

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue 245, July 2012

Note: The photo from which the title background on this page was drawn is of the moon!

NEW HOSPITAL IN COUNTY

State, county and private healthcare providers are working to bring a new \$600 million hospital-plus facility to Prince George's County. Yes, there may be a new hospital, and if so it may be linked to the University of Maryland Medical System—which of course includes the Maryland School of Medicine.



Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, England

On July 18th, an open meeting co-sponsored by Envision Prince George's Community Action Team on Transit-Oriented

Development and the Coalition for Smarter Growth will explore the potential of a hospital and possible locations.

The organizers ask: "Did you know that 60% of Prince George's County residents currently leave the county for their healthcare?" And they comment: "Between the cost to families of leaving the county for their health care needs, the loss of local healthcare jobs, and the economic engine a healthcare hub could provide within the county, officials agree: it's time to bring a new Regional Medical Center to Prince George's County."

Of course, the county is not without hospitals, including the Prince George's Hospital Center as well as smaller facilities such as the Laurel Regional Hospital and the Bowie Health Center. And these hospitals are already developing links with the University of Maryland Medical System. For instance, the System is taking over emergency room operations at the county's public hospitals. (And of course there are non-public hospitals.)

It certainly would, however, be a plus to have a major medical center in the county—especially if the rationale is based upon health care rather than county prestige. But not having one has not led to tragedies in some of the boroughs of NY City. (Prestige is important, but what is the best action to achieve it with \$600 million? Maybe having the best community college in the country? Several of the best secondary schools in the country?)

The question should also arise: How best can the decisionmakers of Prince George's County provide needed health care for the residents? Maybe a new hospital is the best choice. But what if the \$600 million were directed, at \$100 million each, to create a first-rate affordable clinic in the six neighborhoods identified for the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative? That might well be better for health but not for prestige. But what, someone might say, should a person needing a heart transplant do if a new major hospital isn't built? And the answer might be to

CROSSROADS FARMERS' MARKET

What, some readers of Barrio de Langley Park have not visited this farmers' market? Well, if you live within a few miles of the market and haven't been there, you've missed a wonderful addition to the Takoma-Langley crossroads area. There are many chances to enjoy the market atmosphere while purchasing fruits, vegetables, and some other items. Below are a few photographs taken at the market on 11 July 2012. Upper left is the



"office" where shoppers can trade in food stamps or other items for purchasing credit. Lower left is the Amerigroup mobile moon bounce—where lots of children bounce. And on the right is one of many market stalls selling goods from area farms.

LANGLEY PARK IS NOT ALONE

Gentrification and Displacement Are Widespread

There are, alas, many neighborhoods around the world that are leveled as part of so-called "development." (Development means new buildings but it also means money for developers and politicians!) Of course, displacement is not a new phenomenon; for instance, way back in the 50's, a working class neighborhood in Lagos was bulldozed and its residents scattered—thus destroying the community. (Peter Marris wrote a 1961 book about it.)

Many of us are familiar with the gentrification-displacement process that took place in such DC neighborhoods as Adams-Morgan, Mount Pleasant, and Columbia Heights. In all three neighborhoods, many Latino/as, Vietnamese, and other immigrants were pushed out. That process continues in Petworth today.

HERE AND THERE

MoCo IKE ON PG GAMBLING

Arthur Turner shares these comments on gambling via email: "I told you to watch out for new partners, people who seemingly have no skin in the game joining the fight for a casino in Prince George's County. Enter stage right, Ike Leggett—someone who has a long and established record of opposing slots and gaming. Suddenly, the County Executive of Montgomery County is campaigning for gaming in Prince George's County even though he is opposed to it for his own county—campaigning for gaming in Prince George's County although county residents have strongly said that we do not want it. Does his efforts make him look credible?" Some Prince Georgians are wondering: Could someone have "gotten" to him? ALP checked with the MoCo Executive's office, and this was the reply: "The County Executive has not issued any statement on this. Nor has the County. He simply expressed that he supported Prince George's Executive Rushern Baker's approach." But the latest news is that high-level talks about reopening the issue are taking place. So gambling may come to PG Co.

GOOD EDUCATION: MONEY HELPS

Here's the first paragraph of a promotion for a play soon to open in this region: "Attention, all ye parents of young children now pouring sweatily over your five-year-old child's application to the day care center which will help her get into the private school which will help her get into the prep school which will help her get into Harvard."



What should be added is the hiring of a tutor to prepare the

child for that special day care center and another tutor to help her get into the best private elementary and secondary schools and yet another tutor to help her get into Harvard. The private child care and schools might average \$20k a year and the tutors might cost \$2k. So $20 \times 13 + 2 \times 3 = 6$ thus $\Sigma \$266k$ just to get to Harvard, and then four years of \$40k leads to a grand total of \$426k.

Clearly, the child might not be smarter than a little girl in Langley Park who goes to the local public schools and later a state university. But the Langley Park girl has vastly different opportunities. That's an example of why the significant majority of children of families in the top 25% in wealth stay in that top bracket, and the significant majority of those in families in the bottom 25% stay there. Or to put it differently, the USA is a land of some opportunity but stating more than "some" is not valid.

By the way, the Pew Center on the States has studied mobility in the fifty states, and Maryland is one of only three states that score well on all three of the studied indicators! (The other states are New York and New Jersey.) The study is reported at <http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/economic-mobility-of-the-states-interactive-85899381539>.

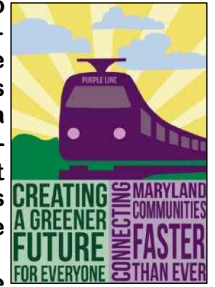
GOOD HEALTH CARE: NOT FOR UNDOCUMENTED

The newly passed and Supreme Court supported health care law has many benefits for those who are citizens or otherwise legal residents. But it specifically bans undocumented immigrants from taking advantage of the law. That may work against the law and health in two ways. First, a few million immigrants will not be paying into the law's coffers. And second, the undocumented

residents are more likely to infect the rest of us if they get sick because they may not be able to pay for needed health care.

THE PURPLE LINE

The "Purple Line NOW" advocacy organization celebrated the strides made in 2011 and so far in 2012 to move the Purple Line forward. It has held the first-ever Purple Line arts competition. The event was held on 26 April 2012 at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College, and featured works of art that celebrate the Purple Line. Here is the winning submission, by Elsie Nolasco who is at Montgomery College.



What about the impact on the Purple Line of the modest transportation bill passed by Congress? The bill states: "Grants can be made to all modes of public transportation, but not less than 65% of available funds in each fiscal year must fund eligible bus-related projects, and not less than 10% of available funds in each fiscal year must fund eligible bus-related facility and infrastructure projects." Transit interests are very disappointed because (a) the money in the bill is too little, and (b) it still favors tires over rails—perhaps a political necessity in our auto-dominated mobility world. But the threat to the Purple Line is much less national than state. The state legislature must provide stable transportation funding because the Purple Line cannot be funded from the trust fund as it now stands.

So the construction start date in 2014 is uncertain, as is the completion date in 2020. It does seem, however, that the creeping gentrification of the areas around the proposed route indicates some optimism among property owners. Maybe issue 500 (!?) of this newsletter will have definitive news! (500! Only 255 to go!!)

OBAMA ACTS; IT'S THE PRINCIPALS' TURN

Education Week (9 July 2012) offers a positive comment on the near future of undocumented youths: "With more than 1.3 million undocumented young people now eligible to seek relief from deportation and gain work permits and the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down much of Arizona's immigration law, some educators and advocates hope that more college and career opportunities will open up for youths who were brought [without papers] to the United States as children. The June 15 announcement that President Barack Obama's administration would halt deportations of undocumented youths younger than 30 and allow them to seek legal work permits bypasses Congress to implement portions of the DREAM Act, but falls well short of providing the path to citizenship proposed in that bill, which was blocked by Senate Republicans in 2010."



In the coming months, school principals will have a special responsibility of advising their students on immigration matters. Every teacher and counselor should be prepared for questions about status and be able to answer some, including where the young person should go for further information. One principal comments: "I think schools are often the one trusted government institution, so it's important that we are prepared to give students and their families the best information we can and refer them to resources and organizations that can help them."

"Here and There" continues on Page 3

Of course, there is a possibility that the two years would be less than a year if President Obama loses the election and the opposition gains a working majority in the Senate. So if the reader thinks Obama's actions were bad, he or she should try to vote the president out of office. And vice versa.

CANDIDATE FOR DEFERRMENT?

Given all the uncertainty which surrounds the program announced by President Obama for undocumented young people, what is best course of action for an eligible young person? Immigration attorney Carl Shusterman believes the young person needs the best legal representation possible. Notarios and lawyers are already advertising like crazy: "We can help you! Si, se puede!" Don't be fooled by these ads. Do what is best for yourself. A good place to start is by watching his video *How to Select an Immigration Attorney*. Control-click on the ital to see it.

FLEEING OUR TAXES?

According to an analysis by an anti-tax group, Montgomery County's tax base decreased by 0.07% (\$22.1 million in gross aggregate income) from 2009 to 2010. And Prince George's County experienced a loss of 0.27% (\$51.4 million). This is attributed to out-migration, although the post-recession recession was prevailing and both counties gained population. (PG increased 7.7% from 2000 to 2011 and 0.9% from 2010 to 2011; MoCo's increases were 11.3% and 1.9%.) Well, it's probably true that some people move from comparatively high tax to comparatively low tax states and local jurisdictions; but there are other people who move from less to more cosmopolitan areas. (Maybe some people are not aware of urbanization.) And the Washington DC metro area has certainly become very cosmopolitan over the past several decades. It seems that the anti-tax group has a strange approach to the use of numbers.

PRODUCE PRICES: UP

Dan Moffett alerts us: "California is reporting farm labor shortages as high as 40% because of the declining numbers of migrant workers from south of the border. Some areas of Central Florida are reporting a 45% decline. The Midwest is hurting, too. Immigration laws in Arizona, Alabama and Georgia are driving workers away. What this means to Americans in the short term is higher costs at the supermarket as supplies decline and farmers raise their prices." Let's hope that the farmers in the three anti states realize what stupidity has been exercised by their political leadership; and if so, maybe they will even side with comprehensive immigration reform. Meanwhile, we'll probably be paying more at the supermarket and grocery store.

HEALTHY FAMILIES P.G.: GRADUATION!

Healthy Families Prince George's is a voluntary program that provides support to first time mothers under the age of 25, and to the children's fathers. Services include prenatal support, intensive home visiting and mentoring services. The program is designed to improve birth outcomes, promote healthy child development and enhance family functioning through the provision of supportive services that synchronize existing prenatal, pediatric and mental health service delivery and assist the child and parents to realize their potential. The program works with parents until the child reaches the age of five.

In Istanbul, according to a report in a planning web site, officials and developers are planning to "develop"



How awful: They hang out clothes to dry!

Tarlabaşı, a neighborhood of working class and poor residents in a fairly central area of the city. Ah, urban renewal! Of course, the residents—many of whom have lived in the neighborhood for decades—are worried because they may soon be displaced. Indeed, evictions have started. Guess who the residents are: Many Kurds and Roma, as well as illegal immigrants, mostly from Africa, Afghanistan, and Iraq. What: immigrants and marginal groups may be thrown out of their homes? Surely this never happens! A powerful majority would never do that!

The accompanying photos are of Istanbul's Tarlabaşı neighborhood.

"Unfortunately, this is very aggressive and very wrong," said Huseyin Kaptan, director of the



Gads!
A street vendor!

Istanbul Metropolitan Planning and Urban Design Center. "To keep the social structure safe, you need to involve the people. Contractors get to build some modern thing—could be a shopping mall, could be a high-rise—but they have no regard for the people living there." Roads are not repaired, and broken street lights are not replaced. Ugh!

Let's hope that somehow some way, despite the Sector Plan, the apparent fate of Tarlabaşı will not be the fate of Langley Park.



The street needs repair.

AFTER THE DEMOLITION, WHAT?

If new residential units are to be built in Langley Park, the question arises: what kind(s) of units? Maybe New York City has the right idea: build "micro-units" of less than 300 square feet. And keep the leases to well below \$1,000. That would attract some young individuals and couples who might like the area's exciting ethnic/racial mix and the proximity of mass transit. Maybe that would be a good future for the Langley Park Shopping Center and its transit-center-to-be.

A design for a micro-unit appears here. New York City has announced a competition for micro-unit design.

The Census has discovered that an increasingly large number of people live alone—or as a childless pair. An affordable micro-unit should suit this population well.



TRANSIT AND "DEVELOPMENT"

What About Social Justice?

Transportation-Oriented Development (TOD) is the subject of a major study of an area of Seattle by the Puget Sound Sage research group. In their report, they state that "Transportation systems profoundly impact nations, cities, and neighborhoods. In more recent years, TOD,



the creation of compact, livable and walkable communities near public transit centers, has become a promising trend. ... Its design encourages less auto use and promotes healthy communities." But, they report, "TOD has also produced unintended consequences: the displacement of low-income residents and communities of color. In Seattle's Rainier Valley, TOD may threaten community stability."

This lack of social justice and community fragmentation is what people are worried about in the Langley Park area thanks to a Sector Plan that seems not to give serious consideration to the "unintended consequences"—and hopefully they are unintended—that if and when the Sector Plan is fully implemented, most current residents of Langley Park's apartments will have been forced out of their homes and scattered throughout the metro area or beyond.

"Unfortunately, the historic record for Federal and local government urban policy is marked by frequent discrimination toward and exclusion of people of color and low-income households. Although most proponents agree that the benefits of TOD should be shared by people of all incomes, ethnicities, and races, examples of TOD that successfully incorporate low-income communities and communities of color in the region are few."

Maybe there are planners at the county level who have come to realize the devastation that implementation of the Sector Plan will cause, and they are considering a phasing in of the plan. But quality planning will find a way to a win-win outcome: the oldtimers keep their apartments but new apartments and condos are built to accommodate newcomers.

The Seattle report continues: "Ensuring that TOD results in real equity outcomes requires a sharp focus on what equity means and a steady determination to achieve those outcomes. By including a racial justice framework in TOD planning and policy, ... we can help break the cycle of historical disenfranchisement and institutional barriers to prosperity. TOD planning must tackle the threat of displacement head-on by addressing the structural challenges that place low-income people and communities of color at higher risk of being forced out. Furthermore, efforts to ensure racial equity ... must be proactive—we cannot wait until after displacement has taken place to act on the negative impacts of gentrification."

For our local Sector Plan, county officials working

"In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice..., the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man."
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

with area stakeholders must have a retention plan before the first bulldozer arrives.

"A strong commitment to racial equity will do more than address inequality. With mixed-income households able to remain in [their] neighborhoods, broader goals for regional sustainability and healthy communities will be met. Through racial equity outcomes, people of all incomes and races are able to choose to live in central, dense neighborhoods and can avoid perpetuating suburban sprawl and auto-centric living."

What is to be done? The Seattle report's suggestions: "In the last ten years, a new strategy for achieving racial equity outcomes from developments has emerged—

negotiated agreements between developers and local stakeholders, or community benefit agreements (CBAs). CBAs address two racial justice shortcomings in most public decision making: 1) where large-scale projects will have

"I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is that they must change if they are to get better."

— Georg Lichtenberg

unique, negative impacts to a community that cannot be mitigated by broader land use regulation and 2) where historically marginalized residents and other stakeholders have little or no voice in decision-making. Through a CBA process, local stakeholders, including community residents, faith leaders, environmental justice groups, small business associations and workers can bargain for specific community needs and, ultimately, enforce the terms without requiring intervention of a local government. In return, developers secure the support of those local stakeholders in the permitting process."

The Prince George's County Council and the Department of Planning must—if it cares about social equity—revisit the plan and incorporate provisions that will prevent displacement. Let's hope they care.

The full Seattle report is at <http://pugetsoundsage.org/downloads/TOD%20that%20is%20Healthy,%20Green%20and%20Just.pdf>

POLITICS & LEADERSHIP

STATE REFERENDA: It may be that there will be three referenda on the November ballot: redistricting, in-state status for undocumented young residents, and same-sex marriage. The redistricting is an issue in part because of the extreme gerrymandering; the other two issues raise questions of equity and equality. So there may be some unpleasant campaigning ahead. Alas.

Regarding in-state status, there is an organization called Educating Maryland Kids that has been formed to push for rejection of the anti-Dream ballot item. The organization is holding its first meeting at UMBC on 18 July 2012. Want to know more? Contact Kristin Ford at Kristin@educateMDkids.org.

SCHOOLS LEADER: County Schools Superintendent Bill Hite has announced that he will leave the system following the last September work day. His contract called for a 120 day notice, but the deal was struck for him to leave earlier by not taking his severance pay. Bye Bill!

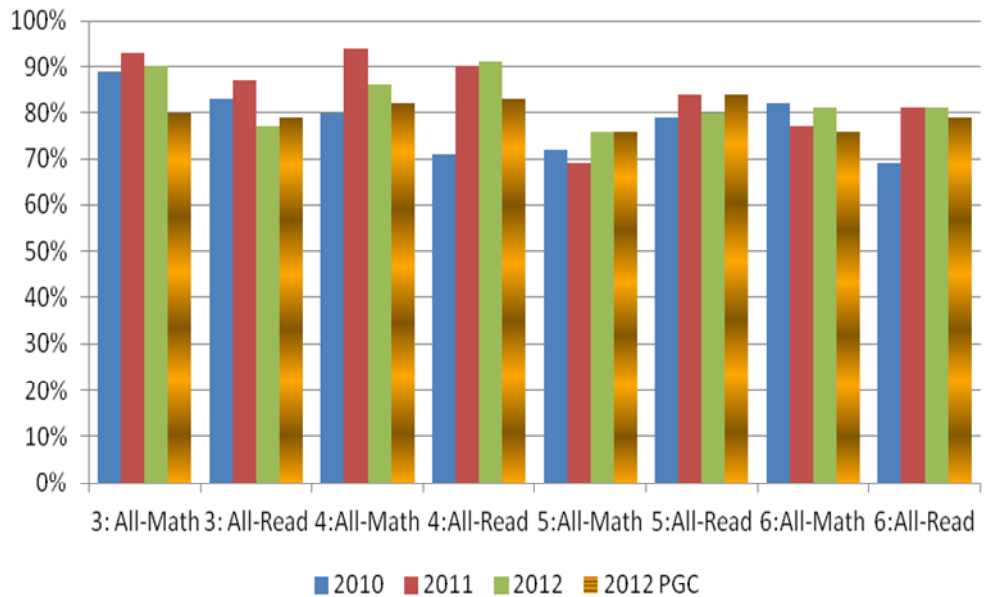
An acting superintendent will be appointed next month and the search for new leadership will then begin. The search committee is supposed to work openly and to consult. Hey: We'll welcome the committee at Langley Park.

Standard Test Scores 2012: Langley Park McCormick ES

Maryland Test Scores!

On 10 July 2012, many of the test scores for children in the state's public schools were announced. They are available for the state, the counties, and the schools. Not all are out, but many are. They now are available online at www.mdreportcard.org.

For this issue of Barrio de Langley Park, we looked at the scores over a three year period at Langley Park - McCormick Elementary School, and we added county-wide scores for comparison. (See graphic.) At the school, children in the 4th grade did especially well. Reading in the 3rd grade seems to have been challenging. But overall, the children are doing quite well. Note especially the many years in which the school did better than the county average (the gold bar).



"Here and There" continued from Page 3

"Here and There" continued from column to left

Healthy Families PG proudly graduated nine families



this year. Daylong activities celebrated this proud day. Graduates heard congratulations from Senator Victor Ramirez, Theresa Grant, of the Department of Family Services and dignitaries from the Guatemalan and Salvadorian embassies. It was a wonderful celebration with a catered lunch, moon bounce, sno-cones, water play and music. It wonderful sendoff for the graduates and a memorable occasion for all.

IS THE MEDICINE OF HIGH QUALITY?

A new report indicates that a significant proportion of medicines available in developing countries is not up to quality standards due to low-quality manufacturing or to counterfeiting. These medicines are a grave threat to public health. (*New Europe Post* 12 July 2012) The report might have extended its geographic reach because in poor neighborhoods in the USA and elsewhere in the so-called developed world, there is also a threat of poor quality or counterfeit medicines. They have appeared in Langley Park. And if the medicines are of good quality, they are sometimes taken without knowledge of dosage. (An ALP staff member has seen someone gulp down a handful of ibuprofen tablets.) It's another reason for a broad-ranging clinic in the Langley Park area.

MORE LOCAL LOSSES! (GAINS?)

IN RIVERDALE: The Prince George's County District Council has at last (after many months of argument and delay) approved the Cafritz rezoning plan, and so there almost certainly will be a major mixed-use development on the north end of Riverdale Park along Route 1. The area in question is 37 acres; it will have a mixed-use town center with 900 housing units plus a large Whole Foods market, a 120-room hotel, plus office and retail space. The area was zoned for single dwelling units before the vote was taken. The local residents and others opposed

"Here and There" continued in next column

the change because of the additional traffic plus the change of the area's character. Councilman Olsen fought change but lost. So the locals lost. And the tax base of the county will in a few years be enhanced.

IN COLLEGE PARK: The County Council will soon vote on a proposal for the Maryland Book Exchange property that calls for more than 300 residential units and about 15,000 square feet of retail. Some local residents oppose the proposal because it would add to traffic congestion and dramatically change the area's character. Will the developers win? Yet again? And if the developers (with county help) win, the tax base will be enhanced.

One proposal for the property is below. Let's not have massive ugly buildings in College Park—or Langley Park!



"Hospital" continued from Page 1

drive perhaps a half hour to Johns Hopkins. What: out of the county? Yes, because a county hospital may well never equal the specialty skills of Hopkins.

Clearly, a new hospital should be located near the county's population center and near a heavy-rail Metro station (or station-to-be). Let's hope the money becomes available and the location is chosen for health reasons rather than political/prestige reasons. Let's also hope that the architecture of the new facility is itself a major positive contribution to the county and region.

And Langley Park: Residents are lucky to have Washington Adventist Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital close by. But a good sliding-scale clinic is desperately needed. It can be achieved with "only" the 1/6 x \$600 million! And space for a clinic can be made available in the Langley Park Community Center!

MORE HERE & THERE

VOTER FRAUD aka "Keep 'em out"

Without much evidence to support their claim, legislators across the country have introduced a string of restrictive voter ID laws with the intention of curbing "voter fraud." The only problem is that there is no problem. Election experts agree that modern-day voter fraud is a very rare occurrence in the U.S., leaving many to speculate that supporters of these restrictive laws are using "voter fraud" legislation to disenfranchise large groups of voters—i.e. racial minorities, immigrants, and low-income voters—who may vote for the "wrong" candidate. (Immigration Policy Center, 13 July 2012) Perhaps, therefore, a program to provide ID cards with photographs should be launched. The supportive evidence for the card would be a rent receipt or other relevant document. Of course, the Department of Justice will be fighting the "Keep 'em out" legislation in the various states.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



The immediate past student member of the Prince George's County's Board of Education, Faith Jackson, reportedly "stood up against the forces that oppose progress in our county's schools and police were summoned and she was threatened with arrest for her actions." She commented: "Prince George's County Public Schools will not advance from second from the bottom until my colleagues either remove the politics or remove themselves." She referred to board members as "self-serving" and acquiescing "to political pressures." Is she fair? Of course, the schools should improve. But how? There is a video about Ms. Jackson, high school valedictorian and heading to Harvard at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORA-AACAtcA&feature=youtu.be>

DEPORTATIONS DON'T HELP

"From Bill Clinton to Barack Obama, proponents of comprehensive immigration reform have believed that tough deportation policies provided the quid pro quo concession that would bring immigration hawks to the bargaining table. It hasn't worked. This misbegotten strategy has simply ensured that hardliners provided the harsh narrative driving the immigration debate. Minor tweaks to American immigration policy (like president Obama's recent announcement that undocumented adolescents would no longer be targeted for deportation) aren't sufficient. We need a thoroughgoing critique of existing policy and an alternative vision rooted in compassion and common sense." Anon

PREJUDICE=STRESS=VIOLENCE

Different types of stress, particularly racial discrimination, can influence the level of this risk according to a new study by Lorena Estrada-Martínez at Washington U. in St. Louis. "African-American youth who were at greatest risk for engaging in violent behaviors while transitioning into adulthood were those who experienced higher levels of racial discrimination in addition to general daily stressors. ... Contrary to expectations, stress that stemmed from financial shortage and neighborhood stress were not associated with the risk of violent behaviors during emerging adulthood." Surely the same result would be achieved if the study had focused on Latino youth. That's yet another reason why we all must fight prejudice.

ILLEGAL!????

Charles Garcia on CNN (6 July 2012): "When you label someone an 'illegal alien' or 'illegal immigrant' or just plain 'illegal,' you are effectively saying the individual, as opposed to the actions the person has taken, is unlawful. The terms imply the very existence of an unauthorized migrant in America is criminal. In this country, there is still a presumption of innocence. ..."

"More" continued on Page 7

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE REPORTS ON MEXICAN & MEXICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION

In a report issued on 7 June 2012, the government's Congressional Research Service focused on the education and language proficiencies of Mexican-Americans in comparative perspective. The data on Central Americans were not used, but it would certainly not be a surprise if the findings were somewhat similar. And the findings? Those who were born in Mexico were not on average well-educated compared with those born in the USA as well as immigrants from other countries. A somewhat similar pattern exists with English language proficiency. The message surely is that the USA must launch a major program of language and other education for immigrants, certainly including those from Mexico and Central America. Source: <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/193697.pdf>.

Educational Attainment and English Speaking Proficiency by Nativity, 2010

	Mexican Born	All Other Foreign Born	Native Born
Educational Attainment (persons age 25 and older)			
Less than high school	60%	20%	11%
High school diploma	23%	22%	30%
Some college	12%	22%	31%
4 year college degree or more	6%	36%	28%
English-Speaking Proficiency			
All persons	51%	80%	99%
Persons under age 25	72%	90%	99%

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY?

The ideal that all Americans have equal opportunity regardless of their economic status at birth is central to the American Dream. But it is becoming more of a dream (lower case d) than a reality. Research has focused on the dream by analyzing economic mobility—Americans' movement up and down the economic ladder—during the past generation. Here are a few items from a major study, "Pursuing the American Dream," conducted by a research team at the Pew Charitable Trust.

Source: http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Economic_Mobility/Pursuing_American_Dream.pdf.

► **Americans raised at the bottom and top of the family income ladder are likely to remain there as adults, a phenomenon known as "stickiness at the ends."**

While a majority of Americans exceed their parents' family incomes, the extent of that increase is not always enough to move them to a different rung of the family income ladder.

Fully 43% of Americans raised in the bottom quintile [bottom of five hierarchical categories] remain stuck in the bottom as adults, and 70% remain below the middle. Forty percent raised in the top quintile remain at the top as adults, and 63% remain above the middle.

Only 4% of those raised in the bottom quintile make it all the way to the top as adults, confirming that the "rags-to-riches" story is more often found in Hollywood than in reality. Similarly, just 8% of those raised in the top quintile fall all the way to the bottom.

► **A four-year college degree promotes upward mobility from the bottom and prevents downward mobility from the middle and top.**

Almost one-half (47%) of those raised in the bottom quintile of the family income ladder who do not earn a college degree are stuck there as adults, compared with 10% who do earn a college degree.

Having a college degree makes a person more than three times more likely to rise from the bottom of the family income ladder all the way to the top, and makes a person more than four times more likely to rise from the bottom of the family wealth ladder to the top.

Fully 39% raised in the middle of the family income ladder who do not get a college degree fall from the middle, compared with less than a quarter (22%) of those with a degree. Similarly, 39% raised in the middle of the family wealth ladder who do not earn a degree fall down the wealth ladder, compared with 19% with a degree.



What Is To Be Done?

The children must be the center of our attention because their futures should and perhaps can be improved. Yet their current situation is very worrisome. Ezekiel Emanuel at the University of Pennsylvania writes:

"We are always saying that children are our nation's most valuable resource. Unfortunately, we don't behave as if we believe it. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of children living in poverty in America increased by 41%, and now includes nearly one-quarter of our kids. Growing up in poverty is bad. It leads to lower graduation rates (a third of these children will not graduate from high school); lower incomes (nearly half will still be living in poverty at age 35); and lower life expectancy (by about eight years).

"We know that early childhood education and high-quality day care are the best ways to improve the chances of poor children. They produce extraordinary returns in the form of reduced crime rates, higher educational attainment, higher incomes, more stable families and better health—benefits that will be passed on to following generations. So perhaps the money could be devoted to the education of children under age 5, to pay for pre-kindergarten, nursery school or day care."

But where will the needed money come from? Emanuel suggests that many people who are economically comfortable are still receiving Social Security and Medicare; these benefits, he thinks, can be trimmed (if the seniors are economically comfortable without the benefits) to provide the needed revolution in helping poor children. Of course, tax rates on most of us could be raised a bit to obtain the needed money. Worth thinking about!

Source for Emanuel: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/23/share-the-wealth/>

"More" continued from Page 6

YOU CHEATED US!

In one of the largest fair-lending payouts in history, Wells Fargo has agreed to spend at least \$175 million to settle federal accusations that it steered Black and Latino borrowers into high-cost loans and charged them excessive fees. "This is a case about real people—African American and Latino—who suffered real harm as a result of Wells Fargo's discriminatory lending practices," said Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for civil rights.* The Justice Department identified about 4,500 Black and Latino/a Wells Fargo homeowners in the Washington and Baltimore regions who were targeted for unfavorable loans or charged what Perez dubbed a "racial surtax." (From the *Washington Post* 12 July 2012) What? Discrimination against people of color? In the USA? What a surprise!

*Tom Perez has local roots. He was once an official of CASA de Maryland.

EXERCISE!

Researchers have found that children in school engaging in at least 20 minutes of exercise during PE class had significantly shorter mile times and lower body mass index scores. Furthermore, as the students' reported levels of enjoyment of PE increased, their mile times decreased. "PE was by far the most significant predictor of students' fitness and was the only variable associated with improved weight status," said one researcher. "I think this shows that we

SCHOOLS:
The children
need physical
education!

need to increase the importance of physical education in schools and set up tougher standards in the same way we set up tough standards around academic performance." Alas, PE is increasingly rare as schools press for higher scores on standardized tests. But just maybe some PE every day and perhaps music or dance a few times a week might well raise children's test scores.

WHERE'S YOUR I.D.?

Here's part of an AP report (10 July 2012) raising an issue that somehow must be addressed:

"She was born in Mexico and lives in the United States, but Laura Rocio Ordonez does not officially exist in any country. She can't open a bank account or get married. She is invisible for both governments. Ordonez, 40, not only lives illegally in the United States but also lacks Mexican identification documents.

"It's unclear how many immigrants living illegally in the United States fall into that category, but it's estimated that one in seven Mexicans lacks proof of birth. The numbers are high enough that Mexican officials recently traveled to New York to try

help dozens of immigrants get IDs.

"Mexican immigrants living illegally in the United States are in a far worse situation if they lack Mexican credentials. For example,

some banks accept consular identification cards and passports to open accounts. Immigrants with IDs from home also can obtain taxpayer identification numbers that allow them to pay taxes in the United States and obtain credit and mortgages. New York City public schools accept consular ID cards and similar documentation to enter buildings for meetings with teachers, although people who have no identification at all can be escorted inside.

"Ordonez, who was born in Oaxaca and came to the United States illegally years ago, is not included in Mexico's birth registry. She thinks her parents did not register her, and she did not solve the problem while she lived in her home country. She said she can study English but has no hope of obtaining a GED diploma because of her lack of ID."

A sad situation. Any suggestions for such people "without a country"?



CASA & Equality Maryland

A message from CASA: "Equality Maryland, the state's LGBT civil rights organization, and CASA de Maryland, the state's largest Latino and immigrant organization, have launched an exciting partnership to educate our communities about the importance of immigrant education and marriage equality in an exciting year when these issues will be front and center in our state. We are seeking your help in recruiting volunteers!

"CASA is recruiting Latino and Spanish-speaking LGBT families to speak out in the Latino community about their lives and the importance of family unity in the press, at festivals, and more. Equality Maryland is recruiting LGBT DREAMers to help educate Maryland's LGBT communities about the importance of immigrant education. We need help to recommend committed, excited volunteers to join the cause! People interested in helping us with this project can register on-line at <http://www.equalitymaryland.org/dream>. Or, for further details about the commitment email Rodrigo Guevara at rguevara@casamd.org."

WHAT AND 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.

July 15-20 or 22-27—Writing workshop. For students in grades 8 through 12. Information: <http://www.hurstonwright.org/ProgramsAwards/creativeWritingIntensive.html>. Note: there is a tuition charge of \$130 but scholarships are available.

July 15-27—Young Scholars Discovery at University of Maryland. For 8th and 9th grade students. There may be a few openings at this late date, but the fees are high. For information, go to Ysdiscovery.umd.edu.

July 18—Communities of Color Speak Out Against Sexual Violence, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Busboys and Poets, Hyattsville (5331 Baltimore Ave.)

July 18, 25, et cetera—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon, 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!!

July 21: Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

August 7: National Night Out. In Langley Park, the Community Center is planning an indoor afternoon [not quite "night"!] event, 3:30-5 p.m., with a focus on children—including a film and ice cream. Some good bilingual police officers are likely to join the fun.

September 6-9: County Fair! At the Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena. Details TBA. For information: info@countyfair.org

September 16: Hispanic Festival. From noon to 6 p.m. at Lane Manor Park. Lots of music, food, children's entertainment, more.

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! We work to protect and to improve the Langley Park area.

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

November 10: 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!

May 5—Langley Park Day 2013, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health. The whole world is invited!!!



NOT ALL REPUBLICANS ARE ZENOPHOBIC!

Condoleezza Rice had this to say in a recent speech in Atlanta: "It doesn't matter where you came from, it matters where you're going. That belief has led people to come here for generations from across the world, just to be a part of that. Frankly, it hasn't mattered whether it was Sergei Brin, whose parents brought him here at 7 years old from Russia and he founds Google, or the guy who came to make five dollars and fifty cents. They are the same ambitious, risk-taking people and America has been able to gather them."

She also spoke against the growing inequality around the world; maybe she cares about our "99%!"