



The Bowfin Inquirer



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From Strangers to Neighbors

by Ronav Keswani (349)

Editor's note: I sent our new neighbors, the Keswanis, the list of questions that Lauren Iwata had used in her long-running BI column bearing the title you see above, and I got these wonderful, informative answers, preceded by father, Gaurav's, introductory note:

Please see below the interview filled out by my son, Ronav. His sister's name is Meera, and my wife is Rajni.

We are so looking forward to the block party. Please let us know how then to contribute, Best regards, Gaurav.

1. Do you have any pets?

No we don't, but we like pets and we might consider getting one in future. My dad wants an Alsatian dog but my sister wants a pink dog :)

2. How long have you lived in Foster City?

My entire life since I was born 8 years ago. My parents have been in Foster City for the past 11 years.

3. Where have you lived before?

My parents are originally from Bhopal, a small city of 2.4M people in central India. Ironically Bhopal also has a huge manmade lake. My dad came over to Texas for education and then moved to the bay area over 20 years ago.

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Aaron's Question Column

Question: Our block now has at least TWO residents who are trained as "mechanical engineers". I'm not familiar with what that profession involves, but it sounds interesting and that it requires creativity. Can you tell me something about it?

-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Mechanical engineers design and build machines. They mainly specialize in energy machines, such as generators or giant batteries. You typically need a bachelor's degree in either mechanical engineering, or mechanical engineering technology. Some build machines and help fix problems with the machines, but most mechanical engineers work from offices, designing the machines, fixing problems that come to their attention, and designing tests for the machines. There are three main fields where they work: agriculture, manufacturing, and vehicles. There are others like fluid mechanics for laboratories, but those are the main three. Oftentimes, those areas overlap, such as how a mechanical engineer might have to design a machine that manufactures agricultural vehicles like tractors. They design new engines for cars and trucks. They design sprinkler systems and harvesters for agriculture. They can also design the machines that make those, instead of just making the designs and letting other people make the machines. Most people that become mechanical engineers do it until they retire; very few of them switch labor types and jobs.