Lamorinda

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 14

Issue 15 Wednesday, September 16, 2020



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Squeaky clean hacks for the home



Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

Since we have all been spending more time indoors this year, I decided to do some research on some fun and interesting cleaning hacks. Having everyone at home 24-7 has definitely led to a messier house. I am excited to try out some of these tips this weekend. Maybe I can convince the kiddos to join in?

Use dryer sheets to clean your pans

Who knew dryer sheets could also clean your pots and pans? Stubborn baked on food can easily be removed by placing the pan in

the sink with warm water, soap and a dyer sheet. Let it sit for an hour or so and then rinse off with clean water.

Scrub your cast iron skillet with a potato Add some coarse salt into the pan and then use a potato cut in half to scrub off the grime. Rinse with warm water and dry immediately.

Detox garbage disposal with lemons and limes

I have been using this trick for years and it works. Toss in a few cut up lemons or limes and turn on the disposal.

Use a squeegee to remove hairs from carpet

This is a great tip if you have pets or even humans who shed (my husband hates it because he's always finding my long hairs all around the house). Use the squeegee to rake the carpet before vacuuming, this will help keep your vacuum from getting clogged up.

Clean your blender

We like to make smoothies every morning and sometimes (OK, many times) I forget to clean it out right away only to have to spend the evening scrubbing it out. Get into the habit of immediately adding warm soapy water to your blender and turn it on for a bit to clean it out. If you have stubborn stains use warm water and baking soda.

Use vodka to get rid of mildew

Who knew that the bottle of vodka in your freezer was not just for guarantine stress relief? If you've got mildew in your bathroom this will get it out in no time. Use a mix of 50-50 water and vodka in a spray bottle. Spray the area and let it sit for 10-20 minutes then rinse with warm water.

Use a paper towel tube on the vacuum cleaner

If you have hard areas to reach with a vacuum (i.e. the rails of your slider doors, window sills, etc.) Take an empty paper towel tube and attach it the end of the vacuum hose, pinch it to the size you need and get into all those nooks and crannies.

... continued on Page D4

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OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020 Page: D2

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	21	\$905,000	\$4,820,000
MORAGA	22	\$390,000	\$2,210,000
ORINDA	19	\$970,000	\$4,125,000

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

611 Burton Drive, \$2,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 3362 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 08-04-20 4026 Canyon Road, \$4,239,000, 5 Bdrms, 5602 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-27-10

21 Carolyn Court, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1080 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-07-20 370 Castello Road, \$2,580,000, 5 Bdrms, 3364 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-28-20, Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 09-12-19

330 Denise Lane, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2422 SgFt, 2000 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 06-25-15

3526 Eagle Point Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2866 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-07-20 1182 Glen Road, \$3,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 3676 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 07-27-15

696 Glenside Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 11-24-08

3368 Kim Road, \$3,577,000, 5 Bdrms, 4581 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 08-04-20 42 Knox Drive, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2082 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$1,005,000, 07-11-14

3619 Lincoln Way, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1780 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-07-20, Previous Sale: \$1,132,000, 10-26-15

3193 Lucas Circle, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-27-20, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 06-10-15

512 Mcbride Drive, \$1,660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-03-20 1521 Rancho View Drive, \$1,802,000, 3 Bdrms, 3613 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-28-20, Previous Sale: \$765,000, 07-01-90

1634 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,990,000, 4 Bdrms, 2770 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 12-26-12

3168 Rohrer Drive, \$1,138,000, 4 Bdrms, 1752 SgFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-05-20, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-21-14

1231 Rose Lane, \$4,820,000, 4 Bdrms, 4617 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 08-06-20, Previous Sale: \$3,190,000, 08-05-15

204 Seclusion Valley Way, \$2,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 3369 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-07-20, Previous Sale: \$3,400,000, 08-16-16

1141 Silverhill Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3292 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-31-20 91 Silverwood Drive, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2157 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-04-20, Previous Sale: \$1,500,500, 03-27-20

1162 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 2588 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$885,000, 07-30-04 ... continued on Page D8





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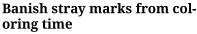
Squeaky clean hacks for the home

... continued from Page D1



Stainless and Chrome faucets/sinks

This tip I learned years ago while working in a veterinarian office. Wipe down the stainless or chrome faucet with rubbing alcohol, then add a little mineral oil to a soft cloth to buff out fingerprints and make them shine.



Toothpaste will erase marker stains from wood. Use a soft cloth and a dab of toothpaste to rub out marker stains. This will not work if it's permanent marker (ask me how I know), but Magic Eraser to the rescue for permanent marks – just be careful on real wood pieces, you may want to test an area before trying this.

Smells like home

Now that you've cleaned everything it's time for some yummy welcoming smells. Yes, lighting a candle is easy, but due to our poor air quality we've had lately that is the last thing I want to do. So, a good stove top simmer to the rescue. Toss in some sliced lemons or oranges to a pot of water and add some cinnamon sticks or cloves, place them on low heat for an hour or two. Make sure to keep an eye on it so the water doesn't evaporate and leave you with burning lemons. But hey, if it does happen, you'll know to use dyer sheets to get it

I hope these tips inspired you to do a little deep clean in your home this weekend. Stay safe everyone and until next time!



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.

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Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA

Page: D8

116 Alta Mesa Court, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 08-04-20, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 03-04-19

123 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$787,000, 11-26-08

1176 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,290,000, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,240,000, 04-11-18

2079 Ascot Drive #136, \$390,000, 1 Bdrms, 785 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$175,500, 09-11-08 2083 Ascot Drive #231, \$620,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 08-03-20

883 Augusta Drive, \$907,500, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 07-28-20, Previous Sale: \$637,500, 09-11-14

891 Augusta Drive, \$963,000, 2 Bdrms, 2333 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-26-19

617 Augusta Drive, \$1,075,000, 2 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-19-16

16 Brandt Drive, \$2,210,000, 5 Bdrms, 3344 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-27-20, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 05-08-00

1862 Camino Pablo, \$1,126,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-28-20

2 Doral Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 07-28-20

459 Fernwood Drive, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2579 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$826,000, 05-12-99

200 Fronteras Drive, \$1,910,000, 4 Bdrms, 3318 SgFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-06-20

216 Fronteras Drive, \$2,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 3318 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-07-20

110 La Quinta Street, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 08-06-20, Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 08-04-14

651 Moraga Road #34, \$510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$417,000, 03-21-16

3844 Paseo Grande, \$1,755,000, 5 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-30-20

1544 Saint Marys Road, \$1,109,000, 4 Bdrms, 2000 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 07-28-20, Previous Sale: \$111,000, 02-01-78

265 Sandringham Drive, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 2696 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 08-06-20, Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 02-16-16

226 Sonora Road, \$2,180,000, 5 Bdrms, 4714 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-07-20

3780 Via Granada, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 1948 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 08-07-20

127 Warfield Drive, \$1,870,000, 4 Bdrms, 2155 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,268,000, 06-29-06

ORINDA

217 Alice Lane, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-27-20

14 Berkeley Avenue, \$980,000, 2 Bdrms, 1360 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-30-20, Previous Sale: \$599,000, 11-30-10

15 Camino Del Diablo, \$2,272,500, 6 Bdrms, 3894 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 08-07-20, Previous Sale: \$1,897,000, 07-25-08

258 Camino Sobrante, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4952 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$2,312,500, 10-20-05

57 Charles Hill Road, \$4,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 4621 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-29-20, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 11-15-17

59 Citron Knolls, \$1,349,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 07-27-20

42 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1489 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-31-20, Previous Sale: \$580,000, 08-14-00

133 Donna Maria Way, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-04-20, Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 08-02-05

28 Honey Hill Road, \$1,731,000, 3 Bdrms, 2845 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-29-20

45 Ivy Drive, \$970,000, 3 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 07-31-20

215 La Espiral, \$2,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 08-05-20, Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 02-09-18

9 La Fond Lane, \$1,760,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 08-03-20, Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 06-25-15

215 Moraga Way, \$1,366,500, 3 Bdrms, 1947 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 07-30-20, Previous Sale: \$765,000, 11-06-09

29 Overhill Road, \$1,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2798 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-31-20

9 Sager Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2026 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-07-20

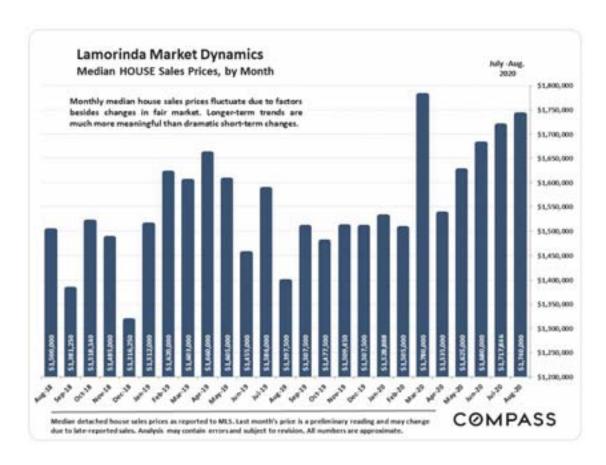
15 Saint Stephens Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2780 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 07-30-20

127 Scenic Drive, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-06-20

236 Sundown Terrace, \$2,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3757 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 07-31-20

619 Watchwood Road, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 2014 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 08-04-20

Lowest Levels of Inventory below \$1.7M in Lamorinda & Highest Levels of Demand



The market in Lamorinda is on fire! Lamorinda had record breaking sales in August.

As of the date of this press, there is currently one week of active inventory in Lamorinda under \$1.7M. Four weeks of inventory is a very strong seller's market.

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LISTINGS FROM THE OLSEN TEAM

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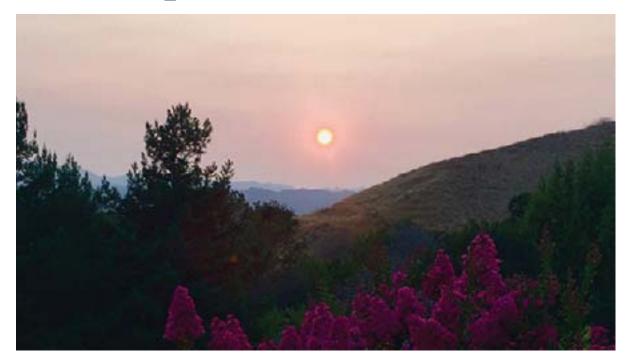
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall in a pot!



A view through the crape myrtles to the smoke-shaded sun.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"Truth comes out in wine." ~ Pliny the Elder "The people who give you their food give you their heart." ~ Cesar Chavez

The fires and smoke have ravaged farms and vineyards throughout Northern California, including my family vineyards in Napa County. The grapes are plump, juicy and ripe. Harvesting would normally be in full swing this month, but, sadly, with so much smoke suffocating fields throughout the region, wineries require red grape samples to be tested for smoke taint.

Smoke taint is concentrated in the skins and during fermentation glycosides break down, releasing the volatile phenols and smoky flavors into the wine. The result tastes like licking an ashtray. The damage is not detectable by looking at or eating a grape. It is only noticeable in the wine. Since white wine isn't barrel-aged nor use skins, white wine doesn't experience this smoke taint.

The largest testing laboratory, ETS in St. Helena, is swamped with results backlogged for weeks or, as some growers are finding out, over a month away. If a grower or winery is not a client, they won't be able to process samples until November. By then the window for harvesting will be over. The grapes will be dried raisins, not suitable for pressing.

What this means for viticulture in 2020 is that farmers may lose their entire crop and face increased financial hardships as the grapes hang on the vines. There may not be a 2020 red wine vintage as wineries are not allowing deliveries of grapes under contract until the lab results have confirmed an absence of smoke taint. Truth is always evident in the wine.

With the stifling smoke of the past weeks, my normal September gardening tasks have been placed on pause. I am sheltering indoors and suggesting to clients and readers to do the same to maintain health as smoke inhalation peril is increased during COVID-19. But this doesn't mean that I'm avoiding my garden. I've been asked to write another gardening book and am brainstorming in my library. And, I'm bringing the fruits of my labors inside to my kitchen while I chef it up.

"Oh, I can smell the sauce from here," my charity collaborator and friend, Terry in Washington, emailed me when I wrote her that, to mask the smell of smoke, I was making my family's traditional homemade spaghetti sauce with ingredients from my waning garden. My process reminded her of being in her Italian great-grandmother's kitchen.

With the intense sunshine and heat of the summer, tomatoes, onions, garlic, peppers and herbs are filled with flavor. Being Italian, neither my Nonie, mom, nor relatives measured anything. A recipe was handed down throughout the generations by watching, doing, and adding "a little of this, a pinch of that," lots of garlic, and several splashes of wine. We have always cooked by taste, adding spices as needed. Naturally, numerous "malfatti's" or mistakes occurred, which oftentimes, were our greatest successes.

The best cooks that I've ever encountered have also been avid gardeners. Gardeners experience nature using their senses. Gardeners amble through a potager snipping, smelling, nibbling, feeling, and seeing with a profound sensitivity to the innate characteristics of each legume, bloom, or crop.

... continued on next Page



A vintage box filled with various basils and herbs makes for easy picking.



Black mission figs are a perfect dessert,

... continued from Page D12

Being an astute chef requires one to know how to mix and match fruits, flowers, vegetables, and herbs to enhance any dish, allowing the natural essences to imbue their zests and aromas. Food must look good, smell good, taste good, and be ultimately satisfying, making one feel good.

Autumn is harvest time. Besides eating our tasty produce now, it is also the perfect opportunity to can or freeze fresh crops to savor during the winter months.

What herbs can you dry or freeze:

Basil

Bay

Oregano

Sage

Rosemary

Dill

Thyme

Parsley

I prefer to freeze basil and parsley or make "sauce ice cubes" with those. The rest of the herbs, I dry, then store in labeled jars.

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Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Cynthia's Italian Family Spaghetti Sauce "Recipe"

- In a pestle and mortar grind together oregano, sage, rosemary, and thyme. You can also use a blender if that is easier for you.
- Chop red and yellow onions and several cloves of garlic.
- Saute onions and garlic in olive oil until translucent.
- Stir in chopped mushrooms.
- Add 3 or 4 whole bay leaves and a handful of the mashed herbs.
- Gently brown meat (ground beef, lamb, pork, chicken) in the mixture. If you want a vegetarian sauce, skip this part.
- Cut 6-10 tomatoes into small pieces. Smash half of the tomatoes. Add cut pieces and the tomato paste to the meat mixture.
- Pour in red wine.
- Tear 4 or 5 basil leaves into pieces and stir into pot.
- Continue adding more wine as necessary.
- Simmer at lowest heat for several hours until all the flavors have melded together. Turn off the burner to let sit.
- Sprinkle sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste.



Using a mortar and pestle to make Cynthia's heritage spaghetti sauce handed down for generations.

Optional ingredients include peppers or eggplant. To make a Puttanesca, add olives and capers.

The final sauce will be thick, rich and delicious. Don't be afraid to make this in advance as flavors are more delectable the next day. Freeze or can any extra sauce. (I always make a big pot and freeze tubs for later consumption.)

Pour over spaghetti, ravioli, lasagna, or any pasta. Toss lightly to blend the sauce. Top with chopped parsley, torn basil leaves, and grated parmesan. Serve with crusty sourdough, a romaine lettuce salad, and a glass of sustainable, locally grown, aged, and bottled Captain Vineyards Petite Sirah. Finish off your meal with fall fruits: a bunch of grapes, tangy tangerine segments, crunchy Asian pears, and a few figs. Buon appetito.

What are you harvesting in your garden right now? Do you have a family "Fall in a Pot" recipe to share with others?

My mom taught me that expressing love came from gardens and homemade food. My dad taught me that farmers feed the hungry and wine is the nectar of the gods. Both gave their hearts. During these very challenging times as we pray that our California vineyards survive this ordeal, let's toast to life with a glass of local vino and welcome fall with a pot of goodness from our gardens.

In my next column, I plan to be outside once again offering you guidance for autumn gardening. Until then, limit your outdoor exposure when it's smoky and make sure to water your landscape deeply in the early mornings or late evenings. Be aware that your containers may need a daily dose of H2O. For the next two to three months until the rain begins to fall, our area is at imminent risk of fire danger. Be ready to evacuate. Read my article on what you need to know and do to be prepared. https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1414/Are-you-ready-to-evacuate.html For a Zoom presentation of, "Tips, Tricks, and Tonics in the Garden" join me on Thursday, Sept. 17, as I kick off the 50th Anniversary of the Moraga Garden Club. For information on this Zoom meeting, call Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for times to join in the conversation and presentation. I'll be participating from my patio for a light, fun, informative, and hopefully smoke-free lecture. Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Cynthia Brian in her library contemplating a new gardening book.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for

hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia 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 c, celebrating 21 years of service to the community. www.BetheSTARYouAre.org. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com.
Buy copies of her best-selling books and receive extra freebies, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.
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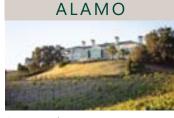
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