

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 24 Wednesday, February 1, 2012



A bright blue water lily floats amid reflections on the pond of the San Francisco Conservatory. Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D8

Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda's Monique Jasper in her Glorietta kitchen. Photos Andy Scheck

The Miramonte Parents Club is aiming for the heart—for the heart of the home, with a kitchen tour; for the hearts of parents, as they visit the homes and give to the schools to support programs deprived by the State's repeated budgetary cuts. The six kitchens on this year's tour were selected to intrigue you: 6 very different settings, from a 70-year-old traditional adobe ranch house to a contemporary kitchen that has been featured in Pottery Barn. Here's a sneak peek at two of the Tour's kitchens:

The state-of-the-art, picture perfect kitchen at Wilder, where the tour begins, is located in a model home at the new development that lies just off Highway 24. The views and the incredible setting are worth the ticket price.

The kitchen is set in a 5,400-square-foot residence, conceived by Robert Hidey Architects with the intent of linking indoor and outdoor living: the central patio is accessible from different rooms and windows all around frame stunning, open views of the wilderness.

The kitchen itself has been designed as a family hub and entertainment center, full of light and peace thanks to the harmony of white and grey chosen by MEMA Design.

The kitchen nook is a bright sitting area where a large rectangular dining table can accommodate eight people. The distressed wood table fits well on one of the most interesting decorative features of the house: Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood floors.

At first glance it appears that there is not much in the way of storage space in the kitchen: no deep drawers near the large range in which to store pots and pans, no pantry closet, no counter space near the range, and the oversized honed marble island with its five stools seems to invite more a conversation than active cooking. But the mystery is soon explained: behind the range is another area—the "prep area", with a plethora of cabinets, a sink and a dishwasher. Because kitchens have become the center hub of many parties, it was important to create a prep/cleaning area that would be hidden from guests. The appliances are the Wolf/Sub-Zero combination and include a double-oven and warming drawer.

Interior designer Monique Jasper's kitchen is in the Glorietta neighborhood.

... continued on page D4

THE BEAUBELLE GROUP

Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle *present...*

SOUGHT AFTER WILLOW SPRINGS LOCATION



Gorgeous views, flat yard, new paint, refinished hardwood floors, large rooms, built-ins, and vaulted ceilings are just a few of the outstanding amenities this home has to offer. Ideally located on one of Moraga's most desirable courts, this home is within minutes to trails, St. Mary's College, town and schools! 4 Bdrms., 2 1/2 bath, appx. 3,031sf, .71 acre **price upon request**

IDEAL COURT LOCATION ~ AMAZING YARD



Nice curb appeal, high ceilings, hardwood floors, designer paint colors, Andersen doors/windows, functional floor plan, and a park-like yard with views, make up this outstanding home. Minutes to downtown, highway and schools, this home is family friendly. 5 Bdrms, 3 1/2 baths, appx. 3,109sf, 1.38 acres. **price upon request**

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Sophisticated and stylish, limestone accents, hardwood floors, large picture windows, skylights, high ceilings, large decks, amazing views, and a neighborhood tennis court and pool. The perfect entertaining home! Tranquil front courtyard, quiet location, private road. 4 Bdrms., 2 bath, bonus room w/entry, 2,996sf, .39 acre. Views! **price upon request**

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	11	\$487,000	\$1,936,000
MORAGA	2	\$535,000	\$595,000
ORINDA	7	\$675,000	\$1,250,000

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

- 859 Acalanes Road, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 2495 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 12-30-11;
Previous Sale: \$543,000, 05-04-00
- 7 Arbor Way, \$745,000, 4 Bdrms, 1830 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 12-30-11;
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 04-29-99
- 10 Carolyn Court, \$487,000, 3 Bdrms, 1074 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 12-28-11;
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 06-17-04
- 615 Crofton Court, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 12-29-11
- 3676 Hastings Court, \$1,025,000, 2 Bdrms, 1846 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 12-21-11
- 3641 Madrone Drive, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 1099 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 1-3-12;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 07-12-07
- 855 Mountain View Drive, \$1,236,000, 4 Bdrms, 3093 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 02-17-10
- 3171 Stanwood Lane, \$1,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 3167 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 12-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$954,500, 07-24-03
- 1055 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 3422 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 09-14-01
- 831 Tanglewood Drive, \$1,936,000, 5 Bdrms, 6120 SqFt, 1925 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 10-27-11
- 1073 Via Roble, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2621 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 12-20-11

MORAGA

- 1936 St. Andrews Drive, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$269,000, 06-11-90
- 1938 St. Andrews Drive, \$535,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 05-12-89

ORINDA

- 40 Ardor Drive, \$880,000, 4 Bdrms, 2131 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 09-29-06
- 20 El Patio, \$825,000, 6 Bdrms, 4042 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 12-29-11
- 11 Las Aromas, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 06-30-00
- 44 Loma Vista Drive, \$730,000, 4 Bdrms, 2159 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 12-23-11;
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 03-10-04
- 129 Meadow View Road, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 2265 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-28-11
- 605 Watchwood Road, \$1,095,500, 2 Bdrms, 2065 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 12-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$851,000, 04-19-00
- 6 Westwood Court, \$1,170,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 12-29-11;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 12-08-05

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

Camino Vallecito, 94549, Mortgageit, 12-21-11, \$1,350,000, 3982 sf, 4 bd

MORAGA

Camino Pablo, 94556, GMAC Mortgage, 12-30-11, \$607,500, 1762 sf, 3 bd

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Coordinator



Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

... continued from page D1



The large, open kitchen of the Wilder model home.



The Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood floor is a striking feature of the Wilder kitchen.



Behind the Wilder kitchen is a complete prep area.



The Wilder kitchen, with a marble island and sink, opens onto the family room.

The kitchen is the place where her family lives, cooks and entertains. Jasper's kitchen is a mix of functionality and timeless refinement.

The Jaspers built their Orinda home five years ago and Monique, as she worked with architect Doug McQuillan, had precise requirements for the whole house in general, and particularly the kitchen. "I was quite meticulous about how the kitchen had to be laid out," she says, "I cook and I wanted things to be practical when we entertain. I also wanted the space to be a place where my three sons would hang out or do their homework."

Jasper oversaw functional arrangements such as deep drawers directly under the Viking range, and two cutting boards for efficient prep.

... continued on page D6



The beverage corner, with a refrigerator below, in Jasper's kitchen.

2012 Lamorinda Real Estate Guidebook



J. Rockcliff

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- A close look at the real estate market in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda.
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Miramonte Kitchen Tour – It Takes a Community

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Jasper's kitchen opens onto the garden.



Timeless detail adds to the ambience of Jasper's kitchen.

For the layout, she asked for a large nook area where her young sons come and do their homework, and for entertaining, she had the architect create a 'butler's pantry', a space between the kitchen and the formal dining room where dishes, wine or plates can be set for convenient serving.

Jasper's designing style is apparent in the overall feel she gave to the kitchen, as well as in the details. "We chose honed black granite for the center isle," she says, "while the other counters are made of basalt, which is a lighter shade of deep grey." The kitchen cabinets are white, the walls a light grey, the floor a deep, dark cherry; and the whole space is filled with light as two walls mostly made of windows overlook the garden. The kitchen opens into a family room, which is full of light itself.

The classic and elegant feel of the space is enhanced by such details as the kitchen door knobs that are miniature shiny bolts, or the design of the faucet overlooking the farmyard sink that could have come from an east coast beach house.

"The Parents' Club (of Miramonte High School) was looking for a way to bring the community together at some sort of fundraising event. We felt that a Kitchen Tour was the perfect event to host," said Miramonte parent Victoria Bizieff. "Each class donated a lovely basket stuffed with goodies for the raffle. They will be on display at Wilder, the starting point of the tour. Dianna Condon Cuisine will provide morning goodies at Wilder. Table 24 will also present food from their new south-of-the-border restaurant, Barbacoa, at one of the homes."

The Tour takes place on Thursday, February 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased at McDonnell Nursery, Orinda Books, Lazy K House at Orchard Nursery, or online at www.miramonteparents.com (click on Web Store).



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Views of the Surrounding Hills

Located in one of Happy Valley's most sought after neighborhoods, this stunning home has been beautifully remodeled, thoughtfully designed with great attention to detail, and shows incredible pride of ownership. In addition to a great kitchen/family room set up, it features a large living suite with fireplace and full bath. This flexible space is perfect as a second family room/office, fourth bedroom or in-law quarters.

With walls of glass and eleven skylights, every room is filled with natural light. The .75 acre lot is private and there is wonderful indoor/outdoor access to the patio and pool making this a great entertainer.

The location is premium. In addition to being in a favorite neighborhood with cul-de-sacs, there is a walking path up the street connects to Happy Valley Elementary.

Offered at \$1,499,000



Virtual Tour:



*per Public Records



Natural Attractions

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust



The pink/purple blossoms of Heather brighten a winter landscape.

Photos Cynthia Brian

While many people are swooshing down the slopes or basking on balmy beaches, in February, gardeners are forecasting future flowering. We peruse seed catalogues hunting for those special heirlooms and old fashioned favorites while dreaming of trips to nurseries to fill our flourishing spring grounds. Although I admit to thoroughly enjoying the surf and the snow, whenever and wherever I travel, I make it a point to wander through public gardens, as well as any private ones that offer an invitation. With camera and notebook in hand, I have an exhilarating field day as I discover unusual displays, exotic rarities, and humorous descriptions. How can you top witnessing tree bark that looks like the top of a tortoise shell or shrieking at the sight of a snake plant slithering through the tropical forest? My photo folder has more shots of flora than of people. While rambling through the green-

ery, I fantasize about borrowing ideas that will find passage into my vegetative projects.

This year I've dedicated Digging Deep to getting you up, out, and moving. When the weather is dreary, blustery, and cold, a great way to combine nature with nature is to visit a botanical garden (see list on page D10). If you are planning a winter get away, include a side trip to a flower show or regional garden as part of your itinerary. If you are staying home, delightful public gardens, conservatories, arboretums, and plant destinations await your exploration in a relaxing day trip within a couple of hours driving distance from Lamorinda's landscapes. From tropical paradises to dry oasis, I've dug up delightful display playgrounds anticipating your arrival. Participate in guided tours, educational programs, hands-on workshops, propagation classes, horticulture seminars, green living demonstrations, or just

amble at your own pace. Many have activities for children and most have gift shops or nurseries where you can purchase rare specialty species. Some venues charge a nominal fee while others are free. All will inspire and ignite your love of Mother Nature while entertaining and informing. Grab your loved ones, hat, gloves, camera, picnic, sketchbook, and enjoy the splendor of distinctive backyards with fresh eyes.

This is by no means a complete list of all the remarkable offerings available. Wineries, bed and breakfasts, historic homes, regional or city parks boast meandering brooks, enchanting paths, potagers, rose gardens and countless opportunities for botanical entertainment. I've been delighted to be a speaker and autograph my books at many of these locations and have worked as an actor in several. Work and play, play and work.

This Valentine's give yourself and your loved ones the gift of natural attractions. Even for the timid traveler, it will be love at first sight.

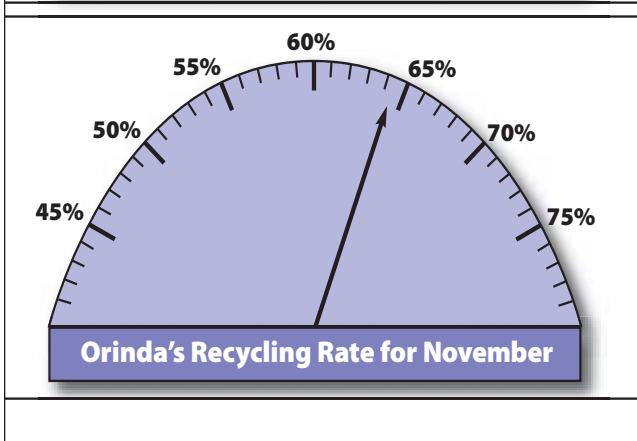
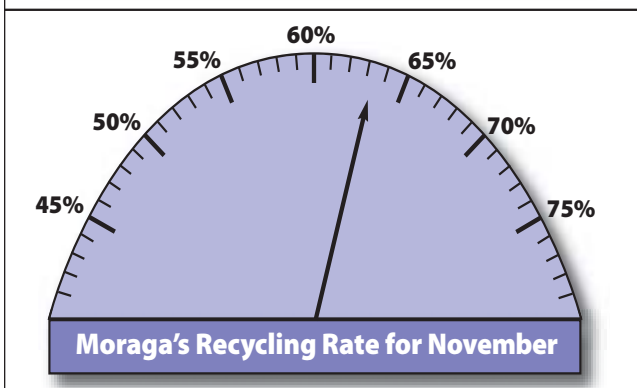
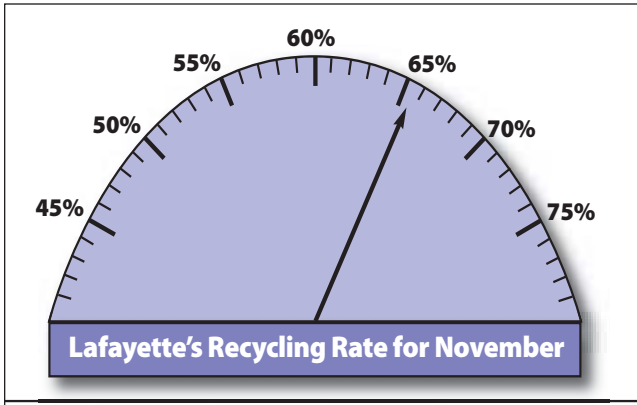


The pitcher plant drinks from its cup to satisfy its water needs.

Recycling in Lamorinda

The numbers below are provided by the Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and will be included in the Lamorinda Weekly on an ongoing basis when available.

November 2011



To register with Recycle Bank:

If you've lost the letter that contained your PIN number, no problem – Go online to recyclebank.com and click on 'register'. Enter your information, including your address. Get a new pin by mail or immediately with a message sent to your cell phone; now you can complete your registration.

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Ruth Bancroft Gardens

1552 Bancroft Rd.
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925-944-9352
www.ruthbancroftgarden.org
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Berkeley Rose Garden Department of Parks and Recreation

2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, Ca. 94704
510-981-6700
www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/parks
Open Year Round. Free.

Cooper Molera Historic Garden

525 Polk Street
Monterey, Ca. 93940
831-649-7111
www.parks.ca.gov/mshp
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650-851-1668
www.yerbabuenanursery.com
Open Year Round. Free.

Japanese Tea Gardens

75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.
San Francisco, Ca. 94118
415-752-1171
www.japaneseteagardensf.com
Open Year Round. Fee.

Luther Burbank Home & Gardens

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Sonoma Ave.
PO Box 1678
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95402
707-524-5445
www.lutherburbank.org
Open Year Round. Free.

Markham Regional Arboretum Society

1202 La Vista Ct.
Concord, Ca. 94521
925-681-2968
www.markhamarboretum.org
Open Year Round. Free.

Matanzas Creek Winery

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800-590-6464
www.matanzascreek.com
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Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

18220 N. Hwy. 1
Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437
707-964-4352
www.gardenbythesea.org
Open Year Round. Fee.

Niles Rose Garden

36501 Niles Blvd.
Fremont, Ca. 94536
510-792-2923
Open Year Round. Free.

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, Ca. 94122
415-661-1316
www.sfbotanicalgarden.org
Open Year Round. Free

Shinn Historical Park & Arboretum

1251 Peralta Blvd.
Fremont, Ca. 95636
510-656-7702
Open Year Round. Free.

University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley

200 Centennial Dr. #5045
Berkeley, Ca. 94720
510-643-2755
www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu
Open Year Round. Free.

If you enjoy garden shows, these are the three upcoming major exhibitions in three states:

Northwest Flower & Garden Show, "A Floral Symphony", Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Wash., February 8-12.
www.gardenshow.com

Portland Yard, Garden & Patio Show, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Ore., February 17-19, 2012.
www.ygpshow.com

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, "Gardens for a Green Earth", San Mateo Event Center, San Mateo, Calif., March 21-25, 2012.
www.sfgardenshow.com



Pink Lantern lights up a wintery day in the Strybing Arboretum.



Seaside succulents.



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

"I've had enough of gardening-I'm just about ready to throw in the trowel." Anonymous

If you think you are done with garden chores because it's winter, think again! Besides perusing the seed catalogues and reading home improvement magazines, pruning takes center stage this month in the "to do" list. Because of last month's warm weather, roses, fruit trees, and vines may have been given a short reprieve. Get out there now and take care of business. Save a rose stem or two for your Valentine and give the rest of the canes to friends. My rose canes will be available to you for free beginning February 6th.

Email me, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com for details.

- BEAT the winter doldrums by forcing bulbs indoors. All you need is a sunny window, a jar, water, and bulbs.
Try Paperwhite Narcissus, Amaryllis, and Lily of the Valley
- RELIEVE sunburn by cutting a tomato in half and rubbing the tomato on the burn. Allow the juices to dry.
- STOP bleeding on your hands or arms after pruning those rose bushes by saving teabags. Place the cool teabags on the cuts and they'll heal swiftly.
- POWER up your palate by planting heart smart greens such as kale, collard, and mustard for super sources of fiber, phytonutrients, electrolytes, and antioxidants.
- RAISE your happiness quotient by placing a bouquet of blooms by your bed to boost your optimism and enthusiasm.
- MIX perennials into bulb beds for longer lasting splashes of color. Fern and hosta are excellent companions as filler foliage.
- PICK UP a Rainforest Ecological Sprinkler which breaks-up water droplets to improve delivery of water to the root zone, preventing pooling and running off. Lowers water consumption and covers up to 2000 feet with an adjustable spray.
- LEAVE moles alone. Although their runs may be unsightly for a short period, moles are meat eaters and not interested in your plants. They actually munch on snail larvae, harmful insects, and grubs so think of them as garden helpers.
- OCCUPY a green philosophy and plant a new cultivar, perhaps an impressively colored Echinacea "Solar Flair" or the Korean ground cover fern, "Sohuksan."
- REFRAIN from dressing broken limbs or injuries on trees. Wound wood will develop on trees to protect them.
By putting a commercial salve on the damaged tissue, you may be inviting infections and pests.
- TAKE a trip to a botanical garden, public garden, flower show, or arboretum for inspiration, entertainment, and family fun.
- MOVE your backside off the couch and into the backyard.
- DON'T depend on the groundhogs to determine an early spring. When male groundhogs awake from hibernation they are not looking for their shadows but for females. They are the original Romeos!
- TRANSPLANT deciduous shrubs before the buds swell.
- APPLY final application of dormant spray to fruit trees.
- TILL your vegetable garden now to break up clods and help eliminate weeds.
- FEED houseplants when you notice signs of new leaf growth.
- PLANT strawberries.
- ADD curled parsley and garlic chives to a bed near your kitchen for all year beauty and culinary flavoring.
- TURN your compost pile.
- FEED the birds to keep them attached to your garden. Remove old nests as most avian fellows prefer to build new houses each year.
- CLEAN and sharpen your tools in preparation for spring.
- SAY "I Love You" with a colorful bouquet, a potted orchid, or a spray of fragrant posies. Flowers and amour go together.

My daffodils began blooming on January 6th and the jonquils are at their peak right now. Spring is just around the corner. This month I salute groundhogs and Cupids. Happy Valentine's Day. Let your arrows fly.

Happy Gardening to You!

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Cynthia Brian
The Goddess Gardener
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20 Monterey Terrace
Architectural Digest worthy, 5000+ sf showplace home w/ stunning kit, fab. mstr suite, 2 FR's + sep. apt. Exclusive close-in cul de sac. Beaut. priv. 3/4 acre setting w/ lovely views.
Offered at \$1,899,000



65 La Espiral
Villa Romantica! One of OCC's finest homes. 4349 sf, 4bd/4ba on .69 ac knoll setting w/lvl lawn, saltwater pool, patios/terraces. Incredible attn to detail, numerous upper-end amenities.
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Offered at \$695,000



1825 St. Andrews Drive
Stylishly updated Sequoyah detached 4bd/2.5 MCC home of 3424 sq. ft. Spacious kitchen/family rm combo. French drs open to courtyard, plenty of storage, striking views.
Offered at \$979,000



945 Mt. View Drive
Charm abounds in this 867 sf cutie on lvl lot nr Lafayette Village conveniences. 1bd/1ba w/exceptional curb appeal. Attn to detail thruout, Fr drs to gardens & decks. Sep artist studio.
Offered at \$450,000



3245 Judith Lane
Delightful 3bd/2ba 1204 sf hm at end of lane in beautiful oak tree setting. Updated kitchen & baths, spacious deck & patio, skylights, tranquil setting yet close to dwtwn & Bart.
Offered at \$549,000



3376 Ridge Road
Affordable 4bd detached home in the popular Trail neighborhood surrounded by heritage oaks - truly a beautiful, natural setting. Tons of recent improvements made to this charming home.
Offered at \$649,000



960 Hawthorne Drive
Trad 3bd/2ba hm in trail neighborhood. Hdwd flrs, Fr doors, wood windows, lovely deck for entertaining. Flat yard w/lawn & views. Nr K-8 schls, trail, shopping, restaurants & library.
Offered at \$719,000



3398 Ridge Road
Special Lafayette Trail 4bd/3ba home nestled among oaks with views of hills on .29 acre. Easy walk to downtown, shopping, restaurants & 9 yrs. of schools. Backs to bike trail.
Offered at \$869,000



3286 Sweet Drive
Lovely 3150 sf home, flex flr plan, updated thruout, granite kitchen. Sweeping views, 2 mstr bedrooms plus 2 more bedrooms & 4 baths in Burton Valley. Guest set-up w/separate entry.
Offered at \$875,000



1847 Reliez Valley Road
Newly renovated w/high style & fully updated amenities & quality features. Lg new Chef's kitchen w/adj fam rm & formal living/dining rms + stylish master suite. Lots of bedrooms, new baths.
Offered at \$999,000



1258 Panorama Drive
Totally charming trad ranch hm on most coveted street in Lafayette! Quiet cul de sac 1 blk to Happy Valley Elem. Updated thruout w/vaulted ceiling, granite kitchen & baths.
Offered at \$1,189,000



3819 Palo Alto Drive
Beautifully updated sgl lvl 3bd/4ba home on .75 ac in great Happy Valley neighborhood. Walls of glass, 11 skylights, lovely pvt yard w/pool & spa. Views of surrounding hills & nr downtown Laf.
Offered at \$1,499,000



2600 Tice Creek Circle #2
Located right on the Golf Course, this 2bd/1.5ba home has a beautiful remodeled kitchen, plantation shutters, crown mouldings and inside laundry. Easy walk to new restaurant!
Offered at \$239,000

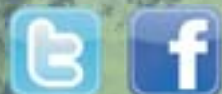
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