

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park

Issue Number 248, August 2012

The gymnastic images: Can't get the Olympics out of mind!



August 15th!

That's the first day for young (30 and under) undocumented residents who arrived in the USA before the age of 16 and have lived in the USA continuously since 15 June 2007 to apply for a temporary work permit (which is renewable) in the deferred removal program announced by the Obama administration. There are several other limitations including school attendance. Check carefully!!

Here are two barriers: (1) The applicants will have to provide a set of documents supporting their claim of eligibility. (2) The application will cost \$465 (a few applicants will get fee exemptions).

And there's a scary element of the process: no appeal! So a staff person who for some reason doesn't like the applicant, that's it! So be as careful as possible with the application.

For more information, see Page 5 below and/or go to <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Humanitarian/Deferred%20Action%20for%20Childhood%20Arrivals/daca-consider.pdf> and/or to <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-qa-guide-updated>.



HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE UNDOCUMENTED

California is now home to the first online university program designed specifically for undocumented immigrants. It's the National Dream University, a joint project of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education and the National Labor College.* NDU is a year-long 18 credit and nationally-accredited certificate program for students interested in learning about immigration and labor rights. The goal is to make higher education more accessible to undocumented immigrants (and others) wherever they are—and without cutting into other aspects of their home and/or work life.

The program is far from free; the cost is \$2,490 for the year-long 18-credit program. (Five of the six certificate courses are \$315 each.) Of course, that's a lot less than the cost of most institutions of higher education. Applicants do not have to be undocumented, but they must have demonstrated a commitment to the immigrant or labor rights movements. The start date is in January 2013.

To apply to National Dream University, you need to take three steps: (1) Submit your completed application form: <http://goo.gl/pAeW2>. (2) Send your personal statement and electronic copy(ies) of your letter(s) of recommendation to nationaldreamuniversity@gmail.com. This is to show that the applicant has completed secondary school with at least a 2.7 grade average. (3) Mail in your *official* (sealed) transcripts to: 675 S., Park View St. Los Angeles, CA 90057 ATTN: National Dream University. Trouble completing the application? We're sure that CASA, MMYC, ALP or other local organizations will help.

*The National Labor College is located at 10000 New Hampshire Avenue.



SHOOT 'EM

"Today, we call an act like the mass shooting in Aurora, Colorado, or the even more recent one in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, 'senseless.' Yet, we should face these events as what they really are, a much bigger national tradition" seemingly embedded in our "national culture." (The quotation is by Professor Michael Vlahos of the Naval War College.)

We watch extreme violence in the cinema and its lesson is applied outside the cinema. And we don't limit gun possession because we are afraid of the political power of the NRA and/or we have learned well the lessons of the cinema plus wartime violence: a gun can get you what you want. The Second Amendment? It protects possession by those in militias. Who are in militias these days?



HELP TO SQUASH THESE UNTRUTHS

"Immigrants come to the USA to get welfare." *Not so!**

"Immigrants are a drain on the USA's economy." *Not so!**

"Immigrants take jobs away from USA citizens." *A very few jobs!**

*Each of these has been shown to be untrue based on high-quality research.

Maryland Tax Free week is August 12 - 18

Purchases of qualifying clothes and shoes for \$100 or less are exempt from the state's 6% sales tax. What's exempt? Go to http://www.marylandtaxes.com/ShopMD_2012/List-of-Taxable-Exempt-Items.pdf

WHAT'S UP?

"What's Up?" continued on Page 3

EDUCATION: WHO WILL MAKE DECISIONS?

When the County Executive set up an education advisory group, it seemed to set up rivalry or conflict between his executive office and the Board of Education. Some wondered if the two-headed leadership encouraged Bill Hite to leave for Philadelphia. Now we read in the *Gazette-Star* (2 August 2012): Education policy adviser Christian Rhodes



"said that there is a leadership gap in the school system as Hite's deputy, Bonita Coleman-Potter, left for a job leading a Mississippi school district and Baker is looking to fill that gap. 'He's going to take a very active and aggressive role in education in the county'... But some worry that Baker's increased interest and participation in the superintendent search and education in general could be stepping on the toes of the elected school board." Board chairwoman Verjeana M. Jacobs: "The leadership role in the process will be [taken by] the board of education. ... The county executive will have the part of stakeholder." Let's hope the schools don't suffer due to a rivalry. The need is to be full speed ahead.

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EDUCATION: SUSPENSIONS

In BLP issue 247, the issue of suspensions was raised, and the point was made that social class rather than race may be the most potent factor. The state's education officials should explore this possibility and develop policies accordingly. Indeed, there are many factors that might contribute to disruptive behavior, e.g., the peer group, the neighborhood, and the family structure. We must have better research to have better policy.

A new note: Nearly one in six African-American students was suspended from school during the 2009-10 academic year (the latest year for which national data are available). Whatever the cause, public policy must lead to positive changes—within the school and beyond. We cannot "lose" such a large segment of the youth population.

THE NATION: THE CRAZIES STILL AT IT!

A so-called "birther" organization known as the Conservative Majority Fund is currently running a national ad campaign claiming that it can disqualify President Obama from running for reelection. If that doesn't work, perhaps they will run a campaign claiming that Barack and Michelle Obama were brother and sister born of a male werewolf who lives on a polar ice cap except when he visits Hawaii to drop off his latest children.

FARMERS' MARKETS: CROSSROADS PLUS

We have a good farmers' market in the Langley Park area, the Wednesday afternoon Crossroads Farmers' Market. But it sure isn't the only one. There's a weekly market on the University of Maryland campus, an almost daily one just inside the Beltway on New Hampshire



Avenue, and now we read: "As demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables has increased, so too has the number of urban farmers markets sprouting up across the nation. USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan re-

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PG Co: BEST USE OF RESOURCES?

"Female officers posing as prostitutes engage the would-be johns over the phone after placing fake ads on websites devoted to solicitation. ... In five College Park area hotels, officers arrested 13 men for assignation (the act of meeting up in order to exchange sex for money) and six women on prostitution charges. Both are misdemeanor offenses in the state of Maryland. [Later] 11 more men were arrested for assignation and six women for prostitution. All involved are adults." (Source: PG Police web site.) Is this the best use of the county's police resources? What if all of the anti-sex resources were, instead, directed at high-crime neighborhoods?

Is the police action close to entrapment? Wikipedia helps to figure this out: "In law enforcement, a sting operation is a deceptive operation designed to catch a person committing a crime. A typical sting will have a law-enforcement officer or cooperative member of the public play a role as criminal partner or potential victim and go along with a suspect's actions to gather evidence of the suspect's wrongdoing.

"Sting operations are common in the United States, but not allowed in other countries such as Sweden and the Netherlands. ... Two examples of sting operations: An undercover officer posing as a potential customer to raid illegal prostitution. An undercover officer posing as a prostitute to raid illegal solicitation." So it is "legal" entrapment in the USA. Should this law be reconsidered?

ROUTE 1 TO MT. PLEASANT: BUS DESIGN

Yes, there is to be a new route starting at Ikea and ending at 34th Street in Mount Pleasant. (That's a nice gift to Ikea. Hum.) The web site states: "This section of Route 1 is experiencing a renaissance: new apartments and shopping venues in North College Park, residential high-rises and restaurants closer to downtown and the University, a cluster of retail, restaurants, and cultural venues in Hyattsville, and art galleries and schools, artist housing, museums and movement studios in North Brentwood, Brentwood, and Mount Rainier." And there's a competition to design the future busses! To see the three finalists, go to <http://www.route1ride.org/bus-wrap-competition/>.

PG Co: THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

A blogger (obsrvr@comcast.net) writes: "College Park gunmen: one released already, one gets bail/bond set at \$6,000?! Both have prior charges for armed violence. Unbelievable. This morning's shooting is the second in 30 days in the Lakeland neighborhood, vicinity of the Route 1 McDonald's in College Park backing up to Lake Artemesia. News accounts have described gunmen as firing at a crowd in the parking lot, but no one was hit. Thank God. In custody are Melvyn Douglass Watson, Jr., 18, of Greenbelt, and Dikimbe Rasheed David-Brandon, 20, of Bladensburg. 18 y.o. Watson had prior armed carjacking charges in 2009 (when he was 15!). Outcome is unclear from court records online. David-Brandon had an armed robbery charge in 2010, which was dismissed for reasons unknown. Both have prior charges for armed violence and yet, astonishingly, according to online court

"What's Up?" continued on Page 4

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS

As readers know, the state district realignment has created a single-member district, carving 47b out of what used to be 47 - thus creating 47a for two delegates. (There are three incumbents in district 47, so the race for 47b might be an interesting and possibly painful race.) The purpose of the single district is to make more likely the election to the State Assembly a Latino or Latina because the area covered by the new district has a large Latino/a population. Is a race/ethnic district a good thing?

Here is a portion of an article in the *Gazette* (13 July 2012) by Daniel Leadeerman.*

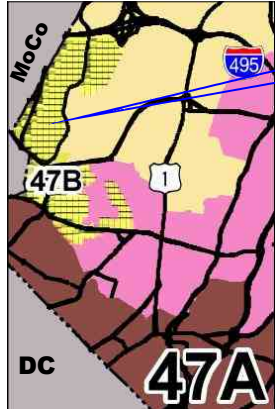
"Creating such subdistricts can give political strength to communities that share common interests, such as minority populations, said Kim Propeack, political director for the immigrant activist organization Casa of Maryland, which supported the creation of [two] Hispanic districts. Subdistricts have been applied all around the state and have helped elect black delegates in districts such as 23B and 37A, she said.

"The new 47B might give residents a stronger voice in development issues — particularly related to the planned Purple Line light-rail system that will pass through Langley Park—by ensuring their representative lives in the area, Propeack said.

"But some say creating more single-member districts can potentially diminish voter representation in the long run by making a single legislator difficult to unseat. Nationwide, between 30% and 40% of single-member seats are uncontested in general elections, said Rob Richie, director of the Takoma Park-based nonprofit FairVote.org. 'Having no choice at all is pretty depressing,' Richie said." Research supports the view that such districts deter legislative compromise.

So it is likely that starting next year there will be a state delegate for the Langley Park area who is a Latino or Latina. Let's hope that the elected person works hard to preserve and enrich the Langley Park area. The pressures of gentrification must be balanced by efforts to stabilize and preserve the vital immigrant neighborhood called Langley Park.

*The full article is available at <http://www.gazette.net/article/20120713/S/707139680/0/gazette&template=gazette>



Langley Park

THE WAR ON DRUGS A RECONSTRUCTED HISTORY

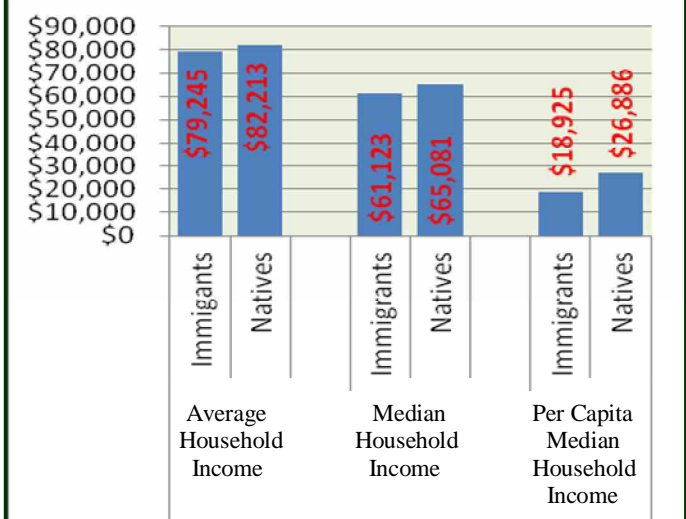
- A "There are too damn many Black and Hispanic kids roaming the streets and causing trouble."
- B "Yah, yah; we gotta find a way to keep them away."
- A "Let's have something called 'a war on drugs' so we can arrest a lot of them and keep 'em in jail a long long time."
- B "But over a decade the war might cost a trillion dollars."
- A "It's worth it to keep those damn kids in jail rather than on my street. Just look at 'em and you know they are dangerous."
- B "What about the people who will be killed in the countries where the drug plants are grown or the drugs are shipped through?"
- A "The hell with those culturally inferior people. We've gotta launch that war. And then we White folks will be safe."
- B: "What about decriminalization with health care?"
- A "You crazy? Taking drugs is an evil crime deserving jail time."
- B "Okay, the war on drugs it will be."

Note: The A and B letters are used to protect privacy.

"In June 2011, the Global Commission on Drug Policy released a critical report on the War on Drugs, declaring 'The global war on drugs has failed, with devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world. Fifty years after the initiation of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and years after President Nixon launched the US government's war on drugs, fundamental reforms in national and global drug control policies are urgently needed.'"

Paragraph source: Wikipedia

Income in MD: Immigrants and Natives



Our "dear friends" at the Center for Immigration Studies compiled the data in the above graphic based upon Census information from 2010 and 2011. It perhaps was collected to demonstrate that immigrants weren't keeping up with natives in the various states, including Maryland. But in Maryland, it seems that for average and median household income the gap is surprisingly small. But there clearly is a burden because per capita median household income displays a significant gap. That's because Maryland's immigrant households are significantly larger: 3.2 people compared with 2.4 people. Immigrant families stay together longer, and fertility rates are higher. Another striking difference is home ownership: For immigrant households, ownership is 59%; for natives, it's 69%.

HOW TO SLOW TRAFFIC

An elderly woman in China who lives near a pedestrian crossing that drivers often speed through, seriously endangering pedestrians and those in other cars, found a clever way to get motorists to slow down. She tied a sex doll to a tree at the crosswalk. The drivers do slow down to take a look! But how permanent is the doll? Maybe some drivers not only slow down but also stop and load the doll into their car. Would the doll slow down Langley Park area drivers?



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records, David-Brandon has been released same-day on his own recognizance today! Zero bond. Note that bail for him last time in Maryland was \$150,000. For Watson, bail-bond seems to have been set at a mere \$6,000 although he remains in custody as of this writing. With the level set so shockingly low, we can pretty much expect both to be free soon. The only question is this: will someone kill them before they kill someone else? Really, who is making these decisions?!" [No reply to our quest for explanation.]

PROTECTING WOMEN FROM ABUSE

From the *Huffington Post* (16 May 2012): "House Republicans on Wednesday passed their bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, despite protests from the White House, most Democrats and even some Republicans for not doing enough to protect LGBT, Native American and undocumented immigrant women." The bill passed 221-205 on a largely partisan vote.



The House bill discourages undocumented immigrant women from reporting abuse without the threat of being deported, cut protections for immigrant victims of violence whose legal status is controlled by an abusive spouse, and it put many perpetrators out of reach of law enforcement by making it harder for undocumented victims to report and assist in the prosecution of violent crimes. The House bill also makes it harder for Native American women to seek justice against their abusers, and it leaves out protections for the LGBT community altogether. *Racism, sexism, and more!*

A coalition of national Latino organizations has been calling for members of the House of Representatives to pass a VAWA that protects vulnerable immigrant women. *Is there a way to arrange for the abusive spouses to turn their abuse toward members of the House who voted for the limited bill?*

Note: When searching via Google for an image for this item, the results tell us much about the attitude of too many people towards Latinas. A majority of the searched images portrayed Latinas (presumably) providing oral sex, sometimes with brutality. How very sad; how likely to encourage some people to force this act upon women.

HOPE FOR PG COUNTY'S MOBILE FOOD VENDORS?

On 7 August 2012, the Liberty Justice Center filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a City of Evanston ordinance that exists only to protect established restaurant owners from the legitimate competition



that food trucks would bring to the City. James Nuccio and Gabriel Wiesen created their food truck, Beavers Donuts, in early 2012. In less than a year, they built an enthusiastic following; wherever

they go in Chicago and the surrounding area, people line up to get the coffee and donuts they make fresh in their colorful vehicle. But despite their success elsewhere, James and Gabriel are not allowed to operate in Evanston. That's because Evanston's City Code only allows owners or agents of existing brick-and-mortar restaurants to operate food trucks there. That restriction doesn't serve any legitimate health or safety purpose—

Beavers Donuts fulfills every other licensing requirement—but serves only to protect one group of established business owners from creative competition. This Evanston rule appears to violate guarantees of equal protection and due process. What will the legal action yield in Evanston? Is the legal action relevant here? For more, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhJu4J8kPUo>.

VACANT RETAIL: HOW ABOUT TEMPORARY USES?

Driving along University Boulevard, one certainly sees quite a few "for lease" signs. Even the old Shoppers is still boarded up. Not too pretty! But what to do? An article from *Greater Greater Washington* last November* offers a good suggestion: a temporary use. Here are the article's first two paragraphs:

"Imagine you have a long-vacant storefront or empty lot in your neighborhood. What if, just for a few months, it could become a plant nursery, a food garden, a beer garden, a sculpture garden, a playground, a clothing boutique or a tiny movie theater?"

"These small, temporary projects have the ability to revitalize vacant spaces, enliven neighborhoods, and provide small entrepreneurs a way test out their ideas with relatively small capital investments. This is what's called 'temporary urbanism' and shows how we can put vacant space back into productive use, even if only temporarily."

*Yes, we're a bit late. Better late than never?

PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DEATH

Oh those terrible people who try to sneak across the border from Mexico into the USA. How dare they? And of course they dare for their economic and/or physical well-being. They don't leave home for fun, and neither did the residents of small towns and farms in the USA leave for cities just for fun. An article in *The National Journal* (7 August 2012) provides a vivid example. Here are the first 100 words:

"Several months ago at a Texas shelter near the U.S.-Mexico border, Jessica Jones met a 16-year-old boy from El Salvador who had lost his entire family to violence in his Central American hometown. He had left El Salvador in an attempt to avoid the same fate. The teen started the nearly 2,000-miles journey through Mexico in the hopes of reaching the U.S., but he was nabbed by immigration officials before he could make it into Texas. 'His whole family [was] killed by gangs,' said Jones, a fellow at the Women's Refugee Commission, a nonprofit organization that advocates for laws, policies, and programs for refugees and other displaced people."

Should the boy be allowed into the USA as an asylee? He might well qualify, but of course he needs a good lawyer and a receptive government decisionmaker.

The *National Journal* article is at <http://www.nationaljournal.com/thenextamerica/immigration/more-central-america-kids-crossing-solo-20120807>

CONFEDERACY REVIVED?

In Chuck Thompson's new book, *Better Off Without 'Em: A Northern Manifesto For Southern Secession*, the

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SHOULD YOU BUY A PAPA JOHN PIZZA?

The answer may depend on whether you favor the health care legislation passed and supported by the Obama administration. Why? Because Papa John CEO John Schnatter is, according to the *LA Times*, "bashing President Obama's healthcare reform law." There is also a fat/salt health issue.



Here's more information about eligibility for deferred action for childhood arrivals.

Still have questions? If so, call 1800 375-5283

The below document can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Humanitarian/Deferred%20Action%20for%20Childhood%20Arrivals/daca-consider.pdf>

CONSIDERATION of DEFERRED ACTION for CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals allows certain individuals, who meet specific guidelines, to request consideration of deferred action from USCIS. Individuals who receive deferred action will not be placed into removal proceedings or removed from the United States for a specified period of time unless terminated. If you receive deferred action, you may be eligible for employment authorization. You may request deferred action for childhood arrivals if you meet the following guidelines:

Can I be considered?



Review guidelines

- You came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday



- You have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time



- You were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012



- You entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012



- You are currently in school, have graduated or obtained your certificate of completion from high school, have obtained your general educational development certification, or you are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States



- You have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat



- You were present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS



How do I file?



Collect documents as evidence you meet the guidelines



Complete USCIS forms



Mail USCIS forms and fees



Visit your local USCIS Application Support Center for a scheduled biometric services appointment



Check the status of your request online

www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

If you have questions about your request please call USCIS Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD)

VOLUNTEER! CASA de Maryland is seeking committed, progressive professionals to assist us in preparing youth across Maryland to apply for relief from deportation as a result of the Obama Administration's June 15 announcement regarding Deferred Action. This announcement combined with the upcoming critical battle to defend the Maryland Dream Act in the November elections represent a significant turning point in the immigrants' rights movement. CASA and all of us need your help to keep the momentum going!

Volunteers will be expected to interact with prospective applicants and help them navigate through multiple stages of the application process. During the clinics, volunteers will be placed at various work stations where applicants will be screened for Deferred Action eligibility criteria as well as provided assistance in assembling application packages. As such, CASA is looking for: motivated progressive professionals who are bilingual (Spanish/English), commitment to provide assistance during multiple clinics, available weekday evenings and/or Saturdays, and who are outgoing, multitasking individual comfortable working with the low-income immigrant community. All volunteers will be required to attend a volunteer orientation/training prior to the clinic dates. Application assistance clinics will be held weekly during weekday evenings and Saturdays at CASA's Multicultural Center located in Langley Park as well as at our Baltimore Welcome Center starting August 15, 2012. If this sounds like something you want to be a part of please follow this link to the volunteer sign-up form: www.casademaryland.org/deferredaction.

author argues that it may be time for a divorce—to shake hands and go our separate ways. The right-wingers can stay in or head to the South and those to their left can be citizens of the North. Czechoslovakia did it!

IMMIGRANTS IN RISKY OCCUPATIONS

Pia M. Orrenius and Madeline Zavodny, in a paper to appear in the International Handbook on the Economics of Migration, conclude: (1) immigrants in the USA and elsewhere are overrepresented in occupations and industries with higher injury and fatality rates; (2) immigrants have higher work-related injury and fatality rates in some advanced economies, but not all; and (3) most immigrants appear to earn risk premiums similar to natives for working in risky jobs.

Immigrant Latinos worked in occupations with higher fatality and injury rates than native-born Latinos as well as male non-Hispanic Euros and Blacks. What's going on? Workers with relatively low levels of human capital are more likely to work in manual labor jobs that involve more risk. Less-educated workers typically have fewer job choices, lower incomes and less wealth. So if you see a Latino crew on a roof or similar dangerous work, the general finding is confirmed. And we might sympathize.

LETTING THE COUNTY KNOW

Prince George's County government is offering a new and faster way to submit service requests for non-emergency issues like

- Reporting potholes
- Cutting shrubbery
- Fixing streetlight poles
- Reporting blighted property
- Reporting property standards violations
- Needing social service assistance
- And so much more.

Here is the best part: you can submit your request online or download the CountyClick application onto your mobile device. The latter will allow you to file a report from your smartphone. Click [here](#) to learn more about CountyClick. (Thanks to Senator Victor Ramirez for this item.)

FAT AND HEALTH

Today, 12.3 million children and adolescents are obese. Since 1980, the obesity prevalence rate has more than doubled among children ages 2 to 5 years, almost tripled among children ages 6 to 11 years, and more than tripled among adolescents ages 12 to 19. Obesity disproportionately affects disadvantaged populations, black children, and Mexican-American children. If the epidemic of obesity among children and adolescents is not halted



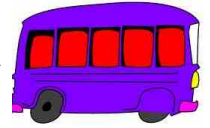
and reversed, today's generation of young Americans may be the first generation who will live sicker and die younger than the generations before them. Prevention is critical, for those who become overweight or obese during childhood or adolescence have a greatly increased risk of being obese

as adults. (From a report by the National Collaborative on Child Obesity Research, 2011.)

WANT A SCARY EXPERIENCE? Watch "Triumph of the Will" celebrating Hitler and the Nazi party in 1934. (It's on YouTube.) Why the celebration/support? Because he promised a great revival of German power but didn't give details. Beware of promising politicians!

NOTES ON TRANSIT

From a coalition of transit supporters, including supporters of the Purple Line, to state legislators: "You surely know that funding for transportation projects at the State level has been flat since 1992. In the meantime, the revenue stream has shrunk, automobile traffic has dramatically increased through the two decades since, to the point where the Washington, DC, area is the most congested in the country - a distinction we believe you should view with alarm, and a will for action. There are many transportation projects which are badly needed; some of them are in advanced planning. These projects will bring construction jobs, planned development along their routes and tax revenue on their completion. Without funding, these projects will not happen. We strongly urge you to put and keep critical transportation funding on the agenda until appropriate funding is secure, and not be distracted by other, far less important issues."



And a few paragraphs from Ryan Holeywell's August 2012 article in *Governing*, "Bus Rapid Transit Gaining Traction Despite Concerns." Its relevance is the Purple Line, the question being: If the billion-plus dollars are not available for light rail, should suburban Maryland build a BRT Purple Line for a billion-minus dollars?

"BRT is a path that transit agencies are likely to continue to pursue as they try to stretch dollars. Nearly 85% of transit agencies had flat or decreased capital funding in the wake of the recession, according to a survey released by the American Public Transportation Association last year. Transit agencies save money with BRT because of lower infrastructure costs -- they don't have to lay down track or dig underground -- and there are lower personnel costs, since they can use the same types of drivers and mechanics that they use for existing buses. Cleveland, for example, opened its 7-mile BRT in 2008 at a cost of \$200 million. Light rail would have cost nearly \$1 billion, says Joseph Calabrese, general manager of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. 'A few people said it should be light rail or nothing,' he says. 'In that case, it would have been nothing.'

"In New York City, officials developed a system that has embraced some BRT tenets, like off-board fare collection, signal priority for buses at some intersections and greater distances between stops. But it doesn't have bus lanes that are physically separated from normal traffic, which caused it to lose marks on ITDP's scorecard. ... Sadik-Khan, the transportation commissioner, isn't too worried about that. The city has three BRT lines right now -- the department describes them by its own term, Select Bus Service -- and another three are in the works. Eventually the hope is to have 16 lines. While buses don't travel in separated lanes, they drive in specially painted ones that cars are prohibited from using during peak hours. If they do, the buses snap a photo, and the drivers are ticketed. 'It's the system that works for New York,' Sadik-Khan says. 'For New York, every single time we've put in a Select Bus Service route, we've seen an increase in ridership -- amid a citywide decline in bus ridership.'"

Would a Select Bus Service work in suburban Maryland? Would it be satisfactory rather than optimal? Is "satisfactory" sufficient?

DATES OF REMEMBRANCE

Thanks to *Examiner.com*, we learn that "Nov. 4, 2012 will mark the second annual National Remembrance Day for those killed by illegal aliens. It is a day upon which we honor those Americans who did not perish in a foreign war, though they did die violently. You might say...they died in a different kind of war. The National Remembrance Day was conceived by the Tea Party Immigration Coalition (TPIC) and last year, Rep. Steve King (R-IA) announced his sponsorship of a resolution making the first Sunday of every November the day we honor those Americans killed by illegal aliens."

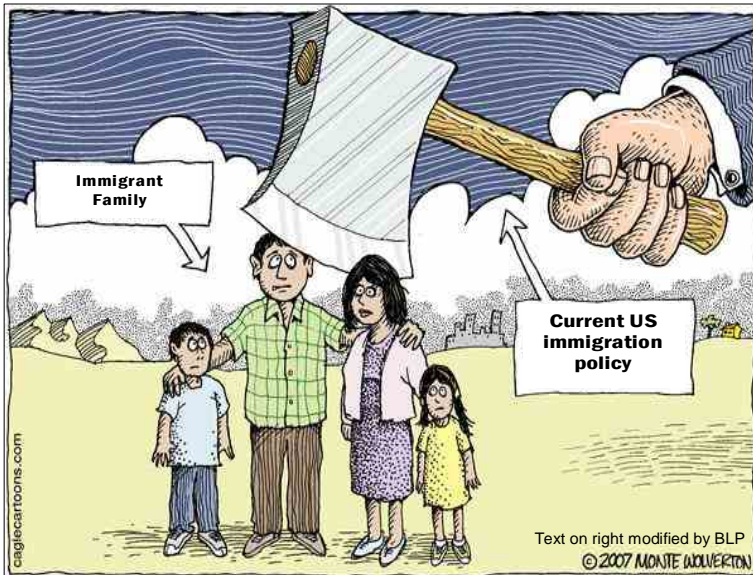


Creative! And so we would like to add two more days:

(1) The first Sunday of every October should be a National Remembrance Day for those killed by right-wing paranoid "save America" adherents who can't stand immigrants or gays or members of a certain religion or something else.

(2) The first Sunday of every December should be a National Remembrance Day for those killed by guns purchased without regulation (via the internet or at gun shows)—including screening. On that day, those committed to gun control should send an email to their Senators and Representative stating (a) that the USA should regulate all gun sales and (b) Congress should reinterpret the Second Amendment that on one reading states that members of a militia should have the right to own and possess guns. Here's yet another news item of an event that perhaps might not have occurred had there been tight gun regulation: "At least one gunman opened fire in a Sikh temple near Milwaukee on Sunday, killing at least six and injuring several others before being shot himself, the police said. The gunman is also believed to have died." (Very few days had passed after the Aurora murders.)

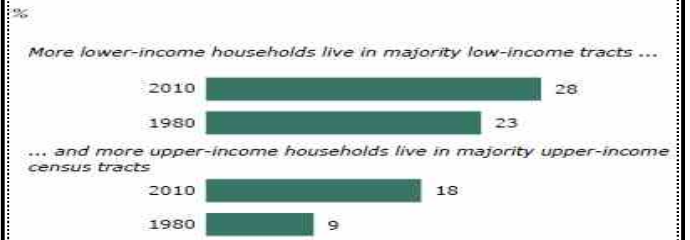
That leaves some days for other remembrances. Clearly, we should remember all those who are trapped in poverty and cannot enjoy the American Dream, and also those who are trapped in dysfunctional schools and cannot get a good job because of the inadequate education. More?



POOR AND RICH IN THE USA ARE SEPARATING INTO MORE "EXCLUSIVE" NEIGHBORHOODS

Some people advocate economically and racially/ethnically mixed neighborhoods in an effort to lower social and cultural divides and raise opportunities for all. But the opposite is happening according to current research by the Pew Research Center. That's the message of the Pew graphic, below. The result is very different American dreams.

Share of Lower-Income and Upper-Income Households Who Live Mainly Among Themselves, 1980 and 2010



IMMIGRANTS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Immigrants' overall education attainment rates lag behind those of the USA-born population. Among adults aged 25 and older in 2007, similar percentages of the foreign- and U.S.-born populations had bachelor's degrees (27% vs. 28%, respectively), but a lower proportion of the foreign-born (44%) than the U.S.-born (56%) population had completed some college but had not earned a bachelor's degree.

Postsecondary enrollment and attainment rates differ among immigrants depending on their country of origin and age at immigration, and among individuals born in the United States, whether they had parents who were immigrants or were born in the United States.

Interestingly, a higher percentage of immigrants from Europe, Africa, and Asia have some college or more than do natives, but those from Latin countries bring the immigrant figure down. Only 17% of immigrants from Mexico have some college or more; from Central America, it's 26%, South America, 54%, and Caribbean, 43%. One implication is that we need to open more avenues to higher education for immigrants. So we have to reduce dropping out and enhance mentoring and tutoring. If all young immigrants can DREAM, the low figures will soon increase significantly.

IMMIGRANTS WITH SOME OR MORE HIGHER ED
Age 25 and up, 2010 data

Heritage ▶	Euro	African	Latin	Asian
Have some higher ed	60%	68%	28%	67%
Total in USA	12%	4%	53%	28%

There's a tie-in with the new Federal policy: having a diploma or being enrolled in school is a criterion. Does that mean there will be a rush to return to school?

There is a strong relationship between education and poverty. Of course, both are dependent upon opportunity, and opportunity in the USA and elsewhere is unequal. In our country, 22% of natives under 18 years of age were poor in 2010; for the foreign born, the figure was 31%. The highest poverty was among Mexican children, 46%. That's scary and another danger sign.

Sources: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2012/2012213.pdf> and <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/acs-19.pdf>

WHAT & 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 actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

August 15, 22, et cetera—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon (last market day this year is October 31—31st? Halloween?!), 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. Sometimes the Amerigroup bounce bus is there!!

August 15—Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs holds a 5 p.m. meeting on multi-unit housing at Centro de Apoyo Familiar, 6801 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 201.

August 15: Application for Deferred Action for the under-31 undocumented residents is scheduled to begin. There will be a fee, \$485 (probably more), documents to present, and more. See Page 5, above.

August 18: PGCPs Back to School Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro. There will be information and some gifts. The site is far from Langley Park; there may be a bus available—check 301 445-8423 near the date.

August 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.

August 25: Free Legal Clinic from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Ebenezer Church, 7550 Buchanan St. in Hyattsville. In Spanish. Covers child custody, child support, and other family law issues. Register at 301 952-4840.

September 6-9: County Fair! At the Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena on Water Street in Upper Marlboro. Thurs 4-10 p.m., Fri 5-11 p.m., Sat 11a.m.-11 p.m., Sun 11a.m.-6p.m. Entry=\$6 (little children \$5). For information: 301 -442-7393 or info@countyfair.org.

September 16: Hispanic Festival. From noon to 6 p.m. at Lane Manor Park (adjacent to University Blvd. about one-half mile west of the University of Maryland). Lots of music, food, children's entertainment, more. More than 10,000 people may show up! Free entry, free music, free children's activities. Lots of food vendors. For information, contact Lydia Ocasio at 301 408-4355.

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! One focus will be the plans and accomplishments of the Neighborhood Initiative.

September 29—Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Mount Rainier Nature Center. Music, food and craft vendors, and more. Details TBA.

November 1—Action Langley Park Open Meeting at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. One focus: Health Check 2012.

November 11: 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? Your oral health? Et cetera! Everything is free.

May 5 —Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health (there's a big health fair). The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of food or craft. Bilingual volunteers are always needed not only in Spanish-English but also those who can handle French, Vietnamese, and maybe more!



ESL SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2012

We've been informed by the ESL office at PGCC that there have been some changes in the schedule for fall. So below we present information on the classes that appear to be most convenient for residents of the Langley Park area. For further information, contact PGCC at 240 508-7204 or visit www.pgcc.edu/esl.

CENTER	CLASS SCHEDULE	FALL REGISTRATION	CLASSES BEGIN
Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center 8908 Riggs Road, Adelphi	Tues, Weds, Thurs 6:00 pm—9:00 pm	Tues, Oct. 9, 2012* 6:30 pm	Tues, Oct. 16, 2012 6:00 pm
Langley Park McCormick ES 8201 15th Avenue, Langley Park	Mon & Weds 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Weds, Sept. 5, 2012* 6:30 pm	Weds, Sept. 12, 2012 6:30 pm
Northwestern High School 7000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville	Mon & Weds 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Mon, Sept. 24, 2012* 6:30 pm	Mon, Oct. 1, 2012 6:30 pm
Northwestern High School 7000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville	Tues & Thurs 6:30 pm—9:30 pm	Tues, Sept. 4, 2012* 6:30 pm	Thurs, Sept. 13, 2012 6:30 pm
Langley Park McCormick ES 8201 15th Avenue, Langley Park	Saturday 8:30 am—12:30 pm	Sat, Sept. 8, 2012* 9:30 am	Sat, Sept. 15, 2012 8:30 am