

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
Issue #214, August 2011

LONG-TERM SCHEDULING Que Pasa?

The Langley Park area offers residents and visitors a lot of exciting events—many more than in most local areas. There's a National Night Out event on August 2 at the Langley Park Community Center, and PGCPs Back to School Fair on August 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt. And there's Health Check 2011, a health fair, on November 6 from noon to 3 p.m., also at the Langley Park Community Center. The Hispanic Festival takes place on September 18 at Lane Manor Park. Mini-fliers for these latter two events are on this page. Mark your calendar now!! Enjoy!! And be healthy too!

Check on page 6 for a more complete listing of events.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month



Sunday, September 18, 2011 • 12 noon-6 pm

Lane Manor Park
7601 West Park Dr. at University Blvd.

(NEAR TO MARRIOTT HOTEL, NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND)

Health Check 2011

**BE HEALTHY
CHECK YOUR HEALTH**

Sunday, 6 November 2011
Noon to 3 p.m.
Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive,
Langley Park 20783
Center: 301 445-4508
ALP: 301 405-4005



ACTION LANGLEY PARK next holds a general meeting on Thursday, September 15 [note the change!!], from 7 to about 8:30 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. Everyone is welcome to participate. Have an idea for the agenda? Send it by email to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.



"We must remember that in our country one child out of every five is living in poverty, is worried about proper food, proper housing, proper medical care. These are children who are, in fact, at risk. In America, the richest nation on the face of the earth, we have the largest number of people living in poverty that we have had in over seven decades. ... It is important that we take time to focus on those who all too often are invisible, who all too often are not the center of our discussion, who all too often are perceived to simply be those who will not matter at the voting booth." Steny Hoyer speaking in July 2011 to the House of Representatives.

CIS on DEPORTATIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOLS: HELP!!!

There is a new program, supported by \$19 million from the state's Department of Education, called "Turn Around Schools." According to a PGCPs announcement, "It will allow for increased learning time for instruction in core subjects including English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, and foreign languages. There will also be additional time for teachers to collaborate and plan and engage in professional development within and across grades and subjects."

Great. But ALP wondered: Why not the local Buck Lodge?

And we discovered (1) that Buck Lodge 8th graders have a better test record (% proficient or advanced) than the chosen middle schools, but (2) that 8th graders at Buck Lodge and the other four are dramatically underperforming based on state test results. (Table percentages are proficient plus advanced.)

| TEST RESULTS | 8-Read | 8-Math | 8-Science |
|----------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| G. James Gholson MS | 53% | 19% | 18% |
| Drew-Freeman MS | 57% | 24% | 30% |
| Thurgood Marshall MS | 69% | 31% | 40% |
| Benjamin Stoddard MS | 52% | 21% | 24% |
| Buck Lodge MS | 67% | 44% | 40% |
| Maryland's MSs | 83% | 66% | 70% |

JOBS, WORKERS

The Jobless The jobless rate (not counting the employment dropouts) has hovered around 9% for many months. When is it going to drop back to the "normal" 5%? But what if about 9% is the new normal? What if the combination of overseas outsourcing plus advances in automation mean that almost one of ten people in the labor market will be unemployed, and more will be underemployed? What if in a neighborhood such as Langley Park, the new normal unemployment figure is 20% ... or more?

Are Immigrant Workers Better? The *Daily Mail* (15 July 2011) published rather challenging comments about the US and immigrant workers. "Former Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, has lashed out at America's younger workforce, saying they don't match up to the 'baby boom' generation. Mr. Greenspan said the U.S. is in the process of seeing the baby boomers, which he called 'the most productive, highly skilled, educated part of our labour force' retire. 'They are being replaced by groups of young workers who have regrettably scored rather poorly in international educational match-ups over the last two decades,' ... It would be better for America to hire skilled immigrants to counter the worrying trend. 'Most high-income people in our country do not realise that their incomes are being subsidised by their protection from competition from highly skilled people who are prevented from immigrating to the United States,' he said. 'But we need such skills in order to staff our productive economy, so that the standard of living for Americans as a whole can grow. 'My view is that we should give a green card to every immigrant who gets an advanced degree in the United States.'" There are many observers in the USA who think it is suicidal for those who earn graduate degrees in higher education institutions in the USA to be forced out of the country—and to therefore to become competitors in China, Mexico, or elsewhere. What about those without skills? That becomes more debatable.

BAD GUYS

More Corruption: The *Washington Examiner* (18 July 2011) reports: "A former firefighter for Prince George's County pleaded guilty to bribing state and local officials, according to court documents. ... Karl Granzow's plea is the latest to be released in the investigation of the pay-to-play schemes that

The not-friendly-to-immigration organization, Center for Immigration Studies ["studies" often seems to be "opinions"] has released its "study" of deportation: *Deportation Basics—How Immigration Enforcement Works (or Doesn't) in Real Life*. The full report is at <http://www.cis.org/deportation-basics>. Here are some of its items:

- A large percentage of aliens flee from removal proceedings – perhaps as many as 59% of all those released to await hearings. On a cost basis from the alien's perspective, this makes sense. If you are in proceedings and have little chance of relief, why not treat the bond money (if it's even required) as the cost of having been caught, and then flee, hoping to stay under the radar for as long as possible, perhaps until the next amnesty?

- The exercise of "prosecutorial discretion" is problematic for ICE field officers. If the alien that [correct English: whom] they decline to remove goes on to commit a heinous act, they could be subject to lawsuits from victims and will be held accountable by their own agency (even if agency leadership encourages them to use the tool).

- Even in today's technology-driven world, charging an alien with immigration violations is a paperwork-intensive, cumbersome process that requires agents to fill out nearly 20 different forms each time.

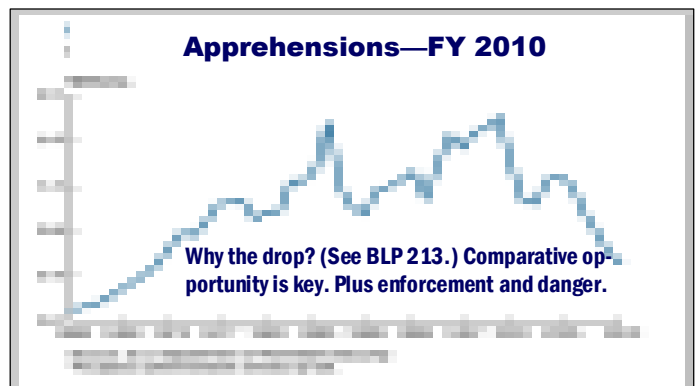
- ICE officers are supposed to consider two key factors in determining whether to detain or release an alien in proceedings: if the alien is a flight risk and if he is a risk to the community. The latter factor obviously is given serious consideration, but it is equally obvious from the large number of absconders that officers don't give the same weight to the likelihood of flight, especially considering the scarcity of funded detention space.

- The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides for several types of due process for aliens, depending on their circumstances of arrival and stay. The law does not require that all removals be ordered by an immigration judge.

- The option of Voluntary Return, where the alien requests to be returned home in lieu of formal removal proceedings, is not really "voluntary," but is beneficial to the alien because it carries fewer consequences if the alien returns illegally. Immigration law provides for seven ways to remove an alien, ... Four of these options are relatively efficient, but used less frequently. If ICE chose to expand their use, the workload of the immigration court could be reduced and the immigration enforcement system would be less dysfunctional.

- The total number of apprehensions of illegal aliens by immigration enforcement agencies is less than half of what it was five years ago. [But removals are higher!]

REMOVALS: FY2010
 Guatemalans, 29,378
 El Salvadorans, 19,809
 Hondurans, 24,611



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engulfed former County Executive Jack Johnson and his wife, Councilwoman Leslie Johnson. ... For more than 10 years, Granzow and co-conspirators offered state and local officials money, meals, drinks, trip expenses, campaign contributions, hotel rooms, airline tickets and more in exchange for rulings that would favor their development projects, according to Granzow's guilty plea...."

Let's hope that there is no more dirt to discover, especially with regard to developments near the proposed Purple Line stops.

Sex Offenders: In the last issue of BLP, it was reported that there were nine convicted sex offenders living in Langley Park. That didn't seem to be very good news. We have since learned that there are 758 convicted sex offenders living in Prince George's County. So the comparatively good news is that the ratio of sex offenders to the Langley Park population is about one in 2,200, whereas in the county the ratio is 1 in about 1,100. So Langley Park is comparatively safe!

Hate Crimes: Yes, they occur. Just a few days ago, a local man was convicted of slashing his Latino neighbor's tires, saying "I hate you Spanish people. I ate you all!" He is in jail awaiting sentencing. Such behavior is so sad.

IMMIGRATION

Courts Swamped: New Jersey has nine immigration judges and 9,100 cases. Of course, the nine are swamped. And other states have similar stories. An additional 40 judges have been added in the past year. But, the number of deportation cases, asylum claims, and green-card fraud prosecutions in our 59 immigration courts is—hold your breath—275,000! About 40% of the defendants are in jail—and of course some of them may be innocent but may have to wait a long time to gain freedom. The underfunding leads to cruelty.

Visas Denied: According to Walter Pincus (*Washington Post*, 19 July 2011), "The multilayered, multifaceted and multinational security system that has been constructed to protect the United States from terrorists led to denial of visas to 2.2 million of 9 million foreign applicants last year, according to data presented Wednesday to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee." 2.2/9=24% denials!! Seems impossible that 2.2 million visa applicants are dangerous. Our system needs a real shakeup!

Lottery Visas: The House Judiciary Committee, with a majority of Republicans, has voted to end the visa lottery. One of the lottery's strengths is diversifying the inflow of immigrants. Probably, the action will not be approved by Congress.

Into the Mainstream: One of the findings of the new book, *Achieving Anew* (2011): The authors report that immigrant status itself is not an important predictor of educational achievement. First-generation immigrants arrive in the United States with less education than native-born Americans, but by the second and third generations, the children of immigrants are just as successful in school as native-born students—with equivalent socioeconomic background. The effects of that background as well as family structure do have a strong impact on educational attainment—as well as race and ethnicity, but these latter factors are less important over time. So *not doing well in school may not be the teacher's fault!!!?*

HOUSING

Home Prices: Yes, they went way up and way down. We've found the median sale prices for three years: before the boom and after the bust. What a ride! The graphic (next page) shows the mean home prices over the past decade in zip code 20783, which includes Langley Park and some other local ar-

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OPINIONS ON IMMIGRATION

Gallup Poll recently asked people whether we have the right number of immigrants entering the country. Admittedly, most people are not well informed; but sometimes the results of the uninformed are used in the political arena. The results are no surprise: Democrats and Independents are more favorable, and about half of the Republicans want to reduce the number of immigrants in the USA. Can't blame the negative

| IMMIGRANTS IN U.S.A. | Increase Numbers! | Keep the Same | Decrease Numbers! |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Democrats % | 21 | 37 | 37 |
| Independents % | 20 | 37 | 41 |
| Republicans % | 15 | 31 | 49 |

folks: those people with darker skin and an accent must be dangerous.

Overall, about 18% of the respondents chose the "increase" answer. This is the highest percentage Gallup has found over the 24-year period of this polling. The overall 43% of "decrease" responses is not at its low, but close to it. In 1993, that answer was chosen by 65% of the respondents! The report is at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/148154/Americans-Views-Immigration-Holding-Steady.aspx>.

Generation and education are factors in answers. The strongest support for "increase" among age groups is 18 to 29 years; the very strong "decrease" category is those 65 years of age and older. The same pattern results from asking if immigration is good or bad for the USA. *What's wrong with those old folks? Maybe in the 1940s they favored sending the Japanese to internment ("relocation") camps.*

Level of education also displays variation. The strongest supporters of "decrease" have a high school education or less, whereas the weakest support for that answer is among those with postgraduate work. Again, the same pattern emerges from the "good or bad thing" question. *Maybe education does have a broadening impact! That's good news for those in the education business!*

— A note on method: Gallup called 1,020 adults by telephone. Has the reader ever received a call from a pollster? Has the reader answer the questions? Honestly? But just think of the large number of people who either don't respond or respond with self-image in mind. Alas.

NOW ALABAMA

The "wonderful" state of Alabama has passed laws that force or encourage many immigrant families to leave. That state does not, as far as we know, put the uprooted into box cars (as the Nazis did), but many lives are being disrupted, torn apart.



PLANNING & "DEVELOPMENT"

Elsewhere: A federation of South County associations, IHHAAC Inc., send along this worrisome commentary on 18 July 2011:

"The *Post* editorial ... praises Baker for moving '... deliberately to reorient government with new department and agency chiefs.' We disagree. Most appointments are warmed-over retreats from the Curry Administration. ...

"There are the three new Planning Board appointments with two more promised over the summer. Baker appointed the same /development attorney/ who served under Curry to be Chair. That is tantamount to putting the fox in charge of the hen house. Surely professional /planning /credentials should be required to head up a /planning/ agency as important as M-NCPPC?

"Are we seriously to expect that the new Planning Board will support the /smart, sustainable, transit-oriented development that Candidate Baker promised in his 2010 election campaign? Quite the contrary: the new Planning Board already is showing signs of qualifying even more as a Developers' Board than the previous one did.

"At the new Planning Board's first meeting on July 14, we heard the same tired old arguments about property rights: the default position is that landowners can do anything they want with their property. If that is correct, then why do we have zoning laws and why is there a Planning Board? Oh, that would be to grant 'variances' and 'variations' to the laws and regulations, thereby rendering them moot. Obviously, they are not a planning board, and might as well be replaced with lawyers to rule whether something is legal and be done with it. ..."

Purple Line Threat: Having a light-rail ("streetcar") line running from Bethesda through Langley Park to New Carrollton is, all things being equal, a very positive plus. But if the light-rail Purple Line leads to the displacement of many thousands of families from their homes and many hundreds of businesspeople from their stores and restaurants, that is a very negative minus. The pressure is already on, as readers know who have followed the cruel displacement "sector plan" devised by PG planners. And time may not be on the side of the "Save Langley Park" advocates. From the *Washington Post* (19 July 2011): "Developers and planners in Montgomery and Prince George's counties are already factoring a light rail link between Bethesda and New Carrollton into their business and growth plans even though a 16-mile Purple Line has yet to win highly competitive construction money." Yes, they do have plans for "development" (which means "displacement and gentrification"). And those who have a stake in preservation of the current vital community must keep fighting until Will Campos and other pro-development people realize the damage the sector plan will do—and significantly revise it.

eas. Lots of people lost lots of money. One resident purchased her house for \$220,000 and walked away from it when the price dropped to \$75,000!

Foreclosure Sales: In 2010, Prince George's County had the highest number of foreclosure sales, 3583, in the metro area. Second place went to Prince William in Virginia. ("Prince" is the word that causes trouble?)

Housing Costs: One fifth of households are struggling with housing costs. They are faced with a "severe housing cost burden" according to the Center for Housing Policy in their recent report. The indicator of severe housing cost burden is the household spending more than 50% of its income on housing costs—not leaving too much money for food, clothing, and more.

Another way to look at this situation: The fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment and the mortgage for a median-priced home are not affordable for workers in four out of the five largest currently hiring jobs (janitor, office clerk, security guard, groundskeeper) in most metro areas.

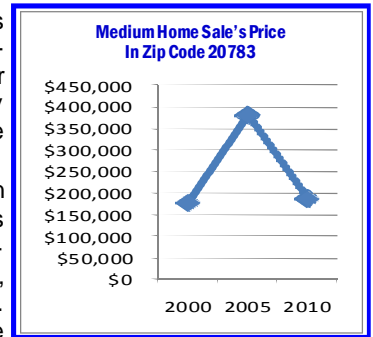
Low Cost Housing Opportunity? Fred Tillman (240 460-4584) of Baltimore has send around a message that he is offering newly furnished apartments with free phone and cable TV with periodic housekeeping at below-market rates for those needing affordable housing. It is a "special needs housing program." BLP has no direct knowledge of the man or the program, but it might be worth checking out.

Housing and Education: A significant body of research indicates that a stable, affordable housing situation enhances the education success of children. Housing stress too often leads to mobility (thus disruption of the child-school connection) and overcrowding (thus more distractions in the home). So this is one more reason why the "sector plan" is a powerful negative force on the lives of residents in the Langley Park area. See this CHP May 2011 report: http://www.nhc.org/media/files/Insights_HousingAndEducationBrief.pdf.

HEALTH

A New Hospital in PG? The news is that the county, in conjunction with the University of Maryland Medical System,

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FALL 2011 PUBLIC E.S.L. CLASSES

This is a partial list of all county ESL offerings; the three sites listed here are in the Langley Park area. For more information, go to www.pgcc.edu/go/adulteducation or email to adulteducation@pgcc.edu or telephone to 301 322-089. Of course, there are other organizations offering ESL classes, e.g., CASA de Maryland.

Place, address

Class schedule, registration, beginning class

Langley Park McCormick Elementary School, 8201 15th Ave., Langley Park,
Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30 pm; Wednesday, Sept 7, 6:30 pm; Sept 14
Saturday, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm; Saturday, Sept 10, 9:30 am; Sept 17

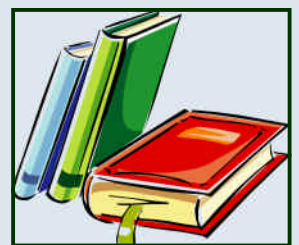
Northwestern High School, 7000 Adelphi Rd., Adelphi

Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30 pm; Monday, Sept 26, 6:30 pm; Monday, Oct 3

Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept 6, 6:30 pm; Tuesday, Sept 20

Judy Hoyer Family Learning Center, 8908 Riggs Rd., Adelphi

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm; Tuesday, Oct 11, 6:30 pm; Tuesday, Oct 18



may build a \$500,000,000 (or more!) medical center to replace the failed Prince George's Hospital Center. The tentative time schedule is to begin construction in 2014 and to open the doors to patients in 2017.

The Medical System already includes a number of hospitals, including the University of Maryland Medical Center (Baltimore), the Baltimore-Washington Medical Center (Glen Burnie), Maryland General Hospital (Baltimore), and six others. So a link with the Medical System is a positive; the county needs a first-rate hospital, especially to serve those who do not live close to Washington Adventist Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, and the Washington Hospital Center. There may also be a health science campus center at the new facility.



One component of the hospital-to-be will be teaching. Those in the process of becoming medical doctors, nurses, and other health professionals will be able to advance or conclude their education working in the county.

Location, location: Perhaps the new hospital should be in New Carrollton as part of that area's redevelopment. Then people could take the Purple Line to the doctor's door!

County Dept. of Health: Good hospitals are health positives. But how about some more sliding-scale health clinics for the county? In particular, the Langley Park area has for many years needed such a clinic. Maybe the former leader of the Department of Health didn't care about the predominantly-immigrant population that needs affordable health care? Maybe he liked to see the immigrant ill stacked up in hospital emergency rooms? But now ↓↓

County Executive Baker has dismissed the now-former head of the department, Donald Schell. He did not appear to be a friend of the Langley Park area; indeed, he withdrew personnel from the area—thus contributing to ill-health. Let's hope for more with new health leadership.

THE PURPLE LINE

Does anyone read the Sunday *Washington Examiner*? In the 24 July 2011 edition, the large page-one lead headline was "What's the point of the Purple Line?" The story is on page 5 with the headline there, "Rising cost of Purple Line reignites bus vs. rail fight." The paper's criticism focuses on cost: about \$2 billion for light rail, perhaps a tenth of that for bus rapid transit (BRT). But unless the bus is really rapid, there will be few passengers. And to be rapid, it needs a dedicated lane and fast ingress/egress, such as exists in Curitiba, Brazil. Costly!

DANCE HALLS

There are many adult and youth dance halls in P.G. County. (ALP has not yet researched them!) In or around these halls, there has been violence—including murders. So the County Council has passed legislation that increases owners' fees, enhances inspections, and more. Clubs must prepare security plans covering the facilities as well as the surrounding buildings.



What are dance halls? The legislation defines them as "any road house, restaurant, lunchroom, cafe, inn, hotel, or club for profit where public dancing is permitted." So if it's okay to dance in a 7/11; it's apparently a dance hall. (Thanks to Councilman Eric Olson for sharing.)

Perhaps locally, among the spaces impacted would be Millennium and the Boys and Girls Club? In both of these venues, dances have been held and there have been disturbances resulting in police action. We've had enough of that!!

Lawyer Kolken Rescues DREAMer Lara

Yes, DREAMer Elier Lara no longer faces deportation. He is the excellent University of Cincinnati student, said to have a "once-in-a-decade talent in information technology," who came with his parents from Mexico at the age of four. He was arrested in mid-2010 because he was not legally in the USA, and he has faced deportation since then. Lawyer Matthew Kolken writes:



Elier Lara

"The Immigration Court in Buffalo, New York has signed an order dismissing removal proceedings against my client, Elier Lara. Elier's case obtained national prominence when a poster sized picture of him was placed on the floor of the Senate by Senator Durbin when he reintroduced the DREAM Act last month. Prior to Senator Durbin's actions, the Obama Administration was unwilling to do anything to help Elier fight off deportation, and local DHS attorneys were specifically precluded by Washington from joining in a motion to dismiss.

"After Senator Durbin got involved, the Administration's tune changed dramatically, and local DHS attorneys were permitted to reach out to me, offering to draft a motion for dismissal. The Immigration Judge in Buffalo, New York signed the order late last week.

"Here is the bottom line. If you have a family member who is facing deportation from the United States, and if he or she is DREAM Act eligible, it is imperative that you take immediate action to get their case publicized. Your first line of defense is to contact the people at DREAM Activist, United We Can, and/or America's Voice. Petitions on Change.org are also an invaluable tool. These good people are the foot soldiers in the war against the Obama administration's deportation machine, and they are trained activists.

"Feel free to contact me (716-854-1541), as I will be more than happy to help promote your case through social media, and/or evaluate what legal remedies are potentially available."

**BOTTOM LINE:
Pass the DREAM Act**

Immigrants: Building U.S. Competitiveness

By Gary Locke & Carlos Gutierrez*

"America's economic future depends on the strength and innovative capacity of our people. . . . Each year, we provide approximately 400,000 visas to students from around the world to come here to study at our top universities. According to the National Science Foundation, these students receive between 45% and 60% of all engineering, mathematics, computer science, physics and economic doctorates awarded in the United States. But once our colleges and universities educate these bright, young minds, our immigration laws essentially tell them to take a hike. As President Obama and President Bush have both said, this makes no sense. That's why both have supported changes as a part of efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform." **[Yes! Do it! For our future!]**

*Current and former US Commerce Secretaries. This is an outtake from a long letter.

WHERE TO HAVE A GOOD RESTAURANT MEAL

Some of those affiliated with Action Langley Park nominate four good restaurants in the area. Try them. Send feedback. And please nominate your own favorites.

Mosaic Café (Lebanese), 8145-N Baltimore Ave., College Park*
Pho 75 (Vietnamese), 1510 University Blvd., Langley Park
Samanthas (Mexican plus), 631 University Blvd., Silver Spring
Woodlands (Indian), 8046 New Hampshire Ave., Langley Park*

*Has luncheon buffet.

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

Test Results

In BLP 213, based on local data, consistent male-female and Asian+Euro/Black+Latino gaps are seen in secondary school test results. Now, Colleen Pinar confirms this finding in a national sample of 8th graders. "Based on an analysis of the 8th-grade National Assessment of Educational Progress mathematics assessment data for 2003 through 2007, ... male students outperformed female students in each of the three assessments. When race-ethnicity is considered with gender for all reported years and at all schools included in the NAEP assessment, White and Hispanic male students outperformed female students ... [and] Black female students outperformed male students. [See also Page 2, above.]

Source: "Eighth Grade Mathematics Achievement Gaps across Race, Ethnicity, and Gender," *Multicultural Learning and Teaching*: 6/1, 2011; <http://www.bepress.com/mlt/vol6/iss1/3>.

Discipline

In what is considered to be the most comprehensive study of school discipline ever conducted, researchers found that 59% of all Texas students were subjected to disciplinary actions during their secondary school years. There are many racial/ethnic variations. We do not have data on socioeconomic status, but presumably most if not all of the racial/ethnic variation is so determined. The findings are:

- **Involvement with disciplinary system: Euros = 47%, Blacks = 75%, Latino/as = 65%**
- **Faced disciplinary action: Euros = 48%, Blacks = 76%, Latino/as = 66%**
- **Disciplinary actions, eleven or more: Euros = 10%; Blacks = 26%; Latino/as = 18%**
- **Juvenile justice contact: Euro males = 14%, females 8%; Black males = 26%, females = 14%; Latinos = 22%, Latinas = 13%**

There are educational consequences of discipline. From the Texas report: Students who were suspended and/or expelled, especially those who were repeatedly disciplined, were more likely to be held back a grade or to drop out than were students not involved in the disciplinary system. (1) Of all students who were suspended or expelled, 31% repeated their grade at least once. In contrast, only 5% of students with no disciplinary involvement were held back. (2) About 10% of students suspended or expelled between seventh and twelfth grade dropped out. About 59% of those students disciplined 11 times or more did not graduate from high school during the study period.

But Maryland is not Texas! Right, but ... We don't have the data for Maryland. One Indiana University researcher suggestively comments: The findings are "very much representative of the nation as a whole." Maybe. Maryland should conduct a similar study. And maybe Maryland should determine how effectively the schools are administering discipline.

Source: Justice Center, *Breaking Schools' Rules: A Statewide Study of How School Discipline Relates to Students' Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement*, 2011.

\$ Per Pupil—Inequality!

The Center for American Progress reports that the per pupil school expenditures in PG were \$8,268; in MoCo, \$10,199.

Diane Ravitch on Parents and Education

"Families are children's most important educators. Our society must invest in parental education, prenatal care and preschool. Of course, schools must improve; every one should have a stable, experienced staff, adequate resources and a balanced curriculum including the arts, foreign languages, history and science. If every child arrived in school well-nourished, healthy and ready to learn, from a family with a stable home and a steady income, many of our educational problems would be solved. And that would be a miracle." (*New York Times* 1 June 2011) *PGCPS needs parent liaisons!*

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. The Editor is 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!

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 4—Arts on the Block open house, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 11501 Georgia Ave., #104. See where all this organization's wonderful public art begins! Items to buy too.

August 8—Parent Seminar on "Home activities to develop fine motor and balance skills," 7-8:30 p.m., Room 1301, School of Public Health, University of Maryland. Bring children! RSVP to pangel@umd.edu.

August 13—Key Legal Information, 1-3 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. In Spanish. Free! Topics include child custody and many other aspects of family law.



August 20—PGCPS Back to School Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt.

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.

August 22—First day of school in Prince George's County.

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!

**Health
Check
2011**



November—The Fire Chief has accepted our invitation to meet with residents in Langley Park. Probably the 16th at 6:30 p.m. The department is responsible for fire prevention and protection, emergency medical services, and community outreach.

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; vendors; children's art and games; and much more.