

# Get Clean.

## Total Clean 376-1004

For your home.

**I'm Selling Moraga!**

**Keith KATZMAN**

I'm selling homes fast! Yours could be next. Call me for a no obligation visit!

925-376-7776 • kkatzman@pacunion.com

## City Council Makes a Deal with MOFD

By Cathy Tyson

Knowing residents were hungry to make progress on a fire station on the west end of town, it didn't take much discussion for the Lafayette City Council to approve an agreement to act as a go-between for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to purchase a 3-acre parcel on the Lafayette-Orinda border, for \$1.2 million – paid out of MOFD capital funds.

The Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement spells out the conditions of the understanding between MOFD and the city of Lafayette. With this move Lafayette is one tiny step closer to a consolidated fire department that would serve residents on the eastern edge of Orinda replacing station 43, and Lafayette residents after the closure of Contra Costa Fire Protection District's station 16 on Los Arabis. Still yet to be determined is a joint agreement between the two fire district entities with the nuts and bolts of how exactly they will work together.

To actually operate the station would require one of two options: an agreement with Con Fire or the approval of LAFCO, also known as the Contra Costa Local Agency Forma-

tion Committee, of the boundary change to include the new fire station location.

The land in question at the corner of Lorinda Lane and El Nido Road is literally on the Orinda-Lafayette border, unfortunately on the Lafayette side, outside of MOFD's boundaries – hence the agreement. MOFD is officially not allowed to purchase land outside of Moraga or Orinda (read the related article on page A9).

What's a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement? A document that basically allows the sharing of power – the contract says it best: "Both City and District have the power to acquire, hold and convey real property for public fire protection purposes," notes the official recital of the agreement for the potential purchase of the land. To be clear, this step is not about the design, construction or use of a station on the property.

"The process is a bit novel," said Councilmember Brandt Andersson, "but current response times are excessive." Mayor Mike Anderson agreed: "Lafayette and Orinda will be better served if we have this joint station."

## Lafayette Welcomes New Postmaster

By Cathy Tyson

With a backdrop of red, white and blue balloons Lafayette's newest postmaster, Kulwant Singh, was installed. After coming to the U.S. from India, he became a letter carrier 28 years ago in Santa Rosa, rising steadily through the ranks with stints in Richmond and Berkeley. The soft-spoken, humble man was gracious and made a point to thank everyone involved in his journey: family, friends, co-workers and mentor Ray Davis, Berkeley's postmaster.

"It's a great honor to be postmaster," said Singh. "I will assure we provide consistent and premier service to our customers and maintain a healthy and safe work environment for employees." He described Davis as being "like a brother," adding he's learned many

valuable lessons from him.

The Lafayette Postal Annex was full of festive decorations, colorful tables and flags, along with dignitaries and supporters who came to congratulate Singh on his achievement.

Master of ceremony Oscar Munoz welcomed everyone, and shared that he and Singh started as postal carriers together many years ago. Munoz is now the manager of post office operations. The installation ceremony included a rendition of the national anthem, followed by very talented postal carrier Jeovani Abenoja – lead singer for the Rossmoor Orchestra in his off-hours, who was amazingly reminiscent of Frank Sinatra. Wrapping up the event was a reception.

... continued on page A8

The real estate market is still HOT!  
 Limited inventory coupled with lots of eager buyers is driving up housing prices, but also slowing down sales activity.  
**Now is the time to sell your home!**



**PENDING WITH 8 OFFERS!**  
 1012 Larch Avenue, Moraga  
 3BR/2BA, 2806± sq. ft.  
 Offered at \$699,000



**SOLD WITH 11 OFFERS!**  
 8 Sager Court, Orinda  
 4BR/2.5BA, 2075± sq. ft.  
 Offered at \$819,000 • Sold for \$965,000

**PACIFIC UNION REAL ESTATE**

Moraga Resident Since 1966.  
 Successfully selling real estate for over 28 years.

BRE# 00875484  
 A Member of Real Living

**Excellent Care AT HOME**

Heartfelt & Supportive Care At All Times...

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite D Lafayette (beside Trader Joe's)  
 www.excellentcareathome.com

Our mission is to provide personalized care, help maintain independence and enhance our client's quality of life on a daily basis.

- Fully bonded and insured
- Geriatric care management
- Hourly care
- Live-in care
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Medication reminders

Call to schedule a free assessment and plan care review. 925-284-1213

**Family Law Litigation and Mediation**

**The Law Offices of Jonathan D. Larose APC**

*Discreet, Settlement-Oriented, Experienced*

Offices in Walnut Creek and Fremont  
 Member Orinda Chamber of Commerce  
 Learn more at [jdlaroselaw.com](http://jdlaroselaw.com) and 866-585-6314

**THINK INSIDE THE SQUARE**

**AT ORINDA THEATRE SQUARE IT'S ALL GOOD.** Casual, yet upscale dining with a menu for every taste. An eclectic blend of boutiques and health & beauty services. And all the latest movie releases at an iconic Bay Area theater. With so many new and exciting restaurants and shops, including the new Piccolo Napoli pizzeria, there are so many reasons to think inside The Square!

**AMFA ART GALLERY**  
**ANAHID DESIGNS FLOWERS**  
**BARBACOA MEXICAN COMFORT FOOD**  
**ENTOURAGE SPA & SALON**  
**HELLO TIARA JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES**

**KASPER'S HOT DOGS**  
**LAVA PIT HAWAIIAN GRILL**  
**LIVING LEAN**  
**ORINDA THEATRE**  
**ORINDA TRAVEL**  
**PETRA CAFÉ**  
**PICCOLO NAPOLI**  
**REPUBLIC OF CAKE**  
**SERIKA JAPANESE RESTAURANT**  
**SHELBY'S RESTAURANT**

**STARBUCKS COFFEE**  
**SUBWAY**  
**SWEET DREAMS TOY STORE**  
**TABLE 24 NEIGHBORHOOD COMFORT FOOD**  
**VISUAL ENTRÉE OPTOMETRY**

**ORINDA THEATRE SQUARE**

RECEIVE UP TO 3 HOURS OF FREE PARKING WITH VALIDATION | FOLLOW US ON:

[orindatheatresquare.com](http://orindatheatresquare.com)