

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
Issue #203, April 2011

## Maryland Dreaming

Maryland's legislature voted on April 11 to extend in-state college tuition to undocumented immigrants; the legislation passed with about three hours to spare, and it has the backing of Governor O'Malley. The result: An undocumented student who attended at least three years of high school in Maryland and whose parents have paid state taxes qualifies for in-state tuition at a community college. After successfully completing those two college years, he or she can transfer to a four-year institution and again pay in-state tuition.

This is a great outcome for Maryland residents who were brought to the USA as children without participating in that immigration decision. And it's a great outcome for all Marylanders who want to have a well-educated population. But what if the undocumented young person is never given a path to citizenship and returns to his or her birth country? Then that birth country will have a well-educated citizen who probably will be a good friend of the USA.

## Tea Poisoning

So the USA's House of Representatives, Senate, and White House have agreed on an fy2011 budget cut that is "only" \$38 billion. Hey, what are a few billion dollars in our massive economy? Well, wait until you find out exactly what is being cut in expenditures between now and the end of the fiscal year at the end of September. It won't be aimed at the wealthy; rather, it will cut various services and other programs for the working class and poor.

And you haven't seen anything yet! First, there will be a debate on raising the debt limit. What will the socially progressive agenda have to sacrifice so that the country doesn't declare bankruptcy? And then the fight over the 2012 budget will begin, and that battle will return to policy issues.

Remember that for fy2011, the House-driven budget includes less money for EPA to combat global warming, cuts to the Community Development Fund that helps low-income neighborhoods, cuts to public housing repair funds, cuts to the National Science Foundation ("who believes in science?"), cuts to the COPS police program, cuts to home heating support for the poor (let 'em freeze!), cuts for family planning and community health clinics, and more. A total of 55 programs were cut in health, labor, and education.

The tea sure doesn't taste good!

## May 1, noon to 4 p.m.

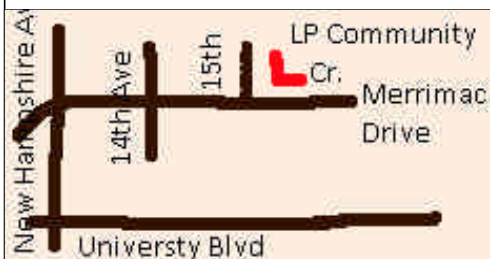
Surely, the date and time of Langley Park Day 2011 are entered on your calendar or smart phone or latest tattoo. Surely! But just in case they are not recorded, it would be good for your health and well-being to enter them now because on that Sunday afternoon, there will be music, song, dance, medical doctors, dentists, other health care professionals, children's games and face painting, food vendors, agency representatives, and more.

The location will be the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park. Need driving or transit instructions? If so, see the sketch map below, or call the Center at 301 445-4508, or email [actionlanguelpark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlanguelpark@yahoo.com).

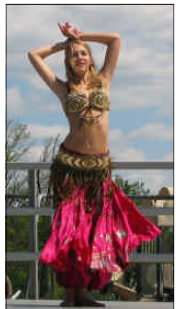
The music, song, and dance will feature such performing organizations and individuals as Colours, Maria George, Ancient Rhythms, Grufolpawa Panamanian, Youth in Praise, etc.

The health professional organizations and individuals include Adventist Health, American Kidney Fund, Doug Sims Chiropractor, the Hispanic Institute for Blindness Prevention, Montgomery College Nurses, the Maryland School of Dentistry, the Maryland School of Medicine, the NIH Academy, Planned Parenthood, Priority Partners, Suburban Hospital, TAYA, USDA, United Health Care, Amerigroup, Kate's Back Massage, Adolescent and Young Adult Center, etc.

Other organizations and associations include Bank of America, Capital Hospice, Social Security, Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development, WMATA, the office of Councilman Will Campos, MMYC-LAYC, Beyond These Walls, etc.



The Langley Park Community Center is located at the northeast corner of Merrimac Drive and 15th Avenue. Park on adjacent streets.



# NEWS AND NOTES

## Congratulations!!

The county's District 1 police force is now headed by Hector Velez—it is now *Major Velez*—and we can congratulate him in person because he will be at the next Action Langley Park meeting on April 21. We have a good man to head this critical unit of the county government.



## Education

**The Budget:** The not-very-happy news, as reported by the *AP* (3 April 2011): "As lawmakers around the country debate their states' budgets, they're staring over the edge of a massive fiscal cliff—the point where about \$100 billion in federal stimulus money for education will run out. The end of that money will compound states' severe budget woes and likely lead to thousands of layoffs and the elimination of popular school programs around the country." This will, alas, continue the USA's decline in world rankings on educational achievement. And with the t-party people in charge of the GOP, the education and other public support of the not-well-off will further decline, increasing the gap between the rich and the poor. More than sad.

Locally, the Prince George's County Public School System confronts a fine and repayment adding to almost \$6 million for (according to the Federal Department of Labor) violating regulations with regard to its use of H-1B visas for foreign teachers—mostly from the Philippines. The system is supposed to pay various costs for these temporary teachers but did not. The bureaucrats who handle the county's money seem to make too many mistakes. Maybe some first-rate accountants are needed. Meanwhile, the system may be even more in the red.

About one thousand foreign teachers worked in the system last year. Does that mean the system could not find one thousand well-educated residents of the USA to do the teaching? With unemployment so high?

**DREAM-Eligible Deportations:** The *Houston Chronicle* reports that the Obama administration is targeting undocumented DREAM-Act-eligible students for deportation, that evidence is "piling up" that President Obama's administration has "ratcheted up" deportations of undocumented DREAM Act students. A recent Congressional hearing confirms that the Bush administration was more lenient to undocumented students than President Obama by frequently declining to deport student through the use of a legal mechanism known as deferred action. President Obama is doing just the opposite! But Secretary Napolitano recently stated that the administration is not targeting undocumented students for deportation. So she's lying?

The *Daily Kos* (6 April 2011) reports: "Democratic members of Congress who are participating in a campaign led by Hispanic Democrats to stop deportations of students who grew up in the U.S. and would have been covered by the DREAM Act say that the White House is actively resisting their efforts. ... The

White House, for its part, says it doesn't have the legal authority to suspend deportation by executive order and that comprehensive immigration reform will have to be the answer to keeping families together. In a televised town hall organized by Univision last week, Obama said an executive order



halting deportations 'would not conform with my appropriate role as president.' That's a frustrating message for proponents of a sane, humane immigration enforcement policy to hear, particularly given the record number of deportations carried out in this administration."

**For-Profit Colleges:** Thanks to quite a few scandals (see [facultyvoice.umd.edu](http://facultyvoice.umd.edu)), Maryland has a new law regulating for-profit colleges. Pushed by State Senator Paul Pinsky, it will require the colleges to report enrollment numbers and to stop giving bonuses to recruiters (to stop some questionable hustling). Among other requirements, many formerly eligible students may not receive state aid, and if there's a breach of contract or a school shutdown, the college must pay the student back.



## Immigration

**Arizona: Good News:** A three-judge Federal appeals court has just ruled that a federal judge did not abuse her authority when she blocked provisions of the Arizona law that targeted illegal immigration. The request to overturn the block was requested by that woman of prejudice, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer. So some of Arizona's racial/ethnic profiling will have to wait. And lots of us are happy.

**Bureaucracy:** There's a funny/sad animation video that focuses on another sad aspect of current Federal actions. The video illustrates the absurdity of the labor certification process. In the video, animated characters represent the immigration counsel and the HR representative at the sponsoring corporation. Alas, there's truth to the portrayed absurdity. Check out <http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/11570686/discussing-perm-with-a-client>.

**Storm Troupers:** In Michigan, ICE agents reportedly followed immigrants from their homes to a nearby elementary school where they were dropping off their children. According to the *Detroit Daily News*, six ICE agents surrounded the elementary school, trapping parents inside for nearly an hour. ICE left the school area, but later arrested at least two parents in warrantless stops outside the school. According to the Alliance for Immigrant Rights and Reform Michigan, ICE at the school violates its own policies prohibiting these type of intimidation tactics near schools and places of worship, except in extreme circumstances and with prior authorization from headquarters. Later, ICE issued a statement admitting that "elements of the operation appear to have been inconsistent with policy and our standards and priorities" and promised to take "appropriate steps" if an internal review reveals that procedures were violated. So after the event, it may be looked into. What if the event involved murdering an immigrant; would the agency look into it—or just brush the matter under the desk because, hey, it's only an immigrant?



**Police State:** The President's proposed 2012 budget asks for \$2 billion for detention beds, \$527.6 million for border fencing, infrastructure, and technology, and \$184 million for Secure Communities. Overall, the Customs and Border Protection budget would be \$11.8 billion and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Budget would be \$5.8 billion. Instead of fighting a costly war of attrition against immigrants in order to save a nominal amount of money, the U.S. would do better to integrate, educate, and welcome immigrants. Money spent in these areas would cost much less than [a] police state [advocated by some anti-immigrant organizations].

**Secure (?) Communities:** The Secure Communities program, now in its fourth year, does not make people secure.

"News and Notes" continued from Page 2

Rather, it creates great insecurity and reduces cooperation with local police forces. The program calls for sharing the fingerprints of a person booked into jail with Federal immigration databases. ICE may then begin deportation proceedings if there is a match—i.e., the arrested person who committed a serious crime is matched to a record indicating an immigration violation. So out of the country s/he goes. Only in the case of a serious crime???

The Prince George's County situation is harmful and embarrassing: Two-thirds (145 of 223) of the undocumented immigrants removed from the county under the federal program had no criminal record (of course, they did not have papers authorizing their presence in the USA), which suggests something is not being done correctly. The recently retired police officer and spokesperson Andy Ellis expressed surprise when informed of this statistic, and he had no explanation for it.

According to an ICE staffer (as reported in the *Washington Examiner*, 3 April 2011), "ICE prioritizes the arrest and removal of criminal aliens who pose a threat to our communities." That seems to be an untruth.

County Executive Baker said, according to a *Gazette* report (13 April 2011), that he is concerned about the program, but he added that he is powerless to stop it. "There are no options. This is it. We have to follow the law as it is given to us." That's right: he can't change a federal program. But he can help to lead opposition to it so that it is modified to be limited to felonies with the accused having the right to counsel.

**USCIS Fee Waivers:** On 13 March 2011, USCIS issued a memorandum providing guidelines on fee waiver requests. Qualified applicants may request a waiver of filing fees for certain immigration applications and petitions based on an "inability to pay." In 2010, USCIS created a standardized form that can be used to request the waiver. Applicants may request a fee waiver only for those applications or petitions specifically listed in the memorandum. These include many of the more commonly filed forms, such as the application for employment authorization (I-765) and the application for naturalization (N-400). The USCIS memorandum on fee waivers is available at <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?17393>. The USCIS Form I-912, which may be used to request a fee waiver is at <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?16580>; and a folder on immigration fees and fee waivers is at <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?17215>.

## Global Insanity?

Here is a list published on *Yahoo.com* of the top stories of the day (9 April 2011). Something very serious must be happening.

- ▶ Seven killed, 15 wounded in shooting at Dutch shopping mall
- ▶ Nine people shot at teen party in suburban Philadelphia; one dead
- ▶ Mexico finds 72 bodies in hunt for kidnapped bus passengers
- ▶ Shooting aboard British nuclear submarine leaves one dead
- ▶ British army defuses 500-pound bomb in Northern Ireland
- ▶ D.C. records fifth killing since Wednesday



And BLP adds: In the first three months of the year, 25 people were murdered in Prince George's County; two had Latino names (one of the murders was in Langley Park).

Of course, there have been thousands of violent deaths in the turmoil of North Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Middle East. And more mayhem elsewhere. Are we "hard-wired" to kill?

## Baker on Econ Development

**TOD:** "My administration looks forward to working with WMATA to provide the resources needed to create a high quality project that will bring jobs, retail, and residential oppor-

tunities around the New Carrolton Metro station. I expect this development will be a national model for future T.O.D. design, functionality, and sustainability as well as lead to other developments at Prince George's County Metro stations. ... During the campaign and my first 100 days as County Executive, I have prioritized Transit Oriented Development (T.O.D.) and better utilization of our undeveloped Metro sites. With METRO and MARC, Route 50 and the Beltway, New Carrolton is a prime location that would be a smart investment for businesses and residents who want access to Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Annapolis." (From a press release in late March.)

Please remember, Mr. Baker, that the Purple Line streetcar is not a Metro line because it is light rail, not heavy rail. The area along University Boulevard is densely packed with affordable apartments and houses, and small mom-and-pop businesses. These areas must be excluded from your plans for transit oriented development—that is, unless you want to displace many thousands of residents and hundreds of businesses.

**Surplus Money:** Reportedly, Prince George's County has a surplus of \$67 million, and the question is: How should it be spent? County Executive Baker wants to use \$50M for economic development, \$14M to encourage teachers to retire, and \$3M for the nonprofit Alice Ferguson Foundation.



But why this foundation; after all, there are many very valuable nonprofits in the county? Ah, look who is the president-elect of the foundation's board: Michael Herman. Yes, the Michael Herman who for seven years served for (accused) pay-to-play former County Executive Jack Johnson. Now, Mr. Herman is a practicing lawyer and lobbyist in Riverdale Park. Was it lobbying, an old friendship, or merit that led to the \$3M allocation? Maybe a clinic in the Langley Park area—or some other health-underserved area—would have been a better use of the money?

## Health in Counties

Several organizations have become active ranking the health in counties across the USA. One of them, "County Health Rankings," considers such factors as health behaviors (tobacco use, unsafe sex, etc.), clinical care (access to and quality of care), social and economic factors (education, income, etc.), physical environment (e.g., environmental quality), and health outcomes (mortality and morbidity).

Based on these factors, in 2011 the healthiest county in Maryland is Howard, followed by Montgomery, Frederick, and Queen Anne's; at the bottom is Baltimore City (included in the county list), followed by Allegany, Dorchester, and Somerset. Out of the 24 counties, Prince George's ranks 17th. Among the PG factors that, on the basis of these data, need to be improved are:

- ◆ Low birthweight (the percentage of births is more than 50% above the national benchmark),
- ◆ Excessive drinking (almost double the national benchmark),
- ◆ Sexually transmitted infections (five times the national norm), and
- ◆ Access to healthy foods (50% below the national norm).

At the least, there should be countywide campaigns to cut alcoholism and unprotected sex, and to encourage pre-natal care and healthy eating. That should be the charge of the County Executive as well as the leaders of the Department of Health. Let's hope. The full report is available at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/maryland/prince-georges>.



## INTRODUCTION

The "Utah Compact" is the term that has been applied to an agreement among Utah leaders from government, education, business, and religious groups with regard to immigration policy. It recognizes the essential contributions that have been made to the state and nation by immigrants, with documents and without. Will it serve as a guideline for the country?

## THE UTAH COMPACT

### A declaration of five principles to guide Utah's immigration discussion

**FEDERAL SOLUTIONS** Immigration is a federal policy issue between the U.S. government and other countries—not Utah and other countries. We urge Utah's congressional delegation, and others, to lead efforts to strengthen federal laws and protect our national borders. We urge state leaders to adopt reasonable policies addressing immigrants in Utah.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT** We respect the rule of law and support law enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. Local law enforcement resources should focus on criminal activities, not civil violations of federal code.

**FAMILIES** Strong families are the foundation of successful communities. We oppose policies that unnecessarily separate families. We champion policies that support families and improve the health, education and well-being of all Utah children.

**ECONOMY** Utah is best served by a free-market philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers and taxpayers. Utah's immigration policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a welcoming and business-friendly state.

**A FREE SOCIETY** Immigrants are integrated into communities across Utah. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion. The way we treat immigrants will say more about us as a free society and less about our immigrant neighbors. Utah should always be a place that welcomes people of goodwill.

### FROM THE SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE (9 April 2011)

*Some people say that the answer is simply to enforce existing law. We disagree, and join the other people who say that law and policy must be changed to take better account of the fact that certain sectors of the American economy, such as the food and hospitality industries, rely on immigrant labor. Congress should adjust the system to allow those workers to follow a legal path to the United States more easily.*

*That means a more realistic guest worker program and a means to allow those in the country illegally to come out of the shadows, identify themselves, pay fines for past violations, obtain genuine documents and join the legal workforce. Any reform program must be comprehensive, including enforcement.*

*That's where the Utah Compact comes in. It is a statement of five principles that various civic and religious groups adopted to guide the state's immigration reform effort. They include that a solution must come from the federal government; that local enforcement efforts should target criminal offenses, not civil immigration violations; that policies should not separate families; that the economic contributions of immigrant workers must be recognized; that immigrants must be treated humanely.*

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/51592085-82/utah-compact-immigration-reform.html.csp>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

**April 14—Career Fair in D.C.** This is an annual diversity career fair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. For information, send an email to [info@citycareerfair.com](mailto:info@citycareerfair.com).

**April 16—Magic Eggstravaganza** with magician Barry Wood plus games, bunnies, and more. At the Langley Park Community Center, 11 a.m. For ages 1 to 12 plus family members. County residents, \$2; others \$3.

**April 16—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution** at the St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a monthly event; it takes place every third Saturday of the month, e.g., May 21 and June 18.

**April 21—Action Langley Park** holds its regular bi-monthly open meeting 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 will be the schools, and our special guest will be School Board member **Amber Waller**. Another item will be crime and safety, and new District 1 Police Commander **Hector Velez** will be our guest. Among other items on the agenda will be planning ALP's future; another will be Langley Park Day. Participate! We need you!

**April 26—Migration Policy Institute Conference** at Georgetown University Law Center, 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lots of information on immigration law. For information, go to [http://my.migrationpolicy.org/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content\\_item\\_KEY=5392](http://my.migrationpolicy.org/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=5392).

**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., the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Dr. 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.

