

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 18

Issue 13

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page OH2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Growing Dinner

By Cynthia Brian



Originally a cherry plum tree, the plums this year are large, orange, and apricot flavored.



The "fruit" of a camellia tree is filled with seeds that will grow more camellia plants.



Banana peppers are ready to be picked.

Photos Cynthia Brian

"I farm the soil which yields my food, I share creation. Kings can do no more." Chinese Proverb

Last week I hosted "Nonie Camp" for my granddaughter. We spent four days and nights of uninterrupted, farm-inspired outdoor time together, chez moi. First thing every morning she happily began her chores: feeding the animals, watering the patio plants, and filling the fountains. After multiple activities including climbing trees, building forts, shooting hoops, skipping rope, swinging, swimming, and playing, our stomachs growled with hunger. Into the potager, we trekked. As we tended the garden and picked fruits and vegetables, she exclaimed. "This is amazing, Nonie. We are growing dinner!"

As an advocate for sustainability and cultivating our food, I was thrilled that she recognized the wonder of being able to step just beyond

our doorstep into nature to harvest a healthy meal. With the hot weather and lengthened daylight, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, corn, and a multitude of other crops are ripe and ready for consumption. I wait all year to eat fresh tomatoes, make tomato sandwiches, and toss up salads of tomato, cucumber, onions, and basil.

Our warm and sunny summer also offers numerous delicious herbs to be clipped for our cookouts.

Basil: Harvest the leaves of basil regularly to encourage new growth. Mixed with olive oil and garlic, basil makes a scrumptious pesto.

Cilantro: Cilantro can also be made into a pesto sauce, and is an essential ingredient in Mexican, Indian, and many Asian dishes. It bolts when it gets hot. Use the seeds, known as coriander, as a spice.

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SOLD IN AUGUST5744 Buena Vista Ave,
Upper Rockridge**Executive style with SF Views**

Represented Seller

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WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM****Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	15	\$705,000	\$6,825,000
MORAGA	5	\$1,300,000	\$2,385,000
ORINDA	12	\$1,100,000	\$2,625,000

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

- 967 3rd Street, \$2,659,500, 4 Bdrms, 5054 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-12-24,
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 09-12-11
- 565 Arrowhead Drive, \$2,665,000, 4 Bdrms, 2548 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-05-24
- 3293 Beechwood Drive, \$1,380,000, 3 Bdrms, 1226 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-12-24,
Previous Sale: \$930,000, 05-23-16
- 21 Chapel Drive, \$705,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-01-24,
Previous Sale: \$190,000, 08-11-20
- 1099 Country Club Drive, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 2282 SqFt,
1963 YrBlt, 07-05-24, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 11-03-21
- 1183 Glen Road, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-01-24
- 1135 Glen Road, \$3,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2902 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-03-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,935,000, 02-23-06
- 3277 Glenside Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2377 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 07-12-24
- 3911 Happy Valley Road, \$6,825,000, 2 Bdrms, 4718 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-12-24,
Previous Sale: \$2,280,000, 10-07-19
- 3155 Indian Way, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-08-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 08-13-18
- 2841 Kinney Drive, \$1,190,000, 2 Bdrms, 1324 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-09-24
- 3367 Mcgraw Lane, \$3,629,000, 4 Bdrms, 4447 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 07-01-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,740,000, 01-11-13
- 3961 South Peardale Drive, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2210 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 07-09-24
- 1013 Via Roble, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 07-10-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 06-24-19
- 3346 Woodview Court, \$1,667,500, 4 Bdrms, 2071 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 07-02-24,
Previous Sale: \$537,500, 03-24-00

MORAGA

- 619 Augusta Drive, \$1,625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-01-24
- 101 Hazelwood Place, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1782 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 07-01-24,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 11-16-21
- 221 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3276 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 07-09-24
- 1891 Saint Andrews Drive, \$2,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt,
1983 YrBlt, 07-11-24, Previous Sale: \$1,251,500, 11-24-14
- 111 Wallace Circle, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 2019 YrBlt, 07-02-24

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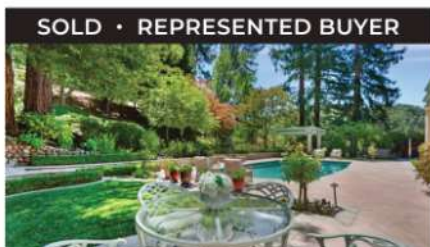
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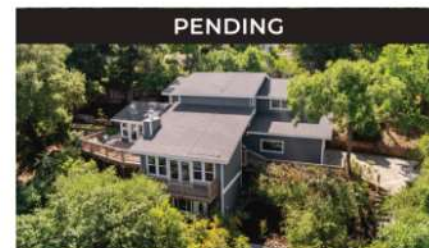
SOLD • REPRESENTED BUYER

116 FAIRFIELD PLACE, MORAGA
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PENDING

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Fire safety

By Jim Hurley



Common vent screen

Photo Jim Hurley

There we were, having dinner at a house near Serene Lakes, when a text message alerted us to a forest fire about ten miles north of our location. Looking out from the deck, we could see a plume of smoke rising straight up into the sky. Fortunately, there was no wind that day -- the fire was hardly moving, hence the straight plume of smoke. We had plenty of time to prepare, load the car and leave.

For those living in the beautiful and frequently breezy hills and canyons of the Lamorinda area, we know it is essential to be prepared should there be a fire.

Typically, I attempt to provide some humor with my perspective on home maintenance. This article, however, is intended not only to help you prepare for the chance that a fire could come in your direction, but to give you peace of mind that you have done all you can to protect your home and family in the case of a fire emergency -- no laughing matter. My first piece of advice: Don't Worry. Worrying won't accomplish anything, except perhaps to cause an ulcer. Take action to prepare for fire, and once prepared, you can relax.

How to prepare? Fire requires three elements to burn: oxygen, fuel (flammable material) and heat. Because we need it to survive, we can't do anything about the oxygen all around us, but removing fuel and avoiding sparks are entirely within our control.

First and foremost, avoid creating flames outside. Eschew outdoor wood or charcoal fires during the summer. If you like to gather friends and family around a fire on a cool summer evening, get a gas fire pit. Service your lawn mowers and other gas combustion motors to prevent sparks.

... continued on Page OH8

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Fire safety

... continued from Page OH4

Secondly, eliminate potential fuel from around your house by:

Removing dry weeds, dead trees, and flammable shrubs from your property. The city of Orinda has a list of plants which are considered dangerous:

<https://cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/1026/Disallowed-Vegetation-List-PDF>

Replacing shake shingle roofing with fire resistant or non-combustible materials.

Preventing embers from accessing fuel under your house or in the attic. Cover the vents on the foundation and attic of your house with wire mesh having less than 1/8 inch opening.

This last step could be a DIY item. Check the wire mesh which currently covers the vents to your foundation and attic. If the opening in the wire mesh is more than 1/4 inch square, it is recommended to cover the vent with a finer mesh. Your fire district may provide free wire mesh material for your use, if you go to their website and submit a request. Installing the mesh is pretty easy around the foundation -- cut the material to fit over your existing vents and secure it to the vent frame with self-tapping sheet metal screws. Covering the attic vents requires ladder work. If you are confident on a ladder, that is no problem, but if you don't care for heights, your local handyman might take care of that for you.

Once the outside of your house is prepared, it's time to prepare yourself. In the event of an emergency evacuation order, your first priority is to get everyone inside your home out of harm's way. If time allows, you might want to take a few irreplaceable items like family photo albums. If you happen to have those items in a box or bag, easy to grab and go, that is better. On high fire risk days, the fire district suggests having your go bag pre-packed and stowed in your car. However, do not waste time trying to gather that stuff together if a sheriff or firefighter is knocking on your door.

This article has highlighted a few important fire preparedness suggestions. I strongly recommend you visit the fire district web site for more complete information. The local fire districts have put together a comprehensive program of guidelines and actions required by statute in your area. They also provide consulting for residents on fire prevention and preparedness. Both local fire districts have pages of comprehensive information that will help you best prepare your home against fire.

Residents of Orinda and Moraga are in the Moraga-Orinda Fire District:

www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention

Lafayette residents are in the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District:

www.cccfpd.org/wildfire-mitigation-program/

Taking action and following the recommendations of your fire department professionals will give you the satisfaction of knowing you are prepared. Being prepared is the best assurance that you and your family will be safe.

Lamorinda home sales recorded

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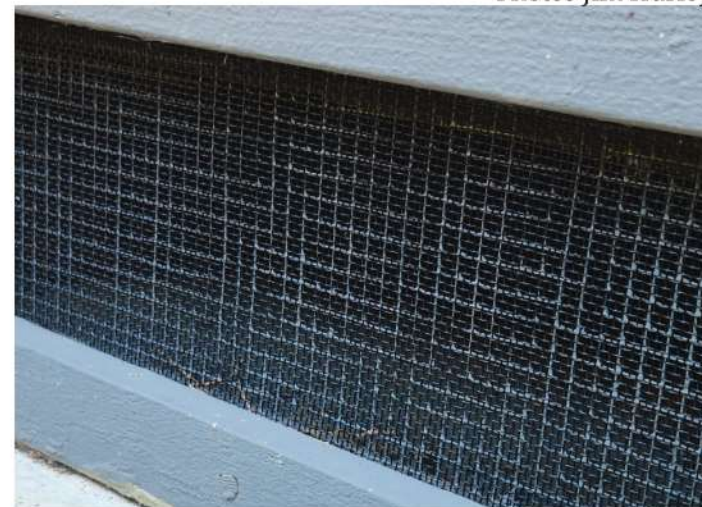
ORINDA

27 Bates Boulevard, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 07-02-24, Previous Sale: \$692,500, 05-22-02
 296 Camino Sobrante, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 3286 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 07-02-24, Previous Sale: \$110,000, 04-01-87
 15 Claremont Avenue, \$1,765,000, 4 Bdrms, 2042 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 07-10-24, Previous Sale: \$755,000, 07-20-04
 6 Darnby Court, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2021 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-03-24
 3 Duncan Court, \$2,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3577 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 07-11-24
 39 El Gavilan Road, \$2,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-02-24, Previous Sale: \$1,417,000, 04-15-10
 133 Fiesta Circle, \$2,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-12-24
 42 Hillcrest Drive, \$2,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 2664 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-08-24
 50 La Campana Road, \$2,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 2687 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-12-24
 19 Las Piedras, \$2,249,000, 4 Bdrms, 3389 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 07-11-24, Previous Sale: \$480,000, 08-01-87
 50 Overhill Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1746 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 07-03-24
 112 Ravenhill Road, \$1,555,000, 2 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-12-24, Previous Sale: \$980,000, 04-21-14



Foundation cover with 1/4 inch mesh

Photos Jim Hurley



Foundation cover with additional 1/8 inch mesh

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Growing Dinner

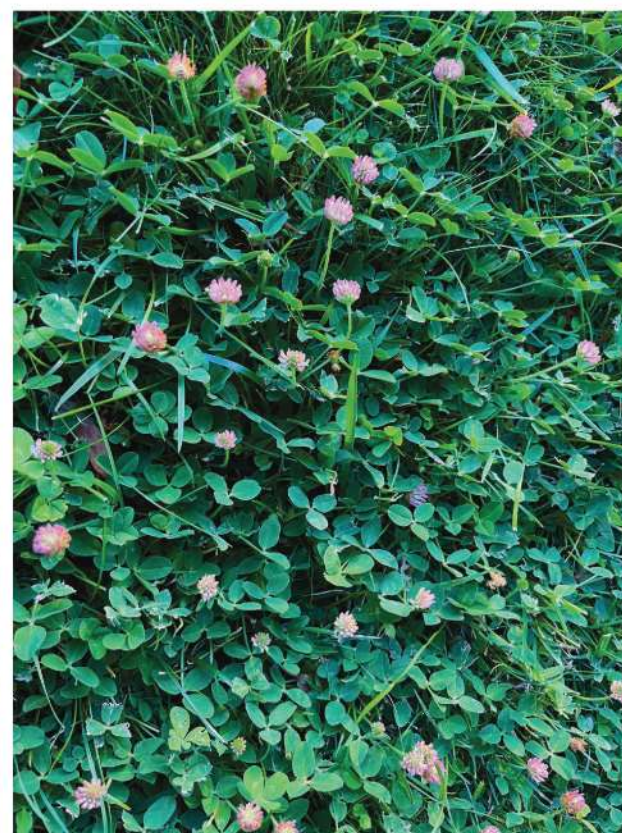
Photos Cynthia Brian



The only way to eat tomatoes is freshly plucked from the vine.



A stalk of white corn is nearing harvesting.



Clover is a nitrogen fixer and the flowers attract bees.

... continued from Page OH1

Dill: The leaves, flowers, and seeds add flavor to pickles, salads, seafood, dips, and sauces.

Basil, cilantro, and dill are summer-season herbs in Northern California.

Perennial herbs that can be snipped year-round include:

Society Garlic: Many people aren't aware that the deer-resistant flowers and leaves of society garlic are edible. I use them as garnish on baked potatoes as well as in sandwiches.

Chives: To keep the plant producing, snip this onion-flavored herb regularly.

Mint: Mint adds an energizing flavor to iced beverages, and of course, is delectable with lamb and many desserts. Grow mint in a container as it is an aggressive spreader.

Thyme: For the best flavor, harvest thyme before flowering and use the fresh leaves in soups, stews, roasts, and marinades. Thyme is a key component in bouquet garni and herbes de Provence.

Rosemary: Rosemary is a favorite of mine to add flavor to BBQ. Use the woody stems as a skewer for grilling. One plant of rosemary is all you need.

Oregano and Sage: Both are essential in Mediterranean cuisines and as garnishes for savory dishes. Use the leaves as needed and avoid cutting back more than a third of the plant at a time. ... continued on Page OH10



Zucchini plants are a staple of the summer veggie garden.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Growing Dinner

Photos Cynthia Brian



Cynthia's granddaughter reads to the chickens after collecting fresh eggs.

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At the end of June every year, I harvest my cherry plums. This year a strange thing transpired with one of my trees. My twenty-year-old plum tree no longer bore purple plums, but large orange plums that ripened in August. We picked a basket, which had a sweet apricot taste. Since I grow so many roses and continue to deadhead the spent blooms every few days, I have spectacular roses constantly in bloom. For a special summer salad, try scattering a few rose petals on a platter of peaches, plums, and melon dressed with a homemade lemon and herb vinaigrette. Cool, refreshing, and delectable.

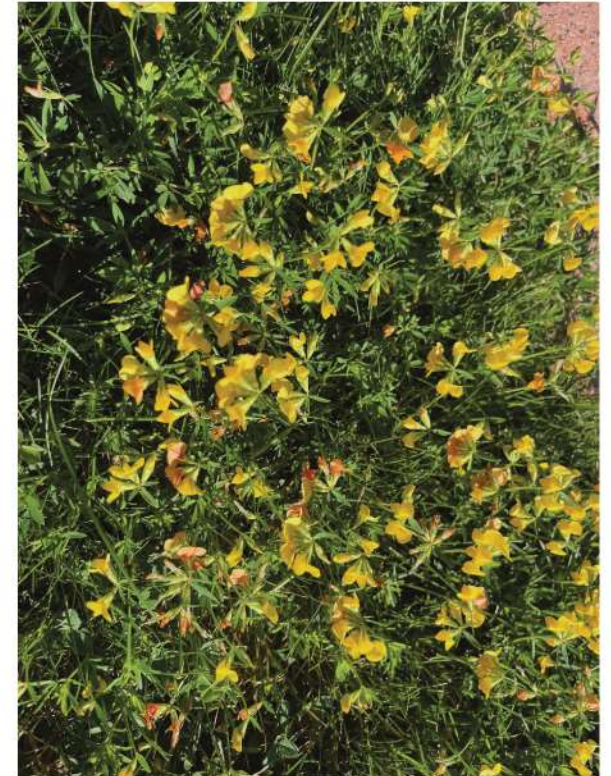
My granddaughter was impressed that the birds and wildlife also enjoyed a feast of plenty from the garden. We watched the hummingbirds darting between the blooms of the crape myrtle trees, the bees gathering nectar from the pink clover, and the bunnies munching the Bird's Foot Trefoil, a member of the pea family. Bird's Foot Trefoil is rich in nitrogen

with equal protein to alfalfa. It is often used in pastures and feed for cows and cattle. Both clover and Bird's Foot Trefoil are great alternatives or additives to a grass lawn, as they remain green even in the hot weather, albeit mowing is necessary to remove the flowers.

The benefits of growing our dinners are immense. Fresh, organic produce is nutritious. When we are cognizant of the composition of our soil, growing our food is the healthier option. We save money on buying groceries, with homegrown being more economical. We can be more sustainable and reduce our carbon footprint by minimizing packaging. One of my favorite reasons is the satisfaction of connecting to the earth and watching the growing process.

Every day of "Nonie Camp" my granddaughter went into the garden to pull a few weeds and gather our dinner. She reaped the rewards of organic homegrown and delighted me with her words, "Hmmm, this is so yummy!" Hopefully, she will pass on her love of nature to a future generation and host her version of "Nonie Camp".

Kings can do no more!



Bird's Foot Trefoil is a member of the pea family and rich in nitrogen.



Edible society garlic deters other pests.



Rose petals that have not been sprayed are delicious in salads.



Cynthia Brian stands on the balcony in front of a crape myrtle tree.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. 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 which was just honored as the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, Books in the Barnyard: Oh Deer!, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available for discounted pre-sales at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

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33 La Noria, Orinda
5 Bd + Office | 4.5 Ba | 5267 Sqft | \$5,500,000

Magically set in an heirloom garden is this stunning, private, one of a kind Classic Orinda Country Club home!



291 Monte Vista Ridge Road, Orinda
5 Bd | 4.5 Ba | 5576 Sqft | \$4,250,000

This exquisite home combines luxury, comfort, quality, privacy, & convenience to SF & top tier Orinda schools.



188 Lombardy Lane, Orinda
5 Bd | 4 Ba | 3948 Sqft | \$3,495,000

Fabulous home in coveted Sleepy Hollow w/a wonderful floor plan & spectacular private backyard!



108 Oak Road, Orinda
4 Bd | 3 Ba | 3377 Sqft | \$2,995,000

Built in 2000 & nestled in one of Orinda's close to town neighborhoods, this bright spacious home has everything you are looking for!



20 El Patio, Orinda
6 Bd | 4.5 Ba | 4552 Sqft | \$2,995,000

Totally renovated & updated in 2013, this light filled 6 bd/ 4.5 ba w/ bonus room & possible au-pair suite is a fabulous place to call home.



53 Via Floreado, Orinda
5 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2851 Sqft | \$1,695,000

Bright 5 bd/2.5 ba home in Orinda w/ amazing views!



417 Moraga Way, Orinda
4 Bd | 2 Ba | 2007 Sqft | \$1,695,000

Thoughtfully designed custom home offers gorgeous views & abundant natural light from a wall of multi-sliders!



New Listing!

152 Ravenhill Road, Orinda
3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2546 Sqft | \$1,595,000

Located in the prestigious Orindawoods development this 3 bd/ 3 ba, modern light-filled townhome is stunningly updated & has it all!



76 La Cuesta Road, Orinda
3 Bd | 2 Ba | 1762 Sqft | \$1,575,000

Va-Va-Views! This stylishly updated Orinda home is immersed in nature & a peaceful escape, yet right in town.



1087 Rahara Drive, Lafayette
3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2685 Sqft | \$2,595,000

This expansive 3 bd/ 3 ba home spans 2,685 sf on a generous 0.95-acre lot in the coveted Happy Valley neighborhood.



50 Woodbury Highlands #34, Lafayette
3 Bd | 3 Ba | 2143 Sqft | \$2,300,000

This exquisite 3 bd/ 3 ba condo offers a lifestyle of sophistication & comfort w/ stunning views & exceptional features.



New Listing!

1031 Bollinger Canyon, Moraga
5 Bd | 3.5 Ba | 4571 Sqft | \$2,795,000

This secluded country horse ranch fits 10.51 acres w/ a 3,472 sf main house, 1,018 sf guest house, a 2-stall barn, a 5,400 sf arena, mare motel & 2 pastures.



New Listing!

237 Rheem Blvd, Moraga
4 Bd | 2.5 Ba | 2457 Sqft | \$1,695,000

Set up a private driveway, this expanded single story home combines a super floor plan w/ high quality updates & relaxing outdoor spaces!



2714 Jones Road, Walnut Creek
4 Units | 3986 Total Sqft | \$1,995,000

Built in 1970 this 4 unit complex is conveniently located off the I-680 freeway, is fully rented & ready to produce a profit!



New Listing!

488 El Alamo, Danville
4+ Bd | 4 Ba | 4110 Sqft | \$3,850,000

Nestled in Danville's desirable El Pintado neighborhood, this 4 bd/ 4 ba Farm House Estate has been completely remodeled w/ thoughtful design & attention to detail.

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby • Shannon Conner • Meara Dunsmore • Linda Ehrich • Emily Estrada • Joan Evans • Linda Friedman • Liz Gallagher
Claudia Gohler • Ari Hatton • Gillian Judge Hogan • Dexter Honens II • Christina Linezo • April Matthews • Hillary Murphy • Karen Murphy
John Nash • Altie Schmitt • Ann Sharf • Amy Rose Smith • Molly Smith • Jeff Snell • Lynda Snell • Alexis Thompson • Clark Thompson
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