

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 12, 2023



Sudden Oak Death

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

The spirit of spring



Forget-me-nots self-seeded amidst the fluorescent pink cyclamen in the foreground.

By Cynthia Brian

“On the first warm day of Spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirit’s soar.” ~ Helen Hayes

Do you feel the energy? Did you wake up one morning to witness most of the leaves on your deciduous trees unfurled? After our long, cold, rainy winter, the warmer weather you experience is a salve for your soul. Does your spirit soar when you say: “Today is the day I will be digging in my garden?”

As cliché as it is, spring is the season of rebirth, renewal, and regeneration. Nowhere is this more evident than in the growth we experience in our gardens. The days will continue to get longer until the summer equinox, the air is refreshing, flowers and trees are in constant bloom, and we have a spring in our step. We feel younger and more alive. William Shakespeare in his wisdom wrote, “April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” William, you are so correct!

Spring is a magical time of year when we can finally get back into our gardens, plunge our fingers into the soil, and instead of planning, we begin planting! How therapeutic it is to scatter seeds, inhale the fresh air



The happy faces of orange and cream daffodils. Photos Cynthia Brian

scented by the flowers, and be immersed in nature. As we stroll through our landscapes, we see what needs to be done and we also learn new things. Plants that have self-seeded are magically popping up in unexpected places. The sky-blue forget-me-nots remind me to remember and record what has happened and what will be happening in each plot.

Observe and interact with your plants. The emotional and mental benefits you will receive by immersing yourself in the wonders of nature will reduce stress, anxiety, depression, and improve your overall mental health. As you wander in your yard, plaster your face with a big smile. Lose track of time as you engage with the nurturing of seedlings in this new reborn growing season.

Feel the satisfaction of watching your tulip bulbs grow into gorgeous, cupped flowers, the pride in picking a bouquet of peonies to display, and the joy in knowing that by summer, you will be harvesting nutritious vegetables cultivated by you. If there are children or grandchildren in your vicinity, provide them with seeds to sow their favorite vegetables or fruits. They will be amazed at the course of nature, and how something so tiny as a seed can mature into something edible and delectable.

... continued on Page D8



TWO SPECTACULAR ESTATE LOTS IN HAPPY VALLEY GLEN

A wonderful location that is walkable down to Glen Road and then to Lafayette's thriving downtown district featuring fabulous restaurants, boutique stores and recreation areas; minutes to Bart and Hwy 24.

Access to the popular Lafayette Ridge Trail, 6.6 miles long, in Briones Regional Park, featuring approximately 6,255 acres dedicated for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.



Build Your Dream Home on this One-Of-A Kind 15.52 acre estate lot and enjoy breathtaking views of tree studded rolling hills, Happy Valley and the Lafayette reservoir. Included with the lot purchase are approved plans for an approx. 10,000 sq. ft. estate home, including an outdoor loggia and pool. 1240 Monticello Road | \$2,985,000



A private, gated entry with picturesque drive to this 7.64 acre estate lot provides privacy and serenity. There are approved plans for a 7,243 square foot estate with 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, office, exercise room, 4 car garage, and pool. 0 Monticello Road | \$2,398,000

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	6	\$925,000	\$4,895,000
MORAGA	4	\$568,000	\$1,610,000
ORINDA	3	\$1,550,000	\$3,000,000

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

4 Crest Road, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2143 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 02-23-23
 3376 Las Huertas Road, \$2,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 02-24-23, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 01-14-22
 3188 Lucas Circle, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1198 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-22-23
 1268 Redwood Lane, \$4,895,000, 5 Bdrms, 5034 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 02-27-23, Previous Sale: \$4,000,000, 10-05-20
 3153 Sun Ridge Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1363 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 02-22-23
 1104 Via Media, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3109 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 03-03-23, Previous Sale: \$305,000, 05-01-87

MORAGA

815 Augusta Drive, \$1,585,000, 2 Bdrms, 2792 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 02-21-23, Previous Sale: \$824,000, 06-17-14
 1410 De La Cruz Way, \$1,610,000, 3 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 03-02-23
 651 Moraga Road #20, \$568,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 02-21-23, Previous Sale: \$385,000, 07-21-08
 206 Paseo Bernal, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 02-27-23, Previous Sale: \$530,000, 02-07-12

ORINDA

64 Charles Hill Road, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1960 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 02-27-23, Previous Sale: \$56,500, 01-01-87
 59 Donna Maria Way, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-03-23, Previous Sale: \$1,305,000, 08-08-19
 254 Manzanita Drive, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1641 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 03-01-23, Previous Sale: \$915,000, 04-09-04

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*2022 MLS Sales Volume Data

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Sudden Oak Death Blitz planned for May 12-14

By William Hudson

This year's rain is welcome salvation for our parched oaks, but also revives a lethal wet-weather enemy, Sudden Oak Death ("SOD"). SOD spreads to oaks from infected leaves of our Bay Laurel trees (counterintuitively, the oaks are not infectious and the Bay trees themselves do not get SOD), and spring rains in the past allowed it to claim increasing numbers of oaks in larger areas of California. One consequence of the drought, however, is fewer infectious leaves on the Bays, substantially reducing and in some places perhaps even eliminating the risk to the oaks. According to UC Berkeley, this year offers a unique opportunity to learn much more about SOD, and to minimize its re-emergence.

SOD is an invasive, non-native disease, that harmlessly infects the leaves of many plant species, but in our iconic and invaluable California Live Oaks, obstructs the circulation of nutrients in the trunk and typically kills them.

... continued on Page D9



Shown are the results of the Blitzes from 2020-22 in the East Bay. Image provided

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TOTALLY UPDATED

charmer in the heart of Orinda



75 Barbara Road - Open Sat and Sun 1-4

This beautifully updated & stunning 3 bedroom, 3 bath + Office and Gym on .22 acres in the heart of Orinda has it all! The open floor plan features a sleek, modern and completely updated kitchen with quartz counter tops, custom marble slab backsplash and top of the line appliances. The kitchen opens to a sizable family room with vaulted ceilings, built-in cabinets, gas fireplace enclosed in a custom stacked quartz façade & sliding doors to the generous deck offering fabulous indoor/outdoor flow & expansive views of the Orinda hills. All three bedrooms are on the same street level including the primary ensuite with custom walk-in closet and slider that leads to a deck with beautiful wooded views. All three bathrooms have been tastefully redone with new tile, vanities and lighting. Enjoy wide plank distressed oak hardwood floors throughout the home, great deck areas for entertaining, a terraced side yard with level turf, professional landscaping and stone work. An additional third level provides a private office and a separate Gym/bonus room. This fabulously updated home in this terrific central Orinda location near shops, restaurants, Hwy 24, BART and K-12 top rated Orinda Schools, makes 75 Barbara Road a wonderful place to call home! Welcome Home!

3 <i>Bed</i>	3 <i>Bath</i>	1 <i>Gym</i>
±2,129 <i>Sq ft</i>	1 <i>Office</i>	100% <i>Amazing!</i>

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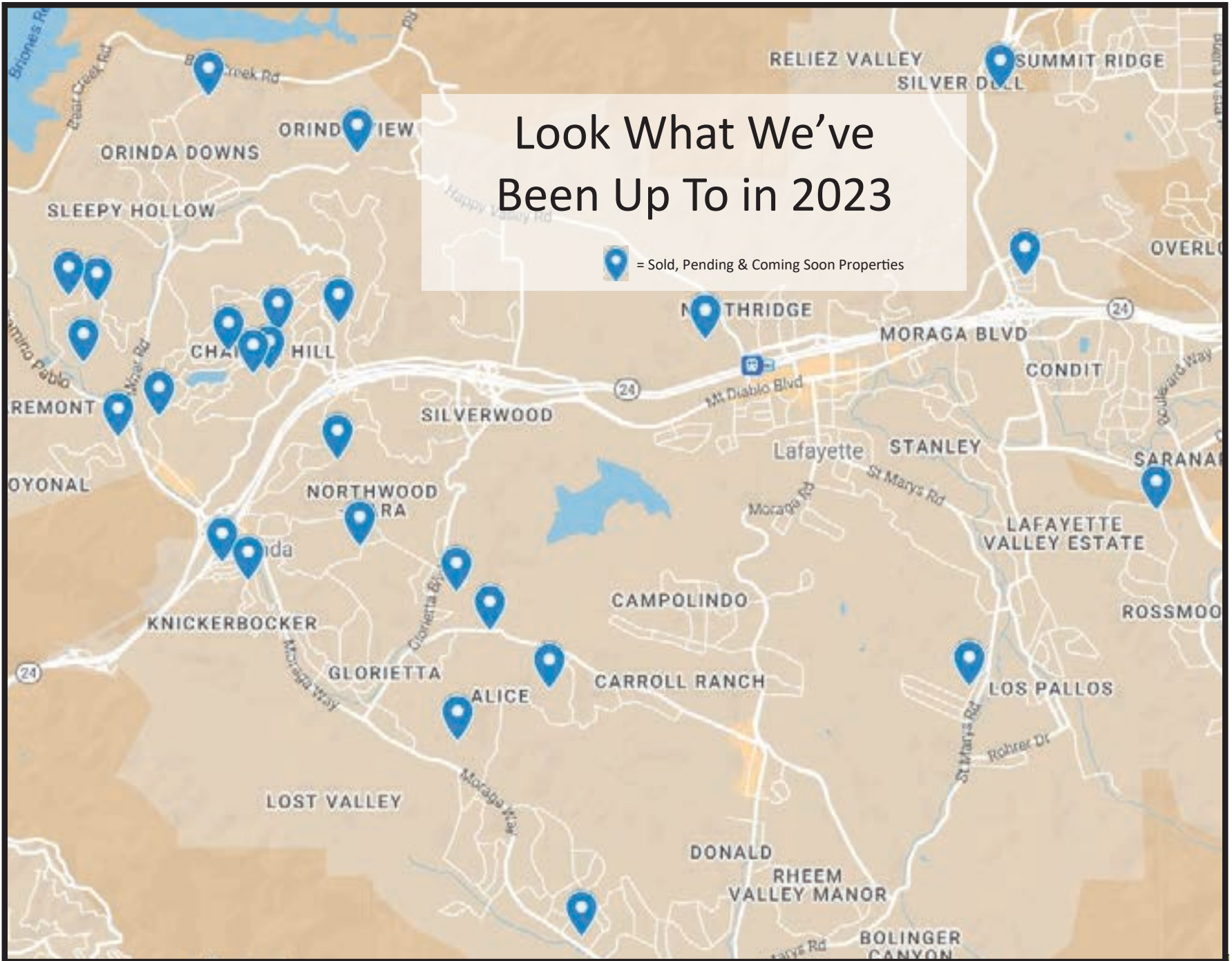


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All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

The spirit of spring



Pink cluster blooms hang on black currant.



Shades of cobalt blue displayed on hyacinth and periwinkle.



Succulents shine in this container display.

... continued from Page D1

Watch birds building nests. Listen to the frogs croaking their mating calls as they emerge from slumber. Feel the velvety softness of lamb's ear and stick your nose into a fragrant hyacinth blossom. Spirits will be lifted in countless ways and you will be rejuvenated and revitalized.

Is there any better way to welcome spring than by getting your hands dirty and reconnecting with Mother Earth? Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Springtime!



Unique green-maroon hellebore, a harbinger of the spring garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Sudden Oak Death Blitz planned for May 12-14

... continued from Page D4

Using the Bay leaves as a vector, it is highly infectious, and has spread from the Bay Area south to just north of San Luis Obispo and north into Oregon, killing millions of oaks. Its “Sudden” name reflects the fact that infected trees exhibit few symptoms until all of their leaves turn brown in a matter of days indicating they have died.

Professor Matteo Garbelotto’s lab at UC Berkeley has been studying SOD and ways to combat it since its arrival in California. A key part of these efforts is the lab’s annual spring SOD Blitz—signifying intense effort in a short period of time—a citizen science survey of Bay leaves with characteristics that are produced by SOD, but also other causes. To determine the actual presence of SOD, the leaves are analyzed over the summer, and in the fall the location and actual infected status of each sample is displayed on a Google Earth map viewable at www.sodblitz.org. There is no cure for infected trees, so the Blitz information is critical to determining the areas most at risk in which to focus efforts to prevent infections; the fall is the best time for the measures to protect the oaks against infection in the following spring.

Last year, following years of drought, SOD was at its lowest level since the Blitz began, and absent or at least undetectable in several previously infected areas in the state. Data suggests the possibility that this year’s wet weather may result in many less infected oaks than expected based on the historical data, and the Blitz this year will have eagerly awaited answers.

Infection rates have fallen from their most recent highs in 2017 to the lowest level on record last year, from 7.4% to 4.4% in locations west of the East Bay hills, and precipitously from 15.7% to 1.3% in areas on the other side, such as Orinda and Moraga. This year’s Blitz data will help minimize increases from these low levels, particularly in Lamorinda, by revealing re-emergent areas where efforts should be focused in the fall to block SOD from entering the oaks in the spring of 2024. The more data from the Blitz this year, the better the chance to keep it contained.

Readers interested in participating in this year’s Blitz can follow the SOD Blitz 2023

Spring Survey – Get Started Here link on the www.sodblitz.org page. Here you learn the Blitz protocol for identifying and collecting symptomatic Bay leaves, which you apply in whatever areas for whatever amount of time you have during your collection weekend, May 12-14 in the East Bay this year.

See www.sodblitz.org for results of past Blitzes, more information about SOD and programs to assess and manage risks for the

public and professional arborists. The SODMAP mobile app described in the “SOD Risk Assessment” shows the risk of infection at the location of the mobile phone, and “3 steps to manage sudden oak death” and “Best Management Practices” cover steps for protection. The OakSTeP program is for professionals; watch the site for SOD Treatment Training workshops for the public in the fall.

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The Goddess Gardner's Gardening Guide for April

AMEND your soil before you begin sowing. Soil is the foundation of your garden. Rich compost will help with adding the nutrients your plants will need to thrive.

CLEAN and sharpen your garden tools by plunging them in a five-gallon bucket of sand mixed with a cup of vegetable oil. The sand will keep them sharper and the oil wards off the rust. Small hand tools can be stored in the sand bucket.

BUILD or buy raised beds lined with wire to make gardening easier on your back as well as protected from digging predators like gophers and rats. Fill with a combination of mulch, compost, and soil.

CONSIDER implementing permeable pavers on a patio for increased water capturing that will support your landscape.

PLANT frost tender plants as the weather warms toward the end of the month. Ground covers, citrus, bougainvillea, and summer annuals including begonia, lobelia, snapdragon, cosmos, and primrose are available for purchase.

SUPPORT peonies or other tall plants that are flopping with a tomato cage!

EXCHANGE rhizomes, bulbs, and seeds with fellow gardeners for a variety of selections.

SOW seeds of scarlet runner bean, sweet peas, star jasmine, or morning glories to climb on fences and wire.

CREATE a palette of striking performance with the many shapes, sizes, textures, and colors of drought-tolerant succulents which require minimal moisture.

ENJOY a successive parade of patterns and painted brushstrokes throughout the seasons by planting plants with complimentary hues and consecutive blooming times.

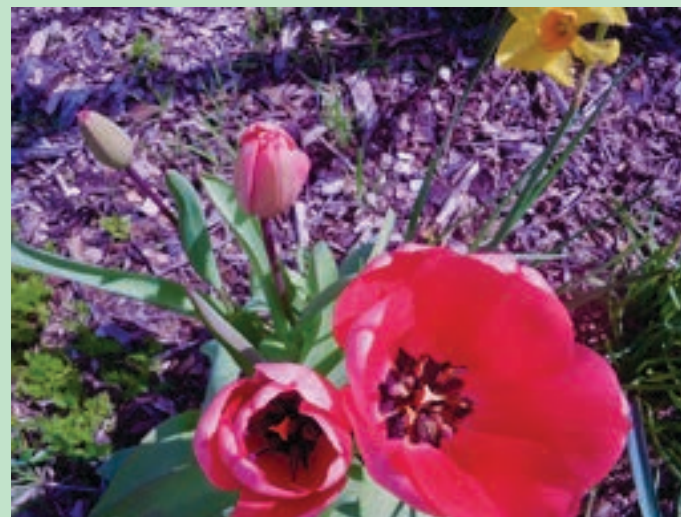
SCRUB your barbecue grill with white vinegar then scrub with half an onion to clean the grates and get ready for outside dining.

COMBINE ornamental and edible plants to create a cottage garden. Make sure your interior design and exterior esthetics flow like water.

RESIST cutting back the dying leaves of narcissi and daffodils. The fronds are gathering their nutrition for next year's blooms. Cut them back only when as dry as potato chips.

CONTROL snails and slugs with non-toxic Sluggo, pick them off by hand, use copper barriers, or bowls of beer. These slimy gastropods hatching now will devour new seedlings.

BUY ladybugs from your nursery or garden center if you see aphids, mealybugs, or other pests on your plants. Remember ladybugs fly to infested gardens.



The spirit of spring is exhibited in tulips.



Peonies add a power punch and make beautiful bouquets.



Because of the rainy weather, moss grows on the brick stairs.

VISIT the Be the Star You Are!® booth at the Moraga Faire on Saturday, April 29 between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to pick up a bag of complimentary spring potpourri and have your kids plant seeds in our craft area. Bring your gardening questions and I'll be there to answer them.
www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events



After the storms, Cynthia Brian enjoys the green hillsides.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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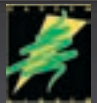
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237 Glorietta Blvd
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\$2,395,000

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15 Aspinwall Court
Single-story 3 bd/ 2 ba rancher offers an ideal open floorplan in the heart of the Ivy Drive neighborhood!

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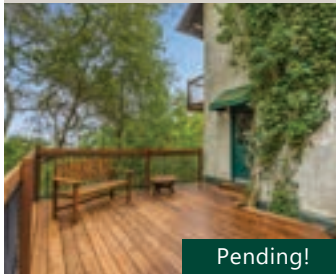


40 Las Palomas
Charming 4 bd/ 3.5 ba home w/ European flair sits on serene .30-acre parcel featuring sunny patios & tranquil seating areas!

\$1,795,000

Pending!

ORINDA



37 La Madronal
Nestled among majestic oaks w/ picturesque views of Mt. Diablo this property includes 3 bd/ 2 ba & 2427 sqft on a .25-acre parcel!

\$1,450,000

Pending!

ORINDA



0 Camino Del Monte
Come see this desirable lot located minutes from Hwy 24/BART, top rated schools, downtown, regional parks & views!

\$199,000

LAFAYETTE



3243 Ameno Drive
Spacious 4 bd/ 3 bath home offers spectacular view of light & clouds, with panoramic views of Mt. Diablo!

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WALNUT CREEK



1682 Parkside Drive
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WALNUT CREEK



1881 Cannon Drive
Charming SkyWest dwelling featuring 2 lg primary bedroom suites, fireplace & backyard views of the pool & Mt. Diablo!

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