Immigration Law

Republicans

It appears that Republicans in the House of Representatives, who blocked immigration reform in 2013 and earlier, are now trying to draft a set of bills that will give them a more favorable image in the eyes of Latino/as in future elections. The “standards” just announced may offer eventual legal status to about half of our undocumented residents (the Senate bill offers it to about two-thirds), and possible citizenship for the young “Dreamers.” Many Republicans oppose the “generous” standards; many progressives are opposed for opposite reasons. Will Latino/as and others buy into the citizenship only for the Dreamers? Will a half-loaf be better than none or worse than a full loaf?

On the Margins

“While always present in immigration law’s history, worthiness has become an increasingly powerful concept and sorting device within immigration law, and provides a sharp, and I believe problematic, counterpoint to the egalitarianism envisioned by the civil rights era 1965 immigration law. Our immigration laws (both current and proposed) provide narrower and narrower openings for legal immigration, seeking only the ‘best and the brightest,’ and will likely deploy a host of criteria from minor criminal issues to uneven employment histories to keep legalization out of reach for the millions here presently without status. And as that same undocumented population is largely comprised of people of color, the issues of economic marginalization, over-policing, and mass incarceration that affect people of color throughout society narrow the possibilities for legalization even further.”

Donna Edwards

Congresswoman Donna Edwards, who now represents Langley Park, supports “creating a system that would keep the best and brightest here, secure our borders, and provide an earned path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.”

*Powerful House Republican Paul Ryan states that the House will not enter into a Senate-House “conference” to find a middle ground between the Senate-passed comprehensive bill and any narrow House-passed legislation.


Mark your calendar now!!!

Langley Park Day 2014
4 May 2014
Noon until 4 p.m.

At the Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive
Langley Park MD 20783
LPCC: 301-445-4508
ALP: 301-365-3460

Organized by
Action Langley Park,
the Langley Park Community Center,
and Many Others

This annual festival features free music and dance performances, free information from non-profit organizations and county and state agencies, food and craft vendors, children’s activities, and a free health fair.

Want to contribute to the performances or health fair or children’s activities or facilitate or otherwise? Contact ALP at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com. Want to be a vendor? Contact LPCC at 301 445-4508.

A Video about Langley Park’s Youth!

Prepared by LAYC/MMYC with the GW Avance Center, “Victor and Erika” is about trouble Victor got into in high school. Its realism is certainly a reflection of occasional real-life happenings. Check it out at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECgcFQZ0J_0.
**Two Marylands**

There really seem to be two Marylands. One of them, let’s call it “Core Maryland,” includes suburban Maryland around D.C., Howard County, and the Baltimore area. The other one, why not call it “Other Maryland,” is in the western and southern peripheries. Many legislators from Core Maryland praised the Governor’s recent State of the State address; but those from Other Maryland were against raising the minimum wage and were unhappy with the repeal of the death penalty, legalizing same-sex marriage, and passed the Maryland Dream Act. Note that the Core Maryland residents are racially and ethnically more balanced, and they are better educated. Thank goodness the Core folks are in the majority!

**Immigration and the GOP**

Politico reports: “The same House Republicans who punted on immigration last year are now privately crafting an intricate plan to try to pass it in 2014. Most people close to the planning expect votes on four bills by the end of the summer, including one that would give some undocumented workers legal status. And though none of the bills is likely to offer a path to full citizenship, the fact Republicans are preparing to take on immigration at all is a sign the party is coming to grips with a political reality: if they want to win elections in the long run, they’ll have to face the issue.”

Note: Surveys of Latinos indicate that legalization as a goal is said to be much more important than citizenship. Note that many Latinos with papers have not applied to be citizens. (Our democracy’s loss.)

Note: A Fox (!) poll found 68% of respondents support allowing undocumented immigrants to remain in the country and eventually to gain citizenship after a series of steps is taken. Last year it was 66%.

**Purple Line Opposition**

The Washington Post reports (23 January 2014) that one of the lawyers hired by the Town of Chevy Chase to consider challenges to the Purple Line is the brother of Representative Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Is this what they said: “Hey bro, what do you think about that purple-colored streetcar line in Maryland?” “Thanks, bro, for calling it to my attention. We’ll sure look at it very closely. Maybe it’s going too disrupt too many people and our country club too.”

One issue raised by the Chevy Chase antis is the wellbeing of the Hay’s Spring amphipod (pictured) and the Kenk’s amphipod. The claim is that both are endangered by construction triggered by the Purple Line. Isn’t it cute?!

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Note the **Purple Line Now** forum that takes place on February 18. See Page 8, below.

**Ethnic Enclaves**

**For example, Langley Park**

A German study reports: “Local co-ethnic concentration affects immigrants’ cultural integration. Residential ethnic clustering strengthens immigrants’ retention of an affiliation with their respective country of origin and weakens identification with the host society. The effects are only become significant at relatively high levels of co-ethnic concentration for the minority identity and at very low levels of local concentration for the majority identity.” That’s not surprising.

“Theoretically, ethnic clustering offers both benefits and penalties. Enclaves may provide a sheltered environment, thus reduce the costs of economic and cultural assimilation to the host society, when migrants adjust in groups and not as individuals. There is a beneficial effect of enclaves on the labor market outcomes of immigrants who—due to discrimination—may not be able to compete in the national labor market. The support of co-ethnic business and established clientele are additional positive arguments for the self-employment of immigrants.

“On the other hand, enclave living isolates immigrants from the majority society, impedes human capital investments such as in the host country language and other skills and decreases the probability of interaction with natives and labor market success.”

It is worth adding that most ethnic enclaves do not last for many years. The many Chinatowns that used to be in the USA are now few. The one in Washington D.C. is hardly more than some decorations and a few restaurants. Little Havana in Miami has few Cubans these days; they have moved to the suburbs while Central Americans move in. Even in Langley Park, there is movement outward. All of the original members of the Action Langley Park Board now live in distant places.

Of course, some upward mobility is a ticket to moving up and out, and mobility these days is slight. That’s part of the dual challenge facing the USA: greater inequality and lesser upward mobility.

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Real Estate in Langley Park Area

In 2006, a certain original (built in 1950) 910 square feet house on Ruatan Street sold to a Latino for $410,000. It has recently been purchased by two Chinese investors for $140,000. The recession-catalyzed price decline is obviously a sad turn of events for the man who paid $410k, but it is encouraging that people bought the house as (apparently) an investment—perhaps indicating that price increases are anticipated. Hopefully, the investment is not an indication of gentrification of the single dwelling houses in the Langley Park neighborhood.
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“News & Notes” continues on Page 3
**Immigrants Are Bad: Shackle Them!**

Federal authorities will limit the use of shackles on immigrants who appear before immigration judges under a proposed settlement of a class-action lawsuit—except perhaps in a procedural hearing with several detainees. (Why the exception?) The lead organization that filed the lawsuit was the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California; it was joined by others.

An ugly thought: This is a throwback to the days of de jure and de facto slavery. Unless the person is a dangerous criminal, how dare we?

But wait: There’s more ugliness. Maryland authorities sometimes shackle women, arrested for non-violent offenses, during their labor, delivery, and recovery! Don’t believe it? Check out [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2JunFrM3Rl&feature=youtu.be&etname=MD_Shackling_Pregnant&etid=1241857](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2JunFrM3Rl&feature=youtu.be&etname=MD_Shackling_Pregnant&etid=1241857). Wow! For shame!

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**Immigration: Detainers, Removals, Etc.**

**ICE DETAINERS DECLINE:** Looking at three time periods, October 2011 to September 2012, October to December 2012, and January to August 2013, there has been an overall decline in issued detainers measured by average number per month. Above are data for the top four countries of origin. In the Baltimore area of responsibility, there has been no decline, but in Maryland overall there has been.

Of course, the meaning of the numbers can be questioned. Is there a real decline in the policy of breaking up families by detaining family members? Or are there fewer targets to detain? Let’s hope the decline is soon reduced so that only serious criminals are impacted.


**REMOVE OR RETURN:** There are two ways in which someone can be forced to leave the USA. (1) by removal, defined as “the compulsory and confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States based on an order of removal”; and (2) return, or “the confirmed movement of an inadmissible or deportable alien out of the United States not based on an order of removal”—formerly referred to as a “voluntary departure.”

In FY2013, we removed 368,644 people who were in the country without authorization. That’s down from a record 419,384 the year before. In 2012—the last year for which federal statistics for both removals and returns are available—the US deported a total of 649,352 people, down from President Bill Clinton’s all-time high of 1,864,343 in fiscal year 2000.

When defined as the sum of removals and returns, our understanding of deportation changes. Deportations are not at all-time high levels, but removals are. The Obama administration has removed a record number of immigrants over the past five years, but it’s inaccurate to say that it has deported a record number.


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**Schools: Baker Wants Construction**

Bloomberg interviewed County Executive Rushern Baker, and one of the questions was, “What is the county’s biggest fiscal challenge?” His answer: “School construction. We have some very, very old schools in our county and in the neighborhoods where all the indicators are going in the wrong direction. Part of turning that around is not just public safety, but building quality schools and renovating those schools.”


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**DISCIPLINING STUDENTS**

New regulations in Maryland for school discipline establish what is said to be a more rehabilitative philosophy, reserving the harshest penalties for the severe offenses. The regs also expedite appeals, add educational services for suspended students, and require plans to eliminate race/ethnic disparities.

Disparities: Reportedly, Maryland’s suspension rate is 8.7% for African-American students and about 3% for Euro-Americans and Latino/a-Americans. The Euro poverty rate in Maryland is about 10%, for African-Americans 23%, and for Latino/as 20%. If—if—poverty is more likely to lead to behavior inappropriate in schools (and sometimes crime in other locations), if the total state percentages are the same as for school children, and if poverty and its correlates (e.g., single parent, poor housing, inadequate nutrition) are significant factors, then African-Americans and Euro-Americans have the highest suspension rates, and Latino/as lag well behind. Feedback please!
regard for the people there.” Local community interests not considered? Will it be the same for the Purple Line and the Sector Plan. Don’t bet against it.

Highway Speed: zooooooooom

A State Senator is pushing to raise the highway speed limit from 65 miles an hour to 70. Of course, the issue is enforcement. Driving at the speed limit, 65mph, on I-95 or other major highway in the state, gives one the experience at non-commuting hours of seeing almost all other vehicles passing at not 70mph but maybe 80 or 90. So for safety, enforcement is an issue.

PG Budget Sessions: Alas Not Near

From the County Executive’s Office: “Prince George’s County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced he will host a series of three public budget hearings to present residents with an overview of the proposed FY 2015 Prince George’s County budget. Residents are encouraged to voice their feedback and recommendations for consideration and incorporation into the overall budget during the public hearings. The three locations conveniently encompass the northern, southern and central points of the County to ensure that residents county-wide have date and location options.”

Well, people in the Langley Park - Hyattsville - College Park - Adelphi (plus more) area do not find meetings in Oxon Hill or Upper Marlboro or Laurel very convenient. The closest to Langley Park, Laurel High School, is 12.3 miles away. Will the county provide a free bus? Perhaps some day the county’s officials will give more attention to the left out area.

Marijuana Decriminalization Opposition

Apparently, there will be several bills introduced during Maryland’s legislation calling for decriminalization of marijuana and in some respects treating it the same as a formerly prohibited substance, alcohol. Could it be that the prohibition of pot will soon end in Maryland? If not, let’s balance it with the reinstitution of prohibition of alcohol because it’s probably more dangerous than marijuana. Those Prohibition years, 1920-1933, were such fun (we are told).

Remittances

The money flow helps families and countries cope. Perhaps not surprisingly, the flows to India and China are greatest. The estimates for 2013 appear in the adjacent graphic. The Indians and Chinese are the greatest recipients; of course the population of these countries means that their per capita recipients are not the greatest. For the Latin America plus Caribbean, about 76% of the remittance money comes from

Films About Immigration and Immigrants: 5


The film’s opening sequences and a few flashbacks take place in Corleone, Sicily, from which boss-to-be Vito emigrated as a child threatened with death. In one scene, a donkey moves through the town with Vito hidden in a basket to escape. That’s similar to how my mother’s parents escaped from Odessa.

Arriving in New York via Ellis Island, there is the then-usual harassment of many newcomers by the guardian bureaucrats. Like my mother’s parents experienced, the clerk at Ellis Island admitted Vito under a last name that was not his.

The Corleone family comes to live in a tenement and Vito works in a grocery store. He becomes a mob leader, as does son Michael.

I think that the film is in part relevant to the world of immigration because of the carryover of community culture (including culture of the family) into the new world. It is hard to shed one’s past just because he or she arrives in a new country. Indeed, immigrants often shape their piece of the new world so that it is not so different from the old one they knew. One commentator writes, “His New York is Little Italy, in the film a province of Sicily.” (DeNiro went to Italy as part of his preparation for the Michael role.)

At least for a generation, that continuity provides some safety. But the film is also about assimilation and the American Dream, which Michael realizes with his power and money. And of course it is about Italian-Americans in the new land.

Victory!

This image is not, to the best of our knowledge, related to immigration. Rather, it is the victory cry of tennis player Li Na, who just won the women’s competition at the Australian Open Tennis Championship. But it’s a good feeling to see the joy of victory. And we must note that Rockville appears to be the center of Maryland’s Chinese-American culture these days.

Income Equality

on Jon Stewart’s Daily Show

Check the video out, including the meaning of the numbers 85 and 3,500,000,000. It is at http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/thu-january-23-2014/mountain-few (after a commercial).

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Excellence in Education Foundation for PGCPS is awarding 50 scholarships: Chief Executive Officer’s Scholarship; Leadership Scholarship; Community Service Scholarship. View processes to win the scholarships here.
the USA.
Source: World Bank’s Migration & Remittance Team

Food Stamps
Last year’s $5 billion food stamp (aka SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) cut has hurt low-income Americans; some food programs are running out of food, and therefore there is a shortage in many kitchens. And now legislation may pass as part of the Farm Bill that cuts another billion or so from food stamps. Looks as if some people in Congress are stimulated by seeing undernourished children. Agh. Wondering if you are eligible for food stamps? If so, visit http://www.snapstep1.usda.gov/fns/. (It’s in Spanish too.)

Poll of Latino/as: Why here? Negatives?
In January 2014, results of a major NPR-Harvard-RWJ Foundation study of Latino/as, both immigrant and native, were released. One issue was why the immigrants came to the USA, and the responses conform to prior research: a better life comes first, safety follows, and joining family members is third. Two other results:
• Respondents were asked which aspects of their current home area were fair or poor. The leading response was quality of available housing, 40%; following that were public transportation, 36%; recreational facilities, 36%; and safety from crime, 34%. Schools only drew 28% of the respondents’ negatives.
• The poll asked about the frequency of particular negative experiences that Latinos might have had over the last twelve months: being treated with less courtesy or respect than other people, someone assuming they were in the country illegally, discrimination from the police or courts, and discrimination in the workplace. About a quarter of all Latinos (26%) report that they experienced at least one of these and believe it was because they are Latino or Latina. We should all work for change.
Source: http://armstrong.npr.org/ftpaed/CodeSwitch_Share/Latino_Total_And_Heritage_Groups_Final_Report_And_Topline-1.pdf

Orders: Have 34,000 Immigrants In Jail!
Few people like quotas, but there is one that is about locking up immigrants! Really! While the Congress is to be congratulated for passing the recent appropriations bill with bipartisan support, there are troublesome riders attached to it. One is the rider establishing a quota of a minimum of 34,000 immigrants in detention on a daily basis while they resolve their immigration status.
It’s not really new. In 2007, Congress for the first time passed a law with the 34,000 number; it has remained in place ever since. A rigid number can have a corrupting influence on the entire process. Imagine trying to get a fair trial in criminal court if your state legislature mandated that judges have to fill a certain number of prison cells each day. It would be impossible. And immigrants in jail are not usually able to get legal representation. Can one believe this is happening in the USA?

The Will Campus Splash!
Councilman Campos reports: “I did it! Policeman Plunge with Chief Douglas Hollard for the City of Hyattsville. Thank you Chief, that was an amazing experience!” Congratulations to Will for his daring … or [deleted].

Texas

Texas Kills
In Texas, they like to put people to death. Capital punishment, it’s called. And they murder Mexican nationals despite legal rulings by the World Court and pleas by the Mexican and United States governments. Yes, the latest Mexican national to be murdered, Edgar Arias Tamayo from Miacatlán, Mexico, was himself a killer. A really bad guy. But laws and international conventions still should have been applied. Should we return Texas to Mexico; or maybe it should be annexed by Iran or North Korea. Our Department of State on 23 January 2014 released this statement:
Mr. Tamayo was a Mexican national subject to the International Court of Justice’s Avena decision. The Court in Avena found that the United States had failed to provide consular notification and access to 51 Mexican nationals, including Mr. Tamayo, as required under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR). The United States, like 170 other countries around the world, is party to the VCCR. The VCCR ensures that individuals who are detained in a foreign country can receive access to and assistance from their embassies and consulates overseas in order to navigate foreign legal systems or otherwise get the assistance that they need. In Avena, the International Court of Justice ordered the United States to provide “review and reconsideration” of the 51 Mexican nationals’ convictions and sentences to determine whether they were actually prejudiced by not having been afforded consular notification and access in accordance with the VCCR.

Candidate Mariam Martinez
From journalist to politician to, maybe, the first Latina to run for governor of Texas: candidate Martinez.

“With state immigration reform we will solve a problem that’s really easy to resolve and would give a good example to the rest of the 49 states that have not been able to organize themselves to achieve it,” said Republican gubernatorial candidate Miriam Martinez, born in Reynosa and now a citizen and Texas resident.

“[My] program is very simple,” she says. “We’ll include everyone, bring them out of the shadows, give them a decent life. Everyone wants to live in Texas, taxes are lower, you have more chances to grow… You pay, you get your permit, you renew it every three years, you have a permit to live and work in Texas, you pay your taxes, you live a normal life.” We should help undocumented residents to “become naturalized citizens.” Her web site: http://www.miriamfortexas.com.
The Bipartisan Policy Center Reports on Immigration

Here are the introductory paragraphs

Immigration is a national imperative for the United States. New immigrants to our shores keep the American labor force large and growing. An expanding labor force, in turn, results in greater demand for goods and services and a more robust economy. Strong and sustained economic growth enables the United States to more effectively maintain our global influence and political, military, and economic preeminence.

As outlined in this paper, immigration is America’s Demographic Edge, many of today’s developed countries have populations that are either stagnant or shrinking while their percentage of seniors is growing. Population stagnation reduces the supply of younger people entering the workforce, which threatens the ability of these countries to maintain the size of their labor force, promote economic growth, and encourage consumer demand. Especially at risk are social insurance and retirement systems, which rely on young workers to support retirees, including the U.S. Social Security and Medicare programs.

In the United States, immigration can be the foundation upon which our aging population is supported and an important means of improving the long-term U.S. budget and fiscal outlook. Most immigrants to the United States are younger than the native-born population. In fact, 95% of immigrants are younger than 65 at the time they enter the country. Projections show that without immigration, the U.S. population would age more quickly and stop growing by mid-century.

Immigration also has significant implications for America’s strategic position in the world. Today, U.S. global influence is greatly enhanced by our status as the world’s largest economy and most advanced military. Moving forward, if the United States were to experience slower economic growth, less rapid innovation, or a decline in the service-age population, these advantages could decrease or even disappear. By improving America’s demographic future, immigration serves as an essential power asset.

Unlike many other developed countries, the United States has a long tradition of being open to immigrants. Immigration is part of our nation’s cultural DNA. This orientation in favor of immigration is a tremendous advantage for the United States as we seek to strengthen our own economy and compete on the global stage. Looking ahead, the United States needs policies in place that effectively integrate immigrants into society so that they can fully realize their potential and benefit our economy to the maximum extent possible.

Countries without rich immigrant traditions can generally expect a bleaker demographic future. Potential rivals like Russia and China are both in the midst of dramatic demographic transformations. Russia has experienced a decades-long decline in its population and appears to be on track for just a modest increase in 2013. China recently announced a liberalization of its “one-child” policy, largely out of a deep concern that its working-age population will soon be unable to support its burgeoning numbers of senior citizens. U.S. allies in Europe and Asia (most notably Japan) continue to struggle with population stagnation and even decline, with significant implications for the balance of power in the world.

America’s ability to attract immigrants helped the United States become history’s greatest mobilizer of human potential. Moving forward, immigration will remain critical to economic prosperity and integral to our national security. The nations that most effectively harness the energies of youthful, productive, and creative workers will emerge as the world’s most powerful and influential states. Facing significant demographic challenges, it is as important as ever that the United States craft a sound, forward-looking immigration system that serves the national interest.

Source: http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/ImigrationDemographic.pdf

Tough Times
A Political-Economic Analysis

Not only is there less money for good schools, job training, and social services, but the poor for several decades have faced a difficult challenge moving upward. If your family is in the bottom fifth of the earnings hierarchy, you have less than one chance in ten of reaching the hierarchy’s top fifth. Recent research suggests that this challenge has existed for three or four decades.

But the chances of upward mobility vary by metro area and state. Among the largest metro areas, the best chances are in San Jose (12.9% chance of a bottom fifth family having the next generation reaching the top fifth), San Francisco (12.2%), and our Washington D.C. area (11.0%). But some smaller areas do better, especially in oil-boom North Dakota.

The graphic indicates that the economic circumstances of the child’s family is a strong influence on the economic circumstances of the child turned adult.

The concentration of power at the top—which flows largely from the concentration of income and wealth there—has perhaps prevented Washington from dealing with the problems of the poor and the middle class. For instance, the billionaire brothers Koch pour money into anti-government anti-poor programs and candidates.

Unequal political power is the endgame of widening inequality and a fundamental threat to our democracy. Big money is engulfing our federal government and many lower-level governments as well (let’s hope Maryland remains for the most part an exception) “drowning out the voices of average Americans, filling the campaign chests of candidates who will do their bidding, financing attacks on organized labor, and bankrolling a vast empire of right-wing think-tanks and publicists** that fill the airwaves (for instance, Fox News on television, Rush on radio) with half-truths and distortions.

All of this does not mean we should give up and let the drift be anti-poor pro-wealthy, but it does mean that those within the large ninety per cent must be alert and must fight harder. For instance, if an interest backed by lots of money wants to tear down a neighborhood’s affordable housing and small mom-and-pop businesses, we should not passively mutter, that’s the way the world works.

Primary source: http://www.equality-of-opportunity.org
*An ALP edited statement by Robert Reich on 23 January 2014*
Our Juan Damian
And the ‘Walking ATM’

Wow: NPR has covered Langley Park! It was a story broadcast on 20 January 2014. Here’s the beginning of the story:

“On a recent Friday evening in Langley Park, Maryland, police officer Juan Damian drives his patrol car past fast food restaurants, discount stores and Hispanic groceries.

“Damian estimates that at least two-thirds of the people here are undocumented, and that has made it a magnet for robberies over the years. Gangs know undocumented day workers are especially lucrative targets, he says. Their pockets are often stuffed with a day’s or even a week’s worth of wages. The street term for these men: ‘walking ATMs.’

“Damian says workers are afraid to leave the money where they live because they may be sharing an apartment with a dozen or so others. ...

“The Prince George’s County Police officer is concerned with stopping sometimes deadly assaults and robberies, not with their immigration status, and insists he will never ask a victim whether he or she is here legally.”

It is certainly true that workers often carry cash on their person or try to hide it in their living space, and lots of robberies are for that cash. As for the two-thirds undocumented, that is an over-estimate if the intent is to characterize residents of the area, but maybe it’s correct in characterizing men after dark wandering around some of the restaurants and stores.

Those of us tied to the Langley Park area are very happy that Officer Damian helps to protect the residents. And he does do a good job.

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There were lots of listener comments attached to the NPR report. They display attitudes that are not usually associated with an NPR listener. Here are a few:

The schools in this area have collapsed under the weight of the, um, undocumented. The public hospital in Prince George's County (where Langley Park is located) is bankrupt. Langley Park crime rates are soaring.

Low cost housing is very, very difficult to obtain in that area because illegals fill it up by crowding into many times the capacity of cheap apartments, houses and mobile homes.

If we were to use the money that's now being diverted to education and health and social services for illegals to programs to make them flee the country in abject terror for their lives, we could probably solve the problem in short order.

Stating something as illegal describes the action or status for what it is: a violation of a law. "Undocumented" denotes some type of clerical error which may or may not result in an illegal activity or status. It makes a person's status appear as if it is not their fault for violating the law when it clearly is.

But here's a way to end this segment of the newsletter:

One commentator writes, “They can go home.” A person replies: “I’m sure my Cherokee ancestors would have preferred that your and my European ancestors would have that.” And a third commentator: “Amen brother.”

The short program is at http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=263505387&m=264092806. Check it out!


Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
A country by origin report as of 31 August 2013
Source: www.uscis.gov

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The state of Maryland ranks 15th in acceptances and approvals. The figures are 7,266 and 5,801. What about the 1,465?
Purple Line Forum
Purple Line NOW! has rescheduled the Transportation Forum with Maryland’s gubernatorial candidates event (which was canceled last month due to inclement weather) for Tuesday, February 18 at the Cultural Arts Center on the Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College. The Forum will begin at 7:00 p.m. (but organizers ask that you be in your seats no later than 6:45 p.m. because the event will be televised) and should last about an hour. Remember, you must reserve your seat in advance; tickets are free, but space is limited. Go to this web site: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-transportation-forum-with-marylands-gubernatorial-candidates-february-18-tickets-10124196745.

The Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center is at 7995 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring (close to the DC line).

Do You Deserve to Be Rich? To Be Poor?
It depends on whom you ask. Rich people think they earned their wealth, and that poverty tends to be do to a lack of effort. But the poor think the rich have more advantages, and they are poor because of circumstances beyond their control. These patterns help to explain some Congressional actions. If the poor aren’t putting in the needed effort, why give them food stamps and other benefits. But most of the poor in the Langley Park area we know (and undoubtedly it’s true nationwide) do put in the effort. However, there are marginalizing forces that impede some from rising.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data collected by Pew &amp; USA Today</th>
<th>Earnings</th>
<th>$75k or more</th>
<th>$75k or $30k</th>
<th>Less than $30k</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opinions about the rich and poor</td>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Which has more to do with why a person is rich?</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because he or she worked harder than others</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because he or she had more advantages</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which is more to blame if a person is poor?</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of effort on his or her part</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circumstances beyond his or her control</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Good Health
► FEBRUARY 12: An eye clinic at CASA de Maryland’s Pine Ridge Community Center (8615 Piney Branch Rd.) takes place on Wednesday, February 12, from 3 to 6 p.m. Vision services will include free complete eye exams with an optometrist and information on low cost eyeglasses for those who need them.

► MARCH 31: A new open enrollment period has begun to sign up for affordable health insurance. The Crossroads Farmers’ Market resumes. The location will be announced in February. Still 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

► MAY 4: Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, information, and food plus a major health fair. Noon to 3 p.m. outside for the performances, children’s activities, and more. At the Langley Park Community Center.

Job Openings at CASA de Maryland
CASA de Maryland is Maryland’s largest non-profit serving the immigrant community, and it’s on a hiring spree looking for some extraordinary people. Openings are for entry, mid, and senior level positions, e.g., member services social worker, health navigator, advocacy and elections specialist, ESOL teacher, grant writer, senior manager of data and evaluation, and more. Check them all out at https://mycasamd.org/careers/postings.aspx. For more information, contact Zoraya Moreira-Smith at 1240 491-5761 or zmorea@casamd.org.

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.

2014
► Every third Saturday of the month—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at St. Michael & All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave., 5 to 6:30 p.m.
► Enrollment continues for the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act will make health insurance affordable for the non-wealthy, but you have to enroll. Go to marylandhealthconnection.gov to learn about the opportunities and perhaps sign up for affordable health insurance.
► February 18—Purple Line forum. See box on left.
► April 26, 2014—Maryland Day at the University of Maryland, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Lots to do, lots to see!
► May 4—Langley Park Day, a festival of music, dance, information, and food plus a major health fair. Noon to 3 p.m. for the health fair indoors, until 4 p.m. outside for the performances, children’s activities, and more. At the Langley Park Community Center.

► May 30, 2014—High Point graduation at the Comcast Center on the U. of Maryland campus, 1:30 p.m. Northwestern’s is May 28 at 1:30 p.m.
► June 4—The Crossroads Farmers’ Market resumes. The location will be announced in February. Still 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

► August 19—Schools open in PG County!

Attention health professionals: The health fairs in Langley Park, which take place in November and May, always need health professionals with special screening and/or consultation skills. Can you and will you help?

Quinceañero 2014
Teen girls 14 to 15 years of age will have the opportunity to experience a unique program that teaches leadership skills, etiquette, and community engagement, and possibly it will be the only opportunity in this area to celebrate their Quinceañero. Sponsors and mentors are needed for this Langley Park Community Center program. A contribution of $75.00 dollars will cover one registration fee to the 10-week program. You can make a difference in a girl’s life. For more information or to help, contact Nydia Ocasio at nydia.ocasio@gparks.com or 301 408-4335, or in Spanish: 301 445-4504.

SAT Test Prep
The session is on Saturday, February 8 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Friendly High School, 10000 Allentown Road, Fort Washington. Contact & register at 301 449-4900. Sorry it isn’t closer. This is not a session sponsored by PGPCS but may well be helpful.