

Small things add up: Project Earth recognized for environmental contributions



Photo provided

David Siu, Lauren Brekke and Raini Chugh present their vision and findings from Project Earth. The trio, who are now sixth-graders at Stanley Middle School, launched their campaign to reduce idling cars during school pickups and drop-offs when they were students at Burton Valley Elementary School, and have continued their efforts to tackle climate change at the local level.

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When many of us were stuck inside due to the poor air quality from the fires in 2018, Raini Chugh, Lauren Brekke and David Siu took note of something else that was impacting the environment right in front of their school everyday: idling cars.

That's what inspired the trio of friends who are now sixth-graders at Stanley Middle School to launch Project Earth and paved the way for them to earn one of the two environmental excellence awards for 2021.

Chugh recalls people paying more attention to the air quality and the monitors at school. "We realized it wasn't just the air quality from the fires. It was also from the cars dropping off (or picking up) their kids at school," Chugh says. "A lot of cars were idling and it was completely unnecessary so we decided to take action."

While at Burton Valley, Chugh, Brekke and Siu began their efforts to curb idling with a poster contest—inviting their peers and schoolmates to creatively contribute to the campaign to teach parents to turn off their engines. Siu says he's seen evidence that their efforts have been making a difference.

"We saw a 10% decrease in the number of idling cars," says Siu, who originally became concerned when he noticed a high number of cars with their engines running as he took the bus to school. He's pleased to see some people

changing their habits.

Although the three students have moved on from Burton Valley Elementary School and now attend Stanley, their work is not done. In addition to continuing to push parents toward turning off their cars while waiting outside of schools in Lafayette, they are involved in the efforts to create safe bike lanes in Burton Valley, they're helping spread awareness about the option of having solar and wind powered homes and they've got plans for the next Earth Day.

"We want to have an arbor day celebration around Earth Day and have people plant trees, which will also help with clean air," says Brekke, who believes that spreading the word is a form of taking action and she hopes everyone realizes that they can make a difference.

"Just taking a long shower or idling your car might not seem like a big deal but so many people do (those things that) it results in a big problem," Brekke says.

If you're skeptical about whether or not your particular idling car matters, Chugh says it does.

"If everyone idles their car, it's all going to add up and make a difference that we don't want, so we're trying to pick projects that everyone does (and can change)," Chugh says. "I think the most important thing I've learned is that we have to keep going even when we face obstacles."

... continued on Page A9



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's You Tube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

TBA
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

homeTelligent
INCORPORATED
design / build
(800)298-2003 hometelligentinc.com

SPECIALIZING IN
Home Remodeling,
Home Additions,
ADUs, Outdoor Spaces,
and so much more.

ASK ABOUT OUR INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR PROTECTING YOUR NEW AND EXISTING SURFACES.



"Best Contractor and Best Kitchen/Bath Remodeler"



KEITH KATZMAN

I'M SELLING LAMORINDA!

Moraga resident since 1966. Successfully selling real estate for over 35 years.

925.376.7777
keith.katzman@compass.com
DRE # 00875484



SOLD | \$1,650,000



1069 Larch Ave
4 Beds | 2 Baths | 1420 sq. ft.
Represented Buyer

Your Strategic Partner

When you're preparing your home for market, it makes sense to assess what improvements can be made so that you're not leaving money on the table at closing. But what are those improvements? **Let's work together** well before a sale so that you can benefit from my expertise as a strategic partner!

As always, I am here to help ... I listen and I care

COMPASS

A Happy Valley Classic



Coming Soon - 1258 Upper Happy Valley, Lafayette
5 Bedrooms | 4.5 Baths | 4,881 ±Square Feet | .72 ±Acre



Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives
925.285.8336
brydonivesteam.com
DRE 01408025 | 01367466

Stunning custom traditional estate situated on a private park-like setting in sought after Happy Valley. This extraordinary property is tucked back off the road and offers an oasis of natural beauty. This home enjoys a flowing floor plan including a fabulous living room, private office & stunning formal dining room, topped off with a sensational backyard with separate casita, outdoor kitchen, pool, and bocce court.

Offered at \$4,995,000 | 1258UpperHappyValley.com

Call us for more information!

BRYDON & IVES
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 0127235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Having been established as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.

COMPASS
Compass is a licensed real estate broker (01991628) in the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.