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PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette's Annual "Home for the Holidays" Filled with Tradition

LAFAYETTE, Colo., Nov. 19, 2012 – With caroling, a holiday tree lighting, visits with Santa and a fundraiser chili dinner, Lafayette's 2012 Home for the Holidays celebration is reviving the spirit of Lafayette's first holiday tree lighting 76 years ago.

Recollection from Jack M. Angevine about Lafayette's first holiday tree lighting, sponsored by the Lafayette Lions, in 1936: "Leaving home on Christmas Eve after dark was an unusual experience for a five-year-old. But then a large brightly lit Christmas tree came into view as we walked from our house on Geneseo Street toward the Town Hall. The dark and cold were forgotten. Many children and adults were gathered around the semi-circular porch that seemed to be a raised stage provided especially for this event. A piano had been placed there to lead the crowd in Christmas carols and everyone joined in to sing the familiar tunes. This was great fun, but the children and I were restless for the rest of the program to begin. Finally, gathered around the edge of the porch, each child was presented with a small brown grocery bag filled with candy. In 1936 this may have been the only treats some of these children would receive for Christmas. Too soon the experience was concluded." (Excerpted from "Christmas Eve 1936" – submitted to the Lafayette Historical Society 2004. Courtesy Lafayette Lions Club)

December 1, 2012

- Santa arrives at Festival Plaza Noon-4pm; Bring your camera and enjoy free hot chocolate
- Caroling led by Faye Nepon at Festival Plaza, 4pm
- Holiday Tree Lighting; dusk at Festival Plaza
Festival Plaza is located at 311 S. Public Road
- Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long and Potluck Dinner; 5:30-7:30pm at RMCMA

December 8, 2012

- Historic Homes Tour; 10am-4pm Old Town
- Santa arrives again at Festival Plaza from Noon-4pm
- "The Reindeer are on Strike" Dog Costume Contest; Judging at 1pm at Festival Plaza
- Girl Scout gift wrapping and food drive; Noon-6pm pARTiculars, 401 S. Public Road
- Original Dickens Carolers; 3:30pm Festival Plaza
- Chili Dinner benefitting the Centaurus / Monarch Scholarship Fund; 4:30pm VFW

Spot the Elf

Home for the Holidays festivities kicked off Nov. 19 with the start of the Spot the Elf Contest! For the seventh year in a row, elf spotters of all ages are invited to join in on the month-long scavenger hunt which is just one of many activities taking place in Old Town in November and December. Find the elves hidden in downtown shops. Then, to enter the prize drawing, return your completed booklet to the Bob L. Burger Recreation Center no later than Dec. 19.

Sing-And-Play Along

The 2012 Sing-And-Play Along and potluck at Rocky Mountain Center for Musical Arts is a new tradition being added to the Home for the Holidays lineup. The public is invited to join the free evening of holiday merriment at RMCMA, 200 E. Baseline Road. Sheet music and lyrics will be provided for attendees to sing or play classic carols. RMCMA is asking for attendees to bring a dish to share in the potluck dinner from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Dec. 1. For more information, call 303-665-0599.

Historic Homes Tour

On Dec. 8 from 10am to 4pm, tour historic cottages dating from the late 1800s to early 1900s on the third annual Historic Homes Tour. Tickets for the tour are \$10 and include local business discounts. Advance tickets will be available at Lafayette City Hall, 1290 S Public Road, and Noble Treasures, 409 S Public Road. On the day of the event, tickets will be available at the Starkey Building, 309 S. Public Road. For more information, go to: www.oldtownlafayette.com/historichomestour.html

The Original Dickens Carolers

The Original Dickens Carolers will perform at 3:30pm on Dec. 8. Gov'nr, Sebastian, Pip and Felicity come dressed in Victorian-era costumes with a 53-song repertoire memorized in beautifully blended four-part harmony including children's favorites, standards and traditional carols.

Chili Dinner

In the evening of Dec. 8, the Lafayette Lions will hold a chili dinner to benefit the Centaurus Monarch Scholarship Fund. For the Lions, this will be a revival of a tree lighting celebration started by the Lafayette Lions in the 1930s. This year, the Lions are proud to sponsor a chili dinner at the VFW Hall, 105 W. Emma St., Lafayette, CO, 80026. Dinner will begin around 4:30pm after the caroling on Festival Plaza. Entrance to the dinner will be a donation to the Centaurus / Monarch Scholarship Fund, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. For more information, call 303 906-2619.