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Vol. 11, No. 4

August 5 - 11, 2012

FREE

500 huts destroyed in blaze

By Our Staff Reporter
 More than 500 huts were reduced to ashes in a fire that broke out at 9 p.m in a slum in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, 15th Avenue, Ashok Nagar on July 29. Two persons sustained minor burns.
 Half-burnt groceries, plastic containers, vessels and clothes were found strewn in the area. The ground was covered with soot. Similar fire accidents occurred in 1992, 1996 and 2001.

The fire set off alarm bells in adjoining flats with several owners shifting their LPG cylinders to open areas and staying outside till midnight. Firemen from Ashok Nagar, Guindy, T. Nagar, Teynampet and other areas doused the fire after a 6-hour battle. Abid Hussain (Mambalam-Guindy Tahsildar) said about 600 families were affected by the fire and the Government is providing Rs 5,000 for each of them. "Arrangements have



been made for temporary lodging in MGR Nagar School. The Slum Clearance Board is working out plans to allot houses for them," he said. But residents, who claimed that they have been living in the area for 25 years, complained that they had been promised permanent houses in Thorapakkam and Chemmenchery several times but nothing has come of them. Some families have occupied the area under the elevated stretch of Metro Rail project on 15th Avenue. The Mayor Saidai Durai-swamy, B. Valarmathi (Social Welfare Minister), L. Partha-sarathy (Virugambakkam MLA) and leaders of parties visited the spot. (More pictures on page 4)

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Sky-lift for Ashok Nagar Fire Station



Ashok Nagar Fire & Rescue Station is to get a sky-lift costing about Rs. 6 crores which can be extended upto a height of 54 ft to enable firemen to tackle fires in multi-storied residential and commercial

complexes. This is part of the Rs. 28 crores worth equipment to be bought for the service an announcement on which was made by Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa on July 31.

Free yoga classes from today

By Our Staff Reporter

Sannyasi Krishnayogam will conduct free yoga classes for adults for 3 weeks from 5.30 a.m to 7 a.m from Sunday, Aug. 5 in Bala Vidya Higher Secondary School, 30, Vasudevapuram (between Chakrapani Street and Janakiraman Street, near Doraiswamy Road subway).

The classes are conducted according to the curriculum of the Bihar School of Yoga. Asanas, praanayama pratyahara (sense withdrawal techniques), dharana (concentration), meditation, mantra, value education, food habits, shat kriyas (internal pathways cleaning for managing diseases) etc. are taught.

Doctors give lectures on alternative medicines.

Classes on stress management for corporate executives are also conducted.

Those interested can register their names in phones

94442 40383/94450 51015 or www.satyamyogatrust.net Swamiji offers counselling to his students.

Free website spreads obituary messages

Sujatha Badrinarayanan and Aparna Padmanabhan have started a free website freeobituary.in to share news of the passing away of a person with relatives and friends of the deceased.

A photograph of the person can also be posted along with the obituary message. If phone numbers and email IDs are furnished, mail and SMS will also be sent free of cost.

However, those who have registered under 'Do not disturb' category with mobile service providers will not get the SMS.

Those who see the news on the site can post condolence messages which can be seen by the family.

Violin duet concert tomorrow

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Sadguru Gana Nilayam (Janakam Apartments, 180, Lake View Road, West Mambalam), R. Kailasam and M. Balakrishnan will present a violin duet at 6.30 p.m on Monday, Aug. 6 in Thayagaraja Hall, SMR Matriculation School, Jothi Ramalingam Street, West Mambalam.

They will be accompanied by Thanjavur Subramanyam on mridangam and Poongulam Ramakrishnan on ganjira.

All are welcome.

Free Veda classes

By Our Staff Reporter

Free Veda classes are conducted from 6.30 a.m to 7.30 a.m on Saturdays and Sundays in Krishna Gana Sabha, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T. Nagar.

More details can be had in phone 98843 05676.

Body of woman worker found in theater tank

The body of Parvathi (60), who had been working as a sweeper in Kasi Theater in Jafferkanpet, was found tied up in a sack dumped in a water tank in the theater on Aug. 3. There were marks of strangulation on the neck.

Her son Murugan had earlier lodged a complaint with MGR police that his mother was missing since Aug. 1.

The body was found after a cleaning woman experienced a foul smell emanating from the water tank on the 3rd floor and alerted theater staff. The evening and night shows were cancelled on Aug. 3.

Police said that Parvathi, a resident of Jafferkanpet, had been working in the theater for the past three years.

Police sent the body to Government Royapettah Hospital for postmortem. A case of murder was registered. Police

said they suspect the woman was done to death due to personal enmity.

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Medical assistance given



By Our Staff Reporter to 5 persons and a desktop computer to a college student (324 A8) presented medical assistance totaling Rs. 50,000 recently. P. Palamalai (District Governor, Lions International) and G. Manilal (Vice-District Governor) were present.

Cho's play to be staged next Sunday

By Our Staff Reporter K.K.Nagar Tamilnadu Brahmin Association has organized special programs from 8 a.m to 12 noon on Sunday, Aug. 12 including Cho's play 'Endrum Thaniyum Intha Suganthira Thaagam' which will be staged by T. V. Varadharajan and group in Karantaka Sangha School, Habibullah Road, T. Nagar. Vedic Ravi (President) told Mambalam Times that entry will be free for members while others have to buy tickets costing Rs. 100. Funds raised will be used for social service projects, he added.



More details can be had in phone 98407 87957.

More than 500 persons participated in the 'Aavani PSBB School, Alagirisamy Avittam' program organized Salai, K. K. Nagar.

Tree branch lying on transformer removed



Before



After

By Our Staff Reporter Following the report 'Tree branch lying on transformer' (July 1-7 issue), the branch lying on the transformer on 11th Avenue, Ashok Nagar was removed by Electricity Board workers.

Barricade repaired following report in Mambalam Times



Before



After

By Our Staff Reporter Following the report 'Hanging bars of barricade pose danger' published last week, the bars that had been hanging dangerously have been welded back in place on the barricade on Inner Ring Parallel Road, Paari Nagar, Jafferkhanpet.

Blaze shatters lives of slum residents



By Our Staff Reporter

The fire that broke out in a slum in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, 15th Avenue, Ashok Nagar on July 29 disrupted normal life for about 600 families who had to find temporary shelter elsewhere. Most of their belongings were destroyed though some managed to save a few articles. Pictures show residents salvaging what they can the day after the fire.

Krishna idols on sale on pavement



By Our Staff Reporter

A Rajasthani artisan giving final touches to an idol of Lord Krishna on the pavement of P. T. Rajan Salai, K. K. Nagar on Aug. 4. Krishna Jayanthi will be celebrated on Aug. 10.

'Engineer missing' banner prompts quick action



By Our Staff Reporter

A banner announcing that 'Metrowater Board Asst. Engineer of Division 138 missing' and promising a reward for anyone who finds him put up by Hindu Munnani workers near an overflowing manhole in Sathya Nagar, Choolaipalam, MGR Nagar resulted in prompt action on Aug. 4.

Residents told Mambalam

Times that sewage overflows from manholes in almost all streets in the area but no action is taken to remove the blocks in the sewage lines.

They said that soon after the banner was put up workers arrived to remove the blocks.

Residents said that sewage water also mixes with drinking water posing health hazards.



1008 'Sangu abhishekam' for Shirdi Sai Baba



By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sayee Prachar Seva Trust, 1008 'sangu abhishekam' will be performed for the green coloured idol of Shirdi Sai Baba at 11 a.m on Sunday, Aug. 5 in Ayodhya Mandapam, Arya Gowda Road, West Mambalam.

The following is the program. 7 a.m.: Go-pooja; 8 a.m.: Ganapathi homam and paa- rayanam; 9.30 a.m.: Special homam; 10 a.m.: Sai bhajans; 12.30 p.m.: Shirdi Sai special poojas; 1.15 p.m.: Aarathi; 1.45 p.m.: Annadhanam.

'Sai Dhyanam', a book authored by S. Lakshmi Narasimhan (Founder Trustee, Sayee Prachar Seva Trust) will be released by Dr. A. R. Lakshmanan (Former Chief Justice). S. Gokula Indira (Tourism Minister) and Saidai S. Duraisamy (Mayor) will be present.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in telephone number 98403 25245.

Wear a helmet while riding a 2-wheeler

'Hanuman janma Nakshathra pooja' today

By Our Staff Reporter

Under the auspices of Sri Sanjeevini Peetam (16/45, BRP 1st Street, West Mambalam) there will be a special program at 11 a.m on Sunday, Aug. 5 as part of 'Sri Hanuman janma Nakshathra pooja'.

There will be 108 carrot ashtothra pooja for Lord Hanuman, chanting of Sri Hanuman Chalisa and singing of Rama bhajans. Mathaji (Founder) will present betel leaf plants to 11 persons on the occasion.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in phones 2471 2231 and 90435 68941 or visit www.sanjeevini peetam.com.

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NO HOLDS BARRED

By M. A. SADANAND

"How is your great Metro water?". Friend Varadarajan, Secretary of the Old Timers' Club, wanted to find out how healthy the oldies and youngies in Anna Nagar Western Extension, the neglected part of the city, fare in the recharged stench of the city, obviously abandoned by the Corporation and the Metrowater Board, but still lying within the city about 15 kms from Poes Garden.

He was concerned that he should not be caught clueless at the meeting of the Association should any sufferer pose the liquid point.

Prasad, my architect-builder was prescient about what may happen to the Metrowater should the Cooum take a fancy to be an uninvited guest to its mains. So we asked him to go ahead and burrow the bowels of our own plot and we got excellent potable water which, once in a long while, would remind us that an iron tang is good for health. Thank you, Prasad for the bore-well, which is our ONLY sustenance now after the Cooum has conquered the Metro mains of this part of Amma's Chennai.

From immemorial habit of two baths a day, we have learnt that the reduced luxury is not harmful and one saves a lot on toilet soap. The Cooum-mix is not lifted from our sump to the overhead tank, as it may kill the plants and the coconut trees that yield our daily kitchen needs. At the suggestion of a fellow sufferer, we are now fluidly well armed with the acquisition of bottled water sold by fly-by-night entrepreneurs who perhaps import it from some neutral country that does not shoot down our fishermen or water seekers.

One good thing about these aberrations of men and nature is that, after a while, we accept what we cannot change and therefore cut our coat according to the cloth. The tailors are agog expecting a festival.

'Gift of Sight Project' inaugurated



By Our Staff Reporter

Wilf Wilkinson (Rotary Foundation Trustee and Past President, Rotary International) inaugurated 'The Rotary Gift of Sight Project' (ROGOS) of Rajan Eye Care Hospital, 5, Vidyodaya East 2nd Street, T. Nagar on Aug. 3.

Dr. Mohan Rajan (Chairman and Medical Director, Rajan Eye Care) told *Mambalam Times* that, under the project, free eye screening camps and awareness programs on cataract, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy will be conducted.

More details can be had in phone 2834 0500/0300 or www.rajaneyecare.com.

Assistance given to Palliative Care Trust

By Our Staff Reporter

Rotary Club of Madras North West donated a wheelchair, diapers and other medical aids to RMD Pain & Palliative Care Trust (Raghavaiah Road, T. Nagar) during the dental cancer awareness camp held in Government Higher Secondary School, Anna Main Road, MGR Nagar on July 29.

S. Ramakrishna (Commissioner of Income Tax) handed over the aids to Dr. Republica (Founder, RMD Pain & Palliative Care Trust). Sampath Kumar (District Liaison Officer, NSS), P. Thangavel (Headmaster, Government Higher Secondary School) and P. Raman (President, Vaatsalayam) were present.

Raman told *Mambalam Times* that about 100 persons who attended the camp were screened by doctors from Government Dental College and Hospital and RMD Pain & Palliative Care Trust.

Dr. Republica said that donations are also welcome for the 3 hospices in Chennai and Madurai.

She can be contacted in phone 93810 16588.



Free advice on investment

By Our Staff Reporter

My Assets Consolidation.com (9/3, V. K. Iyer Street, R. A. Puram) is offering free personal finance advice on Mutual funds, Insurance, Debt Restructuring, Home Loans and Credit Card Loans, Children's education and marriage and Retirement planning till Aug. 31 on the occasion of Independence Day (Aug. 15).

Advice will also be given on Saturdays and Sundays and Independence Day in Hindustan Chamber of Commerce, 149, Greams Road.

More details can be had in phones 98404 54737 and 98843 49173.

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Court directive on temple 'blocking' school gate Free dental camp tomorrow

The Madras High Court directed the Chennai Corporation Commissioner and the executive engineer concerned on Aug. 2 to file affidavits stating as to why, despite several representations by Springfield Matriculation and Higher Secondary School 50th Street, Sector 9, K. K. Nagar) they had not stopped the construction of a temple with its wall blocking a gate of the institution.

Passing interim orders on the school's petition, the First Bench of Chief Justice M. Y. Eqbal and Justice T. S. Sivagnanam directed the K. K. Nagar Police Inspector to file a separate affidavit as to why he had not taken any action to prevent the closing of the school gate and raising a temple there when there was a specific direction by the Supreme Court that no temple or any religious structure should be constructed on the road.



In its petition, the school alleged that a few residents of 49th and 50th Streets had erected a small temple in front of the school's western gate. The school had sent representations and reminders to the authorities for removing the construction.

The Bench posted the case for further hearing on Aug. 6. In the meantime, the police should post sufficient number of personnel to prevent any further mischief that may be committed, the court said.

(A *Mambalam Times* reporter who visited the spot found that those who had built the temple had constructed a wall along the compound wall of the school behind which the gate has been installed. *See pictures top and middle.*

(Enquiries reveal that installation of the gate began two months ago and the compound wall was to have been demolished after work was completed and gate could be used. Meanwhile, a wall was built along the compound wall of the school and the temple was constructed.

(Similarly, another gate has been installed behind the compound wall of the school on 50th Street but the compound wall is yet to be demolished for access to the gate. Here also a temple has been constructed as seen in picture at bottom).

Photos taken on Aug. 4

Wave Orthodontic Speciality Dental Clinic, Kodambakkam Exnora Women's Guild, Sakthi Nagar Civic Exnora and Anna Park Walkers Exnora Association have organized a free dental awareness and screening camp from 9 a.m to 4 p.m on Sunday, Aug. 5 at 21/8, Vishwanathapuram Main Road, (near Raghavendra Kalyana Mandapam, adjacent to Maruthi Mess), Kodam-

bakkam. For registration/enquiries call 94451 49447 or contact Dr. Meera Sravankumar, Wave Orthodontic Speciality Dental Clinic, G-1, Divine Grace Apartments, 2/37, Azeez Nagar 1st Street, Kodambakkam.

Free classes on Bhagavatham

By Our Staff Reporter

Free classes on 'Srimad Bhagavatham' are conducted at 11 a.m on Tuesdays at 2, 50th Street, Ashok Nagar.

All are welcome.

More details can be had in phone 98406 03064.

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