

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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GOVERNMENT

Residents to pay for New Year's fireworks

Developers' money no longer wanted: Mayor

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Since 1994, Whitchurch-Stouffville families have been descending upon Memorial Park to celebrate New Year's Eve with hot chocolate, hotdogs, tobogganing, ice skating and fireworks.

The event was cancelled last year because the park was under construction.

The event has always been free to attend and did not cost the taxpayers anything to host because it was all paid for by donations from developers, which were solicited by Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

But come 2012, the event, which costs about \$10,000 to put on, will be paid for out of residential tax money.

Mr. Emmerson made the announcement during last week's budget meeting.

The mayor said the reason why he will no longer solicit developers for the event is because he is tired of residents accusing him of

See **MAYOR**, page 10.

SPIRIT TAKES OUT MARKHAM - NEWMARKET NEXT



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Stouffville Spirit defenceman Paul Geiger braces against an official as teammate Chris Porter collides with Markham Waxer Tyler McCarthy during Jr. A playoff action at the Stouffville Arena Sunday. The Spirit won 10-5 to take the series. They open with Newmarket tonight. See page 16.

Added cash not enough at busy library

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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The Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library's request to hire its first new employee in nine years was granted by town council last week, but in order to get more staff, the materials budget had to remain the same as it was in 2010.

"The materials spending is going in the wrong direction," Carolyn Nordheimer James, the library's CEO said in an interview. "It shouldn't have to be a choice between staffing and materials."

In 2010, the number of items available per resident was 2.69. Due to an increased population and the

flatlining of materials buying in the budget, the number of items per resident has put that number at 2.64 for 2011.

The new hire is a technical services assistant, who will help make the library's online presence as seamless as possible.

Which is good news because the

number of electronic uses is one of the highest in the area - 9.67 per capita in 2008. The provincial average was 5.08, according to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture, which oversees public libraries.

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