

Community

Flea market offering turkeys to needy

Stouffville Country Flea Market, National Sports Centre and flea market vendors want to make sure every family in town has the opportunity to enjoy a turkey dinner at Christmas.

"This year Norm Clements said he thought we should have a drive to raise money and buy a whole bunch of turkeys so that nobody in the community goes without one," explained market manager Rob Shannon.

Clements, who owns the market and the National Sports Centre, pledged \$1,000 from both organizations, and vendors were asked to make a \$20 contribution to the drive, which is still about \$200 short of its goal.

Shannon anticipates that about 220 turkeys, which have been ordered at a cost of \$4,000, will be arriving at the facility early next week, but so far only about half of them are spoken for.

"We've written letters to the churches in Stouffville and talked to the Stouffville Lions Club, but we would like to hear from anybody else who is in need," he said.

Market co-ordinator Owen Nash, who is organizing the drive, has also contacted the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in Uxbridge and the Georgina Food Pantry in East Gwillimbury, both of whom will be distributing a number of turkeys.

Confidentiality of recipients is guaranteed, stressed Shannon. "We don't want people's names or addresses unless they need the turkey delivered." Deliveries will likely be organized through local service clubs.

The initiative is typical of Clements, whom Shannon describes as a very generous man, both to his staff and to the community.

Cash donations to help reach the \$4,000 goal would be welcome and can be dropped off at the flea market office.

For more information on the turkey drive, call Owen Nash at 640-3813.

CAO Dewing passes probationary period

The town's chief administrative officer has been "Dewing" a great job at the helm of Stouffville's operations, officials decided last week when they confirmed their top staffer as

No commitment on Kinsmen offer

The Stouffville Kinsmen Club wants to dive into plans to restore the town's "unsightly" pool, but officials want more specifics and the advise of its recreation advisors before any commitments are made, it was decided last week.

Kinsman Brian Daley told officials the group would provide both skilled and unskilled labor to restore the recreational facility if the town would pay for all the materials needed.

Daley said the group wants to make the project its number one priority next year and hopes to start the eight-week task next April. He said the pool has become an "unsightly" mess which deters people from using it. "It has become apparent to anyone who is compelled to use the existing facility that it is in great need of repair," Daley said. While councillors congratulated the club's initiative, they

asked the matter be referred to the town's Park's and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) which will come back with more details, specifics and cost estimates. "This is a wonderful initiative but it needs to go through the proper process," said Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby.

Correction

In a Dec. 8 *Tribune* article regarding the town's pleasure skating family fee, it was incorrectly stated that recreation director Marlane McKee Wetheral said the \$8 fee should be lowered.

She said she is working on a report to get more ice time to families in order the fee will provide better value for the money. *The Tribune* regrets any confusion.

"permanent."

Merlin Dewing passed his six-month probationary period and was officially appointed last Tuesday night as the town's full-time chief administrative officer.

In a prepared statement, Mayor Fran Sainsbury said Dewing's "diversity of experience in the municipal environment over the past 20 years allows Merlin the opportunity to present a fresh approach to municipal issues."

In the past six months he has shown the ability to deal effectively with council and gained the confidence of staff to establish an effective administrative team, Sainsbury announced.

Dewing said he was "very excited" about the opportunity to continue working with staff and council and said he now looks forward to moving his

wife and two daughters to the area from Cornwall.

"There are many important issues facing the town and with Dewing's professional assistance we look forward to addressing the challenges ahead," Sainsbury said.

Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby said Dewing has also gained the confidence of a great number of local taxpayers, which was evident at a recent meeting regarding a controversial subdivision development.

After the meeting, several residents called *The Tribune* to congratulate Dewing in his professionalism in handling a delicate issue, and several even chided he should run for mayor.

"He has proven that he is the kind of person we want here, and the constituents at large are noticing," Bellerby said.

- Tracy Kibble

Complaints irk council

(From page 1)

with the way things are. She added that it's likely only the Bangay family who has complaints.

"Where were all these people against (council's position on the Ninth?) There are not as many as (Bangay) would have us believe. This whole thing is very disappointing," the mayor said.

Councillors were reacting to Bangay's attack of a staff report answering safety concerns along the Ninth Line South from Parkview Village to Main Street, which included dead-ending the road, and installing a crosswalk and stop signs at Sunset Blvd.

Bangay called the report biased and "a piece of garbage." But Sainsbury said the report was based on engineering expertise and the rules and ideas of the province's transportation ministry and the police.

Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley said next time residents ask for something in their neighborhood she'll "watch more closely" if this is an example of how things work.

"I'll be watching next time. I thought this sidewalk which everyone wanted would be the answer. I thought it would solve the problem. Why is it still mushrooming?" Bradley asked.

Sainsbury said the residents, "don't know what they want quite frankly."

And Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby said the residents displayed a "subjective case versus the engineering rationale" of staff.

Officials kept their promise, however, to have Whitehouse meet with residents to see if they can solve some of the issues.



Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Christmas cookies

Morgan Brown offers cookies to Annie McNeil and Liz French during a visit by the Children's House Daycare to Buckingham Manor on Tuesday morning.

Local shoppers may be surprised

(From page 1)

ing an artistic theme, he said.

"We've got to do something different. I've been pressing to have artists set up along Main St. in the summer time. We've got the Latcham Gallery and we've got the little parkette over by the conservation area. And we could have artists setting up in certain areas on Main St. People would stop if we did that."

He said the downtown business area could benefit from increased access to Main St. from the north. The opening up of at least three streets all the way north to Millard would accomplish that objective.

"Access to Main St. has to be made better, for safety as well as for business. And if there were three streets opened up, then you wouldn't have a severe traffic problem on any one side street."

Parking, a problem cited in the past by some residents as an impediment to Main St. shopping, is not really an issue, said Barthau.

"We have more people out for Midnight Madness than we do all year, and we don't get any complaints about parking then. I think some

people will always want to be able to park three or four parking spaces from the store they're going into."

Like many other local merchants, Barthau thinks downtown core retailers are shunned automatically by some in the community.

"We have people come in and say they've been looking for an item in all the malls and they're surprised to find it in our store."

Barthau said some local shoppers may have used one bad experience with a merchant to write off the entire business district.

He said shoppers should approach someone if they've had a bad experience in an effort to get to the bottom of the problem.

When it comes to store hours and closings, Barthau said merchants must adhere rigidly to hours posted on the door. "While he, along with most of the other Main St. merchants are still closed Sundays, that could change in the future."

"You've got to change with the times. There's no need for Sunday openings now, but when the antique railroad comes to town, the need to open Sundays will probably come with it."

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