

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 16, 2022



Nature's gifts

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!



Cynthia Brian's newest flower gardening boots.



The perfect colors of Ukraine in a single plant, the Dutch Iris.



Photos Cynthia Brian

Yellow calendulas are edible.

By Cynthia Brian

"I'm fed up with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in." ~ George S. McGovern

"Lose yourself in nature and find peace." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

How much can a gardener accomplish without the proper boots? To be a successful gardener, we need the right tools. Sturdy boots are an indispensable ingredient for keeping steady and safe on any terrain. Although my gardening wardrobe varies with the seasons, the one item that I'm never without is my garden boots. Over the years I've worn out numerous pairs of cowboy boots, rubber boots, and mud boots, but none were pretty or stylish. My Christmas gift this year from my daughter and her husband was two pairs of decorative, yet highly func-

tional gardening boots. These boots are beautiful, comfortable, waterproof, and quick cleaning, as they must withstand all types of ground, but not battlegrounds.

They are not combat boots.

Wearing my pretty and protective boots, I wonder about the boots of the brave people of Ukraine, both military and civilian, who are courageously fighting against the Russian aggressors. In unanimity with this valiant nation, I am dedicating this season to the colors of blue and yellow. Glory to the heroes!

We can all spring into solidarity by planting blooms for the brave. Choose a combination of specimens from both color spectrums that best represent how you feel. Make sure to check compatibility with light, moisture, and growth habits.

... continued on Page D12



COMING SOON

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130 Shuey Drive, Moraga

This classic Moraga rancher has been expanded to perfection. Offering a single-level floorplan that flows seamlessly onto the outdoor spaces and within walking distance to K-8th grade and Rancho Laguna Park... one couldn't ask for more!

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,315,000	\$3,995,000
MORAGA	3	\$437,500	\$1,254,000
ORINDA	3	\$515,000	\$1,550,000

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

- 9 Burnt Oak Circle, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2250 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$1,441,000, 04-24-17
- 3219 Glenside Drive, \$1,660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1603 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-31-22
- 23 Greentree Court, \$3,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3486 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 02-04-22, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 11-03-20
- 1108 Martino Road, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2409 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 01-24-22
- 3605 Mosswood Drive, \$1,315,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 01-26-22
- 1085 Orchard Road, \$1,560,000, 3187 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-24-22
- 1553 Rancho View Drive, \$3,957,500, 6 Bdrms, 5187 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-02-22, Previous Sale: \$2,669,000, 03-15-07
- 1702 Toyon Road, \$2,375,000, 5 Bdrms, 2958 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-04-22, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 04-20-16
- 1036 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1787 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$965,000, 02-06-07
- 1220 Woodborough Road, \$2,262,000, 4 Bdrms, 3573 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$560,000, 02-01-88

MORAGA

- 2121 Donald Drive #9, \$437,500, 1 Bdrms, 756 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 01-28-22, Previous Sale: \$392,000, 04-29-21
- 25 Francisca Drive, \$1,254,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 01-25-22, Previous Sale: \$580,000, 06-17-13
- 461 Woodminster Drive, \$815,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 04-24-12

ORINDA

- 67 Brookwood Road #6, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 01-28-22, Previous Sale: \$377,000, 08-27-08
- 183 Canon Drive, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2292 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 01-28-22, Previous Sale: \$221,000, 06-01-85
- 24 Northwood Drive, \$1,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 02-02-22

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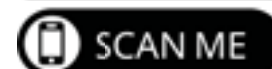
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Nature's gifts



Highly flammable and invasive French broom



Native Soaproot lily

Photos Toris Jaeger

By Toris Jaeger, Naturalist

Every day I am aware of the gifts from nature – sunlight, air, water, flora and fauna. The sun is a very powerful energy source. It gives energy to all living things, and we can use sunlight to reduce pollution from fossil fuels.

Fauna, including microorganisms, fungi, and animals such as tiny bees, people, and great blue whales are part of the tapestry of life. Flora, including algae, grass and redwood trees, capture power from the sun and are the foundation of Earth's food web.



Deer nibbling Soaproot leaves

Now that it is spring and daffodil time in our area, be on the lookout for plants that were important to Native Peoples. In the Orinda Nature Area soaproot lily is beginning to flower. Look for the tall thin stems with delicate white flowers growing in

meadows and on grassy hills.

Many local tribes collected these useful plants and shaped their coarse brown fibers covering the bulbs into small brushes. The first people of our area pounded the bulbs to make a soapy juice. The liquid contains saponins that form a lather when mixed with water. The lather can be used for washing hair, thus giving rise to the name “soaproot.” The observant people discovered that the soapy liquid used for washing stunned the fish in the stream nearby causing them to float to the surface where they could be collected for food. Roasting the bulbs broke down the saponins, and the local Miwok people ate the bulbs for winter food. This useful plant grows at the edge of the meadow in the Nature Area and can be spotted as you hike the trails of the region. At sunrise and sunset, you might see deer eating the lily leaves!

I would like you to help me spread the word about a common shrub in our area. This month the hills are bright with the yellow flowers of French broom. It is easy to spot the large patches of yellow spreading through neighborhoods. Every year, hundreds of volunteers in the region's parks work diligently to remove this invasive weed.

Many residents do not know that this pretty bush is highly flammable; sometimes it is called “fireman's nightmare.” The seeds and leaves are poisonous to wildlife and the shrub crowds out other plants. If you find it in your yard, please remove it – you will be doing your neighbors and wildlife a favor by getting rid of a toxic fire hazard. For many years, I have led groups of volunteers in the Nature Area in pulling up French broom and other invasive plants.

... continued on Page D10

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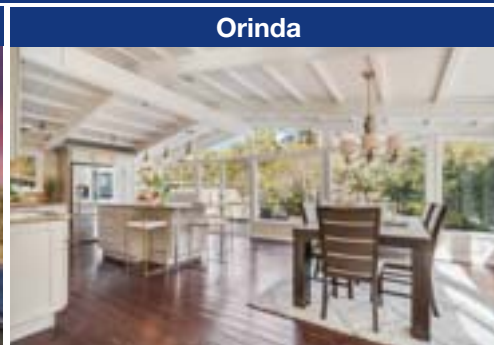


5 La Noria \$3,200,000

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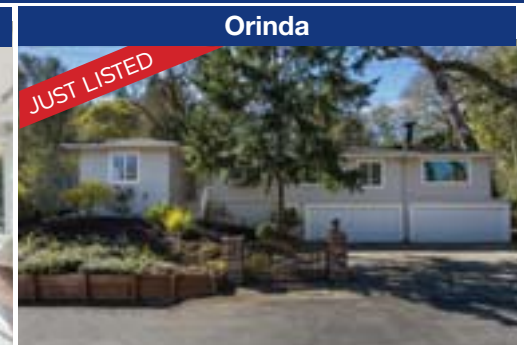


11 Dos Encinas \$1,998,000

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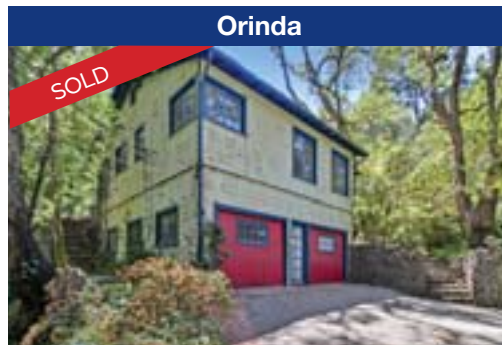


75 Stanton Avenue \$1,575,000

First time on the market in 46 years! Charming Orinda Rancher / Cottage style residence. Close to downtown but very quiet and peaceful!

Laura Abrams
www.75stanton.com

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125 Canon Dr \$1,350,000

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Ana Zimmank
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407 El Toyonal \$1,305,000

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3908 Paseo Grande \$1,899,000

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Michelle Holcenberg

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3136 Ptarmigan # 6 \$910,000

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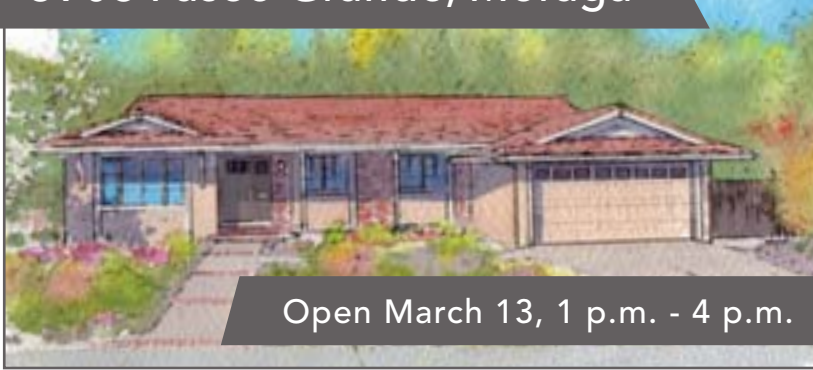
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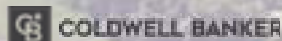
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109 Ascot Ct. Unit C, Moraga
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Nature's gifts



Volunteers in the Nature Area remove French broom.

... continued from Page D4

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a great source of information about protecting endangered native plants. On Sept. 28, 2021,

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the CNPS sponsored AB 223 into law providing new protections for the beautiful dudleya species that are being collected from our rocky coastal cliffs. Plant poachers have been illegally collecting thousands of these succulent plants and selling them across the world via social media. Varieties of dudleya succulents are in danger of extinction yet are very popular in drought resistant gardens. Please do not purchase dudleya via the web unless you determine that the plants are legal to own.

The California Native Plant Society is a nonprofit organization working to save and celebrate California's native plants and habitats via science, advocacy, education and horticulture – www.cnps.org.

If you are interested in helping clear invasive plants, volunteer hours at the Nature Area are Sundays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All are welcome; volunteers under the age of 10 must bring a parent with them. Twice a year the Nature Area hosts a Sunday festival for the public. We are hoping to resume these festival days when the dangers from COVID subside.

My wish for you all is that “Nature touches you today and every day.”

Friends of the Orinda Nature Area is a nonprofit dedicated to environmental education and conservation of the 18-acre Nature Area, which the Orinda Union School District owns. For information, visit www.fwrna.org.



French broom that took over a field at the Nature Area.



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TERRI BATES WALKER
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COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!

... continued from Page D1

Plant in a pot or create the Ukrainian flag in a grand gesture of unity with any of the varieties listed.

BLUE	Liriope	Hydrangea	Verbena	Forget-Me-Not	Calendula	Zinnia	Golden Star
Dutch iris	Nepeta	Pansy	Buddleia		Roses	Dahlia	Hellebore
Bearded iris	Agastache	Petunia	Hibiscus	YELLOW	Margarite	Forsythia	Daylily
Hyacinth	Lupin	Blue-Eyed Star	Lilac	Crocus	Shasta Daisy	Hibiscus	Sunflower
Periwinkle	Aquilegia	Grass	Anchusa	Lantana	Calibrachoa	Echinacea	Hollyhock
Delphinium	Aster	Salvia	Baptisia	Bearded Iris	Gladiolus	Aquilegia	Lupine
Phlox	Brunnera	Angelonia	Gentiana	Dutch Iris	Pansy	Baptisia	Primrose
Lavandula	Crocus	Agapanthus	Plumbago	Shamrock	Petunia	Ligularia	Sedum
Lavender	Geranium	Heliotrope	Ajuga	Yarrow	Tithonia	Chrysanthemum	Mustard
Clematis	Rosanne	Sweet pea	Scabiosa	Daffodil	Rudbeckia	Coreopsis	
Campanula	Echinops	Lobelia	Veronica	Tulip	Marigold	Gaillardia	



Each yellow flower of the spiny sowthistle weed will scatter 1000 seeds!



Periwinkle climbs a fence.



A sprouting blue freesia.



Yellow yarrow.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Although I don't know of any weeds other than the dayflower that boast the blue color, many unwanted plants have yellow flowers. Keep in mind, what some people consider a weed, others enjoy as a medicinal herb, wildflower, or pretty plant. Weeds are plants growing where they are not wanted. Some species that many gardeners consider weeds are sold as garden favorites in garden centers. You decide what you want to allow to thrive in your garden. Seeds from weeds are spread by wind, water, and birds, quickly and effectively. If you have

weeds, it is best to pull them out by hand by the root as soon as possible and before they go to seed as they can take over a huge area in a very minimal amount of time. Many of these weeds are considered invasive and noxious as they are difficult to control, and they displace welcome plants. Also, be aware that any plant could be poisonous if ingested. Never take a taste sample of a plant unless you are certain that it is safe.

... continued on Page D15

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!



Photos Cynthia Brian

Daffodils are everywhere and a happy sign of peace.

... continued from Page D12

WEEDS with Yellow Flowers

Dandelion
 Spiny Sowthistle.
 Yellow Hawkweed
 Woolly mullein
 Golden clover
 Creeping buttercup
 Butterweed
 Goldenrod
 Loosestrife
 Ragwort
 Cinquefoil
 Creeping Jenny
 Yellow burr weed
 Spanish broom
 St. John's Wort
 Skeletonweed
 Flat-top goldenrod
 Yellow Toadflax

Velvetleaf
 Black Medic
 Goat head wee



A lane of sky-blue delphiniums.

I am saddened and outraged by the aggression and devastation Russian forces have and continue to inflict on this independent nation, specifically targeting innocent civilian populations, hospitals, and schools. In addition to prayers, positive thoughts, and donations to relief organizations, spring into solidarity with Ukraine and exhibit blue and yellow now and until this unjustified war is resolved.

Our boots are made for walking and while my boots are on my grounds, as I garden, I stand for Ukraine.



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Garden Reminders

PLANT early blooming pollinators including California poppy, chives, larkspur dianthus, lupine, pea, viola, and sweet alyssum.

GOPHERS are breeding. Be on the alert to eradicate these destroyers.

START your spring gardening by improving the soil. Gardens are often missing the microorganisms and nutrients needed for a thriving crop.

RE-SEED or plant a new lawn during this spring weather. Commence weekly mowing for sturdier growing. For best results, do not use a leaf bag but instead, allow the clippings to compost on the grass naturally.

FERTILIZE fruit trees and flowering shrubs with a high nitrogen solution.

DIVIDE perennials such as daylilies and agapanthus.

CLUMP flowers together in areas measuring four feet diameter or more to attract bees, butterflies, and birds.

CLEAN fountains, ponds, birdbaths, and other water features to welcome our flying friends home for the warmer weather.

CELEBRATE spring on March 20, the vernal equinox. The day and nighttime hours equal exactly 12 each.

SET a bowl of yellow and blue fruits such as lemons, grapefruits, bananas, grapes, and blueberries to remind us that freedom isn't free, we fight for it.

FIND peace in nature.

SHOW solidarity with Ukraine and democracy by embracing a garden filled with blue and yellow flowering plants.



blue hyacinth



Meyer lemons hanging.

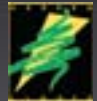
Photos Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian stands in support of Ukraine.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Spring. Triumph for Ukraine and the world! 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 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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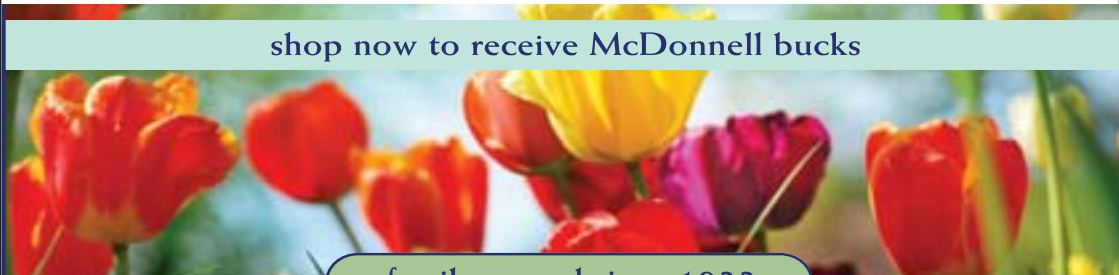
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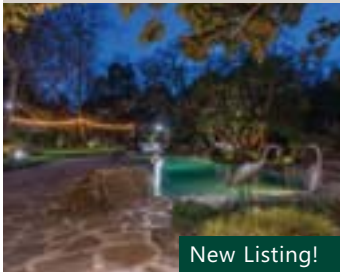
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ORINDA



New Listing!

7 Oak Arbor

Mediterranean 5 bed/ 6.5 bath Estate in the Heart of the Orinda Country Club w/ views of majestic oaks and surrounding hills!

\$4,500,000

ORINDA



460 Miner Road

Find one-level living at its best in this custom 4 bed/ 3 bath home approx. 3016 sqft on .93 acre lot w/ fenced pool, play area, & more!

\$2,395,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

84 Tarry Lane

Can't beat desirable Sleepy Hollow location! Updated 4 bd/ 3 ba home on .75 acre setting w/ woodland views!

\$2,095,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

46 La Campana Road

Marvelous Mid-Century Modern 3 bd/ 2 ba 2,738 sqft home in the OCC w/ amazing views & bonus level below!

\$1,995,000

ORINDA



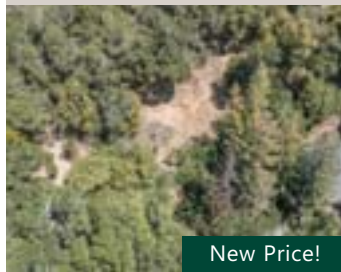
New Listing!

12 Ridge Lane

Single level 4 bd/ 3 bath home sits on .68 acre lot w/ a wall of French doors highlighting the spectacular views!

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



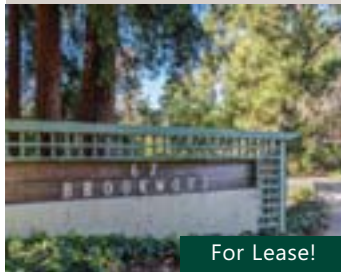
New Price!

23 Kittiwake Road

Private residential .43 acre lot in one of Bay Area's most sought after neighborhoods. Close to Highway 24 & downtown!

\$499,000

LAFAYETTE



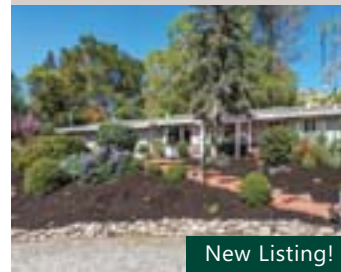
For Lease!

67 Brookwood Road Unit #5

Rarely available 1 bed/ 1 bath condo. Prime location in the heart of Orinda w/ easy walking distance to downtown & BART!

\$1,900/mo

LAFAYETTE



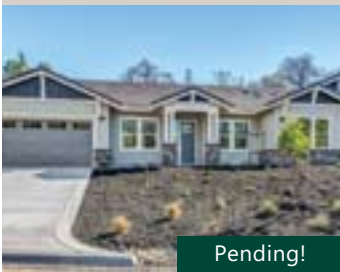
New Listing!

778 Las Trampas

Charming 3 bd/ 2 bath w/ gourmet kitchen, updated bathrooms, & family room that opens to private quiet yard.

\$1,495,000

WALNUT CREEK



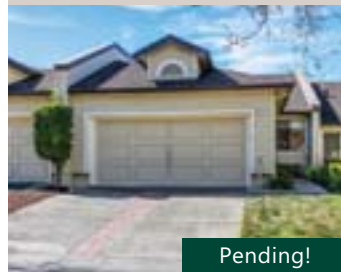
Pending!

49 Amigo Lane

New construction 5 bed/ 3.5 bath home in desirable Walnut Heights neighborhood w/ open floor plan & beautiful finishes!

\$2,695,000

WALNUT CREEK



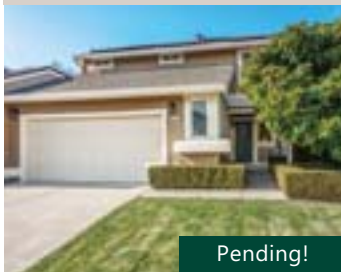
Pending!

473 Beacon Ridge Lane

Amazing small gated community townhome w/ 3 beds/ 2.5 bath w/ beautiful views of hills, walking trails, & easy freeway access!

\$1,328,000

PLEASANT HILL



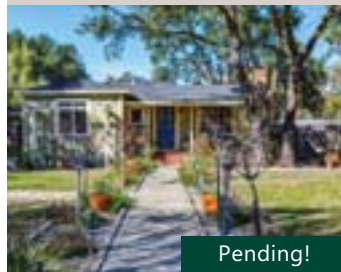
Pending!

241 Western Hills Drive

Lovely 2 story 3 bed/ 2.5 bath duet on .23 acres in the heart of Pleasant Hill! Light & bright w/ many upgrades!

\$889,000

MARTINEZ



Pending!

535 Walnut Ave

Storybook Charm & terrific location! Single level 2 bed / 1 bath home on beautiful .22 acre lot w/ bonus room!

\$619,000

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