

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 25 Wednesday, February 10, 2016



Feng Shui

...read on page D8

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

By Cynthia Brian

"It is Nature that causes all movement." – Veda Vyasa, The Bhagavadgita



Fuchsia colored cyclamen mixed with sky blue pansies adds cheer to a window box. Pansy flowers are edible, too. Photos Cynthia Brian

The creeks are rushing, hillsides are saturated, lawns are green, and rain is in the forecast for the month. Our H2O dances and prayers resulted in an El Nino winter, much to our delight. People with swimming pools find themselves draining the overflows. If only we as individuals could save all this extra water! I no longer have buckets in my shower nor am I dumping dishwashing water in my potted plants. We are not wasting water in our household, but there is no need to collect every droplet as there was this past autumn as I have nowhere to toss the excess. In fact, I am diligent about making sure my outside container plants are not drowning. What a difference a month makes!

Narcissus, bergenia and daffodils are already spreading their sweet joy in our slumbering gardens. The cold of this winter will help trigger flower formation in peonies. If you are lucky enough to have a home in the snow country, peonies benefit from a thick blanket of snow. Camellias are blooming and rhododendrons are budding. Loquat and pear trees boast blossoms. Begonias, pansies and cyclamen add color and texture to our beds. Nature is on the move and we are the beneficiaries.

... continued on page D12



A field of narcissi sweeten the air with their fragrance.

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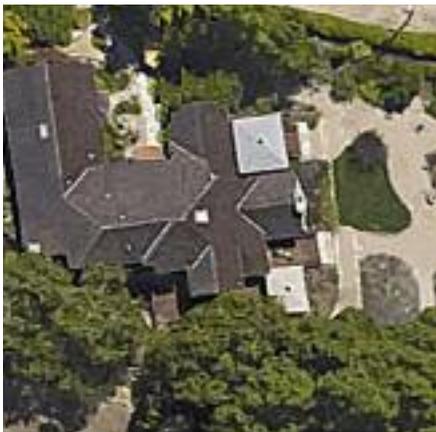


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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded



City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$665,000	\$1,620,000
MORAGA	2	\$800,000	\$1,050,000
ORINDA	4	\$846,000	\$1,415,000

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

1703 Chapparral Lane, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 5301 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 1-8-16;
Previous Sale: \$242,500, 05-24-88

1000 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 1655 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 1-6-16;
Previous Sale: \$937,500, 09-29-15

843 Las Trampas Road, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2637 SqFt, 2007 YrBl, 12-24-15
33 Pidgeon Court, \$858,000, 2 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 12-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 03-07-07

950 Raintree Place, \$2,100,000, 7 Bdrms, 4237 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 1-8-16;
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 10-23-86

1820 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2242 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 12-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 08-25-04

1154 Robles Court, \$665,000, 3 Bdrms, 1639 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 12-29-15;
Previous Sale: \$974,000, 04-20-05

1274 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,442,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1999 YrBl, 12-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 03-26-02

1001 Woodbury Road #201, \$1,498,000, 12-29-15

MORAGA

76 Corliss Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 12-29-15

1172 Larch Avenue, \$800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2358 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 12-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$56,000, 04-16-73

ORINDA

35 Ardor Drive, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 2551 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 1-8-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,470,000, 06-13-06

221 La Espiral, \$1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2087 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 12-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 01-14-11

36 Las Vegas Road, \$846,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 12-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$835,000, 09-29-06

3 South Trail, \$1,114,000, 3 Bdrms, 1685 SqFt, 1925 YrBl, 1-6-16;
Previous Sale: \$320,000, 06-26-12

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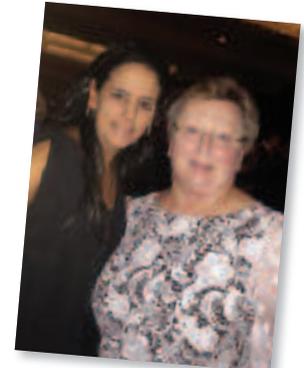


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Taylor Morrison Returns to Walnut Creek with Collection of Townhomes

Submitted by Sarah Andrews



Taylor Morrison's new Silver Trail community in Walnut Creek is now open for sales. Offering a brand new collection of two-story townhomes, Silver Trail homes range in size from 1,474 – 1,724 square feet. Pricing starts from the high \$700,000s. *Photo provided*

Continuing the momentum from the success of its 3rd & Main community, Taylor Morrison has returned to Walnut Creek with Silver Trail, a unique community of just 13 two-story finished townhomes located right in the heart of downtown. With sales starting in mid-January, the community has achieved great success selling five homes within the first two weeks.

“We couldn’t be more excited to be back in Walnut Creek,” said Pierrette Tierney, president of Taylor Morrison’s Bay Area division. “Silver Trail offers homebuyers many of the benefits of Bay Area living and the location is ideal – it’s within walking distance to local shopping and dining, part of a desirable school district and close to public transportation.”

Located a mile and a half from the nearest Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station, this collection of townhomes is built with an appreciation for design and function. Each home features three bedrooms and two-and-one-half bathrooms within 1,474 to 1,724 square feet of living space. Included in each townhome is an attached two-car garage with an open floorplan layout of the kitchen, living and dining areas.

Selected by Taylor Morrison’s in-house design team, the interiors have been graciously appointed throughout and feature everything from stainless steel appliances to granite or quartz kitchen countertops and the latest trends in cabinet styles, including stone and slate colors.

Silver Trail showcases many of the energy efficient features that Taylor Morrison has become known for including tankless water heaters, jump ducts and dual pane windows and energy efficient appliances.

“When designing Silver Trail we tried to anticipate the needs of our buyers,” said Tierney. “We knew that we needed to look beyond the aesthetics of two-tone paint and sleek countertops, and made sure to incorporate features such as USB outlets in the kitchen and LED recessed lighting throughout.”

Pricing at Silver Trail starts from the high \$700,000s and homes are currently available for viewing by appointment only.

To learn more about this new community or any Taylor Morrison Bay Area community, please visit TaylorMorrison.com.



53 E. Altarinda Drive, Orinda
 65 Hillcrest Drive, Orinda
 588 Dalewood Drive, Orinda
 1 El Verano, Orinda
 134 Crestview Drive, Orinda
 74 Van Tassel Lane, Orinda
 10 Wellesley, Lafayette
 12 Overhill Road, Orinda
 246 Overhill Road, Orinda
 9 La Sombra Court, Orinda
 3719 Highland Court, Lafayette
 3830 Palo Alto Drive, Lafayette
 115 Coral Drive, Orinda
 17 Charles Hill Road, Orinda
 2 Hartford Road, Orinda
 11 Blackwood Court, Walnut Creek
 3 Charles Hill Place, Orinda
 137 Creekdale Road, Walnut Creek
 431 Woodminster, Moraga
 621 Augusta Drive, Moraga
 5 Estates Drive, Orinda
 33 La Noria, Orinda
 9 Broadview Terrace, Orinda
 37 Underhill Road, Orinda
 121 Meadow View Road, Orinda
 18 Charles Hill Road, Orinda
 88 Sunnyside Lane, Orinda
 9 Ranch Road, Orinda
 11 Daryl Drive, Orinda
 4 Las Cascadas, Orinda
 102 Orchard Road, Orinda
 102 Orchard Road, Orinda
 171 Camino Pablo, Orinda
 25 Estates Drive, Orinda
 17 Tappan Lane, Orinda
 52 Singingwood Lane, Orinda
 188 Lombardy Lane, Orinda
 25 Richelle Court, Lafayette
 15 Bel Air, Orinda
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15 Hilldale Court, Orinda

This home's open floor plan is functional and thoughtful with abundant natural light, gorgeous garden views, vaulted ceilings, arched doorways, curved walls and welcoming verandas. 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Bathrooms, 5,270± sq. ft. on 1.53± acres with lawns, numerous patio spaces, an outdoor kitchen, a swimming pool and spa, a full-size tennis court and a Merlot vineyard. Secluded yet just minutes to 12 years of excellent Orinda schools!



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Giving Dreams an Address

Understanding the Balance of Feng Shui

By Michele Duffy



Note the location of the bed and nightstands, away from the door, in this "commanding position."
Photo Bigstock

Our environment influences our health, outlook, personal energy, and all of these influence our ability to be healthy, happy and prosperous. Feng Shui is the arrangement of your physical space with deeply symbolic objects so that they are in alignment with healthy Qi (energy) flow. We are continually influenced by the energy that is around us.

This energetic influence includes the land our home is located on or the street our business resides on and the shape of our buildings, none of which we can necessarily change even if we wanted to. Professional Feng Shui allows for "adjusting" even difficult "Qi" with the addition of specific "cures" so that we can live or work where we do, knowing that we have restored balance. Many people know that Feng Shui applies the five element theory to environments and that we can expertly represent those five elements in our spaces using wood, metal, earth, fire and water, colors and shapes (see diagram on page D11).

Another aspect of Feng Shui you might not be familiar with or associate with the art and science of placement is safety and security. Feng Shui has survived for thousands of years because it offers so much more than energetically sound decorating tips. Feng Shui's greatest strength, which is often overlooked or not acknowledged, is that it helps you to be safe and secure in your space and frees you up to concentrate more on the priorities of your life. ... continued on page D10



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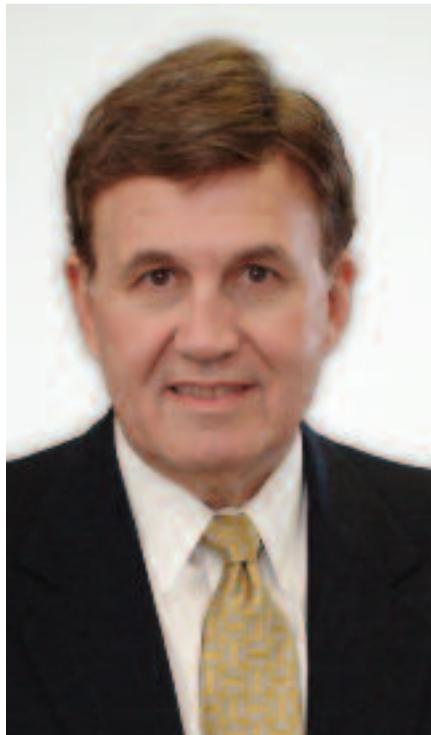
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They say you are known for the company you keep. We are fortunate to be known for the agents that distinguish us in communities all over the world. We are pleased to announce that **David Pierce** has joined our Bay Sotheby's International Realty **Lafayette Office**.

Integrating corporate achievement with 29 years of excellence as a real estate broker, David Pierce markets and sells fine homes in the Bay Area as well as small and large tracts of residential and agricultural lands, which included the 1,000+ acre Gateway Valley in Orinda known as Wilder. David brokered the 1,100 acre sale of Curry Canyon Ranch to the land conservancy organization, SAVE MT DIABLO.

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Understanding the Balance of Feng Shui

... continued from page D8



The desk in this home office shows the proper "commanding position."

Photo Bigstock

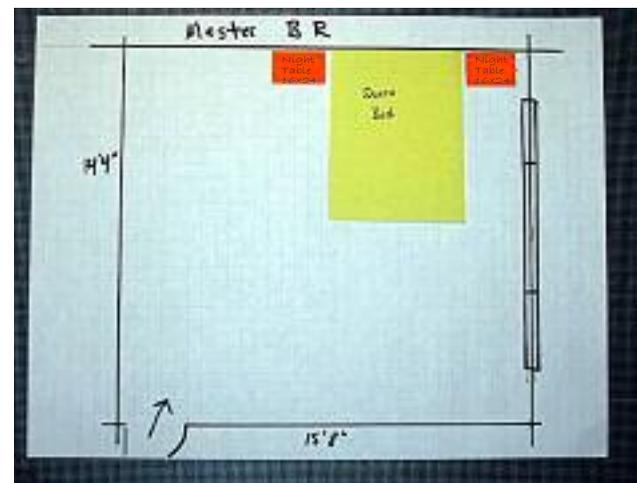
Why is this important? If we feel safe and secure we also can relax in our home or workspaces, thus allowing us to think clearly, solve life problems, and lead fuller lives. Here are some Feng Shui examples we can apply to create environments that allow more life to happen:

Floorplan Analysis. The Bagua map ancient topography is laid out for maximization and protection of key areas in our lives and is designed to safeguard our life paths, health and wealth, and relationship intimacy. On the Bagua map diagram, you will notice the three lower areas closest to the front door and the outside world

are Self Knowledge/Wisdom, Career, and Helpful People/Travel. We need all three to move forward in our public lives. The center of the Bagua map focuses on health and family and children and these areas are the bridge between the inner/outer, Ying/yang, private/public. The outside world nourishes these areas, which due to their position also offers some protection.

The private areas of your life are located on the top line or back of your home. Your wealth, reputation and relationships are offered the most protection, and help you to take the best care of yourself in these most secure areas of your home.

The "Commanding Position." The commanding position is a recurring



theme in Feng Shui and we apply it to master beds, kids beds, desks, and stoves. The idea is that when you take charge of your space, you take charge of your life.

The commanding position in a bedroom is where you sit in the bed and face the door without being in direct

line with the door. You are positioned to have the best visual control over the room, respond to whatever comes your way or whoever enters the room and this correlates to better being able to be in control of your life. You know you are in the power spot in any room when you feel most comfortably positioned in the room, in the coziest spot, facing and away from the door.

The most important concept is to try to place your bed, desk, stove in the commanding position and then make room for the other items or furniture in each room. When you cannot place these powerful symbols of personal power in the commanding position due to limitations of the space, the expertise of a professional can help adjust your specific space, even if the commanding position isn't possible.

Sounds can be used as a cure, such as bells on the front door to alert us to the comings and goings in our spaces. Many businesses effectively use a "shop keepers" bell to know when someone has entered their space. Lighting is another way we can introduce safety and utility into our spaces, including outdoor lighting for easy access to our homes and offices at any time of the day and also to discourage theft.

Finally, a headboard and footboard for your bed is paramount to making you feel secure while you sleep. Our personal Qi needs a container for restful sleep and more creativity by day, but a headboard can also give a sense of having a strong, supportive backing, something to lean on – hence you sleep better.

I hope these tips will allow you to take immediate action to improve the Feng Shui in your environments for the start of a happy, healthy and safe new year.

WEALTH & PROSPERITY "Gratitude" REAR LEFT <u>Wood</u> Blues, purple & reds	FAME & REPUTATION "Integrity" REAR MIDDLE <u>Fire</u> Reds	LOVE & MARRIAGE "Receptivity" REAR RIGHT <u>Earth</u> Reds, pinks, & whites
HEALTH & FAMILY "Strength" MIDDLE LEFT <u>Wood</u> Blues & Greens	CENTER <u>"Earth"</u> Yellow & earth tones	CREATIVITY & CHILDREN "Joy" MIDDLE RIGHT <u>Metal</u> White & Pastels
KNOWLEDGE & SELF CULTIVATION "Stillness" FRONT LEFT <u>Earth</u> Black, blues & greens	CAREER "Depth" FRONT MIDDLE <u>Water</u> Black & dark tones	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL "Synchronicity" FRONT RIGHT <u>Metal</u> White, grey & black

"Front Door"

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Your Lamorinda Realtor



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

... continued from page D1



A begonia cascades over the container on the patio.

Photos Cynthia Brian

PICK navel oranges as they are ripening. Twist the orange and when it comes off the limb easily it's ready to eat. If the orange resists, let it stay on the tree a bit longer.

PROTECT lettuce from aphids naturally by planting alyssum as a border.

GROW pansies, cyclamen, and violets as a winter pick-me-up and to attract butterflies. Pick the edible flowers to adorn salads and desserts.

SPRINKLE a granular organic fertilizer around fruit trees. The rainy weather will aid with the absorption of the grains.

PROTECT frost tender plants from the cold, especially those in containers. We have at least 45 days more of possible freezes. Frost blankets, canvas, tarps or cloth



It will be a great harvest for loquats this season based on the abundance of the blooms.

sheets will do the trick. Don't use plastic and be especially diligent with citrus.

DIG a ditch to divert water from rain gutters to your garden. It's best to line the swale with pebbles, gravel, or rocks to help filter the runoff and protect against flooding. These swales look great as dry creeks during the summer months.

HARVEST cabbage, chard, lettuces, arugula, and other greens as needed. Snip the tops of greens to encourage more growth.

PERUSE seed catalogues curled up on the couch with a cup of hot tea on a chilly, rainy day. You'll get ideas for new plants and learn a bit more about the growing seasons.

... continued on page D14



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WHY CALL IT A WEED?



Honey bee feasting on oxalis

Did you know that oxalis, mustard and dandelions among others are all wonderful native plants that bees love and feed on?

Did you know when you spray pesticides you kill the bees and destroy their food supply?

Did you know bees pollinate 1 in 4 foods we eat?

Learn more at: www.helpabee.org



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February ... continued from page D12

PLAN on planting a patch of wildflowers at the end of our rainy season. Wildflowers are easy and rewarding plus they come back year after year.

PRUNE your roses, vines and berry bushes through mid-February.

DESIGN your dream garden while the weather is wet in preparation for April and May planting.

PLAY in the mud. New research shows that when you dig in the soil, beneficial bacteria in the environment repopulate the community of bacteria on your skin, boosting your immune system. Get dirty. It's good for you!

SHOWER your beloved with red roses and baby's breath for Valentine's Day.

HIBERNATE. Our gardens are sleeping and so should we. Take time for yourself this February. Rest, relax, rejuvenate and replenish yourself. Move with Mother Nature.

NEED ideas to help you choose the right plants for your garden? Consider these four selections for four different areas of your yard:



Cabbages, chard, and leafy greens are harvested all winter.



This crop of navel oranges is ready for picking. Protect citrus from frost for at least 45 more days.



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Winter Pruning

Winter is the best time to start pruning deciduous plants and trees, such as maples, shrubs, roses, most fruit trees and most of all your Monterey pines. They go dormant in the winter and some lose their leaves.

Deciduous plants are best pruned in the winter because that's when they're dormant and less prone to disease.

Before you start hacking away at your yard, you may want to call in a professional Arborist from Advance Tree Service to give you their advice on what should be done, the proper handling during pruning is essential to ensure a healthy future for your trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service to help make your yard its very best.

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Plants for a Shady Area

- Hosta
- Foxglove
- Ajuga
- Hydrangea

Plants to Attract Butterflies and Hummingbirds

- Coreopsis
- Hibiscus
- Creeping Phlox
- Agastache

Plants that the Deer Don't Usually Eat

- Bleeding Heart
- Lavender
- Iris
- Naked Ladies

Plants for Sunny Areas

- Daylily
- Sage
- Roses
- Echinacea

If you want one-to-one assistance, email me to set up a garden consultation with hourly rates. I'll help your garden shine this spring.

Sending you love, blessings and virtual rose bouquets for a warm, romantic Valentine's celebration.



Cynthia Brian in the garden

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing! Happy Love Day!

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10 La Punta

Exquisite estate home on gated, secluded OCC cul-de-sac lot. SF Bay views. 7062sf, 4bed/4+ba. Rebuilt in 2005! Chef's kitchen, wine cellar, sport court, stunning grounds!

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Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo views + abundance of nature surrounds this supersized parcel bordering EBMUD land. Once in a lifetime opportunity raw land sale.

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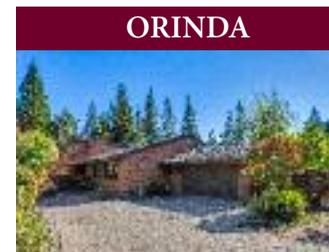
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New Listing

539 The Glade

Super one level detached patio home. Exceptional allure & ideal privacy combine for a charming home at end of court. Views, natural light, patios off most rooms. "Close-in" location.

\$1,275,000



ORINDA

407 Ridge Gate Road

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ORINDA

Coming Soon

31 Crestview Drive

Completely renovated turn key Orinda home featuring five bedrooms plus office, three bathrooms plus two half baths. Quality finishes, level out patio and yard with expansive views.

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8 Camino Del Diablo

Stunning Contemporary rebuilt in 2002 by MGHG Designs. Impeccable design & architectural finishes. Chef's kitchen w/ top of the line appliances, Carrera marble counters, radiant floors.

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New Listing

160 Camino Don Miguel

Magnificent Spanish Mediterranean estate on 2 adj. lots, located on 4th hole of OCC. Main house completely rebuilt in 1996 is over 5800sf with 5bd/5ba & separate 627sf 1bd/1ba guest house.

\$6,200,000



MORAGA

New Listing

10 Newberry Place

Spacious level 4+bd/2ba home on cul-de-sac w/new Anderson windows, new window blinds & paint throughout. 2 car attached garage. Walk to park, Moraga Library & St. Mary's College.

\$4,500/ month



MORAGA

Leased

1807 St. Andrews Drive

Wonderful executive lease opportunity in Moraga Country Club: 4bed/2.5ba (or 3bd + large ofc) 2828 sf., remodeled w/views! FULL MCC membership included.

\$6,000/ month



MORAGA

New Listing

1072 Sanders Drive

Light & bright fully remodeled and expanded 4 bedroom, 2 bath plus office on a level creek-side .27 acre lot. Close to K-8 top schools!

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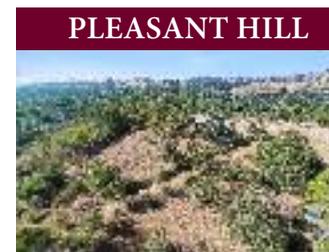


LAFAYETTE

5 Burton Vista Court

Spectacular 7bd/9+ba, 8986sf Estate w/luxury amenities in grand oversized spaces. Premium 2.25ac parcel w/sport court, sun-drenched pool, pavilion w/kitchen, dressing rooms & showers.

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