

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
Issue 211, 1 July 2011

## Saturday, June 25

What a Saturday it was! There were events put on by the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center at the Langley Park Community Center, by CASA de Maryland at its mansion headquarters in Langley Park, a free session on the law, a fair organized by El Pregonero, and SEED's Community Fest.

**SEED:** Julia Sarmiento reports on the SEED event: "We had over 500 people show up for the event. It was way more than last year. The food giveaway was great. People were happy with their bags/boxes a one watermelon.

"There were moon bounces which the children enjoyed a lot. There was free popcorn, free cotton candy and free chicken/corn on the cob, ribs and much more. It was good. The nutrition classes were well attended, and it was good information. The lovely weather helped make the event more successful."

The above photos show one part of the food distribution and one small girl sliding down one big slide!

**MMYC:** Youth members of the AmeriCorps Program at the Latin American Youth Center's Langley Park center held a "Safe Summer Awareness Day" to provide the Langley Park community with information



Lots of food was distributed at the SEED event. Here's one of the food "stations".



There was a big slide at the SEED event. Sometimes little people took the challenge.



Arts for young people were an important part of the MMYC event.

about local resources for children and youth. Local organizations in Prince George's county participated in the event, providing information about numerous free summer programs available to the students from ages 5 through 18. In addition, Americorps members staffed various stations such as arts and crafts, photo booth, DJ lessons, and fabric painting for the younger youth to enjoy. There was also a graffiti station to teach the students how their talents can be put to something positive and meaningful instead of

## SAVING LANGLEY PARK

### A Matter of Morality and Practicality

The focus of the June 17 meeting at the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville was to preserve and to improve the Langley Park area. Improvement is called for, but not at the price of destruction. And yet the "sector plan" developed by the PG County planners will lead, when implemented, to widespread destruction and displacement.

At the meeting, Father Jacek Orzechowski of St. Camillus spoke on behalf of the Catholic Community of Langley Park:

"My name is Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, and I'm here to speak on behalf of the Catholic Community of Langley Park. I also represent the Coalition for Fair Development, made up of thousands of tenants and working class families, businesses, organizations and churches nestled along the Proposed Purple Line route.

"We welcome efforts that would strengthen economic development opportunities in Langley Park, improve transportation, and make our local communities more environmentally sustainable.

However, we believe that it would be morally wrong to do it in a way that would result in a massive displacement of hundreds of low-income families and small businesses that have been a part of this community for many years.

"We feel strongly that there has to be a clear strategy and action plan backed by appropriate laws and policies to protect and preserve the housing opportunities of current residents. We need the Purple Line and other developments in our neighborhood to move forward in ways that create good jobs and build communities rather than displace them."

Said one resident at the meeting: "Our families have been here for a long time and we have built our lives here in Prince George County. We believe that government should work with us to ensure that living conditions are fair, our small businesses survive, and our families can thrive."

In response, County Executive Rushern Baker said that he wanted to improve the quality of housing but he did not want widespread displacement to take place. So his key words are "improve" and "widespread." The meaning of these words as Baker defines and operationalizes them may well determine whether Langley Park will survive as a vital working class immigrant neighborhood. It is the responsibility of Baker and his administration to make improvements without displacements. Here's hoping!



# NEWS AND NOTES

## JULY 5: MONITOR THE COUNCIL

Starting Tuesday, July 5, the PG County Council sessions will be streamed live on-line. Good! No drive or bus ride to get to Upper Marlboro unless there's a special need. And yet we can follow the happenings and, if necessary, take later action. Will the council accept telephone calls during the session?

One observer suggests that the planning sessions also be streamed because so many key decisions are taken during these sessions. What do the people want? Transparency! Democracy!

## PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

**Demolishing Langley Park:** Prince George's County decisionmakers, including Councilman Will Campos, have apparently not yet come to realize the enormous disruption of lives that will be caused if the current "sector plan" is implemented. But the meeting on June 17 and the somewhat encouraging words of Rushern Baker appear to make some change possible. Let's hope that people's quality of life counts for something in the county. And maybe the new planning chair will have a more people-oriented perspective.

**A Face from the Past Returns:** The former chair of PG's planning board under Wayne Curry, Betty Hewlett, will be nominated by Rushern Baker to have a second life in that post. The incumbent under Jack Johnson, Sam Parker, is out. Let's hope Ms. Hewlett does not favor bulldozing affordable apartments and small businesses to make way for gentrification projects that displace residents and businesspeople. We hope she will say "Stop! Toss it! Start over!" so that the PG County's portion of the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan does not brutalize the area's community. Maybe she will think people's lives are as important as money from development.

An email commentator writes about her tenure under Curry: She caused "a dramatic shift by the agency to incorporating citizen input into planning decisions." That would be refreshing given the very sloppy and marginal consultations that took place prior to the issuance of the current version of the Sector Plan. We are hopeful!

**Nearby Development:** Montgomery County is planning a science center for the White Oak area not far from where the new Washington Adventist hospital and the new FDA facility will be built. That's not far from the Langley Park area and an easy bus ride. So job opportunities there may be on the horizon.

## REDUCING HEALTH DISPARITIES

Maryland has assembled a state-level working group, headed by Dean Al Reece of the U. of Maryland's School of Medicine, to identify ways to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic groups. Good. We know that there are many disparities, e.g., life expectancy, deaths of children under one year of age. But the key issue is: how to close the gaps. We know some of the causes, e.g., access to good health care and nutrition.

For the residents of the Langley Park area, steps to close the gaps would include opening a full-service health clinic with sliding-scale payments and a bilingual bicultural staff, and a major campaign against the all-too-common high fat and sodium diet. Such steps could have been taken long ago, but alas the county's Department of Health appears to have failed to do what should have been its responsibilities to enhance good health. (Pictured: County health officer Donald Schell.)

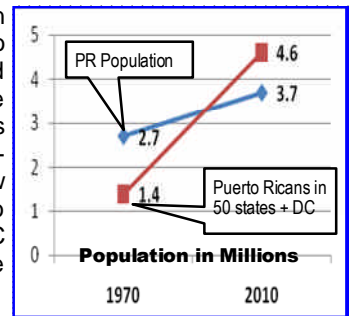
Nationally, the effort by some congressional factions to make deep cuts in the country's domestic budget is likely to



enhance health disparities. In danger are funds for Medicaid, food aid (food stamps, WIC), and temporary assistance for needy families. Of course, if such cuts do take place, those who voted for them will not be in jeopardy. They won't even have to worry about having to pay more in taxes. What happened to "do unto others"?

## PUERTO RICAN SHIFT

Once upon a time (well, in 1970), there were two Puerto Ricans living on the island compared for each one in the fifty states and DC. Forty years later, there has been a dramatic shift: There are now about one million more Puerto Ricans in the 50 states + DC compared with those on the island.



## YOUTHS

**Better Graduation Counting:** It's about time that the State as well as PG County counted graduation rates validly. Starting this year, a more valid method will be employed—and one consequence will be a decline in the graduation rates. The system employed in the past was based on the fraction of graduates over beginning senior school year enrollment. So all the students who dropped out earlier in their high school careers were ignored. The new method's fraction is graduates divided by the number of 9th graders in their cohort. In Prince George's County, the 2010 graduation rates using the old method was 84% but with the new method it would be 73%.

BLP suspects it is even lower. One flaw of the new method is that it uses as the denominator the size of the 9th grade cohort group, but we know that there are dropouts earlier, especially between grades eight and nine. But clearly the new method is a very good step forward towards a valid statistic.

**Program Grant:** This summer's teen unemployment rate is going to be about 75%; that's about a fifty per cent increase from a decade ago. What to do? "DoSomething.org" thinks this is a great opportunity for youth to step up and start your own projects to provide the young people in your area with volunteer opportunities in place of jobs. These grants can be used to help you run your volunteer efforts and include more teens in what you're doing by covering costs including food, materials and supplies, event space, transportation to and from a volunteer event. All volunteer programs must engage at least 25 teens in volunteerism. Eight \$2,000 grants and eighteen \$500 grants will be awarded. But the deadline, July 10, is almost upon us! Go to <http://bit.ly/jVH39y> for more information.

## SECURITY

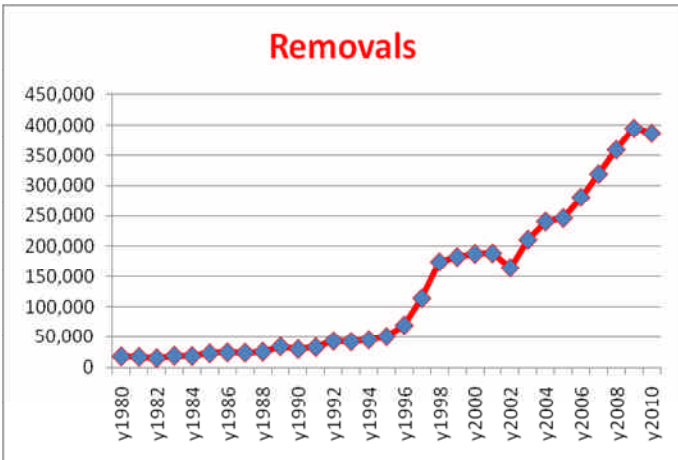
**Enough Cops?** Prince George's County now has close to 1,600 police officers; that's a high for the department. But is that sufficient? One councilman, Obie Patterson, thinks not. "We simply don't have enough officers on the street." But acting Chief of Police Mark Magaw comments, "As we look at our numbers, we're going to be fine." It's clear that an officer on every block will not prevent crime, but having more officers in one place is likely to reduce crime in that particular place. That's the basis of the summer allocation of extra security resources to a handful of what are deemed the county's "hot spots"—one of which is Langley Park. So we should keep an eye on total county crime and crime in the hot spot areas. Of course, if more police officers are needed, that requires more money—not easy to find in this economy unless there is a reallocation, say, from teachers to cops. [The quotations are from the *Washington Examiner*, 26 June 2011.]

**Sex Offenders:** According to [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com), there are several sex offenders living in the Langley Park area. Is this information accurate? If so, how widely known are their locations? Are children alerted?

**Sheriff High:** We remember Melvin High from the days, thankfully in the past, when he headed the police district that includes Langley Park. Now County Sheriff Melvin C. High released a statement that "total warrants have been reduced by over 9.4% or nearly 5,000 from the 53,000 benchmarked when he took office, with violent offender warrants reduced by 28% from 642 in March to 457 this month. ... the agency gets about 2,600 new warrants a month and, because people don't want to be located, over the years the backlog has grown." Let's hope the Sheriff's Office is at last shaping up!

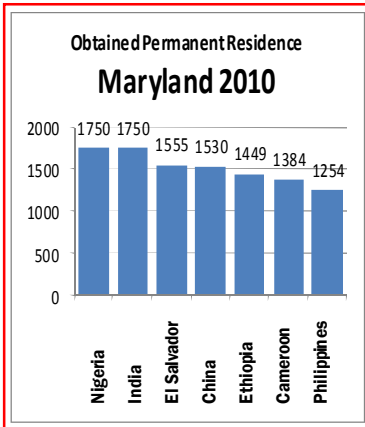
**IMMIGRATION**

**Removing immigrants:** There has been a dramatic increase in the removal of immigrants in recent years; hundreds



of thousands a year. "Removals are the compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal. An alien who is removed has administrative or criminal consequences placed on subsequent reentry owing to the fact of the removal." "Removals" do not count "returns": "Returns are the confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States not based on an order of removal. Most of the voluntary returns are of Mexican nationals who have been apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol and are returned to Mexico." For many years, there have been a million "returns" a year, although the number dropped to about half-a-million in 2010, presumably due to the recession and perhaps enhanced border closings. Alas, some of those removed have been significant contributors to the USA. Above are data from the past thirty years thanks to DHS.

Not surprisingly, most people who were removed come from North America, followed at some distance by those from Central America. Countries of origin that had more than 1,000 removals in 2010 include Brazil (2,709), Columbia (1,044), Dominican Republic (1,094), Ecuador (1,635), El Salvador (11,494), Guatemala (20,019), Hon-

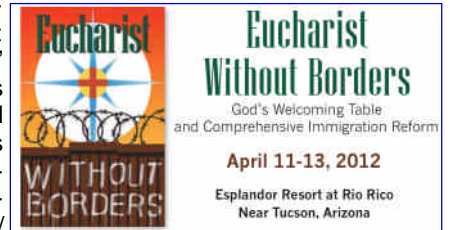


duras (14,253), Mexico (154,275), and Nicaragua (1,053). Fifty per cent of those removed in 2010 were classified as "non-criminal." The only sending area where a majority of those removed were classified as "criminal" was the Caribbean. (That's been the pattern for the past decade.) The country with the highest percentage of "criminals" was Jamaica at 79%; next was Trinidad and Tobago at 71%.

The number of people obtaining legal permanent residence status in Maryland has remained fairly steady over the past decade: the average is about 24,000. Nationally, the average has been about 1,050,000. It may be surprising to know that Asia and Africa have the highest numbers of immigrants obtaining permanent residence in Maryland. The highest country-of-origin numbers for Maryland in 2010 are presented in the graphic at the bottom of the left column.

**A War on Undocumented Immigrants?** During a recent seven day period, the Obama administration detained—and readied for deportation—about 2,500 immigrants in one of the largest immigration enforcement operations in USA history. The action, called "Operation Cross Check," was taken by ICE personnel working with local law enforcement officers. Anyone want to guess how many of the 2,500 were dangerous criminals? Hum: maybe one out of four? Anyone want to guess how many families were shattered? Hum, maybe well over one thousand.

**A National Meeting on Immigration:** Here is part of the flier for an April conference, "Eucharist Without Borders." Let's hope it provides a positive voice and that the voice is heard. For more information, go to [celebrationpublications.org/](http://celebrationpublications.org/) conference.



**Maryland Dreams—Working:** State Senator Richard Madaleno Jr. editorializes on the American dream: "Maryland should consider legislation similar to Utah's, allowing undocumented workers to obtain permits to legally reside in our state as long as they are employed and paying state taxes. The business community would welcome this reform, and it would make our state more economically competitive. It would also allow these working people to leave the shadows and become productive, tax-paying members of society. Having an inclusive and welcoming country is what defines us as Americans. You can come to America from anywhere in the world and start on a path to becoming an American the next day. This is the American dream my ancestors clearly understood when they came through Ellis Island from Italy, and it is the promise we must keep to the next generation of new Americans." (*Washington Post*, 26 June 2011)

**Maryland Dreaming—Studying:** Press reports indicate that the legislation passed and signed that enables undocumented young people who arrived as children and will enter college paying in-state tuition is now in trouble. The anti-gang apparently has enough petitions to put the item on the state ballot in November. Isn't it nice that there are thousands of Maryland residents who want to hurt one hundred or so young people seeking higher education. The anti-gang's

**CARROLL COUNTY P.J.s Secondary school students may no longer wear pajama pants to school for reasons of "privacy and appropriateness." Of special concern is that on pajamas "there is a button in front that could potentially cause a problem if not secured properly." Horrors: with it unbuttoned, who knows what someone might see or access. Maybe the purpose is to make us smile!**

"News" continued from Page 3

## STATE TEST SCORES

The first round of Maryland's 2011 state test scores are being released. *The Washington Post* (29 June 2011) states: "Reading gains were significant in Prince George's County. After a few years of modest growth, the portion of Prince



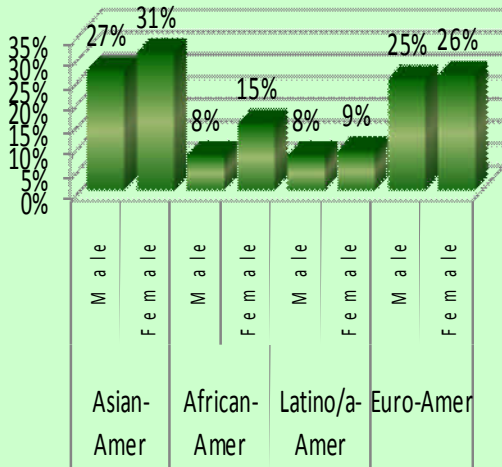
George's elementary students scoring proficient or better in reading climbed to 82%, up from 79% last year." Sounds good!

BLP first looked at achievements in Prince George's County, focusing on "advanced" reading among 3rd grade students. The results are in the graph, below. Two patterns are

clear: First, there is a gap between Asian and Euro children, with higher scores, and African-American and Latino/a children, with lower scores. So closing the gap remains the challenge. Second, females out-perform males in all groups—but most dramatically among African-Americans.

While some of these scores are disappointing, it should be noted that the "advanced plus proficient" grade three reading

### PG County: Grade 3 Reading at Advanced Level



scores (not the "advanced" scores used in the graphic) overall have steadily increased over the past decade. For instance, that score was 63% in 2005 and is 79% in 2011. Using that same metric, female scores increased from 69% to 84%, whereas males increased from 58% to 75%.

The gap between males and females appears to persist. In the 8th grade, 76% of the county's females are "advanced plus proficient" in reading whereas for males the figure is 66%. And there's a similar gap for 8th grade students in mathematics: 47% for females and 41% for males. In math! There go the stereotypes!

And the gap continues into college; more females are entering and completing college than their male counterparts. This is, of course, a reversal of the pattern some decades ago. What are its social consequences? For instance, may more males resort to physical acts to maintain "superiority" with a better-educated female? And what should be done to get more males on a positive educational track?

BLP plans to report more scores and patterns in future issues.

argument is that paying in-state tuition will cost the state many thousands of dollars because out-of-state tuition is much higher. But the reality is that few of the undocumented young people will have the funds to pay out-of-state costs. And so these young people will not have the education that will enable them to contribute to the USA and/or their home country if someday they return. If the vote cancels the in-state tuition bill, the heart will be cut out of the future of one hundred or so young people. "Do unto others"!

But the Dream news is not all bad. The California Assembly just passed more legislation enabling those eligible for in-state tuition (eligible because of three years of high school in California—this legislation passed earlier) to be eligible for financial aid. Governor Brown states that he will sign it. For a short video on California, go to <http://www.cgu.edu/pages/8975.asp?item=5243>.

**Immigration Judges, System Failure:** Despite the hiring of 44 additional immigration judges during the past twelve months, the number of cases awaiting resolution before the Immigration Courts has continued to grow. By the beginning of May 2011, the backlog reached a new all time high of 275,316 cases according to an analysis of very timely court data by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). The case backlog grew 2.8% in the four months since the end of December 2010, and is now 48% higher than levels at the end of FY 2008. The average length of time cases have been waiting increased to 482 days, compared with 476 days at the end of December 2010. Four hundred and eighty-two days!!!

### THE ARTS! THE HUMANITIES!

What was the Prince George's Arts Council is to become the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, and its funding will be \$130,000 for the coming fiscal year. It is good news that some arts and humanities organization are surviving in this terrible budget time because the arts and the humanities have many positive benefits for residents. Yes, programming computers, paving roads, and handling public correspondence are important. But without the arts and humanities in our lives, the world of possibilities narrows. There is evidence that music and dance help students with math and other subjects!



### SCHOOLS CHEATING

The *Baltimore Sun* (25 June 2011) reports on the result of NCLB Federal pressures: "Across the country, in city and suburban schools, in large and small districts, teachers and other staff members have been accused of sharing test questions in advance with students, watching over their shoulders as they take tests to point out wrong answers, and correcting mistakes after the fact—all to inflate scores and satisfy federal and state mandates for achievement gains."



### FUN TIME!

Now located in Watkins Regional Park, the Chesapeake Carousel operated at Chesapeake Beach through



1972. The carousel provides delightful experiences for the young and the young-at-heart. Visit the park and ride the carousel, play a game of miniature golf, and take a (miniature) train ride through the park! Rides: \$1.50. (From [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com))

# DOING DAMAGE

## 1. THE WAR ON DRUGS

Maybe the "war on drugs" is really a war on people of color in the USA as well as the people of Mexico and the countries of Central America. After all, in the USA Black and Latino men are being shoved into the prison system for minor drug offenses; and in Mexico and elsewhere, tens of thousands of people have been killed as drug cartels battle over territory.



Yes, marijuana is probably not healthy for most people, and certainly its use should not be encouraged. But the criminalization of use seems too

harsh an approach to many experts.

The war on drugs has other costs. For instance, "The economic costs of crime and violence in Central America exceeds \$6.5 billion a year, according to the Inter-American Development Bank, about 8% of the regional gross domestic product. Companies and individuals in the region are spending \$1.3 billion a year in private security." (*Washington Post*, 24 June 2011)

In the USA, thousands of sick people are denied legal access to medical marijuana that could ease their pain.

Could it be that there will be a change? Representatives Barney Frank and current Presidential candidate Ron Paul, with several co-sponsors, have developed a bill that would end federal prohibitions on marijuana so that the only federal policing of pot would be related to interstate shipments. Otherwise, it would be a state matter—such as in California where there are many retail marijuana stores yielding tax income for the state. (From *Alternet*, 23 June 2011)

## 2. AFFORDABLE FOOD

The war on drugs is not the only "policy" that is harming people in Mexico and Central America. Another one is farm subsidies combined with diverting crops from food to ethanol.

Steven Rattner, writing in the *New York Times* (25 June 2011): "Feeling the need for an example of government policy run amok? Look no further than the box of cornflakes on your kitchen shelf. In its myriad corn-related interventions, Washington has managed simultaneously to help drive up food prices and add tens of billions of dollars to the deficit, while arguably increasing energy use and harming the environment.

"Even in a crowd of rising food and commodity costs, corn stands out, its price having doubled in less than a year to a record \$7.87 per bushel in early June. Booming global demand has overtaken stagnant supply.

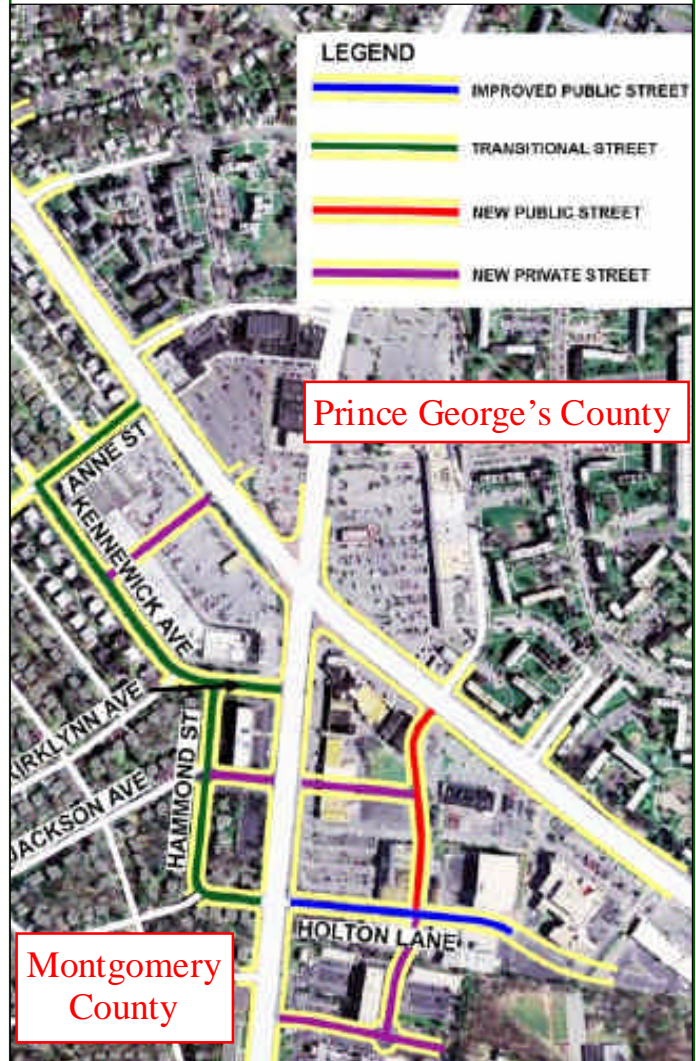
"But rather than ameliorate the problem, the government has exacerbated it, reducing food supply to a hungry world. Thanks to Washington, 4 of every 10 ears of corn grown in America—the source of 40% of the world's production—are shunted into ethanol, a gasoline substitute that imperceptibly nicks our energy problem. Larded onto that are \$11 billion a year of government subsidies to the corn complex."

The BLP staff has seen the impact of our agricultural policy first hand. In the working class neighborhoods of Mexico City, there are often long lines of sad-faced women waiting to purchase corn-based tortillas—in smaller number than in past years because of the inflated prices. Thanks to our policy, more and more people are hungry in the so-called developing world—and in pockets of the developed world as well. ■



## TAKOMA-LANGLEY SECTOR PLAN The Montgomery County Side

The MoCo portion of the Sector Plan does not call for the widespread demolition of affordable housing. Hurray! But it does call for more street networking. In the schematic below, some of the new and improved streets are delineated. It appears to be a good design for improving mobility without forcing people out. A complete copy of the current design document is available at [http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2011/documents/20110630\\_Draft\\_Takoma\\_Langley.pdf](http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2011/documents/20110630_Draft_Takoma_Langley.pdf).



"Saturday" continued from Page 1

something that may portray a negative idea or image. Over 50 youth and family members attended. The event was planned as part of a year-long Americorps program for 18 young members funded by the Governor's Office on Volunteerism and Service. For more information about LAYC's programs in Langley Park, contact Sandra Martinez at [Sandra@layc-dc.org](mailto:Sandra@layc-dc.org).

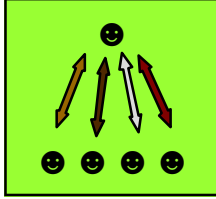
**Thus:** The Langley Park area is fortunate to have a rich array of organizations such as MMYC and SEED committed to the well-being of residents and local businesspeople. Next up events include the Hispanic Festival in September, the Health Check in November, and of course Langley Park Day in May 2012. See the schedule on page 6.

Thanks to Julia Sarmiento of SEED and Luisa Montero of MMYC for providing the photos and information about their events.

## Editorial REPRESENTATION

Can an African-American female officeholder effectively represent Euro-Americans in her district? Can a Euro-American male psychologist effectively work with Latina children? And so it goes.

The same questions can be asked about teacher-student relationships. The data on teachers-students are mixed. One study: "Only teaching experience showed a statistically significant correlation with student test scores. The other teacher characteristics..., including racial/ethnic group, did not tend to be related to student achievement." (Rand study DRU-2529-EDU) Perhaps there would be the same finding about office-holders and those they represent.



Regarding members of the PGCPs Board of Education, we read: "The most irregularly shaped district in the county map is for District 3, which the [realignment] group proposed spreading from Langley Park through Hyattsville, Edmonston, Riverdale Park and Woodlawn, where most of the county's Latino residents are located. ... The board has no Hispanic representative, but they are a growing part of the population. [Such a district would provide] an opportunity for a Hispanic to be elected to the school board." (Delegate A. Braveboy)

Currently, much of the proposed district is represented by an African-American woman, Amber Waller. Can she not understand some of the needs of Latino/a students—especially the Latinos because she is female? It seems that she can. And at the county council level, the same approximate area is represented by a Latino; but he played an important role in banning the food vendors so beloved by many Latinos in the area, and he signed off on the "sector plan" that calls for demolishing many of the affordable apartments occupied by Latino immigrants—demolishing without any provision to sustain the community that is so important to immigrants.

Surely, the Rand report has it right. Key are the abilities of the teacher or representative—the caring and understanding, not the matched color of skin, gender, sexual orientation, accent, or other such characteristics.

Of course, providing opportunities for diversity among candidates of excellence fits well into the norms of democracy. After all, our country has an ugly history of depriving well-qualified minority group members of opportunities. Let's hope any realignment of within-county school districts gets it right.

### At the National Level

Senators and Representatives in Congress are now struggling with the budget. Members of one persuasion want all the budget adjustment to come from cuts in spending. Keep in mind that a large portion of the domestic spending helps people who find it hard to cope without help by providing health to seniors and the poor, job training, extra funds for children who need special help in schools, etc. These members appear to be defying the guiding words of Jesus.

## WHO, WHAT, AND WHEN

### BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

This neighborhood planning newsletter is edited and published by Action Langley Park, with a supportive link to the Langley Park Project of the University of Maryland. (Editor, Bill Hanna) It appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com). Back issues of BLP will soon be available on the web.

For information about Action Langley Park, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, email [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

### CALENDAR

Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that come to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

**July 8—Sector Plan forum:** Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin is hosting a "No Boundaries" forum on the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan (or is it planS?) on July 8 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park. Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker will be among the speakers. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by July 1 by sending an email to [councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov) or by calling 240 777-7960. Need more information? Call 240 777-7957.

**Wednesdays—the Farmers' Market** on the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue space operates from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and more—even music!

**July 16—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution** at the St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event; it takes place every third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

**July 21—Action Langley Park meets** at 7 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center. The main agenda item will be planning ALP's work for the coming year.

**July 23-26—Annual Conference of La Raza**, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in D.C. Talk, entertainment, more. The cost of attending is high, alas. For information, go to [http://www.nclr.org/index.php/events/nclr\\_annual\\_conference-1/](http://www.nclr.org/index.php/events/nclr_annual_conference-1/).

**August 2—National Night Out Celebration**, 3-5 p.m. in and around the Langley Park Community Center. Music, games, and friendly police officers.

**September 18—Hispanic Festival** in Lane Manor Park, noon to 6 p.m. Lots of food, music, and games. The location is on the south side of University Blvd. about one-half mile west of the University of Maryland.

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



**May 6—Langley Park Day 2012** from noon to 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. There will be music and dance performances; a major health fair checking vision, HIV status, blood pressure, and much more; vendors; and agency and nonprofit organization representatives such as from the County Council.



**Correction:** In the last issue, we reported that Sandra Jimenez was to be the new principal of High Point High School. In fact, she has been nominated to be the principal, but the appointment requires Board of Education approval—which is pending.