

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue Number 246, July-August 2012

Once More, Blood

Blacksburg, Aurora, Columbine

The Aurora killer had an AR-15 assault rifle, a Remington 12-gauge shotgun, and two .40 caliber Glock handguns. He had recently purchased four guns and more than 6,000 rounds of ammunition. For the internet purchases, no waiting time and no background check. Just giving a future mass murderer what he wanted. Our gun laws are insane, murderous. Let members of "militias" have guns (as the Constitution indicates), but don't give them to crazy murderer Holmes or people like him.*

It was of course a coincidence, but the Prince



PG Training

George's police officers have just finished a special training session for gun or other violence in the schools or elsewhere. (See photo.) May such a situation never happen here, but it's good for the officers to be prepared.

*Re the Second Amendment, see www.boomantribune.com.

Transitional Neighborhood Initiative

This multi-agency county work group composed of agency and organization representatives meets every other week in an attempt to improve the quality of life in Langley Park. It is one of six neighborhood-focused groups appointed in the county to make a difference in part by having a multi-agency team. The most recent meeting took place on July 19th.

ALCOHOLISM

The first hour of the meeting was devoted to the problem of alcoholism in the area. There are no firm statistics on this problem, but it is generally agreed that it is serious. But why? Several participants suggested that it was "structural" in that such problems as overcrowding and unemployment were creating great pressures which at times lead to an escape via alcohol. What is to be done? Certainly prevention: there should be education warning residents of the dangers.

For the alcohol abuser, there should be clinical help. The Mayo Clinic: "Many people with alcoholism enter treatment reluctantly because they don't recognize that they have a problem. An intervention from loved ones is needed to help some people recognize and accept that they need to get help. ... Various treatments are available to help people with alcohol problems. Depending on the circumstances, treatment may involve a brief intervention, an

"Initiative" continued on Page 3

KEEPING TRACK

A Scorecard

Here are just a few of the items on the neighborhood residents' agendas for improving the quality of life in Langley Park. Positive change is sure slow!

1. A real community center: The building referred to as the Langley Park Community Center is not a community center. Rather, it's a small ex-school building that houses a senior center and pottery studio in the west wing and regional administrators in the east wing, with some "community space" available at certain times of the day.

What should replace the non-neighborhood uses? The list is long, but certainly it includes (a) a TESS + Gilcrest equivalent for the Langley Park area to provide access information and to help newcomers with acculturation; (b) a small sliding-scale clinic where non-critical health problems can be addressed and more serious problems referred to the appropriate area facility; (c) a mentoring/tutoring facility staffed by university students from U Maryland, Adventist U, PGCC, and other institutions of higher education plus other adult volunteers.

2. A neighborhood futbol (soccer) pitch (field): For years, local residents played soccer after work and on weekends on a rough-and-ready field behind the elementary school. But someone for some thoughtless (or prejudiced) reason placed a play structure in the middle of the field. The structure



should be relocated and the field made usable again. So far, PGCCPS has not acted to restore the field.

3. A neighborhood elementary school: Fear not, Langley Park McCormick Elementary School is still in the neighborhood. The school system wanted to convert it to a middle school, forcing all neighborhood children to be bussed to a distant school. But the neighborhood residents and others fought hard and won that battle. So count this as a rare victory for the residents.

Alas, this neighborhood school is not for many neighbors about a block away because their children are bussed to a distant school. It's not easy to change school boundaries, but this should be on the PGCCPS

"Keeping Track" continued on Page 5

NEWS AND NOTES

1. THE ECONOMY AND JOBS

MINIMUM WAGE

The Service Employees International Union reminds us of some facts about inequality: "Putting more money into the pockets of ordinary Americans would give a much-needed boost to our economy. Small businesses would grow and hire, and we'd put the 99% back to work." And they offer several facts about three years of wage stagnation:

- The minimum wage can't support our families: The current federal minimum wage—at \$7.25 an hour—amounts to only \$15,080 a year. That's almost \$9,000 below the federal poverty line for a family of four.
- We get \$7.25. They get 725%: The federal minimum wage hasn't kept up with inflation, but CEO pay has risen 725% over the last 30 years.
- We've got some catching up to do: If the federal minimum wage had kept up with inflation over the past 40 years, it would currently be at \$10.55.

There are many families in the Langley Park area that live on the income of a minimum-wage earner. Hopefully, that will change because the state or country acts to create a fair wage.

UNEMPLOYMENT

For the past few months, the unemployment rate of Latinos twenty years of age and over has been in the 9.8% to 9.5% range (June 2012 = 9.5%), and for Latinas twenty and over the range has been 11.4% to 9.2% (June 2012 = 10.3). So the situation is better than the worst month but not very good. That's disappointing. More disappointing is the growing consensus that unemployment is likely to stay fairly high for the next several years.

What's the Latino/a employment situation in Langley Park? No one really knows, but given the youth of the population, the undocumented status of some residents, and the weakness in the construction sector, it would not be surprising to find that unemployment in the apartment house areas of the neighborhood is close to 50%. In other words, locally it is not just a recession but a depression.

Gads, the unemployment data must mean that President Obama is doing a terrible job! Well, maybe but probably not. The slowdowns in Europe and China are bad for our economy, and job bills proposed by the President have been rejected by the majority in the House of Representatives. Let's hope the political games will end with the November election and the job situation can be vigorously faced—although recovery will be slow.

But what can be done? Are there any lessons to be learned from the Great Depression—for instance, the forming of the CCC? The Civilian Conservation Corps was a program for young men during the 1933-1942 depression years. Even some of the later famous were enrollees, e.g., actors Raymond Burr, Robert Mitchum, and Walter Matthau. Maybe there should be a CCC now?

FEDS: STOP HELPING 1070 STATES

"July 16, 2012, Washington, D.C. – Faith, labor and civil rights groups from around the nation today called on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to end part-

nerships with state and local police in Arizona and the five states with SB1070 copycat laws to ensure that the federal government does not aid in the implementation of these discriminatory racial profiling laws." Specifically, the groups call on DHS to end 287(g) agreements and the Secure Communities programs in these states, initiatives that require cooperation amongst federal immigration authorities and state and local law enforcement. The other five states include: Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Indiana and Utah. In a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, more than 233 organizations said the recommendations were intended "to ensure [DHS] enforcement operations do not contribute to racial profiling and prolonged detention. ..."

PROBLEMS FROM POVERTY

She's crazy! No: She's poor! The poorest mothers have the greater odds of being classified as having generalized anxiety disorder. But there is no evidence for a malfunction of some internal mechanism; rather, "there is a physical need in the real world that is unmet and produces anxiety. ... The distinction is important because there are different ways to treat the problem. While supportive therapy and parent skills-training are often helpful, sometimes the most appropriate intervention is financial aid and concrete services." To put it differently, the research suggests that anxiety in poor mothers is usually not a psychiatric problem but a reaction to "severe environmental deficits." Jobs, jobs, jobs. Note the parallel with the problem of alcoholism.

THE GREAT RECESSION REALLY HURT

Yes, the recession increased unemployment and underemployment. But its harm was more widespread. One set of data shows that the median family net worth in the USA suffered greatly. For about sixteen years, from 1992 to 2007, there was a steady rise in the net worth; indeed, it almost doubled. But the recession erased almost all of the sixteen year gain. Much of the loss was due to the housing crisis; the primary worth of many families was in their houses, and many of those houses could not be maintained and were lost. The decline hit African-Heritage and Latino-Heritage Americans especially hard because of the percentage of their wealth that was in their houses.



2. OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

PSAs: Getting the Words Out

Maria Nape of Hispanic Communications Network shared with the Neighborhood Initiative participants the work of the company with which she's now affiliated. There are print, radio, and video public service announcements, many of relevance to the residents of the Langley Park area. For instance, there are Spanish information broadcasts about the USCIS naturalization proc-

ess, CHIPS, and the earned income tax credit. Check these out at <http://www.hcnmedia.com/showroom/>.

A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON IMMIGRATION

Candidate Willard M. Romney: "We must stop providing the incentives that promote illegal immigration. As governor, I vetoed legislation that would have provided in-state tuition rates to illegal immigrants and I strengthened the authority of our state troopers had to enforce existing immigration laws." (2 September 2011) Hum: Why doesn't he use his first name?

SHOW ME YOUR PAPERS

Writing on the Supreme Court's Arizona SB1070 decision, Justice Anthony Kennedy stated: "There is a basic uncertainty about what the law means and how it will be enforced. At this stage, without the benefit of a definitive interpretation from the state courts, it would be inappropriate to assume [the section of the law] will be construed in a way that creates a conflict with federal law. ... This opinion does not foreclose other preemption and constitutional challenges to the law as interpreted and applied after it goes into effect." Some immigration organizations do not want to wait until section 2(b) goes into effect. They have filed a lawsuit arguing that 2(b) should be blocked because of racial profiling—which was not an issue before the Court.

STORM DAMAGE? Be careful whom you hire!

For now or in the future, be cautious when hiring contractors to repair damage caused by a severe storm; do the needed homework before signing a contract for any home repair or improvement or tree service work. Don't panic and hire people just because they are with the only company that can come out to the house right away. Make sure the home improvement contractor is licensed with



the Maryland Home Improvement Commission by calling 410-230-6309. For tree service or removal, check to see if the business is a licensed tree expert with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division at 410-260-8521.

PEDESTRIAN KILLED. SO NOW?

A few days ago, Irma Glover, a 76-year-old resident of Takoma Park, was crossing the intersection of Riggs Road and eastbound University Boulevard when she was hit and died. Perhaps it is time to realize that the little fencing that has been installed in the area is far from sufficient to protect pedestrians—even pedestrians who may be crossing without being fully alert. Traffic calming is needed with more signals, rumble strips, narrowed lanes, and other tools for slowing traffic.

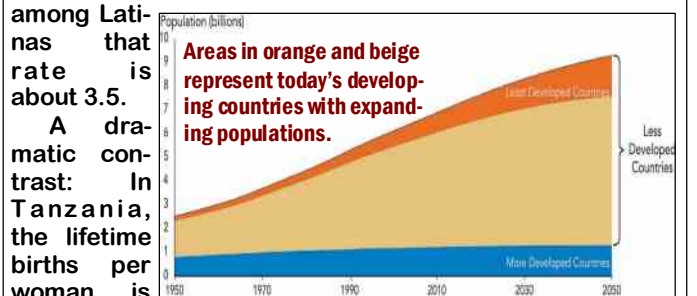
LAX SCHOOL SYSTEM?

There's an interesting article in the *Washington Post* about African families in the USA sending their children to their heritage countries in part because of our "lax public school system." The article is online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/to-some-africans-in-us->



GLOBAL POPULATION, LOCAL APPLICATION

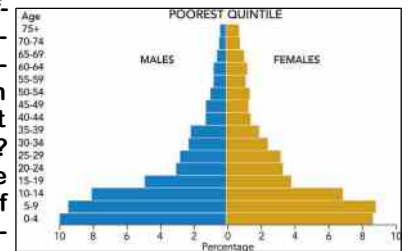
Nearly all future population growth will be in the world's less developed countries, and the poorest of these countries will see the greatest percentage increase. In contrast, developed countries as a whole will experience little or no population growth in this century. (See graph 1.) In the USA, the fertility rate of Euro-Americans is below the replacement rate whereas among Latinas that rate is about 3.5.



Graph 1: Population Growth in Less Developed Countries

A dramatic contrast: In Tanzania, the lifetime births per woman is 5.4 and the population below age 15 is 45%, and in Spain the figures are 1.4 and 15%. The population pyramid (See graph 2.) is constructed from the poorest quintile of countries; it shows the many young people and the few who are elderly. What will all the young people do? Are there jobs in their home countries (probably not)? If there are no jobs at home, won't they swim rivers or climb mountains to get to the youth-poor countries? And then? Will that help?

The developed countries face a challenge: should they become more heterogeneous (e.g., by letting in many people from Africa and Latin America) or should they experience a decline in population with that population ageing? The USA is fortunate because its history of immigration and assimilation is a big positive—unless the nativist activists turn us away from our past.



Graph 2: Poor Countries' Population Pyramid

What's this have to do with Langley Park? There will be more and more immigrant Langley Parks in the USA, and the children of these Langley Parks will either be our doctors and lawyers and teachers and more, or they will be in a deprived cast. For the former outcome to be our future, we'd better be more successful in educating the children and readying them for our country's future.

Graphs from http://www.prb.org/pdf12/2012-population-data-sheet_eng.pdf.

LET'S BUILD PARKLETS IN LANGLEY PARK!

Parklets are miniparks built in the space of one or two auto parking spaces. They provide seating-socializing opportunities for residents and play spaces for children. San Francisco has them, and the idea has now spread to Philadelphia and elsewhere.



outpatient program or counseling, or a residential inpatient stay." So resources are needed—and they are in short supply. The alcohol problem will be addressed again by the work group.

ET ALIA

◆The recent storms caused considerable damage in the county. Participants noted that the efforts in and near Langley Park were significant. There was praise for MMYC, CASA, PG agencies, and others. Great thanks to all the heroes involved. Sometimes the area is like a "village"!

◆Youth Service Bureaus in the county provide programs and services to prevent and reduce juvenile substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, and they address the needs of juveniles involved in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. There are five units in the county, the two closest in Greenbelt and College Park. But not in the Langley Park area. There probably is a greater need in the Langley Park area, so there is some interest in bringing the YSB resources in. Neighborhood Initiative: Do it!

◆The Judy Hoyer Center on Riggs Road north of Langley Park has a range of services that could be made more available to the residents of Langley Park, but it is difficult for those without access to an automobile. So there is a proposal to have a shuttle bus connect JHC with the neighborhood. A further opportunity was mentioned: there is no bus to take children who stay after school for sports or other activities to get home from Buck Lodge Middle School. Ah: another opportunity for a shuttle bus. Let us hope the Neighborhood Initiative can make this happen.

◆The Langley Park area and many other areas have illegal signs in street mediums, on telephone poles, and many other places. They are unattractive and should be removed (and perhaps a fine for those responsible). But the signs are means of communication, so what can be done to provide alternative ways to communicate? The Neighborhood Initiative team is looking into ways to deal with the clutter and communication problems.

◆Interest was expressed in an open air market for Langley Park. Several participants seemed especially supportive of this idea. However, it was pointed out that the Crossroads Farmers' Market is very successful and only one-half block from Langley Park at 7676 New Hampshire Avenue—an easy walk from Langley Park. A few people seemed to discount the Crossroads effort because it was in Montgomery County. Alas, parochialism is not helpful. Perhaps the open air market can be reconceptualized to be a location for mobile food vendors—who are needed.

◆There is too much trash along University Boulevard. Trash receptacles exist, but too many of them are full or overflowing.



Suggestions were made to provide additional or larger containers and also to pressure businesses to manage their trash so that waste is disposed in a better fashion. There are also reports about overgrown grass, graffiti, construction materials, and more. The Neighborhood Initiative is

exploring these matters—and some have already been corrected.

◆There is a plan to provide bushes and other plantings for the area as a step towards beautification. A date for one effort is October 20th. The labor will be provided by volunteers and perhaps school children looking for service credits. There is an issue of maintenance, and details of that follow-through were not addressed. Clearly, beautification is a positive. Some ideas might be gleaned from the University Boulevard streetscape planning conducted a few years ago by the state.

◆Participants heard a report on crime indicating that last year crime fell about 15% in District 1 (which includes Langley Park) and 7% countywide. These declines are greater than the national figure, so it's good news for our area. Thanks Mark, Kevin, Bob, and more.

◆The county's library system wants to get books to Langley Park—many for young people, and the only questions are what locations would be best and how the connection would be managed. Perhaps some books will be in the LPCC "library" room, some in the office of the Catholic Community of Langley Park, some in the Community Police office, and elsewhere. Suggestions welcome. There will be library books and information at Langley Park Day 2013 (May 5).



◆A report was presented by Jennie Nevin on data being collected about the Neighborhood Initiative target areas. Clearly, this effort is extensive, although many data are not coded by sub-neighborhood location. The result, participants hope, will be rich data sets that will help to guide future efforts.

Other topics were discussed or information about them distributed, but hopefully this article has covered the main items.

The hope is that the "broken windows" thesis is correct: that fixing some little things, including broken windows, will lead to a positive climate that will deter serious crime. Some research indicates that there is a correlation but not a causation. We shall see.

Additions and corrections to this article (and others) are always welcome at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

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childrens-education-is-best-left-to-the-homeland/2012/07/16/gJQAFSAfpW_story.html. Are we too lax? And if so, what changes should be made?

At the university level, there has been a steady decline in the demands placed on students—at the same time that grade inflation has taken place. Perhaps this same pattern is found at the secondary school level in many schools in the USA.

GAMBLING: Interesting Differences

Governor Martin O'Malley will, according to reports, present a detailed proposal to add a sixth casino in Maryland at National Harbor and to legalize table games. Comptroller Peter Franchot writes in the *Baltimore Sun* that giving tax breaks to the gambling industry would be a big mistake given that the state has raised taxes. Franchot: "The state has raised personal income taxes, business income taxes, sales taxes, alcohol taxes, vehicle titling taxes, bridge tolls and many other fees at a



He lost everything, even his clothes!

time when too many people are struggling. Watching their leaders move with such alacrity to do favors for gambling magnates, one could understand why they would feel betrayed by a state government that is supposedly one of the nation's most progressive." (Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-gambling-franchot-20120719_0_4362275.story)

Barrio de Langley Park is always looking for news and ideas. If you have some local news, pass it on. If you have some ideas about how to improve the area's quality of life, pass it on. Et cetera!

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SEARCH FOR THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Current PGCPs Superintendent Bill Hite will be heading north to Philadelphia in about two months. His surprising departure means that a replacement must be found—not anyone but a person who can transform the education in the county’s public schools in a positive direction. Yes, Bill Hite seems to have been on the right track; but the schools still lag the state.*

The Prince George’s County Board of Education is starting the search for a new Superintendent. “The Board of Education is committed to providing regular updates to our parents, students, employees and community members throughout the search for a new Superintendent,” said Verjeana M. Jacobs, Board of Education Chair. “We welcome input at all stages of this process to ensure transparency and engagement. Selecting a Superintendent is one of our most important responsibilities as the Board of Education and we want all stakeholders to know they will play a role in this process.”

A search firm will assist the Board of Education in identifying and screening candidates from across the country. The Board is expected to select the firm by August 3. “There will be community meetings with the Interim Superintendent and Board of Education in August and September. Starting this fall, the Board will host forums to develop a community profile of the Superintendent, which the search firm will use to identify potential candidates. Candidates will be interviewed next spring. A new Superintendent will be in place by July 2013.”
Question: Were the previous criteria no longer valid?

A web page (www1.pgcp.org/superintendentsearch) and email address (superintendentsearch@pgcp.org) will be used to provide information on the search process. We hope!

*For another view of Hite: <http://sasscer.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/good-riddance-to-dr-william-hite-jr-7/>

“Keeping Track” continued from Page 1

agenda

4. The mobile food vendors: Once upon a time, the apartment house section of Langley Park was filled with street life thanks to the presence of a score and more mobile food vendors. Many of the vendors were social anchors as residents gathered around possibly to eat but more importantly to talk, to share.

A report on what’s happening in Takoma Park is on Page 6. In the report is a suggestion for a mobile food “market” area in Langley Park that the Neighborhood Initiative should support.

5. Housing and small business stabilization: A great threat to the neighborhood is the implementation of the Sector Plan that enables developers to tear down almost all of the affordable apartments and replace them with more expensive apartments as well as condos.

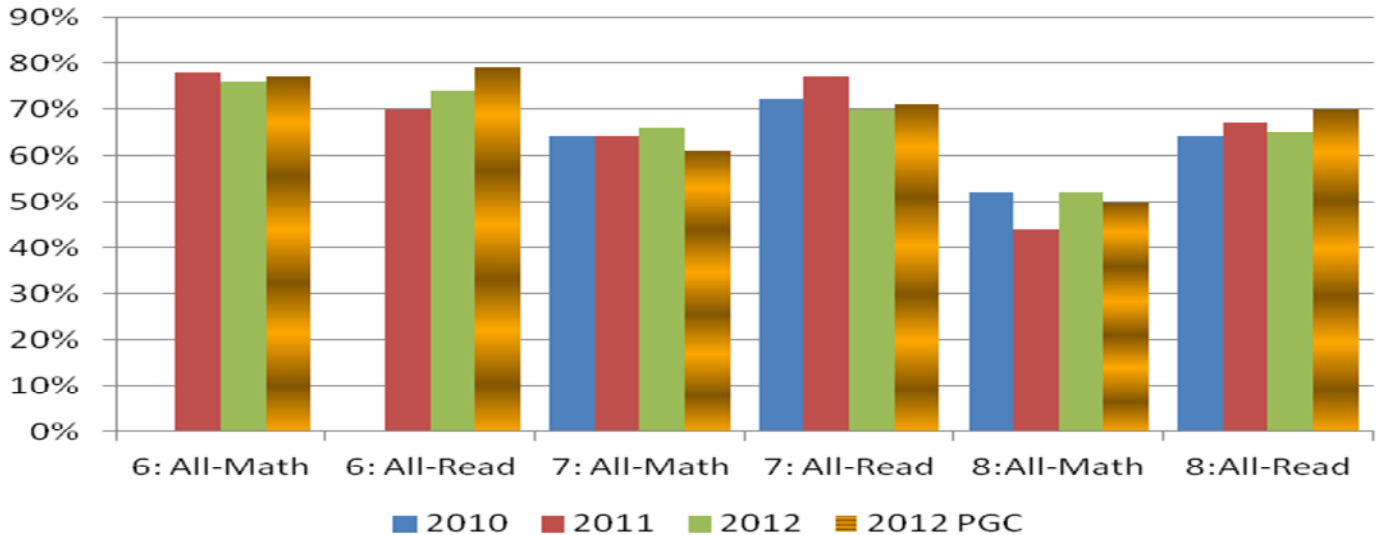


A Former Home to Many

There has been an indication that the bulldozing will not take place immediately but will be phased in over a decade or perhaps longer. But the plan is legal, on the books. So the only significant breaks on gentrification are the weak economy (although housing construction was up in June, so maybe there is money to demolish and build) and a failed funding of the Purple Line (the funds are not yet available for the light rail line, but supporters are optimistic). So perhaps the Neighborhood Initiative team will make enough positive changes without demolition that the survival of the vital immigrant neighborhood will be extended well into the next decade.

BUCK LODGE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEST SCORES 2010-2012 (PROFICIENT + ADVANCED PER CENT)

The students at Buck Lodge are keeping up with the county in their grade’s mathematics scores. IN 2012, the students actually exceeded the county scores by two percentage points. In reading, the Buck Lodge students were slightly behind the county at the three grade levels, but that is to be expected given many of the students’ second language challenges. The county scores are, alas, below those of the state. That probably reflects the relationship between socioeconomic status and school success. Perhaps the county and school scores would be better were there parent liaisons working hard to bring parents into the education “team” — especially given the many working single parents in the area.



Prince George's Community College—ESL Classes, Fall 2012

Center	Address	Class Schedule	Registration	Classes Begin
MORNING CLASSES				
Bladensburg Instructional Center (morning)	5150 Annapolis Road Bladensburg, MD 20710	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am—12:30 pm	Tuesday, October 2, 2012* 9:30 am	Tuesday, October 9, 2012 9:30 am
Redeemer Lutheran Church**		Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am—12:30 pm	Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:30 am	Wednesday, October 17, 2012 9:30 am
EVENING CLASSES				
Bladensburg Instructional Center (evening)	5150 Annapolis Road Bladensburg, MD 20710	Monday & Wednesday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Wednesday, September 26, 2012*	Wednesday, October 3, 2012 6:30 pm
Bladensburg Instructional Center (evening)	5150 Annapolis Road Bladensburg, MD 20710	Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Tuesday, September 11, 2012* 6:30 pm	Thursday, September 20, 2012 6:30 pm
Crossland High School	6901 Temple Hill Road Temple Hills, MD 20748	Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Thursday, September 13, 2012* 6:30 pm	Thursday, September 20, 2012 6:30 pm
Eleanor Roosevelt High School	7601 Hanover Parkway Greenbelt, MD 20770	Monday & Wednesday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Wednesday, September 12, 2012*	Monday, September 24, 2012 6:30 pm
Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center	8908 Riggs Road Adelphi, MD 20783	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:00 pm—9:00 pm	Tuesday, October 9, 2012* 6:00 pm	Tuesday, October 16, 2012 6:00 pm
Langley Park McCormick Elementary School	8201 15th Avenue Langley Park, MD 20783	Monday & Wednesday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Wednesday, September 5, 2012* 6:30 pm	Wednesday, September 12, 2012
Laurel High School**	8000 Cherry Lane Laurel, MD 20707	Monday & Wednesday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm		
Nicholas Orem Middle School	6100 Editors Park Drive Hyattsville, MD 20782	Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Tuesday, September 25, 2012* 6:30 pm	Tuesday, October 2, 2012 6:30 pm
Northwestern High School	7000 Adelphi Road Hyattsville, MD 20782	Monday & Wednesday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Monday, September 24, 2012* 6:30 pm	Monday, October 1, 2012 6:30 pm
Northwestern High School**	7000 Adelphi Road Hyattsville, MD 20782	Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Tuesday, September 4, 2012* 6:30 pm	Thursday, September 13, 2012 6:30 pm
Rosa Parks Elementary School	6111 Ager Road Hyattsville, MD 20782	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Thursday, October 4, 2012* 6:30 pm	Tuesday, October 9, 2012 6:30 pm
SATURDAY CLASSES				
Langley Park McCormick Elementary (Saturday)**	8201 15th Avenue Langley Park, MD 20783	Saturday 8:30 am—12:30 pm	Saturday, September 8, 2012* 9:00 am	Saturday, September 15, 2012 8:30 am
PGCC Largo Campus	301 Largo Road	Saturday	Saturday September 15, 2012*	Saturday, September 15, 2012

*If center is closed for weather or another emergency, please call (301) 322-0891 for the registration date.

** Citizenship Preparation classes are available at these centers. Registration for Citizenship Preparation is on the same day as registration for ESL classes.

FOOD TRUCKS

Mobile food trucks arrived at Takoma Park in mid-July thanks to the Old Takoma Business Association, and they will be at the city parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op (201 Ethan Allen Avenue, Takoma Park) on Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. Here's the schedule for the next few weeks:



The Slider Barron

- 7/27 The Slider Barron and Rolls on Rolls
- 8/3 Curley's Q BBQ and Fojo Brothers
- 8/10 Go Fish!
- 8/17 Red Hook Lobster Pound

Let's hope that this project is a great success and is expanded. And the further success may even cause some decisionmakers in Prince George's County who have banned food trucks to reconsider. After all, residents have been deprived of their home food cultures and social settings, deprived many of us of affordable food adventures, and deprived potential small business-people of a living.

Maybe there's a small opening for the Langley Park area. Members of the Neighborhood Initiative working group are considering a market for the neighborhood. Of course, there already is a farmers' market in the area (Crossroads Farmers' Market), so another one is not needed. But what about a space where five or six food trucks can park afternoons to serve tacos, pupusas, noodle dishes, and more?



Rolls on Rolls in D.C.

DEMOCRACY

Dollar Democracy
Away we now go!
Oh those one percenters
We're so far below.

Sometimes the ballots
Seem so easy to buy
Ah those powerful millions
They're no fourth of July.

The dollars do buy
The policies they want
And we 99 percenters
Watch as they flaunt.

Their dollars corrupt
'Cause officials do thank
For the boost into office
In that warm septic tank.

Ah Citizens United,
We've sure crossed a line
Our dollar democracy
Is no longer a crime.

Will a people's democracy
Be our future reward?
I'm not optimistic
That we'll have it restored.

BH - 2012

WHAT AND WHEN



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

July 25, August 1, et cetera—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon (last market day this year is October 31—31st? Halloween?!), 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the parking lot at the south end of the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue building. Lots of fruits and vegetables and live music and more. Sometimes the Amerigroup bounce bus is there!! This week: Zumba!

August 3: Annapolis Rotary Crab Fest from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis. All you can eat and drink! But there is a charge: Tickets are \$60 for adults, \$20 for children ages 3 to 12, and free for children under age 3. For tickets and information, go to www.annapolistickets.com.

August 7: National Afternoon Out (aka National Night Out). In Langley Park, the Community Center is planning an indoor afternoon event from 3:30 to 5 p.m. with a focus on children—including a film and ice cream. Some good bilingual police officers are likely to join the fun. Free.

August 18: Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at 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 on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

September 6-9: County Fair! At the Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena. Details TBA. For information: info@countyfair.org

September 16: Hispanic Festival. From noon to 6 p.m. at Lane Manor Park (adjacent to University Blvd. about one-half mile west of the University of Maryland. Lots of music, food, children's entertainment, more. More than 10,000 people may show up! Free entry.

September 20: Action Langley Park Open Meeting at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to about 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome; ideas always welcome! We work to protect and to improve the Langley Park area.

September 29—Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Mount Rainier Nature Center. Music, food and craft vendors, and more. Details TBA.



November 10: Health Check at the LP Community Center from noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of health screenings plus information and counseling. Is your heart okay? Are you infected with HIV? How's your lung strength? Your oral health? Et cetera! Everything is free.



May 5—Langley Park Day 2013, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health. The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of food or craft. Bilingual volunteers are always needed.

HEALTH NOTE

Sports drinks should now come with a warning because their level of acidity is increasingly responsible for irreversible damage to teeth—a warning especially for adolescents and younger adults who are the drinks' predominant target market. The report was published in the May/June 2012 issue of *General Dentistry*.