

BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park

2 November 2011

**Chequeo
de Salud
2011**

★★★★★★★★★
On
**Sunday
November
6**

**Health
Check
2011**

Noon to 3 p.m.

**At the
Langley Park Community Center**

1500 Merrimac Drive
Langley Park, Maryland 20783



This annual event offers a
wide range of health
screenings,
information, and advice
**BRING FAMILY AND
FRIENDS!**

And it's all free!

Todo es gratis!!



SECURE COMMUNITIES BY THE NUMBERS

Our heading is the title of a report by the Warren Institute at the University of California. Written by lawyers and others, it is one of the best examinations of the so-called Secure Communities (really "Insecure Communities") program.

"The United States will deport a record number of individuals this year, due in large part to rapidly expanding federal immigration programs that rely on local law enforcement. The numbers are sobering: annual deportations have increased over 400% since 1996 and more than a million people have been removed from this country since the beginning of the Obama administration. Almost 300,000 individuals are currently in deportation proceedings but have not yet been removed. The newest and most controversial immigration enforcement program partnering with local law enforcement is Secure Communities." The report's key findings:

- ◆ Approximately 3,600 United States citizens have been arrested by ICE through the Secure Communities program;
- ◆ More than one-third (39%) of individuals arrested through Secure Communities report that they have a U.S. citizen spouse or child, meaning that approximately 88,000 families with U.S. citizen members have been impacted by Secure Communities;
- ◆ Latinos comprise 93% of individuals arrested through Secure Communities though they only comprise 77% of the undocumented population in the United States;
- ◆ Only 52% of individuals arrested through Secure Commu-

"Secure" continued on Page 5

**SEND 'EM BACK.
THEY ARE NO-GOOD
PEOPLE; HECK, THEY
ARE HARDLY PEOPLE
AT ALL. THEY CAN'T
EVEN SPEAK ENG-
LISH, AND SOME OF
THEM CAN'T EVEN
READ. DUMB! WE
DON'T NEED THESE
KINDS OF PEOPLE
IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMER-
ICA. WHAT? THEY
HAVE FAMILY HERE?
WHO GIVES A DARN!**



HAPPENINGS

COUNTY POLITICAL ANGST

Here's an email sent by a resident of Prince George's County. It seems to indicate a lot of unhappiness—and hopefulness. "Where is the Black leadership? We are ripe to strike! This is the time to take back our county. Where are our Kings and Queens? Willing to take a stand and lead us out of captivity? I ask our leadership to not allow our leaders ... not to be left to the slaughters, because they dare to unbend at the hip and take a stand to release their shackles. It has never been a better time for change. Seize the moment like a gladiator in their desire to survive! Fight! Our young and up coming leaders are watching, they potentially will follow your lead. Stand or take a fall? Wouldn't it be a beautiful picture to see our minority leaders in Prince George's County standing together taking a stand against decades of tyranny? It would be Memorable!" So the repeated marginalization of the immigration population in and around Langley Park is not unique. And we can all hope for resident-oriented change—including not displacing people who live in affordable apartments.

And another email: "The Maryland Legislative Black Caucus is failing to live up to its name of being of Black Caucus of Legislators. If the Black and the White Democratic Power structure tells you the creation of only two Black congressional voting age districts is sufficient and you can't have three African America voting age districts, then you should at least ... demand a rational for this decision. ... Why does the Black woman have to be the only one standing up to the White man?" Is the issue Democratic districts or African-American districts? What about: what is best for Maryland at the national level? It sure is naïve to think that we have entered a post-racial era. Is it possible that Donna Edwards will be a more effective representative than any white male who might become a candidate? Is it possible that Steny Hoyer will be a more effective representative than any non-Euro candidate? Just hypothetically, of course.

IMMIGRANT LIVES

No papers? Why go to school? The majority of children of illegal immigrants from Mexico in the Los Angeles area don't graduate from high school, averaging only about ten years of schooling, according to a just-released UC Irvine study. The study's authors said their findings highlighted the need to help such families gain legal status and a more secure future, arguing that deporting all of them was unrealistic. The report: "By not providing pathways to legalization, the United States not only risks creating an underclass, but also fails to develop a potentially valuable human resource." One quoted student: "They say, 'My parents weren't born here, so why try hard when I can't go to college?'" But if their parents could become legal, "they would think they had an opportunity so [they] would try hard to make their parents proud." The report: "We need the work these people do but haven't figured out a way to make them regular members of society. So we're reproducing a very handicapped and disadvantaged generation."

The dropout rate among Latinos in the Langley Park area is close to 50%. The Irvine study helps us to understand why.

Another Dream victim: Despite the fact that Perna is a DREAM-eligible student, with four generations of family ties to the United States, no criminal record, excellent academic credentials and a long history of working for marginalized communities, she is threatened with deportation to where she has no family or friends. She was denied a green-card after she aged out of a petition filed for her mom by her U.S. citizen grandmother. The interviewing USCIS officer placed her in removal proceedings. If she had lived in Texas, Mississippi or

Louisiana, she would have won her green card. Unfortunately, her case is in California right now, where the law is not as favorable to her particular situation.

Immigrant women abused in detention: ICE-imprisoned immigrant women are being abused. And DOJ is trying to make the situation worse! Here's an ACLU report:

"Imagine the horror of fleeing persecution in your home country only to find yourself a victim of sexual assault while in the custody of the U.S. government. That's what's at the core of a class action lawsuit the ACLU of Texas filed today on behalf of three named plaintiffs and an unknown number of other women who were victims of sexual abuse at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas.

"Our lawsuit highlights the persistent and prevalent problem of sexual abuse of women in the custody of our own government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE). And now we are asking you to take action to bring it to an end.

"Unbelievably, the Department of Homeland Security and ICE have consistently downplayed the problem of sexual assault of immigration detainees. In fact, documents obtained through an ACLU Freedom of Information Act request tell the disturbing truth: nearly 200 abuse allegations have been sent to the government from detainees at detention facilities across the country. But now, the Department of Justice has proposed regulations that would exclude immigration detainees from protection under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. This is an unthinkable attempt to deprive a specific and vulnerable group of people from protection against rape and sexual assault. And it comes despite Congress's clear intent to protect all people in government custody from such abuse."

TAXES TO HELP THE STATE

More gas tax! Taxing gasoline to fund public transportation projects is now the goal of state officials. So Maryland's 23.5¢ cent tax on a gallon will increase 15¢ cents over three years in 5¢ increments. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be raised. Good idea: money flowing from those polluting automobiles to rail or bus. Ike Leggett and Rushern Baker are among those behind the tax. Baker: "Looking at the options I've seen out there, an increase in the gasoline tax is probably the best one that's available to us right now."

Any problems with the gas tax? Only that it's unfair to the poor because they have to pay the same additional tax as the middle class and the rich. Those with small, marginal businesses or working class jobs that require a lot of travel will be harmed. It is fairer to increase the income tax on the rich. But taxing the rich is hard because the rich have political power thanks to informal alliances with office-holders. Those small businesspeople and workers don't. Well, that's politics—just as it's practiced at the federal level.

"Happenings" continued on Page 4

TRAGIC, SAD, AND MAYBE A BIT FUNNY

Shortly after midnight on Tuesday, a passenger on a Metro bus at the Silver Spring Metro Station told the bus driver a man was in the back of the bus touching himself inappropriately (!!). The bus driver asked the suspect to stop, but witnesses say he did not. According to police, the driver asked a female (!!) on the bus to check on the lewd man as they were headed to Wheaton; she reported he had continued the activity. At the Wheaton station, the bus driver and the man got into an argument that turned violent. The driver was stabbed. (Reported on WTOP)

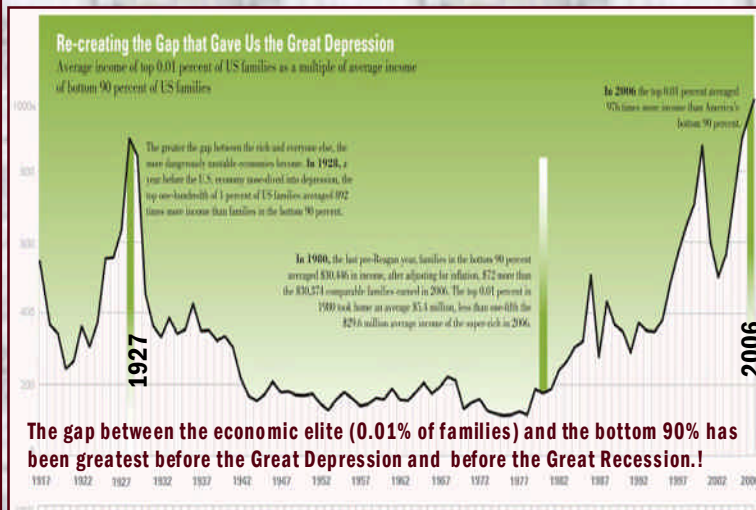


Occupy Wall Street: What's Going On?

One Thousand Cities Filled with...
Left-Wing Revolutionaries? Democratic Advocates of Greater Equality? What?

The graphic below indicates that the gap between the economic elite and the working class, in the USA and many other countries, has steadily grown for the past thirty years. Unemployment and underemployment have grown, especially over the past four years. But will the current “occupy” demonstrations make a difference? Maybe, although the massive demonstrations for immigration reform led at best to slight changes.

How might the demonstrations impact the families who live in and around Langley Park? Perhaps over time, the minimum wage, which has dramatically not kept up with inflation, might be adjusted upward. But a significant drop in unemployment will have to take place for the men and women of the Langley Park area to regain their hold on the American dream. Can there be change given the powerful forces of automation, outsourcing, and globalization? Maybe. But maybe not. It's a new world!



THIS IS NOT OUR AMERICA!

NASHVILLE

On the night of 20 October 2010, Angel Escobar and Jorge Sarmiento were in bed in their small, two-bedroom apartment in the Clairmont complex in Nashville. The doors and windows were all shut and locked. Suddenly there was a loud banging at the door and voices shouting “Police!” and “Policia!” When no one answered, the agents tried to force the door open. Scared, Jesus hid in a closet. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents began hitting objects against the bedroom windows, trying to break in. Without a search warrant and without consent, the ICE agents eventually knocked in the front door and shattered a window, shouting racial slurs and storming into the bedrooms, holding guns to their heads. When asked if they had a warrant, one agent reportedly said, “We don’t need a warrant, we’re ICE,” and, gesturing to his genitals, “the warrant is coming out of my balls.”

The raids in Nashville aren’t isolated incidents. Similar claims have been filed in recent years following raids on immigrant homes in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Georgia and Northern California. In 2008, a lawsuit brought by lawyers

at the Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall Law School in Newark found ICE agents systematically entered homes and made arrests without proper warrants during raids to round up “immigration fugitives” in New Jersey. In both the Nashville and Newark cases, U.S. citizens were detained. In the Newark case, one plaintiff in the lawsuit, Maria Argueta—who’s been a legal immigrant since 2001—was detained and held for 36 hours, according to the *New York Times*. ICE agents entered her home by telling her they were police officers searching for a “wanted criminal.” (Reported by Jorge Rivas, *Colorlines*, 29 October 2011)*

COLLEGE PARK

A few years ago, a student in a class at the University of Maryland told his instructor that his mother worked for Immigration. He said she would be willing to give a lecture on immigration enforcement to the class. The instructor agreed, and the Immigration employee arrived.

The guest lecturer held the class either spellbound or in disbelief. She talked about breaking into homes to see who was sleeping with whom in the bedroom to make sure that newly married couples were not joined just to help a foreign-born person remain in the United States. There was no indication that the woman thought the actions were either illegal or immoral. The instructor had something to say later on!

*The Nashville report reminds one of the dog murders in Berwyn Heights

"Happenings" continued from Page 2

More tax of the rich?: But note this Maryland Senate bill proposed by Senators Pinsky and Jones-Rodwell that could deny corporations' deductions for the excessive compensation of officers and directors. The bill impacts "corporate income tax for the amount of salary, wages, or other compensation for personal services paid or incurred by a corporation to an officer or director of the corporation in excess of 25 times the annual salary, wages, or other compensation for personal services of the lowest paid full-time employee; and applying the Act to tax years beginning after December 31, 2011." What: \$20,000 times 25 = \$500,000! Some corporations may have to pay a bit more into the state treasury! And surely the corporations' officers will be happy to contribute a bit more to the state that enabled the officers to be rich.

HEALTH

A study by the "Save Lives: Free the Condoms" organization reports that condoms are kept in locked cases in many minority PG County neighborhoods. Fully 30% of CVS stores had them locked up. Yet these neighborhoods are most likely to have residents who are HIV positive. Does this mean that CVS is promoting HIV—or at the least making health decisions that should be left to the individual and/or her/his doctor or religious advisor?

SAFETY AND THE POLICE

Riot control: The Prince George's Police Department has announced that it is changing its response to riots protocol. The catalyst is the alleged beating of U of Maryland students in a post-game "celebration." Now, officers will have easy-to-read numbers on their helmets, a supervising officer will have fewer officers to supervise, pepper foggers will replace pepper ball launchers, and there will be more videotaping. One major question arises: what is a "riot"? That is, how does it differ from an enthusiastic celebration or demonstration? Maybe people in the Langley Park area will some day demonstrate against the so-called 1% super-rich economy-controlling elites. Could that lead people to declare that the demonstration is a riot and take vigorous anti-riot actions? Well, not with officers Magaw, Davis, Velez, and other cop-humanists making the decisions. Thank goodness!

More gangs: An AP item (22 October 2011) has some unsettling news: "The federal government says the gang problem in the United States is growing and that there are an estimated 1.4 million members in some 33,000 gangs. A national gang threat assessment for 2011 concludes that gangs—driven by the profit motive—are collaborating with transnational drug trafficking organizations to make more money and are expanding the range of their illicit activities, which include mortgage fraud and counterfeiting as well as trafficking in guns and drugs. The report (based on federal, state and local law enforcement data) says gang membership is increasing most significantly in the Northeast and Southeast regions of the country and that many communities are experiencing an increase in ethnic-based gangs such as African, Asian and Caribbean gangs."

Gangs doing more: Texas law enforcement officials report that several Mexican drug cartels are luring youngsters as young as eleven to work in their smuggling operations. The cartel-connected gangs have a chilling name for the young Texans lured into their operations: "the expendables." Six Mexican drug gangs, including the Zetas, have command and control centers in Texas actively recruiting children for their operations. The recruiting pitch: "easy money" for doing simple tasks, e.g., paying the youths \$50 to move a vehicle from one position to another position to allow cartel members to keep it under surveillance to find out if law enforcement has it under surveillance. (Reuters, 17 October 2011)

So we can anticipate an increase in gang violence and other crime in our area, and a very busy police department. If suburban Maryland will stop cooperating with Secure Communities, more residents will report gang activity and the police almost certainly will be more effective in keeping the crimes down.

SCHOOLS

Overcrowding: A list of the most overcrowded (per cent over capacity) schools has been compiled, and the Langley Park area makes the list multiple times. All of these schools have significant Latino/a enrollment. Poor planning? Intentional planning? Let's push to get another elementary school in the area or to build on to current ones so that the overcrowding is alleviated. The current situation is less than ideal for educating our children.

1. **Lewisdale Elementary** (nearby Lewisdale) 42.7%
514 Latinos of 632
2. **Hollywood Elementary** (nearby College Park) 42.3%
233 Latinos of 451
3. **Carole Highlands Elementary** (nearby Takoma Park) 36.6%
351 Latinos of 698
4. **Adelphi Elementary** (nearby Adelphi) 33.5%
322 Latinos of 510

Hite on Principals: PGCPs Superintendent William E. "Bill" Hite Jr. wrote an op-ed piece for the *Washington Post* (23 October 2011). Here are a few take-outs:

Training principals: "Over the next five years, Prince George's County Public Schools, along with five other school systems nationwide, will work to strengthen the 'principal pipeline' through a \$12.5 million grant... The Freddie Mac Foundation is [also] supporting our efforts with a \$250,000 grant. This money will help us to address the gaps that we know exist in our current system. ..."

The principal's job: "The days are longer and harder, filled with rising demands from parents, community members, business leaders and politicians, and an ever-increasing list of needs that must be met to educate the whole child. But I also know the job's immeasurable rewards. ..." Rewards? Let's hope!

Learning English: Are our English language learners learning English? From *Education Week* (25 October 2011), we learn: Acknowledging that they are not meeting the needs of hundreds of thousands of students learning to speak English, the nation's two largest school systems this month announced plans to improve instruction and services for English-language learners. Pressed by federal and state officials, the LA Unified School District (headed by former PG head John Deasy) and the NY City Department of Education will adopt broad changes to their programs and services for students learning English. Maybe this is a useful alert to the decision-makers in PGCPs that they should make sure that our ELL students need better language work; difficulty with English is one reason for the high dropout rate.

THE CROSSROADS MARKET: Wait until next year!



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nities are slated to have a hearing before an immigration judge;

♦Only 24% of individuals arrested through Secure Communities and who had immigration hearings had an attorney compared to 41% of all immigration court respondents who have counsel;

♦Only 2% of non-citizens arrested through Secure Communities are granted relief from deportation by an immigration judge as compared to 14% of all immigration court respondents who are granted relief;

♦A large majority (83%) of people arrested through Secure Communities is placed in ICE detention as compared with an overall DHS immigration detention rate of 62%, and ICE does not appear to be exercising discretion based on its own prioritization system when deciding whether or not to detain an individual.

Our analysis provides a fuller picture of the population being processed through Secure Communities and raises serious concerns about the level of screening and potential targeting of certain social groups. In particular, we find that US citizens are significantly impacted by the Secure Communities program, both through their own apprehension, and through the impact on UC citizen family members. We are also concerned that Latinos appear to be disproportionately impacted by Secure Communities. Further, we have noted that those who are identified through Secure Communities enter a complex legal process, often while in detention, and rarely with legal advice about their rights and options. The adjudication process for those processed through Secure Communities points to minimal procedural and due process protections. Thus, individuals who are not meant to be in the system, may have little opportunity to get out.

Some if not all of the statistics presented in the report lead to concern about due process, equal protection, and respect for the family unit. Two of five individuals arrested have a family in the USA, and so the family is fractured. A disproportionate percentage of those arrested are Latinos or Latinas. Only one of four arrestees had legal counsel. And more. Very worrisome. Some traditional American values have been violated. ■

The full report is available at: http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/Secure_Communities_by_the_Numbers.pdf

EXCUSE ME, SJR & MADAME

WHAT IS YOUR INTENT?

A member of the Prince George's County Council has introduced legislation that would authorize police officers to designate "prostitution-free zones" that would make it illegal for two or more people to gather in a public space or property with



the intent of engaging in prostitution. That's really funny! First, if a few people gather in a public space and are seen by a police officer, presumably the officer will go to those assembled and ask, "Do you intend to engage in prostitution?" And of

course an answer might be, "No, we're just talking, and we are assembled constitutionally. Officer, have you read the constitution—you know, where it refers to 'the right of the people peaceably to assemble?'" Or is it targeted at non-English speakers not familiar with the First Amendment?

LET DISTRICT 47 REPS KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!

Senator Victor R. Ramirez, (301) 858-3745

e-mail: victor.ramirez@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Doyle L. Niemann, 21401, (301) 858-3326

e-mail: doyle.niemann@house.state.md.us

Delegate Jolene Ivey, 21401, (301) 858-3478

e-mail: jolene.ivey@house.state.md.us

Delegate Michael G. Summers, 21401 (301) 858-3340

e-mail: michael.summers@house.state.md.us

"Happenings" continued from Page 4

What a wonderful addition this farmers' market is to the Langley-Takoma area. And here's an announcement from its leaders: "It's the season of transition, and change is in the air! To that end, we're thrilled to announce that Crossroads Farmers Market, Inc. is now officially (drum roll please....) the Crossroads Community Food Network. ... [There has been an] incredible evolution of this organization since it launched as a seasonal farmers market in 2007, we decided it was time for our new name to more accurately reflect our mission as a food justice organization and the breadth of our food access and community wellness programming. We're fully exploring this time of growth and expansion, looking for new ways to increase food security in our and other communities throughout Maryland. The actual market will, of course, still be known as the Crossroads Farmers Market, and will continue to serve the Takoma/Langley Crossroads community as it has for the past five years."

See you next Spring!

PURPLE LINE

A *Washington Post* editorial (18 October 2011) expresses concern about the funding of the proposed Purple Line. Federal funding is apparently in doubt—especially given competition from Baltimore and Northern Virginia, and Maryland's budget is not in good shape. In these shrunken-budget days (daze?), the *Post* writes: "It is not too early to seek funding partners in the private sector. Developers and major landowners along the Purple Line's route who stand to profit should help bear the project's cost." Will they? Perhaps someone should raise again the bus rapid transit alternative? Whatever happens, the currently projected 2020 completion date is far from certain.

Also from the *Post* (14 October 2011): "Many Washington area officials are eyeing a Red Line as the Purple Line's biggest immediate rival for scarce money. While saying publicly that Maryland needs both projects, many say privately that it will be difficult to persuade the Federal Transit Administration to approve—and just as hard to persuade Congress to fund—construction of two major Maryland transit projects simultaneously." And Maryland's transportation budgets have also been slashed.

Another barrier: the cost to rebuild the hiker-biker trail along the Purple Line has now increased to \$103,000,000.

SHY CHILD? Read on...

Is your 3.5 to 5 year old child shy? You may be eligible to participate in a University of Maryland study. The study includes a program to help parents and children learn strategies to help children feel more comfortable in social situations. For more information: Call 301-405-4606 or e-mail turtleproject@umd.edu.

"Happenings" continued on Page 6



NOT MANY JOBS

Unemployment is very high among the men and women of Langley Park. Perhaps in the apartment house areas, unemployment is in the neighborhood of 50%. What's happening? Of course, we are in a post-recession recession. Millions of people are suffering. But in the apartments of Langley Park, there are many men and women whose language and specialization skills are at best modest. Construction and domestic work have in past years been available, but those are sectors where there have been significant cutbacks.



A *Brookings* report (23 October 2011) states: "Inadequate demand and inadequate education, relative to available occupations, are both hampering economic recovery in U.S. metropolitan areas. With a still weakened private sector, strategic public investment and regional economic diversification can help address the first problem. Yet even when the economy recovers, longer-term 'structural unemployment' will linger in some metropolitan areas because of mismatches between the supply of, and demand for, educated workers. Solutions to that problem include boosting educational attainment, enhancing the skills of workers, and increasing demand for less educated workers by providing public goods needed by industries like manufacturing and the 'green' economy."

The Washington DC metro area poses an especially great challenge for the less-well-educated because the jobs available tend to require comparatively high level of education.

PRO BONO STRETCHED

As the economy has slowed, the demand for free civil legal services has risen, but funding for those services has not increased. "The situation is dire," said Sharon Goldsmith, executive director of the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland. "The programs are feeling stretched beyond their limits. The funding is not there." The center—the pro bono arm of the Maryland Bar Association serving as a clearinghouse for lawyers' volunteer services—is a statewide nonprofit entity. Nowadays, Goldsmith said, center volunteers are seeing "a lot" of formerly middle-income people who would not have qualified for free legal help before. This is "a whole new group of people" asking for help, she said, in addition to the low-income people already being served. (From *MarylandReporter.com*, 24 October 2011)

Prince George's County has a very important legal services organization to help those who cannot afford a lawyer—or the full cost of one. It's Community Legal Services of Prince George's County. Among the organization's specialized services is a foreclosure prevention program and a bankruptcy program—and of course many other types of jeopardy. The intake line is Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until noon at 301.864.8353.

THE TAKOMA-LANGLEY CROSSROADS C.D.A Is Searching for a New Executive Director

The new person will replace the retiring "irreplaceable" Erwin Mack. Information about the organization and the position is available at takomalangleycrossroads.com. Note: The CDA is a friend of Langley Park.



LIMIT THE TIME KIDS WATCH TELEVISION!

And keep a TV out of the children's room! Gads: Children eight years old and younger spend more than three hours a day with various forms of media, with more than half of that time watching television. It may be an easy way to "care for" a child, but it also may have negative consequences.

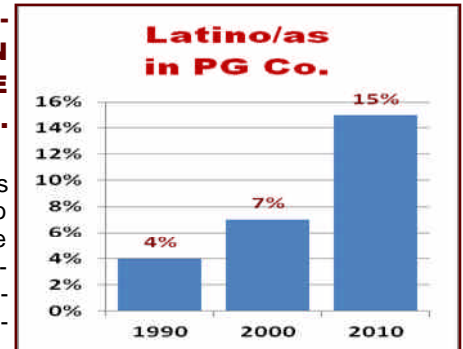


The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that kids under two years old not watch *any* television and that those older than two watch no more than 1 to 2 hours a day of quality programming. The first two years of life are considered a critical time for brain development. Television and other electronic media can get in the way of exploring, playing, and interacting with parents and others, which encourages learning and healthy physical and social development. As kids get older, too much screen time can interfere with activities such as being physically active, reading, doing homework, playing with friends, and spending time with family.

Of course, television in moderation can be a good thing: Preschoolers can get help learning the alphabet on public television; grade school children can learn about wildlife on nature shows. Television can be an educator and entertainer. But despite its advantages, too much television can be detrimental. For example, young children who consistently spend more than four hours per day watching television are more likely to be overweight and their cognitive development may be slowed.

LATINO POPULATION IN PRINCE GEORGE'S CO. SOARING

Just two decades ago, the Latino population in the county was miniscule. No longer! Almost one of six residents is Latino!



HEALTHY FAMILIES PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

We've received this information from the Prince George's Resource Center about Thanksgiving: Families throughout Prince George's County are hurting in these challenging times. Please help bring hope by providing a Thanksgiving basket for a family in need. All contributions go directly to families enrolled in Healthy Families Prince George's and the Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center. There are three ways to contribute: Create a basket of non-perishable food. Suggested items include turkey, carrots, green beans, other fresh vegetables, potatoes, rice, corn, yams, pies; Donate a gift card for a local grocery store valued at \$40 or more; and/or Make a tax-deductible donation by check or online at www.childresource.org and we will create a goft basled pm upir behalf. Please deliver your donation no later than November 21st to Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center, 8908 Riggs Road, Adelphi. For more information, contact Liliana at 301.431.6210 or ljanssen-checa@pgcrc.org.

IMMIGRATION

Reform urgent: From the *New York Times* (27 October 2011): "There's one group that badly needs and deserves visas that no one seems to want to go to bat for. They are the 11 million undocumented immigrants who are already living here and helping make things work. If they had a deal — pay fines,

REAPPORTIONMENT Race in Maryland

Langley Park is in a new Congressional District! From #8 to #4

Perhaps Glenn Ivey and Donna F Edwards are among the best political representatives in suburban Maryland. Having them represent us is clearly a positive. But alas, Ivey is now challenging Congresswoman Edwards in the Congressional 4th District.* What a shame there will be only one winner. And that winner will be the representative of Langley Park in the new reapportioned Maryland.



Glenn Ivey is the husband of Jolene Ivey, who is one of three State Delegates representing State District 47.

As for Chris Van Hollen, he is a good representative; may he continue so in his redrawn 8th District.

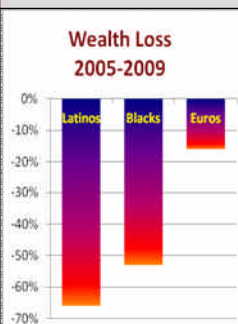
Reapportionment leads to bitterness Langley Park is now in Congressional District 4

It's Bad: The *Baltimore Sun* (25 October 2011): "Our governor recently said on the radio that Maryland's redistricting process was 'fair and open.' In a narrow sense, perhaps he is correct. But in a larger, sense, the governor's statement is simply not true. It's a lie intended to cover over what any reasonably well-informed citizen already knows: The redistricting process, and the ... redistricting map, are pure power politics that have nothing to do with openness and transparency and everything to do with promoting and prolonging Democratic control." Congresswoman Edwards currently represents District 4. Its new domain includes a part of Anne Arundel Co. but none of Montgomery Co.



*In a few days, Congresswoman Edwards will hold her Third Annual College and Career Fair, "Planning for Future Success: Helping High School and Middle School Students Plan for Future Educational and Career Opportunities." See the BLP calendar on Page 8, below.

PEW: Latinos Hit Hard



Median household wealth among Latino/as fell from \$18,359 in 2005 to \$6,235 in 2009—a 66% decline. This was larger than the decrease for black households (53%) and white households (16%), according to an analysis of newly-available Census data by the Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends project. Plummeting house values were the principal cause of the erosion in wealth among all groups, but Latino/as were hit hardest by the housing market downturn. In 2009, the typical White household had 18 times more wealth than the typical Latino/a household, by far the largest gap since the government first reported such data in 1984.

HOW ABOUT CONSTRUCTING SOME PUBLIC SPACES IN LANGLEY PARK?

Once upon a time, a several dozen food vendors worked in Langley Park, and one of the benefits was crowds of people gathering, socializing. Alas, a thoughtless decision was made by county officials to ban these culturally-relevant micro-businesspeople and disperse the customers. And of course now the county has a plan to clear out the affordable apartments in Langley Park. But how about taking a positive step, county officials? Let's have some gathering places. Here are two ideas.



#1: Many Latin neighborhoods have central places and a bandstand. Such a facility could be located at the north end of Langley Park Plaza. (There is already a plan developed by the University of Maryland.)



#2: Fountains with sitting spaces are always places to relax after a hard day of work or school. How about placing one in front of the Community Center?

"Happenings" continued from Page 6

learn English, get to the back of the immigration line and, meanwhile, get back to work—the economic benefits would be enormous. We ... would like to hear a lot more from President Obama, and others, about why real immigration reform is so important for America."

Caught speeding? Out you go! The number of illegal immigrants deported for committing traffic violations was higher the last fiscal year than any similar time in the past eleven years. ICE reports that about 44,000 people were deported from the USA after being convicted of traffic offenses during the first 10 1/2 months of FY2011.



Have to wait 70 years for a visa? Change the law!! While the majority of employer-sponsored immigrants tend to be from India and China, the wait times are longest for such foreign nationals because of the per country limit. Given the potential working lifetime delay in obtaining a green card, such skilled foreign nationals would be compelled to leave the United States in search of more stable and promising career opportunities. America would lose much talent as U.S.-based businesses would need to hire or place such skilled individuals abroad, rather than invest in a green card process likely to last decades. The issue of wait times for employment-based immigrant visas is vital because when employers recruit at U.S. universities they generally find one-half to two-thirds of the graduates in science, math and engineering fields are foreign nationals. Failure to retain these talented individuals in



the United States means they will go to work for international companies in other countries or U.S. businesses will need to place them abroad, pushing more work outside the United States and increasing tough global competition for the USA. Our policy is hurting us; Congress, fix this quickly! ■

PLAN AHEAD!! CIRCLE THE DATES!

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE 2011-2012 PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SERIES

Physics Is Phun

Welcome to the 30th year of PHYSICS IS PHUN, hosted by Dr. Matthew Bobrowsky and the staff of the Physics Lecture-Demonstration Facility, assisted by numerous invaluable volunteers. These free public programs, which present physics at the high school level through the use of demonstrations, aim to educate, inform, and entertain. Interactive experiments will be available with volunteer supervision 30 minutes before each program. Each program is presented three times, on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.



2012 January 5, 6, 7: The Atom

2012 March 8, 9, 10: Color

2012 May 3, 4, 5: Great Physics Demonstrations

Doors open 7:00 PM for hands-on activities,
Program 7:30-8:30 PM

Physics Department Lecture Halls, Physics Building
University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

For directions, go to <http://bit.ly/phun>.
For further information, call 301-405-6045, visit
<http://bit.ly/phun-outreach>, or send
an e-mail to: msb@umd.edu. To vol-
unteer, call 301-405-5982.



BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

This neighborhood planning newsletter is edited and published by Action Langley Park, with a supportive link to the Langley Park Project of the University of Maryland as an element of the university's community outreach. The Editor is Bill Hanna, who is a university professor and also Executive Secretary of Action Langley Park.

BLP appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com. Back issues of BLP will soon be available on the web.

BLP is read in the United States, Canada, and Mexico! Maybe elsewhere too! If you have friends or associates elsewhere in Maryland or the USA or elsewhere who are interested in immigration issues, please pass BLP along or let us add the person to one of our email lists.

For information about Action Langley Park, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, email actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

WHAT AND WHEN

Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that come to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

November 5—Career Fair at Silver Spring Civic Center organized by Congresswoman Donna Edwards, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information: 301.562.7960.

November 6—Health Check 2011 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. This annual event provides free screenings for many potentially harmful health conditions; high blood pressure, rotting teeth, HIV, diabetes, and more. Yes, it's free! Pass the word! The event can handle many people!



November 16—The Prince George's Fire Chief will visit the Langley Park Community Center. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Cancelled**

November 16—A town hall meeting hosted by Senator Victor Ramirez with County Executive Rushern Baker as one of the guests. Many agencies will be present, e.g., Dept. of Environmental Resources and Dept. of Housing and Community Development. From 7 to 9 p.m. at Rollingcrest Recreational Center, 6120 Sargent road, Hyattsville. Information: 301.858.3745.

November 19—Pottery show and sale at Langley Park Community Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Good art, good bargains!

November 19—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at the 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; it takes place every third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

December 8—Action Langley Park Meeting takes place at the Langley Park Community Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome! Let us know how the area can be improved, and let us try to help with the improvement. But ALP has to know the needs! So please participate!

2012

April 28—Maryland Day at the University of Maryland. Lots to see and do!

April 28-29—Science and Engineering Festival: "Our mission is to re-invigorate the interest of our nation's youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational and entertaining science gatherings in the United States." It's free! For more, including President Obama's comments about a prior version of the event, go to <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>

May 6—Langley Park Day 2012 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center.



There will be music and dance performances; a major health fair checking vision, HIV status, blood pressure, and more; food and craft vendors; children's art and games; and more.

