

"I Am Your Father" zucchini racer squashes the competition on Fathers' Day

By Sora O'Doherty

A sunny Fathers' Day at the Moraga Farmers Market saw a zucchini car named for an infamous father win a \$100 "most creative" prize as the Zucchini Car Races returned to the market on Sunday June 16. Their car was called "I Am Your Father," after the Darth Vader character in the Star Wars movie series.

The first place winners took home a \$200 cash award for their car, "The California" constructed from a zucchini and deemed the fastest race winner of the day. Another two entries, "Zoe" and "LYZOO2" were also deemed most creative winners and took home \$100 each. The four winners ranged from ages

Dozens of zucchini cars zoomed down the track to the finish line. Some didn't quite make it, others smashed through the ping pong net barrier erected to protect the crowd of spectators.

Competitors were able to build their own zucchini race cars at at the pit stop set up by the market and test them out on the track. The market provided all the materials for wheels and decorations.

App helps EV owners to save

while charging at home

By Elaine Borden Chandler

For electric car and other EV

to save money and use clean

cars during the hours when

night, prices for electricity are

as it is plugged in, MCE Sync

take advantage of times when

MCE Sync has a list of ranked

electricity is less expensive.

priorities, some of which are

decided by the EV owner, that it

uses to guide how it charges the

EV. These priorities in descending

order are: charging the EV by the

owner's chosen "get ready" time,

charging the EV from the grid at the

Energy (MCE) and ev.energy in

money and help environment

The rule provided that zucchini cars could not be wider than 6.5 inches with wheels or longer than 16 inches. No weights or motorized devices were allowed, and the axles of the car were required to go through the zucchini. All of the zucchini had to be farm fresh from the farmers' market or locally grown. Competitors were allowed to bring zucchini cars constructed at home also.



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First of July ban on gas leaf blowers powering e-device education push

By David Scholz



Photo David Scholz

Dorothy Walker uses a handheld e-leaf blower to clear leaves on the road across from her Lafayette home. She checked out the device from the City's Parks and Recreation Department through its leaf blower loaner program that is available to citizens to try out handheld and back-pack

As residents prepare for the looming July 1 ban on gas powered leaf blowers in the City of Lafayette, an increasing number have been readying for the change by taking out electric models for test drives around their residences.

Among them is Dorothy Walker, who recently checked out the handheld e-leaf blower to gauge its effectiveness around her yard as well as for clearing street in

Life in Lamorinda

front of her of Yorkshire Court residence.

partment, noted there's been an uptick

gram, which allows for a two-week check

out period, since it was initiated last Octo-

ber to help residents transition to the new

noted there has been 25 applications tal-

blowers, while the one available backpack

leaf blower, mostly being checked out by

residents for their hired landscape crews

handheld leaf blowers through the pro-

gram, a rake has long been her tool of

the battery is easy to install after charg-

pushed the right button hard enough it

was no problem," said Walker, who has

since checked out the handheld unit sev-

battery from the charger, but after I

Before Walker started signing out e-

"These blowers are easy to use and

ing. Initially I had trouble disengaging the

to try out, has had 20 applications.

choice with four large oaks in her

lied for borrowing four handheld e-leaf

As of the close of mid June, Warshaw

interest in the leaf blower loaner pro-

city law regulating leaf blowers in the

Recreation Manager John Warshaw, with the city's Parks and Recreation De-

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eral times.

backyard.

community.



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cheapest times to reduce electricity **Sports**

Miramonte Lacrosse coach goes on a new path

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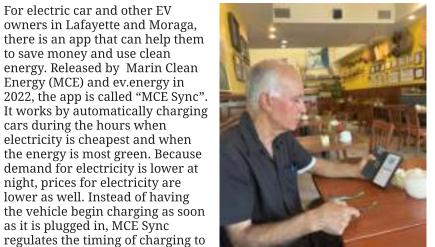


Photo Elaine Borden Chandler

Ahmed Shiblin looks at his car's charging patterns on the MCE Sync app.

costs, charging when there is less demand on the grid, and charging when grid energy is greenest.

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Cherries and lots of flowers —

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