

# City Newsletter



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*Prepared by the Office of the City Manager*

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## Fireboat Christened "Lorette"

The Santa Cruz City Fire Department's first fireboat was feted at pre-launching ceremonies on Thursday, April 20 at Fire Station 2. Our first boat of this type was appropriately named "Lorette" in honor of Lorette Wood, our first lady Mayor. Mrs. Wood has just completed a very active year as Mayor of the City of Santa Cruz.

Fireman Bill Grace, whose dedication, hard work and craftsmanship played a key role in making the "Lorette" possible, was also honored on the occasion. Highlight of the event was the official christening with the time honored bottle of champagne.

Before donning the red colors of the Santa Cruz Fire Department the fireboat had quite a colorful history of service. She was first launched as a U.S. Navy motor launch before being placed into city service by Howard Bethel's wharf crew. In her first city role she put in many years of hard work as a combination work and fireboat, performing salvage, diving, maintenance and rescue operations.

In her old Navy days she required a crew of three just to operate the boat. Fireman Grace's changes now permit the boat to be efficiently operated by one man. His modifications free other members of the boat crew for actual fire fighting activities.

The fireboat's recommissioning was spurred by the need of her services to protect the rapidly increasing growth and property value on the wharf as well as the Yacht Harbor. According to Fire Chief Charles Schneider the "Lorette" will improve our waterfront fire fighting tactics by allowing our fire forces the mobility to place men and equipment on any side of a fire front. Without the boat, tactics would be limited to only the shore side of a pier, boat or harbor fire. It is believed that the small cost of \$500 spent in materials plus many hours of hard work will add up to a future profit in improved fire protection on the Santa Cruz waterfront.

## Equipment Modifications Completed

Major modifications to fire equipment has been completed after numerous field trials. Changes include moving of ladders to allow for more rapid removal, the relocation and addition of additional preconnected hose lines and relocation of numerous hand tools and other equipment.