

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue 200, March 2011

The Good News

EGYPT

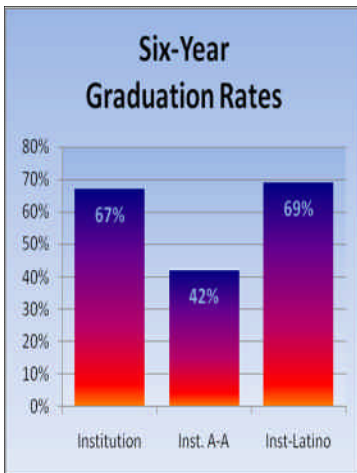
Yet another dictator has been removed from office, this time by the mobilization of millions of Egyptians demonstrating peacefully for a better life for the non-elite, including giving power to the people in a democratic system.

Fireworks burst over Tahrir Square as Egypt erupted with joy after the pro-democracy protesters brought down the man who ruled Egypt for thirty years without focusing on the needs of the non-elite. So we see the power of people to overturn a leader (and maybe a regime) harming many people, especially the poor and the working class.

Well, maybe a regime change. Egypt's military is in control, and it dominates the commercial sector with its own factories and more. Will these privatize? Alas, not all revolutions end up with more democracy, more freedom. Stay tuned.



COLLEGE GRADS IN MARYLAND SYSTEM



The Maryland System of Higher Education calculates the rates of graduation within six years for all students as well as for African-Americans, Latinos, and separately for each institution. The most recent class data are for freshmen entering in 2003.

The results are striking: the six year graduation rate for all students is 67% (the highest is students who start at College Park, and the lowest is for those starting at Coppin State). But for Latinos and Latinas, the combined rate is 69%! Better than the overall figure!

Part of the explanation may be that entrance requirements in the System as a whole are more open in heavily African-American institutions such as Coppin State and Eastern Shore—where the number of Latinos is small.

As a side note, the number of females entering into and graduating from Maryland System institutions is much higher than for males. What that indicates for our national future leads to interesting speculation. For instance, the more educated the female, the lower the birthrate.

But the big news is the commendable rate of graduation for the Latinos and Latinas. Now let's pass along the good news to inspire others, and let's find the money to help with the expensive tuition. Passing Senator Victor Ramirez's legislation for in-state tuition will help.

The Bad News

NATIONAL PRIORITIES: The Federal budget is likely to come down hard on a handful of priorities that are of importance to the country's—and the county's—working class and poor. Here are just a few programs that appear to be on the chopping block of the new Republican majority (and some Democrats who want to come across as hard-nosed budget-cutters): community health centers may be cut \$1B; AmeriCorps may be eliminated; community policing funds may be reduced; and winter heating subsidies may be slashed. But no increased taxation for people making more than \$1 million a year. Well, at least most Egyptians are happy!

THE PLAN: The "Sector Plan" that was developed by a Planning Department team led by Aldea Douglas and supported by Councilman Will Campos will have the effect of destroying the working-class neighborhood called Langley Park by demolishing many of the affordable apartments and small businesses, and replacing them with up-scale mixed-use buildings. Was this the intent? Surely not.

Increasingly, area leaders, residents, and businesspeople are learning about the real consequences of the plan and opposing it. But perhaps it is too late to modify or reject? Perhaps the one person who can save Langley Park is Councilman Campos, but will he have the courage to reverse course? Will he save the neighborhood, or will he stand by as the displacement process moves forward and the bulldozer engines roar? This will be a significant test for him.

SCHOOLS: There's a lot of pain about to take place in the Prince George's County Public Schools system. Eliminating more than one thousand positions (some vacant) means some people will be let go, and that includes teachers, bus drivers, librarians, maintenance workers, and others. Programs are also on the chopping block, including middle school sports and other after-school programs, and many programs are being cut back, including adult education and pre-K. Is there a way to find or shift monies so that these vital programs can be saved? If not, children's education will suffer and teenagers will lose opportunities for constructive

Langley Park's Future
Hey Planners: How about clearing the entire area that used to be owned by the Goodhart-McCormick family and restoring the polo field so that the county's rich polo players have once again what used to be on the property? And the current residents? Bah!



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NEWS & NOTES

CHANGING PRINCE GEORGE'S: LEADERSHIP

The headline in the *Washington Post* (19 February 2011) seems strange: "Johnson Loyalists Feeling Betrayed." It's strange because it apparently took an arrest and a 31 page indictment for the loyalty to be shaken even though for several years, the scuttlebutt was that inappropriate and perhaps illegal actions were taking place in the Johnson administration. "I felt humiliated. I felt insulted." "This thing is so devastating. If he's guilty, it's a betrayal of our ancestry. ... It's a betrayal to all those great people who worked to allow someone to become county executive." But why wasn't there a vigorous ethics committee looking into rumors and perhaps evidence? Why wasn't loyalty at least temporarily suspended? And why now isn't the ethics committee getting full backing in its effort to eliminate pay-for-play?

COUNTY ETHICS REVIEW

A blogger wonders: "Is the new Prince George's ethics review commission merely a toothless bulldog? All flash and show—and no substance? Saying much, promising much more, raising hopes—and doing 'nothing'?" The comment follows a report in the *Washington Post* (16 February 2011) on testimony to the commission. Here are two items from the report:

"The office that collects county financial disclosure forms and lobbyist registration is staffed part-time, does not have the manpower to put the information online to make it accessible to the public, and lacks subpoena power and the authority to initiate an investigation."

"The forms that top county employees and elected officials are required to fill out in theory are aimed at identifying conflicts of interest, [said an official], but the staff does not identify those conflicts. Only a member of the public who reviews the paperwork might identify a conflict. That would require a trip to Upper Marlboro, the county seat, since the documents are not online."

BAD PRESS

The conservative *Human Events* (4 March 2011) listed "Prince George's County corruption" as the worst public employee scandal of the past year. Sad! The coverage: "This Washington, D.C., suburb is a cesspool of corruption. County Executive Jack Johnson was recently indicted on conspiracy, extortion, and bribery charges relating to a pay-for-play scheme, taking money, trips, meals, drinks, hotel rooms, airline tickets, rounds of golf, mortgage payments, and campaign contributions from developers. Unrelated to Johnson's scandal, Ulysses Currie—the state senator representing the Maryland county—was indicted last September for taking \$245,000 in bribes. And Currie's campaign treasurer Olivia Harris pled guilty to stealing \$157,350 from Currie's campaign account." Unfair negativism? Overgeneralization. Yes. But such coverage surely calls for very tough ethics laws. Let's do it!

THE PURPLE LINE

The planning continues on the light-rail line that will someday run from Bethesda to New Carrollton via University Boulevard with stops at New Hampshire Avenue and Riggs Road. If money is available in a timely fashion, the project could start in 2013 and be completed in 2017. But money may be a problem because of the overall shortage of funds at the Federal and State levels, and competition from a light-rail proposal for a line in Baltimore. The Purple Line will be good for Langley Park if the demolition-displacement process is not severe; but that will



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necessitate modification or rejection of the Sector Plan.

What, we wonder, is the meaning of the image (admittedly temporary) on the Purple Line web site (pictured here). Does it represent great modern art or great old-time confusion?

TROUBLING FACTS ABOUT EDUCATION

Just one-in-ten Hispanic high school drop-outs has a General Educational Development (GED) credential, widely regarded as the best "second chance" pathway to college, vocational training and military service for adults who do not graduate high school. By contrast, two-in-ten black high school drop-outs and three-in-ten white high school drop-outs have a GED. Latino/as have a much higher high school drop-out rate than do blacks or whites. Some 41% of Latino/a adults age 20 and older in the United States do not have a regular high school diploma, compared with 23% of black adults and 14% of white adults. (Source: Pew Hispanic Center, May 2010). How can we reach out to the dropouts and convince them to work on a GED? Their future may depend on it.

Only one in ten Latino/a high school dropouts has earned a GRE credential.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE U.S.A.

Amazing: The USA is one of the more unequal countries in the world with a GINI rating of 45. (The higher the score, the more unequal.) Of more than thirty countries within the IMF's "advanced economy" category, we are more equal than Hong Kong and Singapore, but much less equal than, e.g., Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Ireland, France, and Italy. Our life expectancy figure, 78.24, is in the bottom third of the countries studied; if one wants to have a life expectancy over 80, countries such as Australia, Canada, Spain, and France are where the opportunity is. (Could affordable access to health care be a factor? Probably.) Our prison population is 743 per 100,000, more than double the figure for the next most-imprisoning country, France, at 365. And in our youths' mathematics score, we're very near the bottom; Hong Kong is in the lead. Clearly, these figures could give the USA a sense of direction: more equality, better schooling and health services, and a decline in the impulse to jail people for minor crimes.

"Bad" continued from Page 1

after-school and summer programs. What substitute activity will they find? Trouble activity?

Superintendent Hite: "We recognize the value of the evening high school and JROTC programs. I am well aware of the wonderful work that Reading Recovery teachers have done on behalf of children. Likewise, the work of media specialists, guidance counselors, and all the other personnel affected by this budget is very much appreciated. Unfortunately, we are facing a budget gap of more than \$85 million, which means some respected programs will be affected and many of you will be impacted personally. I recognize the sacrifices made by employees because of furloughs and not receiving raises in two years. That is why we have worked hard to avoid furloughs in FY2012." No furloughs, just firings! Will teachers strike?

Are there some budget tradeoffs that will preserve some school functions and personnel? One county resident suggests that every school employee earning \$100,000 or more should have his/her salary cut. What other tradeoffs are possible?

FAILED HOSPITALS: Nine Maryland hospitals, five in suburban Maryland, facing state penalties for having many patients contracting hospital-preventable conditions such as infections, pneumonia, and bed sores—after being admitted. The local hospitals are Washington Adventist (the closest hospital to Langley Park), Prince George's Hospital Center, Shady Grove Adventist, Doctors Community, and Montgomery General. What is the county doing about PGHC?

MORE NEWS & NOTES

IN-STATE TUITION

The crushing of the hopes of many young people may be modified if the legislature passes the bill enabling Maryland residents who are local high school graduates to pay in-state tuition. The Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee sent SB 167 to the full Senate with a favorable report. As amended, the bill allows qualifying residents to attend community college at in-state rates regardless of their immigration status. People who successfully complete their community college studies will be eligible to attend institutions of higher education at in-state rates.

THE BUDGET

Hearing: Prince George's County Council's Budget Hearing will take place at the county Administration Building in Upper Marlboro on Tuesday, April 26, from 6:30 till 8:30 p.m. Interested in letting council members know what you think they should do? Then phone the Clerk of the Council at 301-952-3600 to register to speak—for a maximum of three minutes.

Plan: From the *Washington Post* (10 March 2011): "Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III is expected to unveil a \$2.7B county spending plan... that will offer modest increases for schools, police and fire-fighting and a \$50 million

program to stimulate economic development. ... Baker (D) [says he will] offset spending increases and reduce the county's \$77 million budget deficit for fiscal 2012 by forcing across-the-board cuts for most agencies and continuing a wage freeze for the county's 6,000 employees." So employees other than those in the favored agencies will pay for those favored? How about demanding that no county employee make more than \$100k? Alas, in this tight budget situation, no solution is win-win.

State: The State legislature's House and Senate budget committees are wrestling with the school funding issue. Prince George's County will, according to the formula in place, lose about \$23M in state funds for education. Needless to say, county representatives are more than unhappy about the cut. Note: The formula considers enrollment numbers and county wealth; PG County has lost public school students and added wealth. Voila: a negative result.

BUDGET'S IMPACT: TEACHERS

In many Maryland jurisdictions, some teachers will be fired because of the budget shortages. That's a frightening prospect given the need for more teachers, not fewer ones. But if cuts are to take place, who should be let go: the worst teachers or the youngest teachers - that is, should the decision be made on the basis of merit or seniority? Merit makes sense, but the problem is that there are many ways to judge merit, and there is no settled consensual way to make the judgment. The result is that we may lose some very good teachers.

Of course, the vast majority of teachers in Prince George's County and elsewhere are good, hard-working people. And yet, teachers and other public employees are being dumped on in several Midwest states and elsewhere. How sad; we need to encourage the best and brightest people to be public servants in schools, police stations, and elsewhere, and yet the current actions and mood will discourage public service. Ugh.



(Some) HELPERS LISTED ONLINE

There's an online service for locating helpful programs in suburban Maryland and elsewhere: The Maryland Community Services Locator. Go to <http://www.mdcs.org> and search for whatever help is needed, e.g., adult education, conflict resolution, domestic violence programs, legal services, victim services, and much more. For instance, we entered 1500 Merrimac Drive as an address, specified searching within one mile, and then searched for health services. Here is the result:

- ▶ Community Clinic, 7676 New Hampshire Ave. #220, 301 431-2972
- ▶ Spanish Catholic Center, 1015 University Blvd., 301 431-3773
- ▶ Wellmobile: Wednesdays 9-3 at 8400 Carroll Ave.; Tuesdays 9 to 3 at 8901 Riggs Rd.; 866 228-9668
- ▶ CASA de Maryland, 734 University Blvd., 301 431-4185 is also listed, but no day or time is given.
- ▶ Walk-In Clinic at 1040 University Blvd., 301 445-7026; not listed
- ▶ Rainbow Pediatrics, 7676 New Hampshire Ave. #100, 031 244-5563; not listed
- ▶ The very important Washington Adventist Hospital is not listed; perhaps it's a bit more than one mile away at 7600 Carroll Ave., 301 891-7600. President Jere Stocks is a friend of Langley Park.

IMMIGRANT NATION

American Immigration LLC has launched a web site called Immigrant Nation. The address: <http://www.ilw.com/resources/immigrantnation.shtm>. The section was created "with the purpose of showcasing the hard work and positive contributions of immigrants, and how they have shaped and made the United States a stronger nation. Immigrant Nation includes a section dedicated to immigrants who have received one of the highest recognitions in the armed forces: Medal of Honor. Immigrants have defended the American flag in almost 20 wars and performed great deeds of bravery and heroism. In addition, the section includes an extensive compilation of outstanding immigrants who have made a positive impact in the fields of arts, business, education, media, military, philanthropy, politics, science, sports and others." This should be a good addition to the immigration literature. And we should not forget that not too long ago, immigrants could enter the USA without the documents now required. [The editor of Barrio de Langley Park is the son of an immigrant from Ireland and a daughter of immigrants from Russia—none of whom had "papers."]

NOTARIOS

Top USCIS official Alejandro Mayorkas is asking states' attorneys general to help with a crackdown on fake immigration lawyers as well as a way to educate immigrants on how to spot them. The fakes, known as "notarios"; they usually charge high fees and give fraudulent advice to people desperately seeking citizenship, a green card, or other immigration benefit. Know of a fake lawyer (or a real lawyer gouging the innocent)? If so, USCIS wants to know.

When Mayorkas took office in 2009 as Director of USCIS, he commented: "The USCIS mission is rooted in the vision of our founding fathers. My family, like millions of others, came to this country to pursue our dreams in a land of liberty and opportunity. I am committed to administering our country's immigration and naturalization laws efficiently and with fairness, honesty, and integrity." Sounds good. But what about the raids? The family breakups?



PLANNING ETHICS

An increasing number of people, learning more about the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan, find the recommendations to be harmful to many area residents and businesspeople in Prince George's County as well as Montgomery. But what about the process? Were the actions of planners ethical?

Ethical?

Here is a statement issued by the major professional planning organization in the USA, the American Institute of Certified Planners. It may be that the Prince George's County planners did not adhere to the established ethical norms. Text by AICP is in black; editorial comments are in red.

Our Overall Responsibility to the Public

Our primary obligation is to serve the public interest and we, therefore, owe our allegiance to a conscientiously attained concept of the public interest that is formulated through continuous and open debate. We shall achieve high standards of professional integrity, proficiency, and knowledge. To comply with our obligation to the public, we aspire to the following principles:

a) We shall always be conscious of the rights of others. **What about the right not to be forced out of one's affordable apartment or small business?**

b) We shall have special concern for the long-range consequences of present actions. **The short-term and long-range consequences include displacing people and businesses.**

c) We shall pay special attention to the interrelatedness of decisions. **By displacing residents and businesspeople, wealthier people will move in and pay more taxes. But is money the only value?**

d) We shall provide timely, adequate, clear, and accurate information on planning issues to all affected persons and to governmental decision makers. **To all affected persons? But not the residents, and not many of the businesspeople? The planners claim that they held more than forty meetings to inform, but rarely were there local residents and businesspeople at the meetings. Those in the Langley Park area need a much greater effort than was given in order to attract them to informational meetings. And at how many of the meetings held were those present told about the demolition that the sector plan calls for?**

e) We shall give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them. Participation should be broad enough to include those who lack formal organization or influence. **Very few residents want to be forced out of their homes and businesspeople out of their businesses, but these people obviously didn't have any meaningful impact on the plans.**

f) We shall seek social justice by working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of the disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic integration. We shall urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that oppose such needs. **Special responsibility for the needs of the disadvantaged!? If the needs of the residents and businesspeople were considered, we would have a very different plan, one that does not displace thousands of people plus many businesses.**

g) We shall promote excellence of design and endeavor to conserve and preserve the integrity and heritage of the natural and built environment. **The design is certainly pretty. Too bad it wasn't for an empty space—rather than for an area occupied by more than 10,000 residents plus businesses.**

h) We shall deal fairly with all participants in the planning process. Those of us who are public officials or employees shall also deal evenhandedly with all planning process partici-

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pants. **Is it fair to draw up plans that force thousands of residents and perhaps hundreds of businesspeople out of their spaces?**

County planners might claim that they reached out; after all, they claim 47 meetings. But who were the people at the meetings? With one or two exceptions, it appears that the meetings had few or no residents or local businesspeople. But the stronger datum is that very very few residents or businesspeople knew about the plan when it was drafted and then approved by the County Council. And it is likely that most if not all of the council members did not look at the plan with care—if at all.

What is to be done? Can injustice be reversed?

RICH AND POOR

1. Who Calls the Tune? "Who gets what" is often a key question to be asked of decisionmakers. That was asked by the crowds in Egypt, and it is relevant in assessing the Sector Plan. The above title is the one used by Bob Herbert for his commentary in the *New York Times* (12 February 2011). Here are a few passages:

"While millions of ordinary Americans are struggling with unemployment and declining standards of living, the levers of real power have been all but completely commandeered by the financial and corporate elite. It doesn't really matter what ordinary people want. The wealthy call the tune, and the politicians dance.

"So what we get in this democracy of ours are astounding and increasingly obscene tax breaks and other windfall benefits for the wealthiest, while the bought-and-paid-for politicians hack away at essential public services and the social safety net, saying we can't afford them. ...

"The poor, who are suffering from an all-out depression, are never heard from. In terms of their clout, they might as well not exist."

Are any of Herbert's comments relevant at the local level? Relevant even in Prince George's County?

2. Social Justice? Hope Yen, writing in the *Huffington Post* back last September about new Census data: "The income gap between the richest and poorest Americans grew last year to its largest margin ever, ... The top-earning 20% of Americans – those making more than \$100,000 each year – received 49.4% of all income generated in the U.S., compared with the 3.4% made by the bottom 20% of earners, those who fell below the poverty line, ... That ratio of 14.5-to-1 was an increase from 13.6 in 2008 and nearly double a low of 7.69 in 1968. At the top, the wealthiest 5% of Americans, who earn more than \$180,000, added slightly to their annual incomes last year, the data show. Families at the \$50,000 median level slipped lower." A little factoid: Over the past three decades, the USA's rich-poor gap in life expectancy at birth has increased.

JACK J

Former Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson was indicted on 14 February 2011 in federal court in Maryland on eight charges, including bribery, witness and evidence tampering, and aiding and abetting. What a Valentine's Day!

FURTHER READING

"Why the anti-immigrant movement will always lose," at <http://immigrationimpact.com/2011/03/02/the-wrong-side-of-history-why-the-anti-immigrant-movement-will-always-lose/>.

"Why cutting immigrant integration programs hurts all of us," at <http://immigrationimpact.com/2011/02/28/why-cutting-immigrant-integration-programs-hurts-all-of-us/>

"Immigrants are not the cause of minority unemployment," at <http://immigrationimpact.com/2011/03/01/immigrants-are-not-the-cause-of-minority-unemployment-and-low-wages/>

IMMIGRANTS & IMMIGRATION

VICTOR RAMIREZ: DREAM

Senator Ramirez is leading the effort to pass a DREAM-like act for Maryland, enabling high school graduates who came to the county as children without papers to pay in-state tuition to public colleges and universities. He appears to have enough support to give the proposed bill a chance. For a Ramirez appearance on television talking about the issue, check out <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/40853135#40853135>.

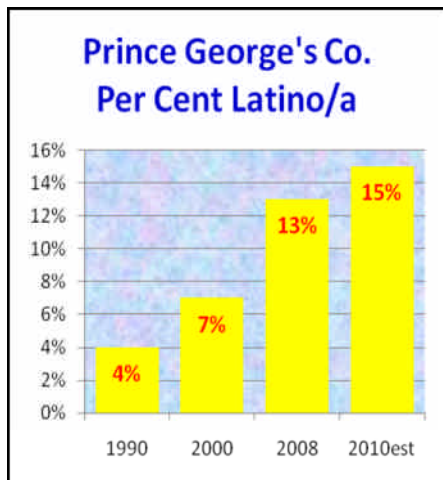
IMMIGRATION AND URBAN POLICY

Immigration has done more to shape the physical and social landscape of many of America's largest cities than almost any other economic or cultural force. "Its effect on established immigration gateways is clear: New York City, a traditional reception area for newcomers to the United States, continues to be an ever-shifting palette of immigrant neighborhoods and cross-ethnic interactions; Los Angeles, with an Anglo population of more than seventy percent in the 1970s, is now both derisively and admiringly called the 'Capital of the Third World'; Miami, with its large number of Latino residents and concentration of Cuban financiers, embraces its demographic makeup not only as a source of cultural pride, but also in its bid as the financial gateway to Latin America. At the same time, interest in immigration is quickly spreading to other metropolitan regions as well. With the immigrant population soaring in 'boomtown' cities like Las Vegas, Houston, Dallas, and others in the Sun Belt, the impact of immigration on the newest wave of urban development seems to parallel the immigrant-driven urbanization of earlier eras. All the while, immigration is drawing attention in regions without significant immigration inflows at all; many Rust Belt cities like Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Detroit have raised the prospect of immigration as an urban revitalization strategy. Indeed, immigration appears to be so central to urban development in the United States that it is a wonder why immigration is not explicitly discussed as an aspect of urban policy. (Rick Su, "Immigration as Urban Policy," *Fordham Urban Law J.*, Vol. 38, 2010)

FOREIGN BORN: WHERE FROM? HOW MANY?

Thanks to the Pew Hispanic Center and the Census, we now know a lot more about immigrants and those with recent immigrant heritage. Here are a few data. The "region" sending the largest number of foreign-born to the USA is Mexico at 30%. But other regions are not far behind: South and East Asia, 24%; Caribbean, Central and South America, 23%; and Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Other, 23%.

There are about 373,000 Latino/as in Maryland, slightly more foreign-born than native born. About one in five Latino/as is of Mexican heritage. Their median age is 28, which compares with non-Latino Whites, 41; and non-Latino Blacks, 34. (These numbers provide a powerful clue as to the future population of the state.) But they are not well off: the annual personal earnings of Latino/as is \$24,441, which compares with non-Latino Whites, \$40,736; and non-Latino Blacks, \$34,218.



In Prince George's County, the Latino/a population has risen from 29,983 in 1990 (4% of the county total) to 57,057 in 2000 (7%) and to 105,325 (13%) in 2008. The year 2010 may see the percentage at 15%. By comparison, the Montgomery County percentages are 7%, 12%, and 15%.

CASA'S CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Shelves of CASA de Maryland's Multicultural Community Center Library are now filled with Spanish and English children's books donated by the Bullis School thanks to that school's book drive. Thirty-five volunteers from the Bullis School joined CASA community members in getting the library ready. Now, there are more than 1,400 used and new children's books labeled and organized by reading level, ready for readers and readers-to-be to use. Well done, CASA; the Langley Park area has long suffered due to the lack of a library.

For more information about CASA's activities, go to <http://www.casademaryland.org/>.

FEDS ENCOURAGE ILLEGALS??

According to the *Rasmussen Reports* (7 February 2011), "most voters continue to believe that the policies of the federal government encourage illegal immigration," and "voters are now almost evenly divided over whether it's better to let the federal government or individual states enforce immigration laws." Perhaps this news, based on a national telephone poll, is designed to shake one's faith in democracy, or at least democratic rule of the majority. But isn't Fox the most watched television channel? Well, there's one finding that is not too scary: A majority of voters (52%) "continue to favor a policy that would welcome all immigrants except 'national security threats, criminals and those who would come here to live off our welfare system.'"



THE SO-CALLED 'SECURE COMMUNITIES'

The Obama administration has decided "to take a hard line against communities that try to delay or cancel their participation in the program. ... Every local jurisdiction in the country [will] be required to join the program by 2013. [Administration officials have] developed a plan to isolate and pressure communities that did not want to participate." (*New York Times*, 18 February 2011) There are many people who would agree that criminals in the USA without papers should be deported. But what about the non-criminals who are deported due to the Secure Communities program? What about those thought to be criminals: will they have due process in case the charges prove false? The evidence suggests that the implementation of Secure Communities has so far been flawed; will there be an effort to make it work as announced?

E-VERIFY

The employee checking system, E-Verify, is mandatory for government agencies and contractors, and now Republicans in the House are planning to introduce a bill mandating the use of E-Verify everywhere. It is apparently opposed by farmers who fear not having the needed affordable labor. According to the *Huffington Post* (10 February 2011), "Bloomberg News Service estimated it would cost small businesses \$2.6 billion annually to implement E-Verify if it became mandatory." The Migration Policy Institute's *Insight* (February 2011) concludes that "E-Verify gives employers a way to detect certain types of ineligibility to work, [but] it is vulnerable to identity fraud and employer misuse, and so does not prevent unauthorized employment. The partial benefits of E-Verify come with a number of added costs...." Want to learn more about E-Verify? There's

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a new E-Verify newsletter (!) issued by USCIS. Check it out at this web address: <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Verification/E-Verify/Publications/E-Verify-Connection.pdf>.

Note: According to www.hotvisas.com, (a) employers must post a notice informing employees that they are using E-Verify; (b) E-Verify must be used for new hires only. It cannot be used to verify the employment eligibility of current employees; and (c) E-Verify must be used only after hire and after completion of the Form I-9, i.e., it may not be used to pre-screen applicants.

In Maryland, according to a recent Migration Policy Institute report (February 2011), 4,296 employers use E-Verify. That seems to be about average in terms of percent participating.

STATES RIGHTS, STATES WRONGS

A proposed bill in favor of denying U.S. citizenship to the children of certain noncitizens may go to a vote in Arizona. Proposed legislation in Georgia would prevent unemployed noncitizens from obtaining unemployment benefits if they are not legally present in the United States. Lawmakers in Kentucky are considering a bill that would criminalize certain activities, including transporting those defined as illegal immigrants. A proposed law in Indiana would allow law enforcement to inquire into the immigration status of certain persons based on a "reasonable suspicion" they are unlawfully present in the United States. A similar bill appears to have been defeated in Colorado recently, but other legislation remains pending in that state. Many proposed state laws echo the language of Arizona's SB 1070, but legislation proposed on a state level throughout the country covers a variety of immigration topics, from enforcement to employment, with potentially adverse effects on noncitizens, their family members, employers and others. (Source: Immigration Advocates Network) And in Maryland, there are some Arizona echoes; let's hope Maryland's officials are not as fearful as some are elsewhere.

EDUCATION

Reading Score Puzzle: The reading score for first generation children in the United States is tied for the lowest of the eight countries studied (UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden). But for second and third generation children, the ranking is in the middle of the countries. Why so low for the first generation? One country has the highest scores for each of the three groups: Canada. Is this the result of the immigration pool, or better education, or something else? (Source: Steffen Hillmert, "Educational performance of immigrant school students," 2011)

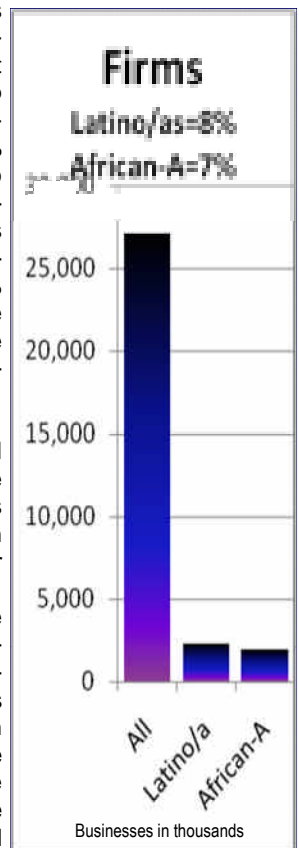
Impact of Immigrants on School Performance: Does the presence of immigrant children in a school improve the learning experience of the non-immigrants, in part because of the old-timers' exposure to diversity? That has not to our knowledge been studied. But there have been studies of the impact on test scores. Here is a recent finding of a study of 15 year olds in 27 countries (G. Brunello and L. Rocco, "The Effect of Immigration on the School Performance of Natives," February 2011 at <http://ftp.iza.org/dp5479.pdf>): "A one percentage point increase in the share of immigrant students is expected to reduce the average test scores of natives by 0.275% in the full sample. This implies that doubling the share of immigrant pupils from the average 4.8% to close to 10% reduces the average test score of natives by only 1.32% to 1.96%. The largest effect is obtained in the case of native students with a relatively poor parental background." The implication for US educational decisionmakers may be that the native students with a poor parental background must have extra help not just for one reason (poor background) but also to eliminate any negative impact of the presence of immigrants. Yet another reason why parent liaisons are essential.

WHO OWNES USA'S BUSINESSES?

In the USA, most businesses are owned by European-Americans. Surprisingly, the next demographic category of ownership is Latino/as at 8%. It is in turn followed by African-Americans at 7% and Asians at 6%. The first two minority groups are, therefore, underrepresented in the business world because, in the USA's population, their percentages are 15% and 12%. However, Asians are slightly overrepresented because their national population percentage is 4.4%.

In Prince George's County, people of African descent owned 55% of the businesses, which is the highest percent in all large counties in the country. But those of African descent in the county account for 64% of the population.

Should the country (or a state or a county) work to create symmetry between population and business ownership? If so, that implies identical patterns of interests within each population category. Thus the political question: Should we have quotas? Of course, many people who are overrepresented would oppose them.



FAMILY? MAKE 'EM WAIT!

Immigration lawyer Amy Novak reports: "Close family members of green card holders and U.S. citizens, who already are used to the long queue for their visas, will now have to wait even longer. The March 2011 *Visa Bulletin*, the official Department of State publication establishing visa availability and cut-off dates, reports that heavy demand for visa numbers has required categories to continue to retrogress. The Family F2A category (spouses and children of lawful permanent residents) has been particularly impacted." So deport 'em if you can, and if not, then certainly don't let family members to join 'em. Contact Novak at anovak@dcimmigrationattorney.com.

WHAT IS A METRO STATION?

County Executive Rushern Baker often talks about the importance of economic development and the opportunity for such development around Metro stations. Greenbelt and New Carrollton are two obvious locations for such development.

But let us not include possible future light-rail (or express bus) stations along with Metro stations. Light rail (you know, a "streetcar") has much lower ridership than a hard rail subway. So please, Mr. Baker, don't look to the light rail stops in Langley Park for part of your Metro-stop development plan. But if there is to be some redevelopment in these locations, don't follow the destructive anti-poor anti-immigrant "sector plan"; rather, use a proposed alternative plan that is constructive rather than destructive.

POLICE & IMMIGRATION

In March 2011, the Police Executive Research Forum, where chiefs of leading police departments across the country meet, a major focus was the role of local police departments in immigration enforcement. Prince George's County is among the jurisdictions that have some relationships with Federal immigration authorities, and the Feds are pushing to get more support from all jurisdictions. The chiefs addressed the issue and developed recommendations. Here, we reproduce a small portion of the report that emerged from the March meeting. The full report is available at <http://www.policeforum.org/library/immigration/PERFImmigrationReportMarch2011.pdf>.



Introduction

Local police and sheriffs' departments increasingly are being drawn into a national debate about how to enforce federal immigration laws. In many jurisdictions, local police are being pressured to take significantly larger roles in what has traditionally been a federal government responsibility. This is not a simple matter for local police. Active involvement in immigration enforcement can complicate local law enforcement agencies' efforts to fulfill their primary missions of investigating and preventing crime. While no two communities are affected by immigration in the same way, the current system creates a number of challenges for local police, such as understanding an extremely complicated set of federal laws and policies, and working to develop trust and cooperation with undocumented immigrants who are victims of or witnesses to crime.

Recommendations For Local Police

1. Officers should be prohibited from arresting or detaining persons for the sole purpose of investigating their immigration status. Historically, local police have focused on criminal law violations to protect their communities and have left immigration enforcement to the federal government. To date, most local police departments support strategies that prohibit arresting immigrants solely for being undocumented and limit police inquiries about immigration status to circumstances that indicate criminal involvement. This reasoned approach puts the focus on criminal conduct that is a threat to the community at large, including the immigrant community, and does not interfere with the federal government's ability to enforce immigration laws.

2. Officers should arrest persons who violate the criminal laws of their jurisdictions without regard to the immigration status of the alleged perpetrator or the victim. When an agency focuses on criminal behavior and the safety and security of all members of the community, the immigration status of the perpetrator or the victim becomes immaterial to enforcing and ensuring the equal application of the law.

3. Local police must uphold the Constitutional and civil rights of persons regardless of their immigration status. A lack of legal immigration status does not negate a person's right to the protections afforded by the Constitution of the United States or to the right to equal protection and treatment under the law. Police officers, in accepting the responsibility of policing in a democratic society, are bound by their oath to uphold and defend those protections, regardless of the citizenship status of persons whom they encounter.

4. Local police must protect crime victims and witnesses regardless of their immigration status, and should encourage all victims and witnesses to report crimes, regardless of their immigration status. Undocumented immigrants are often victims of crimes which go unreported be-

cause the immigrants are fearful of reporting to the police. Local police must provide assurances to the undocumented community that, as victims or witnesses, they will be protected. Any other policy will undermine the ability of police to solve crime in their communities.

5. Local police should engage immigrant communities in dialogue about department policies and programs. Police agencies must consider that many immigrants have had their perspective of police framed by experiences in their native countries, where corruption and police brutality are common. Working with immigrant communities will require significant outreach, not only to gain the trust of the community, but to ensure that policies and programs of the agency are understood. Ongoing dialogue will be an important component of maintaining the trust of the community.

6. Local police agencies should educate their communities about their role in immigration enforcement, especially the legal authorities and responsibilities of local police and federal law enforcement. The community, including the immigrant community, should have a reasonable understanding of what the local police can do in regard to illegal immigration. It is incumbent upon the police agency to manage the expectations of the community by providing them with information that lessens confusion and offers reassurance about the role of local law enforcement in immigration matters. At the same time, the community should be aware of the responsibility of ICE to carry out immigration investigations, enforcement, and deportations.

7. Local police should develop comprehensive written policies and procedures regarding handling of undocumented immigrants. Currently, the enforcement of immigration laws by local police is a decision that remains at the local level, and policies should be developed that are appropriate for each community. Immigration is a community issue, not just a police issue, so representatives from the community should be engaged in the development of the police agency's policy. A collaborative effort will likely reduce the tension that generally surrounds this sensitive topic. Subsequently, written policies should be shared and clearly communicated to the community.

8. Local police agencies should monitor indicators of racial profiling by employees, investigate violations, and sanction offenders. Local agencies must take appropriate steps to ensure that indicators of targeting of persons based on ethnicity or appearance are monitored and that complaints of racial profiling are promptly investigated. Policies that prohibit racial profiling should provide clear guidance to agency employees, ensure that training is provided, and establish procedures for monitoring, investigating and sanctioning actions or practices that violate the civil rights of any individual.

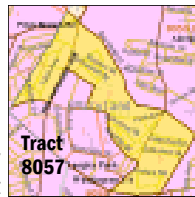
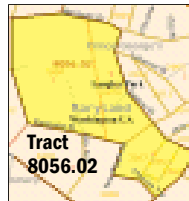
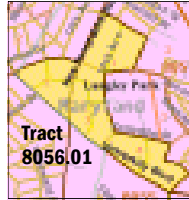


9. Local police agencies should become knowledgeable about programs such as 287(g), Secure Communities, and state or local initiatives to ensure that the programs meet the agency's specified goals for participation. New programs or policies are sometimes implemented without consideration of the short-term and long-term impact of changed policies and practices. Agencies that choose to participate in immigration programs should ensure that these programs are consistent with the agency's enforcement priorities. Police agencies and their communities will be well-served by the use of appropriate performance measures to ensure that

THE LATEST CENSUS DATA FOR LANGLEY PARK

The full 2010 Census data are not yet available, but the data from the continuing surveys conducted from 2005 to 2009 are available, and they are fascinating. Keep in mind, of course, that there is a significant undercount for the usual reasons (language and fear). A rough estimate of the undercount for Langley Park is 5,000 people. The uncouned people probably are more likely to be foreign-born with a poor education and a low income.

Langley Park is far from homogeneous; at the Census tract level, there is significant variation. For instance, Latino/as constitute more than 80% of the populations of tracts 8056.01 and 8056.02, but only slightly more than 50% in 8057. The 8057 tract is made up of single family homes with occupants having—on average—higher incomes and better educations. A graph, below, shows the per capita earnings in each of the neighborhood's "Block Groups" (sub-tract areas); note that the range is more than double.



The apartment houses in tracts 8056.01 and 8056.02 are in the greatest danger from the Sector Plan.

Social Characteristics

The average family size in the USA is 3.19 people, but in Langley Park it is 3.72.

Fully 85% of people in the USA 16 years of age and over have a high school diploma (or more), but in Langley Park the figure is 28%. For a bachelor's degree or higher, the figures are 28% in the USA and 8% in Langley Park. Among those 25 years of age and above, 51% of Langley Park's population have less than a 9th grade education.

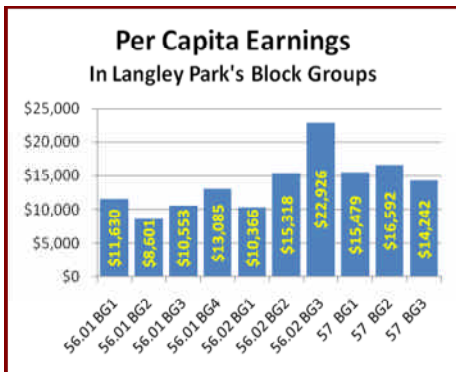
Foreign-born in the USA account for 12% of the population, but in Langley Park it is 66%. Of the foreign born, 61% entered the USA in the year 2000 or later. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of the foreign born—91%—came from a Latin country (primarily El Salvador and Guatemala); 6% are from Africa and 3% from Asia.

Speaking a language other than English accounts for 20% of residents of the USA, but in Langley Park the figure is 76%. This creates an extra challenge for English language learners.

Economic and Housing Characteristics

In the USA, 65% of those aged 16 and above are in the labor force; in Langley Park, the figure is 87%. That is, the vast majority of adults are working. That of course raises issues of child care.

The primary occupation of Langley Park's residents is construction (including extraction, maintenance, and repair) at 41%. That is the occupa-



Notation: 56.01 BG1 indicates Census Tract 8056.01, Block Group 1. Et cetera.

the results reflect the intended outcome of the program.

Conclusion

While others debate the merits of immigration reform, police chiefs have been thrust into the middle of the controversy, where they are working to develop policies and solutions that are best suited to their local situations. Most police chiefs see this as a fundamental question of the trust they have built up over the years with their communities. They recognize that much is at stake, including the willingness of a crime victim to report the crime, the willingness of a witness to step forward and provide information, and the continued support of the community when the police are caught in the middle of such a divisive issue. What we have found in the case studies outlined in this report is that the leadership of the police chiefs in these communities is helping to produce policies that are balanced and oriented toward reducing crime and maintaining citizen confidence and trust. Absent a federal reform of immigration statutes, police leaders are stepping up and helping to shape local and federal policy. There is much emotion on all sides of the debate, but the police departments cited in this report are resisting extreme rhetoric and instead are developing practical policies that are sensible and fair, and that are designed to maintain the trust of all segments of the community.



"Census" continued from last column

tion that has been most severely hurt by the recession; its impact on Langley Park residents' quality of life has been severe. Service occupations come second at 25%. Fully 91% of those employed are in the private sector.

The per capita income in the USA is \$27,041, whereas in Langley Park it is \$16,891—with considerable variation among the ten Census Block Groups (segments of Tracts), as the graphic (lower left) reveals. [Note that the income data are a decade old; small area data from the 2010 census are not yet available. However, the variation among residential areas in Langley Park clearly persists today.] Of course, the cost of living in our metropolitan area is higher than the national average. Note that there are some wealthy residents in Langley Park; 9% of the families have an income of \$100,000 or above. Presumably, most of these families have multiple earners.

The Census puts the individuals below the poverty line in the USA at 14% and in Langley Park 19%. For neighborhood children under 5, the Census figure is 25% poor. The reality, at least during this recession, is that poverty is much higher in the neighborhood—perhaps as high as 40%.

In the USA, 33% of housing units are rental; in Langley Park it is 74%. Fully 68% of those renting pay \$1,000 or more per month. And 48% of those renting pay 30% or more of their income for housing—the benchmark for excessive cost.

Langley Park's residents are mobile; one year ago, 27% of Langley Park's residents lived in a different house or apartment—but three-quarters of the movers lived elsewhere in the county. So the mobility is mostly local.

Demographic Estimates

There are more females than males in the USA, 51% to 49%. But Langley Park is dramatically different; fully 65% of the counted residents are male. This is, of course, fairly typical of a heavily immigrant neighborhood.

The median age in the USA is 37 years, whereas in Langley Park it is 28. Another indicator of the age difference is the percent of those 65 years old or more; in the USA, the figure is 13%, but in Langley Park it is only 3%.

The Latino/a population in the USA accounts for 15% of our total, but in Langley Park the figure is 75%.

Note: The maps and data are from www.census.gov.

PARENT POWER

1. READING AT HOME

Ronald Ferguson has become one of the most respected scholars focusing on minority education and the so-called gap. He has indicated many factors contributing to low scores; one focuses on the home. Here is a brief statement of his that focuses on the home. It is published in full in "CNN Commentary," <http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/07/17/ferguson.education.parents>.



"More reading at home is a place to start. ... Black and Hispanic students reported less leisure reading at home compared to whites, watched television more, were much more likely to have televisions in their bedrooms and (perhaps as a consequence) were more prone to become sleepy at school. Also, blacks and Hispanics, including those with college-educated parents, reported fewer books in their homes than whites

whose parents had fewer years of schooling.

"However, life at home helps shape academic outcomes long before children begin reading books. Family-level supports in the first two years of life help predict achievement years later, in elementary school. Beginning soon after birth, the most supportive mothers teach the joy of living and learning, through lots of active, encouraging, verbal and nonverbal communication. They engage actively in helping children learn to walk and talk and to explore their new world and manipulate their toys and other objects. Such mothers exist in large numbers in every racial group. Nonetheless, in a recent study ..., differences in mother-child interaction patterns like these were found to account for one-third of the black-white gap in math and English skills at the beginning of kindergarten—and one-quarter at the end of third grade."

2. AN ADVOCATE IN SCHOOL

There has been an amazing academic jump among the English language learners (ESL) in Kansas City, Kansas. What was the secret to success? At a Harvard conference on closing the achievement gap, it was strongly suggested that "a key ingredient was the family and student advocacy system wherein every single parent and every single child had an individual in the school [with whom] they could talk about the expectations" for that child, and "what they could do to

contribute." Latino families in Kansas City highly value education, and "look to folks to be clear about what it is that [parents] need to do." Once the advocacy system was in place, "they took to it very powerfully." The result: the aggregate achievement gap between Latino and White students gradually narrowed. (Source: *Getting It Done*, 2008) PGCPs needs parent liaisons!!!

3. ASSET BUILDING FOR PARENTS

Training for parents and would-be parents can be helpful to children's success in schools. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has offered training that includes ways that parents can foster connections, supports, and become "plugged-in." One session has taken place, and we hope more will follow. Information is available at LPCC or 301 446-3417. Of course, one important role of the parent liaison is to build parents' assets. This contribution must continue; the parent liaison positions in school may well make the difference between heavy dropping out and continuing in school.

BASIC INFORMATION

ACTION LANGLEY PARK

The nonprofit 501c3 organization, Action Langley Park, is a coalition of residents, businesspeople, workers, academics, church leaders, and others. It was founded in 1998 to improve the quality of life of residents in and near Langley Park. The means include services, information-sharing, and advocacy. The organization's service/event activities focus on a Fall "Health Check" and a Spring "Langley Park Day." Meetings of the organization take place about every other month, usually on Thursday evenings at the Langley Park Community Center. All meetings are open, and participation is encouraged. For information, send an email to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

This neighborhood planning newsletter is edited and published by Action Langley Park, with a supportive link to the Langley Park Project of the University of Maryland. (Editor, Bill Hanna; graphics specialist, Jessy Weiss.) It appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

HAPPENINGS

Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that come to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

March 14—Pro-Teachers Rally in Annapolis during late afternoon. The rally name is "Keep the Promise." It is an effort to find funds so that the cuts in school personnel and perhaps salaries are modified or reversed.

April 21—Action Langley Park holds open meetings to plan actions; in the Langley Park Community Center, 7-8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! (It's the third Thursday in April because a meeting the usual second Thursday might interfere with last-minute tax preparation!) One key agenda item: Planning ALP's future.

May 1—Langley Park Day. (See below.)

LANGLEY PARK DAY 2011

Sunday, May 1 (May Day!)

from noon until 4 p.m.

At the Langley Park Community Center



This year's festival will include continuous excellent music and dance performances, a major health fair staffed by professionals from around the region, children's activities, food and craft vendors, and more. Rain or shine! Location: the Langley Park

Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Dr., Maryland

20783. For Center in-

formation, call 301

4454508; for event in-

formation, call 301

4054005 or email to

actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

