

# BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park  
Issue Number 267, February 2013

A Letter Sent February 2nd, 2013

Dear Senator Cardin  
Dear Senator Mikulski  
Dear Congressman Van Hollen  
Dear Congresswoman Edwards  
Re: Immigration Reform

I write as an American citizen and university professor, son of an immigrant father and grandson of my mother's immigrant parents, who has been involved in a supporting role with immigrants for nearing two decades. I'm sure you know all of the arguments about immigration legislation, e.g., giving undocumented immigrants legal status will enable millions of our country's residents to come out of the shadows and contribute even more to our economy and culture.

What my students, friends, and colleagues—and I—want is the ability of law-abiding undocumented immigrants to attain legal status within a year and citizenship within five years. We want those here with TPS status to be moved into citizenship within those same five years. We also want non-criminal deportations to stop—i.e., we want the fragmenting of families to stop unless a serious criminal act is involved.

Do not support the back-of-the-line approach which will delay possible citizenship a decade or more.

Some opponents cry, border first. But the border is very secure now, and net migration is close to zero. Do not allow some anti-immigrant state officials in border states to veto positive changes.

For our national interests and human caring, I urge you to be unwavering and strong in your support of comprehensive immigration reform leading to legalization and then citizenship. Do not fear any crazies within your jurisdiction. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,  
William Hanna

## Transit Center

The Transit Center to be located at the northwest corner of University Blvd. and New Hampshire Ave. has gone out to bid, and construction will begin this Spring. Construction is estimated to take 22 months. The right-of-way acquisition seems to have been resolved. A memorandum of understanding has been worked on that will have WMATA operate the transit center.



The Center will serve Metro buses and the bus systems Ride On (Montgomery County), The Bus (Prince George's County), and University of Maryland Shuttle.



There is a total of eleven bus routes that converge at the crossroads area; 61 buses pass through the crossroads during a peak hour. The Center will have a weather-protected waiting area, restrooms, bicycle storage areas, and more.

Clearly, the Center will be a significant plus to those who live in the area or have had to make an awkward transfer in that area. And if the Purple Line light-rail is built, it will have a stop adjacent to the Center. ■

## NOTES ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

What, Mr. President, is your view of the timing of immigration legislation? Obama: "I don't want us waiting six months or a year to get this done. And there's no reason why we can't move fairly quickly. I'm not going to lay down a particular date because I want to give them a little bit of room to debate. If it slips a week, that's one thing. If it starts slipping three months, that's a problem."<sup>\*</sup>

The paranoid right wing will do everything possible to derail the movement towards some form of comprehen-

*"Reform" continued on Page 3*

## Dates for Your Calendar

Thursday, March 14: Action Langley Park meets 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center

Sunday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo!!): Langley Park Day, noon to 4 p.m. in and around the Langley Park Community Center

The March meeting and May festival plus health fair are open to all and free.

**Join us!**

# NEWS AND NOTES

## Guns

### PGCPS: The Budget

**The Numbers:** There will be a County budget shortfall in the coming fiscal year; it is estimated to be \$152,000,000. One of the causes in the gap is the poor real estate market in the county, leading to comparatively low property taxes. What can the county do? Perhaps what they did in the current fiscal year: cut a few percent of budget from many county units. And PGCPS?

**Hearings:** The headline is “[Board of Education] Encourages Community to Take Part in Budget Public Hearings.” Might that be pretend? After all, the meetings are held in Upper Marlboro, and that’s far and time-consuming for those who don’t live in that part of the county or who have to work long hours. The Board of Education should hold a series of meetings in various parts of the county.

Of course, if people have the time and transportation, they should go to the Sasscer Administrative Building on February 13 or 19 at 7 p.m. And if people want to say something to the board for a maximum of three minutes, they must register in advance at 301-952-6115. Will it be “Don’t fix the roads; fix the children”? Or “Cut the salaries of council members and use the money to hire one more teacher or one more police officer”? Stay tuned.

### PGCPS: Who Owns Creative Work Done in School?

From the *Washington Post* (2 February 2013): “A proposal by the Prince George’s County Board of Education to copyright work created by staff and students for school could mean that a picture drawn by a first-grader, a lesson plan developed by a teacher or an app created by a teen would belong to the school system, not the individual.” What could be more outrageous than grabbing a child’s art work while yelling at the child, “This belongs to the school system, not to you. Don’t you read the Board’s minutes?” Is drinking alcohol allowed during Board meetings? Probably yes because BLP editors cannot think of another explanation for such an outrage.



### PGCPS: Teachers Overworked?

A commentator via email: “Considering all the positive outcomes arising from our public schools in recent years, it is somewhat disheartening to see the issue of turnover rearing its ugly head in Prince George’s County once more. All our advances will be for naught if this community fails to entice educators to spend their careers right here. How has it come to this, again? ... Systems of labor requiring unsustainable effort can never be taken to scale. Teachers quickly realize that the assigned goal of reaching every child requires the deployment of nearly every waking hour to the preparation, delivery and evaluation of instruction. The message of ‘teacher do more’ no longer plays very well to those dedicated educators who already devote nearly their entire existence to improving the lives of children.” (Kenneth Haines, President, PG Co. Educators’ Association)

Has the teacher’s load grown due to cutbacks or expanded demands? Might that lead some teachers to seek

The number of guns in the United States has increased by more than 60% since 1994. Latest figures show there are 310 million guns in this country of 307 million people. That’s more than one gun per person—although about half the households don’t have a gun and the other half have more than one. Of course, gun doesn’t just mean a rifle for target practice, as we’ve discovered with the hot sales of assault weapons and multi-bullet clips.

Guns kill and injure, as more than a score of adults and children learned in Newtown not long ago. And one can even purchase and assault or other weapon without a background check to ascertain criminality or insanity!



No one has counted the weapons in the Langley Park area, but it certainly would not be surprising to find out that there are one thousand or more.

Why are there so many guns in our country? Perhaps there are three reasons: (1) the Second Amendment has been interpreted as allowing unlimited gun possession. (2) Some people like to hunt or target practice. Perhaps they have yet to discover video games! And (3) there are millions of seemingly paranoid people who fear that our government is going to attack them or take their holdings, so the gun becomes a defensive weapon—unless the holder decides to take the initiative of going on the offense to attack the evil government with weapons.

Second amendment? Here it is: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.” Ah, the militia can keep and bear arms. Who is in the militia? Surely not everybody. John Paul Stevens wrote, in a dissent: “When each word in the text is given full effect, the Amendment is most naturally read to secure to the people a right to use and possess arms in conjunction with service in a well-regulated militia.” Four justices wrote: “the ‘right to keep and bear arms’ protects only a right to possess and use firearms in connection with service in a state-organized militia. Had the Framers wished to expand the meaning of the phrase ‘bear arms’ to encompass civilian possession and use, they could have done so by the addition of phrases such as ‘for the defense of themselves.’” But that view, however reasonable, did not become the majority view of the Supreme Court; it lost on a 5-4 vote. One more vote and the tragedy of unlimited guns would have ended. One more vote.



Is anyone who is reading this item in a militia and therefore possesses a gun? ■

### Transitional Neighborhood Initiative

The TNI focuses on six neighborhoods in Prince George’s County, one of which is Langley Park. Agency representatives and a few guests meet most months to report, learn, and plan. Such a meeting took place on January 31st at the Langley Park Community Center. Among the presenters were Eliza Leighton, who directs the Promise Neighborhoods planning effort at CASA, Silvia Hoke, who heads the international student program for PG County, and Shawna Holden, the principal of Carole Highlands Elementary School. Summary: Lots going on! Encouraging. But we need to scrap the bulldoze-the-neighborhood Sector Plan if the current work is to be relevant.

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employment elsewhere? Let's hope not; we need every good teacher we have or can find!

### The Purple Line

Officials say that if there is no addition to state transportation funding, the Purple Line will not move forward. One state official: "Without a revenue increase, it doesn't make sense to proceed into a phase of design that we can't complete." The short term need for the Purple Line involves purchasing rights of way, relocating utility lines, and preparing cost estimates and bidding documents. The Purple Line will be good for business, thus good for real estate and county tax income, and good for the gentry. So the money probably will be found despite the significant displacement of residents and small businesses that is likely to take place. Money talks.

### What's the 11th Largest Economy in the World?

If the U.S. Latino/a market were a nation, it would soon be the 11th largest economy in the world, global CEO Sol Trujillo told the Wall Street Summit of 2010. That would place it on the list right near Russia, Canada and Australia.

### Howard County: Bla, bla, bla

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, in his annual State of the County address, thinks his county should be a "model for Maryland" because "We make the right investments in education, open space and infrastructure, thereby creating thriving, sustainable communities. Through our choices and our decisions, we have created a model for Maryland." Fully 59% of the residents have bachelor's degrees or more, and the per capita income is \$46,594. Prince George's figures, by contrast, are 30% and \$32,117. Maybe Howard County works well because of demographic luck. Calm down, Mr. Ulman.

### The Anti-Immigrant Right Wing Goes Ballistic!



Reading the reactions to the eight senators' proposal and to President Obama's comments on immigration reform is like a loin roaring in his cage. Wow! Here are roars by three anti writers: **Mark Krikorian:** "I know the president likes the sound of his own voice, but really, what was the point of his immigration speech ... in Las Vegas? He didn't deal with any of the hard issues—like guestworkers or spousal immigration rights for homosexual couples or how many millions more people a year he wants to admit—and just regurgitated the usual boilerplate about how we're a nation of immigrants.... In fact, he's become self-parody." Sick!

**James R. Edwards Jr.:** "Substantively, the main point of this outline is mass amnesty for all 11 million illegal aliens. The shiny objects the tricksters dangle about employment verification and border enforcement are nothing." Sick!

**David North:** "It is clear that the one-time legalization of three million illegal aliens by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 has led to the presence of 11 million illegal aliens today (25 years later). Were there to be a similar reaction to the Obama plan in the years to follow (and the 'enforcement' provisions in the Obama plan are hardly daunting), we could have an illegal alien population of more than 40 million 25 years from now." Sick!

**Ann Coulter:** "For decades, Democrats have been working feverishly to create more Democrats by encour-

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*"Reform" continued from Page 1*

sive immigration reform, but there sure are a lot of folks who are supporting it.

One sort-of supporter is Senator Rubio, the Cubano. He appeared on the Limbaugh radio show, the show that displays live paranoia on a regular basis. Rubio: "We need border security. We need workplace enforcement. We need a visa-tracking system. [Without these actions], I won't support it."



Also, the quest for citizenship will apparently require the immigrants to "go to the back of the line." Of course, the lines are more than a decade long. Thus such a queue will guarantee that the newcomers will not be empowered to vote for a long time.

No one knows for sure what legislation will be passed, but those of us who care about the regularization of those without documents are hoping for the best. And we're writing members of Congress in support of a good bill.

\*The BLP editor confesses: It was not BLP that posed the question and received the answer.  
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"The injustices of the US immigration system have had devastating consequences for millions of people—not just unauthorized immigrants, but their families, their employers, and their communities." (Human Rights Watch)

"In evaluating the pros and cons of a legalization program, it is important to keep in mind that legalization is not only a humanitarian act; it is also a form of economic stimulus. The example of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) demonstrates that workers with legal status earn more than workers who are unauthorized. And these extra earnings generate more tax revenue for federal, state, and local governments, as well as more consumer spending which sustains more jobs in U.S. businesses. Recent studies suggest that the economic value of a new legalizative program would be substantial, amounting to tens of billions of dollars in added income, billions of dollars in additional tax revenue, and hundreds of thousands of new jobs for native-born and immigrant workers alike. In short, a new legalization program for unauthorized immigrants would benefit everyone by growing the economy and expanding the labor market." (Immigration Policy Center) ■

## Picture of the Year

Yes, the fence might keep out some undeserving or even dangerous people. But it has already divided many families and lovers. It has even divided sections of University of Texas Brownsville! The positive results of the fence must be counterbalanced by the negative ones. That's good decisionmaking. Alas, the balance is not, apparently, in the minds of our federal decisionmakers.



Pictured: Lovers separated by the fence.

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aging divorce (another Democratic voter!), illegitimacy (another Democratic voter!) and Third World immigration (another Democratic voter!)." Sickest!

### MOOG!

These massive open online courses, MOOC for short, are free for all. They are taught by leading scholars-teachers. And the subjects range widely. BLP happened to note that there's an upcoming course entitled "Immigration and U.S. Citizenship." It's taught by Polly J. Price of the Emory Law School faculty. Here's the course description:

"This course analyzes the historical origins of citizenship and immigration in the United States and provides an overview of modern U.S. law. Beyond traditional notions of 'law,' the course also includes significant elements of immigration policy, social science, history, political theory, and ethics. One goal of the course is to provide a basic knowledge base for students to make and influence law and policy in immigration and citizenship. Among the questions the course will explore:

- How is U.S. citizenship acquired? Can it be lost?
- What is the origin and significance of the U.S. practice of awarding citizenship to anyone born here?
- Who decides who can enter the country, and who must leave?
- What rights do non-citizens have? What about those who have entered the country illegally?
- What is most needed for immigration reform in the US?

To learn more or sign up, go to [www.coursera.org/course/immigration](http://www.coursera.org/course/immigration). And to scan the scores of courses, go to [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org) or Udacity ([www.udacity.com](http://www.udacity.com)) or edX ([www.edx.org](http://www.edx.org)). Lots of free education, but to get the value, one has to stick with it until the end of the multi-week course. So far, no college credits are offered, but that will change over time.

### Immigration

Forward movement on immigration legislation taking place in various parts of the capitol is certainly encouraging, but of course ideas of "reform" differ and the final result is unknown. Some Maryland voices are being heard, e.g., Gustavo Torres of CASA: "Immigration reform must be based on a principle that people who have lived here, raised families here, and contributed to our economy through hard work are able to become citizens—all 11 million. Requiring families to wait for the full implementation of E-Verify and militarization of the U.S. border with unmanned drones is unfair and not acceptable." It's not acceptable in part because it gives veto power to some anti-change people, or at least the power to delay endlessly. For instance: "Look: An undocumented immigrant crossed the border into our America. So no reform now!"

Various former anti individuals and groups appear to have moved into the "yes" camp. We know that some Republicans have switched because they think Latino/a votes are essential to their future success. And the AFL-CIO is now supportive in part because legal workers are likely to strengthen the union movement. So here's a tentative embrace despite a dirty past! ■

**"From the vantage of naked self-interest, the wonder isn't that we might fix our broken immigration system. It's that we might not." (Ezra Kline in the *Washington Post*, 2 February 2013)**

## SECOND-GENERATION AMERICANS

The Pew Research Center has once again produced a valuable research report, this one on generational differences drawing upon Census data.

Not surprisingly, second-generation Americans—the 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants—are substantially better off than immigrants themselves on



key measures of socio-economic attainment. They have higher incomes (see top table); more are college graduates (see bottom table) and homeowners; and fewer live in poverty. In most of the measures, their characteristics resemble those of the USA's adult population. One note of caution: The Census undercounted the more marginal Latino/as, so the figures are a bit optimistic. But still, the data are encouraging.



Source: <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/02/07/second-generation-americans/>

### UNEMPLOYMENT: JANUARY 2013

There are no special surprises in the latest unemployment report from the Department of Labor. The pattern from recent months was seen again in January 2013. Here are a few highlights:

- The overall rate of unemployment was 7.9%. There are significant differences in unemployment by race/ethnicity, employment sector, age, and more.
- Without seasonal adjustment, Euro males are 6.6% unemployed; Euro females = 6.4%; Afro males = 13.4%; Afro females = 12.3%; Asians = 6.5% (no gender breakdown at this time); Latinos = 9.7%; Latinas = 9.9%.
- The situation of young people is grim; in the 16-19 age group, the figures are Euro = 20.8%; Afro = 37.8%; Latino/a = 26.5%. More than one-third of African-American teens who want work can't get it!
- Education matters. Unemployment for those without a high school diploma is 12%; high school grads = 8.1%; with a bachelor's degree = 3.7%. The message: don't drop out!
- Foreign-born men have an 8.0% unemployment rate, native-born 9.2%; foreign-born females = 9.2%, native-born = 7.7%. Why the male/female differences?
- Construction remains the hardest hit, 16.1%, followed by leisure/hospitality, 12%. These hit Langley Park residents hard.

In his state-of-the-state address, Governor O'Malley reported that Maryland has recovered 81% of the jobs lost in the recession; the national figure is 54%. ■

### Health

According to a Cambridge researcher, a first alcoholic drink increases one's lifespan by 30 minutes, but every drink after that shortens one's life by 15 minutes! So have the first one, but then just watch others overdue it (or tell the others what you know about the benefits and costs of multiple drinks.) Skol!



# MIGRATION CHANGE

## An OpEd in the Los Angeles Times

*With the national debate raging about immigration, Jonathan V. Last, writing in the LA Times (8 February 2013), offers a fresh view based upon a demographic analysis.*

"Like much else in the world, immigration is influenced by the fertility rate: that is, the number of children the average woman has during her lifetime. If the total fertility rate of a country is above 2.1 — what demographers called the replacement level — then that country's population grows. If the rate is below 2.1, then eventually its population contracts. When it comes to immigration, demographers have a general rule of thumb: Countries with fertility rates below the replacement level tend to attract immigrants, not send them. And so, when a country's fertility rate collapses, it often ceases to be a source of immigration."

He then focuses on Puerto Rico. In the 1920s, he notes, residents of Puerto Rico began to move to the USA - and especially New York City. But soon after World War II, the movement became large with 30,000 moving to our mainland every year. In 1955, 80,000 Puerto Ricans came to our mainland. Then a dramatic change set in: from 1955 to 2010, the number of arrivals dropped significantly; the number in 2010 was just over 4,000. What happened? The dramatic change is attributed to the decline in fertility. In 1955 it was 4.97, but by 2012 it was 1.64, i.e., below the replacement rate.

"And what has happened in Puerto Rico is happening all across Latin America, where fertility rates have been dropping on an express elevator for 20 years. Many Latin American countries have already fallen below the replacement level. It's not a coincidence that sub-replacement countries — such as Uruguay, Chile, Brazil and Costa Rica — send the U.S. barely any immigrants at all. The vast majority of our immigrants come from above-replacement countries, such as Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. But even though they're still above-replacement, those countries are witnessing epic fertility declines too. Consider Mexico, which over the last 30 years has sent roughly two-thirds of all the immigrants — legal and illegal — who came to the United States. In 1970, the Mexican fertility rate was 6.72. Today, it's hovering at the 2.1 mark — a drop of nearly 70% in just two generations. And it's still falling. The result is that from 2005 to 2010, the U.S. received a net of zero immigrants from Mexico."

The author points out that the immigration decline might in part be due to the recession that hit the USA hard. But even before the recession, the decline began; and he attributes that to the fertility decline.

"It's important to understand that Mexico's experience is not unique but rather is part of a global phenomenon. Today, 97% of the world's population lives in countries where the fertility rate is falling. And once a country's fertility rate starts dropping, it nearly always settles far below the replacement level. And because of this, most demographic models project that the world's population will peak sometime before the end of this century, and then begin contracting — for the

first time since the Black Death ravaged Europe."

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-last-demographics-immigration-20130208,0,4785134.story>

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*Mr. Last has just published a book, What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster. Here are a few excerpts:*

"Look around you and think for a minute: Is America too crowded? For years, we have been warned about the looming danger of overpopulation: people jostling for space on a planet that's busting at the seams and running out of oil and food and land and everything else.

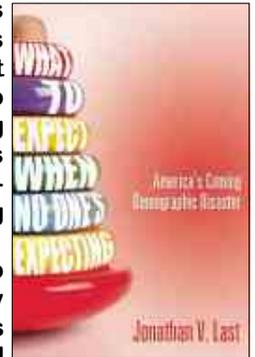
"It's all bunk. The 'population bomb' never exploded. Instead, statistics from around the world make clear that since the 1970s, we've been facing exactly the opposite problem: people are having too few babies. Population growth has been slowing for two generations. The world's population will peak, and then begin shrinking, within the next fifty years. In some countries, it's already started. Japan, for instance, will be half its current size by the end of the century. In Italy, there are already more deaths than births every year. China's One-Child Policy has left that country without enough women to marry its men, not enough young people to support the country's elderly, and an impending population contraction that has the ruling class terrified.

"And all of this is coming to America, too. In fact, it's already here. Middle-class Americans have their own, informal one-child policy these days. And an alarming number of upscale professionals don't even go that far; they have dogs, not kids. In fact, if it weren't for the wave of immigration we experienced over the last thirty years, the United States would be on the verge of shrinking, too.

"What happened? Everything about modern life—from Bugaboo strollers to insane college tuition to government regulations—has pushed Americans in a single direction, making it harder to have children. And making the people who do still want to have children feel like second-class citizens."

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*If Mr. Last is right, and it seems that he is, then the immigration policy to follow is to legalize, offer citizenship, and don't worry about the imagined hordes. They won't come. Furthermore, we will need the immigrants more than they will need us!*



## PGCPS TRANSFERS

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) are now accepting school transfer requests for the 2013-2014 school year. Applications will be accepted through March 22.

Transfer requests will not be considered to schools that exceed state-rated capacity. A list of schools eligible to receive transfer students can be found online, by clicking [here](#). The student transfer application can be found online, by clicking [here](#).

## OPPORTUNITY!

From Senator Victor Ramirez:

Do you know a high school senior or a college student from our community who is (or will be) enrolled full time in a Maryland institute of higher education? He or she may be eligible for a Maryland State Senatorial Scholarship. The student must be a District 47 resident and attend or expect to attend a college or university in Maryland in the fall of 2013. Scholarships can be used for either undergraduate or graduate study. The application and all supporting documents are due on April 29, 2013. So let's get those applications completed! Good luck!

Contacts: By telephone: (301) 858-3745. By email: Victor.Ramirez@senate.state.md.us

### SOME REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

The bandage was would around the wound.  
 The farm was used to produce produce.  
 The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.  
 We must polish the Polish furniture.  
 He could lead if he would get the lead out.  
 The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.  
 Since there was no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.  
 A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.  
 When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.  
 I did not object to the object.  
 The insurance was invalid for the invalid.  
 There was a row among the oarsmen on how to row.  
 They were too close to the door to close it.  
 The buck does funny things when does are present.  
 A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.  
 To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.  
 The wind was too strong to wind the sail.  
 After a number of injections, my jaw got number.  
 Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.  
 I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.  
 How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

### Scary Legalization Interpretation

During an appearance on CBS This Morning, Senator John McCain said: "People who have not committed a crime here or done something wrong will have a legal status, but they will not be able to have citizenship until they line up behind those who came here legally to get a green card on a path to citizenship." And the anti-group interpretation: "If you take Sen. McCain at his word, then at least three-quarters of illegal aliens will be denied legal status. Why? Because according to the Social Security administration, three-quarters of illegal aliens pay payroll taxes, which means that they are using fraudulently obtained Social Security numbers. Thus, they have committed a federal crime — felony Social Security fraud." Scary!

### APARTMENT HOUSES SOLD



Several of the low-end (poorly managed?) apartment houses in Langley Park have been sold. We wonder what the future will bring. Will these buildings be improved? Will they be held until development money is available and then torn down, to be replaced by more "upscale" buildings as part of a wave-to-be of gentrification? At least the apartment houses are out of the hands of those who apparently didn't care about providing quality housing for the tenants.

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## 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).

February 10—Chinese New Year! Snakes!! (see below)

February 11—District Night (see below)

March 7-9—Physics is Phun, "Energy and Motion." 7 p.m. U of MD Physics lecture halls. For information, call 301 405-6045 or email [lohara@umd.edu](mailto:lohara@umd.edu).

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! How can we help the residents and businesspeople of Langley Park? Let's explore and plan.

April 10—Rally on West Lawn of the Capitol for immigrants' rights. Details TBA.

April 27—Maryland Day on the University of Maryland campus. Almost everything free; lots to see and do

May 2-4—Physics is Phun, "Water." See above Phun information.

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). Food and craft vendors should contact Lourdes Sulc at 301 445-4508; health professionals and information providers should contact Bill Hanna at 301 405-4005.

June 1 and 2—Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo park. Free!

### Chinese New Year!

In 2013, on the Western calendar, the start of the New Year falls on February 10th and is The Year of the Snake.

During this important celebration of Asian culture, it is traditional to wear red to ward off evil spirits.



### DISTRICT 47 NIGHT

Senator Victor Ramirez reports: Legislative District Night for District 47 is quickly approaching! The event will be held on Monday, February 11th, in the Miller Senate Office Building, President's Conference Center West (11 Bladen St., Annapolis) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Food and drink will be served.

Please call the Ramirez office to let them know if you need transportation. There will be three buses stationed in various locations throughout the district to bring people to Annapolis and take them back. Limited seats are available.

The Senator is also seeking volunteers to help make the event memorable! If interested, call the office at 301 858-3745 so the staff can add you to our volunteer list.