

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park

Issue #217, September 2011

**Earthquake!
Hurricane!
What's next???**

WHERE'S THE MON\$Y?

And the answer is that there isn't very much money available—unless we secretly enter China and change its electronic records so that we owe that country less. The Federal Government indicates that it must cut back billions in expenditures—despite the apparent need for another stimulus, this time aimed at job creation, (The last one saved some banks and auto companies.) Its indebtedness is about \$14,600,000,000,000! Maryland is about to be \$1,000,000,000 in debt, and the counties sure aren't in good shape.

We know about the impact at the county level: cut-backs in education, health, library resources and services, and much more.

Given the Federal figure, it means that each person in the USA owes about \$47,000!

Of course, much of the money spent by the federal and state governments went to education, health, social security, Medicaid, Medicare, the war in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq, and other programs, valid in some cases and not so valid in others. (But who knew that George W. Bush - Richard Cheney were lying about nuclear weapons development in Iraq, which started all this military activity.)

So now there is a tightening around the country. One city in New Jersey cut its police force by half although it is a relatively high crime area. There are school districts in twenty-one states operating on a four-day school week. (The other three days: the young people can get a job, party in a mall, join a gang, and other great opportunities.) There are health cut-backs, transit cut-backs, housing assistance cut-backs, and much more. Notice that the roads are deteriorating? That's due to cut-backs in road maintenance funds. (But it's good for the auto repair shops.) Et cetera!

The impact on individuals and families is severe. As America's economic "difficulties" (to use a very mild term for something much worse) continues to devastate the poor, the working class, and into the middle

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SECTOR PLAN 2

The County has not developed a new Sector Plan to replace the deeply flawed gentrify-and-displace plan that was developed over one year ago but has not received final approval. Thank goodness. Few people support a plan that enables developers to throw out thousands of residents of affordable apartments and scores of small businesspeople from their livelihoods. Representatives of the Catholic Church said "no." Officials of CASA de Maryland said "no." Action Langley Park said "no." And many other people within and outside Langley Park joined in the chorus that said "no."

But there may, if the Purple Line is built, be a demand for more upscale housing in the area—perhaps as part of a mixed-use strategy. If so, there will be displacement if a good alternative is not developed.

So what is to be done? Graduate architecture student John Hadley agreed to prepare sketches of five key areas within the sector plan area to demonstrate that many new residential and other units could be built without removing one affordable apartment but accommodating in new space the threatened small businesses. No displacement! The result is presented on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. Feedback is most welcome. ■

Sandra Jimenez at High Point

The new principal at High Point High School is Sandra Jimenez, former principal at Langley Park McCormick ES and Buck Lodge MS. Late afternoon August 31, a school PTSA meeting ceremoniously welcomed her to the high school. Lots of VIPs were in attendance, including PGCPs head Bill Hite, Board of Education member Rosalind Johnson, and Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk. The color guard marched in, talented student Stephanie Jean sang, the school orchestra played classical music, and food plus socializing



space were available after the formalities. Welcome, Sandi; may you have great success at High Point. High School. ■

NEWS AND VIEWS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Martin Luther King National Memorial is now in place and open to the public. In addition to the sculpture, there is a



crescent-shaped stone wall inscribed with excerpts of his sermons and public addresses. They constitute his vision of America. It is certainly worth the trip to the Mall area, and to be reminded (if necessary) about the work of this great American. We should always share his dream: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'" Some

become rich, some poor; some have darker skins, some lighter. But they are all human beings. For a virtual tour of the memorial area, go to <http://www.mlkmemorial.org/>.

UNEMPLOYMENT ... SCARY

Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adults 20+ years old: men (8.9%), women (8.0%); teenagers (25.4%), Whites (8.0%), Blacks (16.7%), Latino/as (11.3%), Asians (7.1%). A year ago in August, people in the civilian workforce numbered 154,678,000; last month it was 153,594,000, apparently reflecting more dropouts. Fully 13,987,000 people are officially unemployed—plus more who don't claim unemployment insurance or are part-timers seeking full-time jobs. The teenage situation is especially troubling. Here are the disaggregated unemployment figures for 16 to 19 years old (both sexes combined): Whites, 23%; Blacks, 46.5%; Latino/as, 37.4% (not seasonally adjusted). No Asian data. 46.5!!!! 37.4!!!! Scary. Dangerous.

SPEED CAMERAS

Prince George's County has launched its Automated Speed Enforcement Program with cameras placed within a half-mile radius of Issac Gourdine Middle School and Tayac Elementary School in the 8400–9000 block of Allentown Road in Fort Washington. The cameras operate Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. pointed in both directions of travel. "Our top priority is the safety of our students and those who live and work in Prince George's County,"

said Police Chief Mark A. Magaw. "Speeding is a significant public safety issue and the mere presence of the cameras will deter aggressive driving behaviors." Eight cameras will be installed by September 21—and there will be a total of 72 units operating in the county by August 2012.

There will be speed cameras on the Beltway near construction zones with the stated purpose of slowing traffic where there are workers. So watch out, you 80mph speeders! But Beltway speeders going 67mph or elsewhere going 42 in a 30mph zone may not be guilty: a judge has ruled that it's okay to drive 12mph over the speed limit—not 13 but 12. (Beware; a different judge may rule differently.)

Of course, speed cameras were placed in College Park almost a year ago—leading to an outcry as the cameras snapped quite a few speeders. Well, maybe the cameras will slow traffic and lead to fewer auto accidents and pedestrian injuries. And of course the jurisdictions will make some money.

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

Managing within Budget: The school year is off to a start, hopefully a good one. How will the cutbacks impact education? Who knows? What about a four-day school week that has

been instituted in quite a few school districts around the country? It saves money, but what about the children who have no organized activity and perhaps no parents at home on the fifth day? Will they use the day to study or roam the malls or get involved with a not-nice peer group?

Common Core: Forty-four states in the USA, including Maryland, have agreed to offer a "common core" set of educational standards in mathematics, language, and more. The stated aim of the standards is "to define the knowledge and skills students should achieve in order to graduate from high school ready to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs."

A survey of college instructors and career experts found that the common core was appropriate as preparation for college or career. The college courses represented among the experts included calculus, physics, accounting, data-base management, and pharmacology. Are these how the preparation of career-focused students should be judged? (See <https://www.epiconline.org/standardsvaliditystudy>.)

Latinos Going to College: The Pew Hispanic Center reports that from 2009 to 2010, the number of Latino/as in the 18-24 age bracket who were attending college grew by 349,000—a much larger number than other "minorities." Now, Latino/as are the most populous minority in our country's colleges.

Principal Sandra Jimenez: As indicated on page 1, Ms. Jimenez is the new principal of High Point High School. There's an interesting article about her beginning efforts there in the *Gazette*. It leaves one with a sense of optimism. The article is at this address: <http://www.gazette.net/article/20110818/NEWS/708189839&template=gazette>.

Eighth Grade Students in PGCPs: We should worry. The tested county 8th graders in 2011 were last among Maryland and Virginia counties with 71% passing in reading and 44% in math. The next highest scores in the region were 83% and 62%. So PGCPs has a long way to go. Gads!

Montgomery College—In-state Tuition: A Circuit Court judge has thrown out a lawsuit that tried to stop the college from charging in-state tuition to Maryland residents regardless of visa status. That helps our young people.

TROUBLED COMMERCIAL ECONOMY IN P.G.

The *Washington Post* headline (16 August 2011) is worrisome: "Commercial foreclosures threaten Prince George's tax base." The county has the highest number of residential foreclosures. And now commercial trouble. A prime example is parts of University Town Center, which are now owned by a bank.

PARKS AND RECREATION GUIDE

The Fall guide is now available. It lists county parks, trails, historic sites, museums, sports facilities, pool hours, cultural arts complexes and events, computer skills and martial arts classes, trips, and much more. The guide is now available at the Langley Park Community Center and online at <http://us.mg1.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?.rand=c21vumh31vb9m>. Have a question? Call 301 699-2255.



LANGLEY PARK IS NOT IN HYATTSVILLE

Action Langley Park has often complained about the inclusion of Langley Park in Hyattsville, which of course is a separate area—and a city. Using MapQuest and other map software, an address in Langley Park may not be identified because the program indicates it is in Hyattsville. Awful! A few years ago, ALP contacted the central post office and was told that using as an address "Langley Park, MD 20783" was okay. Alas, few people use it. Now an article in the *Gazette* (18 Au-

IMMIGRATION

OUT-MIGRATION

Fox news Latino (<http://latino.foxnews.com>) on 24 August 2011) reports that there has been a dramatic change in the international flow of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans: "The number of Mexican emigrants who opted to return to their homeland from the United States increased sharply over the past five years to almost 1 million, according to census data. The deputy secretary of Population, Migration and Religious Affairs, Rene Zenteno Quintero, told a press conference that that figure was 2.7 times higher than the amount registered in Mexico's 2000 census.



"The exodus of Mexicans to the United States has likewise been reduced, 'seen in a net zero balance between emigrants and immigrants who return to Mexico, meaning we're experiencing a historic moment,' he said. The official also referred to a recent National Occupation and Employment Survey that shows a 70% decline in the rate of emigration over the past four years. He attributed that situation to a variety of factors, including a U.S. recession in 2008-2009 and reduced expectations for an economic recovery in that country.

"That situation has been compounded by a 'hostile environment toward illegal immigrants, reflected in the more than 1 million deportees during President (Barack) Obama's administration and the proliferation of negative local environments in terms of political discourse, public opinion and legal overhauls,' he said. Douglas Massey, a sociologist and immigration specialist who also spoke at the press conference, said he is pessimistic about the possibility of immigrant-friendly legislation being approved in the United States in the near future."

DEPORT THE BAD GUYS (& GALS), BUT...

There's a lot of talk about the Obama administration's decision to instruct various agencies to focus on deporting criminals—the "bag guys and gals," not those without a criminal record such as DREAM-eligible young people without a criminal record. Of course, some anti-immigrant folks say this is amnesty (not knowing the operational definition of the word "amnesty"), and others see the move as an act of justice.

Alice Yardum-Hunter writes, in *Immigration Daily* (22 August 2011): "In a move timed to relieve swelling deportation courts and cut government spending, the Dept. of Homeland Security, through 'Prosecutorial Discretion,' announced on August 18, 2011 that it will review some 300,000 removal cases and terminate those who are least threatening to the U.S. including non-criminals who have been in the country since youth, those who have strong ties to the community, who are veterans or relatives of such persons, caregivers, those with serious health issues, victims of crime or otherwise have a strong reasons for continuing to remain unlawfully in the United States." But she worries that this action might only be short-term relief. What happens if there is a regime change in the USA?

Clarissa Martinez, the Director of Immigration and National Campaigns at the National Council of La Raza, commented: "This is a huge step forward for our country. This means that DHS will be using its resources more effectively. For those attacking this approach, I would challenge them to say what should be prioritized over national security and public safety. Every law enforcement agency uses prosecutorial discretion to do just that."

But we must stop the bad cops. The American Immigration Lawyers Association recently released a report, *Immigration Enforcement Off Target*, drawn from cases submitted by association attorneys. It describes people from all over the country

being picked up by local police officers for minor offenses, e.g., loitering or failing to signal before changing lanes. Some are stopped and checked for no offense! All were referred to ICE or Customs and Border patrol and all were put in removal proceedings. Surely the real motive is to question someone about his or her immigration status. In a few cases, the officer involved said the stop was made because the person "looked illegal." The full report is at <http://www.aila.org/offtarget>.

The Anti Gang: Those opposed to the normalizing of some residents who are currently in the shadows are very upset by the Obama administration's recent "digression" policy. One headline: "White House Embraces Administrative Amnesty After Failing to Get Congress on Board" (CIS, 19 August 2011).

Countering the Anti Gang: *The New York Times* (10 August 2011) has editorialized on the administration's decision: "The new approach acknowledges that this country is squandering law-enforcement resources on deporting tens of thousands of people who work hard, pay taxes and build families. Misplaced enforcement efforts have also been directed at another vital resource—students who arrived in this country as children, graduated from high school, and want to serve in the military or go to college. (The new policy should protect many young people who would qualify for legal status under the long-stalled Dream Act.) Critics of sensible immigration policy are accusing the administration of a 'back-door amnesty.' But they are living in a fictional world, believing that all immigrants are dangerous criminals and that harsher laws and a border fence will make our immigration problems disappear. With this new policy, the administration is rejecting inflexible deportation policies that solve nothing."

PAPERS: THE MOVIE

In the last BLP issue, we mentioned the film "Papers," the story of undocumented young people in the USA and the challenges they face as they turn 18 without having legal status. For some reason, BLP didn't realize that Lydia Ocasio had arranged a screening of the film last year to many Langley Park area teens and parents. Furthermore, she coordinated six presentations throughout the County and brought international students from Prince George's Community College to talk about their challenges and opportunities. Lydia comments: "The teens were very surprised and it opened a lot of people's eyes." Well done, Lydia! For more information, go to the film web site: <http://www.papersthemovie.com>.

DEPT OF LABOR

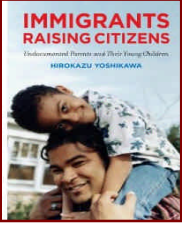
The U.S. Department of Labor told CNSNews.com in a written statement that it will enforce the federal wage laws on behalf of anyone working in the United States. And that's "regardless of their immigration status." The written statement backed up a video statement that Labor Secretary Hilda Solis made in which she indicated that partnership agreements she had signed that day with a group of Latin American countries obligates the USA to protect the working conditions for both "documented and undocumented" migrant laborers here in the United States.

Clearly, this can be a positive step. But what if a worker complains who is undocumented. Will he be safe from deportation? If not, the administrative change will not be worth much. And what about the Immigration and Nationality Act that states: "Employers may hire only persons who may legally work in the United States (i.e., citizens and nationals of the U.S.) and aliens authorized to work in the U.S." and that the U.S. government "protects U.S. citizens and aliens authorized to accept employment in the U.S. from discrimination in hiring or discharge on the basis of national origin and citizenship status." It seems that there is complexity, and that is a further deterrent for an undocumented worker to complain. ■

"Immigration" continues at the top of the next column

CITIZEN CHILDREN OF THE UNDOCUMENTED

A new book published earlier in the year, *Immigrants Raising Children*, focuses on a very important and disturbing situation: undocumented parents and their young citizen children. The author, Hirokazu Yoshikawa, estimates that there are about four million such children in the USA. He explores, for instance, the impacts on the children of their parents' shadow existence and the constant threat of deportation. Fearing deportation, undocumented parents often avoid accessing valuable resources that could help their children's development such as access to public programs and agencies providing child care and food subsidies.



Compared to legal-status parents, undocumented parents experience significantly more exploitive work conditions, including long hours, inadequate pay and raises, few job benefits, and limited autonomy in job duties. These conditions can result in ongoing parental stress, economic hardship, and avoidance of center-based child care—which is directly correlated with early skill development in children. The result is poorly developed cognitive skills that are recognizable in children as young as two years old and can negatively impact their future school performance and, eventually, their job prospects.

Not very positive, alas. And yet these children will make up an important segment of the population in a decade or so. We should be thinking: What can and should we be doing to make sure that these young citizens are full contributors over the course of the next half-century? ■

A JUSTICE GAP

A *New York Times* editorial (24 August 2011) calls attention to the lack of access to lawyers by our country's poor and working class. "Most low-income Americans cannot afford a lawyer to defend their legal interests, no matter how urgent the issue. Unless they are in a criminal case, most have no access to help from government-financed lawyers either. In civil proceedings like divorces, child support cases, home foreclosures, bankruptcies and landlord-tenant disputes, the number of people representing themselves in court has soared since the economy soured. Experts estimate that four-fifths of low-income people have no access to a lawyer when they need one. Research shows that litigants representing themselves often fare less well than those with lawyers. This "justice gap" falls heavily on the poor, particularly in overburdened state courts."

We are lucky that in this area, there are at least three organizations that provide legal advice and services that are free or at least affordable.

♦**Community Legal Services** states its mission: "To educate, represent and empower low-income members of the Prince George's Community regarding civil legal matters." Staff members speak English and Spanish. Proof of financial eligibility is required. Legal matters handled include divorce, custody, visitation, guardianship, wills, bankruptcy chapter 7, defense of suits in tort or contract, some landlord-tenant

"Where's the Money" continued from Page 1

class. These difficulties include unemployment, home foreclosures, mounting debt, and unaffordable bills. How do individuals and families cope? Rania Khalek* identifies four ways: (1) skipping meals—including the meals of children; (2) doubling up—which often leads to significant overcrowding and its stresses; (3) self-punishment and/or depressive states - and sometimes suicide, and (4) postponing retirement. The first three of these coping strategies are all too common in the Langley Park area. That's why children's free or reduced cost school lunches and also food bank distributions are so important; also why there are two or three and even rarely four families sharing one apartment. And it helps to explain the resort to alcohol or other drugs. Of course, few residents are old enough to be eligible for retirement.



One result is that many people in the USA are in a political-panic state. Their panic is so intense that quite a few of them are thinking of voting for a presidential candidate who rejects prevailing scientific thinking. That's all we need in the White House: a person who, thanks to his anti-science thinking, takes the final steps in pushing us to become a second or maybe third rate power.

*<http://raniakhalek.com> ■

cases, etc. A fee of \$25 - \$35 is required for processing an application." The intake telephone number is 301 864-8353; it is staffed Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

♦**Maryland Legal Aid** "determines financial eligibility for general legal services based on income and assets available to the household, using the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (except for specialized services where eligibility conditions, such as age, are set by the terms of the grants)." Legal Aid Bureau offices provide free civil legal assistance to financially qualified low-income people in need throughout Maryland—in urban and rural settings, for children, the disabled, residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, migrant farmworkers, and those whose who lack basic necessities, including housing, custodial relationships and health. The office: 6811 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 500, Riverdale; contact 301 560-2100.

♦**CASA de Maryland's** legal program seeks to improve the quality of life and legal justice for Latinos and low-income families through legal education, legal services, and advocacy projects. It offers legal consultations and representation for day laborers, domestic workers, and tenants. It negotiates claims and bring lawsuits in state and federal courts for non-payment of wages; minimum wage and overtime violations; unlawful wage deductions; discriminatory employment practices; retaliatory discharges; and involuntary servitude. It also provides legal assistance to low-wage tenants and tenant associations on landlord/tenant issues. In addition to direct representation, CASA engages in outreach to inform workers about workplace rights and strategies to protect themselves. It also reports that staff members "go to non-traditional hiring halls, such as street corners and parking lots, to inform workers of their rights and encourage them to seek redress for violations." Enid Gonzalez heads the legal program; the contact number is 301-431-4185. ■

LATIN MUSIC LEGENDS

The US Post Office has released "Latin Music Legends" stamps representing five great Latin musicians. They are "forever" stamps so they can be used at any time in the future regardless of the increased costs of postage stamps. That may take place. Surely, that means getting at least one set as a treasure and another set or so to put on your mail. Want to hear some of their performing magic? Check out, for instance, Puente and Cruz at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dh90sTIS0s>; Carmen Miranda at <http://video.bigmir.net/show/119406/>; Carlos Gardel at http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6zjzc_carlos-gardel-mi-buenos-aires-queri_music; and Selena (Selena Quintanilla-Pérez) at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCi-Xp2TVoQ&feature=fwvrel>. Wonderful, wonderful!



"News and Views" continues from Page 3

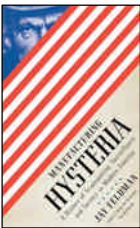
gust 2011) raises the same issue:

"The city of Hyattsville is a borough of about 17, 000 people and 3 square miles located in northern Prince George's County. But 'Hyattsville' is also used to describe areas outside the city, from Adelphi and Langley Park to municipalities five or more miles away including New Carrollton and Landover Hills. And when it comes to accurately identifying where crime happens, the imaginary borders of Hyattsville can lead to confusion." Confusion or stigmatizing.

Perhaps some of our county officials can initiate an effort to give Langley Park, Adelphi, and other places their real names, and let Hyattsville be Hyattsville. Please!

FEAR MONGERING

Jay Feldman's new book, *Manufacturing Hysteria* (2011), helps to make sense of the culture of fear-mongering in the USA. "Since World War I, this pattern has played out repeatedly in the United States in periods of real or exaggerated crisis. Democratic and Republican administrations alike have scapegoated 'dangerous' minorities—be they ethnic, racial, political, religious, or sexual—citing them as the excuse for using a variety of lawful and unlawful methods to stifle opposition and curb civil liberties. It is most often carried out in the name of



national security. . . . Nativism, certainly, had been a force in American life since the early nineteenth century, but it was during World War I that the government established the precedent of manipulating nativist fears as a way of clamping down on civil liberties and curtailing dissent." And so we have the Patriot Act and other legislation which include some clamping down on our civil liberties. Will we ever emerge from fear-mongering? Will we ever not be afraid of a darker-than-us skin, a heavy accent, a same-sex couple?

NEED A GOOD SOCIAL WORKER?

A bilingual LCSW person with a local MSW degree, well qualified and experienced in and around our area and else-

where, is seeking a position in suburban Maryland. Looking for a good social worker fluent in Spanish and English? If so, please pass any job information to ALP and we'll send it along to her.

PUBLIC T.V. IN SEPTEMBER

There are quite a few television programs on PBS (WETA in the DC metro area) in September that may be of interest to those concerned with immigration and/or Latino matters. Here is a short list:



- Sunday, Sept. 11, 1:30 p.m.: "Paraiso for Sale," about modern day colonialism, global gentrification, and reverse migration.
- Sunday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m.: "Cruz Reynoso," about the man who carried out a four-decades crusade for justice.
- Monday, Sept. 19, 10 p.m.: "The Storm That Swept Mexico," about the Mexican Revolution.
- Sunday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.: "Mexico: the Royal Tour," a guided tour led by President Felipe Calderon and others.
- Friday, Sept. 30, 9 p.m.: "In Performance at the White House: Fiesta Latina," with Marc Anthony, Los Lobos, and others.

CHRIS VAN H: OUTREACH

Jobina C. Brown is the new Prince George's County Outreach Director for Congressman Chris Van Hollen. She's the link to Langley Park, at least until realignment. Her office is at 6475 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite C-201; telephone 301 891-6982, email jobina.brown@mail.house.gov. ■

PICKPOCKET ACTIVITY

A few days ago, three men and I entered an elevator in a medical building. At the top floor where I was getting off, one of the men dropped a bag on the elevator floor and as he bent over said he lost his contact lens. He searched, and asked me to lift my foot to look under it. Then I got out, took a few steps, and realized that my wallet was missing. And the men were gone. The distracting-pickpocketing trick worked on me again. (Last time for me: Quito in the late 90s.) So be careful! -Bill Hanna

THE NEW SECTOR PLAN

On this page are the redesigned shopping areas at the University Blvd. - New Hampshire Ave. crossroads—on the north side, which is within Prince George’s County.

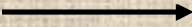
The Langley Park Shopping Center is rebuilt with multiple floors that accommodate retail at ground level and both offices and residential units above. The white structure at the lower right is the planned transit center.

The Langley Park Plaza builds upper levels on three of its buildings to accommodate offices and residences, and it adds a new mixed use building along New Hampshire Avenue in what is now a low-use parking lot. (This building could be relocated elsewhere in the parking lot.)



NORTHWEST CORNER OF UNIVERSITY BLVD. AND NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE.

Langley Park Shopping Center



Langley Park Plaza



NORTHEAST CORNER OF UNIVERSITY BLVD. AND NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE.

The New Sector Plan (continued)

The buildings to the left are currently best known for Americana Grocery, Pho 75, and Tick Tock liquor store and bar. These and other businesses will be incorporated into the new structures. Above the retail will be residential units. The height of the new buildings could be as high as eight levels.

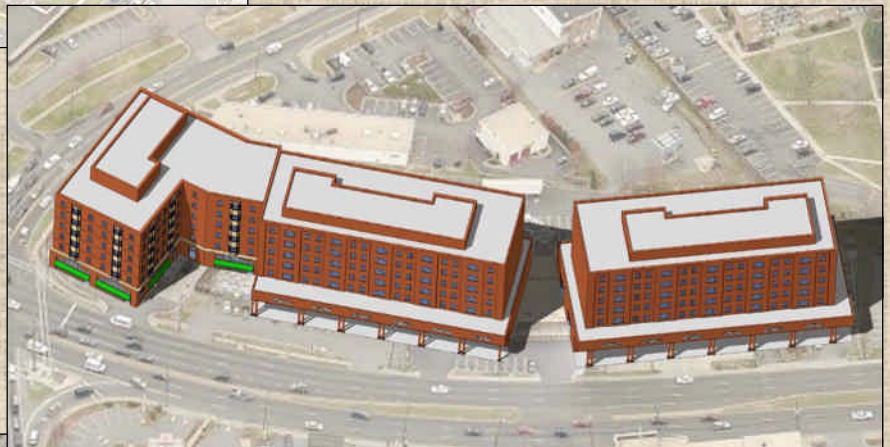
The building below is on land along University Blvd. to the east of Riggs Road. There is a gasoline station at the corner and a good Mexican restaurant at the rear. It will be converted to mixed use, that is, retail, offices, and residential units.



Between 15th Ave. and Riggs Rd. along University Blvd.

Immediately east of Riggs Rd. along University Blvd.

At the intersection of 15th Ave. and Merrimac Dr.



The space in and near the Langley Park Community Center offers many opportunities for development. First, the Center and the Langley Park McCormick Elementary School should be connected to add space to both buildings and make them a true center for education and activity in the neighborhood.

At the current Boys and Girls Club site, the redevelopment would provide the club with a new structure and add to that residential units on the top levels. Parking could be provided as shown or underground spaces could make it possible for playing fields to be retained.

The currently unused area behind the Center is the site for residential units of appropriate height.



THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM

For students entering college for the first time in the fall 2012, the GMS 2012 Scholarship Application online process is now open. The deadline for all submissions is Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

GMS will select 1,000 talented students each year to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice.



We provide Gates Millennium Scholars with personal and professional development through our leadership programs along with academic support throughout their college career.

Our program is more than a scholarship—it's an opportunity to change your life! The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential by:

- Reducing financial barriers for African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American and Hispanic American students with high academic and leadership promise who have significant financial need;
- Increasing the representation of these target groups in the disciplines of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences, where these groups are severely underrepresented;
- Developing a diversified cadre of future leaders for America by facilitating successful completion of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees; and
- Providing seamless support from undergraduate through doctoral programs, for students selected as Gates Millennium Scholars.

Contact the Program at Gates Millennium Scholars, P.O. Box 10500, Fairfax, VA 22031-8044. Or telephone 1-877.690.4677. or go to the online application at https://nominations.gmsp.org/GMSP_App/. Good luck!! And if an area young person becomes a Millennium Scholar, be sure to let us know. ■

Do You Live in Maryland? Are You Happy?

Yes, there really is a company that pretends to ascertain the happiness level of the residents in each of the 50 states. The result is the Gallup-Healthway Well-Being Index. We don't suggest that you plan the rest of your life on the basis of these state ranking. However, here are the happiest states based on the "research": Hawaii, North Dakota, Alaska, Nebraska, Minnesota, Colorado, Utah, New Hampshire, Iowa, Kansas, Vermont, and ... Maryland.

More funny stuff: Money magazine offers us the best places to live: Louisville, CO; Milton, MA; Solon, OH; Leesburg, VA; Papillion, NE; Hanover, NH; Liberty, MO; Middleton, WI; Mukilteo, WA; and Chanhassen, MN. No New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, the Washington DC metro area? Not even Langley Park?

It seems that, for the most part, happiness and good living are found away from centers of the arts and global excitements. Maryland seems to be an outlier. But in Alaska, as Ms. Palin told us, one can look across the Bering Strait and see Russia! That must make its residents happy.

WHAT AND WHEN

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. The Editor is 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.

BLP is read in the United States, Canada, and Mexico! Maybe elsewhere too! If you have friends or associates elsewhere in Maryland or the USA or elsewhere who are interested in immigration issues, please pass BLP along or let us add the person to one of our email lists.

For information about Action Langley Park, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, email actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR

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.

Wednesdays—the Farmers' Market on the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue space operates from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and more—even music!



September 8-11—The Prince George's County Fair takes place in Upper Marlboro near intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and US 301. An attraction for people who like pig and duck races, a horse pull competition, a chain saw artist, and more. Information at <http://www.countyfair.org/>

September 11—Takoma Park Folk Festival, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd. Many stages of performers plus crafts and foods.

September 15—Action Langley Park meets at 7 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center. The main agenda item will be planning ALP's work for the coming year. But there are many more pressing issues. Everyone is welcome!

September 17—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at the St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event; it takes place every third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

September 18—Prince George's County's Hispanic Festival in Lane Manor Park, noon to 6 p.m. Lots of food, music, and children's activities. The location is on the south side of University Blvd. west of the U. of Maryland.

November 6—Health Check 2011 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. This annual event provides free screenings for many potentially harmful health conditions; high blood pressure, rotting teeth, HIV, diabetes, and more. Yes, it's free!

May 6—Langley Park Day 2012 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. There will be music and dance performances; a major health fair checking vision, HIV status, blood pressure, and more; food and craft vendors; children's art and games; and more.

COCA COLA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Coca Cola Foundation scholarship is currently open for seniors in high schools throughout the USA who meet the eligibility requirements. It is a four year achievement-based scholarship. Applications accepted through October 31 of one's senior year. For more information: <https://www.coca-colascholars.org/page.aspx?pid=347>.