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Local community bands together

By Pippa Fisher



The Rippers at the Roundup Saloon last Friday night. Photo Andy Scheck

raising money in the iconic downtown bar. She says she was happy to do it.

"I am so proud of the employees and customers - everyone's coming together. It's awesome," said Johnson, as she explained how a couple of bartenders voluntarily went door-to-door asking for auction donation items. She says regular customers donated, along with many businesses in Lafayette.

For several in attendance there were personal connections to the fire. Johnson said that one of the former Roundup bartenders came in. "She lost everything in the fire. She told me about her experience," Johnson explained. "It was very emotional."

Johnson said the benefit proved so successful that they are planning to hold a second such event after the New Year.

The event was one of several being held around Lamorinda to benefit fire victims, including a Nov. 30 benefit concert at Lamorinda Music, organized by Mighty Fine Guitars owner Stevie Coyle (see story on Page B3), the Blind Date with a Book program at Orinda Books (see story Page B5), and a fundraising drive organized by Rheem Elementary School students on behalf of their second grade teacher (see story Page A4).

To donate online, residents can go to the North Valley Community Foundation's website <https://www.nvcf.org/?fbclid=IwAR1NVLvgdGyd2LF9KyCamwo2ENKxNVcvX9YUKgy6muV-2TCRYhPcOJFkcNA> or can simply drop off a check at the Roundup.

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