

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Life-size Poetry

Animal sculptures in the garden

By Sophie Braccini



More photos on page OH6



"Rusty Chevalier," in the yard of Tom and Bobbie Preston, is dressed up for Halloween

Photos Doug Kohler

Larch Avenue in Moraga is bordered by a collection of quiet suburban homes with mostly standard architecture and appearance; until you reach number 1307. The nicely remodeled home offers a large front yard in which a metallic horse stands, calm and majestic, in the place of honor. Those who stop and take the time to look will notice other front yard sculptures; New Zealand sheep and their dog enjoy the long creeping grass fescue meadow; a large cement 'guard turtle' stands by the front door. These are only a few of the objects that homeowners Tom and Bobbie Preston have collected around the world to adorn both their front and back yards.

You embark on another adventure when you step in to the Prestons' back yard. Anywhere else it might seem a bit strange to see, scattered in a garden, an old bike, gazing balls, bells, blue bottles, all sorts of frogs and bird houses, sacred objects such as a Buddha, and an

old radiator. The Prestons' unlikely garden, with its hundreds of plants, nooks and crannies is a small world awaiting discovery – and bursting with creativity, charm and humor.

Surrealist poet Yves Bonnefoy defined the poetic experience as a spiritual exercise which, instead of fleeing to the chimera, would offer itself as an introduction to the reality. The Prestons' garden seems to have achieved this poetic balance between materialism and a desire for transcendence.

The Prestons' found the horse in Half Moon Bay. The modern metal structure is a lightly stylized life-size animal. Its rusted color blends very nicely below the large tree that stands in the front yard. "We didn't want to put it in the front yard at first, because we were concerned about the neighbors' reactions," remembers Bobbie Preston, "in fact they love it.

... continued on page OH4

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314 OVERHILL ROAD, ORINDA



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	Lowest Amount	Highest Amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$527,500	\$2,100,000
MORAGA	9	\$230,000	\$1,265,000
ORINDA	10	\$500,000	\$1,900,000

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

- 3191 Acalanes Avenue, \$645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1364 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 9-23-10
- 3196 Diablo View Road, \$527,500, 3 Bdrms, 1958 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-23-10
- 1 Green Acres Court, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3162 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-30-10
- 3345 Hermosa Way, \$850,000, 6 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$487,500, 07-03-01
- 632 Los Palos Drive, \$790,000, 5 Bdrms, 2313 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-27-10
- 1036 Oak Knoll Road, \$700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1923 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-24-10;
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 03-29-05
- 1609 Silver Dell Road, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3831 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-29-10;
Previous Sale: \$865,000, 08-14-98
- 3440 Solana Court, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2246 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-30-10
- 1036 Sunnybrook Drive, \$640,500, 1 Bdrms, 1679 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-17-10
- 2 Valley High, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4829 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-28-10;
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 06-25-96

MORAGA

- 2051 Ascot Drive #105, \$290,000, 2 Bdrms, 1186 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-17-10;
Previous Sale: \$158,000, 05-26-99
- 128 Miramonte Drive, \$457,500, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-20-10
- 2121 Donald Drive #15, \$230,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-27-10;
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 08-02-05
- 131 Eileen Court, \$812,000, 5 Bdrms, 2605 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-22-10;
Previous Sale: \$836,500, 07-17-02
- 83 Marie Place, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2414 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-21-10;
Previous Sale: \$849,000, 06-12-03
- 26 Miramonte Drive, \$360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-24-10;
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 06-16-06
- 94 Miramonte Drive, \$421,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-24-10
- 51 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 9-21-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 07-09-04
- 121 Via Joaquin, \$570,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-17-10;
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 07-31-03

ORINDA

- 11 Albo Court, \$1,025,000, 6 Bdrms, 3185 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-30-10;
Previous Sale: \$556,000, 01-06-00
- 81 Coral Drive, \$1,225,000, 6 Bdrms, 2801 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-21-10
- 2 Debra Court, \$690,000, 3 Bdrms, 1530 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-30-10;
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 12-15-04
- 425 El Toyonal, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 3536 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-30-10;
Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 12-15-04
- 78 Linda Vista, \$960,000, 4 Bdrms, 3353 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-17-10;
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 08-27-96
- La Cuesta Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 4739 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 9-24-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 03-08-10
- 26 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$805,000, 3 Bdrms, 2668 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 9-30-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,169,000, 03-16-07
- 19 Muth Drive, \$500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1922 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-28-10
- 33 Orchard Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-22-10;
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 06-30-99
- 40 Orchard Road, \$1,200,000, 6 Bdrms, 3312 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 9-22-10;
Previous Sale: \$1,007,000, 09-20-02

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

810 Acalanes Road, 94549, CitiMortgage, 10-01-10, \$1,540,000, 5271 sf, 5 bd

ORINDA

128 Diablo View Drive, 94563, Bank of America, 09-30-10, \$1,035,520, 4579 sf, 4 bd

12 Hall Drive, 94563, Bank of America, 09-13-10, \$1,081,811, 1910 sf, 3 bd

44 Heather Lane, 94563, Bayview Loan Servicing, 09-22-10, \$775,000, 2440 sf, 3 bd



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JUST LISTED!

314 Warwick Drive, Walnut Creek

4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths 2,032 Sq. Ft. .23 Acre



Offered at \$739,000

An absolutely wonderful home in a fabulous location in the heart of Scottsdale, one of Walnut Creek's most sought after neighborhoods with sidewalks and close proximity to many favorite local destinations and recreation areas. With many recent updates, this home is well appointed and has the perfect floor plan for comfortable California living. It has a view of majestic Mt Diablo from the front and a great sized yard with lawn and lovely gardens.

PRICE JUST REDUCED!

**3819 Palo Alto Drive, Lafayette
 \$1,675,000!**

**4 Sycamore Road, Orinda
 \$4,250,000**

**3407 Shangri La Road, Lafayette
 \$1,650,000**

**3724 St. Francis Drive, Lafayette
 \$1,675,000**

**1176 Glen Road, Lafayette
 \$1,295,000**

MARVELOUS HAPPY VALLEY LIVING...



3919 South Peardale Drive, Lafayette

Fabulous single story updated home, filled with an abundance of natural light. Some features include 6 bedrooms 4 baths, lovely hardwood floors, and vaulted ceilings. Gracious access to the level yard and patios provide wonderful indoor/outdoor living and entertaining.

One of Lafayette's most desirable neighborhoods, plus top rated schools!

Offered at \$1,335,000

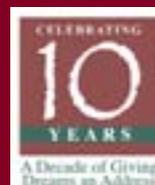
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Life-size Poetry

... continued from page OH1



An iron bison in the Pease's yard surveys the horizon

Photo Ohlen Alexander



Hidden treasures: Beaded birds and a ceramic salamander hanging out in the garden



Photo Doug Kohen



A giraffe in front of the Pease home nibbles on the trees

Photo Ohlen Alexander

All of the neighborhood kids come by, our grandkids have had their pictures taken on it and we always dress it up for Halloween and Christmas."

In the meantime, other statues found in Half Moon Bay are on display down the road in Orinda, where three phlegmatic buffalo graze on a ridge line. "They remind us of the ones we used to have on the property years ago," says homeowner Janet Pease, whose live buffalos have been replaced with llamas that serve the same purpose – controlling the grass on the 10-acre property. From the home, the expansive view embraces the buffalos, the llamas and 3 metallic giraffes that appear to be grazing as well. At first view it's hard to tell what's alive and what's not!

The Peases have set another giraffe and additional llamas along their street for the pleasure of passers-by. "We were in Africa on a safari when I got my first appreciation for giraffes," said Pease, adding that she was attracted to their unusual personalities and resilience.

Giraffes are important in the lives of the Prestons as well. Preston started expanding her collection of animal statues a few years back, on a Valentine's Day, with a giraffe. "My

husband told me, 'you can have whatever you want at Keenan/Heinz Company,'" she remembers, "he didn't expect me to pick a life-size giraffe!" Now the statue has found its place in the midst of birdhouses from Texas, horse hoof covers from Cambodia, a Vietnamese Buddha, a little lady from Vancouver, Mexican park benches and beaded birds from South Africa.

see more photos on page OH 6

Cycle Recycle

Did you recognize the names Tom and Bobbie Preston? If so, their annual "Cycle Recycle" might have come to mind. "Each fall, during the 'Big Garbage' collection in Moraga, Tom and I hold the 'Cycle Recycle,' gathering repairable bicycles from all over the area," said Preston, "These bikes, which would have otherwise ended up in the garbage, are repaired by the inmates at Marsh Creek Detention Facility and at Christmas are given to needy kids by local charities. To date we have collected over 1400 bikes." This fall the Prestons will collect used bikes for Trips for Kids/Recyclery in Marin County and Bike Education Training and Repair in Richmond. They will accept used bikes during the entire month of November (just leave them on the driveway 1307 Larch Ave. in Moraga); they do not give receipts. Email questions to tpreston2004@comcast.net.

Mortgage rates are at historical lows Best time to buy or refinance a home or investment property



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PENDING!
1295 Rimer Drive, Moraga
4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2140± Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$799,000



SOLD!
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Life-size Poetry

... continued from page OH4



An iron rooster and a New Zealand sheep seem at home in the Preston's garden



Photos Doug Kohen

2600 RIDGEWOOD ROAD, ALAMO



OFFERED AT \$1,510,000

New Listing! Located on an extraordinary 5.17± acre site of expansive lawns and views. Home features 4 Bedrooms and 2.5 Baths in 2,755± square feet of living area with formal living and dining rooms, family room and beautifully updated kitchen. The 6-car garage has an upstairs loft recreation room/living space with opportunity to add a bathroom.

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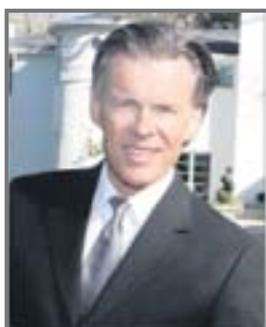


Grand scale living comes alive in this comfortable yet sophisticated family home in one of Orinda's finest neighborhoods. The private, gated approach and expansive lawns provide an immediate sense of quiet and relaxation upon arrival. The extraordinary 1.32-acre setting boasts rolling hills, lush gardens and a sun-splashed pool.

The Main House and unique Guest House combine to provide over 5500 square feet of flexible and usable living space. The wonderful family living floor plan of the Main House is highlighted by an oversized master suite, a formal foyer, an executive office and well-appointed gourmet kitchen with spacious attached family room. Fine custom craftsmanship throughout is of the highest standards and materials. Of special interest is the recently-remodeled Guest House, which is configured with one bedroom, one full bathroom and a full kitchen.

This special, one-of-a-kind home provides a wonderful family-living floor plan for memorable entertaining and resort-style living both inside and out. **15 Van Tassel Lane, Orinda.**

\$2,499,000



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ORINDA



182 Ravenhill Road

Beautiful & elegant 3 bd Orindawoods home. Remod to the studs by designer. Sgl lvl living w/master & living spaces on entry level. Garage enters into foyer. Fab location.

Offered at \$979,000

ORINDA



New Listing

25 Ramona Drive

Charming 3bd/2ba ranch home in desirable area remodeled with utmost care. Kitchen/fam rm combo. Wonderful bckyd w/outstanding view. Walk to schools.

Offered at \$995,000

ORINDA



New Price

5 Kenmore Court

This house works for you! Solar panels & in-law unit w/full kitchen allows you to put money back in your pocket. 1.19 beautiful acre lot, 2500 sf, 4bd/3 full baths.

Offered at \$1,039,000

ORINDA



New Listing

29 Knickerbocker

Traditional hm with a 2880 sf functional flr plan. Updated granite kitchen w/adj living room that opens to level yard & pool. Spectacular views and privacy. Great value.

Offered at \$1,050,000

ORINDA



41 Vista Del Mar

3500 sf custom 4 bd/3ba w/attached in-law on mostly level .58 acre in top area w/privacy, grassy lawns & total convenience. Warmly styled, architect designed.

Offered at \$1,279,000

ORINDA



New Price

179 Crestview Drive

Incredible estate hm on 20 ac pvt knoll. Beaut custom blt w/Fu Tung Chen designed kitchen, pvt mstr suite, fab in-law apt. 360 degree views, ideal for vineyard.

Offered at \$2,250,000

MORAGA



1746 St. Andrews Drive

Beautifully remodeled level 3bd/2ba townhome with high ceilings, frplc, attached garage & EZ indoor/outdoor living. Pvt yd includes waterfall, patio & lawn.

Offered at \$699,000

MORAGA



New Price

24 La Salle Drive

Incredible value! Lovely 5bd sgl lvl custom hm. Gorgeous pvt 1/2 ac lvl knoll. Pool, lawn, verandah. Fab gourmet kitchen, granite counters, walk to Rheem Valley.

Offered at \$879,000

MORAGA



20 Kazar Court

Special custom upgrades & pride of ownership! 4/2.5 cul-de-sac rancher w/hardwood floors, plantation shutters, great curb appeal. Patio & terraced landscaping.

Offered at \$899,000

MORAGA



98 Brookfield Drive

Lovely 5bd/3ba on level desirable Moraga cul de sac. Updated kitchen & baths, hdwd floors, lawn, patio & pool. Very close to award winning K-8 schools.

Offered at \$999,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1021 Walnut Drive

Delightful downtown charmer. Complete 2007 remodel, Fabulous lovely 3bd/2ba home, hdwd flrs, crown moldings, gourmet kit, much more. Come and see!

Offered at \$849,000

LAFAYETTE



New Price

612 Huntleigh Drive

Burton Valley beauty. Just remodeled 4bd/2ba sgl lvl ranch style home. Super clean, move-in ready, hdwd floors, new dual panes, beautiful front/back yards.

Offered at \$899,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3919 So. Peardale Drive

Fabulous sgl lvl updated home. Tons of natural light, hdwd flrs, vaulted ceilings, inviting LR w/custom fireplace + separate alcove. Marvelous great rm, kit w/wine bar.

Offered at \$1,335,000

LAFAYETTE



819 Las Trampas Road

Enchanting Lafayette retreat. Custom blt 4bd/4.5ba 3548 sf home on gorgeous 1 ac lot in sought after Las Trampas. Country quiet yet steps to town/trail/school.

Offered at \$1,495,000

LAFAYETTE



3407 Shangri La Road

Fabulous Craftsman style built in 2005. Stunning architecture, beaut craftsmanship, all the finest features & amenities. Serene 1+ ac in Reliez Valley. Patios, lawns.

Offered at \$1,650,000

LAFAYETTE



3724 St. Francis Drive

Beautiful sgl lvl 4bd/2.5ba home in Rose Lane area of Happy Valley. Thoughtfully designed & updated. Lovely yd w/vineyard, waterfall, pond, gardens, view of hills.

Offered at \$1,675,000

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