

FEATURES

CLIMATE CORNER

Electric bikes flatten Piedmont hills

By Marjorie Blackwell

Every weekday morning, Piedmont resident Kelly Brezovec and her five-year-old daughter, Esther, mount the family's electric cargo bike and ride uphill from their home near Beach School to Esther's transitional-kindergarten class at Havens Elementary School. The trip takes less than 10 minutes, with no parking problems or waiting in a line of cars to drop off or pick up students.

"Riding the electric bike is such easy exercise," said Brezovec, a dedicated bicyclist and e-biker. "We can spend more time outdoors. It shows my daughter that biking is just normal transportation, and I don't need to fool with car seat challenges."

"The hills are hardly an issue," she added.

Pre-COVID shutdown, Brezovec commuted by e-bike to her job with East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) in Oakland's Uptown neighborhood. She notes her e-bike is not only emission free, it uses no natural gas, thanks to Piedmont's choice of 100% wind and solar energy from EBCE.

Brezovec and her husband, Steve, own a car, but rarely use it. They much prefer using their e-bike for grocery and other shopping (it can carry up to 220 lbs.), as well as for fun. The electric motor powers the bike up to 20 miles per hour, and the battery charge, depending on usage and



Piedmont residents Esther Brezovec, age 5, and her mother, Kelly Brezovec, on the family's electric bike.

flat or hilly terrain, can last for up to three days.

Kelly and Steve are both experienced bicyclists, having navigated San Francisco and Oakland streets on road bikes before moving to Piedmont, and are well aware of traffic and safety concerns.

"Riding an electric bike has a learning curve, like buying a new car," Kelly noted. "My bike weighs 60 lbs., and I had to get used to stopping and starting it. But it has fatter tires and built-in

lights. It is easier to change lanes in traffic than on a non-electric bike."

Brezovec purchased her Yuba Boda Boda e-bike at Westside Joe's in Alameda. She also recommends Blue Heron Bike Shop (<https://www.blueheronbikes-berkeley.com>) in Berkeley, where owner Rob Allen has been selling bikes since 1972.

"Buying an electric bike is not cheap. E-bikes cost from \$1,500 to \$10,000, with an average of about \$2,500," said Allen. "But if you think of the e-bike as a vehicle, it is far cheaper to buy and operate than a car. And with a cargo bike, you have both a back seat and a trunk. The cost is in the purchase, but the reward is in owning and the joy in riding it."

The choices of makes and models of electric bikes are almost as numerous as that of electric cars. Cargo bikes can be front loaders that hold passengers or cargo low in front of the seat, or "mid or long-tailed" that can carry loads and passengers behind the seat. There are folding e-bikes for transit commuters and electric pedal-assist bikes that are lightweight and less expensive than cargo bikes.

"The pedal-assist bikes flatten the hills and are perfect for Piedmont," said Allen.

PIEDMONT CLIMATE CHALLENGE

By Nate Redinbo,

The annual Piedmont Climate Challenge is coming to the end of its first month. In an effort to get more households involved in the Piedmont Climate Challenge, the City is partnering with community groups and businesses to offer a raffle, which will take place from December 1 to December 21.

The Climate Challenge is a website that helps Piedmont residents keep track of climate actions and how they can make a difference. Make an account and learn more at www.PiedmontClimateChallenge.org. In order to secure an entry into the raffle, residents can:

- Create a profile at the website (worth **one** raffle entry)
- Post about their progress using the hashtag #PiedmontClimateChallenge on Facebook or Instagram (This is worth an additional **one** entry)
- You can get a raffle entry for referring a friend. If the friend mentions that you referred them in the Instagram post or in the email, you will receive **one** more raffle entry.
- Existing Piedmont Climate Challenge users from last year will already be entered in the raffle, so no need to create a new profile.

The Prize: Mulberry's Market is offering a sampling of wines for the holidays, a \$50 gift card to buy your favorite treats with, and a gourmet cheese platter to bring home for a festive holiday dinner.

One winner will be chosen from the raffle entrants and notified the week of December 21.

For any questions about the raffle, please contact nredinbo@piedmont.ca.gov. The Climate Challenge is sponsored by the City of Piedmont, Piedmont Connect, Piedmont High School Green Club, and Mulberry's Market.

KEEP CALM

 TREE LOT
 ONLINE
scouttreelot.org

Cancer League Holly Ball to be virtual on December 4

The Cancer League's 47th annual Holly Ball event will be held on December 4 but without the traditional dinner event at the Claremont Country Club.

Jenna Caldwell, this year's Holly Ball Chair, was committed to continuing The Cancer League's fundraising tradition, but safely. She and her committee came up with something that would look a little different.

"So many people are avoiding their doctor's offices and are putting off the early detection screenings, making them even more at risk. While the world has changed, our commitment to fighting cancer can't," she said.

This year's theme is: *Don't Stop the Fight Against Cancer, Holly Ball 2020 virtual.*

The virtual event kicks off on Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. with welcoming comments from Cancer League President Lucy Ridgway, followed by featured speakers Alan Ashworth, PhD, President of UCSF Helen Diller

Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Mekhail Anwar, recipient of the NIH New Innovator Award and recipient of seed funding from The Cancer League.

Additionally, Hanna Malak, a member of the Board of Directors at Camp Okizu, will describe the work done by Okizu, a camp helping children affected by cancer to heal through a welcoming recreational outdoor camp program. Sadly, the camp recently sustained significant damage from the North Complex fires.

To maintain as much tradition as possible, the Holly Ball organizers teamed up with the Claremont Country Club to offer wonderful meals and signature cocktails to go prepared by the Club's Executive Chef, Hans Wiegand. The Cancer League welcomes all guests to join this special event. To make a donation of any level and to purchase to-go meals, see thecancerleagueinc.org/hb2020.

Don't Stop the Fight
 the **FIGHT** AGAINST CANCER
 Life as we know it has come to a **STOP** but our determination to fight cancer has **NOT**.
 Stubby Ball 2020 (VIRTUAL)

HUMOR

Wisdom through the ages

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.'

— Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

— Eleanor Roosevelt

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

— George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

— Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

— Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

— Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

— Groucho Marx

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

— Zsa Zsa Gabor

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.

— Alex Levine

Money can't buy you happiness. But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery.

— Spike Milligan

Until I was 13, I thought my name was: SHUT UP.

— Joe Namath

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

— Bob Hope

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

— W. C. Fields

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.

— Will Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

— Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.

— Phyllis Diller

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

— Billy Crystal