

Barrio de Langley Park

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NEW IMMIGRANTS

More Asians than Latinos!

A decade ago, about 60% of the new immigrants to the USA (with and without documents) were Latino/as.

Asians were about 20%. But by 2010, there has been a dramatic change: Asian immigrants account for about 36% of the immigrants and Latino/as for about 31%. The change is almost entirely due to the drop in Latino/a immigration; the Asian numbers have only slightly risen over the past decade.

Newcomer Asians from across the Pacific outnumber newcomers from south of the border: wow! In 1965, Asians accounted for about 1% of the USA's population, and now that figure is 6% and growing. There are now more than 17,000,000 Asians in the USA.

People of Chinese heritage account for the largest segment of the Asian-American population, followed by the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Korea, and Japan.

Asian-Americans "are the highest-income, best-educated and fastest-growing racial group in the United States. They are more satisfied than the general public with their lives, finances and the direction of the country, and they place more value than other Americans do on marriage, parenthood, hard work and career success, according to a comprehensive new nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center." (www.pewsocialtrends.org)

For instance, among immigrants who came to the USA since 2007, about two-thirds of the Asians have college degrees; they are followed by Euros (58%), Blacks (38%), and Latino/as (16%). Going below the general "Asian" category, Indian immigrants are most likely to have a college degree followed by Koreans and Chinese.

*Referring to those whose heritage is Asia as "Asians" is not popular with ... Asians. About half of them prefer their heritage country category, e.g., "Japanese" or "Japanese-American." This is somewhat parallel to the use of "Hispanic" or "Latino/a." Alas, most of us use the shortcuts.

♦Much of this article is based upon a Pew Social Trends report, available at <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2012/06/The-Rise-of-Asian-Americans-Full-Report.pdf>. It's worth checking out.

LAYOFFS TARGET PUBLIC WORKERS AND THEREFORE SLOW RECOVERY

'All we have to do to get our country's economy back on track and our flag flying high is to fire lots of those high-salary low-productivity workers—the teachers who vacation all summer, the fire fighters who sleep all day because there aren't that many fires, and the cops who most of the day sit in their cars reading porn.' (Anon)

Since 2009, about 657,000 government jobs—primarily at the local level—have been eliminated. The main targets have been teachers, fire fighters, and police officers. Will this help to balance budgets? Not according to many observers because employed government workers spend money, helping the economy. The unemployed spend much more frugally.



Why are local budgets so stressed? Partly, it's because the flow of money from the federal and state levels has declined. For instance, teachers' pensions in our state's local governments are now more the responsibility of those localities. And partly it's the decline in real estate taxes, and that has hit PG County very hard because of the dramatic decline in the worth of houses and other properties.

The issue has become the subject of differences between presidential candidates. "Public workers became a point of contention in the presidential campaign recently when Mitt Romney, the presumptive Republican nominee, criticized President Obama for wanting to increase the number of government employees through stimulus measures. 'He says we need more firemen, more policemen, more teachers,' Mr. Romney said, adding: 'It's time for us to cut back on government and help the American people.'" (Washington Post 20 June 2012)

With the decline in revenue, class sizes increase and response time of fire fighters and police officers grows. Should the federal government provide dollars to slow or eliminate the cuts? That may be settled by the result of the November election.

MORE TROUBLE

States continue to lose ground in their efforts to cover the long-term costs of their employees' pensions and retiree health care, according to a new analysis by the Pew Center on the States, due to continued investment losses from the financial crisis of 2008 and states' inability to set aside enough each year to adequately fund their retirement promises. Now there are many broken promises.

LOTS ON PAGES 2 through 5: News and notes, President Obama's youth deportation decision, local opportunities for young people, the work of Arts on the Block, event schedules, and more. Enjoy!

NEWS & NOTES

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE UPDATE

The county government's team formed to make positive changes in the Langley Park neighborhood met again on June 21. Effectively chaired by team leader Betty Francis, some accomplishments were reported and future possibilities explored. A small sample of actions: burned out street lights have been replaced and building inspections will be more frequent. (Several apartment complexes were identified as having many code violations.) And a small sample of future actions considered: maybe a shuttle bus from the Mary's Center to Langley Park and maybe more recreational spaces (but no corrective action was taken to restore the soccer field behind the elementary school). Photographs were passed around depicting areas where homeless people have been living (but no initiative was proposed to offer help to the homeless). The mood of those at the meeting was positive; there is clearly a commitment to improvement.

IMMIGRANTS → CRIME: Maybe Not!

"There are too darned many immigrants around here. Just look at all the murders and rapes and other stuff. Want to be safe? Keep 'em out and get 'em out." (Anon)

Well, maybe the immigrants-lead-to-crime belief is not valid according to two leading scholars (and others): "There is compelling evidence ... that today's immigrant gateway cities in the United States have experienced some of the largest reductions in crime, exactly the opposite of widely voiced predictions. New York, long a leading magnet for immigration, has for the past decade ranked as one of America's safest cities. Crime in Los Angeles dropped considerably in the late 1990s and into the first decade of the 2000s, as it did in other cities with a large Hispanic population such as San Jose, Dallas, and Phoenix. The same can be said for cities along the border, like El Paso and San Diego, which have ranked as low-crime areas for some time. Cities of concentrated immigration are simply some of the safest places around, and many decaying inner-city areas gained population in the 1990s and became more vital in large part through the process of immigrant diffusion." (J. MacDonald and R. J. Sampson, *Annals of Amer. Academy of Political & Social Science* 641, 2012)

DARE TO DREAM

An integral part of the BrainstormUSA educational resources company philosophy is to "give back" to the schools, children and families who cross company's paths on a daily basis. The "Dare to Dream... Expect to Succeed" Scholarship

**Congratulations
Julio & Jamie!**

program helps the company do so. This program was developed to help show children the value of

visualizing their dreams, setting goals, sharing their hopes and ambitions, and having the self-confidence to communicate their vision. College scholarships are awarded each quarter of the year, and personal computers with educational software are donated to each scholarship winner's school and teacher. In addition, personal computers combined with educational programs, as well as software bundles, are also awarded to

the next tiers of winners.

Two Langley Park young students won Dare to Dream awards, Julio Castillo Jr. who dreams to be a CIA agent and Jamie Castro who dreams to be a media specialist. Congratulations!!

SCHOOLS: PGCPs MISPRINT!

The Prince George's Public Schools Communications Director has confirmed that a misspelling appeared on all 2012 county high school diplomas, and it was the result of a vendor error. He also said PGCPs became aware of the misspelling and that all students and parents have been notified of the error. The Virginia (?) vendor will pay for the reprinting of the diplomas and mail them to the students in about six weeks. Sad. But it's also sad that no one in the school central office examined a proof before mass printing. That should be routine. Or did someone do that—in too great haste???

SCHOOLS: SPENDING ON THE CHILDREN

Among the country's fifty largest school systems, New York City ranks first-in-spending at \$19,597 per pupil; Montgomery County is second at \$15,582. Ranking third and fifth are Baltimore City at \$14,711 and Prince George's County at \$14,019. The national average is \$10,615. Perhaps this tells us that a jurisdiction with many working class, poor, and immigrant children must spend more money to try to compensate for the deprivations. (But how do they raise enough money to do what's necessary? We already know that some vital services in PGCPs have been cut.) As for Montgomery County, it sure has a good tax base.

Given the relatively stagnant economy and especially the poor housing market in PG County, the school system seems to be coming out fairly well. The budget for FY2013 is about \$1,610,000,000, a three per cent increase over FY2012. A new budgeting system has been used: "student-based budgeting" that gives a school just over three thousand dollars per pupil and then allocates additional money based on a school's number of English learners, number of Title 1 students, and more. Seems fair.

HEALTH INSURANCE: YOU MAY RECEIVE \$340!

About 141,000 Maryland consumers will get \$27,900,000 in rebates from health care insurers under a provision of the Affordable Care Act (aka "ObamaCare"). In Maryland, the rebates will average about \$340 per family. The reason is that insurance companies charged more than the 20% limit for non-health expenditures. Once upon a time, the companies padded wallets with high so-called administrative costs. But with the Affordable Care Act that can't be done.

JOBS: UNEMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

According to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics report, the importance of education in avoiding unemployment is still quite significant. For those without a high school diploma, the participation rate (working or wanting to work) is 45% and the unemployment rate is 13%. But with a high school diploma (but no college), those figures become 60% and 8%. Alas, in all categories, Latinos and Latinas have a higher unemployment rate than the country overall. So those young people thinking of dropping out before the high school diploma should think hard about these data. For perhaps the next fifty years, not having



that diploma will probably narrow opportunity and quality of life.

JOBS: BEING UNEMPLOYED IS NOT EASY

Do you know someone who is smart and/or has good skills yet is unemployed or dramatically underemployed? (The total is one of five workers in the USA.) If so, do what you can to boost the person's well-being because a long period of unemployment can be very harmful psychologically. "Being unemployed is actually one of the most difficult, most devastating experiences that people go through," said Robert L. Leahy of the American Institute for Cognitive Therapy. Research suggests that being unemployed doubles a person's chance of a major depressive episode and that unemployment is also highly associated with domestic violence and alcohol abuse. Unemployment is also associated with an increased risk of suicide, often because of the link to depression, according to the Suicide Research and Prevention Center.

WHERE'S MONEY FOR THE PURPLE LINE?

The challenge facing Purple Line planners and advocate is funding. Who has a spare few billions of dollars? Purple Line Now, a nonprofit organization, is pushing a gas tax hike to help enrich the transportation trust fund.



"Maryland motorists have been getting a cheaper and cheaper ride since 1992, the last time the gas tax was raised," comments Purple Line Now leader Ralph Bennett. "Gas prices have fallen 60 cents since April—now is the time to add a small amount to the price of gas to fund the transit projects and roads all Marylanders need." Professor Bennett may be right; the available funds situation is rather bleak for the Purple Line as well as for extending

Baltimore light rail and providing bus rapid transit (BRT) service on I-270, to mention two other projects in Maryland. A progressive tax is usually the fair way to get public funds, but a gas tax increase would probably provide the needed funds—and possibly discourage a few people from filling up and polluting rather than using public transit.

Note: At the recent Neighborhood Initiatives meeting, a representative of the Purple Line stated firmly that a BRT alternative was not being considered—even though it would require less than half of the cost of light rail.

STATES' LAWS: DEPRIVE IMMIGRANTS

The periodical *Mother Jones* has built a database of the 164 (often curiously similar) anti-immigration laws passed by state legislatures in 2010 and 2011. Arizona and Utah "lead" the states followed by Texas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. Many of the laws are "copy-cat," that is, one state copies another's legislation or some third party provides draft legislation to more than one state. There are lots of details about such legislation at <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/03/anti-immigration-law-database>.

GAMBLING IN P.G.

At the state level, an opportunity for gambling (aka 'gaming') in Prince George's County hit a significant roadblock. Opposition perhaps came from moralists as well as those in other counties who see a PG operation as draining resources from their home area.

County Executive Rushern Baker comments: "I am very disappointed that the Workgroup to Consider Gaming Expansion was not able reach consensus on expanding gaming today. Fortunately, there is still time for them come to an agreement and not leave 4,000 jobs and over \$200 million in additional revenue for the Maryland Education Trust Fund on the table. I firmly believe that this important issue must be decided by the people of Maryland and the workgroup should give them an opportunity to weigh in.



"This was about creating jobs and opportunity for our citizens in a time when good jobs are hard to find. I strongly encourage the Governor, Senate President and the Speaker to step in and ask the workgroup to hammer out an agreement. The people of Maryland deserve a voice in this, and today's events appear to have put their chance to be included in jeopardy."

Mr. Baker wants to add a referendum to the November ballot authorizing a sixth Maryland gambling parlor and permitting table games. PG Las Vegas!??

STD SEX ED AND THEN...

For a recent study, focus groups were formed to explore adolescents' understanding of how primary prevention strategies reduce STD transmission, their knowledge of the common barriers to the adoption of prevention strategies, and what risk reduction strategies they know adolescents commonly employ. The researchers found that adolescents understood how STDs are transmitted but considered primary prevention strategies like abstinence and consistent condom use unlikely or difficult to implement. The adolescents reported that they develop their own strategies to reduce their STD risk, which include indirect partner assessments like evaluating a person's physical appearance, eye contact, and body language. "Gee, she looks cute and looks me in the eye so there shouldn't be any STD threat." If the pattern the researchers found applies to a wide range of adolescents, we'd better develop more effective sex education. And telling teenagers "don't" is not an effective strategy.

IMMIGRANT-OWNED BUSINESSES

These businesses (100 employees or fewer) help the economy considerably. They have almost five million employees and they have receipts of more than three-quarters of a trillion dollars! Almost every serious economist reports that immigrants—including those without papers—are a plus for the economy of the USA. The small businesses are a part of that plus.

UPWARD BOUND AT PGCC

Prince George's Community College reports: "[PGCC] has been awarded \$1.25 million from the U.S. Department of Education over a five-year period for its Upward Bound Program. The initiative selects 50 low-income, potential first-generation high school students who need academic support. It is designed to grow participants' core college readiness and critical thinking skills, increase the rate at which students' complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Students in grades 9 through 12, ages 13 -19, will receive tutoring, career, academic, personal and financial aid counseling."

Does the reader know of a young person who appears to fit into the category of the program? If so, get more information by contacting the Upward Bound Program at PGCC at 301 341-3013.

OBAMA'S YOUTH DECISION

WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF THE POLICY: President Obama received positive citizen feedback for his deferring any deportation of "dream eligible" residents of the USA. A Bloomberg poll found that nationally 64% of the respondents favored the decision; 30% did not.



WHAT ABOUT CECILIO? To gain from President Obama's new deferment policy, a young person apparently has to have all the requirements; one slip and eligibility becomes very uncertain. Here's a case: "Cecilio, 24, came to the United States from Mexico 11 years ago. He's expecting to graduate from Borough of Manhattan Community College next year with an Associate's Degree in liberal arts. Cecilio satisfies the age, residence and education requirements to be eligible for a work permit under President Barack Obama's new immigration policy unveiled last week. But he's also used a fake Social Security number to work at a fast food restaurant for nearly 10 years. He was also caught by Customs and Border Protection agents when he entered the U.S., and was immediately returned to his native Mexico. A day later, he made a second, successful, attempt to come to the U.S." (WNYC 22 June 2012) Does he have a chance?

CAPACITY: The coming case-by-case reviews and terminations are a labor-intensive process that will require considerable staff capacity—and the relevant agencies are already overloaded leading to enormous delays. The two-step process, a grant of deferred action status followed by a work authorization application, may well overload the overload—or it may lead to sloppy decision-making. And what about appeals: is there a sufficient team of lawyers ready perhaps pro bono to deal with bureaucratic mistakes? Maybe unethical lawyers will try to fill the gap, and if so how will we protect the applicants?

THE POLICY CAN BE REVERSED: "I believe the status of young people who come here through no fault of their own is an important matter to be considered and should be solved on a long-term basis, so they know what their future would be in this country. I think the action that the president took today makes it more difficult to reach that long-term solution because an executive order is, of course, just a short-term matter—it can be reversed by subsequent presidents." (quoting Mitt Romney) So if a citizen thinks it should be reversed, a vote for Romney as the future president is called for. And vice versa. In addition, Romney has just stated: "As president I will stand for a path [to legalization] for anyone who is willing to defend this great nation through military service." So if an undocumented young man or woman volunteers for military service and survives, Mr. Romney would enable him or her to move towards citizenship. Over the past decade, a reported 75,000 have moved through this process. Were any of them undocumented?

FROM HOUSE REPUBLICANS: Opponents of the President's decision are trying to undo it. House Republicans have introduced the "Prohibiting Back-door Amnesty Act of 2012" legislation that would presumably block the president's action. But it is only GOP-symbolic.

A DREAM ACTIVIST WRITES: If you think you're eligible for deferred action status, at the least, these are needed: passport from the country of origin; birth certificate; proof of date of entry into the USA before your 16th birthday; proof of continuous presence in the USA for at least the last five years as of June 15, 2012. Alas, how can a young person who entered the USA as a small child have any of these items? Let's hope the "activist" is very wrong.

Summer Meals in Langley Park

Food, Friends, Fun, & Free!

In Langley Park & Other Locations!

► What are summer meals programs? Summer meals programs are federal child nutrition programs funded by the USDA and designed to provide healthy meals to children and teens ages 18 and under during the months of June, July, and August when school is out.

► How do I find a summer meal site in my community? There's one at Langley Park McCormick Elementary School!* Lunch starts on **June 25** and ends on August 3. The time is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For other sites, go to or call 1-877-731-9300 or www.mdsummermeals.org to find a site and learn more.

► Is there a cost? No. All summer meals offered through the USDA's programs are FREE to all kids and teens ages 18 and under.

► What are the requirements for a child or teen to receive a meal? Does one have to fill out an application form? There is no application necessary to receive a meal and you do not have to show proof of income. Kids and teens ages 18 and younger can just come to a summer meal site during the site's hours of operation.

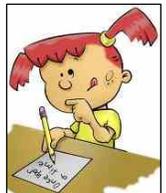
► What kind of food is served at these sites? The meals served are nutritious and meet USDA guidelines. A typical lunch, for example, will include a turkey sandwich on wheat bread, milk, an apple and a salad.

► Do summer meal sites offer activities? Many sites offer fun learning and recreational activities in a safe, supervised environment. To find out the type of activities offered, call the site. For more summer programming options, visit or www.mdsummermeals.com call 1-877-731-9300.

*Other nearby sites include Adelphi Elementary School, Maryland Multicultural Youth Center, and Rolling Terrace Elementary School.

Opportunities for Young People

Writing Workshop: Young people in grades 8 through 12 may take a writing workshop at Howard University July 15-20 or 22-27. Each session will have twelve students. The application deadline is almost upon us, so if interested please go to the program website right away for more information and application information. It's



<http://www.hurstonwright.org/ProgramsAwards/creativeWritingIntensive.html>. Note: there is a tuition charge of \$130 but scholarships are available.

Youth Awards: Latino high school juniors across America can apply to the Youth Awards program presented by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. The 2012 Youth Awards applications are available at www.hispanicheritage.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, **July 6, 2012**. For 15 years, the Youth Awards have honored Latino high school seniors in at least 10 areas (including the Washington DC metro area) who have excelled in the classroom and community, and for their focus in various categories including Science, Engineering, Healthcare, Math, Education, Green, Technology, Business and Finance, Arts, and Fitness. The Youth Awards program is the beginning of the HHF pipeline and identifies and vets the young leaders who are funneled into the Leadership Cycle as they transition from high school, to college and grad school, and into their careers.

ART OR CRAFT FOR YOU?

Are you looking for...

- a way to brighten that dreary corner of your office, store, restaurant or home...
- a special gift for a special occasion - birthday, anniversary, commemorative, retirement...
- unique hand-crafted rewards for employees, board members, officers...
- more creative branding opportunities for your business....
- a mural or other large artwork for a public place...
- and a way to support creative, talented teens in preparing for their futures?



Then think of Arts on the Block

This is a professionally-led arts community featuring the work of young people.

“For teens in suburban Maryland who are passionate about art, Arts on the Block is a place to learn about the world of art, the world of work, the community, and themselves. It is a place to make new friends, make art for real clients,



and make plans for successful futures. For lovers of art and others passionate about supporting the work of talented young people, Arts on the Block is a source of beautiful handcrafted artwork from small decorative objects to vast public installations in mosaic and other media.

“AOB artworks are of professional quality, custom-designed, in an array of materials (we work with you from concept to completion!), conversation starters, tangible evidence of your commitment to the positive development of youth from your community!” (Quotes from the AOB brochure.)



What, you don't think you've had any exposure to AOB work? We'll bet you have—at least if you've ever driven by the intersection of New Hampshire Boulevard and Piney Branch Road; the long mural on the northwest side of the intersection (a portion shown to the right) is an AOB creation. Three other examples of AOB work are reproduced above. For other examples of beautiful mosaic panels, signs, mirrors, and other decorative objects, visit the AOB galleries. For more information, go to Commissioned Artwork Fact Sheet, Artwork FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions), and/or the AOB Résumé. Want to options explore further? Contact either aob@artsontheblock.com or jgoldstein@artsontheblock.com or telephone 240.645.0730.



Be sure to visit <http://www.artsontheblock.com> for much more!

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.

June 23—Bladensburg canoe lessons, for age 10 and older (participants 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult), learn basic paddling skills, canoes provided. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays, Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd. \$25; nonresidents of Prince George's and Montgomery counties, \$30. 301-779-0371.

June 27—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the parking lot at the south end of the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue building. Lots of fruits and vegetables and live music and more.

June 28—College Park Peter Pan club, stories, crafts and activities for age 5 and younger. 10:30 a.m., College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive. Free with museum admission: \$4; seniors, \$3; age 18 and younger, \$2. 301-864-6029.

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.