

Barrio de Langley Park


A Neighborhood Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Number 204, April-May 2011

Langley Park Day!

Langley Park Day 2011 takes place on Sunday, May 1, from noon until 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. The event includes music, song, dance, a health fair (checking kidney function, hypertension, STDs, and more), food vendors, children's activities (games, face painting, moon bouncing), agency and organization information, and more. The event is co-organized by the Community Center (MNCPPC-PG) and Action Langley Park (501c3).



Here is a small sample of the organizations and individuals planning to participate: University of Maryland School of Dentistry, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Suburban Hospital, Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College Nursing Program, Colours Performing Group, Social Security Administration, Beyond These Walls Service Group, Office of Councilman Will Campos, Maria George Sings Selena, Ancient Rhythms Dancers, Grufolpawa Panamanian Folk Group, Adventist Health, American Kidney Fund, WMATA (ready to hire!), Doug Sims Chiropractor, MMYC/LAYC, Prince George's County Dept. of Health, Identity, Hispanic Inst. For Blindness Prevention, and so many more!!

The festival takes place whether there's rain or shine or something in-between. It is in English and Spanish. 

For information about the Langley Park Community Center, call 301 445-4501; and for information about Action Langley Park, call 301 405-4005 or send an email to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

Action Langley Park Meeting

The nonprofit ALP met on Thursday evening, April 21. It featured a report on schools by School Board member Amber



Waller & Jimenez

Waller (who represents school District 3) with education specialist Sandra Jimenez adding information, a report on safety by Police Major Hector Velez (who commands police District 1), and a discussion of the upcoming Langley Park Day. According to Ms. Waller, there are many positive educational developments taking place. She agreed to prepare an overview for Barrio de Langley Park. She thinks that the very unfortunate happenings at High Point HS should soon be resolved with new leadership. Major Velez talked about crime rates, indicating that the situation in Langley Park is not exceptional and that there has been a decline over the past few months. BLP hopes to print the data soon.



Velez

PG County Plan = Displacement Please County Council: Don't Destroy Langley Park

The *Washington Examiner* (14 April 2011) reports: "The planned Purple Line light rail in Maryland could gentrify neighborhoods, making housing unaffordable for low-income residents, Prince George's County officials and activists said. 'Gentrification is great, but it's a double-edged sword.'

"Prince George's County Councilwoman Mary Lehman, D-Laurel, said during a council briefing on the project: 'It displaces working-class people.' The proposed 16-mile light rail line inside the Capital Beltway would go from the New Carrollton Metro station in Prince George's County to the Bethesda station in Montgomery County.

"Lehman said low-income residents are worried that affordable housing could disappear as projects are built around the Purple Line's stations and land and rental prices are driven up. 'It could undermine our own goal of having a county where people can work where they live,' she said. 'And how ironic would that be if all these workers are displaced by new development and have to move further away from jobs?'"

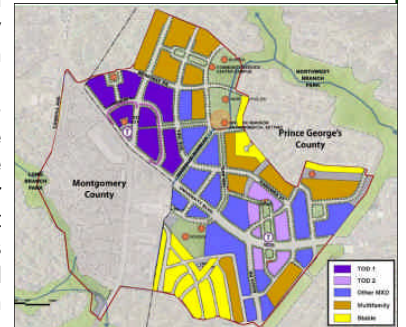
So Councilwoman Lehman sees the destructive consequences of the current Sector Plan. Not all councilmembers do. Not all businesspeople do.

Many Langley Park residents, very few of whom were "consulted" for the current plan, will be out in force to work on a revised plan—if the county government is wise enough to start over again. (BLP plans in the near future to publish one alternative plan that saves affordability with development. Maybe it could be the alternative.)

Background

The first full draft of the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan

"Plan" continued on Page 6



Above: The draft of the Sector Plan. All residents and businesses in the purple and blue areas should have their moving boxes ready.

I.C.E. and YOUTH Could Change Really Be Coming?

"Pressure is increasing on President Obama to offer protection from deportation to illegal immigrant college students who might have been eligible for legal status under a bill in Congress known as the Dream Act. In an April 13 letter, the top two Democrats in the Senate, Harry Reid of Nevada and Richard Durbin of Illinois, asked the president to suspend deportations for those students. But short of that, the senators asked Mr. Obama to set guidelines by which those students

"Change" continued on Page 2

Marta Tienda on Immigrant Education

Professor Tienda of Princeton University was the overview speaker at the Brookings Institution's April 20 session on "Immigrant Children Falling Behind: Implications and Policy Prescriptions." Below are small segments of her talk. The full conference proceedings are available at http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2011/0420_immigrant_children/20110420_immigrant_children.pdf

"Were it not for immigration, and in particular, the fertility of immigrant women, children would be an even smaller share of the U.S. population today. It is the dynamic of growth, it is the reason that the United States, the UK, Canada, and Australia, the four large Anglophone, immigrant receiving nations, are not declining in population like France and Italy and Spain and Japan. Instead immigrant children (which includes the foreign-born, small share, and the children of immigrants, the second generation) are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population today.

"So, today, nearly a quarter of all the children—just looking at the child population, all the persons under 18 years of age, one quarter have an immigrant background that is that either they were foreign born or their parents are foreign born, and the vast majority of children with immigrant parents; in fact, 84% of them, were actually born in the U.S., which means that they are entitled to the full privileges of citizenship. And although the share of children with immigrant backgrounds has been rising since the resurgence of mass migration in the mid 1970s, the current share of children with immigrant backgrounds also is not historically unprecedented.

"At the turn of the 20th Century, about 29% of children had immigrant backgrounds.

But what does this mean to say that the share of children with immigrant backgrounds has changed over time? Is it a historic high, is it not the historic high? Well, I'm a demographer, but I can tell you that demography is not destiny. What these demographic trends portend for the future of immigrant children, and I would submit, for the future of our country, depends on their access to a quality education and economic opportunities that inhere from the educational attainment, and this is the theme that actually unifies this volume. ...

"During the last quarter of the 20th Century, social and economic inequality rose in the United States. We actually witnessed a pulling apart of our society among economic, social, and geographic lines, and this is evident in the large and growing disparities in the quality of the schools and the quality of education we offer different segments of our population, including our native born population. Large majorities of immigrant youth are attending some of the worst performing schools in the country.

"The headwinds of population aging call for prudent investment in future generations, both to attenuate the rising burden of old age dependency and make sure that we have the economic and tax revenues to support the dependency of the elderly, which was different from the baby boom period when the dependency of this country was mainly from the youth, so we've had this transition from child dependency to old age dependency and then what are those ratios relative to the working age population is what we need to think about if we're devising policy that is future oriented."



WHY DO THEY MIGRATE?

One of the Washington DC area's distinguished scholar is Jeff Faux of the Economic Policy Institute—a think tank that he founded and in which he continues to be active. BLP "discovered" one of his articles about immigration, and despite being several years old, a small portion of it is reprinted here because it makes a point about immigration that is not often in focus. The full article is at http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/webfeatures_viewpoints_what_todoabout_immigration/.

Mexico is not a naturally poor country. It has plenty of resources, including oil, hardworking people, and a domestic market of over 100 million potential consumers. Mexico's problem is that it is ruled by an oligarchy of rich families in a system of hyper-crony capitalism. By facilitating business partnerships between the rich and powerful in all three countries, NAFTA reinforced that system, putting off the need for the Mexican elite to share the benefits of growth with their country's people.

The dirty little secret of Mexican out-migration to the U.S. is that it has been encouraged by the oligarch-run governments of Mexico, as a safety valve to get rid of ambitious, frustrated workers who otherwise could be trouble at home. "If the Americans seal off the border," the wife of a high-ranking Mexican official told me at a dinner recently, "there will be a revolution here." Others around the table nodded. "So," I asked, "the Mexican government is encouraging illegal immigration?" Her husband diplomatically changed the subject, but virtually everyone in Mexico knows that the racketeer coyotes who organize the border crossings could not operate without at least tacit government approval.

Immigration, by definition, is a phenomenon of both sides of a frontier. Yet our egocentric American politics defines the question as if it can be entirely answered within our borders by unilateral U.S. government decisions.



"Change" continued from Page 1

could come forward individually to ask to be spared deportation and to obtain some authorization to remain in the United States. The letter was signed by 20 other Senate Democrats. The Dream Act passed the House but failed in the Senate in December."

This news was printed in the *New York Times* (26 April 2011). The news item continues: "Homeland Security officials have said their focus is increasingly on removing immigrants who are convicted criminals. ... [That ICE] 'was supposed to be concentrating on criminals, not on Dream students. 'As long as I do well in school and stay out of trouble, I will be out of trouble with ICE,' [an undocumented college student] said she was told. She has to report to ICE every month. ...

"ICE officials in central Florida recently invited immigration lawyers to bring forward illegal immigrants facing deportation who did not have criminal records, offering provisional authorization for them to remain here and work legally. ... But nationwide the administration's deportations policy remains confused and erratically implemented, immigration lawyers said, with many students and immigrants without criminal records being deported.

"The administration needs to make it clear to the public and to the rank and file within ICE that it has a firm and clear policy of enforcing the law within its priorities and discouraging going after cases that are not within its priorities,' said Gregory Chen, director of advocacy for the American Immigration Lawyers Association. 'But that is just not happening consistently.'"

What's Happening

Immigration: Negatives

One Family Left—A Mini-Story: A former Langley Park resident writes to BLP: "We moved from Langley Park in 2007. One reason was the explosion of the immigrant population in Langley Park's downtown. The car traffic on University Blvd. became complete gridlock every weekend. And the pedestrians jaywalking across University Blvd. was a constant driving hazard. Several times, I had to brake suddenly for women darting through traffic with their babies in strollers! These jaywalkers scared me so much I knew we had to move before I hit someone." In the urban studies field, there's a term "tipping point" that refers to the number of those "other people" who have to be in a neighborhood before the "oldtimers" move. It happened with Whites in the 1970s when well over 100,000 of them left Prince George's County as well over 100,000 Blacks moved in. So discomfort with those "other" people is not a new phenomenon. Perhaps it should be called sad; but in fact most people like to be with others who look and talk like them—based on race, ethnicity, and/or (increasingly) social class.

PG Is Immigrant Deportation Champ: The *Gazette* (15 April 2011) reminds us of what has been reported earlier in BLP: "According to ICE, 223 people arrested in Prince George's were deported from the time the program started on Dec. 22, 2009, to February 2011. Of those, about 145 people—65%—had no criminal record, and the reasons they were brought to jail were too minor for the county to pursue, said Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for ICE. While more populated jurisdictions in other states deported more people, Prince George's ranks second in the U.S. behind Jefferson Parish in Louisiana when it comes to deporting non-criminals, according to the National Day Laborer Organizing Network." Prince George's County and Jefferson Parish: what a pair!!!



national Day Laborer Organizing Network." Prince George's County and Jefferson Parish: what a pair!!!

Haiti—Send 'em Home to Starve or Steal: Despite the humanitarian crisis, the USA has deported a second round of Haitians. Immigration officials state that the Haitians had been convicted of crimes in the USA. (Perhaps these are the non-crimes or petty crimes that led to deporting thousands of immigrants to other countries over the past year or so.) What will the deportees do in Haiti? If they are not killed, they will either starve or steal. But of course the Haitian government (such as it is) will cope?? Does Haiti need this additional responsibility?

Poverty: A Rasmussen survey reports that 61% of surveyed adults say if immigration laws were enforced, there would be less poverty in America. Let's imagine that the survey was properly implemented (not always the case), and the survey results accurately described the poverty situation (rarely the case). Could it be argued that the high poverty rate among immigrants is due to the anti-immigrant policies and attitudes in the USA? After all, we prevent many immigrants from earning a living—or at least a good one. Indeed, recovery from the recession might well be more robust without anti-immigrant discrimination.

By the way, the standard survey procedure these days is to interview by telephone. That raises many validity problems. For instance, not all cell phones are in the pool of numbers to be sampled. But perhaps of greater importance, lots of people don't cooperate when telephoned because (quite reasonably)

the person who answers isn't sure that the caller is a legitimate survey researcher. So those who answer the questions maybe be a strange lot. Consider this: An earlier Rasmussen poll found that about one in four respondents thought that President Bush knew about the attack on the World Trade Center before the tragedy took place—and another quarter weren't sure! How do some brains work?

A new Rasmussen survey finds that 67% of likely voters believe that when a police officer pulls someone over for a traffic violation, s/he should automatically check to see if that person is in the country legally. That's a partial solution: surely everyone with brown skin should be pulled over. But what about those blond immigrants with light skin, some of whom are undocumented? Maybe the US majority would welcome them because of their color?

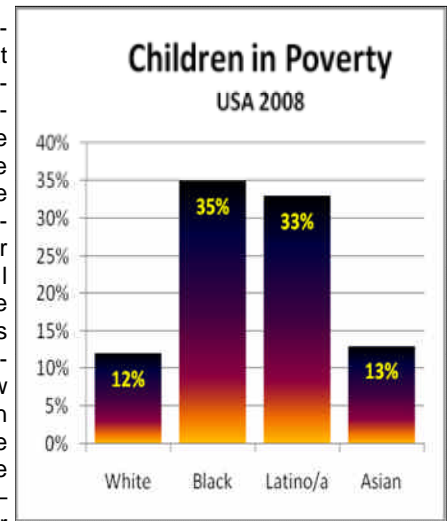
Bad Guy John Tanton: There's a fascinating article in the *New York Times* ("The Anti-Immigration Crusader," 17 April 2011) about the man primarily responsible for the anti-immigrant—hate—movements in the USA. He's an M.D. in Michigan, and he's been a key person in three organizations: Numbers USA, FAIR, and the Center for Immigration Studies. Here are a pair of short Tanton quotes printed in the *Times*: "One of my primary concerns is about the decline of folks who look like you and me." "Do we leave it to individuals to decide that they are the intelligent ones who should have more kids? And more troublesome, what about the less intelligent who logically should have less?" (Apparently, he would like a one or zero child rule for people of color. Ah eugenics!)

Budgets

Federal: Alas, the federal budget for the rest of the current fiscal year will hurt Prince George's County residents and businesspeople. For instance, the just-passed budget cuts funds for the COPS program. Clearly, the legislators who proposed this cut want to encourage crime. Sad. And they don't like healthy people either, given the cuts in funds for clinics. Also sad.

Now we face the battle over raising the debt limit and adopting the fy2012 budget. The anti-poor-people gang will try to cut even more of the money that goes to help those in need with health care, education, food, and more.

Charles Blow in the *New York Times* (16 April 2011): "Corporations are roaring. Wall Street is rolling in cash. C.E.O. bonuses are going gangbusters. It's a really good time to be rich! If you're poor, not so much. The pall of the recession is suffocating. The unemployment rate is still unbearably high. ... So in a civil society, which of these groups should be expected to sacrifice a bit for the benefit of the other and the overall health and prosperity of the nation at a time of great uncertainty? ... Under the guise of deficit reduction, [some legislative leaders] are proposing not only to make the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, but to reduce their taxes even more—cutting the top individual rate from 35% to 25% to 'promote growth and job creation.' And they plan to pay for



Crime/Safety

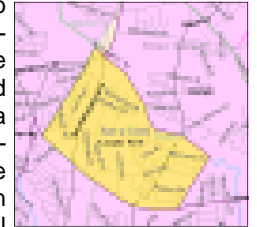
Homicides: The county's Police Homicide Unit has charged Michael Anthony Fowler of the 1400 block of Merrimac Drive in connection with the April 16 murder by stabbing of Terrell Jerome Brown of Dunkirk, Maryland. A murder in Langley Park; thank goodness such events are rare in the area. But Dunkirk? Hum: What was Brown doing so far from home? Drugs? Maybe the police will find out. Thank goodness the names were not Latino, because if they were, then anti-immigrant organizations such as FAIR would be yelling even louder to kick all immigrants out of the country.

INCOME INEQUALITY
Congratulations to the USA!
Its inequality is third from greatest among the IMF's advanced economies. It also has the highest per capita incarceration rate—by more than double all other countries. (C. Blow in NYT 19Feb11)

But earlier: On April 2 nearing midnight, patrol officers responded to the 1400 block of Kanawha St. for a report of a cutting. The officers found Abraham Felipe-Lopez, 32, of the 1400 block, suffering from trauma to his body. Transported to a local hospital, he was pronounced dead.

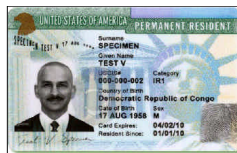
There is good news, however. Major Hector Velez reports a number of crime downturns, and we hope to have the specific data for the next BLP issue.

Stupid Channel 9: Well, maybe thoughtless. The 11 p.m. news on April 18 placed a crime in Langley Park but it was not here. The item: "Prince George's County authorities say one person has been arrested after a fight and a stabbing in Langley Park. Prince George's County Police Spokesperson Cpl. Evan Baxter says a police officer broke up a fight Monday night around 8:30 at Millennium Club and Restaurant in the 1500 block of University Blvd. Officials say in total, three people suffered from knife cuts and stabs. They were taken to an area trauma center. One victim has life threatening wounds. The other two victims are listed in serious condition. ... One person was arrested, say authorities." The real location: The Carole Highlands neighborhood.



There is an interesting local stereotype that is harmful to the residents and businesspeople of Langley Park: If a Latino or Latina is involved in a crime within a half-mile or so of Langley Park, it must be in Langley Park. But as we know, Langley Park has a formal, legal boundary: basically north of University Blvd., east of the county line, south of Northwest Branch, and west of the Power Lines. (See the Census map, above.)

Stupid Montgomery County: Well, maybe thoughtless. The so-called "Secure communities" federal program supposedly enlists local police officers in identifying dangerous criminals by having them send fingerprints to the FBI to see if the persons charged are in the country without papers. And if without, deportation proceedings can begin. Alas, the evidence from neighboring Prince George's County is clear: many immigrants who are not dangerous have been brought into a station, found not to have papers, and were deported. That surely is the result of profiling. But stupid Montgomery, with that awful record by a county neighbor, plans to participate in Secure Communities starting later this year. Furthermore, both counties are hurting law enforcement because the Secure Communities program diminishes residents' cooperation with the police. Many immigrants interviewed by Action Langley Park have indicated discomfort over cooperating. ■



What's going on is a battle over the nature of government in the USA. Will it retain the social compact developed in the New Deal calling for the government to help the less-well-off, or will the t-party anti-government folks force everyone to be on his/her own? The gap between the rich and poor in the USA (and quite a few other countries) has been steadily increasing, and it looks as if the increase will continue

thanks to the new gang.

State: Blair Lee (no friend of Governor O'Malley), writing in the *Gazette* (16 April 2011), takes a rather critical view of the recent legislative session. BLP comments are in italics:

"The 2011 General Assembly session will be remembered as the 'almost' session for all the half-steps and non-steps it took. For instance: Gov. Martin O'Malley and the legislature almost balanced the budget and almost confronted the state's long term structural deficit. ... [Note: "Almost" and "half-steps" are probably better than "didn't" and "no steps."]

"This year's Assembly almost passed a meaningful Dream Act granting in-state tuition status to illegal aliens. But there are so many hurdles (graduate from a state high school, then graduate from a state community college, parents must be state taxpayers) that the measure is much weaker than the 2003 bill vetoed by then-Gov. Ehrlich. ... [Note: *It apparently was impossible in the legislature to pass a more welcoming bill. Politics is the art of the possible. Something is definitely better than nothing.*]

PAY NO TAXES!
Being stressed by income taxes? Change your name to GE. It made \$14.2 billion last year, \$5.1 in the USA. But it paid no USA taxes!

This year's Assembly almost passed a meaningful medical marijuana law, but O'Malley's health chief killed it so, instead, if arrested with one ounce or less you can plead medical necessity with a doctor's support and avoid conviction instead of, under current law, merely avoiding sentencing. Big deal." [Here again, it may be a matter of the art of the possible. If one can't eat a fancy four-star meal with champaign, pizza with a Corona Extra is a lot better than nothing.]



The Lee full article is at http://www.gazette.net/stories/04152011/polilee185949_32539.php.

County: Why Not Tighten Belts? During the County Council's January retreat, there was a charge at the Water's Edge Restaurant for \$3093.67. The *County D9 Politico Blog* writes: "This is the final bill for the Council's dinner with County Executive Rushern Baker. I don't know about you, but that's quite a costly meal for ten people (nine Council members, one County Executive). Perhaps additional staff members were also invited to dine with them and that explains the hefty total. However, even if more attended, does this really demonstrate the kind of government spending that Council should authorize for itself while County employees are still being furloughed, wages are frozen, and more service cuts are on the way?" Ten key diners plus ten staff members equals twenty, divided into the total bill equals \$155 each!! For less than \$20 each, people can dine very well at, say, Samantha's or the Mosaic Cafe.



Every Wednesday

Todos los Miercoles

2:30 - 6:30 pm

May 18th - October 26th, 2011

Open rain or shine • abierto con lluvia o sol

Crossroads Farmers Market

7676 New Hampshire Ave.

Takoma Park, Maryland

Use your EBT Card, WIC, or Senior's FMNP coupons at the market to receive *extra bucks for fresh fruits & vegetables each week!*

¡Use su tarjeta de estampillas, cupones de WIC o Seniors FMNP en **el mercado** para poder recibir más frutas y verduras frescas cada semana!



- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables from Local Farmers
- Ethnic Breads/Foods
- Community Musicians
- Local Artisans
- Youth Programming

- Frutas y Verduras Frescas y Locales
- Panes y Comidas Étnicas y Locales
- Músicos de la Comunidad
- Artesanía Local
- Actividades para Jovenes

crossroadsmarket@gmail.com • 301-891-7244
www.thecrossroadsfarmersmarket.org



"Plan" continued from Page 1

was issued in October 2009. Since then, there have been some revisions, but no full revised plan has been issued. At the least, the web site for the plan has not been fully updated. Hum.

Late last year, the news was that in January of this year the revised plan would be brought to the County Council for final approval of the required zoning changes. Apparently, that meeting has not taken place. Hum.

Maybe the strong opposition voiced by neighborhood organizations and Church leaders has made a difference? Or maybe some planners and councilmembers have had second thoughts? Or maybe the effort to stop pay-to-play corruption in the county has led to enhanced caution?

The Plan was scheduled as item #6 for the May 5 Planning Board work-session, but it has been postponed. Hum. The planners were scheduled to present to the Planning Board an overview of the "Housing Affordability Strategy and Report" which the so-called "affordable housing work group" is said to have reviewed and commented on. (But it definitely was not "approved"!!)

Note: This work group, according to the planners, "included a broad based representation from not-for-profit, public and private housing, community and business interests."

ALP conducted two sets of interviews of small businessperson and resident samples. Not surprisingly, two-thirds of the businesspeople (who have begun to organize for Sector Plan changes) were aware of the Plan, although a much smaller faction knew any of the details. As for the residents, less than one in ten was aware of the Plan. That's bad planning.

Of course, no resident of the area was a member. And there was no agreement because there were lots of long-shot possibilities but no firm commitment to protecting the affordable housing. No guarantee of even one affordable apartment after the demolition!

The Plan

Here's an element of the affordable housing plan: "Short-Term (1-2 Years): Establish a Density Bonus Provision as part of the Zoning Ordinance that will require all new construction above a specified density or Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and within a defined sector planning area to include a percentage of the proposed dwellings units for low, moderate or upper moderate income households." This appears to mean that of the approximately 10,000 people who reside in the apartments that are in the plan's target area, a few might find some affordable apartments—but after waiting (in a tent?) for a few years until the new buildings are completed.

And now?

CASA de Maryland staff members are among those who have been active in opposing the planned displacement of residents. Now, a civil-rights based legal action against the Sector Plan may be taken by CASA. After all, no where else in the county will a large minority population be displaced. It certainly is "interesting" that apartment and business displacement due to the Purple Line appears to be greatest for the immigrant minority in the Langley Park area. We do know that there is some anti-immigrant sentiment in this area.

Leaders of the area's Catholic communities are also opposed to the plan—on moral and other grounds, and they support the call to revise or abort the deeply flawed plan.

Please, Councilman Campos, join Councilwoman Lehman, CASA, the Catholic Church, ALP, and others in forcing a significant revision to the Sector Plan—or abort it and start over with a plan that brings mixed use and transit-oriented development to the Langley Park area without displacing thousands of residents and hundreds of businesses. Please help to keep the bulldozers away. The win-win outcome can be achieved! ■

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) It appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com. Back issues of BLP will soon be available on the web.

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.

April 30—Maryland Day at the University of MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A big deal, but of course the festival in Langley Park the very next day is even better (in some respects!!)

May 1—Langley Park Day, noon until 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Dr., 20783. Everyone is welcome from Prince George's Co., Montgomery Co., DC, Los Angeles, San Salvador, and elsewhere! For directions and other Community Center information, call 301 445-4508. To participate, call ALP at 301 405-4005.

POSTPONED: May 5—Planners' presentation of the so-called "affordable housing" initiative within the Prince George's County Takoma-Langley Sector Plan.

Victor!

Once more, we must note the distinguished effort of Senator Victor Ramirez in getting the "Maryland Dream Act" passed in the Maryland Senate and House. The young people now able to afford college will be grateful for their lifetimes—and will be a benefit to the USA whether they are here or in their heritage home country.



Wanda!

MNCPPC-PG has announced that Wanda Ramos has been appointed as the new Division Chief for Central Area Operations. The appointment was effective on 18 April. As many readers know, Wanda was the Director of the Langley Park Community Center for many years, and she sure did a good job in that position. Good luck in the new job, Wanda! But don't forget Langley Park!

