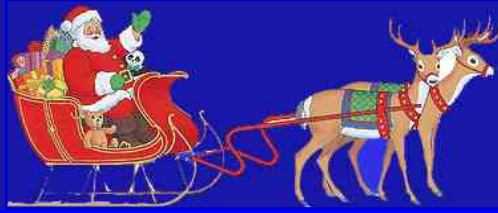


Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue Number 261, December 2012

Happy Holidays!



Happy New Year!

PLANNING

This is a neighborhood planning newsletter designed to inform and to advocate, so let us urge everyone in and near the neighborhood to plan a joyous but safe holiday season and new year. That means being careful about fires, limiting alcohol consumption, driving especially carefully, reaching out to those who are lonely or otherwise in need, and more. Make it a happy time for you and yours, and if possible others too.

Let's wish for the end of violence in such trouble-spots as Syria, Mali, Mexico, and the Congo as well as on our own streets. Let's wish for more freedoms in Russia, China, Egypt, and many other countries. Let's wish for an improved quality of life in the Langley Park area without displacing the residents and businesspeople.

Let there be peace on earth and goodwill to men and women. Let us do unto others as we would have them do unto us. So make apartments and houses healthy, schools effective places of learning, streets safe and inviting, jobs attainable, places to socialize and play available, and so much more.

DISTRICT 47 TOWN HALL

On December 12th, the District 47 representatives held a town hall at the Rollingcrest Community Center. Senator Victor Ramirez was the MC/host, and he was joined at the front table by Delegates Jolene Ivey, Doyle Niemann, and Michael Summer. (See photo, below.) A special guest was County Executive Rushern Baker, and other official speakers included Councilman Will Campos, Police Chief Mark Magaw, and Fire Chief Marc Bashoor.



Baker

Mr. Baker focused on three achievements: the plan to build a first-rate hospital in the county, passage of the gambling bill that enables the county to host a major gambling facility, and establishing the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative in six county neighborhoods so that county resources can be focused on these neighborhoods and ways to improve them. He also indicated that the county wants the new FBI headquarters to be built in the county.

Senator Ramirez and the three delegates followed. Ms. Ivey and Mr. Niemann talked about some policy issues, and Mr. Summer was more of a pep-rally leader.

Chief Magaw cited the continuing drop in crime; Chief Bashoor noted a decline in fires and the availability of free smoke alarms and CO₂ detectors at fire stations; Will Campos talked about expanding the Hyattsville library and a possible Langley Park library. Members of the Fair Development Coalition (linked with CASA de Maryland) demonstrated for better apartment maintenance—somewhat awkwardly.



Summer

Niemann

Ivey

Ramirez

NEWS AND NOTES

School Plusses and Minuses

School funds are in short supply these days, and there are at times even shortages of paper, pencils, and other basics. What is school leadership to do? One answer is to support unhealthy food and drink by making deals with McDonalds* and Pepsi or Coke. McDonalds holds several-hour periods during which a small percentage of sales are given to the partner school. Pepsi and Coke put their harmful drinks in machines inside schools, and the schools get some of the loot. So there is more paper, and the children and their families are encouraged to favor unhealthy food and drink. A partnership with the devil, but without needed money, what is the alternative.

*From the McDonald's web site: "A Fundraising Night is a 'cool' way to support a local school. It's an event that's held at one of our local restaurants where for every customer [who] comes in between 4 and 9 p.m. and mentions *the school's name*, ... the group will receive 15% of the total purchase."

American Latino Museum



Friends of the American Latino Museum, a 501(c)(3) organization created to advance the American Latino Museum initiative, hosted its annual reception in conjunction with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's 2012 Public Policy Conference. A focus was

discussions on the museum's legislative progress and community engagement efforts.

Legislation to designate a location for the museum on the National Mall, the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act, is still pending in Congress. The delay may not be discrimination; Congress is slow about lots of matters—like fiscal health!

FBI HQ

Prince George's County wants the new FBI building to be located in the county, leaving its location on Pennsylvania Avenue in DC. Perhaps that would be a good move. But maybe there's a quid pro quo involved, according to reporter Tom Sherwood: Move the FBI to PG and move the Washington Native Americans pro football team* back to DC. Is that a good deal for the county?

*The team is also known by its racist nickname, which BLP does not intend to use.

County Fears Sex?

Or so it might seem given the resources devoted to prevent sexual activity that might include an exchange of money. (Ah, gifts!) People can easily purchase guns to shoot others, but they cannot purchase the time of a companion to engage in a form of pleasure without fearing a police raid. Well, rich people usually can because they can give diamonds rather than cash.

In early August, close to one hundred people were arrested in the College Park area for time-purchasing activities involving pleasure. A police major: "A common time for [sex work] is during lunch hour, so we are recommending, since most [motel room] rentals are for one day, no check-ins until 4 p.m. and check-outs must be by 11 a.m." (*Gazette*



5 September 2012) What if you're tired after a long drive but it's only 3:30 p.m.?

Perhaps motels will be asked to narrow the width of beds or put a barrier in the middle of double beds?

A police major says that officers are checking motels to see if sex acts are taking place. Hum: secret video cameras in all motel bedrooms or busting into bedrooms unannounced? Must a marriage license be displayed before sexual activity? (Hang the license out along with "do not disturb"?) Note that childhood-exploitation and coercion are not at issue; they must be absolute barred.

Of course, the above commentary is unfair to local officials; our country is on the surface very puritanical—for better or worse. After all, a partly exposed nipple at a recent Super Bowl halftime event caused a major international scandal.

Who Am I?

A reflection by a Facebook contact: "There was a time in my life when I tried hard to latch onto my Puerto Rican heritage but couldn't completely let go of my having been born and raised in Washington,



D.C. So I looked for people who were like me to help me understand what being me was like—for others, who had traversed similar roads and encountered some of the same potholes. Keenly aware of my quest, my mother let me watch *West Side Story* when I was 11 for the first time. It was transformative for me watching Rita Moreno dominate the screen. I learned her lines, imitated her R-rolling and sympathized with her character more than anyone else."

Alicia Chavira-Prado writes: "Latina identity crosscuts three factors which are critical in the shaping of women's lives: ethnicity, class and gender. ... Latinas have experienced particular disadvantages as a consequence of this combination of factors, which cannot be said about their male counterparts. Deciding who one is constitutes an important step in the process of maturity." (From *Handbook of Hispanic Cultures in the United States*, 1994)

Who am I has an associated identity: Where is my home: In the new land of the USA, or the heritage land which is the family home, or some third place that may not even have a spatial location? The ambiguity of place and the ambiguity of identity remain challenges for many residents of Langley Park and elsewhere, and for some it is a burden that can dramatically shape one's life. Others must show understanding.

Affordable Housing

Clearly, there is a significant shortage of affordable housing in the country, the state, and the county. Of course, one can find something affordable, but it may be in a dangerous and/or intolerant neighborhood. One major cause of the shortage is gentrification—such as was proposed for the Langley Park area by the planning staff that drew up the dramatically insensitive Sector Plan.

Fortunately, CASA de Maryland and the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative have acted on behalf of (and with) area renters, but perhaps there should be an organization formed that specifically is in support of renters so that rental costs are maintained as affordable, repairs are made when needed, and more. A sister county has recently formed a Renters Alliance. Its immediate concern is too-rapid rent increases, and its hope is that

those in the rental apartment business will think beyond short-term income and consider the well-being of the neighborhood. Is there the will to form such an organization in Prince George's County?

Where Are the Jobs?

Government studies show many of the hottest jobs for the decade ahead don't require a college degree or even a high school diploma. But they also come with lower salaries. For example, personal care aides and home health aides are expected to see a largest jump in employment thanks to the aging of the population. But their pay—in the \$19,000 to 20,000 range—is below the national median of \$33,840.

Here is the list of jobs expected by the Department of Labor to be hot between now and 2020. Those in italics almost certainly require two or four years of college (and in one case, more). But the others are often filled by those with a high school diploma or less.

Registered Nurses
Retail Salespersons
Home Health Aides
Personal Care Aides
Office Clerks, General
Food Preparation and Serving
Customer Service Representatives
Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
Freight, Stock, and Material Movers
Postsecondary Teachers
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, Attendants
Childcare Workers
Bookkeeping and Accounting Clerks
Cashiers
Elementary School Teachers
Receptionists and Information Clerks
Janitors and Cleaners
Landscaping and Groundskeeping
Sales Representatives
Construction Laborers
Medical Secretaries
First-Line Office Supervisors
Carpenters
Waiters and Waitresses
Security Guards
Teacher Assistants

Drivers' Licenses: Issue and Be Safer

Illinois may become the third state, following the lead of Washington and New Mexico, where undocumented immigrants can obtain driver's licenses. The bill that passed the state Senate has bipartisan support.

Leaders from both parties have spoken in favor of the legislation. Clearly, they recognize that roads will be safer if undocumented immigrants can pass the tests and get driver's licenses as well as insurance. "We will definitely save lives by passing this bill," says the state senate president. The legislation will allow undocumented immigrants to get specially marked three-year driver's licenses after proving residency in Illinois and providing for identification a passport or consular ID. Recipients will be subject to Illinois' mandatory liability insurance requirements.

Something similar to a driver's license, the DPC (driver privilege card) has been issued in Utah and may be issued in Nevada. The card is only for driving, not for any other reason for identity. So it won't get the holder on an airplane.

For safety, undocumented immigrants should be asked to pass driving skill and information tests; that will improve auto safety. Hey Maryland: Let's do it!

Myths about the Unemployed: The Undocumented

The *Washington Post* (9 December 2012) published an article focusing on five "myths": of the unemployed, one of which was that "Americans without jobs are hurt by immigrant labor." It's a theme of many anti-immigrant commentators. From the article:

"In 2010, 30 House Republicans claimed a 'direct link between unemployment and illegal immigration' in forming what they called the Reclaim American Jobs Caucus. But most economists disagree with that claim. They say immigrants boost the population and labor force, making it possible to establish more businesses and sell more goods and services, which in turn require more workers.

"Daniel Griswold of the libertarian Cato Institute put it this way in a 2009 article: 'The addition of low-skilled immigrants expands the size of the overall economy, creating higher-wage openings for managers, craftsmen, accountants, and the like.' In a dynamic economy, adding workers increases business activity."

Once again, alas, some politicians take positions for which there is little or no evidence, opposing positions for which the evidence is strong or overwhelming. Think unemployment, evolution, global warming. Maybe some think that the moon is made of green cheese! What a shame that our country is in part diminished by wild belief systems.



Purple Line

The Sierra Club has named the Purple Line as one of the 25 best transportation projects in the pipeline in the United States. That's a positive, although the degree to which the award will produce funding is unknown. "Transportation infrastructure we build today will be with us for decades," said Ralph Bennett, head of PurpleLine-Now and Emeritus Professor at the U. of Maryland. "The Purple Line is exactly the kind of infrastructure we need as part of a 21st-century transportation system that increases our choices."

Drive Slowly! Stop at Red Lights!

There are now 72 new speed cameras in Prince George's County, and soon there will be 72 red light cameras. They are not there just to take pretty photographs, so if you're not doing so already, drive slowly and stop at the red! Or pay!



Click for County Action

Any resident or businessperson can go to princegeorgescountymd.gov or call 311 to request county action for non-emergency matters, e.g., potholes or blighted property. An app for a mobile device is available.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR POSITIVE CHANGE?
HAVE A NEED? HAVE A COMPLAINT?
 Then in Langley Park or elsewhere in District 47, call or email your state or county representative:

Senator Victor R. Ramirez (D-47)
 (410) 841-3745, (301) 858-3745
 e-mail: victor.ramirez@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Doyle L. Niemann (D-47)
 (410) 841-3326, (301) 858-3326
 e-mail: doyle.niemann@house.state.md.us

Delegate Jolene Ivey (D-47)
 (410) 841-3478, (301) 858-3478
 e-mail: jolene.ivey@house.state.md.us

Delegate Michael Summers
 (410) 841-3340, (301) 858-3239
 e-mail: michael.summers@house.state.md.us

Councilman Will Campos
 (301) 952-4436
 e-mail: wacampos@co.pg.md.us



CANASTAS DE AMOR

Romántica 900am, the Prince George's County Police Department and the Maryland Chapter of the Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association are partnering to assist Latino families during the holiday season by distributing *Canastas de Amor* (Baskets of Love). The annual partnership collects and delivers food to local families in need. On Friday, December 14 from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m., baskets will be organized and made available at the Langley Park Police Substation (8011 New Hampshire Ave.). Non-perishable food donations will be accepted on the day of the event.



A mobile healthcare unit will be onsite provided by the Consulate of Mexico. Healthcare screenings will be available to attendees and include vision exams, glucose screenings and blood pressure readings courtesy of Megamart. Also, 400 flu shots will be provided free of charge courtesy of Walgreens and Centro de Habla Hispana.

"*Canastas de Amor* is a fantastic way to share the holiday spirit with area families who are experiencing challenging times. We encourage all of Romántica's listeners and partners to get involved and come-out on the 14th. We have a great event planned," said Giovanna Salazar, Station Manager. "We hope that our community contributes to this positive event and are extremely happy to partner with Romántica 900am on this worthy initiative," said Carlos Moretta of the county Police Department.

To participate in this effort, contact Lorena Rivera at (301) 419-2122 ext: 106. This year's event is made possible in part by the support of Megamart, Centro de Habla Hispana, Mr. Car, Consulate of Mexico, Hispanic Institute of Blindness Prevention, and holaciudad.com.

Winter Heart Health Tips

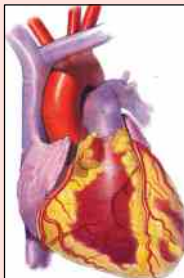
(Borrowed from Washington Adventist Hospital)

Winter conditions can be a health danger, particularly for the heart. Snow shoveling, a vigorous activity, is especially dangerous for those who are not used to exercise. Dr. Michael Chen, Cardiologist at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist Hospital, says snow shoveling can cause plaque to rupture, triggering a heart attack. He provides these tips for safe shoveling:

- Warm up your muscles beforehand.
- Take frequent breaks.
- Clear snow gradually and slowly.
- If you have a heart condition, avoid snow shoveling altogether.
- If you are experiencing any of the following signs of a heart attack, call

911 immediately. The signs include:

Chest pain, pressure or discomfort
Pain, pressure or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach
Shortness of breath
Cold sweat
Nausea
Lightheadedness



The heart

FBI from DC to PG?

There's a lively debate taking place about the possible move of FBI headquarters in DC, to be expanded, to some suburban location. So an injection of money into PG



County!? One commentator observed: "The FBI headquarters downtown has a hyper-security focus that creates a dead space along Pennsylvania Avenue just blocks

from the U.S. Capitol. With the FBI looking to move to a bigger and better space, business leaders say there's new hope the dead block can be rebuilt with businesses, condos, retail and nightlife."

To PG? He continues: "Attracting the FBI to Prince George's County would be a serious mistake. We need

development and employers who want to be part of the community, not paranoid government types who build fortresses to wall themselves away from the community. Just look at how the Census Bureau has cut itself off from, and virtually destroyed, the Suitland business community, while at the same time eliminating the possibility of community-oriented development around a Metro station.* The FBI will be far worse, adding to our infrastructure costs while bringing no real tangible benefits."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is bursting at the seams and urgently needs a new Washington headquarters, according to a new watchdog report. The J. Edgar Hoover Building, which occupies an entire block at a choice Pennsylvania Ave. intersection in downtown Washington, is "aging" and "deteriorating" and in need of serious repairs. (*Washington Post*, 9 November 2011)

Another commentator: "We need development that will generate traffic to nearby businesses and restaurants, not a 'neighbor' that will insist in private, self-sufficient services enclosed in a fortress behind multiple layers of security that keep the people they claim to serve out and effectively keep the staff inside by making it a hassle to go out and return. And we ought to be encouraging others to take the FBI while we go after the better development that they chase away by taking the FBI."

Councilwoman Mary Lehman has another view. She writes: "If we land the FBI and its 11,000 headquarters jobs, it would instantly become one of the county's top employers along with Andrew's Air Force Base and the University of Maryland."

So developments may not always be positive for the host jurisdiction—socially, aesthetically, and more! The economics may be different. The same could be said of the proposal to bulldoze the affordable apartments of Langley Park, to be replaced by middle class condo owners and upscale businesspeople who will probably not care about the county and will isolate themselves from other county residents. But they'll have money! That's why the Sector Plan on balance will be harmful if implemented. What do they call a person who is naughty for cash?

*Reportedly, employees at the Census Suitland location are told not to walk out of the gates and into the "dangerous" neighborhood. Of course, some do, for which the owner of a small Latino restaurant and takeout is happy.

December 15-22

Miniature Trains

From Saturday, December 15, to Friday, December 22, there is an exhibit of miniature trains, villages, tunnels, and depots designed to spark the imagination and bring history to life. The National Capital Trackers bring a fascinating and constantly moving display of model railroads to the Museum. It's free with museum admission. The admission costs are \$4/adults, \$3/seniors, \$2/ages 18 & under, free under 2. Location: 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park. For further information, call 301 864-6029.



December 14

Drunk Driving Enforcement

The Prince George's County Police Department's participation in a statewide drunk driving enforcement operation (called Project SOLO—Saving Our Loved Ones) had, the Department reports, another successful weekend. On December 7 and 8, 2012, police officers focused their enforcement along the University Boulevard corridor and the Pennsylvania Avenue and Marlboro Pike corridor. On those nights, police officers made seven DUI arrests over the course of 100 traffic stops. Additionally, the PGPD issued 43 speed citations and 58 warnings. The PGPD will continue this enforcement on known high drinking and driving nights through May 2013. The next scheduled enforcement is set for December 14, 2012.



FRAGMENTED FAMILIES

On December 12, dozens of children delivered thousands of letters to Capitol Hill calling upon lawmakers to stop the division of families that is caused by the deportation of mothers and fathers who are not a threat. The message: "Every day, families across the country are separated by deportations and immigrant detentions. 5.5 million children live with the fear that a parent could be deported, and these policies threaten the fabric of all of our communities."

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

Two years is better than none, but if the two years and a day seems dangerous, maybe not applying for the two years is the better course of action. At least, that must be the thinking of the 80% of those eligible to apply for DACA have not done so. Alas, after three months, 53,273 applications have been approved. Maybe the record-keeping problem is that one has to prove five continuous years of residence in the USA. How many of us could prove that, especially if one is undocumented and trying not to leave a trail? If at the end of two years, undocumented young people could apply for citizenship, that would attract many more applicants. But the possibility of two years and out is not appealing.

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.

2012

Dec 14 and 15—See items in left column.

Dec 15—Hermandad Fiesta, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Langley Park Community Center. Gifts, games,, snacks, more.

Dec 21—Capital Area Food Bank at Langley Park Community Center, 11 a.m. One share of food per household. Bring your own bags.

2013

Jan 1—HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Let's hope that the new year brings in civil politics at the national level, more opportunities for marginalized immigrants, international peace, and more!

Jan 8—Mis Quince Open House at the Community Center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Check it out! It's a great experience for a young girl becoming a young woman. →



Jan 8 - Montgomery College Open House, 5:30 p.m., 7600 Takoma Avenue. CM 211 (English session), CM 210A (Spanish session). This information session will provide information for adult students who are new or returning to college. The sessions will cover basic information about the enrollment process and include information on turning work experience into college credit, transferring previous college credits, balancing multiple priorities, and applying for financial aid. A session in English and Spanish will run simultaneously. For the full list of events college-wide, visit this webpage: www.montgomerycollege.edu/openhouse. Information: 240 567-3961.

March 14—Action Langley Park meets at 7 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center. It's an open meeting: come one, come all!

May 5 —Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health (there's a big health fair included as part of the event). The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of foods or crafts. Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Location: Langley Park Community Center. Volunteer doctors, nurses, dancers, musicians, clowns, and guides will participate; other volunteers are all welcome (let us know).



From ALP and BLD
Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah!
And a very positive new year!