

News Review

Volume 62, Number 8

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

Thursday, January 14, 1999

Beat The Rush

Please give us your copy on Mondays or at least by noon on Tuesdays. We are trying not to get swamped Tuesday nights.

Punjab, India Teacher Learns From Visit to Greenbelt Schools

by Pushpa Kumari Arora

"Pushpa, you are the luckiest one of us all — you are going to America. What about your husband? Your children? Us, your friends of some 20-odd years? When will you invite..." These were some of the questions from my colleagues and friends at the country school in Patti, near Amritsar, the city of Golden Temple, when in 1997 I shared the news of my visit to Greenbelt.

"But I am going there just for a month," I said. There were head shakes of disbelief from the crowd assembled around me, and two or three said in unison, "That is what all say who are about to leave for America — that land of opulence, glitter, gadgets and great science. They almost never return."

This was my first trip outside India. My own thoughts were

riveted on the purpose of my visit, outlined by my Greenbelt hosts: "You will be able to see for yourself how we live and school our children. The ways we do things here are different from India, and you may learn to solve some of your school problems by interacting with our teachers."

I must admit that apprehensions lingered about my travel to America. This was because of often-exaggerated media accounts of child abuse and neglect, delinquency, misuse of drugs, and crime in schools, homes, and streets.

Nonetheless, as an educator from India, 10,000 miles from the world's most powerful and materially advanced nation, I was excited to visit the place, to learn a lot, and expected facile solutions to some of my school challenges from fellow teachers and admin-

istrators. However, my experiences were different.

During my study tour in the Washington area, in October 1997, I visited Greenbelt Elementary School, Nicholas Orem Middle School, St. Hugh's Elementary School, Sunday School at the Greenbelt Community Church, Holton Arms School (Washington, DC), Rowan University (Glassboro, NJ), the Smithsonian museums, several nature study centers, Greenbelt Community Center, and other educational and cultural establishments. Regrettably, I was unable to visit Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, well known in the Washington metropolitan area for its excellence. I thank all my hosts and colleagues who made my stay enjoyable and a great learning experience.

The Indian Educational System

The Democratic Republic of India is one-third the area of the United States. It is a nation of one billion people who speak 17 regional languages, also the two nationally official ones, Hindi and English. All races of humanity are represented here, in millions. My country is divided into 25 states and seven union territories. In the latest National Election, there were 550 seats in the Lok Sabha (or the House) and 245 in Rajya Sabha (the Senate).

India has over 600,000 primary schools and 170,000 secondary schools, with a teacher force of more than 4.5 million. About 90 percent of school teachers have teaching certificates from a university, college of teacher education, or primary teacher-training institute run by a state government. Entrance to these institutes is based on examinations given by a university. Teacher recruitment procedures are strict here, and in-service

See **TEACHER**, page 12



Pushpa Arora visits St. Hugh's Elementary School in Greenbelt.

Greenbelt Nursing Home Now Relocating Patients

by Elaine Skolnik

The Greenbelt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has started relocating residents to nursing homes in the area. The Center was closed when the federal Health Care Financing Administration confirmed "serious quality care violations" at the facility and cut off Medicare payments. Survey and inspection by the State as well as a consent agreement and litigation, had taken place over a period of 11 months.

When the nursing home lost its Medicare payments, the State terminated funding for Medicaid. As a result, the nursing home no longer had the funds to operate. A federal judge authorized the closure on December 28.

According to an article in the Washington Post by Avram Goldstein on January 10, "18 of the home's 82 residents" were relocated. The rest of the residents must be transferred within

30 days from the date of the decision.

Operator Will Not Appeal

Michael Mervis of Mervis and Company, the spokesperson for Extencare Health Services, Inc. of Milwaukee, told the News Review last week that Extencare, the operator of the Center, would not appeal the judge's ruling. As quoted in the Post article, Mervis also said "we're not closing; we're temporarily ceasing operations." The disposition of the facility is now under study.

The nursing home is located on 4 1/2 acres of land off Greenbelt Road. The zoning of the tract is R-18 (18-20 residential apartment units per acre). A special exception was required for the nursing center to operate. According to a Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission spokesperson, "If use is stopped as a nursing home for 180 calendar days, then the special exception expires and the owner must reapply."

Richard Castaldi Appointed To Liaison Job with State

by James Giese

Former Greenbelt Mayor and County Councilmember Richard J. Castaldi has been appointed Director of Intergovernmental Affairs by Governor Parris N. Glendening. In this position, which he assumed on January 7, Castaldi will plan and coordinate the governor's relations with county and municipal government officials. His office in the State House is located close to the governor's and equipped with telecommunication equipment to enable him to quickly reach Glendening even if the governor is away from his office. He replaces Lyle Fowlkes who resigned in December to enter private business.

"Our local governments are a vital partner in addressing the educational, economic and environmental challenges of the new century," Glendening said. "I have known Richard Castaldi throughout my public life and am thrilled that he agreed to join this administration as our representative to counties and municipalities."

"Good Credentials"

Mayor Andrew Hanko of



Richard Castaldi

-photo by Marty LaVor © 1993

New Carrollton and President of the Maryland Municipal League congratulated Glendening on the appointment, noting that Castaldi's background as a former mayor and county councilmember were good credentials for the position. Charles County Commission President Murray D. Levy, a vice president of the Maryland Association of Counties commented, "Dick is widely supported within the local

See **CASTALDI**, page 8

Hitchcock Film Festival Starts Next Weekend

by Altoria Bell Ross

Moviegoers can look forward to thrills, chills, and suspense during the Alfred Hitchcock Film Festival at the Old Greenbelt Theater starting Friday, January 22 through Thursday, January 28. The festival opens with matinee and evening showings of "North by Northwest." Attendees can follow Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason on a 3,000 mile chase that climaxes in a suspenseful confrontation on the sculptured Presidential faces on Mt. Rushmore. Friday's late show features "Vertigo." This suspense classic stars James Stewart and Kim Novak as an enigmatic beauty who bears an eerie resemblance to the heros dead love. This film will also be shown twice on Saturday. In "Strangers on a Train," a chance meeting between Farley Granger and Robert Walker results in a plan to commit the perfect murder. Ruth Roman is also featured in this film, which begins late Saturday and continues as Sunday's matinee. Repeat performances of these movies continue through Thursday (see ad on page three for schedule).

Tingles and anticipation are not all movie goers can expect during the festival, said Sarah Schaffer, "Save the Greenbelt Theater" campaign spokeswoman and city recreation coordinator. The first 50 customers will get complimentary snacks from the concession stand, and everyone who presents his movie stub at the New Deal Cafe in the

Greenbelt Community Center will receive a free cup of coffee. Schaffer also said "Vertigo" posters might be available.

In addition to the moviegoers, the Friends of Old Greenbelt Theater will be at the festival to entice customers to join them in keeping the movie house open. Last summer, George Christacos, owner of the building that houses the theater, entertained the idea of replacing the cinema with a dollar store. At that time the theater operator, Paul Sanchez, told the Greenbelt City Council that he would close in December if business did not improve. He later changed the closing date to October, when his tax statements showed continued losses. After this announcement, the city's recreation department worked with Sanchez to coordinate a six-month film festival to attract customers. The November showing of the "Wizard of Oz" and the December features, "The Sound of Music" and "The King and I," were well attended and gave the theater a much-needed financial boost.

The Friends, which now number close to a hundred, hope to keep the attendance and revenue high. Collectively, they have contributed \$3,000 to the theater, Schaffer said. Those who also wish to come to the theater's aid may sign up in the lobby during the festival or attend the next Friends meeting on Wednesday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

What Goes On

Sat., Jan. 16, 9 - 11

a.m. Senator Green and Delegates Conroy, Hubbard and Pitkin, Open Door Meeting, Municipal Building

Tues., Jan. 19, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Public Hearing on the budget, Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Wed., Jan. 20, 7:30

p.m. Advisory Planning Board, Community Center

7:30 p.m. Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Community Center

8 p.m. Council Worksession — Greenbelt Metro Station, Community Center

Thurs., Jan 21, 8

p.m. 4-Cities Meeting, City of New Carrollton city hall.

Letters

Thanks

Members of the Greenbelt Lions Club want Greenbelters to know that their generous patronage of the Lion's gift-wrapping booth at Beltway Plaza is greatly appreciated. Receipts will be used to assist those with sight problems, to support youth programs and to help community residents in need. Other uses will be to support Lions International and District programs relating to hearing impairment, drug prevention and diabetes research.

Bob Lauber

Be Alert! Deer Crossing

I nearly crashed my car into four deer on the Agricultural Farm last Wednesday evening at about 5:30. Turning off Powder Mill Road onto Research Road, I was heading home to Greenbelt and enjoying the beautiful pink sunset. Once I crossed the intersection at Beaver Dam Road, I was in the home stretch. About midway between Beaver Dam Road and the bridge, I suddenly encountered four deer slowly crossing Research Road. They were like a wall in front of me. All I could do was brake hard! When the last one in their line saw my car, it reeled back onto the grass avoiding certain injury. It happened so quickly. Even though my car lights were on, I did not see the deer until I was directly upon them. No one was hurt, just frightened.

I thank God for His protection. In retrospect, I am glad to say that I was driving slowly. Even though I consider myself to be a careful driver, I've learned a new lesson. Under similar conditions in the future, I will turn on the car's high beams and give my full attention to the road.

I hope that others will profit from my experience. It can't be said too often that deer are on the move particularly at dusk and dawn, creating hazardous road conditions around Greenbelt and elsewhere which call for sober driving methods.

B. Jean Lombardo

Social Services Offers Clothing

Looking for a job? Receive professional clothing for a job search. The Prince George's County Department of Social Services offers qualifying persons a selection of free professional attire for job interviews. For more information, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 301-209-5018.

New Deal Cafe

Open Fri. & Sat 7-11 pm
Music 8:30 pm
No cover



Fri., Jan. 15 —
Open Mike

Sat., Jan. 16 - Jane Doe

Donations for Musicians Encouraged

Sunday Brunch 10 to 3
Greenbelt Community Center

(301) 474-5642

Cable TV Transfer Public Hearing Set

The Prince George's County Cable Television Commission will hold a public hearing on the transfer of the Jones Communication cable franchise to Comcast Corporation on Wednesday, January 27, 6 p.m., Room 1024 Conference Room, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro. Interested parties will be allowed to comment on the proposed transfer. To register to speak, call the Commission at 301-952-3990. Written comments may be mailed to John E. Askew, Sr., Chief, Cable Television Division, Office of Business & Regulatory Affairs, Prince George's County Government, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. For more information, contact the Cable Television Commission at 301-952-3990; TDD 301-925-5167.

Annual 23rd District Meeting for Citizens

The annual Greenbelt Open Door Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. in city council chambers at the Greenbelt Municipal Building. This is an opportunity for citizens of the 23rd District to meet and talk to their representatives: Senator Leo Green, Delegates Mary Conroy, James Hubbard, and Joan Pitkin. The 23rd District Delegation has expressed the hope for a large turnout, as they welcome this opportunity to hear from constituents.

Magnet Schools Hold Fairs/Open Houses

The Magnet School programs in Prince George's County will hold two Magnet Fairs at Largo High School. The daytime fair is on January 23 from 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m. and the evening fair is January 26 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. In addition, each magnet school will hold open houses on February 17 and 18.

The Magnet School programs are maintained to increase diversity in schools and provide beneficial educational opportunities. They offer unique and specialized courses. Parents and students are offered a choice of options that otherwise might not be available in planning their educational path. The programs are used to encourage racial diversity in schools and admission requires application to the school system's lottery.

Magnet School booklets were mailed to all homes in late De-

Golden Age Club

by Dolores Capotosto

The January birthday party will be held at the next meeting of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, at 11 a.m. in the Multi-purpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center. What a great way to get the new year going! Come out and support the new officers who were inducted on Wednesday, January 6, by Hank Irving, Recreation Dept. Director. Hank is always encouraging the seniors and he also manages to provide some laughs. The new officers for 1999 are as follows: President, Bill Souser; 1st Vice-President: Joe Wilkinson; 2nd Vice-President: Irene Hensel; Recording Secretary: Ruth Huggins; Corresponding Secretary: Pearl Siegel and Treasurer, Shepard Odom.

Ellie Rimar reported that the club now has a total membership of 230 including ten members over 80. She sent 40+ copies of the birthday poems during 1998 to those who could not attend their birthday parties.

All Greenbelters were sorry to hear that the Greenbelt Nursing Home will be closed by January 31. The community has always been interested in the patients there and many people have been employed there or have worked as volunteers there over the years. Goldenager Ray Haber is now at the Magnolia Gardens Nursing Home.

John Taylor reminds members to sign up for the trips. Scheduled on Thursday, January 21, is a tour of the Corcoran Art Gallery followed by lunch, on your own, at Scholl's Cafeteria. On Wednesday, February 10, Goldenagers will travel to Toby's Dinner Theater to see the musical, "Children of Eden."

Condolences go to the family of Estelle Gerson, recently deceased, and get well wishes are sent to Chris Elliott, Phyllis Budin and June Francisco, who is now at home.

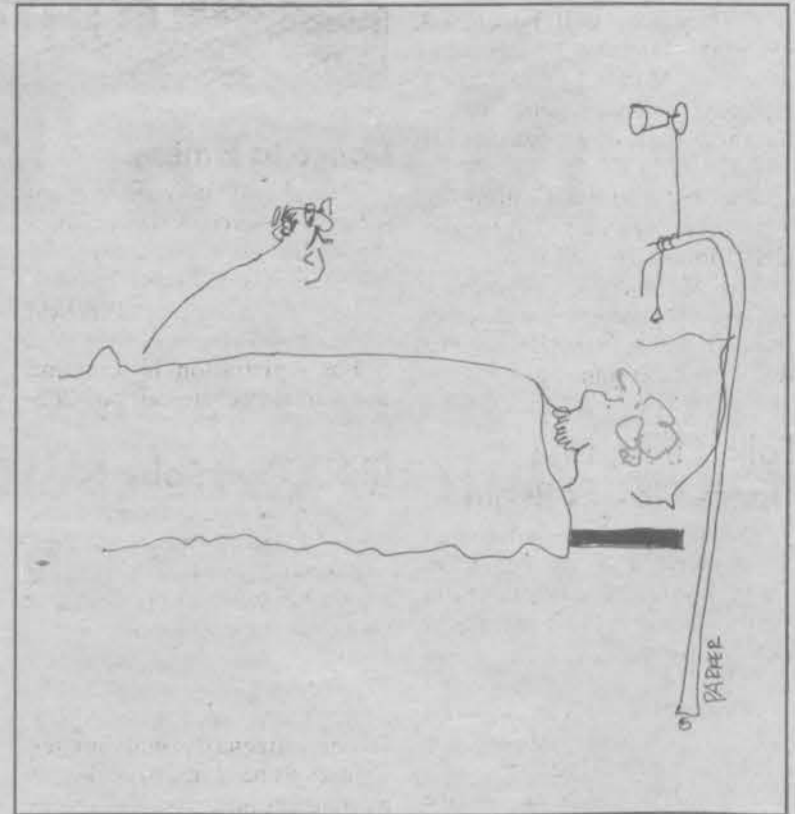
Tom Moran sends word that the phone number to call in order to make an appointment for Senior Tax Preparation is: 301-248-6604 as of January 18.

The Club voted to donate \$100 to the Lion's Club's Eye Bank and Research Program, a very worthy cause.

A big "thank you" to Martha Kaufman who arranges for the free, monthly senior movies.

December. The booklet describes each specific program. To request an additional copy of the booklet or to obtain more information, call 301 952-6044.

The Old Curmudgeon



The bad news is that Medicare won't pay for your stay here—the good news is that you can leave the convalescent center!"



Greenbelters were saddened to learn of the death of Estelle Gerson, a long time resident of the 45 court of Ridge Road. She and her husband, Hy, moved a few months ago to Asbury Village in Gaithersburg, closer to their son.

Greenbelters were sorry to hear of the death of Doris E. Brown, a former Greenbelter who had worked for the city of Greenbelt.

Greenbelt Middle School students and faculty were saddened to hear of the death by auto accident of their physical education teacher and basketball coach, Melvin E. Jones.

Congratulations and best wishes to native Greenbelter and former Mayor Richard Castaldi,

newly appointed by Governor Parris Glendening as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, the governor's liaison with state and municipal governments.

Regina Nelson is one of more than 500 St. Olaf College musicians who participated in the world-renowned annual St. Olaf College Christmas Festival, "Behold the Wonders of This Night," Dec. 3-6. Nelson sings soprano in the St. Olaf Cantorei, directed by John Ferguson. The St. Olaf Christmas Festival has been a cherished tradition of the college for more than three-quarters of a century. Nearly 16,000 people attended the four performances and millions more throughout the world saw it on public television or heard it on public radio.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
(301) 474-4131

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Giese, president; Virginia Beauchamp, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Eileen Farnham, secretary; and Barbara Likowski.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center 15 Crescent Road during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$32/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., 8 - 10 p.m.

Greenbelt Arts Center

presents

The Comedy of Errors

Written by: William Shakespeare

Directed by: Steven Cox

Not one, but TWO sets of identical twins, separated at birth!
Add romance and a dash of mayhem to get this hilarious,
whirlwind farce of multiple mistaken identities.

January 15 - February 6

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM

Sunday January 24 & 31 at 2 PM

Ticket Prices:

\$10 General Admission \$7 Student and Senior Discount

The Greenbelt Arts Center

123 Centerway Greenbelt (next to the Post Office)

For reservations and more information call (301) 441-8770

GHI Notes

GHI offices will be closed Monday, January 18 to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday. For emergency maintenance that day please call 301-474-6011.

The Playground Committee will meet January 19 in the GHI Library at 7:30 p.m.

The Member & Community Relations Committee will meet January 19 in the GHI Board Room at 7:30 p.m.

Folk, Circle, Line Dance Classes Begin

A new series of international folk dance classes for beginners and experienced dancers starts Friday, January 15 at the Youth Center at 8 p.m.

Folk dance instructor Roland Forbes will lead the dancing from many cultures around the world. Formations include circle and line dances, square dances, partner and trio dances and change partner dances. Some dances are slow and gentle, while others are more lively and vigorous. It's good exercise and lots of fun.

The class is open to teens and adults. No partner is required.

For more information or to register, contact the Recreation Department at 301-397-2200. Or come to the first session this Friday and register there. There is a fee.

Explore Basketry January 22

On Friday, January 22 at 1 p.m., Explorations Unlimited presents "Basketry." The presenter is Teddy Primack.

Primack teaches traditional basketweaving at the Greenbelt Community Center every weekend. He has been making and exhibiting baskets since 1993. Although basketmaking is practiced all over the world, he is especially interested in Appalachian basketry, which is a mingling of Native American styles with the heritage of Scottish and English basketmakers.

He will explain the main styles and techniques of the early settlers and display examples of their designs.

Explorations Unlimited is a speaker series in the senior classroom. Everyone is welcome and questions are always encouraged. Please call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Community Events

Dance to Fitness

The City of Greenbelt is sponsoring Bio Aerobics dance fitness classes for adults and teens. The new year session begins Tuesday, January 19. Classes will be held at the Greenbelt Youth Center.

For registration information and a free brochure call 301-262-5175.

RESULTS at Roberts'

Greenbelters are invited to the home of Sandra Roberts on Sunday, January 24 at 12:45 p.m. for a light luncheon and presentation about the organization Resolve to End Starvation Using Legislative Trintabbing and Support (RESULTS), a group working to empower citizens to end hunger. Contact Roberts at 301-474-3506 by noon on Saturday, January 23.

Astronomy Club Holds Stargazing Party

The Greenbelt Astronomy Club will hold a stargazing party on Saturday, January 16 at the Thomas N. Wolfe ball field (Northway Fields) at the end of Northway extended. The event begins at 7 p.m. and is scheduled to last until at least 10:30 p.m.

Club members will be on hand with a variety of telescopes and binoculars to share views of the planet Jupiter with its moons, Saturn with its rings, the great Orion Nebula, star clusters, nebulae, constellations and more. The event is free and open to the public. Dress very warmly. In the event of hopelessly cloudy skies or high winds, this event will be cancelled.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club will be held on Thursday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. at the H.B. Owens Science Center.

For further information, directions and map, visit the club's web site at: <http://lheawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/outreach/gac/GAC.html>. Alternatively, call Tom Bridgman at 301-286-1346.

The event is sponsored by the H.B. Owens Science Center (Prince George's public schools), the Goddard Astronomy Club and the members of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club to encourage public interest in science and education.

Center Merchants Ass'n to Meet

The Roosevelt Center Association will meet on Thursday, January 21 at 9 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Co-Op Grocery store.

Topics for discussion will include the recent work session with the city council and Greenbelt web page opportunities. Interested persons are invited to attend.

Fun at Goddard

There will be a model rocket launch on Sunday, January 17 at 1 p.m. at the Goddard Visitor Center on Soil Conservation Road. The launch is held weather permitting and is free. For information call 301-286-8981.

Registration at ERHS For College Courses

Registration for Prince George's County Community College courses at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) will be held on Saturday, January 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at ERHS. Registration may also be made at the Largo campus Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For information on courses available and fees, call 301-322-0873 for credit courses or 301-322-0875 for non-credit courses.

High School Grads Plan Remembrance

A group of graduates of the old Greenbelt High School are planning to set up a special room in the Community Center in remembrance of their school.

A meeting is set for Tuesday, January 19 at 7 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center. There will be a discussion of what will be placed in the room.

All interested graduates and faculty members are invited to attend. For further details call 301-474-5156.

Hearing on School Budget on January 19

The Prince George's County Board of Education will hold a public hearing regarding the FY2000 operating budget at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 19 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Topics include employee compensation, class size, enrollment growth and critical needs such as instructional programs and facilities.

Copies of the budget are available at schools and public libraries or can be requested by calling 301-952-6090. To register to speak at the hearing, call 301-952-6115.

At the Library

Monday, January 18 - Libraries closed.

Children's Programs
Wednesday, January 20, 7 p.m. P.J. Storytime for ages 4 - 6.

Thursday, January 21, 10:15 a.m. Drop-In Storytime for ages 3 - 5.

11:15 a.m. Toddler Time for 2 year olds and parent or caregiver.

Adult Programs
Wednesday, January 20, 2 p.m. Adult Book Discussion on Ralph Ellison's "Flying Home." Exhibit for January - Fiber art by Jeong Yoon Choi.

Laleche League Meets January 19

The LaLeche League of Greenbelt will meet on Tuesday, January 19, at 10 a.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road. The topic of the meeting is "Becoming a Mother: Changes, Adjustments and Needs." Pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are invited to attend. Babies are welcome. For more information, please call Heather at 301-345-1859.

Business Women Hold Dinner Meeting

The Women Business Owners of Prince George's County (WBO-PGC) will host its monthly dinner meeting on Tuesday, January 19, at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel, just off Kenilworth Avenue and Ivy Lane.

This month's semi-annual joint dinner meeting will be with Women Business Owners of Montgomery County (WBO-MC). It will feature lively roundtable discussions on various topics of importance to women business owners and professional women.

WBO dinner meetings begin at 6 p.m. Reservations and payments should be made in advance. Call Betty Stehmann, WBO treasurer, at 301-345-6922, for information.



CITY OF GREENBELT
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday Service Schedule



CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1999

The GREENBELT CONNECTION will not run that day.

Refuse/recycling routes will be picked up as follows:

Monday pickup will be collected on Tuesday.
Tuesday pickup will be collected on Wednesday.
Wednesday Pickup will be collected on Thursday.
Thursday pickup will be collected on Friday.

There will be NO FRIDAY yard debris and appliance pickups.

For more information call the Department of Public Works at 301-474-8000, the Greenbelt Connection at 301-474-8100 or visit Greenbelt CityLink at <http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us>

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF JANUARY 15

Elizabeth (R)

Fri., 9:40
Sat., (2:30 @ \$3), 9:40
Sun., (2:30 @ \$3)
Mon. 5:00 - all seats \$3

—

The story of famed movie director James Whale:

Gods and Monsters (NR)

Fri., (5:00 @ \$3), 7:30
Sat., (5:00 @ \$3), 7:30
Sun., (5:00 @ \$3), 7:30
Mon. 7:30 - all seats \$3
Tues-Thurs. 7:30

—


Starts Friday, 22nd -

Alfred Hitchcock Festival

www.pgtheatres.com

P & G's Old Greenbelt Theatre

129 Centerway Road
in the heart of Old Greenbelt
301-474-9744





Visit our web page at: www.pgtheatres.com

Alfred Hitchcock Film Festival!

A Rare Chance to See These Classics on our 40' Cinemascope Screen!

Starting Friday, January 22nd, 1999

Admission **\$3.00** for each film or a three film ticket for **\$7.50**

Fri. Jan. 22 9:30 Sat. Jan. 23 4:30 & 7:15 Thurs. Jan. 28 7:30	Haunted by the desperate urge to kill herself!  JAMES STEWART KIM NOVAK IN ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S VERTIGO
Fri. Jan. 22 4:30 & 7:15 Sun. Jan. 24 7:15 & 9:30 Tues. Jan. 26 7:30 Wed. Jan. 27 7:30	ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S "NORTH BY NORTHWEST"  a 3000 MILE CHASE ...That blazes a trail of TERROR to a gripping, spine-chilling climax! CARY GRANT EVA MARIE SAINT JAMES MASON
Sat. Jan. 23 9:30 Sun. Jan. 24 4:30 Mon. Jan. 25 7:30	Farley GRANGER RUTH ROMAN ROBERT WALKER Alfred Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train

OBITUARIES

Estelle Gerson

Longtime Greenbelter Estelle (Esther) Gerson, died of hepatitis C on January 3 at Shady Grove Seventh Day Adventist Hospital. She was 82. Graveside funeral services were held at the King David Memorial Gardens, Falls Church.

Mrs. Gerson was born in Brooklyn, NY. Upon coming to Greenbelt, she and her husband, Hyman Gerson, lived in an apartment but soon moved into a house in the 45 Court of Ridge Rd, where they resided for 57 years. Last October they moved to Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg.

The Gersons were founding members of the Jewish Community Center (now the Mishkan Torah Synagogue) in Greenbelt. For some time she worked at Twin Pines Savings and Loan, and for many years performed volunteer work at Doctors Hospital in Lanham.

She is survived by her husband, a son, Sanders, and his wife, Lorraine; and a daughter, Lois Cohen and her husband, Stanley; five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hepatitis Foundation International (Research), 30 Sunrise Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009-1423.

Melvin E. Jones

Melvin E. Jones, 56, a physical education teacher and basketball coach at Greenbelt Middle School, died December 31 of injuries received in an automobile accident in Cheverly.

Jones also coached track at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and for the Glenarden Track Club.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne M. Jones, sons Demetrius McWilliams and Duan Jones, a daughter Kimberly Jones, three brothers and two sisters.

The funeral was at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden on January 8. Interment was at Harmony Memorial Park.

Doris E. Brown

Former Greenbelter Doris E. Brown of Bethany Beach, Delaware and Punta Gorda, Florida died on January 8, 1999. Mrs. Brown had lived in Boxwood Village form 1966 to 1985. She worked for the city of Greenbelt.

She is survived by her husband Lt. Col. Ret. Paul L. Brown; children/step children, Pamela Reilly, Deanna Elliott, Steven Elliott, Katherine Drucker and Sharon Van Liempt, sisters Marie Kerby and Mavis Slais, seven grandchildren and six nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Sea Colony Community Center, Edgewater House Bethany Beach on Monday, January 18 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, people may make donations to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, 1-800-722-9474.

Interment will take place in the spring in her hometown of Millinocket, Maine. The family can be reached at 301-490-5740 or 302-539-3516.

Come See the Stars

"Stars Alive!" planetarium show will be presented on Friday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Howard B. Owens Science Center. There is a fee. For information call 301-918-8750. The center is located at 9601 Greenbelt Road.

Learn to Skate At Wells Ice Rink

The Herbert Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway in College Park, is offering lessons for everyone from toddlers to adults. Mail-in/fax-in/drop off/telephone registration is now in progress. Lesson registration is taken Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The schedule is as follows: Monday and Tuesday, noon - 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.; Wednesday, noon - 2:15 p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m.; Thursday, noon - 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.; and Friday, noon - 2:15 p.m. and 3 - 5 p.m.

For more information call 301-277-3719; TTY 301-249-4252; www.pgpk.com.

Diabetes Support Group Meets

"Skin Care For People with Diabetes" is the subject of this month's Diabetes Support Group at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham. The group will meet January 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the DSE Room on the fifth floor of the hospital's Medical Office Building at 8118 Good Luck Road.

Bonnie Kaminicki, a Registered Nurse and Skin Care Specialist, is the speaker. Her discussion will focus on skin problems associated with diabetes and how to avoid or treat them. In addition, Jill Schuldiner of Roche Boehringer Mannheim will demonstrate glucose monitors.

For more information on the Diabetes Education Program or to register for the support group meeting, contact Elaine Stone, RN, Certified Diabetes Educator at 301-552-5134.

Stress Management For Caregivers

Learn how to better manage the challenges people face taking care of a family member with a serious illness. Washington Adventist Hospital, 7600 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park is offering a free seminar for care givers on Wednesday, January 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 301-891-5600.

Visitor Center Volunteers Needed

The Goddard Visitor Center is seeking volunteers as tour guides, front desk information aides, office assistants and presentation assistants. For additional information, call 301-286-9041.

Magic/Ventriloquist Free Program Monday

The public is invited to a free magic and ventriloquist program on Monday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Jeepers!, Beltway Plaza.

Come and see the 12 year old magical ventriloquist duo of Spencer Horsman and Dexter. They have been featured on The Late Show with David Letterman and the Jerry Springer Show.

For more information call 301-982-1988. Spencer and Dexter will present this free program monthly.



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Rev. John Burciaga
"Who Belongs?"
Dr. Abbey Crowley
11:15 a.m.
"Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King" Service with guest congregation
Religious Education 9:30 a.m.

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"The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily his death is better than his life."
-Baha'i Sacred Writings
Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
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Information about the Baha'i Faith is on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.bahai.org/>

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Taught by Jason Faunce
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Saturday 5 p.m.
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Guest Opinion

Metroland Site Holds Anacostia Treasures

[The following article, in the form of a letter to the editor, appeared in the December 1998/January 1999 issue of the Audubon Naturalist News. The News Review received permission from the author, a Berwyn Heights resident and scientific illustrator and naturalist, and from the publication in which it appeared to reprint the story.]

by Kate Spencer

One of the wildest and most unique natural areas accessible by Metro is also one of the most threatened. Just over the guard rail from the Greenbelt Metro Station parking lot in Greenbelt, Maryland, the braided channels of Indian Creek meander toward the Anacostia River through the last remnants of historic Hollywood Swamp. In 1919 the Smithsonian documented the southern floodplain forest assemblage that thrives today: swamp chestnut oaks, massive red maples, and black gums still dominate an understory of buttonbush, viburnum, smooth winterberry holly, and sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), which until this fall was thought to be lost from the D.C. area. A walk this October revealed that, despite the summer's drought, the creek's channels supported a vibrant array of submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation, including the rare cattail sedge, and bog chickweed, a plant which had never before been reported from the region. The pools, riffles, backwater meadows, and ponds are habitat for many species of reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and dragonflies. Deer, fox, and neighborhood children on nature expeditions are common denizens. The floodplain teems with birds, from warblers to red-shouldered hawks to wood ducks. In fact, when the Capital Beltway was first built, it was here that the first bluebird nest inside the Beltway was found.

This gem of untrammelled land, some of it even without footpaths, is at the core of a 240-acre tract that Metroland Development Corporation, L.L.C., proposes to develop into a 1.8 million square foot upscale mall, offices, convention center, condos, retirement community, and a lake. Much of this site is within the 100-year

floodplain of Indian Creek. About 128 acres or 43 percent of the site are wetlands, and woodlands cover 97 acres, about 32 percent of the site.

The southern end of the site has for nearly a century been used for open pit gravel mining and concrete operations. Many acres of wetlands have been degraded or filled completely, the braids of Indian Creek gradually channelized, and the waters muddied by tons of unregulated sediment. In one place, concrete mixer trucks have been dumping leftover concrete for so long that a mountain thirty feet high rises from the creek bank and spreads over acres, pouring a steady stream of alkaline silt into Indian Creek. A network of dirt motorcycle trails has flattened stretches of streambank and torn up the forest floor in some wooded areas. Downstream of Greenbelt Road the Army Corps of Engineers has channelized and in many places bermed and deforested the floodplain all the way to the Anacostia River.

Upstream of the mining area, though, the floodplain forest and wetlands perform their natural floodwater control function by slowing down and spreading out rainwater and harboring niches for native plants and animals that clean the water. The channels of Indian Creek and the silty forested floodplain are still recognizable as the Hollywood Swamp.

In 1881 the Smithsonian surveyed the flora of the Washington, D.C. area for the first time and returned in 1919 to find many natural areas disappearing under housing developments. But the Hollywood Swamp, once a connected series of swamps stretching from Hyattsville to Beltsville along the Indian Creek floodplain, still held "much of interest." The swamp chestnut oak forest represents a finger of a southern community that extends up the Anacostia River and its tributaries. Southern leopard frogs at the northern boundary of their range are common in the wetlands, while northern species like the bog chickweed enrich the community. The history of Indian Creek includes its use as an Indian trade route from at least colonial times. The archaeological

sites all along the creek banks are considered significant.

Riding the Green Line Metro train south out of Greenbelt station gives a good orientation to the site. Just below the station beaver, turtles, and herons grace the two ponds and vernal pools right next to the tracks. Next, a huge field of towering Phragmites grass grows on a flat field and crowds around the rusting gravel yard towers and conveyor belts. Across the field one can see the line of trees where Indian Creek runs parallel to the tracks. A couple of small office buildings and active gravel piles give way to a few light industrial buildings just before the tracks pass under Greenbelt Road.

The variety of habitats makes the site great for birding, and one of the best spots is next to the Metro tracks just below the station in a dense stand of buttonbush....

On spring nights a magnificent chorus of spring peepers welcomes commuters when they return to the station. In floodtime the creek fills the woods with muddy water from Cherrywood Lane to the parking lot, leaving islands and pools for the frogs when the water recedes. On the streambank one can find fresh green raccoon scat full of tiny fish bones and crushed crayfish shells. On late nights a beaver might be seen tracing V's across the overflow pond in the parking lot, where it must climb through a grate to reach the cattails and saplings inside the chainlink fence. This year a doe raised twin fawns on the lush grasses of hidden meadows, and Killdeer, Redwinged Blackbirds, and Canada Geese serenade the summer. The forest life seems to spill out over the parking lot as if trying to take it back.

One might wonder why there isn't already a nature center for the neighborhood children, but development appears to have been in the planning for years. The whole tract is zoned I-2, or heavy industrial, and a law passed in April by the Prince George's County Council amends the uses allowed in industrial zones to include a Metro Planned Community of at least 150 acres. The law spells out in exhaustive detail the number of parking spaces, condos with marble ceilings and

vaulted entryways, fitness gyms, offices, and specific upscale retail stores required to qualify as a Metro Planned Community. The developer must show a letter of intent from at least one prestigious department store before submitting a plan....

Meanwhile, the Prince George's County Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission has held four charrettes, or public planning meetings, between April and October of this year, to involve citizens in amending the Greenbelt Metro Area Sector of the county's zoning plan. The charrette participants voted to adopt the greenest of four proposed land use concepts for the 240-acre site, which would preserve a 138-acre environmental envelope around the most sensitive parts of Indian Creek and limit development primarily to the Metro parking lot and the downstream industrial sites. Language in M-NCPPC's literature about the site and the planning process states that "stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and the land is a universal ethic" and emphasizes "environmentally sensitive development and redevelopment."

At Metroland's October 15 press conference, citizens learned that Metroland has not incorporated the charrette's land use concept into its own vision even though its representative participated in every charrette. Their drawings indicated the entire site would be bulldozed, Indian Creek would be relocated, and the wetlands would be submerged by a lake. The developer's publicity packet touts "magnificent recreational facilities highlighted by Indian Creek Park. Named for Indian Creek, which flows through the property, this beautiful stream valley park will run the length of the development. With tree-lined waterfront promenade, biking and jogging trails, walking paths, paddle boating and a pier, Indian Creek Park's design and facilities will maintain the integrity of the natural drainage of the existing floodplain and satisfy requirements for the preservation of the natural environment."

Yet none of Indian Creek's old channels would remain, its course would be removed for

Indian Creek Valley Coalition to Form

The Greenbelt Friends of Indian Creek Valley and Citizens for a Better Environment for College Park are holding a joint meeting in the Greenbelt Community Center at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 31. The group plans to form a coalition to guide the future of the Indian Creek Valley. Anyone interested is invited to attend the meeting.

Walking Club Offers Six Walking Trails

Enjoy six walking trails in Cambridge, Glen Burnie, Laurel, Savage, Ocean City and Wheaton, sponsored by the Freestate Happy Wanderers. Walk every day only during daylight hours. Start points and start times are listed in a brochure. E-mail wahasse@ix.netcom.com or call Bill at 410-437-2164 or Lynne at 301-490-5850 before 9 p.m. and request a free copy.

Everyone is welcome! Activities are geared toward providing wholesome recreation and exercise for singles, couples and families.

the convenience of buildings, and a diverse, historically documented habitat would be replaced by another artificial lake....

Metroland promises to follow regulations on wetland and floodplain mitigation, but a fragmented wetland or mitigation pond cannot replace a mature floodplain forest or support picky plants that rely on the whole ecosystem for their well-being. They propose an environmental education area "to teach kids about the Anacostia watershed and what we can do to restore it." But the best way to restore is not to destroy another inch of the Anacostia's vital wetlands and functioning, historic floodplain forest. What the Anacostia watershed and its residents don't need is to lose the last piece of the Hollywood Swamp inside the Beltway and sacrifice the natural beauty of Indian Creek.



WALTER M. MILLER, D.D.S.



NORMAN R. RESSIN, D.D.S.

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Ill-fitting dentures can seriously damage the mouth, causing abrasions, bruises, inflammation and rapid destruction of the supporting bone. Prolonged irritation of this kind may result in the development of tumors.

Prepared as public service to promote better dental health. From the office of: Walter M. Miller, D.D.S. • Norman R. Ressin, D.D.S., 6215 Greenbelt Rd., College Park, MD 20740. Telephone: (301) 474-2000; Fax: (301) 474-3440; www.bestsmile.com.

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CASTALDI

(Continued from page 1)

government community and we look forward to working with him."

For 21 years, until 1994, Castaldi held elected positions in Prince George's County. He was first elected to the Greenbelt City Council in September, 1973. He became the top vote-getter in the 1981 election and was subsequently elected mayor by that council. That election surprised many political pundits who had been expecting the race for mayor to be between Gil Weidenfeld and Richard Pilski, as they had been alternating terms as mayor for the previous eight years.

Castaldi's tenure as mayor was short-lived, however. He ran and was elected to the Fourth District County Council seat in November, 1982. Castaldi represented the district, which includes Greenbelt, Bowie, Mitchellville and other unincorporated areas in the north-eastern part of the county, for three terms in spite of challenges from various candidates from the much larger Bowie area. While a county councilmember, he served two consecutive terms as its chair and also as chair of its planning and zoning committee.

WMATA Board

Then County Executive Glendening appointed Castaldi to serve as the county's representative to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Board of Directors and Castaldi served two terms as the board's chair. He also served as chair of the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. Other service as a county councilmember included the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Transportation Planning Board and the National Association of Counties'

Transportation Steering Committee.

In 1994, Castaldi, who was prevented from running for a fourth term by newly adopted term limit legislation, ran for County Executive. However, he withdrew from the race due to the death of his mother and illness of his father.

Since leaving office, Castaldi has been working on the renovation of his vacation home on the Potomac River and as a private consultant and lobbyist.

Prior to his election to the county council, Castaldi worked for 20 years at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He was supervisor of Zoning Information and Permits and is considered an expert in the field of zoning and devel-

opment, having lectured at both the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College on these subjects.

Castaldi is a life-long resident of Greenbelt. His parents, Edward and Marie, were one of the first families to live here. As a young, recently married couple, they had first moved to an apartment at 20-D Crescent Road, then later to 11-V Ridge Road where Richard was born and raised. He continues to reside in Greenbelt on Kara Court. He graduated from High Point High School and majored in business administration at the University of Maryland. His wife Ann is a special education teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

City Notes

Some of the activities performed by the Greenbelt Public Works Department during the week ending January 8 were:

- *salted, then plowed city streets during and after the snow of Friday, January 8;

- *cleaned up after the nearly 800 celebrants left the Greenbelt New Year '99 event;

- *collected Christmas trees from throughout the city;

- *refinished the floor and cleaned the Council Room at the Municipal building;

- *towed-in and repaired a Planning Department vehicle;

- *refaced 12 school crosswalk signs with new reflective material and installed them;

- *repaired potholes on Hanover Parkway;

- *hauled landscape rocks from Rockville to the city cemetery for the horticulture crew;

- *began repair of erosion damage on the stream behind the Braden Field tennis courts; and

- *repaired damage from vandalism at Schrom Hills Park.

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Tuesday	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.* 12:00 - 2:15 p.m.*
Wednesday	3:00 - 5:00 p.m.* 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.*
Thursday	12:00 - 2:15 p.m.* 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.*
Friday Home School	9:00 - 11:00 a.m. 12:00 - 2:15 p.m.* 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.*
Saturday	7:00 - 10:00 p.m.+ 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.* 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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Skate rental is free.
Sunday is Family Night - up to four children free with a paying mom or dad (does not include skate rental).

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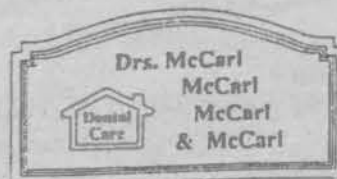
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Friday 8-4
Saturday 8-11:30

POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace, Jan. 1, 2:24 a.m., a robbery was reported. The victim stated that he was robbed outside his building when two men approached him from behind and asked if he had any money. One then pointed to his jacket as if to imply that he had a gun. The victim gave the men \$12. One of the men asked the victim if he was from India. When the victim said he was, the man said, according to police, "Get out of here. You don't belong here." The robbers then walked away. The victim was not injured in the incident. The suspects are described as black males in their 20s, both approximately 5'7" in height. One wore red clothing, the other black.

Unlawful Contacts

7800 block of Mandan Road, Jan. 2, 3:10 p.m., a 31-year-old male nonresident was arrested for trespassing after climbing onto his ex-wife's apartment patio, knocking on the glass, and asking to be let in. He refused to leave after being asked to by the victim. The man was banned from the Glen Oaks Apartments property and released on criminal citation.

Beltway Plaza Mall, Jan. 5, 11:45 a.m., a male nonresident was arrested and charged with violating a court protective order obtained by a woman. He went to the victim's place of employment and threatened her and destroyed property belonging to her employer. He was left with the Department of Corrections for a hearing.

Fraud

Safeway store in Greenway Shopping Center, Jan. 2, 3:10 p.m., a man attempted to pay for groceries with two counterfeit

\$10 bills. The cashier suspected that the bills were phony and the man fled without his groceries. The suspect is described as a black male in his 30s, 5'10" tall, medium build, black hair, wearing a green hat, tan coat and blue jeans.

8000 block of Mandan Road, Jan. 5, 2:55 p.m., a credit card offense was reported. Several credit cards, including one belonging to the victim's recently deceased spouse, were stolen from the victim's wallet. The credit cards may have been stolen by persons who had recently been in the residence; they were used to make fraudulent charges.

Beltway Plaza Mall, Jan. 5, 7:38 p.m., a suspicious person having possible fraudulent intent was reported. A retail establishment employee was recently befriended by a woman who claimed to work for the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). The woman, who used the name Kim Barnes, promised

to get the victim, also a woman, a job working there. The victim became suspicious when Barnes did not show up for a meeting and discovered that Barnes does not work for the MVA. Barnes then called the victim at her residence and asked for personal information, such as social security number, date of birth, and address, supposedly for the job application. Barnes is described as a black female in her 40's, 5'3", 150 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes.

Burglary and Theft

100 block of Centerway, Jan. 2, a nonresident was arrested after driving an Everfresh Juice truck across the grass. The vehicle was reported stolen to the Prince George's County Police on Jan. 1. The driver was left with the Department of Corrections for a hearing.

30 court of Ridge Road, Jan. 2, 3:34 p.m., electronics, clothing, and currency were taken. Entry was gained without force, possibly using a key.

7100 block of Greenbelt Road, Jan. 2, 11:05 p.m., a fence was dismantled to gain entry into a construction site. A window of a trailer was broken but nothing was taken.

Eleanor Roosevelt High

School, Jan. 5, a burglary was reported. A temporary classroom building was broken into and a cash box containing currency was removed. The incident occurred during the holidays, when the school was closed.

52 court of Ridge Road, Jan. 5, 2:30 p.m., collectible coins and a pistol magazine containing ammunition were taken. Entry was gained by prying open a rear living room window.

400 block of Ridge Road, Jan. 6, a theft was reported. A personal checkbook and backpack were stolen. The theft occurred on Dec. 30; one of the checks was cashed the same day. The items may have been taken by individuals who were in the victim's residence the same date as the theft.

MD 201 and Cherrywood Lane, Jan. 7, 3:22 p.m., a beige 1998 Ingersol-Rand air compressor-trailer combination was reported stolen from a construction site.

7500 block of Greenway Center Drive, Jan. 7, 3:58 p.m., a Hewlett-Packard laser printer was reported stolen from an office building.

Vandalism

Schrom Hills Park, Jan. 5, 10:48 a.m., a light, three benches,

10 fitness trail pole markers, and a restroom door were vandalized.

Vehicle Crimes

6100 block of Breezewood Court, Dec. 31, a turquoise 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix with North Carolina tags LUP1788 was stolen.

6200 block of Breezewood Ct., Jan. 3, a 1995 Plymouth Voyager van was stolen. It was recovered unoccupied on Jan. 6 in Washington.

Beltway Plaza Mall, Jan. 4, a blue 1994 Plymouth Voyager with D.C. tags 795 544 was stolen.

9000 block of Breezewood Terrace, Jan. 7, a 1986 Jeep Cherokee with Maryland tags M135373 was stolen.

Vandalisms to, thefts from, and attempted thefts of vehicles were reported in the following areas: 7900 block of Mandan Road, 7400 block of Greenway Center Drive, 7100 block of Megan Lane, 20 block of Southway, 100 block of Lakeside Drive, and 9100 block of Springhill Lane.

Andrew G. Aronfy, M.D.
7525 Greenway Center Drive, Suite 110
Greenbelt, MD. 20770 301-220-1200

ECZEMA
 (Atopic Dermatitis)

WHAT IS IT?

Eczema is an itch first, and a rash second. It is a congenital allergy (atopy) usually associated with respiratory allergies such as hay fever and asthma. Some children will "outgrow" this condition in a few months or years. Some children will struggle with this condition forever. Some will suffer with a come-and-go situation indefinitely.

In some cases the parents will discover that certain foods, animal contacts, weather conditions, or clothing will aggravate or bring out the itch-rash cycle. In other cases there is no known cause for recurrence.

The rash is usually dry, rough, and scaly. In some cases the rash is moist and sticky. The most common sites for the rash are the face, and various creases such as the elbows, the groin and behind the knees.

Atopic skin is different from normal skin. It is dry, easily irritated, and itchy.

HOW DO WE TREAT IT?

The most important purpose of treatment is to eliminate or minimize the itch. Thus, dryness must be eliminated. The home environment must be not too hot and not too dry. Bathing must be infrequent and brief. The bath water should be lukewarm. Mild soaps (Nutraena, Dove) should be used. After a bath, moisturizing agents (Moisturel, Cetaphil) should be applied to the whole body. Beware of bath oils, and slippery tubs. After a bath, the child should be "blotted" not rubbed with a towel. Soft clothing should be worn next to the skin; starch-free cotton, not wool. Atopic children should be underdressed to avoid sweating. Non-sweat producing activities should be encouraged. Fuzzy toys and animals should be avoided.

In the treatment of skin diseases "mild lesion, strong treatment; severe lesion, mild treatment." Weeping and crusty lesions must be treated with wet compresses (Burow's solution). Dry lesions are treated with ointments (which are better than creams) of low or medium strength corticosteroids, sometimes combined with tar, or skin-softeners (Cetaphil, acid mantle).

Dietary restrictions are usually useless. On rare occasions, if a parent can clearly see an improvement when certain foods are withheld, such a procedure is advisable.

Oral corticosteroid therapy is almost never indicated for eczema. However, oral itch-reducing medication is essential. The most commonly prescribed itch medicine is hydroxyzine (Atarax). This is very safe, very effective, and not habit-forming.

SPECIAL ADVICE

Keep in contact with your doctor. Report any changes in the child's condition. Before applying any new medication, ask your doctor about it.

Keep your eczematous child away from people with cold sores and fever blisters. (A life-threatening rash may result.)

Allow your child to lead a normal life as much as possible.

(Dr. Aronfy has been practicing pediatric medicine in Prince George's County for 35 years. New patients are always welcome.)

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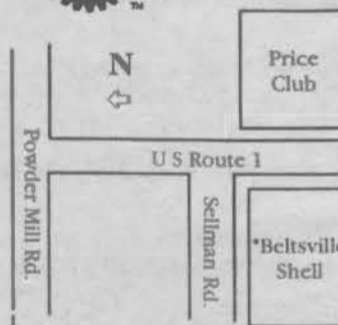
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Teen Pageant Seeks Entrants

Young women between the ages of 13 and 19 as of July 11, 1999 are eligible to compete to represent Maryland in the National Miss United States Teen Competition in Tampa, Florida, July 7-11. The winner will have a year of personal appearances and travel, and receive scholarships, cash and prizes.

All contestants will be judged in a personal interview and in swimwear and eveningwear competition. There is no talent competition.

For information, call 407-523-9015, or write to Miss Maryland Teen Pageant: 6239 Edgewater Dr. Suite N3-2, Orlando, FL 32810. Or visit the website at www.missunitedstatesteen.com. All applications must be received by February 17.

Laurel Donation Center Closes

Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries has announced the closing of both its Attended Donation Center (ADC) and Vehicle Donation Center at 107 South Washington Blvd. in Laurel.

Area residents interested in vehicle donations may arrange for free pick-up by calling 202-636-4225, ext. 1513, or donate vehicles in person at 2200 South Dakota Ave. N.E. Other items may be donated at the Attended Donation Center/Goodwill store at 6700 Laurel-Bowie Road in Bowie, 301-352-0002.



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TEACHER

(Continued from page 1)

teacher education is available, but insufficient. As in the United States, primary and secondary school education is the responsibility of state governments, including recognition of private schools. Education is theoretically compulsory in nearly all states to age 14; however, our literacy rate is only 52 per cent. Schools in many localities are crowded and often run two shifts. At the primary level, there are an estimated 100,000 single-teacher schools. In addition to government schools, state governments directly finance up to 95 percent of operating funds in thousands of qualified private schools established by denominational and non-denominational private organizations. In this respect, we are different from the U. S.

It is pleasing to note here that women have benefited handsomely through several government programs on "Education for All" although many social evils stacked against women still remain. Many rural women from underprivileged classes are particularly grateful to the framers of our constitution. Being the eldest of five children, at age 21, by using my schooling knowledge, I began to improve the social and economic status of my parents, and guided all my siblings and their spouses to acquire MA degrees and obtain gainful employment. In many families, once quite conservative, I now see an enhanced status for women. They are making important decisions, including the power to spend money. Prejudices remain but men are recognizing women's double responsibilities and assisting in professional and domestic work.

Management of the school system in districts of my state, the Punjab, is different from the Prince George's County system in many ways. (Political subdivisions of the states in India, similar to counties, are called districts.) First of all, we do not have an elected school board. The governor of each state is appointed by the President of India. The district education officer looks over the affairs of the school board, which is appointed by the State Department of Education. Almost all the school board members are former or current tenured civil service appointees.

All schools must adopt a syllabus or teaching curriculum prescribed by the State. It is formal, highly structured, and teachers have minimal choice in deviating from it through their own innovation. Evaluation of students strongly depends on written examinations. All students leaving high school must obtain passing marks in mathematics, history, geography, science, Hindi and English. The examination questions are uniform for the entire state, given simultaneously once a year, and administered by one of the independent state universities. It is a gigantic operation, famous for its impartiality. Every operation in the process, including names of students and examiners, is run by numbers. It takes about three weeks to complete examinations and six weeks to announce results.

Prince George's County Schools

Coming to the United States from a developing country for the first time, I found everything



Pushpa Kumari Arora (l.) with her uncle and Greenbelt host, Dr. Lekh Batra.

neat, tidy, organized and orderly. Everything looked big: airports, dual traffic highways, buses, trucks and cars. Schools, furnishings and the amount and quality of teaching/learning materials, particularly the visuals, dazzled me. Teachers appeared enthusiastic and innovative, and dedicated to their profession. I was surprised to find casual, friendly, and cheerful interaction between teachers and students. Such interactions are more formal in my country.

Civic Organizations and Local Research Establishments

I found the functioning of democracy at its best in Prince George's County when I became aware of the educational role played by civic organizations like the local PTAs, Advisory Committees on Education, and service clubs such as Rotary. It was a new experience for me to learn that such organizations not only award scholarships and other material aid to the schools but are working hand in hand with the school administration to identify needs of teachers and students alike, and to try to meet them through private and public funds. What better way to sensitize and influence the school board, the county executive, the state legislature and the governor! In Kapurthalla, where I was recently transferred from Patti, Amritsar, civic clubs like Rotary sponsor award-giving functions but are modestly interested in influencing educational policy in the state capital, directly or through their political leaders.

Another unique thing I learned in your area is the Intern Program for junior and senior high school students who work with established professionals in government research organizations. As one intern put it, "We must learn to manage our time efficiently to be selected, for we must also complete our class work requirements." And congratulations to the farsighted and cooperative professionals and the directors of such institutes as the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the University of Maryland, and others who mentor school students. "We have to plant seeds of science among the young, and the younger the better," said one of the senior scientists at the Beltsville, USDA facility. "We teach them to be critical thinkers right from the beginning." Sadly, we have no such programs in my country.

Blacks and Whites — Issues and Concerns

Black and white segregation issues are well known in my country through the writings of the American "Gandhi," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is also well known that, like the father of our nation, he too was gunned down by his own countryman. During my stay, the debate in media about busing issues in anticipation of coming elections did not surprise me, for we too have similar "black and white" issues: demands for equality from the long-suffering lower castes and the injustices of the higher castes.

Because of injustices going back more than 3,000 years, the Indian Government legislated many preferences and concessions to untouchables in education and employment. As in the USA, there is much resentment about these concessions, hundreds of law suits pending and diverse political groups trying to terminate these concessions, after over 30 years. Here also nobody wants basti (shantytown) children being enrolled in the wealthy neighborhood schools of Delhi municipality at municipal expense, with a view to offering them equal opportunity in education. With these parallel backgrounds, teachers in pluralistic societies such as India and the United States have added responsibilities to ensure fair and equal opportunity for learning by their wards.

Devil's Workshops

Because in most American households both parents work away from home, and often

school hours do not coincide with their work hours, you have devised several ingenious ways to care for school-going children in their absence. Indian cosmopolitan cities are facing similar situations. We have babysitting by ayas or nannies, and grandmothers in joint families care for small children. But what about those who are too old for them, and too young to be left alone, lest they stray into the Devil's Workshop?

I was impressed to know about a solution by a neighboring Greenbelter, Mrs. Carol Mealey, a charming gentlewoman and parent of two daughters, 12 and 15. She took care of about four to six school-goers before and after school hours. In the morning, before the school bus arrived to pick them up, children played in her backyard or did school assignments for several minutes up to two hours; in the evening, there were similar arrangements. The most interesting thing about the arrangement was that Mrs. Mealey, a licensed teacher herself, only came out of the house a few minutes before the school bus arrived. "Come on kids, everybody on board — enough of games!" Under her friendly parenting, the youngsters learned to be responsible for each other while playing or doing homework at her premises.

I would have liked to observe an upgraded version of Mrs. Mealey's system described in a newspaper, where youngsters did their homework, including music lessons in "Homework Clubs," had their dinners together, paid for by their parents, and supervised by a trained teacher!

Joys and Frustrations

For teachers like myself, there are indescribable joys when one sees the gleaming eyes of gleeful children and hears musical yells, "I got it, Madam Arora, I got it now." It is at such moments that I wish I could see with my own eyes the myriad of electrons bouncing back and forth in their minds. Such short-lived moments make up for expended efforts.

During a Parent-Teacher Association celebration in honor of a retiring teacher, I asked Dr. Beth Norden, a gentlewoman, mother of two, and a dedicated former science teacher, "How do you interact with irate parents who have either classical education or no education at all? In rural Punjab, I often face parents who have no formal education and their children need to acquire social skills before they can be taught to read, write, and do

sums." With a smile on her convivial face, she replied, "Common sense and patience is one; due respect to parents' point of view is another, and still another, and perhaps best of all, find a mentor colleague who has been on the job for a while."

Her comment felt rather familiar to me, although to solve my problems I expected something easier like "Open Sesame" from American teachers. I guess we teachers must solve our problems in our own unique work environment and gleefully accept responsibility entrusted to us by our societies. The myriad of bouncing electrons in the minds of our wards are adequate rewards or remedies for our frustrations.

Editor's Note

(Pushpa K. Arora was principal of DAV High School for Girls, a rural school at Patti, near Amritsar, Punjab, India. The school teaches grades 1 - 10 and has 1,100 students and 35 teachers. Enroute back to her family and students in Patti, she attended a scientific meeting of UNESCO in Paris as an observer. She would welcome any correspondence relating to this article. Her current address is: Hindu Girls High School, Kapurthalla, Punjab, India.)

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