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It's the Kids' Fault!

By Dave Rochlin and Katy Foreman

ave: Now that both of my kids are over 6 feet tall, it's no wonder everything gets used faster in my house....food, gas, paper towels, and even hot water. Having teens is like inviting a plague of locusts into your home. It's a struggle to keep on a reasonably green path. Just taking a family vacation that involves flying is about as good for the climate as setting fire to a rainforest.

Katy: I'm just starting my own baby adventure, but I already struggle with the same thing. I'm fighting a losing battle against the wave of stuff that is flooding my house. Dave: Maybe we can help each other out! The obvious starting point for you has to be diapers. Over 15 billion disposable diapers end up in US landfills each year, and the average baby uses over 6.000 before potty training takes hold. In Lamorinda alone, that's 3 million diapers/year. Stacked up, you could make a tower of stink 40 miles high!

Katy: That's an easy one for me, actually. There are plenty of good options in reusable diapers these days. I read reviews, asked around, and wound up choosing the kind they carry at the Nurture Center in Lafayette. While the cloth/disposable debate is heated, I believe that cloth is better, not just for the planet but for the baby's health, and to make toilet training easier. Now let's talk about your constant shuttling of kids to and from school, events and games.

Dave: Have you noticed traffic jams around the high schools? Since teens can't drive with other teens for their first year behind the wheel, you have lots of solo drivers. It's a good rule, but highlights the impact that all this kid-moving driving has on our towns. Carpooling takes a bit of coordination, but has big pay offs in creating free time for parents, and reducing automobile congestion and emissions. I also try to convince my kids to get some homework done rather than come home between school letting out and after school activities. Katy: Or, a radical thought, they

3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

could walk or ride their bikes. Moraga isn't THAT big! What about all of this baby stuff that gets used for less than a year? You managed to off load some of yours onto me. In fact, I've been ridiculously lucky to get almost everything I needed from other moms and a few local consignment stores. My favorite is "They Grow So Fast" in Lafayette. I did buy a new stroller, but made sure to get one that transitions from newborn to toddler. Lots of items are made to grow with the child these days - highchairs turn into tables and chairs, cribs turn into beds, changing tables turn into regular dressers. It's nice to see that kind of innovation in product design.

Dave: If only our Playstation 2 would turn into a Playstation 3! Some things are designed for obsolescence. Looking for products with longer use windows, and going the reuse route definitely pay off. On pickup days, I'm always amazed at how much gets thrown away.

Katy: Well, one thing I won't be throwing away is little glass jars. Once we pass the breastfeeding stage (big environmental win there) and venture into "real" food, I'm planning to make my own instead of buying it. Avoiding the packaging alone will be a huge benefit, and I'll know what my kid is eating.

Dave: Keep in mind that "convenience" is why baby food and disposable diapers were created, and sometimes they make sense...the key is to be thoughtful. It's hard to teach your kids to make good environmental decisions if they aren't aware that we make trade-offs every day.

Katy: True, but I'd argue that if we are really thoughtful, and don't just succumb to what is marketed to us, we will often wind up making greener decisions. And, on the flip side, I see kids "teaching" their parents to be greener all the time. They've grown up more accustomed to thinking about the planet. Just last week at the Yogurt Shack, I saw a kid correct his mom's choice of the styrofoam cup over the paper one. Sure, it's a little thing, but it reflects a new, hopeful mindset.

Katy Foreman is a committed environmentalist who lives in Lafayette, and Dave Rochlin is a lazy environmentalist who lives in Moraga. Together they operate ClimatePath. Individuals and businesses can measure and then reduce their carbon footprints through tax deductible donations that support carbon reduction activities, renewable energy project, and forestry initiatives around the

world at www.climatepath.org

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Lamorinda Home Sales continued

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LAFAYETTE Last reported: 9 LOWEST AMOUNT:

\$545,000 **HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$2,075,000

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

MORAGA Last reported: 5

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$230,000 \$930,000 HIGHEST AMOUNT:

ORINDA Last reported: 7

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$600,000 **HIGHEST AMOUNT:** \$1,200,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information records and is provided to us by California REsource. shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

HOME SALES

3974 Canyon Road, \$1,612,000, 4 Bdrms, 2977 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 9-16-09 3366 Carlyle Terrace, \$780,000, 4 Bdrms, 1730 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-18-09 1072 Carol Lane, \$485,000, 2 Bdrms, 1306 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-11-09 437 Donegal Way, \$530,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-11-09 5 Greene Place, \$630,000, 4 Bdrms, 2495 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 9-10-09 3724 Happy Valley Rd, \$3,655,000, 6 Bdrms, 4995 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-15-09 3279 Mt. Diablo Ct #20, \$399,000, 2 Bdrms, 737 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 9-23-09 3343 Oak Court, \$947,000, 4 Bdrms, 2024 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-10-09 26 Sanford Lane, \$3,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 4923 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 9-16-09 3546 Silver Springs Rd, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1853 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-18-09 3340 St. Marys Road, \$925,000, 5 Bdrms, 2755 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-16-09 1 White Oak Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3799 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-16-09

MORAGA

733 Augusta Drive, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 2076 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-16-09 899 Augusta Drive, \$690,000, 2 Bdrms, 1656 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-23-09 759 Crossbrook Drive, \$865,000, 4 Bdrms, 2228 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-15-09 7 Dickenson Drive, \$977,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-18-09 311 Lakefield Place, \$550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-22-09 24 Sullivan Drive, \$960,000, 4 Bdrms, 2196 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 9-17-09 168 Tharp Drive, \$1,015,000, 3 Bdrms, 2686 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-17-09

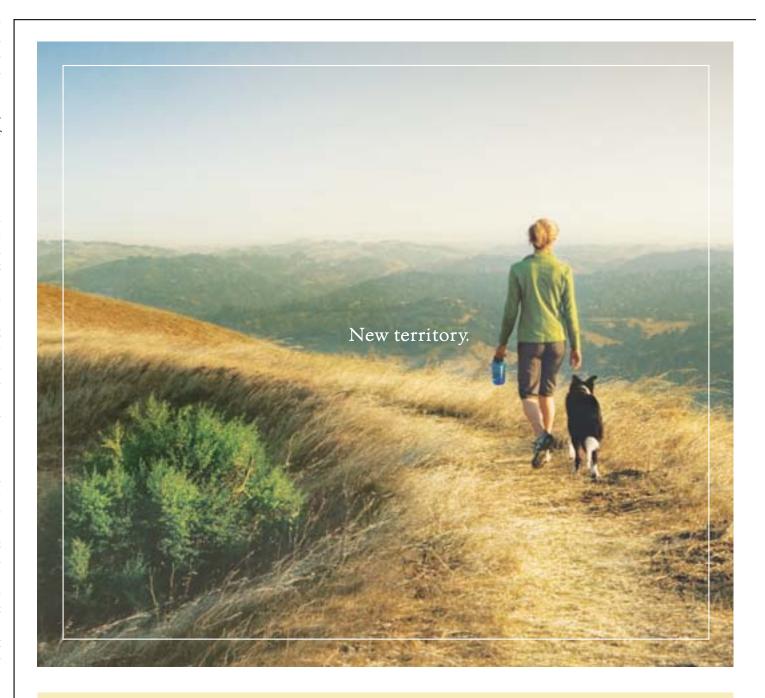
ORINDA

15 Don Gabriel Way, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 2248 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-22-09 10 Lloyd Lane, \$705,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-22-09 556 Moraga Way, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-16-09 8 Muth Drive, \$749,000, 4 Bdrms, 1691 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-23-09 4 Southwood Court, \$640,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 9-10-09

Lamorinda Foreclosures continued

ORINDA

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