

Barrio de Langley Park

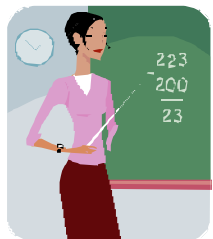
A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
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International Teachers in Prince George's County

Get Shafted

Once upon a time, teachers from the Philippines and elsewhere were brought to Prince George's County to help fill a gap in educator resources. But now, thanks to a PGCPs shafting, fully 161 teachers brought to the county will have their visas expire within two months, and many more teachers will face the same fate over the next year or so. Why? The *Washington Post* (7 July 2011) writes: There was a "federal finding in April that the district had willfully violated the law in its overseas hiring practices. The district will be forbidden from requesting new visas or extensions of current visas for teachers for two years." And the county will have to pay \$4.2 million in back wages.

The county is shafted: It loses many teachers and many dollars. And the teachers are shafted because many of them moved to the USA with their families in the expectation that they would have a long-term new home. Should we be embarrassed: the Philippine Embassy is trying to help the teachers.



The *Washington Post* article includes a focus on one of the teachers from the Philippines: "We did not come here and steal jobs," said Maria Ariston, a teacher at Apple Grove Elementary in Fort Washington.

"They came to Manila to recruit us." Ariston was among the first to be hired in 2005 from the Philippines. She was attracted to the job, she said, in large part because she was told that the H-1B work visa could lead to a green card. So she and her husband moved to Maryland and started a family here. Since she arrived, she has earned a master's degree in education and certification in special education and teaching English as a second language, two hard-to-staff areas. But when her visa expires next year, the school system can do nothing to help her stay and work. The school district's mistakes in recruiting have "cost us so much," she said. "Now where do we go?" she said. "Where do we go?"

One question arises: Why didn't PGCPs pay a high enough salary to attract people in the USA? There are many teacher training institutions in Maryland and elsewhere turning out thousands of newly minted teachers. Why didn't more of them head for PGCPs? And what about professionals not trained in teaching—might some lawyers and businesspeople be attracted into the teaching profession with a sufficient salary? Well, the budget tells us that those opportunities will not exist for at least a few years. But if PGCPs teachers and principals are not paid sufficiently, there will be an insufficient number of newcomers. Then what? Lots of playtime in the schools?

A reader's comment to the *Post* article: "Promises were made by recruiters when they went to the Philippines to hire teachers, promises which they could not or would not keep. Three years of work in America in exchange for a green card and a chance for a better life...sounds like a great deal. But

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Civil Rights/Liberties In Langley Park

The American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP, and CASA de Maryland have great records of fighting for equal protection and justice. Recently, they have turned their attention to Prince George's County's actions within the Secure Communities federal program.

From CASA (casamd.wordpress.com): "Since the surge has been initiated in Langley Park, we've seen multiple examples of pat-down searches and vehicle stops of innocent pedestrians and motorists; unfortunately these incidents are just the tip of the iceberg," said Enid Gonzalez, Legal Director for CASA de Maryland. "We understand the need for policing in our neighborhoods and we view this project as a way of assisting the department in actually focusing their efforts on real crime rather than harassing residents," said Ms. Gonzalez. (casamd.wordpress.com)

The ACLU-MD has issued a communiqué, which in part we reproduce below.

"The ACLU of Maryland was pleased to join this week with Casa de Maryland and the Prince George's County Branch of the NAACP to promote education about and realize the promise of the Bill of Rights. The 'Civil Rights Summer' program is an important step towards both empowering individuals to know their rights and working with police to advance safety without violating rights.

"The campaign is being launched to address concerns about reports of unlawful conduct by the police—the officials sworn to protect us. The program is particularly important in light of the County's recent announcement that summer policing would be focused in five neighborhoods—Langley Park, Riverdale, Suitland, Hillcrest Heights and Glassmanor. Activists are concerned that these majority-minority neighborhoods, while certainly in need of increased crime-fighting resources, should not be victimized by unlawful searches and stops, harassment and unlawful arrests.

"Need for the Civil Rights Summer program is especially urgent in Prince George's County given its participation in the discredited immigration program 'Secure Communities'—a federal deportation program which requires that any time individuals are arrested and booked into a local jail for any reason, their fingerprints be electronically run through ICE's immigration database, allowing ICE to identify noncitizens and potentially initiate removal proceedings against them.

"Prince George's County has the second worst rate in the country for deportation of people with minor or no criminal records. Some of the infamous Prince George's arrests leading to deportation proceedings have included mothers arrested for selling telephone cards and victims arrested after complaining about domestic violence."



The "Civil Rights Summer" program trains people to go into the neighborhoods to inform residents of their rights.

"Rights/Liberties" continued on Page 5

Housing & Planning In Langley Park

1. SLUM LORDS

There are many complaints about the management of Victoria Station and Bedford Station in Langley Park and Newbury Square in Lewisdale. Leaks, infestations, and more. This has led to CASA de Maryland activism and gotten onto CTV News—and youtube. Check the video out at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ukiCLOhisQ>. The problems are not new; maybe the county will at last pay attention.

Clearly, better code enforcement is needed. And there is plenty of evidence that enforcement of building codes for maintenance in Langley Park are not adhered to or enforced. Part of the problem is



the limited staff available. The issue relates to a recent nominee for a key county position. From the *Hyattsville Gazette* (8 July 2011):

“The acting director for the Prince George’s County Department of Environmental Resources came under heavy fire from the council, [whose members] expressed doubt that he will resolve longstanding code enforcement and permit problems. ‘I don’t envy your job,’ Councilman Will Campos told Samuel Wynkoop during a tense confirmation hearing Tuesday. ‘But what you’re hearing is the frustration from our residents.’”

2. THERE’S MORE THAN ONE PLAN

The “sector plan” is still in place—the one that enables developers to bulldoze many affordable apartments without any provision for sustaining community affordability. An alternative plan exists that provides the area with as many new apartments, condos, and business spaces as the sector plan—without displacement, but it has not yet invoked interest among decisionmakers. The current plan has even led some former advocates of the Purple Line light-rail proposal to oppose that transit. A useful article about some current thinking regarding the “sector plan” is in Margie Hyslop’s item in the *Gazette* (8 July 2011); it’s online at <http://www.gazette.net/article/20110708/NEWS/707089663/1010/crossroads-community-in-cross-hairs-for-developers-immigrant&template=gazette>.

3. THE PURPLE LINE

The “sector plan” was catalyzed by the plan to build a light-rail line from Bethesda through Langley Park and College Park to New Carrollton. The route was decided just over a decade ago during Parris Glendening’s administration. In those days, the discussion focused on transit and mobility, not on major redevelopment along the route or the hardships to locals during the construction phase.

An article in the *Washington Post* (10 July 2011) provides some of the positives and negatives of the (maybe) light rail line to be:

“Residents and light rail train passengers here have a message for the Maryland suburbs: If a Purple Line is ever built, expect the trains to be popular, but first brace for years of construction that can be brutal for motorists and potentially crippling for businesses along the route.

“Washington area drivers also would have to learn to share streets with Purple Line trains—the nearly three-year-old Phoenix-area system averaged one collision a week during its first year—and a new ‘ding ding’ sound would fill the air. Light rail trains are quieter than Metrorail—the trains’ low hum is often drowned out by passing traffic—but the frequent bells of

trains approaching intersections and stations can be heard a block or two away.

“Maryland officials who hope a Purple Line would rejuvenate older communities along the 16-mile route, such as Langley Park and Riverdale, would see new development around stations, but that transformation takes time....”

It’s clear that the Purple Line will be accompanied by gentrification of residents and small businesses. The Phoenix case indicates that even before gentrification, many small businesses will be forced to close because of the construction. Are there any safeguards that the counties might put in place?

4. WHAT’S PLANNED FOR THE QUADRANTS?

The central focus of the Montgomery County and Prince George’s County sector plans is the New Hampshire Ave. - University Blvd. crossroads with its four commercial quadrants. The plans call for major commercial redevelopment: more and higher buildings filled with retail, office space, and some more upscale residents. It’s pure transit-oriented development (TOD). But what retail? Whose offices? If the county planners care about the international character of the area currently, with many international or ethnic businesses and of course many immigrant residents, then the commercial sector should reflect this internationalism. Why not work to make the crossroads area the major international center in the Mid-Atlantic? Perhaps one useful source of ideas is the Mercado del Barrio in San Diego; the master plan for the project was developed by Safdie Rabines Architects. Open-minded planners: check it out.

Immigration & Immigrants

1. IMMIGRATION MUSEUM ON MALL?

A group of U.S. lawmakers, including Jim Moran (Virginia) have begun a push to create a “melting pot museum” on the National Mall. The Museum of the American People would focus on the role immigration and migration in the development of the U.S.A. A design for the museum is below.



“With 160 museums and monuments along the National Mall, there is no one institution telling the complete narrative of the many, vibrant ethnicities that make up the fabric of the American experience,” Rep. Moran said. “There should always be room for museums in our nation’s capital devoted to all manner of art, cultural and scientific accomplishments, but we must leave future generations room on the National Mall to honor their heroes and causes. The Museum of the American People would bring together all the stories of the ethnicities that make up the fabric of our society, precluding the need for more and more individual museums representing one particular ethnicity or culture.”

“The United States was uniquely created and built by peoples from every land,” said Sam Eskenazi, Director of the Coa-

lition for the National Museum of the American People. "I envision the museum becoming a national pilgrimage destination for all Americans, and for foreign visitors who would learn about natives from their countries who became Americans. It could become one of the world's most visited museums."

Are congressmen and senators representing Maryland on-board? And if not, why not?

2. IMMIGRATION: DEPORTATION

In President Obama's El Paso speech, he said: "I know that the increase in deportations has been a source of controversy. But I want to emphasize: we are not doing this haphazardly; we are focusing our limited resources on violent offenders and people convicted of crimes; not families, not folks who are just looking to scrape together an income."

As a TV investigator put it many years ago, "Just the facts, mam." ACLU's *Blog of Rights* (15 June 2011) reports: "Two and a half years into the president's tenure, the true story of the administration's immigration enforcement practices is in fact a disheartening one dominated by the deportations of families and community contributors who have never been in trouble with the law. In a time of fiscal austerity, when cuts are being made to vital services across the country, consider two dollar amounts: \$12,500 per deportation and \$7,500 per migrant apprehension.. In the proposed DHS budget, almost \$3 billion is allocated just to *non-border* detention and removal operations. At the border, relentless increases in resources have outstripped any conceivable needs. Combined with a 73% decline in apprehensions over the last decade, this has led to 'agents fighting boredom' and roaming to conduct interior enforcement on trains and buses that are nowhere near the border."

3. IMMIGRATION: SCHEDULE "A" VISAS

Two occupations—Registered Nurses and Physical Therapists—qualify for Schedule A Immigrant Visas. The Schedule A Immigrant Visa allows an applicant to avoid filing the burdensome Labor Certification. The applicant can immediately file an Employment-Based Green Card petition. Perhaps these occupations get special preference because of the ageing population as well as the many (too many!) injured military personnel.



Model

H1B: This visa provides professional immigrants with a way to get into the USA—with the help of a needy employer. But there's another occupation that the H1B facilitates: a fashion model! Does that mean we don't have enough fashion models in the USA? Hard to believe!

4. IMMIGRATION: KNOW HOW THEY THINK

"Obama's latest backdoor ICE amnesty will bring death to some innocent Americans; bank on that. By ordering ICE agents to virtually stop deporting illegal aliens, Obama is importing fraudulent voters with serious diseases. He has deliberately placed us all in danger and said, 'The American Middle Class can go to hell.'

"Over the years Democrat presidents have betrayed America to various degrees. A feckless John Kennedy double crossed CIA efforts to overthrow Castro; Carter gave away the Panama Canal and Clinton sold the Chinese secret missile technology. Now Barack Obama may have topped these dubious 'achievements' by stepping up his war on the Middle Class and threatening our very lives in his lust for power.

"Not content to tax us into numbing poverty and hopelessness, Obama is throwing our borders open to bring in fraudulent new Democrat voters without regard for the fact they are bringing deadly diseases with them. The consistent evidence is that, many of these illegal aliens are carriers of virulent dis-

eases. ... Leprosy currently known as Hansen's disease to hide its presence, it is steadily rising in lock step with the invasion of illegal aliens and has accelerated since 2002." (Source: <http://www.coachisright.com>, 5 July 2011)

Hopefully, such paranoid thinking is isolated and unique; but alas, blogger Kevin Collin has a following, and even in the current pre-presidential campaign, some such paranoia is heard.

5. IMMIGRATION—THE ASYLUM ROUTE

Yes, many people have entered the USA seeking asylum, and a good percentage of them have been granted asylum status—which can be converted into permanent residence and citizenship. There are many people around the world who would legitimately qualify, and some others where the legitimacy might be challenged. It has been a racket for unethical lawyers and others.

The *New York Times* (12 July 2011) writes: "A shadowy industry dedicated to asylum fraud thrives in New York, where many of the country's asylum claims are filed. Immigrants peddle personal accounts ripped from international headlines, con artists prey on the newly arrived and non-lawyers offer misguided advice."

Does that mean the USA should stop admitting asylum-seekers? Of course not; probably most seekers are legitimately in fear of death or torture or other horror. Probably, we should error on the side of openness because failing to admit a fearful asylum-seeker would be an unacceptable mistake.

6. IMMIGRATION—STATUS CHANGE

As many immigrants know, the move from the homeland to the USA often involves a sharp drop in economic and social status. The Russian doctor drives a taxi in New York City. A physical therapist in Ecuador becomes an assistant to a physical therapist in Bethesda. A computer programmer in Kenya becomes a painter's assistant in Langley Park. The *Washington Post* (11 July 2011) recently published an article on this situation. The heading: "Fame vs. Freedom." And the sub-heading: "Celebrities in their homelands, some immigrants struggle with new identity as John Does." The story begins with the case of a famous water polo coach in his homeland who works a cash register in a small restaurant in Virginia. What a waste! Perhaps Prince George's County or the State of Maryland could launch a program to help such people contribute more significantly here the way they contributed significantly there. The full story is at http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigrants-who-were-celebrities-in-homeland-face-abrupt-change-in-status/2011/06/29/gIQA00tr7H_story.html

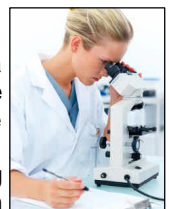
7. IMMIGRATION—ETHNIC/RACIAL CHANGE

The Census Bureau has identified an interesting identity change among some Latinos (Census=Hispanics). The shift is from Hispanic (Black or White) to Native American (or "Indian"). Fully 70% of people stating that they are "American Indians" in New York City are of Hispanic origin! Apparently, the change is related to two factors: dislike of the words "Hispanic" or "Latino" and an interest in identifying with those who were in what is now Latin America before the Spanish and others invaded.

8. IMMIGRATION—IN CANADA

1. Immigration: Canada's Needs: "Numerous studies have warned that Canada faces future labour shortages as more people leave the workforce than enter it -one of the critical consequences of an aging population.

"In fact, the crisis may no longer be looming but here at our doorstep. A report released in



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March by the Information and Communications Technology Council estimated that companies will be looking to fill 106,000 new positions in the information and communications sector in the next five years, but enrolment rates for Canadian software and computer engineering programs are failing to keep pace with demand.

"There are not enough graduates entering our sector. That is a problem," says Eric Gales, president of Microsoft's Canadian division. "There are also not enough immigrants coming in with the right skills."

"The recruitment problem plaguing high-tech is emblematic of the issue confronting the broader economy. The birthrate of 1.66 children per woman is far below the 2.1 level considered sufficient to sustain the population, which suggests an increase in postsecondary enrolment by native-born Canadians is unlikely. Labour force growth then will not be indigenous.

"Although immigration may not be the panacea for all of Canada's demographic woes, it will be key to continued economic growth." (*Vancouver Sun*, 5 July 2011)

The USA needs people with certain skills too, but we have not launched a major effort to get such people to come to and stay in our country. So we import short-term some nurses, teachers, engineers, physical therapists, computer scientists, agricultural workers, and others. And we kick out of the country many of the internationals who come to the USA to do graduate work in math, the sciences, and engineering. It's not a way to run a country if one wants to have a bright future.

2. Immigration—Lots of Challenges: Many immigrants in the USA complain about the lack of job opportunities, the cost of health care, and more. But the USA is not unique. For an expat commentary on the situation in Canada, go to <http://www.easyexpat.com/forums/top-reasons-not-immigrate-canada-ww-not-canada-t7788.html>. Fifteen complaints! (Thanks to our Canadian correspondent for this information.) Has any similar commentary be made for the USA?

Want to get a chill? Then see the video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pJuedzzLXE&feature=player_embedded

development around Metro stops. Let's hope he realizes that the proposed two Purple Line stops in Langley Park are not Metro stops! We don't want downtown Silver Spring to be built on the former affordable apartments of the neighborhood.

COUNTY COPS AND CRIME

Sex Offenders in Langley Park: According to crimereports.com, there are nine registered sex offenders living in Langley Park! Seems like a fairly high concentration. Most of them live near Riggs Road; one of them lives one block west of the elementary school. (We await police comment.)

DUI Effort on University Blvd: There was a DUI enforcement effort on July 8th in the 1400 block of University Blvd. Lots of police officers took part, and the effort led to one arrest. Is there almost no DUI behavior in the area, or did the warning word get out? Or...?

STILL DREAMING

Lots of us are still dreaming that the conservative Congress will come to realize that there is a great resource being wasted by not passing the DREAM Act. And former neighbor Michelle Rhee is now on-board supporting the Act: "As the former chancellor of Washington D.C. Public schools, I saw students study hard, do well in school and go on to graduate. But with diplomas in hand and caps in the air, some of these teens had their hopes dashed by a single form—the FAFSA. That's the document students fill out to secure college loans. It requires a social security number—something children brought here without the proper legal documentation don't have. These are kids who have done everything we've asked of them—stayed out of trouble, went to school, set their sights on college and careers, and excelled. However, they can't pursue their dreams, because of decisions made by others and a system that is broken."

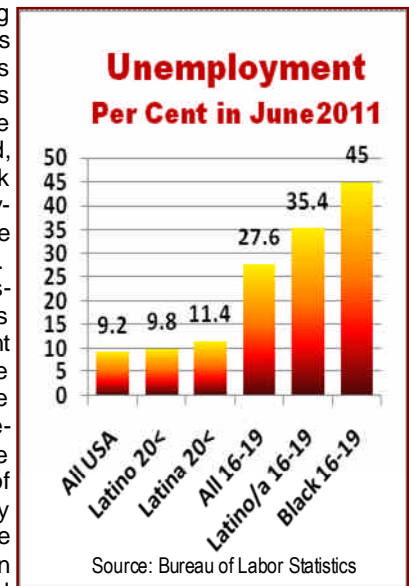
UNEMPLOYMENT DANGER

The national unemployment rate in June 2011 was 9.2%, a very high figure indicating almost one of ten persons in the labor market is without a job. And there is no optimism about the immediate future; indeed, some economists think that the 9-10% unemployment range might be the new normal. That's scary.

As the graphic displays, Latinos and Latinas have an unemployment rate a bit higher than the national average. But the graphic displays something much scarier: the unemployment rates of young people, especially Latino/as in the 16-19 age group at 35.4% (one in three young people!) and for African-Americans it is 45% (nearing half unemployed).

Who cares about some young people being unemployed? The answer is that most of us should be because instead of working, these young people may have nothing constructive to do, and if that is the case, they may well be considering something not at all constructive to fill their time and provide entertainment.

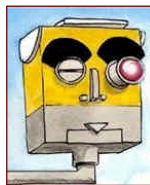
Of course, we should have lots of programs for these young people, but alas, that is not where counties and the country have chosen to spend their reduced funds. We should worry.



Et Alia

SPEED CAMERAS COMING

Prince George's County will soon be installing speed cameras around the county, especially near schools. Drivers going too fast will be issued a \$40 ticket. So if the presence of children doesn't calm the accelerator, perhaps the cameras will.



LITERACY OR ...

It is important not only to know the English language but to use it correctly. We should have good examples before us all the time—and that holds for the material in *Prince George's Suite*. But note this sentence from a recent issue: "The Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council celebrates their 30th anniversary." So some editor doesn't know about plural and singular agreement? Hey, we need good examples!

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chutzpah: Disgraced council member Leslie Johnson showed up on July 11th to vote on nominees. That is gall! That is chutzpah! A bra-stuffing criminal deciding personnel matters. Maybe someone should drag her off to jail to avoid continuing embarrassment of the county government.

Praise Baker: The *Washington Post* (11 July 2011) has warm praise for the new County Executive. "Mr. Baker has had some real achievements. ... His efforts are substantive, and so far they are paying off." One Baker focus is transit oriented

Mothers arrested? Here's a report published in the *Washington Post* (1 November 2010):

"Last Christmas Eve, Maria Bolanos made a decision she would later regret: During a fight with her partner, she called the Prince George's County police and sought their protection. The call for help had disastrous consequences for Bolanos, a 28-year-old undocumented immigrant from El Salvador. Within months, she found herself ensnared in an increasingly controversial immigration enforcement program designed to deport undocumented criminals. Bolanos now faces deportation and possible separation from her 21-month-old daughter, who was born here and is a U.S. citizen.

"Her case illustrates what immigrant-rights advocates and some local officials consider the shortcomings of Secure Communities, the centerpiece of the Obama administration's immigration enforcement efforts and a program that has helped generate a record number of deportations.

"In Bolanos's case, the officer who responded to the domestic dispute at her apartment in Hyattsville later charged her with illegally selling a \$10 phone card to a neighbor - an allegation she denies. The charge was eventually dropped, but by then Bolanos had been fingerprinted and found by Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be in the country illegally."

NBC's local affiliate has picked up the CASA-ACLU story. Take a look at http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Civil_Rights_Fight_Washington_DC-125045309.html. Also check out the Univision coverage (in Spanish) at <http://www.tvwfdc.com/noticia/2011/07/05/267392-voluntarios-monitoroan-vecindarios-abuso-policial.html>

PRINCE GEORGE'S: The county now has a confirmed Chief of Police, Mark Magaw. We hope he will have a program among officers to make sure that only violent criminals are brought to a police station and put on a track that could lead to deportation.

MARYLAND: New York is among the states that will not cooperate with Secure Communities until the focus is narrowed to dangerous criminals. Hey, Maryland: How about being next?



Do you think your civil rights are not being properly respected? If so, one place to call is CASA's 240 491-5776.

Atlanta, D.C., Where Else?

Where Do Principals or Teachers Cheat?

First, the news came from Atlanta that there was widespread cheating in its public school system. Apparently, Atlanta teachers and principals for years have systematically altered students' answer sheets, significantly raising individual scores and making it seem that formerly struggling schools were success stories. More recently, there has been news that the Washington D.C. system voided the standardized test scores of three classrooms because suspicious erasures were identified on the test sheets.

Some say that the career dependence of principals and teachers on students' test scores creates the pressures that lead to cheating. Maybe. But abandoning testing is no solution because we do need to know the progress of children—so that, hopefully, we can pinpoint needed interventions. And maybe testing can reveal the small set of teachers who are super as well as the small set who are terrible—so that we can reward the former and help the latter.

Let's hope that test cheating never comes to the school systems of suburban Maryland! But let's be vigilant!

these hard-working teachers have simply been used by the county to fill the gaps, and now are to be tossed aside like yesterday's garbage. America, please wake up!!! Bring justice to these teachers, and give them the green card which was promised to them, and for which they have worked so hard. And stop making promises that you cannot keep."

Another reader: "Sad sad sad PG county. Losing high quality, well educated, enthusiastic, ethical, young, energetic, motivated teachers like Mrs. Ariston under these circumstances is a shame. Especially for what they are getting paid. What a bargain. Only PG and DC could have screwed this up in that way. Now they have to pay fines and penalties and hire the local talent. I hear the johnsons are looking for work. Probably get them for a good price. Probably get them to teach the civics and ethics classes."

And yet another: "Why should these teachers be punished for the crimes of their employer? I say DOL should force the county to pay back fees, pay the fine *and* grant the teachers their green cards as promised. We have come too far in our civil rights in this country to expect any less."

A nice set of photos of one Filipino teacher, Charisse Cabrera, in our area at Carole Highlands ES, is at http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/fate-of-filipino-teachers-in-prince-georges-on-shaky-ground/2011/04/23/AFWtSb9F_gallery.html#photo=5

PGCPS is Not Alone: Baltimore's schools began hiring large numbers of Filipinos in 2005 on H-1B visas, when it did not have enough qualified applicants for teaching jobs in critical subjects such as math, science and special education. There are roughly 600 Filipino teachers in the district. Some of these teachers paid entry and other fees (against DoL regulations), and they will be reimbursed by the school system.

And in Los Angeles: "Filipino exchange teacher Ferdinand Nakila landed in Los Angeles expecting 'Pretty Woman' scenes of swank Beverly Hills boulevards and glittering celebrities. What he got was Inglewood [a suburb of L.A.], where he stayed for two weeks in temporary housing and encountered drunkards, beggars, trash-filled streets and nightly police sirens. It got worse. In training sessions about American classrooms he received in the Philippines, he was told his students might not be quite as polite and respectful as those in his homeland. Nothing, however, prepared him for the furious brawl that broke out in one of his Los Angeles classrooms, where two girls rolled around on the floor clawing at each other while the other students jumped on the desks and cheered." (*Los Angeles Times*, 18 March 2009)

There is more to the story: "But Nakila said his American sojourn has transformed him into a far better educator than when he arrived in August 2007. In the Philippines, he was imperious and demanding, throwing students out of his classroom for inadequate preparation with little thought of their plight. In Los Angeles, his daily encounters with students struggling to learn despite shattered homes, sexual abuse, physical violence or hunger have humbled him into a new vision of teaching. 'I realize we are servants and teaching is more about touching lives and helping students own their own learning,' said Nakila, 38, a special education teacher in English at Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles."

Comment: Teaching young people who have not been processed through the middle class system of respect and dedication is certainly more difficult than teaching those who know how to play the game. It's easier to teach at Burning Tree Elementary School in a middle-class neighborhood of Bethesda than teaching at Langley Park McCormick Elementary School where most of the children come from income-stressed homes in which the language is either not English or a form of English not usually welcomed in the classroom. But to make a difference in this world, Langley Park McCormick is where to be.

Opportunities!

Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program*

Registered apprenticeships are voluntary, industry-driven programs sponsored by employers, employer associations, and jointly by management and labor. Apprenticeships combine supervised, structured, on-the-job training and related technical instruction to teach apprentices the skills necessary to succeed in a specific occupation.

Registered Apprenticeship means the apprenticeship is registered with the State of Maryland. By completing the registration process, the program has to comply with the State and Federal regulations regarding apprenticeship. The main regulations concerning Registered Apprenticeship include: supervised on-the-job training with a ratio of one apprentice to one journeyman (skilled craftsperson), the on-the-job training meets the minimum 2,000 hours (per year if the apprenticeship is longer than one year) and related classroom instruction meets the minimum 144 hours (per year if the apprenticeship is longer than one year).

Apprenticeships are jobs

The apprentice works full time and receives training from the sponsoring organization. Typically apprentices are hired at a percentage of a journeyman's salary. As the apprentice completes training section as and demonstrates skills mastery, the percentage of a journeyman's wage received increases until the apprentice makes journeyman's wages upon completing the program. Apprenticeships are designed to meet the workforce needs of the sponsors. Because of a need for highly skilled workers many sponsors use apprenticeship as a method to train employees in the knowledge necessary to become a skilled worker. This also means the number of apprenticeships available are also dependent on the current training needs of the industry.



Apprenticable Occupations

A position must require at least 2,000 hours of training to be considered as an apprenticeshipable occupation. If an occupation is apprenticeshipable, an apprenticeship program will then be divided into on-the-job-training and related instruction. On-the-job training must consist of at least 2,000 hours per year of the apprenticeship, the equivalent of working fulltime. On-the-job training for apprentices takes place at the work site under the direction of a highly skilled journeyman(s). The related instruction component is the classroom training apprentices receive to supplement the on-the-job training and teach fundamental principles of the trade. Each apprenticeship must have at least 144 hours of related instruction per year of the apprenticeship. Maryland encourages any organization with a training need meeting the above criteria to consider apprenticeship. No industry is unwelcome.

Apprenticeships are In-Depth and Certified

The minimum length of an apprenticeship is one year, however, most apprenticeship programs take 3-6 years to complete. Successful completion of a registered apprenticeship leads to a nationally recognized *Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship* attesting to the individual's attainment of skills and knowledge to be considered a journeyman.

Apprenticeships are Diverse

In Maryland there are over 230 registered occupations and over 9,000 registered apprentices. Most apprenticeships are within the building trades and construction industries; however

there are also apprenticeship opportunities in non-construction occupations such as Child Care Development Specialist. For a complete list of all the occupations registered to have apprenticeship programs please visit Find an Apprenticeship at <http://www.dlir.state.md.us/labor/approcc/>. Also see below.

Becoming an Apprentice

If you are willing to commit to a hands-on training program and are excited about starting a new career in the skilled trades, then an apprenticeship may be the right opportunity for you.

Step 1: Research a Trade The first step to becoming an apprentice is to research which occupation you would like to pursue. Please visit "Find An Apprenticeship" (<http://www.dlir.state.md.us/labor/approcc>) for a complete list of all occupations approved to have apprenticeship programs and descriptions of what type of work is required in each trade. Under this section you can also download a complete list of currently registered programs in Maryland.

Step 2: Apply Once you have decided on a trade, contact program sponsors directly to inquire about their individual application requirements and hiring schedule. Submit your application(s) to the sponsor of your choice. Please be aware each sponsor has individual application requirements and program requirements, so be sure to research the program of your choice carefully.

Also note you may experience some delay in receiving a response to your application because some sponsoring programs may hold your application until an opening in the program is available. Ask the program of your choice when the apprenticeship program will start and when you would likely hear back from them gaining a realistic idea of their application process. Apprenticeships are also very competitive so it may take more than one application to be accepted. Because apprenticeships are industry driven, the hiring of apprentices is strictly done on a need basis by the individual sponsor; the state government can not place you in an apprenticeship program.

Step 3: Be Registered by Your Sponsor Once you have been hired as an apprentice, an Apprentice Agreement will be completed by you and your employer. This agreement is filled with Maryland Apprenticeship and Training and the Federal Department of Labor. This agreement classifies you as a registered apprentice; if you do not think you have signed an agreement please ask your sponsor about the agreement to be sure it is completed. Upon completing the apprenticeship program you will receive a nationally recognized Certificate of Completion, allowing your skills to transfer anywhere in the country.



Top 5 Benefits

- Earn while you learn
- Apprenticeships are jobs, you will have a job when your training is complete
- Paid according to a progressive wage scale
- Sustainable career choice
- Able to transfer skills across companies and states

Some of the Jobs

Auto mechanic, baker, barber, bookbinder, bricklayer, cabinetmaker, carpenter, child care specialist, cook, electrician, golf professional, horse trainer, locksmith, machinist, medical assistant, mortician, optician, painter, plumber, police officer, roofer, sheet metal worker, tool maker, welder. And more!!!

Check It Out!

Go to the Division of Labor and Industry, Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program, 1100 North Eutaw Street - Room 606, Baltimore, MD 21201 or telephone (410) 767-2246 or send an email to matp@dlir.state.md.us.

*Source: <http://www.dlir.state.md.us/labor/appri/>

IMMIGRATION FROM MEXICO TO U.S.A.

Migration Change: Douglas S. Massey, co-director of the Mexican Migration Project at Princeton, reports that his research shows that Mexicans' interest in heading to the United States for the first time had fallen to its lowest level since at least the 1950s. "No one wants to hear it, but the [illegal] flow has already stopped. For the first time in 60 years, the net traffic has gone to zero and is probably a little bit negative."

Check the graphic at the bottom of the page.

The Mexican census recently discovered four million more people in Mexico than the demographers had projected; the additional people are attributed to a sharp decline in emigration—especially emigration without documents to enter the U.S.A.

Why has this shift taken place? Sure, the recession has meant fewer opportunities in the USA. Sure, enforcement along the border (plus the soaring cost of getting a good coyote) has discouraged some prospective emigrants. But there are also factors in the home country. There is growth of educational and economic opportunities within Mexico, and the fertility rate has fallen to about the replacement rate, so there may not be so many "excess" young people in the future.

Central America: Perhaps the situation in Central America is different. Opportunities for work and education have not increased there significantly. And the slaughter of Central American migrants traveling through Mexico, plus the increased costs of the journey, may have a slowing impact.

US Population Growth: Births have surpassed immigration as the main driver of the dynamic growth of the Mexican-American population, according to a report by the Pew Hispanic Center. Between 2000 and 2010, the Mexican-American population grew by 7.2 million as a result of births and by 4.2 million as a result of new immigrant arrivals. This is a change from the previous two decades when the number of new immigrants either matched or exceeded the number of births.

And So: "It is time to try a different approach. Perhaps, now that there are so few new unauthorized arrivals with which to contend, we can offer a chance at legal status to those unauthorized immigrants already living here. This would end the needless waste of billions of dollars spent each year on ineffective enforcement measures; would bring all unauthorized workers into the formal economy and tax system; and would boost the wages and purchasing power of newly legalized immigrants." (<http://immigrationimpact.com>, 8 July 2011)

WHO, WHAT, AND WHEN

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. (Editor, Bill Hanna) It 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.

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

CALENDAR

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.

Wednesdays—the Farmers' Market on the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue space operates from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and more—even music!

July 20—Free cholesterol screening, 5 p.m. at Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Rd., Beltsville. 301 937-6613.

August 2—National Night Out Celebration, 3-5 p.m. in and around the Langley Park Community Center. Music, games, and friendly police officers.

August 20—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.

September 15—Action Langley Park meets at 7 p.m. in the Langley Park Community Center. The main agenda item will be planning ALP's work for the coming year. But there are many more pressing issues. Everyone is welcome!!

September 18—Hispanic Festival in Lane Manor Park, noon to 6 p.m. Lots of food, music, and games. The location is on the south side of University Blvd. west of the U. of Maryland.

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, poor kidney function, and more. Yes, it's free!

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 much more; vendors; and agency and nonprofit organization representatives such as from the County Council.

An Estimate: Percent of Mexicans entering the U.S. illegally for the first time

The annual estimates are based on a long-term academic study that has surveyed 800 to 1,000 Mexican households each year since 1982.

The survey includes questions about historical migration, which are used to generate the estimates for years before 1982.

