

# Barrio de Langley Park

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## ONE SMALL STEP FORWARD

### NOW WHAT?

Many of the Dream-eligible undocumented young immigrants will be able to have two secure won't-be-deported years in the USA. That is certainly a step forward. It reduces the "punishment" of children brought to the USA by their parents despite not having the papers authorizing entry.

The positive energy created by the possibility of having a somewhat "normal" two years is amazing. For instance, there were well over a thousand young people at CASA's headquarters in Langley Park looking for advice and help in claiming the two years. Reports of 10,000+ crowds come from some of the country's large cities.

One young applicant: "We are just so happy! We are very excited to be here. We have a green light. Of course we are going to college now. We just can't wait to be professional."

**BUT:** Two years is not a lifetime, and the two years does not lead to citizenship or other permanent status.

**AND:** Two years for a young person doesn't lead to legal status for undocumented parents or other relatives. Thus a young person may get the two year deferment—or more—while a parent is deported. That's a nice family fragmentation outcome. Ugh.

The *Washington Post* (16 August 2012) published a front page headline that speaks to the mixed situation: "Reform Changes Little for Many: Most Immigrants Are Ineligible." And the article that follows states, "That leaves life in the shadows to continue unchanged for the rest [of those who are undocumented]" About 6.8 million undocumented residents of the USA are 31 years of age or older, and they are not eligible. And then there are people who arrived too old to qualify, such as the young woman who entered the USA when she was 17 and is now 25. Too bad: she arrived too late.

So the deferred deportation status means "deferred" or "postponed" and no more. Sure, if President Obama is re-elected with good majorities in the House and Senate, a long-needed comprehensive immigration bill might be passed and signed. But those political outcomes are far from certain.

So let's celebrate the small step forward, but undocumented immigrants, young and old, must keep all options open. ■

The applicant quotation above was taken from MarylandReporter.com, 16 April to 12.

## Apartment Living in Langley Park Some complexes are managed dreadfully!

Most of the apartments in University Gardens and Villas at Langley visited by the BLP staff over the years are in good condition; the apartment managers appear to do a good job, and the tenants do too. But that's not the whole story of living in apartments in Langley Park. There are apartments with bugs, leaks, peeling paint, mold, broken locks, and more. Tenants' complaints are often not acted upon, at least in a timely fashion. To make matters worse, some of the ill-maintained units have a high rent; perhaps the paying tenants are worried about their immigration status and therefore overpay without complaint. Two complexes often mentioned for their poor conditions are Bedford Station and Victoria Station.



This is what mold looks like in a room!

Thanks to the Neighborhood Initiative, more than 100 apartments have been inspected in recent weeks, maintenance problems noted, and the problems reported to the appropriate county agency. Let's hope that maintenance improves and rent-gouging diminishes. ■

## UNIVERSITY LEADERS ON IMMIGRATION

### The Focus Is On One Category of Immigrant (That Category Has a Special Link with Higher Education)

Wallace D. Loh (UMCP) & Freeman A. Hrabowski III (UMBC) are among the leaders\*  
Below is the text of a letter sent to the top officers in the U.S. Senate and House

As leaders of universities educating the creators of tomorrow's scientific breakthroughs, we call on you to address a critical threat to America's preeminence as a global center of innovation and prosperity: our inability under current United States immigration policy to retain and benefit from many of the top minds educated at our universities.

From the industrial revolution to today's information age, the United States has led the world in creating the inventions and ideas that drive economic prosperity. America's universities are responsible for 36% of all research in the country, including 53% of all basic research, and they help keep America at the forefront of the 21st century economy. The Federal Government has recognized the importance of university research by providing roughly 60% of all academic R&D funding.

\*The scores of other presidents who signed on include those at AU, Cal Tech, Carnegie Mellon, Case Western, Duke, GW, Johns Hopkins, Penn. UNC, Virginia, Wisconsin, Yale, Yeshiva, and many more.

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# HAPPENINGS & MORE

## GAMBLING IN MARYLAND

The Maryland General Assembly concluded the special session by passing comprehensive gaming legislation. The bill includes provisions that:\*

- Allow a sixth casino in Maryland, to be in Prince George's County;
- Permit table games in all state casinos;
- Allow veterans organizations in certain counties, such as Prince George's, to offer up to five (5) lottery machines at their locations;
- Bar any person or company that owns more than 5 percent of a casino from making political contributions; and
- Send the measure to voters for approval or defeat.



\*Thanks to Senator Ramirez for sending this information.

The issue now goes to the voting public in the November 6th election. Will the people of the state vote to give the state some money from gambling? We'll know on November 7th!

In District 47, voting in favor of gambling were Delegates Ivey and Summers; voting against was Delegate Niemann.

One negative of the outcome is the suspicion it has raised. For instance, Robert McCartney, writing in the *Washington Post* (16 August 2012): "Did political donations from the gambling industry make them do it? That's the ugly question lingering in the wake of the Maryland government's move Wednesday to significantly expand casino gambling in the state, assuming that voters okay the plan as expected in a November referendum. The question arises partly because of unmistakable evidence that the two top politicians who shoved the measure into law are fully aware that gambling hurts the middle-class and low-income people whom their Democratic Party purports to protect." Surely that's misplaced suspicion, but it's out there—and that's a negative.

*Let's hope that, if the legislation is not overturned, not too many county residents spend their money gambling rather than purchasing food and drink and paying the rent for their families. Alas, some of them certainly will fail this simple responsibility test. Let's hope food stamps and other supports are available to gambling-distressed families. And let's hope that our government officials will spend the gambling revenue wisely.*

## THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST MAY HIT HOME

**OBAMA ON DACA** (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program): "Helping the children of immigrants who have grown up in this country, lived in this country, are Americans in everything except having some papers—not sending them to countries they, in many cases, [have] never even been [to], but embracing them and giving an opportunity to put a stake down here in the country that they loved—that was the right thing to do. Mr. Romney has got another idea. That's a choice in this election." (Comments by the President made in Chicago, 13 August 2012.) Mr. Romney's "other idea" is making sure undocumented immigrants cannot earn a living and therefore will "self-deport."

Note: The DACA program does not provide qualified undocumented immigrants with any lawful status like legal residency or US citizenship. Napolitano has repeatedly acknowledged that only Congress can do that by changing the law or initiating a comprehensive immigration reform package. Immigrants who receive deferred

action and work authorization under DACA must reapply every two years, sustaining their eligibility criteria, and paying \$465 in fees each time.

**ROMNEY-RYAN ON MEDICAID:** The Paul D. Ryan plan for health care, which Willard M. Romney supports, represents "a fundamental change in caring for the poor and disabled"; the change impacts about 60 million people—more than the Romney-Ryan Medicare changes the GOP ticket has proposed. The proposed Medicaid cut is about \$800 billion over ten years, thus reducing or eliminating health care for many low-income children and their mothers, severely disabled people in nursing homes, and others. The hope of the GOP is that the poor and disabled without an adequate income will get jobs to support their needs. Could it be that we will be counting how many thousands of children and adults die or suffer if the changes take place? After all, jobs are not easy to get, many parents need child care to work, and spending time with one's child is usually a positive. Fully 53% of young mothers are not married, so sharing responsibility is not easy. Or maybe the Romney-Ryan proposals will be okay.

## UNDOCUMENTED YOUTHS' TRANSITION

Roberto G. Gonzales is a distinguished scholar who focuses on undocumented young people. Here is the abstract of one of his recent articles. It was written before the deferment of deportation ruling, but it certainly provides justification for that decision as well as for extending the two-year application. "This article examines the transition to adulthood among 1.5-generation undocumented Latino young adults. For them, the transition to adulthood involves exiting the legally protected status of K to 12 students and entering into adult roles that require legal status as the basis for participation. This collision among contexts makes for a turbulent transition and has profound implications for identity formation, friendship patterns, aspirations and expectations, and social and economic mobility. Undocumented children move from protected to unprotected, from inclusion to exclusion, from de facto legal to illegal. In the process, they must learn to be illegal, a transformation that involves the almost complete retooling of daily routines, survival skills, aspirations, and social patterns." These findings have important implications for studies of the 1.5- and second-generation and the specific and complex ways in which legal status intervenes in their coming of age. The article draws on 150 interviews with undocumented 1.5-generation young adult Latinos in Southern California.

Source: <http://www.asanet.org/images/journals/docs/pdf/asr/Aug11ASRFeature.pdf>

## DRIVERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

**NOT HURTING PEDESTRIANS:** Driver lawbreaking is the key factor in most crashes. For instance, a study of all fatal traffic crashes in New York over a period of 14 years shows that 60% of the crashes were caused by a driver breaking a traffic law. So the efforts at the New Hampshire - University Blvd. crossroads to reduce pedestrian carelessness that leads to accidents (a few of them fatal) do not address the main cause. The area should have several traffic-calming changes such as narrower lanes and rumble strips.



"Happenings" continued on Page 3

**PROPERLY USING RESTRAINTS FOR CHILDREN:** University of Michigan researchers, based on their sample of about 21,000 children in cars, conclude that many people do not appropriately use safety restraints for children in their cars. Neighborhood Initiative: How about giving lessons?

**SOME PLUSES AND MINUSES**

Below are some of the items that were reported at the August 16th meeting of the Neighborhood Initiative. The words are those of BLP, but the items are those of NI participants. Note: Some items from NI are not reported here.

**WARNING SIGNS:** Some drivers don't think too much about pedestrians, even very young pedestrians. So the county has taken a useful step: placing warning signs along Merrimac Drive between 14th and 17th Avenues. The sign here has three different warnings.



**ALCOHOLISM:** The overuse of alcohol remains a serious problem in the Langley Park area, and the needed interventions have not yet been put in place. However, the problem is now well-known by county officials, and there are plans to bring several trained people to the area to provide information and counseling.

**CRIME:** Overall, there has been a drop in crime in the Langley Park area from July 2011 to July 2012. One factor may be the addition of officers to the area for the key summer months. (The additional officers tend to be "borrowed" from Beltsville.)

**LIBRARY:** The county's public library system will open one or two mini-libraries in Langley Park. The Community Center is one location. In addition, the library will provide story times for children and reading clubs for adults. More resources devoted to literacy issues will be in place if sought funds from Verizon and the Redshirts (BLP does not want to use the demeaning word used for the local professional football team) are made available.

**SOCCER FIELD (aka Futbol Pitch):** There is still play equipment in what was the soccer field behind the elementary school and community center. No county official knowledgeable about the issue attended the NI meeting. Hopefully, a good field will be built and the play equipment will be moved so that there is no conflict.

**TRASH:** There is too much trash on the streets, sidewalks, and elsewhere in the neighborhood. The NI team has been working hard to eliminate overflowing dumpsters and other sources of trash. Visual inspection suggests progress. Now residents have to be convinced to hold onto trash until they get to a trash container. And the county should install more containers—and empty them regularly.

**SHUTTLE:** There is a great need for a shuttle that connects the center of Langley Park (the Community Center is one appropriate center) with Mary's Center on Riggs Road and the public library on Adelphi Road. Apparently, there has been no progress to date. Let's do it!

**ENCAMPMENTS:** The NI team identified three spaces in undeveloped areas where people gather and often spend the night. One clearly is for the homeless and the other two may only be for recreation (e.g., beer parties). The county is moving to clear the three. One concern: Will the

homeless be identified and provided with housing and other needed support?

**SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**

**HAS PGCPS FAILED MOST OF THE COUNTY?** A very good "back to school fair" took place in the county on August 18<sup>th</sup>. There were lots of free information, school supplies and back packs, college representatives, and more! But it was located in Upper Marlboro where few residents of the Langley Park area were able to make it. It's a long drive and an even longer bus ride.

There's an easy solution to the distance problem: provide shuttle buses. But PGCPS did not provide them, claiming financial limitations. So the school system seems to be saying to distant areas of the county: we don't care about you. Probably there is another answer: The decisionmakers were thoughtless.

Let's hope that the planning for the 2013 event is better. Either there should be buses, or perhaps there should be back to school fairs either in each Board district or in each high school.

Note that all or almost all schools have their own small-scale back to school nights. Call to get the dates and times: the local school or PGCPS at 301 952-6000 .

**KEEPING GOOD TEACHERS!** A study by the New Teacher Project focuses on the experiences of the "irreplaceables," i.e., "teachers so successful at advancing student learning that they are nearly impossible to replace. [The study] finds that schools rarely make a strong effort to keep these teachers despite their success—and rarely usher unsuccessful teachers out. As a result, the best and worst teachers leave urban schools at strikingly similar rates. The nation's 50 largest districts lose approximately 10,000 Irreplaceables each year. Meanwhile, about 40% of teachers with more than seven years of experience are less effective at advancing academic progress than the average first-year teacher." The message is that we must identify the irreplaceables and make every effort to keep them in the system. The report is at <http://tntp.org/ideas-and-innovations/view/the-irreplaceables-understanding-the-real-retention-crisis>. Reading it is upsetting.



**CURSIVE:** Amazing: Cursive is not an element in our country's Common Core Standards! So teachers don't have to teach it! Well, it depends where one is located; in Prince George's County, cursive writing will still be taught. And here is a message from Mr. Paranoia: Could the absence of a cursive requirement in the Common Core be an attack on the U.S. Postal System? After all, letter writing tends to be in cursive through the post. Or could it be a way to keep the messages of older people in a writing style that cannot be read by younger people and therefore "ES" (Elder Secrecy) is maintained?

**INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT:** The PG Board of Education has selected Dr. Alvin Crawley, the deputy chief of programming in the District of Columbia Public Schools, to serve as Interim Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools for the 2012-13 school year. He starts September 4. Crawley has been deputy chief of programming in the DCPS Office of Special Education. [Doesn't seem too senior. Wow, an outsider! Wow, he leaves DC with two weeks' notice! DCPS people don't seem unhappy. Hum.] Dr. Crawley has listed as a credential that he is co-author of *Gaining on the Gap: Changing*

# POLITICAL NOTES

## IS GERRYMANDEERING LEGAL?

One key 2012 ballot initiative hinges on whether the state's highest court thinks the process of collecting voters' signatures was too easily defrauded. The initiative challenges the drawing of congressional districts that state lawmakers passed in October. Opponents say the map was gerrymandered to help elect more Democrats to Congress. [It was, but don't all states come up with absurd district lines?] To get the map issue on the ballot, opponents needed 55,736 valid voter signatures, and the Board of Elections certified 59,201. However, the Maryland Democratic Party has challenged more than 14,000 of them in arguments rejected by the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. We shall see!



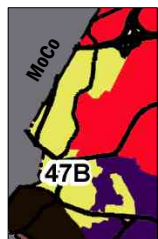
A portion of the gerrymandered state is pictured above. Congressional Districts 2 (red) and 3 (beige) seem to be the most ridiculous as they wander around the state picking up just the right number of party votes here and there. District 4, which will include Langley Park, is not quite so funny. Its incumbent is Donna Edwards. (Note: Langley Park is currently in District 8 where Van Hollen is the incumbent.)

## RIGHTS COALITION

Each year, the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition scores Maryland's legislators on key bills. For District 47, here are the scores: Senator Victor Ramirez = 100%; Delegate Jolene Ivey = 100%; Doyle Neimann = 100%; Michael Summers = 100%. Does the reader suspect that all representatives get 100%? No they don't. One received the legislative low of 57%; a handful of them had scores in the 60s—all but one Republican. To check others' scores, go to <http://marylandconsumers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ZRG8qxbH5WI%3d&tabid=38>. Clearly, from the point of view of the majority of District 47 residents, the representation has been good.

## SINGLE MEMBER DELEGATE DISTRICTS

There may soon be a single member district that includes Langley Park. Its number is to be 47B, and residents of the Langley Park area will be voting for representation in that district in 2014. (It might have come earlier except for litigation.) And yes, it is an example of gerrymandering. The *Gazette* (17 August 2012) editorializes: "There's a clear downside to single-member districts as well. The most egregious negative is that between 30% and 40% of single-member seats nationwide are uncontested in general elections, according to the Takoma Park-based nonprofit organization



FairVote.org. One probably can make a good case that this virtual fiefdom for an elected leader increases the likelihood of corruption. It undoubtedly emboldens the politician who doesn't have to worry about re-election, or even answering to the electorate. The last thing we need nowadays are more reasons to be down on politicians and the 'system.'" The full editorial with many other

"Political Notes" continues at the bottom of the next column

*Hearts Minds and Practice*. Well, he wrote one 20 page chapter and co-authored with five other people an 18 page chapter. That's not much of a credential. There was no one inside who knows the system and could manage it for a year? Wow! But there is good news: Dr. Duane Arbogast, a very smart educator, will work with Crawley as Acting Deputy Superintendent. Indeed, State Senator Ulysses Currie recommended Arbogast for Interim Superintendent. Maybe he'll be the new Superintendent?

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The national and local unemployment rates are very stubborn, in part thanks to the weak economies in Europe and (recently) the slowing in China plus the inability of getting a good jobs bill through Congress. The latest national unemployment rate, for July, is 8.3%—up from June's 8.2%. In Maryland, it is 7.0%. During the prior nine months, the figure for our state ranged between 6.5% and 6.9%, so there has also been an uptick at the state level. As for metro areas, the latest figures (June) indicate Baltimore-Towson at 7.8% and DC++ at 5.7% (July DC=8.9%). And for PG County, the June unemployment figure was 7.2%—a jump from May's 6.8%. At least PG County is better off than Baltimore City where the unemployment rate is 11.1%. And just think, Yuma Arizona has a rate of 28%!!! (Langley Park Latinos may be 50%!

## LANGLEY PARK NEEDS A PLAZA!

Yes, there is a need for an outdoor plaza where people can gather for socializing, watch a performance, grab a bite of food from one of several vendors, sit quietly reading, paint, and more. It is a place for residents to cohere into an even more vibrant neighborhood. Placemaking!

With a bandstand, there would be performances by the many musicians and singers who live in the area. Residents and shoppers would gather around to enjoy the performances. (There was a stage in the Community Center, but it was "bulldozed" for offices.)

There's an ideal location for such a plaza: the parking area immediately east of the COPS office on New Hampshire Avenue. There's even a design for such a plaza; but there must be a public-private development effort. Will Mr. Goodhart-McCormick be supportive? Can the Neighborhood Initiative help? ■



"Political Notes" continued

points is at <http://www.gazette.net/article/20120817/OPINION/708179790/1266/myopia-and-single-member-legislative-districts&template=gazette>

## VAN HOLLEN = RYAN???

Our current Representative, Chris Van Hollen, Democrat, has been tapped to play the role of Republican VP candidate Paul Ryan in practicing for the VP Biden-Ryan debate that will take place in October. Van Hollen is the lead Democrat on the House Budget Committee and Ryan chairs it. They have reportedly had many friendly debates, so Van Hollen should be ready. Of course, their ideologies and policies differ dramatically. ■

## Health Disparities

Will the Langley Park area be helped?

Back in January, Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown announced a series of measures to address health disparities and improve health outcomes and care in Maryland. The state has significant disparities in health care and health outcomes among racial and ethnic groups. For example, African Americans in Maryland have an infant mortality rate that is almost three times the rate for Euro Marylanders, have an incidence of new HIV infections at almost 12 times the rate of the Euro population, and are almost twice as likely to lack health insurance as Euros; Maryland Latino/as are over four times more likely not to have health insurance when compared to Euros; and American Indians in Maryland are three times more likely to experience end-stage kidney disease than Euros. Some differences are due to heredity and/or tradition, but many can be traced to a lack of needed resources and services.

The state plan includes a series of recommendations developed by the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council Health Disparities Workgroup headed by University of Maryland School of Medicine Dean Dr. E. Albert Reece. One of the workgroup's key recommendations is to create a series of geographically based Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs) in underserved communities impacted by health disparities. Within a designated zone, incentives would be provided to eligible primary care practitioners and community-based organizations or local health departments to expand and improve access to care, improve health, and reduce disparities.

"Maryland has world class hospitals, top medical schools, and one of the highest rates of primary care physicians per capita, and yet we continue to see disparities in health care and outcomes among Maryland's racial and ethnic communities," said Lt. Governor Brown. "It's clear that a lack of access to primary care in many communities is a significant factor driving these disparities. Creating Health Enterprise Zones will provide incentives to increase and expand primary care in underserved communities so we can improve the health of all Marylanders." Despite numerous positive measures, such as having the second highest rate of primary care providers per capita and one of the ten lowest rates of smoking, Maryland ranks 35th in infectious diseases, 34th in health outcomes, and 33rd in geographic health disparities.

Surveys in Langley Park reveal that few residents have seen a health professional over the past two years. The health fairs at the Community Center in November and May help, and so do Community Clinic Inc. and Mary's Center. But their limitations and the comparatively high needs of residents mean that a clinic in Langley Park (the Community Center would be an excellent location) would make a significant difference. Support from the Neighborhood Initiatives taskforce might tip the decision to "Yes, Langley Park." ■

"University Leaders" continued from Page 1

American academic research has benefited from the fact that the US remains a top magnet for the world's best and brightest students and graduates—16% of all PhDs worldwide in scientific and technical fields. In 2009, students on temporary visas were 45% of all graduate students in engineering, math, computer science and physical sciences – earning 43% of all master's degrees and 52% of all PhDs. New research shows that in 2011, foreign-born inventors were credited contributors on more than 75% of patents issued to the top 10 patent-producing universities in the United States—irrefutable proof of the important role immigrants play in American innovation. These inventions lead to new companies and new jobs for American workers, and are an enormous boon to our economy.



President Low  
signed the  
letter

But after we have trained and educated these future job creators, our antiquated immigration laws turn them away to work for our competitors in other countries. Low limits on visas leave immigrants with no way to stay or facing untenable delays for a permanent visa. Top engineers from India and China face wait times of up to 9 years to get a permanent visa, and new applicants from these countries may face considerably longer waits. And while we turn away these American-educated, trained and funded scientists and engineers, there is a growing skill gap across America's industries. One quarter of US science and engineering firms already report difficulty hiring, and the problem will only worsen: the US is projected to face a shortfall of 230,000 qualified advanced-degree workers in scientific and technical fields by 2018.



President  
Hrabowski  
signed the  
letter

The US cannot afford to wait to fix our immigration system. Even as we send away highly skilled workers trained at American universities, competing economies are welcoming these scientists and engineers with streamlined visa applications and creating dedicated visas to ensure that the foreign students who graduate from their own universities can stay and contribute to the local economy. We ask you to work together to develop a bipartisan solution that ensures our top international graduates have a clear path to a green card, so they can stay and create new American jobs. Recent polls show that there is broad, bipartisan support for this reform, and that the American people want our leaders in Washington to act. Now is the time to do so and ensure that the US remains the world's leading home for innovators.

*Comment: Let's hope that undocumented young people in the Dream-eligible category will be included in the sought change. With their current reprieve and hopefully more to come, many will receive master's and doctoral degrees. We need them too!*

### ON THE NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> BALLOT: THE NOVEMBER VOTE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IN MANY YEARS



It is especially important for everyone eligible to vote to vote in the coming November election. Will it be Obama-Biden or Romney-Ryan? Will there be in-state tuition for the undocumented college-bound? Will there be a gambling facility in Prince George's County and table games throughout the state? Will marriage be limited to heterosexual couples? Plus votes for senator, congressman, councilman, and much more. Unsure of your voting status? Want to register to vote? Go to this web site: [http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter\\_registration/index.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/voter_registration/index.html).

# 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](mailto:actionlangleypark@yahoo.com).

**August 22, 29, 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 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](mailto:info@countyfair.org).

**September 10—Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity** arrives in Baltimore on Sept 8th for a two day stay and then moves to Washington DC on the 10th, also for a two day stay. The Caravan constitutes a plea for finding a way to manage the harm of hard drugs in ways other than the War on Drugs. →

**September 15, et cetera—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.

**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! Every screening, consultation, and information item 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!

"We have reached, as Dylan says, the 'bottom of a world full of lies' underneath war, especially when it comes to such an absurd war as the one against drugs. We call such bottom death, humiliation, illegal trade of guns, money laundering, criminalization, corruption, fear, horror, prisons, the strengthening of crime and government violence. For the same reason, we refer to it as the crisis of democracy, the annihilation of freedoms and the contempt for immigrants. This bottom of pain is also, as the song of Dylan says, 'a burden that seems more than we can bear.'" (<http://www.caravanforpeace.org/caravan/>) Let's all read about the Prohibition against alcohol that was the law from 1920 to 1933 and led to corruption, murder, and more. And we're repeating that!!!



Dentists at Health Check



Dancers at Langley Park Day →

## NO SMOKING!

County housing officials are in the process of banning smoking in public housing. The Council approved the ban last month, and now leases will be rewritten when they come due. If this effort works well, there may be efforts to extend the ban beyond public housing. The ban will be rough for smoking addicts, but the absence of smoke will certainly be a health positive. As we all know, smoking is more than hazardous to our health—as smokers, recipients of second-hand smoke, and more.

## NO BURGERS?

Maybe that's a good idea, however un-American it may seem. Consider these two facts: (1) Livestock create about as much greenhouse gas pollution as cars, planes, and other forms of transport. (2) It takes 1,800 gallons of water to produce a single pound of beef (four times the amount for chicken and 10 times the amount required for a pound of wheat). Check out this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ut3URdEzIKQ>

## PHILLY AND BILLY!

The scope of the Philadelphia School District's problem with highly suspicious erasures on state standardized tests is apparently more widespread than officials have revealed. But so far, state and district investigators have conducted in-depth probes into cheating at only a third of the 53 (53!!) schools where strong evidence was found. Maybe the full extent of the cheating will be revealed when Bill Hite rides into Philadelphia (on a white horse?). Good luck Bill!

## ODD MARRIAGE!

This month, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and big-time publisher Rupert Murdoch (both non-mainstream Republicans in different ways) made public appearances together, calling for immigration reforms and urging presidential candidates to make immigration policy part of the election debate. They know the positive value of immigrants, so why don't all of us?