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- [Combating Heroin Use in Fairfax County](#): Heroin related deaths have doubled in northern Virginia in the last two years. On Tuesday I asked the County Executive to report to the Board the impacts this is having in Fairfax County, and what we should be doing to address the problem.
- [Planning for the Silver Tsunami](#): As Herry Report readers will know there is an explosion of our over 50 and over 70 population in Fairfax County. At Tuesday's Board meeting we passed a plan to help our citizens age in place.
- [Volunteers Needed for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games](#): The second largest sporting event in the world is coming to Fairfax County next year, and to make this the best games ever we will need over 3,000 volunteers to help things run smoothly - find out how you can help below.
- [Volunteering for Fairfax County Just Got a Lot Easier](#): Fairfax County just introduced its new volunteer management system - paving the way for much easier navigation of county volunteer opportunities. Find out more below.
- [Events at the West Springfield Government Center](#): There will be free document shredding and prescription pill take-backs at the West Springfield Government Center. Find out full details below.

Combating Heroin Use in Fairfax County

The rise in heroin associated deaths over the last few years is no secret, and has gained the attention of the media and many of our political leaders. Congressman Frank Wolf has been holding town hall meetings across his district to raise awareness, meeting with the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force Command Board who have described

the problem as an "epidemic" and a "crisis," and has also been urging the Governor to set up a state-wide task force to tackle the problem. You also may have seen two weeks ago that Attorney General Mark Herring also announced a plan at a meeting with the Virginia Association with Chiefs of Police to try to curb this terrible scourge.

The problem, while not new, is growing and we need to ensure that we are prepared to address it in Fairfax County. That is why at Tuesday's meeting the Board passed a motion made by Supervisor Hyland and me to direct the County Executive to report to the Board the extent of the problem and impacts on Fairfax County, inform us what steps we are, as well as should be, taking to address the problem, and added the subject of heroin (and K2 Spice as suggested by Supervisor McKay) to the agenda for discussion at the next public safety committee meeting.

Heroin use, and subsequently heroin overdoses are on the rise in Virginia. Overdoses doubled in Virginia between 2011 and 2013, and according to the Washington Post the problem is worse in Northern Virginia where overdoses saw a 163% rise in the same time period. These numbers may even be artificially low because currently hospitals are not required to report overdoses to the police, and there is also a stigma attached to the problem so families who have lost loved ones are often hesitant to reveal the true cause of death.

Heroin use is here, it is on our doorstep, it is in our communities, and it often goes unnoticed. Prescription pills, especially Oxycontin and pain medications, have been seen as the gateway, and when users can no longer get a hold of or afford to get a hold of those pills they turn to the cheaper, easily findable, and deadlier heroin. This problem ranges through all demographics, it doesn't have "a face," and for that reason often goes unnoticed until it is too late.

I will update Herrity Report readers on this issue once the Board discusses it at length, in the meantime you can learn more about the known impacts it is having in our community at the following links.

[Fairfax Times: Is Heroin Use in Fairfax County on the Rise?](#)

[Washington Post: Fairfax Mother "There Were Clues. But We Had No Clue"](#)

[Washington Post: Surge in Heroin Deaths Prompts Call for Action in Virginia](#)

[ABC 7: Heroin Deaths in Virginia Spike in 2013](#)

Planning for the Silver Tsunami

As Chair of the 50+ Committee, I was delighted when at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors' meeting the Board voted unanimously to adopt the revised 50+ Community Action Plan. A plan that has been several years in the making by a whole team of community leaders.

Between 2005 and 2030, Fairfax County expects the 50 and over population to increase by 40 percent and the 70 and over population by 88 percent - noticing this drastic change in demographics and how it would affect county services, the Board tasked the 50+ Committee with updating its 2007 Action Plan. As Chair of the 50+ Committee I set to work to update the plan with the help of the Board, the Commission on Aging, staff, and from 800 residents who attended 15 community forums last summer. I directed that any initiatives introduced be attainable, affordable and actionable in five years.

A Steering Committee comprised of leaders from community groups, nonprofits, business and county agencies was created to develop a draft plan. They, through the work of subcommittees, developed initiatives in the areas of Transportation, Housing, Safe & Healthy Communities, Community Engagement, and Services for Older Adults and Caregivers. Summaries of these initiatives and the completed plan can be viewed here - <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/fairfax50plus.htm>

This is a big step forward for Fairfax County that will make us one of the most senior-friendly communities in the country. The Silver Tsunami is here and it is vital that we address the needs of our aging community and the dramatic affects it will have on the county; with the passing of this plan we have shown our commitment to our seniors. I am very proud of the work of the committee, and all of the people that helped make this plan a reality. However, this is only the beginning, now the work begins on implementing the initiatives and tracking their progress.

Help Needed for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games

The world's second largest sporting event is coming to Fairfax County next year which will see over 15,000 firefighters and police officers, and their families and friends come to northern Virginia to take part in the games and enjoy everything Fairfax County has to offer. To host the world we will need over 3,000 volunteers to help out with everything from welcoming visitors to transporting athletes, assisting Sports Coordinators in the delivery of sport, helping out behind the scenes in the Technology team and making sure the results are displayed as quickly and accurately as possible.

The Games' website now has a new page where you can easily register your interest in helping Fairfax County pull off the best Games yet. To sign up to volunteer please visit <http://fairfax2015.com/volunteer>

Volunteering for Fairfax County Just Got a Lot Easier!

Fairfax County introduces its new [volunteer management system](#) - paving the way for much easier navigation of county volunteer opportunities. Now as a volunteer you can manage all your county "jobs" with a click of a mouse. It's a one-stop-shop for volunteering.

Now those interested can visit volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov, fill out one application and search for opportunities that meet their interests by geographic location, dates, type of people, or program type. The system allows for family volunteering, group volunteering, opportunities for students needing service hours and even court-mandated volunteering. It also allows users to view positions from a variety of agencies (from Animals to Zombie Disaster Preparedness), track their hours, and review upcoming and past volunteer jobs. And, when needed, volunteers who indicate their willingness to serve in times of emergency can be called upon and placed quickly through an automated alert system.

According to the most recent estimate, more than 12,000 volunteers contribute more than 500,000 hours annually, valued at nearly \$10 million.

The implementation of the new system is projected to improve efficiency and coordination of recruiting and management of volunteers. Volunteers who indicate their willingness to serve in times of emergency can be called upon and placed quickly through an automated alert system. Integrating volunteer data should increase the accuracy and timeliness of reporting of the number of volunteers and hours contributed. With over one million county residents and with growing county budget constraints, volunteers are an important component in the sustainability of programs and services.

Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/volunteering/> or contact [Angie Carrera](#), Office of Public Private Partnerships, for more information.

Events at the West Springfield Government Center

Free Document Shredding Event for Fairfax County Residents

A document shredding event, free for Fairfax County residents will be hosted at the West Springfield Government Center (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield) on Saturday, October 25 from 8 a.m. to noon. Staff will accept up to five boxes of residential material of a sensitive nature (i.e. tax documents, financial records, etc.) per vehicle and the documents will be shredded on site.

For more information on the event, including what is/is not accepted, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/shredding.htm>

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day This Saturday

Turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal this Saturday, September 27 at the West Springfield District Station (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield) between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information on this program, including other drop-off locations, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/dontflush/>