

Barrio de Langley Park

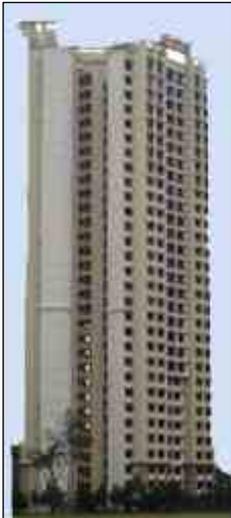
A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
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FESTIVAL SALVADORENO AMERICANO
5 August 2012, noon to 6 p.m. centered at
2424 Reedie Drive in Wheaton, Maryland

DEVELOPMENT!

WHAT CAN REZONING DO?

People who live in the Riverdale Park and University Park area of Prince George's County will soon see what rezoning can do. Instead of single family dwellings, the Cafritz 37-acre area will have hundreds of residential units, stores, a large grocery (Whole Foods), and more.



The Future
Of West Farms Road?
Maybe of Langley Park?

Supporters argue that the project will lead to significant economic growth—which is needed to enhance the real estate base in the county, and those against the project argue that implementation of the plan will overload the already loaded Route 1 and also have negative environmental consequences. The development isn't even on a heavy-rail Metro line, so viewing it as transit-oriented-development is inappropriate.

If the reader wants to see what might happen with the rezoning of a place such as Langley Park, check out the report on redevelopment along the West Farms Road in the Bronx. (For a vision of West Farms Road, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/25/realestate/commercial/west-farms-road-redevelopment-moves-ahead-in-bronx.html?pagewanted=all>.)

Of course, we know what the original leaders of the Sector Plan had in mind for Langley Park because examples were included in the issued document. Maybe the high-rise parts of Silver Spring inspired them. What now? The commercial areas of Langley Park at the New Hampshire - University Crossroads are very likely to be developed in the near future. The residential change may be much slower; if recent briefings are valid.

BUS ACCESS

Reporter Luz Lazo, writing in the *Washington Post* (26 July 2012): "Metro is being urged to improve its late-night bus service in the District after a report that service-industry workers heading home after 10 p.m. are often left behind by overcrowded buses." And the problem of crowded and absent buses clearly extends into the nearby suburbs handicapping late-night workers and university students. (Maybe it is a problem the Neighborhood Initiative work group can tackle. And perhaps the PG County Council should get involved; surely, the problem exists in many parts of the county.)

♦Consider the F8 Metro bus that links Langley Park with two heavy rail Metro stations: the last bus to the stations leaves Langley Park at 7:52 p.m., and the last bus from the stations arrives at Langley Park at 8:40 p.m.



♦Prince George's "The Bus," also with a link to the heavy rail Metro, is just as unhelpful: the route 18 bus last leaves Langley Park at 7:30 p.m., and its last arrival in Langley Park is 8:30 p.m. So both systems do not serve the needs of those who work late hours.

Many residents who live in the Langley Park area work at night and should have bus service home. They don't. So some people who could get night jobs don't take them because Metro and the county's The Bus aren't helpful.



If the Purple Line is built, beginning operation in 2020 or later, will it have a helpful night schedule? If the Langley Park area is gentrified, few gentry will need the light-rail services. But if the Langley Park area somehow survives the attack of the gentrifiers, there will be a need for good late service.

STARTED AUGUST 1: PREVENTIVE HEALTH!

The new health bill, the Affordable Care Act, states that health plans must provide free-to-patient preventive health. (But some plans are "grandfathered in" and may not offer the benefit for several years, so double check.) Here are a few items covered; some are especially relevant to women: breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling; screening and counseling for interpersonal and domestic violence; screening for gestational diabetes; DNA testing for high-risk strains of HPV; counseling regarding sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; screening for HIV; contraceptive methods and counseling; and annual well-woman visits. So if you have a health plan, make sure you take advantage of the prevention. And if you're not on a plan or on one that doesn't have to conform now, let's all fight for better health coverage.

HERE AND THERE

SMART BALTIMORE!

The population of the City of Baltimore has steadily declined in the post-WW2 period. Now, officials are trying to reverse that trend by attracting immigrants. One policy is for city services people not to ask about immigration status. The policy is not unique; similar efforts are taking place in Chicago, Detroit, and elsewhere. Good: the prejudiced southern and southwestern states that are instituting anti-immigrant profiling policies are being balanced by northern pro-immigrant no-profiling policies. The culture of the Confederacy has perhaps lingered.

Not everyone agrees: In his latest criticism of Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Delegate Pat McDonough says she is "creating a super magnet" for illegal immigration. No Pat: She's helping her city.

IMMIGRATION INFORMATION IN SPANISH Etc.



Citizenship questions? E-Verify information? Getting a Green Card? Seeking asylum? For these and other information quests, check out the web site <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis-es>. For many other languages including Arabic, Korean, and many more, go to this very long (too long!) web address: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5b1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=7adabe2436636310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=7adabe2436636310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>.

The web sites include warnings about fraudulent immigration "advisors," "lawyers" and other hustlers. Note (above) the sign by a criminal hustler who can deprive an immigrant of thousands of dollars.

A COUNTY GAMBLING CENTER

Our Governor has called for a special session for August 9 to revisit the proposed gambling den at National Harbor. Table games such as blackjack and roulette may be part of a proposed bill. Governor O'Malley: "There is no progress without jobs. That's why... I called for a special session of the Maryland General Assembly to address the gaming [i.e., gambling] issue. ... [The compromise] will allow the people of Prince George's County to decide at the ballot whether they want a sixth site. ..."

Gambling is sure a good idea: it takes money from the working class and poor for programs serving the working class and poor (with a subtraction for the house). Of course, the gamblers are driven by the hope of a better life, and hope is good. But after repeated failures and resulting household shortages, misery may be enhanced.

Note: The Maryland Lottery reports that it had \$1.8 billion in sales during 2011. Did it return about half to the winners? If so, the state has reached into the pockets of the hopefuls for \$900,000,000.00. Anyone skip some meals? But hey, a free country means free to be foolish.

IMPROVING COUNTY ETHICS

County Executive Rushern Baker is establishing a special office to help with the campaign to improve ethics and reduce corruption in the county administration. Does this really mean that developers won't have to pay off county officials? Jack Johnson must be turning in his ...

jail bed. One strong element in the new policy is legal protection for whistleblowers in the county government. Let's hope that the talk of improved ethical behavior ushers in a county era of ... improved ethical behavior.

TRANSFORMING NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

The Langley Park work group met on August 2 to provide updates on progress and to identify additional challenges. There are, for instance, efforts and plans to enhance pedestrian safety, to provide uniforms and school supplies for local elementary school children, to locate library books in the Community Center and the elementary school, to reduce trash, and to make sure that apartment house maintenance standards are upheld. Councilman Campos plans to add significantly to the pedestrian safety effort with giveaways, special guests, and more. Three members of the TNI team met with neighborhood property managers; they report that the ownership transitions at Bedford and Victoria Stations have led to unsatisfactory conditions. (Help hopefully on the way.)

A storefront location was identified in La Union Mall, and the plan is to locate county staff members there from the Health Department, Social Services, and more. Big positive step! Let's hope this goes smoothly!

The effort continues to have shuttle service from Langley Park to Mary's Center. Here's hoping! And how about adding a stop at the public library on Adelphi Rd.?

The play structures in the middle of the soccer field behind the elementary school have not yet been removed. Thus the barrier to local soccer players remains.

DEPORTATION: MORE EMPTY PROMISES?

Undocumented young people continue to be target of deportations—despite the fact that the DHS deferred action memo issued on June 15 clearly indicates that "ICE and CBP should immediately exercise their discretion, on an individual basis, to prevent low priority individuals from being placed into removal proceedings or removed from the United States." As reported by Dreamactivist, Sofronio Garcia, a DREAM-eligible young man who is also a father of two US citizens has been in a detention center since May 26 and was scheduled to be deported on July 27—even though he could qualify for deferred action as outlined on the June 15 memo. Was he deported? We don't know yet. However, whether he was deported or allowed to stay in the country, the fact that undocumented young people continue to be detained and placed in deportation proceedings despite being eligible for administrative relief is, well, outrageous. Words and deeds, words and deeds. (Source, ILW.com)

THE FLOWER THEATER

In the Long Branch neighborhood, which is in part adjacent to Langley Park, there is an Art Deco ("Streamline Moderne") theater, the "Flower Theater"—so named because it is on Flower Avenue (just west of Piney Branch Road). About a decade ago, there was an effort to form a non-profit organization that would buy and run the theater as a cinema but open it to various events. Alas, it failed—in part because of the high cost of restoration (including fixing leaks). Since then, the theater has been occupied by a religious group and at times not occupied at all. There's a new attempt to restore and run the theater, and on Saturday, August 4th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fenton Street Market in Silver Spring, supporters of the thea-



ter will gather. It's challenging to run a one-screen theater these days, but one is operating in Old Greenbelt. So maybe?*

*The source: <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic/flowertheatershoppingcenter/documents/1TextFlowerShoppingCenterMIHP12-2011.pdf>

HOUSING COMING BACK?

There is a lot of positive talk these days about housing. In Alexandria, D.C., and Arlington, the current real estate prices are about the same that they were before the housing bubble broke. But Prince George's County's housing situation is the worst in the area by the then-now measure. The PG sale price now is only 48% of the pre-crash high. The curve has only a slight uptick. In 1995, almost every house in Langley Park could be purchased for \$100k. Some reached \$400k a decade later; now they are back to about \$200k top. What's going on? Perhaps there was a high percentage of marginal home mortgage borrowers, and during the crisis they had to walk away. Sad.



TO AND FROM VIRGINIA SLOWLY

That state south of Maryland will be opening I-495 express lanes towards the end of 2012. And then the congestion of those traveling to or from Maryland (especially to Virginia in the morning and returning in the evening) will be horrific because one lane is lost. Is the V-state forcing the M-state to duplicate the lane structure? And if so, is that a positive? Suggestion to commuters: be sure to have a book in the car so that there's something to read when the traffic (already horrible, as you know) becomes even worse. An idea: Remove the border fence from some areas along the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) and install it between MD and VA.

DEVELOPMENT! A SCARY LAGOS EXAMPLE

In the Makoko Lagos neighborhood, fragile wooden huts have stood for decades on stilts above the water. The people of the neighborhood (probably more than 100,000) move about the lagoon in canoes, some casting nets for fish as the family's living.



After giving residents 72 hours (only!) to leave their homes, state authorities began demolishing the shantytown a few days ago. A community

leader was shot to death by police as protesters resisted the demolitions. It's the latest of many evictions of poor and marginalized communities in shantytowns as the residents come under increasing pressure from property developers. Money is power!

Could there possibly be a parallel in the USA? Close by? Historically, an example was the New Southwest DC. Could it happen today? Around here?

SECURE COMMUNITIES: A SCARY POLICY

Yes, S-Comm again because it has been imposed on unwilling states and is implemented in a way that at least to some seems, well, crazy. Here's some current information: "One man was selling ice cones on the streets of

YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

NEW STATE SCHOOL SUSPENSION POLICY

Yes, we should keep expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to a minimum, especially if we have resources to work with the students to address their problems and perhaps change their behavior. A goal should be to keep children in school if at all possible. But in Maryland's future, bringing a weapon to school will not lead to suspension? That's a little bit scary!

Another component of the state's proposed reform is to eliminate disparities among racial or ethnic groups. That gets a positive read, but it does not take into account that in this country (alas) there are dramatic educational and wealth differences among these groups, and it does not take into account that working class and poor children are more likely to engage in behavior at school that is disruptive or threatening. (Maybe the rich kids become Wall Street manipulators?) So to even out any disparities might mean that either middle class children are over-punished and/or working class children under-punished.

"Nonviolent offenses do not justify suspension? We're not talking about chewing gum or passing notes [but] insubordination (where the student defies a teacher/principal's direct order, often in front of other students and accompanied by an obscenity) is a serious offense. If insubordination is tolerated, chaos results." -Labor Lawyer

The state document: "No student comes to school 'perfect' academically or behaviorally. We do not throw away the imperfect or difficult children." Right, no one is perfect. And right, we should not throw away difficult children. But we have to make sure that the very difficult child does not disrupt the educational process. Maybe the guiding word should be equity—not equality, not quotas.

How about defining the problem as poverty, not misbehavior? Maybe the ideas of Turnaround for Children (see <http://turnaroundusa.org>) are worthwhile: deal with the stresses of poverty to reduce disruptive behavior.

YOUTH: SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Approximately 400,000 teen girls aged 15–19 years give birth every year in the United States, and our teen birth rate remains the highest in the developed world. The CDC argues that teen childbearing is a public health concern because teen mothers are more likely to experience negative social outcomes, including dropping out of school. In addition, infants of teen mothers are more likely to have low birth weight and lower academic achievement; daughters of teen mothers are more likely to become teen mothers themselves.



When high school students are asked, in CDC sponsored research, if they have ever had sexual intercourse, about half answer in the positive; and Latino/a respondents have about the same percentage. When asked if they used a condom during their last sexual encounter, about three-fifths answer in the positive; again, Latino/a respondents were about the same. So Latino/a teens don't deserve a "bad" reputation, just a "normal" one. When Latinas who became pregnant are asked why they didn't use some birth control method, almost half of the respondents said they "thought [they] could not get preg-

Queens, New York, without a vendor's license. Another spit on the sidewalk. Then there was the man in Virginia who picked up a piece of firewood on national forest property, the woman in Arizona who made a wide right turn, and the pair who were fishing without a license in Florida.

"Many of these people are gone now because the police hauled them into the precinct for these Kafka-esque offenses and then sent the suspects' fingerprints to be cross-referenced with an immigration database. Soon, [ICE] slapped the men and women with a hold and whisked them off to a detention center, where some are still imprisoned. Others have already boarded a plane headed someplace far away from their [former] homes.

"On May 15, 2012, the federal government mandated that Secure Communities—an immigration policy that allows for this type of highly mechanized and little scrutinized street-to-deportation channel—take effect in New York, Massachusetts and other holdout states. Advertised as a way to target and deport 'criminal aliens,' the reality is that Secure Communities is itself the danger." (Source: Laura Gottesdiener in www.alternet.org, 24 July 2012.) Let's hope that these incidents are very rare and that the goal of family coherence—not fragmentation—will or still guide ICE.

MOVING IN AND OUT OF MARYLAND

"In 2009, for the first time since Parris Glendening was governor, more taxpayers moved into Maryland from other states than left. It was the continuation of a turnaround in net migration that began in 2007, the year Martin O'Malley became governor. Each year since Gov. O'Malley took his first oath of office—2007, 2008, and 2009, the most recent year for which data [are] available, Maryland's net migration improved over the previous year. Gov. O'Malley's tenure has seen a sharp reversal after



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nant." It seems that teens need better health education, including education about sexual behavior and the consequences of behavior.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr036.pdf>

LATINO/AS: GET AN EDUCATION, THEN LEAD

"A wise Latino judge once said that a Latino lawyer is by definition a leader. The statistics reflect the sad truth of his statement. American Bar Association statistics show that in the year 2000, only 3.4 percent of attorneys were Hispanic. With one in three Latinos failing to graduate from high school, this number is hardly surprising and shows real cause for alarm.

"As President of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), I often remind our members that, like it or not, we are all leaders with a responsibility to address this crisis and engage our young people in discussions about the importance of education. Given the Latino high school dropout rate, successful Latinos of all professions share in this responsibility. To turn the tide, we must educate Latino youth that succeeding in school allows them to better their lives and empower the entire community." (Lyzka DeLaCruz in Latinovations@mail.vresp.com) Ldelacruz@bakkerdelacruz.com.

VIOLENCE

NOT GOOD NEWS FROM ANAHEIM

Yes, Manuel Diaz was running away. But surely that is not a reason for the Anaheim police to shoot and kill him. And that was not a rare unique incident for Anaheim; Joel Acevedo was shot and killed soon after. Witnesses report that Diaz was first shot in the leg, and he fell to his knees; then a shot was fired to his head. There were also rubber bullets and other use of force. Many area residents openly protested. Five were arrested. In the USA? Today? And in the Disney Land jurisdiction???

NOT GOOD NEWS FROM LANGLEY PARK

A first-degree murder suspect in the July killing on the 1400 block of Kanawha Street is at-large in the county. He is said to be Rudy Ismael Manchame-Guerra (pictured), and he is armed and dangerous. The victim was Saul Felipe-Augustine. Both are said to be "of no fixed address." The sort-of good news is that the murder rates in the county and in the Langley Park area have declined over the years, so this incident is (thank goodness!!) rare.



Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Prince George's County Police Department's Homicide Unit at 301-772-4925. Please refer to case number 12-189-2234. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411 TIPS (8477) or text "PGPD plus your message" to CRIMES (274637) on your cell phone or go to this web site: <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/police/> and submit a tip online.

MIXED NEWS FROM PG COUNTY

Police in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties recently took a man into custody in connection with a mass shooting plot. The man reportedly made threats against his employer, and police found a cache of weapons at his home (see picture of a small portion of the weapons). It's hard not to think about Aurora, Colorado. Of course, it is not good news that we have potential mass murderers in this area, but it sure is good news that a tip led to an arrest of the man. No Auroras here, we hope and pray.



MIXED NEWS FROM A DISTRICT COURT

This bad news item to some is good news to others. U.S. District Judge Benson Legg has issued an order that will make it easier for Maryland residents to carry handguns in public. The state's attorney general is appealing. Maryland State Police could previously deny a permit for bearing arms in public to anyone without "a good and substantial reason" to have one. And so our futurist on the staff imagines:

"I don't like people standing in front of me in the checkout line at Trader Joe's, and so, buddy, get behind me right now or I'll blast you to bits. Yes, this is a Glock I'm holding and you're looking at. Think Aurora and get the f--- behind me."

So the futurist imagines the impossible? Here's a news item: "Montgomery County police are investigating an incident in which a man allegedly stabbed and seriously injured another man in a Colesville post office after he believed his victim had cut in line." Well yes, that's in the you-know-what county. But it's probably not a unique event, alas.

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his predecessor, Gov. Bob Ehrlich, racked up a net loss of 61,000 residents in his single term--the deepest net loss of Maryland taxpayers since interstate migration data has been available." (*Daily Kos*, 2 July 20-12)

BROWN ON DREAMING

Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown on Maryland's so-called dream act: "Think of the young Marylander who graduates at the top of his or her class in high school, who volunteers at the local homeless shelter, who has never been in trouble and wants to become a doctor or a lawyer or an engineer. This could be the person who cures cancer or helps bring about advances in civil rights or leads us to energy independence. But without the Maryland Dream Act ... this will deny them the opportunity to reach their potential." The referendum is coming.

PROTECTING US? STOP AND FRISK

Check out how this is done by an officer in New York City. The victim appears to be a Latino. Was the incident triggered by profiling? See <http://www.alternet.org/hot-news-views/watch-violent-stop-and-frisk-video-reveals-dark-side-anti-gun-tactic?akid=9129.126963.plhmpK&rd=1&src=newsletter682100&t=4>.

PROTECTING US? CHECKING TATTOOS

U.S. consular officials are checking visa applicants' tattoos for links to Latin American gangs, and some applications have been rejected. Do officials check for tattoos in so-called private places? (The photos was 'liberated' from the web, not from a consular official.)



There are, by the way, some trees and buildings in Langley Park with gang tags. The Neighborhood Initiative includes tag removal on its agenda but the process is slow. Get to it!

ARIZONA ON IMMIGRATION

Emails to and from the sponsor of Arizona's SB1070 law have been released to the public under court order. Fascinating reading; here are a few charming sentences from the pen of a not-nice-guy (and published in the *Arizona Republic*, 23 July 2012).

"Can we maintain our social fabric as a nation with Spanish [speakers] fighting English [speakers] for dominance? ... It's like importing leper colonies and hope we don't catch leprosy. It's like importing thousands of Islamic jihadists and hope they adapt to the American Dream."

"Tough, nasty illegals and their advocates grow in such numbers that law and order will not subdue them. They run us out of our cities and states. They conquer our language and our schools. They render havoc and chaos in our schools."

"Battles commence as Mexican nationalists struggle to infuse their men into American government and strengthen control over their strongholds. One look at Los Angeles with its Mexican-American mayor shows you Vincente Fox's general Varigossa commanding an American city."

"They create enclaves of separate groups that shall balkanize our nation into fractured nightmares of social unrest and poverty."

"Corruption is the mechanism by which Mexico operates. Its people spawn more corruption wherever they go because it is their only known way of life."

"We are much like the Titanic as we inbreed millions of Mexico's poor, the world's poor and we watch our country sink."

"I'm racist because I don't want to be taxed to pay for a prison population comprised of mainly Hispanics, Latinos, Mexicans or whatever else you wish to call them."

"I'm a racist because I dislike having to push one for English and/or listening to a message in Spanish."

WASHINGTON TIMES' PERSPECTIVE

As many BLP readers know, the *Washington Times* newspaper is by and for the right wing of our political spectrum. If one cannot stand the commentaries on Fox News, the *Times* will provide the same perspective but it's turning pages rather than changing channels. In the July 4th issue, a WT columnist wrote about the terrible things the Obama administration is doing to the people of Arizona. And the accompanying map is, hum, charming. (Should we give Texas back too?)

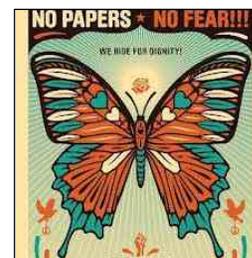


FARM LABORER SHORTAGE

An analysis by the American Farm Bureau Federation projects annual crop production losses of between \$5 and \$9 billion because of farm labor shortages. And on top of that, the hot summer has destroyed crops. Maybe a revision of the immigration laws would provide the needed farm labor; the current situation will lead to higher food prices.

NO PAPERS, NO FEAR

That's the slogan for a group of undocumented residents of the USA who will ride a bus from Phoenix to the Democratic Convention in Charlotte in early September. "Actions by undocumented students, such as coming out of the shadows, civil disobedience, and occupations of electoral offices have shown what happens when our community acts for itself, it changes everything. We can't



wait for anyone else any longer. We've come too far to allow this country to be turned back. This summer a culmination of this work will be manifested during a bus ride through key states in the southern part of the United States that will continue to confront power with the stories, voices, and actions of those directly affected by these immigration policies.

Riders are undocumented people from all over the country, including students, mothers and fathers, children, people in deportation proceedings, day laborers, and others who continue to face deportation, harassment, and death while simply looking for a better life." Their final destination is the Democratic Convention in early September. Learn more at undocubus.org.

CRIME AND THE POLICE

Last week, there were two murders in Arlington and two women were shot on U Street in DC. Folks: Move to

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CONTACTING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR NON-EMERGENCY MATTERS

For safety, health, fire, other emergencies: telephone **911**

For non-emergencies online: go to the new and useful
countyclick.princegeorgescountymd.gov

For non-emergencies another option is: telephone **311***

*It's not working yet but soon will be.

For other needs, contact Councilman Will Campos's office (or your own councilman's office) at (301) 9524436 or fax: (301) 9525554 or wacampos@co.pg.md.us.

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Langley Park for safety!

On Friday, July 27th, from 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., the Prince George's County Police Department conducted a joint operation with the Montgomery County Police Department. Both agencies joined forces and focused on aggressive drivers, seatbelt violations, impaired drivers, state equipment repair order, etc. The officers conducted enforcement on both sides of the county's lines on University Boulevard and saturation patrols throughout the area. As a result, the enforcement yielded the following preliminary stats: 246 citations, 19 warnings, and 10 DUI. Good work! We want the Crossroads to be safe for pedestrians and good drivers.

Alas: The Police Department did it again. Shame! A news release stated: "This morning at approximately



The "official" Langley Park!

12:30 a.m., a Prince George's County police officer was shot while

working part time at the Galaxy night club in Langley Park." Surely police officers should know where Langley Park is and where it isn't—and that the Galaxy is not in Langley

Park. If further information on location is needed, officers should consult the county planning department or the US Census Bureau. Langley Park doesn't need errors that stigmatize. How about a correction from the Police Department?

POLITICS

♦A former GOP Chairman: "I was upset because the [GOP] political consultants and staff were talking about voter suppression and keeping blacks from voting." In some states, a potential voter will need an official photo ID to vote. But what about the many people in this country who do not drive or otherwise need such an ID. And maybe they were born years ago and the birth certificate no longer exists or can be accessed?

♦President Obama has often criticized the SB1070 Arizona law, and he has often spoken positively about the deferral from removal of DREAM-eligible undocumented young people. But according to a recent poll of Latina/os, more than half of the respondents didn't know the President's or the challenger's positions on immigration matters. Someone better spread the word!

♦Some good news: About 66% of respondents in a recent Gallup poll said that immigration is "a good thing" for country, up from 59% last year.

♦A Republican state delegate who represents Baltimore and Harford counties plans to hold pizza parties in private homes, businesses, and public town halls across Maryland to get voters to back the referendum that would ban in-state tuition for college students who are undocu-

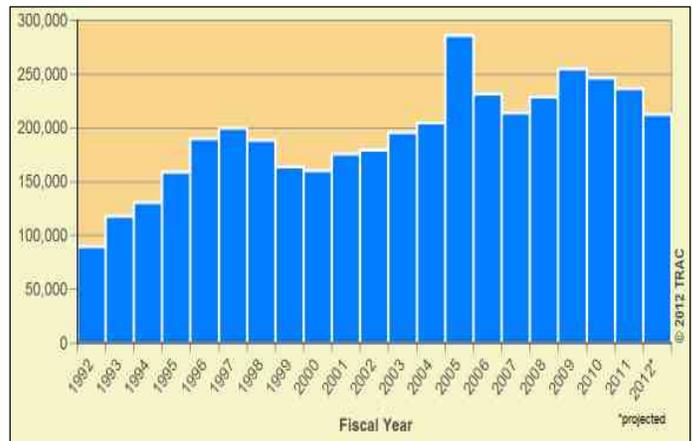
mented immigrants. Pat McDonough calls these gatherings the "Pat and Pizza Rally." We guess that the pizza will be from Domino's, which is owned by a true right-winger.

♦Dear reader, are you ready to vote in the November election? The outcome at the local, state, and national levels are all important. Who wins makes a difference. Circle November 6th on your calendar!



DEPORTATIONS

So far this fiscal year, there have been fewer Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) filings for deportation orders than in FY 2011. According to the latest Immigration Court data obtained and analyzed by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) -- current through the end of June 2012 -- new deportation proceedings have been steadily falling since 2009 when ICE filed 255,238 requests for deportation orders. TRAC projects that filings will reach only 212,749 in FY 2012 once all late reports are in. This would represent a drop of 10 percent -- more than 24,000 cases -- from the previous year, and more than 42,000 fewer than the number of ICE



deportation order requests made during FY 2009. The chart above (from TRAC) shows deportation orders sought in immigration court over the past twenty years.

The winners: An AP report (2 August 2012) indicates that "the U.S. is locking up more illegal immigrants than ever, generating lucrative profits for the nation's largest prison companies." It's a very profitable business. "The businesses have spent tens of millions of dollars lobbying lawmakers and contributing to campaigns." The payoff: More than two billion taxpayer dollars just this year!

UNDOCUMENTED? NEED ADVICE?

Created in October 2010, "Ask Angy" is the first undocumented youth advice column. It was developed at the New York State Youth Leadership Council because there was no space to ask questions or seek advice. The blog is a place for youth to email their concerns, questions, stories or simply ask for help without being judged. For instance, "How do you tell your date about your immigration status?" Angy is Angy Rivera; check out her column at <http://www.nysylc.org/askangy/>; the undocumented young sure face difficult challenges. If you have a question, send it to her at Angy@nysylc.org.

Rep. Luis Gutierrez and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights made two announcements: To declare August 15 as DREAM Relief Day and to launch a new web site to help undocumented youth understand the application process. DREAMRelief.org is a one-stop place for information.

QUIZ

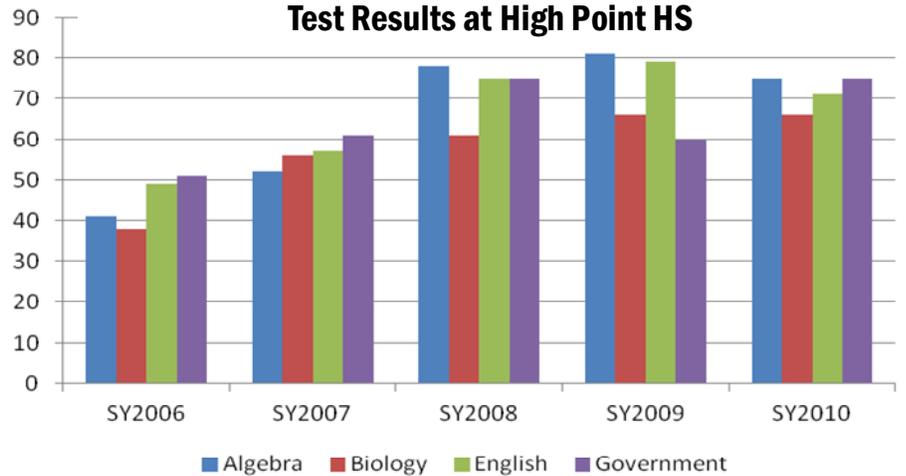
What prominent public official (pictured) thinks that spending unlimited anonymous money on advertising/promoting a presidential candidate doesn't have any influence on voting? He says that Americans are "not sheep." Winning awards given out at ALP September 20 meeting!



HIGH POINT HS MOVING UP!

Back in the "old days" of the 2006-7 school year, fewer than half of the school's students met or exceeded the "proficiency" standard. Fortunately, that has changed. For the last three school years, the students at High Point have for the most part been close to the 80% mark—especially in the key fields of mathematics and English.

There are many possible reasons for the improvement, e.g., better teaching, better school leadership, more parental involvement. It is notable that the number of students in cohorts has dropped significantly. For instance, 803 students entered the 9th grade in SY2006, but most recently the 9th grade had 680 students. All cohort groups decline in numbers from grades 9 to 12 indicating dropping out. But the lowest dropout rate was the SY2010 graduating cohort group: only 1/3 of the young people left.



Figures are per cent proficient or more—SY stands for "School Year"

HEALTH NEWS AND NOTES

COUNTY HEALTH RESOURCES

A new hospital is very likely to be built in Prince George's County, and there apparently will be a strengthening of a handful of more local facilities. The Maryland Medical School's John Ashworth: "This 278-bed facility will be taking care of sicker patients than typically you'd see before. So the infrastructure, for example—the ICU to acute-care bed ratios are going to be increased, the number of operating rooms are going to be higher... the technological capabilities inside the facility will be higher. So therefore it's a bit of a different hospital."

It is generally agreed that primary care sites are needed throughout the county—and that goes beyond a new hospital. Officials studying the county's health situation want to attract 61 new physicians to the county, naming Accokeek, Brandywine, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Cheverly, District Heights, and Langley Park as the areas of highest need for new medical practitioners. But officials talk about ambulatory care centers in Beltsville, Bowie, Suitland, Upper Marlboro and Cheverly. Not in Langley Park.

There are three clinics that contribute to the health of Langley Park area residents: Walk In Clinic (but it is expensive), Community Clinic Inc. (but it does not offer comprehensive care), and Mary's Center (but it also does not offer comprehensive care, and it is a difficult walk from Langley Park). (Community Clinic may open a more comprehensive facility including dental care in Greenbelt. Good, but that's too far for most area residents.)



For the Langley Park area, the new hospital is of marginal value because of its likely distance plus the nearby availability of Washington Adventist Hospital (although it will relocate to White Oak in a few years) and Holy Cross Hospital. A well-staffed neighborhood clinic would be of high value. It could be in a new La Union space or in the east wing of the Community Center. The Neighborhood Initiative working group should fight for this!

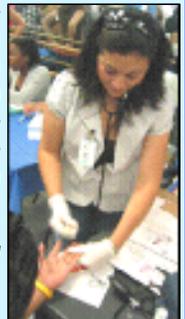
DISCRIMINATION AND HEALTH

Social-class discrimination takes place in many (many!) societies around the world—including ours, but what about its impact on poor people and how it contributes to the relationship between socioeconomic status and health?

A recent study helps to answer key questions: "Most of us would intuit that discrimination or prejudice is harmful and would make people feel bad, influence self-esteem, etc." But there is more, according to the research of Cornell University researcher Gary W. Evans. "The fact that discrimination may also be capable of elevating chronic physiological stress in relatively healthy, young adults is potentially a very important finding. Elevated allostatic load has been linked to a litany of very serious health outcomes, including elevated chronic diseases and premature mortality." The full academic publication is at <http://pss.sagepub.com/content/23/7/734>.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The new law, approved by the Supreme Court, will be beneficial to millions of Americans. But about 30 million people will not be covered, including 11 million undocumented immigrants and many immigrants who have not been in the country for five years. The Act is positive but a more comprehensive bill is needed. Maybe some day! For lots of details on immigrants and the Act, go to <http://www.nilc.org/immigrantshcr.html>.



LANGLEY PARK'S HEALTH FAIRS

The Langley Park Community Center staff and the Action Langley Park staff jointly organize two health fairs each calendar year. In May, the health fair is part of Langley Park Day, and in November there is a stand-alone health fair called Health Check. Health professionals volunteer from a wide range of institutions and private practices. Mark your calendar now! Consider volunteering! Note: We hope to have free HIV testing (see below).

HIV/AIDS

The Prince George's Health Department just released these figures:

- ◆The state of Maryland is ranked 4th in the United States (and territories) for AIDS case report rates
- ◆Prince George's County is 2nd in the state of Maryland for HIV and AIDS cases
- ◆In the county, African-Americans represent 86.5% of new AIDS cases
- ◆By about 2 to 1, more males are living with HIV than females; the most common exposure mode is heterosexual transmission, followed by male-to-male.

Images from a Langley Park Day health fair.

WHAT & 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.

(Photo: The great Gabby who won an Olympic Gold)

August 4: Back to School at Prince George's Mall. Noon to 4 p.m. There will be information, free games, free lunch bags, face painting, balloons, more. Information: 301 559-8844 or mall@princegeorges.com.

August 4: Arts on the Block sells their art at the Fenton Street Market (corner Fenton & Ellsworth, Silver Spring), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. <http://www.fentonstreetmarket.com>.

August 6-9: Science in the Summer sponsored by the GlaxoSmithKline company, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and local organizations. Students entering second through sixth grade are invited to register for "a free and fun experimented-oriented course taught by certified teachers to groups of 15 students in two age groups: children entering second and third grades (Level I) and children entering fourth through sixth grades (Level II). Call 301 725-7975 right away!

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.

There are some more conventionally-timed National Night Out events in the area, e.g.: Langley Park Community Police building, 8011 New Hampshire Ave., 6 to 8 p.m.; University Gardens Apartments, 1801 Jasmine Terr, 6 to 9 p.m.; and University City Apartments, 2213 University Blvd. East, 6 to 9 p.m.

August 8, 15, 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!!

August 8: Help for Homeowners—including foreclosure threats. From 1 to 8 p.m. at the Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave. Call 1888 995-4673 or visit http://www.mdcs.org/avjsc/Event_Flyers/image002.png for further information.

August 15: Applications for Deferred Action for the under-31 undocumented residents is scheduled to begin. There will be a fee, \$485 and probably more.

August 18: PGCPS Back to School Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro. There will be information and some gifts. The site is far from Langley Park; there may be a bus available—check 301 445-8423 near the date.

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.

August 25: Free Legal Clinic from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Ebenezer Church, 7550 Buchanan St. in Hyattsville. In Spanish. Covers child custody, child support, and other family law issues. Register at 301 952-4840.

September 6-9: County Fair! At the Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena on Water Street in Upper Marlboro. Thurs 4-10 p.m., Fri 5-11 p.m., Sat 11a.m.-11 p.m., Sun 11a.m.-6p.m. Entry=\$6 (little children \$5). For information: 301-442-7393 or 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, free music, free children's activities. Lots of food vendors. For information, contact Lydia Ocasio at 301 408-4355.

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! One focus will be the plans and accomplishments of the Neighborhood Initiative.

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

November 1—Action Langley Park Open Meeting at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. One focus: Health Check 2012.

November 11: 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 (there's a big health fair). The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of food or craft. Bilingual volunteers are always needed.

Photos from prior Langley Park Days.

