gathering. You'll also need to know where you'll seat everyone. Confirm your guest list and finalize your menu. Does anyone have special dietary needs? Do you need to rent or purchase a folding table and chairs for extra seating? Do you need a children's table? Who will you seat at each table? Do you have enough silverware, dinnerware, glasses and linens for everyone? Do you have any items that need cleaning or replacing? Does any silver need to be polished? It's so much easier to figure all of this out ahead of time!

If you're planning to host overnight guests, you'll be so glad if you take the time during these weeks prior to Thanksgiving to give your home a thorough cleaning. If you devote the time and energy to cleaning now, you'll be in a better position to give your home a quick once-over right before the big day. Cleaning out your freezer now will make room for any dishes that you can prepare ahead and freeze. Bonus – you'll already have room in your freezer for after Thanksgiving leftovers!

Many items can be made ahead and frozen – pie crusts, rolls, homemade stock and more. Just think how glad you'll be to only have to pull your already prepared dish from the freezer when you're ready to start cooking.

Things you should do to prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday:

Two weeks before:

- Clean out your freezer to make room for the turkey and any dishes you can prepare ahead of time and freeze.
- Beat the crowds and shop for nonperishable foods now.
- Pick up alcohol and nonalcoholic beverages.
- Plan your table setting and guests seating.
- Decide what serving dishes you will need and have them washed up and ready.
- Shop for dishware (Costco is great for bulk plastic ware, or HomeGoods and even the Dollar store for inexpensive dishes and glassware).
- Purchase frozen piecrust before all that's left are the broken ones (don't ask me how I know this).
- Do any deep cleaning now because the closer it gets to the day the less time and energy you'll have.

... continued on Page D4

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Sale Pending - 285 Camino Pablo, Orinda**Represented Sellers**

124 Fiesta Cir, Orinda
64 Brookwood Rd, Orinda
2480 Carthage Dr, Concord
27 Knickerbocker Ln, Orinda
1349 Camino Pablo, Moraga
12 Jack Tree Knoll, Orinda
6 Southwaite Ct, Orinda
86 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda
1 Culver Ct, Orinda -tenant
3 Lucille Way, Orinda
289 Camino Pablo, Orinda - tenant
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408 Tharp Dr, Moraga
3 Lucille Way, Orinda
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1 Culver Ct, Orinda - tenant
285 Camino Pablo, tenant

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	13	\$724,000	\$4,475,000
MORAGA	9	\$540,000	\$1,700,000
ORINDA	10	\$715,000	\$2,625,000

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

370 Castello Road, \$2,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3364 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 09-26-19,
Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 03-02-16
1057 Dolores Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1931 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-03-19,
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 02-02-11
1442 Huston Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2851 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 11-04-04
3205 Iris Court, \$1,071,500, 4 Bdrms, 1695 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 09-26-19
951 Janet Lane, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 1703 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 05-19-11
3250 Judith Lane, \$1,630,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$768,500, 04-16-03
3467 Monroe Avenue, \$1,508,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1916 YrBlt, 10-04-19
828 Mountain View Drive, \$1,945,000, 3 Bdrms, 2432 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$702,000, 02-22-11
69 My Road, \$4,475,000, 5 Bdrms, 6601 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 09-27-19
2608 Pebble Beach Loop, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$762,000, 06-09-14
1580 Sharon Circle, \$724,000, 4 Bdrms, 1537 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 09-24-19,
Previous Sale: \$745,000, 07-18-19
1206 Vacation Drive, \$1,303,000, 3 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 09-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 06-18-14
1025 Willow Drive, \$1,082,000, 4 Bdrms, 1476 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 09-05-19

MORAGA

1157 Alta Mesa Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$148,000, 06-01-78
1958 Ascot Drive, \$540,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 10-15-05
2129 Ascot Drive #1, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 06-06-17
1349 Camino Pablo, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2443 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 09-26-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 12-07-17
122 Corliss Drive, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 2959 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 09-24-19,
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-28-99
171 Cypress Point Way, \$1,595,000, 3 Bdrms, 2708 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 08-29-08
14 Hammond Place, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 2910 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-04-19
235 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,700,000, 7 Bdrms, 2938 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$530,000, 06-01-91
140 Walford Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2190 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 02-22-00

ORINDA

133 Ardith Drive, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1768 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 09-24-19
29 Camino Del Monte, \$715,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-26-19
3 Honey Hill Court, \$2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3985 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 09-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,905,000, 09-11-00
659 Ironbark Circle, \$1,540,000, 3 Bdrms, 3122 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 10-03-19,
Previous Sale: \$749,000, 07-02-99
3 Mariposa Lane, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 07-22-11
52 Muth Drive, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2759 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 04-05-04
122 Ravenhill Road, \$995,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 09-26-19
42 Tara Road, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 09-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$839,000, 08-13-04
57 Tomcat Way, \$2,406,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 09-27-19,
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
6 Westwood Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 10-04-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,798,000, 06-15-17

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3384 MILDRED LANE, LAFAYETTE \$1,425,000



JANE SMITH 925.998.1914

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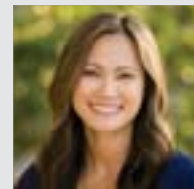
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LET'S GIVE THANKS
WITH A GRATEFUL HEART.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Dudum Real Estate Group

Prepping for a perfect Thanksgiving



Photos provided



... continued from Page D1

One week before:

- Shop for heartier vegetables like potatoes, carrots, butternut squash, etc.
- Wash and iron any linen if you plan to use them.
- Shop for candles or any other tabletop décor.
- If you are having little ones over, think about purchasing some games or fun trinkets from the Dollar store to have at the kid's table to keep them busy before dinner is served.
- Ask for help! Reach out to other guest and assign them a side dish or ask if they would be willing to help with meal prep or clean up after the meal.
- If you are having out of town guests, prepare the guest bedroom with fresh linens, towels, soap, etc.
- Do your normal weekly cleaning- mopping, dusting, vacuuming, etc. now and you'll only need to do a quick once-over the day before the big day.

Three days ahead:

- Clear out space in the refrigerator to defrost the turkey.

- Set the table. I like to have my tables set and my serving dishes out days before the event so that I can focus on my guest the day of.
- Use Post-it notes to place on serving dishes so when you have others helping you the day of you won't be bombarded with questions of "where should I put the potatoes?"

Two days ahead:

- Purchase fresh flowers for centerpieces or for the front entry to welcome guests.
- Make pies or any other dishes that can be kept in the freezer or fridge.
- If you haven't set the table, do it now. You may have to eat in the living room or on portable tray tables, but it is worth it not having to stress the day of.

One day before:

Start to make sides that will reheat well, like casseroles or creamed onions. Prep garnishes, toppings, salad greens and stuffing ingredients. Cook soups and let cool before storing in the refrigerator if you didn't freeze any options in advance. If your stuffing recipe calls for stale bread, cut the bread now and set the cubes on a baking sheet to dry out. You can go ahead and make your pies, especially Ree Drummond's Pecan Pie that needs to cool overnight for a natural do-ahead dessert.

Thanksgiving Day

Our family tradition, after our Thanksgiving meal, is to go around the table and say what we are thankful for in the past year and what we are looking forward to in the year to come. It's a great way to end the meal in an inspirational way and the kiddos love being a part of it as well.

Take 10 minutes before guests arrive to meditate or think of all the things you are grateful for. Yes, the holidays for many can be stressful: Aunt Bertha who always complains about the meal or Cousin George who just can't seem to keep quiet about politics, or the moody teenager who sits crossed-armed at the table glaring at everyone; at the end of the day they are all still family and we are grateful they are here on this earth with us.

I hope these tips help you stay on top of your holiday gathering. And from our family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.





2 Roxanne Lane, Lafayette

5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,615 Sq Ft | \$1,875,000
 2RoxanneLane.com

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7 Lloyd Lane, Orinda

4 bed | 3 bath | 3,222 Sq Ft | \$1,830,000
 7LloydLane.com

Impeccably maintained 4 bed 3 bath close to downtown Orinda. High ceilings and crown molding throughout set the tone for this elegant home featuring hardwood floors in the main living areas, 2 fireplaces and a formal dining room with butler's pantry. Tranquil backyard with waterfall, flagstone patio, covered porch and flat lawn. Granite countertops, island with a wine refrigerator, large pantry and skylight in kitchen. Heated Italian marble floors in master bathroom. Conveniently located close to downtown Orinda, freeway and BART.



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147 Donald Drive, Moraga - \$1,595,000
SELLER REP

PENDING



15 LaSalle Drive, Moraga - \$995,000
SELLER REP

PENDING



105 Devin Drive, Moraga - \$1,195,000
SELLER REP

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

A time to plant ... a time to reap



Photos Cynthia Brian

Leaves on this maple are modeling their autumn wardrobe.

By Cynthia Brian

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

With the power disruptions and fire fears of October in our rearview mirrors, we welcome November with open arms and grateful hearts. It won't be long before the rains arrive. Driving or walking throughout the region, we witness a marvelous display of fall foliage as leaves on many deciduous trees turn from green to saffron to tangerine to crimson before dropping to the ground.

Time to fertilize heavily. In autumn, plants quit sending minerals and water to leaves and blooms. The nutrients are instead directed to increase the roots while storing food for the winter months. We witness the foliage color change to our great delight

When you fertilize at this time of year, you'll be feeding your trees, shrubs, plants and lawns. This dormant feeding is crucial for the success of your garden for the following seasons. The roots are busy storing nourishment even though the above-ground growth has halted. It's best to do this heavy feeding after the first rain to assist the fertilizer to go deeper into the ground. ... continued on next Page



Fibrous wax leaf begonias are still blooming. When flowers fade, cut back, but don't remove.

... continued from Page D8

The soil is still warm and will soak up the fertilizer.

Time to feed lawns. Lawns especially need fertilizing now. The blade growth has slowed, a signal that roots are digging deeper. Gradually start mowing your lawn shorter and fertilize heavily to prepare the grass for the long cold months ahead. There is still time to aerate if your clay soil is compacted. After the first rain is a good time to reseed grass or install new sod. Make a personal batch of grass patch by mixing a bag of potting soil in a wheelbarrow with enough lawn seed until you see 20 or more seeds per handful. Scratch or till any bare patches, scatter the seed over the fresh soil, rake lightly, water, and wait for the seedlings to sprout. Keep the area damp until grass is established. Do not let it dry out.

Time to prune dead branches and rake leaves. No plant or tree is fireproof.

Dead branches, dry leaves, and grasses are highly flammable. Reduce fuel laddering by pruning trees 6-10 feet from the ground and several feet from roofs. A person should be able to walk under a tree without being hit by a branch. Clean out your gutters, eaves, porches and decks.

... continued on Page D10



Brazilian feijoa pineapple guavas are self-harvesting. Scoop out the center to eat.

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November



Fall leaves falling on pansies.



A colorful array of succulents adds drought and fire resistance to a garden.

... continued from Page D9

Time to watch for rodents and skunks. It's mating season for rodents and skunks. The recent fires have impacted wildlife movement allowing animals to migrate closer to residential development, including a plethora of rats. Vector Control Inspector Joe Cleope alerted me about the new procedures and protocols instigated in the district. Many people don't know that Vector Control is a free service. If you have a question or concern, please visit the website for assistance. <https://www.contracostamosquito.com>.

Time to plant garlic. Vampires may not like garlic, but foodies do! Planting just a dozen cloves will yield you a harvest of more than 120 cloves. A bulb has several cloves to break apart before planting in a sunny location in rich, well-drained soil. Put the pointy side up and the flat side down, cover the cloves with a layer of mulch, and they will multiply forming a new bulb. Harvesting will be late summer when the tops have yellowed. You can then tie or braid the stalks or cut the leaves above the bulb. Always save a large bulb for the next year of planting.

Time to harvest and eat pineapple guavas. Called feijoa, the fruit is self-harvesting. It falls from the tree when ripe, however, you can also pick the fruit. When cut, a fully ripened feijoa will have clear-colored jellied sections. If not ripe, put in a brown paper bag for

a few days with an apple. Scoop out the sweet/tart jelly and eat raw or make jams, sauces, glazes, or add to salads. The perfume from the fruit is as delicious as the fruit!

Time to cut hydrangea blossoms. If you enjoy drying the flowers of hydrangeas, November is a perfect month to do so. If not, once the flowers fade, cut back the stems to encourage new growth.

Time to plant succulents. Succulents are drought and fire-resistant. Many boast beautiful flowers, unique shapes, and striped striations. Planting a selection in one designated area presents a bigger impact of form, texture and color.

Time to pick grapes. The crops of grapes have come to season's end. If you still have bunches hanging on the vine, take the opportunity to cut them to refrigerate or dehydrate. Use the red-hued leaves in your autumn decorations and place settings.

Time to give thanks. We all have so much for which to be grateful. As Thanksgiving nears, take time to express your appreciation for the blessings and gifts you have received. Remember the people in your life that have been there for you on all occasions ... the good, the bad, and the ugly.

To everything there is a season and now is the time to turn, turn, turn.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Dainty pink lace cap hydrangeas make excellent dried arrangements.



Cynthia Brian takes a respite at the beach.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, 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. Buy a copy of her books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.StarStyleStore.net. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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ORINDA



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\$1,795,000

ORINDA



11 Crestview Court

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ORINDA



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ORINDA



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ORINDA



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LAFAYETTE



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MORAGA



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WALNUT CREEK



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WALNUT CREEK



New Listing!

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