

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
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## VALENTINE?

Search: I hope you find her,  
Or perhaps it is a him.  
Know that love's quite wonderful  
It quiets the worldly din.

Before the day of Valentine,  
Look carefully around.  
There's someone waiting for you;  
Make sure he or she is found.

Then celebrate with flowers  
And chocolates shaped as hearts.  
Don't let go of loving  
Climb high the love's ramparts!

## THE PURPLE LINE

Soon, Langley Park residents may be able to jump on what used to be called a streetcar (now called "light rail") and go east to New Carrollton or west to Silver Spring or Bethesda. Maybe the trip time will be less than that of an express bus.

Of course, there are prices to pay. One is the dirt and disruption of construction. And perhaps more serious is that up to 500 properties (according to the latest estimate) will be taken in full or in part.



What if you don't want to surrender your property for a modest payment? Tough! The property will be taken by applying the legal procedure of "eminent domain."<sup>\*\*</sup>

Will expensive properties be taken? Who knows. But we do know that there will be damage or more to some small businesses along the route. And then will come the horrible fascist-like destruction of many affordable apartments in Langley Park and elsewhere as the Takoma-Langley Sector Plan is implemented—unless collective action or officials can stop the destruction.

Where will the thousands of displaced residents go? No one knows; there is no provision in the plan to locate those who are displaced into other apartments—not to mention nearby apartments so that the neighborhood/community is not fragmented, destroyed. Please members of the County Council: stop the destruction.

<sup>\*</sup>In Maryland law, courts typically are not willing to review the issue of public purpose or necessity for the taking, the precise boundaries of the targeted land, or the amount of the land being taken. If you as a property owner want to challenge any of these points, you must allege and prove bad faith or illegality on the part of the taking agency — which is a very difficult thing to do. A great deal of time, money and effort can be wasted trying to disprove the public purpose or necessity of a given project. (The source of this footnote is [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/where-we-live/post/purple-line-what-are-my-rights/2012/02/03/gIQAduyPnQ\\_blog](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/where-we-live/post/purple-line-what-are-my-rights/2012/02/03/gIQAduyPnQ_blog).)

## Barrio de Langley Park en Español

ALP is very fortunate to be able, in this issue, to present in Spanish three pages (pp. 6-8) of recent BLP articles. This is thanks to the initiative of Professor Manel Lacorte and the hard work of Norman González, Elena Campero, Oscar Santos-Sopena, María Gómez-Martín, Mario Escobar, Sofía Calzada, and Laura Quijano, all of them graduate students in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Maryland.

## The Impact of Immigrants in Maryland

And the USA

There are close to one million foreign-born residents in Maryland. Most of them have documents, and some do not. What has been their impact? Two reports help to answer this question: by the Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland and by the Immigration Policy Center's "Strength in Diversity"; both were released in February 2012. Below, we draw from these reports, focusing on immigrants' economic impact. However, the reports are worth reading in full.

**Share:** Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians constitute large and growing shares of the U.S. workforce, tax base, business community, and electorate. As workers, taxpayers, and entrepreneurs, they are integral to the U.S. economy—and they are a potent electoral force.

- Immigrants (the foreign-born) account for 1 out of every 8 people in the United States, and 1 out of every 7 workers (over 7 million).
- More than one-third of immigrants are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. "New Americans"—immigrants and the children of immigrants—account for 1 in 10 registered voters.
- One out of every five people in the country is Latino or Asian.
- Together, Latinos and Asians (both foreign-born and native-born) wield \$1.5 trillion in consumer purchasing power, and the businesses they owned had sales of \$857 billion and employed 4.7 million workers at last count. Thanks first and second generation Latinos, and Asians.



**Higher Economic Growth:** Economic theory and the preponderance of empirical evidence show that, in general, immigration leads to

higher economic growth and greater levels of income per capita not only for the immigrants themselves, but, on average, for the U.S.-born persons as well. Given the dynamic nature of the U.S. market economy, each foreign-born worker creates at least one job (his or her own). The economic contribution of immigrant labor to the economy is proportional to their skill level and to the extent that it complements (rather than substitutes for)

### LATINO/AS IN THE WORKFORCE

Latino/as are expected to account for 74% of the growth in the nation's labor force from 2010 to 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics as reported by the Pew Research Center. This is much higher than in the previous two decades: 36% of the increase in the labor force, 1990-2000, and 54% 2000-2010. The reasons are Latino/a birth rates are high and the men and women are younger. The Euro working population is expected to decline for the opposite reasons.

# NEWS AND NOTES

## MONEY FOR EDUCATION

**Public School Funding:** There's quite a bit of conflict these days between the state and the counties over funding. Who should pay? How will the funding responsibilities be divided? For instance, should the counties take on some of the pension responsibilities that are currently the responsibility of the state? Alas, the state is short of money (so it wants the counties to accept more of the funding for education), and the counties are short of money (so they don't want to take on more responsibility). Whatever the resolution, funding for the schools and the pensions will be in short supply. Our country's schools are not keeping up with the global competition, and with funding cuts, the keeping up will be even more difficult. Yes, we should worry.

**Funding the Buses:** It's expensive to bus children to school, and sometimes there is an insufficient number of bus drivers to do the job in a timely fashion. So PGCPSS is considering a hub system that would take children to a hub location and then to school. It would save money, and it would take more time for some students to get to school and to return. Ah, where is that needed pot of gold?

**Funding Financial Literacy:** It's a good idea to provide financial literacy classes for secondary school students and make knowledge of that domain a graduation requirement. The idea is being advocated by various representatives in Annapolis. It is opposed by PGCPSS Superintendent Bill Hite—not because he doesn't think financial literacy is important, but because he estimates the cost to the county would be about \$4 million. Another good idea not implemented because of limited funds. Alas.

**Historically Black College Funding:** There's another state-wide battle. Have the historically Black colleges been underfunded and otherwise not treated well by the Maryland System of Higher Education? A six week legal trial ended this month and the results are awaited.

The so-called "Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Higher Education" claims that the Black colleges are



treated as inferior institutions. This does appear to be a circular situation. The Black colleges in general have less well-prepared students. For instance, Coppin State University (CSU) graduates only about one in eight entering students. Is that a comment on the students and perhaps the faculty members, or is it the result of inadequate funding? Should there be a Black equivalent to the College Park institution? To the professional schools in Baltimore? Or should there be a hierarchy of institutions, some serving the top students and others having different responsibilities? How about a year of intensive math and English for those young people who lack the needed preparation for higher education?

**Shortages:** One thing is clear: all of the educational institutions from pre-K through doctoral level work need more money, and they should not get the money by raised tuitions or raised fees. But if not tuition and fees, then where? We await how this plays out.

## CHINESE! 官话

It's good news to learn that PGCPSS is offering another language: Mandarin Chinese. It's at Paint Branch Elementary School in College Park in a partnership with the Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland. So even more Americans will be able to converse with people in

that rising giant of a country. The USA owes China trillions of dollars, so maybe some day these current elementary school students will be able to work out a good debt-reduction plan.

PGCPSS foreign language score: Mandarin = good. French = good. When will the system start Spanish classes and immersion programs. Come on, PGCPSS!

In the subject of languages, a candidate for city council in a small Arizona town near the border was thrown off the ballot because she was deemed not to be sufficiently fluent in English. English only in Arizona? The Arizona Supreme Court upheld a ruling a few days ago. Oh yes, all of the GOP national candidates for the nomination support English Only.

## JOBS

**The Jobs-Education Link:** According to a web site, "Power Your Future," and drawing from Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the below-listed are the fastest growing jobs in the USA. (They are listed starting from the jobs that have the greatest expected growth in percentage—not raw numbers. For instance, there are about 861,000 personal care aides now, and the projected employment in 2020 is 1,468,000.) The top two listed occupations reflect the aging of our population. What's striking about the list is the predominance of health and construction jobs that do not require college credits. Does this have any message for higher education? For high school counselors?



- Personal care aids
- Home health aides
- Biomedical engineers
- Brickmasons, blockmasons, stonemasons, tile/marble setters
- Carpenters
- Veterinary technologists and technicians
- Reinforcing iron/rebar workers
- Physical therapist assistants
- Pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters
- Meeting, convention, and event planners

## THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL NEWS

Local more-or-less weekly newspapers, mostly freely distributed in hard-copy and/or on the internet, face the same tight budgets that are faced by the great newspapers such as the *New York Times*. Alas. The local news is important for those who care about the small localities in which we live and/or work.

The latest news of tightening comes from *Patch*, which is cutting back on its editorial writers and freelancers in favor of cute features such as the best local pizza (not scientifically determined because there is no money for science). From the *Patch* web site: "Hi there, we're *Patch*, your source for local knowledge you can't live without." Sad.

This news was in a blog, *Romenesko.com*. And readers commented—here are two comments:

- ♦ "It [will] be as if Starbucks announced that starting today, it would only serve Sanka."
- ♦ "If a well-financed, web-savvy, organization [AOL/Huffington] with all the scale advantages of centralized administration and technology platforms can't make local content pay, it's quite possible that no one can. *Patch*'s failure is bad news for local journalism in general."

"News" continued on Page 3

"News" continued from Page 2

Let's hope the *Washington Post* doesn't cut too deeply into the *Gazette*, which is a valuable source of local news although its staff is thin. What does the subtitle of "Gazette.Net" mean: "Maryland community news online"? Another good source is *Post Local*.

We must know what's happening locally if our local quality of life is to be protected and enhanced—if local democracy is to flourish. Let's hope the local news is not sanitized to be politically correct.

### TOUGH-TIMES \$\$

The latest deficit estimate for Prince George's County is \$126 million in the \$2.5 billion budget. Will there be cuts in the library system ("Who needs to read real books?" one might ask in ignorance), interpreter and outreach services provided by the schools and other agencies (The ignorant cry, "If they don't know English, deport them."), or health services ("If they can't keep healthy, it's their fault.") These sure are scary times: not only can we not build for a positive future, we can't even hold on to what we have.

Why not legalize and tax (or increase the tax on) "sins"? Why not end prohibition? The state and counties can tax gambling and increase the tax on liquor and cigarette sales. It can then decriminalize marijuana and consensual commercial sex and tax these at, say, 10%—also saving money by reducing the number of people in jail.

### CONGRATULATIONS \$\$

CASA de Maryland, the Latin American Youth Center (presumably including its satellite Maryland Multicultural Youth Services), Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County; Adventist Community Services; Planned Parenthood; House of Ruth; Ayuda; and the Spanish Catholic Center are among the organizations that received grants this year from United Way. These organizations are in or near Langley Park and appear to put their dollars to good use.

ALP is not familiar with some of the nearby recipients: Washington Vocational Training Institute (1823 Keokee St.) is said to provide "quality certificate nursing and educational services to underserved students"; Court-Appointed Special Advocates (6525 Belcrest Rd.) is said to "provide a voice for abused and neglected children"; and Community Crisis Services, said to offer "a one-stop calling center for information and compassionate assistance for those in crisis" (its homeless hotline is 1888 731-0999, and its youth crisis hotline is 1800 422-0009). For a map of all the recipients, go to <http://www.unitedwayna.org/pages/impact-map#/UwMap>.

### OUR COPS IN ACTION

Prince George's police, headed by Chief Mark Magaw, reports that in January 2012 there were 551 arrests, 54 guns taken, and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of banned drugs confiscated. The January special enforcement effort was planned so that the January 2011 crime spree would not be repeated. Great work!

### HEY, FELLA: GET A JOB

The less-well-educated men in our country are having a very hard time. Adjusted for inflation, entry-level wages of male high school graduates have fallen 23% since 1973. Meanwhile, employment benefits have collapsed: in 1980, 65% of recent high-school graduates

working in the private sector had health benefits, but, by 2009, that was down to 29%. What's going on? Well, automation, outsourcing, and of late the collapse of the construction industry are definite factors. There are still some people who say, "Hey fella, get a job!" But the unemployment rate for high school graduates with no further education and non-graduates is very high.

Education and Work (25 years old plus)		
Education	Participation	Unemployment
No diploma	46%	13%
Diploma	60%	8%
Some college	64%	7%
College grad	72%	4%

The table above reveals the challenge of getting a job without more education. Many of the non-diploma people 25 years of age and above don't participate in the world of work—at least in the formal sector. Many of them are discouraged dropouts of the labor force, not to mention high school. And of those in the labor force, 13% are unemployed—males more than females. Alas, there just aren't many jobs for people without more education.

Note: Statistics in the first paragraph are from Paul Krugman, "Money and Morals," *New York Times* 10 February 2012.

### A HOUSING PLAN!

It's not a Prince George's County plan, but perhaps it has information that will be useful to members of the PG County Council and others.

Although state and federal funding for housing programs continue to shrink, Fairfax plans to commit at least \$11,700,000 to affordable housing for the neediest families in FY2013 beginning July 1. Nonprofit organizations and other local sources would be expected to add \$2.6 million in county-led programs to help assist more than 2,500 homeless families.

Maybe such a commitment would be very helpful to the poor and homeless in Prince George's County, especially if (when?) residents in the Langley Park area are thrown out of their affordable apartments if (when?) the sector plan is implemented.

### INFANT MORTALITY RATES

From a comparative perspective, Prince George's County is not doing well in keeping infants alive. The county's 2010 rates (the latest available to BLP) are above the state and country rates, and they have increased from 8.7 to 9.0 from 2009 to 2010. (The deaths are from low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, SIDS, etc.) But this is a deceptive comparison because it does not take family income or family structure into account. The poorer the family is, the higher the infant mortality rate; and there

Infant Mortality Rates in 2010				
All MD	All PG	PG White	PG Black	PG Latino/a
6.7	9	5.8	11.1	Not Available

are many poor families in the county. (Some support for this view is the 14.7 rate for Baltimore Blacks (down from 18.5 in 2009), many of them poor. Also, the number of single parents in the county is very high. Of course, the health services in the county are also relevant, and that's why a new hospital with lots of outreach into neighborhoods will be a very important addition.

BLP does not have access to the Latino/a infant mortality rates for 2010. However, in 2007 the national rates were quite low compared with other groups: non-Hispanic Black, 13.31; non-Hispanic White, 5.63; Central and South American, 4.57; Mexican, 5.42; and Cuban 5.18. The bad news is Puerto Rican, 7.71.

"Impact" continued from Page 1

## U.S.-born labor.



Immigration might reduce job opportunities and wages for workers who compete for their jobs. Economists have studied this possibility intensely, and they have come up with mixed conclusions. In particular, the evidence suggests that when the economy is growing briskly, even low-skilled U.S.-born workers benefit from immigration, albeit marginally. During a cyclical downturn, however, competition from new immigrants may lead to lower wages and contribute to unemployment among lower-skilled workers. This is an area to be addressed with urgency by policymakers. Training? Education?

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## Fiscal Issues

To the extent that foreign-born workers contribute to economic growth, the enhanced income largely supplies the tax and other resources needed to cope with the larger population that immigration produces. In other words, the so-called public fiscal burden of most immigrants is very similar to the net fiscal balance for citizens at the same income level. Since taxes in the United States are relatively progressive, over the long run, high-income persons tend to pay more in taxes than the value of the government benefits they receive. The balance is generally the opposite for lower-income persons. That seems fair!

To the extent that immigration increases overall population, labor force, and economic growth of the nation, it will also facilitate the long term financing of Social Security and Medicare. At least 50% of unauthorized immigrants have income and payroll taxes withheld from their pay. However, they do not obtain refunds for excessive withholding, and they are not entitled to most federally funded benefits such as Social Security and Medicare. Therefore, it is possible that unauthorized immigrants produce a net surplus at the federal level. At the state and local level, however, a large influx of low-skilled immigrants does present substantive resource challenges across services, especially for education and health care. Hey college students: volunteer, help out!

## Our Maryland

From 2000 to 2010, economic growth in the United States in general, and in Maryland in particular, was very dependent on the influx of foreign-born labor. While Maryland's Gross State Product grew by 26% over the decade, its work force grew by 15.2%. The foreign-born accounted for well over half, or 57.1%, of work force expansion. In the United States as a whole, GDP grew by 16.7% while the work force grew by 13.1%. For the nation, 45.3% of labor force growth came through immigration.

In Maryland, immigrants tend to be clustered among high-income earners and low-income earners. Thus, they are highly complementary to the existing labor force and therefore contribute substantially to the economy. However, economic expansion requires workers across the skill-spectrum and across industries. Over the past decade Maryland's growth in construction, travel, retail, transportation, farming and fishing sectors was greatly supported through immigration.

## The Undocumented

Unauthorized immigrants comprised 5.2% of the U.S. workforce (about 8 million workers) in 2010, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. Households headed by unauthorized immigrants paid \$11.2 billion in state and local

taxes in 2010, according to estimates prepared by the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy. If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from the United States, the country would lose \$551.6 billion in economic activity, \$245 billion in Gross Domestic Product, and approximately 2.8 million jobs, even accounting for adequate market adjustment time (Perryman Group).

A 2010 report estimates that deporting all unauthorized immigrants from the country and somehow "sealing the border" to future unauthorized immigration would reduce U.S. GDP by 1.46% annually—or \$2.6 trillion in lost GDP over 10 years. Moreover, the U.S. economy would shed large numbers of jobs.

The full reports: [http://www.inforum.umd.edu/mdimmigration/content/md\\_immigration\\_commission\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.inforum.umd.edu/mdimmigration/content/md_immigration_commission_finalreport.pdf); and <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/strength-diversity-economic-and-political-power-immigrants-latinos-and-asians>

## DEPORTATION DATA

The deportation data below are based upon a detailed analysis of the millions of records covering each deportation proceeding initiated by the Department of Homeland Security and its predecessor agency, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, in the Immigration Courts. These individual case records were obtained through requests made by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) under the Freedom of Information Act to the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), a unit within the Department of Justice in which these administrative courts are housed. The data below are from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012.

State	Ordered Deported	Reason: Criminal*	OD/CR
Entire USA	34,362	6,478	18.90%
Texas	6,967	1,314	
California	4,443	792	
Georgia	2,889	443	
Arizona	2,559	671	
Florida	2,136	673	
New York	1,967	337	
...			
Maryland	422	36	8.50%

\*Includes criminals, threats to national security, and terrorists

It is striking—and upsetting—to see that in the USA fewer than one of five people ordered deported had committed a serious crime or were viewed as a national security threat or terrorist. But the Maryland data are worse. (Worse means deported with the only cause being in the country without papers—which is not a cause mentioned by the administration as high priority.) Only 8.5% of those deported from Maryland had the "good cause." Does that mean security and ICE officials in the state engage in a higher percentage of family-breaking than the rest of the country?

Source: [http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court\\_backlog/deport\\_outcome\\_charge.php](http://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/court_backlog/deport_outcome_charge.php)

The *Washington Post* (12 February 2012) compiled the numbers in local jurisdictions of kindergarten children suspended for bad behavior: Prince George's Co.=94, Fairfax Co.=74, Anne Arundel Co.=61, D.C.=50, Prince William Co.=38, and Montgomery Co.=22. Kindergarten!!!

## DOMESTIC ABUSE AND A WAY OUT

The *Washington Post /Local* (8 February 2012) has an important article about the abuse of undocumented (or otherwise in jeopardy of deportation) women by their mates and others. Here are a few paragraphs from excellent reporter Pamela Constable's article:

"Teresa Gomez, a Salvadoran woman in her 20s, and Margaret Ashong, a grandmother from Ghana, endured regular beatings, threats and insults by the fathers of their children. Like many battered immigrant women in the Washington area, they mostly suffered in silence,

fearful that if they went to the police they could lose their right to remain in the United States and their source of economic support.

"It was not until both women ended up in emergency rooms ... that they discovered a network of support that eventually helped them obtain legal immigration status as well as psychological and financial help. ...

"In the past decade, several new laws have allowed abused foreign-born women, including those who entered the United States illegally and those whose immigration status depends on their spouse, to obtain legal residency on their own.

"Lawyers at two area nonprofit legal agencies, Ayuda in Takoma and the Tahirih Justice Center in Arlington, said that in the past several years, they have helped hundreds of foreign-born women win the right to remain in the United States after they were able to prove to immigration authorities that they had been abused or assaulted by a boyfriend, husband, employer or acquaintance."

The article is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/for-battered-immigrant-women-fear-of-deportation-becomes-abusers-weapon/2012/01/30/>

### KNOW A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE? IF SO, URGE THEM TO SEEK HELP.

Ayuda is located in the Takoma neighborhood of DC, a block from the Red Line and Takoma Park at 6925B Willow St. The phone number is 202 387-4848.

### ENERGY CONSERVATION HELP

The U.S. Department of Energy is funding an energy-conserving program; see <http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/HCD/weatherization.asp>. Residents can obtain an energy audit from the county and then receive funds to make improvements in insulation. All homes must be structurally sound before any energy conservation measures can be installed. The county gives special priority to the elderly and families whose income is no more than 60% of the state median income, which means a family of four can make approximately \$58,000 and still be eligible. For more information or to schedule a home energy audit, call 301-883-5491. You also can download an application from the county housing department's Web site, <http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/HCD/PDF/WAPAPPLICATIONFINAL.pdf>.

### A BILL KVETCH

A ten minute visit to my orthopedist led to a charge of \$400 plus x-ray costs! (Most was paid by an insurance company.) Want to know why our health system is so expensive? Ask the insurance companies that insure health professionals in high-risk occupations such as orthopedics. And ask the orthopedists why they have to earn \$501,808 (their median in the USA). There must be a better way for us to deliver health care—affordable health care.

## 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](mailto: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.

**February 18—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.

**February 18—Free legal advice about family law issues**, 1-3 p.m. at Langley Park Community Center. Call for information or to register: 301 952-4840.

**February 18—Ella Fitzgerald Live**, a film as part of the Montpelier Film Series—6 p.m. followed by dinner. To see the film only is \$10; for film plus dinner, it is \$25. Then on March 2 at 8 p.m., saxophonist David Sanchez, born in Puerto Rico, will perform. \$25. The Montpelier Mansion is at 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel. Information: 301 377-7817.

**March 1—Youth Job Fair**, 3-6 p.m. for youths 16 to 21 at McGill Training Center, 8452 Zimborski Ave., Fort Meade. Its not close, but the trip might be worth 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! Interest them in science! (Science really is fun—and phun.)

**March 18—Free cancer screening** at Washington Adventist Hospital. For information, call 301 891-7600.

**March 22—Action Langley Park** meets at 7 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. Be there! Invited special guests include leaders from the School System and the Police Department.

**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 26—Art and the Purple Line**, an art event at The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, 930 King Street on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College. Time TBA. It won't all be purple on purple!

**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 is available at: <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; food and craft vendors; children's art and game activities; face painting, and more. On Cinco de Mayo weekend!! If you'd like to contribute to this event, including interpretation, face painting, clowning, giving advice as a nurse, etc., please contact [actionlangleypark@yahoo.com](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

# Barrio de Langley Park en Español

## Revisación médica 2011

El 6 de noviembre pasado se llevó a cabo la feria de salud denominada "Health Check", celebrada anualmente en Langley Park Community Center. Este evento está abierto a todo el público y es gratuito.

Centenares de residentes locales (y otros tantos provenientes de la zona) se acercaron a dicho evento a fin de someterse a revisiones odontológicas y dermatológicas, así como de nivel de azúcar, HIV, otras enfermedades transmitidas sexualmente, tensión espinal e hipertensión, entre otras. También había enfermeras especializadas, doctores y demás personal dispuesto a responder preguntas sobre nutrición, peso corporal, embarazo, el programa WIC y muchas cuestiones más.

Los co-organizadores, Action Langley Park y Langley Park Community Center, quieren agradecer a todos los profesionales de la salud por su enorme contribución a la salud de tantas personas. Gracias también a los colaboradores de Maryland Schools of Dentistry and Medicine, Suburban Hospital, Montgomery College Nursing Program, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Adventist Health, Priority Partners, Counseling Center, TAYA, Sims Chiropractic, Kaiser Permanente, CCI/WIC y CASA de Maryland, entre otros.

Muchas gracias a todo el personal de LPCC y, por supuesto, a su directora Lourdes Sulc, quien incluso estando enferma, abandonó su lecho para venir a colaborar. ¡¡Muchas gracias!!

Los estudiantes también colaboraron notablemente. Action Langley Park quiere agradecer a los estudiantes de Montgomery College que forman parte de su Latino Student Union por ayudar especialmente con la divulgación de dicho evento. Entre ellos cabe mencionar a Karina Velasco, Belen Bonilla, Daniel Torres, Mauricio Ventura y, asimismo, a Joanna Perez quien hizo la conexión con LSU-ALP.

Queremos agradecer también a las estudiantes graduadas de UMCP, Vanessa Kim y Deborah R. Sward, quienes supervisaron aquello relativo a los proveedores de modo tal que todo saliera tal como había sido planeado.

### Próximamente

Un nuevo evento de salud organizado por ALP y LPCC, que formará parte de "Langley Park Day 2012", tendrá lugar el 6 de mayo al mediodía. Además de la feria de salud, habrá comida y vendedores, cantantes y bailes, actividades para los niños y muchas cosas más. Por favor, marquen esta fecha en su calendario.

## Pobreza en los Estados Unidos

"En un lapso de diez años, este país ha visto aumentar la población pobre en 12,3 millones de personas, elevando el número total de gente en nivel de pobreza a un pico histórico de 46,2 millones. Hacia el final de la década anterior, más del 15% de la población de la nación vivía por debajo del umbral de pobreza federal –\$22.314 para una familia de cuatro miembros en el 2010– aunque esos incrementos no se produjeron de manera uniforme en todo el país" (*Brookings*, 3 de noviembre de 2011).

En nuestro país, la pobreza no visita a las familias y a los individuos de la misma manera. Según los datos del último censo, es claro que estar en una familia de dos adultos reduce el nivel de pobreza, y es dolorosamente claro que ser latino o latina aumenta drásticamente el índice de pobreza (Ver el gráfico).

Así que sabemos que tener dos o más adultos que potencialmente ganen dinero es mejor que tener uno solo. No es ninguna sorpresa. También nos damos cuenta de que en todos los ámbitos, la pobreza se ha incrementado en la década del 2000 al 2010. Tampoco esto es extraño, dadas la recesión y la post recesión laboral.

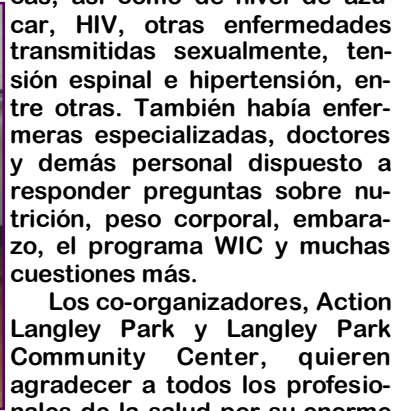
Esto ha afectado especialmente a los latinos/as. Una de las mayores razones es que muchos han trabajado en sectores de la economía que han sido golpeados fuertemente –especialmente en el sector de la construcción; algunos han trabajado como techadores, carpinteros, albañiles, etc.–. Con tantas casas anteriormente construidas en el mercado, el ritmo de construcción es lento. Las mujeres han trabajado como especialistas en cuidado de niños y otros trabajos relacionados con servicio. Desgraciadamente, algunas familias han recortado el presupuesto para cuidado de niños y trabajo doméstico.

Además, algunas aplicaciones de la ley para eliminar a los latinos indocumentados o a los latinos de sus trabajos ha aumentado los números de pobreza.

Algunos otros patrones de pobreza son de nuestro interés. Por ejemplo:

- La pobreza es ligeramente mayor entre los jóvenes y los ancianos comparada con aquellos de mediana edad (entre 18 y 64 años) –el grupo de los trabajadores.
- Los latinos/as tienen los niveles más altos de pobreza, aunque los afroamericanos no están muy lejos. En la parte inferior se encuentran los europeos y los asiático-americanos un poco más arriba.
- La región occidental del país tiene el mayor índice de pobreza.
- Las personas que viven en las zonas metropolitanas (urbanas) tienen un nivel más alto de pobreza que aquellas que viven fuera de dichas áreas.

Por desgracia, el índice de desempleo de alrededor del 9% estará entre nosotros por algún tiempo y su impacto ni siquiera se sentirá.



## DESEMPLEO

### ¡LAS PRESTACIONES DE DESEMPLEO ... NO SON PARA TODOS!

Tal vez el lector piensa que las personas que han perdido su trabajo pueden obtener varios beneficios de desempleo del gobierno para comprar alimentos, pagar el alquiler, etc. Para algunos es así, aunque no para todos. Aproximadamente un tercio de los desempleados no tiene estos beneficios, ya que han estado sin trabajo más de un año. El Congreso de los Estados Unidos está considerando la posibilidad de lanzar un proyecto de ley para elevar la semana a 99, pero aun así muchos trabajadores seguirán angustiados ya que llevan en el paro más de 100 semanas. Millones de personas llegan a la extrema pobreza y muchos de ellos son niños. Algunos desempleados de larga duración acaban durmiendo en la calle. Y hay algunos que están cerca de Langley Park y han sido expulsados de la comunidad.



### INCLUSO NUESTROS SOLDADOS

Del periódico *Washington Post* (5 de noviembre de 2011): "El ex sargento del Ejército, Arnold Bradley, ha estado viviendo sin calefacción en su GMC desde que fue despedido de una empresa encargada de la manufacturación de piezas de automóviles hace cuatro meses. Todas las noches, conduce su camioneta hasta que encuentra un lugar seguro y se detiene para dormir. El vehículo está repleto con su ropa y artículos del hogar". Y el artículo añade esta estadística impactante: "En 2009, si seleccionamos una noche cualquiera, unos 75.609 veteranos de todo el país se han quedado sin hogar, según el Departamento de Asuntos de los Veteranos de Maryland". Probablemente más ahora: ¡Hay que tener en cuenta a nuestros soldados en los Estados Unidos!

### Y LOS INDOCUMENTADOS

Se estima que hay cerca de 11 millones de indocumentados que viven en los Estados Unidos. Muchos de ellos son trabajadores de la construcción o empleados domésticos, y estos trabajos han ido disminuyendo a causa de los persistentes problemas económicos. Por lo menos mil residentes de la zona de Langley Park están en esta situación. Y cuando ya no pueden encontrar trabajo, ¿qué hacen? Las prestaciones por desempleo no son una opción para estos ciudadanos, y por eso tratan de vivir de la generosidad de los vecinos. Algunos se quedan sin hogar y se convierten en vagabundos. Muchos no tienen una nutrición adecuada. Se seguirán quedando aquí, es la esperanza del sueño americano. Ojalá ese sueño no se convierta en cenizas.



## ¿INMIGRACIÓN = DESIGUALDAD?

¿Cuánto ha contribuido la inmigración al drástico aumento de la desigualdad económica en Estados Unidos en las últimas décadas? Gran parte de esta desigualdad la han causado los ingresos no salariales, lo que significa que a la inmigración probablemente se le atribuya menos el aumento de la desigualdad de ingresos que el aumento de la desigualdad salarial. La mayoría de las estimaciones indica que *menos* del 5% de la desigualdad de ingresos se puede atribuir a la inmigración. La conclusión más justa sería que la inmigración posiblemente aumenta la desigualdad en la mitad inferior de la distribución de ingresos por un pequeño porcentaje, pero esto sigue sin explicar el porqué del boom de esta desigualdad en las últimas décadas. (¡Recuerde el 1%/ 99%!)

### Asesoramiento legal para detenidos

La gran mayoría de los detenidos, incluyendo los menores, deben representarse a sí mismos ante el tribunal de inmigración. ¡Qué injusto es no tener asesoramiento legal! Sin embargo, hay algunos juicios en marcha que desafiarán esta norma prevaleciente de no tener abogado. Las investigaciones han demostrado que los inmigrantes con abogados tienen cinco veces más posibilidades de ganar sus juicios que los que no los tienen. ¡Cinco veces! ¡El asesoramiento legal verdaderamente ayuda! Así que luchemos por este derecho. ¡Pronto! ¡Ahora!

El juez del Tribunal Superior de Justicia ya jubilado John Paul Stevens ha afirmado que la necesidad de tener una representación legal para los inmigrantes ha aumentado tanto y las consecuencias son tan drásticas, que debe hacerse algo al respecto. (Declaraciones extraídas del *LA Times*, el 8 de noviembre de 2011.)

### Trato desagradable

El caso de una mujer del barrio de Queens, que sufrió un aborto el mes pasado cuando iba a ser deportada a Ecuador, se ha convertido en un símbolo de las carencias en la nueva política de inmigración del Presidente Obama. (*New York Daily News*, 2 de noviembre de 2011.) Julia Casares, de 36 años, estaba en el proceso de deportación de acuerdo con la nueva política que intenta capturar a los criminales violentos y a los recién llegados mientras ofrece un permiso temporal a los residentes indocumentados que llevan toda la vida en el país, que no suponen una amenaza y que además poseen fuertes lazos con los Estados Unidos. Casares tiene una condena de 10 años por hurto pero no tiene antecedentes de violencia, y además sus dos hijos y sus cuatro hermanos son ciudadanos americanos. Sin embargo, los agentes del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas no le permitieron quedarse hasta que no perdió a su bebé bajo custodia federal, comentó su familia. "Se desmayó y empezó a sangrar", dijo la pareja de Casares, Marco Guartan. "No pudieron forzarla a subir al avión en ese estado es un ser humano."

Los defensores de inmigración declaran que el episodio ocurrido con Casares refleja que el ICE no está implementando debidamente el plan de Obama de revisar 300.000 casos de deportación con el objetivo de identificar a criminales violentos que deberían ser deportados de manera inmediata. Y sin embargo, esta incorrecta puesta en práctica se ha extendido.



**6 de mayo: Langley Park Day 2012 a partir del mediodía hasta las 4 p.m. en el Langley Park Community Center. Habrá música y espectáculos de baile; una importante feria de la salud revisando la visión, estatus del VIH, presión sanguínea y más; habrá comida y venta de artesanías; arte y juegos para los niños, y mucho más.**



## LOS DERECHOS DE LOS JORNALEROS

Varias jurisdicciones, incluyendo algunas áreas suburbanas de Maryland, han usado la policía para retirar a la fuerza a los jornaleros que se reúnen cerca de calles muy transitadas en la espera de trabajo. Aparentemente las jurisdicciones no han leído los derechos de libre expresión y reunión contenidos en la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. La buena noticia es que en septiembre el Noveno Tribunal del Circuito de Apelaciones de los Estados Unidos juzgó de inconstitucional una ordenanza que impedía a los jornaleros reunirse en las aceras públicas para solicitar trabajo a los conductores en un pueblo al sur de California.



Thomas A. Saenz, Presidente y Consejero General del MALDEF expresó que: “Hoy la opinión del Pleno del Noveno Tribunal de Circuito reivindicó rotundamente los derechos de la Primera Enmienda de los jornaleros. Las docenas de ordenanzas similares a través de toda la región, las cuales pretenden impedir que los jornaleros hablen en las aceras, están mostrando aún más claramente la violación a la Constitución. Cada municipio con semejante ordenanza debería suspender y anular inmediatamente sus leyes. El viejo principio de que el derecho a la libertad de expresión pertenece a todos ha sido reforzado significativamente por esta decisión”.

Pablo Alvarado, Director Ejecutivo de la Red Nacional Organizadora de los Jornaleros (National Day Laborer Organizing Network) expresó que “La decisión es el resultado de una lucha, en las cortes y en las calles, que comenzó a principios de la década de los 90. Las ordenanzas tenían la intención de hacer a los jornaleros invisibles, pero la lucha en contra de estas ordenanzas los ha vuelto más visibles y más poderosos. En las últimas dos décadas, las ordenanzas han estigmatizado a los jornaleros señalándolos como criminales. Ahora ellos son líderes de los derechos civiles. Por lo que esta victoria no es sólo para ellos, sino que es para todo americano, una victoria lograda por gente humilde y para todos”.

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### ¿UNA SEÑAL DE ESPERANZA?

Roger Algase es un abogado de inmigración que ejerce en la ciudad de Nueva York. Lo siguiente es una porción de su comentario publicado el 9 de noviembre de 2011, en *Immigration Daily* vía ILW.org.

“El martes 8 de noviembre de 2011 será recordado como un día histórico para las fuerzas de la decencia y la tolerancia en Estados Unidos. El Senador republicano de Arizona, Russell Pearce, es un aliado del aguacil del condado de Maricopa, Joe Arpaio, quien es bien conocido por encerrar a inmigrantes mexicanos en tiendas de acampar en el desierto, por abusarlos y humillarlos. Pearce es el autor de la ley estatal *Wo sind Ihre Papiere?* (“Papeles, por favor”), la cual ha servido como modelo para otras leyes de odio contra los inmigrantes latinos, asiáticos y otras minorías en Alabama y otros estados. Pearce perdió su puesto en el Senado el martes en unas elecciones extraordinarias.

» Los que nos llamamos defensores de la inmigración no podemos verla como un asunto aparte, no relacionada con los otros eventos que suceden en este país. Si así lo hiciéramos, estaríamos siguiendo la estrategia de ‘divide y

vencerás’ que utilizan las fuerzas de privilegio y poder para mantener el control de nuestro sistema político y económico.

“La pregunta ahora es si los políticos que quieren emplear el odio como medio para conseguir o mantener el poder, no sólo en contra de los inmigrantes sino también en contra de otras minorías y la gente común, harán caso del mensaje de las elecciones de ayer. Esto incluye no sólo a los candidatos presidenciales republicanos, quienes compiten descaradamente por emplear la demagogia con respecto al tema de la inmigración, sino también al Presidente Obama y su despiadada máquina aplanadora e irreflexiva del ICE (Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de Estados Unidos), que deporta a más personas sin antecedentes penales, dividiendo a más familias y dejando a más niños estadounidenses sin padres, que cualquier otra administración en la historia reciente.”

### ¿Quiénes son nuestros residentes legales permanentes?

En el 2010, había poco más de 12 millones de residentes legales permanentes (LPR por sus siglas en inglés) en los Estados Unidos, dos tercios de ellos elegibles para naturalizarse. Estas cifras se mantuvieron estables durante el período 2008-2010.

Los residentes legales permanentes deben cumplir con un requisito de residencia de cinco años para la naturalización. Los cónyuges de ciudadanos/as de los EE.UU. son elegibles para aplicar luego de tres años. Hay varias otras excepciones al requisito de residencia de cinco años, muchas de las cuales afectan a un pequeño número de inmigrantes.

La mayoría de los residentes permanentes legales es patrocinada por la familia –en su mayoría, parientes cercanos de ciudadanos estadounidenses–. Alrededor de una sexta parte de los residentes legales permanentes tuvo preferencias basadas en el empleo.

Cerca de la mitad de los residentes legales permanentes pertenecía al grupo de edad de entre 25 y 44 años, y aproximadamente el 55% eran mujeres.

México fue, como era de esperar, el país con más presencia, con aproximadamente una cuarta parte de los residentes legales permanentes. Los países de Centroamérica que más contribuyen a los EE.UU. y a Maryland son El Salvador y Guatemala.

Además, no es sorprendente que los principales estados receptores sean California, seguida por Nueva York, Texas y Florida. Maryland está muy por debajo en el décimo segundo lugar con un total de 230.000 residentes legales permanentes.

**Nota:** El número de inmigrantes indocumentados en Estados Unidos es de alrededor de 10,5 millones.

#### RED DE POBLACIONES INTERNACIONALES DEL CONDADO DE PRINCE GEORGE'S

Esta organización, dirigida por la Dra. Marlene Cohen del Centro de Educación Internacional del Prince George's Community College, se reúne dos veces al año en PGCC (Prince George's Community College) para escuchar y dialogar con interesantes oradores y también para establecer relaciones con profesionales y estudiantes que trabajan con asuntos migratorios. Esta reunión se ha vuelto parte de la semana internacional de PGCC, que incluye una sesión sobre los musulmanes en los Estados Unidos, clases de samba y mucho más. La Dra. Cohen contribuye considerablemente a los esfuerzos para ayudar a los inmigrantes desde su institución en PGCC y, de manera más extensa, gracias a su habilidad para organizar reuniones.

