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ECO-LOGIC

The Official Newsletter of the Tri-City Ecology Center



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ANIMAL CORRIDORS IN FREMONT?

This is a test! Can you identify who is the real Elka writing this essay? Remember a 12 y/o seventh-grade student who has written for the newsletter before? She was assigned a school essay question – “How would you improve your community?” The following two essays are on this subject. One was written by ChatGPT (in 15 seconds!). The other is written by Elka Chittle. Can you guess which essay is written by Elka?



Essay 1

Animal corridors, also known as wildlife crossings over and under freeways, are structures built to enable animals to safely cross highways and other roads without being struck by vehicles. They take different forms, including overpasses, underpasses, and tunnels, and they reduce the negative impact of roads on wildlife populations, such as habitat fragmentation and animal-vehicle collisions. Animal corridors are especially important in areas where roads and highways intersect with wildlife habitats, such as migration routes, feeding areas, and breeding grounds. By providing safe crossing opportunities, they can help maintain healthy wildlife populations and preserve biodiversity.

Several studies have shown that animal corridors can be effective in reducing animal-vehicle collisions and improving the connectivity of wildlife populations. However, building and maintaining animal corridors can be costly, and their effectiveness depends on several factors, such as their design, location, and usage by wildlife. Overall, animal corridors are an important tool for reducing the negative impact of roads on wildlife, and their implementation should be considered in road planning and development projects in areas where wildlife habitats intersect with transportation infrastructure.

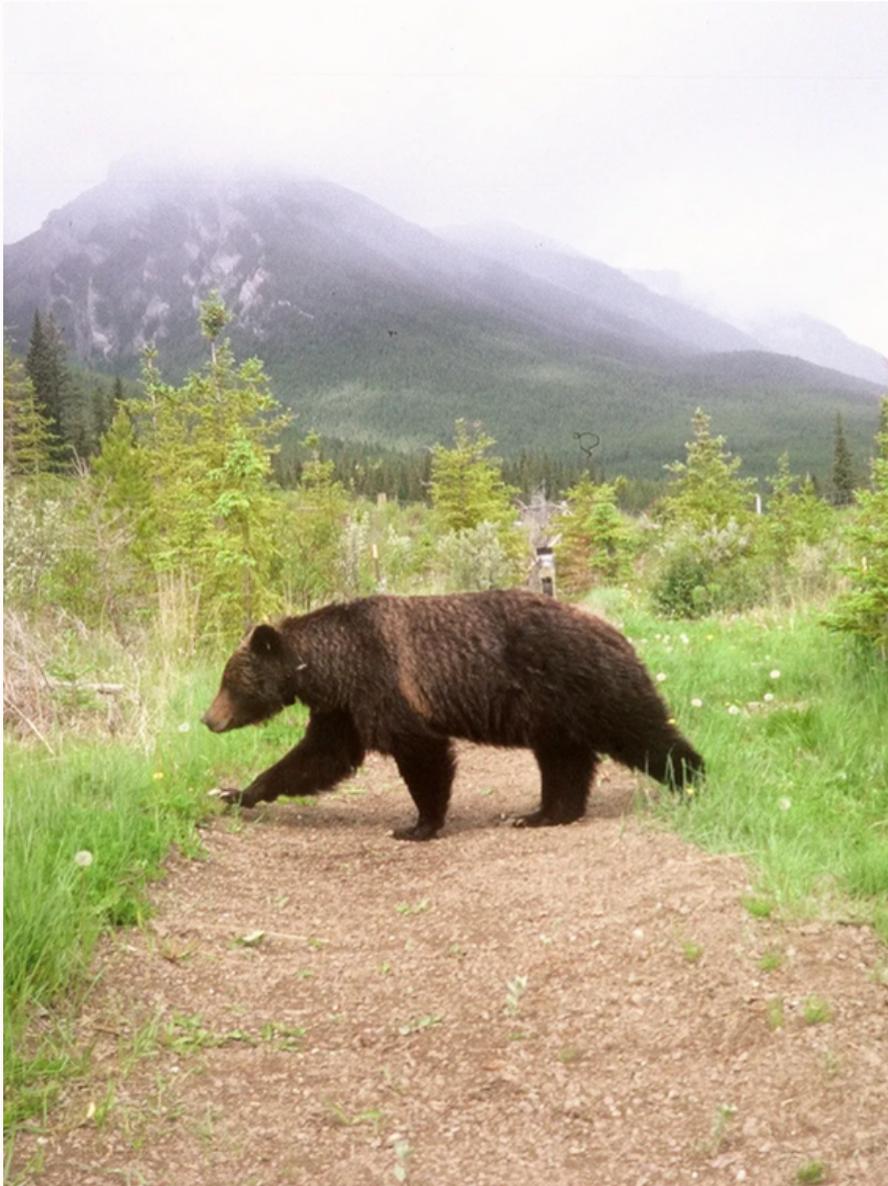
Again, animal corridors can help animals cover large areas by providing a safe and continuous passage between fragmented habitats. Fragmentation of habitats can occur due to human activities such as the construction of roads, urbanization, and other forms of land-use change.

This fragmentation can lead to the isolation of populations, genetic drift, and reduced biodiversity. By providing safe and continuous passages between fragmented habitats, animal corridors allow animals to move freely and access resources that would otherwise be unavailable to them. This movement can help maintain genetic diversity, facilitate gene flow, and reduce the risk of extinction. In addition, animal corridors can help animals adapt to changes in their environment by allowing them to move to more suitable habitats as conditions change.

So, overall, animal corridors play an important role in maintaining ecological connectivity, facilitating the movement of wildlife populations, and promoting biodiversity conservation.

ESSAY 2

PLANT MORE OAK TREES



One way that we can improve our community is by reintroducing native oak trees into the habitats around our city. We can also reutilize some of the many fields of grass and overgrown invasive weeds by planting native plants such as oak trees.

California used to be one third covered in oak trees. There are twenty different native species of oak trees and many native animals such as birds that nest and find refuge in oak trees, like acorn woodpeckers, ruby-throated hummingbirds, chickadees and various owls. That's just some of the many birds. Birds are a wonderful part of cityscapes and keep down rodent and insect populations so that we humans don't have to. I would like to suggest that the city of Fremont should add to its charter, support of native wildlife and restorations of native oak trees.

There are many public and open spaces throughout Fremont that could be transformed into beautiful and ecologically mindful spaces. Fremont is mostly made up of townhouses, apartments, shops, and businesses. Though there are many buildings in Fremont there are still ways to plant and grow native plants. For example, rooftop gardens are wonderful for birds and insects. Rooftop gardens can also be a beautiful place to enjoy on a lunch break or after a shift. They can also be nice at apartments or in a mall as a tranquil and peaceful place to enjoy and take care of as a community.

As we reintroduce native plants, native animals will slowly come back as their natural habitats are built back up. Once there are more animals there becomes a concern for their safety and especially because there are so many roads and the highways are such dangerous places for animals. In the United States alone there are more than a million automobile accidents per year involving wildlife. If we start to consider putting in a wildlife crossing over the 680 or 880 hopefully we can build the wild animals a safer way to get from one side of the highway to another. There is currently construction starting on the world's largest wildlife crossing over ten lanes of highway 101 in northwest Los Angeles. Wildlife Crossings are a safe and more peaceful way for animals to get from one side of the highway to the other.

In conclusion, it is important for the environment to plant more oak trees and native plants. Rooftop gardens are a great way to incorporate native plants and small animals into our cities. Oak trees are wonderful trees to be reintroduced and replanted in our communities not just for us but also for native animals that call oak trees home. Wildlife Crossings are also a great idea to keep our wildlife safe and capable of roaming free.

THE UNION PACIFIC RAIL CORRIDOR

– BY KELLY ABREU

Preserving natural resources and creating access to parks and multi-modal pathways are essential aspects of urban planning and community development. However, the construction of transportation infrastructure and housing development often take precedence over environmental conservation and community well-being. Here in Fremont, residents are raising their voices and advocating for more greenway trails by taking advantage of existing corridors.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have been focusing on transportation and cargo movement, but Tri-City residents are asking for more access to nature, parks, and multi-modal pathways. While the city has made progress with the construction of protected bike paths and a showpiece bridge at the Warm Springs Bart station, there is still much more that can be done to take advantage of existing corridors for greenway trails.

One opportunity that stands out is the Union Pacific rail corridor, which connects Niles Canyon and Vallejo Mill to Central Park. The corridor is currently unused real estate that could be converted into an asset for recreation and public health. By transforming this corridor into a greenway trail, Fremont could provide its residents with a valuable resource for outdoor activities, and protect natural spaces and biodiversity

Unfortunately, Fremont faces significant budget constraints, with three-quarters of general fund expenditures going towards police, fire, medical, and pension obligations. As a result, there is little left over for fixing potholes, addressing homelessness, and expanding the city's network of multi-modal trails. The city council often looks at budget reviews and financial forecasts as a formality, leaving key spending decisions to staff and labor unions during closed-door negotiations.

It's not a coincidence that the people sitting across the table at these negotiations are often important political campaign donors. This situation raises concerns about potential conflicts of interest and the prioritization of special interests over community needs.

Fremont residents can make a difference by holding their elected council representatives accountable and pushing them to focus on budget issues and not lose sight of opportunities to build healthful recreation pathways. By working together, the community can ensure that our city prioritizes environmental conservation and public health, while also addressing critical budget issues. It's time for Fremont to take action and invest in its green infrastructure to create a more sustainable and vibrant future for its residents.

THE BEES ARE COMING! BAD BEES????



The Urban Friends of the Forest Team – Warwick Elementary School

Honeybees don't really need a bridge or special insect corridor, but they remain one of the most important agricultural supply teams in California and the U.S. at large – some 15 billion dollars-worth. A recent article in [The Eastbay ECHO](#), a newsletter started in January 2023, highlighted an interesting article – “To bee or not to bee – Fremont is encouraging urban beekeeping, but research suggests that's misguided.” While limited studies do show a decline in native bees when urban areas are over populated with honeybees, there are still advantages to popularizing honeybees – more pollinator plants are encouraged and planted. Still, more research is justified. And the advantage of a new animal code for bees is that the expertise of Alameda Bee Keepers and Fremont Beeks is now available to study and promote diversity of all bees.

As the sun returns, days warm, and Spring comes into full force it is certain that swarms will return as well. There were around 600 swarms and colony extraction reports in 2022 in the Bay Area at large, and likely there will be more in 2023. What to do if you discover a swarm in your backyard or neighborhood? Here's the Swarm call number – 510 898-6696

THE THIRD ACT IS HAPPENING!

<https://thirdact.org/national-day-of-action/>

On March 21, 9:30 – 11:30 AM, there will be a gathering in front of the Wells Fargo Bank on Piedmont and 41st St. Many members from the Green Team and other climate change activists will be taking scissors and cutting up their debit cards for not only Wells Fargo but for B of A, CitiBank, and Chase – all institutions that have significant assets supporting the fossil fuel industry. The goal is to encourage the promotion of renewable energy and responsible, long-term investing. Come join us!



Save the date | 3.21.23

STOP DIRTY BANKS

Join us for a National Day of Action on March 21, 2023
- 3.21.23! Together we demand banks stop funding
climate chaos.

GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT



Earth Day is coming! April 22 at the Fremont Event Center.

🐝 there or 🐝 squared.

The Grey Water Project's 4th Annual Earth Day Art Competition is open! Submit your Visual Art, Dance, Music, and Literature on the theme "Invest in Our Planet" to win cash prizes and be featured on Earth Day. The submission period is from now to April 15th.

Every year, the art that students create represents both the diversity of challenges our planet faces and the solutions that can be implemented in their communities. TCEC is once again co-sponsoring the awards for The Grey Water Project's Earth Day this year. Register at <https://thegreywaterproject.org>.



THE GREY WATER PROJECT'S 4TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY COMPETITION

Who can Participate: Students K-12 from around the world

Theme: Invest In Our Planet

Categories: Visual Art, Music, Dance, Literature

Deadline: April 15th, 2023

Prices/Recognition: Cash Prices for Winning Entries

All entries will be displayed at the Earth Day Celebrations by The Grey Water Project, City of Fremont, and Fremont Creates, CA

Find out More and Register Now !



 www.thegreywaterproject.org

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Tri-City Ecology Center

BAD NEWS DEPARTMENT

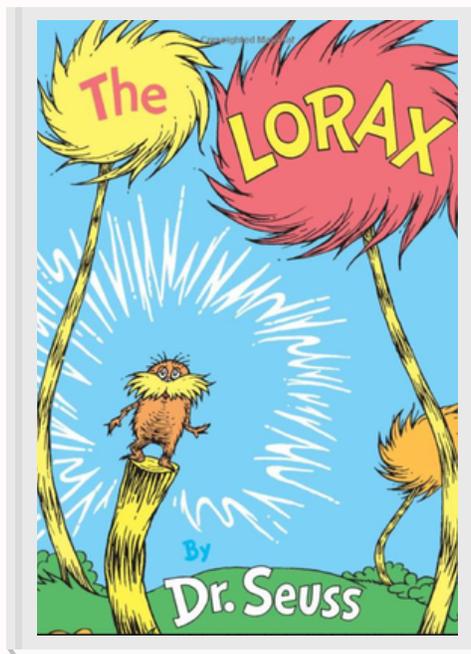
Fremont dog banned from car travels in Florida!

Senate bill 932 sponsored by senate minority leader Lauren Book, Section 1, will prohibit “a dog to extend its head or any other body part outside a motor vehicle window while the person is operating the motor vehicle in a public roadway”. This will include a Beagle named Darwin who efficiently controls power windows and compulsively sticks her nose out the window. Does your dog roll down windows too?

End of Dr. Seuss Books, beware the Nasty Hooks!

Yikes, are Americans into the business of banning books now? Such as To Kill a Mockingbird, or Lord of the Flies? Well, even Dr. Seuss has faced the chopping block by his publishers for 6 books that portray people in “hurtful or harmful” ways. Here’s one of his favorites that will remain a classic.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lorax



WE'RE STANDING TALL FOR TREES

- BY BEE NEWELL

If you haven't read the Urban Forest Management Plan draft for the city of Fremont, I urge you to take a look: [Urban Forest Management Plan | City of Fremont, CA Official Website](#) This weighty document was funded by [Cal Fire](#) and mainly prepared by [PlanIt Geo](#) - Urban Forestry Consulting and Software Powerhouse. The grant that applied for the funds to develop the UFMP specified extensive community involvement, yet the draft itself signifies a bare minimum of non-city-staff involvement. That is why a group of concerned citizens attended the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on March 1 at City Hall and pointed out that the grant wording, the draft plan wording, and even the Director of Community Service's statement of "The highest priority we have is partnering with the community to achieve urban forest goals." calls for a real inclusion of the community. One of the knowledgeable groups is Urban Forest Friends (an integral part of the Tri-City Ecology Center). has planted native trees in several areas of Fremont and Newark during the past year, as well as led tree identification walks in Newark and Union City. In addition, the Green Team of Niles Discovery Church has offered its services in educating the populace, planting, and preparing areas for native Bay Area trees. One commissioner did acknowledge the beneficial effect that volunteers could have on the enactment of the plan and supported formally including them.

Editors note: Of the many ways Fremont can adapt to and anticipate climate change, the priority of a more comprehensive tree canopy is one of the easiest to gain public participation. Since the City manages around 20% of Fremont's 800,000 trees and 80% are in the public domain, community organizations can contribute substantially to planting more trees in residential areas. City management can work integrally with such partnerships and utilize some of its CalFire 1.5 million dollars to provide the trees planted by UFF, Rotary, the Green Team, schools, and newer organizations.

The UFMP notes a \$1:\$7.44 annual cost-benefit ratio with tree planting and \$89 annual benefits per tree. It would make sense to support UFF and others, which already have public tree-planting programs coordinated by the City.

INTERVIEW WITH A BUMBLE BEE



TCEC – Hello, Bumble Bee. Do you have time for an interview? Just a few questions?



Bumble bee – I'm pretty busy, but shoot!



TCEC – Did you know that immigrant honeybees are overtaking your territory and threatening your existence?



Bumble bee – You're kidding, right? Do you think a little honey bee can get in my way?



TCEC – Well if it takes up all the nectar and pollen then you won't have enough. Urban honeybees threaten the diversity of native bees.



Bumble bee – Hmm...maybe we should ban them from Fremont.



TCEC – That might work. But we'd have to ban flowers too. It's the only way to keep bees out.



Bumble bee – Look, we have a longer proboscis and we get nectar that the honeybees can't reach. Besides, we go for flowers they don't. Everyone feels sorry for the honeybee, but we are losing out too. Like some of us, natives are vanishing - *Bombus terricola*,^[122] *Bombus affinis*,^{[123][124]} and *Bombus occidentalis*. And *Bombus franklini*, may be extinct!



TCEC – So, what's the answer?



Bumble bee – I think you already know. Plant more pollinator-friendly plants! And all the tomatoes you want. We're the best with tomato flowers

Special Price

BIOCOMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

7 inch plate (50 per pack)	\$ 3.70
10 inch plate (50 per pack)	\$ 7.20
11.5 oz bowl (50 per pack)	\$ 2.70
8 oz no tree hot cup	\$ 4.00
9 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 4.90
10 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 6.25
16 oz cold cup (50 per pack)	\$ 5.35
Teaspoon, fork or knife (50 per pack)	\$ 2.10
3 gal kitchen pail bag 17"X17 " (50 per roll)	\$ 4.00
13 gal tall kitchen pail bag 17"X17 " (50 per roll)	\$ 3.15
100 count straws	\$ 1.45

*All prices reflect our nonprofit discount and tax. This benefit is for TCEC members only.

Orders may be picked up at 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, on Thursdays between 11 AM – 2 PM, or by special arrangement. When purchasing please fill out an order form and pay by cash or check. Sorry, we don't have change. Questions? Call Dee Miner at 510 9406272 or email her at muskox44@hotmail.com and please cc Caroline Harris at caroline.harris@earthlink.net.

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Do you have news or events you would like to share with Tri City Ecology's members?

Do you have any ideas on what would make Eco-Logic an even better publication?

Let us know!

We would love your feedback and are always looking for Fresh faces and ideas!

Email us @ richgodfrey77@gmail.com

Please check out our website – www.tricityecology.org and [Face Book](#)

You can always call and leave a message at 510 793 6222

And if you haven't joined TCEC yet, here's how



BECOME A MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TCEC?

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To know more about TCEC please visit our website at <http://www.tricityecology.org>.

Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom due to Covid-1. Please call to verify. If you wish to speak on a subject, please call 510.793.6222 or 510.790.1685.

If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please fill out [THIS](#) form.

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