

The Economist & Sun/Tribune welcomes submissions of upcoming events from community organizations. While every effort is made to include all submissions, there is no guarantee of publication. You can e-mail calendar items to newsroom@econsun.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

Stouffville's FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS features Stouffville Missionary Church's "Living Nativity" at the Clock Tower starting at 6:30 p.m., entertainment at 7 p.m. There will be a tribute to local veterans, an Elvis impersonator, the Goodwood Lady Line dancers, bagpiper and the choir from Whitchurch Highlands Public School, plus gifts for the audience and a visit by Santa.

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

STOUFFVILLE KINSMEN SANTA CLAUS PARADE starts at 2 p.m. along Main Street. Theme: "A Family Christmas". For float registration, call Bruce, 905-640-5004 or Mike, 905-640-1292.

DEC. 1-2

PET PICS WITH SANTA 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at PetsMart (3155 Hwy 7 in Markham). Draws, merchandise and other goodies will be sold. The event involves pets to be photographed with Santa. For details, call 1-888-ONT-SPCA.

2-DAY VEDA YAJNA at Vedic Cultural Centre, 4345 14th Ave., Markham. Saturday from 6:30 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. Topic: Lectures on Vedic studies. Call 905-508-1638. Public is invited.

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

Annual MEMORY TREE SERVICE hosts by Bereaved Families of Ontario at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Dr. at 7 p.m. The non-denominational candlelight service honors all those who are loved and will be missed this holiday season.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

Markham People's Choice DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS at Embassy Suites Hotel, 8500 Warden Ave. (at Hwy 7). Cocktails at 6 p.m. Dinner and awards at 6:45 p.m. For more information contact Marcia de Vale at 905-475-4895.

Seniors CHRISTMAS PARTY (seniors 55 years and over) at the new Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library (30 Burkholder St.), Stouffville from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Featuring Christmas goodies, tea and coffee, a children's choir and a storyteller. Free. Call 905-642-7323 for details.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Unionville Main Street OLDE Tyme CHRISTMAS, beginning 7 p.m. with a candlelight parade and tree-lighting ceremony.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, 9 and 10:30 a.m. sittings at Unionville Arms, 189 Main St. Unionville. Tickets are \$12. Call 905-477-9511 ext. 221.

TUESDAY, DEC. 11

CHANUKAH PARTY hosts by Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville Chapter. Call Sheryl, 905-305-7026 or Susan, 905-940-0286.

AT THE CHURCH

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

"Sincerely Yours at Christmas" at HEISE HILL BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH (11760 Woodbine Ave.), Gormley at 7 p.m. Special music by Kimberley Absolom with guest speaker, Ann Mainse. Refreshments will be served. Canned donations for the local food bank is greatly appreciated. Tickets: \$8 by advance sale only, until Sunday, Nov. 25 by call 905-887-5489 or e-mail heiseidirect.com.

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH presents the annual "Candlelight and Carols Service" at 7 p.m. Free admission but a freewill offering will be collected or you can bring a new, unwrapped toy to help the Stouffville/Lions Toy Drive. Call 905-640-1163 for details.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

Christmas concert at ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH at 3 p.m. Featuring the combined choirs of St. Mark's and St. Brigid's Schools, St. Mark's Church junior choir, senior choir and folk group. Light refreshments will be served. Admission: Canned donations for the Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank. The event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

Annual benefit Christmas Concert at THE CATHEDRAL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (Woodbine Avenue north of Major Mackenzie Drive) in Victoria Square at 4 p.m. Featuring special guests, Bach Children's Chorus, Michael Burgess, Markham's Jackalyn Short and the Toronto Sinfonietta. The event is a benefit for The York Centre for Children, Youth and Families serving children with special needs and their families. Tickets: \$25, special rates

MAKING SURE SANTA'S COMFORTABLE...



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

Kinsmen members Bruce Gribbon (left), Mike Srebot, Gary Gornik and Bruce Smith make some last-minute preparations for Saturday's Stouffville Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade. The big event starts 2 p.m. at the intersection of Tenth Line and Aintree Drive, heads south to Main Street and west to the Novopharm plant.

for seniors and youth are also available. To order, call 905-887-5896 or 905-294-5230 (evening).

THEATRES/CONCERTS

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

"Christmas Favourites" - Join the MARKHAM CONCERT BAND, under the direction of Dr. Diana Brault, for a two-hour concert of traditional music of the season, plus a carol sing-a-long, accompanied by the Concert Band at 3 p.m. in the Markham Theatre for Performing Arts (171 Town Centre Blvd.), Markham. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/seniors & children; \$45/family. Call the Theatre box office at 905-305-7469 for tickets.

YORK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA presents "Beethoven's 3rd Symphony" and Tchaikovsky's "Francesco da Rimini" at 7:30 p.m. at Markham Theatre. Tickets: \$20/adults, \$15/senior/student; \$5 under 12 plus a \$5 handling charge per order. Call or fax 905-884-3787 to order.

MONDAY, DEC. 3

CANTABILE CHORALE of York Region presents "Joy of Christmas" at Thornhill United Church (16 Elgin St.), Thornhill. Robert Richardson, conductor, Lona Richardson, accompanist with guest trumpeter, Fran Harvey. Audience participation, refreshments and fun. Donation to food bank and silent offering. Call 905-731-8318 to book or www.cantabile.ca for other performances.

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

Stouffville Christian School annual CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 7 p.m. at Springvale Baptist Church, Stouffville Road just east of Kennedy Road. Call 905-640-3278 for more information.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

VILLAGE VOICES presents "Festive celebration" with conductor, Joan Andrews, at Central United Church (131 Main St.), Unionville at 7:30 p.m. Highlights from Handel's "Messiah" with soprano, Cathy Robinson, contralto, Judith Young, and the Apollo Chamber Orchestra. Tickets (at the door): \$12 (children under 12 free). Call 905-477-1531 for details.

DEC. 14-16

SPRINGVALE BAPTIST CHURCH in Whitchurch-Stouffville presents a holiday production, "Joy Came Down" at 7 p.m. "Joy Came Down" is a full dramatic and musical production and features live animals and a cast of more than 50 volunteer actors, musicians, technical and support personnel. No tickets are required. Seating on a first-come-first-seated basis. Springvale Baptist Church is at the corner of Kennedy and Stouffville Roads. Call 905-887-5651 for details.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16

Christmas Cantata "Emmanuel" with choir and orchestra at CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH, (131 Main Street), Unionville (905-474-0183) at 7:15 p.m. A freewill offering will be received.

"Hope for a better day" concert with Bach to

Blues Company at CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN (254 Sunset Blvd. in Stouffville) at 7 p.m. \$8/adults; \$5/seniors and children 12. Proceeds to Salvation Army. Call 905-640-5999 for details.

MEETINGS

MONDAY, DEC. 3

The Duffins and Carruthers Task Forces invite the public to aid in the development of watershed strategies. The public will be briefed on the current status of the strategies and will be asked to identify important issues in its watershed. Meet at Lobovic Leisure Centre, 30 Burkholder St. in Stouffville from 3 to 5 p.m., 6 to 7 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. (presentations). Call Gary, 416-661-6600 ext. 5392 for details.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

Volunteer INFORMATION AND ORIENTATION session at Canadian Cancer Society (227 Main St. N., Station Plaza), Markham from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. A meeting for people thinking about volunteering for the Canadian Cancer Society and existing CCS volunteers. Call 905-294-5925 to confirm your presence.

THURSDAYS

BRIDGES OF HOPE: drop in group meets at Evergreen Hospice (6060 Hwy 7), Markham fourth Sunday each month. Call 905-472-5014 for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 2-for-1 coupons for restaurants, fast-foods, travel, retail and more. Annual fundraising for Multiple Sclerosis Society York-South Chapter. Call Joyce, 416-491-6300, ext. 386 or 905-737-5537 for your copy(ies).

LIGHTEN UP CONTEST

"Lighten Up!" and celebrate the holidays with decorative light displays. Markham Lighten Up! contest runs from Nov. 24 to Dec. 20. Register your vote for the most festive residence and most festive street by calling hotline 905-415-7519. Markham encourages all participants in the Lighten Up! contest to practise responsible stewardship. Turn lights displays on after 7 p.m. and off by 11 p.m.

HOLIDAY CARDS

The Canadian Cancer Society Holiday Cards are now available. Share the spirit of the holiday season with your friends. Cards are blank for your personalized message. Choose from two designs. Proceeds will be used to fund ground-breaking cancer research. \$2 plus PST per card. Call Joanne or Pat, 905-294-5925.

EXHIBITIONS

THE ART OF GREETING CARDS

The art of greeting cards. The Hallmark Canada collection exhibition opens Dec. 5 and runs until February 2, 2002, at The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery in Unionville. The Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of

sation, advanced pronunciation, citizenship preparation, microcomputer usage, TOEFL and more. Registration for all classes begins now, call 905-472-4688.

VOLUNTEERS

UNIONVILLE HOME

Volunteering as a Friendly Visitor at the Unionville Home Society will give you satisfaction of doing something worthwhile and of being a part of a well-established organization in the community. Call Pauline at 905-477-2839, ext. 224 or visit www.uhs.on.ca

IN-SCHOOL MENTORING

Men and women 18 and older needed to volunteer one hour per week with boys and girls in grades 2 and 3. In-School Mentoring is a school based social program enriching the lives of those children needing extra adult attention. Mentors are needed at Ashton Meadows, Buttonville, Highgate and Milliken Mills' Public Schools in Markham. Call Big Brothers of York, 905-727-1251 for details.

ANNSWELL COURT

You can make a difference in a senior's life by giving just one hour of your time. You will find the experience to be mutually rewarding. Befriend a senior and make your and someone else's life a little brighter this winter. Call Trena, 905-477-2839 Extension 224 for more information.

MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

MILLIKEN MILLS Library (7600 Kennedy Rd., 905-940-8323) offers "Early Years" in Milliken for ages birth to 5 yrs. old with an adult; Saturdays (to Dec. 15) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. No registration. Program includes a circle time at 10:30 a.m. and a small snack.

MARKHAM COMMUNITY Library (6031 Hwy 7, 905-294-2782) offers "Early Years" in Markham for ages birth to 5 yrs. old with an adult; Thursdays (to Dec. 14) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and starting Sunday (to Dec. 16) from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. No registration. Come and enjoy stories, songs, books, crafts, toys and more. Mondays MOTHER GOOSE Time, ages 6-24 months, with adult - pre-walkers: 2 to 2:20 p.m.; walker: 10 to 10:20 a.m. or 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. Introduce your baby to the world of language, music, stories and knee-bounces. Tuesdays PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME, ages 3-5 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. or Wednesdays 1:30 to 2 p.m. Fun time of stories, finger games, rhymes and more. Wednesdays TODDLER drop-in for ages 1-3 years with adult from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The Storyhour Room is open to meet new friends, play with toys, listen to CDs and read or borrow books. "Story of the day" begins 11:15 a.m. No supervision provided.

UNIONVILLE Public Library (15 Library Lane, 905-477-2641) offers "Early Years" in Unionville for ages birth to 5 yrs. old with an adult; Thursdays (to Dec. 13) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays (to Dec. 15) from 9 to 10:45 a.m. No registration. Enjoy stories, songs, books, crafts, toys and more.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MONDAY, DEC. 3

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS CRAFT for ages 3-5 years; \$2/child from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Pick up a flyer or call 905-642-7323, registration required.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

A VISIT FROM SANTA - Bring your Christmas wishes and be on your best behaviour from 10 to 11 a.m. Pick up a flyer or call 905-642-7323, registration required.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

RED CROSS BABYSITTING COURSE for ages 11 years and older from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. \$50/child. Pick up a flyer or call 905-642-7323, registration required.

REGISTRATIONS

LINC

The CAREER FOUNDATION, A-LINC Centre offers free English language classes for recent immigrants to Canada. Full and part-time classes throughout York Region, including Bradford and Uxbridge. For 905/707 area call 1-800-477-4217. Free childminding and/or transportation allowance for those who qualify.

WEDNESDAYS

AL-AMIN MADRASSAH: Islamic classes for students and adults held at Wilcay Public School, at Brimley & Steeles on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. Call Bibi, 905-472-4144.

Markham is at 216 Main St., Unionville. Call 905-477-9511, ext. 221 for details.

IRENE HURDLE SHOW

Unionville artist Irene Hurdle has a multimedia exhibition at Millpond Gallery, 314 Mill St. in Richmond Hill. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUPPORT GROUPS

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

CONNECTING RAINBOWS is a self-help group for people living with breast cancer and their family meets at 7:15 p.m. at Canadian Cancer Society, 227 Main St. N., (Station Plaza), Markham. No registration required. Call 905-294-5925 for details.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6

Markham THERAPEUTIC TOUCH support groups meets 7:30 p.m. at the common room at York Regional Police 5 District police station (McCowan and Carlton roads). Guests welcome, call 905-479-5735.

TUESDAY, DEC. 18

CONNECTING RAINBOWS is a self-help group for people living with breast cancer and their family meets at 7:15 p.m. at Canadian Cancer Society, 227 Main St. N., (Station Plaza), Markham. No registration required. Call 905-294-5925 for details.

ADULT INTERESTS

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

10 am. Hike Whitchurch C.A. (Map 4) 5km. 2hrs. Easy, slow/moderate pace. Good for beginners and families. No dogs. Meet S side of Aurora Sdrd (York Rd. 15) 1km E of Warden Ave. or 1km W of Kennedy Rd. Jill Doble, 905-764-1673.

SUNDAY, DEC. 2

10 am. Nokkidaa Trail Series #4 of 4, 10+kms. mod. 3-4 hrs. Meet: East Gwillimbury Cairn (Green Lane W of Leslie, N of Newmarket). We will walk from Cairn N along the Holland road and through Holland Landing wherever we can find the trail, possibly as far north as Doane Rd. or the Queensville Sdrd and return. Bill Roberts, 905-898-1707.

MONDAY, DEC. 3

9:30 am. Explore York reg. forest, (north tract). 16km loop, hilly sections, mod pace, 4.5 hrs. dropout at 8km, dogs on leash only. Meet at the North Tract parking lot (drive in from west side of Hwy 48). 5km north of Aurora Rd (York Rd 15). Charlie Atkinson, 905-642-2408.

EUCHRE

Alternate Fridays at Markham District Veterans Association (7 Washington St.), Markham at 8 p.m. tickets are \$5 per person which includes prizes, lunch, tea and coffee. Call Glen 905-294-5871 for details.

LINC - Language instruction for newcomers to Canada offered at COSTI Language (8515 McCowan Rd., Unit 4), Markham. Learning opportunities for adults in ESL basic, conversational and advanced.