Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 16

Issue 15 Wedn

Wednesday, September 14, 2022



Simple steps to an orgnaized home

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



Photos Cynthia Brian

Bougainvillea thrives in hot weather.

By Cynthia Brian

"What dreadful hot weather we have. It keeps one in a continual state of inelegance." ~ Jane Austen

In July 1808 when Jane Austen was 33, the Central England Temperature series which dates back to 1659, recorded the second hottest month on record with temperatures around the country reaching between 97-105 degrees. Following this oppressive heat wave, a thunderstorm so violent that hail stones were up to a foot long, destroyed structures, and killed

people and livestock.

I normally adore hot weather. In the past, I was one of those people that liked it hot. Then Labor Day weekend 2022 happened! Wow! Throughout the many years that I've lived in Lamorinda, I don't recall a time when temperatures reached 109. Friends in Southern California reported temperatures of 119 degrees. This excessive heat strained the power grids as people attempted to keep cool.

Throughout the United States and the world, horrific environmental tragedies are occurring including floods, fires, droughts, famines, heat waves, disappearing glaciers, and so much more with global warming and climate change accelerating. Scientists at UCLA and elsewhere are predicting a mega-storm in California in the next few decades that will be unlike anything anyone has ever experienced. They are calling it "the other BIG ONE" as it will be as destructive, deadly, and costly as any earthquake dumping over 100 inches of precipitation in non-stop atmospheric rivers throughout the state.

Yet today, suffering from extended heat and water scarcity, viewing our parched gardens, it's hard to imagine a winter super storm. As a lover of nature and Goddess Gardener, I am acutely aware of the crisis we face. It is prudent to prepare.

I am watering twice a week, less than the district water mandate of thrice per week. As I do my best to never waste a drop of H2O, buckets are maintained in showers and sinks, sprinklers have been checked, leaking valves repaired, my garden has been mulched, trigger nozzles are attached to every hose, and the driveway and patio are swept. Despite these earnest efforts, the month has been challenging to keep landscaping alive.

You are not alone if your lawn is brown

and crunchy. Mine is as well. I suggest applying enough water to keep the roots alive. When the rains come this winter (and let's pray we get them without the torrential atmospheric rivers that we experienced last season), and with a bit of fertilizer later in the fall, your lawn will bounce back. It is ugly now, so patience is required. If you are tired of battling growing a beautiful green lawn in a drought, make sure to contact the water district as there are rebates for replacing turf with sustainable, drought-resistant landscaping.

... continued on Page D12



The deep throat of the naked lady will wither in the heat.



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	17	\$655,000	\$8,810,000
MORAGA	12	\$520,000	\$2,515,000
ORINDA	9	\$400,000	\$2,850,000

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

125 Bacon Court, \$1,765,000, 3 Bdrms, 2453 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-25-22 3310 Beechwood Drive, \$1,258,000, 2 Bdrms, 872 SgFt, 1942 YrBlt, 08-02-22 940 Dewing Avenue #C, \$825,000, 2 Bdrms, 1260 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 07-28-22, Previous Sale: \$160,000, 04-01-88

983 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 08-01-22, Previous Sale: \$725,000, 05-07-09

20 Hidden Valley Road, \$1,725,000, 2 Bdrms, 2001 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-05-22 1510 Huston Road, \$655,000, 2 Bdrms, 844 SgFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-26-22 3 Joplin Court, \$1,585,000, 4 Bdrms, 1742 SgFt, 1964 YrBlt, 08-03-22 837 Las Trampas Road, \$2,861,000, 4 Bdrms, 3569 SgFt, 1996 YrBlt, 08-05-22

1030 Lindsey Court, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2003 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 08-02-22 3353 South Lucille Lane, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1847 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-25-22,

Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 07-09-18

3241 Marlene Drive, \$761,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 07-29-22

1409 Meadowlark Court, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2974 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-04-22 1259 Redwood Lane, \$8,810,000, 6 Bdrms, 6453 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 07-27-22,

Previous Sale: \$6,500,000, 07-12-17

3568 Silver Springs Road, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1650 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-25-22, Previous Sale: \$925,000, 04-16-09

3378 Springhill Road, \$1,710,000, 5 Bdrms, 2636 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 08-05-22, Previous Sale: \$48,000, 07-01-79

1755 Toyon Road, \$3,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 4861 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 08-01-22, Previous Sale: \$2,500,000, 09-23-08

28 Warwick Court, \$2,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 2395 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-03-22 **MORAGA**

5 Brandt Drive, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 08-05-22,

Previous Sale: \$480,000, 09-01-86

5 Camelford Court, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1462 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-01-22,

Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 06-16-21

1481 Camino Peral, \$730,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-26-22 67 Corte Del Sol, \$1,576,000, 4 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-26-22,

Previous Sale: \$133,500, 12-01-78

6 Cortes Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SgFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-25-22 13 Doral Drive, \$1,340,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 08-05-22,

Previous Sale: \$740,000, 08-05-10

... continued on Page D13

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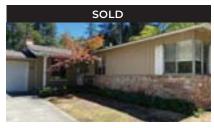
1040 UPPER HAPPY VLY RD., LAFAYETTE CALL FOR INFORMATION KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



1127 CALDER LANE, WALNUT CREEK OFFERED AT \$1,895,000 S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.212.7617



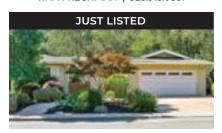
107 MORAGA WAY, ORINDA OFFERED AT \$1,429,000 BRYAN HURLBUT | 925.383.5500



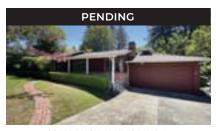
830 BROADMOOR COURT, LAFAYETTE SOLD FOR \$1,350,000 L. LEGLER & E. TYSON | 925.286.1244



810 MARIPOSA ROAD, LAFAYETTE CALL FOR INFORMATION TINA FRECHMAN | 925.915.0851



3387 MORAGA BLVD., LAFAYETTE OFFERED AT \$1,699,000 SMITH HOMES TEAM | 925.998.1914



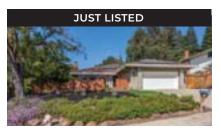
22 IRVING LANE, ORINDA OFFERED AT \$1,375,000 MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500



178 LUDELL DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK SOLD FOR \$1,000,000 DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



911 ANITA COURT, LAFAYETTE CALL FOR INFORMATION S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.212.7617



1100 DANFORTH LANE, WALNUT CREEK OFFERED AT \$1,695,000 KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049

PENDING



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What does it mean to have an organized home, really?



Photos provided

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO, Certified **Professional Organizer**

When you think of organized spaces, do you immediately have visions of neat and tidy items lined up perfectly in matching containers on shelves? If your home doesn't look like these picture perfect, Pinterest-worthy images, does that mean that your home is not organized?

Maybe and maybe not!

The truth is that an organized space actually has nothing to do with looking perfectly neat or tidy; that's just a bonus. The question is, does your space function efficiently for you? Efficiency does matter!

I describe "being organized" as being able to find an item when you need it. It's that simple. Think about what happens when you can't find an item (a really important item) ... frustration, stress, aggravation. Now think about how you feel when you are able to retrieve it immediately – life is so much easier - game changer! Once you understand the concept of being organized, it will produce a gratifying sense of calm and clarity.

Every item in your home needs to have a designated place where it is stored.

A place for everything and everything in its place (turns out that Grandmother really did know best).

Whether it's a single item or a category of items, you can become more organized by following a few simple guidelines:

Every item in your home has to have a designated place where it is stored and everyone must know the location. A good example is your kitchen. Think about the plates, glasses and silverware. Everyone in the home knows where to find and put back

these items and they never get lost (except when your teenager leaves a plate under the bed). Kitchen storage is fairly straightforward, but other items tend to get randomly stuffed wherever you have space in your home – and then you can't find them when you need them again.

Store items in a location close to where you use them. In most cases, this is obvious as you probably wouldn't keep tools in the bathroom or toilet paper in the kitchen.

Store items in direct relation to the frequency of use. Anything you use often should get the best real estate.

Frequently used items should be easy to reach. If you want your kids to put back their clothes or toys, is it easy? If the dresser drawers are overstuffed with clothes, kids won't be able to easily put clothes away, which is often why they are left on the floor. With young kids, it can be helpful to have pictures on the bins or drawers where the items belong. Labeling storage can be helpful for adults too.

If you want your kids to pick up their clothes or toys, make it easy.

Common pitfalls to organizing

As a professional organizer, I have found many common ways people getting hung up trying to get organized: You buy lots of containers (because it's fun and they are cute) before you measure or even know what quantity you are storing; you purchase the same item again and again because you can't find it – this is a good sign that you need to designate its "home;" you shop because it feels good (retail therapy) but already have too much of that item (clothes?); or you purchase every organizing book and latch onto phrases like "only touch it once" or "keep it only if it sparks joy" in hopes it will change your life forever..

Staying organized

Overbuying can be the biggest downfall to staying organized. Being mindful of your shopping can be helpful. Ask yourself these questions before you hit the purchase but-

Do I really need this item? (Remember that you are the only person that can answer the guestion, "Do I have too much?") Do I have room for this item? If you can't close your dresser drawers or it's hard to fit another shirt in your closet, can you remove some items first? Chaotic spaces can cause a



Wednesday, September 14, 2022

lot of stress. Where will this item live? Many of my clients like to shop at Costco (hoping to save money), but if Costco quantities do not fit in your house or cause your space to be overcrowded, it might not be as important to save a couple of bucks. Another example is large holiday décor; make sure you have the room to store it because it is being stored for 11 months.

Anytime you bring an item into your home, it can be helpful to know the answers to these questions in order to decide if you really want the responsibility of owning it.

Whether or not you have too much, not enough, or just the right amount of stuff, if you know where to find it, you are organized. Congratulations!

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is



a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com











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Thinking of buying or selling, let's talk

When you're considering a move in Lamorinda and beyond, I've got plenty of options. Contact me today!

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COMPASS













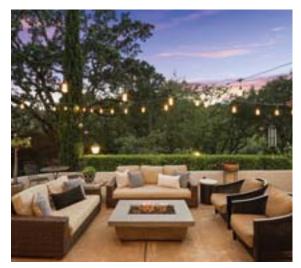
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\$3,295,000 1456 Rancho View Dr A home for all seasons is available for the first time in 30 years! Enjoy gorgeous views of the Carquinez Straits from the pool deck while entertaining friends and family or close the gate and disappear into your private, secluded and airy retreat. The kitchen is spacious and designed to please any avid cook, while bringing the outdoors in through the generous great room. The primary en-suite was redesigned to create a sanctuary with an incredible spa-like bath. Outdoors, the pool & spa take in stunning views as a fountain gurgles, adding to the peaceful ambiance. Majestic oaks, the jewels of the property, arch their limbs and mature redwoods line the property. Olives, figs and plum trees fill the orchard.

5 Beds | 4 baths | 3,853 Sq. Ft. | 39,910 lot Kelly Crawford Team 925.998.5599 kellycrawfordhomes.com Lic#01327015

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JUST LISTED

ORINDAWOODS BEAUTY

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4 bed | 2.5 bath | 2,786 sq ft Offered at \$2,395,000

Stunning Orindawoods townhome entirely remodeled with top-of-the-line finishes throughout. Gourmet chef's kitchen with vaulted ceiling and great room. Spa-like primary bath. Private deck with serene views. Not to be missed.

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BANK OF THE WEST STAGE

Saturday, September 17

10:30am - 12:00pm Michaela Sasner, Bridget Boyle & Co.

Kyle Athayde Dance Party 12:30pm - 2:00pm

2:30pm - 4:30pm **Big Jangle** 5:00pm - 7:00pm **Spazmatics**



Maroon Vibes 11:00am - 12:30pm

1:00pm - 3:00pm ZEPOP! 3:30pm - 6:00pm **Sun Kings**

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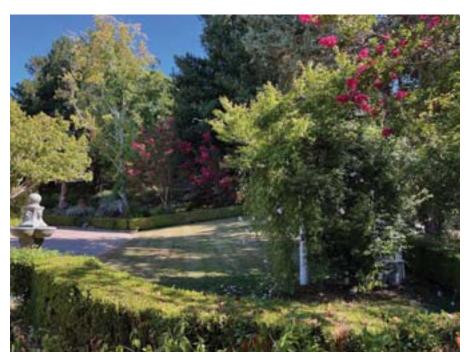




Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



Despite the high temperatures, the garden is restful yet colorful.

... continued from Page D1

Proven Winners has just asked me to trial two of their newest developments,

Estrellita Little Star™ Bouvardia and Chicklet™ Orange Trumpet Bush. I am always thrilled to test any new cultivar but because of the heat, I've asked them to not send the plant samples for a couple of weeks until the weather, hopefully, is cooler. If you are waiting to transplant, my suggestion is to postpone putting anything in the ground until the days are nippier, nights are warm, and rain is on the horizon. I currently have four big containers consisting of two avocado trees, a banana tree, and a red rose that need to be moved to their forever spot, yet I dare not attempt to replant them now. Last spring, I transplanted three avocado trees which perished during the summer heat even though I was attentive. Trees take three to five years to acclimate to their new environs. Timing the transition is tricky, yet imperative.

My "hot" news is that my first children's picture book, "No Barnyard Bullies," based on true stories from growing up on a farm and adopting and rehoming animals, is published. I will be selling and autographing the first edition at the Pear and Wine Festival at Moraga Commons Park in the Be the Star You Are!® booth on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 11-3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the arts, culture, and literacy charity empowering women, families, and youth. Our gratitude to Lamorinda Weekly and MB Jessee Painting for sponsoring the booth. Hope to see you there. For more information, visit Events at https://www.bethestaryouare.org.

In this late summer weather, we may feel inelegant and perhaps a



These containers are waiting to be transplanted once the rains begin.

bit dreadful. It's hot, hot, hot. But it could be worse ... like a flash flood or hail stones as big as a football. Stay cool, hydrated, and shaded.



This sedum in bloom resembles pink shooting stars. Photos Cynthia Brian

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

144 Draeger Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2181 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 07-25-22 61 Hardie Drive, \$1,732,500, 4 Bdrms, 2449 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-04-22, Previous Sale: \$2,475,000, 02-08-22

115 Merion Terrace, \$1,389,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-28-22 1850 School Street, \$2,515,000, 5 Bdrms, 2628 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-01-22 800 Villa Lane #3, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 952 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 07-28-22 14 Warfield Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2441 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 07-29-22

ORINDA

- 63 Ardilla Road, \$1,710,000, 4 Bdrms, 2276 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 08-03-22, Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 02-25-14
- 57 Bobolink Road, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-01-22, Previous Sale: \$670,000, 07-01-02
- 115 Canon Drive, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-26-22, Previous Sale: \$799,000, 06-06-03
- 17 Easton Court, \$1,280,000, 3 Bdrms, 1975 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-03-22
- 138 Fiesta Circle, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 07-29-22, Previous Sale: \$975,000, 12-21-20
- 86 La Espiral, \$2,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 3516 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 08-01-22, Previous Sale: \$1,728,000, 03-21-17
- 23 Overhill Road, \$2,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2467 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-05-22, Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 11-21-17
- 6969 Skyline Boulevard, \$400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1251 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 08-04-22
- 39 Valley Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3384 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-05-22



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-September Gardening Guide

- Autumn is less than two weeks away. It is time to buy the spring bulbs you wish to plant. Visit your local nursery or order from catalogs for your favorite blooms:

Van Engelen Dutch bulbs: www.vanengelen.com John Scheepers beauty bulbs: www.johnscheepers.com White Flower Farm: www.whiteflowerfarm.com Spring Hill Nursery: www.springhillnursery.com Breck's Direct from Holland: www.brecks.com

- Save Energy from 4 to 9 p.m. as extreme heat is straining California's grid.
- Water containers daily if the soil is dry. Test by putting a pencil or stick a few inches into the pot. If the pencil comes out dry, it's time to water. If moist, skip it.
- Climate emergencies are on the rise. Heed these warnings offered by Lamorinda emergency services:
- Sign up for alerts on your smartphone with the Contra Costa County Community Warning

System- https://alerts5.athoc.com/SelfService/CCCWS/Register

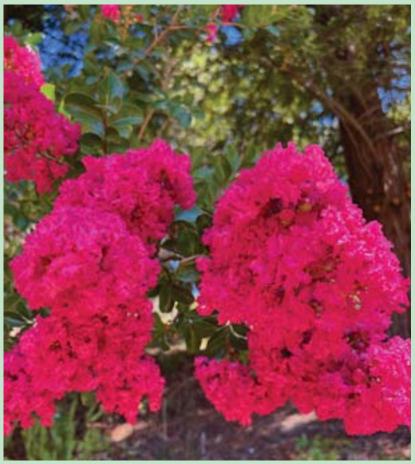
- Include the CWS emergency notification number (925-655-0195) in your favorite contacts so you will receive messages when your phone is set to "do not disturb". For directions on how to do this visit- https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/cell-phone-do-not-disturb/
- Know Your Zone! Contra Costa County is divided into evacuation zones. Knowing your zone will allow you to quickly identify your neighborhood's evacuation status and know when it's safe to return home. Find your zone

here- https://cwsalerts.com/know-your-zone/ Don't forget to save the



In a shady location, yellow begonias shine.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Watermelon crape myrtle is spectacular on the tree but does not make a good cut flower.

information where you can find it in an emergency.

- Review the Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation.

https://lamorindacert.org/evacuate/documents/LRGWPE.pdf

- Contact the water district to inquire about a rebate if you decide to replace your lawn with drought-resistant landscaping.
- Deep-soak established trees, especially if signs of distress are evident. Deep-soaking prevents roots from rising to the soil surface.
- Irrigate deeply early in the morning or as late as possible in the evening when the temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Refrain from planting any new plants during a heatwave. Wait until mid-fall or whenever the days become cooler, yet the soil is still warm.
- Stay hydrated. Make sure your animals have plenty of water, too.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

925-377-0977



Cynthia Brian on a warm sunset evening.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your fall 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. Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, is available now.. Buy copies of her books, www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings. For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and special perks, buy a StarStyle® NFT at https://StarStyleCommunity.com Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com



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525 Kite Hill Terrace

Sought after Orindawoods! 4 bd/ 2.5ba, 2437 sqft home .97 acre. Open floorplan w/ spectacular views! A must see! \$2,195,000



131 Meadow View Road

3 bdr charmer! Fabulous .7 ac estate setting! Sought after neighborhood! Expansion/ADU potential! \$1,650,000



0 Camino Del Monte

Desirable lot in El Toyonal neighborhood. Located minutes from Hwy 24/BART, award winning schools, & downtown! \$225,000

ORINDA



19 Woodcrest Road

Fabulous Glorietta location! Spacious, light & bright 4 bd/ 2.5 ba home with high ceilings and beautiful views! \$6,300/mo





1336 San Reliez Court

Rare opportunity on .75 acre lot with 5 bd/ 3.5 ba 4098 sq.ft. in the heart of Springhill!

\$2,195,000

LAFAYETTE



16 Diablo Circle

Nestled on a quiet street in Hidden Valley 3 bd/2 ba rancher convenient to the amenities of downtown Lafayette & Orinda! \$1,795,000

LAFAYETTE



3338 Sweet Drive

Single-level updated 3 bd/ 2 ba rancher on a ridgeline street is charming & move-in ready!

\$1,495,000

DANVILLE



45 Lily Court

Exceptional single story 3 bd/ 2 ba home w/ open floor plan that is light & bright ideal for entertaining & day to day living! \$1,495,000 MARTINEZ



628 D Street

3 bd/1 ba downtown Martinez property situated on a creek & close to town, trails, schools, shops & more! \$699,000 VALLEJO



6094 Ashwell Way

Spacious 4 bd/ 3 ba home overlooking the hills in the lovely Hiddenbrooke neighborhood!

\$699,000

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16056 Mount Olive Road

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