

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue Number 262, December 2012 – Biff Hanna, editor.

THE FISCAL SLOPE

aka The Fiscal Cliff

The Democratic President with staff and the Republican Congressmen/women are apparently continuing negotiations over the taxes and spending in the coming year. Will your taxes be raised? Will there be spending cuts that will lead to higher levels of unemployment? Or even homelessness?

John Fritze of the *Baltimore Sun* (15 December 2012) writes, "Regardless of whether the president and Congress strike a deal or take the nation headfirst over the 'fiscal cliff,' federal taxes for some Marylanders will increase next year—and under some scenarios the pain could be worse than in other states."

Of course, those making above \$250,000 (or \$400,000) a year will probably pay at a higher rate for earnings above the threshold. Maybe that's fair; after all, the state and nation made the earnings possible. However, there are programs likely to be cut that will have a negative impact on the lives of many non-wealthy. There may be cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, unemployment insurance, food stamps, and support for education and various social services. Scary!

Better contact your congressman now! To contact, go to www.house.gov/representatives/#state_md.

2013

Here's to a happy 2013 with an improved quality of life for the residents of the Langley Park area. And please please please: No tragedies!

An improved quality of life means no displacement, apartments properly maintained by the management, more achievements in school and fewer dropouts, a low rate of crime, permission for the micro-entrepreneurs' food trucks to operate in several area locations, a health clinic and small library located in the Langley Park Community Center (using the east wing or constructed second floor of the Center), completion of the transit center in the northwest quadrant of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue, a sharp reduction in the ranks of the unemployed, no ICE-caused family fragmentation, passage of the country's Dream Act, and overall happiness and success.

Let's hope the County Council reverses its support for the plan that would devastate Langley Park, the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative's agencies can bring more resources to the neighborhood and eliminate many of the negatives, and supportive organizations such as CASA de Maryland, Maryland Multiple Youth Center, and ALP can push for positive change while serving those in need.

The Tragedy Revisited

There is no possibility that we will forget the mid-December horrors and perhaps escape the nightmares that these horrors brought. The tears will continue to flow when we think about the deaths of twenty six and seven years old and the six adults at the Sandy Hook School. But of course, life must go on—although for those close to the murdered, life will forever be deeply stained by the horrors.

PGCPS alerts us: Children often show signs of stress after a traumatic event. Signs may include sadness, tantrums, aggressive behavior, and a return to outgrown behavior. Signs may also include stomach-aches and headaches, and an ongoing desire to stay home from school or away from friends. These signs are normal and usually do not last long.



Sadness

What to do depends on the child's age. For some suggestions from PGCPS, go to this site: <http://www1.pgcps.org/communications/press.aspx?id=171163>. Also check out the *New York Times*; its staff published suggestions for coping at http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/15/health/tips-for-talking-to-children-about-the-elementary-school-mass-shooting.html?_r=0.

All of us must consider what policy actions must be taken to reduce the likelihood of repetitions of the horror. After all, the recent tragedy is but one of a serious of mass murders. More security in the school and workplace is called for. We must, however, reduce the impulse to murder and the means



Painful Grieving

of murder. Maybe that means some degree of censorship of mass murder video games and films (Jaime Foxx: "We cannot turn our back and say that violence in films or anything that we do doesn't have a sort of influence"), more referrals to mental health clinics, and a ban on assault and semi-automatic weapons and multi-bullet cartridges for those not in the police or military. Talk is not enough; the country needs action.

Ah action: Can the national political climate force weak politicians to support legislation and executive orders that will reduce the dangers of mass murder—or any murder? Positive evidence so far is slim, but we can hope. Remember: the dead children are *our* children.



Now Dead

ITEMS

Jobs: Who's on the Outs

The national rate of unemployment slowly has declined since its 10% high in October 2009. The November figure was 7.7%. (See graphic.) The Maryland graphic is similar to the national one, but a bit lower; in October 2009, it was 8.0% and in November it was 6.6%. (DC=8.4%, VA=5.6%)



There are some striking differences depending on what one is. For instance, the latest figures reveal that married people have a lower unemployment rate than separated/divorced or never-married people. African-Americans have the highest rate of unemployment,

followed by Latino/as (those officially seeking work), then Euro-Americans, and with the lowest figures Asian-Americans. Euro and Black males have a higher rate of unemployment than females, but it's the opposite for Asians and Latino/as. Don't be in the 16-19 age bracket; the unemployment rate for that category is 36%! We'd better work hard to get jobs for these young people; if we don't, our country may pay for it dearly later. Some of them might even become frustrated killers.

Jobs: ICE After Employers

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has set a new record for auditing companies suspected of hiring undocumented immigrants. Audits increased from 250 in FY2007 to more than 3,000 in FY2012. From FY2009 to FY2012, the fines total increased from \$1m to \$13m. Fully 238 company managers have been arrested. And that's in the administration of the (supposedly?) better choice on immigration matters.

After Modern Times?

Prince George's county police report that there will be increased presence at elementary schools with the fear that there may be some copycat violence. A police spokesperson: "There is no specific threat and/or intelligence to suggest that Prince George's County schools are at increased risk." What a world: children murdered, widows burned to death, combatants mass-rape women, hands and/or legs chopped off, children forced to be terrorist soldiers or prostitutes, and on and on. The world needs peace therapy.

**Good News:
Homicides in
PG down 35%!**

(Pictured: the AR-15)

Student Video about Langley Park

Check out this address, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhfuVPpEQ8>, for a short video made by three U. of Maryland Latino history students.

MoCo Attacks Affordable Housing Too

Long Branch is one of Montgomery County's sister neighborhood of Langley Park. Its commercial center is

at the crossroads of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road. And this neighborhood, like Langley Park, also has a county plan designed to "develop" the area. It's the Long Branch Sector Plan. An article in the *Washington Examiner* (16 December 2012) reports that the plan "has residents worried about how it might reshape the community—including replacing parts of the area's low-income housing." The article continues: "Planners have presented the basic plan to the Montgomery County Planning Board, saying they want to reinvent the neighborhood while keeping some of its 'character.'" But as with PG County's sector plan, words about support for affordable housing may well be followed by the demolition of affordable housing.

A special element in the Long Branch plan is the Flower Theater, a wonderful art deco building that has not hosted cinema or theater for several decades. Those who care about heritage want the building preserved, restored, and used for films and live performances. Some years ago, there was an effort to turn it into a nonprofit theater along the lines of the Avalon in Chevy Chase. But the funds were not there. Another try seems desirable. Let us not have the Flower Theater suffer the fate of the classy theater that was in Langley Park: torn down.



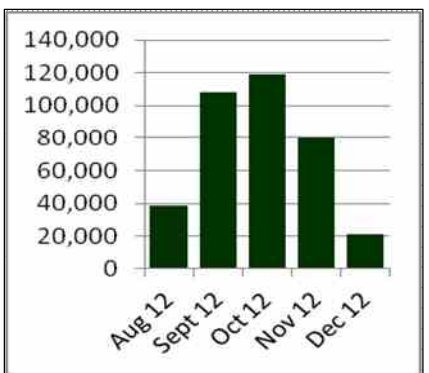
Immigrants: 9% of Eligible Are Now Deferred

Applications for deferral have slowed dramatically; perhaps candidates are worrying about life in the USA after the two years if there is no renewal or road to citizenship. Also, the application fee, \$465, and lawyers fees are for some immigrants high hurdles. (Do we only want non-poor?)

A lawyer: "If you're willing to risk and assume that they will never come back and use the information you have given them against you to bring you into removal proceedings, ... or you assume the DREAM Act is going to pass, that's fine." If not...?

Homeland Security's Janet Napolitano: "We have provided assurance that information we get will not be turned over, say, to ICE if a person is not deemed eligible, absent some very specific, very serious exceptions." What if an anti-immigrant takes power in the next administration? Well...?

Now just over 100,000 have been approved for the two year delay of potential deportation; that's among the estimated 1,300,000 who might be eligible. A PBS segment focuses on some of the issues at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_issues/july-dec12/



"Items" continued from page 2

dreamers_12-14.html. The two quotes are from the program.

Immigrant: A Happy Maryland Dreamer

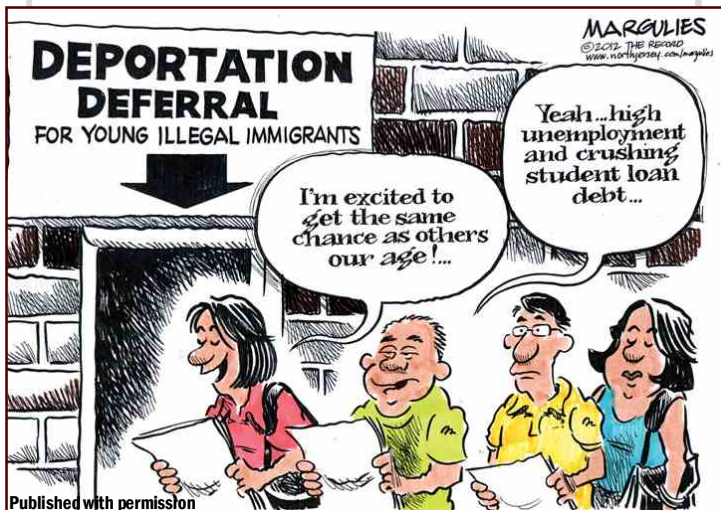
Here's a positive story from *Campus Progress* (14 December 2012).

"Laura Choque was 15 years old when she learned that she was not a legal citizen. "All my friends were getting their licenses," Choque, who is originally from Peru, said. "That's when I realized that I didn't have a Social Security number. No Social Security number, no license."

"But what really upset Choque was not being able to get a driver's license—it was the reality that she would be ineligible for in-state college tuition. "I hoped and prayed to God that somehow, I'd find a way to attend a four-year college," said Choque, who applied to several colleges in Maryland.

"I finally got accepted to the University of Maryland, but I knew tuition would be too much," she said. Choque declined the acceptance letter and opted to enroll in Montgomery College instead. ... With the passing of Maryland's version of the Dream Act, Choque will now be able to realize her dream of attending the University of Maryland." [Hey Choque: Take my class! -Bill]

Thanks to all the Maryland voters who made this positive story a reality. Hopefully, the federal DREAM Act will soon pass.



Immigrant Legislation: Distractions

There is the need to tighten gun laws and to nominate senior officials (and getting them through the Senate) and other issues that some observers think may distract President Obama so that immigration legislation may have lower priority. Let's hope not, and especially with the anti-immigrant crowd in some key positions in the House of Representatives. Those who want comprehensive immigration reform (that would include, among other things, something like the DREAM Act, family unification, new routes to citizenship for those with high academic achievements, and more) better flood the offices of congress

Wanted: A PGCPs Superintendent

The *Washington Post* (14 December 2012) reports that the search firm hired to select four to six candidates has indicated some key criteria: "Wanted: A su-

"Items" continued on page 4

OBAMA AND

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

A Commentary in the *Chicago Sun-Times* (15 December 2012)*

Obama ... wants at least one more historic act in his second term to add to his first-term creation of Obamacare: comprehensive immigration reform.

In 2008, he promised to make it a priority, but failed to deliver. But the 2012 election has revealed a new political math to Congress: Hey, Hispanic votes count!

According to sources, the White House feels it now has a win-win situation on immigration: The Republicans go along with what the White House wants (which would be a Democratic win) or face the prospect of alienating Hispanic voters even further and losing seats in 2014 (also a Democratic win).

In the last few years, even non-comprehensive, relatively non-controversial immigration measures have failed in Congress. When the Dream (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act failed once again to clear Congress in 2010, Obama instituted his own mini-Dream action in 2012, by deferring the deportation of people who came to the United States illegally before reaching the age of 16, had high school degrees or honorable discharges from the military and were not felons.

But the deferrals will last only two years, do not put anyone "on the road to citizenship" and do not cover those who came here as adults. Now, the White House will quickly push for a comprehensive change in the immigration system that will cover everybody.

Part of the reform includes the usual "get tough" promises: Obama pledges to concentrate on keeping out those who would "do our nation harm," hold accountable those U.S. companies that "hire and exploit undocumented workers" and achieve a "reliable" way to verify whether someone is in the country legally or not.

In return for the get-tough measures, a pathway to legal status is promised for the 11 million or so illegal aliens already in the country. The pathway is not exactly strewn with roses. Illegal aliens must come forward, register, be fingerprinted, undergo a criminal and national security background check, pay any back taxes, a fee and a fine, learn English and get "in line to become eligible for citizenship" — a process that would take at least 13 years.

It could take much longer. "Illegal immigrants who complete all the requirements of the legalization program will have to go to the back of the line," the White House says, which means those who meet all the criteria still will have to get in back of those who reside overseas and are applying to enter the United States legally.

If all that sounds like a long, tough road, it is meant to. The problem is that many Republicans still think Obama's plan sounds tough without actually being tough. And, they say, when you get right down to it, the whole shebang still amounts to amnesty.

In September, Obama said, "My biggest failure so far is we haven't gotten comprehensive immigration reform done, so we're going to be continuing to work on that."

*The full article is available at <http://www.suntimes.com/news/otherviews/17011338-452/obamas-a-winner-so-immigration-reform-is-too.html>

Yes, it's a tough road. But maybe thanks to the Republican fear that the party will lose Latino/a votes forever and hopefully powerful leadership by the President, there's a chance.

Harvard's Joseph S. Nye On Immigration

Professor Nye is one of our country's most thoughtful commentators and scholars on international and domestic affairs. Below is a portion of his article in The Prague Post entitled "The link between immigration and power: A continued influx of foreigners will enhance U.S. competitiveness."

"The United States is a nation of immigrants. Except for a small number of Native Americans, everyone is originally from somewhere else, and even recent immigrants can rise to top economic and political roles. President Franklin Roosevelt once famously addressed the Daughters of the American Revolution—a group that prided itself on the early arrival of its ancestors—as "fellow immigrants." ...

"Fears about the impact of immigration on national values and on a coherent sense of American identity are not new. The 19th-century "Know Nothing" movement was built on opposition to immigrants, particularly the Irish. Chinese were singled out for exclusion from 1882 onward, and, with the more restrictive Immigration Act of 1924, immigration in general slowed for the next four decades.

**"Immigration
strengthens
U.S. power."**

"During the 20th century, the U.S. recorded its highest percentage of foreign-born residents, 14.7 percent, in 1910. A century later, according to the 2010 census, 13 percent of the American population is foreign-born. But, despite being a nation of immigrants, more Americans are skeptical about immigration than are sympathetic to it. Various opinion polls show either a plurality or a majority favoring less immigration. The recession exacerbated such views: in 2009, one-half of the U.S. public favored allowing fewer immigrants, up from 39 percent in 2008.

"Both the number of immigrants and their origin have caused concerns about immigration's effects on American culture. Demographers portray a country in 2050 in which non-Hispanic whites will be only a slim majority. Hispanics will comprise 25% of the population, with African- and Asian-Americans making up 14% and 8% respectively. But mass communications and market forces produce powerful incentives to master the English language and accept a degree of assimilation. Modern media help new immigrants to learn more about their new country beforehand than immigrants did a century ago. Indeed, most of the evidence suggests that the latest immigrants are assimilating at least as quickly as their predecessors.

"While too rapid a rate of immigration can cause social problems, over the long term, immigration strengthens U.S. power. ..."

The full Nye article may be accessed at http://www.praguepost.com/opinion/15064-the-link-between-immigration-and-power.html?utm_source=E-mail+Updates&utm_campaign=b3951d783c-12_22_2012&utm_medium=email

People in the News

Alonzo Washington, the chief of staff for Will Campos, has been selected to take a vacant seat in the state Assembly. Good luck, Alonzo.

Eric Olson, a progressive Democrat, lost the vote to become County Council president. Reportedly Campos, when promised the Vice job, voted against Olson. The promise was not carried out. A lesson here?

Edwin Claros, a High Point High School senior, is All-Met in futbol (soccer) for the second straight year. He scored 22 goals this past season—as he did in 2011. g-o-a-!!!!

"Items" continued from page 3

perintendent who is collaborative, shows integrity and has a vision that he or she can fulfill. ... This candidate should also be politically savvy; appreciative of a diverse school system and able to address inequity among students who come from different socioeconomic backgrounds. And, high on the list, this person must commit to making a home in Prince George's County for several years."

County Executive Rushern Baker is not formally in the selection hierarchy, but he has indicated that he will be an active participant.

We've had some good and bad superintendents over the past decade as the result of searches. Let's hope that somehow the person anointed will be the man or woman we dream for!

Cops Help with Food

The Prince George's County Police Department and the Maryland Chapter of the Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association distributed food baskets to the local community. Residents from near and far visited the satellite police office on New Hampshire Avenue in Langley Park, where members of the PGPD and local volunteers gave out 1,000 food baskets to families in need. A doctor gave free medical exams, and 150 people received a free flu shot. Radio Romantica 900 added spice!



Original text (here edited) and photo (cropped) from pgpolice.blogspot.com

Scary 1: Citizen Policy Preferences

There are some strange preferences among our country's citizenry. In a Kaiser Family Foundation poll conducted last year but just seen by the large BLP staff, about a majority or more of the respondents favored cutting the salaries and benefits of government workers (who are underpaid compared with the private sector), insurance coverage under the new health care law (damn the poor), food stamps (ditto), unemployment benefits (ditto), and Medicaid (final ditto). About one-third favored cutting Medicare, education, and Social Security. Let 'em get sick! Let 'em starve when unemployed. Let 'em be illiterate! Etc. What about "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"?

Scary 2: School Dropouts

Every year, more than one million students—that's 7,000 every school day—do not graduate from high school on time. Nationwide, only about 75% of students earn their high school diplomas. Among minority students, only 63.5% of Latino/a, 61.5% of African American, and 64.2% of American Indian and Alaska Native students in the U.S. graduate with a regular diploma, compared to 81% of white students and 91.4% of Asian/Pacific Islander students.* Of course, socioeconomic class, parenting skills, and neighborhood are among the factors that explain the difference. And for girls, pregnancy is an added factor. But whatever the causes of difference, the percentages are a loud cry for help.

Maybe there's a connection between lack of education and lack of understanding pressing policy matters.

*Counting dropouts is hazardous, usually resulting in an undercount. However, Dept. of Education data indicate a decline in dropouts.

Source: http://www.all4ed.org/about_the_crisis

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

A letter to the President is currently being circulated in the hope that a powerful coalition of supporters will sign on, making the point that there is an urgent need to reform immigration policy and practice. Perhaps there are opportunities now to make changes that better meet the norms of civility, equity, and liberty. That is the hope. And it's a good fighting agenda. Scores of organizations have signed, and Action Langley Park is supportive. Here is a very small sample of signatory organizations: American Immigration Lawyers Association, Faith Action Network, National Council of La Raza, National Organization for Women, and various chapters of LULAC. The below version of the letter includes highlights, but due to BLP space limitations is not the full document.

Letter to the President, 21 December 2012

Dear President Obama:

We appreciate your leadership and the commitment you have made to prioritize immigration policy reforms. Immigrant communities supported you overwhelmingly in your recent reelection, creating an incredible opportunity to aggressively pursue a long overdue set of reforms that will bring our immigration system into alignment with American values. Our group—a coalition of immigration advocates, human rights advocates, civil liberties advocates, and members of community groups and faith-based organizations—seeks to ensure that U.S. immigration and border policy is crafted and implemented in a way that is fair and upholds constitutional protections and human rights.

We are deeply concerned by the way the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has carried out immigration enforcement during your first term. Even though unauthorized immigration crossings and apprehensions at the border have plummeted to their lowest level in 40 years, immigrants have suffered immensely as a result of record-breaking deportation rates. Tens of thousands of families have been separated by deportations and border regions have experienced excessive and wasteful spending resulting in unnecessary buildup of infrastructure, technology and personnel.

Immigration policy reforms should preserve human dignity and family unity. Currently, our immigration policies deny many immigrants their right to raise healthy, safe families. While our nation continues to struggle under the weight of a prolonged fiscal crisis, we urge you to adopt a reform plan that ensures federal resources for immigration enforcement and detention are deployed thoughtfully and efficiently. Moreover, reforms should uphold fundamental principles such as due process and equality under the law and ensure the security and stability of border communities.

We are eager to see the following measures implemented in your second term. We hope that you will communicate the following recommendations as urgent priorities in your directives to the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Labor and Health and Human Services.

The Federal Government Should Exercise Its Immigration Enforcement Authority in a Manner that Protects the Civil and Human Rights of All People.

The federal government must regain and exert control over the just enforcement of immigration laws. The devolution of immigration enforcement to state and local law enforcement has exacerbated profiling based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin, language and perceived immigration status....

The Obama Administration should:

- Completely phase out existing 287(g) agreements and initiate no new agreements;
- Immediately stop the implementation of the Secure Communities and Criminal Alien Programs unless and until meaningful civil rights and civil liberties safeguards are put in place to ensure that racial profiling and other human rights violations are not occurring, including collecting and monitoring data on the perceived race or ethnicity of the people arrested, the charges that are lodged and the ultimate disposition of the cases; terminate Secure Communities in jurisdictions that have chosen to opt out of the program; ...
- Rescind the DOJ's 2002 OLC "inherent authority" memo and issue a new memo clarifying that state and local law enforcement agents may not enforce federal immigration laws

Workplace Immigration Enforcement Must be Conducted and Targeted in a Manner that Improves—Rather than Undermines—the Wages and Working Conditions of US and Immigrant Workers, and that Respects Workers' Due Process Rights.

The Obama Administration should:

- Establish an interagency taskforce to ensure that immigration enforcement is implemented in a manner that is consistent with other administration goals such as effective labor law enforcement and respect for due process rights; ...
- The Obama administration should robustly implement ICE's Memorandum "Prosecutorial Discretion: Certain Victims, Witnesses, and Plaintiffs," to ensure that workers' rights are respected by the agency. Despite the fact that the policy has been in effect for more than one year, ICE continues to deport workers who are organizing to protect their labor or civil rights, contrary to the policy.

Detention for Immigration Purposes Should be Civil.

The immigration detention system is woefully overburdened, inhumane, and denies basic due process and human rights.

The White House should ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):

- Broadly implements effective community-based alternatives to detention for individuals who require supervision but who do not pose a flight risk or a danger to the community, including those for whom custody is currently mandatory;
 - Only use detention as a last resort—where there is a flight risk or public safety threat that cannot be managed through an alternative program;
- Closely monitor conditions of detention and take swift action for non-compliance, including closure of deficient facilities;
- Ensure that individuals who are detained have access to counsel at all points in the detention and removal process; ...

The White House should ensure that DOJ and DHS :

- Reform and make public CBP's use-of-force policy to reflect best law enforcement practices and minimize the use of lethal and disproportionate force;
- Develop enforceable and humane standards for holding immigrants in short-term custody to ensure conditions of confinement meet human rights standards;
- Review, reform and disseminate to all CBP sectors and field offices policies that (a) ban the use of racial profiling, (i.e., relying, to any degree, on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, or religion in selecting which individual to subject to routine or spontaneous investigatory activities);

The Obama Administration Should Immediately Rescind Policies issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on August 28, 2012 Excluding Individuals Granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) from Eligibility for Health Coverage Programs Created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Federal Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program in About Half the States. The policies, issued through an Interim Final Rule and a State Health Officials letter, must be changed to fulfill the goals of the ACA, be consistent with existing policy qualifying all other individuals granted deferred action as eligible for these programs, avert unnecessary health consequences to DACA grantees, and undo a damaging and harmful precedent for immigration reform.

Family Waivers Should Be Fairly and Generously Adjudicated

The Administration should assure that all family waivers be fairly and generously adjudicated, including those that will be processed under the provisional waiver process still under review.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE DEFERRED

The *Las Vegas Sun* (16 December 2012) reports:

“Armando Hernandez first felt a searing headache, then his legs began to swell. He lived with the pain for two days but finally relented and went to a hospital on day three. The Reno resident was 19 years old at the time. His kidneys were failing.

“Now, Hernandez, who entered the country illegally at the age of 15 when he moved with his parents from Guadalajara, Mexico, to Oakland, Calif., is 25 years old and goes for dialysis three times a week.

“When President Barack Obama announced the deferred action for childhood arrivals program in June, Hernandez was elated. Not only was this his opportunity to obtain a work permit and some semblance of permanency, he believed he would benefit from provisions in the Affordable Care Act that barred denial of health insurance based on pre-existing conditions and subsidized insurance for low-income individuals.

“But Hernandez quickly found out little would change in his health care. In August, the Obama administration said deferred-action recipients would not be included in the health care act's provisions. The move kept to a pattern in the Affordable Care Act of explicitly excluding or severely curtailing immigrants' access to its benefits.”

Not providing health care to the poor, whether documented or otherwise, seems both to be cruel to the ill but also counter-productive to the rest of us because we want to be around healthy people who will not transmit illness to us. Of course, most kidney problems are hard to transmit; but there are plenty of other illnesses that we can get from an untreated person.

The idea behind the two annual health fairs organized by staffs of the Langley Park Community Center and Action Langley Park is to fill some of the gap, but it mostly identifies problems rather than cures them. The county, state, and nation need to provide health care to residents regardless of wealth or immigration status. Maybe the clinic network will help.

Aesthetics



Barrio de Langley Park is much too serious a publication to get into the field of human aesthetics, that is, beauty and handsomeness. However, our email box was invaded by Latino.com with a headline, “The 50 Most Beautiful Latinas in Hollywood!” And so, as a service to the few readers who might be interested in such matters, we offer a sample and refer you to <http://www.latinacom.com/entertainment/buzz/most-beautiful-latinas-hollywood> for 47 more images. We hope those who follow the web address are appreciative.

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 actionlangley-park@yahoo.com.

2012

Dec until Jan 1—Annual Festival of Light at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. \$5 for a car full. Information: 30-1 699-2456

2013

Jan 1—HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Let's hope that the new year brings in civil politics at the national level, more opportunities for marginalized immigrants, international peace, and more!

Jan 3 and 4—Physics is Phun, “Electricity and Magnetism,” 7 p.m. Physics lecture halls. Call 301 405-6045 or email lohara@umd.edu

Jan 8—Mis Quince Open House at the Community Center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Check it out! It's a great experience for a young girl becoming a young woman. →

Jan 8 - Montgomery College Open House, 5:30 p.m., 7600 Takoma Avenue. CM 211 (English session), CM 210A (Spanish session). This information session is for adult students who are new or returning to college. The sessions will cover basic information about the enrollment process and include information on turning work experience into college credit, transferring previous college credits, balancing multiple priorities, and applying for financial aid. A session in English and Spanish will run simultaneously. For the full list of events college-wide, visit this webpage: www.montgomerycollege.edu/openhouse. Information: 240 567-3961.



March 7-9—Physics is Phun, “Energy and Motion.” See above info.

March 14—Action Langley Park meets at 7 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center. It's an open meeting: come one, come all!

May 2-4—Physics is Phun, “Water.” See above info.

May 5 —Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health (there's a big health fair included as part of the event). The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of foods or crafts. Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Location: Langley Park Community Center. Volunteer doctors, nurses, dancers, musicians, clowns, and guides will participate; other volunteers are all welcome (let us know). Food and craft vendors should contact Lourdes Sulc at 301 405-4005; health professionals and information providers should contact Bill Hanna at 301 405-4005.



Emotional Issue? Call 211!

This free service connects residents to mental health and other human services. 211 is staffed by professionals who quickly assess the caller's needs and refer him or her to agencies or resources needed to assist those who are struggling with an emotional issue. Available 24/7! In 200 languages!

