

BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue 228, January-February 2012

BUILDING THE PURPLE LINE [WILL] AFFECT MORE THAN 340 PROPERTIES

That's the dramatic headline in the *Washington Post* (12 January 2012). The source of the news is the MTA, which just released this updated estimate of the destruction needed to build the Purple Line tracks and accesses.

Whose homes and businesses? From the Post: "But which homes, businesses and yards are being eyed for condemnation remains mostly unknown. MTA officials declined to release the information, saying it includes property value estimates that could become part of future negotiations." And: "According to the state, construction won't begin until 2015 at the earliest."

A land-use lawyer, quoted in the article, said: "Maryland law doesn't require the state to give a certain amount of notice when buying and condemning property under its powers of eminent domain. The law only specifies when and how the state is allowed to take possession of the property." Perhaps on very short notice!?

"Hello, are you Miss Jones? And this is your house? If so, we are giving you notice that your house will be bulldozed tomorrow morning at 7 a.m. So it would be helpful if you would remove most of your possessions as well as your nine children. An alternative residence? No, we don't have to offer that. But the nights in Maryland aren't too cold, so don't be so upset."

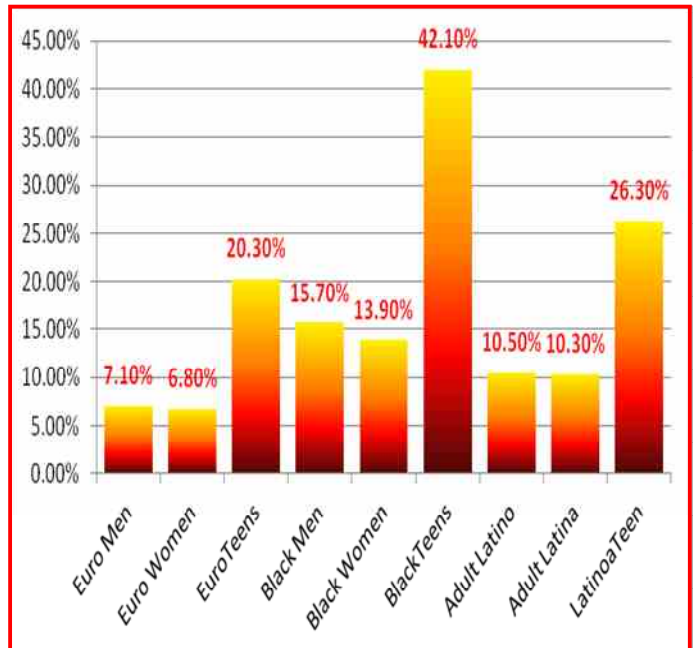
It would seem that anyone living or running a business along University Boulevard and perhaps in the adjacent cross-street areas is endangered. But the specification of which properties will be taken is perhaps several years away. So the residents and businesspeople of the Langley Park area have two challenges: construction of the Purple Line and the Sector Plan's construction of the apartments and businesses to serve the middle class.

A QUESTION ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

When will the Prince George's County Council modify or reject the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan—PG so that thousands of residents and scores of small businesspeople will not be forced out of their homes and businesses as the bulldozers demolish their apartments and stores to make way for the gentry? It is possible to add thousands of residences and scores of commercial spaces without demolishing almost all of the structures that are current being used. That's the right way, the social justice way.

Youth Unemployment And Our Future

Through the television screens, one can see the leading activists and their followers in Libya, Syria, Russia, and other countries of turmoil. (And there is quiet despair in other countries, e.g., Madagascar.) Of course, repressive regimes are the target, but the catalyst for many has been unemployment. In the USA, we have had the "Occupy" protests focusing on the increasingly great gaps between rich and the working class as well as the lack of jobs.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN USA, DECEMBER 2011

Commentator Don Tapscott writes in the *Huffington Post* (4 June 2011): "A common thread to the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt and protests elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa is the soul-crushing high rate of youth unemployment. Twenty-four percent of young people in the region cannot find jobs. To be sure, protesters were also agitating for democracy, wanting the full rights of citizenship and not to be treated as subjects. But non-existent employment opportunities were the powerful catalyst. Youth unemployment is similarly dire in other parts of the world. In the UK, young people aged 16 to 24 account for about 40% of all unemployed, which means almost 1 million young adults are jobless. In Spain more than 40% of young people are unemployed. In France the rate is more than 20%, and in the US it's 21%. In country after country, many young people have given up looking for work. A recent survey in the UK revealed that more than half of the 18- to 25-year-olds questioned said they were thinking of emigrating because of the lack of job

'Unemployment' continued on Page 2

Mis Quince Años Program

As one of the main programs of the M-NCPPC's Xtreme Teens—Langley Park Community Center segment, "Mis Quince Años Program" is a 10-week comprehensive program designed for girls ages 13 to 15.



The purpose of this program is to foster high self-esteem, promote social growth and development, improve family communication, and build self-confidence among the participants and their families.

Teen girls will participate in workshops related to etiquette, self-defense, dance, health & fitness, swimming, college preparation, personal

development, and community service. The main focus is to promote positive leadership skills and to inspire young women to take the necessary steps to build their future and make their goals become realities.

As part of the program, parents will also participate in workshops related to inter-generational communications, college preparation and a traditional field trip (mother and daughter trip) to a cultural/artistic venue.

The program starts in February and ends in May with a traditional and formal "Quinceanera" spring celebration event that embraces this Latina cultural tradition and celebrates the journey from childhood to maturity with family, friends, music, food and dance.

A new addition to the program is the "Mentor Piece". Successful and sensitive professional Latinas are invited to participate as mentors and role models. The mentors will help the young women with these goals:

- Improve girls' perspective towards education
- Help girls develop and define their short-term and long-term goals
- Encourage social awareness through community service projects
- Build positive relationships and support networks with adults and peers.

Young ladies and their families are invited to Langley Park Community Center to attend the **free** Mis Quince Años Open House and Expo on Friday, February 3, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. to learn about this very special ten week program.

This highlights the four cornerstones of the M-NCPPC Xtreme Teens Program: Health & wellness, Development opportunities, Relationship building and safety.



Thanks to Lourdes Suc for providing this information. (It has been slightly edited.)

For further information about this program and others at the Langley Park Community Center, please call 301 445-4508.

Girls: Check it out on February 3rd!

"Unemployment" continued from Page 1

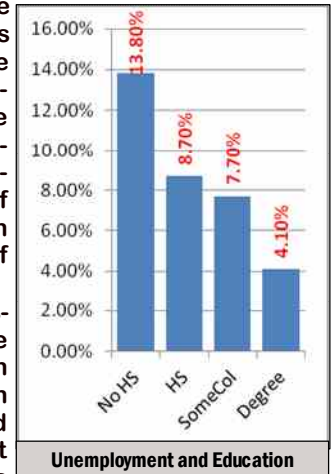
prospects.

Out of work young people have the energy for protest and not the commitment to normative behavior that leads to properties. And so we might worry about what is happening in the USA. One out of five European-American job-seekers in the 16-19 age group is unemployed; for Latinos and Latinas, the fraction is one of four; and for Blacks, it is an alarming more than two out of five. (See graphic on page 1.)

We do not have the statistics for unemployment in the Langley Park area, but with its high dropout rate and high unemployment rate, it would not be surprising to find that half of the upper teenagers have dropped out of school, and half of that dropped out half are not seeking jobs due to discouragement or some other factor. That leaves about one-fourth of the upper teenagers seeking jobs—and perhaps one fourth of them are unemployed. Very sad. Scary.

Education helps: the higher level the education, the lower the unemployment rate. (See graphic above.) Still, there are many young people with college degrees who cannot find work—or cannot find it in a field for which they studied.

For the sake of our country's future (we need educated and employed young people, and we probably don't need a revolution), we must keep young people in school and when they are finished we must provide them with a relevant job. Or....



WHERE I'VE BEEN

(An English Language or History Test?)

- I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with some one.
- I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.
- I have, however been in Sane. They don't have an airport, you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.
- I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.
- I have also been in Doubt. This is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.
- I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.
- Sometimes I am in Capable, and I go there often as I'm getting older.
- I have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing.



NEWS AND NOTES

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THE COUNCIL'S RETREAT

So the County Council went off to Baltimore for a two-day "retreat," and the cost to the county is estimated to be about \$11,000. Lots of people are complaining that the money should have been used elsewhere. Maybe so. For instance, the council could have met at the University of Maryland for less—with no hotel costs. However, there is a tradition in many organizations (including units of the U. of Maryland) to get away from the normal and focus primarily on the meeting agenda rather than screaming children, leaky faucets, and disagreements with one's spouse. We don't know the comparative advantage of being away, but maybe there's research demonstrating that. And the retreat was in Baltimore, not the South Beach section of Miami Beach. So maybe we have to take it easy on the members of the council. Will Campos: We hope you came up with some good ideas for saving Langley Park from the onslaught of the Sector Plan.

IMMIGRANTS SAVING BALTIMORE

The *Baltimore Sun* (7 January 2012) reports:

"What comes to mind when Mexican immigrant Elsa Garcia thinks of Baltimore's drawbacks? 'Basura. O las drogas,' said the East Baltimore resident. 'Trash. Or drugs.' Then, quickly, comes her list of Baltimore's pluses: Her husband has been able to find construction work. They have affordable housing. Police are not automatically suspicious of immigrants.

"By and large, Garcia's perception of Baltimore is positive. It's the kind of opinion Baltimore must foster among immigrants, experts say, if the city is to turn around six decades of population decline. Baltimore's population, which peaked at just under 950,000 in 1950, slipped to roughly 621,000 by 2010. In the past decade, the city lost 30,000 residents.

"At her inauguration, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake set the goal of increasing the city's population by 22,000 people — 3.5 percent — in 10 years. Drawing native-born people back from the suburbs and working to retain current residents will help stem the population decline but cannot alone provide the number required to meet that goal, experts say.

"According to demographers, cities like Baltimore that have experienced extreme population declines can start growing again only by embracing foreign-born residents. They say the city government and its residents should be prepared for the expansion of ethnic enclaves dominated by people from Latin America, Asia and Africa—a trend that helped Philadelphia and Washington reverse long slides."

Source: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-01-07/news/bs-md-ci-immigration-growth-20120106_1_foreign-born-immigrants-population-decline

MORE NEWS ON PROHIBITION

The Seat Pleasant government issued the following bulletin from its Mayor: "Seat Pleasant has a zero tolerance policy against those who ... promote and sell dangerous and illegal substances in our neighborhoods. We will not condone or tolerate illegal activities or drugs in our neighborhoods. ... Today, Seat Pleasant is a safer place for our children and we will continue to look for and fight crime wherever it occurs within our great City of Excellence." More locality funds expended, more local

residents jailed. The incident raises yet again the alternative of decriminalization.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* (2012;307(2):173-181) has just published an article that concludes, "Occasional and low cumulative marijuana use was not associated with adverse effects on pulmonary function." But we put sellers and users in jail!

E-VERIFY

This year, five states join those that already require (with some exceptions) e-verify checks: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Tennessee. And a limited requirement will kick in in North Carolina. So the total number of e-verify states is now seventeen. Well, the new states, all in the South, have not returned to slavery, so there has been a bit of progress since the mid-19th Century.

AMAZING IMMIGRANTS (and their families)

Yes yes, we know about Einstein, Kurt Weill, and other immigrants from Europe who have contributed dramatically to the USA. But what about people from Mexico? There's a web site that lets us know. Be sure to check out <http://amazingmexicans.com/>. One of the people featured is our neighbor; he's a specialist in brain cancer at John Hopkins Medicine.



It has been more than two decades since Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa jumped the border fence separating Mexico and the USA and began the job of farmworker in southern California. And today? "Dr. Q," as his patients and students call him, is an associate professor of neurosurgery and oncology at Johns Hopkins University, where he conducts research on the treatment of brain cancer.

And the latest "amazing immigrant" is the new White House Director of the Domestic Policy Council, Cecilia



Muñoz. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Muñoz served as Senior Vice President for the Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation at the National Council of La Raza. Ms. Muñoz is the daughter of immigrants from Bolivia and was born in Detroit, Michigan. She received her undergraduate degree from the U. of Michigan and her master's degree from the U. California/Berkeley. Let's hope that she has the political skills to develop an immigration reform bill that meets the needs of immigrants and can pass the Congressional barricades.

"SECURE COMMUNITIES"

As readers know, the so-called "Secure Communities" federal program does not make localities secure. Yes, it does get rid of a few bad actors who don't have papers. That's good. But the negatives appear clearly to outweigh the positives.

The initial pitch for the program was that it was designed for the really bad guys: the murderers, rapists, arsonists, and others who commit serious crimes. Says Illinois Governor Quinn: "That's what we heard. That's what we understood was going on." But when the governor's office looked at ICE statistics, it found that fewer than 20% of those deported from his state had been convicted of a serious crime. He tried to back out of the program, as did Massachusetts Governor Patrick and New York Governor Cuomo. No dice! And so by 2013, all

states will have to comply with the Secure Communities program. That's the word from the Federal Government.

What's wrong with the program? First, it punishes good residents; in Prince George's County, the data BLP has most recently seen show that about two-thirds of the reported immigrants had no serious crime record. And second, the program creates a gulf between police officers and local residents. After all, there are cases of people



calling the police for help and been identified as undocumented and then deported. (We don't know if that has happened in PG County.)

Maybe Secure Communities plus the hundreds of thousands of deportees will strengthen President Obama's reputation as a tough guy.

Kill Ben Laden and throw out the illegals—that's a campaign item. But there is crushing harm to many good human beings in the USA.

EDUCATION: CHOOSE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL

On January 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Charles H. Flowers High School, families can make school choices for their 8th graders heading into high school's 9th grade. The announcement on the Buck Lodge web page: "Specialty programs, public charter schools, and career and technical education programs. Your choice, your future, your world." Of course, you can't get your choice automatically. Rather, you have to enter a lottery, and the odds on getting into a popular school or program are probably not too good. From the online application document:

Specialty programs provide a range of learning or unique subjects, activities and/or learning opportunities as an enhancement of choice for our community. Special program choices include Biotechnology, Creative and Performing Arts, French Immersion, Montessori, and Talented and Gifted. Public Charter Schools are nonsectarian, chosen by parents, and open to all students on a space-available basis. Enrollment in Specialty Programs and Public Charter Schools is open to all students who are residents of Prince George's County. Specialty Programs have specific boundaries. School assignment through lottery is based upon a student's home address. Public Charter Schools do not have an attendance area boundary. Families may select their school(s) of choice directly on the lottery application regardless of residence. Space limitations require that admission to the Program/School be governed by a random placement lottery. Lottery placement provides the strongest guarantee of equity in access.

As we all know, the odds are dramatically against the person who plays the Maryland or DC or other lottery. And it's probably the same for the PGCPs lottery. Perhaps the odds are even longer for those families in the Langley Park area because, just like the graduation, the lottery information event is far from the Langley Park area.

Hopefully, there will be outside observers when the lottery winner selections take place.

EDUCATION: WE NEED SPANISH IMMERSION!

In the USA, according to recent Census data, about 55 million residents over the age of five speak a language other than English at home. And which language predominates—accounts for about two-thirds of the other-than-English speakers? It's Spanish, of course! So it would seem that PGCPs, to the extent that language learning is offered, would focus on Spanish to enhance communication not only with one's neighbors but also

with almost everyone south of the border. Wouldn't it be nice to speak Spanish when visiting Puebla, Mexico, to try the delicious original mole? But alas, the only immersion program in the county offers French. French is a lovely language (Le français est une langue belle), and it used to be an international language before WW2. But now many French scholars publish in English! And France-24 is an English-language news TV station.

Hablo español!



EDUCATION: GOVERNOR O'MALLEY PROPOSES: \$350M for Schools

The Governor wants to build school facilities, and he hopes to find \$350 million in this tight budget to do the necessary building. Those dollars represent the highest in that category in state history. Looking at some of the schools in the Langley Park area, it's clear that construction (including repair, maintenance) money is needed. But in this budget year, one can't be too optimistic.

EDUCATION: TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Monica Welch went to High Point High School quite a few years ago, and now—and for the past eleven years—she has been teaching there. PGCPs has selected her as Teacher of the Month. Hurrah Monica! Welch teaches eleventh-grade English and journalism, and she sponsors the yearbook, newspaper, and literary magazine. And there's much more: She has served as a Mentor Teacher and on many committees and professional teams including the School Planning and Management Team, Instructional Council, PTSA, Professional Learning Community Development Team and Professional Educator Induction Program Instructor. She has even coached volleyball! She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and English Education from the University of Maryland.



GLENN IVEY BACKS OFF

Edwards to represent Langley Park!

Mr. Ivey was going to challenge Congresswoman Donna Edwards., but he has decided otherwise, according to him because of money-raising problems. But maybe the reason—or at least the money raising problem—is the popularity of Ms. Edwards, who has been a very good representative of District 4 during her first term in office. Also, Senator Mikulski has endorsed her. Those who followed Mr. Ivey report that he was an effective state's attorney; probably, he would have been a good congressman. But it will be Ms. Edwards for District 4. And she will almost certainly be representing the Langley Park area! Welcome Donna!



ADELPHI/LANGLEY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

This organization, located at 8908 Riggs Road (just north of Langley Park in the Cool Spring ES complex), does lots of good for pregnant women, mothers and their young children. Here are a few of their activities: a field trip to the Robinson Nature Center, a workshop on resumé writing, ESL classes, cooking skills programs, computer classes, and workshops on developmental child care. Volunteers are very welcome; call 301 431-6210 to explore the possibilities.

**A JANUARY 11TH EMAIL MESSAGE
FROM HOMELAND SECURITY**

“THIS NOTICE ANNOUNCES THAT THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY HAS EXTENDED THE DESIGNATION OF EL SALVADOR FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR 18 MONTHS FROM ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE OF MARCH 9, 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9, 2013. THE SECRETARY HAS DETERMINED THAT AN EXTENSION IS WARRANTED BECAUSE THE CONDITIONS IN EL SALVADOR THAT PROMPTED THE TPS DESIGNATION CONTINUE TO BE MET. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL, BUT TEMPORARY, DISRUPTION OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN EL SALVADOR RESULTING FROM A SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES IN 2001, AND EL SALVADOR REMAINS UNABLE, TEMPORARILY, TO HANDLE ADEQUATELY THE RETURN OF ITS NATIONALS. ...



“USCIS WILL ISSUE NEW EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENTS (EADs) WITH A SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 EXPIRATION DATE TO ELIGIBLE SALVADORAN TPS BENEFICIARIES WHO TIMELY RE-REGISTER AND APPLY FOR EADs UNDER THIS EXTENSION.”

On 9 March 9 2001, the Attorney General designated El Salvador for TPS based on an environmental disaster within that country, specifically a series of earthquakes that occurred in 2001. TPS renewals have been given since then. But now, thanks to the gang members who trained in the USA and were deported to El Salvador, the living situation in many parts of that country are even worse.

The Salvadorians who are living in the USA under TPS are certainly grateful that the Great United States Government is letting them remain in the country. After all, there are political and security and geological threats in their country of heritage.

But many of these neighbors have been in—and contributing to—the USA for many years. This country is where their lives are, and many of their children known no other country. So why not let them plan for their lives and the lives of their children and perhaps grandchildren by granting to them permanency? That would be an act of justice. ■

**NEW AMERICANS IN
MARYLAND**

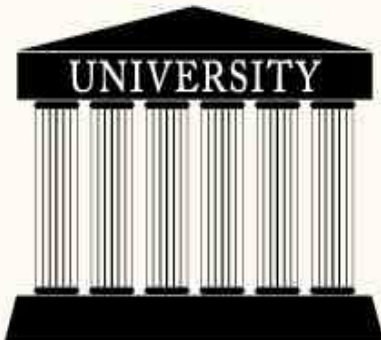


13.9% of Marylanders are foreign born.

13.7% of Marylanders are Latino or Asian.

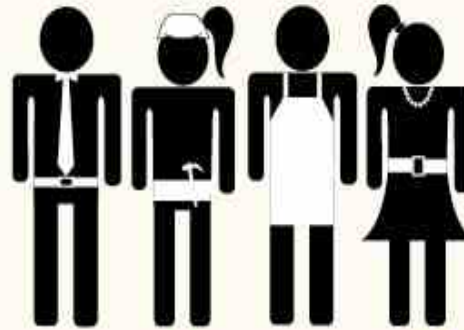
44.9% of immigrants in the state are eligible to vote.

10.4% of registered voters are New Americans.



Maryland has 14,498 foreign students who contribute **\$419 million** to the state economy.

46.6% of foreign-born adults have a bachelor's degree or higher.



Asian-owned businesses in Maryland have sales and receipts of **\$11.3 billion**.

Latino-owned businesses in Maryland have sales and receipts of **\$4.3 billion**.

Immigrants are **17.9%** of the state's workforce. **6.2%** of the workforce is unauthorized.

The purchasing power of Maryland's Latino population and Asian population, respectively, is **\$13 billion** and **\$13.4 billion**.



87.1% of Maryland's children with immigrant parents are U.S. citizens.

87.1% of children with immigrant parents are English proficient.

SOURCE ↓

DID YOU KNOW? Maryland would lose **\$15.3 billion** in economic activity if unauthorized immigrants were removed.

www.immigrationpolicy.org

FREE CANCER SCREENING

For Men and Women

The screening is at Washington Adventist Hospital on Sunday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Short Stay Unit of the hospital. Starting on February 1st, one can make an appointment by calling 800-542-5096. From the hospital: "Please join us at our annual cancer screening event for the community. We will provide free clinical breast exams, oral, prostate, skin cancer screenings to the community and also provide health insurance counseling and registration to uninsured residents. ... It is estimated that in Maryland, 800,000 people do not have health-care insurance. Many of these people are eligible for low-cost or free health-care coverage through medical assistance."



BECOMING A BETTER FATHER

It's hard to be a good father; most men have to learn as they go and hope for the best. But wisdom and skills can be passed from the oldtimers to the newcomers. The "Fatherhood Factory" is designed to help men deal with the challenges of their role as fathers. Topics include finding a job, returning to school, wellness, parenting, and more. And free haircuts! The Factory group next meets on January 25. The meetings are monthly.



CONVERSATION ON LATINO FAMILIES

Plus Community and Education

The University of Maryland's Department of Spanish and Portuguese, its Stamp Student Union Leadership and Community Service-Learning office, and the Northwestern High School PTSA are co-sponsoring an upcoming event at Northwestern High School on January 28 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. This event is planned to be an open conversation regarding Latino families, the community, and education. Those who would like to RSVP or have questions should contact Shane Bryan (phone: 301-314-8342; email: ssbryan@umd.edu). An RSVP is not required.



MURALS OF DIEGO RIVERA

At the Museum of Modern Art in NY City

Rivera, a Mexican, was one of the world's truly great muralists, and his work is being featured at the Museum of Modern Art until 14 May 2012. Along with mural panels, the show will include full-scale drawings, smaller working drawings, archival materials related to the commission and production of these works, and designs for Rivera's famous Rockefeller Center mural, which he also produced while he was working at the Museum. It's worth the trip to NY!



WHAT AND WHEN: 2012

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.

LPCC Children's Programs—Continuing programs at the Langley Park Community Center include tutoring for 6-12 year olds and poetry for 8-13 year olds. Check offerings—and costs—at 301 445-4508.

January 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Let's keep his torch of social justice burning and fight against discrimination and increasing inequality.

January 17—Choose your high school. Alas, the event is at Charles H. Flowers High School, (See page 4)

January 21—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at 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 on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

January 25—Fatherhood Factory: January 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. Be a better father! Call 410 379-3426 for information. See box to left.

January 28—Conversation on Latino Families and other topics. At Northwestern High School 10 a.m. to noon. See box to left.

February 4—Midwinter Folk Festival, noon to 10 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School. Lots of great music, song, and dance.

February 7—Learn about the new school budget, 6:30 p.m. in the Northwestern High School cafeteria. The Student Based Budget Community presentation is in Spanish (interpretation into English as necessary). The focus is on the budget process—"for information sharing only." (That is, audience members can't change it.)

March 8 & more—Physics is Phun—in the physics department, University of Maryland: March 8, 9, 10: Color; May 3, 4, 5: Great Physics Demonstrations. From 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Information: 301.405.5994. Get young people to these events!

March 18—Free cancer screening at Washington Adventist Hospital. See box to left.

March 22—Action Langley Park meets at 7 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. Be there!

April 21—Maryland Day, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at the University of Maryland in College Park. Lots to see and do!! And it's all free. Bring high school students so that they become more comfortable being on a university campus.

April 28-29—Science and Engineering Festival: "Our mission is to re-invigorate 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 is available at: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org>

May 5: Cinco de Mayo! Let's celebrate it at Langley Park Day! And Mothers' Day is the 13th. We can celebrate that too!

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 game activities; face painting, and more. Be sure to mark your calendar now!!