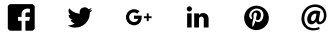




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Junior Service League holds Merry Marketplace

Nov 19, 2015



VALDOSTA — Kick off the 2015 holiday season by joining the Valdosta Junior Service League for its 10th Annual Merry Marketplace Saturday and Sunday at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

For 42 years, the Valdosta Junior Service League has offered South Georgia a holiday shopping event formerly known as the arts & crafts show. The league continues carrying on the tradition by hosting more than 60 merchants and vendors from across the Southeast this weekend.

Shopping hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$1 for children. Military and their family members get in free on Sunday with ID.

Early Bird Shopping Event: Shoppers can beat the rush and get a first look at all Merry Marketplace has to offer by shopping the Early Bird event. Early Bird tickets are \$10 and shoppers are automatically entered to win a Yeti cooler and other prizes from T3 Outdoors. Complimentary coffee and other refreshments available donated by Jessie's Eats and Treats, Publix at Baytree Village, Guardian Bank, and more. Early Bird shopping hours will be from 8-10 a.m. Saturday.

Children's Breakfast: Younger kids can participate in the annual children's breakfast Saturday in the covered outdoor area of the conference center. With two times to choose from, 9-10 a.m., this is the event to kick off Merry Marketplace. Children can expect to meet 20 characters — the most to appear at the breakfast — including favorites such as Mickey and Minnie, Anna and Elsa, Curious George, and even a Minion. There will also be a few new surprise guests, according to organizers. With face painting and candy canes, children can mingle and have pictures taken with the characters. Breakfast includes Sunset Farms sausage biscuits, Dixie Cream donut holes, Covington's coffee, and Chick-fil-A juice. Philip Walker Photography will take photos of children with Santa Claus (photography and photo packages sold separate from breakfast). Tickets are available at Little Options, Steels' Jewelry, and Toads and Teacups. \$12 per ticket — all in attendance must have a ticket if age 2 or up. Children's breakfast admission is also admission to shop Merry Marketplace.

Santa's Workshop: The new event for 2015, Santa's Workshop is perfect for big kids, according to organizers. Santa's Workshop will take place 2-4 p.m. Sunday. It includes stations such as karaoke and Santa limbo, Christmas crafts, decorating Christmas treats with hot cocoa, holiday selfies, and much more. Tickets are \$12 per child and are available at Little Options, Steels' Jewelry, and Toads and Teacups. The event is for children ages 5 and up.

More information: Visit vjsl.org.

About the Valdosta Junior Service League: VJSL is an organization of more than 100 women who are dedicated to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving our community through the interaction of our group with those people and organizations in our community that are in need of our service.

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