

Santa to appear in downtown Lafayette, stay for breakfast, shopping

By Pippa Fisher



Last year's Santa visit

Photo Gint Federas

It's a wonderful life in Lafayette and Santa Claus must agree because this year he's sticking around, at least for breakfast, and he might even fit in some shopping as well at one of three scheduled events.

The jolliness of "It's a Wonderful Life in Lafayette" holiday celebration starts at 4 p.m. with Santa arriving at Plaza Park on his "sleigh" - in this case, Lafayette's historic fire truck, Old Betsy - around 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7, in a procession along Golden Gate Way complete with a police escort.

The fun, free event now in its sixth year, hosted by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, is sponsored by Dana Green Realtors and Branagh Development and has become a family favorite with activities for the kids, light refreshments and lots of photo opportunities with Santa and his Town Hall Elves in addition to the official holiday tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Local student

musicians and singers will be providing musical entertainment. Lafayette musician Kiki Stack will be debuting her new holiday song "Christmas Time Once Again."

The evening is truly an extravaganza kickoff for the holiday season because from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 7 residents are invited to explore the downtown as they "Stroll, Shop and Dine." More than 70 local merchants are participating, many offering holiday specials only available during this event. Local artists will be showcasing unique gifts. The atmosphere will be festive with holiday décor on display and street musicians adding to the ambience. It is even rumored that Mrs. Claus will be there playing her ukulele.

More details on the Wonderful Life in Lafayette and the Stroll, Shop and dine events are available on the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website (<https://lafayettechamber.org/>).

... continued on Page A11

Santa's Bag Boutique, now in 28th year

By Pippa Fisher



Avery Bahl preps the sign for the big event.

Photo provided

In what has become a Lafayette tradition, the Santa's Bag Boutique will once again be bringing a huge array of crafters and their wares to the Lafayette Community Center for the first weekend in December.

Now in its 28th year, the boutique originally started at the old Veterans Hall with a group of just 10 artists selling their handmade items. Over the years the event became larger and moved to the Community Center. Each year new artists join the show - this year the boutique will have over 60 vendors.

In addition to the arts and crafts for sale, the Boy Scouts will be selling fresh wreaths and the Lafayette Community Foundation will showcase themed gift baskets donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals. All proceeds from the event benefit the programs and

ongoing physical improvements to the community center.

Event organizer Judy Gregerson has been in charge of the boutique since she started it 28 years ago.

"The show has very much become a community event where families and friends can shop for the holidays," says Gregerson. "It is at the boutique where you will see old and new friends in the community while enjoying some cider and cookies."

"It's all about community camaraderie and people visiting with each other."

The Lafayette Community Center at 500 St. Mary's Road will be transformed into a bustling marketplace from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30 and then from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2.

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This Thanksgiving, the Price Gallegos Group is especially grateful for our wonderful clients, our amazing community and for the love and the support of our families. In light of the recent tragic forest fires, and to assist those who have lost so much, we have made a donation to The Norcal Fire Recovery Fund.

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