

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue #224, December 2011

Action Langley Park holds its regular open meeting on Thursday, December 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center

MANY YOUNG PEOPLE NEED MORE HOURS IN SCHOOL

Many observers have noted that the number of hours most American elementary and secondary school students are in school is less than in quite a number of competing countries. Done right, more educational hours mean greater achievement.

More school time is a core component of the Harlem Children's Zone, which has been successful with working class and poor children in Harlem. Also in New York City, we read: "Over the past several years, CUNY, as well as the Mexican consulate in New York, several advocacy groups and others, have established after-school tutoring, college-readiness and scholarship programs; college admissions and financial aid counseling for students and parents alike; and college fairs aimed at the Mexican population." (*New York Times*, 25 Nov 2011)

In DC, there's a program of mentoring during lunchtime called Everybody Wins! DC.

So why not in Maryland—where a large pool of students face disadvantages similar to the Blacks in Harlem or the Mexicans elsewhere in New York: language challenges, parents working long hours, fragmented families, peer distractions, and more?

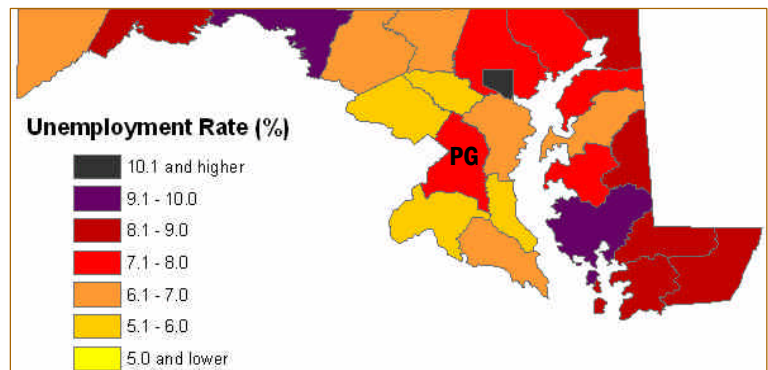
Well, maybe Maryland—at least a small start. "The Baltimore school system will launch its first district-wide Saturday School initiative in December, a program ... to help remedy declining scores on state tests. The \$3 million Saturday School program will run for ten weeks, primarily targeting students who scored basic [i.e., borderline failure] in math on the 2011 Maryland School Assessments. Students in grades four through eight are eligible for the program, which will offer between 20 and 30 hours of additional math instruction for up to 7,000 students. ... " (*Baltimore Sun*, 22 Nov 2011)

Twenty to thirty hours are hardly enough to raise performance significantly, but it does seem to be a step in the right direction. What can PGCPSS do? What can the area's universities do? And what will they do?

UNEMPLOYMENT

Prince George's County Needs More Jobs!

There are many too many residents of Prince George's County who are unemployed or underemployed. The county figure for unemployment in September 2011 was 7.3%, an improvement from 2010 of 0.1%. The county is better off than Baltimore City—10.4% un-



The counties pictured in dark colors face an unemployment challenge

employed this past September—but not as well off as sister suburbs in the DC metro area: e.g., Montgomery County 5.5% and Howard County 5.4%.

Is there something wrong with PG's leadership? Probably not under the current regime, although the former leader's corruption may have dampened job development. Rather, it is almost certainly a reflection of the education of the county's residents. Here are the male/female percentages for those in a county with a university degree: PG Co. 29%/30%; MoCo. 58%/55%; Howard Co. 62%/57%. And here are the unemployment figures by education: BA=5.4%; associate degree=7%; high school diploma=10.3%; less than a high school diploma=14.9%. Income also varies along these lines.

To lower unemployment and increase economic development, it would seem that more and better education at every level should be the county's mandate.



Langley Park in 2016 A scary vision

Let's stop the Sector Plan now!!! If the final approval of the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan (Prince George's) takes place, it may well lead to a scene such as this: all the affordable apartments bulldozed, ready for the upscale housing to be built.

HAPPENINGS

And More

PURPLE LINE: What's its future?

Montgomery County has received a grant of \$260,000 to plan a bus rapid transit system (BRT) spread throughout the county. Hum: BRT. Does the grant suggest that a BRT might be the eventual system advocated by that county for the Purple Line? Officials appear to be set on light-rail, but with funds short.... Hum.

BAG TAX FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S

Hopefully, the state legislature will allow the county to add five cents to a purchase if a paper or plastic bag is required to carry the purchase. That will reduce the amount of paper and plastic that becomes litter, and that in turn will save the county money and enhance the county's beauty. Don't worry, folks: we'll get used to it. Shoppers in D.C. and MoCo have survived.



DOING BUSINESS IN MARYLAND

Forbes.com publishes a "Best States for Business and Careers" every year. This October, the list placed Maryland 14th, with Utah 1st and Virginia 2nd. But there's a strange difference between the business rank and



Forbes's "quality of life" rank. Our Maryland quality of life is ranked 8th, six steps better than our business. Utah's quality of life ranking is only 18th. The top two quality of life states, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, rank 16th and 19th for business. So many people may have a choice: business versus life! Combining the business and life rankings, the leading states are Virginia and Colorado. So if you're in business and don't like immigrants, move to Virginia; and if you're in business but like to ski, Colorado is your choice. (Note: You can ski in Maryland, but it sure isn't the same as in Colorado.)

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MIKULSKI AND ABUSE

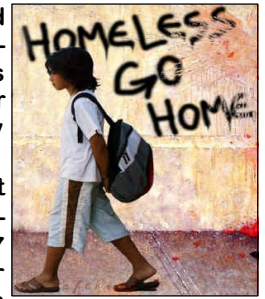
The U.S. Senate, with Senator Mikulski involved, has scheduled hearings focusing on the Pennsylvania State University child abuse scandal and more generally what can be done to protect children from such abuse and other dangers. Perhaps one thing is clear: protecting a "semi-pro" football program is not as important as protecting children from abuse. Collegiate football is often thought to be more important than an institution's academics; maybe this hierarchy should be upended.

The sports program of our local institution, the University of Maryland (College Park), is millions in the red. Maybe that's good: it will alert officials to the cons as well as the pros of "semi-pro" athletic programs.

SCHOOLS

Homeless School Children: Maryland reports a 66% rise in the number of homeless public school students over the last four years. The state Department of Education says about 14,000 Maryland students enrolled

in a federally funded homeless education program this year, compared with about 8,500 in 2007. The steepest year-over-year increase was 27% last year. (AP, 23 November 2011) The recession has been very cruel.



Drop Out or Fail Rates: At High Point High School, 719 students entered the 9th grade in 2007 but only 358 of them graduated four years later, in Spring 2011. That's a 49.8% graduation rate. At Northwestern High School, 847 students began the 9th grade in 2007, but only 459 graduated four years later: that's a 54.2% graduation rate. These rates are clearly unacceptable if our goal is to prepare young people for a quality future.

Where Are the Social Sciences and History?

When high school graduates enter the University of Maryland, many of these young men and women seem not to know some key social concepts such as "peer pressure" and have little or no knowledge of the division of federal powers or the historic importance of Pearl Harbor. Apparently, this gap is widespread. "Researchers at an NRC forum on social sciences ... suggested that the expansion of testing in math and reading under the No Child Left Behind Act has led to a piecemeal approach to social and behavioral science subjects in the states. Does the gap dilute a young person's understanding of democracy, dictatorship, equity, and other important concepts?"

Free School Lunch: Students in the USA receiving subsidized lunches rose 17% to 21 million last school year. This is primarily a program for children from low-income families. At Langley Park McCormick Elementary School, 95% of the children qualify.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: PG plus

The Baker Focus: County Executive Rushern Baker has made business development a top priority. Increasing the tax base is clearly a necessary goal for the budget-short county. Baker was able to get the County Council to create a \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund to sweeten deals for business development or relocation. Of course, there are ups and downs.

Maybe Not to New Carrollton? It's settled that Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development will move. Or is it? Some observers claim that the move's cost to the state is more than any advantage of the proposed location. "Moving the state Department of Housing and Community Development from Crownsville to Prince George's County will waste millions of dollars, members of the county's House delegation said Monday. Contrary to claims by the governor's office, the move will not increase state revenue, delegation members said during a meeting held in Annapolis. At issue is whether the state should move DHCD from its current state-owned office in Crownsville, which costs about \$1.5 million to operate and maintain. The new space, which will be subject to a 15-year lease, will cost about \$3.2 million per year to rent. The difference is about \$25.5 million in rent for the 15 years, plus more than \$3 million in moving costs. Gov. Martin O'Malley has said he favors moving the agency to help develop Prince George's County and to put more state offices near mass transit lines." (*HometownAnnapolis.com*, 22 November 2011) And yes, it will be helpful to Prince George's.

Mickey Not to National Harbor: The Walt Disney Company has announced that it will not go forward with plans to build a large resort hotel at National Harbor.



That complex is a star in the county's economic development; the cancellation will slow the forward movement. But there are other businesses heading to the complex, perhaps most notably the Tanger Outlet Center, an 80-store cluster with a planned 2013 opening. Perhaps an outlet is not as attractive as Disney (and we will miss Mickey), but it may draw more customers.

Maybe the FBI? Apparently, the FBI headquarters in D.C. is in bad shape, so consideration is being given to a move. One official, asked if the move could be to Prince George's, responded in a positive way. So maybe! Then they can keep an eye on us!

Please: Not Langley Park! Maybe Disney would like to build a large hotel and theme park in a bulldozed Langley Park neighborhood. Maybe Councilman Campos would like that too! (Economic development is obviously more important than the homes of working class residents.) But please, no! Home and family are important.

Capping Economic Growth: USCIS has announced that the H-1B Cap has been reached. Many businesses and the country as a whole are struggling to get out of the long de facto recession we are still in. Making it impossible for businesses to hire the people they need to expand their businesses is a sure fire way of capping economic growth. The unpredictability of being able to hire in the US due to the H-1B cap combined with the increasing ease of setting up offshore operations is driving business operations out of the US. This is especially true for the fast-growing companies which are likely to create the bulk of jobs in the next decade. The wrong-headed attempts at protecting American jobs using restrictionist immigration laws are making long-term job creation in America difficult. (See ILW.com, 30 November 2011)

SALARIES

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake says she will give the amount of her pay raise to the city's Youth Works summer jobs program. That's a good gesture, but it only amounts to \$3,900. Her current salary is \$155,490. Say, Stephanie, how about doubling the amount—you should be able to live on "only" \$151,590. Which leads one to wonder about the salaries of officials in Prince George's County. Members of the County Council and the County Executive are, according to a *Washington Post* article (22 November 2011), "already among the highest paid county government officials in Maryland." Before the December raises, Council members have made \$96,417; Executive Baker makes \$174,539. We're sure they will give generously to various nonprofit organizations.

A comparison: The county's per capita income determined by Census samples 2005-2009 was \$30,917. The state figure was 34,236.

LAUGH AND CRY

Recordings of the Jack-Leslie Johnson conversations

as the FBI was converging on the corrupt couple are now available. For example (thanks to the local NBC affiliate):

"What do you want me to do with this money?" she asked. "They are banging [on the front door]."

"Put it in your panties and walk out of the house," Jack Johnson instructed.

Authorities said when they searched her they found almost \$80,000 in her bra. So Leslie defied Jack's instruction to put the money in her panties?

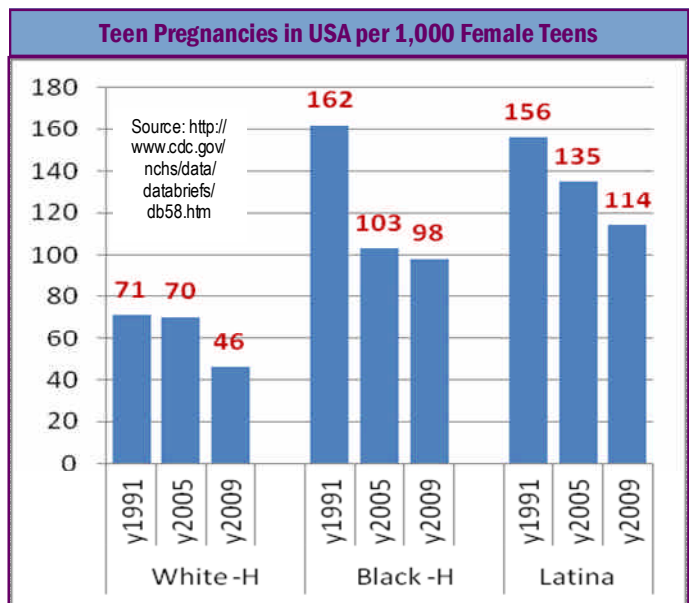
More to laugh and cry about: "A job for an unqualified physician, assurance that a restaurant would pass health inspections, help getting a liquor store's parking lot plowed in the winter—these are favors that people asked of former Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson "in exchange for money were not always extravagant." (*Washington Times*, 23 Nov 2011)

LAUGHTER
Researchers at Oxford U. report that laughing triggers an increase in endorphins, which are the brain chemicals that enhance feeling good! So thanks, Jack and Leslie.

What should the residents and businesspeople of Prince George's County do to make sure such corruption no longer takes place at the County Executive, Council, or other levels of the government? Demand transparency with regard to every decision! In that regard, it might be interesting to see a transcript of the conversations about the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan. How could such a bad plan—such an evil plan—be supported by officials?

TEEN PREGNANCIES

Teens who become pregnant face especially difficult futures; caring for a child and "growing up" constitute a challenging mix. And terminating a pregnancy might be traumatic. (Some think it's worse.) So there's good news: Over almost two decades, pregnancy rates have dropped significantly. As the below graphic shows, White non-Hispanics, Black non-Hispanics, and Latinas have all reduced their rates significantly: 35%, 40%, and 27% respectively. Of course, the current (well, 2009) decline and rate for Latinas is behind the curve. And yet, many of the pregnant and new-mother Latinas are poor—creating



a great additional challenge. Nancy Navarro: "Our job is to figure out a way to get the information ... out there."

SOME OF THE SECTOR PLAN'S ENDANGERED APARTMENT HOUSES IN LANGLEY PARK



THERE'S A HOUSING CRISIS

And the Sector Plan will make it worse

Yes, there is a crisis. Over the past few years, many people have been forced out of their homes—in Langley Park and elsewhere—thanks to the home mortgage payment requirements plus the unemployment crisis.

Apparently, the PG County planners and council would like to increase the homeless population in the county. Otherwise, the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan would look very different. But the plan, when developer funds become available, will force thousands of families out of affordable housing; and some of the families will become homeless. Can't we stop this travesty? What about the alternative plan? Will Campos, it's up to you. Please save these homes!

The nation's homeless population continues to increase. The estimated numbers are 252,821 unsheltered people and 403,308 sheltered. The Langley Park or Prince George's County totals are not known, but there are some informal homeless camps in the area. An estimate for Maryland in 2009 was 11,698—4,252 unsheltered. (Source: www.endhomelessness.org.)

The housing crisis did not begin with the onset of the Great Recession (and the post-recession recession); its roots can be traced back almost thirty years when the funding of some safety-net programs declined under the regime of Ronald Reagan. Program cuts at the federal level have done considerable damage. Homelessness is a damaging way of life, perhaps especially for children.

Rosand writes: I hate being homeless and I feel so sorry that my kids and other kids in the shelter system are treated inhumanly. If you have limited income, what landlord in his right mind is going to rent to you. I talked to many real estate brokers and landlords, they just laughed in my face and say, "You do not have enough funds or your income too low." Then they would say call back when you have [significantly increased] your income. This is not fair to poor people, and know the shelter wants you to save 30% of your income as if you're going to attain an apartment when the reality is we need low income housing with the type very low income people like myself need. Let's end homelessness by building very low income apartments. ... Don't punish homeless families cause the rents are so high and with their income can't pay rent. Lord, what is wrong with this government treating poor people like garbage while the rich get richer and the poor get poorer." (WNYC, 1 Nov 2011)

AMAZING AND VERY SAD: Reports of injuries, fights, gunfire and a shopper using pepper spray against fellow bargain hunters once again have made the headlines about Black Friday. Such violence. Very sad.

IMBALANCE OF NEED & AID

The large staff at Barrio de Langley Park somehow overlooked a 2008 article in the *Washington Post* (30 November). A small portion is reproduced here with a question mark: Is the county in better shape today?

"Prince George's County has more people living in poverty than any other Washington suburb [it is tied with MoCo now], yet its charitable support system is far smaller than those in other large suburbs or the District, studies show. This imbalance has consequences: Prince George's families sometimes travel long distances for health care, counseling and youth programs—or never get help. Nonprofit groups in better-served areas ... are overloaded with outside clients, which hinders their ability to help....

"The need ... is undeniable. About 8.2% of its 830,000 residents live below the federal poverty level—set at about \$21,000 for a family of four. ... That compares with 16.4% in the District and slightly less than 5% in Fairfax and Montgomery. Nonprofit groups spent about \$69 million on the 20,000 Prince George's children living in poverty, ... By comparison, agencies in Montgomery spent \$366 million on the county's 13,000 poor children. ...

"In [the Langley Park area], ... children from Montgomery have access to CentroNia, a new nonprofit bilingual early learning center for disadvantaged Latinos. Those from Prince George's are relegated to a waiting list. All of CentroNia's government grants come from Montgomery. A few miles away in Silver Spring, Mary's Center, a nonprofit clinic for pregnant women and infants [funded by Montgomery County], ... more than a third [70% now!] of its 850 patients come from the neighboring county." Note: Mary's Center will open a unit near Langley Park in Spring 2012. That's a big plus for the county.

HEALTH TIP

Lots of children and adults don't like food that is very healthy—for instance, broccoli. Sometimes, you can blame the mother! New research indicates that the food the mother eats during pregnancy shapes the food preferences of the soon-to-become child.



"The flavor and odors of what mothers eat show up in the amniotic fluid, which is swallowed by the fetus, and in breast milk. There is evidence that fetal taste buds are mature in utero by 13 to 15 weeks, with taste receptor cells appearing at 16 weeks, researchers say. With flavor learning, you can train a baby's palate with repetitive exposure." Source: *Washington Post* (24 November 2011)

NY City's Policy Of Detaining Arrested Undocumented Immigrants

Here is a portion of an article in *Immigration Daily (ILW.com)*, 2 December 2011, by Alan Lee. It would appear to be a step in the right direction that Prince George's County and the State of Maryland should emulate.

"The signing yesterday of Intro 656 by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the New York City law relating to its new policy with regard to honoring immigration detainers placed by US. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on persons arrested in the city, marks a new dawn for undocumented immigrants without past or pending criminal misdemeanors and felonies or prior orders of deportation/removal. Impetus for the bill was provided by the fact that



roughly half of the people in the Rikers Island jail in 2009 and 2010 on whom ICE issued detainers had no criminal convictions; that the figures were at odds with ICE's stated goal to place detainers on criminal aliens; that the cooperation between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and ICE was eroding trust between immigrants and local law enforcement; and that such cooperation should not be supported by taxpayer dollars.

"The new law (slated to take effect 120 days from the date of signing) now provides that a person upon arrest by the police will no longer be held past the time that he/she would otherwise be released from the DOC's custody except for the reasonable time required to conduct a database search to determine if the person has been convicted of a crime; is a defendant in a pending criminal case; has an outstanding criminal warrant in New York State or in any other jurisdiction of the U.S.; is identified as a known gang member or as a possible match in the terrorist screening database; or if the search indicates or the DOC is informed by federal immigration authorities that the individual has an outstanding warrant of removal from ICE or is or has previously been subject to a final order of removal by an immigration court. If a person arrested by the city is not in the above categories, the corrections department will not notify federal immigration authorities of his or her release.

"The bill was balanced to the concerns of public safety as it applies to those with violations and not misdemeanors or felonies. It is also consistent with the Obama Administration's decision to use prosecutorial discretion on the approximate 300,000 pending cases in the immigration courts nationwide. An undocumented immigrant who is pulled over and arrested for speeding without criminal or immigration history as outlined above would benefit from this policy. It would apparently not, however, benefit someone with a past history of misdemeanors or felonies or immigration removal."

What should leaders in Langley Park do to reduce the teen pregnancy rate and increase Latina opportunities? Get the information out on how not to become pregnant? Sure. But are there some similar causal factors leading Latinas to become pregnant and some Latinos to join gangs? For example, is there a need to reject the older generation with the only opportunity having unprotected sex or joining a gang—or both? (Navarro reports that some teens form a pact to get pregnant as a group! That's sure X-rated!) If reject-and-see is a pattern, does that mean there is a powerful cry for after school, weekend, and summer programs where the Latino/a peer pressures are to dance better or play futbol better or read more interesting articles and books? If so, then the county and nonprofits had better work harder. Now.

Note: Asian teens have a dramatically lower rate of giving birth: from 42 in 1991 to 26 in 2009. Is the close Asian family a key factor? Is Asian family discipline a factor?

AMERICAN LATINO MUSEUM

There may be such a museum in the future. A support organization writes: "We urgently need your help to secure the location for the museum. The U.S. Senate is expected to vote before year-end! Senator Menendez and other leaders supporting our effort need you to call your Senator quickly. Your Senator needs to know you want their vote to support the legislation that will designate a building for the National Latino Museum on the National Mall...."

"Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) has introduced the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act, S. 1868, which designates a location for the future American Latino Museum. If this bill passes, the Arts & Industries Building on the National Mall will be set aside as the future home of this long overdue museum. ... If you support such a museum, let Senators Cardin and Mikulski as well as Representative Van Hollen to support the creation of the American Latino Museum and that they should vote to pass the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act, S.1868."



Senator Cardin
202 224-4524
Senator Mikulski
202 224-4654
Rep. Van Hollen
202 225-5341

LEAP: AGAINST PROHIBITION

Headline: "Driven By Drug War Incentives, Cops Target Pot Smokers, Brush Off Victims Of Violent Crime."

Hum: There's an organization that fights to end the crime of drug use (the prohibition), to fight the health dangers in other ways, and to decrease the incentive of murdering competing gangs and cartels. "Law Enforcement Against Prohibition [LEAP] is an international organization of criminal justice professionals who bear personal witness to the wasteful futility and harms of our current drug policies. Our experience on the front lines of the 'war on drugs' has led us to call for a repeal of prohibition and its replacement with a tight system of legalized regulation, which will effectively cripple the violent cartels and street dealers who control the current illegal market." Information: <http://www.leap.cc/>.

Why is it that we have programs such as Secure Communities that among other things disrupts good lives and

"Happenings" continued from Page 6

families? Why is it that we have programs such as The War on Drugs that disrupts good lives and families? Why is it that we cannot end such disruption and replace programs with help? Why, why?

CAN'T THEY EVER LEARN

where Langley Park is?

From the *Gazette* (15 November 2011): "Cpl. Henry Tippett, a police spokesman, said police received a call about 1:34 p.m. for a shooting in the 8600 block of 21st Place. He said the county police Gang Unit was already in the area conducting surveillance when the incident took place." Where was it said to be? Why Langley Park. Hey cops? Hey *Gazette*? Please learn where Langley Park is!

TV ABOUT ALABAMA AND IMMIGRATION

The "Need to Know" PBS program on November 25 focused on Alabama's "crackdown" and other immigration issues. It's worth a listen. One feature is an interview with immigration law specialist Alina Das.¹ The Das interview is available separately.²

Das has written about the "Immigration Penalty" for convictions. Here's a tiny part of an article: "For over a century, immigrants have faced adverse immigration consequences if convicted of certain types of offenses in criminal court. Many types of criminal convictions carry severe immigration penalties, including deportation, detention, and the denial of status like asylum or U.S. citizenship. The Supreme Court recently recognized that these penalties are so intimately tied to criminal court adjudications that criminal defense attorneys have a duty to advise noncitizen defendants of the immigration consequences of their guilty pleas in criminal court."³

1. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/video/need-to-know-november-25-2011-resisting-alabamas-immigration-crackdown/12424>

2. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/video/video-alina-das-on-changing-federal-immigration-laws/12448>

3. Source: http://lsr.nelco.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1237&context=nyu_plltwp.

BEHNKE'S FOR ART'S SAKE—December 10 & 11!

Behnke's Nurseries are helping to raise money for Hyattsville Middle School's Creative and Performing Arts Program. When you shop there on December 10 and 11, the nursery will donate 10% of the proceeds to Hyattsville Middle School's Creative and Performing Arts Program. Seems like a double-plus.

WHO WILL BE THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE? WHAT WILL HER/HIS IMMIGRATION POLICY BE?

Certainly, the large ALP staff does not have the answer to these questions. But at least there are some words coming from the so-called debates that are not "rip out their Spanish tongues, kill 'em with an electrified fence, then throw the corpses out." Here's what one candidate (N. Gingrich) said this month:

"I don't see the party that says it's the party of the family is going to adopt an immigration policy which destroys families that have been here a quarter century. And I'm prepared to take the heat for saying, let's be humane in enforcing the law without giving them citizenship but by finding a way to create legality so that they are not separated from their families."

But then he told a town hall that as president he would block federal funds to any city that "declared itself a sanctuary" for illegal immigrants.

FLUNKA HIGH SCHOOL COURSE & STILL PARTICIPATE ON SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS

That's the new PGCPSS ruling. A student does have to maintain a 2.0 average, which a long time ago was an "average" score. But with inflated grades, a 2.0 is almost the equivalent of flunking. So is the lowering of standards good? Good for whom? The principal? The coach? The parent? Maybe the kid?

POLITICS

Almost everything has a political twist. And alas, such twists are often influenced by money—in hand or on the horizon. But here are some more explicit political matters.

The Sector Plan Battle Continues: The vast pool of reporters associated with BLP has not discovered any inclination among members of the County Council to modify or withdraw the home-killing and business-killing Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan/PG County segment. Apparently, some Prince George's County officials don't give a damn about the residents of affordable apartments and the businesspeople in affordable commercial spaces. But those who oppose the plan which enables developers to bulldoze properties have not stopped fighting. St. Camillus, CASA de Maryland, Action Langley Park, and others are trying to force some humanity into the brains of the decisionmakers.

Maybe the residents, businesspeople, and friends of Langley Park should not be surprised by the "bulldoze it" officials. After all, they tried to close the neighborhood school, forced about forty micro-business food truck owners to close down, reduced the funding of a nearby medical clinic so that the staff medical doctor had to leave, won't remove the administrators at the Langley Park Community Center so that the spaces can be used for neighborhood-enhancing activities, lets the LPCC Senior Center (which rarely serves seniors from Langley Park) make decisions that limit the neighborhood-serving of the real Center—and the list goes on.

The Sector Plan was developed in anticipation of the Purple Line light-rail transit system. The line will bring benefits to the Crossroads area, and it may ease traffic congestion. But if there's a forced tradeoff between the Purple Line and the survival of the Langley Park neighborhood as a working class area primarily occupied by people with roots in Central America, then maybe support of the Line softens.

Redistricting: The chief judge for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has named a three-judge panel (two GOP appointees) to hear a lawsuit against Maryland's congressional redistricting map. The lawsuit, brought by nine Black voters, contends that the map approved by the Maryland General Assembly dilutes the Black vote in the state. There are press reports that the Republican Party has been involved in the effort.

The Politics of Health: Maryland Senate President Mike Miller has announced that the only way to raise the money needed for a quality hospital in Prince George's County is to allow slot machine gambling in the county at Rosecroft Raceway. So before having your sweet, take a sour pill: To improve health, there must be gambling. Doesn't seem right; only health should be the focus. Who gains financially from racing at Rosecroft?

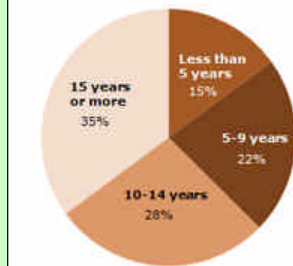
IMMIGRANTS

1. Unauthorized Immigrants: *The Pew Research Center has just released (1 December 2011) a report providing new statistics on the undocumented. Mini-summary: many undocumented immigrants have deep roots in the USA—and long-term contributions to the USA. Some report highlights:*

Nearly two-thirds of the 10.2 million unauthorized adult immigrants in the United States have lived in this country for at least 10 years and nearly half are parents of minor children. The share that has been in the country at least 15 years has more than doubled since 2000. The share of unauthorized adult immigrants who have lived in the country for less than five years has fallen by half during this period—from 32% in 2000 to 15% in 2010. [It's lower now.] The Pew Hispanic analysis also finds that nearly half (46%) of unauthorized adult immigrants today—about 4.7 million people—are parents of minor children. By contrast, just 38% of legal immigrant adults and 29% of U.S.-born adults are parents of minor children.

Unauthorized Adults (18 up) by Duration of Residence in USA, 2010

Unauthorized Adults by Duration of Residence in the U.S., 2010



2. Manu Chao and Joe Arpaio: At the invitation of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, Manu Chao traveled to Arizona to witness the human rights crisis facing migrants there and to give a free "Alto Arizona" performance. Film Director Alex Rivera shot a short music video of Manu in front of the infamous Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Tent City jail. Manu Chao is a very popular—and very good—singer/musician. Be sure to access the video at <http://altoarizona.com/>

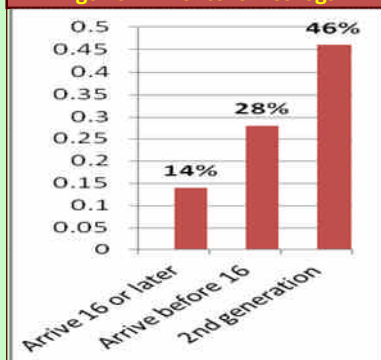
3. Raids Continue: Twelve North Carolina restaurant workers were detained in one of the largest immigration raids in that part of the state. Enforced ICE agents detained eight people from Latin American countries and four Asian immigrants ranging in age from 23 to about 40.

A raid of a box company in southwest Detroit led to arrests of a plant manager and 14 people who are suspected of working there illegally. Probably most of them had families to support. ICE: "Sorry."

4. Assimilation (or adding America to one's culture): "They don't speak English, and their values aren't

American values." So those who are prejudiced tend to say. But the real story is very different. A new study by the Migration Policy Institute points clearly to the Americanization of immigrants. Going to college is one indicator. As the graphic shows, few late arrivals in the 19-24 age category are enrolled in college. However, those arriving earlier double the figure, and about half of the 2nd generation are enrolled.

Age 19-24: Per cent in college



5. Opponents of Maryland's Dream Act: In the *Washington Post* (28 November 2011), Pamela Constable writes about some legal immigrants speaking negatively about those without papers who might gain from Maryland's Dream Act. Nothing new. For a long time, there have been people with relative privilege denigrating—and holding down—those with less privilege. Some people who were given papers during the Reagan Administration speak negatively about those who came a bit later. Constable quotes a Thai immigrant with papers: "The illegal students have no right to work or stay here." A Bangladeshi: "Why should we reward their dishonest behavior?" And a Filipina: "You can't just come to this country illegally and think everything is free." So there are two factors shaping opinion: those with or without papers, and apparently Asians versus Latinos. The *Post* writer should have delved deeper.

We do know that the ballot fight to sustain Maryland's Dream Act will be difficult. The supporters will have to be clear about the advantages to the state as well as to the young people who may have a life of greater quality with additional education. And there are answers to the misplaced cry, "They are taking our sons' and daughters' positions in community colleges and universities."

SECURE COMMUNITIES

The goal of ridding our streets of violent criminals is certainly a good one (although it has created violent chaos in the countries where the deported criminals are sent). But its implementation has fragmented families and sent many young people to countries they do not know.

From a report by the Immigration Policy Center:* "The stated purpose of the Secure Communities program is to identify convicted criminals and those who pose a threat to public safety or national security. However, the program as implemented identifies immigrants at the point of booking, not conviction, and data from ICE have shown that the program is not solely focused on convicted criminals. [Not by far so far.] ...

"There were discrepancies and questions right from the start. In April 2009, then-Secure Communities Executive Director Venturella stated that of the more than 12,000 'criminal aliens' identified in a five-month period, only 7.2% were charged or convicted of Level 1 offenses. The mere mention of those 'charged' with offenses raised eyebrows because of ICE's claim that Secure Communities was focused on individuals with convictions."

At the recent House hearing on the Secure Communities Program, the former Sacramento Chief of Police testified about the challenges that the program creates for community policing and community safety: immigrants are fearful of contact with the police and crimes go unreported. Furthermore, immigrants who are arrested and identified through the program but then are not convicted of any crime are still deported. "It seems we are agreeing to turn the long-stand principle of 'innocent until proven guilty' on its head for certain groups of people. If you are an immigrant, and you are charged with a serious offense, you are 'guilty until proven innocent' and you will be referred for deportation." What has happened to American values? Is this part of the slide from global dominance to frantic competitor? Has the American dream turned, for some people, into the American nightmare?

*http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/Secure_Communities_02911_updated.pdf

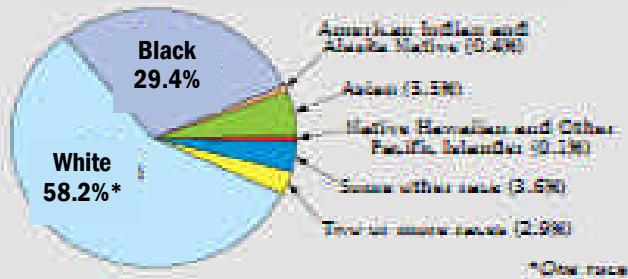
CENSUS 2010

What Does Maryland Look Like?

Pardon the image quality

The State of Maryland is changing, and the leaders must recognize the changes and act to the benefit of all residents of the state. As the pie chart's race breakdown indicates, the White population, even including the so-

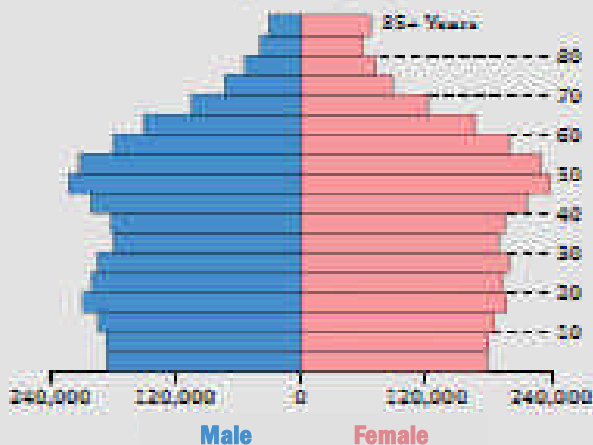
Maryland's Race Breakdown



*White alone = 54.7%

Latino/as of any race make up 8.2 per cent of Maryland's population.

Maryland's Population by Sex and Age



called White-Hispanics, is now below 60%, and clearly by the 2020 census, the White-non-Hispanics, now 54.7%, will almost certainly be below 50%. How will—and how should—our governance change to accommodate these large changes? How will the new minority adjust?

Note: In Prince George's County, the White-Black-Hispanic breakdown is 15%-63%-15%.

The state has increased its population over the past thirty years by 37%. How well have our leaders absorbed the surge? Are we growing smartly?

The population pyramid for Maryland has changed significantly over the thirty years. The 2010 population bulge is in the 40 to 60 range—not too far from retirement. But the number of young people of the state is declining. Will there be sufficient people in the workforce? Sufficient people to support the soaring number of retirees? Lots of challenges for the state and nation!

WHAT AND WHEN

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 actionlangley-park@yahoo.com.

2011

The Foreclosure Prevention Project is open Mondays through Fridays 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Free; offered by Community Legal Services. The intake line is 301.864.8186.

December 8—Action Langley Park Meeting takes place at the Langley Park Community Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome! Let us know how the area can be improved, and let us try to help with the improvement. But ALP has to know the needs! So please participate! (The first 2012 meeting will be on February 9th.)

December 16—Flu Vaccination Fair, 9 to 11 a.m., shots for women & children at Cool Spring ES, Adelphi.

December 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.

2012

January 5 & more—Physics is Fun—in the physics department, University of Maryland: January 5, 6, 7: The Atom; March 8, 9, 10: Color; May 3, 4, 5: Great Physics Demonstrations. Information: 301.405.5994. Get young people to these events!

April 21—Maryland Day, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the University of Maryland. Lots to see and do; a mile east of Langley Park.

April 28-29—Science and Engineering Festival: "Our mission is to re-energize the interest of our nation's youth in science, technology, engineering and math by presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational and entertaining science gatherings in the USA." It's free! In DC. Information: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org>

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 more; food and craft vendors; children's art and games; and more.

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 as an element of the university's community outreach. The Editor is Bill Hanna, who is a university professor and also Executive Secretary of Action Langley Park.

BLP appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at actionlangley-park@yahoo.com. Back issues of BLP will soon be available on the web.

BLP is read in the United States, Canada, and Mexico! Maybe elsewhere too! If you have friends or associates elsewhere in Maryland or the USA or elsewhere who are interested in immigration issues, please pass BLP along or let us add the person to one of our email lists.

For information about Action Langley Park, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, email actionlangley-park@yahoo.com.