

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue Number 251, September 2012

FESTIVALS!

Sundays, September 9 and 16!

- ▶ **Sept 9, Takoma Park Folk Festival**
Takoma Park Middle School—free, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Sept 9, Adams-Morgan Day Festival**
18th St. NW and Columbia Rd.—free, noon to 7 p.m.
- ▶ **Sept 9, Salvadoran Festival**
Montgomery County Fairgrounds—\$25 entry, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▶ **Sept 16, PG County Hispanic Festival**
Lane Manor Park along University Blvd.—free, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HELPING IMMIGRANTS ALONG

A man or woman or family arrives in the United States without much knowledge of the culture within which they may live the rest of their lives. How should we help them to cope? In this area, there appear to be two approaches.

One is what one might call immersion, that is, toss them in without any easing of the assimilation process. That, apparently, is what some officials prefer. One example is eliminating the sidewalk and street food vendors that used to engage in their business in Langley Park. Pupusas! Horchata! Home cooking! Affordable! A place to hang out with friends! But no more. Banned.

Washington DC has quite a few food trucks; there are some areas with a half-dozen of them offering international food ranging from pupusas and tacos to the favorites of Vietnamese and Afghanistani. Lucky immigrants!

Some immigrants were farmers in their home country. Of course, they could try to find work gardening or constructing. But at least some of them from Ethiopia, Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia, and elsewhere have been helped to start little farms.



Somali Gardener

The International Rescue Committee's New Roots program helps recently resettled refugees to become self-sufficient and contribute to their new home in the United States through community gardening, nutrition education, and small-business farming. With training, tools and land provided by the IRC, refugees are sharing their agricultural skills and producing affordable, locally grown vegetables and fruit for their families and their neighbors.

The skills from home, perhaps used in their new world not only to ease into their new home country but to make some money. Perhaps the New Roots program should take hold in Suburban Maryland. In Langley Park! Maybe in the median at the eastern end of Merrimac Drive?

THE NEW POLITICS?

Following contemporary politics can make one sad, or indeed be deeply concerned. "If we allow our leaders to completely abandon any semblance of honesty, what do we have left? When rancid disinformation stands in the space where actual information should be, what will grow? And how can a party that incessantly repeats the mantra that our rights were granted by God repeatedly violate a basic tenet of almost every religion: truth-telling? What does it mean when a party that trafficks in American greatness trades in human horridness? ... We deserve better and should demand better. We deserve better than a weather-vane candidacy that doesn't care whether it's being candid. We deserve better than a party ... so wanton that they refuse to let facts get in the way of a fairy tale." (Charles Blow in *NY Times* 1 September 2012)*



In the domain of immigration, there are some politicians who claim that those who are undocumented cost the USA many billions. But the research by most well-respected scholars indicates that on balance the undocumented immigrants are a gain for the nation and for each state studied. Just ask Georgia's farmers.

In the domain of poverty and welfare, there are some politicians who claim that food stamps, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and other support make people lazy and unwilling to work. Of course, there are lazy people, including some millionaires. But most recipients of welfare want to work—for the money and the dignity.

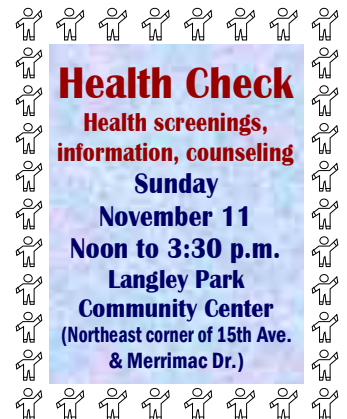
Whom should we blame? The press: sure, because they are responsible for digging out the truth. But individual voters and their associations must demand more, and they must not settle for the manipulative assertions. That's the way to preserve a good functioning democracy.

What should we do? Check the facts and vote for those who are more honest, less manipulative.

*Writer Blow seems to have one party especially in mind. -ed.

Action Langley Park
meets on **September 20**
from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the
Langley Park Community
Center. Everyone is wel-
come!
The agenda includes
Health Check, the work of
the Neighborhood Initia-
tive, and more!

Health Check
Health screenings,
information, counseling
Sunday
November 11
Noon to 3:30 p.m.
Langley Park
Community Center
(Northeast corner of 15th Ave.
& Merrimac Dr.)



Fifth annual NII conference, September 22-25, Baltimore Maryland



NATIONAL IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION CONFERENCE

The National Immigrant Integration Conference 2012 (NIIC 2012) is the largest national conference to bring together immigrant integration leaders and advocates from across the country. NIIC 2012 is designed to take the public dialogue on immigration beyond the border enforcement headlines and dive deep into the effort to diversify the American Dream by ensuring that immigrants have the opportunity to become integral members of the U.S. communities they call home. The host organization is CASA de Maryland. For more information, go to <http://www.integrationconference.org/>. Note: Participation is not free, so check the costs for a day, a student, etc.

NEWS AND NOTES

IMMIGRANT ROUNDUP

For three days, August 28-30, seventeen undocumented adults were rounded up in PG and Mo Counties. According to ICE, all had criminal records: six with assault, three with drug distribution, two with weapons convictions, three with larceny convictions, one with arson, and one has multiple DUI convictions. Interestingly, the men—they are all men—not only came from El Salvador and Mexico (the stereotype of undocumented criminals) but from a wide range of other countries including the Netherlands.

VICTORY FOR ESL

Reuters (31 August 2012) reports that the state of Arizona has agreed "to offer targeted reading and writing instruction to tens of thousands of public school students who were wrongly denied services under an English Language Learner program." The Justice Department had filed a complaint claiming that "students had been incorrectly identified as fluent in English over the past five school years or prematurely moved out of the language assistance program." The Justice spokesperson: "All students are entitled to equal opportunities, and this resolution will help to make sure Arizona students receive the education they deserve." Could it be that some schools in suburban Maryland prematurely move needy students out of English as a Second Language programs? Have PGCPs officials explored this possibility?



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NO AFFORDABLE CARE FOR DREAMERS

Some undocumented young people will be granted work authorization and deferred deportation under President Obama's June directive, but they will not be eligible for health care under the Affordable Care Act. You'd think otherwise because the Act enables non-citizens who are "lawfully present in the United States" to participate in high-risk pools and exchanges, along with premium credits and cost-sharing subsidies, so long as they are otherwise eligible. But alas, no: Undocumented immigrants are forbidden from receiving these benefits under the health care law. What can we hope for? Maybe that an undocumented young person who cannot afford health care and gets very sick will somehow infect every member of the House of Representatives who has voted

against comprehensive immigration reform? And then they can be forced to get medical care in Zimbabwe?

NOT REFUGEES? THROW OUT THE KIDS!

"So far this year, more than 11,000 unaccompanied minors have been placed in deportation proceedings, nearly double last year's numbers. Young migrants say they are fleeing sharply escalating criminal violence in their home countries. Federal agencies have scrambled to muster adequate detention facilities, while legal groups try to find lawyers to represent them. Judges, for their part, have struggled to offer fair hearings to penniless youths who speak little English and often do not even understand why they are in court. The influx has heightened concerns that young people without legal help may not be able to obtain even the most basic justice." (Julia Preston, *NY Times* 26 August 2012)

Detained, probably without counsel, and on the way back as a deportee. Why aren't these young people welcomed as refugees? From the UN Refugee Agency: "Migrants, especially economic migrants, choose to move in order to improve the future prospects of themselves and their families. Refugees have to move if they are to save their lives or preserve their freedom. They have no protection from their own state—indeed it is often their own government that is threatening to persecute them. If other countries do not let them in, and do not help them once they are in, then they may be condemning them to death—or to an intolerable life in the shadows, without sustenance and without rights." They are de facto refugees. Why not de jure too?



FAMILIES? THROW OUT THE PARENTS!

Close to 45,000 undocumented parents with US citizen children were deported during January-June of this year according to ICE data. Result: fragmented families. More than 5,000 USA citizen children states live in foster care, according to an estimate by the Applied Research Center, and some of the children are being put up for adoption!

"Parents should not be separated from their children," said Democratic Senator Robert Menendez, who

""News and Notes" continued on Page 3

TWO QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. **LATINA:** We all know that a Latina is a female with Latin (South and Central America, etc.) roots. But do you know where Latina (the place) is located?

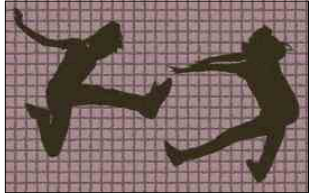
2. **POLITICAL PARTY:** Here are the two most popular television shows by the strong liberal Democrats and the ultra-conservative Republicans. Can you guess which is which?

Party 1: The Daily Show with Jon Stewart and The Colbert Report.

Party 2: College football and the Antiques Roadshow.

Answers on Page 3.

has proposed a law to protect parental rights during deportation proceedings. "Let's deport gang members and criminals instead of the parents of young U.S. citizen children." Opponents argue just as forcefully that immigration laws should be enforced irrespective of the effect on families.



Of course, the deported parent(s) can return to the homeland with his or her children. That's an easy solution. But wait... Dulce Medina, a doctoral student at Arizona State University, studied mixed-status families (USA citizens and undocumented in the USA) in Mexico. Her paper, "Return Migration: Undocumented "American" Children in Mexico," shows that the outcome of the return is far from easy. For instance, children born in the USA have difficulty in obtaining legal residency in Mexico and matriculating in schools. So in some sense members of the family are without a country, without a home. In these cases, it appears that both countries are guilty of causing considerable harm.

A CASE: "Tomorrow is Mother's Day. It will be the first one out of my entire 26 years that we will not be together to share the day. When I reflect on how this has happened, I am always shocked, angry, sad and very worried. It has been four years since we were notified that something was wrong with your INS file—even after being married to Dad, a U.S. citizen, for nearly 30 years. It was an administrative oversight that none of us ever dreamed would cause a threat to our family. It has been six months since we went to the INS for your new green card approval—where they instead dropped a bomb on our family when they threatened to deport you after nearly 30 years of building your life here. It has been five months since that horror became reality and you were forced to quit your teaching job and leave your only family in the entire world to face a place that is now strange to you. Never mind the frantic appeals we made to reverse the order. Never mind your many years of service to our community as a teacher and mentor. I am incensed at how such a loving woman, with every right to be here, was made to feel like a criminal." (http://arc.org/racewire/030514t_allyn.html) So USA also stands for Undo Solid Associations?

MARYLAND CRIME

Crime data for the year 2011 compiled by the Maryland State Police show that violent crime, homicides and property crimes are at their lowest levels since 1975. There were 398 homicides in the state last year, a 6% drop compared with 2010.

Alas, the state—and the county—are far from zero violent crime. County Police are still investigating a dead body discovered in the 1800 block of Jasmine Terrace, Langley Park, in late August. A few days ago, Ingrid Lizet Martinez-Alvarez, 22, of the 7900 block of Riggs Road in Langley Park, was found murdered in a wooded Beltsville park. In Riverdale, there was another murder of a Latina, Maritza Alfaro-Abarca. And also in

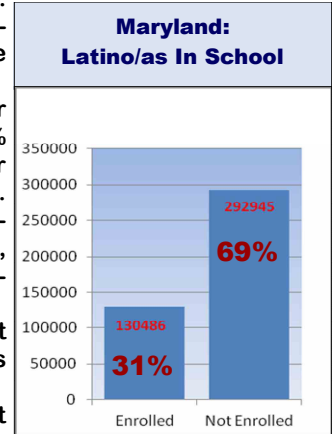


late August, 17-year-old honors student Amber Stanley was found dead. A scary detail: a man broke into her home, went to her upstairs bedroom, and shot her several times.

Should we blame the county police or the state police or the United Nations? No! Poverty and lack of opportunity are major factors, as are alcohol and the free availability of guns. Of course, police quality might also be a factor, but PG County appears to have a good force with good leadership.

LATINO/AS IN PRE-K THROUGH 12, COLLEGE

Once upon a time, there weren't many Latinos and Latinas in the schools of the USA. There were fewer Latino/as in the country, and a smaller percentage were in school. What a dramatic change! Now in Maryland, 31% of the state's Latino/as are in school—ranging from pre-K through the graduate level. About 7% of students in pre-K through high school are Latino/as.



The national figures for Latino/as in school are 32% and 68%; by comparison, our state is in the mainstream. The national figures for Euro-Americans are 25% and 75%, surely a reflection of age differences.

That's the good news, but there are many challenges ahead:

◆The Latino/a dropout figure nationally is about one in six, and it's higher in Prince George's County. There is reason to be optimistic: the national dropout rate among Latino/as was about 40% in 1972 and 32% in 1990, so that rate has been cut in half—assuming accurate counting (undercounting dropouts seems to be a national game to make school officials look good).

◆In Maryland, the per cent of those 25 years of age and over with graduate degrees is more than disappointing. For Latinos, the figure is 7% and for Latinas 8%. By comparison, for Euros the figures are 19% and 17%.

So hurray for progress, but the job is far from done.

STATE RESOURCES

Maryland officials have discovered that the state has more money than expected thanks to an increase in income. Maybe the plus is as much as \$450m. That's great because it means that our schools and universities can be funded in a way that will create a bright future for Marylanders.

MEGAMART

The building on University Boulevard formerly occupied by Shoppers Food Warehouse is being taken over by MegaMart. The local chain including its delivery cars and vans is apparently doing quite well. And the old building will soon, happily, not be boarded up.



There certainly are many Latino-focused grocery stores in the Langley Park area from Mega on the east to Angkor on the west. Let's hope they all survive!

QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1. *Latina* is the capital of the province of *Latina* in the Lazio region of central Italy.
- 2. Party 1 is Democratic; Party 2 is Republican

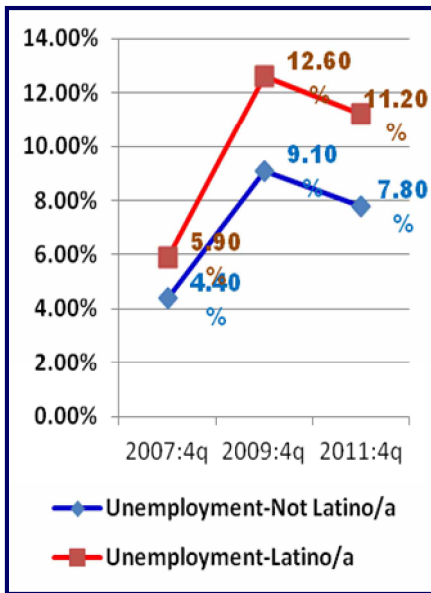
UNEMPLOYMENT

IN MARYLAND: Unemployment sure is high compared with what were the “good old days” (after the Great Depression and before the Great Recession). The state’s rate is off the high now, dropping from 7.8% in July 2010 to 7.0% in July 2012, but still many too many people are unemployed. Let’s hope Congress passes a good jobs act!

One factor impacting the Central Americans of Langley Park has been the decline in construction; that field was first in employment nationally in 2007—and locally—but it has fallen to fourth (see inset).

IN THE USA: Unemployment has gone up in the country, having a hard time over several years dropping below 8.0%. The rate for Latino/as is higher than for non-Latino/as (see chart below)—and of course that doesn’t count those who are underemployed or have given up or are not on the books because they remain in the informal sector. (That’s probably why native-born Latino/as have a higher unemployment rate than the foreign born Latino/as (13.1 to 9.5). But why isn’t the recovery more vigorous? Policies may be a factor, but demography deserves much of the blame.

DEMOGRAPHY? The Pew Hispanic Center has issued a publication that helps us to understand why job growth



doesn’t significantly reduce the unemployment figure: “The U.S. employment level prior to the start of the recession was at full potential. Actual employment in the fourth quarter of 2007 was 145.8 million and potential employment, measured as 63.3% of the working-age population, was 146.5 million. By the fourth quarter of 2009, the recession had pushed actual employment down to 138.1 million. But, because of the growth in the working-age population from 2007 to 2009, potential employment had increased to 149.6 million.” Thus, in the fourth quarter of 2009, the jobs gap for the U.S. economy had soared to 11.5 million.

“As the labor market recovered from the effects of the recession, employment increased from 138.1 million in the fourth quarter of 2009 to 141.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2011. The actual gain in employment was only slightly higher than the growth in potential employment from 149.6 million to 152.3 million. Because employment growth was sufficient only to match the additions to the workforce, the jobs gap at the end of 2011—11 million—

Where do Latino/as work?

2011

1. Wholesale & retail trade
2. Professional & other business services
3. Eating, drinking, lodging
4. Construction*

*Still #1 among foreign-born Latino/as 2007

1. Construction
2. Wholesale & retail
3. Professional & other ...
4. Eating...

was about as high as it was at the end of the recession.

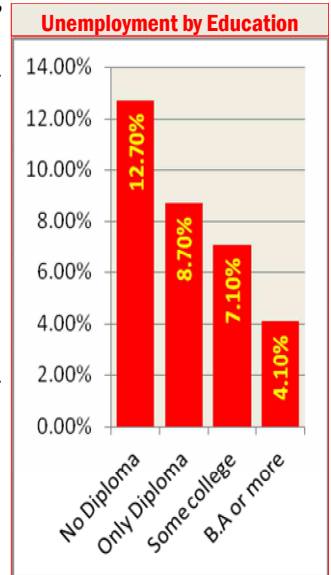
The fascinating full report can be found at <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2012/03/21/the-demographics-of-the-jobs-recovery/>

QUALIFICATIONS? A report just issued by the Brookings Institution states that part of the unemployment problem is due to the needs-skills mismatch. Certainly, this mismatch should be a very loud call among Latinos and Latinas to work hard to achieve more education, more skills. (Most in demand: computer skills.)

“Advertised job openings in large metropolitan areas require more education than all existing jobs, and more education than the average adult has attained. In the 100 largest metropolitan areas, 43% of job openings typically require at least a bachelor’s degree, but just 32% of adults 25 and older have earned one. ...

“Unemployment rates are 2% higher in large metro areas with a shortage of educated workers relative to demand and have been consistently higher since before the recession.”*

As of July 2012, the national unemployment rate of workers with a high school diploma or less education is well above the rate of workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher. (See table.) More educated adults are also much more likely to be in the labor force. The labor force participation rate for those with a high school diploma or less is just 55%, compared to 77% for those with a bachelor’s degree.



The July 2012 unemployment rate in PG County was 7.1% compared with 5.3% in Howard County. Why? Almost certainly it reflects the higher educational accomplishments of the average resident in the two counties.*

Who fills the vacancies? Maybe they remain unfilled, but some are filled by outsourcing. It is not the outsourcing we usually think of, for instance, making t-shirts and Apple i-Phones. Rather, it is the interpretation of x-rays and the preparation of legal documents. What about nurses? We don’t education enough of them, which is why there are thousands of Filipina nurses in the USA.

*Sources: <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2012/8/29%20education%20gap%20rothwell%29%20education%20gap%20rothwell.pdf> and <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.t04.htm>

A MESSAGE OF NEED

I am a counselor at the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center presently recruiting with my colleagues for a new program Host Homes for youth. For the next month we are actively seeking/recruiting temporary homes for our homeless youth. In addition, we are taking referrals for teens at risk of being runaways. The focus of the program is to invite the community to make a difference in a teen’s life by opening homes and becoming a host home for at risk teens. Our hope for each teen we support is to provide him or her with a safe, loving, and stable short term place the teen can call home.

I am very interested in speaking and networking with anyone that wants to contribute to this program. My contact information is 301 431-3121x23 or anielka@layc-dc.org.

—Anielka Martinez, Youth & Family Counselor, MMYC.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

The Platform Focus on Immigrants

“Democrats are strongly committed to enacting comprehensive immigration reform that supports our economic goals and reflects our values as both a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. The story of the United States would not be possible without the generations of immigrants who have strengthened our country and contributed to our economy. Our prosperity depends on an immigration system that reflects our values and meets America’s needs. But Americans know that today, our immigration system is badly broken, separating families, undermining honest employers



“There is not a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America.”

and workers, burdening law enforcement, and leaving millions of people working and living in the shadows.

Democrats

know there is broad consensus to repair that system and strengthen our economy, and that the country urgently needs comprehensive immigration reform that brings undocumented immigrants out of the shadows and requires them to get right with the law, learn English, and pay taxes in order to get on a path to earn citizenship. We need an immigration reform that creates a system for allocating visas that meets our economic needs, keeps families together, and enforces the law. ...

“Despite the obstacles, President Obama has made important progress in implementing immigration policies that reward hard work and demand personal responsibility. Today, the Southwest border is more secure than at any time in the past 20 years. Unlawful crossings are at a 40-year low, and the Border Patrol is better staffed than at any time in its history. We are continuing to work to hold employers accountable for whom they hire. The Department of Homeland Security is prioritizing the deportation of criminals who endanger our communities over the deportation of immigrants who do not pose a threat, such as children who came here through no fault of their own and are pursuing an education. President Obama’s administration has streamlined the process of legal immigration for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, supporting family reunification as a priority, and has enhanced opportunities for English-language learning and immigrant integration. When states sought to interfere with federal immigration law by passing local measures targeting immigrants, this administration challenged them in court.

“President Obama and the Democrats fought for the DREAM Act, legislation ensuring that young people who want to contribute fully to our society and serve our country are able to become legal residents and ultimately citizens. Although this bill has a long history of bipartisan support, Republicans decided to play politics with it rather than do the right thing. So the Obama administration provided temporary relief for youth who came to the United States as children, through no fault of their own, grew up as Americans and are poised to make a real contribution to our country.

“These are not permanent fixes. Only Congress can provide a permanent, comprehensive solution. But these are steps in the right direction. President Obama and the Democratic Party stand for comprehensive immigration reform that intelligently prioritizes our country’s security and economic needs.”

Sister Simone Campbell Speaks to the Convention

“Good evening, I’m Sister Simone Campbell, and I’m one of the ‘nuns on the bus.’ So, yes, we have nuns on the bus. And a nun on the podium! ... We agree with our bishops, and that’s why we went on the road: to stand with struggling families and to lift up our Catholic sisters who serve them. ... We are responsible not only for ourselves and our immediate families. Rather, our faith strongly affirms that we are all responsible for one another. I am my sister’s keeper. I am my brother’s keeper.

“While we were in Toledo, I met 10-year-old twins Matt and Mark, who had gotten into trouble at school for fighting. Sister Virginia and the staff at the Padua Center took them in when they were suspended and discovered on a home visit that these 10-year-olds were trying to care for their bedridden mother who has MS and diabetes. They were her only caregivers. The sisters got her medical help and are giving the boys some stability. Now the boys are free to claim much of the childhood they were losing. Clearly, we all share responsibility for the Matts and Marks in our nation.

“In Milwaukee, I met Billy and his wife and two boys at St. Benedict’s dining room. Billy’s work hours were cut back in the recession. Billy is taking responsibility for himself and his family, but right now without food stamps, he and his wife could not put food on their family table. ...

“In Cincinnati, I met Jini, who had just come from her sister’s memorial service. When Jini’s sister Margaret lost her job, she lost her health insurance. She developed cancer and had no access to diagnosis or treatment. She died unnecessarily. That is tragic. And it is wrong.

“The Affordable Care Act will cover people like Margaret. We all share responsibility to ensure that this vital health care reform law is properly implemented and that all governors expand Medicaid coverage so no more Margarets die from lack of care. This is part of my pro-life stance and the right thing to do.

“Looking out at you tonight, I feel your presence combined with that of the thousands of caring people we met on our journey. Together, we understand that an immoral budget that hurts already struggling families does not reflect our nation’s values. We are better than that. So I urge you to join us on the bus. Join us as together we stand with Matt and Mark, Billy and his family, the woman in Hershey and the Margarets of our nation. This is what we nuns on the bus are all about: We care for the 100 percent, and that will secure the blessings of liberty for our nation. So join us as we nuns and all of us drive for faith, family and fairness.”

“I am my sister’s keeper. I am my brother’s keeper.”

Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

-Matthew 25:40 KJV

GOD SAVE US: WE MAY BECOME BILINGUAL

Canada has them too! Robert Klein Engler, writing in the *Canada Free Press* (31 August 2012): "Recently, it was proposed that we no longer use the term 'illegal immigrant' to describe this invasion of Mexicans because the term is too judgmental. ... Matters of judgment aside, it is clear that illegal immigrants from Mexico are more like colonists than immigrants. We need a new way to describe this social phenomenon. Nowadays, the term 'Mexicólonos' describes illegal immigrants from Mexico better than any other.



Yes, Joel!

¡Hola, José!

"The late professor Samuel P. Huntington was aware of how the conflict between Mexicólonos and US citizens would produce a clash of civilizations. Huntington saw Mexico as a torn state, a state torn between a ruling class that wished to be modern and an indigenous class that wished to go back to its pre-Colombian past. ... [He] states the problem of Hispanic immigration to the United States very forcefully. 'The persistent inflow of Hispanic immigrants threatens to divide the United States into two peoples, two cultures, and two languages. ... Mexican immigration is a unique, disturbing, and looming challenge to our cultural integrity, our national identity, and potentially to our future as a country.'"^{*}

And "worse": There are schools in the USA that offer a bilingual education (typically Spanish and English but in PG County French and English), and many others offer some classes in Spanish and other languages. These schools must be part of the grand conspiracy to take over the country. Maybe there's even a danger of giving Texas back to Mexico. (Hum: not a bad idea.) So we're heading towards being a bilingual nation, and the firm rule of the Euro-Americans is threatened. God save us! We may become greater!

^{*}In later life, Huntington may have gone mad! - ed.

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.

Now until October 21—Maryland Renaissance Festival, 1821 Crownsville Rd., Annapolis. It's mostly on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. The space includes performances, craft shops, food and drink, and more. It isn't cheap: most adults pay \$17 and kids \$8. But there is a complicated fee schedule. For fees and lots of other information, check <http://www.rennfest.com/>.

September 9—several festivals (see Page 1, above)

September 12, 19, et cetera—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon (last market day this year is October 31. 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!!

September 15, et cetera—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 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 21—Visit Maryland Day is an open house for prospective University of Maryland (College Park) students and their families on Friday, September 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Visiting families park in the Stadium Drive Garage and go to Stamp Student Union for registration and welcome. Students visit various academic departments around campus and attend sessions in the Student Union throughout the morning and afternoon.

September 22—47th District Family Picnic. From noon to 5 p.m. in Bartlett Park, 4300 39th Place, Brentwood. The entire 47th delegation are hosting. Free food, games, music, and more. Plus we can lobby our representatives!

September 22-25—National Immigration Integration Conference, Baltimore. See Page 2, above, for more information.

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 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.

2013 May 5—Langley Park Day, 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.

SAT OPPORTUNITY! For the first time, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) 12th graders can take the SAT for free during the regular school day on October 17. The SAT School Day will provide students with convenient access to test in a familiar setting. By providing the test during the school day, more students will have access to the college entrance exam. Students will also have free access to the Official SAT Online Course, the Official SAT Question of the Day, and Skills Insight, resources to aid in preparation and skills assessment. Online registration is open through Oct. 3. To register, students will need an email account, free College Board online account, State ID number and SAT student voucher, which will be available from the high school counselors. Click [here](#) to register. Participants will be provided with four free score reports that can be sent to colleges and scholarship services. Students may also research colleges and universities on bigfuture.org, the College Board's website that provides free resources for preparing, locating and paying for college. (Source: PGCPS)