

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
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**It's Obama!
Four more years!**



So What?

What difference did the presidential election make? We don't know yet, but the hope is that the economy will not only continue to improve but also that it will begin to soar. That's a hope, but economic difficulties in Europe (in recession again) and elsewhere mean that the USA economy needs international economic partners, and that may not be realized. And the majority in the House of Representatives apparently will still refuse to cooperate with the White House in taking rational steps to modify the country's indebtedness.

Maybe there will be a chance to pass the DREAM Act, especially because acting against the interests of Latinos and their partners has proven not to be a good electoral strategy. As for "comprehensive immigration reform" that might lead those who are undocumented to get some form of legal stability in the USA: maybe. More than 70% of Latinos voted for President Obama. Let's hope the anti people become rational about the vote rather than work against the ethnic diversification of our country. And diversity is strength!

Puerto Rico has voted to become a state in the USA, the 51st state. Let's hope their preference becomes a reality. But how will the anti people react to the possibility of 3.7 million more Spanish-speakers? ("Gads, another invasion! Hide!")

Health Check 2012

The health fair organized by the Langley Park Community Center and Action Langley Park attracted hundreds of area residents, and they were able to check oral health, blood pressure, body mass, spine alignment, skin problems, HIV, and much more. The photos give some idea of the crowd—and of course the people who were able to check their health and if necessary follow up discovered problems.

Many area residents expressed their appreciation of the health fair.

Thanks must of course go to the many health professionals who made the event possible. And thanks especially must go



"Health Check" continued on Page 4

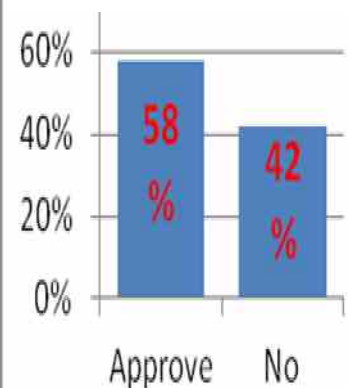
Maryland Dreaming

Yes, the Maryland Dream Act was approved by the state's voters. Such voters' wisdom! Of course, there were people who were afraid of immigrants so don't want to help them in any way. But the vote means that some undocumented young people will be able to afford community college and then perhaps a four year university.

Once these young people complete their education, they will be a clear asset to the USA—if our leaders and other citizens wake up to realize the asset that they can be. Let's hope for immigration reform soon!

Congratulations to all of the young people—and to CASA de Maryland, which was a strong force for approval.

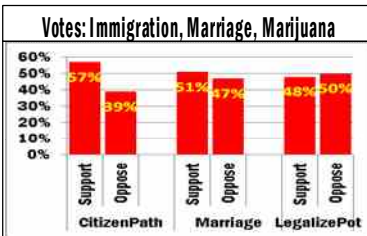
THE VOTING ON THE MARYLAND DREAM ACT



IMMIGRATION REFORM

PUBLIC SUPPORT!

According to an ABC/Washington Post poll taken after the election, public opinion is now in favor of a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants! That plus the essential contribution Latino/as made to President Obama's re-election gives one optimism—maybe not for the right reasons, but for reasons enough! Also note that Maryland's marriage for all is favored, and ending the marijuana prohibition has gained support.



GOP MOVEMENT

The GOP is finally opening a little window to immigration reform. Defeat does sometimes clear the mind! *The Wall Street Journal* (8 November 2012) reports:

"House Speaker John Boehner and other Republicans in Congress said ... that they want to consider broad changes to immigration laws next year, after an election in which Hispanic voters turned out in force to help President Barack Obama win a second term.

"Lawmakers and the White House said their most immediate goal was averting the so-called fiscal cliff Once that is done, the White House and its allies in Congress have said, a major objective in 2013 is an immigration overhaul that was one of the president's promises in his first campaign for the White House. ...

"One question is whether Republicans would support a process to grant legal status or citizenship to those in the country illegally, a move backed by most Democrats but which many Republicans criticize as amnesty. The Republican Party platform, adopted at the GOP convention this summer, opposes 'any form of amnesty' for people who intentionally violate immigration law, saying that it 'rewards and encourages more law breaking' and puts those seeking to enter the country legally at a disadvantage." No: it can help at least some of those who were facing brutalization thanks to USA's adventurism in Central America.

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324073504578107440206939484.html> .

RIGHT WING MOVING

And would you believe: Right-wing broadcaster Sean Hannity has changed his mind and has "evolved" on immigration and now supports a "pathway to citizenship." Wow! Votes make a difference. Hannity: "It's simple to me to fix it. I think you control the border first. You create a pathway for those people that are here—you don't say you've got to go home. And that is a position that I've evolved on. ... The majority of people here, if some people have criminal records you can send them home, but if people are here, law-abiding, participating for years, ... pathway to citizenship, done." Wow!

CITY IDS

Following the lead of New Haven, San Francisco, and several other cities, the Los Angeles City Council, by 12 to 1, has voted to issue identification cards to undocumented immigrants who offer necessary proof of identity and residence. The cards should enable these men and women to pay bills, open bank accounts, get bus passes, apply for health insurance, and much more. Other cities are expected to follow. And maybe as LatinoPanic strikes the GOP, a national program of formalization will follow.

POLITICAL HAPPENINGS

U.S. SUPREME COURT

The Court will focus once again on race by re-examining the necessity of laws and programs aimed at giving racial minorities access to major areas of American life from which they once were systematically excluded. Will some justices claim that the election of Obama indicates no racism? Will some know that many Romney votes were intertwined with racism?

Let's see if the court is willing to look at the behavior of some state officials in 2012 designed to exclude minorities from voting. The efforts in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere were aimed at Blacks and Latino/as, but fortunately legal action limited the exclusion.

"This is a term in which many core pillars of civil rights and pathways to opportunity hang in the balance," said Debo Adegbile of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

U.S. SENATE

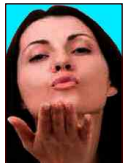
There will be three Cuban-Americans in the new Senate. They are Tex Cruz (R, Texas), Marco Rubio (R, Florida), and Robert Menendez (D, NJ). Now the challenge will be for Cuban-Americans to be supportive of Mexican-Americans as well as those from Central America. Yes, the heritage areas make all the above "Latinos" or "Hispanics." But that obscures very different histories and to some extent value systems. Stay tuned.

MARYLAND ASSEMBLY

District 47 has been divided into two assembly districts, 47a and 47b. The latter is a small area that includes Langley Park, and it was presumably created to ease a Latino or Latina path into the legislature. Perhaps Will Campos will be a candidate, and there may be others. Is the redistricting a way to enhance democracy?

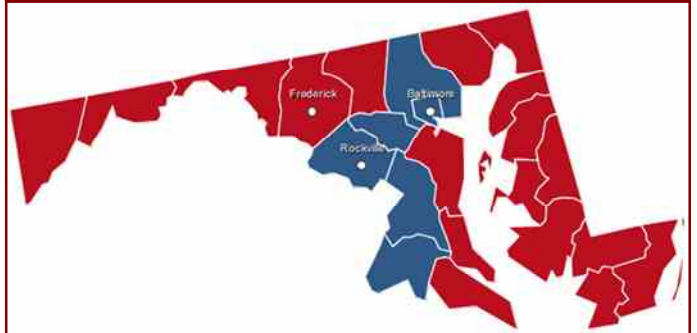
LEAVING THE UNION

Citizens in a number of states, mostly in the South, are sending petitions to the government asking that their state leaves the USA. Reportedly the largest number of petitions have come from Texas. (2nd: Louisiana) Of course, most people (even some petitioners) are laughing about the petitions, but perhaps we should give Texas to Mexico. After all, at least two of five residents are Latino/a! Maybe we can keep Austin as a protectorate!



WHO VOTED FOR OBAMA IN MARYLAND?

In Maryland, the urban younger better-educated citizens tended to prefer the President, and those outside the metro counties—who on average are older and less-well-educated—were on Romney's side. Interpretation of this difference is left to the reader.



NOTES

ARE YOU READY FOR SNOW?

It is worth noting that among the top ten three-day-period snowfalls in record-keeping years in the Washington DC area (1884-2010), three took place in this century: 18 inches in 2010, 16 inches in 2009, and also 16 inches in 2003; that just misses including the 17 inches in 1996. So snowfall seems to be picking up in recent years. Are you ready for snow, electrical power failure, and maybe more?

THE COMING LATINO/A ELECTORATE

The size of the Latino/a electorate is growing, and the projection is for significant increase in size. Of course, if those who are currently undocumented become citizens, there will be a voting explosion. That is clearly why suddenly the Republicans are modifying or perhaps putting in reverse their "never amnesty" stance that contributed to their electoral failures.

In the recent election, 12.5 million Latino/as voted, and an additional 11.2 million were eligible to vote but didn't. (shame!) In the USA there are also 5.4 million adult legal permanent residents who may soon get around to citizenship and voting, 7.1 million undocumented residents who may eventually become eligible, and 17.6 million who are under age. (Data source: Pew Hispanic Center)

LATINO/AS: GET EDUCATED!

Only 14% of Latino/as ages 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2011 compared with 51% for Asian-Americans, 20% for African-Americans, and 34% for Euro-Americans (source: National Center for Education Statistics). Latino/as in last place—least represented?!

Bloomberg News (14 November 12) comments that The lack of educational attainment among Hispanics is one of the biggest crises in the American labor force with far reaching implications for the economy. It has far-reaching implications for the economy. "Without more education, Hispanics won't be able to fill higher-paying jobs, contributing to already widening U.S. income disparity." What's the problem? One young person suggests: "Parents don't know what the system is here. We don't know what to do." Of course, parents should be more active; having plentiful parent liaisons in the schools would help. (Hey, PGCPs officials: don't you realize how crucial parents are to children's education? Somehow, we have to lower the dropout rate and raise the sights of young people and their parents.



New Hours for Social Security Offices

Effective 19 November 2012, the Washington, DC Metropolitan area's Social Security offices will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday. In addition, beginning January 2, 2013, the offices will close to the public at noon every Wednesday.

While agency employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window is claimed to allow them to complete face-to-face interviews and process claims work without incurring the cost of overtime. The significantly reduced funding provided by Congress under the continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year makes it impossible for the agency to provide the overtime needed.

Most Social Security services do not require a visit to a local office. Many services, including applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or informing us of a change of address or telephone number are conveniently available at www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. Many of the online services also are available in Spanish at www.sequrosocial.gov.

CASA de Maryland Citizenship Clinic

For people seeking to apply for U.S. Citizenship, CASA de Maryland is hosting on-site application preparation. This is a no-fee service and trained attorneys/accredited representatives will be present! Speakers of other languages are especially encouraged to apply! Saturday, November 17 and Saturday December 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Location: CASA de Maryland, 8151 15th Avenue, Langley Park (within the Villas at Langley apartments).
- Required Documents: Permanent Resident Card (Green Card), Driver's License/I.D., Social Security Card, all passports both expired and current.
- Required information: Addresses of Residence for the past 5 years – Dates you moved in and out of each location; Employment for the past 5 years – Name, address, dates you started and ended at each job; Spousal Information: Marriage certificate if applying through marriage to U.S. citizen, date and place of spouse's naturalization. Current spouses name, date of birth, date of marriage, green card and social security number; Previous marriage (s) if any – Name of the previous spouse, date of marriage and termination of marriage; If you have ever been arrested: Bring all arrest and court documents, even if charges were dropped; children's full names, date of birth, country of Birth and current address.



BE HEALTHY: BEWARE OF FAST FOOD BREAKFASTS (AND OTHER FAST FOOD TOO!)

Fast-food breakfast sandwiches could be "a time bomb in a bun," says a health researcher—and eating even one fat-laden morning meal has immediate adverse effects on arteries, according to a new study presented at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress meeting in Toronto. A high-fat diet is linked to increased risk for atherosclerosis (narrowing of arteries due to plaque deposits), but the study suggests that damage that could lead to a heart attack or stroke may start sooner than was previously thought.

to Lourdes Sulc, the Director of the Center. Once again, she did an excellent job in organizing the event ranging from forming a staff to the set-up to the take-down and lots in between.



Of course, there were the professionals including, for instance, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (thanks Dr. Clemencia Vargas et alia), Suburban Hospital (thanks Michelle Hathaway et alia), Identity (thanks Angel Varela et alia), the Doug Sims Chiropractic team, the M.D.s of Johns Hopkins' Department of Dermatology, the Mary's Center team, the Amerigroup team with the flu shots, TAYA with the vital sex ed (thanks Manuela et alia), the Montgomery College nurses and nurses-to-be (Thanks Kathy Awkard et alia), Healthy Groove (thanks Kaitlyn Sutherland et alia); Healthy Futures (thanks Elliot Segal et alia); and many more.



Photo credits: Lourdes Sulc and Bill Hanna

WHAT & WHEN



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

2012

November—Registration for activities at the Langley Park Community Center: there will be basketball leagues (boys and girls 5 to 14), tutoring (ages 6 to 13), ballet and tap (ages 3, 4, 5), Karate (ages 5 to 13), ceramics (ages 6 to 12), and more. Call 301 445-4508 for information.

Nov 17—Annual Pottery Sale at Langley Park Community Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many professional potters contribute to this event.

Nov 17 et cetera—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.

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

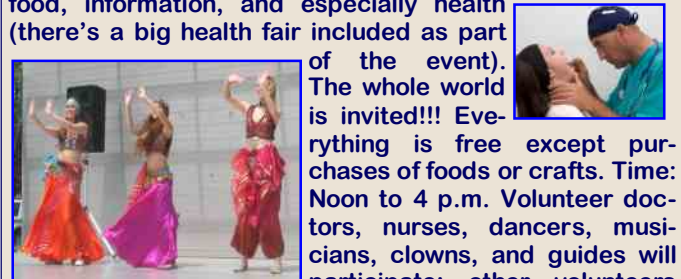
2013

Jan 1—New Year's Day: HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Jan 8—Mis Quince Program Open House at the Community Center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Check it out!

May 5 —Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health (there's a big health fair included as part

of the event). The whole world is invited!!! Everything is free except purchases of foods or crafts. Time: Noon to 4 p.m. Volunteer doctors, nurses, dancers, musicians, clowns, and guides will participate; other volunteers are all welcome. Residents: come one, come all!



To Councilman Will Campus and the Transitional Neighborhood Initiative Staff

HOW ABOUT IT?

The new Mary's Center on Riggs Road is difficult to access for many local residents without cars; and the county's Hyattsville Library on Adelphi Road is also difficult for them to access without a car.

How about creating a free daytime hourly shuttle following a triangle route to include stops at the Langley Park Community Center, Mary's Center, and the Hyattsville Library? (The Transit Center could be an added stop when it's built.) It would be of great benefit to the health and education of the local population.