

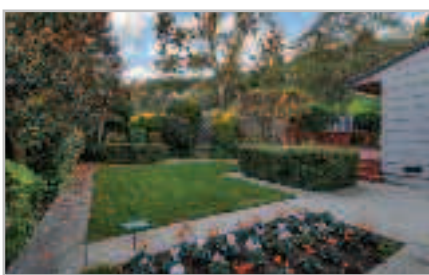
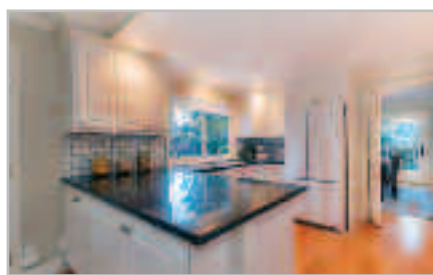


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## Civic News Fire Districts

### The Long and Winding Road

By Nick Marnell

Mergers and acquisitions are again the rage. In November, the company that produces Botox was absorbed by rival drug firm Actavis for \$66 billion. Oil service firm Halliburton recently paid \$35 billion to purchase competitor Baker Hughes. Both deals expect to close late next year. Not to be outdone, Lamorinda has its own quasi-merger in the works. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District announced a proposed consolidation of two fire stations in early 2013, with the resultant station 46 expected to save \$1 million in operating costs per year for each district.

"We are very close to an agreement that we can bring to our boards," said the MOFD fire chief. Except it wasn't current chief Stephen Healy who said that; those words were spoken by then-chief Randall Bradley in April, 2013.

The idea for a single fire station to replace MOFD station 43 in Orinda and ConFire station 16 in Lafayette was hatched by MOFD chief Jim Johnston in 1999. It went nowhere. But when the county closed ConFire station 16 because of a budget shortfall in 2012, and with MOFD station 43 requiring major renovations, ConFire chief Daryl Louder approached Bradley to reignite the station 46 concept. Bradley agreed and he took the consolidation idea to the MOFD board of directors, which gave him thumbs up to negotiate with ConFire.

But the county Board of Supervi-

sors, acting as the ConFire board of directors, nixed the deal. The money to even partially fund the reopening of a closed station just wasn't there. "It was the right idea at the wrong time," said supervisor Federal Glover in May, 2013.

Subscribing to the theory that the right idea at the wrong time is still the right idea, MOFD president John Wyro worked to keep station 46 alive despite the loss of its obvious partner. He led the district in the formation of a joint powers agreement with Lafayette to purchase a parcel for the station site. He preached the benefits of station 46 to county and Lafayette officials who, upset with ConFire's performance, had formed a task force to consider alternative delivery of fire service. "I was concerned that there were opportunities being lost and that I needed to develop more information," he said.

The turning point came in March, when new ConFire chief Jeff Carman forced the hand of the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force, which had considered recommending secession from ConFire. Before he presented an updated station 46 proposal to his board, Carman insisted on an answer from Lafayette officials: was the city committed to the district?

After hearing a dramatic presentation by assistant chief Alan Hartford on the state of affairs at ConFire, the task force recommended station 46 to the Lafayette City Council, which concurred. In June, the ConFire directors, based on rosier financial pro-

jections and a more thorough presentation by the chief, authorized Carman to negotiate an agreement with MOFD.

"We're close," said Carman at the Nov. 18 task force meeting. Once the operational structure of the new station is worked out with the firefighters' union, and other details, including task force feedback, are finalized, Carman expects that an agreement will be presented to both boards early next year. "I believe that this time, the supervisors will do the right thing, and approve the deal," said Lafayette fire commissioner Bill Granados, who accurately predicted that they would reject the proposal in 2013.

After the official approval, station 46 faces public scrutiny. A north Orinda grass roots group, The Committee to Save Honey Hill Fire Station, started a petition drive in November to stop the station 46 project, citing an increase in response times for Orinda and Moraga once station 43 closes. Michael Yim, a resident of El Castillo Lane, adjacent to the station 46 site, delivered a thoughtful presentation to the MOFD board at its Nov. 19 meeting requesting transparency on the progress of the construction of the new station.

An idea that has held course despite 15 years of wrinkles, delays and detours may finally come to fruition with the 2015 groundbreaking of station 46 - possibly before patients begin injecting Botox supplied by its new parent company.

### Night Closure for Fourth Bore Dec. 12



Photo Nick Marnell

The California Department of Transportation will conduct an emergency response drill in the Caldecott Tunnel between 10 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 4 a.m. on Dec. 13, weather permitting. During the drill, the Fourth Bore will close down.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District voluntarily participates in the drill, which will include fire simulation, a crash simulation and simulated smoke. Caltrans advises motorists to expect delays and to plan for extra travel time. -N. Marnell



**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**

**Next meeting:**

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
**check website for updates**

(Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)



**ConFire Board of Directors Meeting**

**Next meeting:**

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
**check website for updates**

Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St. Martinez (Agenda at <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>)

### Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

## In Memory

### Joan Donovan Zappettini

March 11, 1928 - November 17, 2014  
Resided in Orinda



Joan Donovan Zappettini was graced by a peaceful passing on Monday, November 17, 2014, in her home, surrounded by her loving family after 86 years of a blessed life. Joan was born to Genevieve Morgan Donovan and Augustine Michael Donovan on March 11, 1928. She was raised in Oakland and graduated from Stanford University in 1950 with a Bachelors Degree in Art. She married Donald Merrill Zappettini in 1951 and they resided in Orinda, CA, for 59 years. Joan is remembered for being a devoted mother to her 4 daughters, Mary Anne Stilwill (Frank) of

McCall, ID, Carol Marie Zappettini (deceased), Isabella Donna Zappettini of Oceanside, CA, and Gail Elizabeth Pearson (Todd) of Lafayette, CA, and for being a loving grandmother to her grandson, Jeremy Zappettini Pearson (age 11).

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, November 24, 2014 at St. Monica Catholic Church, Moraga. Graveside services for both Joan and Don were held the same day at Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joan's name may be sent to Sutter Care At Home Gift Processing (hospice services), 2855 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 601, Berkeley, CA 94705, (800) 698-1273, the Association of Christian Therapists, 6728 Old Mclean Village Dr., Mclean, VA, 22301, San Francisco Opera, Development Department, 301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 565-3212, and Second Chance Recovery Center, 107 Jackson St., Hayward, CA, 94544, (510) 886-8696.

### Glennys Christie Dec. 4, 1933-Nov. 15, 2014



Glennys Christie, a former editor of the *Lafayette Squire*, has died of cancer at her home in Florida. Christie, 80, was a longtime resident of Lafayette and Walnut Creek who went from a one-room Canadian schoolhouse to the University of British Columbia and Stanford University, where she earned a Master's degree in journalism and worked briefly for the San Francisco News.

While raising five children in Lafayette, she became editor in 1971 of the weekly *Squire*, a free community newspaper that challenged the Leshner newspaper group, publisher of the Lafayette Sun. As editor she championed the extension of BART through the Caldecott Tunnel and helped forge the identity of newly-incorporated Lafayette. Her editorials and headlines were witty and direct: the family of former Lafayette mayor Don Black remembers fondly the election banner

"Lafayette Elects Black Mayor."

When the *Squire* folded in 1974, Christie became communications director for Orindawoods, one of the earliest planned communities in California. There she wrote the state's first Environmental Impact Report to comply with new environmental legislation. After founding a public relations consultancy, she worked closely with the Eugene O'Neill National Monument Foundation to get the playwright's former home, Tao House in Danville, designated as a National Historic Site. She also served as director of public information for the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools during the tenure of Richard LaPointe.

In the 1980s Christie relocated to Point Roberts, Washington, a small peninsula attached to the Canadian mainland, where she co-founded a monthly newspaper, the *All Point Bulletin*. She became a naturalized American citizen in 1986 and retired to El Cerrito, then to Florida, where she campaigned actively for Democratic causes, tutored immigrants in English, and traveled widely.

Her son Andrew died as a result of schizophrenia in 1990. She is survived by four children: Joseph Christie III of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Alix Christie of London, England; Ann Victoria Christie of Malvern, Penn.; and Stuart Christie of Hong Kong; and seven grandchildren. Memorial services in Point Roberts and Canada are planned. The family requests donations to The National Resources Defence Council, [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org); and Tidewell Hospice of Sarasota, Florida, [www.givetotidewell.org](http://www.givetotidewell.org).