

# Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
Issue Number 256, October-November 2012

## MARYLAND DREAMING

Supporters are cautiously optimistic that on November 6th Maryland's citizens will support the Maryland Dream Act (Ballot question #4), legislation that will make higher education much more affordable to undocumented young people—most of whom entered the country with parents but without papers.



Affordability is a key consideration. At the University of Maryland (College Park), for instance, in-state students pay \$7,175 annually, but out-of-state students pay (hold your breath) \$25,554!

Of course, the Dream Act is not the only reason for voting on November 6th. There is the presidential contest, our senatorial contest, the representative contests, several contests for judges and board of education members, and more.

Question 5 asks if we support the congressional and legislative districts drawn by the state. Some people oppose the districting because it is highly gerrymandered.

Question 6 asks if the state should have civil marriage laws that do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Question 7 asks if gambling should be expanded in the state so that a sixth gambling parlor can be opened in Prince George's County and all places with video lottery facilities can offer table games in addition to slot machines.



Let's hope for a good outcome locally and beyond; the economic and cultural health of our state—and perhaps nation—may be decided by the November 6th election.

**November 1: Action Langley Park meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center.**

## CHILDHOOD POVERTY IS DANGEROUS

A report published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (16 October 2012) seeks to understand whether poverty very early in life is associated with early-onset adult conditions related to immune-mediated chronic diseases. It also tests the role that these immune-mediated chronic diseases may play in accounting for the associations between early poverty and adult productivity.



"Results show that low income, particularly in very early childhood (between the prenatal and second year of life), is associated with increases in early-adult hypertension, arthritis, and limitations on activities of daily living. Moreover, these relationships and particularly arthritis partially account for the associations between early childhood poverty and adult productivity as measured by adult work hours and earnings. The results suggest that the associations between early childhood poverty and these adult disease states may be immune-mediated." About one in six children in the USA are living in poverty. Surely, keeping the children out of poverty is less expensive than the many health-related costs later in life.

The Children's Defense Fund writes: "More than 16.4 million children in America are poor, but they live in working families. A disproportionate number are Black and Latino. Poor children lag behind their peers in many ways beyond income: They are less healthy, trail in emotional and intellectual development, and are less likely to graduate from high school. Poor children also are likely to become the poor parents of the future. Every year that we keep children in poverty costs our nation half a trillion dollars in lost productivity, poorer health and increased crime."

In Maryland, the poverty rate estimate is 8.6%. Of course, many of those in poverty are children. And some of the children live in the Langley Park area. What is to be done?

## YOUR HEALTH

► **Tuesday, November 6, 10:30a.m. to 7p.m., the PG County Health Dept will be offering free flu shots at the Langley Park Community Center.**

**And next door the Community Center from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. is the place to vote for Langley Park's citizen-residents.**

► **Sunday, November 11, noon to 3:30 p.m., the Health Check event will offer free screenings of blood pressure, HIV, oral health, and much more!**

# NEWS & NOTES

## DREAMING IN MASSACHUSETTS

The *Huffington Post* (18 October 2012) comments on the GOP position on the Dream Act: "Immigrant rights groups called Thursday for Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney to stop airing a Spanish-language television ad that debuted Wednesday, calling its claims that he worked with Democrats on immigration reform as Massachusetts' governor and would do the same as president, misleading. ... Frank Sharry, executive director of pro-immigration reform group America's Voice, said in an email, 'The only permanent solution we know Romney will advocate is self-deportation, which is code for a purge of millions of hardworking Latino immigrant families.' Romney vetoed Massachusetts' version of the Dream Act, which would have given in-state tuition to some young undocumented immigrants, Sharry pointed out."

**Vote November 6!**

## VULNERABILITY OF BEING UNDOCUMENTED

A man has been charged in south Mississippi with harboring an illegal immigrant for the purpose of prostitution. We don't know the details, but it is possible that the man told the woman that he would protect her from Immigration if she would "cooperate" by becoming a sex worker. Perhaps the woman had run away from violence in her home country looking for a degree of peace in the USA. It's "perhaps" in this case, but it certainly is true that there are many thousands of examples of the sexual and other forms of exploitation of immigrants who lack papers. This is one more reason why comprehensive immigration reform is necessary. Or do those opposed to reform favor exploitation?

## POORLY MAINTAINED LOCAL APARTMENT HOUSES

Some complexes in the Langley Park area would seem to be run by slum lords. There are leaks, insects, mould, and more. Be sure to read the exposé in the *Washington Post*; the address is <http://thewashingtonpost.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>. Let's hope that the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative can force the slum lords to improving the living conditions—without raising the rent, a raise that would force at least some of the tenants out because they could



not meet the new demand.

## HURRAY FOR MONTGOMERY COLLEGE!

### What about PGCC?

"They came to the United States as children with little idea, if any, of what it meant to overstay a visa. They enrolled in public schools, learned English, earned high school diplomas. Like many of their classmates, they pondered college choices.

"But as undocumented immigrants in Maryland, they then had to confront the reality that they must pay two to three times what former high school classmates pay to attend the state's public colleges. It is a rule that, for many students of modest means, puts a college education out of reach. ...

"With one exception: Montgomery College." (*Washington Post*, 21 October 2012)

What's going on at Prince George's Community College?

## PRINCE GEORGE'S AND...

The *Washingtonian* magazine (November 2012) has a feature comparing jurisdictions in the DC metro area. Here are a few highlights (*ital below are BLP editorial comments*):

♦PG residents have the highest tax rate among the five jurisdictions studied! Those in Arlington pay \$3,000 less for a family with a \$150,000 income. *Of course, most jurisdictions have more high-income people than PG, thus less may be demanded of particular income households.*

♦PG's median household income is \$70,715, above DC's but well below the top area, Loudoun, at \$119,134! *There are pockets of*

News & Notes continues on Page 3

## YOUNGER PUBERTY

According to a report in the journal *Pediatrics*, puberty for many Euro boys and Latinos begins at the age of ten, and for Afro boys it is nine!

Girls are competing, according to a Duke Medical Center study: puberty for Euro girls was found to be just under ten years of age, and for Afro girls it is just under nine! Another study in *Pediatrics* found that by age seven (7!!), 10% of Euro girls, 23% of Afro girls, 15% of Latinas, and 2% of Asian girls had started developing breasts. Girls' first periods, on average, are at 12.5 years of age.

What's going on? How can these changes be explained. Animal studies show that the exposure to some environmental chemicals can cause bodies to mature early. Of particular concern are endocrine-disrupters; these compounds behave like steroid hormones and can alter puberty timing. Also, one expert reports that fatter girls have higher levels of the hormone leptin, which can lead to early puberty, which leads to higher estrogen levels, which leads to greater insulin resistance, causing girls to have yet more fat tissue, more leptin and more estrogen, the cycle feeding on itself, until their bodies physically mature.

Many families in the Langley Park area are stressed by the hard-hitting economy and the anti-immigrant sentiments that are too virulent in Maryland and elsewhere. "Family stress can disrupt puberty timing as well. Girls who from an early age grow up in homes without their biological fathers are twice as likely to go into puberty younger as girls who grow up with both parents. Some studies show that the presence of a stepfather in the house also correlates with early puberty. Evidence links maternal depression with developing early. Children adopted from poorer countries who have experienced significant early-childhood stress are also at greater risk for early puberty once they're ensconced in Western families." (*New York Times*, 30 March 2012)

From the *Journal of Preadolescence* (April 2012): Preadolescents are initiating dating relationships and anticipating intercourse, and some have engaged in risk behaviors. Thus preadolescence is a critical time to implement prevention programs."

So what? Of course, parents have to cope with problems earlier than was the case decades ago. And some problems that used to arise in middle school are surfacing in elementary school. Are our local elementary school principals and teachers ready? Do teacher preparation programs in higher education incorporate these changes into the curriculum so that the new teachers are ready?

wealth in PG County, but there are more than “pockets” in some of the other jurisdictions.

♦PG’s crime rate is less than DC’s, but PG leads significantly in burglary and motor-vehicle theft—and slightly in homicide and forcible rape. DC leads in aggravated assault and robbery. *Reported crime tends to be higher in lower-income neighborhoods; of course, unreported white collar crime may well be highest in the wealthier jurisdictions.*

♦PG’s men have a life expectancy of 74 years, above DC’s 73 but well behind those of other jurisdictions. For women, there’s a PG-DC tie, both several years behind the others. *The type of work, the stresses of life, and the quality of health care are probably involved.*

♦PG young people who take the SAT test score almost one hundred points above DC, but they are well behind Fairfax, Arlington, and Montgomery. *Part of that is a reflection of wealth and the linked family support. Some reports indicate that there are wealthy families that spend hundreds of dollars for SAT preparation, a boost not available to most members of the working class.*

**Vote November 6!**

## POLITICS AND VOTES

**Baker Urges Yes on 7:** County Executive Rushern Baker has distributed an email message urging support for the gambling question on the November 6th ballot. He argues that a gambling emporium in the county will open up thousands of jobs to residents. He writes: “These are



good paying jobs. To start, an average card dealer makes \$55,000 a year—with benefits.” Perhaps there are unemployed card dealers in the county. Of course, such a facility will need workers, and some of them will come from the county. So if some jobs and some money are the considerations, vote yes on the gambling question. But the

*Baltimore Sun* (21 October 2012) warns: “Do the proponents expect us to believe that none of these construction jobs and permanent casino jobs will go to residents of Virginia and Washington?” Of course, some jobs are better than none. What “some” is enough?

The Maryland gambling issue has led to the for-and-against forces spending (so far) close to \$60 million for promotions and propaganda. Let’s hope Maryland people got some of that money.

**Latino/as Split by Religion:** According to a Pew Research Center survey, “Latinos are divided by religion in their preferences in the upcoming presidential election. ... Three-quarters (73%) of Latino Catholics and eight-in-ten (82%) religiously unaffiliated Latinos support President Barack Obama’s re-election. However, among Latino evangelical Protestants, who account for 16% of all Latino registered voters, just 50% prefer Obama, while 39% support his Republican challenger, Mitt Romney.” Hum: Do evangelicals oppose the Dream Act? Fully 70% of all Latino/as lean or more towards the Democrats; the figure for Republicans is 22%.

**The Ivey Family Calls for Yes on 6:** Jolene and Glenn



Ivey have made a short video on the subject. The issue is certainly contentious, and leaders in PG County have lobbied on either side. The question deals with equality under the law versus religious interpretations. Their video is at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbR4H\\_GziLU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbR4H_GziLU). Historic leader Julian

Bond has also put out a video arguing for a “yes”; it is at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohKo8CV7PtI&NR=1&feature=endscreen>.

## IMMIGRANTS ELSEWHERE

Yes, there are major challenges for many of the immigrants living in the USA. But the challenges in some other parts of the world are even greater. For instance, there is an anti-immigrant party in Greece, The Golden Dawn, whose members physically attack immigrant-looking people and vandalized businesses owned or managed by immigrants. The leader of the anti party says that Hitler was “the great man of the 20th Century.” Yes, Greece has high unemployment (about 25%, and about 50% for young people), but clearly that is the fault of the Greek banks

and globalization, not the immigrants. But fear and anger are driving some Greeks—and alas, some people in other countries.

The Greek Justice Minister: “This is being caused by the tough conditions Greece is being forced to endure. Extremists are taking advantage of the situation.” But even the Minister thinks that too many migrants arrive from the Middle East and Asia.

## THE TWO YEAR PLAN: PROGRESS REPORT

So far, about 200,000 young people have applied for the two years of deferred-action grace (and the hope that two years will become many years). So far the government has approved almost 5,000 applications. We don’t have a figure on rejections yet; ICE reports that rejections take much longer than approvals. So the fraction of applicants among those eligible is



What we're waiting for!

200,000/1,700,000 or 11.8%. That’s a pretty low percentage. Fear of being on the record as undocumented is clearly a factor.

## IMPROVING DETENTION POLICY

“Unlocking Liberty: A Way Forward for U.S. Immigration Detention Policy” is the title of a new report prepared by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. The Executive Summary begins: “In a country that honors due process, and during a time when most are calling for reduced federal spending, locking people up should be the exception to the rule. Yet immigrant detention is the fastest growing, least scrutinized form of incarceration in the United States. On any given day, the U.S. government imprisons more than 33,000 immigrants—many of whom are refugees or survivors of torture or human trafficking—in a vast national network of about 250 federal, private, state, and local jails. The cost to U.S. taxpayers is \$122 per detainee per day.” Source: <http://www.lirs.org>.

## COUNTY GOV’T TO DECIDE WHAT/WHERE?

A vacant lot! Maybe a McDonalds or a Taco Bell? But maybe not if the PG County government has its way because a bill sponsored by five County councilmembers calls for restricting such “undesirable” businesses. The power comes from specifications of a building’s use and the ability to block a use change. Should our local government deny the use of a building by an entrepreneur who wants to use it for a legal activity? And block a taco?

## CONSEALED WEAPONS

A federal appeals court is hearing arguments on the constitutionality of Maryland’s controversial requirement that legal gun owners have a “good and substantial reason” to carry concealed weapons. Hey, let’s reinterpret the 2nd Amendment. Members of a “well regulated militia” does not mean everyone!

# DEMOCRACY

Dollar Democracy  
Away we now go!  
Oh those one percenters  
We're so far below.

Sometimes the ballots  
Seem so easy to buy  
Ah those powerful millions  
They're no fourth of July.

The dollars do buy  
The policies they want  
And we 99 percenters  
Watch as they flaunt.

Their dollars corrupt  
'Cause officials do thank  
For the boost into office  
In that warm septic tank.

Ah Citizens United,  
We've sure crossed a line  
Our dollar democracy  
Is no longer a crime.

Will a people's democracy  
Be our future reward?  
I'm not optimistic  
That we'll have it restored.

Or maybe restored  
Isn't quite the right word  
Have we had real democracy?  
Whispered "no" overheard.

We've had the three-fifths rule  
And the gender exclusion  
So our mythical past  
Is my present confusion.

Let us try now to turn  
That myth into real;  
A full-fledged democracy  
Is my dreamed-of ideal.

# 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).

## 2012

Oct 27, Nov 3, 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.

Oct 27, 28, 29—Physics is Phun. See demonstrations that show what makes a rainbow, how Polaroid sunglasses can reduce glare, why stars seem to twinkle, and even why the sky is blue! 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Physics Lecture Hall, University of Maryland. Come early (as early as 7 p.m.) for hands-on activities. Great for children ... and adults. It's all free.

Oct 31—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon (last market day this year is October 31. 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!!

Nov 1—Quique Aviles presents his monologue, "And Then I Wake Up" about a DREAMer and access to higher education. 11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m. and 6:00—7:00 p.m. Cultural Arts Center, Montgomery College, Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus.

Nov 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. Send your suggestions for the agenda.

**Nov 6—Vote!!!!** Check <http://www.aclu.org/voting-rights/know-your-voting-rights-maryland> for all the details.

Nov 11—HealthCheck in the LP Community Center 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. Medical professionals welcome to add to the event's team of professionals.

**Health Fair on  
November 11!**

November 16, December 21—Capital Area Foodbank at Langley Park Community Center, 11 a.m. One share of food per household. Bring your own bags.

## 2013

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 foods or crafts. Volunteer doctors, nurses, dancers, musicians, clowns, and guides are all welcome. Residents: come one, come all!



**NOTE:** PGCPS is holding three meetings to get input on the search for a new Superintendent of Schools. They are in Bowie, Fort Washington, and Upper Marlboro. Nothing near the Langley Park area. It does not seem that the input said to be sought is to be from a wide range of residents. Sad.

# HEALTH CHECK 2012

Sunday, November 11, Noon - 3:30 p.m.  
Langley Park Community Center  
1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park, Maryland  
Information: Call 301 445-4508 or 301 405-4005

## EIGHTH ANNUAL!

The year 2012 marks the eighth annual "Health Check" organized by Action Langley Park, hosted by the Langley Park Community Center, and drawing upon the rich professional health resources of the Maryland-DC-Virginia area.

## HEALTH SCREENINGS! CONSULTATIONS! INFORMATION!



These services cover a wide range of health conditions, for instance, high blood pressure, skin diseases, HIV/AIDS, and overweight. They are offered by doctors, dentists,

nurses, counselors, and other health specialists who volunteer their time to improve the health of residents of Langley Park and its larger region.

Contributing health organizations include (this is only a sample of the expected organizations) Prince George's County's Department of Health, the University of Maryland's School of Dentistry, Adventist Health, Suburban Hospital, and many more! Coordination by an Urban Studies and Planning Program faculty member.

## IT'S ALL FREE!

All screenings, consultations, and information are provided without charge, and whenever possible, follow-ups are arranged.

Of course, everyone is welcome: oldtimer, newcomer; English, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, or other language speaker; senior or baby. We're ready!



# CHEQUEO DE SALUD 2012

Domingo 11 de noviembre, 12 - 3:30 p.m.  
El Centro Comunitario de Langley Park  
1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park, Maryland  
Para información: Llame al 301 445-4508 o 301 405-4005

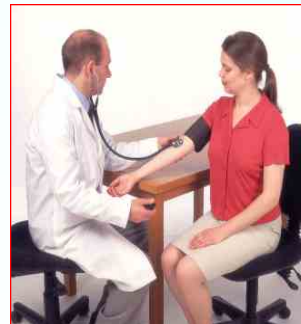
## ¡OCTAVO ANUAL!

En este año 2012 tendrá lugar nuestro octavo "Chequeo de Salud" anual organizado por Acción Langley Park en el Centro Comunitario de Langley Park, y estarán a su disposición numerosos profesionales de la salud del área de Maryland-DC-Virginia.



## ¡EVALUACIONES MÉDICAS! ¡CONSULTAS! ¡INFORMACIÓN!

Se atenderán muchas condiciones médicas, presión alta y SIDA. Habrá doctores, dentistas, enfermeras y otros especialistas del área de salud que se ofrecen voluntariamente para mejorar la salud de los residentes de Langley Park y alrededores.



Tendremos varias organizaciones como el Departamento de Salud del Condado de Prince George, la Escuela de Odontología de la Universidad de Maryland, Suburban Hospital, Adventist Health, TAYA, y entre otras.

## ¡TODO ES GRATUITO!

Los exámenes, consultas e información son gratis! No tiene que pagar nada.

Por supuesto que todos son muy bienvenidos, los ya conocidos, los nuevos; los hablantes de inglés, de español, vietnamita o cualquier otro idioma; ya sean adultos o niños. ¡Estamos listos!

