

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
Issue 210, June-July 2011

## MAYBE GOOD NEWS #1 SECURE COMMUNITIES

### A Kick 'em Out Program Modified?

The Federal "Security Communities" program was initially designed to identify undocumented immigrants charged with a serious crime (murder, rape, etc.) so that they could be deported. But in application, any immigrant brought to a police station has been screened and if undocumented placed on a fast track for deportation whether or not s/he had committed a serious crime.



The program has been resisted by several states and a number of local jurisdictions. Prince George's County has participated—and in the county, as in many other places, law-abiding residents have been deported and cooperation by immigrants with the police has been disrupted by fear of deportation.

The Federal government has now taken a small but perhaps significant step towards returning to the original design: serious criminals. ICE Director John Morton issued a memorandum stating that the agency "must prioritize the use of its enforcement personnel, detention space, and removal assets to ensure that [those removed] represent, as much as reasonably possible, the agency's enforcement priorities, namely the promotion of national security, border security, public safety, and

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"Good #1" continued on Page 3

## MAYBE GOOD NEWS #2 NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT

### A Kick 'em Out Program Modified?

The major attack on the Langley Park neighborhood was launched more than a year ago with the presentation of a "Sector Plan" that calls for the demolition of many affordable apartments, to be replaced by more expensive mixed-use buildings with no provision for the relocation of the thousands of residents who would be forced out by the developments.

Is there any hope for the residents and small businesspeople of Langley Park? A reported comment by one high county official provides a little hope. The comment is that residents of affordable apartments should not be displaced. Will words translate into deeds? ■

**June 25 is a big day! Special events are taking place around the area! Details are below on Page 4.**

## Mis Quince Años 2011

The Quinceañera celebrates a young woman's fifteenth birthday in Mexico and parts of Central and South America as well as in many Latino/a neighborhoods of the USA. It is the symbolic transition of the Latina from child to adult.

The Langley Park Community Center has been running a Quinceañera since 2008. Young women from the neighborhood and elsewhere have the opportunity to learn about community histories, women's challenges and opportunities, educational opportunities, leadership, cultural awareness, and more. They learn that being bicultural and bilingual is a strength, not a weakness.

This year, the event was run by LPCC's Lourdes Sulc. The celebration has become so popular that it was



moved to Rollingcrest Community Center—and even its space wasn't quite adequate.

Some local businesses contributed to the event, including Gloria's Bridal, Leila's restaurant, and Elizabeth's decorations.

Thanks to the Park and Planning staff, photos were taken of the event. Here are a few chosen by the BLP staff. Enjoy!

Congratulations to all the wonderful young women. ■





# NEWS AND NOTES

## HIGH POINT HIGH SCHOOL



The school has a new principal starting July 1. And it's a principal with the commitment and skills and knowledge to make a positive difference. She is former Langley Park McCormick ES and Buck Lodge MS principal Sandra Jimenez. We are sure that the young people who attend High Point HS will be delighted with the change, and their families might even be more delighted. Congratulations, Sandi!

Pictured: Sandra Jimenez at a recent Action Langley Park meeting.

## MARYLAND DREAM ACT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland has sent a letter to the State Board of Elections voicing its concerns about the electronic petition form used to solicit signatures by the gang that is attempting to overturn the Act. Many of the signatures, sent electronically, could have been generated fraudulently, the ACLU claims. Meanwhile, there are reports that petition tables at MVA locations are busy signing up the anti-dream people.

Won't the anti-immigrant gang give up and welcome the young new Americans who have so much to offer the USA? Alas, probably not. Maybe that's because our tribe or race or state or country is our identity; people not like us are not worthwhile. Isn't a bright immigrant without papers as important a human being as a bright native? In the eyes of God, yes; so why not in our eyes?

## APARTMENT HOUSE MAINTENANCE

Many—probably most—apartments in the Langley Park area are adequately maintained by their management. But not all. A few apartment houses fall below the norm. A recent Univision segment exposed the inadequacies at Victoria Station and Bedford Station: interior walls crumbling (see photo), leaks, bugs. CASA de Maryland did the organizing to expose the situation. For the video segment, go to <http://www.tvwfdc.com/noticia/2011/06/10/262283-protestan-apartamentos-sin-reparacion.html>.



## HEALTH

**Spanish Catholic Center:** The Center's clinic that was located on University Boulevard across from Langley Park is no more. It was closed in April, and a new center has been opened at 12247 Georgia Avenue in Wheaton north of University Blvd. The facility is better equipped, but it no longer can serve residents in and near Langley Park because of the distance—more than seven miles. Thank goodness that Washington Adventist Hospital, Mary's Center, and CCI are in the Langley Park area so that those needing better health can obtain needed services. Of course, more services are needed.

**Fast Food:** Most people at least occasionally eat so-called fast food. And some fast food is reasonably healthy. Alas, many fast food items have dangerously high levels of calories and sodium, and they contribute significantly to being overweight or obese—and a shortened life span. For instance, Pizza Hut Triple Meat Italiano has 1280 calories and 3,070mg of sodium. Dangerous! And Wendy's Triple has 1030 calories and 1800mg of sodium. Dangerous! Rule of thumb: never have a food item with over 1000 calories and over 1000mg of sodium. Before ordering, ask! No information? Leave!

**Smoking:** The Federal government has launched a new campaign to alert smokers and prospective smokers of the great health dangers involved for them and people in their vicinity. Think of parents smoking around a baby, or even smokers in the same retail shopping area that another person is in. Secondary smoke is very dangerous. So let's hope the 20% of adults in the USA who smoke will fight hard against that addiction.



## MI ESCUELA ES SU ESCUELA

This Spanish-language radio program, focusing on education, is hosted by Gloria Bonilla, the community outreach advisor at the Montgomery College unit in Takoma Park/Silver Spring. It is broadcast and video-recorded at Radio America in Wheaton every first and second Monday of the month. Radio: 3:30 p.m.; television on MCTV Saturday at 2 p.m., Sunday at 8:30 a.m., and often evenings but with no set time. The recent episode, number 16, is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LryuqgU9vM>. Earlier programs can be accessed by searching for videos using the program name.

## IMMIGRATION

**E-Verify:** The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement has held a hearing on the "Legal Workforce Act," another enforcement-only bill introduced today by Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX). Smith is well-known as an anti-immigrant activist. The bill would make the electronic employment verification system "E-Verify" mandatory for all employers within two years (three for agriculture).

**Respite Bill:** Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) has introduced a bill that would provide a temporary respite for some of the undocumented young immigrants. The bill would provide temporary visas for undocumented immigrants while they attend college. Any student who was brought to the U.S. before the age of 15 and who has lived here since then could apply for one. Lofgren's bill does not offer a green card or a path to legal status.

**Immigrants Caused Arizona Fire:** Well, that's what the formerly rational Senator John McCain has asserted. And let that charge not stand alone; after all, immigrants may well have caused the Katrina hurricane as well as the tsunami in Japan. Maybe the border-crossing immigrants started fires to stay warm? Hum, in 90f degree-plus weather?

## CRIME

The co-owner of Tick Tock Liquor Store at Riggs Road and University Blvd. admitted in federal court last week that he gave money and more to Jack Johnson in exchange for favors. Maybe he was told pay or else. Sad.

## ARTS ON THE BLOCK

Once again, this enrich-the-community organization has completed a project. A few years ago, its young people (directed by Jan Goldstein) beautified the Piney Branch - New Hampshire intersection. This time, they have beautified a stairway with the Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace Stair Mosaics. The dedication ceremony is on June 29 at 1002 Quebec Terrace, 11 a.m. For more information, go to <http://caqt.wordpress.com/>. ■



**Correction:** In a previous issue, BLP referred to Officer Mark A. Magaw as "Chief of Police," but we have been corrected by a councilman who informs us that Magaw has not yet been confirmed by the council.



the integrity of the immigration system." Relevant factors that prosecutors should take into account when determining whether to deport someone caught by Secure Communities range from immigrants' contributions to their communities to their criminal records. The memo instructs ICE agents to consider such factors as these:

- the person's length of presence in the United States, with particular consideration given to presence while in lawful status;
- the circumstances of the person's arrival in the United States and the manner of his or her entry, particularly if the alien came to the United States as a young child;
- the person's pursuit of education in the United States, with particular consideration given those who have graduated from a U.S. high school or have successfully pursued or are pursuing a college or advanced degrees at a legitimate institution of higher education in the United States;
- whether the person, or the person's immediate relative, has served in the U.S. military, reserves, or national guard, with particular consideration given to those who served in combat;
- the person's criminal history, including arrests, prior convictions, or outstanding arrest warrants;
- whether the person poses a national security or public safety concern;
- the person's ties and contributions to the community, including family relationships;
- the person's ties to the home country and conditions in the country;
- the person's age, with particular consideration given to minors and the elderly;
- whether the person has a U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse, child, or parent.

But the announced change is, according to some observers, just a small step in the right direction. What, for example, does "consider" mean? After all, one can consider and then reject for many reasons, including one's anti-immigrant view.

**NY Times Editorial (19 June 2011): If ICE "really wants advice from experts, [it] already has the testimony of police chiefs and sheriffs, leaders of immigrant communities and a growing number of state politicians. They say the best thing that can be done with Secure Communities is to shut it down."**

And how will all of the evidence be gathered, especially given ICE funding limitations and the immigrant's lack of funds to hire a team of lawyers?

Thomas A. Saenz, Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) President and General Counsel, issued the following statement in response to the ICE announcement:

"The reforms of Secure Communities announced by the federal government this Friday afternoon are inadequate to resolve the serious problems with the program. They amount to little more than lipstick on a pig, except that this is a snarling, vicious, and rabid pig that will continue to run rampant and inflict serious damage on families and communities across the nation. The only appropriate step is to quarantine this pig by placing a moratorium on Secure Communities and relying on pre-existing programs that mainly employ post-conviction immigration detainers on serious offenders." ■

### NY City Mayor

## MICHAEL BLOOMBERG On Immigration Policy

On June 14, New York City Mayor Bloomberg addressed the Council of Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. Here are some segments of his talk. The full text is available at <http://mikebloomberg.com>.

Two images on this page are saddening. One shows the welcoming of Lady Liberty, the welcoming that has been accorded to many of us—or our parents or grandparents—connected with immigration issues in suburban Maryland. The other shows an immigrant being forced out of the country. What a sharp division.

It's ironic that immigration divides this city, because so much of Washington was built by immigrants: The street design was drawn up by Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French immigrant; the White House was designed by James Hoban, an Irish immigrant; the U.S. Capitol was designed by William Thornton, a British immigrant.

Those buildings are not only monuments to our democracy; they are monuments to the contributions that millions of immigrants have made to America throughout our history. But our country's greatest national monument – and the American landmark that is most recognized around the world – is not the dome of the capitol, or the pillars of the White House, or the memorials on the National Mall. It is the Statue of Liberty.



Since 1886 – 125 years ago this October – Lady Liberty's torch has brought light to the darkest corners of the earth, beckoning here to America's shores all those 'yearning to breathe free.' Yet it is not Lady Liberty's torch, or her crown, or her broken chains that have inspired so much awe: it is her location.

"The power of her symbols lies in the reality of New York City as a gateway – a golden door – to the land of opportunity that is the United States of America. That reality is not just our history. It is our future.

We would not have become a global superpower without the contributions of immigrants who built the railroads and canals that opened up the west, who invented ground-breaking products that revolutionized global commerce, and who pioneered scientific, engineering, and medical advances that made America the most innovative country in the world.

But make no mistake: we will not remain a global superpower if we continue to close our doors to people who want to come here to work hard, start businesses, and pursue the American dream. The American dream cannot survive if we keep telling the dreamers to go elsewhere.

It's what I call national suicide – and that's not hyperbole. Every day that we fail to fix our broken immigration laws is a day that we inflict a wound on our economy. Today, we may have turned away the next Albert Einstein or Sergey Brin. Tomorrow, we may turn away the next Levi Strauss or Jerry Yang. ■



**CUT, CUT, CUT: The Prince George's County's Board of Education has acted to meet its agency's budget limitations, and the result is not good for a system trying to get out of the performance cellar. The Board members voted to cut about 650 teachers and 90 media specialists, and to reduce pre-kindergarten to a half-day program. Was this the best way to meet budget requirements? And what criteria are being used to cut the teachers and specialists: those with the shortest time working in the system or those who have not been doing an adequate job? Makes a difference.**



## JOBS! JOBS?

We've had three bad-news years of high unemployment, underemployment, and withdrawal-from-the-job-market unemployment. Some college graduates think they are lucky to have a low-skill job at not much above the minimum wage.

A recent mayors' report indicates that nearly 50 metropolitan regions—one of seven—are unlikely to bring back all the jobs lost in the recession until after 2020. And that's a maybe.

Our governments at every level have cut jobs and are planning to cut more. In Prince George's County, even teachers are being fired. For Langley Park and vicinity, the construction industry's depression has probably forced unemployment up to the 20% level or perhaps much higher.

Economist Paul Krugman, writing in the *New York Times* (10 June 2011), finds our governments' policies wrong-headed: "The latest economic data have dashed any hope of a quick end to America's job drought, which has already gone on so long that the average unemployed American has been out of work for almost 40 weeks. Yet there is no political will to do anything about the situation. Far from being ready to spend more on job creation, both parties agree that it's time to slash spending—destroying jobs in the process ...."

Alas, many of the countries where area residents were born have even greater trouble. A few country estimates place unemployment at about 50%. Ain't fun.

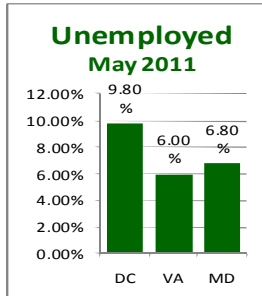
**Skilled in Baltimore and DC areas:** The share of working-age immigrants in the United States who have a bachelor's degree has risen considerably since 1980, and now exceeds the share without a high school diploma. In 1980, just 19% of immigrants aged 25 to 64 held a bachelor's degree, and nearly 40% had not completed high school. By 2010, 30% of working-age immigrants had at least a college degree and 28% lacked a high school diploma.

Forty-four of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas are high-skill immigrant destinations, in which college-educated immigrants outnumber immigrants without high school diplomas by at least 25%. These destinations include our two major metro areas: Baltimore and Washington DC. Both have a high well-educated to poorly-educated ratio! (The research was conducted at Brookings.)

**The Job of Taxi Driver:** The county council appears committed to cutting back taxi medallions, and scores of prospective mini-entrepreneurs are very unhappy about having their opportunities dashed. Is this another case of victory for the "haves" over the "have-nots," especially when the haves donate more money to the campaigns of the decisionmakers? (Of course, that is not bribery. Or?) Here is some more information taken from the *Washington Post* (20 June 2011):

"This was the year that Abbey Akinrelere thought he would get his piece of the American dream. The Nigerian-born cabbie, like many other taxi drivers in [PG] County, was eager to become his own boss and avoid paying up to \$17,000 a year to rent a taxi from one of the few companies that dominate the county. Instead, he has put his hopes on hold.

"Akinrelere had expected to obtain one of 400 coveted new taxi medallions that were to be issued after the County Council voted last year to expand the number of cabs in Prince George's. But the taxi officials gave out only about two-thirds of the medallions that were promised. The remainder may never be issued, if a bill [introduced by Councilman Will Campos] ... wins approval. That, drivers say, would reverse gains they achieved last year after a nearly five-year political battle." ■



## 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.

### 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).

**June 25—Safe Summer Awareness Day**, organized by Maryland Multicultural Youth Center across from Langley Park. It's 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center, and it will feature face painting, mini DJ lessons, and information about summer programs.

**June 25—El Preg's Multicultural Fair**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 700 Roeder Rd., Silver Spring. Jobs, immigration services, etc.

**June 25—CASA's Summer Fair**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the CASA mansion (8151 15th Ave. Health checks, legal and know-your-rights workshops, and more. For information, call 301 431-4185.

**June 25—SEED's Community Fest** takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 6200 Riverdale Road. SEED stands for "Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development." There will be workshops on financial literacy, and those who participate can get a bag of food. There will also be games and more. Information: Julie Sarmiento, 301 458-9808 x139.

**June 25—Free Legal Orientation in Spanish**, including such issues as divorce and child custody. From 1 to 3 p.m. at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 5700 Saint Bernard Dr., Riverdale.

**June 30 to July 4 and July 7-11—Smithsonian Folklife Festival** on the National Mall in D.C. Themes: Colombia, Peace Corps, Rhythm and Blues.

**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.

**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.