

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter  
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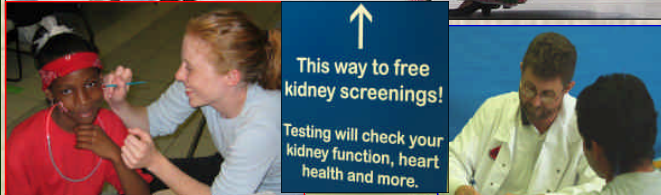
## LANGLEY PARK DAY 2011

Sunday, May 1

From noon until 4 p.m.

At the Langley Park Community Center

There will be music, song, and dance; checks for good oral health, HIV, kidney function, heart function, and much more; children's games and other activities; food and craft vendors; and more. Everything but vendor purchases is free!



## CONNECTIONS

### An Editorial

Several decades ago, the USA armed vicious Central American regimes because we were afraid of communist takeovers. The result was the killing of many thousands of ordinary men, women, and children. And another result was that many Central Americans decided to flee their home countries for the safety of the USA—and opportunities here.

Time passes. The high consumption of illicit drugs by residents of the USA plus our country's unwillingness to stop the flow of weapons and drug money to south of the border have created hellish drug-gang murders and other crimes, first in Mexico and now in Central American countries. "Drug Wars Push Deeper Into Central America" is the front page headline that was printed in the *New York Times* on March 24. Powerful drug syndicates have entered the Central American countries (even formerly peaceful Costa Rica), "pushing the drug scourge deeper into small Central American countries incapable of combating it." In 2010, fully 84 per cent of the known cocaine shipments passed through a Central American country.

So our management of dangerous drugs and dangerous weapons has begun to destroy Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and perhaps elsewhere. For some reason, we can't decriminalize drug use and we can't criminalize weapon selling that is not to citizens with clean records. (The Constitution does seem to say that members of a militia have the right to bear arms, but that is not the way it is interpreted by the NRA and too many others.) The result: country destruction.

When the vicious wars were raging in Central America, many people ran away to the USA. The film *El Norte* provides a glimpse of the dangers and quests for a better life. Now thanks to the vicious power of the drug syndicates, there is reason again for residents of Central America to flee. Will we allow refugees from violence to enter our country? We should but probably will not. And what about current residents of the USA who do not have papers and are in danger of being sent back to countries under the vicious control of the drug syndicates: will we let them live in peace, or will we feed them to the drug syndicates? It would seem that we could in part compensate for our stupid drug habits and our stupid gun-sale policies by giving the paperless residents some legal status in the USA, at the least temporary protective status.

The USCIS regulations state: "The Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely. ... The Secretary may designate a country for TPS due to the following temporary [condition] in the country: Ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war)." Will USCIS do the right thing? Don't hold your breath. And our policies will cause Central Americans to die.

# NEWS AND NOTES

## Towards Deportation

ICE officials reported on March 23 that 163 undocumented immigrants had been arrested in the Manassas area as part of a visa enforcement effort. It might have been triggered by complains from local officials about "those people." The claim is that 130 of those taken away (in shackles?) have criminal records. So two questions: (a) Do we believe that 130 had criminal records, or is this an inflated number to avoid criticism? And (b), what about the 33 or more immigrants without criminal records: how were they caught up in ICE's net? Secure Communities is supposed to target serious criminals; those who believe that's the guiding policy should see a salesperson about buying the Brooklyn Bridge: "See its beauty. There's a special low price for you. Go to brooklynbridge.xxx for further information."



## Crossroads Farmers' Market

This local farmers' market is planning to open on May 13, and Wednesday afternoons will be its regular schedule until late Fall. The location will again be in front of 7676 New Hampshire Avenue, about a half-block south of University Blvd. in Takoma Park. (Takoma Park? Well, it's okay to cross the border to get good and fresh vegetables, fruits, and baked goods, and sometimes more.)

## Counting People

Maryland's Population: There are quite a few Latino/as in Maryland. Not long ago, the Census estimate was 425,000, but the Census count total is 471,000. So about one out of every twelve residents of Maryland is a Latino or Latina.



County Wealth: In 2009, it is estimated that the median income in Prince George's County was \$71,300. That compares with Frederick County's \$81,200 and Montgomery County's \$94,050. An extra \$10k or so per person can create a lot of

benefits (if there's no hanky-panky).

The Undocumented: Estimates from the Pew Hispanic Center and the Department of Homeland Security indicate that the number of undocumented immigrants in the USA is unchanged at roughly 11 million since 2009. This follows a two-year decline of approximately one million that appears to have been caused by the recession—and especially the decline in construction jobs, from December 2007 to June 2009. Despite that decline, the new data make clear that the current population of undocumented immigrants is a significant part of our social and economic fabric. Three-fifths of these immigrants have been in the USA for more than a decade; they comprise more than one-quarter of the foreign-born population and roughly 1-in-20 workers, and about 4.5 million native-born U.S.-citizen children have at least one undocumented parent. The foreign born, with or without documents, strengthen the future of the USA.

## Counting Sex

Recent data collected by the Center for Disease Control indicate that any image of Latinas as hyper-sexual is wrong. (See table, below, which includes male and female responses.) Responses were obtained from those in the 15 to 44 age range, and the focus was their most recent year. Totals do not add to 100% because "not this year" and "no answer" are not shown.

LAST YEAR	No sexual contact with opposite sex	Had sex with 1 partner only	Had sex with 2+ partners
Latinas/os	11%/8%	71%/61%	11%/22%
African-American F/M	10%/9%	60%/63%	20%/20%
Euro-Americans F/M	12%/12%	70%/65%	12%/12%

## Immigration History

At the University of Maryland, Professors Ira Berlin and Julie Greene have established a new entity, the Center for the History of the New America. It seeks to greatly expand the scholarly and popular understanding of the nation's immigrant past, which, says Berlin, is directly related to the contemporary immigrant experience and America's future as a nation of nations. The lead faculty members know that there is an array of immigrants in Prince George's County—with large communities from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nigeria, to name but a few—offering ample opportunity to gather a rich library of oral histories and other data. The center intends to have a reciprocal relationship with these communities, says Greene, offering a repository for their cultural history that can be accessed by future generations.

## Chubby Babies

"People like fast-growing babies and regard a chubby baby as a healthy baby, but what they don't realize is that they're overriding innate metabolic cues." That's a comment by the person who directs Children's Hospital's obesity clinic, as quoted in the *Washington Post* (22 March 2011). The Post article continues: "Most babies and children younger than four or so instinctively know how much they need to eat. And insisting that children of any age finish everything on their plates can lead to habitual overeating, as can overly large portions." So let the children leave the table without finishing the food served, but don't let the child fill up with candy and ice cream.



## Worker Identity System

The Federal Government is exploring ways to have a more accurate—more valid—system of checking the visa/citizen status of workers and applicants for work. Apparently, the country is filled with stolen social security cards, so a way is being sought to overcome that hurdle. A credit-rating system is reportedly to be tested in Virginia and the District of Columbia. Here's an idea: instead of spending the money for checking, use it on job-creation for residents of the USA!

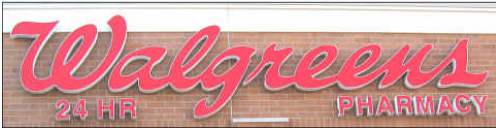
The current E-Verify system is voluntary for employers, but Republicans in Congress are trying to make it mandatory. Passage is uncertain.





### Walgreens

The new drugstore + general store is open!. It is 15,431 square feet (that's big!) with a drive-through prescription area.



The store in the space that was occupied by a Latin music store and an Indian vegetarian restaurant. Let's hope the new store will add to the area's business rather than take away business from the already-established CVS and Rite-Aid.

### Charging for Bussing to School

School systems are facing daunting challenges thanks to the budget crunches at the Federal, state, and local levels. So how can schools get more money? Charge for taking a bus to school! Well, no. Here's part of a decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals: "Vast numbers of children are transported to schools in buses today. Schools have become larger and larger in size with the consolidation of schools. The importance of transportation as an element in education has been recognized by the mandate of the General Assembly that the cost of transporting children to the public schools be borne by the State. Thus, under the authority of *Clauss*, we have no difficulty in concluding that such transportation is an integral part of education as we know it today." (*McCarthy v. Board of Education of Anne Arundel County et al.*, 280 Md. 634, 649 [1977])

One parent has a suggestion that is good—except it leaves out the many families where there is no home access to computers: "I encourage every private and public school to get an on-line listserve going for all the parents to access and use. At a minimum, parents need a way to communicate and connect at the school level. It is such a great opportunity to share information with each other and network socially. And in times of crisis (huge budget problems) like now, we need to be able to communicate with one another quickly and efficiently." Words of wisdom: cooperation is helpful; money matters.

### Education

**Teachers:** Fixing our schools must begin with reforming the way we attract talent to teaching. We've done a terrible job of hiring, supporting and retaining the people who have the challenging responsibility of teaching our children. We need to bring teacher hiring into the 21st Century by creating a system of incentives that inspires people to enter and stay in the profession. (Based on Michael Bennet in the *Washington Post*, 25 March 2011). Check out a video on this subject, and after the viewing, the importance of teachers is manifest.

[http://front.moveon.org/the-most-aggressive-defense-of-teachers-youll-hear-this-year/?sms\\_ss=twitter&at\\_xt=4d8cd0075f04c9a1,1](http://front.moveon.org/the-most-aggressive-defense-of-teachers-youll-hear-this-year/?sms_ss=twitter&at_xt=4d8cd0075f04c9a1,1)

**Finances:** Jolene Ivey, a District 47 delegate, writes about school financing.

"We're doing all we can to bring more money back from Annapolis for our schools, so perhaps this path wouldn't have been taken, anyway. I hate the idea of only offering half-day kindergarten, cutting reading specialists for struggling first-graders or having fewer media specialists. None of these is a good idea, but they're all constitutional.

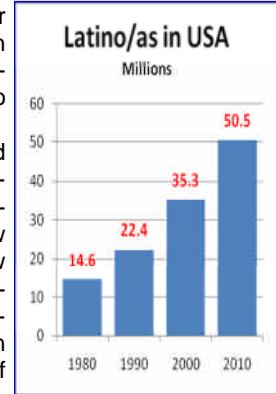
"I have four children in specialty programs and wasn't relishing the idea of paying for transportation, so I'm relieved, just like many of you are, that the Attorney General has found that we can't take this path. I know the money will have to come from somewhere to pay for all the programs that make for a great education for our children. In my opinion, cuts shouldn't impact the youngest learners. We're doing all we can here in Annapolis to minimize cuts to education, and I hope you're all

## LATINO/A (aka Hispanic) POPULATION

### One Out of Six of Us!

Once again, the Pew Hispanic Center has provided interesting and useful information about the Latino/a population. Drawing upon the 2010 Census, the Center reports:

"The 2010 Census counted 50.5 million Hispanics in the United States, making up 16.3% of the total population. The nation's Latino population, which was 35.3 million in 2000, grew 43% over the decade. The Hispanic population also accounted for most of the nation's growth—56%—from 2000 to 2010.



"Among children ages 17 and younger, there were 17.1 million Latinos, or 23.1% of this age group, according to an analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. The number of Latino children grew 39% over the decade. In 2000, there were 12.3 million Hispanic children, who were 17.1% of the population under age 18.

"Although the numerical growth of the Hispanic population since 2000—more than 15 million—surpassed the totals for the previous two decades, the growth rate of 43% was somewhat slower than previous decades. Growth rates topped 50% in the 1980s (53%) and 1990s (58%)."

Just in the past decade, the Latino/a population increase was 43%; that compares with the increase among Asians, 43% (but the total number of Asians in the USA in 2010 is only 14,465,000); African-Americans, 11% (37,686,000); and Euro-Americans, 1% (196,818,000). If increases continue at the same rate, by 2050 the Latino/a population would equal the Euro-American population.

The Maryland Latino/a increase from 2000 to 2010 was 228,000 to 471,000—from 4.3% to 8.2%. A significant gain.

Must we all learn Spanish? No: Most third generation immigrants are no longer fluent in their native language.

### Once Again

## ICE Saves Us from Disaster

(Just Kidding)

"Leonel Ruiz, a landscaper in Brentwood, N.Y., was waiting at Kennedy International Airport on the early morning of March 11 for his 4-year-old daughter, Emily, to arrive home from a trip to Guatemala. The plane arrived hours late, but Emily was not on it, and neither was her grandfather, who was supposed to be escorting her back. It took several hours for Mr. Ruiz to learn what had happened. Emily, a United States citizen, and her grandfather, a Guatemalan traveling with a valid work visa, had been detained by immigration authorities at Dulles International Airport near Washington, where the plane had been diverted because of bad weather. The officials had told Emily's grandfather that because of an immigration infraction two decades ago, he would not be allowed to stay in the country. That has left Emily, a pigtailed native of Long Island, in an unusual limbo. As a citizen, she has the right to re-enter her country. But her parents are illegal immigrants, which has complicated the prospect of a reunion. Today, Emily is in Guatemala, her parents are struggling to bring her home...." (*New York Times*, 23 March 2011) So we're saved thanks to the fracturing of yet another family.

thinking about how to find the money to pay for our priorities, too." (From her email.)

**High School at PGCC:** Prince George's Community College, in collaboration with the Prince George's County Public Schools, will open the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, the first middle college high school in the state of Maryland. The first group of students will attend a Summer Bridge Program in July 2011. The program will be focused on preparing students to enter a college program in the health sciences field. The first class will consist of 100 ninth grade students. A class will be added each subsequent year until full enrollment, approximately 400 students in grades 9-12, is achieved. The Academy will provide required high school curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to two years of college credits. All Prince George's County students are eligible to apply. For more information on the application process, call 301-618-7320.

Let's hope free bussing will be available; otherwise, the new school will favor the better-off families because they have the means to get their children to and from school.

**Assessing LPMcC ES**

Periodically, an assessment of the Langley Park McCormick Elementary School has taken place. Students, parents, and teachers (including paraprofessionals) are asked to comment on such items as "safe and orderly environment" and "parent-community involvement"; the local scores are compared with all county elementary schools. The response rate of the students for the last assessment (in 2009) was 100%; for parents it was 27%, and teachers-paraprofessionals responded at the 54% (23 out of 43) level. (Were 20 teachers afraid?)



Overall, the school's scores are good—most are at or above the "all" scores. The most negative scores, by far, were those of the teachers and paraprofessionals. The following items by the locals were 9% or more below the "all" figures: "clear and focused mission," "parent-community involvement," "strong professional development," and "teacher involvement in decisionmaking."

A comparison was made between scores in 2007 and 2009, and seven of the eleven teachers-paraprofessionals' responses declined. For the parents, nine of the relevant items declined over the two-year period.

These assessments add yet another bit of evidence in support of a strong parent liaison team. The parents' response rate should be much higher, and the teachers-paraprofessionals' involvement with parents should be greater.

**Purple Line**

Planning for the Purple Line is moving forward, although the funding is still uncertain. And the Prince George's County's Sector Plan has not been modified to protect the many residents and small businesses that will be forced out of their neighborhood to make way for the gentrification to follow. It is interesting to see the banner on Purple Line documents. A portion of it is reproduced here. It is so sweet to think of this fine elderly couple waiting happily for the arrival of the Purple Line. Let's hope they don't live near the two stations in Langley Park; if they do, they may well be forced out of their home before the first light rail reaches their area. Well, forced



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**The Plight and Hopes of Young Immigrants without Papers**

The Maryland Senate has passed the state's so-called Dream Act that would let some of Maryland's undocumented young people attend a community college paying in-state tuition—and then perhaps to a four-year public university, and it awaits action in the House of Delegates. Let's hope a majority of the delegates care about young people and care about adding strength to the human resources of our state.

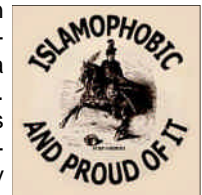
Here's another case study of the negative impact of our national immigration policy: "Cesar Vargas is 26 and eager to carve out a future for himself and to contribute his considerable talents to the city and country he loves. ... Vargas is a recent CUNY School of Law graduate who achieved an impressive 3.8 grade-point average. He is serious, responsible and hardworking, exactly the kind of positive person America needs to embrace. Yet thanks to a combination of political opportunism, prejudice and outright racism, what he has found is rejection. Like thousands of other decent, intelligent young people in New York, Vargas, who was born in Puebla, Mexico and brought to Brooklyn when he was five, is undocumented." (New York Daily News, 20 March 2011)

**New York Too:** A new bill in New York's state legislature would provide some educational and other benefits for undocumented immigrant students—giving them benefits like financial aid and driver's licenses. Unlike the federal DREAM Act that died in the Senate last year, the Albany bill cannot provide a path to citizenship; but advocates say it would be life-changing for the more than 10,000 undocumented young people who graduate New York high schools each year. Now Maryland?!

**The Anti-Immigrants: It's Worse Elsewhere!**

Most of us decry the anti-immigration and immigrant words and deeds in the United States. The language often goes well beyond a reasonable policy debate. But in vitriol, the USA comes in a distant third to what happens elsewhere. Perhaps first place goes to some West African countries—or at least contemporary Ivory Coast.

Here's a report from AP (24 March 2011): "The Economic Community of West African States described the situation in Ivory Coast as a 'regional humanitarian emergency' caused by President Laurent Gbagbo's refusal to yield power. .... His militias, meanwhile, have begun attacking United Nations peacekeepers and foreigners who have been labeled 'terrorists' on state TV, in what appears to be a desperate attempt to cling to power. In recent days, Gbagbo's youth minister Charles Ble Goude has also called for attacks on immigrants from neighboring African countries ... Immigrants from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria living in Ivory Coast have been beaten to death with bricks, rods and planks of wood. Several have been set on fire after being 'necklaced,' a brutal technique in which the victim is set on fire after a tire is wedged down around their body. ... U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos warned Thursday that the escalating violence and use of heavy weapons, especially in urban areas, is increasing civilian casualties. She also expressed concern at 'the increasing targeting and harassment of immigrants from other parts of West Africa, thousands of whom are fleeing the country.'"



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In Western Europe, the conflict is mostly between some

out unless Councilman Campos and others modify or abort the plan. For a government's view of the Purple Line project, go to <http://www.purplelinemd.com/>

## Immigration

**A Little Progress?** Senators John Kerry, Mark Udall, and Richard Lugar have introduced the StartUp Visa Act of 2011, intended to "drive job creation and increase America's global competitiveness by helping immigrant entrepreneurs secure visas to the USA."

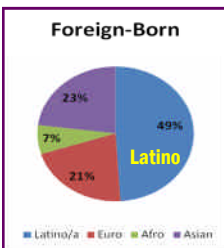
Here's a funny twist: On March 24, Russia eased immigration rules for high-skilled foreign specialists to increase the talent in-migration thus enhancing economic modernization. There will be multiple entry three-year visas with an extension option. So we're behind. Congress: get to work!! And don't forget that the less-skilled also contribute to the USA.

**Fixed Immigration Laws = Money!** According to Benjamin Johnson, Executive Director of the American Immigration Council, "One of the byproducts of inaction to reform our deeply flawed immigration system is that the current unauthorized population in the U.S. has established deep roots which are intricately connected to our federal and state economies. More than 60% of the current unauthorized population has been in the United States for more than ten years. As a result, proposals to deport them or drive them away will come with a huge cost. ... States can either impose a huge deportation tax on their economy in a quest to enforce their way out of our broken immigration system. Or they can harness the economic potential of immigration for the good of their states." Maryland: Don't make Virginia's mistakes; let's harness immigration and immigrants for our economic gain!

**Truth or Fiction:** Of all places, the *Daily Mail* (London, 28 March 2011) is covering the immigration "debate" (a polite term) in the USA. Here are some of the key sentences about a letter purportedly written by a substitute teacher in Arizona—with BLP editorial comments:

"A letter claiming Hispanic students don't value education and 'just want to be gangsters' has been read in the U.S. Senate." *Some don't value it because they don't see the payoff in some parts of the USA.* "It also alleges that the pupils think white Americans are racist." *Of course, not all Euro-Americans are racists, but some are.* "Eighth-grade Hispanic students claim: 'We are Mexicans and Americans stole our land.'" *A cluster of states in the USA's southwest were taken in battle from Mexico. To say 'we are Mexican-Americans' should be a statement of pride, not of disloyalty.* "Some have questioned whether [the letter] is genuine." *From time to time in this debate, stories are made up to suit the position of the story-writer.*

**All Those Immigrants, All Those Latinos:** Yes, there are quite a few immigrants (foreign born) in the USA; the total is about 40 million. And yes, there are quite a few Latino/as (Hispanics) in the USA; the total is about 50 million. But not all Latinos are immigrants, and not all immigrants are Latinos. To equate the two populations is quite mistaken. Among the foreign born, about half are Latino/a; and among Latino/as, about two-fifths are foreign born.



## County Government

**Ethics in Government:** Apparently, there was a compromise on the ethics legislation that would allow a member of the County Council to vote on a development issue even if the developer had given money to his/her election slate—so long as the development was not in a councilman's district. That

"News and Notes" continued in adjoining column

seems to leave the door wide open for a continuance of the pay-to-play routine. To have a better lid on undue influence, there should be no way council members get a developer's money directly or indirectly via a slate. Too much temptation!

**Prudence in Government:** According to one report, the County Council retreat in January was costly, e.g., a dinner for the nine council members plus County Executive Baker led to a bill of \$3093.67. If the dinner indeed had ten diners, that's \$309 per person?! Did the bill include alcohol? If so, were all of the diners able to walk on their own after the event?

(Source: <http://pgd9politico.wordpress.com.>)

**Leslie Johnson:** No need to linger on this very sad situation. Of course, Ms. Johnson should not have cooperated with evidence destroying, etc., and of course Ms. Johnson should have stepped down from the County Council. But the charges and the pleas certainly add to the sadness. Should Ms. Johnson be allowed to visit husband Jack Johnson when or if he's in jail serving (if justice prevails) a life term?

**Will Campos:** Mr. Campos still has not, to our knowledge, worked to modify or abort the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan so that the bulldozing of affordable apartments will not take place. We are still hoping.

## Funding Sexual Assault Programs

The State's budget proposes a 31.5% cut to rape crisis and recovery centers—at a time when child sexual abuse, rape, and sexual assault may be on the rise. The cut "will eliminate the programs that our state's sexual assault survivors need to help prosecute cases and recover from sex crimes." (From the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.)

## Who Is Paul Revere? Thomas Paine?

A foreign language requirement leads a student to boycott the classes, commenting "What's the point: I'm American. ...Spanish sucks"! This loyal American, asked about two American heroes, says "I never heard of those guys." Is this reality? Clearly, ignorance of American history is widespread in the USA thanks to cuts in the teaching of history. For example, in a class of 100 undergraduate students, only five knew the significance of the December 7th date. Check [www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com) for the "Spanish sucks" item and more. Is it true?

## Maryland Legislative Session

The legislature meets for ninety days from January 12 to April 11, and during that time more than two thousand bills are voted on (or tossed aside). So in less than two weeks, the good deeds (or bad ones) will have been done. If you have a view on legislation, from the Maryland Dream Act to State of Maryland pensions, let your delegates and senator know! Here's the District 47 lineup:

**Jolene.Ivey@house.state.md.us**  
**doyle.niemann@house.state.md.us**  
**michael.summers@house.state.md.us**  
**victor.ramirez@house.state.md.us**

"Anti-Immigrants" continued from Page 4

European governments (especially France) and the Muslim population, most of whom are from North and West Africa. Perhaps the most symbolic basis of conflict is the burka. More generally, the issue of assimilation is raised. Someone sent ALP this video made by the right-wing 700 Club; it gives one the flavor of the situation:

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/A3YQANdvvbY>

And ALP found this similarly flavored video:

[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/2315131/islam\\_wants\\_europe/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/2315131/islam_wants_europe/)

There are also attacking signs in many parts of the country. May we never decline to this ugly degree.



# FOOD

## People Are Hungry

An official of Feeding America puts it this way: "People tend to think that hunger is 'over there' somewhere, but not here, not in my own back yard. But ... that simply isn't true—hunger is everywhere in our nation right now." Of twelve local jurisdictions that Feeding America studied for "food insecurity," the District of Columbia was highest (that is, the worst off) with this problem, Prince George's County came in second, and Manassas was third. That is, about one in seven PG County residents did not have reliable access to food—especially nutritious food.

*The New York Times* (9 February 2010) put it this way a year ago: "As the recession and high unemployment take their toll, there are hungry families all across the country: in cities and suburbs, poor, middle class and even supposedly wealthy communities." And from Feeding America: "Poverty and hunger on any scale is intolerable in a country as wealthy as the United States. To reduce poverty and hunger—and eventually eliminate them—the United States ... must act more boldly to reach out to hungry neighbors than we have for several decades. We just don't have the time to waste."

The residents of the Langley Park area probably have a food-insecurity percentage that is higher than that of the county and the state. It's a little bit lucky that several organizations provide free food at least once a month. But of course there should be more efforts. What is the county government doing to meet the crisis?

## Food Vendors Are Needed

A food vendor was featured in the *Washington Post* (10 February 2011) because he alerted and deterred people headed towards the Discovery Communications building that there was a hostage crisis inside. The vendor, Isidro Cabrera, sells hot dogs, bratwurst, tacos, and chorizo near the building.

The research on crime indicates that people on the street help to reduce serious crime because the criminal is easy to

see and perhaps prevent from doing the criminal act or identify him/her after the crime is committed. That is one of many positive contributions street food vendors make. (They also enhance socializing and provide inexpensive and convenient food for marginalized populations and others.)



Unfortunately, the food vendors who used to work in Langley Park (one is pictured, above) were forced out of the neighborhood by county officials who seemingly were thoughtless or had a don't-care-about-the-working-class attitude.

**Food Trucks in DC:** The March 27 issue of the *Washington Post Magazine* has a page filled with "best bet" recommendations of food trucks in DC. They include Curbside Cupcakes, DC Empanadas, Eat Wonky (featuring french fries), Fojol Brothers of Merlindia (Indian classics), Red Hook Lobster Truck, Sauca (beef shawarma and other wraps), and Takorean (Korean tacos). Those who live or work in DC are lucky to have this marvelous assortment of street food. To find out where they are on a particular day, go online. For instance: <http://dcempanadas.com/mobile>.

## BASIC INFORMATION

### ACTION LANGLEY PARK

The nonprofit 501c3 organization, Action Langley Park, is a coalition of residents, businesspeople, workers, academics, church leaders, and others. It was founded in 1998 to improve the quality of life of residents in and near Langley Park. The means include services, information-sharing, and advocacy. The organization's service/event activities focus on a Fall "Health Check" and a Spring "Langley Park Day." Meetings of the organization take place about every other month, usually on Thursday evenings at the Langley Park Community Center. All meetings are open, and participation is encouraged. For information, send an email to [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

### 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.

### HAPPENINGS

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).



**April 7—Issues of the Purple Line's impact** on the University Blvd - Riggs Rd. crossroads. 7 p.m. at Carole Highlands ES, 1610 Hannon St.

**April 9—Workshop on preventing domestic violence,** 3 to 5 p.m. at the Nyumburu Cultural Center in the University of Maryland campus. Call 240 602-3987 for information. PG County's Family Crisis Center is co-host.

**April 16—Free Community Dinner and Food Distribution** at the St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. This is a monthly event; it takes place every third Saturday of the month, e.g., May 21 and June 18.

**April 21—Action Langley Park** holds its regular bi-monthly open meeting in the Langley Park Community Center, 7-8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! (It's the third Thursday in April because a meeting the usual second Thursday might interfere with last-minute tax preparation!)

One key agenda item will be the schools, and our special guest will be School Board member Amber Waller. Among other items on the agenda will be planning ALP's future; another will be Langley Park Day. Participate! We need you!

**April 30—Maryland Day** at the University of MD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A big deal, but of course the festival in Langley Park the very next day is even better (in some respects!)

**May 1—Langley Park Day,** noon until 4 p.m., the Langley Park Community Center, 1500 Merrimac Dr. Everyone is welcome from Prince George's Co., Montgomery Co., DC, Los Angeles, San Salvador, and elsewhere! For directions and other Community Center information, call 301 445-4508. To participate, call ALP at 301 405-4005



### USEFUL COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Dept. of Social Services, 301 209-5000  
 Adult Services, 301 909-2228  
 Child Protective Services, 301 909-2450  
 Energy and Rental Assistance, 301 909-6300