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Lafayette Earth Day Festival

By David Scholz



Celebrate all things Mother Earth at the 17th Lafayette Earth Day Festival, which will be held on Sunday, April 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Lafayette Plaza Park.

The event, hosted by Sustainable Lafayette, will offer a range of activities for everyone. Here's a rundown:

Bikemobile.com will provide free bike tune-ups and safety checks, including adjustments, lubrication and proper tire inflation;

There will be arts and crafts hosted by The Art Room and games for kids supervised by members of Lafayette's Youth Commission;

Local projects from Safe Routes to Acalanes, Lafayette Community Garden, and Outdoor Education Center;

Community resources and utilities such as MCE, Republic Services, 511 Contra Costa, and San Francisco BayKeeper;

Non profits with Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association (featuring a honey making demonstration), 350 Contra Costa, and Mt. Diablo Audubon Society;

Youth projects such as the Lamorinda 4-H with its petting zoo and Stanley School's Project Earth team;

Lafayette Plaza businesses such as Sideboard with its menu featuring locally sourced ingredients, and Hollie Homegrown with farm fresh retail products;

Environmental Task Force will be on hand to educate homeowners about the benefits of electrifying their homes, and providing information about pollution-free leaf blowers and induction cooktops.

Under the heading "Every day is Earth Day," Lafayette residents are encouraged to try out electric leaf blowers, as the community starts weening itself off gas-powered devices. Starting July 1, Lafayette will no longer allow the use of gas-powered blowers. Electric leaf blowers are healthier to operate, easier to maintain, and much quieter. Residents can borrow an e-blower for up to two weeks thanks to an e-lending program made possible by the city's Environmental Task Force. Use of e-lawn blowers is allowed from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Look for Electric Leaf Lending Program on www.lovelafayette.org for details.

Volunteers looking to help with the festival can contact brad@sustainablelafayette.org for opportunities. Assistance is needed before and especially on the day of the event.

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