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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 d�cor 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/).

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