

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park

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## SHOULD WE DREAM NOW?

President Obama: "This morning, Secretary Napolitano announced new actions my administration will take to mend our nation's immigration policy, to make it more fair, more efficient, and more just -- specifically for certain young people sometimes called 'Dreamers.' These are young people who study in our schools, they play in our neighborhoods, they're friends with our kids, they pledge allegiance to our flag. They are Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper. They were brought to this country by their parents -- sometimes even as infants -- and often have no idea that they're undocumented until they apply for a job or a driver's license, or a college scholarship. ...



... college scholarship. ...

"Precisely because this is temporary, Congress needs to act. There is still time for Congress to pass the DREAM Act this year, because these kids deserve to plan their lives in more than two-year increments. And we still need to pass comprehensive immigration reform that addresses our 21st century economic and security needs -- reform that gives our farmers and ranchers certainty about the workers that they'll have. Reform that gives our science and technology sectors certainty that the young people who come here to earn their PhDs won't be forced to leave and start new businesses in other countries. Reform that continues to improve our border security, and lives up to our heritage as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants."



### WHO CAN

Under the Obama administration's directive announced on June 15th by Secretary Napolitano of the Department of Homeland Security, an undocumented immigrant will not be deported if:

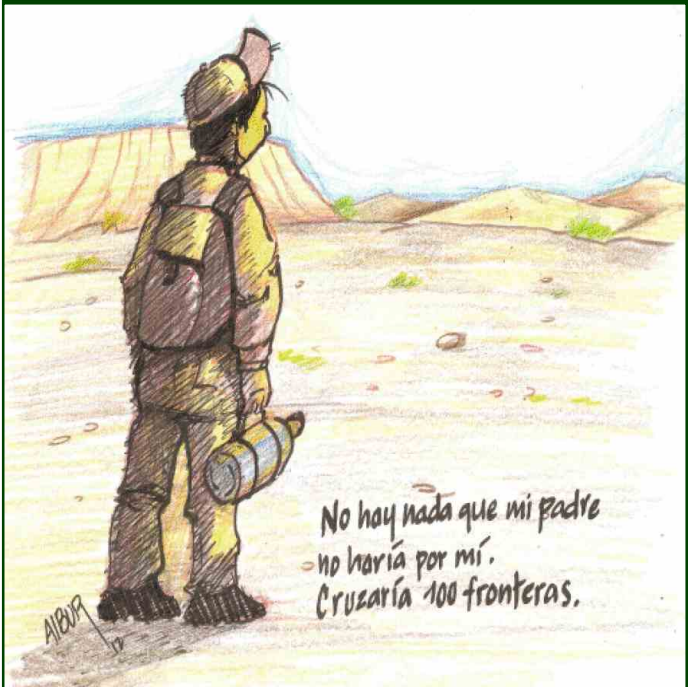
- He or she was brought to the United States before turning 16 years of age
- Are younger than 30
- Have been in the country for at least five continuous years
- Have no criminal history (one misdemeanor might be okay)
- Is in school or has graduated from a U.S. high school or earned a GED or served in the military.

The young person can apply at a USCIS office for a work permit that will be good for two years with no limits on how many times it can be renewed. (But of course the November election may dramatically change the policy.)

"Dream" continued on Page 2

*A Belated...*

## Happy Fathers' Day



*Let's hope that our fathers realize the joys and responsibilities of fatherhood, and that they help to fulfill the needs of their children.* (Art from ndlon.com)

## ICE ACTION

Change.org writes: "Could you imagine suffering torture five different times, only to be told that no protection from your torturers was allowed because you missed a deadline to apply? And what if you missed the deadline because you were still recovering from the last attack?"

"Blanca Medina doesn't have to imagine what that would be like. She sought safety in the United States after suffering *five* rapes. Because of medical complications relating to those rapes, Blanca missed a hearing to apply for protection and was ordered deported. An Immigration and Customs Enforcement team tracked Blanca down and detained her, separating her from her four-year-old daughter Alejandra.

"Blanca told ICE that she and Alejandra faced severe harm if deported. She asked for permission to at least explain how she and her daughter could be persecuted. ICE used a strange procedural rule to assert that it simply did not have to listen. Under ICE rules, it is free to ignore even conclusive proof that a person would suffer slow death by torture if deported.

"This 'wilful blindness' policy could be ended through simple procedural changes by the Department of Homeland Security. Until the procedure is fixed, Blanca (and many other mothers like her) face deportation with no hope of finding protection from persecution or torture."

**BUT**

This action doesn't grant citizenship or legal status. It is a promise not to deport and to accord permission to work—unless the order is reversed. If there is a change in the federal administration, the opening may well be cancelled. And what should a young person do who is afraid that a misdemeanor from years ago would lead to deportation if he or she applies for the work permit? If parents and a DREAM-eligible young person are undocumented, what should the young person do given the possibility that their parents' status will be revealed?



"They are Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper."  
-President Obama

**OPINIONS**

**THOMAS A. SAENZ of MALDEF** (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund) comments: "Today's bold Obama Administration announcement holds out the promise of significant, even transformative, benefit to the entire nation by ensuring that some of our most capable and committed young people are finally given the opportunity to work and to safely contribute to our economic competitiveness and our national development."

**JORGE ACUNA:** "'I thank God for this day. It has changed my whole life,' Jorge Acuna, 19, a college student in Silver Spring who came to the United States with his family as a child, told a cheering crowd outside the White House ... minutes after Obama announced the new policy. Last spring, the community college student was nearly deported to his native Colombia. Now, under the amnesty, he will be able to pursue his degree in engineering." (*Washington Post*, 15 June 2012)

**MITT ROMNEY:** "I believe the status of young people who came here through no fault of their own is an important matter to be considered and resolved on a long term basis so that they know what their future will be in this country. I think the actions the president took today make it more difficult to reach a long term solution because an executive order is, of course, just a short term matter than can be reversed by subsequent presidents." (Asked repeatedly, he has offered no alternative policy.)

**MHRICKEY:** "This isn't the grand amnesty that's being portrayed. Young people who are eligible won't be granted legal status in any real sense of the word, nor will anything about their work authorization be 'automatic.' What Obama has proposed is 'deferred action.' Deferred action is little more than a temporary promise by the government to a deportable person that they aren't going to be deported for now, so for now since they are here and known, they can apply for a temporary work permit. The greater benefit is to the country, who can now siphon off tax and social security dollars from people another administration may still deem disposable." (A comment sent to the *Post*)

**YANKEEDOODLEDANDY:** "This 'policy' is a seditious act that usurps the power of the Legislative Branch of the government and violates the separation of powers mandated by the United States Constitution. This act is grounds for impeachment and Congress should act accordingly. This imposter who sits in the White House took an oath to uphold the Constitution, not undermine it. Obama has denigrated the US Supreme Court, appointed 'Czars' and members of the Cabinet without Senate approval, supports Holder in violating the law, and now

usurps the power of the Legislature. This imposter is undermining the rule of law as established in the Constitution and needs to be removed from office. If Congress does not have the courage or integrity to do it, 'We the People' need to remove him from the White House in November. Obama is a threat to the sovereignty of the United States of America and to our Constitutional form of government." (A comment sent to the *Post*)

**AP ANALYSIS:** There's not much President Barack Obama can do to boost the economy in the next five months, and that alone might cost him the November election. But on a range of social issues, Obama is bypassing Congress and aggressively using his executive powers to make it easier for gays to marry, women to obtain birth control, and, now, young illegal immigrants to avoid deportation. It's a political gamble.

**POST SCRIPT**

The below item was planned for this BLP issue as an item of hope. Of course, with President Obama's action, the situation has changed.

The *Washington Post* (11 June 2012) reports: "A Virginia teenager who was scheduled to be deported a few days after her high school graduation earned a last-minute reprieve Monday afternoon. Heydi Mejia, 18, and her mother, Dora Aldana, 40, were granted a one-year deferral by the Department of Homeland Security.

"Mejia and Aldana, the subjects of a story in *The Washington Post*..., were prepared to leave for Guatemala this week. Mejia was 4 when her mother brought her to the United States across the Rio Grande, and she graduated with honors from Meadowbrook High School in Richmond on Friday. She had planned to go to college, until immigration officials came to her family's two-bedroom apartment in December, turning her senior year into a countdown to deportation.

"The one-year reprieve allows her a chance to enroll in college and get a part-time job in cosmetology, as she had planned. Her attorney, Ricky Malik, has filed a motion with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to reopen her case, which could lead to a dismissal of the deportation order or a longer deferral." But now, Mejia falls within the Obama executive order, and we'll hope that her mother will be able to stay as long as Mejia does.

**HOW IS THE USA DOING?**

The economy of the United States seems not to be recovering very well. One clear indicator: unemployment remains high. Alas, our country is failing. Well, maybe—but maybe not. Countries around the world are recovering from the so-called "great recession," so in some respects we all face the same challenges of recovery. But note, we are more successful than all but one of the "Group of 7" and all the other euro zone countries. The first column indicates the lowest dip since the pre-recession high, and the second is now compared with that high.

	DIP AND RECOVERY	
	Dip %	Now %
Canada	-3.9	3.7
USA	-5.1	1.2
Germany	-6.8	1
Belgium	-4.4	1
France	-4.3	-0.7
Netherlands	-4.9	-2.1
Finland	-10.3	-2.2
Japan	-9.2	-2.3
Spain	-4.9	-4.2
Britain	-7.1	-4.4
Portugal	-5.2	-5.2
Italy	-7.1	-6
Ireland	-12.5	-11.8
Greece	-15.9	-15.9

(Data from NY Times 16 June 2012)



# news and notes

## SCHOOLS

**PLYLER:** Thirty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a state may not deny access to a basic public education to any child, whether that child is present in the country legally or not. The court's decision in *Plyler v. Doe* is relevant these days when several states try to attack the rights of undocumented immigrants. "Plyler represents the best of our collective ideals as a nation," said Assistant U.S. Attorney General Thomas E. Perez. "Although countless children, and our country as a whole, have directly benefited from *Plyler's* holding, the past year has shown us that we still have far to travel."

**WHO WILL RUN THE SCHOOLS?** Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III has established a 12-member commission to advise him on strategies for improving the county's schools. But wait, isn't school improvement the responsibility of the Board of Education working with the Chancellor? The County Executive does have the money, but school officials make the policy. Are we heading to a bit of conflict? And if so, will that help or hurt the schoolchildren?

**BUDGET HARM:** The teacher of the year in Sacramento, California, has been let go for budgetary reasons. The Sacramento school system is in severe trouble. Doesn't that mean that the federal government should provide some funding so that such teachers are not let go, not to mention some police officers and fire fighters? And if that means more taxes, especially on the top 5% or so, isn't that necessary to have a strong next generation?

**COLLEGE PARK ACADEMY!** This alliance between the City of College Park and the University of Maryland, just approved by PGCPSS, aims high. From a school document: "College Park Academy has a vision: To be a high quality and highly rigorous college preparatory public school rivaling the best in the nation. The mission of College Park Academy is to combine advanced academic study with cutting-edge learning techniques



to provide students in grades 7 through 12 with the opportunity to graduate from high school with up to sixty college credits while thriving in a best-practices learning environment that adapts to their needs and maximizes their personal academic performance."

The "cutting-edge learning techniques" means to the officials that there will be a mix of in-person and on-line instruction, a so-called "blended model."

The school will open in Fall 2013 with 100 students each in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and each year one grade will be added until the range is 6th through 12th grades. Here's hoping it's a great success.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT:** Our title of this section is the title of an article in the Washington Post (15 June 2012) about the importance of parents' involvement in the schooling of their children. The author is Black, and she writes about Black students in her family's local school. But her message certainly applies to all parents and their children, and it's an especially relevant message for children who may be heading towards poor grades and even towards dropping out.

She writes: "As a black parent, I know this: Collectively it's time to put our money—time, talent and treas-

ure—where our mouths are. Can we as parents spend more time, money and energy on sports and then wonder why we have an achievement gap? We would have made more library trips in elementary school so that now it would be a fun thing to do in high school (or at least not a dreaded place to go). Or perhaps we would have insisted that SAT and ACT preparation take precedence over other activities so that they might enjoy higher scores and even greater options."



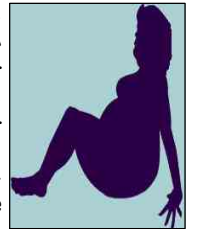
## PRAISE FOR MARYLAND

For the third year in a row, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has rated Maryland among the top five states in the country for economic growth, job creation and innovation. In its annual report on what it calls Enterprising States, the chamber gives Maryland's administration high marks for policies and conditions that help grow jobs. The chamber also classified Maryland as one of "the next boom states," that is, the states "best positioned to grow, create jobs, and prosper in the coming five to 10 years." Let's hope the chamber is right; we sure need more jobs and prosperity!

Alas, the U.S. Department of Labor said Maryland lost 7,500 jobs in May, marking the third straight month of job losses in the state. Perhaps that shows that good policies don't always pay off in the short term. In the Langley Park area, the unemployment rate may well be more than one in three people in the workforce.

## PREVENT OBESITY!

Could being obese as a child hinder a student's success with mathematics? A new study suggests that childhood obesity and math performance are related. The study focuses on data for 6,250 children from the start of kindergarten through 5th grade. Researchers discovered that both boys and girls who were persistently obese throughout their K-5 years performed significantly worse on math tests than their peers of healthy weight in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades. For girls, their weight status as they entered kindergarten had a "marginally significant" effect on their math performance, too.



## FARMERS' MARKET

The Crossroads Farmers Market's new manager is Allison Milchling. Last year, she was "a summer intern every organization should be so lucky to have." What about Michele and Michelle? Michele Levy is now the Executive Director, and Michelle Dudley is now with Eat Fresh Maryland, a statewide partnership of more than twenty farmers markets, non-profits, and government agencies. It is the first statewide effort to expand federal nutrition benefits redeemable at farmers markets.

Remember, the Crossroads Farmers' Market is open Wednesdays from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the south parking lot of 7676 New Hampshire Avenue - just across University Boulevard from Langley Park.

## ☺ Schools are out for the summer! ☺

What sort of activities have you planned for your children during the summertime? Nothing?? Gads!! Why not enroll them in one of M-NCPPC's day camps, playgrounds or teen centers? They feature a range of activities for young people ages 6-17 from June through August. To begin the registration process, browse through the online [Summer Camps brochure](#) (click, control) and search for activities that interest you and your children.

## A \$ CONTRACEPTIVE?

The cost of rearing a child has risen to an estimated \$234,000! Since 1960, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided estimates of expenditures on children from birth through age 17. For the overall United States,



annual child-rearing expense estimates ranged between \$12,290 and \$14,320 for a child in a two-child, married-couple family in the middle-income group. Adjustment factors for number of children in the household are also provided.

Here are the cost domains:

**Housing expenses** consist of shelter (mortgage payments, property taxes, or rent; maintenance and repairs; and insurance), utilities (gas, electricity, fuel, cell/telephone, and water), and house furnishings and equipment (furniture, floor coverings, major appliances, and small appliances). Mortgage payments included principal and interest payments. Overall, principal payments constituted 15 percent of overall housing expenses.

**Food expenses** consist of food and nonalcoholic beverages purchased at grocery, convenience, and specialty stores, including purchases with Food Stamp Program (now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits; dining at restaurants; and household expenditures on school meals.

**Transportation expenses** consist of the monthly payments on vehicle loans, downpayments, gasoline and motor oil, maintenance and repairs, insurance, and public transportation (including airline fares).

**Clothing expenses** consist of children's apparel such as diapers, shirts, pants, dresses, and suits; footwear; and clothing services such as dry cleaning, alterations, and repair.

**Health care expenses** consist of medical and dental services not covered by insurance, prescription drugs and medical supplies not covered by insurance, and health insurance premiums not paid by an employer or other organization. Medical services include those related to physical and mental health.

**Child care and education expenses** consist of day care tuition and supplies; baby-sitting; and elementary and high school tuition, books, fees, and supplies. Books, fees, and supplies may be for private or public schools.

**Miscellaneous expenses** consist of personal care items (haircuts, toothbrushes, etc.), entertainment (portable media players, sports equipment, televisions, computers, etc.), and reading materials (nonschool books, magazines, etc.).

So when you're planning to have a child, realize that there are expenses for raising a healthy child; and if you can't afford the expenses, perhaps it's time to wait.

Note that the fertility rate of Euro-Americans has fallen well below the "replacement rate" but immigrants are above that rate. So immigrants are saving the USA from becoming Japan-like elderly.

### HOUSING IN PG COUNTY STILL SOFT



The housing market in the Washington metropolitan area is doing fairly well, but not in Prince George's County. Comparing January through September in 2010 and 2011, only two PG zip codes showed a housing sale-price increase, and the increase was slight. Overall, the county's housing sales showed a drop of 14%. In zip code 20783, which includes Langley Park, the drop in the median sales price for 152 homes was from \$185,870 to \$162,000—13%.

## WHAT AND WHEN



Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that are called 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).

**June 18: Health Expo**, 12 to 5 p.m. at the Methodist church at 6201 Belcrest Rd.

**June 30—Rally** against deportation and displacement starting at 1 p.m. at the corner of Piney Branch Road and Flower Avenue in Long Branch and marching into Langley Park and the CASA headquarters at the mansion. (See fliers to the left.)

**July 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.

**August 7: National Night Out.** In Langley Park, the Community Center is planning an indoor afternoon [not quite "night"!] event, 3:30-5 p.m., with a focus on children—including a film and ice cream. Some good bilingual police officers are likely to join the fun.

**September 20: Action Langley Park Open Meeting** at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to about 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome; ideas always welcome!

**November 10: Health Check** at the LP Community Center from noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of health screenings plus information and counseling. Is your heart okay? Are you infected with HIV? How's your lung strength? Any problems with oral health? Et cetera!

**May 5—Langley Park Day 2013**, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health.

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

June 20

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that there are more than 43.7 million refugees and internally displaced people around the world. The UNHCR celebrates "World Refugee Day" on Wednesday, June 20th. The day is to "honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict and violence."

### DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY? MAYBE YOU'RE IN THE WRONG JOB. CONSIDER THESE JOBS AND PAY

Chief executive, CBS, 2011: \$68,422,211

Chief executive, Exxon Mobile, 2011:

\$25,165,106

Chief executive, Comcast, 2011: \$23,244,346

Chief executive, Verizon, 2011: \$22,993,318

Chief executive, CocaCola, 2011: \$21,161,811

Forty-three chief executives made more than \$20,000,000!

