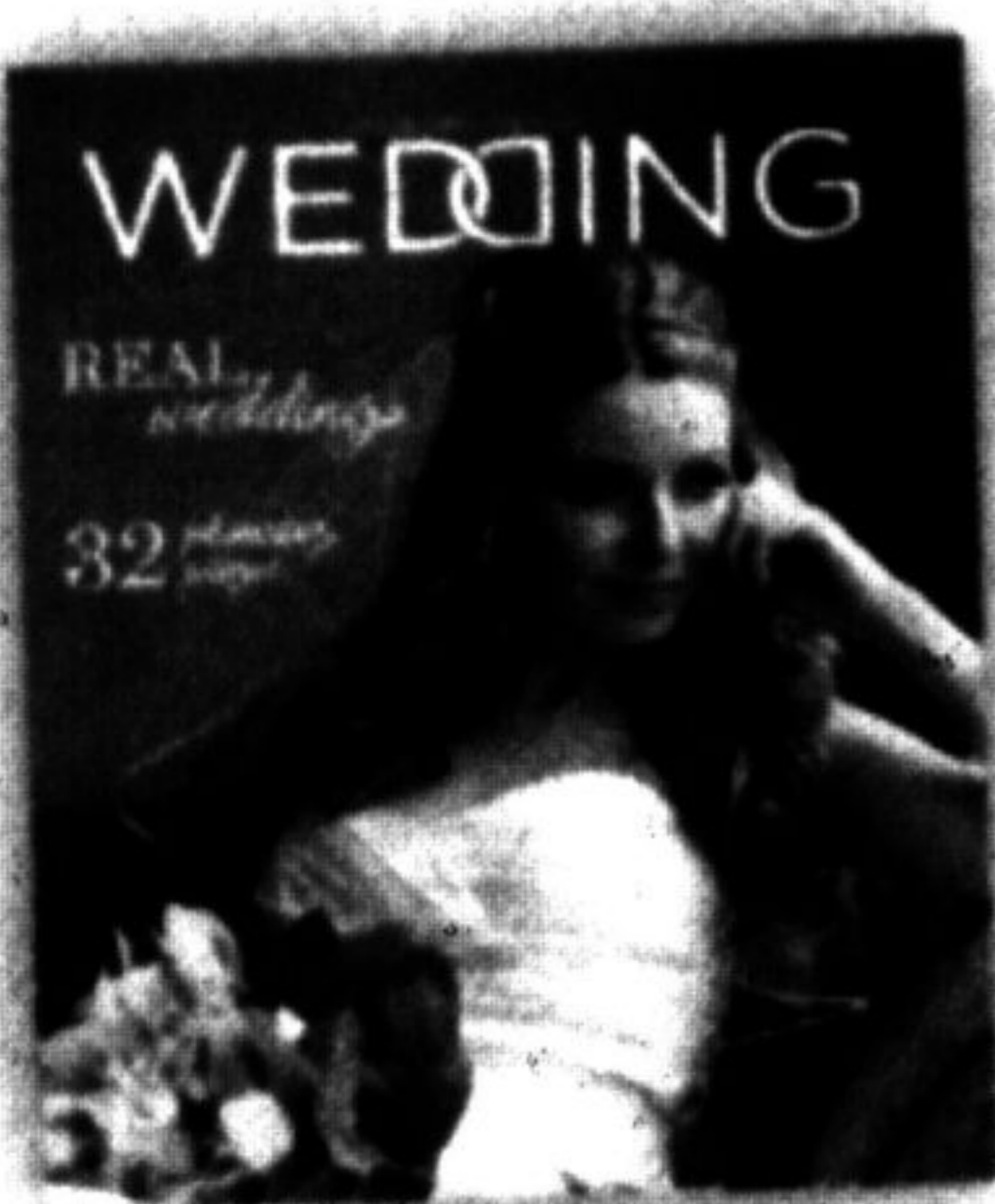


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State-of-the art indoor soccer facility open for business

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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The doors to SoccerCity will officially be kicked open Wednesday night.

"It's absolutely beautiful. It's an exciting new facility for the town and residents will be able to use it in a number of different ways," said Maria Schembri, spokesperson for the town.

The 55,850-square-foot facility became operational Oct. 28. So far the only user group is the Whitchurch-Stouffville Soccer Club.

The town, however, has 100-per-cent exclusivity to the facility's use.

It includes one FIFA regulation sized soccer pitch that can be divided into three mini fields and multipurpose space.

The fields can be used for off-season training of lacrosse, rugby, field hockey, football and baseball as well as for golf simulations.

SoccerCity also has the potential to be used for special town events, such as movie nights, concerts, plays, corporate parties and special sporting events, according to an August council report.

The public open house begins at 7:30 p.m. and includes free pizza and refreshments. The mayor and town staff will be on hand to answer any questions.

SoccerCity is at 45 Innovator Dr.

York police warn of fake charity scams

Investigators with the York Regional Police 2 District criminal investigations bureau are warning residents to be cautious when providing donations to unfamiliar charities.

The end of the year is often a peak period for charities seeking donations. It is also a peak time for fraudulent charities to exploit the generosity of others during the holidays.

False charities may use names similar to charities you might be familiar with, or may be falsely representing a legitimate charity.

Be suspicious of any appeal that feels pressured or threatening.

You can prevent becoming a victim of false charity frauds by doing research on any charity asking for your funds, to ensure it is legitimate. Call the charity directly and find out if they know about the appeal and have authorized it.

Ask questions about donations; legitimate charities will be able to answer your questions and should not make you feel intimidated to donate.

If you are the victim of a fraud, report it promptly to police at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7008, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

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