



Earth Day In Lafayette: A Family Affair

By Sophie Braccini



Visitors at the 2007 Earth Day in Lafayette Photo courtesy of Sustainable Lafayette

The third annual Earth Day celebration in Lafayette will entice families to join in for fun and education. On Sunday, April 20th, the City of Lafayette and Sustainable Lafayette will host an Earth Day Festival at Stanley Middle School from 12-4pm. Located close to the bike trail, the celebration will offer activities for the K-12 crowd as well as information for adults.

Committee members Bart Carr and Steve Richard from Sustainable Lafayette, retired Acalanes environmental teacher Janet Thomas and Garden Coordinator at Burton Valley Kim Curiel await visitors with interactive and educational opportunities.

Earth Day in Lafayette is an offspring of the Lafayette Environmental Strategy that the town has been implementing for three years. Students from Acalanes were involved from the start, with then teacher Thomas, and did part of the research that gave birth to this initiative. "The City of Lafayette is offering as much support as possible," says Ann Meredith, Lafayette Community Development Director, "but nothing can happen without our volunteers; Sustainable Lafayette and Janet Thomas have done a terrific job helping the city."

"Our target audience this year is families," explains Steve Richards, one of the founders of Sustainable Lafayette, along with Bart Carr. "We want the event to be fun and educational and we hope many people will come on their bikes."

One of the fun activities for children during the day will be the scavenger hunt organized by Thomas and Curiel. "We have designed a set of questions for the participants that are both fun and educational," explains Thomas. "The answers will have to be found at the participants' booths." Thomas believes that it is never too

early to learn about celebrating and preserving our Earth. Most of the participants are contributing to the Hunt. "We've chosen twenty-five participants for their educational potential," explains Richard. Among them are the Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Save Mt Diablo, Deerhill Ranch, Lafayette Library, AAA (commuting options), Parents for a Safer Environment and the Solar Oven Society.

The fair will be located in front of the middle-school, by the rocks in a nice shaded area. Environmental Clubs from Acalanes and Campolindo will be present. On the stage, the Acalanes Jazz Combo will provide entertainment. The school group recently won the AAA division at the Folsom Jazz Festival and won top honors at the Monterey Jazz Festival's NeXT Generation youth jazz combo competition on April 5th.

The Lafayette Green Awards will be on display at the City's table during the day. The Green Awards are a creation of the City Environmental Task force, which was endorsed by the City Council in October of 2007. The whole community came together for the nominations, residents, churches, students, teachers, proposed names of individuals, groups or businesses that have contributed to a greener Lafayette in 2007. There were twenty two nominations, and the ten winners in five categories will be recognized during Earth Day. The official certificates were given to the winners during the April 14th City Council meeting. "We are the first community to do this on this side of the tunnel," explains a proud Richard, "Lafayette is always ready to pioneer new, interesting ways of living."

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LAMORINDA EARTH DAY EVENTS

Come join the Friends of Orinda Creeks on April 19th for their annual Earth Day celebration at the downtown portion of San Pablo Creek behind 31 Orinda Way from 10:00am to 12:00. We will be removing trash, invasive weeds and planting native vegetation in its place as well as demonstrating acorn uses and identifying poison oak, invasive weeds and native plants. Bring boots and gloves; we'll supply refreshments and shovels. For further information, please contact Lesley Drummond at lesleyd@zentner.com.

Saturday April 19th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm -Earth Day at Mount Diablo State Park led by Carl Nielson, State Park Officer; 925-837-6129; cnielson@parks.ca.gov

Meet at Mitchell Canyon Staging area, south end of Mitchell Canyon Rd., Clayton. Volunteer to improve Mount Diablo State Park! Participate in a variety of fun and rewarding projects include native plant restoration, removal of alien plants, trail maintenance, split rail fence construction, and trash removal. Here is your chance to give back to the Mountain! Wear boots, hat and gloves. Pre-registration is required! No fees apply.

Explore our Lafayette Trails! Sat. April 19, the Lafayette Hiking Club will be leading six different hikes around Lamorinda ranging from easy to challenging and from one to six miles long; Lafayette Community Park trail to Briones or the Rim Trail. Leaders are members of the Trails Subcommittee of the Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Questions? Email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net or call the Lafayette Community Center at (925) 284-2232

Earth Day at Chabot! On Saturday, April 19, from 2-6pm, we'll have. Solar car building, worm compost exploration, water demos, and a redwood ecosystem discovery table are all part of the fun for kids. Activities are FREE with General Admission. Chabot Space Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd. just off Highway 13 in the Oakland hills. For more information, visit www.chabotspace.org.

Recycle Your E-Waste. Items FREE to recycle include: TVs, Monitors, Laptops, Flat Screens, Cell Phones, and Ink Jet Cartridges.

Other electronic items may have a small fee.

Lafayette: Sat & Sun, April 19th & 20th, from 10am-4pm

The Lafayette United Methodist Church, 53 Lafayette Circle (in the back parking lot behind Chow restaurant.) This is a fundraiser to help the youth travel to Service Projects this summer in California and Arizona. Please call C&T Recycling, 925-640-8085 with any questions.

Moraga: Sat, April 19th from 9am-4pm

Willow Spring Church, 189 School St. (close to Moraga Way.) This is a fundraiser for the Moraga Junior Women's Club

Orinda: Sat April 19th from 9am-3pm

Orinda BART Station, 11 Camino Pablo. ASLewasteddropoff.com

Lafayette Earth Day Festival - "A Family Affair"

Lafayette will hold its third annual Earth Day Festival on Sunday, Apr. 20 from 12-4pm at Stanley Middle School. www.sustainablelafayette.net/events/earthday/2008/

Celebrate the 7th Annual Wildlife Festival on Sunday, April 20th, 1-4pm at

OUSD's Wagner Ranch Nature Area adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary, 350 Camino Pablo Road in Orinda. Enjoy learning the benefits of bats, in and outs of composting, connecting with our Creeks, reuse as art and more. Refreshments Provided

Earth Day is being celebrated at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette on April 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be a meditative walk on the Labyrinth; a series of non-denominational activities for all ages from Kindergarten through adults centered around the earth and our relationship to it. At 5 p.m. Dancer's Circle will present Alice Parker's choral work, Peace Invocation. Everyone is welcome. Free. For information call 925-283-8722.

"Pedal for the Planet" bike-to-school day on April 23 sponsored by Saint Mary's College students