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Orinda Family and Home Expo on Earth Day

The first annual eco-friendly Family and Home Expo, which is targeted toward green-minded, environmentally-conscious homeowners with kids, will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 22 at the Orinda Community Center auditorium. More than 15 vendors representing kids' clothes, yard and lawn design/maintenance, general contracting, interior flooring, pool maintenance and more will participate in this event.

"Since I am a mom of young kids, I wanted to bring together some trusted vendors who are environmentally-friendly and fun for families," says Sarah Arnold, coordinator of the event. "It seemed perfect to have the event on Earth Day."

As a realtor, Arnold has seen an overwhelming interest in Green products. "Homeowners want to know how to make their home 'healthier' for their families, as well as save money and reduce their environmental footprint," she says.

And there are many benefits for going green: The state gives incentives and rebates for buying energy-efficient appliances, and kids grow up with less allergies and ailments such as asthma that can be brought on by chemicals in our environment.

"One of the highlighted vendors is Bellwether Materials, who is in the start-up phase of bringing to market home insulation made from sheep wool. It is a safe, healthy, and natural alternative to fiberglass," Arnold says. "And it's easier to install than other types of insulation and formaldehyde-free."

Kids can enjoy presentations by Andy Zandy the Balloon and Magic Guy and Soja Martial Arts, or satisfy their sweet tooth at the Loard's Ice Cream booth, while parents talk with vendors. Cora Sue Anthony from HGTV's Real Estate Intervention, will also be there to talk about her new show and give tips on how use staging to get your home sold.

"It is an opportunity to rub elbows with a local celebrity, and to pick her brain on new home design trends she has seen as in the area," says Arnold.

For information about the Expo, e-mail Sarah Arnold at sarnold@rockcliff.com or call (925) 253-7074. - J. Wake

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