

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Jonathon Flinn, ConFire      Photos Nick Marnell      Kim Jackson, AMR      Mark DeWeese, MOFD      Jerry Lee, MOFD



Athan Koutsoubinas, ConFire, gets his shot.      Photo provided

## First responders receive first round of COVID-19 vaccine

By Nick Marnell

More than 350 first responders received the first round of the COVID-19 vaccine Dec. 28 at a drive-in event hosted in Concord by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The clinic is one of four

staged by Contra Costa Health Services, which plans to inoculate fire service employees and other patient contact employees in the county by Jan. 7 as part of its Tier 1A distribution phase.

Patients who were given the vaccine were ordered to remain in their cars for 15 minutes before departing the premises. "We did not anticipate any

adverse reactions, and we have received no reports of any," district spokesman Steve Hill said.

The health department says there is a minimum 28-day waiting period before patients can receive the second and final round of the vaccine. "At this point, we are not sure when that shot will be available," Hill said.

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## El Charro in Lafayette closes its doors after 73 years

By Pippa Fisher

In an announcement on social media, Lafayette's long-established Mexican restaurant shared that it would be closing its doors for good.

Although rumors had swirled for several weeks, the owners of El Charro made the announcement via their Facebook page Dec. 29 saying, "It is with heavy hearts that we announce El Charro Mexican Dining, a Lafayette community staple of 70+ years, will be permanently closed beginning this Friday, January 1st, 2021."

Very quickly hundreds of comments appeared on the page; memories of happy times spent at the restaurant with many saying they remember eating there from childhood onward and that the news is "devastating."

Demand during the last two days for takeout was a clear indication of how much the place meant to locals, as people lined up around the block Dec. 30 for a final order of chips and El Charro's special blue cheese garlic dip, waiting in some cases for over three hours as the kitchen was so overwhelmed.



Loyal customers called the news of El Charro's imminent closure "devastating" as large numbers waited in line Dec. 30 for a final chance to enjoy the Mexican food.      Photo Pippa Fisher

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